Leo Wallack, of Niles, loads groceries into his car at the Jewel Osco along Golf Road on Feb. 8. The location is one of three that will be closed down. | CURTIS LEHMKUHL-Sun-Times Media

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30 Business Spotlight
Emotional Bonding at Golf Mill sells flowers, chocolates, gift baskets and more.

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Have a story to tell us?
We want to hear from you. Here's how you can fill us in.
Leo Wallack, of Niles, was busy loading bags of groceries into his vehicle at the Jewel-Osco at Four Flags Shopping Center on Friday afternoon.

Wallack, a senior citizen, said that he shops at that Jewel-Osco all the time because it is so convenient. But the days he'll be able to shop there are numbered.

"I live right here," said Wallack, who said that it was "terrible" news to hear that the Jewel-Osco, does not publicly break down the revenue of individual stores.

Niles Finance Director Scot Neukirch said the village can't share specific store revenue information, due to a reciprocal agreement with the State of Illinois. However, he did say that the revenue generated at the Jewel-Osco, does not publicly break down the revenue of individual stores.

"It's the only place we shop," shared Schuman. "Where else will I go?"

"The decision to close any store is difficult, because of the impact on the community," a press release from Jewel-Osco explained. "However, given the competitive climate and today's challenging economic environment, it is essential that Jewel-Osco carefully evaluate its business strategy."

The other Jewel stores in Niles are located at Dempster Street and Greenwood Avenue, Oakton Street and Milwaukee Avenue, and on Touhy Avenue in Village Crossing.

"In our opinion, that mall has been very successful," said Ostman. "We have other major anchors like Old Navy, Marshalls and Ashley Furniture. The center itself is pretty secure in regards to decent sized anchors."

May said that the store leases have not yet expired, but all three are up this year. May stated that Supervalu, which owns Jewel-Osco, does not publicly break down the revenue of individual stores.

"The decision to close any store is difficult, because of the impact on the community," a press release from Jewel-Osco explained. "However, given the competitive climate and today's challenging economic environment, it is essential that Jewel-Osco carefully evaluate its business strategy."

Although the Jewel at Four Flags was one of the mall's largest anchors, Village of Niles Director of Community Development Chuck Ostman said he's not too concerned about the future of the mall.

"In our opinion, that mall has been very successful," said Ostman. "We have other major anchors like Old Navy, Marshalls and Ashley Furniture. The center itself is pretty secure in regards to decent sized anchors."
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Man, 73, charged with robbing Niles bank

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON AND SUN-TIMES MEDIA | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

NILES

An elderly South Carolina man with a prior bank robbery conviction was arrested Sunday afternoon, the day after he allegedly showed a gun to a Niles bank teller and fled with more than $4,000.

The FBI and Niles police arrested 73-year-old Walter Unbehaun outside a North Chicago motel after receiving tips from individuals who had seen media coverage of the robbery, according to a statement from the FBI.

Unbehaun took $4,178 in cash from the teller, divided it into two piles and put the money in separate pockets, the complaint said. Then he fled.

According to the criminal complaint, this was not Unbehaun's first bank robbery. In 1998, he was arrested on bank robbery charges in Illinois, and two years later was sentenced to 188 months in prison and three years of supervised release, court documents show.

The FBI said one of the individuals who recognized Unbehaun in a surveillance video image of the Feb. 9 Niles robbery was a probation officer who has supervised Unbehaun following his release from prison in 2011.

Unbehaun's supervision was transferred to South Carolina, but on Feb. 7, just two days before the Niles bank robbery, it was learned that Unbehaun had fled South Carolina and was in violation of his supervised release, the FBI's criminal complaint said.

When apprehended Sunday, authorities said Unbehaun admitted to robbing the BMO Harris Bank and made statements indicating he wanted to go back to prison because he had spent most of his adult life behind bars and "felt more comfortable" there.

Police located a loaded a .32 caliber revolver that had been hidden in a black purse in Unbehaun's motel room, as well as $3,467 in cash, according to the complaint. Unbehaun admitted to using the gun in the robbery, authorities said.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Geraldine Soat Brown ordered Unbehaun held until his next court appearance, the FBI said.

If convicted, Unbehaun faces up to 20 years in prison.
Asking outsiders to shape Niles’ future

BY IGOR STUDENKOV | Contributor

Most of the listings on Village of Niles’ official bids page are quite ordinary - a contract for website redesign, new equipment, etc. But there is one item that stands out - a request for someone to write a new zoning ordinance.

Normally, the Niles Board of Trustees would write all the legislation by itself. But last year, it decided to contact an outside consultant to update the village’s Zoning and Sub-division Ordinance. The board is looking for an ordinance that would encourage eco-friendly, innovative, mixed-use development while keeping the language clear and easy to understand. And while it’s more expensive than rewriting the legislation in-house, the board thinks the changes it wants to make are complex enough to require outside expertise.

The current zoning ordinance dates back to 1965. Bruce Sylvester, the Village of Niles’ Senior Planner, said that while it served the village well over the last few decades, it doesn’t fit modern development needs.

“Development has changed a lot,” he said. “In the ‘50s and ‘60s, the buildings tended to have very distinct uses. You had just commercial, just residential, and so on. In the last 10 years, mixed-use housing became more common, and the current zoning makes it hard to encourage mixed-use development.”

The board is looking to update the zoning ordinance in other ways. The document spelling out what the village is looking for calls for an ordinance that would encourage transit-oriented development, sustainability, housing diversity, and pedestrian-friendly features. It would set standards for green zoning, condominium conversion and infill development. The new ordinance would need to coordinate with building codes and other building-related ordinances.

The RFP calls for “neighborhood protection measures” to be included in the ordinance. Sylvester explained that the board wanted to make sure the development fit the character and the needs of the surrounding neighborhood.

“One development that’s good for one neighborhood may not work well in another,” he said. “The goal is to protect and enhance the good parts of Niles,” said Sylvester. “At the same time, we want to encourage new development in areas where development might be desirable.”

One of the major goals of the new ordinances is a clearer language.

“We want it to be user-friendly,” explained Sylvester. “We want to get away from the technical jargon and make it comprehensible.”

The bids are due on Feb. 15. According to the village, the consultant will be selected some time in May 2013, and the board expects to adopt the final resolution in the summer of 2014.
Salon bandit charged in 15 robberies

A north suburban man being held without bond for 11 hair salon robberies in Chicago and surrounding Cook County suburbs has now been charged with robbing four DuPage County businesses, including three salons and a tobacco store.

Jason Logsdon, 41, of the 900 block of Chicago Avenue in Evanston, was charged Friday with four counts of armed robbery, each a Class X felony, according to the DuPage County State's Attorney's office.

Prosecutors allege he robbed the Sport Clips in Lombard on Dec. 27; the Hain Cuttery in Lombard on Jan. 2; and the Great Clips in Glen Ellyn on Jan. 3.

Logsdon was charged last week with 11 armed robberies of hair salons in and around Chicago from Dec. 26 through Feb. 4. He allegedly told authorities he committed the robberies to feed his crack cocaine habit, and picked chain hair salons because there wouldn't be many men there, authorities in Cook County said.

But in a change of scenarios, he also robbed the Smokers Best tobacco shop in Bensenville on Dec. 26, according to prosecutors.

Last Wednesday in Skokie, Cook County Judge Marcia Orr ordered Langdon held without bond on 10 of the 11 charges, citing his crack habit, the number of charges and the short time frame in which he committed the crimes. And last Thursday in Maywood, Judge Stanley Hill denied bond for the 11th robbery, which took place in Broadview, Cook County State's Attorney's office spokeswoman Tandra Simonton said.

DuPage County prosecutors will eventually have him appear for a bond hearing on the charges there, but no date has been set, spokesman Paul Darrah said.

Logsdon allegedly used a BB gun in most of the robberies, and stole between $100 and $800 in each incident, authorities said.

A witness to the last robbery, Monday in Wicker Park, caught the license plate number of the car in which he drove away. When Skokie police looked up the plate in their system, they learned they had pulled the car over twice in the past for minor violations. Once they received word that Logsdon had been identified, they arrested him.

Authorities said the car was not Logsdon's, and the owner did not know for what it was being used.

Of the 11 Cook County robberies for which he is charged, five took place in Chicago, two in Skokie, two in Niles, one in Morton Grove and one in Broadview.
For Celine and Walter Tymczuk of Niles, Valentine's Day is not something they celebrate just once a year.

The couple, at 81 and 92 years old, remains very active. They have been married happily for 60 years and lived in Niles for 42 years. One of their favorite things to do together is watching a movie at the Niles Senior Center.

Q: What are some tips for a long and happy marriage?
A: You have to have respect for one another. If you have your own views, you listen to what the other person has to say. You try to work things out to agree on what should be done.

Q: Where did you guys first meet?
A: We first met in Chicago. He lived in another apartment building. We met in the neighborhood. I was in high school and he was working.

Q: Do you do anything special on Valentine's Day?
A: No. Every day is Valentine's Day for us.

Q: What qualities do you like the best about your husband?
A: He's a quiet person and very helpful and thoughtful. He can do a lot of manual labor.

Q: Do you have any children?
A: No. We have probably about 180 nieces and nephews. We babysat a lot.

Q: What do you guys enjoy doing together?
A: We like to travel. We've been to all the 50 states and Mexico. We've had a couple trips to Europe and we had a lovely trip in the Alps. We camped for about 15 years in our van. Traveling is very educational. He was the pilot and I was the navigator. We've done many things I wanted to do all my life.

Q: What other hobbies do you have in common?
A: We're great admirers of the Niles Senior Center. We did some volunteer work until we were not able to do it. We enjoy the movies and socializing with people there. We started a fishing club. We have 40 signed up for fishing.

Q: Any advice for newlyweds?
A: You have to compromise and work things out.
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area adjacent to Club Fitness that will be dedicated to the current trend in fitness.

The fundamental principles of High Intensity Training are that exercise should be brief, infrequent and intense. Exercises are performed with fewer but more intense repetitions.

Kelly Smith, the park district's facility and recreation manager, said that currently people using the fitness club for high-intensity training are pretty much left to find some space between other activities and equipment.

The new 800-square-foot area, set to open Saturday, will have a rubberized floor and a small amount of equipment with open space that will allow users to work out without having to hunt for space. Equipment will include basic items such as weights and dumbbells, Smith said. "This is an extra benefit for our members," Smith said. "It's kind of huge right now."

Smith compared high-intensity training to the popular commercial program, P90X.

The park district has scheduled a grand opening Saturday for the new area at the center, 6834 Dempster St., beginning at 10 a.m. with a ribbon cutting. That day, Club Fitness will be free to the public until 6 p.m. so that visitors can check out the new area.

In addition, the park district will be offering giveaways, special promotions and raffle drawings throughout the day.

At one time, the Prairie View Community Center had 10 racquetball courts, Smith noted. Over the years, as the popularity of the sport has declined, the park district has converted eight of them for other uses.

With the renovation of one of the remaining courts for the H.I.T. Zone, the one remaining court will still be available for racquetball. "It's an aging population that's using it," Smith said. "In its heyday we had 10 courts and several groups playing several times a week."

Smith said that was the only way the park district could provide space for the new workout program.

"Our floor plan is really pretty tight," she said. "We try to pack in as much as we can in the space we have."

"This will be an added benefit for our members," Smith said.

The conversion, being done this week, will include installation of a rubberized floor over the wooden racquetball court floor. Smith said the space will be flexible, so that it can be used for something else if high-intensity training loses its popularity.

"We've designed it as a flexible space," she said. "A year from now, if the trend has changed, we can reuse the space."
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Friday, April 26 & Saturday, April 27 at 7:30 pm
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Student Fest
The Chicago area's premier festival for short films by students in grades 5-12.

Three Ellas
A Tribute with Spider Saloff, Dee Alexander & Brenda Lee

Friday, March 22 at 8 pm
Sound Opinions presents
The Beatles vs.
Rolling Stones
a live debate with Jim DeRogatis and Greg Kot

Saturday, April 13 at 8 pm
Clay Jenkinson as Teddy Roosevelt
with radio host John Williams

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The following incidents were listed in the reports of the Niles Police Department. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**

Norman Kazmierski, 71, whose last known address was 7021 W. Touhy Ave., Niles, was charged with four counts of felony criminal damage to property on Jan. 29. Police said Kazmierski was observed on surveillance video leaving scratches on four vehicles parked in the condominium complex where he had formerly resided. He has a Feb. 19 court date.

**BATTERY**

Kamil Jarzabek, 23, of 6552 W. Devon Ave., Chicago, was charged with battery on Feb. 4 after he was accused of punching a 22-year-old acquaintance on the 7300 block of School Street during an alleged dispute over money. He has a March 18 court date.

**THEFT**

Jose Velazquez, 41, of 8924 Kenneth Avenue, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with retail theft on Feb. 2 after he allegedly underpaid for several items using a self check-out station at a store on the 8500 block of Golf Road. According to police the items, which included a coffee maker, DVDs and tampons, were valued at over $140, but Velazquez paid just $17.48 for them and failed to pay anything for a $50 tablet computer case. He has a Feb. 17 court date.

**SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY**

A 93-year-old Niles woman told police that a man came to her home on Jan. 29, claiming he was with the “water department” and needed to check the temperature of her hot water because her neighbor had been having water problems. The woman told the man to bring her neighbor over, but the man left the area. The woman later contacted her neighbor who reported not having any water problems, police said.

Chicago State University's Department of Nursing will be evaluated for continuing accreditation by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc. (NLNAC), February 12-14, 2013.

Chicago State University invites you to meet with the NLNAC visiting team to share your feedback about the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program on February 13, 2013 at:

**Chicago State University**

9501 S. King Drive
Chicago, IL 60628
Douglas Hall, Room 120A
Time: 4 p.m.

Alternatively, you may send written comments directly to:

**Dr. Sharon Tanner**
Chief Executive Officer
3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850
Atlanta, GA 30326
Email: sjtanner@nlnc.org

For consideration, all comments must be submitted.
Festival celebrates international food

By Tracy Gruen | Contributor

Standing in front of a vibrant picture of a Filipino flag, Rose Ladao was busy serving homemade food from the Philippines, such as pancit and chicken adobo to guests at the St. John Brebeuf International Celebration on Friday, Feb. 8.

"It shows the diversity in the community," said Ladao.

The International Celebration, which has been taking place for 17 years, featured food from eight different countries; France, Poland, Ireland, Italy, America, Germany, India and the Philippines.

Ladao, of Morton Grove, said a number of people from the parish get together each year and make homemade Filipino food for the event. She feels it's a great way to have community members try new ethnic foods.

Other ethnic foods served throughout the evening, included escargot, German potato salad and bratwurst, samosas with chutney, corned beef, lasagna, pierogis, sausage and sauerkraut and hot dogs and macaroni and cheese.

This year's lineup for the entertainment portion of the event included Wawel, a Polish song and dance group, an American pride choir, traditional Indian dance and an anti-violence drill team from the South Side of Chicago.

"We have something for everybody," said Sheila Ryan, one of the organizers of the event. "It's a lot of fun."

Ryan said that each year the fest attracts about 250 to 300 people.

Children were dancing along to the Indian dancers as they performed on the stage, and adults were singing along to the American choir singing songs such as "You're a Grand Old Flag" and "It's a Small World." Audience members cheered as members of the World Performance Team threw up their rifles and quickly twirled them during their unique performance with an anti-gang message.

The event is put together by the Catholic Women's Club and the proceeds from the event will benefit various groups, such as the Girl Scouts.

This year's event featured donations from local businesses, such as Amici, Chambers restaurant, Graziano's Brick Oven Pizza, Lone Tree Inn, Minelli Brothers, Produce World, Jewel, Back Deli, Dominick's and more.

"It's very appreciated and heartwarming," said Ryan, about the donations that the local businesses make to support St. John Brebeuf.

The food items are reasonably priced, at only 50 cents a food ticket. Many items were only one to four tickets.

Lucky winners who participated in a raffle took home a wide variety of gift baskets, filled with items including jewelry, wine, toys, food items and much more.
Kennedy M.D., W. Charles
A Park Ridge resident of 46 years, passed away on February 8, 2013 with his loving family beside him. Beloved husband of Judith (nee Lewis); devoted father of Brigid (Chris) Smith, Carrie Kennedy, Charles (Julie) Kennedy, and Meghan (Jim) Maloney; loving grandfather of Connor and Alexa Smith, Charlie and Grayson Kennedy, and Liam Maloney; dear brother of Helen Jean (Robert) Westerman.
Dr. Kennedy received his M.D. from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and completed his residency in neurosurgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He served in the United States Air Force as a neurosurgeon before entering private practice in Chicago and Arlington Heights, Illinois. He was a founder of Surgical Neurology Associates in Arlington Heights and served as President of the Medical Staff at Northwest Community Hospital. Dr. Kennedy was a tireless, compassionate leader in his profession and in the community. He served as a hospital board member for three years and as a Cook County delegate to the Illinois State Medical Society.
When he retired from surgery he worked at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Neurosurgery Clinic for three years. He was also very active in the American Medical Association, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the American College of Surgeons, and was elected President of the the Illinois State Neurosurgical Society. He also served as President of the Park Lane Condominium Association and President of the Galena Territory Homeowner’s Association.
Visitation was held Wednesday, February 13 at RYAN-PARKE FUNERAL HOME, Park Ridge. Funeral mass will be held today, Thursday, 10 a.m., at Mary, Seat of Wisdom Church, 920 W. Granville Ave., Park Ridge. Entombment will follow in All Saints Mausoleum. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Mary, Seat of Wisdom Church Building Fund, Northwest Community Hospital Foundation or charity of your choice.

Novak, Ruth Elaine
(nee Ryan) born on December 28, 1930, died of natural causes on February 3, 2013. She was preceded by her husband, Phil, 50 years, and survived by her three children, Frank, Phil, and Mary, their spouses, and fourteen grandchildren.
Ruth and her twin sister Rita were the seventh and eighth out of ten children born to Bill and Mattie Ryan. When Ruth was a child, the entire Ryan family lived on a farm in Mitchell, South Dakota. As adults, the Ryans mostly moved to different parts of the country, but remained tightly knit. They held regular family reunions, met each other during holidays, attended the graduations and weddings of the nieces and nephews. They supported each other during difficult times. They became empty nesters, they enjoyed vacations together, including several trips to Ireland.
Those who knew Ruth admired her kindness, her patience, and tireless desire to help others. She stood by her husband during two serious and extended health issues, including the cancer that took his life in 1984. She especially enjoyed helping babies and children. When her daughter and grandchildren were having babies, Ruth made prolonged trips to help their families.
During the latter 15 years of her life, she experienced a gradual decline due to Alzheimer’s disease. However, although her mind was slipping, her blue eyes still sparkle and she brought warmth to the room by smiling and singing.

Visitation Friday 5:00-8:00PM at Friedrich’s Funeral Home, 320 W. Central Rd., at Northwest Hwy., Mt. Prospect. Funeral Saturday 10:00AM. Interment All Saints. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Catholic Charities, 721 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60654 or www.catholiccharities.net.

Ruth was a tireless leader in her profession and in the community. She served as a Cook County delegate to the Illinois State Medical Society.

When she retired from surgery she worked at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Neurosurgery Clinic for three years. He was also very active in the American Medical Association, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the American College of Surgeons, and was elected President of the the Illinois State Neurosurgical Society. He also served as President of the Park Lane Condominium Association and President of the Galena Territory Homeowner’s Association.

