Niles Herald-Spectator

Teens leave their mark

Niles Teen Center members Aneta Aleksandrowicz, Halley Jacobs and Alexis Treguboff created art that will be turned into tiles for a permanent installation at Golf Mill. | MICHELLE LAVIGNE-Sun-Times Media

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Niles Herald-Spectator

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Teens leave mark at Golf Mill

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

More than just a piece of art, the Niles Teen Center's tile art project tells the stories of what positive activities local teens participate in after school.

This is the second year the Niles Teen Center is participating in the Tile Art Project, part of the national "Lights On Afterschool" program that emphasizes the need for positive programming to keep kids involved in safe and healthy activities after school gets out. Artwork created by the teens is turned into tiles, which are then displayed at Golf Mill Mall.

Teens from the Niles Teen Center and other local agencies drew pictures of themselves along with images of what they like to do after school to fit this year's theme of the Tile Art Project, "The Faces of Afterschool."

"I drew myself, the 'One Direction' logo, Japanese anime, a computer and a book," said Alexis Treguboff, who attends Maine East High School. "I thought it was pretty cool, because you got to be creative with it."

Treguboff said she loves to come to the Niles Teen Center after school and listen to "One Direction" songs with her friends.

Aneta Aleksandrowicz, who attends Gemini Junior High School, also drew a picture of herself along with the Niles Teen Center and the logo of the popular band, "One Direction."

"I totally enjoyed doing it," said Aleksandrowicz, who said she enjoys doing art projects. "It was pretty fun."

Aleksandrowicz said that after school she enjoys coming to the teen center to do her homework, hang out with her friends, listen to music and play dance video games.

"I solicit entries from as many youth agencies as I can find," said Mark Williams, director of the Niles Teen Center that is located at Golf Mill Mall. "I pick out ones that best fit the theme."

Williams said he selected 100 pieces of artwork out of about 200 entries. Students from various agencies, such as a local Boy Scout troop, St. John Brebeuf and East Maine Dist. 63 schools that participate in their afterschool program submitted entries to be part of the project.

The students use crayons, colored pencils and markers to make their drawings, which are then sent to a company where they are converted into ceramic tiles. The tiles are mounted onto a wooden frame, which is then mounted onto a wall.

JC Penney sponsors the Tile Art Project, which is a permanent art installation at the mall. Williams said it costs about $650 to convert the artwork to the tiles.

"probably 20 years down the road it'll still be there," Williams said.

An unveiling ceremony for the Tile Art Project will be held on Saturday, Feb. 16 from noon to 12:30 p.m. at Golf Mill Mall near JC Penney and Surf City Squeeze.

"The parents have made requests to celebrate what the kids have done," said Williams. Mayor Robert Callero will be making comments at the upcoming ceremony.

Williams said throughout the year he tries to provide arts and crafts projects for the teens to participate in after school. He hopes the Tile Art project will stay strong.

"We plan to continue it as long as we can," he said.
Two men are accused of making threats against workers in Niles during two separate incidents reported to police on Jan. 24.

In the first incident, a man in his 30s allegedly turned to a Pace bus driver and pointed his fingers in the shape of a gun after he exited the bus at Dempster Street and Ozark Avenue just before 10 p.m.

According to Niles Police the bus driver reported that the passenger became upset when he was asked to turn down the volume of the music on his cell phone. The man also reportedly referenced an incident from the previous day where his friend was allegedly ordered to exit the bus for carrying open alcohol.

Later that night police said a man in his 40s entered a store on the 6100 block of Touhy Avenue and attempted to purchase a shopping cart full of body wash using a store coupon. When the man was told he could only purchase five bottles using the coupon he allegedly became "enraged" and was escorted out of the store. At this time he allegedly threatened to kill the employee who had told him he could not use his coupon, police said.

The customer was last seen entering a Chevy van and heading east on Touhy Avenue. According to police, the incident was captured on surveillance video.

A woman is suing retail giant Walmart for more than $50,000 after she allegedly slipped on a banana peel and broke her leg at its store in Niles.

Marianne Healey filed the lawsuit Wednesday in Cook County Circuit Court.

She claims she was walking to her car in the parking lot of the store at 8500 W. Golf Road on May 9, 2012, when she slipped on the banana peel and fell.

The fall broke her left femur, and the injury still causes her pain, Healey claims in the suit.

She accuses Walmart of carelessness and negligence for letting litter from its store end up in the parking lot. The suit seeks more than $50,000 in damages, according to an affidavit filed along with the lawsuit.

A spokesperson for the company could not be reached for comment Wednesday night.

Board OKs tax incentive for vacant space

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

An application and review process is now in place for property owners seeking a Cook County property tax break as an incentive to fill vacant property; something previously handled by the village manager.

A Cook County 6B development incentive was given to Gustafson Group, LLC at the Niles village board meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 22.

The 6B program lowers the property tax bill for a business interested in purchasing the property as an incentive to occupy vacant property. The location approved for the 6B has been vacant since 2008.

The Gustafson Group will purchase the property at 7430 N. Croname Road. The business owners started their own commercial printing business in Niles 25 years ago at 7350 Croname. The company owns three buildings in Niles that do not have a 6B status.

Since that time, the company has grown into one with 131 employees and they plan to add 10 full-time positions and 35 part-time positions with the opening of the new building.

The request for the tax break initially came up at the December Village Board meeting, but it was tabled until Tuesday evening’s meeting.

Village Trustee Chris Hanusiak wanted to establish parameters for granting a 6B and this topic was discussed at the informal consideration meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 8.

“We need to have a more clearly defined application and review process,” Ross Klicker, economic and marketing coordinator for the Village of Niles, at the Jan. 8 meeting.

“Anybody in 2012 or before who wanted to apply for a 6B would go through the village manager,” said Director of Community Development Chuck Ostman. Since 1998, the village has given the 6B 21 different times, according to Ostman.

The application process will consist of a preliminary meeting with community development, the Niles administrative staff will review the request, and ultimately will get approval from the Village Board.

The conditions will include:

- The proposal must be consistent with the village’s comprehensive plan,
- The proposal must satisfy all applicable Cook County criteria,
- The applicant should make every attempt to employ locally and utilize local businesses and more.

Trustee Andrew Przybylo referred to the board tabling the approval at the December meeting as “anti-business.”

At the December meeting, Mayor Robert Callero said he was “ashamed” of the board members’ decision to table the item.

Finance Director Scot Neukirch said the village will collect more in taxes by the building going from a vacant building to one with a 6B status.

“It will slightly relieve the tax burden on other tax payers,” said Neukirch.
Neighbors fear new plans at Lakeshore Waste

BY NICK KATZ | nkatz@pioneerlocal.com

Neighbors of Lakeshore Waste Services as well as Morton Grove village officials are waiting to see what the company will propose for vacant land next to its Morton Grove headquarters now that Lakeshore has merged with a Chicago company.

Earlier this month Lakeshore announced its merger with Recycling Systems Inc. into a new company called Lakeshore Recycling Systems LLC.

Lakeshore, 6132 Oakton St., provides waste hauling, recycling and other similar services to residential and commercial customers in the Chicago area. Recycling Systems, 3152 S. California, leases trash containers as well as providing hauling and recycling services.

In September, Lakeshore dropped a proposal to open a waste transfer station near its office after a large number of Morton Grove residents opposed it. Citizens to Stop the Morton Grove Garbage Transfer Station collected more than 200 signatures on an online petition opposing the transfer station.

They also criticized the village for not doing enough to inform them of Lakeshore's plans.

In response, the village issued a special edition of its newsletter and has pledged to keep residents informed if Lakeshore comes back with a new plan.

Lakeshore owner JoshConnell could not be reached for comment. But last fall, he said the company might be back with a proposal for a recycling center on the site.

Village Administrator Ryan Horne said neither Lakeshore nor the new company have submitted any proposals to the village since Lakeshore withdrew its application for the waste transfer station.

"There's been nothing," he said.

Horne said he and Mayor Dan Staackmann met recently with company officials. The company did not have any specific plans for the property, he said.

"The feeling I got from that meeting is they are going to take a look at what their new (company) model is going to be," Horne said.

Village officials also have asked the company to let them know as early as possible of any new plans for the site.

"We just reminded their people of the process. We let them know we're here," Horne said.

Tom Maddex, who organized the opposition to the waste transfer station, said neighbors are concerned about any proposal Lakeshore might come up with for the property, including a recycling center. He doesn't know how the merger affects outlook for the site.

"I don't know if it makes it more likely or not," he said, "It's still a concern."

He said they also are concerned that the new company might want to open a facility to process construction debris. It is one of the businesses that Recycling Systems has been involved in.

Maddex said construction materials would not be leftover building materials, but other trash collected at a construction site.

"In no way do we want to get to the construction part of the business," Maddex said. "It's not just two-by-fours."
Healing over a culture gap

IN PROFILE
BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

PARK RIDGE
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital recently hired social worker Malgorzata Cieslak as its Polish Patient Navigator to better meet the unique health needs of the Polish community.

Cieslak, of Oak Park, will educate hospital associates on the cultural sensitivities of Polish patients, in addition to offering guidance to women needing assistance after receiving a diagnosis of breast cancer.

A survivor of cancer herself, Cieslak co-founded the Together-Cancer Survivors Network to provide support services for people affected by the disease in their native language.

"Most of us immigrants have no extended family here, and we have a very hard time sharing our medical problems with others for fear of being rejected," she explained. "By sharing my own experience I can help women to find strength and willpower to fight the disease."

Q: What inspired you to pursue a career in social work?
A: I always liked to help those who could not help themselves or who lived a troubled life. It's very satisfying to see people change and start making better decisions. When my husband and I came to U.S. from Poland we met the most helpful, accommodating, generous, understanding and open-minded people in very small town in Minnesota. Since then I've promised myself that I'll repay their goodness by always helping other Polish immigrants.

Q: How does culture affect healthcare?
A: Many immigrants who face health issues find themselves lost and confused when navigating through the American health system. Of course, I can only speak for the Polish community. Being unable to speak and understand English is the greatest barrier to healthcare for many Polish immigrants. Polish patients also need doctors who are familiar with their background, values and traditions.

Unconventional medicine is also seen to have an integral role in the health of Poland-born people. It is used alongside Western medicine often without informing medical practitioners. Some people will use homeopathic remedies in combination with changes in lifestyle and eating habits. Some herbal medicines and pharmaceuticals are sometimes privately imported from Poland. Word-of-mouth medication recommendations also carry a lot of weight with elderly Poland-born persons.

Q: How does culture affect healthcare?
A: I think the most important issue for the community is to raise awareness about the importance of preventive medicine. Too many Polish people do not see a doctor until they are really sick. There are many myths regarding different diseases and this is often the reason people do not seek screening procedures. Breast cancer, colorectal cancer, and cardiovascular problems are some of the most relevant health issues.

Q: How does being battling and beating breast cancer help you better counsel others?
A: I think anybody can support a person who is diagnosed with cancer. However, being a survivor myself I have a better understanding of the emotional needs of a patient and their loved ones. I am also a strong believer in regular screenings and early detection of breast cancer.
Group counts homeless with aim to house them

The suburban Cook County agency that monitors the homeless employed a deeper survey tool this year to help house the most unprotected.

The Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County, Westchester, conducted its bi-yearly Point in Time homeless count Jan. 24-26.

Added to the usual survey that collects basic demographics, the agency also asked for phone numbers, emergency contacts and took photographs of the unsheltered homeless. The new survey approach, called the 100,000 Homes Campaign, is a national movement of communities finding permanent homes for unsheltered people.

So far, 100,000 Homes have housed 28,400 people, according to the nonprofit Community Solutions that oversees the campaign.

Jennifer Hill, executive director of the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County said the survey also asked health-related questions.

“Research has shown that certain factors can lead to dying on the streets, such as frostbite and hypothermia,” she said, explaining the survey also scores a person’s risk level for morbidity.

“We collect this information and then line up housing with these most

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vulnerable of people in mind. "Faceless numbers may be helpful in the abstract, but this campaign puts names on faces," she said.

Jake Maquire, spokesman for Community Solutions, said repeated studies over the last 10 years found that permanent housing is less expensive to taxpayers than chronic homelessness.

"The cost of permanent housing is much cheaper than paying for the homeless in emergency rooms, shelters, jails and for psychiatric care. The savings are $20,000-$30,000 per homeless person," he said.

In 2010, following a significant increase in national homeless when the economy fell, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness came up with Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness 2010.

"This was President Obama's plan to end homeless. It was the first time the federal government had such a plan," Hill said.

The program, she explained, set targets to end homelessness for military veterans, the chronic homeless, families and children over the next five to 10 years.

The objectives of Opening Doors are to increase civic leadership, affordable housing and economic security for the homeless, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless.

In responding to homelessness more quickly, Opening Doors also integrated primary and behavioral health care services into basic homeless assistance programs.

The Alliance to End Homelessness conducts the counts every two years in the north, northwest, west and south suburbs, in areas where the most homeless live. This is done to receive important funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"HUD wants to see the extent of homelessness in an area. The Alliance to End Homeless is the umbrella group that coordinates services for the homeless," said Brady, also Illinois board president of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

"Thirty percent of the chronically-homeless have some sort of mental illness. They have trouble getting jobs and end up homeless," said Brady, of Inverness.

Volunteers participating in the count are trained to deal with the homeless in areas such as maintaining their respect and privacy and telling them about local programs for the homeless.

Volunteers typically spend three to four hours a night visiting homeless "hot spots" in forest preserves, abandoned buildings, all-night diners, public toilets, laundry mats and train stations — anywhere the unhoused find shelter.

Count results will be published within four to five months, but a survey debriefing meeting is 8 a.m. Feb. 8 at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, Maywood.

Homeless shelters are included in the count, but volunteers do not visit them because the men, woman and children there have already registered.

In addition, Catholic Charities helps with the count by keeping track of people who attend its community dinner every Tuesday and Thursday.

The Alliance also asks public libraries, churches, municipalities and school liaison officers, who work with students of homeless families, for reports of homeless people they know of to tally in the count.

In 2011, homeless children and adults in suburban Cook County had dropped nearly 13 percent since 2007, going from 1,237 to 1,080 — or 157 less.

The turnaround, said homeless shelter supervisors, started in 2009 when federal dollars to prevent homelessness flowed in.

For example, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act — also called the federal stimulus — gave homeless prevention centers around the country part of $1.5 billion.
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The following incidents were listed in the reports of the Niles Police Department. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**

James Sabatino, 60, of 1319 Summersweet, Bartlett, was charged with criminal damage to property on Jan. 19 after he allegedly slashed two tires on a vehicle belonging to a Niles resident. Police said the incident was caught on surveillance video. Sabatino has a Feb. 21 court date.

**RETAIL THEFT**

Victoria Krygowski, 19, of 8760 N. Ozark Ave., Niles, was charged with retail theft, possession of marijuana, resisting a police officer, driving with an expired license and speeding on the morning of Jan. 16. Police said Solovastru was taken into custody on the 9600 block of Milwaukee Avenue after he was stopped for speeding and he allegedly resisted officers' efforts to place him under arrest. He has a Feb. 21 court date.

Horacio Muro-Garcia, 22, of 9409 Ironwood, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with driving under the influence, speeding and disobeying a red light on the morning of Jan. 18. He was taken into custody at Golf Road and Greenwood Avenue. He has a Feb. 8 court date.

**THEFT**

On Jan. 18 a man allegedly placed $44 worth of coffee in a backpack and left a store on the 9000 block of Greenwood without paying for the items. When confronted by an employee outside, the man reportedly turned over the items. Police said the suspect is currently on parole and has an extensive criminal history.

A 1992 Honda Civic was stolen from the 6900 block of Jonquil Terrace between midnight and 4:45 a.m., Jan. 19. A witness reported seeing three men near the vehicle at 4:45 a.m. and then saw the Honda and a white SUV drive away from the area. The Honda was later recovered on the 4600 block of Avers Avenue in Chicago with two flat tires, police said.

**HARASSMENT**

An 87-year-old resident of the 8400 block of Oketo Avenue told police she received a phone call on Jan. 14 from someone who stated, "This is the FBI. We are watching your house and we would like to put a sign in your yard." It was not known from where the call originated.

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**Blockbuster or the Movie Review section?**

Get up and go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond

Every Thursday
The mild winter means using less salt, but may not mean purchasing less salt.

Fred Braun, superintendent of public works for the Village of Niles, said that they have used about 300 or 400 tons of salt so far this winter.

"Typically, we're in the thousands by this time of year," said Braun.

Director of Public Works Scott Jochim said they used a good amount of salt during the ice storm on Sunday, Jan. 27, but he wasn't sure exactly how much was used.

"We were ready to get out the moment the storm hit," said Jochim, who said they made sure to be extra prepared, since an ice storm is different from a regular snow storm.

Braun said that it's possible they may have to purchase the estimated 3,000 tons of salt remaining in their contract with Morton Salt even if they don't need it this winter.

Jochim said that there's still a lot of winter left, but right now the salt dome is full.

Braun said they have not plowed snow at all this winter, and have only been out salting five or six times.

"Last year was very mild," said Braun. "This year has been even milder."

The Niles Public Works Department has been moving towards using organic materials to prevent icing on the streets, such as beet juice.

"We'll probably always use salt to some extent, but we've been gradually increasing the amount of other chemicals we're using," said Braun. He said the beet juice mixtures are used for de-icing and for anti-icing.

The Niles public works department is using new liquid tanks on the back of their salt trucks that spray a liquid product, called Beet Heat.

"The plan is that it will require less salt," said Braun. He said the beet juice and beet juice mixtures are cheaper than salt and better for the environment.

Currently, the public works department has five storage tanks for the liquid products, and the ultimate goal is to mix their own products.

And although the public works crew isn't busy snow plowing this winter, they are definitely keeping busy.

"We're doing everything from water main breaks to working on the street lights," said Tony Dati, a full-time public works employee. Dati said they have been busy patching streets, filling potholes and making sewer repairs.

"We've had an excessive number of water main breaks, and it hasn't slowed down in the winter time," said Braun.

Braun said Niles had more than 20 water main breaks since the first of the year, compared to only seven at this time last year.

"They've just been one after another," said Dati, who has been employed with the Niles Public Works Department for six years.

"Snow-wise, this has definitely been the mildest winter I've ever seen," said Dati. "I have no complaints about it either."
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**Death Notices**

**Gilbert, Bette Iker**

Born April 25, 1927, in Springfield, Illinois, passed away peacefully on January 9, 2013. Bette was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and homemaker. To this day, her children will still ask one another, "Do you have Mom's recipe for...?" She was a Cub Scout and Brownie leader and a beloved piano teacher for many years in Park Ridge, IL. She loved to attend the opera, to garden, play bridge, and win at any board game ever invented. Bette especially loved to visit her children wherever their adult lives took them.

Her husband, William J. Iker, preceded Bette in death in 1987. She is survived by her children, Susan Iker of Lombard, IL, Bill Iker of Nederland, CO, Jeff Iker of New York, NY, Leon Iker of Wilmette, IL, Julie Iker of Black Hawk, CO; grandchildren, Aaron Leifer, Kavi Kapor, Hallie Makuh, Elliot Makuh, Ben Makuh, Quincy Iker, Graham Iker; great-grandchild, Mercedes G. Makuh; and sister, Rosemary Mellas of Garden City, MI.

There will be no local service at this time, but a celebration of her life will take place in her beloved Colorado this summer. A memorial donation can be made, in Bette's name, to the People's Music School, Chicago, IL, an organization that makes music instruction possible for underprivileged children, a cause very dear to her heart. http://peoplesmusicschool/index_files/about.html

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**Schwan, Dorothy A.**

Of Lake Barrington, born on January 8, 1923 in Chicago, IL. She died peacefully in her sleep January 23, 2013 at her residence in Lake Barrington.

Dorothy was a long time resident of Park Ridge, raising her family before she retired and moved to Barrington. She had a lifetime passion for roller skating and had a personality that could light up a room. Dorothy also dedicated her life to building her family business. Dorothy was a devout Christian, loving and devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

She is survived by children, John, Donna, Robert, Howard, Fred, Bill and Gary Schwan. She was preceded in death by her husband, Howard Schwan; and her parents.

Memorial Service has been postponed. Donations in Dorothy's memory can be sent to Allen J. Lynch Medal of Honor, Veterans Foundation, 5220 Grand Ave., Suite 14-PMB 415, Gurnee, IL 60031. Funeral Information and condolences can be given at www.GleckertFuneral.com or (847) 253-6168.

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Keeping Tabs

How Illinois lawmakers voted in Congress during the weeks of Jan. 18 and 25, 2013

Major roll call votes in the House

1. HURRICANE SANDY AID
Members voted, 241-180, to appropriate $50.5 billion in disaster aid, most of which would provide immediate and long-term help for areas of Connecticut, New Jersey and New York devastated by Hurricane Sandy nearly three months ago. The outlay is defined as emergency aid and thus would be deficit spending. A "yes" vote was to send HR 152 to the Senate.

2. DISASTER-AID OFFSET
Members voted, 162-258, against cutting military, domestic and foreign-affairs spending by 1.63 percent across-the-board in the remainder of 2013 to offset approximately one-third of the $50.5 billion Hurricane Sandy relief package (HR 152, above). This vote left the entire bill as deficit spending. A "yes" vote was to cut virtually all categories of non-entitlement spending.

3. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
Members voted, 206-214, against stripping HR 152 (above) of $13 million for advancing a National Weather Service project that will use satellite and radar data to instantly improve the accuracy of storm warnings and weather forecasts. A "yes" vote backed the amendment on grounds the $13 million does not qualify as emergency spending.

4. LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
Members voted, 202-217, against stripping HR 152 (above) of $1 million that would boost Legal Services Corporation resources for helping low-income persons deal with legal problems arising Hurricane Sandy. The LSC is a federally funded non-profit corporation. A "yes" vote opposed the $1 million on grounds it does not qualify as emergency spending.

5. DEBT-LIMIT WAIVER
Members voted, 285-144, to waive the statutory debt limit until May 19, allowing the Treasury to borrow above the current $16.4 trillion limit until then. A "yes" vote was to pass a bill that also denies pay for members of Congress if the Senate fails to pass a budget plan as required by law for fiscal 2014 and beyond. (HR 325)

6. SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE
Members voted, 151-277, to defeat a Democratic bid to bar any budget resulting from HR 325 (above) from privatizing Social Security, cutting benefits for veterans or troops, converting Medicare to a voucher plan, cutting Medicaid or reducing guaranteed health-insurance benefits for disabled persons or senior citizens. A "yes" vote backed the Democratic motion.

Key votes ahead

The Senate was scheduled to vote on reforming filibuster rules during the week of Jan. 21. The House schedule was to be announced.

Pioneer Press
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What it means to you

TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

CHICAGO

Attorney: extend health care subsidy for retired city workers

An attorney representing retired city employees urged Mayor Rahm Emanuel last week to continue the 55 percent city subsidy for retiree health care for five more years to give Obama Care a chance to shake out.

Two weeks after a mayoral commission raised the possibility of forcing retirees to fend for themselves under the federal plan, Clinton Krislov argued for a reprieve until the transition to the Affordable Health Care Act is complete.

"It's not fair to tell retirees, 'Don't worry. You'll be better off when we dump you.' The idea that the federal plan will leave them better off because they can buy health insurance with subsidies is totally unproven," said Krislov, who has represented retirees in the marathon case.

Mayoral spokesperson Kathleen Strand did not respond directly to the request for a five-year extension. In an email response to the Chicago Sun-Times, she would only say that the mayor continues to review the report.

"The City owes it to our retirees, current employees and taxpayers to come together and find a solution that strikes the right balance between providing affordable health care choices for our retirees and serving the interests of the taxpayer," Strand wrote.

- Chicago Sun-Times

SPRINGFIELD

Dems still eye borrowing to pay down $9 billion in overdue bills

Despite repeated failures, Democrats again are considering a multibillion-dollar loan to pay down the state's backlog of past-due bills, now hovering at a near-record $9 billion.

