Elli Seeley, 7, of Niles enjoys a dance with her father, Dan Seeley, at the Niles Park District Little Ladies Winter Dance for girls and their fathers. | ARI NEIDITZ-For Sun-Times Media

Daddy-daughter delight

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Principal goes bad in Gorilla Tango play [Page 52]
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For dads and girls, a magic night

By Tracy Gruen | Contributor

Brian Courtney smiled at his 13-year-old daughter who was all dressed up at the daddy-daughter dance that they have been coming to since she was 3 years old.

“It’s like a prom for us every year,” said Courtney, about the special annual dance held by the Niles Park District. This year’s event took place on Friday, Feb. 1.

Courtney, of Chicago, explained that his daughter missed her own school dance to come to the daddy-daughter dance with him last year.

“I like it,” said his daughter, Caitlin Courtney. “I think it’s really fun.”

“We love it,” said Courtney. “We’re going to come as long as we can.”

Courtney explained that they used to come with a bunch of other dad-and-daughter duos, but as the girls got older, some of them stopped coming. He’s thrilled that his daughter still looks forward to the special dance with her dad, he said with a huge smile.

For more than 20 years, the Niles Park District has organized this special night of dinner and dancing for girls and their dads, grandpas or uncles.

About 39 couples attended this year’s event, which creates many special memories for girls and their fathers.

A slow dance to “It’s a Wonderful World” kicked off the dancing portion of the evening, which soon picked up speed.

The music of the evening included the Hokey Pokey, oldies and a Mickey Mouse song, as well as modern top-40 songs like “Party Rock Anthem” and “Call Me Maybe.” The girls also giggled as they were playing a game of freeze dance.

Jim Grammas, of Niles, has been taking his twin girls, Ellie and Yana, to the dance for the past four years.

“I love it,” said Sotos, who said that it was great to have a night to spend with just his daughter.

Taking a break from all the action on the dance floor, dads and their daughters took photos together and went home with a framed picture to help them remember the special night that they shared.
**Actors present play by Shakespeare contemporary**

**BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor**

Peter Garino, of Niles, enjoys bringing meaningful theatrical readings to his hometown and other local libraries.

Garino, the artistic director for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, and professional actors captivated a packed room at the Niles Public Library with a theatrical reading of "A Woman Killed With Kindness" on Friday, Jan. 18.

"It was a very enthusiastic audience there," said Garino. He said it was fun to play to a full house at his hometown library. Garino said it was a very relaxed atmosphere and they had a wonderful discussion with the audience members following the theatrical reading.

"It's a very meaningful play," said Garino, about the play written by Thomas Heywood, a Shakespeare contemporary. Garino said Heywood has written more than 200 plays, but unfortunately only a handful survived over the past 400 years.
The Shakespeare Project of Chicago is presenting theatrical readings in its 18th season, free of charge, at the Niles Public Library, Newberry Library in Chicago, Highland Park Public Library and the Wilmette Public Library until April.

"A Woman Killed With Kindness" is about a young wife who commits adultery. When her husband finds out, instead of divorcing her or killing her and her lover, he tells her to live on one of the houses on his estate but she could not forgive her on her death bed.

"The play is really about forgiveness and what it costs to you," said Barbara Zahora, who plays the main woman character in the play. "It's a very interesting piece."

Garino is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, and since 1995 he has acted in or directed more than 50 theatrical readings.

Garino is glad they are able to bring high quality plays to local libraries free of charge.

"This is a play that nobody knows," said Garino. "I've been doing Shakespeare most of my life. To get a chance to work on a new play from the same period and see the great job the actors do is really exciting."

Garino explained that instead of focusing on elaborate sets, they concentrate on the characters and the true meaning of the plays. He said that audience members have told them that they have truly understood the plays for the first time during their intimate readings.

The group also has an Education Outreach program in which actors perform a 50-minute Romeo and Juliet and 50-minute Hamlet performances for the Shakespeare Project, including "Antony and Cleopatra," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "A Woman of No Importance" and his own adaptations of Shakespeare's sonnets and songs.

Garino attended the National Shakespeare Conservatory and has a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts from Hofstra University in New York and a Master of Fine Arts degree in acting from Illinois State University. He is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and a member of the Actor's Equity Association.

The next theatrical reading at the Niles Public Library will be "Twelfth Night" by William Shakespeare on Friday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.
Landlords, cops team up to keep properties crime-free

BY IGOR STUDENKOV | Contributor

On Feb. 13, a group of Niles landlords will be getting up early in the morning to meet with the police officers.

But it won’t be because they’re in trouble. Quite the opposite, actually — they’ll be there to take a class that will help them keep their properties crime-free.

The class is part of the village’s Crime-Free Housing Ordinance. Adopted in 2008, the law created a multi-pronged approach designed to address crime on Niles rental properties. Modeled after a 1992 ordinance passed in Mesa, Ariz., it strove to balance the interests of the residents, the landlords and the law enforcement. Village officials are confident that the policy has been successful.

The original Mesa ordinance was written in response to growing concerns about apartment buildings turning into hotbeds of drug trade, gang violence and other criminal activities. The approach proved to be successful enough to be copied throughout United States — including in Chicago’s northwestern suburbs.

The Niles version of the ordinance was originally proposed in 2007 by Sergeant Robert Tornabene, the Training and Public Information Officer at Niles Police Department. As originally conceived, the ordinance would have required all landlords to attend six-hour classes where they would be trained to deal with code violations, health hazards and tenant-inflicted property damage on their property. It would teach them about state and local landlord/tenant laws, show them how to screen tenants and instruct them on legal ways to evict tenants for engaging in illegal activities in their buildings.

While the final version of the ordinance didn’t require landlords to attend classes, it provided incentives. Niles landlord licenses come with fees — owners of multi-unit properties pay $20 per unit, while owners of single-family homes or attached dwelling units pay a flat fee of $100. Landlords who attended classes would get a 10 percent discount.

Tornabene recalled that the initial response to the resolution was positive.

“The landlords and most recent renters had no complaints about it,” he said. “I know that some of the renters that were repeat offenders had the problem with it because they knew the rules were going to be enforced [more systematically].”

That said, he made a point of explaining that there were incidents where classes could be mandatory.

“In the event that they have multiple incidents occurring in the property, [landlords] could be required to take classes,” said Tornabene.

According to Tornabene, the Crime Free Housing program succeeded in one important way:

“It’s reduced [the number of] our repeat offenders dramatically.”

Overall, Tornabene is happy with the way his proposal worked out.
IN PROFILE

Dealing with Alzheimer's

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

Losing a parent to Alzheimer's disease gave Laurie Sampson a new perspective on life.

"I realized I was making a lot of money and doing things for myself, but wasn't doing much for anyone else," she said.

Last summer Sampson left her job as an accountant to pursue a career in elder care services. Now a client care manager with Senior Helpers of Niles-Lincolnwood, she pairs caregivers with seniors for in-home assistance across the north Chicagoland area.

"It's very difficult sometimes but it's very rewarding," Samson said of her new post. "I love what I'm doing."

Q: What do you like the most about your job?

A: At the time when my father had Alzheimer's, I had no education about and understanding of the disease. So the best part about my job is that I get to educate families about the stages of the disease, and to let them know that nothing that is said or done by an Alzheimer's victim is a personal attack. It's the disease.

Q: In what ways do caregivers improve an elderly person's life?

A: I get this question all the time and, for some reason, people think of caregivers as someone who takes care of the elderly who cannot take care of themselves. This is not it at all. We teach all of our caregivers to allow the senior to do as much as they possibly can without help, and even to encourage them to do things they think they cannot do. It's about independence and self-respect. We will help when needed but our focus is on what people can do, not on what they cannot do.

I remember with my own father how a loving family member made him feel childlike. He used to always say to me, "Laurie, please tell her I can do it myself." If a person can do something on their own we should not take that from them. That is what we try to do at Senior Helpers.

We want seniors to be independent and, if they no longer need us, how great is that?

Q: What effect does Alzheimer's disease have on families?

A: As a daughter of an Alzheimer's victim, I can tell you first hand it is devastating, especially in the later stages of the disease when the language ability is lost. If you know about the disease, you know that curse words and negative language outlast nearly everything else. You can't understand how your loved one who adored you is now using expletives at you. I had taken it personally and it hurt a lot, but the truth is the part of the brain that guards "taboo" things is one of the last to go. So now I understand and it's not personal at all.

Q: How can family members cope with caring for a loved one who suffers from dementia?

A: Please go to the free seminar series with dementia care specialist Teepa Snow in March at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. She is the only person who has been able to explain Alzheimer's to me in a non-technical way that I could understand. Believe me, it will help so much.

But, if that's not possible, join a support group. There are many in our area. Contact the Alzheimer's Association or the Alzheimer's Foundation. They are both non-profit organizations and they are there to help. Don't rely just on family or friends. This is a baffling disease and you need people who have been there and are on the cutting edge of new treatments.

For more information on Senior Helpers and the Teepa Snow seminar series on Alzheimer's disease, see www.seniorhelpers.com/lincolnwood.
'Da Barber,' groomer of cops and mayors, dies

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

One of Mary Lou Rempala’s favorite childhood memories of her father, Lorenzo Marucci, involved a place considered to be a second home: his Niles barbershop.

After playing in a park one rainy afternoon, Rempala and her mud-strewn bicycle took refuge at the small storefront shop at 7542 W. Oakton St. Seeing this messy girl parade through the shop, a young boy getting his hair cut asked why she could bring her bike inside but he could not.

“That’s my daughter, that’s why,” Marucci simply told him.

Many years later the boy, Greg, would become Rempala’s husband. That was Marucci’s magic: He knew how to keep people around.

During his 50 years in the barbershop business, it was his generous spirit and warm personality that earned him a loyal following of customers and friends.

Lorenzo Marucci, fondly nicknamed “Da Barber,” died Jan. 20 from pneumonia and the flu. He was 75.

Though Marucci and his family had moved from Niles to Bloomingdale decades ago, he continued to work nearly daily at the shop he opened in 1961.

“He had a great work ethic,” Rempala said. “He worked until he died. That was important to him.”

Marucci had learned to be a barber in Italy shortly before immigrating to the United States. He initially found work in downtown Chicago, but knew after a few months the hustle and bustle of the city wasn’t for him. So he took a job shining shoes with Florsheim Shoe Company, and worked evenings as a barber in Niles.

When the barbershop where he worked went up for sale, Marucci jumped on the opportunity to own it and didn’t look back.

As the pace of life quickened, Marucci’s style of business didn’t change. An old-fashioned shave and haircut, marked by personalized service, was his trademark.

“He was a hell of a worker,” recalled John Mirabelli, of Addison, who met Marucci five decades ago at Florsheim.

The hours-long wait at Lorenzo’s Barber Shop didn’t bother the five or six men who often waited in line for a cut and shave.

Marucci became the barber of choice for Niles police and fire personnel, as well mayors Nicholas Blase and Robert Callero. Former Niles trustee George Alpogianis called Marucci an “icon of the community.”

“He probably cut hair for half of Niles for years,” he said.

Marucci, a notable workhorse, was a family man, too, friends said. He and his wife, Dolores, were married 51 years.

Mirabelli said it was Marucci’s good company that attracted people to him, and ultimately, the barbershop.

“He was the life of the party,” he said. “He’ll be missed.”

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Park board member helped families fulfill dreams

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

He was a man who was very involved in the Niles community and helped many families fulfill their dreams.

Charles Barbaglia, who recently passed away at 74, will be missed by many community members in Niles and has undoubtedly left a positive stamp on the village.

Barbaglia was the senior vice president of the First National Bank of Niles, past president and member of the Niles Chamber of Commerce, Niles Park District Commissioner and president of the park board for 14 years, Easter Seals and Christmas Seals chairman, director of the St. Benedict Nursing Home, past member and president of the Niles Sister Cities and served on the Niles and Police Fireman's Pension Board. He was also honored with awards by several charitable organizations.

"He did everything he did with a lot of enthusiasm," said Charyl Szydloski. "I couldn't have asked for a better dad. He was the most giving, generous, loving man."

Charyl Szydloski
Daughter of Charles Barbaglia

Niles Park District Director Joseph LoVerde had nothing but wonderful things to say about Barbaglia.

"He was very supportive of our staff and our goals and objectives," said LoVerde.

LoVerde was a close friend of Barbaglia's for more than 40 years. He said that Barbaglia was the banker for his family business, LoVerde Construction. "He helped so many families fulfill their dreams," explained LoVerde, whether it was help with starting a business or buying a home. "He was a wonderful man."

LoVerde said he was focused on running the park district like a business. Barbaglia and the other new board members at the time appointed LoVerde as director of the Niles Park District in 1997.

"With all their support, it turned out to be very successful," said LoVerde, about the park district.

LoVerde said Barbaglia always did what was best for the park district and the community as a whole. His caring ways were also a big part of his family life.

Barbaglia's love story began 54 years ago, when Barbaglia met his late wife in Detroit Michigan on a blind date.

Szydloski said he took wonderful care of Carole, who passed away last January.

Barbaglia is survived by two children and seven grandchildren.

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Top Dist. 64 officials will work for raises

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

Top officials at Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 are going to have to start working for their raises, under a new plan adopted by the school board on Monday.

Administrators were previously given the same raises that the teachers received, but the new program is merit-based.

Under the new plan, the superintendent would determine what the raise would be, ranging from 0 to 4 percent. The average salary increase for administrators will be no greater than 2.75 percent.

Board Member Anthony Borrelli felt the average salary increase should be no greater than 2 percent as opposed to 2.75 percent, which was proposed by Board President John Heyde.

“Boards in general have struggled with giving employees a raise for no reason,” said Supt. Phillip Bender, who said the new program will show the public why the administrators get a raise.

Bender said exempt employees, such as school psychologists and the public relations director for the district, would also receive the merit-based raises.

Heyde said that the plan will apply to the 2012-2013 school year and the following school year. The board wants to see a rubric created with criteria for evaluating the employees.

“This is kind of a new concept in the world of education,” said Bender. He said he doesn’t expect many employees will receive more than 2 percent the first year, but he predicts more deviation in future years.

“The people are going to have to earn it,” said Bender.

During the pre-board meeting on Monday evening, two members of the Community Finance Committee made a recommendation to lower student fees.

Annie Jerome said that committee compared the fees to 23 comparable school districts and found Park Ridge-Niles Dist. 64 school fees to be the highest.

Jerome said they recommended reducing the registration fees from $227 to $125 for grades one to five and from $315 to $150 for grades six to eight. Jerome said other options would be to phase in the same reduction over a four-year time period, or to make a reduction but to a lesser extent.

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Carr named assistant dean

Michael Carr, of Elgin, has been named as assistant dean for academic affairs at Oakton Community College.

Carr previously chaired the College’s Biological Sciences Department and served as a professor of biology. He joined the College in 1994 as an adjunct biology instructor. In 1995, Oakton promoted Carr to professor of biology, a position he held until January 2013.

In 2010, the College named Carr chairman of biological sciences, a position he also held until his appointment as the assistant dean for Academic Affairs.

While serving as chairman, Carr was appointed to the Illinois Biotechnology Science Education advisory board, awarded a $25,000 grant to develop service learning projects for environmental science students, and selected as a regional Illinois Science Olympiad Site Coordinator for which he coordinated science events for 13 high schools and 10 middle school teams on Oakton’s campus.

Carr received a doctorate degree in molecular biology from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a master’s degree in human physiology from Ball State University and a bachelor’s degree in zoology from Olivet Nazarene University.
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Police Blotter

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.

**OBSTRUCTION**

Jessica Alphonse, 26, of 9221 Courland Ave., Niles, was charged with obstruction and resisting a police officer on Jan. 20 after she reportedly called police to her home to report an argument with her boyfriend. Police said Alphonse was combative and refused to listen to officers' orders. She has a March 8 court date.

**THEFT**

Thomas Birt, 51, of 4459 N. Major Ave., Chicago, was charged with theft on Jan. 23 after he allegedly took a cab ride to the 6700 block of Touhy Avenue, but had only 10 cents to pay toward his $65 fare. Police said Birt admitted to being intoxicated. He has a Feb. 19 court date.

**RETAIL THEFT**

Dragon Ivanov, 20, of 3831 W. Estes Ave., Lincolnwood, was charged with retail theft on Jan. 25. Police said Ivanov was identified as the man who stole a coffee maker from a store on the 7000 block of Touhy Avenue on Nov. 13. He has a Feb. 19 court date.

**DISPUTE**

On the morning of Jan. 27 police responded to a restaurant on the 8800 block of Milwaukee Avenue for a reported dispute between a 33-year-old man and a 34-year-old woman over the couple's 21-year-old daughter drinking alcohol. Security told the man he was no longer welcome on the property and was ordered to leave, police said.

**WARRANT**

Leonard Reinebach, 20, of 8248 N. Newland Ave., Niles, was taken into custody Jan. 25 on a Cook County warrant for disorderly conduct. Police said Reinebach was located on the 6900 block of Fargo when officers responded to a report of a suspicious person. He has a Feb. 13 court date.

**DUI**

Ashor Esho, 50, of 6218 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, was charged with driving under the influence on the morning of Jan. 25. He was taken into custody at 2 a.m. on the 9600 block of Milwaukee Avenue after he was stopped by police for allegedly speeding on northbound Milwaukee. He has a Feb. 21 court date.

**BURGLARY TO VEHICLE**

A purse was stolen from a vehicle on the afternoon of Jan. 26 while it was parked in a lot on the 9100 block of Milwaukee Avenue. The purse contained $200 in cash among other items.

**THEFT**

An Apple iPad valued at $730 was discovered stolen Jan. 23 from a store on the 6100 block of Touhy Avenue. A taxi driver who stopped at the intersection of Kedzie Street and Osceola Avenue at 1:30 a.m. on Jan. 26 told police that a man jumped out of his cab and ran away without paying a $50 fare.

**HARASSMENT**

A 29-year-old Niles woman told police she received several pornographic video messages from an unknown man between Jan. 24 and Jan. 26. Police said the man also sent her text messages and called her phone, but did not say anything when she answered.

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It was one of the few things Metra riders could count on: The discounted 10-ride pass.

No matter how many times the fares went up and how many other policy tweaks the agency introduced, Metra continued to promote 10-rides as a cheaper, more flexible alternative to one-way tickets.

That changed on Friday, when Metra's new 10-ride fare policy went into effect. In an effort to help raise funds for capital projects, the transit agency got rid of the tickets' built-in discount, raising 10-ride prices to match the cost of 10 one-way tickets. Metra argued that, even though 10-rides no longer offered a better value, they still had advantages over one-way tickets.

But that did little to relieve the riders' concerns. Commuters that spoke to Pioneer Press complained that the 10-ride prices could still be used as an advantage. They could still be shared between several people, and it would be more convenient than having to buy 10 separate tickets.

But for riders, those advantages weren't enough.

Aside from the village that gave it its name, the Morton Grove Metra station serves Skokie, Niles and parts of Lincolnwood. Like Park Ridge, the station is located in Fare Zone C. With the fare hike, the price of a 10-ride to Chicago went up from $38.25 to $42.50.

While most of the riders used Metra to get from Morton Grove to Chicago, a sizable portion of riders took the train from other suburbs to work at and around the village.

Rodney Walat lives in Fox Lake and takes Metra to work in Morton Grove. On Thursday, he said that while wasn't pleased about the fare hike, he had no choice but to live with it.

"Unfortunately, I live far enough away from here that I have to take the train," Walat said. "I wish I could get back at [Metra], but I can't."

Karoon Panosyan, of Skokie, used 10-rides to get to Chicago, but she said that it will change now that the price has increased.

"I'm going to start buying a monthly, which I guess is what [Metra] wanted," she said Friday morning.

Naiha Walia, of Prairie Crossing, thinks Metra is trying to push riders towards monthly passes.

The effects of Metra's fare hike won't be felt right away. Ten-rides purchased between Nov. 17, 2012 and Jan. 31 will be valid until Feb. 28. The 10-rides purchased before then are still valid for a year after expiration. That means that 10-rides at the pre-hike prices could still be in use until Nov. 16.

In the end, none of the riders who spoke to Pioneer Press expressed any real desire to stop using Metra. As she stood on the outbound platform Thursday, waiting for the train to arrive, Park Ridge resident Betty Wagner summed up her feelings about the fare increase by citing the company's slogan.

"Of course I'm not happy," she said. "But Metra is still the way to really fly. It beats traffic."
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In Memoriam

General Information Concerning The Death Notice Page

- A paid death notice may be ordered to appear in the Pioneer Press when funeral arrangements are made, and must be submitted in writing. Information about charges for death notices may be obtained from area funeral directors or by calling (847) 998-3400. A 24-hour fax service is offered at (847) 486-6836 or death notices may be e-mailed to deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com.

- An in memoriam or card of thanks may be placed using the same information above.

- The deadline for placing a death notice, in memoriam or card of thanks, is Monday at 5:00 pm.

- Photos must be submitted by Monday at 5:00 am.

- The death notice department is staffed from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday.

- A death notice, in memoriam or a card of thanks may be submitted in person from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday at the Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60026.

- Families and friends may visit our website and sign a guest book at Pioneerlocal.com.

SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Kashul, Christine

Born in Chicago, IL, Christine was a longtime resident of Park Ridge. She spent her days as a devoted wife of 56 years, cherished mom of six children and their spouses, beloved grandma to seventeen lucky children. You could often find her at Fannie May, Hill's Hallmark, Kiko's Florist or Moheiser's. She was a friend to everyone. Her specialty was making everyone she met feel special.

She was a devout Catholic and had an amazing book of life. Christine gave like Christ asked us to give. If you asked her for her cloak, she would buy you a new one nicer than hers and few new tunics to go with it, and put $20 in the pocket.

She is survived by her husband, William N. Sr. (Bill), her children, Bill Jr. (Karen), Steve (Cindy), Tom Sr. (Mary), Debbie (Brian) Kracik, Laura, Susie (Carl) Moellenkamp. Her grandchildren Bill III, Kristen, Peter, Katie, Cory, Troy, Tom Jr., Joe, Julia, Nick, Emile, Cole, Luke, Jane, Maggie, Kelly and Cooper. Sister of Marian Calkins, Phillip Karnazes, the late James Karnazes and the late Susan Winninger. Aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Visitation Thursday, February 7, 3 to 8 pm at Ryan-Parke Funeral Home, 120 S. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. Funeral Friday 10 am from funeral home to St. Paul of the Cross Church. Mass 10:30 am. In lieu of flowers, a memorial donation can be made in Christine's name to Gigi's Playhouse, A Down Syndrome Awareness Center, 1069 W. Golf Rd, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169 or Midtown Educational Foundation, 710 Loomis St., Chicago IL 60607.