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Dear Readers: Please review the information below regarding cold weather and the safety of your dog. Severe cold weather can create a dangerous health situation for your dog. Our canine friends can suffer from frostbite, hypothermia, and poisoning during the winter months.

A dog that consumes even a very small amount of antifreeze can quickly begin to suffer from seizures and cardiac arrest. A dog that consumes even a very small amount of antifreeze can quickly begin to suffer from seizures and cardiac arrest. If you have any anti-freeze around your house make sure it is completely inaccessible to your dog. If you have any anti-freeze around your house make sure it is completely inaccessible to your dog. You can have a sweet taste. This is why it can attract dogs and other animals.

If your dog has been exposed to extreme cold they can also suffer from Hypothermia, which is a drop in body temperature. Shivering is a sign that your dog needs help. In extreme cases, your dog can also suffer from cardiac arrest. Please take some simple precautions to assure that you and your dog can enjoy the winter months safely.

Personally, I believe that in very cold weather, if it is too cold for you to be outside, it just might be too cold for your dog. training your dog.

When a dog is exposed to extreme cold they can also suffer from Hypothermia, which is a drop in body temperature. Shivering is a sign that your dog needs help. In extreme cases, your dog can also suffer from cardiac arrest.

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Personally, I believe that in very cold weather, if it is too cold for you to be outside, it just might be too cold for your dog. training your dog.

When a dog is exposed to extreme cold they can also suffer from Hypothermia, which is a drop in body temperature. Shivering is a sign that your dog needs help. In extreme cases, your dog can also suffer from cardiac arrest.

Please review the information below regarding cold weather and the safety of your dog. Severe cold weather can create a dangerous health situation for your dog. Our canine friends can suffer from frostbite, hypothermia, and poisoning during the winter months.

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What it means to you

TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

CHICAGO

City bolsters job, recreation programs to fight gang violence

Seeking an end to the gang violence that claimed the life of 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton, Mayor Rahm Emanuel pumped another $4.5 million into summer jobs, counseling and recreation programs to give 2,000 more “at-risk” teenagers a constructive alternative.

Nearly half the money will go to “Becoming A Man - A Sports Edition,” a program that uses a mix of counseling and Olympic sports to improve school attendance and arrests for violent crime.

With corporate funding and private fund-raising, Emanuel plans to triple support for B.A.M. The initiative was jointly developed by counselors from Youth Guidance and World Sport Chicago, the legacy organization that evolved from Chicago’s losing bid to host the 2016 Summer Olympic Games.

The remaining $2.5 million will go to GreenCorps Chicago to create 600 summer jobs for at-risk students attending 15 Chicago Public high schools.

Emanuel responded to Pendleton’s death by shifting 200 Chicago Police officers from desk jobs to street duty and assigning them to teams focused on gang violence.

The surge of funding for jobs, counseling and recreational programs is another piece of a complicated puzzle that Chicago mayors have been trying to solve for decades.

- Chicago Sun-Times

SPRINGFIELD

Speaker Madigan proposes road funds, child-welfare money

Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan is proposing more money for state programs in a plan that takes advantage of new road building funds, shifts money saved from prison closures to child-welfare services that could also spare up to 1,900 jobs.

The Chicago Democrat’s legislation includes a $675 million boost to transit construction highly prized by businesses and labor unions. The plan is part of an annual exercise aimed at shoring up parts of state government that are running short of money halfway through the fiscal year.

Also part of the plan is $25 million that Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn expects to save from closing correctional facilities. Quinn wants the money shifted to the Department of Children and Family Services. The agency will use the money to add child-abuse investigators and other employees to recruit foster parents and more quickly reunite children with their birth families.

The bill also includes $12 million for community mental health grants, $83 million for workers’ compensation claims, $25 million for rental housing assistance, $5.7 million for job-training programs, and $5 million for construction of a 200-bed veterans’ home.

- The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

White House outlines deep, automatic cuts on the way

President Obama’s White House is trying to ratchet up pressure on Congress by putting out details of federal spending cuts it says will take place if a scheduled March 1 deadline for deep automatic, government-wide spending cuts cannot be averted.

In a fact sheet, the White House cites what it calls “large and arbitrary” cuts to federal programs on education, small business, food safety, law enforcement and emergency management.

Current law calls for $1.2 trillion of additional spending cuts over the next 10 years, including about $85 billion this year.

Obama has called for a small package of cuts closing of tax loopholes to put off the cuts. But Republicans have so far said no.

USPS lost $1.3 billion over quarter

The U.S. Postal Service says it lost $1.3 billion in the first quarter of the new budget year, following record losses last year.

Officials say that in the three months ended December 31 there was continued growth in the agency’s revenue from package delivery, including during a busy holiday season. And there was growth in political ad mailings due to the November elections.
How to dump incompetent judges

It's too hard to get rid of incompetent judges in Cook County.

Two constitutional amendments are in the works in Springfield to fix that. Neither is perfect, but legislators should fine-tune them to find the best answer for our broken system.

Judges run for retention every six years. In Cook County, voters are presented with page after page of names. Not surprisingly, even judges deemed incompetent by the bar associations get the 60 percent of votes they need.

One plan would create special commissions in each judicial circuit to determine which judges are doing their jobs properly, and those judges wouldn't have to run for retention.

A separate amendment would raise the percentage of yes votes needed for retention to two-thirds, plus the support of at least five members of the seven-member Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission.

Either plan will create discussion among lawmakers, which is needed to get the job done.

Stopping to think on a snowy eve

Winter returned last week, and I was glad for it.

For the last few months, I had been given the false idea that I hated winter. It was cold and wet, with little one could do outdoors to enjoy weather.

For a while, I began to accept our cold, snow-less and boring winter as the new norm.

I thought, so this is global warming locally: Illinois politics with Kentucky weather.

Yuck!

But winter came back with 10 inches of snow on my block.

I was ready for it, but then again I wasn't.

I've always taken good care of my snow thrower. Take care of the snow thrower and it will take care of you, is one of those "old-man sayings" I'm handing down to my kids.

I only used the machine once last year, and was convinced it would sit in the garage undisturbed all season this winter. But last week I poured the last bit of old gasoline into it, threw the choke to wide open, pumped the primer and pulled the cord.

And got nothing. Again and again and again, I followed that routine.

After about 15 minutes of me pulling and the engine coughing, blue-white smoke belched out of the machine. I was in business and so was my driveway.

Earlier I got stuck in a driveway. I just couldn't get through the snow while trying to back out. I was like that Sisyphus guy in mythology who has to push the stone up the steep hill, only to have it roll down when he gets to the top. I'd just slip to the top of the driveway, and that was it. Luckily, I was able to turn around and plow through going forward.

Those winter blues were short-lived, however. I soon remembered winter in its beauty.

Like everyone else in town, I opened the back door and snapped a few pictures of the scene to post on Facebook. Winter had finally come.

People were stopping to help each other in the snow. Kids were making snow forts and snowmen (and I saw some snow women, too). After we shoveled the driveway and the walk, the kids had a snowball fight. I hadn't seen them play with each other and laugh in months, at least since summer.

When night came, I looked outside every so often to see if it was still snowing, always hoping it was. The big flakes, suddenly illuminated by the streetlights, falling easily to the ground and piling up in my yard, offered a sight of beauty I thought I would miss this year.

Stopping to admire falling snow is not so unusual. We all do it. It reminds us, as the poet says, that we have promises to keep, and miles to go...

Thankfully, winter returned.
No, Virginia, there's no Saturday delivery

I reached out to Fred Gailey for comment.  

(By the way, “reached out” is one of the new loaded phrases TV reporters use. They say they reached out to Person X, but that Person X did not respond. This makes it seem as if the reporter was doing Person X a favor by reaching out to him. But Person X knows that the reporter was “reaching out” to ask him about allegations he did something sleazy and/or illegal.)

Anyway, my reach exceeded my grasp. I couldn't get hold of Fred Gailey. Probably because he never existed.

Gailey was the attorney in “Miracle on 34th Street” who proved at a sanity hearing that Kris Kringle was “the one and only Santa Claus” by citing the authority of the U.S. Post Office. The post office sent all the letters it had addressed only to Santa Claus to Kris Kringle. Therefore, Gailey reasoned, the post office, an official arm of the U.S. Government, recognized Kris Kringle as the one and only Santa Claus.

Ah, those were heady days for the post office.

Now, the U.S. Postal Service has fallen on hard times. It lost $16 billion last year. More people are communicating electronically.

And the postal service has huge pension cost problems. Hence, there will be cuts, the most noticeable of which will be an end to Saturday first-class mail delivery starting Aug. 1.

Of course, this cut won't hurt those who are fully armed with the latest electronic gizmos. Hurt will be people who can't afford the gizmos, or who for one reason or another are unable to use them.

And, I imagine, postal workers will be hurt, also. So far, there hasn't been talk of layoffs. But whenever an employer makes service cuts, worker cuts are not far behind. How else will the postal service save the $2 billion a year it wants to save?

That makes me sad. For 10 years or so I was a postal worker, sometimes a clerk, sometimes a truck driver, sometimes a letter carrier. You can make all the postal worker jokes you want, but being a letter carrier is one hard job. You get up before dawn, sort mail by address for a couple of hours and then walk for five or six hours in skin-blistering heat or razor blade cold, up stairs and down stairs. Do this five days a week for 20 years or more. See what you feel like.

Ah, where is Fred Gailey when we need him?
Question of the Week

“What are your plans for Valentine’s Day?”

Laura Liedtke, Mt. Prospect
“I’m going to make a heart-shaped meatloaf for my husband.”

Rachel Shaykin, Skokie
“I’ll be with a box of chocolates, all by myself.”

Sabina Merka, Skokie
“I’m going to see the movie, Safe Haven, with my best friend and then we are going to Maggiano’s.”

Tom Levy, Highland Park
“I’m taking my wife to see the new Bruce Willis movie, Its a Good Day to Die Hard.”

People Poll

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

RESPONSES
1) Groundhog Day: 8%
2) Spring training: 56%
3) March Madness: 36%

THIS WEEK’S QUESTION
“What draws you to watch the State of the Union?”

RESPONSES
1) The policy
2) The pageantry
3) The patriotism
4) I don’t watch

To respond to this week’s People Poll question, visit niles.suntimes.com
District 67 officials are taking a restrained approach to referendum

BY NICK KATZ | nkatz@pioneerlocal.com

Officials in Golf Elementary School District 67 are taking a restrained approach to this month's tax hike referendum, relying on information they provided during two previous failed votes to get supporters to the polls.

The referendum, which would allow the district to increase the property tax levy beyond what is permitted by the Cook County Tax Cap, will appear on the Feb. 26 primary ballot. The only other measure on the ballot that day is a primary race for the Action Party candidate for mayor of Morton Grove.

An identical request was defeated in November, and last March voters turned down a more traditional referendum seeking an increase in the maximum tax rate in the District 67 education fund.

All of the measures would increase property tax revenue by about $1.14 million a year.

The issue on the primary ballot will give the district the authority to increase the levy by 16.3 percent, 13.3 percent more than is permitted under the tax cap. The cap limits the levy increase without referendum approval to the Consumer Price Index or 5 percent, whichever is less.

The district recently sent out an issue of “Chalkboard,” its newsletter, with information about the referendum.

But unlike the previous two attempts, there are no public meetings or open house events scheduled to provide information on the measure to district residents.

District 67 School Board President Meryl Gale said the district held several informational meetings before both of the previous two votes, and nothing has really changed since then.

“I think that we provided so much information and had so many meetings and the other elections were so close,” Gale said. “We did have many, many, many informational meetings.”

Superintendent Jamie Reilly noted that only a handful of people showed up at the last open house sessions the district held prior to the November vote.

“We’ve held multiple open house and informational sessions over the past two years,” Reilly said. “Our attendance at the last session was no more than three people. We feel we had reached everyone we could.”

A parents group that was active promoting the referendum prior to the November vote, Kids 67, has also been quiet prior to the February vote.

A spokesman for the group could not be reached for comment, but the group’s website has not been updated since the November referendum and makes no mention of the February vote.

One thing that is different this time is the interest of Chicago-based Taxpayers United of America, which sent out a press release Feb. 7 encouraging residents to vote against the referendum.

The release quotes Taxpayers United president Jim Tobin saying “This is the only property tax increase referendum on the February ballot in the entire State of Illinois. Homeowners in District 67 twice before defeated such a referendum at the ballot box, but these greedy District 67 government teachers and bureaucrats are back for a third try.”

The release contends that the money from a tax hike will go toward teacher and administrator salaries. During the past couple of years administrators have had their salaries frozen, and teachers have made contract concessions including a salary freeze because of the district’s financial problems.

The Taxpayers United release says that the increased revenue from a tax hike will go toward those salaries, but the district says they plan to use the money to restore programs cut in an effort to reduce expenses such as such as all-day kindergarten.

The release also cites the pensions of former Superintendent Harry Trumfio, who left District 67 in 1992, and Linda Marks, who retired in 2007.

Despite the assertions in the release of “greedy” teachers and administrators, Reilly noted that District 67 has the lowest salaries in Niles Township and the second-lowest in Cook County.

Reilly said she is not overly concerned about the interest of TUA in the District 67 race since the district has already gotten out a large amount of information. She said this is also the first time the group has gotten involved in the recent District 67 referendums.

“I guess I would be concerned it if was factual,” she said.

Reilly and Gale said they are unsure whether having the measure on a ballot with just one other race will improve or reduce the odds of passage.
Niles West principal leaving for Naperville

BY NATALIE HAYES | Contributor

Niles West's principal Kaine Osburn is leaving District 219 and heading to Naperville, he announced on Tuesday. Osburn is leaving at the end of the current school year to take a promotion with Naperville Community Unit District 203 as deputy superintendent.

Osburn started his 14-year career at District 219 as an English teacher at Niles West in 1998 and moved up the ranks. He became assistant principal of operations in 2006, and was named principal of Niles West in 2007.

Osburn will replace District 203's deputy superintendent Robert Hawkins, who was hired in short-term capacity this year. Osburn will begin his new position with Naperville in July, where he'll serve immediately under superintendent Dan Bridges and will be responsible for oversight of the district's two assistant superintendents, Kitty Ryan and Bob Ross.

"While we're sad to see Kaine leave, we wish him all the best in his new position," said District 219 superintendent Nanciann Gatta in a press release.

As principal of Niles West, Osburn is making is $176,389 in base pay this school year. He'll take a pay cut in Naperville, where his base salary with District 203 will be $166,000.

District 203 is considerably larger than District 219. The K-12 district is the eighth-largest school system in Illinois and serves more than 17,000 students in 22 schools.

Osburn made his announcement Tuesday morning at a staff meeting, and said in a press release, "Leaving Niles West and District 219 is not without great pain. I have dedicated the last 14 years of my life to the students, parents and teachers here."

No word on when District 219 administrators plan to hire a new principal.
East Maine School District 63 is equipping its buses with on-board cameras and GPS units next year to better ensure the safety of students and drivers.

The decision to add the devices came one week after an out-of-control school bus careened down a 1.3-mile stretch of Oakton Street in Park Ridge and Niles.

The district's contract discussions with transportation contractor Septran, Inc., however, predated the Jan. 29 accident involving bus driver Elaine C. Delaney, 77, of Wheeling.

Delaney suffered a medical emergency behind the wheel and crashed into several vehicles while en route to a District 63 school in Des Plaines. Students were not on the bus at the time, though Delaney and five other motorists were transported to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Septran provided the bus involved in the accident.

"Thank God no one, especially children, was extremely hurt," said Bob Hach, the private bus company's president, at a District 63 Board of Education meeting Feb. 6.

He described Delaney, a 15-year Septran employee with a flawless driving record, as "a very good woman" qualified for the job. She was released from the hospital Feb. 1.

Hach said representatives of the Illinois Department of Transportation visited the company's facility the day after the accident and determined the vehicle was well maintained. The Secretary of State also conducted a review of the driver's and company's files.

"From a company standpoint, I'm happy to report to you we're in good shape both mechanically and in recording-keeping," Hach said.

He chalked up the incident to uncontrollable circumstances, to which several board members agreed.

"You can't predict something like that," Walter Gluzkin said.

The district's newly-extended contact with Septran for one year includes installing state-of-the-art cameras and vehicle tracking systems to enhance safety and security on board school vehicles.

Beginning next school year, digital cameras will be placed in the rear and front end of buses facing toward the seats. Hach said another camera projecting toward the road may appear intrusive to some drivers, though the footage ultimately provides an invaluable view of other motorists' actions.

"In many instances they can actually help the driver," he said.

Regular education transportation for District 63 students is budgeted this year at just over $1 million, according to David Bein, executive director of business services.

School officials renewed the bus contract with a two-percent increase, amounting to an additional $20,120.

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SUPER CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Original text: Abbr. 65 104 Nails for on another company planet? 4 Navy VIP 55 Concerning 70 Solict 11 Soda giant 58 Massey 110 Rocker film 60 Knight's mount 112 Ceiling, In 20 Kwok-E-Murt clerk 81 On set of the Cars 21 In a very angry way 82 "Take me home, real-estate ads from me..." 62 Fumigated 113 Um's hair? shut 22 East of Eden director 85 Peignent 114 Spanish boy acquaintance 67 Palindromic before" 118 Huts 25 Stencil work 68 Silk 121 Little hotel alternative 69 Opposite of 122 Obsessive in a single thing 70 East of 123 Big trucks for 72 Of a forearm 127 Spaniards 74 Suffix with 128 Like a hand 129 130 Hanged by 130 Fumigated

DOWN
40 Job detail, 89 Big name in 26 A spate of indecision leaves you susceptible to a recent decision. But don't make a move before consulting a trusted adviser. 41 Positive responses to a recent workplace 22 A once-close associate re-emerges with the problem in the first place. 42 You might feel pressured to reveal a col- mate to help you 43 You're tempted by an offer that seems close to what you've been looking for. But before you pounce on it, see if you can coax out some added perks to sweeten the deal. 44 Don't let yourself be cowed into thinking you're not up to the challenge you've taken on. Keep reinforcing your self-confidence, and no one and nothing can stop you. 45 Your efforts to settle a volatile situation should prove successful. Now could be a good time to analyze what might have created the problem in the first place. 46 A once-close associate re-emerges with news that could cause you to reconsider a recent decision. But don't make a move before consulting a trusted adviser. 47 Love rules the week with new romances in your favor.

For the week of February 20 to February 26

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Congratulations, Lamb. The end of the month brings good news in the workplace, thanks to all the efforts you've made to get your projects off the ground and running.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Don't let yourself be cowed into thinking you're not up to the challenge you've taken on. Keep reinforcing your self-confidence, and no one and nothing can stop you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Positive responses to a recent workplace move should give you added assurance that you're on the right track. Celebrate the good news with family and/or friends.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) There's still a little emotional fuzziness you have to work through before you can feel really certain about your recent decisions. But you're on the right track. Stay with it.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You might feel pressured to reveal a colleague's secret. But you can rely on your strong Scorpio sense of rectitude to help you continue to do the right thing.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) That pesky situation is still creating problems. But you are moving ahead with it, and soon it should be successfully resolved in your favor.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A spate of indecision leaves you susceptible to doubt. But you'll soon regain your emo- tional sure-footedness and be back leading the way, as usual.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Love rules the week with new romances favored for single Aquarians looking for partners. Cupid also targets renewed commitment for wedded Water Bears.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A surge of creativity keeps you happily busy through the week. But leave some quiet time to share with loved ones. Some long-awaited news finally comes through.