Republicans, led by State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka, continue to resist the short-term loan idea as a way for Illinois to pay down stacks of invoices overdue by as much as four months to businesses, charities and local governments performing some of the state's most essential services.

But an influential Senate Democrat, John Sullivan, is working on a borrowing proposal to re-introduce in this spring's legislative session. A House budget leader, Rep. Frank Mautino, said a loan would mean "tremendous" savings and should be part of upcoming budget negotiations with Gov. Pat Quinn.

The first big obstacle, however, is one matter that everyone agrees on: The borrowing idea won't be considered until lawmakers come up with a solution to an even bigger problem — the state's $96 billion pension deficit. Attempts to solve that crisis broke down earlier this month, meaning the issue could remain on center stage through the legislative session that ends May 31.

- The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

U.S. new-home sales fell in Dec., overall sales up for the year

Sales of new U.S. homes cooled off in December compared with November but for the entire year were the best since 2009.

The Commerce Department said that new-home sales fell 7.3 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 369,000. That's down from November's rate of 398,000.

For the year, sales rose nearly 20 percent to 367,000. That's the most since 2009, although the increase is coming off the worst year for new-home sales since the government began keeping records in 1963. Jennifer Lee, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said the December decline in sales of newly built homes wasn't cause for worry. She still expects sales to improve this year.

In a note to clients, she points out that figures for November, October and September were revised higher. Many buyers may have held off last month because of uncertainty over taxes. The White House and Congress reached a deal on Jan. 1 to keep income taxes from rising on most Americans.

"Take December's drop with a grain of salt, especially given all of the uncertainty about what will happen to taxes in the new year," Lee said.

- The Associated Press
Keep it under your hat

Chances are your family has at least one old story that you don't question too closely because it might turn out not to be true.

It's much more fun just to believe you're descended from royalty or whatever.

But serious historians would never accept family lore as factual history without checking it out completely, letting the chips fall where they may.

Except, apparently, in Springfield, where standards of scholarship may be more relaxed.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has begun exhibiting a stovepipe hat that the museum claims — without a word of doubt — was owned by Lincoln. But the only evidence Lincoln owned the hat is a 1958 affidavit from a woman who says her father-in-law, William Waller, obtained the hat from the president "during the Civil War in Washington."

There is no evidence Waller was even in Washington then.

But, gee, let's not tell the tourists.

There is a law of unintended consequences at work in the universe.

It goes something like this: You do something over here, and something over there happens that no one considered would happen.

Take for example this Manti T'eo story. He's the Notre Dame football star who confessed last week that his girlfriend was fake and claimed to be the victim of a hoax.

Hold on for a minute. In his revelation, T'eo admitted he never met the girl he conversed with over the phone. They never held hands or went to a movie. Never shared a Coke and fries at McDonald's and never kissed. I started dating later than most of the guys in high school, but even I know that if you don't do those things (movie, hold hands, kiss), she's not your girlfriend.

Not only was the girl fake, but T'eo's idea that he had a girlfriend was fake. Now that's really weird. I've had fake girlfriends before — Hayley Mills in "The Trouble With Angels," Jessica Lange in "All That Jazz," and Meg Ryan in "Sleepless in Seattle."

But at least the girls were real. It was just my relationship with them that was fake and somewhat pathetic.

Unintended consequences.

Also last week was this big controversy over Subway selling a sandwich they call a "footlong." Some kid in Australia actually measured the sandwich and found that it only measured 11 inches, and even down under, that's not one foot long.

I usually don't buy the footlong sandwich. I usually just get a six-inch tuna. So that got me wondering: Is my six-inch sandwich really six inches? If the footlong is only 11 inches, than it is impossible for my sandwich to be six inches. Since they cut it right in half, my sandwich can only be about 5 ½ inches.

Does anybody worry about that? Unintended consequences.

I was watching TV last night and a commercial came on for an upcoming TV show. Regular people like the folks next door had guns and were protecting themselves from attacking zombies.

Now that got me thinking of the unintended consequences if guns get outlawed in this country. What is Hollywood going to do for story lines? Since every TV show and movie deals with shootouts and gunplay, what device will screenwriters come up with to move the story along?

In a movie, you never see a guy with a rocket launcher, because rocket launchers are illegal.

So what will movies do? Will they just become boring talkfests like British films, like this "Downton Abbey" thing my wife makes me watch instead of "Terminator 2?"

And then it hit me. If guns get outlawed, how will we protect ourselves from zombie or cyborg attacks?
We see red, stores see green

Now, what are we supposed to do?

Christmas is over. So what are we to spend our money on? There has to be something. The economy depends on us being parted from our dough.

But wait, over there on the horizon. That big, red heart. It's Valentine's Day, hoving into view to help us boost the economy.

Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, not only is an economic boon — Americans will spend an estimated $17.6 billion — but it is a virtually foolproof way for men to make up for their screw-ups on other holidays and special occasions.

Men sometimes forget things such as birthdays and anniversaries. But Valentine's Day is big and red and in your face — and it's the same day for everyone so it's harder to forget.

Men sometimes give gifts that are less than passionately appreciated — “What's wrong with steak knives?” Or, “Hey, it's a top-of-the-line vacuum cleaner ...”

No, it's apparent even to men that a Valentine's gift has to be romantic, what men would call useless.

Men sometimes give gifts that are less than passionately appreciated.

Otherwise a lot of women would probably receive that really neat device for removing dead skin from their feet that we keep seeing on TV commercials. Candy and/or flowers are standard gifts. And dinner out. And maybe a nice card:

“I know Valentine

I'm beneath ya.

But I really love you

more than pizza.”

It takes two to Valentine, though. It's a fact that men spend more on Valentine's Day than do women. So, if for no other reason than to boost the economy, ladies, be nice to the old man on Valentine's Day:

“Happy Valentine's Day to my Hubby

Over the years you've gotten chubby

But still sometimes you make me glad.

So here's season four of 'Breaking Bad.'

Maybe accompanied by a beef sandwich, dipped, sweet and hot.

Flowers optional.

Men sometimes give gifts that are less than passionately appreciated.

Niles Herald-Spectator Wants to Hear from You

Please send your Letters to the Editor to Niles Herald-Spectator, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60026. Please keep letters to 250 words or fewer. The Herald-Spectator reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and content. All letters must be signed to be published.
Question of the Week

“Should social media sites like Facebook and Instagram own the rights to your photos?”

Frank Falesch
Kenosha

“Not unless they pay us.”

Justin Levy
Skokie

“Legally that’s giving up ownership.”

Allen Fetterman
Deerfield

“Yeah, they’re willing to post it.”

Don Hammond
Milwaukee

“I don’t think they should own the rights to it, but if it’s posted to the site…”

People Poll

LAST WEEK’S QUESTION
“Should schools have armed guards?”

RESPONSES
1) Yes: 34%
2) No: 64%
3) Undecided: 2%

THIS WEEK’S QUESTION

“Will Metra’s 10-ride fare hike affect how you commute?”

RESPONSES
1) I may ride less.
2) It’s still cheaper than driving.
3) I never take the train.

To respond to this week’s People Poll question, visit nlles.suntimes.com.

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Maine students up service with new club

BY NATALIE HAYES | Contributor

From the debate team to clubs for animal lovers or trivia fanatics, hundreds of student-run clubs designed to meet a diverse array of student interests exist between the three high schools in Maine Township District 207.

This January, Maine East High School in Park Ridge added a new club to its list with the launch of the Rotary Interact Club (RIC), a student-run group focused on engaging in leadership opportunities and giving back to the local community.

The RIC is sponsored by the Park Ridge branch of Rotary International, an organization with more than 34,000 clubs around the world that focus on humanitarian and community service work.

The club's description may seem a lot like other community-focused clubs found in many high schools, but the six students who started the club insist the club provides special learning opportunities that help students gain leverage in college and in their future careers.

Teacher John Schwan announced the formation of the club earlier this month, and more than 300 students have since turned in applications. "Joining this club is a win-win from our standpoint," Schwan said. "These students will have the opportunity to rub shoulders with and be mentored by many significant leaders in the community while developing professional skills to help them with success in college."

Patrick Zajac, a junior at Maine West and an officer of the RIC, said he and the other five officers were spending their time this week after finals sorting through applications from the hundreds of students who want to join the club.

"The application isn't meant to deny people, but we want to make sure we don't let people in who don't end up helping out," Zajac said. "We want motivated and dedicated people."

Club members will be expected to attend meetings twice a month on Thursday mornings before school, and are required to participate in one community service project each semester out of the two held each school year.

Having more than 300 students apply for one club may seem like an unlikely occurrence at a high school, but Zajac said clubs are considered cool among high school students, at least at Maine East.

"A lot of students love to join clubs here," Zajac said. "If you join one no one will look down on you."

Maine East is the only high school in the district to offer the RIC, but is one of almost 11,000 RICs across the world that share a main goal of fostering goodwill and developing a network of connections with local and nationwide chapters.

Although the Maine East RIC hasn't even officially started yet, some students have already gotten a jump-start on helping the main cause of Rotary International, which is to support worldwide polio eradication efforts.

Zajac, along with fellow officer Alifya Valiji and several other students, organized a school-wide fundraising event earlier this school year that raised more than $725 for the cause.

Valiji, a junior at Maine East, said the RIC would take ideas from new club members before deciding what the club's next fundraising event would be.

Aside from supporting causes that fight polio, the RIC at Maine West will work under the same umbrella principles followed by the Rotary International organization, which are to develop leadership skills, demonstrate helpfulness and respect for others, and to understand the value of individual responsibility and hard work.
District 71 board will face empty seat

BY IGOR STUDENKOV | Contributor

It was supposed to be a straightforward election.

On April 9, four out of the seven Niles Elementary District 71 school board seats would be up for grabs. The four candidates with the most votes would win.

Yet, as the Dec. 26, 2012 filing deadline came and went, it turned out that only three people filed: incumbent Matt Holbrook and newcomers Jill Astbury-Brocar and Matt Glancy.

With the other three incumbents retiring, the upcoming election will leave the board with one vacant seat. Once the election is over, the board will fill the vacancy.

Voters won't know what the full board will look like until May 2013 at the earliest.

Niles Elementary District 71 is made up solely of Culver Elementary School. Like most in Illinois, the district board is made up of seven members that are elected for four-year terms. The terms are staggered, so that there are three or four seats contested at each biennial election.

During the last election, four candidates ran for three seats. This year, the field is wide open. Board President Patrick Byrne, Secretary Mary Krueger and member John Zuckerman are retiring this year, leaving three seats open and two candidates running to fill them.

James Russell, the associate executive director of the Illinois Association of School Boards explained that another candidate could enter the race if he or she mounts a write-in campaign. If that doesn't happen, it would be up to the district to fill the vacancy.

The Illinois Council of School Attorneys "Answers to FAQs: Vacancies on the Board of Education" document explains that, under common law, a seat left vacant due to the lack of candidates should be treated the same way as a seat that was vacated for any other reason.

When the next term begins on April 30, the board will have 45 days to fill the vacancy by appointing a replacement. If the board fails to act, then the Illinois State Board of Education will have another 30 days to appoint the replacement. Once the replacement is appointed, he or she will serve until the next election.

Under the district policy, the board will choose replacements from a pool of candidates that apply. The candidates will submit resumes, and the board reserves a right to interview any of them at closed meetings. The board would make its final decision by a simple majority vote at a public meeting.

Byrne said he thought the board could manage with six members until the vacancy is filled, but it wasn't something he would want to continue for long.

“A quorum of four board members is required to conduct meetings and vote on new business,” he said. "So, it is possible to conduct business with less than seven members, but you would certainly rather have a full board present when making decisions that affect the entire district.”

For now, the board is focused on other issues.

“The board has not discussed the impending vacancy," said Byrne. “It would be up to the newly seated board to decide on a replacement, once that vacancy occurs."
School board votes to fire coach over hazing

BY JON SEIDEL | jseidel@suntimes.com

The Maine Township school board voted Thursday to fire a second soccer coach swept up in a hazing scandal at the northwest suburban school district.

In calling for Emilio Rodriguez's dismissal, the board stated in documents he was "not forthright" when he denied at a meeting in December he'd been told about the alleged initiation of a student — one that's previously been described as a sexual assault.

"Your blanket denial that students reported these allegations to you," the board wrote in the documents it used to begin the process of firing Rodriguez.

That meeting occurred the day after the board voted to fire varsity soccer coach Michael Divincenzo, according to the documents. Now Rodriguez, like Divincenzo, is suspended without pay while their dismissal processes play out.

Rodriguez will have 17 days after being formally notified of the board's decision to ask for a hearing where he could fight for his job.

Divincenzo, who is also being disciplined over the hazing scandal, is already seeking a hearing.

Neither man has made a public comment about the allegations despite several requests from the Sun-Times. Rodriguez couldn't be reached for comment Thursday. Police reports show the men denied knowing about hazing at the school.

They also show Rodriguez said he was told some soccer players "got" another player on Sept. 26. When Rodriguez asked that player what happened, Rodriguez told police the player said others tackled him and tried to pull his pants down but didn't get his underwear down. When Rodriguez asked the player if that's all that happened, he said the player said yes.

The board's resolution said Rodriguez was told at least two freshman soccer players were assaulted and sodomized that day with fingers or sticks as a form of hazing.

Meanwhile, in another move to combat allegations of a hazing culture at the Maine Township schools, the board voted to hire a former assistant U.S. attorney, Sergio Acosta, to "scrutinize every aspect" of the hazing matter at $300 an hour.

Cook County prosecutors and state child welfare officials are also investigating.

Acosta is a former chief of the general crimes section of the criminal division of the U.S. attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois, according to his online biography.

Tony Romanucci, a lawyer suing the school district over the hazing allegations, said he is glad to see it is "cleaning house." However, he also told reporters before the board's vote he thinks Maine West Principal Audrey Haugan is being protected as discipline is handed out.

Haugan is named along with Divincenzo and Rodriguez in Romanucci's lawsuit. The attorney claims Haugan knew Divincenzo tolerated the alleged abuse of a student on a baseball team he coached in 2008 and took no action against him.

Haugan has declined in the past to speak about the allegations and couldn't be reached for comment Thursday.

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Puzzles

SUPER CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. Let's go by, as a chance (5,6)
2. Like some eyeglass lenses (5)
3. Short race of the 1920s (5)
4. Motor noise (5)
5. Medium tempo (5)
6. Not tricked by (5)
7. Nuclear Physics (7)
8. Needle-nosed fishes (7)
9. "Grand" instruments of, in slang (7)
10. Speak ill of, in slang (7)
11. O.J. Simpson trial judge (7)
12. Cuban singer Cruz (8)
13. People who may share armrests (8)
14. Symphony (8)
15. McKellen of (8)
16. Like the pope: Abbr. (8)
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31. Cuban singer Cruz (9)
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DOWN
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2. Clever (5)
3. Of the womb (5)
4. Maker (5)
5. SWAP (5)
6. Slung (5)
7. Approval (5)
8. Division (5)
9. New no more (5)
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11. Wisdom (5)
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BY LINDA THISTLE

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ** (xo: Moderate; ***: Challenging; ****: HOO BOY!)

NEED A HINT? FIND THE PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 29

HOROSCOPES

For the week of February 6 to February 12

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
It could be risky to push for a project you believe in but others are wary of. Never mind. If you trust your facts, follow your courageous Aries heart and go with it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Your enthusiasm spurs renewed interest in a workplace project that once seemed headed for deletion. Support from supervisors helps you make all necessary changes.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
A colleague might be a bit too contrary when your ideas are being discussed in the workplace. A demand for an explanation could produce some surprises all around.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
Try to avoid distractions at a time when maintaining stability in a fluid situation is essential. There'll be time enough later for the Moon Child to enjoy some well-earned fun and games.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
Stop wasting energy bickering with your wounded pride. Instead, put the lessons you learned from that upsetting experience to good use in an upcoming opportunity.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
You love being busy. But try not to make more work for yourself than you need to. Get help so that you don't wind up tackling tasks that are better left to others.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
Your usually balanced way of assessing decisions involving you. It's not always easy for the proud Goat to forgive past slights. But clearing the air could help establish a better climate for that important upcoming venture.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
You might feel angry over an unexpected shift in attitude by someone you trusted. But this could soon turn in your favor as more surprising facts come out.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
Good news: Your skillful handling of a recent matter has won admiration from someone who could be influential in any upcoming decisions involving you.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
You continue to welcome new friends into the widening circle of people whom you hold dear. One of those newcomers soon might have something special to tell you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You love nature and inspire others to follow your example of concern for the planet's well-being.
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EXAMPLE: CHATEAU D’AX QUINCY QUEEN SLEEPER, Leather, Reg.
3300.00, Prev. Sale 2553.00, LAST DAY 1799.00.

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SAVE 40%-60%
ON MOST MATTRESSES WHEN YOU
TAKE AN EXTRA 20% OFF
EXAMPLE: STEARNS & FOSTER APRIL ANN PILLOWTOP, FIRM OR PLUSH
Queen 2-pc. set, Reg. 4498.00, Prev. Sale 2249.00, LAST DAY 1799.00

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Choose from an amazing selection of rugs from Pakistan,
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2500.00, Prev. Sale 2000.00, LAST DAY 1799.00

NO INTEREST IF PAID IN FULL IN 12 MONTHS* PLUS NO DOWN PAYMENT with a minimum $1000.00 purchase in furniture, mattresses and rugs on your Bloomingdale's Card, subject to credit approval. Interest will be charged to your account from the purchase date if the purchase is not paid in full within 12 months or if you make a late payment, ends February 2, 2013.

INTEREST CHARGES accrue on the promotional balance from the transaction date and all accrued INTEREST CHARGES for the entire promotional period will be added to your account if the promotional balance is not paid in full by the end of the promotional period or if you fail to make a required payment on your account when due. Minimum monthly payments of the greater of $25.00 or 3.25% of your promotional balance (which calculation is rounded up to the nearest dollar) are required plus any minimum payment otherwise due. Making the minimum monthly payment will not pay off your promotional balance in time to avoid INTEREST CHARGES. See below for details.*

NO INTEREST FOR ONE YEAR IF PAID IN FULL BY PROMOTION EXPIRATION DATE. Requires a minimum purchase of $1000.00 in furniture, mattresses and rugs charged to your Bloomingdale's Card. Subject to credit approval. INTEREST CHARGE will be determined by applying an ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE ("APR") of up to 26.99% (but if your account has a variable APR, a variable APR of 24.50% as of January 1, 2013) to the account's Average Daily Balance with a minimum monthly INTEREST CHARGE of $2.00. The variable APR will vary with the market based on the Prime Rate. Deferred offer ends February 2, 2013. See Credit Card Agreement for additional details.

SALE ENDS FEBRUARY 2, 2013. OFFER NOT VALID ON TEMPR-PELIC MATTRESSES. **LOWEST PRICES OF THE SEASON END FEBRUARY 2, 2013. LOWEST PRICE REFERENCES THE WINTER RETAIL SEASON, NOVEMBER 1, 2012–FEBRUARY 2, 2013. PRICES MAY BE LOWERED FOR CLEARANCE. REG/DISC. PRICES REFLECT OFFERING PRICES. SAVINGS MAY NOT BE BASED ON ACTUAL SALES. INTERMEDIATE MARKDOWNS MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN. SAVINGS OFF REGULAR, ORIGITAL AND ALREADY-REDUCED PRICES. SAVINGS OFF REGULAR, ORIGINAL AND ALREADY-REDUCED PRICES. SOME ITEMS MAY BE INCLUDED IN SALES ALREADY IN PROGRESS OR IN FUTURE SALES. NO ADJUSTMENTS TO PRIOR PURCHASES. FURNITURE, MATTRESSES AND RUGS NOT AT SOHO, BRIGHTWATER COMMONS, LINCOLN SQUARE OR NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE. NO FURNITURE OR RUGS IN OUR CALIFORNIA STORES; MATTRESSES AVAILABLE AT CENTURY CITY, NEWPORT FASHION ISLAND, SHERMAN OAKS, SOUTH COAST PLAZA AND SAN FRANCISCO. FURNITURE AND RUGS NOT AT WALT WHITMAN. NO FURNITURE AT OLD ORCHARD AND SHORT HILLS. NO RUGS AT WOODSIDE. NO RUGS AT SOHO LOFTS, NO RUGS AT LAKE WORTH. NO RUGS AT CHERY CHASE. MATTRESS SAVINGS NOT INCLUDED IN SALES ALREADY IN PROGRESS OR IN FUTURE SALES. NO ADJUSTMENTS TO PRIOR PURCHASES. FURNITURE, MATTRESSES AND RUGS NOT AT SOHO, BRIGHTWATER COMMONS, LINCOLN SQUARE OR NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE. NO FURNITURE OR RUGS IN OUR CALIFORNIA STORES; MATTRESSES AVAILABLE AT CENTURY CITY, NEWPORT FASHION ISLAND, SHERMAN OAKS, SOUTH COAST PLAZA AND SAN FRANCISCO. FURNITURE AND RUGS NOT AT WALT WHITMAN. NO FURNITURE AT OLD ORCHARD AND SHORT HILLS. NO RUGS AT WOODSIDE. NO RUGS AT LAKE WORTH. NO RUGS AT CHERY CHASE. MATTRESS SAVINGS NOT INCLUDED IN SALES ALREADY IN PROGRESS OR IN FUTURE SALES.

PLEASE VISIT BLOOMINGDALES.COM OR CALL STORES FOR HOURS. MEDINAH TEMPLE, CHICAGO, 312-324-7500. MEDINAH PARKING VALIDATION AT INTERPARKING ROWE GARAGE, 50 E. OHIO; JUST 12.00 FOR UP TO 3 HOURS, REGULAR RATE APPLIES THEREAFTER. MEDINAH PARKING, 50 E. OHIO; JUST 12.00 FOR UP TO 3 HOURS, REGULAR RATE APPLIES THEREAFTER. MEDINAH TEMPLE, 312-324-7500. MEDINAH PARKING VALIDATION AT INTERPARKING ROWE GARAGE, 50 E. OHIO; JUST 12.00 FOR UP TO 3 HOURS, REGULAR RATE APPLIES THEREAFTER. MEDINAH TEMPLE, 312-324-7500. MEDINAH PARKING VALIDATION AT INTERPARKING ROWE GARAGE, 50 E. OHIO; JUST 12.00 FOR UP TO 3 HOURS, REGULAR RATE APPLIES THEREAFTER.
Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Niles Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. Information may be faxed to (847) 486-7495 or e-mailed to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

**CIVIC**

**Lincoln Day Dinner**

**18+ 65+**

Maine Township GOP incumbents are hosting this event from 5:30-8 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Chateau Ritz, 9100 Milwaukie Ave., Niles. Tickets are $75 each. Call Chris Provenzano at (312) 804-8434. Tickets are available in advance and at the door.

**Niles Township Clerk**

**18+ 65+**

Niles Township Clerk’s Office is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and evenings by appointment on the second and fourth Mondays of each month to accommodate residents with passport applications, voter registrations and temporary handicapped parking placards. To schedule an appointment at Niles Township in Skokie, call (847) 673-9300.

**CLUBS**

**Knights of Columbus**

**18+**

North American Martyrs Council Chapter, Niles, provides ways for members to help others in the community while trying to improve their family and spiritual lives. Call Bob Galassi, (847) 965-0920.

**MOMS Club**

**18+**

Northern Chicagoland group holds weekly activities (such as play groups, outings, museums, park dates) and monthly member meetings and Moms Night Out. Call (773) 953-2834 or visit http://sites.google.com/site/momsclubofnorthernchicago or email chicagomomsclub@gmail.com.

**Niles Chapter Toastmasters**

**18+**

Meets 7:15 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. Members learn how to feel comfortable and have self-confidence talking to an audience. Call (847) 583-9328.