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**Keeping Tabs**


**Major roll call votes in the Senate**

**SECRETARY OF STATE**

Senators voted, 94-3, to confirm Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., as the 68th U.S. Secretary of State. He took office on Feb. 1. Republican Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz of Texas and James Inhofe of Oklahoma cast the “no” votes. A “yes” vote was to confirm Kerry. Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: Yes

**DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR DEBT HIKE**

Voting 54-44, senators tabled (killed) an amendment to require one dollar in future spending cuts for every dollar increase in the national-debt limit. That limit deals with money already appropriated by Congress. A “yes” vote was to kill the amendment to HR 325. Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: No

**DEBT-LIMIT WAIVER**

Senators voted, 64-34, 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 send President Barack Obama a bill that also denies pay to lawmakers if they fail to pass a fiscal 2014 budget by April 15. (HR 325) Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: No

**EGYPT AID CUTOFF**

Voting 79-19, senators tabled a bid to end F-16 aircraft deliveries and other U.S. military aid to Egypt and its shaky Muslim Brotherhood-led government. A “yes” vote was to kill the amendment to HR 325 (above) on grounds it would weaken U.S.-Egypt relations, hurt Israel and worsen chaos in the Middle East. Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: No

**HURRICANE SANDY AID**

Voting 62-36, senators sent President Obama a bill 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 struck three months ago by Hurricane Sandy. This is emergency aid and thus deficit spending. A “yes” vote was to pass HR 152. Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: No

**DISASTER-AID OFFSET**

Senators rejected, 35-62, an amendment to pay the $50.5 billion cost of HR 152 (above) by cutting the same amount from discretionary spending programs — both military and non-military — over the next nine years. A “yes” vote was to cut non-entitlement spending to keep Hurricane Sandy aid from adding to the national debt. Sen. Richard Durbin: No; Sen. Mark Kirk: Yes

---

**Major roll call votes in the House**

**1. CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL ATTACKS**

Members voted, 395-29, to renew for five years several post-9/11 programs to develop and deploy medical countermeasures in the event of chemical, biological, radioactive or nuclear attacks against the U.S. A “yes” vote was to send HR 307 to the Senate.

- Bobby Rush, D-Ist
- Vacant, 2nd
- Dan Lipinski, D-3rd
- Luis Gutierrez, D-4th
- Mike Quigley, D-5th
- Peter Roskam, R-6th
- Tammy Duckworth, D-8th
- Jan Schakowsky, D-9th
- Bill Foster, D-11th
- Bill Enyart, D-12th
- Rodney Davis, R-13th
- Randy Hultgren, R-14th
- John Shimkus, R-15th
- Adam Kinzinger, R-16th
- Cheri Bustos, D-17th
- Aaron Schock, R-18th

**Key votes**

The Senate will take up the Violence Against Women Act in the week of Feb. 4. The House schedule is to be announced.

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What it means to you

TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

CHICAGO

City inspector general billed taxpayers $270,625 last year

Faisal Khan, the City Council’s handpicked inspector general, personally billed Chicago taxpayers for $270,625 in 2012 — and $305,500 since Khan started work on Nov. 13, 2011. That's $44,415-a-year more than Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s annual salary of $216,210; $108,769 more than the $161,856-a-year paid to the city’s full-time Inspector General Joe Ferguson; and nearly $10,000 more than the the $260,004 paid to Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy.

Records provided to the newspaper in response to a Freedom of Information request show Khan picked up the pace in the latter part of the year. He billed for: $34,250 for 137 hours in August; $24,750 for 99 hours in October; $27,187 for 105.7 hours in November; and $20,000 for 80 hours in December.

With a $60,000-a-year budget, no staff and ground rules that tied his hands, Khan was hired in November, 2011 to spend the next four years investigating City Council corruption.

The Rules Committee approved Khan’s nomination only after being assured that Chicago’s first-ever legislative inspector general would be a part-time employee without benefits paid $250-to-$300-an-hour while continuing to practice law on the side. It hasn't turned out that way.

— Chicago Sun-Times

SPRINGFIELD

Backers seek quick approval for $675 million in road projects

Legislators have $675 million in unanticipated money available to spend on Illinois transit projects but must act quickly if they want to see road-graders moving this spring, supporters said.

In Illinois, where financial news has rarely been rosy in recent years, backers of roads projects have difficulty understanding the holdup. The money isn't exactly free, but it comes at no additional cost to taxpayers.

Contractors for road-building and bridge repair are hired for the warm-weather construction season beginning in March, officials said, so the window to add projects financed with the nearly no-strings money is sliding shut.

There’s a $175 million infusion of federal money after Congress adopted a new national transit strategy last summer. Another $500 million of state money is available this year, from healthy motor-fuel tax revenues, previous transportation projects that ended up costing less than budgeted and work scheduled for later years that could be bumped up.

"In the political vernacular, this should be a no-brainer," said Doug Whitley, president of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Transportation for Illinois Coalition.

— The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Joint Chiefs: Looming budget cuts would ‘hollow’ military

The military's top leaders are warning Congress that automatic spending cuts looming in March would force the Pentagon to slash operating budgets, weakening the armed forces and possibly forcing furloughs of 800,000 civilian employees.

The Joint Chiefs say in a letter to Congress that the cuts would create a “hollow force” and would require aircraft to be grounded and warships to return to port.

Troops on the front lines would continue to receive the support they need, despite a cut to the Pentagon’s overall budget of more than 7 percent, the chiefs said. But those cuts feel more like 20 percent because they’re crammed into the second half of the budget year and funding for uniformed personnel and combat operations is exempt.

The looming cuts are the price to pay for the failure of a 2011 budget “supercommittee” to agree to deficit cuts to replace the automatic reductions.

There’s a growing sense of resignation that the country’s political leaders will be unable or unwilling to find a way around looming automatic cuts to both the Pentagon and domestic agencies even though there’s common agreement that the cuts would threaten the recovering economy.

— The Associated Press
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Scouts grow up on gay rights

It's a start.

The Boy Scouts of America, following the national tide of acceptance toward gays in American life, was considering this week lifting its ban on gays in scouting.

But the final decision would be left up to the religious, civic and educational groups that run Cub Scout packs and Boy Scout troops across America.

Some 69 percent of those organizations are faith-based, with two of the top three largest being the Mormon and the Roman Catholic churches, accounting for about 30 percent of the nation's 2.7 million Scouts. Many local troops and churches, however, have expressed support for the change.

President Barack Obama supports gay marriage, as do 53 percent of Americans, according to a Gallup poll released in December. Nine states plus the District of Columbia allow for it.

Discrimination based on sexual orientation is enshrined in law and banned in the military.

It only makes sense to rid it from the most American of institutions, the Boy Scouts.

I was mistaken.

When the Boy Scouts of America last October released files on sexual abuse of Scouts by adult leaders that occurred over decades, I figured that was the beginning of the end for the organization's policy banning openly gay Scouts and leaders.

But if protecting boys from sexual predators was one of the reasons for the ban, it obviously didn't work.

And it really couldn't work, because pedophile and homosexual is not the same thing.

So now the Boy Scouts are considering a change in policy and removing the mandatory ban. The change would allow the local sponsoring organizations to determine whether to allow gay Scouts or adult leaders.

I can understand why the national office would pursue that policy. Although it is a national organization, most individuals experience Scouting through their local sponsoring organization, from local churches to veterans' groups.

But that policy would probably create a crazy quilt of policies just in northern Illinois. Some local charters would change their policy, other wouldn't.

The current rationale is that homosexuality is inconsistent with the Scout oath and law, by which all Scouts abide. But is it?

The Scout oath says: "On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

The Scout law is: "A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent."

The BSA policy says that the fact someone is gay automatically means they can't abide by the Scout oath and law, particularly the morally straight and clean and reverent parts.

Conversely, being straight means you automatically fit in. In both cases, behavior plays no role in the matter. The files released last October show how that sweeping generalization worked out.

There are aspects of what some call a gay lifestyle that are open to criticism on moral grounds — cruising bars, one-night stands, nameless hookups — but the same criticisms can be made about aspects of a straight lifestyle.

Most adult Scout leaders are parents. More and more today, gay couples are raising their children. Should they be denied from participating in Scouting — even at the simplest level of going on a weekend campout — with their son?

Of course not.

Even straight, married couples fall short of the moral high bar set by the Scout oath and law. The last time I wrote about this issue, the headlines were full of the Monica Lewinsky scandal. President Clinton, I wrote then, would hardly pass the test of being a role model for boys considering his human failings.

The issue isn't about gay or straight. The issue is protecting boys and teaching them how to live the Scout oath and law.
The “anti-business” hoax
Just as we thought we were finished with a contentious national election, we are suddenly thrust into a contentious local election.

Argumentative words can be easily thrown around and certainly have been at public meetings by people who should know better. Accusations that trustees are “anti-business” because they want to establish specific procedures for changing tax status are false and serve no useful purpose.

Businesses want and deserve a level playing field. It provides an equal opportunity for those who are willing to risk it. My wife and I were excited about the idea of starting a business here in Niles. It was a chance, but we took it. Most people want to be their own boss and we did too. We begged, borrowed and broke open the proverbial piggy bank because we wanted to make a better life for our kids. We chose Niles because we lived here and felt that we could commercially serve our community.

It is almost laughable to claim that a business owner like me is “anti-business” because I want systemized, open, fair and equal rules about changing the tax status for a business already here. What will we hear next? That a teacher is “anti-education?” That a carpenter is “anti-construction?” That a librarian is “anti-reading?” That a clergyman is “anti-religion?” It would be nonsense. Every business in Niles benefits from having other healthy businesses in Niles. A rising tide lifts all ships. Name-calling is nothing but cheap street theatre and in reality is a hoax. No business problem should ever become a tool for politicians to claim the false so that the truth is clouded.

Time for a dose of reality.
Almost all of the large communities that surround Niles have clearly written rules regarding what information is needed for a village board to approve tax status. These rules for applications provide the information to make fair and equal decisions. And that is good and proper. One of the pillars of our wonderful U.S. Constitution is equal protection under the law. Equal protection means equal application. Period. Businesses are like citizens; they want to know what the rules are and that the rules are enforced equally and without favoritism.

Niles can no longer lag behind in this process. Fortunately there are other trustees who see this sensible approach in dealing with this issue. We will put into place procedures which are clear and fair to the businesses. Elected officials should approach village policy with prudence, not provocative and meaningless name-calling.

Krzysztof Hanusiak
Niles village trustee
Mayoral candidate

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

“What do you think of the Bears hiring Marc Trestman as the new head coach?”

Response 1
John Belka
Niles
“It would be a change. He should work on more defense.”

Response 2
Frank Pedi
Chicago
“I think it’s a very good idea. He should improve the offense and defense and hopefully Cutler will reach his potential.”

Response 3
Rico Perez
Des Plaines
“I hope he wins games. I hope he tightens up the offensive line so Cutler’s safe. Maybe he can be like Ditka.”

Response 4
Bob Miller
Des Plaines
“It’s about time they got rid of Lovie Smith. It’s good to get an offensive-minded coach.”

People Poll

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

RESPONSES
1) I might ride less: 30%
2) Still cheaper: 34%
3) I don’t ride: 36%

THIS WEEK’S QUESTION
“What milestone most means winter is coming to an end?”

RESPONSES
1) Groundhog Day.
2) Spring training.
3) March Madness.

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

Get up and go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond

Every Thursday

Looking for fun? Check out our Top Five picks for the weekend’s best bets.
PARK RIDGE

The room is practically silent, but the tension in the air, the concentration of competition, is palpable.

There is no cheering section here — no one utters a word. They simply watch.

This isn’t your average high school sport. Outsiders might even argue that it actually isn’t a real sport. But for players like Patrick Daleiden, chess is the real deal.

“I definitely consider it a sport,” said Daleiden, a Maine South High School senior who reignited interest in chess at his school last year when he pursued a revival of the chess team, inactive since 2007.

“The credit to getting the team where it is really belongs to Pat because he put himself out there,” Hurley, who now sponsors the chess team, said. “He wanted something for himself and his friends and was willing to do what was required to make it happen.”

The team, which has won five out of seven matches this school year, currently boasts about 16 to 17 participants, with eight players competing in each match.

“That’s been phenomenal,” Hurley noted. “The seniors this year have really been the driving force behind this. Because they’re so into it, I get into it.”

Participants in the North Suburban Chess League tournament start their first round inside of the Maine South High School library. This is the first year since 2007 that Maine South has had a chess team.

MICHELLE LAVIGNE-Sun-Times Media

The Main South Chess Team is a member of the North Suburban Chess League, which is comprised of 14 schools within two divisions. Schools in Main South’s division include Niles North, Niles West, New Trier, Maine West and Evanston Township High Schools, as well as Notre Dame College Prep and Northridge Prep.

On Jan. 26, Maine South hosted a three-round tournament in the school’s library, with each player given 45 minutes to make all of their moves.

Eleven players are also gearing up for the state competition on Feb. 8 and 9 in Peoria.

The team does not receive funding from Maine South or High School District 207, so everything from game pieces to competing in tournaments is funded by the group itself, largely with help from Hurley and parents.

“It’s been a lot of fun,” said team member Connor Mullane, who learned chess from his cousin around the age of 13. “I hadn’t played any competitive chess, so this was my first time at it.”

Ir-Jene Shan, a freshman, got his start playing Chinese chess with his grandfather before taking up the Western version of the game.

“I hadn’t played chess in a while, and I thought (the team) would be fun,” he said.

Before they played competitively, the students acknowledged that they primarily played against family and friends.

“Anybody can definitely learn how to play chess and be good at it,” noted player Marko Bogicevic.

One stereotype people seem to have about chess players is that they are not athletic, Daleiden said. But he insists it’s not true.

“I would say more than half our team is a very athletic group,” he said. “It’s just putting their intellectual adeptness into play.”

For now, chess appears to be a male-dominated sport, with only a handful of girls taking part in the Jan. 26 tournament at Maine South. Hurley said he hopes to see that change.

For the players, Hurley also wants the chess team to be “an experience they remember for the rest of their lives.”

“Have fun — always, always, always. That’s the number one thing I always say,” Hurley said.
Pizza-lovers of all ages from Skokie and beyond flocked to Niles West High School Thursday night to taste pies from 13 local pizzerias before voting for their favorite during the third annual "Pizza Wars" event, which raised more than $8,400 for the District 219 Education Foundation for Excellence.

Since the first Pizza Wars was hosted three years ago, the event has grown into a wildly popular evening among the Niles Township community, and each year it gets bigger.

More than 800 people attended this year, compared to 500 last year and 300 the first year, said Alyse Burman, fundraiser for the 219 Education Foundation.

"We're excited to have made our goals, and next year we hope to get even more pizza-makers to attend to help up double this year's figure," Burman said. "The foundation does an amazing job providing the tools students need for education — we believe education is something that should never be neglected."

Among the hundreds upon hundreds of hot and tasty pizzas served up by the pizzerias, Skokie's Village Inn came out on top with the most votes, taking first prize from the 2012 Pizza Wars 2 winner, Jet's Pizza.

The 219 Education Foundation's goal of nearly doubling last year's proceeds of $4,300 was exceeded even before all the ticket sales were added up Friday, and that number will increase even more on Saturday because Village Inn owners Mark Collins and Randy Miles announced plans to donate 20 percent of all sales made on Jan. 19 back to the 219 Foundation.

Making Pizza Wars a success was an effort led by students, staff and Board of Education members, who took it into their own hands by selling individual tickets to neighbors and members of the 219 community.

Pizza Wars is the 219 Foundation's signature annual event. Since it was established in 2007, the organization has raised more than $120,000 that goes to support college-focused initiatives such as community college scholarships, college entrance exam fees, and college campus bus tours.

Funds raised by the 219 Foundation have also been used to purchase refurbished computers, school supplies and breakfast foods for students in need.

Other restaurants that participated in the third annual Pizza Wars include Lou Malnati's, De Carlucci's, Edwardo's, Gulliver's, Jet's Pizza, Nancy's, Organic Life, Papa John's, Pequod's, Sarpino's, and Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza.
The Niles West Debate Team continues to experience success by winning another Varsity championship and reaching the semifinal round of another tournament during the same weekend earlier this month.

Niles West debaters, Theo Noparstak and Jonass Placitis, competed at the Pine Crest Round Robin and Crestian Tournament in Fort Lauderdale, FL from Jan. 9 to 13. At the Round Robin, in which five teams were invited to compete prior to the tournament, Noparstak and Placitis were 3-1 and advanced to the championship round. Noparstak was awarded second best speaker and Placitis was the third best speaker. During the Crestian Tournament, the team was 5-1 in the preliminary rounds and entered the elimination rounds as the third seed. They made it to the semifinals of the tournament. Noparstak was the fifth best speaker and Placitis was the sixth best speaker out of 42 Varsity debaters.

At the Lane Tech Warrior Classic held Jan. 11 and 12 in Chicago, Niles West won the Varsity championship. Niles West sent 11 teams, out of a total of 28 teams competing. Seven out of eight teams in the quarterfinals were from Niles West: Lizzie Prete and Kris Trivedi, Miranda Kang and Vinay Patel, Walter Lindwall and Julia Sarata, Alwin Alex and Tahir Meeks, Nick Charles and Ari Hoffman, Soretti Donka and Justina Jude, and Janat Ahmed and Nathan Anderson all advanced to the quarterfinals. When one of West’s teams lost in the quarterfinals to Walter Payton High School and Miranda Kang and Vinay Patel defeated that team. All of the remaining teams were from Niles West. The coaching staff decided to accept the championship without having the Niles West teams debate each other. Out of 56 debaters, Kris Trivedi was the top speaker, Miranda Kang was third speaker, Janat Ahmed was fourth speaker, Lizzie Prete was fifth speaker, Vinay Patel was sixth speaker, James McLellan was seventh speaker, Nick Charles was eighth speaker, and Walter Lindwall was ninth speaker. Also competing for Niles West were Michelle Sproat, Sahar Jiwani, Samantha Seco, Morgan Gistalter, Joe Bakes, Reza Khan and Veronica Guzman.

In the Novice division at the Lane Tech Warrior Classic, 28 teams competed. Niles West sent six teams. Alex Brown and Faith Geraghty went 4-1 in the preliminary rounds and advanced to the quarterfinals. Out of 56 debaters, Jacob Levinson was fourth speaker, Alex Brown was fifth speaker, Rebecca Harbeck was sixth speaker and Natalia Bafia was ninth speaker. Also competing were Brendan McCarthy, Simon Berdes, Atul Krishna, Justin Sia, Willy Sargool, Mintra Omsin and Joseph Lee.
For the week of February 13 to February 19

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
Stop being the wool-gathering Lamb, and start turning that dream project into reality. You have the ideas, the drive and the charisma to persuade others to follow your lead. So do it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
You’ve scored some big successes. But remember that all hardworking Ferdinands and Ferdinandas need some time to restore their energies and refresh their spirits.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
You’re gaining a stronger mental image of what you’re trying to achieve. Now look for the facts that will help you do this. Also develop from a concept into a solid proposal.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
Some of you eager-to-please Moon Children might want to delay some decisions until midweek, when you can again think more with your head than your heart.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
A new business venture seems to offer something you’ve been looking for. But be careful that the rosy picture doesn’t betray traces of red ink under the surface.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
A volatile situation needs the kind of thoughtful and considerate care you can provide right now. There’ll be plenty of time later to analyze what might have gone wrong.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
Your loyalty to a friend in a tough situation earns you respect from people you care about. Those who criticize you don’t understand what friendship is all about.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
Your strong work ethic is rewarded with the kind of challenging opportunity you love to tackle. Now, go ahead and celebrate with family and close friends.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
A legal matter you thought had been finally resolved could require a second look. But don’t make any moves without consulting your lawyer.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
Taking charge is what you like to do, and since you do it so well, expect to be asked to lead a special group. This could open an exciting new vista for you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
An important matter might wind up being entrusted to you for handling. The responsibility is heavy, but you’ll have support from friends and people who care about helping.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
A spouse or partner might make an important, even life-changing, suggestion. Consider it carefully. It could hold some of the answers you’ve both been looking for.

BORN THIS WEEK:
Always try to do the right thing, and for the right reasons. No wonder people have come to depend on you.

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Morton Grove Champion

CAPTURE LOCAL.

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### CENTER OF CONCERN

#### Schedule

**65+**

The Center of Concern: 1580 N. Northwest Hwy., Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453, calendar of events includes:

- **Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, starting Feb. 7** - Low-cost income tax preparation (by appointment only).
- **Mondays, Feb. 11 and 25** - Employment counseling, by appointment.
- **Monday, Feb. 11** - Alzheimer's caregivers support group, 10 a.m.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 19** - Medicare counseling, by appointment (sponsored by the federally-funded Senior Health Insurance Program).
- **Wednesdays, Feb. 13 and 27** - Grief and loss support group (call first).
- **Saturdays, Feb. 9 and 23** - Legal counseling, by appointment.

#### Assistance with forms

**65+**

Low-cost income tax preparation will be available by appointment at the Center of Concern in Park Ridge on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings starting Feb. 7. Adults of all ages with annual incomes under $40,000 (excluding Social Security benefits) are eligible. The suggested donation for basic federal and state returns, including Schedules A, B, and D and forms for the Earned Income Tax Credit, is $40. More complex returns cost up to $60. The Center's offices are at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite #310, in Park Ridge. Call (847) 823-0453 for an appointment. Homebound residents may ask to have a tax preparer come to their home.

####林肯日感恩晚餐

**16+**

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

#### CIVIC

####林肯日感恩晚餐

**16+**

The Park Ridge Catholic Women's Club will meet at 12:15 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Park Ridge South Recreation Center, 833 Talcott Road, Park Ridge. The program will be the club's annual games and card party followed by dessert and coffee. Friends are welcome.

#### COMMUNITY

####国际庆典

**16+**

The Catholic Women’s Club of St. John Brebeuf Parish will present this International Celebration for the family from 6-9 p.m. Feb. 8 at the Ministry Center, 8305 N. Harlem Ave. Cuisine from around the world, international entertainment and a raffle will be featured. Admission is free; food tickets are 50 cents each. Call Barbara Swift, (847) 967-6933.

#### Valentine Roses

**18+**

A larger than life Rose Display will be showcased in Center Court of Golf Mill Shopping Center through Feb. 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 upload 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.

#### FUNRAISERS

####Indoor Block Party

**18+**

Resurrection College Prep High School. 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago, invites neighbors, alumnae and community members to

####NOTE: Center is closed Feb. 18, Presidents' Day.