BORN THIS WEEK:

People rely on you whenever they need someone they can trust to be caring, considerate and also discreet.

NEED A HINT? FIND THE PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 29
Singing in the shower never sounded so good.

We are bathroom remodeling specialists. Our goal is simple. Provide value-added design assistance, excellent communication and flawless execution with minimal disruption to you. And when all is said and done, deliver exceptionally beautiful bathrooms. Plus, every bathroom we remodel is guaranteed. Call us at 847-268-3420 for your free estimate.

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Offer valid on 6 piece Performance Showering Package and complete bathroom remodels only. Cannot be combined with any other promotions. Limit one Kohler Rain Head per customer. Offer subject to change without notice. Offer valid through March 31, 2013.

Calendar

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Niles Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. Information may be faxed to (847) 486-7495 or e-mailed to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

**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 - Low-cost income tax preparation (by appointment only).
  - Tuesday, Feb. 19 - Medicare counseling, by appointment (sponsored by the federally-funded Senior Health Insurance Program).
  - Wednesday, Feb. 27 - Grief and loss support group (call first).
  - Saturday, Feb. 23 - Legal counseling, by appointment.
  - Saturday, Feb. 23 - Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed).

**Assistance with forms**

- **65+**
  - Low-cost income tax preparation is available by appointment at the Center of Concern in Park Ridge on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings. 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.

**FUNDRAISERS**

**Indoor Block Party**

- **18+**
  - Resurrection College Prep High School: 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago, invites neighbors, alumni and community members to Res Fest 2013 Indoor Block Party, hosted by Chicago Radio Legend Dick Biondi, from 6 p.m.-midnight Feb. 16. The evening will feature music, food tents, beer and wine, Baggo and carnival games. Come early for a chance to meet Dick Biondi before he takes the stage at 8 p.m. for a sock hop in the gym with dancing to the music from the ‘50s to the ‘80s. Advance registration is $20 per person; admission at the door will be $25. Res Fest food/drink/game tickets are available for $1 each. Online raffle prizes include an Apple iPad mini or cash; winners need not be present. Registration, online raffles and Res Fest tickets are available at www.reshs.org or cmarchetti@reshs.org or (773) 775-6616, ext. 112. This is a 21-and-older fundraising event in support of the school.

**Young Widows**

- **18+**
  - The Chicagoland Young Widowed Connection will host Valentine & Wine from 6-8 p.m. Feb. 16 at WineStyles, 1517 Waukegan Road, Glenview. The event is a fundraiser geared toward young widowed men and women under 55. CYWC provides referrals for sources of support, seminars and workshops on the practical issues of widowhood, regular social activities and connections to the community through outreach. Tickets for Valentine & Wine are $25 each and a portion of the proceeds will help fund CYWC’s 501c(3) filing fees and the outreach project. Tickets can be purchased at info@chicagolandwidowed.org.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Fun program**

- **18+**
  - The Niles Historical Society will host the Rev. Britto Berchmans in a one-man show, "You Ain't Heard Nothin' Yet," on Feb. 24 in the Niles Historical Museum, 8970 Milwaukee Ave. Doors open at 1 p.m., short business meeting at 2 p.m. followed by the program, refreshments and socializing. All programs are family-oriented and open to all ages (residents and nonresidents). Free parking and refreshments; donations are accepted. Call (847) 390-0160.

**LIBRARY**

**Niles Public Library:**

- **18+**
  - 6960 W. Oakton St., (847) 663-1234 or online at www.nileslibrary.org. Registration is required for most programs unless indicated otherwise.

**ESL Club**

- **18+**
  - New English speakers are invited to join this conversation club to practice speaking English. Call (847) 663-6622.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

- **65+**
  - The Center of Concern is always in need of volunteers. Please call (847) 823-0453 to help.

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**Center is closed Feb. 18, Presidents' Day.**

**Note:**

Feast of Fitness, a monthly health seminar which takes place at the Center Court of Golf Mill Shopping Center from 9-10:15 a.m. every second Wednesday of the month, January through October, has added new sponsors and events. Feats of Fitness Health Seminars are free programs open to registered members; become a member by completing an application at the Golf Mill Shopping Center Customer Service Center. Each month a new speaker and topic is featured. The program includes free bingo after the health seminar, where winners receive instant prizes, beginning at 9:45 for members only. Coffee and a light breakfast is another perk.

**Hours for the public**

- **FAM 65+ 18+**
  - Niles Historical Museum: 8970 N. Milwaukee Ave., is open to the public 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Drop in, make arrangements for a tour, drop off artifacts and collections, or just come to visit. The new magnetic elevator makes the auditorium easily accessible. Call (847) 390-0160.

**Reading with Rover**

Children can build confidence when reading out loud with the library's friendly dogs as listeners from 7-8:30 p.m. Feb. 14 and 28, sign up for a 20-minute slot, for kids in kindergarten and older. Call (847) 663-6622.

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**Valentine's Day**

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**Seminars are free programs family-oriented and open to all ages (residents and nonresidents). Free parking and refreshments; donations are accepted. Call (847) 390-0160.**
events

Singer Diva Montell will perform at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 14. Dessert and beverages will be served.

The Ed and Gene Duo will perform classic love songs and romantic standards from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Feb. 19. Refreshments will be served.

Yu-Gi-Oh tournament
Join other enthusiasts in fifth through 12th grades from 1-4:30 p.m. Feb. 17. Bring your own deck. Prizes and refreshments.

Shakespeare Project
See "Twelfth Night" from 7-9:30 p.m. Feb. 22.

Yoga for kids
Learn poses and breathing techniques at 4 p.m. Feb. 18; for kindergartners to eighth-graders.

Open crafting

HOCUS FOCUS
Find at least six differences in details between panels

PUZZLE ANSWERS
See page 26 for this week's Super Crossword and Sudoku puzzles.

RELIGION

Purim celebration
Takes place Feb. 24 at Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie - 10 a.m., Purim service with Megillah reading and Shpiel (play); 11:15 a.m., Carnival with moonwalk, basketball and other games, prizes, and hot dog lunch. $10/person or $36/family (free for children under 5) includes all games, prizes, and lunch. No one turned away for inability to pay. Contact Marla Topp or Rabbi Amy L. Memis-Foler at (847) 676-1566.

LUNCH

Enjoy "Songs by the Fireside" at the center from 12:15-2:15 p.m. Feb. 27. Lunch will include salad, baked chicken, potato and dessert. Cost is $8, members; $12, nonmembers.

Issues in the News

Sunset Boulevard"
See this production Feb. 21 at Drury Lane Theatre, 10 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Before the show, dine on soup, bread, veggies plus potato and choice of fettuccine Alfredo and sweet peas or chicken breast marsala. Cost is $64, members; $69, nonmembers.
During the run-up to Valentine's Day, employees of Emotional Bonding at Golf Mill can easily be found working 16-hour days.

“It’s one of our busiest holidays,” said Carmen Seja, the manager of Emotional Bonding, a store that sells flowers, chocolates, gift baskets, cookie baskets, fruit baskets and more.

For Valentine’s Day, shoppers come in to find the perfect box of chocolates or purchase a special arrangement of flowers for that special someone. The store offers a popular “sweetheart bouquet,” which features roses and burgundy miniature carnations.

“We do all the arrangements ourselves,” said Seja.

Although Valentine’s Day and other special holidays are a very busy time at their store, she said seeing the customers satisfied makes all the hard work well worth it.

“The most rewarding thing for me is getting the customers’ feedback, saying how much they enjoyed it or how beautiful it was,” said Seja.

Emotional Bonding has been located at Golf Mill for about a year and a half. They previously operated out of a kiosk, but in December moved to a storefront next to Target and Kohl’s.

The store provides a one-stop shop for various gifts, including stuffed animals that range in size from tiny to large and greeting cards.

“We celebrate life and love in all stages,” said Seja.

Seja explained that customers come in to buy flowers for newborn babies, graduations, weddings holidays, funerals and other special occasions. As expressed in the name of the store, it aims to provide an outlet of expression for people during a special time in their lives or just a regular day.

Seja said that although it’s sad to make flower arrangements for someone’s funeral, it’s nice knowing that they brought something beautiful to the funeral.

Other popular items include Super Sweet baskets that feature a variety of classic chocolate candies, Harry London chocolates, Godiva chocolates and much more.

Seja said another best-seller is a colored container with flowers that resembles a paint can. The arrangements have names, such as “color your day with tranquility” or “color your day with happiness,” and each arrangement has a different color scheme to match the paint can.

In addition to Valentine’s Day, Seja said they cater to other holidays as well.

“We do all different types of flowers, whether you’re looking for a birthday, just because, or Mother’s Day,” said Seja.

“Most of our business is Internet-based,” said Seja.

Some of the top sellers for Valentine’s Day, according to the company’s website, include arrangements titled, “lasting romance bouquet,” “expressions of love” and “precious heart bouquet.” Many of the arrangements include red and pink roses, rainbow-colored roses and heart shaped vases.

The owner is Shrinawas Kabra and employees at the store consist of the owner, Seja and a driver.
Farmers market to accept Link, credit cards

Holders of Illinois Link cards as well as shoppers who want to use credit or debit cards will be accommodated next summer at the Morton Grove Farmers Market.

On top of that, Link card users will be able to obtain vouchers that allow them to obtain up to $25 a week in extra groceries at the market.

The new services will be made possible through a grant from NorthShore University Health Systems and assistance from BMO Harris Bank in Niles.

NorthShore has contributed $5,000 toward the program, which matches up to $25 in additional groceries to match weekly spending at the market by Link cardholders.

The bank is providing staff and a booth to process the Link cards as well as debit and credit cards, said Market Manager Kristina Otte.

"This is huge," Otte said. "We're very excited."

The new food vouchers and services will be available when the market opens for the summer on June 8. It will be held from 8 a.m. to noon, adjacent to the Morton Grove American Legion Memorial Civic Center, 6140 Dempster St.

The grant and participation of the bank were announced at the Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce and Industry installation dinner last week.

Otte said that in order for the market to accept the Link cards, which are the modern equivalent of food stamps, it was necessary to obtain approval of both the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Otte said Link card users will be able to obtain vouchers that will double the value of the card up to $25 for food they buy at the market.

The idea, she said, is to give them access to fresh and healthy food despite the somewhat higher prices at the market.

"We really want everyone to have access to fresh local foods," she said. "That's the main reason we did it, to make sure everybody has access to healthy food."

Otte said participation by the bank, which also donated $1,000 to the market, will make it possible for the first time to use debit and credit cards. Users will be able to obtain vouchers at whatever value they want at the bank booth and then use those to pay for items from market vendors.

Otte said the vendors will then trade the vouchers in for cash at the end of the day.

Otte noted that the Morton Grove Farmers Market, which will be having its fourth season next summer, was mentioned at a recent meeting held for market managers and was recognized for its new programs.

"They said 'look at what Morton Grove is doing,'" Otte said. "It's been a dream of ours since we started the market."
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$165,000

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NILES
7662 N Milwaukee Ave: CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST 0000001097004 to MACKIN LAND CO LLC for $645,000 on Dec. 28
7091 W Touby Ave Unit 299: FIRST NATIONS BANK TRUST 0000000001179 to Robert Gerard Butzen Trust for $153,500 on Dec. 24
7407 W Main St: John M Parhch to Dragos Crnac for $153,500 on Dec. 24
8139 W Greendale Ave: James V Pantaleo to Ivana Buljubasic for $183,500 on Dec. 28
8541 Parkside Ave: CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST 00000000004661 to Michael E Chesack for $247,000 on Dec. 27
8714 Nue Center Rd: TCF NATIONAL BANK to Ashley A Gonzales for $75,000 on Dec. 28
9205 Potter Rd Unit 204D: Malgorzata Kupka to Monika Toma for $56,000 on Dec. 26

MORTON GROVE
8600 Waukegan Rd Unit 103E: David Kossy Trust to Petro Matsura for $95,000 on Dec. 28
8600 Waukegan Rd Unit 309E: Florence Friedan Trust to CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST 0008002360660 for $105,000 on Dec. 28
7921 Lake St: Martin Krob to Roman Kralrhvill for $270,000 on Dec. 24
9305 Harlem Ave: Leni M Potenza Trust to Glenn A Greenberg for $141,000 on Dec. 27
7225 Lyons St: FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION to Rashida Akhtar for $183,500 on Dec. 28
8841 Parkside Ave: National Republic Bank of Chicago to PARKSIDE-ARCADIA INC for $430,000 on Dec. 26
7539 Wilson Ter: FANNIE MAE to Daniel D Yaco for $215,000 on Dec. 27
8942 Harms Rd: Joseph F Ficek to Michelle Solari for $230,000 on Dec. 24
9315 Luna Ave: Linda Anne Gump Trust to Misangcad S Mangunday for $244,000 on Dec. 24

PARK RIDGE
11 N Northwest Hwy: VENTIC-INOQUE MARIO TRUST to BARI LLC for $380,000 on Dec. 27
28 Vine Ave: MB800 LLC to MISPUR LLC for $250,000 on Dec. 27
521 N Western Ave: Vericrest Opportunity Loan Trust 2011 Npli to Bin Zhou for $205,000 on Dec. 27
1601 S Ashland Ave: Gary G Fritz to Anthony Aloise for $295,000 on Dec. 28
1114 Devon Ave: INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORP to RIGHT RESIDENTIAL SERIES 3 LLC for $120,500 on Dec. 28
2004 S Ashland Ave: Bank of America to Limited Liability 3 LLC for $120,500 on Dec. 28

LINCOLNWOOD
3917 W Jarlath St: Frank Pisani to Mary Jo Reck for $130,000 on Dec. 28
4906 N Chester Ave: Ivan Kosack to Michael E Chesack for $270,000 on Dec. 28
8611 Josephine St Unit 32: Deutsche Bank National Trust Co to Damir Mostic for $150,000 on Dec. 28

CHICAGO
6329 W Fitch Ave: CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST 00000000004661 to Michael E Chesack for $247,000 on Dec. 27
8951 N Maryland St: Dragisa Kosic to Pantaleo Trust to Ivana Buljubasic for $130,000 on Dec. 28
8611 Josephine St Unit 32: Deutsche Bank National Trust Co to Damir Mostic for $97,000 on Dec. 28
9205 Potter Rd Unit 204D: Malgorzata Kupka to Monika Toma for $56,000 on Dec. 26

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Get financially fit in 2013 with these tips.

**Track It**

One of the best ways to get financially fit is to start tracking where your money goes. Try keeping a record of your receipts and expenses for a year, which will help you gain a better understanding of your spending habits and a clearer sense of how much money you actually need for everyday necessities. If tracking your spending for an entire year sounds too daunting, try tracking for just a month, which should give you a fairly accurate snapshot.

**Create a 'Doable Budget'**

When it comes to budgeting, set yourself up for success. Make sure you create a budget that reflects you as a person, which means prioritizing line items that matter most to you and your family. For example, if taking a family trip each year is a top priority, find other areas where you can cut, such as expensive dinners or sporting events.

You also want to work in some padding so you have wiggle room in case a special opportunity arises.

**Establish an Emergency Fund**

Saving a little each month can make a big difference, especially when it comes to unexpected household emergencies such as broken appliances, leaky roofs, etc. A good rule of thumb is to keep 10 percent of your net worth liquid, so you can access it at any time. If that's impossible, try putting away as much as possible each month. Talk to your employer about direct deposit options, which may include designating your paycheck to multiple accounts (savings and checking). Another savings trick is to take out an extra $20 each time you go to the debit machine, which you can then funnel into a separate savings account or piggy bank.

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**Debt-busting books**

When it comes to money management there is no shortage of books, so we asked our friends on Facebook to share their favorite recommendations:

- *Great With Money* by Melissa Burke and Ellen Rogin — Meg B.
- *The Millionaire Next Door* by Thomas Stanley and William Danko — Cathy H.
- *Financial Peace University* by Dave Ramsey — Lisa K.
- *Women & Money* by Suze Orman — Kathi L.
- *Debt Free for Life* by David Bach — Antonette

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Antonette Taylor, a personal empowerment coach | RYAN PAGELOW-Sun-Times Media
Romantic recipes will shine at For the Love of Chocolate

BY VERONICA HINKE | Contributor

A new venue and fresh recipes will change up the French Pastry School’s annual For the Love of Chocolate Scholarship Foundation gala this year.

The Feb. 23 event will take place in the Union League Club of Chicago and new chefs will participate. But one aspect of the occasion will remain: plenty of romantic foods.

First-time participant Tiffany Schuler, new owner of Sweet Whimsy, a bakery in Long Grove, will make a decadent Chocolate Orange Crémeux with Buttermilk Panna Cotta and Passion Fruit Gelée. The dessert is as loaded with flavors as textures.

"It's chocolate, tangy buttermilk and bright passion fruit," she says. "The buttermilk panna cotta gives a nice color contrast and the passion fruit gelée brings a pop of freshness."

Schuler, a 2008 graduate of the French Pastry School, warns not to cook the eggs too long when making the crèmeux.

"If the eggs boil for too long, you will end up with scrambled eggs," she says. "Once the eggs are added back into the cream, you just want to bring the cream to a light boil. Right when it starts to bubble around the sides, it's ready to be poured over the chocolate."

For the Love of Chocolate will feature plenty of pastry chefs showcasing their latest sweets, but savory recipes will also star in a five-course dinner option. Paul Virant, chef/owner of Michelin-starred Vie Restaurant in Western Springs and Perennial Virant in Chicago, will contribute the first course of the dinner. Virant will make Smoked Rushing Waters Trout with Crème Fraîche, Pickled Sweet Pepper Terrine and Tasso (spicy, smoked pork) Vinaigrette.

"This dish should be a nice opener, perfect with bubbles or beer," Virant says. "The vinaigrette will be spicy hot from the tasso rub, which could be a nice segue into a spicy evening."

Like Virant, a Culinary Institute of America alum, involved in the fundraising event share a common devotion to culinary students.

"Everyone who will participate is passionate about what they do and dedicated to supporting the pursuit of excellence by aspiring pastry chefs," says Jacqui Pfeiffer, the French Pastry School's academic dean for student affairs. "Pastry is not just about making cookies: It’s about dedicating your life to being the best you can be at something you love to do."

For more information on the event, see www.fortheloveofchocolatefoundation.org.

**ORANGE CRÉMEUX**

1 cup heavy cream
1 cup whole milk
1 orange, zested
3 egg yolks
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup good quality dark chocolate

Bring heavy cream, milk, orange zest and half of the sugar to a boil in saucepan. Meanwhile, whisk the other half of the sugar into egg yolks.

Pour 1/4 cup of boiling milk into egg yolk mixture and whisk quickly. Return milk to heat and slowly add in milk and yolk mixture and bring to a low boil while whisking constantly.

Pour milk mixture over chocolate and whisk until smooth. Pour into cups and chill until set.

**BUTTERMILK PANNA COTTA**

2 tablespoons water
1 1/2 teaspoons gelatin
1 cup heavy cream
1/2 cup sugar
2 cups buttermilk
1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste (scrape the inside of a vanilla pod)

Soften gelatin in bowl with water. In saucepan, dissolve sugar into heavy cream, and then bring to a boil.

Remove from heat and stir in gelatin until dissolved. Add buttermilk and vanilla bean paste.