**COMMUNITY**

**Valentine Roses**

**18+ 56+**

A larger than love Rose Display will be showcased in Center Court of Golf Mill Shopping Center from Feb. 4 through 28, featuring a bouquet of roses, romantic guitar and inspirational scripture. Shoppers are invited to enter to win a Story Bracelet complete with two accessory beads, compliments of Michael Hill. Entries can be completed in Center Court, or inside the Michael Hill store, winner will be chosen Valentine’s Day. Entrants must be at least 16 years of age, able to provide a valid ID and email address on the entry form. Shoppers are also encouraged to take a picture of themselves in front of the Rose Display to www.facebook.com/GolfMillShoppingCenter to be entered to win a dinner for two at Ginza-Steak, Seafood and Sushi Buffet; winner will be selected Feb. 28. Visit www.golfmill.com or call (847) 699-1070.

**The Antsy Aardvark**

**18+ 65+ 76+**

JCC Young Actors Ensemble will present “The Antsy Aardvark” at 7 p.m. Jan. 31 and noon and 3:30 p.m. Feb. 3 at the Elaine Zollie Frank Theater, Mayer Kaplan JCC, 5050 Church St., Skokie. "Dress Like a Pirate Day" is Jan. 31. Those attending as a pirate get a free ticket to the show with the purchase of an adult ticket. Tickets are $15 for adults, $10 for children ages 7-13 and $5 for children ages 6 and under. Visit www.gojcc.org/theater, call (847) 763-3518 or e-mail ticket@gojcc.org.

**FUN RAISERS**

**Watch the Super Bowl**

**FAM**

A Super Sunday Football Party will take place Feb. 3 at the St. John Brebeuf Ministry Center, 8305 N. Harlem Ave., Niles; doors will open at 2 p.m., the kitchen at 4, and the kick-off is at 5:30 p.m. There will be a variety of foods, dessert, coffee, beer, wine and soda. Participants can watch the game on a gigantic 10-foot screen. Tickets are $20; children age 14 and under, $5. Call Dennis O’Donovan, (224) 616-0753; Andy Beierwaltes, (847) 966-6961; or John Jekot, (847) 651-7624.

**Young Widows**

**18+**

The Chicagoland Young Widowed Connection will host Valentine & Wine from 6-8 p.m. Feb. 16 at WineStyles, 1517 Waukegan Road, Glenview. The event is a fundraiser geared toward young widowed men and women under 55. CYWC provides referrals for sources of support, seminars and workshops on the practical issues of widowhood, regular social activities and connections to the community through outreach. Tickets for Valentine & Wine are $25 each and a portion of the proceeds will help fund CYWC’s 501(c)(3) filing fees and the outreach project. Tickets can be purchased at info@chicagolandwidowed.org.

**HEALTH**

**Whooping Cough Vaccine**

**12+ 13+ 65+ 18+**

Whooping Cough Vaccine: All three of the Jewel-Osco Pharmacies in Niles are offering the whooping cough vaccine booster in response to recent whooping cough outbreaks across the state. It is recommended that all individuals ages 11 and older receive the vaccination, called Tdap, which specially-trained and certified pharmacists are available to administer. Consumers can obtain the vaccination at Jewel-Osco Pharmacies seven days a week and no appointment is necessary.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Hours for the public**

**FAM 65+ 18+**

Niles Historical Museum: 8970 N. Milwaukee Ave., is open to the public 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Drop in, make arrangements for a tour, drop off artifacts and collections, or just come to visit. The new magnetic elevator makes the auditorium easily accessible. Call (847) 390-0160.

**LIBRARY**

**Niles Public Library**

**6960 W. Oakton St., (847) 663-1234 or online at www.nileslibrary.org.**

Registration is required for most programs unless indicated otherwise.

**Reading with Rover**

**4-12**

Kids in kindergarten and a bit older can build confidence when reading out loud with friendly dogs. Call Youth Services, (847) 663-6622, to sign up for a 20-minute slot, 7-8:30 p.m. Jan. 31.

**Lego Club**

**3-13**

Join in from 4-5 p.m.
on the fourth Monday of each month to create Lego masterpieces in the Lego Club. For kids in kindergarten to eighth grade.

**Parties**

DJ Miss Cate will spin tunes at 10 a.m. Feb. 8.

Dave Rudolf will highlight a Valentine’s Beach Party at 2 p.m. Feb. 10. Free tickets available at Youth Services 30 minutes before event. All ages.

**Russian Storytime**

Dave Rudolf will share stories and songs in Russian (with a bit of English) at 11 a.m. Feb. 9. Craft and snack included; for kids ages 2 and older with grown-up.

**Valentine Chocolates**

Create chocolate-dipped strawberries and chocolate hearts with Linda Hills from Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory at 5:30-6:30 p.m. Feb. 1; for sixth- to 12th-graders.

**Planning the Garden**

The Niles Garden Club will talk about ordering from gardening catalogs and when and how to start from seeds from 2-3:30 p.m. Feb. 3.

**Little Ladies Dance**

Taking place from 7-9 p.m. Feb. 1 at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St. Girls ages 3 to 12 are invited to ask the favor of a man in their life (dad, grandpa, uncle) for an evening of dancing to a live DJ, games, prizes, and refreshments. Residents pay $30; nonresidents, $40 per couple; $10 for each additional daughter. Register at the Howard Leisure Center.

**Bright Beginnings Preschool**

Parents interested in Niles Park District Bright Beginnings Preschool 2013-14 are invited to observe classes in action the week of Feb. 4 during scheduled classes. An appointment is required to visit a classroom. Also, an evening Open House is offered from 7-8 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Howard Leisure Center, Grennan Heights and Oakton Manor. Call the Howard Leisure Center (847) 967-6633, to make an appointment or have information mailed to you. Preschool Registration will take place Feb. 25 for residents and March 4 for nonresidents.

**NILES SENIOR CENTER**

The center offers membership to Niles residents age 55 and older and their spouses. Drop by the Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive, Niles, or call (847) 588-8420 for an application. Visit www.vniles.com, click on Departments and then Senior. Registration required for most programs.

**Money Smart**

This workshop will provide seniors with information on how to make smart choices with their money from 10-11:45 a.m. Feb. 6. Seniors will learn how to guard against identity theft, how various types of insurance will help manage risks and the need to plan for unexpected disability or death.

**Benefit lunch**

Will be held from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Feb. 4 to benefit the Niles Historical Society. Lunch is a hot dog, chips and cookie. Admission is $2 at the door.

**Men's Club**

Lunch will feature a Polish sausage sandwich with from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Feb. 11. Cost is $5, members; $7.50, nonmembers.
“Maybe it’s time we hang the help wanted sign.”

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NI LES

Dominic Celli is happy to continue his family's tradition of selling tasty, high quality Italian beef sandwiches.

Celli's father, Emil, owned a beef stand on the Northwest Side of Chicago for 40 years, which is where Dominic first learned the ins and outs of the business when he was a child.

Today, Dominic runs Celli's Beef at 8080 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Niles. It has been feeding hungry customers in Niles since April 2010.

"It's been a family business for two generations," said Celli, who said his family members have owned a couple similar restaurants. Celli shared what makes his Italian beef sandwiches so special.

"I use the highest cut of meat," said Celli. "It's a non-injected product; fresh beef that is cooked daily. I use my own spices to make the juice for the sandwiches and I use my dad's homemade recipe for the sweet peppers and the hot giardiniera.

Celli added that fresh bread is delivered on a daily basis to the restaurant.

Although Italian beef sandwiches are their signature item, other popular items on the menu are the Italian sausage sandwiches, gyro sandwiches, charcoal broiled hamburgers and hot dogs with fresh cut fries.

The menu offers a wide variety, including salads, chicken and steak burritos, Caesar and Greek chicken wraps, homemade chili, buffalo wings, shrimp basket, pepper and egg sandwich, double Italian sandwich, combo sandwich (beef and sausage), homemade meatball sandwich, Maxwell Street polishes and much more.

Celli said his favorite part of his job is definitely interacting with the customers.

"I have a pretty outgoing, colorful personality, so it's something that is always portrayed here at Celli's," he explained.

"I'm doing what I love to do," said Celli.

Celli said that the restaurant offers a very casual atmosphere that is conducive to families. The restaurant also offers an outdoor café area.

"It's a great location, because it's on Milwaukee Avenue," said Celli. "It's a heavily traveled road. There are a lot of exposure opportunities here."

Nearby schools and parks help feed customers, he said.

"All these things lead to increased visibility and opportunities for me to gain additional customers," he added.

Celli said he has quite a few regulars that visit his restaurant. In addition to Dominic, there are two employees at the restaurant.

"They've been with me since day one," said Celli.

Celli's Beef hosts car shows in their parking lot during the summertime as well.
Jewelry stolen in ruse-entry scam

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

NILES

An elderly Niles couple became the latest victims of a ruse-entry scam when men claiming they needed to check for water contamination were allowed inside the couple’s home. According to Niles Police the incident occurred on the morning of Jan. 15 on the 6800 block of Jonquil Terrace. Police said two men approached the residents of the home, claiming the water in the house next door was contaminated and they needed to check the residents’ water. One of the men walked into the kitchen and began running the faucet before asking if the residents had a faucet in the basement.

Police said the female resident accompanied the man into the basement, leaving the front door of the house open. The man reportedly spoke to another person through the use of a two-way radio.

The following day the woman discovered several pieces of jewelry missing from the home, police said.

Beat goes on for Allegro Music’s new owner

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

PARK RIDGE

Future rock stars, violin virtuosos and even the next “American Idol” finalist just might be getting their start in Park Ridge.

Since 2005, Allegro Music Center has been helping young musicians and vocalists hone their craft, whether it involves mastering a six-string or hitting the high notes.

As manager and instructor, Jared Skiba has been right there to follow their progress.

Today, Skiba, a Park Ridge native, has a new role at Allegro: owner. Skiba officially took over the popular Park Ridge business late last year and the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce is planning a ceremonial ribbon cutting on Feb. 20 to mark this new chapter.

“It was time,” Skiba said when asked why he expressed an interest in ownership. “I’d been managing for seven years. It was almost like, either I move up or I move on. I just was ready for something more.”

Allegro, located at 800 W. Devon Ave., offers private lessons in guitar, piano/keyboard, drums and other percussion, violin, flute, saxophone, clarinet, voice and even the ukulele.

“The main part of the business is the lesson program,” Skiba explained.

In recent years the number of students signing up for vocal lessons has skyrocketed, Skiba noted, likely the result of an influx of popular reality singing shows like “American Idol” and “The Voice.”

The shop is also stocked with guitars, amps, instructional books, sheet music, tambourines and a variety of accessories, including guitar straps, picks and strings.

During the Christmas season, shoppers could buy ornaments made to look like guitars and violins.

The son of a musical theater actress, music has been part of Skiba’s life since he was a child.

“I don’t remember a time not being able to read music,” he said.

Skiba started out studying piano and saxophone which eventually led to learning the guitar. At Maine South High School, he studied music theory and performed with the school’s jazz band, choir and marching and concert bands before graduating in 1999.

After earning degrees in music and business administration at Augustana College, Skiba returned to Park Ridge, joined a band (which one year performed at the Chicago leg of the popular punk rock festival, Warped Tour) and started giving lessons at J Guitar, once located in Park Ridge’s Summit Mall.

When J Guitar closed and Allegro Music Center opened across town, Skiba joined the shop as manager.

Since the store opened, the number of students has been growing steadily, Skiba said, and there are currently 286 private lessons offered.

Students range in age from three to 82.

“Adults aren’t the largest part of our student base, but we are getting more and more adults in, which is awesome,” Skiba said.

To give students the experience of performing in groups and before an audience, Skiba leads a one-week summer program called Rock Star University. He has also taken over the popular Park Ridge battle-of-the-bands competition known as Bobbapalooza, named for its founder, Bob Anderson of South Park Church.

As part of his future plans for Allegro, Skiba hopes to expand the lesson rooms, but the whole point is sharing the joy of music,” he said. “We’ve always offered recitals seasonally throughout the year and those are really fun, too, but a lot of times it’s students performing solo or duets with a teacher. I’m hoping to have more groups together.”

N/
### Real Estate

#### Property Transfers

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<tr>
<td>7120 N Milwaukee Ave Unit</td>
<td>Sold for $184,000 on Dec. 13, 8909 N Washington St: Kelly A Ipjian to Jagdish Gohel for $119,000 on Dec. 12</td>
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<td>6638 Woodriver Drive</td>
<td>9280 N Woodland Drive: Shamoun Dahlan to Joseph Ismail for $152,000 on Dec. 13</td>
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<td>608: John Dorjath Trust to</td>
<td>5933 Capulina Ave: Humble to A Sanchez to Paul I Choi for $229,000 on Dec. 11</td>
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<td>Julia Dorjath for $130,500</td>
<td>8129 Parkside Ave: Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp to Custom Equity Trust Co for $131,000 on Dec. 11</td>
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<td>8890 N Prospect Ave</td>
<td>7823 Luna Ave: Mas Investment Group LLC to Ronza Basue for $355,000 on Dec. 13</td>
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<td>Jamesalski for $270,000</td>
<td>9128 New England Ave: Chicago Title Land Trust to Clint Samuel for $160,000 on Dec. 11</td>
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<td>8322 N Octavia Ave</td>
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<td>Lorraine Dickens to Anthony</td>
<td>5700 Carol Ave: Malgorzata Margaret Siegen to Daniel E Levin for $258,000 on Dec. 14</td>
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<td>604: John Dorjath Trust to</td>
<td>7645 Beckwith Road: James C Altman Trust to Bassam Butros Warda Dankha for $195,000 on Dec. 11</td>
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<td>alski for $270,000 on Dec. 11</td>
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<td>8155 N Prospect Ave</td>
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<td>sawara for $304,000 on Dec. 11</td>
<td>609 S Lincoln Ave: William J Cella to Katherine K Camarano for $260,000 on Dec. 11</td>
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#### Real Estate Auction

**March 13th**

- **189 Bed Skilled Nursing Home - Chicago, IL**
- **Turn-key Restaurant/Banquet Hall**
- **Additional Auction Properties include:**
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  - Car Wash
  - Retail Business Properties

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#### Press Mortgage Guide

**Check rates daily at [http://suburbanchicagoneighbors.interest.com](http://suburbanchicagoneighbors.interest.com)**

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**Note:** Actual rates and availability are subject to change. Always verify the accuracy of the information provided. Rates quoted are for loan amounts of $100,000. State and local taxes are the responsibility of the borrower. For full details, contact your lender or visit the website advertised.
7527 W. Cleveland St., Niles
Located within walking distance of parks and close to the Oak-Mill Mall, this cozy two-story Georgian-style home boasts a newer roof, garage door and gutters and a charming living room and kitchen.

More details

House size: 1,064 square feet
Lot size: 5,985 square feet
Year built: 1946
Bedrooms: 2
Bathrooms: 1
Garage: Two-car detached
Most recent available tax: $6,882.83 (2011)

Public school district:
East Maine School District
63 and Niles Township High School District 219

Architectural style: Georgian
Exterior: Brick
Agent: Maija Zaimins, Baird & Warner, 847-421-2510
Steaming mugs of tea, fuzzy slippers and heavy quilts will do much to warm our spirits until spring, but our bodies take a beating from the cold in the meantime.

As the mercury dips into the single digits and holiday decorations have long been packed away, we find ourselves pulling our coats a bit tighter, our hats a bit lower to stay toasty. Frigid temperatures have finally arrived in the Chicago area and so we settle in for winter survival over the coming months. Chapped lips, frazzled tresses and withered digits bear the mark of the season and can leave us feeling susceptible to illness as well as the elements.

Tucked safe into the warm interior of home, I turn to natural ingredients to curb the harm of winter's havoc. And so I'd like to share a recipe for do-it-yourself aromatherapy shower discs adapted from the Frugal By Choice blog as well as a handful of simple self-care remedies that are easy to implement, inexpensive to execute, and safe for even the littles members of our households.

Although hot baths become increasingly alluring during the cold months, natural oils are stripped away by the heat and water, leaving dry, itchy skin. It may be beneficial to limit bathing time during this time to bring relief to irritated skin. However, a warm shower can bring great relief to stuffy noses when paired with a handmade aromatherapy shower disc.

Other tips and tricks:
- Take care to gently pat skin dry when leaving the bath and consider a healthy lathering of coconut oil for faces, limbs and torso, boosting skin with a dose of vitamin E and smoothing out rough patches acquired from exposure to cold winds and hot showers. Add a few drops of lavender oil to further enhance relaxation or peppermint oil to promote energy. Dab and softly massage coconut oil into your lips for a kissable smile.
- While heaters eliminate moisture from sleeping quarters, humidifiers return our homes to happy havens. Scratchy throats acquired through nighttime slumber can be cleared with a few drops of eucalyptus or tea tree oil added daily to a humidifier. Both oils are natural antiseptics and can be mixed with coconut oil and massaged into skin for relief from respiratory ailments or aching muscles.
- Aromatherapy is cited for health benefits that are both physical and mental, but first check for allergies or sensitivities by testing a small patch of skin on the wrist or hand before proceeding. To learn more about the uses of essential oils or chemical-free home remedies, read The Complete Book of Essential Oils and Aromatherapy.
This Super Bowl Sunday, when the Ravens and 49ers battle in New Orleans, go big and easy with party food plans.

And nothing says New Orleans like po' boys — whether stuffed with shrimp, crab or crawfish. Helene Kapetaneas makes a shrimp version at her family-owned Landmark Inn Bar & Grill in Northbrook.

“It's a simple recipe but it really hits the spot,” she says. “You have a nice, hearty roll and then you get the crunch of the iceberg lettuce and the crispy shrimp.”

Kapetaneas will also make jambalaya on Sunday for her halftime buffet. The spread will also include her smoked brisket and homemade barbecue sauce and signature macaroni and cheese, which she crowns with pancetta and five different types of cheese.

Staying home for the game? Cajun pros suggest avoiding gumbo and sticking to less demanding recipes that are just as tasty.

“Making gumbo is an involved process that requires a lot of ingredients, and you can't really walk away from it while it's cooking,” says Eric Mangriotis of Dixie Kitchen & Bait Shop in Evanston.

“Instead, red beans and rice can be made in a slow cooker, and it will come out just the same as if you stood over it all day.”

Another simple solution is an oyster bar. The only requirements are a pile of cold, fresh oysters, crushed ice and a few flavorful condiments.

“A purist thinks that an oyster should be eaten as it is, but some like a little cocktail sauce, or a mignonette (a mix of wine vinegar, shallots and a dash of salt and pepper).” says Nancy Burhop of Burhop's Seafood in Glenview and Hinsdale.

Beignets are a fittingly festive, budget-friendly dessert. The only trick? Maintaining the correct oil temperature.

“Make sure the oil is at 350 degrees. If the oil is too hot, the beignets bake too fast; if it is too cold, they will be greasy,” says Pierre Zimmerman.

Zimmerman makes beignets — and hoards of other baked indulgences — every day for Café Fleurette in Winnetka’s Elm Street train station. He also bakes for his own boulangerie, La Fournette, in Chicago’s Old Town neighborhood.

For Super Bowl beverages, raise a glass to Edgar Allan Poe, the only poet to inspire the name of a football team. New Holland Brewing Company makes a malty oatmeal stout, which is aptly called The Poet. B.W. Beer Works crafts a Poe-inspired lager they call The Raven. And while Ravenswood Winery isn’t named after Poe, their wines will amuse Super Bowl fans of any team. They’re labeled with a circle of three entwined ravens.

But if you're staying with the Nola theme throughout, take pointers from Ben Geertz, a bartender at Union Pizzeria in Evanston who expects to be mixing up plenty of that beloved New Orleans cocktail, Sazerac.

“When people ask what my favorite cocktail is, I usually say Sazerac,” Geertz says. “We use Pernod, a double rye whiskey which is kind of like a licorice liqueur. It’s the Pernod that gives it that New Orleans style.”
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Summer camp is a great place for kids to do, see, and play during the summer months off from school. Better yet, the Chicagoland area has some great options for kids who love to learn and prefer activities that challenge the mind as much as hiking and lake activities challenge the spirit.

One such camp, Jay's Camp in Long Grove, has a number of programs and daily activities to stimulate your child's mind, creative flair and sense of adventure. Boys between second and eighth grades can jump into the Boys Camp of the Arts, which emphasize arts and crafts along with a variety of "wacky science projects," as the camp calls them. Other activities at Jay's include music, ceramics and pottery, creative drama, photography and much more.

If your child is technologically inclined or just wants to spend part of the summer immersed in the ins and outs of software, 3D animation and digital photography, iTech Camps offer summer camp that allow kids to get involved with everything from video game design to robotics.

For smartypants children with a soft spot for sports or who are knowledgeable about news, Play-by-Play Sports Camp offers your boy or girl a little piece of the limelight.

Kids can sit behind the broadcast booth at Comcast, ESPN and Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and talk to professionals in...
SMARTYPANTS
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

sports media.

Camp director Steve Goldstein said his camp "brings out the best in kids who are communicators. And even shy ones come out of their shell by day two of camp."

Professionals such as clinical psychologist Pam Niesluchowski tend to agree that summer camp is a great to help a school-aged child grow intellectually and communicate better with peers and adults. However, Niesluchowski also points out that, when compared to backyard summer play or watching TV, the experience of summer camp does even more.

"Summer activities, such as camps, provide kids with opportunities for ongoing learning during a time when they would otherwise be doing little," Niesluchowski said. Niesluchowski, who maintains a private practice and teaches at a Chicago graduate school states that there is evidence that during summer break kids forget some of what they have learned in the previous school year.

"Providing ongoing stimulation through camps and other structured activities, Niesluchowski said, "can help kids stay sharp and get tuned in more quickly, come September."

Summer camp provides a tremendous opportunity for children to begin laying the foundation for a healthy and happy lifestyle. Camp does more than just form a bridge between the school years. A summer spent playing, laughing, growing and learning can be the catalyst for a lifetime of happiness and success for your children.

Camp provides a unique opportunity to enjoy and explore a wide variety of physical activities. Traditional sports such as baseball, soccer, basketball and football, provide campers an engaging opportunity to learn and play. In addition, campers gain exposure to sports and activities that they might otherwise not have experienced, such as high ropes, pioneering or kayaking. Daily swimming provides campers with a chance for physical development as well as a valuable life skill. Playgrounds and creative play areas allow campers to exercise both their bodies as well as their imaginations. This sort of play is essential to the development of healthy, well-adjusted children. Through increased physical activity, children will build stronger, healthier bodies and an appreciation for an active lifestyle, which will in turn help set the stage for a healthier and happier adulthood.

Camp provides a refreshing change from the rigors of the school year to focus on just playing and the enjoyment that comes from being outdoors.

A traditional outdoor camp setting imparts a sense of adventure and offers the freedom and opportunity to explore our natural environment. Too often, suburban sprawl confines us to small, self-contained play areas such as a neighborhood park. Camp empowers children to disconnect from the TV or gaming platform and to reconnect and enjoy the expansive, natural beauty that once surrounded us. From the simple exploration of a muddy creek bed in search of animal tracks to racing...
down a zip line through the trees, camp provides an opportunity to unplug from the day to day grind and over-programming that has percolated down to our children. Outdoor experiences such as these afford a remarkable opportunity to add a sense of wonder and awe back to play.

Camp offers all this in an environment that encourages and strengthens friendship, team building and the ability to grow while having fun. The spirit of joy and laughter that resonates through a campground, as well as permeates a child's memory, represents the most fitting tribute to any summer spent at camp. It is no surprise that children frequently attend camp with their friends. What is perhaps more surprising is the number and depth of relationships with which children emerge from camp. Lifelong friendships are forged and cemented at camp every summer. That ability to make new friends represents an enduring skill that will continue to pay dividends through college and beyond. Every summer, campers grow so close to their counselors that the joy of the summer is always punctuated by the realization of how much they will miss their counselor; at least they will see them back at camp next year.