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through outreach. Tickets for Valentine & Wine will help fund CYWC's 501(c)(3) filing fees and the outreach project. Tickets can be purchased at info@chicagoeach.org.  

HOURS FOR THE PUBLIC

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.

Puzzle Answers

See page 30 for this week's Super Crossword and Sudoku puzzles.
Spotlight

Golf Mill artist brings roses home

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES

Mahir Anoia, owner of Charcoal Art located at Golf Mill Shopping Center, is busy creating a large rose display to capture the spirit of Valentine's Day.

The Skokie resident has made a similar rose display for a couple of malls in Jordan, but this is the first time he's making one in the United States.

"The look will be romantic," said Anoia, who is from Iraq. "We're going to have 16 large roses."

The display will be 12 feet high and also feature a vintage guitar and an inspirational scripture. The romantic display will sit on an eight-foot-by-16-foot stage.

Anoia is using various materials, such as piping, wiring, Styrofoam and colored cloth to make the perfect backdrop for people to take pictures with their loved ones. One of the displays he did in Jordan contains seven roses.

"This is the first time an artist and mall tenant has done this large type of work in the garage, as there is more than adequate space and tools for use there," said Golf Mill Marketing Director Monika Kalicki.

Shoppers at the mall can take photos in front of the rose display and upload them to the Golf Mill Shopping Center Facebook page in order to win a romantic dinner for two at the Ginza steak, seafood and sushi buffet that will be opening soon at the mall.

Nablus Studio, located at Golf Mill, will also be selling monogrammed keepsake pictures of shoppers in front of the unique display.

Anoia said that these types of large structures are unique in the United States, as well as in Jordan and Iraq. He said this project will

[Photo: Mahir Anoia, owner of Charcoal Art, works on the Larger Than Love rose display in a maintenance garage at the Golf Mill Shopping Center]
probably take about six days to complete.

"I've loved doing art since I was a little boy," said Anoia, who came up with the idea to make the large rose displays.

"It's a way to bring art into the mall," said Kalicki. "This is all handmade by Mahir. It's a really good display of art. We're always trying to bring art into the town."

Kalicki said the mall is compensating Mahir for his artwork. Shoppers who come to center court can also enter to win a Story Bracelet from Michael Hill, which is worth $165. The drawing for the beaded bracelet will take place on Valentine's Day, February 14.

Anoia brings art to the mall every day, not just when cupid is in the air.

He is the owner of Charcoal Art, located at Golf Mill Shopping Center. Anoia creates charcoal drawings based on a picture that someone brings in or he can do a sketch of a live person. His business, which also sells frames, has been at the mall for more than three years.

Shoppers have a chance to take a picture in front of the large rose display from Feb. 4 until Feb. 28. 

**REAL ESTATE AUCTION**
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**HANOVER PARK, IL**
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Minimum Bid: $195,000
**BEACH PARK, IL**
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Real Estate

FEATURED HOME

$299,500

8608 W. Madison Drive,
Niles

House size: 1,398 square feet
Lot size: 6,264 square feet
Year built: 1965
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2
Garage: One-car attached
Tax: $2,673.25 (2011)
School districts: Park Ridge Consolidated School District 64, Maine Township High School District 207

AGENT Mark Kloss, Coldwell Banker, 847-384-7579

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NILES

7001 W Birchwood Ave: David R Capps Trust to Glenn Cope I for $276,000 on Dec. 20

6837 W Seward St: Linda Winkler to Monika Magiera for $225,000 on Dec. 20

8019 N Oketo Ave: Marion J Huber to Fred R Huber for $240,000 on Dec. 20

8019 N Wisner St: Cheryl Kolcz Trust to Anthony Guarnaccio Trust for $240,000 on Dec. 20

2738 W Lill Ct: David J Mulvihill to James L Franco for $135,000 on Dec. 19

8836 N Elmore St: Home Loan Mtg Corp Federal to Jennifer A Christian for $385,000 on Dec. 19

8522 N Oleander Ave: Cecilia Poblete to Paul Cheruvilli for $372,500 on Dec. 19

8622 N Oleander Ave: Cecilia Kruzek Trust to Kamil M Klimek for $385,000 on Dec. 19

8905 N Cumberland Ave: Deutsche Bk Natl Trust Co Tr to Parin Upadhyay for $100,000 on Dec. 19

8836 N Elmore St: monika M Hoffman for $175,000 on Dec. 18

8815 130th Ave: John Naubert Trust to Miguel R Paloma Trust for $181,500 on Dec. 18

8512 Menard Ave: Glen R Gieras to Joseph Alongi for $650,000 on Dec. 18

8528 Marmora Ave: Dolorene M Teerman to Monika Magiera for $225,000 on Dec. 20

8019 N Oketo Ave: Marion J Huber to Todd S Cook for $240,000 on Dec. 20

8019 N Wisner St: Cheryl Kolcz Trust to Anthony Guarnaccio Trust for $240,000 on Dec. 20

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8905 N Cumberland Ave: Deutsche Bk Natl Trust Co Tr to Parin Upadhyay for $100,000 on Dec. 19
Make your Valentine's Day a little sweeter with these crafty ideas that celebrate the holiday's most iconic candy.

**BROKEN HEART BARK**

Don't worry. In this recipe the only hearts breaking are the ones made with sugar.

**You need:**
- Silicon heart molds (an ice cube tray would also work)
- White chocolate candy melts (available at a craft stores)
- Conversation hearts
- Heavy-duty Ziploc bag
- Hammer or wooden mallet
- Dish towel

**Directions:**
1. Break some hearts! Place candy hearts in a Ziploc bag and cover with dish towel. Use hammer or mallet to smash hearts into tiny pieces.
2. Place heart pieces inside the molds.
3. Melt white chocolate in the microwave (at 30-second intervals). Pour chocolate over the candy pieces, being sure to fill each mold. Set aside for a few hours until the chocolate hardens.
4. Pop the bark out of the molds and flip over to showcase the heart mosaics that have formed on top.

Thank you to Meaghan Mountford and her cookie lover’s dream blog, www.thedecoratedcookie.com, for sharing this recipe.

**CONVERSATION HEART WREATH**

This craft looks tricky but it is actually quite simple. For best results, use a glue gun, unless you are making it with your kids, in which case you might opt to use Styrofoam glue or tacky glue.

**You need:**
- Styrofoam wreath form (available in the floral department of most craft stores)
- Conversation hearts
- Strong adhesive (glue gun, tacky glue, etc.)
- Ribbon

**Directions:**
1. Cover the Styrofoam form with candy hearts using small dabs of glue. Be sure to add a line of hearts to the inside and outside of the wreath.
2. When dry, add a ribbon and hang on a door or wall.

Thank you to Erin Sutch and her blog, www.craftsandsuch.com, for sharing this recipe.

**CONVERSATION HEART VASE**

Salt and pepper, cookies and milk, flowers and candy — some things are just meant to go together, which is why this candy-filled flower vase is the ultimate Valentine's Day craft.

**You need:**
- 1 large vase
- 1 small vase
- Conversation hearts
- Flowers

**Directions:**
1. Place the small vase inside the large vase. Surround the small vase with candy hearts. Fill small vase with water and place flowers inside.
2. Tip: If you don't have a small vase on hand, try using a tall juice glass.

**CONVERSATION HEART GAMES**

Perfect for classroom parties or after-school activities, these games take sweet fun to a whole new level.

**COLOR BINGO**

**You need:**
- Bingo boards (available at www.pioneerlocal.com/mommy)
- Conversation hearts

**Directions:**
Just like traditional bingo, this game is played by having one player call out colors while the other players mark their boards. The first person to get five across wins. Players can use the candy hearts as markers for their boards and the caller can use them when choosing colors at random.

**MEMORY**

In this game, a little preparation goes a long way, as you only want to use hearts that have matching phrases.

**You need:**
- Matching pairs of conversation hearts

**Directions:**
Set up the board by placing the hearts in a grid. Players take turns flipping over two hearts at a time in a quest to find matching pairs. The person with the most pairs at the end of the game wins.

**SORTING AND ORDERING**

Help your kids work on their alphabetizing know-how by placing conversation hearts in alphabetical order. You can also have them sort through the candy and identify the most popular phrases and colors.

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Falling in love over lemon chicken

A retro-inspired Lemon Chicken Piccata for Two served with pasta, capers, zucchini, mushrooms and grape tomatoes. PHOTO BY MELISSA ELSMO

Champagne, oysters, foie gras and chocolate are all well-known aphrodisiacs that have undeniably romantic qualities, but in my experience, foods of love are intensely personal.

Romance can come to life over a bowl of tomato soup just as easily as it can over a box of chocolates.

When my now husband and I first began dating, I had three jobs and very little money to show for it. My oppressively tight budget impacted every aspect of my life. In fact, to avoid starvation, I'd coax my younger brother into stealing canned soup from my parents' house and deliver it in secret to my tiny apartment. I just didn't have the heart to tell my mom and dad I was having trouble making ends meet.

I had to heat my stolen soup in my microwave because I couldn't afford to turn the gas on in my apartment; if just one bill had come in the mail I would have been in the red. Rather than risk a financial implosion, I opted to rely on a microwave, toaster and a Crock-Pot to get me through my monthly meals.

Creative cooking hadn't become a part of my life just yet and I relied heavily on the 1975 edition of Rival Crock-Pot Cooking to get me through most of my early dates with my husband. While I avoided dishes like Bologna-Bea Bage Bake and Swiss Crab Casserole for obvious reasons, I became a fast fan of the Lemon Herbed Roasted Chicken on page 72.

I prized the simple recipe for its short ingredient list and the homey aroma that permeated my apartment while it cooked.

Unfortunately, the 12-hour cooking time would leave that lemon chicken hanging onto its bones for dear life, but my man and I didn't mind one bit. We would drink the cheapest bottle of off-season Beaujolais Nouveau money could buy and laugh as we dunked day-old bread into lemony broth. We fell deeply in love over plates of that stringy Crock-Pot chicken.

To this day, lemon chicken is our food of love and the Rival Crock-Pot cookbook I used to romance my husband is proudly housed in the china cabinet in our dining room. It is always opened to page 72.

Happy Valentine's Day.
The numbers tell the story

Despite some advancements, heart disease is still No. 1 killer

BY RHONDA ALEXANDER
For Sun-Times Media

After working as an emergency room physician for more than three years, Dr. Jamie Harlan has seen the gamut of heart disease. Harlan, who is a physician with Presence Saint Francis Hospital in Evanston, says he sees at least three to five patients per shift with chest pain. But it's not all bad news.

"I think the population knows a lot more about it [heart disease] now, so they are more aware [and this] actually helps us," Harlan said.

Patients are being more proactive about their symptoms, he said. Rather than waiting and seeing what happens, they take action by coming to the ER where tests can be done. This has resulted in earlier diagnoses, which leads to improved survival rates.

Nevertheless, heart disease remains the No. 1 killer in the United States — for both men and women — according to the American Heart Association.

Prevalence
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that heart disease accounts for 26 percent of all U.S. deaths and it is a leading cause of disability.

The American Heart Association reports that one in three women is living with cardiovascular disease, including nearly half of all African-American women and 34 percent of white women. The CDC reports that 64 percent of women who die suddenly from coronary heart disease have no previous symptoms. And women often will not get help until it's too late.

"Women tend not to access healthcare because they are the care givers," said Sandy Mickulich, nurse practitioner at Advocate South Suburban Hospital's Heart Failure Clinic in Hazel Crest.

Limited access to information about treatment and prevention can also play a role. "Certain groups are possibly underserved and under-treated which creates a prevalence of heart disease," said Dr. Matthew Sorrentino of University of Chicago's School of Medicine.

In addition, many people who have heart disease have another major health issue, such as diabetes or kidney disease.

"[High cholesterol, obesity, heart disease, diabetes] ... it's all intertwined," Mickulich said.

Awareness, prevention
Doctors recommend you know where you stand with lab values such as blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, height, weight and body mass index. And put your bad habits in neutral.

"Bad habits accumulate over time like the plaque in our arterial walls ... over time, we are more likely to develop heart disease," said Jean Owen Alves, registered nurse and nutritionist for the Rush Nutrition and Wellness Center in Chicago.

Smoking, high blood pressure and high LDL cholesterol are key risk factors for heart disease.

"If a patient stops smoking, they can significantly reduce their risk," Sorrentino said. And in fact, taking care of your heart can reduce your risk for diabetes.

"If you lose 10 percent of your body weight, you can decrease your blood pressure ... and if you lose weight, you decrease your risk of developing diabetes," Mickulich said.

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Alpha Phi advocates for women's heart health

BY TERRA COONEY
For Sun-Times Media

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the number one killer of women. Many people, however, mistake the signs as symptoms of flu, acid reflux or normal aging. However, shortness of breath, dizziness, extreme fatigue or pressure in the upper abdomen, back or lower chest can be subtle symptoms of heart disease. Check with your doctor to ask about your personal risk. If you experience these warning signs, call 911.

Alpha Phi, an international women's fraternity, works to promote heart health education, especially for women.

In 1946, Alpha Phi International adopted cardiac care as a priority. In 1986, the organization created the Alpha Phi Foundation in part to support heart care. The foundation's Heart to Heart Grant, which is currently in its third year, funds education and research that supports improving women's heart health. The recipient, chosen by a team of medical professionals and the foundation's board of directors, will be announced late this February.

"The $50,000 award enables medical professionals to better understand gender differences in heart health and increase their expertise in heart disease prevention and treatment in women," said Ann Garstensen, executive director, Alpha Phi Foundation.

Alpha Phi is an international leader in the collegiate Greek community. The organization has raised more than a million dollars annually from donations and events put on by the 157 chapters. Alpha Phi members are encouraged to promote awareness of women's heart health, especially during American Heart Month in February. Alpha Phi's Beta chapter, based at Northwestern University in Evanston, holds an annual fundraiser called the Mud Olympics, which is the most widely attended Greek philanthropy event at the university.

Last year, the event raised almost $3,000. Additionally, the Beta chapter is currently planning its annual Red Dress Gala, which raised almost $5,000 for the foundation last year.

"Some more established chapters raise tens of thousands of dollars from this event," said Elyse Auenbaugh, president, Alpha Phi Beta chapter. "The gala is fairly new for us; it's our third year doing it." In addition, Carstensen said that, as 88 percent of heart attacks happen at home, the foundation will unveil a pilot CPR training program this spring that will hopefully help increase survival rates.

"The foundation's ultimate goal is to teach and empower Alpha Phi more than 178,000 members with the lifesaving skills and knowledge," she said.

The statistics are staggering. Helping to keep women healthy is the driving force that keeps the Alpha Phi Foundation promoting the understanding and prevention of heart disease.

"I think heart disease is frequently overlooked, but it kills one in three women," Auenbaugh said. "I am proud to be an Alpha Phi partly because of the awareness we raise with regard to heart health.

Ladies, in red: Northwestern University's Alpha Phi chapter raised almost $5,000 at its annual Red Dress Gala last year. (Supplied Photo)

Expo to offer free screenings and workshops for women

Women are invited to take control of their heart health at the Go Red for Women Community Expo from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave. This free event will include heart-health screenings, interactive workshops and resources. Walk-ins are welcome, but women are encouraged to visit www.ChicagoGoRedForWomen.org or call (312) 476-6679 to register.

Women will have the opportunity to take part in heart-health screenings, including tests for blood pressure, body mass index, cholesterol and blood sugar.

The event also will include lunch堂-style questions and answer sessions in English and in Spanish. Throughout the morning, there will also be interactive workshops on heart-healthy living, including a cooking demonstration and a Zumba class.

For more information on any of these events, visit www.ChicagoGoRedForWomen.org.

The American Heart Association

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 13
Congestive Heart Failure: Sherman Hospital hosts a program about CHF moderated by PGA Tour pro Raja Sharma as he explains factors that can increase a person's risk for cardiac disease while mapping out a plan to combat heart disease from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington. Fee. Call (800) 332-8622 or visit www.advocatehealth.com.

Feb. 19
Assessing Your Personal Cardiac Risk: Join board-certified cardiologist Raja Sharma as he explains factors that can increase a person's risk for cardiac disease while mapping out a plan to combat heart disease from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington. Fee. Call (800) 332-8622 or visit www.advocatehealth.com.

Feb. 27
Go Red for Women Community Expo: 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the The Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago. Health-screening, educational workshops and take-home resources. Free. Visit www.chicagoareaforwomen.org or call (312) 476-6679.

April 13
Chicago Heart Ball: 6 to midnight in the Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier in Chicago. This year's theme is "Evening Under the Stars," said Emily MacArthur, director of internal philanthropy and Red Dress Gala co-orchestrator. "It's a two-hour class that really saves people's lives.

In addition, Carstensen said that, as 88 percent of heart attacks happen at home, the foundation will unveil a pilot CPR training program this spring that will hopefully help increase survival rates.

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Ladies, in red: Northwestern University's Alpha Phi chapter raised almost $5,000 at its annual Red Dress Gala last year. (Supplied Photo)

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"What about my children's risk?"

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Edison Park Lutheran Church
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773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com
Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor
Matt Haider, Worship /Music
Michael Lyda, Children/Youth/Family

St. Paul Lutheran Church
5650 N. Canfield, 60631
(708)867-5044, www.stpaulcanfield.org
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-1 John 3:20

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North Shore Campus
315 Waukegan Road
847-441-6599
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Sunday Worship 8, 9:15 am & 10:30 am.
Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor
Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry
Matt Haider, Worship /Music
Michael Lyda, Children/Youth/Family

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Norridge, IL 60706
(708) 453-3514
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Impact (Grades 9-12): 6 pm
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Jenny McCarthy
dips into late night

The Splash columnist on her free-wheeling new show and fabulous life in Chicago
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AT THE PHOTO SHOOT

Model/TV host/Splash contributor Jenny McCarthy was gracious enough to let us invade her Fulton River District apartment, which has floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the Chicago skyline (see Page 11 for more).

"SIX-HElF DRIVE IS A BREEZE TO MY HOMETOWN OF MINNEAPOLIS, WHERE DELICIOUS FOOD, OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND FAMILY TIME AWAIT. IT'S PARADISE."

"I LOVE TO ROAD TRIP TO ANN ARBOR, WHERE I WENT TO SCHOOL. NOT ASHAMED TO SAY I DRIVE FOUR HOURS PRIMARY TO EAT AT NO THAI AND FLEETWOOD DINER."

"I WAS PREPPING HER HAIR AND HER SON CAME IN TO GIVE HER A BIG KISS GOODBYE BEFORE HE WENT TO SCHOOL. IT WAS AMAZING TO SEE HER HAVE THAT TENDER MOMENT AND THEN BECOME A GLAMOUR GIRL IN A SNAP."

Hair stylist Anthony Cristiano

"SEXY ISN'T ALWAYS ABOUT SHOWING SKIN AND VAVAVOOM. SOMETIMES IT'S WEARING YOUR BOYFRIEND'S OR A BOYFRIEND-INSPIRED SET OF PJS."

Stylist Eric Hime

Cover Credits

Photographer: Anthony Tahlier
Makeup: Julie Ribordy
Stylist: Eric Hime
Hair: Anthony Cristiano for Anthony Cristiano-Chicago
Color: Todd Kempton

"THE SIX-HOUR DRIVE IS A BREEZE TO MY HOMETOWN OF MINNEAPOLIS, WHERE DELICIOUS FOOD, OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND FAMILY TIME AWAIT. IT'S PARADISE."

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Hair stylist Anthony Cristiano
The calendar

BY THOMAS CONNORS

ARTS & CULTURE | PHILANTHROPY | FOOD | FASHION

**Feb. 7 | "From Latin America with Love: A Night of Tango, Music and Song"**

**Feb. 9 | "Fantasy of the Opera" gala**
The Civic Opera House is the setting for "Midnight in Paris," the Lyric Opera's annual black-tie affair. It's an all-out production, with dinner, dancing and cabaret performances. Tickets: $275 and $500. 20 N. Wacker. Visit Lyricopera.org.

**Feb. 7 | "Sugar Rush"**
Benefiting youth apprenticeship program SPARK, this dessert and wine tasting features sweets from leading restaurants and libations from Cannonball wines and Two Brothers brewery. Tickets: $75 ($100 at the door). Hotel Allegro, 171 W. Randolph. Visit Sugarushchicago.org.

**Feb. 8 | Grand Chefs Gala**
This appetizing event is a gourmand's delight, serving up fine cuisine from the city's top chefs and mixologists to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Fairmont Chicago, 200 N. Columbus. Visit Grandchefsgala.com.

**Feb. 9 | K.I.S.S.**

**Feb. 13 | "Sound Opinions at the Movies"**
It's full of great one-liners, but "The Graduate" also had a memorable score. Pop music critics Greg Kot of the Chicago Tribune and WBEZ-FM's Jim DeRogatis discuss the sounds at this Music Box screening. Tickets: $9 in advance, $10 at the door. 3733 N. Southport. Visit Soundopinions.org.

**Feb. 13-24 | "American Legends" at the Joffrey Ballet**
The new program features the company premiere of Twyla Tharp's "Nine Sinatra Songs," plus new work from Stanton Welch, artistic director of the Houston Ballet. Tickets: $31 to $152. Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress. Stop by the Joffrey Tower at 10 E. Randolph or visit Ticketmaster.com.

**Feb. 15 | "Picasso and Chicago" opening night gala**
Be among the first to check out this hotly anticipated exhibition, which also features Spanish fare and welcoming remarks from art historian and Pablo Picasso's granddaughter, Diana Widmaier Picasso. Tickets: $500. Art Institute of Chicago, 159 E. Monroe. Call (312) 443-3615 or email Sstrother@artic.edu.

**Feb. 15-16 | "Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth"**

**Feb. 16 | CLLAW XV**

**Feb. 28 | Living Through Giving**
Check out this fundraising and cocktail reception benefiting the James Tyrre Foundation to help promote health and education in Chicago.

**March 2 | Gglassquerade**
Join host Stephen Colbert in celebrating Lookingglass Theatre's 25th birthday.

**March 7 | "Proof"**
David Auburn's Pulitzer-winning family drama set in the groves of academe plays at the Court Theatre.

**March 9 | 20th Anniversary Bear Tie Ball**
Check out the Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation's largest fund-raiser, complete with dinner, dancing and auction items.