Let sit until slightly cooled, then pour over the crèmeux. Chill in refrigerator until set.

**PASSION FRUIT GELÉE**

2 teaspoons gelatin
1/2 cup water
2 cups passion fruit juice
1 lemon, juiced

In saucepan, melt gelatin into water until fully dissolved. Turn off heat and slowly whisk in passion fruit juice and lemon juice. Chill until gelée is the consistency of raw eggs. Spoon gelée on top of panna cotta, and chill until gelée is set.
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Lights; camera; action; Improv Playhouse's most technologically involved camp trains filmmakers. After shooting footage, campers edit a five- to 15-minute movie using Mac computers and software such as Adobe Premiere or Final Cut Pro. 

Technology is gaining ground at Improv Playhouse's camps

BY KIMBERLY ELSHAM
For Sun-Times Media

Technology has greatly improved how businesses run their operations. Summer camp is no different. Improv Playhouse, a performing arts training center based in Libertyville, runs several day camps during the summer that encompass several performing arts aspects including music theatre, play production, improvisation, filmmaking and fashion.

Technology in its camps, geared toward first-graders and older, plays a significant role in administrative capacities. David Stuart, owner and executive producer, said his staff communicates mainly through Google Groups emails and text messaging. "The staff is trained 'You keep your cell phone on you and on.' We want you for ac-

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countability,” he said. Improv Playhouse runs its camps out of a few facilities between its Libertyville and Highland Park locations, so campers and staff move among them on a regular basis. Thus, having real-time access to his staff for communication is key.

He added that his camp uses Google Groups, a Web-based group discussion service, for both staff and campers. He said that the service is the primary resource for notes and meeting announcements. Messages posted to the group are sent via email to staffers.

“Whether our staff has Gmail when they start here, they’ll have it once they get here,” he said. Social media also plays a role in communicating with campers, both past and prospective.

“On Facebook, we do weekly postings. It’s our primary touch-point with pictures and updates,” Stuart said. Improv Playhouse operates two Facebook pages: one for the Playhouse itself and one for the performing arts camps.

It also operates a Twitter account (@ImprovPlayhouse), which updates registration and events information a few times a month.

Stuart said dedicated members of his staff are responsible for updating social media accounts, and during summer sessions, more staff members will gain access to post updates or photos day-to-day. Additionally, young campers may request to “friend” the Playhouse on Facebook, but Stuart’s staff exercises care when deciding to approve them and only does “if we sense that the kid has parental permission.”

Among the camps themselves, the most technologically involved is the filmmaking camp. After shooting footage, campers edit a five- to 15-minute movie using Mac computers and software such as Adobe Premiere or Final Cut Pro. Stuart noted that because of the breadth of technology available to the public today, many campers arrive already having a good handle on video editing.

In light of some new tech tools the camp incorporates, the website still serves as the main resource for prospective campers and their families. He added that the website used to allow for online registration, but that the utilization of the service was “about 50-50.” After the company that originally designed the online registration tool closed, Stuart said he decided to revert to manual registration, which parents still seem to prefer.

The key thing about incorporating new technology, he said, is being able to ask: “Is it good for the organization? Does it work well?”
2013 SUMMER CAMPS

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SPECIAL SECTION
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Financial aid tames summer camp costs

Western Day: Decoma Day Camp offers programs, such as interest-free payment plans, to help interested families send their children to our camp. SUPPLIED PHOTO

Open arms: “We work to ensure that no family that needs our support and our services is turned away because of an inability to pay,” said Juliet Garrard, marketing director at McGaw YMCA. SUPPLIED PHOTO

By Marcy Harro
For Sun-Times Media

Summer will be here before you know it, and the kids will be looking forward to sun-filled and school-less days. While everyone knows that sending the kids to camp can be expensive, many camp programs offer financial assistance.

At McGaw YMCA in Evanston, Juliet Garrard, marketing director, said the Y works to keep basic membership and camp fees affordable for families. To receive assistance with camp fees, the family or campers must be members at McGaw. Garrard said the Y’s basic membership, which is on a sliding scale, takes into consideration both family income and family size. Garrard added that, “The Y gives away approximately $1.34 million each year to make membership and programs, including camp, affordable.”

“The goal of the Y is that everyone who wants to participate can,” Garrard said. “This is made possible by the generous people and organizations who donate to the Y. Membership fees, while an impor-

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tant contribution, do not cover the fee assistance and scholarships we give out for membership, camp and all our other programs. Progressively, our members are starting to contribute over and above their fees because they see the benefit that kids and others in the community receive from the Y, and we are very grateful and appreciative of their support. Together, we work to ensure that no family that needs our support and our services is turned away because of an inability to pay."

Gary Deutsch, camp director at Decoma Day Camp in Northbrook said they are very willing to work with parents on an individual basis who have various financial situations.

"Decoma offers several options, such as interest free payment plans, to help interested families send their children to our camp," he said.

The Park District of Oak Park offers scholarship funds to assist low-income individuals and families wanting to participate in the park district's programs. Scholarship funds can be used for all park district programs and passes.

"We have revamped our scholarship program for this year to make the application process easier," said Diane Stank, manager of communications at the Park District of Oak Park. "It is aligned with school district 97's reduced and free lunch program's eligibility requirements."

When looking into camps, be sure to ask about scholarships and financial assistance if you are concerned about the costs. Many programs are willing to work with parents to make sure children get the chance to have the summer camp experience.

Digging for gold: The McCaw YMCA gives away approximately $1.34 million each year to make membership and programs, including camp, affordable.

Different strokes for different folks: McCaw YMCA's basic membership, which is on a sliding scale, takes into consideration both family income and family size.

Camp registration begins March 4.

Kids can spend their summer having fun right here in Park Ridge at our summer camps.

Visit www.prparks.org for details.
Learning for life at camp

BY NIKI PAPAK
Banner Day Camp

As parents, the greatest investment we can make is in our children. We work hard to ensure that they have all that they need as we prepare them for a healthy and successful future. The window to make this investment is fleeting and we must act with deliberation and swiftness to give our children all the skills necessary for their journey into adulthood.

Academic preparation is certainly a crucial part of what we want our children to obtain. Hobbies and interests such as sports skills and musical ability are also important elements to further our children's development. Yet, even if our children are completely prepared in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, athletics and the arts, they are still missing crucial components that we, as parents, must ensure they receive. As we prepare to send them into the future, we have an obligation to develop their spirit, their character, their resiliency and their independence, so they can utilize each piece of knowledge to live a life of fulfillment and integrity.

A great camp provides a unique opportunity for children to develop these crucial life skills. Because camp is a natural environment created entirely with the needs of children in mind, it is a completely safe setting, both emotionally and physically. The best camps are filled with caring and passionate counselors, specialists and adult leaders who make sure that campers feel accepted, loved, included and capable. In this supportive setting, children can stretch beyond their comfort zone and take healthy risks in a place where they are set up to be successful.

Participating in a well-organized camp program gives children an exceptional chance to widen their horizons, create new and lasting friendships and discover their strengths. Along with teaching valuable skills like how to swim or hit a baseball, the real heart of what camp teaches is how to be a fully developed person. When children attend camp, they learn how to make friends and how to be a friend. They build their responsibility, self-esteem and resilience and they develop an appreciation for the natural environment.

The social and emotional benefits of camp are significant and lasting. Parents who send their children to camp report that they come home transformed: filled with joy and overflowing with confidence. The American Camp Association (ACA) identifies the four Cs of the camp community: compassion, contribution, commitment and character. The fun and pleasure that comes from days spent outdoors engaging in active play and team building fosters these personal competencies that stay with campers throughout their lives.

We all want to give our children the world. What we really should focus on giving them are the tools needed to venture successfully into that world. We must take the utmost care and consideration in preparing them for the future. By making a strong investment in our children, we can give them the skills and experiences that create a fully realized person and set them on course for an amazing journey into adulthood.
On choosing the right camp

BY MIRINDA LEA JAMES
Special Columnist

Summer camp is a wonderful opportunity for your child to explore his or her innate aptitudes and talents. The diversity of summer camps range from artistic camps to ignite your child's creativity and imagination, educational camps, such as science and technology camps, to nurture your child's intellect and curiosity, and also sports and recreation camps to foster your child's athletic and team working skills.

Having an open discussion with your child regarding the type of summer camp he or she would like to attend this summer will maximize your child's interest and enthusiasm for attending camp and also put your mind at ease knowing that your child is having the best possible experience. Remember that it should be just as much your child's decision on where he wants to go to summer camp as it is yours as a parent. Sending your child to a camp far away may not be the best choice if he is prone to homesickness. Similarly, sending him to basketball camp when he is fervently passionate about art wouldn't be the best utilization of your child's precious few days of childhood, the time when an individual grows and develops at an exponentially accelerated rate compared to any other period in a person's life. Parents should view summer camp as a prime opportunity for their child to explore their inherent strengths, interests and passions.

Another essential factor to consider when choosing the perfect summer camp for your child is safety. When deciding upon which camp to send your child, be sure to investigate the camp and familiarize yourself with the safety rules and regulations to ensure that your child is receiving the best possible care. Feel free to familiarize your child with the rules even before he leaves home, and tell him you expect the rules to be followed. In addition to this, have a discussion with your child about using common sense to avoid jeopardizing their well being. Instruct your child to never wander off alone, stay with the group, and always have a buddy with them at all times. Explain to them that following the camp rules will prevent accidents and injuries so they will have more time for fun.

Call the camp, ask who will be taking care of your child, and make certain that the camp performs background checks on all the counselors and staff members who will be taking care of your children. Check to see if the individuals the camp hires are trained in CPR and certified in First Aid and communicate to your child to be respectful of the other children and listen to the counselors and instructors, especially concerning camp safety rules.

Many resources are available online to assist parents in making knowledgeable choices on where to send their child to camp. For a list of American Camp Association accredited summer camps, visit www.acacamps.org. ACA was established more than 100 years ago and is headed by a community of children's and teen camp professionals. ACA is the most trusted name in the summer camp industry and endorses exceptional programs nationwide.

Financial freedom: When looking into camps, ask about scholarships and financial assistance if you are concerned about the costs. Many programs, such as the McGaw YMCA, are willing to work with families. SUPPLIED PHOTO

Let the fun begin at McGaw YMCA Camp Echo this summer. Learn more about our overnight camps by visiting us at www.mcgawymca.org/campecho

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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:
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.
Auto Show stars align

Buzzworthy trucks battle superheroes for floor space

BY JEFF TAYLOR
For Sun-Times Media

Each year at the Chicago Auto Show there are clear-cut favorites that generate the most buzz, packing the displays with visitors eager to see, snap a picture, or sit inside a new vehicle. As the largest annual public auto show in the nation, manufacturers keep a watchful eye on the reactions of visitors and note which vehicles draw the biggest crowds, and which vehicles receive the most inquiries.

While every display has something to offer, the following are the vehicles garnering the most attention at the show this year:

Corvette

By far the biggest draw of the show is the stunning, seventh generation 2014 Chevrolet Corvette coupe. Corvette's 6.2-liter small block V8 produces 450 horsepower, which can propel the two-seater to 60 mph in less than four seconds.

Corvette is available with a six-speed automatic or seven-speed manual transmission. A sleek, new lightweight body and engine management technologies will improve Environmental Protection Agency mileage figures. Better design, better materials and reconfigurable gauge display make the interior acceptable for a car in the $90,000 price range.

New pickups

The Chicago Auto Show is considered a truck/SUV show by many manufacturers and visitors have their choice of not one, but three new pickups to check out this year. Visitors are taking advantage of the "under one roof" displays to compare these all-new trucks head-to-head.

Toyota's all-new third generation 2014 Tundra full-sized half ton pickup made its worldwide debut at the show. Tundra was last revised for the 2007 model year. The new truck features a new exterior design, new cargo management solutions, and more technology while continuing to offer V-8 power, but with improved MPG, according to Toyota.

Tundra follows the introduction of General Motors' 2014 Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra twins.

Chrysler counters with its Motor Trend Truck of the Year and North American Truck of the Year winning Ram pickup. Ram received some exterior styling upgrades and powertrain changes including a new seven-speed automatic with twist knob gear selection, along with an interior refreshing and more cargo storage solutions. The heavy-duty diesel pickups and robust chassis cutaways are also part of the display.

Ford is showcasing its beefy Atlas concept truck that provides strong indications of the direction the exterior styling of the next generation F-150 will take.

Superhero-like appeal

Kia Motors America has a whole superhero line of concept cars based on iconic DC Entertainment's World's Greatest Super-Heroes. These flashy recognizable concepts are drawing young and old fans to its display. Kia and DC's Justice League theme cars include Batman, Wonder Woman, Green Lantern, The Flash, Aquaman, Cyborg, and a new Superman theme car introduced at the show.

WHAT'S OLD IS NEW: Tuner specialists upgrade looks, performance

BY REX ROY
For Sun-Times Media

The average car in the U.S. is approximately 11 years old. Many Chicagoans are walking the aisles of McCormick Place this week looking to replace their current ride.

But what if you seek something a bit better than a "regular" new vehicle? Or, more likely, what if you can't yet afford to replace your car, but still want to benefit from today's newest technologies for a fraction of the cost of something new?

Better than new

Specialty automotive tuners fill the unique vehicle void left unserved by major manufacturers. Lingenfelter Performance Engineering, from Decatur, Ind., makes new Chevrolet Camaro and Corvettes better than new.

Three decades of experience have earned Lingenfelter Performance Engineering a stellar reputation for high quality modifications, so owning a fully customized vehicle doesn't mean driving without warranty protection.

At McCormick Place, Lingenfelter is showing their new Signature Series Chevrolet Camaro packages. These deliver performance and aesthetic upgrades for Camaro coupes and convertibles. There are two vehicle packages to suit enthusiasts' specific tastes, including power-boosting superchargers. More information can be found at www.Lingenfelter.com.

If you're a Ford person, look to Steeda Autosport, another tuner with a great history and reputation. The Steeda StreetFighter packages for the Mustang put 28 years of tuning history into a potent package with more style and power (up to 525 horsepower), an adjustable suspension and more, all backed by a warranty. Find out more at www.Steeda.com.

Advanced safety

Many new vehicles offer fully integrated radar- or camera-based collision warning and lane-keeping systems. These systems alert drivers that they're driving toward a potential accident or drifting out of their lane.
Brave new world

Carrying on: Ford's new high-mileage engine is small enough to fit into a suitcase.

Technology pushes auto industry forward

BY REX ROY
For Sun-Times Media

Superior-minded pundits have stated that cars haven’t fundamentally changed in over a century. They still have internal-combustion engines and four wheels. Listen not to such ignorant blather. While antique and modern cars do have gas-burning engines and the same number of wheels, technological evolution has changed everything else about vehicles in the last 100 years. And the change continues.

The new vehicles displayed at the Chicago Auto Show illustrate the progress automotive manufacturers continue to make in the critical areas of fuel efficiency, performance, safety and functionality.

More from less

Smaller engines use less fuel than larger engines. Because fuel remains expensive, today’s newest vehicles are powered by downsized engines. Thanks to major advances in fuel injection and ignition technologies, smaller engines produce big-engine power. For example, the current 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine used in many smaller Chevrolet models produces 138 horsepower, matching the power of 30 percent larger four-cylinders circa 2003 and V-6 engines from the 1990s. Of course, the new Chevy engine delivers superior fuel economy.

Turbocharging helps modern engines be even smaller. How small? How about one-liter? For old-timers, that’s just 64 cubic inches, one-third of the size of the smallest engine Chrysler offered in the mid-1960s.

Ford Motor Company offers a 123-horsepower turbocharged 1.0-liter three-cylinder engine that is small enough to fit into an airplane’s overhead compartment.

More gears

While downsizing engines and adding fuel-saving technologies like turbos are effective ways to boost miles per gallon, engineers are also radically changing transmissions. Having more gears allows engines to run at their most efficient speed (RPM), saving fuel. Gear counts go even higher in modern automatic transmissions. Six gears is the new standard, with many manufacturers offering seven or eight. Chrysler is leading the gear wars with their new nine-speed automatic that’s optional on several 2013 models.

Adding safety

Remember when front driver-side airbags became standard equipment? It was 1989. This single bag helped prevent the driver from smashing into the steering wheel during a crash, protecting him by spreading impact forces across a larger area of the body, easing deceleration forces. Airbags are now standard on all passenger vehicles. Today, in addition to front airbags, there are side airbags (front and rear), side-curtain airbags, front knee airbags, and even inflatable rear safety belts.

While airbags have succeeded in saving lives, they only work once an accident has commenced. To help prevent accidents, manufacturers utilize electronic driving aids, and continue to expand stability system functionality.

Drop-top demand

BY ANDY MIKONIS
For Sun-Times Media

Those who were paying attention to cars back in the 1970s will recall the dark days for the convertible. Precious few models were on sale and it looked like the drop-top would become a thing of the past.

Not so today, as the Chicago Auto Show enjoys huge crowds, and spotlights a number of choices available for the driver who wants to feel the wind in their hair.

Advancements in automotive engineering must take credit for the resurgence in convertible popularity. Driving the convertibles of yore often represented making some sacrifices. They were noisy, they leaked, and the bodies quaked over every bump.

Convertibles are an engineering challenge, as the roof makes up a significant part of a car’s structure. Contemporary convertible bodies are skillfully reinforced to deliver a refined ride.

Volkswagen Beetle

One of the most recognizable shapes on the road, the inevitable convertible version joins the longer, lower, and wider all-new Beetle introduced last year.

Three powertrains are available, a 2.5-liter five-cylinder that comes standard with an automatic transmission, a 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder for a sportier edge, and a 2.0-liter TDI Clean Diesel rated at 41 miles per gallon on the highway. While the styling gives a few clever nods to the original, the driving experience is thoroughly modern.

Chevrolet Camaro ZL1

Distinguished by functional aerodynamic enhancements, the Camaro ZL1 is a performance package featuring a supercharged 6.2-liter V-8 with 580 horsepower and a choice of six-speed manual or automatic transmissions. It achieves 60 mph in four seconds, while the standard Performance Traction Management’s five settings adjust the stability and traction control for various track conditions and skill levels. Also standard is GM’s Magnetic Ride suspension, which constantly evaluates the road surface and recalibrates its settings.

BMW M6

The fastest convertible BMW has produced gets to 60 mph in 4.2 seconds courtesy of a 560-horsepower twin-turbo 4.4-liter V-8. Valvetronic variable valve timing increases fuel mileage along with BMW’s stop/start technology, which automatically shuts off the engine at a stop to reduce emissions, and restarts it when you take your foot off the brake pedal. The 650i convertible’s rigid body was reinforced for high performance driving, and suspension components are upgraded. Base price: $113,995.

Bentley GT Speed Convertible

The U.S. market continues to be Bentley’s largest, and Bentley cites some great performance figures. A 616-horsepower twin-turbo W-12 engine propels it to 205 mph. Power is delivered to the ground through an eight-speed automatic transmission and all-wheel drive. Base price: TBA.

Audi S5 Cabriolet (front)

A new supercharged 3.0-liter V-6 with 333 horsepower and 385 pound-feet of torque replaces the 4.2-liter V-8. It does 0 to 60 miles per hour in the same 4.9 seconds as the V8, while getting better fuel mileage and reducing emissions.