Mile-high smiles: Playgrounds and creative play areas allow campers to exercise both their bodies as well as their imaginations. This sort of play is essential to the development of healthy, well-adjusted children.
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Improv Playhouse emphasizes an environment that nurtures every child as an individual artist.

The camp's goal is to provide a quality camp experience while boys learn skills for life including resilience, leadership, collaboration, communication and character. Campers, ages 6-15, attend The Grove from all over the United States and the world. A typical session includes about 140 boys, with about 12 boys in each cabin and four counselors. Campers live in modern cabins with electricity, bathrooms and showers.

Lake Forest Parks and Recreation has been providing camps to Lake Forest and its surrounding communities for more than 57 years. The camps offer variety, flexibility and value, including a series of two-week and full-summer camp options.

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Keeping kids healthy at camp

BY KIMBERLY ELSHAM
For Sun-Times Media

Good nutrition and adequate sleep are probably not the first thing on your child's mind while he's at camp. Luckily, camps have their ways of making sure he and his fellow campers stay healthy.

One of the biggest concerns at summer camps is hydration.

"Staying hydrated, while not only warding off dehydration, also helps the homesick tummy aches and headaches which take away from a positive camp experience," said Heidi Mabie, associate program director at Camp Anokijig in Plymouth, Wis.

"During time spent outdoors we require a water break every 30 minutes ensuring that the children remain well hydrated throughout the day," said Zalmai Notik, director of the Chicago Jewish Teens' Extreme Teens camp.

Mabie said a fun trick her camp does to ensure kids stay hydrated is having water glasses filled when campers come to the dining hall for a meal. That way, they need to drink the water first and then refill with either milk or juice or more water. We have very few kids who try to beat the system," she said.

She also recommended kids never skip a meal.

"The fast-paced, high-activity level of many camps require put energy demands on campers that they may not be used to," she said.

Camps catering to food restrictions, such as a kosher diet, also take steps to ensure nutrition. The Chicago Jewish Teens' Extreme Teens Camp serves kosher meals on-site prepared by a professionally trained kosher chef.

"We offer whole grain starch, protein and a salad with every meal," Zalman said.

Other campers could have food allergies, so families should contact the camp's director or food service manager to make arrangements in advance.

"Parents are requested to let us know of specific dietary restrictions for their children several weeks before the start of the summer so that our chef can prepare separate meal options for children with specific needs," Zalman said.

In addition to healthy eating, campers need their sleep.

"While staying up late is the tradition, as the long, hot days wear on, irritability, fatigue, and general unpleasantness can spike due to a lack of sleep," Mabie said. Most summer camps are activity-driven, so creating good sleep habits with your child beforehand can help them sleep better once they hit the sack at camp.

Refrain from packing that trail mix. Many outdoor camps, such as Camp Anokijig, will prohibit outside food because it can attract animals and insects, especially sugary snacks and nuts.

Though Extreme Teens doesn't regulate against outside food, Notik said, "We strongly encourage the children to choose an apple or banana over snacks which create an instant sugar rush."

Mabie agreed.

"Choose healthy snacks (fruits, nuts, whole grains) when hungry and not at a mealtime," she said. "But, let's be real. It's camp. An ice cream snack is just fine."

Rapid: Zalmai Notik, director of the Chicago Jewish Teens' Extreme Teens camp, said, during outdoor time, the camp requires a water break every 30 minutes to ensuring that children stay well hydrated. 1 SUPPLIED PHOTO

Day Camps at the McGaw YMCA for ages 2 through 10th grade. Visit us at www.mcgawymca.org to learn more.
For most, summer camp conjures up images of hiking, fishing and canoeing in the great outdoors. Exploring in Mother Nature’s backyard. However, children who live in large urban areas can also attend camp without having to travel far from home.

This week, I would like to highlight a couple of Chicago summer day camps that have unique and creative missions I particularly admired and respected.

The first is Kids Science Lab (KSL), located at 1800 N. Kingsbury St. in Chicago. This camp nourishes children’s innate curiosity by engaging the campers in interactive, hands-on experiments, exploring an exclusive curriculum of topics related to science, engineering, and design. The classes allow the children to think critically and creatively through a structured class schedule based around four essential elements to their learning: discovery time (investigating questions), hands-on exploration (engaging curiosity), innovation and redesign (problem-solving) and conceptual understanding (reflection).

According to the KSL website: “The curriculum is customized to meet your child’s specific interests and abilities, through hands-on science, critical thinking and creative design to explore the beauty of science all around us.”

The dedicated team of KSL science instructors actively engages the students in the learning process by stimulating their imaginations and allowing them to make their own discoveries rather than merely explaining concepts to them. During a typical day at KSL summer camp, campers could be exploring how rockets get to outer space, how to use a microscope, the biology of the human body or the physics of sound waves and how they make music. All classes are taught in KSL's state of the art, eco-friendly 4,000-square-foot facility that includes three science labs. Registration is currently open for KSL summer camp, and winter break and academic school year camps are also available. For more information or to register your child in KSL, call (312) 846-1426 or online at www.kslchicago.com.

Another inner city summer camp I would encourage parents to consider for their child is Lillstreet Art Center located in the Ravenswood neighborhood at 4401 N. Ravenswood Ave. in Chicago.

Lillstreet children’s summer camp program, or Kidstreet, offers weeklong art classes in a variety of different artistic mediums, including wheel-throwing, painting, figure drawing and jewelry making. Along with these traditional art classes, Kidstreet also offers more advanced classes in areas such as fashion design, metalworking, film-making, digital photography and wax mold carving for casting bronze and silver rings, charms, pendants and other treasures.

Kidstreet also offers unique classes with specialized themes, such as Inspired by Nature, Cosmic Constructions and Joe’s Photo Safari Camp. Campers who attend Inspired by Nature camp spend the week discovering exciting details about the natural world of flora and fauna and then transform their new knowledge into beautiful works of art. Cosmic Constructions camp begins with a field trip to The Adler Planetarium to observe stars, planets and galaxies. The rest of the week is spent in the studio replicating the astrological wonders they discovered using clay and other mixed media. During Joe’s Photo Safari Camp, campers learn how to use cameras and are taught the basics of photographic composition. Afterwards, the children take a weeklong safari through the historic Ravenswood neighborhood capturing artistic images.

Kidstreet summer art camp provides the children with a wonderful avenue for fun and creative expression. Furthermore, campers who have aspirations of attending Fine Arts College after high school may use their pieces of art made during the camp in their portfolios submitted in college applications. Summer camp classes begin on June 10 and go until Aug. 30. Registration is currently open for summer camp sessions. For a complete list of courses, times, and prices, visit www.lillstreet.com/department/camps or call (773) 769-4226.
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Macy's Find Your Red Shopping Party

Take a fashionable stand against heart disease at Macy's Find Your Red Shopping Party, held in honor of the 10th anniversary of the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign. Sport the hue to the shop's Wear Red Sale to get an extra 20 percent off red apparel and accessories. While browsing the racks, snack on light refreshments, get an Estée Lauder makeover and watch a fashion presentation on the best ways to incorporate red into your wardrobe. Throughout, AHA volunteers and local heart disease survivors will share their stories and offer more information on the Go Red for Women movement. 5:30 p.m. 111 N. State. Admission: free. Call (866) 607-4422 to reserve your spot or visit Macys.com/events for more info. —Talia Beechick

jan. 31

Celebrate Mardi Gras with help from confectioner Toni Patisserie and Cafe, which will be slicing colorful king cakes ($17.95) and frying up Bavarian-cream-filled paczis ($22.95-$25.95) until Fat Tuesday on Feb. 12. 65 E. Washington, ToniPatisserie.com

What had you tweeting

Jenni @Jenni_Mar1e8819: @JennyMcCarthy Totally HOOKED on reading your@suntimes_splash column. You always have such great words of advice.

Chicago GatewayGreen @Gateway_Green: Big thanks goes out to our newest partners: @BMOHarrisBank & @chicago @Suntimes_Splash / @ suntimes Biz - let's be green in 2013!

Tracey Tarantino @TraceyTarantino: @Suntimes_Splash I can't wait for this Sunday's Splash. Thank you for last week's edition!!!

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S ARTS & CULTURE ISSUE

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THINGS WE LOVE THIS WEEK

Tighten up with local line VENefect's Firming Neck and Décolleté Creme, which reduces wrinkles and improves elasticity for brighter, younger-looking skin. $155. Available at Neiman Marcus (737 N. Michigan).

Channel old Hollywood with vintage accessories from local line JoJo & Sofia. Charms, corks and keys feature in playful pieces, such as cufflinks, tie clips and women's jewelry. $20-$60. Jojoandsofia.com.

Celebrate Mardi Gras with help from confectioner Toni Patisserie and Cafe, which will be slicing colorful king cakes ($17.95) and frying up Bavarian-cream-filled paczis ($22.95-$25.95) until Fat Tuesday on Feb. 12. 65 E. Washington, ToniPatisserie.com

Get a jump on spring fitness goals at the Dailey Method's new Lincoln Park location. The fitness studio's hour-long classes employ free weights and a ballet barre to tone muscles and strengthen cores. 2301 N. Clark. Thedailymethod.com

STLASH

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST CONCERT?

“INXS at Allstate Arena (but this was the '80s, so it was known as Rosemont Horizon). The Soup Dragons opened.”

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ON THE COVER
Photographer: Jimmy Fontaine
'Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo'
Jan. 30-March 17: Leave it to Lookingglass Theatre to take on a show of such peculiar proportions. Rajiv Joseph's Pulitzer-nominated play riffs on a real-life incident that became a metaphor for the U.S. presence in Iraq: An American soldier loses part of his arm when he offers a tiger a kebab. Joseph imagines the ghost of that tiger (killed after the incident) wandering Baghdad, a wisecracking witness to the zoo the city has become. Tickets: $34-$70. Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan. Call (312) 337-0665 or visit Lookingglasstheatre.org.

'Cocktails & Cacti'
Jan. 31: The Goodman Theatre's Scenemakers Board invites theatergoers to get up close and personal with the cast of its current dysfunctional family dramedy, "Other Desert Cities." Enjoy cactus-infused cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a meet and greet with director Henry Wishcamper. After a performance of the play, mingle with the cast and crew at a reception. It's a sweet opportunity to learn what makes a show - and its performers - tick. Tickets: $60. 170 N. Dearborn. Use promo code CACTI for tickets at Goodmantheatre.org or call (312) 443-3800.

'Juicebox'
Feb. 1: Heard "The Wheels on the Bus" one too many times? Turn your child onto something different (and give your ears a break) at Juicebox, the new music and performance series for pre-kindergarteners. Taking place every other Friday at 10 a.m. at the Cultural Center, the program kicks off this week with the Spektral Quartet, acclaimed for bringing a fresh approach to serious music and engaging audiences of all ages. Free. 78 E. Washington. Visit Cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca.html for more information.

'Columbinus'
Feb. 1-March 10: In the wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy, American Theater Company revisits the event that launched the national dialogue on gun violence: the 1999 shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. Conceived and directed by Artistic Director PJ Paparelli, "Columbinus" draws from interviews with teens across the country (including survivors of the attack) and incorporates never-before-released information on the shooters and their families. Tickets: $33 through Feb 5; $38-$43 thereafter. 1909 W. Byron. Call (773) 409-4125 or visit Atcweb.org.

Hamburg Ballet
Feb. 1-2: One of the world's most respected dance companies, the Hamburg Ballet launches its American tour at the Harris Theater. Led for 40 years by Milwaukee-born John Neumeier, the troupe performs his dynamically dramatic "Nijinsky," which explores the talented and troubled 20th century Russian dancer/choreographer whose highly-charged sexuality and compositional innovations shocked audiences and injected modernism into classical ballet. Tickets: $30-$75. 205 E. Randolph. Call (312) 334-7777 or visit Harristheaterchicago.org.

ArtEdge at the MCA
Feb. 2: The Museum of Contemporary Art presents some of the most challenging work out there, so it's not surprising that it takes an avant-garde approach when it comes to fundraisers. Set in the MCA's warehouse, this annual benefit uses industry as its theme, with supporters sipping cocktails in settings such as the Chain Link Room and Automation Room. After dinner (which arrives via conveyor belt), guests will groove to indie rock band Fitz and the Tantrums. Tickets: $1,000 for entire evening; $150 for dessert reception and concert. 1747 W. Hubbard. Call (312) 397-3868 or visit Mcachicago.org/artedge.

'Archi-Salon: Inside Studio Gang Architects'
Feb. 2: As Jeanne Gang has demonstrated - and as the Art Institute's current exhibition of her work illustrates - architecture is much more than four walls and a roof. The brains behind the Aqua Tower, Gang takes an unconventional approach to how buildings relate to the landscape. Check out the exhibit, located in the Modern Wing, then hear more from Gang as she engages in a discussion with her peers, led by architect and University of Illinois professor Clare Lyster. Free with museum admission. 159 E. Monroe. Call (312) 443-3600 or visit Artic.edu.
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Ballplayers became bartenders on Jan. 18 at Woody's Winter Warm-Up, a fund-raiser hosted by retired Cubs pitcher Kerry Wood and his wife Sarah. More than 450 guests turned out at Harry Caray’s Tavern Navy Pier (600 E. Grand) for the second annual event featuring an all-star lineup — Matt Garza, Jeff Samardzija, Tony Campana and more — who served drinks and competed for tips donated to the Wood Family Foundation. The party raised more than $100,000 for the foundation, which works to improve the lives of kids in Chicago.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event.

PHOTOS BY RAMZI DREESSEN AND KENNY KIM
On Jan. 17, Cubs players past and present swapped the field for the runway as outfielder David DeJesus and wife Kim welcomed almost 300 guests to the Strike a Pose Celebrity Fashion Show. With the goal of raising funds for the David DeJesus Family Foundation — established by the couple to help families in need — players such as Shawn Camp, Brett Jackson and Anthony Rizzo strutted down the catwalk and Kerry Wood, Darwin Barney, Michael Bowden and Ian Stewart were joined by their wives on the runway at the River East Art Center (435 E. Illinois), all sporting glam looks courtesy of the 900 North Michigan Shops. The event, which included a VIP reception, silent auction and cocktail hour, raised close to $200,000 for the fight against ALS.

PHOTOS BY JOHN NUNU ZOMOT AND HALLIE DUESENBERG

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ICE ICE BABY

BY KATERINA BIZIOS

The Dana Hotel (660 N. State) cranked up the heat on Jan. 18, when nearly 600 guests turned up to celebrate the return of the Vertigo Sky Lounge’s seasonal ice bar. Perched 26 floors above the city, revelers stayed warm by sipping Svedka cocktails from the frozen bar, mingling inside or gathering around the fire pit on the outdoor balcony. Throughout the Splash-sponsored event, Kristen Amato’s K. Amato spring 2013 jewelry collection was on display for partygoers.

PHOTOS BY RAMZI DREESSEN

The K. Amato spring 2013 Jewelry collection

Kevin Aeh, Ryan Poli and James Goeke

Paul Tanguay and Tad Carducci

Kevin McConkey

Eva Smoronski, Carli Shaffran and Tessa Sheldon

Matt and Brooke Null

Nicole Mangrum

GRAND OPENING OF LITTLE MARKET TO MARKET

BY TALIA BEECHICK

On Jan. 17, chef Ryan Poli, Mercadito Hospitality partners Alfredo and Felipe Sandoval and “Tippling Bros.” Paul Tanguay and Tad Carducci celebrated the grand opening of their Gold Coast restaurant, Little Market Brasserie (10 E. Delaware). Nearly 200 guests flocked to the 150-seat restaurant nestled inside the Talbott Hotel and surrounded by a 125-seat outdoor sidewalk cafe. Attendees like Steve Do- linsky, Andrew and Jonathan Landan and April Francis sipped on charged cocktails (homemade soda blends mixed with a choice of spirits) and snacked on samples from the menu, including deviled eggs with mushrooms and grilled cheese stuffed with fried egg, cheddar, bacon and avocado.

PHOTOS BY JAMES ATKINS

For more on Little Market Brasserie, see Page 19.

Rene Asulin and Raquel Jex

Danny Cohen and Molly Bett Kovler

Andrew Landan, Alfredo Sandoval, Jonathan Landan and James Feeley

Tia Lancaster and Meredith Marks
Spring may be months away, but winter florals have blossomed on Chicago’s party circuit. Radiating femininity, a brightly colored flower pattern can add a playful twist to typical cocktail attire. The perfect petal-printed dress hugs the waistline, accentuating an hourglass figure and maximizing flirtation. Let the flower power flourish – keep jewelry minimal and accessorize with a simple belt, elegant handbag and a killer pair of pumps.
Danny Pudi takes a study break from his prime-time sitcom 'Community' for some family time in the city

BY ZAK STEMEP

Thanks to the undying support of its avid fan base, NBC's cult hit "Community" is finally returning to network television. And Chicago native Danny Pudi — who plays socially awkward student Abed Nadir — is thrilled to be back. "It's the fourth season of a show that I don't think anyone expected to last four seasons," he jokes.

The pop culture reference-packed comedy, now gearing up for its Feb. 7 premiere after an almost yearlong hiatus, follows the shenanigans of an idiosyncratic seven-person study group at Greendale Community College. "The core of our show is a bunch of people doing really absurd things," says Pudi, whose character is possibly the most absurd of them all (imagine an Indian Rain Man with a sense of humor and compulsion to make every moment cinematic). This season, the gang will enter their senior year at the not-so-elite educational institution, dealing with new levels of craziness as they head toward graduation and, possibly, the end of the study group.

The similarities Pudi shares with his on-camera character are eerie. "For Abed, these people have become his family. He has real and deep relationships with them, and he has to deal with the reality that he might not be able to see them as often." On set, the cast has become as tightknit as they are on screen — and they all know that this season might be the last. "We're all used to the 'Community' ride," says Pudi. "It's full of 'Are we coming back? Are we not coming back? Are we going to finish this episode? Wow! We finished this episode!'"

Luckily, graduation isn't a looming disaster for Pudi. He's got a handful of side projects in the works, including a sports documentary that he's directing and an untitled slapstick comedy movie. And as a new dad to twins, Pudi's got his plate full. "It's the wildest thing I've ever seen in my life," he says of fatherhood. "I've never seen kids react so strongly one way or another to milk. You introduce such a simple thing to the ecosystem and the whole world changes." Fortunately, Pudi has plenty of help from his wife, whom he credits as the parenting expert. "I feel most comfortable when I'm being directed, whether it's by my wife or by my children," he says.

Here, the actor and comic plays out his ideal fair-weather day in his hometown.

"Community" airs Thursdays at 7 p.m. on NBC.

10 A.M.
When Pudi and his wife lived in Wrigleyville, Julius Meinl (4363 N. Lincoln) was their go-to coffee joint, and he still craves it.

11 A.M.
"I love riding trains," says Pudi. "The Brown Line is probably the slowest, so if you're looking to take in the city, it's great."

11:30 A.M.
Pudi takes a quick walk around Old Town and Lincoln Square to burn off breakfast and do some people watching — a favorite hobby.

1 P.M.
Pudi's mom whips up her stellar kolaczki in her North Side home.

3 P.M.
An avid marathon runner, Pudi jogs along the lakefront. "When you feel everything in your body burning and think it's going to disintegrate, it's nice to look at the water and trick yourself into being soothed."

8 P.M.
Pudi attends a laugh-out-loud improv show at iO Theater (3541 N. Clark) or Second City (1616 N. Wells).

10 P.M.
The evening ends with a stop by Nightwood restaurant (2119 S. Halsted) — chef Jason Vincent is a friend.
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Zach Gilford on his new bride, his Evanston roots and blockbuster new film

If you recall noticing an in-love couple get kicked out of City Hall just over a year ago, chances are it was Zach Gilford and Kiele Sanchez. "I proposed at City Hall because it was the first place I ever saw her," says Gilford, 30, who met his actor wife while filming a TV movie in Chicago — a romantic meeting point for the couple, who both hail from here (Gilford is from Evanston, Sanchez grew up in Carol Stream).
But after I proposed, we were hugging each other, telling each other 'I love you,' and the security guard came over and said, 'I don't know what you guys are doing, but you can't do it here. Take it somewhere else.' " Despite the rocky start to their engagement, the wedding went off without a hitch: The couple tied the knot on Dec. 29 in Northern California, and after a two-week honeymoon in Asia and 36 hours at their home in Los Angeles, they're currently residing in Miami, where Sanchez is filming the A&E series, "The Glades."

It was a fitting end to a whirlwind year for Gilford: He starred in two indie dramas, "Crazy Kind of Love" with Virginia Madsen and "In Our Nature" with John Slattery, had a leading role on the Fox show "The Mob Doctor" (which ended in December) and this month, he'll appear in his first big-budget movie, "The Last Stand," alongside Arnold Schwarzenegger and Johnny Knoxville. "I got to be a bit goofier, so that was fun," he says of his role as a small-town deputy. While he's always chosen his projects with care, opting to take on work that inspires him, there's another layer to his decision-making process now that he's a husband.

"When I first started working and I would meet actors who had relationships that worked, every single one of them said to impose a two-week limit. Don't go two weeks without seeing each other," says Gilford. "So when it comes to jobs, you have to weigh it and ask, 'Is it worth being apart?'"

It's a philosophy that rings especially true for Gilford, whose various roles have taken him to Portland, Ore., Philadelphia, Miami, Hawaii and most recently home to Chicago, where he filmed "The Mob Doctor." But it was the four and a half years he spent in Austin, playing sensitive quarterback Matt Saracen on the critically-acclaimed NBC series "Friday Night Lights," that thrust Gilford into the spotlight. "It was the best job ever," says Gilford. "It's rare on big network TV to do something so good. Everybody got along and was respectful. And since we were removed from L.A., it wasn't like people were rushing off to events, or caught at a club getting drunk. It kept us all normal."

"Normal" is an apt description for Gilford's upbringing. He grew up in Evanston, attending Evanston Township High School and Northwestern University. After securing a manager and agent, thanks to a Northwestern senior showcase, he made the move to New York City and soon scored his first professional gig: a role on "Law & Order: SVU." Since then, Gilford has appeared in a wide range of projects, from television shows to independent films. When it comes to finding the right part, Gilford tries to pick good projects and avoid falling into the good-guy trap. "Since 'Friday Night Lights,' people sometimes think of me as the 'nice guy,'" he says. "The nice guy is fun, but I want to do something else. But if it's an amazing movie with this director or this actor signed on, I'll play whatever part it is."

Despite the allure of Hollywood, Gilford remains a down-to-earth Chicagoan. He travels home often to visit his parents, who still live in the house where he grew up. When he's in town, he runs along the lake and takes in the city's native fare, including deep dish pizza from Carmen's in Rogers Park or The Art of Pizza. His Chicago allegiance is most obvious on the back of his calf, however, where he boasts a tattoo that says "Pip 33." "When I was 13, my buddy and I tattooed each other," he laughs. (He and Sanchez also have a dog named Pippen.) When in town, Gilford and Sanchez also hit up their favorite restaurant, Girl & the Goat. "When I was filming 'The Mob Doctor,' I lived down the street and we ended up becoming friends with the servers," he says. "So it was like, 'What should we get? Let's just go to Girl & the Goat.' It was so good, but not the most economical. Thank god the show ended because we were going to go broke."
Stay on top of Chicago's vibrant arts scene with our guide to this season's must-see events.

Our city has always been lauded for its diverse array of cultural events — and this spring is no exception. Here you'll find our picks for the season's can't-miss events, ranging from classic plays to dance troupes to live music. Make sure to snap up your tickets before they're sold out.

FEBRUARY

"Crime Scene: A Chicago Anthology," Feb. 14-March 10: With Chicago logging more than 500 homicides last year and the dialogue on gun violence hitting a fever pitch, this show couldn't be more timely. Drawing from news accounts and interviews, Collaboraction's Anthony Moseley sifts through the facts and commentary surrounding three acts of violence to examine the constellation of ills that have left this city shaking. Tickets: $25, $15 for students, educators and industry. Flat Iron Arts Building, 1579 N. Milwaukee. Call (312) 226-9633 or visit Collaboraction.org.