---

Tickled Pink for Bright Pink
Feb. 8: Whether you prefer a rose hue or lean more bold and bright, this definitely is the place to sport the color pink. Now in its eighth year, the lively Tickled Pink -- founded by Jodi Fyfe -- benefits Bright Pink, the nonprofit devoted to the prevention and early detection of breast and ovarian cancers. Walk the pink carpet, grab a pink-tini and hit the dance floor, then make tracks to Lizzie McNeill's (400 N. McClurg) for the after-party. Tickets: $35. River East Art Center, 435 E. Illinois. Visit Tickledpinkchicago.com.
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Science gained mass appeal Jan. 26, when more than 700 guests donned their best black-tie attire for the Museum of Science and Industry's 30th annual Black Creativity Gala. The event honors the institution's 40-year-old Black Creativity Program, which pays tribute to African-Americans in the fields of science, technology, engineering and medicine. Co-chaired by Kevin Brookins, Larry Hollins, Myra Price and Greg Hinton and held at the MSI, the event featured artwork from more than 100 amateur and professional African-American artists from across the country, plus bites from eight buffet stations and live music from Grammy-nominated R&B group After 7 and DJ Lil' John. WMAQ-Channel 5's Michelle Relerford emceed and guests included Gov. Pat Quinn and Merri Dee. About $400,000 was raised to benefit the Black Creativity Program.

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

**Photos by Ramzi Dreesen**
If they're not wearing the pants, Chicago women are definitely wearing the blazers in the family. Menswear-inspired fashion has moved from the workplace to the party scene with slender cuts, feminine embellishments and flirty collars. Pair a sport coat with skinny jeans or a pencil skirt for an instantly chic outfit, or even drape a jacket over your gown for an edgy gala look. Heavy winter fabrics like tweed and velvet add texture to the outfit (while keeping out February's biting chill), and a long necklace adds necessary sparkle. Ladies, it's not a man's world anymore.
URBAN OASIS

BY TALIA BEECHICK

ew sports bar Park Tavern (1645 W. Jackson) is amping up the West Loop, and 200 guests helped open the new digs in style at a Splash-sponsored VIP grand opening party Jan 23. Attendees enjoyed appetizers and craft beers — including local brews — from more than 40 taps as they geared up for the Bulls matchup against the Detroit Pistons. When it was time for tip-off, some used the complimentary shuttle service to the United Center to cheer in person, while others stuck around to watch on the two-story bar’s 20-plus TVs. Park Tavern also offers three private dining rooms, a late-night dining menu and a DJ every Thursday through Saturday night.

PHOTOS BY RAMZI DREESSEN

CHICAGO HOUSE WINTER ART AUCTION AND COCKTAIL PARTY

BY KATERINA BIZIOS

O n Jan. 24, from 99 stories above the city, more than 350 guests raised their glasses to Chicago House at the organization’s annual Winter Art Auction and Cocktail Party, held at the Willis Tower SkyDeck. Guests sipped the Absolut Tune, a bubbly fusion of vodka and white wine, while bidding on artwork by 40 local artists and designers in an auction. Co-chaired by Tom Segal, David Kaufman, Sean Ward, Dennis Reiner, Sean Kotwa and Christopher Hubbard, the event raised $45,000 for Chicago House. The nonprofit has been a local leader in providing life-saving housing and support to families and individuals affected by HIV and AIDS.

The Sun-Times was the media spon- sor of this event.

PHOTOS BY INGRID BONNE PHOTOGRAPHY
Urban Initiatives shot and scored with its 7th annual Soccer Ball, which was held at the River East Art Center (435 E. Illinois) on Jan. 25 and sold out faster than any previous year. Nearly 800 guests showed up to support the nonprofit’s health- and education-based soccer programs, which have expanded over the past six years to serve thousands of children attending 22 Chicago Public Schools. Masters of Ceremonies and ESPN 1000 hosts Marc Silverman and Carmen DeFalco entertained attendees who sipped cocktails, snacked on appetizers, danced and bid on silent auction items to help net nearly $300,000.

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

PHOTOS BY KATE MORGAN-OLSEN
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With her new late-night show, Splash columnist Jenny McCarthy invites you to curl up and join the party

STORY BY SUSAN NEGOVAN
PHOTOS BY ANTHONY TAHLIER
Jenny McCarthy's in the bathtub at her Fulton River District apartment, circulating a mountain of bubbles with her hands.

It's an appropriate setting for the longtime star: As she gears up for the launch of “The Jenny McCarthy Show” Friday at 9:30 p.m. on VH1, McCarthy, 40, is ready to come clean.

“The thing is, I couldn’t have done a talk show before now, because I needed to go through my own life experiences,” she says. “I can't fake anything, nor does the audience want that. I'm going into the show saying, 'Here's me, here's all of me.' I am smart, I am dumb, I am secure, I am insecure. I'm all of those things, and hopefully people will see that.”
Splash readers who follow her daily blog (Splash.suntimes.com) have caught onto the fact that McCarthy is more complex than you'd expect from a six-time Playboy cover girl: She is street smart, self-aware, sincere. McCarthy is a guy's girl who can tell a raunchy joke or talk football, but also your best girlfriend who is ready to dig into love, life and motherhood.

The show's format is “a cocktail party with celebrities:” a DJ spins, a hunky bottlesboy named Ben serves drinks and go-go dancers perform in the background — until McCarthy and her guests join them on the dance floor as the credits roll. McCarthy says she's hoping viewers want to join the party. “On Friday nights, before you go out you can throw it on, or stay home and drink with me,” she says.

She pulls out her laptop to play a test run of the show. It's fast-paced. She's snapping her fingers as she describes jumping between segments and party games — like one in which McCarthy and her guest chat with their heads pressed together as they nestle on the floor, making the show feel like a pajama party.

On other shows, “it's like clap, clap, clap, a teleprompter read of a monologue, scripted bits for two segments,” she says. “My show is nonscripted and fun. I think we're going to pull the audience we deserve: a pop-culture loving, US Weekly-reading, hip audience.”

VH1 has coined a term for this target: adultsters. To McCarthy, they are people like her “who have to be adults because they have to work and they have kids, but they still want to party and have fun. That's so our generation: putting your kids to bed and crawling out the window and going to a club.”

Taping in New York was unavoidable — the show has been in preproduction for two years, and by the time McCarthy moved to Chicago last spring it was too late to shift things here. “The great thing about show business is in success, you can tell them anything you want,” she says. “So if my show is a real success, it's coming here and they know it.”

Over the next couple of months, McCarthy will fly in and out of New York for tapings. It's a setup that works perfectly for her 10-year-old son Evan, who lives with her in west-suburban Geneva. “The whole goal was to move out here so he could have friends — he didn't have any in LA,” she says. “So now we live next door to my best friend Julie and her three boys, and my friend Colleen, and when I'm gone, he has his friends and that's the way it should be.”

On weekends, McCarthy and Evan stay in a penthouse at Trio Apartments where they host football-viewing parties and she enjoys the occasional single girl's night on the town. It's the life she envisioned for herself when she decided to move here almost a year ago.

“One of the things I always say to people when they ask me about the move is that in Los Angeles, I felt like I was looking for my life,” she says. “In Chicago, I'm now living my life. Since I've moved here, I've realized this is the way it's supposed to feel. There's supposed to be joy in where you're living.”

She's enjoying all aspects of her life here: “I love the sports teams, I love the food, I love the people, I love the nightlife, I love the schools,” she says. “Everyone I meet here, I feel like we're related. Chicago people have an essence about them.”

And that is what makes her more than willing to pick up where Oprah Winfrey left off as the city's celebrity face. “If I can help spread word to America how great we are, I will gladly take that job,” she says.

To that end, McCarthy has no little plans: “By the end of the summer I'd love nothing more than to be shooting 'The Jenny McCarthy Show' downtown. And then I want my production company to create shows without me in them that highlight Chicago.” She's pitching ideas right now such as “Sex and Our City” about the singles' scene, and “Cupid's Assassins,” where “a group of tough chicks gets back at girls' boyfriends who cheated on them and hurt them.”

If McCarthy has her way, the spotlight will be on Chicago for a long time.
SEVEN TRENDS that will define driving in 2013

More than a million people will devour the cornucopia of mechanical delights at this year's Chicago Auto Show. The exposition, which runs from Feb. 9 to 18, is the largest of its kind in North America and, at 105 editions and counting, it's also the longest running.

The bazaar boasts extreme indoor test tracks, charity drives, vehicle giveaways, celebrity appearances and even its own smartphone app. But for all the hoopla, at the core it's still all about the cars. And for attendees, it's the first opportunity to see exotic new features that will soon be standard elements of the driving experience.

With the help of Dave Sloan, the show's general manager and the president of the Chicago Auto Trade Association, we've zeroed in on the trends that will define the cars of the next few years. Buckle up — driving has changed for good.

Last year there was the Dodge Viper. This year, leading the charge is the Corvette Stingray, which debuted at the Detroit Auto Show in January. The first 'Vette to sport the hallowed aquatic label since the 1980s, the speedster has been completely redesigned outside and in, sporting a stiffer aluminum frame, leather-and-carbon-fiber dashboard and svelte interior details among many other features.

"It's one of those cars that epitomizes the Chicago Auto Show," Sloan says. "People love seeing them in person. For some, this may be the first place they've gotten a glimpse of that Corvette."

This is just the beginning: Ford is unleashing an all-new Mustang next year for the legendary car's 50th anniversary.
AUTONOMOUS DRIVING

We've seen vehicles like the Land Rover Evoque and the Nissan Pathfinder parallel park themselves if aligned correctly in front of an open space. But Audi's recently announced Piloted Parking system takes the concept even further, promising to drop you off at the mall, park itself and return to pick you up, all with a swipe of your smartphone. Before we know it, 2040 — the year the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers estimates that 75 percent of cars on the road will be driverless — will be here.

But Sloan urges balance. "It's important to think about Americans and their love of automobiles. While too much time is spent inching along the Kennedy, there's still the steering wheel, the gas pedal and the thrill of the open road."

DRIVER ASSISTANCE

Here's a quick case study in how intelligent cars are getting: The Cadillac XTS's seat vibrates when you veer over the painted lines. The Mercedes-Benz C-Class sounds an alarm when it feels you getting sleepy. The Infiniti JX brakes automatically when someone runs into your path.

"Most of the cars on the road today are 10 years old or older," Sloan says. "And drivers will be surprised at the kind of active safety options that are now available."

PLUGGED IN

Digital radio website Pandora was one of the first to make waves as a hardwired app in the Ford Fiesta. Drivers simply pair their smartphones with their cars, and a selection of musical goodness appears based on their preferences for a certain song or artist. Everyone calls it something different: Ford's Sync, Audi's Connect and Chrysler's similarly named Uconnect. But most vehicles offer comparable options, including phone integration and control, voice commands, entertainment and — get this — Wi-Fi hot spots.

MORE PROGRESS FROM THE AMERICANS

GM and Chrysler quickly emerged from their federally backed Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and the positive uptick continued last fall when Ford announced 1,200 new jobs at its assembly plant in Flat Rock, Mich. Coincidentally, that campus is also unique for handling the necessary steps to manufacture and deliver Mustangs, which lets the American giant save by not having to ship the muscle car all over the country for modifications.

Elsewhere, there's a surge in the compact market (see Chevrolet's Cruze, Sonic and Spark), edging out foreign automakers like Suzuki. "Everyone's getting back into small cars," Sloan says. "And they're not econo-boxes; they're capable cars with great styling and a lot of content."

BIG PERFORMANCE, SMALL PACKAGE

With even tighter EPA regulations on fuel efficiency, car manufacturers are downsizing their engines. (See: Volkswagen and Ford going from the V-4 to the petite V-3.) But that doesn't mean they're losing oomph. By using smarter materials like aluminum, as seen in the Range Rover and the Stingray, manufacturers are shedding weight like wrestlers.

"They've figured out ways with interior packaging, safety and technology to make them lighter but no less safe, all without sacrificing performance," Sloan says. "That's great engineering."

Visit the Chicago Auto Show at McCormick Place (2301 S. Lake Shore Drive); $12 for adults, $6 for children and seniors. Tickets available at Chicagoautoshow.com.
Road warrior

Ready to get out of town?
Alexis Cozzini, owner of Sarca boutique, offers up items to turn any road trip into a fashionable excursion.

1. Hideo Wakamatsu: 25" Gravity suitcase, $335, Flight 001, 1133 N. State; Flight001.com

2. Moto Premium Leather: leather sleeve denim biker jacket, $250, Topshop, 830 N. Michigan; Us.topshop.com


4. Ted Lapidus: vintage sunglasses, $75, Luxury Garage Sale, 1658 N. Wells; Luxurygaragesale.com

5. Pet Gear, Inc.: Generation II deluxe portable soft crate, $150; Wag.com

6. Atelier AZZA: signature embellishment scarf, $1,370; Atelierazza.com

“Who has a white suitcase? This is like the MacBook of luggage.”

“This scarf is absolutely gorgeous. You can wear it with any of the pieces you pack for your trip, so no need to bring a necklace. Plus, it’s large enough to wrap you up for a nap.”

“I just bought this jacket online because I couldn’t wait! Can you say ‘most stylish visitor at the rest stop’ award?”

“A great resource for an impromptu long weekend. This book highlights the best places to visit anywhere on the continent.”

“I always find the best accessories at Luxury Garage Sale. These vintage shades are lightweight, and large enough to protect your face while achieving that incognito look.”

“My best buddy Otto loves traveling in this ‘house.’ It’s easily collapsible, has three doors, its own travel compartment and is durable.”
7. Mother Denim:
Looker pant in atomic pink, $196, Barneys, 15 E. Oak; Barneys.com
“This is a fun alternative to a camera, plus you can upload videos to your travel blog instantly.”

8. Lele Sadoughi:
scarab and lotus bracelet, $290, SARCA, 710 N. Wabash; Shopsarca.com
“You still need a little glam in your life, even on the road. This bracelet can act as your dress-up piece for dinner.”

9. Guerlain:
Emilio Pucci Terra Azzurra bronzing powder and blush, $75, Sephora, 520 N. Michigan; Sephora.com
“Free up space in your bag—it’s bronzer, blush and eye shadow in one.”

10. Zara:
leopard leather sandal, $70, 700 N. Michigan; Zara.com

11. Sony:
Bloggie duo camcorder, $150, Best Buy, 875 N. Michigan; Bestbuy.com

12. Suja Juice:
carrot-orange juice, $9/16 oz., Whole Foods, 1550 N. Kingsbury; SujaJuice.com
“I've become addicted to this carrot-based, cold-pressed juice. It fills you up and quenches your thirst—no need to stop for a snack.”

13. Nature’s Way:
pepogest dietary supplement, $13, Walgreens, 30 N. Michigan; Walgreens.com
“I’ve been using this for years—it cures nausea in a heartbeat. A must-have for motion sickness.”

14. Suave:
Keratin infusion dry shampoo spray, $3, Walgreens, 30 N. Michigan; Walgreens.com
“I’ve tried so many versions of dry shampoo spray and found this to be the best!”

A Dose of love
On Feb. 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the monthly Dose Market celebrates love with a lineup of 60 local food and fashion vendors hawking items perfect for your sweetheart. Located at the River East Art Center (435 E. Illinois), the market will offer candied rose petals from Chocolat Uzma Sharif, mood lighting from Tatine candles and smokin’ hot lingerie from Anastasia Chatzka, plus perks such as readings by Astro-Matchmaker and love ballads from Poems While You Wait. Shop while sipping love punch from Letherbee Gin and snacking on bagel sandwiches from Reno. $8 in advance, $10 at the door. Visit DoseMarket.com.

Classical cool
Think ties are too cliche for Valentine’s Day? Chicago-based line The Tie Bar has made the standard accessory a must-have gift with its new fashion-forward collection. Look for bow ties and traditional neckwear in vibrant colors and funky patterns, sure to infuse energy into muted winter wear. At $15 each, they’re ideal for keeping budgets in check too. Shop the collection at Thetiebar.com.

Best in show
On Feb. 7 from 6 to 9 p.m., Trunk Club — a style service that caters to on-the-go gents with personalized shopping and clothing delivery — hosts a pop-up shopping event at its River North headquarters (325 W. Ohio). Shop jewelry from Dana Rebecca Designs, women’s clothing from Edith Hart, men’s essentials from Trunk Club, serve ware from vintage boutique P.O.S.H and flowers from Fleur de lis, plus spa treatments and reservations to some of the city’s hottest restaurants. Learn more at TrunkClub.com.

Shop smart
A month of giving back is on the agenda for Saks Fifth Avenue as it launches the Saks Loves Your Cause initiative. Throughout February, shop in store with a Saks credit card and 5 percent of the purchase will go to your choice of three charities: the American Red Cross, the Chicago Botanic Garden or the Sun-Times Foundation, which supports a diverse array of nonprofit organizations. (Online purchases will go to the Red Cross.) Visit the Chicago location at 700 N. Michigan or shop online at SaksFifthAvenue.com.
Though it took her Oct. 7 wedding to officially call Chicago home, Niku Ghalkhani knew she adored the city from the first time she visited her now-husband Ali Shahanaghi — with whom she had a similar love-at-first-sight moment. The couple first met last spring at a mutual friend’s party in their hometown of Montreal, and after a four-month long-distance relationship — Shahanaghi is based in Chicago as vice president of a dental corporation — the duo knew it was meant to be.

“We were on our third or fourth date when Ali brought up marriage. It was down-to-earth and that’s what I like most about him,” says Ghalkhani, who works as a biologist. Following tradition, Shahanaghi discussed marriage with Ghalkhani’s parents, and after an engagement party in Montreal they tied the knot at the Waldorf Astoria in Chicago a month later. The ceremony was filled with Persian customs: A poem read in Farsi explained the ceremony, while four bridesmaids held a veil over the pair as Shahanaghi’s aunt burned incense to chase away bad luck and ground sugar cubes to wish them many sweet years together. Family played an important part in the reception, as their siblings gave sentimental toasts and Ghalkhani’s father wished the couple well in his native Farsi. He followed his heartwarming speech with a spin on the dance floor — a first for him — helping to make it an extra memorable reception.
Family style

BY RACHEL HANDLER

Reopening Glunz Tavern felt like a matter of destiny for Barbara Glunz and her son, Christopher Donovan. The 48-seat Old Town tavern was launched in 1888 by Glunz's grandfather, Louis Glunz I. Prohibition forced its doors shut, and they've remained so since, but the family held onto the space; Glunz grew up above it and now runs the adjoining wine and spirits shop, House of Glunz. She has immersed herself in her grandfather's passions: wine, food and hospitality. "I can see that my whole life has been leading up to this," she says of the opening.

The new incarnation of Glunz Tavern reflects that devotion. It's a comfortable neighborhood spot that manages to feel nostalgic and homey without seeming stale. Relics of the original space abound - Glunz and Donovan preserved the original oak floors and tin ceiling, and they adorned the walls with old family photos and antique signs. But the Tavern's menu, crafted with help from Butcher & the Burger's Allen Sternweiler, is a more contemporary take on German, French, American and Austrian classics.

Highlights include the wiener schnitzel and pan-fried spätzle ($24) and the bleu cheese burger ($12). Glunz supervised the composition of each dish - she tasted whitefish from three suppliers before choosing one. "If you get really great food, you don't have to do very much with it," she says.

They crafted the drink menu just as deliberately. "You're just as much pairing the drinks with the food as the food with the drinks," says Donovan.

As Glunz culled the wine selection from small distributors around the globe, Donovan handpicked an eclectic assortment of spirits, ranging from the House of Glunz's exclusive Bin #821 blended malt Scotch whisky to Van Winkle Special Reserve. When developing the cocktails - most of which are pre-Prohibition classics - he looked to his great-grandfather's original recipes, including one for a Manhattan that he found scrawled on a cocktail napkin.

Donovan and Glunz say preserving the Glunz legacy is what drives them. "We've put so much of ourselves into it because it's about our family's history," says Donovan. "The brand is us. So it's gratifying to see people respond to that."

1202 N. Wells, (312) 642-3000, Glunztavern.com

Chicago Classics

Food fads come and go, but many Chicago restaurants have stood the test of time by offering fantastic food and attracting loyal customers. We dug through the archives to find a list of Chicago classics that will deliver right to your door.

The Italian Village
71 W. Monroe St.
Among Chicago's oldest family-run restaurants, the Italian Village's Fettuccine Alfredo, Eggplant Parmigiana and Tiramisu have kept diners coming back for more than 80 years.

Marie's Pizza and Liquors
4127 W. Lawrence Ave.
Since 1940, Marie's Pizza and Liquors has been serving up a variety of Italian-American dishes, including favorites like the Toasted Ravioli and thin crust pizzas. Marie's also offers an extensive beer list, with six-packs available for delivery!

Manny's Cafeteria & Delicatessen
1131 S. Jefferson St.
Now a Chicago monument, Manny's has been crafting wondrous sandwiches since 1947. Its Hot Pastrami Sandwich with a side of potato pancakes is a popular choice in the GrubHub office.

Colletti's
5707 N. Central Ave.
Colletti's opened its doors in 1946 and has been dishing out ribs and pizzas on Central Avenue ever since. Its award-winning BBQ Ribs were recently voted "Best in the Northwest."
The Benevolent Black Tie Preview of the Chicago Auto Show

**DATE**
Friday, February 8

**TIME**
7:00pm - 11:00pm

**PLACE**
McCormick Place

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**So a-Muse-ing**

There's only one way to describe Muse's recent private concert after party in Hollywood: Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Mad-Madness! The band played three shows in Los Angeles, and on Jan. 26, members held an exclusive post-show soiree at Pink Taco that attracted some serious star power. Steven Tyler, Leonardo DiCaprio, Katy Perry and Kate Hudson were among the attendees — and I got the scoop on all of them.

**Steven Tyler is officially single**
The Aerosmith rocker showed up without former fiancee Erin Brady and was hitting on the ladies left and right. I told him I'll miss him on "American Idol," and he said he definitely misses the show. I saw what looked like a beer in his hand, but the rock star has been in AA for years. Is he on the wagon, or back in the saddle again?

**Katy Perry's new man**
John Mayer who? Not only was the singer-songwriter strangely absent from the exclusive bash, but Katy cozied up to a rock star that certainly wasn't her boyfriend — she flirted and danced the night away with Muse drummer Dominic Howard. They even left at the same time. New couple alert?

**Leo update**
I reported last week that Leonardo DiCaprio is taking a break from acting, and he confirmed to me at the party that his long- overdue time off has officially started. He was there with his close friend Kevin Connolly, wearing a newsboy cap and sporting a goatee. I told him I haven't seen him beat boxing and singing karaoke at my neighborhood dive, which he loves. He said, "I haven't been there in a while. I need to get back soon!"

**Kate's in love**
Kate Hudson and Muse frontman Matt Bellamy have been plagued by cheating rumors in the past, but they were a picture-perfect couple at his party. The lovebirds snuggled and exchanged kisses all night. Kate clearly garnered the spotlight in the relationship — she had the entire party staring at her in awe as she danced and chatted up her A-list friends. (Meanwhile, all the ladies were staring at her hot brother Oliver Hudson!) By the end of the night, she even got on the stage to DJ and threw our boy R. Kelly some love by playing his music.