Standard on the S5 Cabriolet is a seven-speed dual-clutch transmission and Audi’s legendary quattro all-wheel drive. New design fea-

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<th>Stock Number</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>1999 GMC Suburban 4x4 SLT</td>
<td>C11029</td>
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<td>2006 GMC Sierra Plus</td>
<td>C1103</td>
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<td>2006 BMW 320xi AWD</td>
<td>C11018A</td>
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<td>2010 Chevy Traverse AWD LS</td>
<td>C11019</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012 Chevrolet Captiva LT</td>
<td>C11020</td>
<td>$22,495</td>
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<td>2010 GMC Terrain 3.0 V6 SLT</td>
<td>C11021</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010 Mercedes ML 350</td>
<td>C11022</td>
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<td>2011 Toyota FJ Cruiser</td>
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<td>2012 Chevrolet Suburban</td>
<td>C11025</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>2013 Toyota Prius II</td>
<td>$21,695</td>
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<td>2013 Jeep Grand Cherokee</td>
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<td>2013 Mazda CX-5</td>
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<td>2013 Mini Cooper</td>
<td>$22,995</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013 Hyundai Tucson</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013 Subaru Forester</td>
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<td>Automatic, Air, Full Power, Silver, Side Curtain</td>
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<td>2013 Chrysler 300</td>
<td>$23,840</td>
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Toll Brothers national sales event on through Feb. 24

Excitement building

Toll Brothers, the nation’s leading builder of luxury homes, is hosting a “National Sales Event” now through Feb. 24, offering substantial savings and incentive packages at its communities in South Barrington, Elgin and Morton Grove.

Home buyers will be able to customize their dream homes for less and get even more for their investment.

“The National Sales Event offers the perfect alignment of elements to make this a tremendous home-buying opportunity,” said Kira Sterling, chief marketing officer. “This is a special chance to get so much more for your money and customize your home to your heart’s content.”

Buyers can choose from different savings packages which vary by community. Plus, manufacturers such as Kohler, Whirlpool, Yorktowne, Progress and Shaw are offering incentives that give buyers the opportunity to personalize their homes with upgraded carpet, hardwood flooring, cabinetry, appliances, faucets and more.

Toll Brothers has seen a significant increase in interest recently. “The once-in-a-lifetime mortgage rates and incredible prices are driving buyers to see first-hand what they can afford,” said Nicolle Gardiner, senior sales manager for Toll Brothers. “It’s exciting to show them how much more they will get if they buy today.”

Toll Brothers offers communities across greater Chicagoland.

“We invite everyone to come out to our communities and take a tour,” said Ms. Gardiner. “We will provide details on this spectacular savings opportunity and walk you through a range of home designs so that you can see our quality and all the customizing possibilities you have when you build a Toll Brothers home.”

In Morton Grove, buyers can take advantage of the final opportunity to own one of the stunning rowhomes at The Crossings at Morton Grove. These stylish residences are located just steps from the Metra and start in the mid-$300,000s offering three levels of living space plus a rooftop deck and a basement. Quick occupancy is available.

In Elgin, enjoy country club living at Bowes Creek Country Club, a premier golf club community surrounding the award-winning Rick Jacobson-designed public golf course. Buyers can choose from spacious townhomes or single-family homes with prices starting at $199,995. The newest collection of single-family homes, The Fairways, offers buyers an amazing value with 2,400- to 3,400-plus square-foot homes starting in the upper $200,000s.

Buyers age 50 and older will want to find out more about Regency at Bowes Creek Country Club, a gated enclave of ranch and two-story single-family homes within the Bowes Creek community. Residents of Regency enjoy access to a private clubhouse which features a pool, fitness center, tennis and bocce courts, a putting green, and a billiard room. Prices start at $199,995.

In South Barrington, Toll Brothers is offering luxury single-family homes from the $400,000s at The Woods of South Barrington. The Woods of South Barrington offers the largest home sites Toll Brothers offers anywhere in Chicagoland, providing the opportunity to expand a home with side additions, such as the first-floor guest suite or spacious sun room.

Regency at The Woods of South Barrington is the only age-50-plus community in South Barrington.

National best: Toll Brothers’ sales event offers a rare opportunity to take advantage of national manufacturer incentives. Pictured is the family room of the Harvard home. 1 Supplied Photo

Regency features a private gated entry and a well-appointed clubhouse affording residents the luxury of an on-site gym with scheduled classes, tennis, bocce, and shuffleboard courts, a heated pool, and social rooms for barbecues, billiards, or cards. Low-maintenance single-family ranch and two-story homes offer up to 3,400 square feet of living space and begin in the low $500,000s. A new section of home sites on a cul-de-sac street have just been released and are already selling quickly.

The builder will also build on privately owned lots. For community details, maps and contact information, visit www.TollBrothers.com/IL.

For those that would love to build a Toll Brothers home on their own land, the company will also build on privately owned lots.

Toll Brothers has been named 2013 Builder of the Year by Professional Builder magazine and is the first builder to win this award twice. Toll Brothers also is honored to have won two other coveted awards in the home building industry: America’s Best Builder and the National Housing Quality Award.
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Home decor, design trends heat up

The top home decor trends for 2013 are already emerging, and homeowners seeking a fresh look will find a lot to love. Not only can these looks be accomplished in minimal time. They're budget friendly and easy enough for DIYers to finish in a weekend or less.

Giving your home an updated feel doesn't require a full-scale renovation. Instead, focus on simple updates for the most frequently used rooms in your house. When you're ready to get started on your home's new look, let these trends of the year be your design guide.

In the kitchen

Kitchens need to be functional, but in this hub of the home style is just as important. Upholding practicality while adding visual interest is a top trend this season. Two-toned upper and lower cabinet colors are rapidly growing in popularity as a way to let homeowners customize their kitchen spaces and express their personalities.

- Maple is the style frontrunner when it comes to wooden cabinets. But painted cabinets in white, black and gray tones are also on the rise. Whether you opt to replace your cabinet fronts or paint them, your efforts will give you impressive and fast results.
- On the functionality front, innovative hands-free faucets simplify cooking and cleaning tasks while requiring minimal effort to install.
- Open shelving is seeing a boost in popularity. Both glass-fronted cabinets and simple open shelves capture this trend, allowing you to put your style on display while creating a sleek, updated look.

In the bath

A luxurious-feeling bath doesn't need to make big demands on your wallet. By making a few on-trend updates, you'll give your room designer appeal guaranteed to make an impression.

- Updating the vanity, often the focal point in a bathroom, provides immediate results. Customizable modular options let you create a storage-savvy vanity that fits virtually any bathroom while also adding functional drawer and counter-top space.
- Tiling provides the perfect solution to add extra personality to your bath. Right now, trends offer two different but equally chic directions: large-scale tile and small-scale mosaics. Tiled with wood-like appearances are also gaining popularity; they create a warm, inviting look, but offer the wet-space practicality of tile. If it's your first time tiling, home improvement experts at stores like Lowe's can provide guidance to get started with your tile flooring.

Throughout the home

When it comes to low-effort, big-impact changes, it's hard to beat a fresh coat of paint. For walls that feel drab, boring or outdated, new paint makes a color statement and draws attention to architectural details. Follow these paint tips to make an instant, dramatic impression.

- Alter the dimensions of a space by painting ceilings a slightly lighter color than the walls.
- Create patterns and shapes using painter's tape. Stripes, chevrons and ombre effects are perfectly on-trend.
- Highlight architectural details by painting interior doors and trim in a colorful hue instead of traditional white.

In one weekend or less, these simple changes will make your home feel like an entirely new space. So when the seasonal urge to renovate sets in, don't resist. Reinvigorate your home with these ideas.

— Brandpoint
Boost your productivity with home office upgrades

Not everyone has a home office that inspires productivity. But if you work from home at all — and the Bureau of Labor Statistics says 24 percent of people employed outside the home do at least some of their work at home — having a comfortable, organized and appealing home office can make your job easier.

Home Business Magazine says there are around 36 million home-based businesses in the U.S., and 34.3 million to 36.6 million households with active home offices. That's a lot of home offices, and a lot of ugly desks, dim lighting and clutter, too.

Many home offices are less the product of careful planning than something that evolves from a spare bedroom, bonus room or an extra corner in the basement. Home workers often spend eight hours a day or more in their home offices. Will the color you choose hold up to that kind of intense together-work? 

Invest in storage
Clutter in your home can range from simply annoying to downright depressing. In your home office, it can spell disaster in the form of lost paperwork, missing projects and even lost business.

Plenty of storage and an organizational system that makes the most of it are essential for your home office. Whether you opt for open shelving, locking file cabinets, a desk with ample drawers or a combination of storage types, it's important to find solutions that work for you and fit your home office space.

Light, naturally
Of course you're aware of the importance of good lighting in an office setting, but did you know that ample natural lighting can boost your productivity?

The mood-boosting effects of natural light are well documented, with many studies showing that office workers exposed to daylight throughout their work day are happier, healthier and more productive than those who function only under artificial light.

In your home office, ample natural light from sources such as a skylight can help reduce Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), eyestrain and stress. These are all ailments that stand in the way of productivity.

“Adding a skylight to your home office can be a cost-effective way to ensure you get plenty of natural light during office hours,” said Ross VandeMark of VELUX America, makers of Energy Star-qualified skylights. “What's more, a properly installed, energy-efficient skylight can help you control heating, cooling and lighting costs in your home office. If you opt for a fresh air skylight, it can also help enhance the air quality in your work space.”

Even if your office is on the ground floor, you may be able to add a skylight. An option is “tunnel tubular skylights,” which allow you to bring natural light to virtually anywhere in your home.

Still not sure of the benefit in a home office setting? Add the latest solar powered fresh air skylight and an energy-efficient solar powered blind to your home office and the products, as well as the installation, will be eligible for a 30 percent federal tax credit as a green home improvement.

Sound it out
Noise can be a huge distraction, whether you're on deadline for a major project or on a conference call with a new client. Simple soundproofing steps can help you reduce noise in your home office, without costing you a mint.

Start with a good quality, thick carpet, which will help dampen sound. Next, add thick draperies and fabric surfaces such as an upholstered chair. Fabrics help reduce the movement of sound waves.

With more Americans working from home, creating an inviting, inspiring office can bring a lot of benefits. The home office can be a cost-effective way to ensure you get plenty of natural light during office hours. They are eligible for a 30 percent federal tax credit.

Natural energy: Solar powered fresh air skylights, with energy-efficient solar blinds, provide natural light and passive ventilation for a more productive home office. They are eligible for a 30 percent federal tax credit. I SUPPLIED PHOTOS


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For more information, visit the Showcase Communities at: tinyurl.com/GTKBuilders
Stronger market equals better deals at Millbrook Pointe

With the housing market trending up and mortgage rates at an all time low, now is the perfect time to buy a home, according to Gary Levitas, president of Northfield Group.

The influx of more buyers into the market is driving prices up. That’s why Levitas encourages potential buyers looking for a luxury townhome to visit Millbrook Pointe and tour his elegant three and four bedroom townhomes priced affordably from $289,900 in a premier Wheeling location.

An abundance of choices in home style and location are available this spring and summer now that Phase II construction on four buildings is under way. Another benefit to the consumer is $10,000 worth of incentives that include upgrades such as a finished basement, hardwood floors, high-end appliances and elegant kitchen cabinets, plus much more.

Many owners have praised Northfield Group’s policy of total customization within the footprint of their floor plans. “We address our buyer’s expectations and offer many choices to help them transform their home into a true reflection of their lifestyle,” said Levitas.

“We will enlarge a bedroom or relocate a bathroom and help select the most stylish finishes. Our goal is to provide our customers with value and quality. I want them to love their new home and recognize that they got a great buy that will appreciate in years to come,”

Recent buyers, Ellen and David Kay, customized their home to their heart’s content.

“We selected different cabinets, hardware, backspash, light fixtures and ceiling fans and then Gary installed all the products we purchased. Dealing with Gary was like working with a custom builder but at production builder pricing,” said Ellen.

Levitas reconfigured the kitchen by adding an additional row of cabinets over and under the existing counter for extra storage. In the master bath, the couple wanted a larger walk-in shower with a shower seat, so Gary reconfigured the entire bathroom to accommodate their request. In the powder room he substituted a vanity in lieu of the standard pedestal sink so the Kays could have additional counter space.

Buyers are delighted with their high quality products such as Pella wood windows, solid core six-panel wood doors, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, site stained wood floors, recessed lighting throughout, 3¼-inch base moldings and casings around the windows and doors, large back deck, and two-car garage.

The Kays think that their 2,400-square-foot rowhome feels like a single family home without the work. The spacious family room boasts a floor-to-ceiling bay window that brings in lots of natural light and overlooks a gazebo and fountain.

Customers are impressed by the innovative floor plans and excited about all the new features and improvements to existing townhome designs at Millbrook Pointe. Premium lots are available and construction can be completed in as little as four months, giving buyers enough time to make their finish selections and customize their homes.

You can choose from two upscale townhome plans. One offers four bedrooms and 3½ baths with a first-floor master suite. The other is a three-bedroom, 2½-bath traditional layout. Features include separate living room, two-story great room, spacious kitchen with granite countertops and a center island, vaulted ceilings, outdoor deck, and 9-foot basement.

If you like the way a rowhome looks and flows, check out a charming three-story rowhome design featuring two or three bedrooms and 2½ baths. Two plans showcase a family room that can be converted to a guest suite, an open kitchen, separate living room and dining room, master bedroom with private balcony, and another large balcony or terrace.

In addition to Millbrook Pointe, Northfield Group is building scattered single family homes in the northern suburbs and Chicago.

To visit Millbrook Pointe, from Interstate 294 North, exit Lake Cook Road, go west to 816 N. Milwaukee Ave. The sales office is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (847) 347-2300 or visit millbrookpointe.com.
### TODAY'S HOMES

#### SALES

**Fox Lake**
- 2152 N Michigan Ave: Auerbach, Daniel & Sonja, $212,000
- 3060 Trail Crest Ln: Olszewski, Bryan K & Vanessa F, $446,500

**Morton Grove**
- 7345 Arcturus St: Lamberti, Patricia, $215,000
- 8440 Callie Ave: Cho, Andrew, $160,000
- 5000 Carol Ave: Levin, Daniel E, $258,000

**Grayslake**
- 3321 W Sagewood Ln: Strohman, Brian & Christine, $163,000

**Kenilworth**
- 531 Essex Rd: Gannon, James & Janice, $3,700,000

**Lake Forest**
- 1142 Pine Oaks Ct: Tanaka, David F & Sarah A, $205,000
- 123 S Ridge Rd: Castoro, Charles H & Carol, $1,600,000
- 644 Timber Ln: Johnson, Daphne D, $845,000

**Libertyville**
- 1551 Rudd Ct: Parsons, Amy & Robert A, $417,500
- 1605 S Falcon Dr: Soto, Germaine & Valdez, Carlos, $332,500

**Lincolnshire**
- 15200 N Apple Orchard Ln: Malaca, Thomas J & Regula, Monica K, $212,000

**Lindenhurst**
- 1742 Natures Way: Murphy, Lary E, $242,000

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**Waukegan**
- 1020 N Lewis Ave: Will, Sara M & Lorenz, Amanda R, $380,000
- 9201 Drake Ave: Azeem, Ali S & Johnson, Peter, $438,000

**Vernon Hills**
- 575 Central Park Pl: Thakkar, Malini & Thakkar, Deepak, $395,000

**Winnetka**
- 1238 Reed Rd: Quijada, Jamie, $481,000

**Zion**
- 832 N Octavia Ave: Vasquez, Adolfo, $184,000

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#### Mortgage Rates

**United Home Loans**

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| 30 yr fixed   | 3.50 | 0.00   | 0.99 | 3.59%
| 15 yr fixed   | 2.87 | 0.00   | 0.99 | 2.92%
| 5/1 ARM       | 2.62 | 0.00   | 0.99 | 2.78%
| 7/1 ARM       | 2.75 | 0.00   | 0.99 | 2.82%

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

Cover Story
A set of 'Little Women' show off their spunk at James Downing Theatre.

Family Friendly
Fairy tales get twisted at Gorilla Tango.

What to Do
Your calendar for this week and beyond.

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

Movies
For his work on visual effects software, a local man will receive an Academy Award.

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Corey Mills feels a special connection to "Little Women - The Musical."

"It's a story that's pretty close to my heart," the director said. "It features strong women and I was raised by my mother and grandmother who, like Jo, went out and did whatever they needed to for the people that they love."

Mills is directing the story of Jo March, her three sisters and their mother for the James Downing Theatre. The musical by Allen Knee (book), Mindi Dickstein (lyrics) and Jason Howland (music) is an adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's classic novel, which is partially based on her life. It tells how the March women fend for themselves while their father and husband is fighting in the Civil War.

The director noted that the five women at the center of the story are "standouts" for their time.

"They do go after what they want," said Mills. "They don't let obstacles get in their way of pursuing what they want to do."

Molly Kral plays aspiring writer Jo, based on author Alcott. Although Kral hadn't read the novel before accepting the lead role, she is a long-time fan of the movie and the musical.

Kral joked that Jo is the right role for her because, "I'm a little feisty. I'm a redhead, so that adds to it."

On a more serious note, she added, "I think Jo has some pretty valuable moments where she speaks her mind because she needs to and that's something that I admire in people."

Skokie resident Regina Webster plays two small roles - Jo's Aunt March and also Mrs. Kirk, Jo's Irish landlady when she moves to New York.

Webster said that she sees Aunt March as an old school person.

"She's moneyed but very much stuck in the old ways. I think the show is about the edge between the old and the new. Even Jo wants to change. But as we grow, we have to change. She falls in love and other things happen. Aunt March is the symbol of trying to stay in the old ways. She's sort of an anachronism."

The performer has a chance to exercise her vocal skills in "Could You?," Aunt March's duet with Jo. In that number, Aunt March is trying to cajole Jo into changing her ways so she can take her to Europe because she sees something in Jo.

"Jo is really feisty and Aunt March is really feisty. She wants Jo to kind of carry on her legacy," Webster said.

The actor is particularly pleased that she is also cast as Mrs. Kirk, even though the landlady only appears in one scene. "I get to play two completely different characters," she noted. "So I'm having a great old time."
Managing Editor Jennifer Thomas' picks for 5 common romantic obstacles, the literature-edition.

1. **Hate at first sight**
   If seemingly opposites-attract fight at first sight, romance can't be far behind. Best Pick: *Pride and Prejudice.*

2. **Supernatural interference**
   Maybe it's a curse, or one of them is a vampire, but there's something otherworldly keeping this couple apart. Best Pick: *The Time Traveler's Wife.*

3. **Smart choice**
   One half of the potential duo might have, gasp! glasses, but the smart, straightforward plain Jane (or Joe) triumphs in the end. Best Pick: *Jane Eyre.*

4. **The inconvenient fiance**
   Everybody knows the one they're with isn't who they really love, but baby steps. Best Pick: *Gone with the Wind.*

5. **Forced separation**
   War, pestilence or perhaps just a cross-country job move, threatens to keep lovebirds apart. Best Pick: *The Odyssey.*
Before: “The Amazing Spider-Man” prior to using Katana to add details of background, color and lighting.

And after: A post-Katana Spider-Man worthy to be called “Amazing.”

Skokie native wins Oscar for visual effects

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Contributor

These days, when you see an animated film or a live-action film with animated visual effects, there’s a good chance it was created with the assistance of a relatively new piece of computer graphics software called Katana.