"Cadre," Feb. 15-23: Chicago Shakespeare Theater and the Market Theatre of Johannesburg present South African playwright/actor Omphile Molusi in the world premiere of his latest work. Demonstrating that the personal is political, the show follows a young activist of the apartheid era as he forges a new life in an incipient democracy. Tickets: $20. Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier, 800 E. Grand. Call (312) 595-5600 or visit Chicagoshakes.com.

Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, Feb. 16: Film scores rarely require repeated hearings, but Orbert Davis' Emmy-winning accompaniment to the PBS documentary, "DuSable to Obama: Chicago's Black Metropolis" is one of the exceptions. Davis — trumpeter, composer, educator and co-founder of the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic — joins his critically-acclaimed ensemble to play the piece live at the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts. Tickets: adults $35, students $10. 915 E. 60th. Call (773) 702-2787 or visit Chicagojazzphilharmonic.org.

"The Fall of the House of Usher," Feb. 23, 24, 27, March 1: Chicago Opera Theater and its new general director, Andreas Mitsis, launch the season with this dark and unsettling production from master minimalist Philip Glass and maestro of the macabre, Edgar Allan Poe. Spun by the haunting voices of the Chicago Opera singers, the performance is a hallucinatory whirl of ambiguous relationships, a gothic tale treading the line between illusion and reality. Tickets: $35-$125. Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph. Call (312) 704-8414 or visit Chicagoperatetheater.org.


MARCH

John Neff, March 3-April 14: For his solo show, the Chicago artist used traditional view cameras combined with commercial flat-bed scanners to create large-format images that suggest frames from the early days of photography. Long exposures and the subjects he has chosen — the stuff of everyday life and friends caught in less-than-dynamic poses — add to the effect. Free. Renaissance Society, 5811 S. Ellis. Call (773) 702-8670 or visit Renassancesociety.org.

Alvin Alley American Dance Theater, March 8-17: This
ever-engaging troupe returns with a rich array of offerings, including "Petit Mort," a world premiere from Kyle Abraham, hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris' "Home," Ohad Naharin's improvisational "Minus 16" and, of course, the timeless Al乐团 classic, "Revelations." Tickets: $32-$92. Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress. Call (800) 982-2787 or visit Ticketmaster.com/auditorium.

Leonard Cohen, March 13: Forty-six years after his recording debut, poet/performer Leonard Cohen is still the master wordsmith, with a voice that has only grown more oracular and enigmatic with age. And if recent appearances are any indication, he won't quit the Chicago Theatre stage until he's said all he has to say. Tickets: $119-$279. 170 N. State. Call (800) 745-3000 or visit Goodmantheatre.org.

"The Whale," April 5-May 5: Samuel D. Hunter's incisive drama details a depressed, morbidly obese man's desperate attempt to move past the losses life has dealt him and reconnect with his estranged daughter. The show, which debuted off-Broadway last season, makes its Chicago premiere at Victory Gardens. Tickets: $30-$60. 2433 N. Lincoln. Call (773) 871-3000 or visit Victorygardens.org.

"Cruzar la Cara de la Luna (To Cross the Face of the Moon)," April 7: Mariachi where you'd expect Monteverdi and Mozart? Por que no? The Lyric Opera presents its first Spanish-language piece with this work from José "Pepe" Martínez, music director of the historic Mariachi Vargas de Técalitlán. The first-ever mariachi opera, "Cruzar la Cara de la Luna" movingly explores the immigrant experience and the meaning of home. Tickets: $25-$75. 20 N. Wacker. Call (312) 332-2244 or visit Lyricopera.org.

Billy Bragg, April 12 and 13: Bono may be the unofficial poster boy for celebrity philanthropy, but he's got nothing on Britain's Billy Bragg, the punk/folk artist whose first top 10 album bore the less-than-catchy title, "Talking with the Taxman about Poetry." For all his social consciousness, Bragg is no buzzkill. Music is his motivator, and after five years he's back on tour. Tickets: $45-$65. City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph. Call (312) 733-9463 or visit Citywinery.com.

"Theater Gates: 13th Ballad," May 18-Oct. 6: Trained as an urban planner and sculptor, this Chicago artist's work hits home. He's effectively combined art making with activism (reclaiming derelict buildings on the South Side for a cultural center) while keeping up a presence in the galleries. His MCA installation includes church pews and a cross, identifying the art museum as a site of pilgrimage. Admission: $12, $7 for students and seniors, children younger than 12 free. Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago, (312) 397-4010 or visit Macachicago.org.


"In the Company of Men," May 16-June 30: Profiles Theatre, which often showcases raw, challenging works, has long enjoyed a close creative relationship with writer Neil LaBute. Last year it presented the U.S. premiere of his tight sibling drama, "In a Forest Dark and Deep." Now the company is debuting a new version of his "In the Company of Men," the controversial and misogynistic piece that had everyone talking when it was made into a film in 1997. Tickets: $35 on Thursdays, $40 Friday-Sunday. 4147 N. Broadway. Call (773) 549-1815 or visit Profilesftheatre.org.

John Waters, May 21: From "The Book of Mormon" to "Breaking Bad" — not to mention the excesses of reality TV — it seems pop culture has finally caught up with the less-than-proper sensibilities of filmmaker John Waters. But no one explicates with such relish the appeal of the gross, dirty and deviant quite like the boy from Baltimore. In his one-man show, Waters dishes on his career, his life and his myriad influences. Tickets: $55-$75. Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph. Call (312) 334-7777 or visit Harristeatherchicago.org.
Art and soul

Chicago artist and gallery owner Francine Turk puts her favorite things on display.

1. Embeya: sato zuke cocktail, $12, 564 W. Randolph; Embeya.com
2. Art Supplies in the City: Moleskine journal, $17.95, 612 S. Wabash; Artsuppliesinthecity.com
3. Robert Piguet: Fracas eau de parfum, $95/1.7 ounces and $135/3.4 ounces, Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan; Robertpiguetparfums.com
5. Beauty and Soul Spa: skincare therapy, $120/60 minutes and $150/90 minutes, 3600 W. Wrightwood; Beautysoulspa.com
7. Madame ZuZu's: coffee, tea and live music, Madame ZuZu's, 582 Roger Williams, Highland Park; Madamezuzu.com
8. Bernardaud: Soleil Levant tea cup, $70, The 900 Shops, 900 N. Michigan; Bernardaud.com
10. Sunday Riley: Juno transformative lipid serum, $125, Barneys, 15 E. Oak; Barneys.com
La Stupenderia (left and top) and Petite Lanvin are on sale at Odile, 710 N. Wabash.

Shop smaller
Style your mini-sartorialist at Odile luxury children’s boutique (710 N. Wabash, next to sister shop Sarca). Online or in store, snag brands like Lanvin Petite, Missoni, La Stupenderia and Stella Cove for up to 70 percent off. The sale ends Jan. 31. Shopodile.com.

Let your hair down
Prep for all manner of parties at Thomas + Henry (1445 N. Wells), a new Old Town shop that’s both a salon and a hub for hostess gifts. Owners Jim Jostes and Paul Lechlinsky — who also helm Andersonville home furnishings boutique Room Service (5438 N. Clark) — have curated an eclectic collection of vintage barware, pottery, candles and soaps. Come March, shoppers will be able to hop into the stylist’s chair for a cut, color or blowout between browsing sessions. Thomasandhenry.com.

Just in Tome
Tome, the brainchild of Gaultier-trained Australian designers Ryan Lobo and Ramon Martin, won the 2013 Ecco Domani Fashion Foundation Award for its simple, classic womenswear. As of this week, space519 (900 N. Michigan) is one of the first Chicago shops to stock the brand-new line. The boutique snapped up several pieces, including an oversized gold lamé vest (above) and a chambray shirtdress ($498).

celebration

B’nai Mitzvah: Henry and Lily Block

BY KATERINA BIZIOS

Twins Henry and Lily Block always have been close, but the pair forged a deeper bond after facing an important milestone together: their b’nai mitzvah. The 13-year-old siblings held their ceremony during the holiday of Sukkot at Anshe Emeth Synagogue (3751 N. Broadway), where they jointly led the traditional service and read from the Torah and Haftorah in Hebrew. Both spoke at length about their Torah portion, relating it to their lives and to their “mitzvah” projects, or charitable causes they championed: Lily worked with Sit Stay Read, an organization that uses dogs to improve child literacy, and Henry helped lead bingo games in a nursing home. “Bar and bat mitzvahs are first and foremost religious ceremonies,” says their mother, Julie Nerenberg Block. “Therefore, to me and my family, the service was the most meaningful part.” But with the twins’ hard work came cause for celebration. After the ceremony, family and friends joined Henry and Lily at Maggiano’s (516 N. Clark), where furniture was swapped out for a dance floor. The kids partied to the sounds of DJ Chicken Wang, snacked on sweet treats from the candy table and cotton candy machine and called it a night comfortably — each of the 240 guests left with a pair of personalized sweats.

Lily and Henry at the after party

Left: Julie Nerenberg Block, Lily, Henry and Andrew Block at the ceremony. Right: Gummy bears served as decorations. For more photos, go to Splash.suntimes.com or download our free Splash by Chicago Sun-Times iPad app. | PHOTOS COURTESY LEE ROSS PHOTOGRAPHY

CHEERS!

Take a bow! Congrats to Lulu’s at the Belle Kay owner Laurie Davis, who dressed 10 local women in her store’s one-of-a-kind vintage pieces for the inaugural Ball in Washington D.C.

Cheers to Natalie and Elliot Bergman of brother-sister indie band Wild Belle. The Chicago natives (and friends-of-Splash) were featured in the January issue of Vogue.

Snaps to newly engaged couple Jackson Miranda and Jordan Stemer (sister of Splash’s Zak Sterner). He popped the question with Champagne and flowers at Market, where the two met at an event last year.

Send us your cheers at Splash@suntimes.com.
In the Market

Chef Ryan Poli crafts gourmet comfort fare from inside the Talbott Hotel at Little Market

BY MOLLY EACH

As the team behind River North hot spots Mercadito and Tavernita, Alfredo, Felipe and Patricio Sandoval know how to produce a restaurant that combines gourmet food with a see-and-be-seen vibe. But for Little Market Brasserie, its third Chicago restaurant — and the second with chef/partner Ryan Poli at the helm — the group took a more low-key approach. “We wanted a casual neighborhood restaurant that wasn’t a scene, but was still bustling,” says Poli. “So we thought a lot about what people look for when they go to a place two or three times a week.”

For Poli, the answer was comfort food, served at a reasonable price point in a laid-back environment and Little Market is doing all of the above from inside the Talbott Hotel. The space evokes a Parisian brasserie, with subway tiles covering the walls, big wooden banquettes and a checkered floor. To find the right blend of French and American food to match, Poli and Alfredo traveled to nearly a dozen cities for research, including Austin, Texas; Montreal; New York; and New Orleans. “It’s casual, simple, recognizable cuisine,” says Poli.

“You can eat breakfast, lunch and dinner there, but each meal feels cool.”

For breakfast, which starts at 6:30 a.m., Poli serves classics like biscuits and gravy ($12.50); his lunch and dinner fare includes roast chicken with couscous and dried fruits ($18.50), risotto ($14.50), a NY strip (market price) and sides such as mac and cheese and french fries. But Poli didn’t just pay homage to classic brasserie food when crafting the menu — he mixed in some of his personal favorites. “The pasta puttanesca is a sauce I learned early in my career, and the grilled cheese is one that I make myself at home,” he says. And then there’s the Big Baby, a simple two-patty cheeseburger inspired by the one offered at Nicky’s, a greasy spoon on the Southwest Side where Poli grew up. The eclectic fare pairs perfectly with Little Market’s charged cocktails — custom pairings of gourmet sodas (think hibiscus vanilla and Meyer lemon) and spirits created by the Tippling Bros.

The menu is a welcome departure for Poli, who crafts authentic Spanish cuisine at Tavernita. “It’s a challenge to cook with butter and cream again,” he laughs. “But it’s great to get back to familiar ingredients.”

The Talbott Hotel, 10 E. Delaware, (312) 640-8141, Littlemarketbrasserie.com

Bon Appétit

Sure, this city is lacking in mimes and berets, but we more than make up for it with our dazzling assortment of restaurants serving fine French fare. And thanks to GrubHub, it’s easier than ever to satisfy your inner-Francophile without leaving home.

Creperie Saint Germain
1512 Sherman Ave.
This upscale creperie in Evanston has a menu full of Parisian crepes, galettes and hors d’oeuvres. Their Forestiere Galette with chicken, mashed sweet potatoes, carmelized onions, glazed turnips and mushroom sauce is tops.

La Pane
2954 W. Irving Park Ave.
La Pane offers an assortment of classic French breads and pastries for delivery or pickup. Stock up for the week on La Pane’s fresh Butter Croissants, Old Country Loafs and Baguettes.

Cyrano’s Farm Kitchen
546 N. Wells St.
Cyrano’s Farm Kitchen does French farm cuisine the right way, and they deliver! Jim M. says it best on Yelp: “How can you not just love a restaurant that serves foie gras, escargot, veal sweetbreads and lobster bisque?” Salut!

Bistrot Margot
1437 N. Wells St.
Bistrot Margot is a long-loved Chicago bistro serving an array of traditional French fare. For a taste of some of the best Bistrot Margot has to offer, we recommend the Escargots Persillade and Steak Frites.

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With charming homes, green space and easy lake access, Rogers Park is a North Side gem.

BY LISA SKOLNIK

It's easy to see why Chicago's Rogers Park was a hub for the upper crust in earlier decades. The area sports elegant vintage housing, parks and greenery, access to public transit, dozens of restaurants, proximity to some of the best beaches in the city, up-and-coming schools and Loyola University, which has a huge stake in keeping the community safe, clean and running smoothly. The affluent residents' influence shows in the area's architecturally significant structures with larger lots and more square footage than comparable properties in other parts of the city. "You get much more for your money here," says Baird & Warner broker Anne Conway (773-981-2698), who is marketing a 4,600-square-foot, eight-bedroom,

4.5-bathroom home at 1052 W. Albion, located east of Sheridan Road on a 50-by-156-foot lot. She estimates it would fetch $1.2 million or more in Lakewood-Balmoral or Buena Park. But in Rogers Park, it rings in at $899,000, and it's just steps from the beach, a block from the Red Line and the lake — is going for $249,000 (contact Coldwell Banker broker Andrea Geller, 773-809-3090). Costs drop to about $100 per square foot at 1415 W. Jonquil, unit 3, a 1,200-square-foot, two-bedroom two-bathroom that's one street away from the beach and on the market for $119,000.

Chicago's burgeoning artisanal coffee culture has finally spread to Rogers Park, thanks to the recent opening of Sol Café at 1615 W. Howard, just east of the Red Line. Owner Simone Freeman is serving up the excellent locally roasted beans from Bow Truss Coffee in a warm, welcoming environment. Visit Solcafechi.com.
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Blast from the past

Tips for accepting — and forgetting — your significant other's exes

Dear Jenny,

I am a 63-year-old woman, and have been in a relationship with a great guy for the past year. We get along extremely well — so well that he moved in with me about six months ago. We're planning to retire to Arizona together at the end of this year. We're both financially independent, and I am very happy to be with him.

Our only stumbling block has been my concerns about his previous relationship with a younger woman. He broke up with her about two weeks prior to the day we met. He lived with her for about two years before that, and I believe he got along very well with her. He tells me that they broke up because of her unruly kids, but I believe he is still not completely over her.

I recently found a stack of photos of the two of them and her kids looking very happy. I know these pictures were taken before he and I got together. I stated that I was uncomfortable with him holding onto those photos. He said he also has photos of his two ex-wives and I should not be concerned because he is very happy now with me. But he eventually said that I could shred those photos, and I did.

I know he is a sentimental guy, but this is making me very uncomfortable. Jenny, should I be concerned about his feelings for her?

— Chloe in Illinois

Jenny says: I'm so happy you reached out!

First of all, it's wonderful that you found someone you care about — but I am concerned that your fears might be interfering with your happiness. Why are you sabotaging it? Shredding his pictures was a selfish and insecure thing to do. Every experience that this man has had in his life has helped shaped him into who he is. They've molded him into the person that you are currently in love with. Maybe these prior relationships taught him how to love the right way, and now he has met you to perfect it.

Who would really want to be with a person that has led a miserable life, anyway? A few weeks ago, I blogged about how I taught Evan to stay in the present moment because it is a gift. That's why it is called "the present." Your ego is the one worrying about the past and about what is going to happen in the future. You must be very careful, because by thinking about these things, you are giving your ego power — you will manifest your own worst fears. Instead, try being grateful for having found a man who knows how to love.

You can shred his photos, but you can't shred his memories, so don't even try. Stay in the now, and love yourself so you are able to love him AND his past.

Read Jenny's daily blog at Splash.suntimes.com.

Leo looking for love

The "Django Unchained" star recently told a German newspaper that he's taking a break from acting.

"I'm a little bit drained," the actor told Bild. "I am now going to take a long, long break. I've done three films in two years and I'm just worn out."

Despite what he says, I hear it's not just that he's tired. Sources close to the actor tell me that he also wants to focus on his personal life.

"Leo wants to go out and hit the town and travel to exotic places with his friends and date," a source said.

Leo's rigorous work schedule contributed to the November demise of his relationship with Victoria's Secret model (and Chicago native) Erin Heatherton.

"They were really cute and happy with each other," the source said. "But both their work schedules took a huge toll on their relationship — especially Leo's. They felt like they had no choice but to split because they couldn't find the time to be together."

Now that Leo's taking a long hiatus from making movies, he has time for love. "He's in no rush to get married, but he definitely wants to find a new leading lady."

Armstrong owed Oprah

Lance Armstrong came off looking like a big loser in his interview on the OWN Network, but Oprah scored big.

I'm told that Oprah persuaded Lance to do the interview by reminding him that she helped him launch his Livestrong Foundation on her talk show in 2005. After Lance appeared on the show, Oprah viewers set the single-day sales record for the yellow bracelets by purchasing 900,000.

"She has a good rapport with him, but she wasn't surprised at how arrogant he came off in the interview," said a source. "It's ironic how things have come full circle. In the new interview, Lance told Oprah that walking away from his beloved Livestrong Foundation was the most painful part of the doping scandal."

Lance's cocky demeanor in the interview did little to restore his tarnished image, but Oprah did score 3.2 million viewers, giving her struggling network the boost that it desperately needs.

Confidential to Kim: Beyoncé doesn't like you!

Kim Kardashian recently spoke out, denouncing reports of a feud between her and the superstar singer. My source says that they're not actually feuding — Beyoncé just doesn't like Kim.

"Beyoncé has true talent and has worked hard her entire life to get where she is in her career;" the source said. "She has little respect for Kim, who made a name for herself by doing a sex tape."

During Jay-Z and Kanye West's Watch the Throne tour, Beyoncé did her best to avoid Kim.

"She knows it's not good for her image to associate with someone like Kim," says the source. "She was cordial and nice to her, though, because she's a classy person. So of course Kim is going to say she's sweet."
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NISSAN’S MIDSIZE SEDAN GETS COMPLETE MAKEOVER FOR 2013

BY SUSAN MEAD
Motor Matters

Think about what you were doing 20 years ago. For most of us, email was a rare form of communication, a “text” was a book and hybrid technology was something best left to the experts at NASA.

Many things have changed in the past two decades, and the Nissan Altima is no exception. It’s been 20 years since the first Altima rolled off the line in Tennessee. Now in its fifth generation, this midsize sedan is completely reinvented for 2013, with a more muscular exterior, polished interior and new powertrains.

Altima’s new profile looks sportier and more substantial. A blend of concave and convex surfaces has been designed to evoke the look of a Japanese samurai coat. A broad, curved trapezoidal grille caps a grinning air dam, while arrowhead headlamps point toward brawny wheel wells and shoulders.

The roof is raked downward, creating a coupe-like effect from the C-pillar to the trunk.

Inside, smooth surfaces and sculpted lines echo the sleek curves of the outside. The cabin is designed for long rides. Having consulted with NASA, Nissan designed zero gravity seats to let the body rest comfortably with optimal posture and less fatigue while driving.

Seats have standard cloth upholstery with black and chrome accents; six-way driver and four-way passenger adjustments are standard. The center stack and controls are symmetrical and unobtrusive, adding to the serene feel of the cockpit. The standard audio system, which includes steering-wheel-mounted controls, is a four-speaker AM/FM/CD unit with MP3 and Bluetooth phone/streaming connectivity.

Starting at $21,500, seven models make up the new 2013 Altima lineup. The 2.5-liter engine powers the 2.5, 2.5 S, 2.5 SV and 2.5 SL; and the 3.5-liter V-6 powers the 3.5 S, 3.5 SV and 3.5 SL.

Under the hood, Altima offers a choice of two power plants. A redesigned 2.5-liter, four-cylinder makes 182 horsepower and 180 pound-feet of torque, while the 3.5-liter V-6 remains rated at 270 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque. Both are mated to a continuously variable automatic transmission boasting more than 70 percent new components.

The Environmental Protection Agency gas mileage estimates range from 27 mpg city/38 mpg highway for the four-cylinder to 22/30 mpg for the V-6 model.

We drove two versions of the 2013 Nissan Altima on a recent test-drive that originated from Nissan’s headquarters in Franklin, Tenn. It’s a great area for motorsport since the region has a good mix of high-speed, urban four-lanes and tight and twisty two-lanes.

Our testers included the base 2.5-liter, four-cylinder model and a top-of-the-line 3.5-liter, six-cylinder model over a course of 150 miles.

Most notable are the upgrades to the four-cylinder model that had great power on tap and a very responsive drive in the sport mode. The V-6 has good performance, especially on the highways, where power comes on smoothly for high-speed passing.

Nissan benchmarked the BMW 3 Series and Mercedes C-Class for the quality and feel of the Altima’s drive, with features like active understeer control and improvements to the suspension for ride feel, with upgrades to comfort and handling. Also of note is the weight reduction of the new Altima and its redesigned CVT that has expanded the gear ratio, bringing “higher highs” and “lower lows” and boasts a 0-to-60 mph time of 7.1 seconds.
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KZF offers the next two buyers $50,000 incentive at Meadow Ridge in Northbrook

For a limited time, KZF Development is offering the next two buyers a $50,000 discount off the base price of any of the six floor plans at its upscale Meadow Ridge community in Northbrook, with deliveries scheduled for fall of 2013.

According to Shannon Gibson-Giampa of Gibson Giampa & Partners, Inc., the exclusive marketing agent for the development, building at Meadow Ridge has continued at an ongoing pace with occupancies as early as immediate to late spring.

"Buyers can live in this upscale gated community for as little as $495,000, the base price of our E Residence, which includes 2,236 square feet of living space that can be expanded to 2,521 square feet if needed," said Gibson-Giampa.

"We have also just broken ground on our A Residence, which is one of the largest homes here at Meadow Ridge with all the bedrooms on the second floor," she said.

The A Residence features 2,390 square feet of living area that can be expanded to 2,767 square feet. The home includes a first-floor private den/study, dining room and breakfast area. Both of these homes can be delivered by fall of 2013.

Pre-construction prices on the next two buyers'
Update, renovate, create

Home improvement show opens Feb. 8

Join 300 award-winning contractors, talented designers and skilled craftsmen Feb. 8, 9 and 10 for expert advice and creative solutions on home beautification, remodeling and improvement.

It's the winter-spring return of the Old House New House Home Show.