The members of Muse were nice and down-to-earth — even a little oblivious as to how big of a deal they are. They'll be in Chicago on March 4 to perform at the United Center. Don't miss it!
real estate

Squarely on top

Logan Square makes it onto Redfin's 2013 'most promising' list

BY LISA SKOLNIK

Real estate megasite Redfin's annual list of the nation's hottest neighborhoods — an analysis of 10,000 active homebuyers and 130,000 listings in 16 national markets — turned up a top 10 that included eight California communities, one in Seattle and our very own Logan Square. Furniture designer, @properties broker and 25-year Logan Square resident Joaquin Calle isn't surprised. "It's an incredible melting pot of cultures, places, restaurants and retailers that just keeps getting better." New openings such as Italian restaurant Reno and craft cocktail bar Billy Sunday prove his point, along with housing stock that's still economical. Calle's own Logan Square pad is a 1910 two-flat that he rehabbed into a sleek single-family home and furnished with some of his designs, including Crate & Barrel's best-selling Big Sur table. But "anything goes here," he says. No single style prevails; a perfect case in point is 2620 N. Washtenaw, a meticulously restored 1906 Victorian cottage with four bedrooms and 3.5 baths for $629,000. It's situated right off the area's elegant thoroughfare, Logan Boulevard, and was updated into a sun-filled family home with a three-level addition by noted architecture firm Burns + Beyerl. Unsurprisingly, the listing (marketed by Coldwell Banker broker Carolyn Fortman, 312-915-4742) just went under contract.

PROSPECTIVE PADS

Other possibilities in Logan Square include 3531 W. Shakespeare, unit 4, a beautifully renovated 1,450 square-foot, three-bed two-bath with garage parking included for $255,000 (contact @properties broker Nancy Gaspadarek, 773-259-9353).

If you're up for a DIY project, consider 3534 W. Wrightwood, a four-unit brick building on an oversized lot with a possible fifth unit below grade, sold as is in a short sale for $499,999 (contact @properties broker Peter Daz, 312-254-0200). A contingent short sale to watch is 3233 W. Palmer, unit 3, a 1,600 square-foot, three-bed three-bath for $215,000 (contact @properties broker Ryan Parks, 773-387-3010).

GREEN HOUSE

Infuse your home with greenery — and combat winter boredom — with a DIY terrarium. Score the necessary items at Sprout Home (745 N. Damen, Sprouthome.com), where options range from $30 to $300. Or, for $50, take an evening terrarium class, which includes supplies and instruction.
Rally race car driver Bill Caswell reveals his favorite Chicago pit stops

BY JORDAN FAIRCCHILD

If the past few years of Bill Caswell’s life sound like the stuff of movie scripts, that’s because they are. From 2004 to 2009, the University of Chicago business school graduate crunched numbers as an investment banker. But after hours and on the weekends, he retreated to the suburbs to tinker with cars in the garage of his mom’s Kenilworth home. In June 2009, the recession provided him with the perfect excuse to hang his suit and focus on his passion full time. Caswell bought a $500 clunker on Craigslist, fixed it up, entered the World Rally Championship, where he raced against professionals driving cars worth nearly half a million dollars — and finished third.

Then Hollywood came calling. Jeremy Renner (right) bought the rights to his story, and Paramount Pictures will begin production on the film later this year. Caswell moved to San Diego in 2010 to live with his now-wife, Melanie, a dermatologist, but he still flies back to Chicago for one week every month to work in his mom’s garage. “I can do car stuff all day, and then have dinner with her,” he says. “It’s not easy or practical, but I get to sleep right next to the cars and then start working again within minutes of waking up.” Not only that, but Caswell craves a dose of his hometown. “I love Chicago not for its tall buildings or its lakefront — it’s the people,” he says.

When he’s not on the track or under a hood, the 39-year-old is busy developing his lifestyle brand, Build Race Party, as well as writing for Jalopnik.com and Wired.com. Next month he’ll compete in the World Rally again, but this time around, he’ll be driving a new car. While he’s in town putting the finishing touches on his ride, we asked him to take us for a Sunday spin.

Learn more about Caswell’s upcoming races at Caswellmotorsport.com.

11 A.M.
After a night out with friends, Caswell orders the ham Loretta — a greasy multi-topping sandwich — plus a side of cheesy hash browns at Sarkis’ Cafe (2632 Gross Point, Evanston).

1 P.M.
Caswell heads to his mom’s house with his pals to work on his car. If they’re in need of a part, he pops over to Napa Auto Parts (1723 Waukegan, Glenview). “When I first got into cars, I learned a lot at this shop,” he says.

3 P.M.
For expert advice or precision fabrication, he drops by Fall-Line Motorsports (1225 Busch, Buffalo Grove), home of one of the premier race teams in the country.

4 P.M.
To blow off steam, Caswell loves to race go-karts at Chicago Indoor Racing (301 Hastings, Buffalo Grove). It’s crowded at night, so he prefers afternoon outings.

5 P.M.
By this point, he’s worked up an appetite, so he heads to Zocalo (358 W. Ontario) for dinner. “I can get plenty of Mexican food in San Diego, but this place is always phenomenal,” Caswell says.

7 P.M.
Before going back to the suburbs, Caswell and his crew visit Hopleaf (5148 N. Clark) for its “ridiculous selection of kick-ass craft beers.”
Our food speaks for itself...

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RED HOT ‘VETTE

Chicago spotlight on 2014 Corvette

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THE 105TH EDITION OF
THE CHICAGO AUTO SHOW

WHEN: Feb 9-Feb 18

HOURS: 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Feb. 9-17; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Feb. 18

WHERE: McCormick Place, 2301 S. Lake Shore Drive

ADMISSION: Tickets at McCormick Place ticket booths or online at https://tickets.drivechicago.com. $12 adults; $6 seniors 62 and older; $6 for children 7-12, free admission children 6 and younger when accompanied by paying adult family member

PRESENTED BY: Chicago Automobile Trade Association

SPECIAL EVENTS:
First Look for Charity: 7-11 p.m. Feb. 8 (black tie).
Feb. 12: Women's Day ($6 admission for women) with special female-oriented programs on purchase, lease and vehicle maintenance.
Feb. 13-15: Chicago Auto Show Food Drive; bring three cans of food, receive $6 admission coupon.

TRANSPORTATION/PARKING: McCormick Place has extensive shuttle bus service from all area parking lots to and from McCormick Place. Weekend-only shuttle service from Millennium Park and East Monroe underground garages. Shuttles stop in 15-minute intervals near Columbus/Upper and Lower Randolph and at Gate 3 at McCormick Place.
Pickup wars heat up

BY KIRK BELL
For Sun-Times Media

Despite high gas prices, full-size pickups are still hot sellers, with 1.6 million sales, and an overall increase of about 9 percent. Domestic pickup trucks accounted for more than 90 percent of those sales, clearly demonstrating how they are preferred by Americans when it comes to workhorse pickups. However, many automakers have invested plenty of money into updating and improving their trucks.

Here's a look at the domestic pickup kings' 2012 sales, and their product outlook:

Ram
Ram (formerly Dodge) has been the underdog in the domestic pickup wars, consistently finishing third behind Ford and Chevrolet. Yet the brand has made some important strides along the way. The "big rig" styling introduced in 1994 and continued to the underdog in the domestic pickup wars, consistently finishing third behind Ford and Chevrolet. Yet the brand has made some important strides along the way. The "big rig" styling introduced in 1994 and continued to the end of the decade.

The 2013 Ram 1500 went on sale in October, and the new design helped Ram post a 20 percent year-over-year sales increase, the biggest in the industry by far. Ram also gained 1.5 percent of market share for a total of 18.2 percent.

Chevrolet/GMC
While Ram and Ford have updated their trucks in the past few years, the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra, which are essentially the same truck, haven't been redesigned since 2007, with little improvement along the way.

Despite being the same for years, both pickups sold well in 2012, but they lost ground to the competition. Sales of the Silverado rose only 0.8 percent and it lost 2.1 percent of market share, dropping to 28.5 percent. The Sierra fared better. Sales were up 5.4 percent and it lost only 0.3 percent market share to finish at 35.5 percent.

The good news is GM showed the redesigned 2014 Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra at last month's North American International Auto Show in Detroit. The new trucks, which are due this summer, look like they will address several of the current models' issues. "Our goal was to create the best engineered truck from hood to hitch," said Maria Rohrer, director of marketing for Chevy trucks.

Ford
The F-Series is the king of the truck market for good reason. Ford redesigned the F-150 in 2009, and revamped the entire engine lineup for the 2011 model year. The engine lineup is the EcoBoost 3.5-liter turbocharged V6 that many believe is the best full-size half-ton pickup engine.

Keeping the F-Series fresh paid off with some 645,316 sales in 2012, up 10.3 percent from 2011. The truck gained 0.4 percent market share to 38.4 percent.

Ford revealed the Atlas Concept vehicle, pointing to a possible design direction for the next F-150. "With 36 years as America's best-selling pickup, we are committed to setting the agenda in the truck market," said Raj Nair, Ford group vice president, global product development.

2013 Chicago Auto Show features advances in fuel economy, technology

BY JEFF TAYLOR
For Sun-Times Media

The Chicago Auto Show will open to the public tomorrow and run through Feb. 17 at McCormick Place. The show is the best place to compare mileage estimates along with pricing, features and vehicle comfort without pressure to buy.

If you want to experience one of the vehicles on display, there are several indoor test rides including Camp Jeep, and a Chrysler/Dodge/Fiat track along with Toyota's "Let's Go For a Ride." Even if you're not in the market for a new vehicle you can still check out the glittering sheet metal, latest advances in fuel economy, technology enhancements, muscular engines, and luxurious interiors on display. The event has something for everyone.

For the latest auto show information, including a complete day-by-day rundown of activities and special appearances by celebrities, visit www.chicagoautoshow.com.
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Must-see exhibits

BY JEFF TAYLOR

For Sun-Times Media

The 2013 edition of the Chicago Auto Show is an experience unlike any other U.S. auto show. The Chicago event is a “double million” show, more than 1 million square feet of exhibition space, and typical attendance exceeds 1 million visitors.

Because the Chicago Auto Show takes place after other big auto shows (Los Angeles, Detroit), the vehicles that debut at those shows usually make the trip to Chicago.

Here are the must-see vehicles and exhibits at the 2013 Chicago Auto Show:

Chevrolet

• The seventh generation Chevrolet Corvette Stingray is the most eagerly awaited car of the show. The Vette’s 450-horsepower, 6.2-liter pushrod V-8 with cylinder deactivation, six-speed automatic or seven-speed manual, with a much improved interior, makes it a star attraction.

• The new 2014 Silverado doesn’t look that different until you get up close. This is an answer to the new Ram and Ford pickups.

• The Chevrolet exhibit will be a busy place with consumer activities including: make your own buttons station; Gran Turismo race simulators featuring the 2014 Corvette, Mylank in-car demos; Manchester United one-on-one soccer games you can play with friends and post to Facebook; Hot Wheels “Be the World’s Best Driver” featuring a chance to long jump a Hot Wheels vehicle; and a 1963 Corvair Greenbrier van photo booth that creates a souvenir flip book.

Toyota

Toyota will have a flurry of activity in its exhibit area with a vehicle debut while displaying the gorgeous Corolla Furia Concept. The Furia is a preview of the next generation Corolla.

• The restyled Avalon will be displayed prominently on a 5,000-piece glass platform.

• In honor of the Daytona 500, a NASCAR garage area with a 2013 NASCAR Camry Sprint Cup car will be featured.

• A replica of the Tundra that towed the Endeavour shuttle will be on display. The Driveland (MS Kinect) game will allow people to virtually drive Toyota vehicles in a game-like environment. Lexus will display the all-new 2014 IS along with the LF-A Nuburguring Edition and LF-FC concept car.

2014 Corvette Stingray

Chrysler

Chrysler Group will display the all-new 2013 Viper, 2014 Jeep SRT and 2013 Ram pickup, the Motor Trend and North American Truck of the Year winner. Mopar customized vehicles will also be showcased.

• For the ninth year, the popular Camp Jeep track with its “can’t miss” hill climb takes Jeep passengers up an 18-foot high, 35-degree Jeep mountain. The rest of the track is comprised of obstacles designed to showcase Jeep vehicles’ off-road capability including rugged terrain, traversing 15-inch fallen logs and a 30-degree wedge to demonstrate vehicle articulation.

• A multi-brand test track featuring Chrysler, Dodge and Fiat vehicles will be open to the public.

• The 80-foot climbing wall and kids course with kid-sized Jeeps returns, and additional activities include live action cameras and games.

• Chrysler Group vehicles will also be available for on street test drives.

Ford

A road-rally driving simulator, popular remote controlled race track, coloring stations, and kids can enter to win a 3-foot-tall plush animal every hour of the show. A magician will also perform at select intervals. Adults can test drive five different Ford products on an outside street course.

Ford will display the handsome Atlas concept truck featuring a futuristic blue ambient-lit interior, and exterior styling that previews the next F-150.

The just-introduced Ford Transit and Ford TransitConnect Wagon will be displayed along with a Focus ST, and the complete Mustang lineup including a Nationwide Series race car. The Focus, Fusion, Taurus and F-150 will round out the display.

Kia

Kia will debut a new CUV and a DC superhero-themed concept. Exhibit activities include “Built in the USA” using gesture technology Kinect to highlight Kia’s manufacturing facility in Georgia.

• Optima Hybrid Driving experience is designed as a multi-user game so friends and family of the driver can participate by using the back touchscreens to throw good and bad orbs such as a tail wind or puddles of water onto the driving course. A picture of their successful completion of the driving game is sent via e-mail or uploaded onto social media.

• There are plenty of additional vehicles and activities to enjoy at this year’s show including appearances by Chicago Bears players on Feb. 16 and Feb. 17. For daily show happenings, visit www.chicagoautoshow.com

Small vehicles get big play at auto show

BY ANDY MIKONIS

For Sun-Times Media

Small cars are nothing new to the Chicago Auto Show.

Since the rest of the world has been enjoying fine small cars for some time, many of the new U.S. offerings are based on existing overseas products, tweaked for American preferences.

Looking at 2012 sales figures, small cars were some of the largest gainers. Smart, which has had a difficult time finding acceptance with their quirky Fortwo, saw a 92 percent sales increase for the year. Fiat, after a lackluster launch in mid-2011, saw their petite 500 end a successful year with a 59 percent year-over-year increase in December sales. And Toyota’s Scion division saw a 49 percent better sales year with help from their city-sized IQ.

Japanese automakers are some of the most seasoned small car veterans. At last month’s North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Honda Motor Company’s president and CEO Takanobu Ito said, “I believe that small cars will be our future.”

Getting small at Honda isn’t limited to cars, as Ito’s Detroit comments preceded the introduction of the Urban SUV Concept. Based on the Honda Fit, it is a full nine inches shorter than the Honda CR-V, and scheduled for production in 2014.

Detroit also saw the introduction of the 2013 Nissan Versa Note, a new hatchback version of the Versa sedan, one of the best-selling subcompacts. Chevrolet found itself with a hit on its hands when it introduced the subcompact Sonic to replace the Aveo, then followed up last year with the even smaller Spark mini car. The 2013 Spark is one of the more versatile tiny cars with a five-door hatchback configuration.

At the Los Angeles Auto Show in November, Chevrolet announced the Spark EV, an all-electric powered Spark going on sale this summer as a 2014 model. Since the electric Spark is an adaptation of an existing gasoline-powered car it’s significant as so far the other electric-only highway-worthy vehicles available from major automakers at present, the Nissan Leaf and Mitsubishi i, are purpose-built models.

Another already small car launching an electric version is the Fiat 500e. Last month, the Environmental Protection Agency rated the Fiat 500e at 108 MPGe (how far a vehicle can travel on the electric equivalent of a gallon of gas), which is the highest of any electric vehicle on the U.S. market.
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Gaining exposure

Views better with free screened porch offered at The Enclave

Imagine relaxing on your screened porch surrounded by a magnificent natural landscape of picturesque rock gardens, sparkling ponds, and colorful wildflowers that spread a blanket of beauty and serenity throughout the community.

If you purchase a ranch or two-story home at The Enclave at The Reserve at the Merit Club in Libertyville, your dream can become a reality.

"You will receive a $25,000 screened porch addition to your home absolutely free," said Jeri Szatko, director of sales and marketing for Merit Homes. "Since our Screened Porch Promotion spurred sales in our fourth quarter, we're extending the offer through March."

As a result of increased sales, only six highly desirable sites remain, priced from the upper $400,000s. Build your custom home on a site that measures a quarter to a third of an acre and overlooks the pristine fairways of the private 18-hole Merit Club golf course, or will have views of groves of matures trees, or overlook expansive green vistas.

Mature home buyers who want to downsize into a ranch home and enhance their outdoor living space have made The Enclave their new home. Since the 17-home Enclave is the newest section of a gated community called the Reserve at the Merit Club, buyers are delighted to assume the advantages of purchasing a new home in a lived-in community.

First and foremost, they don't have to deal with the dust and debris so prevalent when a new neighborhood is under construction. Secondly they can see how the community looks and will not encounter any surprises.

Buyers can choose from five luxurious ranch plans or two two-story designs with first-floor master bedrooms. Innovative homes feature 1,800 to 3,000 square feet with two to four bedrooms and up to 3½ baths and are priced from $498,900 to $625,900.

Ranch plans cater to mostly empty-nesters and young professionals who want the convenience of single-level living, mainly because it eliminates having...
Home improvement show opens Friday

Some 300 contractors, designers and craftsmen will display their wares and make their advice available to homeowners this weekend at 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, 4051 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.

A portion of the ticket proceeds benefits The Habitat for Humanity of Northern Fox Valley and its ReStore, based in Elgin.

Daily workshops are included with admission. These include:
- Evan Skiermanski with Stoneridge Builders will present his approach to kitchen design and functionality.
- Laura Gleanza of Laura Gwyn Interiors, an Illinois licensed interior designer, will discuss the latest innovations in bathroom remodeling.
- John O’Malley, certified landscape designer with Prestige Nursery and Garden Center, will talk on “outdoor living done right.”
- 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.

Growing up: It won’t be all that long before homeowners will need some advice and maybe plans from vendors like Prestige Nursery. SUPPLIED PHOTO
Legacy of choices

Variety, luxury inspire The Legacy condo high rise

Chicago's downtown condominium market came roaring back in 2012 with unit sales increasing by 28 percent and total dollar volume up 33 percent over 2011, according to Midwest Real Estate Data, LLC. The rebound is welcome news for sellers. But diminishing inventory has also frustrated many condo buyers who are finding their choices increasingly limited.

New construction inventory is particularly tight. Appraisal Research Counselors’ Downtown Chicago Residential Benchmark Report showed only 513 new-construction condominiums and townhomes actively being marketed in the third quarter of 2012, down from a peak of 6,817 in the first quarter of 2008.

However, at The Legacy at Millennium Park, a 72-story luxury high-rise at 60 East Monroe Street, buyers still have the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of floor plans, views and prices.

Choice plans: Buyers can choose from a variety of floor plans, views and prices at The Legacy, which overlooks Millennium Park, Lake Michigan and downtown Chicago. | SUPPLIED PHOTOS

- One-bedroom floor plans with 875 square feet, starting at $395,000;
- One-bedroom-plus-den plans with 975 to 1,189 square feet, starting at $425,000;
- Two-bedroom floor plans with 1,376 to 1,596 square feet, priced from $620,000;
- Three-bedroom floor plans with 1,750 to 2,405 square feet, starting at $1.029 million;
- Penthouses from 4,378 to 9,300 square feet, priced from $3.6 million.

Garage parking is priced from $45,000 and many floor plans are available with two parking spaces.

Condominiums at The Legacy feature large living areas and bedrooms, high ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows. Upscale finishes include hardwood floors, granite countertops, marble-tiled baths, Snaidero, Wood-Mode or Brookhaven cabinetry, and Sub-Zero, Wolf and Miele appliances, per plan.

The Legacy also has a variety of amenities, including a heated indoor lap pool, whirlpool spa, two community rooms with adjoining outdoor sky gardens, a professionally equipped fitness center, 24-hour doorman, and valet dry cleaning and package receiving.

A sky bridge connects the Legacy to the neighboring, private University Club of Chicago, giving residents who are club members direct access to all of the club’s facilities, programs and services. Residents who are not members can still enjoy certain club privileges, such as hotel rooms for guests, access to catering services and the club’s tournament-quality squash courts.

Situated in the heart of Chicago’s cultural mile along Michigan Avenue, The Legacy is surrounded by world-renowned shopping, dining, theater, art and recreational opportunities. The building’s award-winning design by Chicago-based Solomon Cordwell Buenz has been recognized for its contemporary architecture and innovative planning, which involved the preservation of three landmark building facades along Wabash Avenue.

The Legacy sales center is at 60 East Monroe St. and is open from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily. @properties is the exclusive sales and marketing agency for the development. For more information, call (312) 252-0060 and visit www.TheLegacyAtMillenniumPark.com.

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Riding the housing recovery while taking market share from rival firms, Chicago real estate company @properties posted its highest sales volume in company history in 2012. @properties led all city brokers in residential sales for the fourth consecutive year and captured the No. 2 position for market share on Chicago's North Shore.

In the city of Chicago, @properties had reported sales of $1.988 billion based on 5,088 transaction sides, an increase over 2011 of 34 percent and 31 percent respectively. The firm outpaced the overall market, which experienced year-over-year growth of 19 percent in the number of transactions and 27 percent in dollar volume.

@properties finished the year with 36 percent more market share than the No. 2 firm in the city.

On the North Shore, @properties had reported sales volume of $668.5 million, an increase of 60.6 percent over 2011. Only three years after opening its first North Shore office, the firm steamed into the No. 2 position for market share in the area. @properties' Winnetka location was the top-producing single office on the North Shore in 2012 with sales volume of more than $335.5 million. The company also opened two new offices: Lake Forest and Highland Park.

Regionally, @properties' total reported residential sales volume for 2012 was $2.943 billion, third highest among all real estate brokers in Northern Illinois and less than 2 percentage points behind the No. 2 company.

Sales figures are based on closed transactions reported through Midwest Real Estate Data, LLC (MRED), the local multiple listing service. The data does not include rental transactions or off-market sales. Factoring in those transactions, @properties' 2012 volume exceeded $3.2 billion, according to company co-founder Michael Golden.

"2012 was a recovery year for housing and we were well positioned to take advantage of the increased activity in the marketplace," said Golden.