Which explains why Skokie native Jeremy Selan will soon be receiving an Academy Award for technical achievement. Selan, along
with two other software developers at Sony Imageworks — the special-effects wing of Sony Pictures — are the folks who created Katana.

Though it began as a program meant to replace a clunky piece of image-compositing software (for mixing live-action footage and visual effects together via the green-screen process) at Imageworks, it soon became clear that Katana had much more wide-ranging potential.

Once up and running, Katana was used to simplify and streamline the work flow involved in Sony animated films, such as 2007's "Surf's Up." Then in 2009, a commercial partner was brought on to sell the technology to other studios and special-effects companies such as Industrial Light and Magic. As a result, Katana has now been used in dozens of major productions such as "The Amazing Spider-Man," Tim Burton's "Alice in Wonderland," "Men in Black 3," "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" and the upcoming "Oz the Great and Powerful."

"I think we're getting the award this year, because the Academy recognizes our influence on the industry," said the 1997 Niles North grad, who had envisioned a career in computer-chip design before taking a course in computer graphics his senior year at Cornell. "That's when I fell in love with moviemaking and computer graphics. I thought, this is going to be a million times more fun."

So, what does Katana do, precisely?

Selan puts it this way: "When they're watching 'The Amazing Spider-Man,' people assume that the Spider-Man they see swinging through New York City is a fake — that he was created in the computer," he explained. "But the entire city in those shots are also computer-generated. They may not realize that, because there's so much complexity there. There are people walking on the street, cars moving, etc."

And the Academy Award goes to Skokie native Jeremy Selan.

— all the complexity you get in the real world.

"Just imagine the challenge involved in creating lighting effects for the city of New York, with 10,000 windows and light sources, where you have to create headlights for every car moving on the streets."

Katana, he added, allows artists to work with that complexity in an easy way, mainly by letting them divide the background into segments — a single building for example, or a section of the sky and embellish it with new elements or color and lighting effects. Then save those changes and move on. Though Katana is now "part of the standard set of tools everybody uses to do this work," Selan mentioned that they are already working on improvements.

"Software is never done," he said. "There are always things you want to make better. That's what we're doing now, working on the next version, which we hope will blow the previous one away."
Local stars shine for autism on Oscar night

“I want people to feel like they’re actually at the Oscars,” said Teri Steinberg.

The Highland Park mom is co-founder of “An Evening with the Stars,” set for Feb. 24 at the InterContinental Chicago O’Hare in Rosemont.

So, the stars — celebrity hosts Mark Nilsson, Ted Brunson and Patti Vasquez — will come out, and “fashion reporters” will, in true Hollywood Oscar night style, interview guests about their clothing as they walk a red carpet into a theater.

Some 300 attendees will view televised Oscar coverage on multiple giant screens. “It feels like you’re right there in California, celebrating,” said Steinberg.

“An Evening with the Stars” is the fifth annual toast to the 85th annual Academy Awards. But it’s also a fundraiser for autism, sponsored by the Chicagoland chapter of Autism Speaks. Last year, the...
'Evening with the Stars: Benefit Gala'

InterContinental O'Hare, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont
Tickets start at $200 for individuals; tables seating 4-10 start at $1500, and include an all-inclusive evening starting at 5:30 p.m. with pre-show VIP reception and premier seating.
(224) 567-8573 or www.eveningwiththestars.org

The event raised $150,000.

"This year, I'm sure we'll raise even more," said Laura Ashman, an event organizer. Ashman has done her part to make that happen. For months, she's been drumming up auction items. She's especially excited about a donated basketball signed by Chicago Bull Derrick Rose. And her Riverwoods neighbor, pastry chef Gale Gand, will donate a cooking lesson at Elawa Farm in Lake Forest. Gand will also donate signed items, including an apron and her cookbook, Gale Gand's Brunch (Crown Publishing Group, 2009).

Steinberg, a Highland Park mom who has experienced living with autism first-hand through her son Billy, also hopes that guests learn more about autism through the event. The hosts will announce facts and information about autism during commercial breaks from the awards show.

"The audience is there for the entertainment, but they're also really receptive to learning about what the event is about," Vasquez said. "Last year, we ran informational videos that later became TV advertisements."

Vasquez, comedian and Chicago mom, will share the story of her life, including experiences with her seven-year-old son with special needs, Declan, through a new reality show on the Oprah Winfrey Network, "My Life is a Joke."

But as Vasquez will explain at the event, the statistics on autism are sobering. Autism Speaks reports that one in 88 children is diagnosed with autism, which is a general term used to describe a group of complex developmental brain disorders. The disorder, which is caused by a combination of genes and environmental influences, is characterized by varying degrees of communication difficulties, social and behavioral challenges, and repetitive behaviors.

The event is as much about education as about entertainment.

Ashman has learned a lot about autism through her son, Sander. "If you were to ask me, like some do, I would tell you that I would not change a thing about my experience with autism, or my fabulous son, Sander," she said. "He has no pretense, no ego. You get a sense that everyone in the room is there for the same reason. It's about helping out kids," Ashman said. "It's really a beautiful thing."
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Living in harmony suits Ars Viva couples

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES | Contributor

Did music bring them together? Does music keep them together? People do marry the people they meet at work, so it's no surprise that musicians marry musicians. Still, the Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra, which plays at the North Shore Center in Skokie, has an especially large number of married couples, either as regulars or frequent substitutes.

Gayle Heatherington, executive director and board member of Ars Viva, founded and conducted by her husband Alan Heatherington, did the math and found 16 players, eight couples. "That's about 30 percent of the orchestra," she marveled. "I think that's probably quite unusual. Plus we have two board members who are also married, Mary Jo Deysach and Francis Lynch."

Deysach and Lynch met in November of 1997 after the last of three outreach concerts Ars Viva had contracted the Chicago Master Singers, which Heatherington also conducts. Lynch is a tenor in the ensemble.

"A group of 12 or so went to Gulliver's to celebrate Alan's birthday," Deysach recalled. "Francis and I started talking about the music of Gerald Finzi and Wordsworth's 'Great Ode' and the rest is history." They married in the fall of 2000 and live in Evanston.

Michael Buckwalter, principal horn in Ars Viva, had a good long time to get to know his future wife, Elizabeth Anderson, a member of the orchestra's cello section. "We met during a 17-week run of 'Carousel' playing in Marriott's ensemble," he said. "Marrying her was the best thing I ever did."

Trumpeters Barbara Butler and

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Violinists Ilya and Olga Kaler

Charles Geyer are married and live in Lincolnshire. Butler points out advantages of playing together in an ensemble: "camaraderie, empathy, sharing of social circle, carpooling. Playing the same instrument we have so much in common, shared knowledge, shared library," she added.

"Working together is 99 percent wonderful, one percent challenging," she admitted. "In performances we are instantly simpatico ... but making musical decisions during rehearsals can be amusing. One of our colleagues listening to us debate how a phrase should go, likened it to two lion cubs swatting at each other before settling down to the feast."

Violinists Ilya Kaler and Olga Kaler, who live in Wilmette, also play the same instrument. Initially, however, Olga was a star-struck 16-year old from Odessa in Ukraine, who was in the audience for the 1986 Tchaikovsky competition in Moscow. It was the third major international competition in which then 23-year old Ilya won first prize. They spoke after the concert, but it took a number of years and several other passing encounters until they really spoke, following a concert in 1994. As he walked off the stage he stopped in front of Olga and said, in Russian, "I couldn't forget your face. Where have I seen you before?"

"This time he remembered me well," she added, with obvious pleasure. "We were married in 1997."

Trumpeters Barbara Butler and Charles Geyer

The couple performs together not only in Ars Viva, but also share a stand in the Lake Forest Symphony, where Ilya is concertmaster and she is principal associate concertmaster.

London-born Roger Chase and his wife Yukiko Ogura, who was born in Nara, Japan, are both violists. Ogura, a member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, met Chase at a Thanksgiving dinner at the home of a mutual friend. "Afterwards we rode the same train homeward," Chase explained, "and talked about the music we heard as kids."

In addition to Ars Viva, the two play in chamber groups in Chicago. "We actually love playing together," Chase said. "We have a small pile of duos which we play in friends' houses or in pubs in England and Japan."

As for the Heatheringtons, who will be married 19 years in March, they each have their own office in their Libertyville home. "Alan studies scores almost every day," Gayle said. "I'm working more and more as a graphic designer, but my main occupation is executive director of Ars Viva. He conducts the Chicago Master Singers and I'm a member of the first alto section, plus I serve on the board. We've been known to email each other from our separate offices!"

Explaining their harmonious relationship, Gayle observes, "We love all the same things and love each other. What else can I say ... "
Family Friendly

Fairy tales get a reality TV twist

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Snow White has her pick of dwarves on "The Bachelorette." The house of the Wicked Witch from "The Wizard of Oz" gets an "Extreme Makeover." Those are a couple of the creative twists that the 10 writer/actors, ages 10-14, are putting on fairy tales in "Twice Upon a Time." The sketch comedy revue runs at 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16 and Sundays, Feb. 17 and 24, at Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave.

"Some of the sketches are in the public domain but most of it was written by the cast," reported director/producer Victoria Montalbano. The tale of Cinderella pops up a couple of times in the show, Montalbano noted. "We have something from the stepsisters' point of view and from the prince's point of view."

Two 16-year-old assistant directors "helped a lot with the writing process," Montalbano said. Tickets are $12. For details, call (773) 598-4549 or go to www.gorillatango.com.

MAKE YOUR KIDS COZY

Curling up with a good book will be easier for your children if your family attends the Winter Warmer Children's Book Sale, noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17 at Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave. Kids can choose from thousands of gently used children's books at this event presented by the Friends of the Park Ridge Library.

For details, call (847) 825-3123 or go to www.parkridgelibrary.org.

IMAGINE THAT

Kids in kindergarten-eighth grade are invited to use their imagination at Open Crafting, 11 to 3 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18 at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. A parent or adult caregiver must stay with children in second grade and below.

For details, call (847) 663-1234 or go to www.nileslibrary.org.
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May 2013: Achieving Ideal Health at Every Age (Location TBD)

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Eileen Kelly, MD
Why We Need to “Just Do It”—Resolutions for Your Heart 2013
Expertise: Clinical Cardiology,
with a focus on Women’s Health
Location: NorthShore
Glenbrook Hospital

Mina Lee Ryu, MD
Integrative Medicine & the Heart—
A Different Approach to Heart Health
Expertise: Integrative Medicine/
Internal Medicine
Location: Glenview Park Center

Carrie Jaworski, MD, FAAFP, FACSM
Director, Division of Primary Care Sports Medicine
Exercise is Medicine for Your Heart and Your Health!
Expertise: Sports Medicine/
Family Medicine
Location: NorthShore
Glenbrook Hospital, NorthShore Highland Park Hospital
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BEAUTIFUL CREATURES

★½
Rated
PG-13 for violence, scary images and some sexual material
Stars
Alden Ehrenreich, Alice Englert, Jeremy Irons, Emma Thompson
A small-town high school boy (Ehrenreich) falls in love with a teenage witch (Englert), with the fate of the world at stake. Richard LaGravenes (“Freedom Writers”) wrote and directed the supernatural romance, based on a bestselling series of books.

ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH

Rated
PG for action and some mild rude humor
Stars
Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba, Ricky Gervais
Astronaut Scorch Supernova (Fraser) finds himself trapped after responding to an SOS on a dangerous planet. Cal Brunker makes his feature directorial debut.

A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD

Rated
R for violence and language
Stars
Bruce Willis, Jai Courtney, Sebastian Koch
During a trip to Russia, Det. John McClane (Willis) learns his son (Courtney) is actually a CIA agent tracking a deadly terrorist — and decides to get involved in his patented manner.

IDENTITY THIEF

★½
Rated
R for sexual content, nudity, violence and language
Stars
Jason Bateman, Melissa McCarthy
If you can get past the fact that the plot is preposterous and one of the characters is a violent, amoral lunatic and all you're expecting is a few decent laughs, “Identity Thief” isn't bad, really. It's better than a throat punch from McCarthy, in any case, who does them out frequently as loveable sociopath con-artist Diana, who steals the identity of mild-mannered businessman Sandy (Bateman). To save his credit rating, his reputation and his job, Sandy decides to track Diana down personally, leading to all manner of action-comedy craziness involving a long road trip from Florida to Chicago, with homicidal drug dealers and a bad-guy bounty hunter in hot pursuit. Nothing about it makes sense, but the comedy does deliver on the humorous side, thanks to nice comic chemistry between wild-woman McCarthy and straight-man-par-excellence Bateman. It's just a shame the script doesn't give them much to work with.

SAFE HAVEN

Rated
PG-13 for thematic material involving threatening behavior, and for violence and sexuality
Stars
Julianne Hough, Josh Duhamel
A young woman (Hough) with a mysterious past forms a bond with a widower (Duhamel) that forces her to confront a dark secret. Lasse Hallström (“Salmon Fishing in the Yemen”) directed the romance, based on a novel by Nicholas Sparks.

SIDE EFFECTS

★★★
Rated
R for sexuality, nudity, violence and language
Stars
Jude Law, Rooney Mara, Channing Tatum
It's possible that the cool, cerebral “Side Effects” might be too clever for its own good, but how long has it been — in this era of generic, formulaic fare — since you last saw a movie that kept you guessing? Apparently the final theatrical feature by director Steven Soderbergh (“Magic Mike”) before switching to TV, “Side Effects” is a narrative chameleon that shifts through four or five different genres, beginning as a domestic/medicinal drama. When her husband (Tatum), comes home from prison, loyal wife Emily (Mara) slips into a suicidal depression. Then she winds up in the care of nice-guy psychiatrist Dr. Banks (Law), who prescribes a drug that ultimately leads Emily to commit a shocking act that sends her to prison. Or so it seems.

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-aged tough guys out for one last hurrah. Doc (Walken) is living a quiet life of painting sunsets until his best friend Val (Pacino) is released from prison — where he's spent 28 years because he refused to implicate anyone in an armed-robbery shootout. Doc treats Val to an evening of hookers and hardcore partying, but there's a problem. A 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 zombie violence and some language
Stars
Nicholas Hoult, Teresa Palmer, Rob Corddry, John Malkovich
Falling in love can be complicated, even if you're not dead. Fortunately, though, in writer/director Jonathan Levine's horror-comedy romance “Warm Bodies,” angst-ridden young zombie R (Hoult) isn't going to let a little thing like lifelessness stop him. And the result is the first unexpected charmer of the new year. As charming as a brain-eating zombie movie can be, that is. R falls for Julie (Palmer) after eating the brain of her boyfriend, as his awakened heart slowly restores his humanity in general — along with the rest of the zombie community. That's a game changer for the post-apocalyptic world, where the surviving humans are losing their battle with the zombies and the bonies — a meaner breed of the living dead.
Love casts an adolescent spell in 'Beautiful Creatures'

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

'Beautiful Creatures' ★★½

This so-so supernatural teen romance is sort of like “Twilight,” basically, except it's about witches instead of vampires and the perpetually menaced mortal is a boy.

Who doesn't flex his shirtless muscles even once, if memory serves. 

Based on a best-selling series of books by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl, “Beautiful Creatures” is equally concerned with the struggle between good and evil on a cosmic scale and the exquisite agonies of young love. With the satisfaction of sticking it to the popular kids in school thrown in at no extra charge.

All of this gets under way quickly when 15-year-old Lena Duchannes (Alice Englert) shows up in tiny little Gatlin, S.C. and moves into the forbidding gothic mansion of her semi-evil-warlock uncle Macon (Jeremy Irons).

Seventeen-year-old Ethan Wate (Alden Ehrenreich) immediately takes notice, partially because Lena looks a lot like the girl in a recurring dream he's been having (in which he's always struck by lightning; dude, take a hint) and partially because she immediately disses the local mean/popular girls, who accuse her of devil worship and dressing weirdly. And then have hysterical hissy fits when all the windows in their classroom mysteriously implode.

Despite the fact that Lena is a disdainful sort who insults him continuously, Ethan is convinced they are soul mates and, in fact, as fellow social outliers, they do eventually bond over a fondness for banned books and the poetry of Charles Bukowski.

But there's still one little problem that needs to be addressed, namely, the fact that Lena is a young witch with exceedingly mind-boggling powers who will be claimed by either the forces of light or darkness on her 16th birthday. If it turns out she's born to be bad, the entirely evil Sarafine (Emma Thompson) has plans to use her to rule the world.

There are plenty of magical subplots to keep things needlessly complicated, including Ethan and Lena's connection to another ill-advised mortal/witch romance during the Civil War, plus a Duchannes-family curse that can only be broken by Ethan's untimely death. And there's just enough spell-casting action to keep the scenario from becoming too lethargic. Yet, as in “Twilight,” the only thing that really matters is whether or not the young paramours are joined in love's sweet song.

Which is to be expected, of course, though it's also a little suspect, considering dark witch Sarafine's forcefully expressed views on the subject — and the impressionable age of the young ladies being targeted by the tale.

"Love's just a trick of the mind," she says. "It's a spell, invented by mortal men, to give women something to play with instead of power."

Pay no attention, though; she's the bad guy.
Movie theaters

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

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<td>PICKWICK THEATRE</td>
<td>5 S. Prospect Ave. Park Ridge</td>
<td>(847) 604-2234</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pickwicktheatre.com">www.pickwicktheatre.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>WILMETTE THEATRE</td>
<td>1122 Central Ave. Wilmette</td>
<td>(847) 251-7411</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROSEMONT 18</td>
<td>9701 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont</td>
<td>(847) 447-1030</td>
<td><a href="http://www.muvico.com">www.muvico.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>ROSEMONT PREMIER</td>
<td>9701 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont</td>
<td>(847) 447-1030</td>
<td><a href="http://www.muvico.com">www.muvico.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>REGAL GARDENS STADIUM 1-6</td>
<td>4999 Old Orchard Center Skokie</td>
<td>(847) 673-4037</td>
<td><a href="http://www.regmovies.com">www.regmovies.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>REGAL GARDENS 7-13</td>
<td>4999 Old Orchard Center Skokie</td>
<td>(847) 674-0184</td>
<td><a href="http://www.regmovies.com">www.regmovies.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>AMC SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING 18</td>
<td>7000 Carpenter Road Skokie</td>
<td>(888) AMC-4FUN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.amctheatres.com">www.amctheatres.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This Weekend and Beyond | Get out and enjoy your community

THIS WEEKEND & BEYOND

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

STAGE

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre
15

"Twelfth Night"
13
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.

"The Vagina Monologues"
18
Performed at 8 p.m. Feb. 14-16 at Oakton Community College's Studio One, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. $10. Call (847) 635-1900.

"The Whipping Man"
18

Music Institute of Chicago
18
Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. www.musicinst.org. Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.: Pacifica Quartet performs works by Smetana and Beethoven. $30; $20 seniors; $10 students.

Classical

Antiqua Baroque Consort
18
Performing chamber and vocal music of Bach, Handel, Vivaldi and other Baroque masters, on authentic period instruments, 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

POP/FOLK/JAZZ

Akoo Theatre at Rosemont
18
5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000. Feb. 17, 5 p.m.: Nam Jin (world music). $50-$100. March 8, 8 p.m.: One Night of Queen. $30-$45.

Allstate Arena
18
6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000. For information, visit www.allstatearena.com. Parking is $20, cash only. March 28, 7:30 p.m.: Green Day with Best Coast. $27.50, $52.