The latest in kitchens, baths, basements, additions, architecture, landscaping, interior design, painting, decorating, roofing, waterproofing, home automation, audio-video integration, HVAC, insulation, windows, doors and more will be featured in the Mega Expo Center and Ballroom at Pheasant Run Resort, 4061 East Main St., in St. Charles. Show hours are Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Since 1984, this event has been an outstanding resource for homeowners to investigate options, research solutions and make well-informed decisions on home improvement projects. Adult admission is $7; seniors (over age 62) and children (under age 18) attend free. Parking is free. A portion of the ticket proceeds benefits The Habitat for Humanity of Northern Fox Valley and its ReStore, based in Elgin.

Inspiring daily workshops are included with admission.

Landscaping design basics and trends: Join Brian O'Malley, certified landscape designer with Prestige Nursery and Garden Center for "outdoor living done right." Explore design tips for successful landscaping, improved curb appeal and beautiful backyards. Enjoy expert advice on new trends such as sustainable living, backyard chicken raising and container gardening. Learn how to assess and prioritize your landscaping needs with this seasoned professional each day at noon.

Beautiful bathrooms: Make over your bathroom with helpful guidance and savvy suggestions from Laura Gleason of Laura O'Wyn Interiors. An Illinois Licensed interior designer, Laura has been creating lovely home surroundings for more than 20 years. Join Laura at 1 p.m. each day to discover the latest innovations in bathroom remodeling. With careful consideration and mindful design, learn to construct a comfortable, luxurious bathroom.

Designing a dream kitchen: Each day at 2 p.m., Scott Skiermanski with Stoneridge Builders will present his adept and accomplished approach to kitchen design and renovation. Learn the components necessary for an eye-catching layout, maximize storage, flow and functionality and enjoy engaging "before and after" photos. Scott is an NAHB Certified Green Builder with Energy Star Designation and an exceptional guide for homeowners investigating the remodeling process.

Attendees can enter to win the Grand Prize of a $1,000 home show gift certificate to use with the exhibitor of their choice. No purchase is necessary. See the Website for contest rules and past prize winners.

For more information on event specifics, an up-to-date exhibitor list, directions or a printable $1 off admission coupon, visit www.kennedyproductions.com or call (630) 815-1160.

Since 1977, the Kennedy family has been carefully crafting, presenting and hosting quality events, including The Old House New House Home Show held twice yearly at Pheasant Run Resort. This women-owned business selects vendors and top-notch companies with cutting-edge products and superior services to provide a reliable resource for homeowners. For more information visit www.kennedyproductions.com.
Getting lender’s best price on home loan sometimes a stretch

Editor’s note: This is another in a multipart series.

This series of articles is about opportunities available to consumers to save money on a mortgage in 2013. This article is directed at those looking to find the best possible deal on a refinance or home purchase loan.

**Importance of posted prices:** Mortgage lenders every morning reset their “posted prices,” which are the prices they will commit to at that time to a borrower who meets their qualification requirements. On a given transaction, posted prices will vary from lender to lender, and in a well-functioning market the lender to borrower would find the lender posting the best price on her deal and grab it. But that turns out to be quite difficult to do.

**Agents don’t necessarily quote posted prices.** The problem is that posted prices are not public information. Lenders deliver them to their loan officers, brokers and others authorized to offer their loans to the public. But these agents are not obliged to quote posted prices to mortgage shoppers, and in many cases they do not.

Agents looking to snare the shopper as a customer may price below the posted price (called “lowballing”). It is a common practice because it is often the only method available to the agent to separate herself from the others. After the customer is committed, the agent may price above the posted price (“highballing”) to increase the profit margin.

If the market price subsequently declines, the shopper will receive the early price quote instead of the new and lower posted price. If the market price increases, the shopper will pay the new posted price or higher, probably with an explanation and perhaps even an apology.

**Why lowballing works:** Agents can’t be held to the prices they quote to shoppers because market prices will change before the price is locked. The information provided by a borrower upon which a price quote depends must be confirmed by the lender before the price is locked.

**Why highballing works:** The typical applicant has the assurance that everything you need is inside and outside your door.

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The writer is professor of finance emeritus at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Comments and questions can be left at www.mtgprofessor.com. Copyright 2011 Jack Guttentag. Distributed by Inman News.
Numbers crunch shows housing on the rise

**BY KAY SEVERINSEN**

Sun-Times Media

What are we to make of the newest numbers on Chicago area home sales? Some show growth and positive energy, while others seem to indicate we lag the nation in home price upticks.

New numbers from the Illinois Association of Realtors show that Chicago’s nine-county area saw a 19.2 percent month-over-month increase in December 2012 over December 2011. For the whole year, 2012 totaled 90,365 sales, up 26 percent from 2011. December’s median price was $151,500, up 4.5 percent over that month last year.

New Zillow numbers indicate that the real estate rebound is more robust in almost every region of the nation than Chicago.

But one thing to keep in mind: the more localized the data, the more accurate it is. National statistics for the entire year of 2012, such as those from Zillow this week, give a broad national overview, but local statistics for month over month pricing or neighborhood by neighborhood median prices give a better view for buyers and sellers in those areas.

“When they say real estate is local, they really mean it,” said Mike McElroy, broker with Access Chicago Realty. “Numbers will vary from neighborhood to neighborhood and zip code to zip code.”

This is especially true when looking at the entire city of Chicago. It includes both River North and Englewood, for example, two very different neighborhoods. Both contribute their numbers to that median price listed for Chicago.

“Month over month numbers don’t always give you enough data to see how a neighborhood is doing,” he said, “but you can look at the median price over 12 months and see how it’s doing compared to the 12 months before that. For example, by that measure, the median price for all property types in the 60622 (Wicker Park) zip code area was up 4.3 percent in 2012. River North (60654) was up 3.6 percent, and 60614 (Lincoln Park) was up 1.8 percent.”

Regionally, the Illinois Association of Realtors reports, single family home sales were up 17.1 percent in December with prices showing a 4.3 percent increase; while total condo sales were up 23.1 percent, with prices showing a 6.5 percent gain.

Narrowing the focus to the city, Chicago saw a 14.6 percent year over year increase in sales while condo prices increased 17.7 percent, year over year. Home prices were up 19.4 percent overall in December versus the same month in 2011.

Another key indicator - the number of days a home sits unsold - is down 17.5 percent, from 103 days to 86.

The decrease in time on market, said Zeke Morris, president of the Chicago Association of Realtors, “shows a continued clearing of inventory, of both single-family homes and condominiums.”

But compared to other regions of the country, our year-over-year numbers are not so impressive. Zillow reports that nearly every national market saw big price gains in 2012. Cincinnati and Chicago regions were the two that didn’t. Our median sales price in 2012 was $160,000, down 1.5 percent from $162,500 in 2011.

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Surprising, affordable
Step up with upgrades to give home a new look

Sure, kitchen and bath renovations get all the glamour and credit for offering high returns on your investment when it’s time to sell your home.

But a host of other, sometimes overlooked improvements can also offer great ROI, while completely changing the look of your home at a fraction of the cost of bigger projects.

“Improvements like upgrading your home’s stair case can give a home a fresh look quickly and affordably,” says Dale L. Reutter, president, WM Coffman, which has been making and distributing stair products for more than 130 years. “These upgrades can offer impressive ROI, and also enhance the enjoyment and usability of your home.”

If you’re looking for home improvements that will pay off in the long-term, plus give your home a fresh look now, consider these high-impact, lower-cost upgrades:

- Change the front door. The door to your home is not only a key element of its exterior look, the door can set expectations for what guests will see inside your home as well. A new front door makes a statement for both the inside and outside of your home. When you sell your home, that new front door can return as much as 73 percent of the initial cost for steel doors and nearly 54 percent for fiberglass doors, according to Remodeling Magazine’s Cost vs. Value Report.

- Layer and upgrade lighting in key rooms such as living rooms and family rooms. Replacing outdated lights can create a fresh, appealing atmosphere in a room. But don’t stop at overhead fixtures. Layer your lighting by adding new floor lamps and table lamps. A variety of lighting sources and types allows you to change moods in a room with the flip of a few switches.

- Repaint ceilings and baseboards. While you may be aware of the benefits of painting walls, many homeowners overlook the value of painting ceilings and baseboards. Repainting a ceiling — even if it’s plain white — dramatically brightens a room. The same is true for painting trim; the freshness of updated trim can draw the whole room together. So the next time you paint a room, be sure to do ceilings and trim as well.

- While these upgrades can help you cost-effectively change your decor, when you’re looking for high impact, flexibility and affordability, updating your stairway is one of the best investments you can make. Many modern floor plans place the stairway front and center, making it the first design element guests see when they enter. Yet when it comes time to renovate, many people overlook the design potential of this functional element in their home. The look and positioning

See Upgrades, Page 8

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Spring is coming
Now a great time to start planning home makeovers

If April showers bring May flowers, what do winter's snowflakes bring? Perhaps it's an excuse to curl up with your favorite magazines and imagine the kitchen makeover of your dreams. When the cold winter months keep you indoors, use the time to take care of things that will make your remodeling plans much easier to tackle in the spring.

The scope: First, determine the scope of your project. Do you need just a few coats of paint or a whole new kitchen? Take this time to evaluate what you want to accomplish. If you need to work with a designer or contractor, now is the time to do your research and engage professional help to plan. Look to online resources like the National Association of the Remodeling Industry and Houzz or ask friends and family for recommendations. Meet with a few prospects and see whose work and costs fit your needs. You should also determine your budget and use that to guide the rest of your planning decisions.

Durable trends: Once you have a good sense for what your project will involve, have fun dreaming up all the details. Are you looking to make a bold statement or create a timeless look? No matter how large or small your project, there are many current trends that can make a big impact in your home, yet will stand the test of time. In the kitchen, for example, white cabinetry has had a resurgence of popularity and can create a classic look or serve as a complement to colorful statement pieces that can be easily swapped out as trends change.

Universal look: Throughout the home, universal design is also becoming an increasingly important trend to consider. Planning your remodel so the space is comfortable for all ages and abilities will ensure your long-term enjoyment of the space, and help with resale value down the road.

Clean house: When you're ready to get started on your remodel, you won't want to worry about cleaning. Take time now to look at everything stored in your kitchen, pantry and other spaces, and determine what to color and what can go. It'll make prepping for renovation projects much easier. How old are those spices? What about that stack of lids with no container to match? Have lots of totes and bags hanging around? Trash or recycle the ones you don't use and organize the rest. If you have kitchen items you can't part with but you rarely use, pack them up now and store them until the remodel is complete.

If you take time now to get prepared for your remodel, you'll thank yourself in a few months when the space of your dreams comes to life.

— Brandpoint

TODAY'S HOMES

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CHEF'S DELIGHT: This attractive, stylish and functional kitchen is the result of careful, advanced planning for a major remodel. Note the almost-timeless white cabinets, layout for easy movement and clean look. 1 MERIEL PHOTO - BRANDPOINT

TRANSACTIONS

Beach Park
39687 N Queensbury Ln: Herberger, Terrance E & Louise E; $210,000
38704 N Sheridan Rd: Maravelas, Kosta; $165,000
Deerfield
1114 Davis Ave: Garofalo, Daniel & Olga; $625,000
526 Milford Rd: Niazi, Omayr; $375,000

Evanston
2601 Central St 206: Robinson, Laurence & Ellen; $295,000
1917 Dodge Ave: Moe, Alicia & Christopher; $75,000
800 Elm Rd 1112: Salem, Omar & Perzand; Stephanie, $240,000
611 Florence Ave: Thomas, Karla & Beardsley, Stacy, $150,000

Glencoe
1076 Elm Ridge Dr: Graham, Matthew D & Maria M; $850,000

TRANSACTIONS

2531 Greeley Ave: Alpas, Jeremy C & Eileen M; $410,000
1806 Leman Ave: Parker, Eric D & Shereen T; $399,000
524 Michigan Ave 1S: Christodoulakis, Dimitrios; $70,000
819 Michigan Ave 2: Adams, Steven M & Petty, Miriam J; $325,000
TODAY'S HOMES

SALES | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Glenview
260 Mills Ct: Marisch, Kenneth A; $115,000
780 Valley Rd: Shirley, Donald R & Sarah J; $960,000

Lake Villa
1005 Park Ave: Heck, Erka; $195,000

Libertyville
150 E Winnebago Rd: Mckabney, Mercedes & Dwight; $120,000
204 Harding Ave: Strader, Jacob M & Meredith D; $490,000
202 Lockwood Dr: Siebert, Heath & Carrie; $245,000
180 S Warbler Ct: Arrurmani, Udayasankar & Ramachandran, Saiesshwar; $468,000

Lincolnshire
91 Cumberland Ct: Benjamin, Richard D & Nora J; $455,000
427 Farrington Dr: Andelman, Scott E & Marlene; $1,075,000
107 Rivershore Ln: Ryback, Steven W & Donna R; $330,000

Morton Grove
7645 Beckwith Rd: Warda Dankha, Bassam Butros & Easho, Zina M; $195,000
5933 Capulinia Ave: Choi, Paul I; $229,000
5170 Church St: Ciharan, Ioxan; $229,000

Mundelein
933 W Courtland St: Rupnick, Jason & Valdivia, Mirella Amy; $236,500
1939 W Morgan Ct: Carballo, Keiry L; $94,000

Niles
8236 N Milwaukee Ave 403: Pearson, Brock L; $190,000
6120 N Milwaukee Ave 407: Gu, Seok H; $190,000

Niles Grove
1322 Hainesville Rd: Vega, Iris; $70,000
521 Cedar Lake Rd: Pizarro, Alejandro; $120,000
933 W Courtland St: Rupnick, Jason & Valdivia, Mirella Amy; $236,500

Northbrook
1257 Highpoint Ln: Kapur, Niraj & Julie; $615,000
3633 N Park Dr: Hong, Jungja; $93,000
1915 Smith Rd: Bolon, Matthew & Meghan; $420,000

Round Lake
815 N Prospect St: Ogawara, Kim L; $304,000

Skokie
6318 Bennett Ave: Chigbue, Patricia & Jagun, Oluyinka; $165,000
5529 Bronx Ave 314: Elyass, Marilyn; $87,500
5345 Gram St: Moore, Michael; $173,000
5305 Farwell Ave: Gorelik, Mark; $105,000
9560 Gross Point Rd 605B: Garcia, Andres C & Lisa; $122,500
7912 Karlov Ave: Piusian, Stefan & Daniela; $183,000
8711 Laramie Ave: Moore, Michael J; $167,500
7601 Lincoln Ave 610B: Alyas, Yousef W & Shamook, Valentina; $80,000

Vernon Hills
1852 Crenshaw Cir: Tran, Quy & Moc; $350,000
404 River Grove Ct: Kotelman, Ann Rachel & Laura Mary; $499,000

Waukegan
2599 Clubhouse Ln: Fink, Robert B & Karen; $166,000
1009 Highland Ave: Caraway, Courtney S; $82,000

Wilmette
220 Locust Rd: Pan, Fan & Shen, Weixing; $670,000

SEE SALES, PAGE 8
MEADOW RIDGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
choice of the six homes will reflect a savings of $80,000, Gibson-Giampa said.
The largest home available is the F Residence, which is available for immediate occupancy.
The F Residence boasts 3,688 square feet of living space.
It has a first-floor master bedroom and more than 2,254 square feet of living space on the main level. Priced well below the “to-build” cost at $775,000, this home includes an impressive list of upgrades that is a must see for home shoppers.

Guests are welcomed by a gracious entry foyer and access to the study on the left. Straight ahead is the formal living room which is open to the adjoining dining room.

Through the dining room is the breakfast room and island kitchen to the right. Both areas open to a great room with vaulted ceiling. An optional fireplace and sliding doors open to the patio from the great room.

The first-floor master-bedroom suite has a large walk-in closet and a private master bath with over-scaled luxurious shower, his and hers sinks and linen closet. The laundry room, a powder room and two more closets complete the first floor.

The upper level offers another 879 square feet of living space, which includes two bedrooms with walk-in closets, a full bath, loft area and a room-sized bonus space.

Meadow Ridge is a gated 164-unit community of attached single-family townhomes and duplexes sequestered on 40 quiet acres at Waukegan and Founders roads in Northbrook.

“Meadow Ridge is a private community targeted to people moving from large single-family homes on the North Shore,” said Suzy Friedman, president of KZF Development, the developer.

“Our buyers are looking for a specific maintenance-free lifestyle as well as living in a private gated community.” Unique features include lavish landscaping, two man-made lakes and active waterways, and a 1.2 mile running/biking path around the community.

The Meadow Ridge residences are being built in 2-unit duplex and 4-unit townhome buildings in the upscale community, which features a guard house and private streets. Base prices range from $495,000 to $895,000.

The two-story duplexes have three bedrooms, 2½ baths and 2,334 to 3,700 square feet of living space. The duplex homes, which come with an unfinished bonus room, feature a private entry, soaring ceilings and a two-car attached garage.

The two-story townhomes are available with two or three bedrooms including a first-floor master suite, 2½ baths and 2,236 to 2,617 square feet of living space. Townhomes feature 9-foot-high first-floor ceilings, bonus room, feature a private entry, soaring ceilings and a two-car attached garage.

Community features are a 1.2 mile running/biking path around the community, and the nearby Five Seasons Tennis and Country Club.

Other recreational amenities include a 9-hole Willow Hill Golf Course and the Willow Festival Shopping Center. Just across the street are the Techny Post Office and the Techny Towers.

SALES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Winnetka
480 Sheridan Rd: Striegel, Scott & Jennifer; $948,000
170 Woodland Ave: Rehaldt, Thomas & Rehwaldt, Hallie; $412,000


UPGRADES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5
of the staircase affects the flow of the home and sets the tone for the entire house. Modifying a staircase can open up a floor plan and increase usable square footage. It can also help you redefine the theme of your decor from traditional to contemporary or even modern. For example, replacing old wooden balusters with iron can help you create a cohesive look with other metallic design elements in the home, such as doorknobs or faucets.

A variety of products — from decorative balusters to newel posts and newel tops — make it easy and affordable to create a custom look for virtually any stairway.

— Brandpoint

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Dudley-Anderson Engagement

Dr. and Mrs. John Anderson of Western Springs, IL, announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Lindsay Anderson to Mr. Craig Dudley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Dudley of El Paso, IL. Miss Anderson is a 2009 graduate of Lyons Township High School. She is graduating in May from the University of Illinois with a degree in Mathematics and Education. Mr. Dudley is a 2009 graduate of El Paso - Gridley High School. He is graduating in May from the University of Illinois with a degree in Economics and Communication. A June wedding is planned.

Jim and Carol Celebrate 50 Years!

Carol Anne Freisinger and James Allen Sveinsson were married on February 2, 1963 at Queen of Angels church in Chicago. For 50 years they have shown us all, by example, what a loving, lifelong commitment is. Their life filled with love grew to include seven children Karen, (Paul), Ellen (Mike), Jim, Julie (Bob), Eric, Marysue (Bill) and Katie; and six grandchildren, Max, Hannah, Ella, Betsy, William and Joseph. We wish them many more years of happiness!

Lichtenberger 60th Anniversary

Karl and Elisabeth (Lisa) Lichtenberger celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a family trip to Door County during the weekend of September 27, 2012. Karl and Lisa (nee Eisenmenger) Lichtenberger were married in Heilbronn, Germany on September 27th, 1952. Attending the anniversary celebration were sons and wives: Ken (Janet) Lichtenberger, Ralph (Anne) Lichtenberger, Norman (Cindy) Lichtenberger, Mark (Carol) Lichtenberger and daughter and husband Kristin (Ron) Levin. Also part of the celebration were 4 of their 10 grandchildren, Timothy, Logan, Erik and Hannah as well as Lisa’s sister, Paula and nephew, George. Happy Anniversary Oma and Opa. We are all looking forward to celebrating many more.

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Cover Story
Gorilla Tango uses outsourcing as inspiration for a musical.

Top Five
Our picks for the week's best entertainment.

Family Friendly
Frozen Fun is on the way.

What to Do
Your calendar for this week and beyond.

Film Clips
What's opening in theaters and what's still playing.

Stage
'Now and Forever' world premiere packs a punch at Marriott Theatre.

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Workplace woes inspire new musical

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

There's only one thing to do when your telemarketing firm is about to be outsourced to India. Sing.

At least, that's what happens in "Dial with a Smile: An Office Musical." The prize-winner in Gorilla Tango's 2012 I'm writing a Musical Competition will be presented at its Skokie Theatre Feb. 1-March 29.

The book and lyrics are by Robert Curtis, who also directs, with music and musical direction by DJ Douglass.

"We wanted to write a musical that took place somewhere that a musical would never take place," Curtis said. "We thought, 'How about a telemarketing firm? Everybody's sitting down. They're always on the phone.'"

The setting was familiar to the collaborators because each of the two Columbia College Chicago graduates (last year) worked at telemarketing firms when they were in school.

They populated their musical's office with six characters. These include the owner of the firm and the human resources representative he loves. "He wants to sell the firm so they can move to New Hampshire and get married," Curtis explained.

Tom, the manager, "is dealing with the stress of trying to figure out a way to keep the business open," Curtis related. The two main callers are overachiever Laura and Travis, whom the playwright described as "this lazy slacker who barely gets by. He's only working to buy himself a new Xbox."

Then there's Susan who hangs out in the background unnoticed. "She's completely unaware that a musical is going on the entire time," Curtis said. "In the opening number, she's the only one aware of it but never gets a chance to sing because everybody keeps cutting her off."

The hour-long show includes nine songs.

Douglass described the musical style as "contemporary. There's a little bit of jazz in it and a little bit of a swing style."

Although he has taken musical theory classes, composing has primarily been a hobby for Douglass since he was a small child. He has played in bands as a keyboardist and guitarist.

In a clever touch, the musical instruments used in the show are integrated into the office environment. "The piano is the manager's computer. We have a guitar that serves as the water cooler. And everybody, when they're making their phone calls, plays kazoo," Curtis reported.

Curtis, who earned a degree in theater acting with a minor in creative writing, is working as a teaching artist in a Chicago afterschool drama program. Douglass holds a degree in musical theater.

In homage to a common side job for performers, the pair's next musical will be about waiters.

The two friends had never written a musical before they entered the Gorilla Tango contest on a whim. Curtis was astounded when their show won the contest. "I never thought we'd get past the first round," he said. "Every single round, I was more and more shocked."

Douglass had a different take on the situation. He said, "From day one, I was so confident we could win."
Managing Editor Jennifer Thomas' entertainment picks for this week

**Battle of the Bands**
hosted by Youth Connection is 7 p.m. Feb. 1 at Wilmette Junior High School, 620 Locust Road. See www.youthconnection-wilmette.org.

**Frank Mantooth Jazz Festival**
with concerts by the Count Basie Orchestra and more is Feb. 2 at New Trier High School in Winnetka. Visit ntjazz.com.

**'Soul Sisters,'**
a multicultural musical, will be on stage at 2 p.m. Feb. 2 at Skokie's National Louis University campus, 5202 Old Orchard Road. Call (800) 838-3006.

**Evanston Cellars**
da debut a monthly wine tasting event at 7 p.m. Feb. 5 at The Alcove, 512 Main St., Evanston. Visit evanstoncellars.com.

**An Acoustic Evening with Matisyahu**
(above) takes place at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 6 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. Visit northshorecenter.org.
Libraries are going a more nontraditional route with some of their new book clubs.

Rather than gathering around a table in a meeting room, the clubs are becoming more relaxed and social — meeting at restaurants or bars and covering materials that are a bit edgier.

Five area libraries run these social discussions: LitLounge from the Morton Grove and Skokie libraries; Book Bites from the Glenview and Niles libraries; and Books on Tap from the Northbrook Public Library.

"Part of the reason we do programs like this is to cater to working adults who aren't using the library yet or don't want to necessarily drink decaf coffee and eat cookies while they talk about books," said Books on Tap's Leah White, a reader services librarian at Northbrook Public Library.

"They can order some nachos, order wine or beer, then talk about a book." By having the discussion outside of the library, Book Bites' Cecilia Cygnar, an AV & Fiction librarian at the Niles Public Library District, said people feel more relaxed and the discussions are more casual.