"As expected, the investments we made in marketing, training and new offices during the downturn paid major dividends as the market righted itself. We were bullish going into 2012, and things just kept getting better and busier as the year progressed," added Thaddeus Wong, @properties co-founder.

In addition to for-sale residential brokerage, 2012 was a busy year for @properties' other service lines. The company brokered more than 4,500 rental transactions, expanded its commercial real estate group, and continued to be the city's leading firm for the sales and marketing of new-construction and condo-conversion developments.

@properties' Developer Services division has written more than $30 million in new contracts since taking over sales and marketing for The Legacy at Millennium Park, a 356-unit high-rise at 60 E. Monroe St., in February 2012. @properties also closed out sales at Six North Michigan across from Millennium Park, and is nearing sellout at Ten East Delaware in the Gold Coast with only four units remaining.

"The demand for new construction is strong, but there is limited inventory. We've been talking to quite a few developers who are looking at putting a shovel in the ground again," said Golden.
When contingencies are involved, expect the unexpected

Purchasing offers usually aren't accepted as written. Commonly, buyers and sellers engage in the equivalent of a tennis match, counteroffering back and forth until they meet a mutually agreeable purchase contract. At this point, you might be inclined to think the negotiation phase of the transaction is over.

That may have been the case decades ago. But the home sale process has become more complicated over the years. Today, it might be more appropriate to say that the transaction is over.

Most purchase contracts contain contingencies that provide buyers a time period to comply with certain parts of the transaction. The most common contingencies are for inspections and investigations, loan approval, appraisal of the property, and the sale of another property.

For example, some inspection contingencies give the sellers the right to remedy a defect; others allow the buyers to withdraw from the contract for any reason at the end of the inspection contingency period. Any questions should be directed to a real estate attorney.

Even though the ratified contract is legally binding on both the buyer and seller, circumstances can change during the transaction that may result in renegotiation. The most common occurs when the buyers' inspection contingency is due. If buyers' inspections reveal new information about the property, the buyers may agree to remove the inspection contingency but only if the sellers repair defects or contribute financially to repairs.

This puts the contract in limbo and requires good faith negotiation to salvage the transaction. Otherwise, the buyers and sellers agree in writing to cancel the contract. The sellers put their home back on the market and the buyers look for another home to buy.

Not all buyers renegotiate the contract when the inspection contingency is due. If the sellers have provided presale inspection reports and thorough disclosures before the buyers made an offer, it's less likely that the buyers will make further requests from the sellers.

Another trigger for further negotiations can occur when an appraisal ordered by the buyers' lender values the property at a price that's lower than the purchase contract price. The effect of this is that the buyers' lender will lend less than it said it would before the appraisal was done.

Buyers who feel they overpaid for the property may be more inclined to request a reduction to the appraised value and hold firm at that price. If the sellers won't agree, the transaction will fail.

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- 1718 Payne St: Burke, Bernadette P & Malick, Mark M; $80,000
- 1814 South Blvd: Vallejo, Michael; $165,000
- 704 South Blvd: Chung, Jin Ho & Alissa; $380,000
- 1604 Washington St: Ceisel, Edward Anthony & McMahon, Clare; $195,000
- 2005 Washington St: Benning, II & George William & Boardman, Jade; $239,000
- 35 Tremont Rd: Glowacz, Stanislaw; $80,000
- 391 Adams Ave: Handelman, Jason & Elizabeth; $521,500
- 645 Custer Ave 103: Fritts, Timothy F & Elizabeth; $370,000
- 2421 Fontana Dr: Hartung, Kristina & Elizabeth; $320,000
- 612 Elmdale Rd: Mohammed, James P & Ruddy, Judith; $310,000

TODAY'S HOMES

Antioch

601 Acorn Ct: Peckham, Adam E & Leslie C; $195,000
754 Blackman Ter: Jones, Alex & Bredahl, Vanessa; $148,500
321 Marshall Dr: Carey, Matthew S & Julie; $185,000
4247 N Lake Ave: Johnson, Jack H; $73,500
40025 N Sibley Dr: Zinveah, Cindy Ann; $260,000

Beach Park

38311 N Holdridge Ave: Layne, Julid A; $161,500
10241 W Ford Ave 4B: Speass, Barbara; $70,000
1414 Hinman Ave 4B: Speass, Barbara C; $340,000

Brunswick

2915 Grant St: Petos, Steven & Nicole; $550,000
1619 Greenleaf St: Holbert, Barbara; $70,000
9437 Harding Ave: Bernstein, Mark; $500,000
1414 Hinman Ave 4B: Speass, Maria; $315,000
421 Kedzie St 3: Hiller, Claire, $10,000 IN INCENTIVES

Evanston

2106 Ashbury Ave: Bunker, Jane F & Sullivan, Joseph F; $328,000
2004 Brummel St: Krueser, Keith L; $212,000
1210 Chicago Ave 501: Cushing, Barbara; $175,000
1222 Chicago Ave 501: Nainani, Ajay; $180,000
645 Custer Ave 103: Paulson, Lawrence C & Betty S; $316,500
645 Custer Ave 304: Pasis, Michelle F; $265,000
751 Dodge Ave: Hofer, Darcy E; $150,000
1570 Elmwood Ave: Jamal, Muneer & Tisha C; $340,000
1570 Elmwood Ave 801: Medina, Livia A; $499,000
2915 Grant St: Petos, Steven & Nicole; $550,000
1619 Greenleaf St: Holbert, Barbara; $70,000
9437 Harding Ave: Bernstein, Mark; $500,000
1414 Hinman Ave 4B: Speass, Maria; $315,000
421 Kedzie St 3: Hiller, Claire,

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Are suburban new home sales in comeback mode?

New home building in Chicago's suburbs is finally in comeback mode after a more than five-year slump, a top housing analyst reported.

However, the city of Chicago appears to be running behind the trend, noted housing analyst Tracy Cross of Schaumburg-based Tracy Cross & Associates, Inc.

A total of 2,899 new homes were sold in the 10-county metropolitan Chicago area in the first three quarters of 2012. This translates to a seasonally adjusted, annualized pace of 3,221 units sold, reported Cross.

This annualized sales rate is 11.1 percent higher than the 2,899 sales recorded in all of 2011, and 3.9 percent higher than sales volume of 3,101 units in all of 2010.

However, Chicago posted a seasonally adjusted, annualized rate of only 506 new-homes, townhomes and condominiums sold through the third quarter of 2012, a decline of 10.6 percent over the sales rate of 565 units through the same period in 2011.

In the suburbs, new-home sales activity during the January-through September 2012 period rose 16.4 percent to an annual rate of 2,716 units compared with the 2,334 units sold during the same period in 2011.

The increase in the suburbs was fully due to heighten volume in the single-family detached home sector which moved upward to an annualized pace of 1,884 units through the third quarter of 2012 from 1,218 sales during the same period in 2011, Cross reported.

The average price of a new single-family home sold in the Chicago-area marketplace during the third quarter of 2012 was $285,135, an increase of 4.8 percent year-over-year.

"To emphasize the upturn in suburban single-family home sales, 19 developments in the region are now on pace to record 28 or more sales in 2012, including five which are averaging three or more sales on a monthly basis," Cross said.

Through the third-quarter of 2012 following publically held development companies, were leading the suburban home-building revival: Pulte Group (367 sales), D.R. Horton (333 sales), Ryland Homes (242 sales), K. Hovnanian (189 sales), and M/I Homes (184 sales).

"Collectively, these five companies accounted for 51.2 percent of total sales activity in the region as a whole, a rather significant rate of capture considering that there are 118 separate home-building companies currently operating in the Chicago region's production new-home market," Cross said.

Meanwhile, with a rental-apartment construction boom in full swing downtown, there now are only 33 new-construction townhome/condominium developments in active sales mode in Chicago.

This partially explains the significant drop in new housing sales volume in 2012, compared with 2011 when there were 82 active developments," Cross said. In 2006, at the height of the condominium boom in Chicago, there were 242 developments actively selling condos and townhomes in Chicago.

Despite the dramatic drop-off in city housing sales, Appraisal Research Counselors Ltd. reported several new and converted downtown condominium developments in Chicago are currently selling well.

Appraisal Research reported that the following downtown buildings were sales volume leaders in the third quarter of 2012:

- 235 W. Van Buren in the Loop, (26 units sold in this new-construction high-rise at an average price of $310 per square foot).
- 200 North Dearborn in the Loop, (22 units converted apartment units in this high-rise sold at an average price of $240 a square foot).
- Trump Tower in River North, (21 new units sold in this mixed-use tower at an average price of $677 per square foot).
- Aqua in the Loop, (19 new units sold in this mixed-use high-rise at an average price of $514 a square foot).
- Van Buren Lofts in the West Loop, (13 adaptive-reuse loft units sold at an average price of $199 per square foot).
- One Place in the South Loop, (12 new units sold at an average price of $312 a square foot).

"Both entry-level and luxury condominium buyers in Chicago have a rather interesting list of choices," noted Gail Lissner, vice president of Appraisal Research. "Prices at these city developments range from $199 to $677 per square foot and buyers can choose from adaptive-reuse lofts, high-rise apartment conversions, and both new-construction and mixed-use towers."

Don DeBat's weekly real estate column is syndicated by DeBat Media Services. For more home-buying information visit the website at www.dondebat.net.
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TODAY'S HOMES

TRANSACTIONS

591 W Old Mill Rd: Lagunas, Lucio & Jennifer Musso; $244,000

Lake Villa
660 Blazing Star Dr: Appell, Jason & Lisa; $350,000
605 Carlyle Ct: Lamusga, Karen T; $255,000
332 Cedar Ridge Dr: Gebeck, Joseph Herbert & Vilma D; $141,000

Libertyville
14188 Bradford Ct: Menges, James M & Jennifer A; $380,000
246 Cater Ln: Rahman, Nasir & Nasir, Acras; $497,500
630 McKinley Ave: Rodgers, Ileri L; $497,500

3392 Epstein Cir: Mitchell, Glenn L & Linda J; $263,000
3382 Epstein Cir: Contino, Vincent N & Meredith; $325,000
3659 Canton Cir: Wotman, Sidney & Meredith; $226,000
3381 Rockwell Cir: Bromberg, Ginger; $250,000
3374 Rockwell Cir: Goodale, Willy & Jane M; $314,000
3141 Rockwell Cir: Murphy, Joseph & Jane C; $314,000
5500 Lincoln Ave 108W: Heuel, Robert D & Robin U; $210,000
1921 Lake St: Kratochvil, Roman & Carlos; $230,000
9315 Luna Ave: Mangodina, Christine Marie; $290,000
1842 Luna Ave: Abadilla, Gilbert & Michael A; $92,000
5515 Washington St: Labog Jr, Edwin A & Labog, Geniel; $310,000
8512 Harlem Ave: Greenberg, Glenn & Stefani V; $130,000
8300 Calie Ave F 508: Edison, E & Robin U; $345,000
1001 W Birchwood Ave: Cope, Mat & Linda J; $295,000
1051 Wrens Gate: Patel, Nirvi B & Cynthia L; $240,000
19820 W West Shore Dr: Atwell, Noel D & Priti; $285,500
2114 Butternut Cir: Sellinger, Zachary & Kristin E; $534,500
5113 Warren St: Pathadan, Renju & Lizymol V; $485,000
1705 Northfield Sq A: Mehta, Daniel & Linda J; $276,000

8019 N Oketo Ave: Huber, Fred R; $240,000
8622 N Oleander Ave: Klimk, Kamil M & Agnieszka U; $218,000
7001 W Birchwood Ave: Cope, Glenn; $276,000
8139 W Greendale Ave: Bulaj, Monika; $225,000
813 Tall Grass Cir: Ewing, Jaclyn B & Alan D; $215,000
9305 Harlem Ave: Greenberg, Glenn & Stefani V; $130,000
9210 Ozark Ave: Yacoub, George & Jennifer C; $389,000
7328 W Lill St: Buning, Jamie A & Stoor, Ericka L; $269,000
6837 W Seward St: Magiera, Monika; $225,000

Northbrook
670 Alice Dr: Podskorecki, Elisha & O'Sullivan, John; $1,375,000
2819 Brindle Ct 6B: Rosenbiel, Natalie; $235,000
317 Buckhorn Cir: Schencker, Thomas & Linda; $240,000
2114 Butternut Ln: Silling, Zachary & Kristin E; $534,500
1315 Candlewood Hill Rd: Pastuvich, Milan N & Mary P; $890,000
3950 Walters Ave: Sfikas, Nikolas & Natalia; $235,000

3939 W Oakview Ave: Yacoub, George & Jennifer C; $389,000
7242 W North Ave: Yacoub, George & Jennifer C; $389,000
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- **Savings:** $6,021
- **Sale Price:** $15,284

NEW 2013 JEEP WRANGLER

- **MSRP:** $29,490
- **Savings:** $7,227
- **Sale Price:** $22,263

NEW 2013 JEEP GR CHEROKEE 4X4

- **MSRP:** $39,995
- **Savings:** $17,857
- **Sale Price:** $22,138

NEW 2013 DODGE DART

- **MSRP:** $17,746
- **Savings:** $1,610
- **Sale Price:** $16,136

NEW 2013 DODGE JOURNEY

- **MSRP:** $26,460
- **Savings:** $8,797
- **Sale Price:** $17,663

NEW 2013 DODGE CHARGER

- **MSRP:** $29,490
- **Savings:** $9,817
- **Sale Price:** $19,673

NEW 2013 CHRYSLER 200

- **MSRP:** $25,990
- **Savings:** $5,228
- **Sale Price:** $20,762

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OR

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+$1,000 FORD CREDIT AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH

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OR

$2,000 AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH

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OR

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OR

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### Autos Wanted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Make</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990 CADILLAC DEVILLE</td>
<td>8 Standard, automatic transmission, 90k miles, excellent condition</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Excellent condition, 80k miles, automatic transmission, 90k miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995 CHEVROLET MALIBU</td>
<td>8 Standard, automatic transmission, 90k miles, excellent condition</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Excellent condition, 80k miles, automatic transmission, 90k miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996 CHRYSLER LE BARON</td>
<td>8 Standard, automatic transmission, 90k miles, excellent condition</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Excellent condition, 80k miles, automatic transmission, 90k miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998 CHRYSLER TOWN &amp; COUNTRY</td>
<td>8 Standard, automatic transmission, 90k miles, excellent condition</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Excellent condition, 80k miles, automatic transmission, 90k miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999 CHRYSLER PACIFICA</td>
<td>8 Standard, automatic transmission, 90k miles, excellent condition</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Excellent condition, 80k miles, automatic transmission, 90k miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 FORD ESCAPE XLT</td>
<td>4WD, 90k miles, excellent condition</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Excellent condition, 90k miles, 4WD, automatic transmission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001 LEXUS RX300 AWD</td>
<td>4WD, 90k miles, excellent condition</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Excellent condition, 90k miles, 4WD, automatic transmission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE</td>
<td>4 Standard, automatic transmission, 110k miles, excellent condition</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Excellent condition, 110k miles, automatic transmission, 4 Standard</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002 SATURN LS</td>
<td>4 Standard, automatic transmission, 110k miles, excellent condition</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Excellent condition, 110k miles, automatic transmission, 4 Standard</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003 MITSUBISHI LANCER</td>
<td>4 Standard, automatic transmission, 110k miles, excellent condition</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Excellent condition, 110k miles, automatic transmission, 4 Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 HONDA CR-V</td>
<td>4 Standard, automatic transmission, 110k miles, excellent condition</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Excellent condition, 110k miles, automatic transmission, 4 Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 JAGUAR VANDER PLAS</td>
<td>4 door Loaded Leather, 120k miles, excellent condition</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Excellent condition, 120k miles, automatic transmission, 4 door Loaded Leather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER</td>
<td>AWD, 130k miles, excellent condition</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Excellent condition, 130k miles, AWD, automatic transmission</td>
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### Autos For Sale

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Make</th>
<th>Model</th>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000 FORD F-150 SUPER CAB</td>
<td>4 Standard, automatic transmission, 90k miles, excellent condition</td>
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<td>Excellent condition, 90k miles, automatic transmission, 4 Standard</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001 NISSAN ALTIMA 3.5 SL</td>
<td>4 Standard, automatic transmission, 110k miles, excellent condition</td>
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<td>Excellent condition, 110k miles, automatic transmission, 4 Standard</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Excellent condition, 130k miles, AWD, automatic transmission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Auctions

**South Chicago Auto Auction of Harvey**

396 E. 147th Street Harvey, IL 60426  
www.scaaoah.com

**Auction Dates:**

- **Thursday, February 7, 2013**
- **Thursday, February 7, 2013**
- **Thursday, February 7, 2013**
- **Thursday, February 7, 2013**

**Auction Highlights:**

- **1990 CADILLAC DEVILLE**
- **1995 CHEVROLET MALIBU**
- **1996 CHRYSLER LE BARON**
- **1998 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY**
- **1999 CHRYSLER PACIFICA**
- **2000 FORD ESCAPE XLT**
- **2001 LEXUS RX300 AWD**
- **2001 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE**
- **2002 SATURN LS**
- **2003 MITSUBISHI LANCER**
- **2004 HONDA CR-V**
- **2005 JAGUAR VANDER PLAS**
- **2005 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER**

**Contact Information:**

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- **708-275-2633**
- **732-897-5704**

**Website:**

- **muller-honda.com**

---

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2013 Honda CIVIC LX 4 DOOR Automatic, Model # FB2F5DEW, Stk # 29472
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Total due at lease inception $2,372. Includes 1st payment. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

2013 Honda ACCORD LX 4 DOOR Automatic, Model # CR2F3DEW, Stk # H29492
Lease Per Month For 36mos.
Total due at lease inception $2,342. Includes 1st payment. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

2013 Honda CR-V LX ALL WHEEL DRIVE Model # RMH3DEW, Stk # H29615
Lease Per Month For 36mos.
Total due at lease inception $2,362. Includes 1st payment. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

2013 Honda ODYSSEY EX Model # RL5H4DEW, Stk # 29453
Lease Per Month For 36mos.
Total due at lease inception $2,432. Includes 1st payment. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

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*Plus tax, title, license and doc fee, all rebates and incentives applied. **Based on closed end leases. To qualified buyers with approved credit. 12,000 allowable miles per year, 15¢ for each additional mile. *13 Civic: Residual: $12,446. *13 Accord: Residual $14,427. *13 CR-V: Residual $15,856. *13 Odyssey: Residual: $18,556. Additional options extra. Lessee is responsible for excess wear/tear, maintenance and insurance. Subject to early termination penalty. Valid three days from publication. Dealer will not honor errors in this advertisement. Not available with any previous offers. *0.9% APR Financing to qualified buyers with approved credit.
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PHILADELPHIA Creamy Chicken Florentine
PREP: 20 minutes | TOTAL TIME: 20 minutes | MAKES: 4 servings, 1¼ cups each

what you need
1 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into bite-size pieces
½ cup halved red pepper strips
1 tub (10 oz.) PHILADELPHIA Savory Garlic Cooking Creme
1 pkg. (6 oz.) baby spinach leaves
2 cups hot cooked penne pasta
2 Tbsp. toasted Italian pine nuts

make it
COOK chicken and peppers in large nonstick skillet on medium heat 5 to 6 min. or until chicken is done.
ADD cooking creme; cook and stir 3 min.
STIR in spinach and pasta; top with nuts.

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For a dry cough without mucus, suppressants are designed to stop the cough reflex.

Answers at Walgreens™

The information provided is not a substitute for medical advice. Consult your physician for diagnosis and treatment of your medical condition.

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5,000 points = $5  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Value</th>
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</table>

*Points cannot be earned or redeemed on some items, and points will not be earned in a transaction where Redemption Dollars are used. For terms and conditions, visit Walgreens.com/Balance.
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with card
Lysol Disinfecting Wipes, 35 pk.
Offer good 2/10 thru 2/23/13

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<th>Check Design #</th>
<th>Check Start #</th>
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<td>CHECK PRICES</td>
<td>Omit your choice: Omit end price. Total below offer available to new customers only.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2 BOXES</td>
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<td>$9.50</td>
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*of equal or lesser price

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Trojan Condoms,
10 or 12 ct.
Offer good 1/27 thru 2/23/13

**buy 1 get 1**

**50% off**

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Durex
12 pk. Condoms
Offer good 1/27 thru 2/23/13

**buy 1 get 1**

**50% off**

*of equal or lesser price

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Libido-Max
for Men, 30 pk.
Offer good 1/27 thru 2/23/13

**5.99**

Sale Price

Fresh+Sexy
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Cover Story
Gorilla Tango mashes up 'Saved by the Bell' and 'Breaking Bad.'

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

Family Friendly
Chilly Fest has all sorts of cool weather activities.

What to Do
Your calendar for this week and beyond.

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

Eat
Find out where to get your paczkis for Fat Tuesday.

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Bayside's principal goes bad in 'Breaking Belding'

BY MARISSA CURNUTTE | Contributor

Mr. Belding transforms from compassionate, rule-following high school principal into a crazed drug lord in "Breaking Belding."

Written by Pete Mandra, the "Saved by the Bell" meets "Breaking Bad" hour-long parody opens Saturday at Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre.

The innocent characters of America's beloved '90s sitcom follow the general storyline of "Breaking Bad," minus the extreme violence of the Emmy-nominated drama. After being diagnosed with cancer like "Breaking Bad" high school chemistry teacher Walter White, Mr. Belding teams up with his student Screech to cook meth in Max's Diner — paying homage to Gus Fring at Los Pollos Hermanos in the AMC series.

"The play will show how a disease will change all your ethics and morals," said director Shane Abbott, "how the skills we have can be used for good or bad, how and why you make those choices even when things are pretty apparent you're going down the wrong road."

In taking on the role of Mr. Belding, Casey Freund walks a fine line portraying two men in similar situations from polar opposite television shows.

"One of the great things about doing the role, you find where you make the transitions from one role to the other, and also where you combine the two," Freund said.

Abbott cautioned his cast to not directly imitate actors from either show because he wanted a fresh spin for the hybrid play. He admits at first being stumped about how to pull off such a dichotomy.

"It's been an amazing, great directing problem — how to tell the story and how to be faithful to these childhood characters," he said.

Abbott did not want to denigrate the "Saved by the Bell" characters and promises fans will see the original Bayside 6 they grew up watching. Zack Morris is still most concerned about his hair and making sure Kelly Kapowski goes to the dance with him. Lisa Turtle is worried about money as always. Screech Powers is in love with Lisa. Jessie Spano is the overachiever. A.C. Slater may not be as buff as admirers remember, but he's still A.C. Slater.