Ethical Humanist Society
18
7574 N. Lincoln Ave. (at Howard), Skokie. (847) 677-3334. Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.: "Be My Lincoln!", a jazz cafe featuring vocalist Marnie Glaser, pianist Kelly Brand and bassist Kelly Sill. $10.

InterContinental Chicago O'Hare Hotel
18
Montrose Room, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. www.montrose-space.com. Feb. 16, 7 p.m.: Guitarist and vocalist Nick Colionne performs jazz, R&B, blues and soul. $49-$69. Feb. 23, 8 p.m.: Folk rock singer Michael McDermott. $15; $20 VIP.

Lincolnwood Public Library
16
4000 W. Pratt Ave. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Feb. 17, 2 p.m.: The In Full Swing jazz orchestra plays big band favorites.

Mullen's Bar & Grill
18
8313 W. Lawrence Ave., Norridge. (708) 452-3190. Feb. 26, 7-10 p.m.: Jazz Community Big Band plays the music of Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton and others. No cover.

S.P.A.C.E.
18

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts
18

Submissions

You Want In? Here's How:

Submit GO events one week prior to the date of publication
Entries must be typed. GO listings are free. Include brief descriptions of the event, date, address, price and phone number.
Email: Send submissions to gol@pioneerlocal.com
Fax: 847-486-7451

ART GALLERIES

Oakton Community College
18
Koehnline Museum of Art, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 635-1900.
Auditions & Opportunities

Big Noise Theatre Company

18+

Holding auditions for "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," 6-9:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at the Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln Ave., Winnetka. Appointments suggested. Prepare 32 bars of a song in the style of the show or from the show, and bring sheet music in the proper key. Accompanist provided. Come prepared to dance; picture and resume requested. Production dates April 26-May 12 at the Prairie Lakes Theater, Des Plaines. Call Daiva Pauulis, (312) 371-9945, or visit www.bignoisetheatre.org.

Child's Play

Niles Public Library

0-3 & 3-12


Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs

12+


Dance

Akoo Theatre at Rosemont

13-18+


North Shore Center for the Performing Arts

13-18+


Organizations

International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 43

18+

Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 15 in the South Conference Room at Saint Francis Hospital, 355 Ridge Ave.,

Onstage Chicago

18+


North Shore Center for the Performing Arts

13-18+

BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER presents
JACKIE TAYLOR’S and RUEBEN D. ECHOLES’

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In honor of Black History Month, Garrett Popcorn Shops® will donate 10% of all tin sales from February 15 – February 28, 2013 to Black Ensemble Theater. Get some today!
GarrettPopcorn.com
Iannelli Studios Heritage Center

255 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. Events are scheduled during the month of February to celebrate the 125th birthday of artist and designer Alfonso Iannelli — Feb. 16, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: Pizza tasting fest, presented by Park Ridge restaurants and caterers in honor of Iannelli, who often shared meals with people who came to see him at work in his studio. Donations will be accepted. Feb. 17, 2 p.m.: Chicago historian Tim Samuelson will discuss the Orpheum Theatre posters created by Alfonso and Margaret Spaulding Iannelli. $10 donation. Feb. 21, 7 p.m.: "Tracing Your Genealogy: A Case Study of Alfonso Iannelli," presented by Margie LaCerra of the Polish Genealogical Society. $5. Feb. 28, 7 p.m.: Horizon Brass Quintet will perform a program of classics. $20. Visit www.kalofoundation.org or call (847) 261-4595.

MUSEUMS

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center


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- CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

"SWEET CHARITY LIGHTS UP THE STAGE.
TIFFANY TOPOL [IS] ASTOUNDINGLY INFECTIOUS."
- CHICAGO TRIBUNE

“A MAGNETICALLY INTIMATE REVIVAL!”
- TIME OUT CHICAGO

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Kiefer - Bloomer

Engagement

Michael and Christine Kiefer of Norridge, IL are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter, Tracey to Casey Bloomer, son of Lloyd (Kim) and Rose Bloomer of Kalamazoo, MI. The bride-to-be is a 1991 graduate of Maine South High School, a 1995 graduate of Western Illinois University and a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority. She is a Program Manager at Takeda Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. in Deerfield, IL and is an active member of the Woman's Club of Evanston. The future groom graduated from Albion College and is a member of Sigma Nu fraternity. He is a Lead Customer Service Representative for Fifth Third Bank in Glenview, IL and is currently pursuing an MBA in Finance and Operations Management at Loyola University in Chicago, IL. The couple currently resides in Evanston, IL and will exchange vows this August in Rockton, IL.

Magnuszewski – Karountzos

Wedding

Dariusz and Boguslawa Magnuszewski are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter, Kamila, to Christos Karountzos, son of George and Elvino Karountzos of Norridge, IL. Kamila studied at the University of Ecology in Sosnowiec, Poland and is currently employed at T-Mobile as an authorized sales representative. Christos graduated from DeVry University in 2005 with a degree in Electronic Computer Technology and is currently employed at WMS Gaming as a Jurisdictional Engineer. Christos and Kamila Karountzos were married January 4, 2013, at the City Hall of Maywood, IL. A church wedding is planned and will be held at a Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago or in Velo, Greece, on August, 2013. The couple plans to reside in Norridge after their honeymoon in the Greek Islands.

To place your special announcement in the Celebrate section, please send inquiries to celebrate@pioneerlocal.com

Mallory Page – Joshua Iverson

Engagement

Steve and Marty Page of Fox River Grove, IL and Jerome and Kay Iverson of Crystal Lake, IL are happy to announce the engagement of their children Mallory Page and Joshua Iverson. Mallory, a 2006 graduate of Barrington High School received a bachelor's degree in nursing from Northern Park University. She is currently employed at Advocate Condell Hospital and is pursuing a master's degree in Advanced Practice Nursing. Joshua, a 2004 graduate of Prairie Ridge High School received a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Secondary Education from North Central College. He is currently employed as a technical support specialist with a dental software company, Revenue Well Inc. A June 2013 wedding is planned in Lake Geneva, WI where the couple got engaged.
Like you have *never* experienced them before.

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GAME ON. SEASONPASS.SUNTIMES.COM
Hire a Veteran to Fight the Battle of Business Uncertainty

By: Mike Thompson, author of The Anywhere Leader: How to Lead and Succeed in Any Business

We owe veterans a debt of gratitude for their service to America, but that's not why we should hire a veteran. We should hire them because they have what it takes to lead in an ever-changing, ever-disruptive global economy.

Frankly, it's disturbing to feel the need to make that point. But the facts are even more disturbing. The unemployment rate for vets who served since 2001 is 2.6 percent higher than the general population, according to a report in September from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That's about 235,000 veterans who want a job but don't have one.

We say nice things when we pass military personnel in the airport - "Thanks for your service..." But then we dismiss them when they drop a job application on our desk - "Sorry, your skills don't translate...You're just not qualified." They are losing out on opportunities to feed their families, but it's corporate America that's really losing out.

In The Anywhere Leader, I make the case that the one thing we can count on in business is uncertainty. Most of us, however, aren't trained to lead through uncertainty.

But the military teaches it - and it teaches it extremely well. There's never been a greater need for leaders who are capable of leading through the unknown, and I'll argue that no group brings more experience or is more prepared to lead through uncertainty than veterans. They are Anywhere Leaders.

Anywhere Leaders are Driven for Progress, Sensationally Curious and Vastly Resourceful. Which of those traits do you not value in your employees? Today's veterans bring all these job skills to the workplace - here's how.

Veterans: Driven for Progress

Veterans didn't join the military just to earn a paycheck; they've got an emotional commitment to a country that they love. They are dedicated to a purpose or mission that's greater than self. So they are daring (but discerning) in the name of progress. And they are determined, especially in the face of adversity. That's why I call Driven for Progress.

Veterans: Sensationally Curious

You might not think of veterans as Sensationally Curious. But my research and my own experience as a veteran taught me that it's the behaviors associated with curiosity that make the difference.

If you are curious, you are reflective, receptive and perceptive. Those behaviors allow you to relate well with others, even foreigners, so that you can build strong teams internally and with those who are very different from you.

Veterans: Vastly Resourceful

This resourcefulness, curiosity and drive for progress give veterans the traits needed to figure out how to build trust in teams and communities that aren't like them in any way, shape or form.

Fighting the Battle of Uncertainty

The victories, small and huge, in Iraq and Afghanistan are amazing, and the sacrifices by the men and women fighting there are enormous. We can, and should, thank them when we see them - with words and with jobs.

The business case for hiring veterans is simple: You battle uncertainty every day in your business and it will only get more intense and extreme. There's nobody who has battled uncertainty more than these soldiers.

Maybe you don't have bullets flying by your ear at your office, but don't you want somebody who's been under that kind of pressure and shown a resolve, commitment, aptitude and skill to succeed?

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The primary responsibility of this position is to cover news for print, television, online and social media, including hard news stories. Other non-beat stories, news and information gathering as assigned. Maintain Sun-Times Media's official events and newsroom advertising online.

EDUCATION:
- Bachelor's degree in journalism or 4 years experience preferred

EXPERIENCE:
- 5 years reporting experience preferred

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Reporting on a variety of beats and general interest topics, including home coverage, personnel profiles, tracking news and news releases. Position is located in Metairie, LA.

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EXPERIENCE:
- 2 years of sports reporting

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MORTGAGE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, COUNTY COURT DIVISION, CHANCERY DIVISION - CHANCERY OF THE JUDICIAL SALE CORPORATION, One South Wacker Drive - 10th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT W.W.W.LJSC.COM FOR A 7 DAY STATUS REPORT OR CALL 312-236-0000 FOR INFORMATION:

Judicial Sales - Real Estate

NORTHGRAND CORPORATION v. JASON PANKOVSKI, et al., Case No. 13-CH-120341, in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, County Court Division, Chancery Division - Chancery of the Judicial Sale Corporation, will be held on March 20, 2013, at the Judicial Sale Corporation office at 120 West Washington Street, Suite 1300, Chicago, Illinois 60606-4650 (312) 444-1122.

Notice of Sale Pursuant to Judgment of Foreclosure

NORTHGRAND CORPORATION, Plaintiff,
V. JASON PANKOVSKI, et al., Defendants.

Notice of Sale Pursuant to Judgment of Foreclosure is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure, The Judicial Sales Corporation, at the following address, will sell at public auction, on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2013, at 10:30 AM, the Property described below, situate in the county of Cook, State of Illinois, and more particularly described as follows:

The property is located at 7661 W. LINCOLNWOOD AVENUE, LINCOLNW000, IL 60712.

The property is subject to the following liens:

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NA, Mortgagee,
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION - CHANCERY OF THE JUDICIAL SALE CORPORATION

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Notice of Sale Pursuant to Judgment of Foreclosure
The Illinois Classified Advertising Network (ICAN) provides Pioneer Press and the Doings with advertising of a national appeal.

To advertise in this section, please call ICAN direct at (217) 241-1700.

Both Pioneer Press and the Doings recommend discretion when responding. Please refer questions and comments directly to ICAN.
CORPORATION One
PIERCE & ASSOCIATES, Plaintiffs

For information, examine the
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and (g)(4)
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at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or
fhe highest bid by certified funds at
Commonly known as 7304 NORTH
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### Judicial Sales - Real Estate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morton Grove</td>
<td>14303 W. Monroe St., Chicago, IL 60643</td>
<td>The real estate is offered for sale without any representation or warranty as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are encouraged to inspect the property before bidding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skokie</td>
<td>15060 N. Glenway Ave., Skokie, IL 60077</td>
<td>The real estate is offered for sale without any representation or warranty as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are encouraged to inspect the property before bidding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>217 N. Main St., Decatur, IL 62521</td>
<td>The real estate is offered for sale without any representation or warranty as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are encouraged to inspect the property before bidding.</td>
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</table>

### Sale Terms
- **25% deposit**: The deposit shall be paid in certified funds at the sale or by any judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate at or by any mortgagee for the recovery of a mortgage
- **Final payment**: The balance shall be paid in certified funds within 30 days after the date of sale, as evidenced by the receipt
- **No fees**: No fee shall be paid to any person or firm other than the Judicial Sales Corporation for collecting or transferring the deed

### Sale Information
- **Contact**: The Judicial Sales Corporation at 230 W. Monroe St., Suite #1125, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-2300
- **Website**: Visit [judicialsales.com](http://judicialsales.com) for more information

### Additional Information
- **Notice of Sale**: A Notice of Sale Public No. 496596 was filed on March 13, 2013, at the hour of 11:00 AM on March 13, 2013, in the Clerk's Office of the Cook County Circuit Court, Prothonotary. The sale is to be held at 10:30 AM on March 13, 2013, in the Clerk's Office of the Cook County Circuit Court, Prothonotary.

### Legal Notice
- Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are being advised that your Attorney is required to check the court file to determine if there is any stay or any order of the court which will affect the sale. Upon payment in full of the amount of the bid, the purchaser of the real estate will have a nonexclusive license to occupy the residential real estate for a period of one year after the date of the sale, subject to the payment of all assessments and the legal and real estate fees.

---

**End of Document**
NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC

IN PURSUANCE OF an Order of Possession, in accordance with Section 15-1701(C) of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Civil Division, Case No. 14-12-04725, Plaintiff, PIERRIE & ASSOCIATES, have advertised and will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on Thursday, February 14, 2013, at 10:30 AM, at 10:30 AM, at 10:30 AM, in the lobby of the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois, 60606, the real estate pursuant to its interest in the above described real estate: 3005 N. 21st Avenue, Suite 100, BURR RIDGE, IL 60527.

The property is subject to general real estate taxes, including the judicial sale fee for abandoned residential property, which is calculated on the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of title to the property in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of title to the property in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of title to the property in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of title to the property in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of title to the property in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of title to the property in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of title to the property in full of the amount bid, and the property is subject to any liens, encumbrances, and special assessments, or special assessments.

Auctions are open to the public. Bidders are required to pay a registration fee of $100.00 CASH or M/CARD to the Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7-day status report.

The judicial sale fee for abandoned residential property shall be $300.00, which is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its interest in the property.

For information, examine the information packets at www.tjsc.com and call 312-236-SALE (7253). You can also visit Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60602, (312) 476-5500. Please refer further to Section 15-1701(C) of the Illinois Law. For information, examine the information packets at www.tjsc.com and call 312-236-SALE (7253). You can also visit Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60602, (312) 476-5500.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL 312-236-SALE (7253).
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to an Assumed Name Certificate dated the 14th day of February, 2013, under the Assumed Name, COOLIGAN SOLUTIONS GROUP, a corporation, having its principal place of business at 48 W. Madison St., Suite 78A, Chicago, Illinois, which was filed with the Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, on the 14th day of February, 2013, under the Assumed Name of “COOLIGAN SOLUTIONS GROUP,” the above-mentioned Assumed Name Certificate shall be voided upon the filing of this Notice of Voiding and a new Assumed Name Certificate shall be filed in accordance with the requirements of the Assumed Name Act.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, this 14th day of February, 2013.

[Signature]
Clerk of Cook County

Notary Public

[Seal]
The bidder is aware of the provisions and time. Any such decision shall reflect any and all Bids, to waive reserves the right to set aside a

Interested bidders are encouraged to visit the website of Norridge School District B10, Administrative Avenue, Norridge, Illinois 60706 to view the Bids will be publicly opened on February 21, 2013 at 10:00 am. and after the Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 12, 2013.

Public Hearings

On February 28, 2013 at 2:00 p.m., the Board of Education for the Norridge School District will hold a Public Hearing at Norridge School District B10 Administrative Avenue, Norridge, Illinois to receive comments on the proposed Tentative Budget for the Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

Following is a Tentative Budget Summary of the General Town Fund, the General Assistance Fund, and the Norwood Park Township Special Funds for the Fiscal Year 2013-2014:

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<td><strong>Total Funds</strong></td>
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The permitted and specially permitted land uses of the Zoning Ordinance of the Village of Norridge, Illinois are set forth in the Zoning Ordinance and are available for review at the Village Hall. The Zoning Ordinance also provides for the issuance of a special use permit and all associated documents for a special use permit and all associated documents. The Zoning Ordinance also provides for the issuance of a special use permit and all associated documents for a special use permit and all associated documents. The Zoning Ordinance also provides for the issuance of a special use permit and all associated documents for a special use permit and all associated documents.
ALL SEASON LONG, Bulls Extra by Chicago Sun-Times is your complete source for news, information and fun facts about the Chicago Bulls.

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No surprise to college basketball fans that early in the 2012-13 season, Duke once again assumed the top spot in the national rankings. It became official in mid-December and lasted at least into early 2013. Incredibly, at that point in Mike Krzyzewski's 33rd year as coach, the Blue Devils had played only 141 games as an unranked team, against more than 200 and counting as the No. 1 team – the only men's coach ever with that many more games as the top-ranked team in the nation than as a team not ranked at all.

The NHL lockout of 2012-13 is history, but if the previous lockout of 2004-05 is any indication, the impact on the players will be at least as devastating as it was on fans and businesses. Get this: more than 240 players who took the ice during the 2003-04 season never skated another shift in the NHL after the next season lockout – almost one-third of all the players in the league. One factor that might soften the blow is that this time around an entire season wasn't lost, as was the case with the 2004-05 lockout by the owners.

The Dallas Mavericks have long been known as one of the NBA's best shooting teams when it comes to three-pointers. Here's just one piece of evidence. In December of 2012, the Mavericks finally failed to connect on a three-point shot in 13 attempts against the Toronto Raptors. That ended their streak of sinking at least one three-pointer at an amazing 1,108 consecutive games, longest in league history. Ironically, Toronto was second with 986 straight games.
Fenwick graduate Corvino tops career high

BY NICK BULLOCK | Contributor | @Pioneer_Press

Fenwick alumna Paige Corvino, a freshman on the Washington and Lee women's basketball team, scored a career-high 15 points in her team's 58-55 loss to Virginia Wesleyan Feb. 2 in Lexington, Va. The Clarendon Hills native shot 4-for-6 from the field, including 3-for-4 from behind the 3-point line.

Corvino has started every game for the Generals at guard and is averaging 6.2 points, four rebounds and 1.4 steals per game through the team's first 20 games.

Maggie Cullather, a Highland Park graduate and diver for the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute women's swimming and diving team, has had an impressive freshman season for the Engineers. The Highland Park native took first place in the 1-meter dive and second place in the 3-meter dive in a team win against Roger Williams in October. Cullather also took second place in the 1- and 3-meter dives in the Liberty League Championships in December.

Vernon Hills alumna Jihee Choi and the Mount Olive women's lacrosse team were picked seventh in the Conference Carolinas Preseason Coaches Poll. Choi, a freshman from Vernon Hills, joins Mount Olive's new lacrosse program after twice being selected as a high school all-conference and all-area player.

Loyola alumna Mallory Remick, a freshman swimmer for the Princeton women's team, was part of the team that took second place (3 minutes, 27.23 seconds) in the 400-yard freestyle relay at the Harvard-Princeton-Yale Double-Dual Feb. 1-2. The Inverness native also swam in the 100 breaststroke, 50 free and 100 free. Princeton lost 199-99 to Harvard, but beat Yale 197-103.

Despite a goal and an assist from Evanston native Tommy Wingels, the San Jose Sharks fell 5-3 to the Chicago Blackhawks Feb. 5 in Chicago. After scoring just nine points in 33 games for the Sharks last season, Wingels, in his third year in the NHL, is off to a hot start in 2013. The center has tallied four points through nine games for the 7-2-1 Sharks, who lead the Pacific Division.