"People can have a drink. People can have dinner," she said. "Just being able to have a glass of water, it's a different atmosphere."

The book selections are less...
traditional, too, and have been described as "quirky," "offbeat" or "contemporary" by the clubs' respective moderators.

"We're not going to read The Help or The Paris Wife," said LitLounge's Amita Lonial, Skokie Public Library's adult services program coordinator. "We look for titles that will appeal to a younger demographic."

Some of the recent titles selected for discussion include Geek Love by Katherine Dunn, The Sisters Brothers by Patrick DeWitt and The Art of Fielding by Chad Harbach.

"We choose books that are less conventional, a little less mainstream, and try to get a different population in who like reading all kinds of fiction and nonfiction," Cygnar said.

Depending on the interest of the book, the clubs can have anywhere from 10 to 20 people at each meeting.

"We have such an awesome group that our job (as moderators) is really easy," said LitLounge's Debra Wischmeyer, a reader services librarian with Morton Grove Library. "People bring questions to the table. It's pretty casual, not a formal book discussion. The group really participates and leads the discussion."

An informal, more social, group like this allows group members to make connections with people they wouldn't normally talk to.

"How often does a guy in his 20s talk with a woman in her 60s? Never, unless they're mother and son," White said.

The librarians agree that these book discussions are about more than just the books.

"So many people come and say how important (the club) is to them and their social life," White said. "You kind of create this safe space; it's still a library-run program. There's a sense of legitimacy, a legitimate purpose to hanging out. In these groups in particular, it's about the social interactions that happen around the book."
Learn

NU exhibit honors work and life of Patricia Neal

BY DONALD LIEBENSON | Contributor

"I am a very stylish lady," Patricia Neal's character remarks to Audrey Hepburn's Holly Golightly in "Breakfast at Tiffany's." That in itself would be a provocative epitaph for the Tony and Academy Award-winning actress, but it would not begin to sum up her prodigious gifts and indefatigable spirit as evidenced in a new exhibition on display at the Northwestern University Library on the Evanston campus.

"On Her Own Terms: Patricia Neal's Life and Legacy," which runs through March 22, is drawn from a treasure trove of personal papers, artifacts and archival treasures that were donated by her daughters, Lucy and Ophelia Dahl, to the university, which she attended from 1943 to 1945. Neal died in 2010 of lung cancer at the age of 84. She is perhaps best known for her smoldering performance in "Hud," for which she won the Academy Award for Best Actress, as well as the sci-fi classic, "The Day the Earth Stood Still," in which she speaks three iconic words that are embedded in popular culture: "Klaatu Barada Nikto." TV trivia buffs will know that she originated the role of Olivia Walton in the pilot movie that launched the series, "The Waltons."

One of her very best performances was in "A Face in the Crowd," a prescient drama about the rise and fall of a TV demagogue portrayed by, of all people, Andy Griffith. Neal co-starred as the promoter who creates and betrays him.

"On Her Own Terms: Patricia Neal's Life and Legacy"

Northwestern University Library, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, through March 22.
Admission is free and open to the public.
"Hud" will be screened 7 p.m. Feb. 15 at Northwestern's Block Museum, 40 Arts Circle Drive, admission $6; Lucy and Ophelia Dahl will attend.
(847) 467-5918 or c-roccaforte@northwestern.edu.
Manuscript librarian Benn Joseph curated the exhibit. At first only superficially aware of her — “I knew she was in ‘Day the Earth Stood Still,’” he said — he came to more fully appreciate Neal. Not only her talents as an actress, but also her bravery in the face of a series of personal tragedies (one of her children died of measles at the age of seven, and another was left brain-damaged following a grievous traffic accident) and setbacks (a series of debilitating strokes in 1965 that left her paralyzed and with severely limited speech) impressed him.

In a letter Neal wrote to Larry King, who had asked her to contribute to his 2004 book of celebrity epitaphs, “Remember Me When I’m Gone,” Neal indicated that she wanted to be remembered for her acting career, but also as devoted mother, survivor and philanthropist and advocate on behalf of stroke victims after overcoming her own medical issues.

“We have a lot of material relating to all those aspects of her life,” Joseph said. Also represented is Neal’s tumultuous marriage to children’s book author Roald Dahl, whom she married in 1953 and divorced 30 years later.

Among the treasures on display in the exhibit is the 1946 Northwestern yearbook, for which she was named that year’s beauty queen, along with pictures of Neal with her Pi Beta Phi sorority sisters. There is her first acting contract ($100 a week) for her role in the Broadway play, “The Voice of the Turtle,” for which she won the first Tony Award for Best Featured Performance by an Actress.

Visitors will also see correspondence from such A-listers as Paul Newman, Ronald Reagan, Gene Kelly, and even, curiously, Paul “Pee-wee Herman” Reubens. Those who enjoy a good scandal will take some guilty pleasure in letters written to Neal by her “The Fountainhead” costar Gary Cooper, with whom she had an affair. It was thought, Joseph said, that Roald Dahl had destroyed all those letters.

Joseph said he hopes the exhibit will introduce Neal to current Northwestern students who may only dimly be familiar with her through her films. Hers is a profile in courage. Joseph noted that the epitaph she did supply to King was: “Show me heaven; I’ve seen hell.”

Chicagoland’s Premier Live Theater Guide
The 2009 Tony Award Winning Comedy

GOD OF CARNAGE

By YASMINA REZA
Translated by CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON

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Show honors Andrew Lloyd Webber’s music

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES | Contributor

Without a doubt, Andrew Lloyd Webber’s signature work is “The Phantom of the Opera.”

That was abundantly clear when riotous applause greeted the opening of Marriott Theatre’s World Premiere production of his music the evening of Wednesday, Jan. 23 — a sound and light extravaganza with a massive chandelier and the deafening organ music that opens that show.

However, “Now and Forever,” as the show is called, demonstrates that this enormously popular composer has given us much, much more. Remember that he wrote the music for “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” and “Jesus Christ Superstar,” as well as the delightful “Cats,” “Evita,” and “Sunset Blvd.” They are all represented in this highly entertaining musical revue.

There is no attempt to string songs together in some sort of flimsy plot. Instead director/choreographer Marc Robin wisely presents the numbers one by one, using some of the best vocalists around and dancers who just wouldn’t quit.

Standout numbers include the whole company’s performances, like that of “Masquerade” from (yes) “Phantom.” These are made even more memorable with costumes by Nancy Missimi, who dresses the whole show. One gown is lovelier than the next.

Two numbers unfamiliar to me are heartbreaking in their power: “Tell Me on a Sunday,” tenderly sung by Marriott favorite Susan Moniz; and “Take That Look Off Your Face,” the country-style lyrics given a knock-out rendition by Stephanie Binetti, who dances as well. Binetti also sizzles in fire-engine red, dancing and singing “Buenos Aires” from Evita.

The petite Moniz also sparkled in “Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again” and “Don’t Cry for Me Argentina.”

The casting of certain songs is just right. Broadway veteran Linda Balgord sings “With One Look” from “Sunset Blvd.” and “Anything But Lonely,” and has the final solo in the Marriott production, “Memory.” Her costume in that wonderful song from “Cats” is a skin-tight black sequined mini-dress, just what an ex-chorus girl with fabulous legs might wear.

The find of the night might be Erin Stewart, who has the clear, bell-like voice of an operetta heroine. It’s no surprise to see that during her career she has played roles created by Julie Andrews in “My Fair Lady” and “Camelot.”

She has toured in “Phantom” and sings the title song and “Think of Me” as well as “Love Never Dies” in this show.

Male singers have some great moments as well: Travis Taylor in “‘Til I Hear You Sing,” who’s joined by Ben Jacoby and Max Quinlan to sing sequentially “Love Changes Everything,” and Jameson Cooper’s sweet performance of “Any Dream Will Do” from “Joseph.” Quinlan also raises the roof with the tortured “Gethsemane” from “Superstar.”

These dancers are athletes as well as dazzling hoofers, and their numbers pack real punch, including “The Jellicle Ball” from “Cats,” choreographed by Robin, and the Overture to “Jesus Christ Superstar,” choreographed by Matt Raftery to Techno-style accompaniment.

My favorite is the sublime ballet number danced by Luke Manley and Ellen Green to Webber’s “Pie Jesu” from his “Requiem,” choreographed by Harrison McEldowney.

This show covers all the bases and knocks every pitch out of the park. Even if you are not a “Phantom” fan, don’t miss all the splendid songs and fancy footwork. It’s a great show.
Celebrate winter at Frozen Fun event

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

A little less cold and a little more snow. That’s what Jennifer Clauson, supervisor of Park Ridge’s Wildwood Nature Center, was hoping for when we talked about Frozen Fun, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6 at the center, 529 Forestview Ave., Park Ridge.

“It’s a family class to celebrate all the fun things about winter,” Clauson said. “Some of that is painting with ice cubes, using colored water to paint the snow and seeing what happens to water in the winter.”

The event will run even if it doesn’t snow because staff can create ice and even make “fake snow” using white packing peanuts.

“All the kids like to be outside when it’s winter anyway,” Clauson related. “It gives an excuse for those parents to get outside a little bit with them and do some of the fun things outdoors — and indoors, so we can talk about what’s happening outdoors.”

The cost is $15 per family. Registration is required.

For details, call (847) 692-3570 or go to www.prparks.org.

MORE ANIMAL LORE

The race is on at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. when Roz Puppets presents its adaptation of Aesop’s fable, “The Tortoise and the Hare,” 7 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1. Your kids will learn why slow and steady wins the race.

For details, call (847) 673-7774 or go to wwww.skokieplibrary.info.

THE SHADOW KNOWS

The guest of honor will be 5 ft. tall at the Groundhog Day Party, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2 at Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. The groundhog will talk about its life and what it means when it sees its shadow. The cost is $5, which includes hot chocolate and making a groundhog shadow puppet. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2500 or go to www.skokieparks.org/emily-oaks-nature-center.

ROPE WARRIOR ROCKS

David Fisher of Glenview, best known as the Rope Warrior, will show another talent when he performs his new songs during Wee Rock, a Kids Club Special Event for ages 2-6, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 2 at the Glen Town Center, 2651 Navy Blvd., Glenview. Registration is required.

For details, call (847) 729-7500 or go to www.theglentowncenter.com.

“Ice Age: Continental Drift,” 3:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4 at 4000 W. Pratt Ave. The PG-rated Kid Flick runs 88 minutes.

For details, call (847) 677-5277 or go to www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org.

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BULLET TO THE HEAD

Rated
R for strong violence, bloody images, language, some nudity and brief drug use

Stars
Sylvester Stallone, Sung Kang, Christian Slater, Sarah Shahi, Jason Momoa

When the partners of a New Orleans hit man (Stallone) and a Washington, D.C. detective (Sung Kang) are both killed by the same bad guy (Momoa), they form an alliance to bring him down.

STAND UP GUYS

★★½
Rated
R for language, sexual content, violence and brief drug use

Stars
Christopher Walken, Alan Arkin, Al Pacino, Julianna Margulies

The best thing about “Stand Up Guys” is Al Pacino, Christopher Walken and Alan Arkin (together for the first time) as retirement-age tough guys out for one last hurrah. Doc (Walken) is living a quiet life of painting sunsets until his best friend Val (Pacino) is released from prison — where he’s spent 28 years because he refused to implicate anyone in an armed-robbery shootout. Doc treats Val to an evening of hookers and hardcore partying, but there’s a problem. A venal mob boss has ordered Doc to kill his friend or die with him. The three Oscar winners make it all work fine, though, despite the extremely improbable places the script takes them, lending far more substance to their characters than this otherwise ho-hum tragic-comic crime drama deserves.

WARM BODIES

★★★
Rated
PG-13 for zombie violence and some language

Stars
Nicholas Hoult, Teresa Palmer, Rob Corddry, John Malkovich

Falling in love can be complicated, even if you’re not dead. Fortunately, though, in writer/director Jonathan Levine’s horror-comedy romance “Warm Bodies,” angst-ridden young zombie R (Hoult) isn’t going to let a little thing like lifelessness stop him. And the result is the first unexpected charmer of the new year. As charming as a brain-eating zombie movie can be, that is. R falls for Julie (Palmer) after eating the brain of her boyfriend, as his awakened heart slowly restores his humanity in general — along with the rest of the zombie community. That’s a game changer for the post-apocalyptic world, where the surviving humans are losing their battle with the zombies and the bonies, a faster, meaner, nastier breed of the living dead. There’s still a fair amount of horror to placate zombie purists, even though the emphasis is on smart, subtle comedy and awkward young love. In fact, it’s hard to imagine young love getting more awkward than this.

STILL PLAYING

QUARTET

★★½
Rated
PG-13 for brief strong language and suggestive humor

Stars
Maggie Smith, Tom Courtenay, Billy Connolly, Pauline Collins

“Quartet” is a light piece of work, but it’s meant to be that way, with just enough melancholy mixed in to keep the story from turning to treacle. Dustin Hoffman, in his directorial debut, along with an ideal cast, make that delicately balanced formula work to perfection. The film is set in an unbelievably posh, charity retirement home for retired opera performers and classical musicians, where the residents put on a benefit concert each year to help make ends meet. When their resident superstar becomes ill, it looks like the show is over, until the equally celebrated diva (Smith) reluctantly moves in — much to the dismay of the three singers who used to sing with her in a famed quartet. Smith refuses to sing again, however, and sparkles fly with her ex-husband, whom she jettisoned to advance her career. The featured performers are spot-on perfect (as you might expect) and Hoffman is savvy enough to make that the focus of his film.

THE LAST STAND

★★★½
Rated
R for strong bloody violence throughout, and language

Stars
Arnold Schwarzenegger, Eduardo Noriega, Johnny Knoxville, Forest Whitaker

It’s hard to tell if he really is as slow and creaky as he’s playing it in this surprisingly low-key action extravaganza, but one thing’s for sure — he’s still the same old Ahnold. Just a little old and a little tired. In his first starring role in 10 years, Schwarzenegger plays a former LA detective who got tired of the mean streets and took the job of sheriff in a sleepy New Mexico border town. After escaping from the FBI, a vicious (yet handsome) Mexican drug lord heads for the border in a souped-up Corvette. The only thing standing between him and freedom is Sheriff Ray (Schwarzenegger) and his ragtag group of deputies. To its credit, “The Last Stand” doesn’t ask us to take any of this seriously. Despite the mounting body count, the overall mood is light and mildly humorous.
The 'Guys' make 'Stand Up' worth a look — sort of

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

'Stand Up Guys'

The best thing about "Stand Up Guys" is the thing that probably makes you want to see it in the first place: the actors.

Al Pacino, Christopher Walken and Alan Arkin as retirement-age tough guys out for one last hurrah. All three are Oscar winners with illustrious careers, but this is the first time they've appeared in the same film together and that's the only thing that makes this otherwise ho-hum tragic-comic crime drama worthwhile.

Walken and Pacino lend far more substance than the script deserves to the roles of Doc and Val, respectively — Pacino's manic energy also has the effect of making Val come across as an annoying whack job at times.

We first meet Doc as he's going through his daily routine before visiting his best friend Val, whom he hasn't seen in 28 years. Val took the rap for a shootout and he refused to implicite Doc or anyone else. Doc looks like he's dressed for "the gin rummy championship of the world," to quote Val, but Val looks worse.

A situation that might have settled out into an "Odd Couple" scenario with two senescent armed robbers living off their Social Security checks takes a more interesting turn when we realize that Doc is waiting for the right moment to give his old friend two in the head. It seems that the son of a similar elderly mob boss named Claphands (Mark Margolis) was killed in the same shootout that sent Val to prison. Claphands has given Doc 24 hours to kill Val or be killed with him.

Doc takes Val to their favorite brothel, giving rise to the first set of Viagra jokes. Then a pharmacy break-in for more jokes, then a trip to the emergency room for even more.

At some point, Val asks Doc to drop the welcome-home act and tell him he's the guy Claphands has chosen to do his dirty work. When Doc admits it, Val nods philosophically and then proposes one last wild night together before they have to say goodbye.

And that's when things start to become more interesting and, simultaneously, more ridiculous.

They spring their friend and former getaway driver Hirsch (Ark)n) from his nursing home for quick high-speed chase with the cops in a sports car they've stolen. There's also a chivalrous decision to avenge the naked girl they find tied in the car's trunk. Walken and Pacino and Arkin aren't together for long, but while they are, "Guys" works just fine, despite the extremely unlikely places the script takes them.

Walken and Pacino get on nicely, though it's a bit unbelievable when Doc and Val routinely beat up bad guys one-third their age. No matter how absurd things get, the veteran actors make it work. You see old age drop away from the old partners in crime as the night progresses and their confidence grows.

Christopher Walken, Alan Arkin, and Al Pacino fight the clock in "Stand Up Guys."

When Booth takes his son Edwin on tour, the two ambitious men clash as real life mirrors the tragedies they perform. This staged reading by Steppenwolf's Austin Pendleton chronicles how destruction can result in progress as Edwin finds his own path.

February 28 - March 10

Join the "Brotherhood of Man" in this timeless musical comedy—with a new gender-bending twist! Determined to get ahead, young and ambitious window washer J. Pierrepont Finch rises from mail room worker to chairman of the board—and finds love along the way with the help of an invaluable little book: How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying.

BENEFIT NIGHT: Saturday, March 2, 8 p.m.
Tickets: $20 (supports Performing Arts Scholarships)

April 11 - 21

Award-winning director Jason Gerace, artistic associate at the American Theater Company, takes the helm for his first Oakton production. Southern manners collide with greed and deceit at a birthday party for the "Delta's biggest cotton planter" and Pollitt patriarch. Tempers explode as family members fight tooth and nail to come out on top. A powerful exploration of death, societal norms, and how the sins of the past can haunt us.

BENEFIT NIGHT: Saturday, April 13, 8 p.m. Tickets: $20 (supports Performing Arts Scholarships)

Six Piano Ensemble

Saturday, February 23, at 8 p.m.
Sunday, February 24, at 2 p.m.

Before reality TV, there were the Booths: the 19th century's most famous—and infamous—theater family. Despite being the greatest tragic actor of his day, Junius Booth's success couldn't make up for his failure as a father and husband.

Oakton's Six Piano Ensemble, founded by Glenna Sprague, professor and coordinator of music, has amazed sold-out audiences for more than 25 years. Performing classical, ragtime, and popular pieces, as well as symphonic music transcribed for six pianos by Professor Sprague, the group's rich layered sound is comparable to an orchestra. Critics from Honolulu to Vienna hail the group as "extraordinary," "unique," and "innovative.

For ticket information, call 847.635.1900 visit www.oakton.edu/tickets.
The season concludes with Oakton music performances. Visit www.oakton.edu/showtime.
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**THIS WEEKEND & BEYOND**

A list of regional events for you to go out and enjoy

### STAGE

**“Born Yesterday”**
- **13+**

**The Whipping Man**
- **13+**

### CLASSICAL

**Chicago Duo Piano Winter Mini-Fest**
- **13+**
- Presented at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 1-2 at Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. $30; $20 seniors; $10 students. Visit www.chicagodupianofestival.org or call (847) 905-1500, ext. 108.

**Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra**
- **13+**

**Northwest Symphony Orchestra**
- **13+**
- Presenting “Trumpet Fantasy” at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 10 in the Theatre for the Performing Arts at Maine West High School, 1755 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines. $20; $15 seniors; $10 students. Visit www.northwestsymphony.org.

### POP/FOLK/JAZZ

**Akoo Theatre at Rosemont**
- **18+**

**Park Ridge Civic Orchestra**
- **18+**
- Presenting “From a Farewell to a Kiss,” 2:30 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. $25; $20 students and seniors. Visit www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org.

**Renovo String Orchestra**
- **18+**

**Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra**
- **13+**

**POP/FOLK/JAZZ**

**InterContinental Chicago O’Hare Hotel**
- **13+**

**Josh Groban Live: All That Echoes**
- **13+**

### ART GALLERIES

**DoubleTree Hotel**
- **18+**

**Niles Public Library**
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- 6960 Oakton St., Niles. www.nileslibrary.org. Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m.: Concert for the Performing Arts: Singer Diva Montell performs her "Be My Valentine Show.""
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**What to Do**

Continued from page 67

**Show and bring sheet music in the proper key. Accompanist provided. Come prepared to dance. Production dates April 26-May 12 at the Prairie Lakes Theater, Des Plaines. Call Daiva Paulis, (312) 371-9945.**

**“Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs”**


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**Lincolnwood Public Library**

4000 W. Pratt Ave. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Feb. 4, 3:30 p.m.: "Ice Age: Continental Drift," rated PG.

**An Evening of Comedy & Spoken Word**

Author and comedian Debbie Sue Goodman and friends perform 7:30-9 p.m. Feb. 8 at Curt's Cafe, 2922 Central St., Evanston. $3 cover. Call (847) 868-8385.

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**Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre**


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Happy Twirlers

Hosting square and round dancing at 7:30 p.m. the second Saturday of the month, through May, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 855 Lee St., Des Plaines. $6 per guest. Also offering free square dance lessons 7-9 p.m. Feb. 4 and 11 at the Summit of Uptown, 10 N. Summit, Park Ridge. Call (773) 685-8407.

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North Shore Center for the Performing Arts

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Janis Ian with Livingston Taylor | Mar 14
River North Dance Chicago | Mar 16
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Enjoy an evening of outdoor winter fun under the stars or a cozy chili dinner overlooking the pond at Emily Oaks Nature Center!

The Nature Center will be decorated with glittering lights and wildlife treat trees prepared by students. Lace up your skates and glide across the pond, weather permitting, or join a hayride through the Emily Oaks woodland. Enjoy snow and ice games and activities, try snowshoeing, or watch a figure skating exhibition. Then warm up around a blazing campfire with hot chocolate and roasted marshmallows.

We will be serving a delicious chili dinner in our rustic program room overlooking the pond! The menu for this Nature Center fund-raiser includes vegetarian or turkey chili with toppings, cornbread, apple juice, coffee and dessert. Turkey hot dogs are available for children. Tickets are limited and are for specific dining times.

Admission (without Chili Dinner): $5/person

Chili Dinner (Admission included)
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Healthcare Reform Slated to Drive 2013 Hiring

By: John Rossheim

The outcome of the presidential election has erased any uncertainty that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will remain the law of the land. While many organizations digest the impact of healthcare reform on healthcare staffing, one thing seems certain – healthcare hiring in 2013 will be hectic.

"On 2012, hiring has been gangbusters, especially from the summer on," says John Fulcher, SAM, director of healthcare recruiting for Bauer Consulting Group in El Paso, Texas.

The sectors of medicine with the strongest need to hire will follow the long-term trend. "There will be continuing rapid growth in geriatric care and preventive health services enabled by the Affordable Care Act," says Gerrit Salinas, director of medical staffing at Snelling Staffing Services in Dallas.

ACA Spikes Rising Demand for Healthcare Workers

The continuing implementation of Affordable Care Act hiring will create a surge of demand on top of the growing need for healthcare spearheaded by the aging of the boomer generation.

In 2013, more people will be seeking healthcare, and clinician-to-patient ratios must be met, says Fulcher. But healthcare reform isn’t the only mammoth government program that will affect how much healthcare Americans will consume.

*Healthcare employers aren’t really sure what the ACA means," says Salinas. "Many tell me they’re more concerned about cuts in Medicare and Medicaid.*

The Growing Demand for MDs

"With the ACA in place, the biggest trend in demand is for primary care and internal medicine doctors," says Tony Stajduhar, President of the Permanent Physician Recruitment Division at Jackson & Coker in Alpharetta, Ga.

He notes that there’s a shortage "even before you put in the 30 million Americans to be covered under ACA." The physician shortage is exacerbated on the supply side as well, Stajduhar says. "Residency programs aren’t growing, and the percentage of doctors age 55 and up is hitting the panic point.

As hospitals strive to boost their top lines wherever they can in 2013, demand for some physician specialties will also rise.