"What will be interesting is seeing how people take the 'Breaking Bad' mix in. It's a very adult and complicated issue that you are inserting into a pretty vanilla world," Abbott said.

A melting pot of the rest of the "Breaking Bad" characters, Zack and crew say and do things the drama's followers will recognize from the series. One of the most iconic "Breaking Bad" scenes is when Walter White tells his wife, "I am not in danger, I am the danger."

"When you hear that within the context of what we're doing in the play it's hilarious," Freund said. "Mr. Belding says that to Kelly. Finding these little gems of comedy amidst a lot of darkness is fun."

Mixing a classic comedy with a modern-day drama also highlights how television has changed over the decades.

"We have gone really far," Abbott said. "With 'Saved by the Bell,' everything got tied up in a nice bow at the end. Whereas 'Breaking Bad,' their problems never seem to get solved. You're yelling at them saying, You can solve these with some 'Saved by the Bell' techniques!"

Abbott, who has directed 10 plays for Gorilla Tango, said "Breaking Belding" is the craziest.

"You can get real highbrow about it and talk about how it's the metamorphosis of man returning back to visit darker roots," he said. "Or you can just say it's a weird play."
Managing Editor Jennifer Thomas' entertainment picks for this week

**1.** Big Bad Voodoo Daddy (above) performs at 8 p.m. Feb. 8 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Visit northshorecenter.org.

**2.** Chicago Film Critics Awards Show takes place at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 9 at Rosemont 18, 9701 Bryn Mawr Ave. Guests include Jane Lynch and Joe Piscopo. Chicagofilmcritics.org.

**3.** Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra presents music by Ives, Schumann and more at 3 p.m. Feb. 10 at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. See northshorecenter.org.

**4.** 'A Conversation on the Art of Storytelling with Alex Kotlowitz and Dave Isay' is at 6 p.m. Feb. 12 at Northwestern University. See northwestern.edu/writing-arts/.

**5.** Goose Island Beer Dinner takes place at 7 p.m. Feb. 21 at Pinstripes in Northbrook, 1150 Willow Road. Cost is $50. For reservations, call (847) 480-2323.
Classic romance films to spread the love

-By Pioneer Press Staff

Don't spend Valentine's Day cuddling up with Ryan Gosling, Channing Tatum or some other more recent romantic movie star.

Spend the holiday that's all about love with classic romance. We've picked 10 classic films that will get you in the lovey-dovey mood.

1. "The African Queen" (1951) - Katharine Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart star in this film about a riverboat captain helping a British missionary at the outbreak of war. The two bond over a plot to fight some Germans and end up married.

2. "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" (1954) - This movie doesn't have just one love story, there's seven. A bunch of backwoods men are made over by their new sister-in-law (Jane Powell), in the hope that they'll meet some girls they can marry. They do, but they're also involved in a big brawl, kidnapping and an avalanche before love blooms.

3. "Some Like It Hot" (1959) - A Marilyn Monroe flick that has Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon in drag, hiding from gangsters in an all-woman band. Joe (Curtis) tries to woo vocalist/ukulele player Sugar Kane (Monroe) by taking on a second disguise - a millionaire who has a cold heart. Shenanigans commence and the moral of the story is "nobody's perfect."

4. "Roman Holiday" (1953) - Audrey Hepburn won an Oscar for her role as a princess who wants to tour Rome without her entourage. Gregory Peck is a reporter who finds the wandering princess without recognizing her immediately. After he does figure out her identity, he takes her around town, creating an exclusive story for himself. He eventually decides to not run what he has since he cares for her.

5. "An Affair to Remember" (1957) - While traveling, Terry and Nickie (Deborah Kerr and Cary Grant) become close acquaintances. The friendship blossoms into a relationship, but is cut short by an accident and misunderstanding. The two reunite after some time as if no time had passed. The film was the basis for 1993's "Sleepless in Seattle."

6. "Philadelphia Story" (1940) - Divorce might not be the end for some couples. For Tracy and Dexter (Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant), it's the beginning of new flirtations even though socialite, Tracy, is about to marry another man. There's a third man in the picture, a tabloid journalist (James Stewart), who is also attracted to Tracy. Who will she marry in the end?

7. "It Happened One Night" (1934) - An heiress (Claudette Colbert) wants to live life for herself without all her father's rules. After her father has her marriage annulled, she runs away in the hopes of finding her husband. She meets a reporter (Clark Gable) who offers to help for an exclusive story. Instead of a story, or finding that spouse, the two fall in love.

8. "Easter Parade" (1948) - Fred Astaire and Judy Garland star in this romantic musical. The two start as song and dance partners, but there is romance in the air. Don (Astaire) tries to mold Hannah (Garland) into his perfect partner, but then discovers her natural charms. There are a few bouts with jealousy and some misunderstandings, but the co-stars end up happy together.

9. "The Shop Around the Corner" (1940) - As the precursor to "You've Got Mail," the stars of this film, two rival employees at a gift shop, fall in love via handwritten correspondence. James Stewart is Alfred Krall, the top salesman at the shop. He finds out that his annoying coworker Klara Novak (Margaret Sullavan) is the wonderful woman he's been corresponding with.

10. "Pillow Talk" (1959) - It's no party when the telephone company forces Jan (Doris Day) and Brad (Rock Hudson) to share a phone line. Brad meets Jan in real life and pretends to be a Texan named Rex. The two start a relationship, but Jan figures out his deceit and breaks it off. However, Brad has really fallen for her and tries to find a way back to Jan's heart.
Dough is a go: Where to pick up paczkis

**BY HEATHER LESZCZEWICZ | hleszczewicz@pioneerlocal.com**

February 12 isn't just Fat Tuesday — it's also Paczki Day! (Sometimes also celebrated on Feb. 7, known as Fat Thursday.) Paczki are a Polish delicacy and are similar, but not equal to, a jelly- or cream-filled doughnut. Larger than doughnuts, paczkis are rich, decadent treats filled with fresh fruits and all sorts of creme and mousse options, topped with powdered sugar, icing or chocolate.

Check out our guide to local bakeries that will sell paczkis for a limited time. Make sure to call ahead to order or to confirm the dates of sale.

**Aracely's Bakery**
15 W. Harris Ave., Suite 101, La Grange, (708) 352-1767
9667 Franklin Ave, Franklin Park, (847) 455-7658
www.aracelysbakeryinc.com

**Central Continental Bakery**
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(847) 870-9500, www.centralcontinentalbakery.com

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**Deerfields Bakery**
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BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

The resourceful staff at Emily Oaks Nature Center is prepared for Winter Chilly Fest, no matter what the weather.

"We had Chilly Fest when it was 60 degrees and we've had it when it was zero," facility manager Lee Hansen said.

From 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9 and Sunday, Feb. 10 at 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, there will be an ice car derby, snow painting, a snowball toss, dressing a plywood snowman, crafts, hayrides, an ice carving demonstration, campfire, marshmallow roast and more.

"Ice skating is the big question mark," Hansen said. If the pond is frozen, it is "such a magical place to skate."

Participants will dine on turkey or vegetarian chili with cornbread (kids can get a turkey hotdog), beverages and dessert.

The cost is $9, $7 for kids younger than 10 before Feb. 8; $11 and $9 after that; $5 for the activities only. Advance registration is encouraged to schedule your dinner.

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

PSEUDO SUMMER

The fact that it's February doesn't deter Dave Rudolf from staging a Valentine's Beach Party, 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10 at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. There will be music and controlled mayhem for all ages. Pick up tickets at the Youth Services desk one-half hour before the performance.

For details, call (847) 663-1234 or go to www.nileslibrary.org.

HEART TIMES

Kids ages 5 and older, accompanied by an adult,
Try snow painting at Chilly Fest Feb. 9-10. will view historic valentines and then create one of their own at Valentines, noon to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10 at the Skokie Heritage Museum, 8031 Floral Ave. Cost is $2 for residents, $3 for nonresidents. Registration is encouraged but walk-ins are welcome.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 3000 or go to www.skokieparks.org.

**WINTER WARM-UP**

Imagine your child, age 9 months-4 years old, playing in the snow, sledding, building a snowman and ice skating without getting cold. That's the plan for Winterpalooza with Kid Rock, 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12 at the Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave. It's all happening indoors through musical activities and imagination. Cost is $10 for residents, $12 for nonresidents.

For details, call (847) 677-9740 or go to www.lincolnwoodil.org/special-events.cfm.

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Think of Lupita's when planning your Valentine's Day events. Chef Lupita will be featuring her "Like Water for Chocolate" menu. The dishes: Chile Nogada, Cornish Hen in Rose Petal Sauce, Turkey in Mole, and even the Wedding Cake, were inspired by the book "Like Water for Chocolate" by Laura Esquivel.

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Musicians vanish, gender wars rage at PRCO concert

"The “Farewell” is Haydn’s Symphony No. 45, a work unique in that composer’s vast output.

It seems that Haydn’s patron Prince Esterhazy had kept the court musicians for an extended time at his summer palace. The men, missing their wives, wanted to return home. So in the final movement of the piece, musicians one by one left the stage, until Haydn and his concertmaster were the only ones left.

“The prince got the message,” said Edgar Muenzer, founder and music director emeritus of the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra, adding that the whole court moved back to its original home the next day. The orchestra, under his baton, will play Symphony No. 45, complete with vanishing musicians, next Sunday.

The “Kiss” portion of the title refers to Cole Porter’s lively 1948 Broadway musical “Kiss Me Kate,” excerpts of which will be sung by the husband and wife team of Kathleen and Peter Van de Graaff.

“There will be some wonderful songs,” explained Muenzer. “It’s Cole Porter’s greatest hit and the only of his musicals to run more than 1,000 performances on Broadway.” That show won five Tony Awards in 1949, including Best Musical and Best Original Score for Porter. Its 1999 Broadway revival won five more Tony Awards in 2000, including Best Revival

Kathleen and Peter Van de Graaff
of a Musical.

Van de Graaff loves to sing the songs in "Kate," no matter the restrictions. "I think it is the greatest musical ever written," he insisted. "The music is so beautiful and Cole Porter's lyrics just blow away everyone else."

Songs on the Sunday program include "So in Love," "Wunderbar," "I Hate Men," to be sung by Kathleen, and "Where is the Life of Late I Led?" a number for Peter.

The show is based on Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew," and places the war between the sexes in a modern setting. One of its most entertaining numbers is "Brush Up Your Shakespeare."

"In the full show that is sung by two gangsters," said Van de Graaff, "but it's so much fun that Kathleen and I are going to sing it together."

Kathleen Van de Graaff has sung with the Chicago Opera Theater, Milwaukee Opera Company, and Music of the Baroque, and with organizations in 33 of the United States. She and her husband Peter have traveled to Europe collecting early 18th-century chamber operas, and have given modern premieres in this country, Costa Rica and Asia, as well as on live broadcasts over WFMT, Chicago. She teaches at Lake Forest College.

Peter Van de Graaff, who recently returned from a seven-concert tour in China, was appointed program director of WFMT in December. He has been a soloist in Salzburg's International Vocal Symposium and sang with the Czech State Symphony, under Paul Freeman. He has appeared with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Houston Symphony, the Omaha Symphony, and many other American orchestras, working under conductors such as Pierre Boulez, Thomas Wilkman, Jane Glover, Victor Yampolsky, Daniel Hege, and Nicholas Kraemer.

In addition the afternoon program will include Hindemith's powerful "Symphonic Metamorphosis" on Themes by Carl Maria von Weber.

"We had a fundraiser and one of the auction items was the opportunity to choose a piece for our orchestra to play," said Muenzer, who was named 2002 Conductor of the Year by the Illinois Council of Orchestras for his work in Park Ridge. "Our clarinetist Matthew Haster selected the Hindemith and won the bidding. So we are playing that."

The community orchestra has about 60 members, but seven more have been added for this program. "The Pickwick was built as a movie theater, so the stage is not very large," Muenzer concluded. "That's about all the musicians we can fit."

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- 3 Eggs, American Fries and 2 Pancakes
- French Toast
- Golden Waffle

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- Baked veal cutlet with mashed potatoes and gravy • Filet of sole with lemon butter sauce and rice
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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HORRIBLE BOSSES
AND THE PRODUCER OF TED

IDENTITY THIEF

SHE'S HAVING THE TIME OF HIS LIFE

Cedric Young (right), former Chicago firefighter and Evanston actor (shown with Travis Turner on left, Andre Teamer in the center), appears in "Bud, Not Buddy," an adaptation of Christopher Paul Curtis' acclaimed novel of that name. The play is presented by Chicago Children's Theatre at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts, 1016 N. Dearborn St., Chicago. Shows are 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Thursdays (including preshow pizza party at 5:30 p.m.), 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Fridays (including post-show party), 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturdays, and 11 a.m. Sundays, through Feb. 24. Tickets are $26 for children, $36 for adults, $20 for dinner and show Thursday evenings, and $25 for show and party Friday evenings. Call (872) 222-9555; www.chicagochildrenstheatre.org. | PHOTO BY CHARLES OSGOOD

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IDENTITY THIEF

Rated
R for sexual content and language
Stars
Jason Bateman, Melissa McCarthy
A mild-mannered businessman (Bateman) learns his identity has been stolen and travels to Florida to confront the thief (McCarthy).

SIDE EFFECTS

★★★
Rated
R for sexuality, nudity, violence and language
Stars
Jude Law, Rooney Mara, Channing Tatum
A psychiatrist (Law) prescribes a new anti-depressant to a patient (Mara) and watches his world fall apart after she commits a shocking act under its influence. Steven Soderbergh (“Magic Mike”) directed the drama.

STILL PLAYING

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
You know what to expect in a movie with a title like “Bullet to the Head,” and that’s precisely what this brutally hard-hitting testo-saga delivers — unapologetic carnage unencumbered by anything like redeeming social value. There are a couple of bonuses, though, that up the entertainment value. “Bullet” was shot with old-school style — 80s action maestro Walter Hill (“48 Hours”) and the wisecracks deployed by stall-macho-after-all-these-years Stallone are actually kind of funny. The plot is so generic/absurd that it’s hardly worth mentioning — as hit man Jimmy Bobo, Stallone teams up with a naïve young detective to bring down an evil real-estate tycoon.

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 implicated anyone in an armed-robbery shootout. Doc treats Val to an evening of hookers and hardcore partying, but there’s a problem. A vengeful 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 brief strong language and suggestive humor
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.

Film Clips

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

BROKEN CITY

Rated
R for pervasive language, some sexual content and violence
Stars
Russell Crowe, Mark Wahlberg, Catherine Zeta-Jones
Dramatically ho-hum, morally abysmal and ridiculously complicated, “Broken City” is the kind of movie where nothing is as it appears, there’s a double-twist to just about every character and unrelentingly noir is the name of the game. New York City mayor Hostetler (Crowe) hires Billy Taggart (Wahlberg), a disgraced former detective turned sleazy private eye, to find out who’s having an affair with his wife (Zeta-Jones). Or so it seems for about 10 minutes before the surface plot unravels with one nasty complication after another, until the plot threads are so snarled it takes Taggart upwards of an hour to sort things out — and even when he does, things still don’t make a lot of sense. Though the deep-noir mood established by director Allen Hughes is some compensation. If “Broken City” were as credible as it is moody and atmospheric, it might be more worthwhile. Unfortunately, it’s about as convincing as the mayor’s orange tan.
'Side Effects' thrilling, but sometimes hard to swallow

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

'Side Effects'

It's possible that the cool, cerebral "Side Effects" might be too clever for its own good, but how long has it been since you last saw a movie that really kept you guessing?

Another way to look at it is that you get three or four or five different genres for the price of one movie in this narrative chameleon. Don't like the way the story's going? Don't worry, it will be heading someplace completely different soon.

Directed by Steven Soderbergh ("Magic Mike," "Contagion," "Ocean's Eleven"), who has announced that this will be his final theatrical release before shifting to the greener pastures of TV, "Side Effects" begins as a domestic/medical drama and stays put for a good long while. Lulling us into a false sense of security, story-wise.

The film opens with faithful wife Emily (Rooney Mara, "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo") preparing to welcome home her husband Martin (Channing Tatum) after he has served five years in prison for insider trading. It's a dismal homecoming, though, because the stress triggers Emily's latent depression and she attempts to kill herself by driving her car into a parking-garage wall.

In the emergency room, she meets sympathetic psychiatrist Dr. Banks (Jude Law), who agrees not to hospitalize her if she will become his patient. Largely based on the recommendation of Emily's former psychiatrist, Dr. Siebert (Catherine Zeta-Jones), Banks prescribes a new antidepressant named Ablixa and all goes well — until disturbing side effects begin to emerge. First Emily becomes manic, then she starts sleepwalking and then something extremely shocking occurs that results in her being arrested.

After that, "Side Effects" seems to settle into becoming an issues-oriented drama, as Banks learns, too late, about a long history of dangerous side effects associated with Ablixa. Tormented by his conscience, he remains sympathetic to Emily, despite the fact that her arrest is having a very bad effect on his career, his marriage and his psyche.

And then everything changes. In all the plot twists and turns outlined above, there's no clue whatsoever that "Side Effects" is really something altogether different — a cold-blooded, calculating (and absurdly complicated) crime thriller.

Some may find that revelation a deliciously wicked treat while others may feel that their chains have been rattled shamelessly up to that point by Soderbergh and screenwriter Scott Z. Burns ("Contagion," "The Bourne Ultimatum."). Either way, they'll probably be fascinated to learn the whole story as the denouement plays itself out, while halfway expecting some other development to come along and transform the movie into an 18th-century costume drama.

Spoiler alert: That doesn't happen.
### Movie theaters

A comprehensive list of movie times is available online at www.pioneerlocal.com. Choose your publication, and then select the Entertainment tab.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theater Name</th>
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<th>Website</th>
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| **CENTURY 12 EVANSTON/CINÉARTS 6 AND XD** | 1715 Maple Ave. Evanston  
(847) 491-9751  
www.cinemark.com |              |                  |
| **HIGHLAND PARK THEATRE**        | 445 Central Ave. Highland Park  
The theater is currently closed for maintenance. |              |                  |
| **RENAISSANCE PLACE.CINEMA**     | 1850 2nd St. Highland Park  
(847) 258-7282  
www.landmarktheatres.com |              |                  |
| **AMC SHOWPLACE NILES 12**       | 301 Golf Mill Center Niles  
(888) AMC-4FUN  
www.amctheatres.com |              |                  |
| **PICKWICK THEATRE**             | 5 S. Prospect Ave. Park Ridge  
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www.pickwicktheatre.com |              |                  |
| **ROSEMONT 18**                  | 9701 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont  
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www.muvico.com |              |                  |
| **ROSEMONT PREMIER**             | 9701 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont  
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**STAGE**

**Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre**


"Little Women: The Musical"

Feb. 16-March 3 at the John Waldron Arts Center at Edison Park United Methodist Church, 6740 N. Oliphant Ave., Chicago, at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays; and 1:30 p.m. Sundays. $20; $15 students and seniors. Call (224) 725-3696.

"Twelfth Night"

Equity actors from the Shakespeare Project of Chicago present a theatrical reading of Shakespeare's comedy at 7 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. Visit www.nileslibrary.org/shakespeare.

**CLASSICAL**

**Antiqua Baroque Consort**

18+
Performing chamber and vocal music of Bach, Handel, Vivaldi and other Baroque masters, on authentic period instruments, at 4 p.m. Feb. 17 at St. Paul of the Cross Church, 320 S. Washington St., Park Ridge. Free-will donations. Call (847) 825-7605.

**Chicago a cappella**

18+

Pick-Staiger Concert Hall

13+ 18+ 65+
At Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. www.pickstaiger.org. Feb. 10 in the Theatre for the Performing Arts at Maine West High School, 1755 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines. The program includes Bizet-Hunsberger's "Carmen Fantasia"; David Otts' Symphony No. 5; and Brahms' "Tragic Overture." Pre-concert commentary by Carolyn Paulin is at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are $20; $15 seniors; $10 students. Children under age 14 admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult. Visit www.northwestsymphony.org.

Maestro Paul Vermel conducts the Northwest Symphony Orchestra in "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. The program includes Bizet-Hunsberger's "Carmen Fantasia"; David Otts' Symphony No. 5; and Brahms' "Tragic Overture." Pre-concert commentary by Carolyn Paulin is at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are $20; $15 seniors; $10 students. Children under age 14 admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult. Visit www.northwestsymphony.org.

**What to Do (Page 66)**
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What to Do
Continued from page 65

Youth Choral Theater of Chicago


Akoo Theatre at Rosemont


Bluegrass Legends Concerts

Held at the American Legion Music Hall, 1030 Central St., Evanston. www.chicagobluegrass.com. $20; $15 for children and seniors. Feb. 9, 8 p.m.: Bubbly Creek Bluegrass Band with stride pianist Sam Grossner.

Ethical Humanist Society Second Saturday Coffeehouse

7574 N. Lincoln Ave. (at Howard), Skokie. www.ethicalhuman.org/coffeehouse. Feb. 9: Folk singers Dennis Harpole and Sharon Appelquist, Lisa Crowe, and Anything Delicious, a teen band featuring Kevin and Andrew Wokosin, following 8 p.m. open mic. $8.

InterContinental Chicago O'Hare Hotel


Lincolnwood Public Library

4000 W. Pratt Ave. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Feb. 17, 2 p.m.: The In Full Swing jazz orchestra plays big band favorites.

Niles Public Library

6960 Oakton St., Niles. www.nileslibrary.org. Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m.: Singer Diva Montell performs her "Be My Valentine Show."

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Oakton Community College


BOOKS & POETRY

Lincolnwood Public Library


CHILD'S PLAY

Niles Public Library

6960 Oakton St., Niles. Feb. 10, 2 p.m.: Dave Rudolf Valentine's Beach Party. Feb. 23, 2 p.m.: Family Movie — "Chimpanzee."
“Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs”


COMEDY

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) 866-8385.

DANCE

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. Also offering free square dance lessons 7-9 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Summit of Uptown, 10 N. Summit, Park Ridge. Call (773) 685-8407.

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- The Guardian, London

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Dinner & Murder Mystery St. Charles Location

February 23, 2013
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What to Do

Continued from page 67

at 10 p.m. Feb. 8-9 and
7:30 p.m. Feb. 11 at the
Patio Theater, 6008 W
Irving Park Road, Chi-
cago. $7. Visit www.chi-
cagocinemasociety.org.