"The most growth will be in the moneymaking service lines - especially cardiovascular and orthopedic surgery," says Fulcher. The creation or expansion of service lines also requires headcount increases in supporting health occupations.

Many Clinical and Allied Specialties Are Increasingly Competitive

The same demographic trends – among both patients and the health professionals who care for them – will drive recruiting for healthcare in many occupations in addition to physicians.

Salinas says that most competitive recruiting for in-demand healthcare jobs in 2013 will be for occupational therapists as well as hiring physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, specialist nurses, certified nursing assistants and home health aides.

*In OT, the range of job opportunities is fantastic," says Karen Jacobs, Ed.D., OTR/L, a clinical professor of occupational therapy at Boston University.

OT has expanded its scope to include mental health, cancer care, child obesity, chronic disease management, and even telehealth, according to Jacobs.

Skilled nursing facilities, schools, rehabs and home health agencies all compete for occupational therapists, who along with PTs, are in perennial shortage. But even as they compete for scarce clinical talent, employers – at least prestigious ones – are often setting a higher bar for health professionals in some specialties.

"Everyone wants you to have a four-year degree now," says Tara Malkiewicz, who received her BSN from West Chester University in spring 2012 and is starting work in an ICU step-down unit at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

"Hospitals in bigger cities have more applicants to choose from. Penn Health in Philadelphia is huge, but I would have needed two to three years of experience." Indeed, geography can be a substantial factor in the difficulty of filling orders for clinicians. "We’re seeing surges in demand where there’s a low supply of doctors – especially Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Utah and Idaho," says Salinas.
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The sale is further subject to conditions as to the payment in certified funds at the close of the auction; the property will be sold in accordance with Section 16-1407 of the Civil Practice Act.

The Purchaser shall have no further representation or warranty of any kind from the Mortgagee or any person acting as the Mortgagee's agent. The Purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Title at the sale. The property will NOT be sold subject to any mortgage or other lien on the property, but shall be sold subject to the rights of occupancy of the tenant, if any, and to all taxes, special assessments, or special assessment dues, if any, which are due and payable at the time of the sale, to the extent that the Purchaser takes title to the property at such sale.

The sale is further subject to the right of the Plaintiff and/or the Plaintiff's assignee to set aside the sale for any cause, including but not limited to, failure of the Purchaser to comply with the terms of the sale.

The property will be sold AS IS, WHERE IS, and WITHOUT WARRANTY OF TITLE, including but not limited to, the right to the Tenant, if any, to renew the lease.

If the sale is set aside for any cause, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a refund of the full amount of the deposit, less attorney's fees and court costs, but shall be subject to the suit of the Plaintiff for the recovery of any deficiency, the right of the Plaintiff and assignees to hold the deposit, without interest, as security for costs of the Plaintiff and assignees, the right to the Plaintiff and assignees to hold the deposit, without interest, as security for the purchase price of the property, and the right to the Plaintiff and assignees to hold the deposit, without interest, as security for any deficiency, if any, between the full amount of the deposit, less attorney's fees and court costs, and the price paid by the Purchaser at the sale.

If the sale is set aside for any cause, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a refund of the full amount of the deposit, less attorney's fees and court costs, but shall be subject to the suit of the Plaintiff for the recovery of any deficiency, the right of the Plaintiff and assignees to hold the deposit, without interest, as security for costs of the Plaintiff and assignees, the right to the Plaintiff and assignees to hold the deposit, without interest, as security for the purchase price of the property, and the right to the Plaintiff and assignees to hold the deposit, without interest, as security for any deficiency, if any, between the full amount of the deposit, less attorney's fees and court costs, and the price paid by the Purchaser at the sale.

The property will be sold subject to any lien, mortgage, or other encumbrance, if any, on the property, the payment of which is due and payable at the time of the sale, and subject to the right of the Tenant, if any, to renew the lease, if any.
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, this document contains a property record of a mortgage foreclosure sale. If you are the owner of the property or any entity related to the property, you have the right to inspect and challenge the accuracy of the property record described in this document. For more information, you may contact the Cook County Land Registry-Record Office, 650 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60604, or visit our website at http://services.aftypierce.com.
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

CHILLER REPLACEMENT AT MEYER AND MIDDLETON SCHOOLS

At

MEYER SCHOOL
3100 Topp Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60077

MIDDLETON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
3601 W. Main Street
Skokie, Illinois 60077

Sealed bids will be received in the Office of the District Business Manager of Skokie School District 73.5 at 6500 East Prairie Road, Skokie, IL 60077 until 11:00 a.m. local time on February 15, 2013, at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

Bids will be for the replacement of one chiller at each of the two buildings. One is roof mounted and the other is ground mounted.

Drawings and Project Manual may be examined at the offices of the Owners and Architect. Documents are also available at the website of Green Associates, Inc., a licensed architectural firm.

www.greenassociates.com

Bid documents are available, in digital PDF format only, at www.construction.com. Bids will be received in duplicate on the forms provided for this purpose.

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In the bidding process, no estimated prices will be disclosed, and all information will be available on a need-to-know basis.

Sealed bids will be opened on February 15, 2013, at 11:00 am at Room 125 in Ridgeview High School located at 7500 West Montrose, Norridge, IL 60639.

There shall be a mandatory pre-bid conference at 9:30 am on February 6, 2013, at Ridgeview High School located at 7500 West Montrose, Norridge, IL 60639. At this time the bids will be opened and read.

Any Bidder Securing 10% of the Bid received by the Project Owner shall be notified by the Project Owner or the Project Manager for the Project Work. All Bidders must contact the Project Manager, Mr. Steve Ruelli, 847-676-8227, for further information.

The project is the policy of Green Associates, Inc. to provide equal opportunity to all bidders, qualified or unqualified, and to all persons engaged in any activity to which this solicitation relates, without regard to their race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, or ancestry. The project is also the policy of Green Associates, Inc. to provide work opportunity to all persons, regardless of their race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, or ancestry.

The Final Bid shall be a sealed bid and submitted in duplicate on the forms provided for this purpose.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND AVAILABILITY OF CDBG ACTION PLAN

The Village of Skokie will be conducting a public hearing to receive citizen comments and approve the one-year Action Plan related to the Village's Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Year 2014. The Village Action Plan covers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Plan will include at least three statutory goals that provide for the benefits of moderate-income households. These goals are:
1. Provide decent housing, assist homeless persons to obtain affordable housing, retain the affordable housing stock, increase the availability of permanent housing that is affordable to low-income/very-low-income households, and increase supportive housing that includes case management and transportation services.
2. Provide a suitable environment: improve the safety of neighborhoods, increase access to facilities and services for residents, increase access to facilities and services for residents, increase the availability of low-income/very-low-income households by providing more housing opportunities and revitalizing deteriorating neighborhoods, and restore and preserve scenic and open spaces.
3. Expand economic opportunities: create jobs accessible to low-income/very-low-income persons, provide financial assistance to support economic development efforts that promote long-term economic and social viability, help low-income/very-low-income persons in federally

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The proposed Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) includes the following activities:

1. Continuing the Village's program of repairing single-family homes. This program began in 1983. Low-income/very-low-income households are eligible to receive grants and loans up to $12,000 for emergency repairs and life safety improvements.

2. New small businesses located in the Village of Skokie.

3. Funding to support the expansion of the emergency generator program coverage at the Lieberman Center for Rehabilitation at 900 Green Road, to service additional electrical needs during extended power outages.

CDBG will provide a 25% match.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Village plans to submit an application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program funds to HUD. The Village intends to use these funds to the benefit of low-income/very-low-income households in Skokie.

The proposed Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) includes the following activities:

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CDBG will provide a 25% match.
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WELSH-RYAN ARENA
FAMILY NIGHT
NORTHWESTERN VS. ILLINOIS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10 - 7 P.M.
-FREE COLOR CHANGING CUP
-FREE COKE ZERO
-FREE HOT DOG
(FIRST 500 FANS)
-PROFESSIONAL FACE PAINTERS
BRING A GROUP
ALL GROUPS OF 15 OR MORE GET $3 ADMISSION, A FREE SOUVENIR CUP AND FREE POPCORN.
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR. GROUP TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE AT 847-467-6662.

JENNINGS CHEVROLET
JENNINGS VOLKSWAGEN
One of the highest-profile positions in sports is commissioner of the NFL. The three most recent - current commissioner Roger Goodell, his predecessor Paul Tagliabue, and before him Pete Rozelle - have covered more than half a century and are known to pretty much every football fan. But can you name the league's very first commissioner (there have been only nine total)? He was named to the position in 1920 and served just two years. The answer is football's first great star, the legendary Jim Thorpe.

We might as well call John Calipari's University of Kentucky basketball program "NBA Lite." On opening night of the 2012-13 season, 19 NBA players had played at Kentucky, most of any college. The previous three drafts had included 15 Wildcats. And in those drafts, 9 of the 21 players drafted after their freshman seasons played for Calipari. But college hoops fans know that Kentucky has a long history as an elite program, sporting the most victories (2,090 entering the 2012 campaign) and the highest winning percentage (.763) of any Division I program.

Kentucky might boost the all-time wins total, and in recent years the Wildcats might have dominated the NBA draft, but that hasn't necessarily translated into salary superiority. According to the Wall Street Journal, the five elite programs whose players have earned the most money since the draft lottery began in 1985 are: North Carolina ($852 million), Duke ($808 million), Arizona ($737 million), Georgetown ($727 million) and Michigan ($715 million).

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Niles West

Don't Miss

Friday
Boys swimming: Evanston at Niles West, 5:30 p.m.
The Wolves' regular season wraps up when they host Evanston in both teams' CSL South finale. While this is their first head-to-head matchup of the season, both squads competed at the Evanston Invite on Jan. 5.

Friday
Boys basketball: Evanston at Niles West, 7:30 p.m.
Things get a little bit easier for the Wolves after facing New Trier and Maine South—the CSL South's two-best teams this season—on consecutive Friday nights. Niles West has played the Wildkits once already this season: Evanston overcame a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter to win.

ABOVE: Members of the Niles West competitive dance team perform at the IHSA Class 3A state competition at the U.S. Cellular Coliseum in Bloomington on Friday. | CLARK BROOKS—for Sun-Times Media.

RIGHT: Niles West was one of the 91 teams to compete in the first IHSA competitive dance state tournament. | CLARK BROOKS—for Sun-Times Media.

First of its kind

Competing in Class 3A, Niles West finished outside the top 10 during Friday's preliminaries at the IHSA competitive dance state tournament in Bloomington and thus didn't compete in Saturday's finals.
Maine South scored a 98.36 to earn a victory over Stevenson in the Class 3A state final on Saturday at US Cellular Coliseum. Stevenson scored a 96.46.
Friday and Saturday marked the first time that the IHSA sanctioned a competitive dance state tournament.
Points hard to come by

BY ERIC VAN DRIL | Contributor | @EricVanDril

SKOKIE
The Maine South and Niles West boys basketball teams have played eight quarters this season and, in the last seven, the Hawks' zone defense has been almost impenetrable.

Maine South provided a convincing encore to its 10-point victory over the Wolves on Dec. 7 — Niles West scored just five field goals in the final three quarters of that contest — on Friday night.

The Hawks held the Wolves to 12 first-half points, and Maine South used a dominant fourth quarter to pull away for a 50-29 victory.

Despite being limited to four field goals in the game's first 16 minutes, Niles West only trailed 18-12 at halftime and the Wolves closed the deficit to 32-25 heading into the game's final eight minutes.

Maine South's punishing offensive execution put the game away in the fourth quarter.

ABOVE: Maine South's Danny Quinn (left) defends Niles West's Dwayne Smith on Friday in Skokie. | DAVID BANKS-for Sun-Times Media

LEFT: Niles West's Ahmad Gibson (20) is defended by Maine South's John Solari (32) and George Sargeant during Friday's game in Skokie. | DAVID BANKS-for Sun-Times Media
Moody hits all the right notes

BY DAN SHALIN | Contributor | @danshalin

Coaches and teammates praise Niles North's Shelley-Rae Moody for her versatility on the basketball floor.

The senior guard plans to take on an additional responsibility Friday, when she will sing the national anthem ahead of the Senior Night contest against Maine West.

Moody, who sings in the choir at Evanston's Faith Temple Church, also performed The Star-Spangled Banner before a game last season. However, the 5-foot-8 off guard-turned-point guard expects to be a little nervous before she takes the microphone this time.

"I think playing basketball is much less nerve-wracking than singing (in front of an audience)," Moody said.

Moody is plenty comfortable belting out a tune in front of her teammates, and the co-captain said she and fellow Vikings often break into song on team buses and in the locker room.

"Her role has really changed compared to the
last two years,” Niles North coach Dan Paxson said about Moody. “We ask her to do everything, and mid-season she became our point guard. She often guards the other team’s best or second-best player and sometimes we have her guarding the post.”

Moody is scoring around the seven points per game she averaged as a junior, albeit on a team scoring far less, and she is second on the team in rebounding. Once strictly a driver, Moody’s outside shot continues to improve.

The season clearly has been one of adjustments for Moody, who said she embraced the idea of playing point guard even though she initially lacked confidence in her ballhandling. Moody also has been forced to deal with losing a lot more than in previous years.

“lt requires patience,” said Moody, who plans to attend SIU-Edwardsville and hopes to become a nurse. “But right now it’s not as much about winning as it is about us working as a team, finding the right balance. I think we’re finding our rhythm and working as one, and we’re winning more than we were at the beginning of the season.”

The Vikings had a morale-boosting 48-43 win over Gordon Tech on Jan. 22, a contest in which Moody scored a career-high 17 points.

Moody’s contribution in the locker room also has been important for the team, according to Paxson, and not just because the senior leads her teammates in the latest Top 40 hits — though that probably does not hurt.

“She’s not silent, but she’s not the type of leader that is a vocal drill sergeant. She leads with positive energy,” Paxson said. “She’s always smiling and having a good time. During rough stretches, kids feed off that. They are like, ‘It’s OK, Shelley-Rae Moody is smiling!’ She has provided great leadership.”
Maine East

Don't Miss

Friday
Girls basketball: Maine East at Deerfield, 7:30 p.m.
Maine East only has two conference games remaining this season, and is likely to finish in the CSL North's top three for the first time in program history.

Friday
Boys basketball: Deerfield at Maine East, 7:30 p.m.
Both the Blue Demons and Warriors have struggled in the CSL North. Maine East hasn't come within nine points of winning a CSL North game since beating Maine West on Dec. 7. Deerfield, meanwhile, hasn't won a CSL North contest aside from its 58-40 victory over the Blue Demons on Dec. 14.

Captains help make adjustments

BY ERIC VAN DRIL | Contributor | @EricVanDril

PARK RIDGE
Maine East seniors Sade Howell, Rachel Nieva and Palisha Ranjit met each other at Melzer Elementary School 12 years ago, and quickly formed a friendship which has been strengthened in subsequent years.

After attending Gemini Junior High School together and bonding outside of school, Howell, Nieva and Ranjit have been a fixture in Maine East's dance program over the last four years. This year, all three were named captains.

Being captains has required all three to perform typical tasks like providing senior leadership, giving positive reinforcement before performances and setting a positive example for the team's younger dancers. But on Jan. 19, it provided an immense challenge.

On the day before the Palatine Sectional on Jan. 20, freshmen Taylor Alcala (concussion) and Patricia Bogdan (overused arch in foot) were ruled out for the following day's performance. The responsibility to alter and reorganize the dance primarily fell to choreographer Danielle McDonald, an assistant coach.

But it also required the captains to keep the team calm and focused, and to help answer questions about the dance with one of the season's biggest performances looming the next day.

"We all had to pitch in," Ranjit said. "We were all talking, trying to figure out the formations and who goes where. And we had to keep it sane."

McDonald added: "Our captains, they pretty much took (the lead) in making sure people were paying attention while we were making these changes (and) answering questions if I was working with someone else. They really stepped up."

Maine East's dance team, which only included eight members after the two injuries, stayed at practice for six hours on Jan. 19 to alter and practice their updated kick routine. Then, the next day, the Blue Demons scored a 69.10 to qualify for state in Class 2A.

Qualifying for state was especially sweet for the captains, all of whom are Morton Grove residents, because of their long histories together.

"We're now sharing these special experiences of going to state and everything with people that I enjoy spending time with and who I've known for a very long time," Howell said. It's also special because qualifying for the state preliminaries, in which Maine East scored a 55.42 to finish 25th Friday, earned the Blue Demons increased recognition as this is the first year the IHSA has classified competitive dance as a sport.

Maine East dancers (from left to right) Shanteria Hamilton (obscured), Palisha Ranjit and Alyssa Rufus perform Friday at the IHSA Class 2A state competitive dance competition at U.S. Cellular Coliseum in Bloomington. Visit parkridge.suntimes.com/sports to view a photo gallery from the game.

J. CLARK BROOKS-for Sun-Times Media
Sloan becomes focal point in paint

BY ERIC VAN DRIL | Contributor | @EricVanDril

PARK RIDGE

There have been times this season when Maine East junior Maria Protic watches junior center Shaylee Sloan in amazement.

Not only has Sloan progressed into the Blue Demons' best player this season — the Niles resident has regularly scored in double figures while simultaneously excelling as a leader — she seems to have an uncanny ability to judge where a rebound is going to be before it arrives.

"Underneath the basket, she's probably one of the most aggressive girls in our conference," Protic said. "The ball is like a magnet to her. The rebound goes up and she's always in the right spot at the right time.

"She also uses her body well. She's bigger than a lot of the girls, so she can push them out of the way and is able to just clear her area to get the ball.

Sloan's ability to rebound against girls who are taller or possess a better vertical leap has been one vital piece in Maine East's ascent in the CSL North's standings this season. The Blue Demons (10-12 as of Monday) were tied with Maine West for second in the division at 4-3 coming into the week.

Another reason for Maine East's success has been Sloan's scoring.

She registered 22 points in the Blue Demons' 54-46 victory over Glenbrook North on Jan. 10.

Sloan's scoring is the result of offensive rebounding and learning to play at her own pace.

"I think the kids look at her as our force underneath," Maine East coach Karol Hanusiak said. "She's the one that, when she gets going, the flow of the game gets going and everyone else feeds off of her. And let's be honest, if your big kid is getting it done underneath, they're going to have to collapse on her and that's going to open things up."

The last phase of Sloan's evolution into Maine East's best player has involved leadership. Sometimes, according to Hanusiak, Sloan will be vocal in practice and in motivating her teammates. In other instances, she puts her head down and leads by example.

The difference in styles largely depends on the situation, Sloan said. "I think it's something she assesses like a rebound — she sees a situation developing and then quickly figures out how to control it.

"If they need help, I'm always there," Sloan said. "I know everybody, so if I see that they're off, I can just pull them to the side, talk to them and encourage them. They all know they can come to me when they do have problems, on and off the court."
Confident Orlandi surpasses expectations

BY GARY LARSEN | Contributor | @GaryLarsen3

NILES

After placing third at the East Suburban Catholic Conference meet and improving his season record to 27-9, Notre Dame senior heavyweight Gino Orlandi was asked if he had anticipated the success he's had this season.

"No," Orlandi said. "Last year I had a negative record and I wasn't too good. But I worked hard over the summer and I pushed my limits to get better."

"He has exceeded all of my preseason expectations," Dons coach Augie Genovesi said.

Orlandi's path from losing to winning required him first to "stop making stupid mistakes," he said. The Chicago native also was reluctant to take shots last year, a tendency almost always traced to a wrestler's mindset.

"I have more confidence this year," Orlandi said. "I've won a lot of close matches by taking shots. That's just about confidence. This year I started winning and beating people that I lost to last year, and that helped my confidence, too."

Orlandi lost his semifinal match of Friday's ESCC tournament by a 4-3 decision to Marist's Josh Hickey, who pinned Orlandi the last time the two wrestled. Orlandi needed to win his consolation semifinal match against Marian Catholic's Jason Kaminski or he would have gone home without a medal.

Late in the third period of that match, Orlandi scored off of a Kaminski shot for a 3-1 decision win and a spot in the third-place match. He pinned St. Patrick's Rocco Curio in the third period to place third.

"I made one mistake in the match against Hickey," Orlandi said. "Last year I'd do some stupid things that lost me a bunch of matches, but I've stopped making those stupid mistakes."

Notre Dame wrestles in a Class 3A regional at Evanston on Saturday, which feeds into Maine East's individual sectional one week later.

"This year (Genovesi) is telling me I can wrestle with anyone in the state," Orlandi said. "He's a very motivational guy. He's been at this a long time and he knows what he's doing."

Next year, the athlete with the sub-.500 record as a high school junior and nearly 30 wins as a senior intends to keep wrestling at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. His coach doesn't doubt that he'll be able to pull it off.

"He has always worked hard in the wrestling room," Genovesi said. "I would take a kid like Gino on my team any day."
HOFFMAN ESTATES
The Notre Dame boys basketball team has led in every game it has played this season, even in its two setbacks.

In the 42-41 loss to No. 6 Benet on Jan. 4, the Dons led by six going into the fourth quarter. In a 61-53 loss to No. 2 Morgan Park on Dec. 2, Notre Dame enjoyed a four-point advantage through three quarters.

Which is why Saturday’s 64-48 win over No. 24 St. Viator at the National Guard High School Hoops Showdown at the Sears Centre was significant. The Dons (18-2 overall, 4-1 ESCC) jumped out to a 14-point lead in the first quarter and never let up. The Lions never got closer than five points and trailed by double digits for most of the second half.

“The two games we lost this year we lost leads,” said Notre Dame senior guard Matt Mooney, who scored a game-high 22 points. “We’ve learned from that. We can’t let teams back into games and give them life. That’s when they get confidence.”

From the opening tip, Mooney said the Dons, who are ranked No. 9 by the Sun-Times, did exactly what they needed to do against the Lions. Notre Dame scored the first seven points — five by senior guard Jake Maestranzi — and led 18-6 after the first eight minutes.

“When you think you are the better team, you have to show that you are the better team,” Mooney said.

The Dons have another test this weekend when they play Loyola (15-5 entering the week) at the War on the Shore. This is Notre Dame’s first appearance in the event’s third year.

Both teams should be among the top seeds at the Glenbrook North Sectional, and Saturday could be a possible preview to a sectional semifinal or sectional final in March.

“They are a good team, a well-coached team,” Mooney said. “It’s good to play teams like them at this time of the year. It’s a big rivalry game for us.”

Notre Dame coach Tom Les said it’s always fun when Notre Dame and Loyola get together.

“It’s a great neighborhood game,” he said. “The crowds are huge, and the boys know each other.”

TOURNAMENT NOTES
This is one of the better showcases from top to bottom. Five of the six teams have winning records and the combined record of the six clubs coming into the week was 82-34. Evanston, which is in full rebuilding mode, is the outcast, entering this week 7-13 overall.

... Notre Dame senior Justin Halbran continues to work himself into shape after a right hand injury that forced him to miss the Wheeling tournament. Even though he didn’t score Saturday, the 6-foot-6 forward grabbed a game-best six rebounds against St. Viator in his third game back. “He does a lot of things that go unnoticed,” Mooney said. ... Lake Forest, Notre Dame and St. Viator all are new to the tournament. ... Some players to watch include Ore Arogundade (St. Viator), Reid Berman (New Trier), Evan Boudreaux (Lake Forest), Steven Cook (New Trier), Sam Downey (Lake Forest), Mark Falotico (St. Viator), Matt Mooney (Notre Dame), Jack Morrissey (Loyola) and Donte Stephenson (Notre Dame). ... All the proceeds from the day go to the Danny Did Foundation (www.dannydidorg), an organization dedicated to preventing deaths from seizures.
Orlandi having standout season for Dons

Notre Dame senior Gino Orlandi (left) wrestles Nazareth junior Mike Moran in the 285-pound weight class at the ESCC wrestling tournament Friday. | RYAN PAGELOW-Sun-Times Media