Lincolnwood Public
Library

18+
4000 W. Pratt Ave.
www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Feb. 8, 1 p.m.: "Touchback." Feb. 14, 10:30 a.m.: "The In-
touchables" (in French
with English subtitles).
Feb. 14, 1 p.m.: Cin-
ematic Classics series
features "Casablanca." Coming Together In

Northwest Chicago
Film Society

18+ 65+
Classic Film Series is
held at 7:30 p.m. Mon-
days and Wednesdays,
unless otherwise noted,
at the Portage Theater,
4050 N. Milwaukee
Ave., Chicago. Admission
is $5. Visit www.
northwestchicagofilm-
society.org. Feb. 13:
"Dracula" (1931 Spanish
version). Feb. 18: "Bring
Me the Head of Alfredo
Garcia" (1974).

North Shore Center
for the Performing
Arts

9501 Skokie Blvd., Skok-
ie. (847) 673-6300.
www.northshorecenter.
org. Feb. 9, 7 p.m.: The
Magic of Bill Blagg.
Tickets are $28, $34.

Illinois Holocaust
Museum &
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9603 Woods Drive,
Skokie. www.iholo-
castmuseum.org. Admis-
sion: $12; $8 for
students and senior
citizens; $6 for children
ages 5-11. Through April
21: "Courage: The Vision
to End Segregation,
The Guts to Fight for It.",
Feb. 10, 1:30 p.m.: "Cello Compositions of
Richard Stöhr, Persecut-
ed Composer." Cellist
Stefan Koch, Lansing
(Michigan) Symphony
member, accompanied
by pianist Robert Con-
way, will perform the
rarely heard cello works
of Richard Stöhr, who
 taught at the Vienna
Academy of Music from
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Why Do these Companies Hire Veterans?

Answer: Job Skills

By: John Rosshem, Monster Senior Contributing Writer

You'd think that employers would find a tremendous source of skills in people who can:
- Jump from planes to quickly subdue enemies on the battlefield.
- Collaborate in confined quarters to operate complex nuclear technologies at great ocean depths.
- Simultaneously translate sensitive communications from any of a hundred languages.

And the fact is - you'd be right.

Veterans of the US Armed Forces are a deep well of talent. In addition to their broad range of technical skills, veterans have a well-deserved reputation for soft skills and admirable qualities.

But matches between highly skilled veterans and the companies that need them aren't always easy to make. While tools such as the Military Tools Translator and Veterans Talent Index can help, millions of former servicemen and women still have difficulty finding work, especially veterans of the Iraq War. For those who served post-9/11, the unemployment rate rose to 11.7 percent in September 2011 from 10.2 percent 12 months earlier, according to a Bureau of Labor Statistics report. Meanwhile, even through prolonged recession and stagnation, employers say skilled candidates are often hard to find.

These four employers hire veterans for their diverse job skills:

- **Prudential**: Helping Skilled Veterans with a Challenging Translation
  - Prudential Financial has found its military recruitment program to be a great investment in human capital. The Armed Forces are renowned for their copious use of acronyms; similar skills may be described in completely different terms in the corporate world.

- **Cyrell Johnson**: A Special Forces Paratrooper in Diverse Roles
  - Cyrell Johnson, an Army veteran, employee of the US Bureau of Reclamation and president of the Student Veterans Organization of Colorado Technical University, completed his service as a Special Forces paratrooper in 2001. He experienced this confusion firsthand. "I found it difficult leaving the military and entering the job market, finding the right job that matched my skills."

- **Alpine Access**: Flexible Work for a Diverse Veteran Workforce
  - Alpine Access: Flexible Work for a Diverse Veteran Workforce
  - Disabled veterans are another significant labor pool with varied skills to offer private-sector employers.

- **Siemens**: Large-scale Recruitment for Broad Array of Technical Challenges
  - Siemens has begun using aggressive military recruitment to fill a large talent gap. "We've had 3,000 open requisitions for a long time in engineering, sales and so on," says Mike Panigel, senior vice president of human resources at Siemens, a global electronics and engineering firm with U.S. headquarters in Washington, D.C. "We've brought in 530 veterans in about a year, from service and field technicians to marketers and project engineers."

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Siemens finds veterans to be a superior pool of candidates. "Technicians coming out of the military have worked on complex, expensive, large equipment," says Panigel. "They know how to accomplish a mission and they're diverse. Altogether they are a great source to recruit."

**PPL**: Mining a Rich and Rare Vein of Nuclear Knowhow

The answer to finding reliable nuclear engineers is clear for energy company PPL Corp. "Nuclear power is a unique source for electric generation, with lots of safeguards and compliance issues," says Neal Coy, military recruiter with Allentown, Pa.-based PPL. "Navy nuclear vets understand this, because they've dealt with uranium." PPL recruits veterans as plant operators, technicians and instructors, among other roles.

"We target three military bases that house individuals who are likely to have the qualifications for our jobs," says Coy. "We go to military job fairs and participate in Transition Assistance Program classes to talk about the transition to civilian employment and how to interview."

Through the military recruitment process, PPL keeps an eye out for candidates who appear able to overcome the organizational culture shock they will likely face.

**Alpine Access**: Flexible Work for a Diverse Veteran Workforce

Disabled veterans are another significant labor pool with varied skills to offer private-sector employers.

"We recruit people who might not be able to work outside the home," says Stacey Orin, manager of flex recruiting at Alpine Access, a Denver-based third-party call center whose customer service representatives are home-based.

Orin says veterans have what it takes to put in long shifts, speaking with customers, satisfied and otherwise. "One of the things we look for — and find — in veterans is the ability to communicate and to focus on the job at hand," says Orin.

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Hinsdale South alumnus Landon Joiner was recently named the Wisconsin-Whitewater Swimmer of the Week. In his team's Jan. 26 win against Wisconsin-Eau Claire, the senior from Hinsdale took first place in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 22.25 seconds and first place in the 100 free with a time of 48.63. Joiner was also part of the first-place 400 free relay team that finished with a time of 3:15.70.

Evanston alumnus Chris Medard, a freshman guard for the Oakton Community College men's basketball team, led the Raiders to a 77-70 home win against the College of Lake County Jan. 24.

Medard finished with a team-high 15 points and helped the Raiders take their third win in their last four Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference games.

Fellow Evanston graduate Matt Marol, a redshirt junior cross country runner for Miami (Ohio), was named to the 2012 Academic All-Mid-American Conference Men's Cross Country Team. This is the Evanston native's second such honor. Marol, a management and leadership major and entrepreneurship minor, has a 3.77 grade-point average. As a member of the cross country team, he ran in all six races this season. Marol was the team's sixth finisher in its first four meets and the seventh finisher in Miami's final two races. Marol's season-best 8K came at Pre-Nationals Oct. 13 where he finished with a time of 25:32.9.

— Nick Bullock

Have a suggestion for the College Roundup? Email Nick Bullock at bullockpioneerpress@gmail.com.

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How did the Super Bowl get its name? Simpler than you might think. In 1966, Kansas City Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt was watching his kids play with a SuperBall, and the name just came to him. It was at the time the hottest toy on the market, with Wham-O manufacturing more than 170,000 every day. Hunt told his fellow owners, "I have jokingly called it the 'Super Bowl,' which obviously can be improved upon." Almost half a century later, no improvement necessary.

With their opening round loss to Houston in the 2012 NFL playoffs, the Cincinnati Bengals hadn't won a postseason game since 1991, longest drought in the league. But it could be worse. At least the Bengals made it to two Super Bowls in the 1960s. How about the Detroit Lions? Since 1957—a span of 55 years—the Lions have won exactly one playoff game. Detroit is the only franchise in continuous existence since the start of the Super Bowl in 1967 that has never even appeared in the game.

Detroit is tied for third all time in most consecutive seasons without a playoff win with 33, from 1958 through 1990. New Orleans also went 33 years, from 1967 through 1999. Any guesses which franchise holds the record, and how long it is? The answer is the Cardinals, first in Chicago and then in St. Louis (now in Arizona) — a dreadfully long 50 years, from 1948 through 1997 without a postseason victory. In second place is Pittsburgh with 37 years (1933 through 1971), winningest team in the Super Bowl era with six titles.

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Don't Miss

Friday-Saturday

Wrestling: Notre Dame at Maine East Individual Sectional, 5:30 p.m. Friday
Notre Dame began the championship round of the Evanston Regional on fire, as senior Chris Sommers (106 pounds) and sophomore Jimmy Gallardo (113) both earned regional championships.

Saturday
Boys basketball: Orr at Notre Dame, 7:30 p.m.
Notre Dame receives a substantial test seemingly each week. This week, the Dons will play arguably their toughest opponent of the season when they face Orr. A night after knocking off national power Whitney Young, Orr was announced as the No. 1 seed in the CPS Tournament on Saturday.

Mooney expected back soon from injury

BY MATT HARNESS | mharness@pioneerlocal.com | @harnesspreps

WILMETTE

Matt Mooney said he was successful in playing through pain at times last season.

But Friday’s fall was too much for him to overcome, resulting in the Notre Dame senior guard and Air Force recruit missing his first game since his sophomore season.

Not to worry, Dons fans. The 6-foot-4 Mooney said Sunday he hopes to be back in action this weekend when No. 10-ranked Notre Dame (18-4) plays host to Joliet Catholic on Friday and No. 3 Orr on Saturday.

“That’s the plan,” he said. “I will do whatever it takes to return. It stunk missing Saturday’s game. It killed me.”

Mooney bruised his tailbone after a hard foul during the second quarter of Friday’s 47-42 loss to Carmel. He said he woke up Saturday morning with even worse discomfort. The injury sidelined him for that night’s game against Loyola, one the Dons lost 63-54 in overtime.

“I tried to do some stuff around the house, like slides and some running, but I couldn’t play,” said Mooney, who had a similar injury this summer that took about a week to heal. “I do feel better (Sunday), but any time I push off my right side with any force it sends a sharp pain up my right side.”

Senior forward Justin Halloran said the Dons weren’t the same Saturday at Loyola’s War on the Shore without Mooney.

“He’s a huge piece for us,” said Halloran, who recently was out for a spell with a broken knuckle on his right index finger. “He can score, and he also makes plays for Notre Dame junior Duante Stephens drives to the basket during the War on the Shore game Saturday against host Loyola. Visit niles.suntimes.com/sports to view a photo gallery from the game.
Notre Dame senior Eddie Serrano (1) attempts a jump shot while being guarded by Loyola junior Jack Morrissey (25) during their War on the Shore game Saturday. [MICHAEL JARECKI - For Sun-Times Media]

others. We struggled on offense without him, and it showed."

Mooney already seemed to be on the road to recovery Sunday. The Wauconda resident was getting in an afternoon workout at his local YMCA, doing some weight lifting before shooting some baskets in an effort to maintain his form.

"I don't want to miss any more games," he said.

Notre Dame, on its first two-game losing streak of the season, continues its gauntlet of opponents this weekend, especially Saturday against Orr, which earned the top seed for the Chicago Public League playoffs after beating Young last week.

"We know we have a special group this season, and we want to be ready for the playoffs," Mooney said. "We are not afraid to play anyone. We want to be challenged."
Junior class behind improvement

BY ERIC VAN DRIL | Contributor | @EricVanDril

Friday-Saturday
Wrestling: Maine East at Maine East Individual Sectional, 5:30 p.m. Friday
Maine East had six wrestlers reach consolation finals at the Schaumburg Regional on Saturday, and three of those wrestlers won their matches to finish in third place and advance to sectionals.

Tuesday
Girls basketball: Maine East vs. Niles West in Evanston Regional, 7:30 p.m.
It's been 11 years since the Maine East girls basketball team reached a regional title game. That stretch will end if the Blue Demons, who are the No. 8 seed in the Loyola Sectional, are able to defeat the No. 10-seeded Wolves.

PARK RIDGE

When its members were in eighth grade at Gemini Junior High School, the Maine East girls basketball junior class was well aware of the challenge it was about to undertake.

"We always knew Maine East was losers," Blue Demons junior center Shaylee Sloan said. "Maine East is losers, that's what they called us because it was so easy to beat us. And then our eighth-grade year, Maine East's (coaches) came to our school and we were like, 'We want to change it. We want to get a banner and do some things.'"

After two lean years which saw Maine East continue its residence in CSL North's basement, the program's status has been altered this season largely because of the Blue Demons' junior class.

Maine East starts four juniors — Sloan, point guard Jazlene Gonzalez, guard Elanta Slowek and forward Maria Protic — alongside freshman guard Janelle Alba Garner. Those five players play the majority of the minutes at their respective positions and have been able to lift the program out of its futile state.

Maine East is currently 4-5 within the CSL North and is guaranteed to finish above last place in the conference for the first time since joining the league in 1972, according to Blue Demons coach Karol Hanusiak.

Still, Hanusiak knows that her squad, which only has two seniors this season, is capable of accomplishing more.

The fifth-year coach started challenging her
Maine East's Jaziene Gonzalez (13) scores during the first quarter Friday at Deerfield. She is one of four juniors in the starting lineup who has helped reverse the Blue Demons' fortunes. | BRIAN O'MAHONEY-for Sun-Times Media

Despite decades of losing and finishing at the bottom of the CSL North, Maine East's current group of juniors expected to change the program. They experienced a great deal of success in eighth grade at Gemini, and have kept that confidence as they spearheaded the program's revival.

"We kind of turned the (Gemini) program around while we were there," Protic said. "We were first in conference, record-wise. We were like, 'We're playing these same girls in high school. There's no reason why we shouldn't be continuing to beat them while we're here.' We always go back to eighth grade, like 'Do you remember when we did this? We can do that again. Nothing's changed.'"

Maine East was 10-14 going into Monday's home game against Ridgewood.

players to elevate the program to new heights in the preseason. Some of those goals, like reaching a regional championship game for the first time in 11 years and winning a regional championship, remain.

Maine East is the No. 8 seed in the Class 4A Loyola Sectional. It opens postseaon play in the Evanston Regional against No. 10 Niles West at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

"One of the first things we did at the beginning of the season was I said 'Look up at the banners. When's the last time Maine East has won the conference?'" Hanusiak said. "They were looking and looking. 'Never.' "Yeah, never. How would you like to have a banner with your year on there? When's the last time Maine East has won a regional championship?' They figured out it was 1982. So, all of these things are in play. This year, we got to double-digit (wins). We're going to keep rolling."

Maine East's Jaziene Gonzalez (13) scores during the first quarter Friday at Deerfield. She is one of four juniors in the starting lineup who has helped reverse the Blue Demons' fortunes. | BRIAN O'MAHONEY-for Sun-Times Media

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Today
Girls Basketball: Niles North at Maine East, 7:30 p.m.
Niles North wraps up its regular season with a trip to Park Ridge to face the much-improved Blue Demons. The Vikings fell to 0-9 in the CSL North on Friday when they dropped their final home game of the season to Maine West.

Don't Miss

Friday-Saturday
Wrestling: Niles North at Maine East Individual Sectional, 5:30 p.m. Friday
The Vikings advanced three wrestlers to sectionals. Niles North junior Shawn Lavi (113 pounds), sophomore Jon Pazmino (132) and senior Dan Fricano (195) all finished in the top three at the Evanston Regional on Saturday.

Dominant victory

SKOKIE
The Niles North boys swimming and diving team closed out its season with a 126-52 victory over Highland Park on senior night.
Niles North finished first in every swimming event at the meet, which was held on Jan. 31 at Niles West.
The Vikings, who compete at the CSL North swimming and diving meet on Saturday at Maine East, finished the season 7-1 in duals and won the Don Davis Invite.

This Week
Niles North

BOYS BASKETBALL
Friday
Hosts Maine East, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday
At Hersey, 6 a.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Today
Hosts Maine East, 7:30 p.m.
Monday
At Regionals TBD

GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Today
At Stevenson Sectional, 6:30 p.m.

BOYS SWIM/DIVE
Friday
Hosts Maine East, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday
At Maine East at CSL Meet
vs. Deerfield - Dive 9 a.m.; Swim 1 p.m.

WRESTLING
Friday
At Class 3A Maine East Invitational
Regional, TBA
Saturday
At Regional TBA
North’s Dillard dismissed from team

BY MATT HARNESS | mharness@pioneerlocal.com | @harnesspreps

The Niles North boys basketball program, one of the top teams in the Chicago area, will be without senior starting guard Lorenzo Dillard for the rest of the season, coach Glenn Olson confirmed Monday.

According to the Skokie Police Department, the 18-year-old Dillard was charged with domestic battery after a Jan. 27 arrest. Dillard didn't play Friday in the team's 56-54 win over Maine West, which gave the No. 13-ranked Vikings at least a share of the CSL North championship. The victory also gave the Vikings (20-3 overall, 8-0 conference) their third consecutive 20-win season and fifth in program history.

Olson said the 6-foot-2 Dillard was dismissed from the team, but the coach didn't comment as to why. Niles North athletic director Karl Costello also would not comment on Dillard's situation, other than to report that he's no longer a member of the varsity basketball team and will not be reinstated at any point.

Niles North plays at home Friday against Maine East and on the road Saturday against Hersey.

Niles West sophomore Easter adjusting to varsity foes

BY DAN SHALIN | Contributor | @danshalin

Evanston

Niles West almost pulled off one of the shockers of the girls basketball season, taking conference-leader Evanston to overtime before ultimately falling 41-37.

The fact that Evanston was celebrating its Senior Night on Jan. 31, which included an emotional pregame ceremony, may have contributed to the Wildkits' lack of focus.

But the Wolves, who fell to 4-17 overall and 2-7 in CSL South play, certainly played their part. In fact, Evanston head coach Elliot Whitefield said the visitors from Skokie actually deserved to win.

One of the key performers for Niles West was sophomore Julia Easter. The 5-foot-10 forward finished with 12 points, including a pair of three-pointers in the fourth quarter and overtime combined, and seven rebounds.

For much of the contest, Easter was matched up against likely Division I-bound Evanston center Alecia Cooley, who scored just eight points on 4-for-14 shooting. Cooley had nine rebounds as well.

"For a sophomore, (Julia) is really growing into the part of a varsity basketball player," Niles West head coach Tony Konsewicz said. "She's got to play the Coolys of the world, girls who are seniors. This is baptism under fire. (Easter) is really learning how to use her body defensively, and how to use her speed and quickness. She'll only get quicker and stronger."

Last week's contest between Evanston and Niles West was a far cry from the first meeting of the season between the teams, when the Wildkits won 51-25 on Dec. 14.

Easter termed the rematch with the Wildkits as one of her better performances, and said the game of basketball is slowing down for her. That represents a change from the beginning of the season, when Easter said she was so overwhelmed she had trouble breathing.

Still, Easter said there are times when she gets so caught up in the game or the opponent that she loses focus.

"I'm a young player and sometimes have mental lapses," she said. "I have to work on that during the offseason and season."

Older teammates said they have been pleased with Easter's progress.

"Being a young player, she's picked up good habits," senior guard Molly Kleppin said. "She works hard in practice every day. She really helped us (against Evanston). She hit some huge shots and played some tough defense on posts who are much bigger than her. I'm really proud of her."
Making state could be a close shave for Nickell

SKOKIE

After Friday night's regular season-ending dual meet against visiting Evanston, Niles West senior boys swimmer Drake Nickell apparently came to an important conclusion: he would shave his head for sectionals.

The decision to do so ahead of the Glenbrook South Sectional, scheduled for Feb. 16, was not an easy one for Nickell. However, shaving body hair is supposed to help swimmers drop time, and Nickell needs to shave over a second off of his time in the 100-yard freestyle in order to qualify for his first state meet.

"Shaving? I don't know. No comment," said Nickell, who's never previously shaved his crop of brown hair. "Hair is a sensitive subject. I like my hair very much. I haven't made up my mind yet. You can always put a cap on, but it doesn't get the job done. So, yes, I'll shave. I just made up my mind."

Nickell will compete in the CSL South conference meet at Niles West on Saturday. Against Evanston, he won the 100 free in 49.88 seconds, and then went 49.06 as the anchor of the 400 free relay.

Nickell will have to swim at or below 48.09 in the sectional to reach state. Niles West head coach Dan Vander Jeugdt believes the senior is on track to do so.

"We said (to Drake) at (the meet with Evanston), 'You have to go 49 if you want to get to 48.09. You have to go 49 at this meet before we start your taper, and he did,' Vander Jeugdt said. "He's got to go faster to get to state. The qualifying time is unbelievably fast as a flat start. He
Niles West’s Matt Lefler swims the first leg of the 200-yard medley relay during Friday’s meet against Evanston in Skokie. BRIAN O’MAHONEY-for Sun-Times Media

This Week
Niles West

BOYS BASKETBALL
Friday
Hosts Glenbrook South, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday
At Loyola Univ. vs. TBA, TBD

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Friday
Hosts Glenbrook South, 6 p.m.

GIRL GYMNASTICS
Today
At Stevenson Sectional, 6:30 p.m.

BOYS SWIM/DIVE
Saturday
Hosts CSL South Conf., 9 a.m.

GIRLS TRACK
Wednesday
Hosts Guad, 4:30 p.m.

WRESTLING
Friday
At Class 3A Maine East Ind. Sectional, TBA
Saturday
At Sectional TBA
Thursday (2/14)
At State Finals at Champaign (Assembly Hall)

I’m looking forward to seeing what (Nickell) does at the end of the year,” Niles West senior Eric Himmler said. “It’s absolutely incredible. It’s really great.

swam (49.06) off the relay. I think the possibility (to qualify) is right there for him.”

Nickell will start to scale back his training this week in order to be well-rested for the sectional. He’s confident that tapering, and shaving, will give him the extra boost he needs to make state, to be held at New Trier Feb. 22 and 23.

“I taper well,” Nickell said. “I always drop a second, and I think I’ll make it.”

In sectionals last season, Nickell dropped time in the 100 butterfly but still came up two seconds short of state qualification. Early this season, Nickell and Vander Jeudgt decided the swimmers focus should be on the 100 free because Nickell was closer to qualification in that event than any other.

Since then, Nickell has done nothing but improve, building up to his season-best time against Evanston.

“This is the fastest he’s been,” Niles West senior Eric Himmler said. “It’s absolutely incredible. It’s really great.

Niles West’s David Heller dives during Friday’s home meet against Evanston. Visit skokie.suntimes.com/sports to view a photo gallery from the meet. | BRIAN O’MAHONEY-for Sun-Times Media

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captains, and Vander Jeudgt said Nickell is the one others on the squad look to emulate.

“Drake is a hard worker. He’s the hardest worker in the pool,” Vander Jeudgt said. “He puts everything into every practice. He leads every set and has the kids chasing him.”
Evanston's Erin Boothe reaches in to tie up Niles West's Molly Kleppin during the girls basketball on Jan. 31 in Evanston. JOEL LERNER-Sun-Times Media

Niles West almost beat Evanston thanks to Easter's big game

Read the full story [Page 93]