Career performances from Illinois gymnast Sarah Fiedler, a Lake Zurich alumna, helped her squad top Michigan State 196.125-195.1 on Jan. 26 in Champaign. The junior from Lake Zurich tied her career high on the beam with a score of 9.85. She then set a new career high on the floor with a score of 9.825.

Have a suggestion for the College Roundup? Email Nick Bullock at bullockpioneerpress@gmail.com.
Northridge’s Will Rey didn’t expect to be coaching where he is today

BY JOHN P. BORNEMAN | jborneman@pioneerlocal.com | @Pioneer_JPB

NILES
Will Rey was never supposed to end up at Northridge.

In fact, Rey didn’t even know the man wearing the coat with “Northridge” stitched on it when Rey approached and introduced himself on a sunny spring day in Valparaiso, Ind. It was 2004, and Rey was the men’s basketball coach at Division III Wilmington (Ohio) College. He had spent the previous 19 years coaching at the college level — the highlight being a five-year stint as the coach at Division III Loyola from 1989-94 — but he had come to a religious retreat at Shellbourne Conference Center to collect his thoughts.

Rey was in his first year at Wilmington after six seasons as an assistant at Division I Wright State, but he was considering a return to his home state of Illinois and to high school coaching. He struck up a conversation with John Kestler, a combination math teacher/basketball and cross country coach at tiny Northridge in Niles. As it turned out, the men had grown up just three blocks from one another in Chicago’s Lincoln Park neighborhood near the DePaul campus. They had never met, but they became fast friends, bonding over the memories of their old neighborhood.

“I said, ‘Will, I must’ve brushed shoulders with you 100 times!'” said Kestler, who is now the headmaster at Northridge. “And I never knew it.”

Rey told Kestler that he was looking for a change, and that he was considering an offer to be a guidance counselor and varsity basketball coach at a Class 4A high school in Illinois’ North Suburban Conference. Rey told Kestler that he was looking for a change, and that he was considering an offer to be a guidance counselor and varsity basketball coach at a Class 4A high school in Illinois’ North Suburban Conference. It was just a coincidence that Northridge was looking for a new basketball coach and athletic director to replace Richard Knar, now the coach and dean of students at Mundelein. Kestler and Rey talked strategy, faith — the Valparaiso retreat was directed by Opus Dei, the same Catholic institution that directs the religious education at Northridge — and Chicago, and Kestler came away from the conversation believing that Rey embodied the Northridge ideal of blending life lessons with athletic growth. He called then-headmaster Luke Ferris and told him about the chance encounter.

“I said, ‘Luke, the man’s name is Will Rey,’” Kestler said. “If you don’t call him tonight, you’re insane.”

Rey returned to Ohio after the three-day retreat, but he was still looking to relocate to Illinois? He was. Did he have a school lined up? He did. Had he signed anything yet? Well, no. He hadn’t.

Rey recalled, “He (Ferris) said, ‘Well, would you mind stopping by and talking to us?’”

Rey’s rise up the coaching ranks was a rapid one. He started as an assistant at Gordon Tech in 1977 under Bob Ociepka — now an assistant coach with the Los Angeles Clippers and godfather to Rey’s son, Robert — before taking the head job at Crete-Monee in 1980 and serving as the coach at Fenwick from 1982-85. In the spring of 1985, he took his first job in Division I, joining Jim Crews’ staff at Evansville.

“What caught my eye was you could see Will was a very sincere person,” said Crews, who is now the interim men’s basketball coach at Saint Louis. “It was interesting, because everyone was telling me to hire someone with recruiting experience. My philosophy was, ‘If a guy really cares about kids, then he’s a good teacher and he’ll be a good recruiter.’”

Rey learned about the recruiting process through his experiences with his own high school athletes. That’s how he met Duke coach and Chicago native Mike Krzyzewski. The
friends were introduced while Rey was an assistant at Gordon Tech and Krzyzewski was at West Point. When Rey was at Crete-Monee, standout forward Weldon Williams signed with Krzyzewski, who was by then coaching at Duke. "I don't think I've taken a coaching job since I first met him (Krzyzewski) without talking with him about it first, including this job here at Northridge," Rey said. "I wrote him a letter and told him all about it."

And what did Coach K say about the Northridge job? "Good luck," Rey joked.

Rey caught his break in 1989 when, after helping guide Evansville to the second round of the NCAA Tournament as a No. 11 seed, he earned the top job at Loyola. But despite the Ramblers' strong history — including an NCAA championship in 1963 — Rey faced a difficult task. The school's high academic standards made recruiting tricky, and in 1989, there were fewer than 100 season ticket holders, Rey said. Complicating the issue was the fact that Loyola didn't have its own gym on campus. The Ramblers practiced at Alumni Gym, but because the building seated fewer than 2,000 fans, the Midwestern Collegiate Conference wouldn't let Loyola hold its home games there.

Instead, Rey's teams traveled 45 minutes — or more — to play at the Rosemont Horizon (now Allstate Arena). One winter, there was a snowstorm on the day of a non-conference game against Bradley. When the Ramblers finally made it to the arena, the Braves were already well into their warmup session.

"I thought to myself, 'OK, wait a minute,'" Rey said.

At Loyola, Rey competed against conference rivals like Marquette, Xavier, Saint Louis and Butler, and he beat programs like Notre Dame, Purdue and Wisconsin. But he was cut loose in 1994 after five years and a 45-96 record. At the time, Loyola athletic director Chuck Schwarz told the Chicago Tribune, "There were recruiting mistakes. There weren't as many W's as we'd like. Usually a coach gets three years to turn things around. Will went into his fourth and fifth years."

Rey then took the head job at Division III St. Mary's University of Minnesota before moving on to Wright State in 1997. But, Rey said, he had started to do some "soul searching." He recommitted himself to his Catholic faith, and had come to realize that, as he said, "sometimes the quantitative aspect of coaching at the college level overrides the qualitative." He was reconsidering why he got into coaching, and it started with the end of his time at Loyola.

"That was a 2x4 that kind of hit me over the head, and that caused me to really take a step back and evaluate a lot of things," Rey said. "Sometimes you find yourself climbing a professional ladder, and you get close to the top, and you find out the ladder is up against the wrong building."

Rey arrived in Illinois in April of 2004 with a packed itinerary. He got in on a Wednesday. He was scheduled to meet with a realtor at 9 a.m. Thursday, and he had an 11 a.m. appointment to sign a contract with the district office of the NSC school. But first, Rey took his family to Northridge.
Forget Northridge. Rey was never supposed to end up in America.

Rey was born in Havana in 1953. He was 6 years old by the end of the Cuban Revolution, and 7 years old when his father, an administrator at a local university, heard rumors that the government was going to start taking young children out of their homes to place them in training camps. Cuba’s airports had been shut down, but when they reopened in January of 1960, Rey and his mother escaped to Miami. Several months later, the rest of Rey’s family came to the United States.

“There were a lot of Cubans that were not able to leave, unfortunately,” Rey said. “We were very lucky to leave when we did, before the situation became very drastic and desperate there.”

The family relocated to Chicago, where Rey’s aunt was already living. It was there that Rey, whose first love was baseball, developed a passion for a new sport. A self-described “journeyman,” Rey roamed the DePaul area playing in pickup basketball games. He went on to play a few years in high school, also running track.

Rey said many schools in Cuba spent half the time teaching in Spanish and the other half in English — he jokes that he knew the English basics like “cat,” “dog” and “hamburger” — so he was able to transition into his Lincoln Park neighborhood without much trouble. The family spoke Spanish at home, but at the urging of Rey’s father, who is now 91 years old, they immersed themselves in American culture.

“When we were young,” he said, “You are a Cuban-American, and you are always going to respect your ethnicity. But when you walk out this door, you’re an American,” said Rey, adding that his entire family are naturalized citizens. “He taught me to love this country and to be thankful for the opportunity that we have here.”

If it wasn’t for the revolution, Rey might never have needed that opportunity.

“I’d probably be selling sugar or selling cigars in Cuba,” he said. “I don’t know what I’d be doing. Hopefully coaching basketball.”

Rey was exactly where he’s supposed to be Friday night.

Dressed sharply in crisp black dress pants with cuffs, a maroon sweater vest pulled over his bright white dress shirt, the 59-year-old Rey patrolled the sideline as Northridge played host to U-High for the Independent School League championship. There was no sweat on his brow, no hair out of place in the ring of white around his head. He’s seen crowds of 20,000 people, he can handle a fourth-quarter deficit against the Maroons.

“I’m just as intense and ready to coach now as I ever was,” said Rey, who uses the Twitter feed @coach4character to distribute motivational slogans and basketball tips. “For some, they’re motivated by (the fact that) there’s 20,000 people in the stands. That’s never been my motivation. Walking into a gym with 20,000 people, that’s great. Walking into a gym with 300 people, that’s great, too.”

Northridge senior Jesus Zermeno is an example of Rey’s motivation. The 5-foot-8 guard is one of the Knights’ stars, but he was being frustrated Friday. U-High employed a box-and-one defense at times, keeping a defender on Zermeno everywhere he went. He spent long stretches of the first and second halves on the bench, and made little impact on the score sheet when he entered the game.

When Zermeno was a freshman, he was impatient. Rey pulled him into his office.

“He talked to me about that,” Zermeno said. “A one-on-one talk. He talked to me about not being stubborn with him, because he’s a little bit stubborn, too.”

All of a sudden there was Zermeno, late in the fourth quarter, forcing a steal at midcourt and taking it in for an and-one layup that helped drive Northridge to a come-from-behind 49-40 win — and the ISL title — in overtime.

“I got into coaching because I wanted to use my passion and love for sports — especially basketball — to help young people,” Rey said. “When you get caught in the merry-go-round and the roller-coaster ride of college athletics, sometimes you lose focus of that.”

Rey hasn’t ruled out a return to that roller coaster — “I’ve learned not to predict what’s going to happen tomorrow,” he said — and, according to Kestler, he’s had his opportunities. But for now, Rey’s priorities are a little different. He still tells the story of a trip ordered by Crews in 1986 that required Rey to drive more than 5 hours from Evansville to Maria Stein, Ohio, watch a kid play for 45 minutes (he wasn’t good enough) and drive home. (Crews, for his part, said “If I only sent him on one of those things, I was too soft.”) Now he’s free to spend time with his family. He’s had plenty of success with the Knights, compiling a 160-92 record and winning three consecutive Class 2A regional championships from 2008-2010.

He’ll be looking for another when No. 1-seeded Northridge opens the playoffs at home Tuesday.

“I’ve been here nine years, this is my 40th year in coaching, and these have been the nine most fulfilling years of my professional career,” Rey said. “And it’s amazing, because it’s happened in the least likely of places.”
Glenbrook South relays excel at CSL meet

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

SKOKIE

Glenbrook South took second place to conference powerhouse New Trier, the state's two-time defending champion, at the CSL South swim meet.

The Titans didn't win an event Saturday at Niles West, but they were the runners-up in all three relays to total 277 points and outdistance Evanston (210 points).

Senior Bob Meyer, junior Jake Nelson, sophomore Jon Salomon and freshman Salganik were second in the 200 medley relay (1 minute, 40.73 seconds). Senior Tommy Cahill, junior Seamus Heneghan, Meyer and Salomon were second in the 200 free relay (1:29.68) and senior Ethan Spalding, junior Kevin Benson, Heneghan and Salganik were second in the 400 free relay (3:20.96).

Salganik swam strong on his own at his first varsity league meet, finishing fourth in the 100 butterfly (56.44). Freshman

Tommy Hagerty also earned the praise of coach Keith Mac-Donald by taking third in the 500 free (4:53.85).

Salomon, a standout in his second season with the Titans, took second in the 200 individual medley (1:57.32) and fourth in the 100 breaststroke (1:00.54).

Niles West's Sergei Lemesh competes in the 200-yard individual medley during the CSL South championship swim meet Saturday in Skokie. Visit skokie suntimes.com/sports to view a photo gallery from the meet. | DAVID BANKS-Sun-Times Media

STRONG ON THE BOARD

Senior diver David Heller scored the most points for Niles West at its home pool when he finished as the runner-up to New Trier junior Reiker Seiffe.

Heller totaled 351.20 points to Seiffe's 383.95. Niles West sophomore Jeremy Sands was sixth in the diving session with 332 points.

Senior Drake Nickell also had a good day in the water, finishing fourth in the 100 free (49.66) and fifth in the 50 free (22.90) as the Wolves were fifth as a team with 126 points.

Don't Miss

Today

Wrestling: Niles West's Vaughn Monreal-Berner at Class 3A state tournament, 6:30 p.m.

The senior came up just short of qualifying for state as a sophomore and a junior, but he overcame that hurdle at the Maine East Sectional on Saturday.

Saturday

Diving: Niles West at Glenbrook South Sectional, 9 a.m.

Niles West's best chance at qualifying somebody for state appears to be diver David Heller, a senior. Heller finished second (351.20 points) in diving at the CSL South meet Saturday. As a team, the Wolves finished fifth (126 points) at the CSL South meet.
Don’t Miss

Friday
Boys basketball: Glenbrook North at Maine East, 7:30 p.m.
The Blue Demons’ final CSL North game of the season doubles as their seniors’ final home game. Maine East hopes playing in Park Ridge results in a better offensive outing against Glenbrook North, which beat the Blue Demons 60-17 on Jan. 11.

Saturday
Boys diving: Maine East at Glenbrook North Sectional, 9 a.m.
Jeremy Rohrman qualified for state last season, and he represents the Blue Demons’ best chance at qualifying this year. The senior recorded an 11-dive score of 398.25 at the CSL North meet, which was held at Maine East, to finish third Saturday.

A season lost

PARK RIDGE
At this time a year ago, Maine East’s Danny Sieghart was preparing for sectionals.

On Saturday, the senior will attend the Glenbrook North Sectional, but he’ll be there strictly to support classmate Jeremy Rohrman. Sieghart’s season ended after having back surgery on Dec. 26.

“I still come to cheer Jeremy,” said Sieghart, who finished 16th at last year’s state meet. “I know he needs it. I know he still likes me being here; we dove together for almost four years, basically every day. I still come to support him. (Not being able to dive) is rough, but I got through it.”

Sieghart spent the summer and early fall preparing for his senior diving season, practicing his technique at Glenbrook Aquatics. But in October, Sieghart suffered a back spasm that never went away.

Sieghart was diagnosed with spondylolysis. Sieghart developed stress fractures in his lower back as a result, and his back pain occurred because the fractures were irritating his muscles.

The surgery — the doctors “masked over where I had my fractures and put two screws in and a hook to clamp it all together,” Sieghart said — robbed him of his final high school season and the chance to earn a four-year scholarship to college.

A ROW OF ’13S
Niles North’s senior class has already established itself as the best collection of swimmers in school history, but its goal for this season’s final two meets is to leave overwhelming evidence of that in the record book.

“We already know that the goal is, basically when we’re done, that for every (Niles North swimming) record to say ’13, ’13, ’13, all the way down,” Niles North senior Ian Crane said. “We want to break just about all of them.”

The Vikings’ class of 2013 currently holds all but five of the school’s varsity swimming and diving records. The diving records won’t be broken — both were set by 2010 graduate Arsen Sarkisian — and Andy Peterson’s 100-yard backstroke record (53.31 seconds) figures to be safe. But the school’s records in the 100 breaststroke and 500 freestyle will be threatened in the next two weeks.
Chris Riordan has been pursuing Will Ikeda’s school record (58.00) in the breaststroke all season. Riordan swam a 1:00.82 at the CSL North meet on Saturday and figures to drop additional time this week.

Crane is currently chasing Richard Gomez’s record (4:45.19) in the 500 free. Crane swam a 4:53.84 at the CSL North meet, and said he is confident he can break it either at Saturday’s Glenbrook South Sectional or at state.

READY TO FIGHT

Glenbrook North junior Victor Qiao swam in four events at the CSL North meet and finished second to Niles North senior Karol Mlynarski, or a relay led by Mlynarski, in each race.

Although Mlynarski is an all-state swimmer, Qiao approached racing the Cornell University recruit with a fearless attitude.

“I'm not going to be scared, and I'm not going to back down,” said Qiao after the CSL North meet. “It's like in a fight; you're not just going to stand there and say, 'Here, punch me again.' You're going to get into the fight. Even if I know he's going to beat me, I'm going to race him and see what he can do and what I can do.”

Qiao and the Spartans will swim at the Glenbrook North Sectional on Feb. 16.

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To learn more about our expert neurological team, visit northshore.org/neuro today.
High praise for training partner

Notre Dame wrestling coach Augie Genovesi has brought much of his varsity team to watch state the last few years.

However, he's decided to leave most of his wrestlers home this time in order to focus on training for Tuesday's Class 3A Logan Park Dual Team Sectional against Glenbard North at 6 p.m.

One non-qualifier who will make the trip is freshman Jake Barzowski (120 pounds), who will go downstate as sophomore Jimmy Gallardo's training partner. Gallardo, who is 33-4 and finished third at the Class 3A Maine East Sectional in the 113-pound division Saturday, said Barzowski has been instrumental in his success.

"(Barzowski) knows how to keep up the tempo, he goes hard and always pushes me in practice, which is something I need," said Gallardo, a second-time qualifier.

Gallardo, whom Genovesi calls a future captain and state placer, said his performance at last year's state meet (he lost in the Class 2A preliminaries at 106 pounds) may have been hampered because his former training partner missed a few of the workouts leading up to the big event.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Notre Dame senior Sean Heneghan, who finished fourth at 152 Saturday, qualified for state in his final opportunity after near misses as a freshman and sophomore and an injury-hit junior campaign.

Heneghan's father, Kevin, is a former standout Notre Dame wrestler, and the pair became the second father/son combo to qualify for state under Genovesi, who has been coaching at the school for 35 years. The first father/son qualifiers were the Wallenbergs, Ken and Jim. The latter was a 2011 graduate.

Kevin Heneghan went to state in 1980 and 1981, reaching the quarterfinals as a 138-pounder on his second trip. Watching from the balcony at Saturday's sectional, he was beaming with pride.

"(Sean) has been working real hard since he's been a little kid. This was his final shot. His mother (Karen) and I are real proud of him. It's unbelievable to watch," Kevin Heneghan said.

"It's going to be great to watch my son (down at state). It's going to be an awesome experience to see how
This Week
Notre Dame

BOYS BASKETBALL
Friday
At Marian Cath., 7:30 p.m.
Sunday
At Gordon Tech vs. St. Charles N., 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday
Hosts Lincoln Park, 7:30 p.m.

HOCKEY
Sunday
At Niles-Ballard vs. Maine, 6:30 p.m.

WRESTLING
Today
At State Ind. Finals at Assembly Hall in Champaign.
Friday
At State Ind. Finals at Assembly Hall in Champaign.
Saturday
At State Ind. Finals at Assembly Hall in Champaign.
Tuesday
At Class 3A Lake Park Dual Team Sectional vs. Glenbard N., 6 p.m.

Evanson's Brandon Vamarasi (right) wrestles St. Patrick's Joe Urso at 220 pounds at the Maine East Sectional on Saturday. | STEVE JOHNSTON-for Sun-Times Media

he does.”

Said Sean Heneghan: “It's pretty cool that I can say I went downstate like my dad. He's always giving me advice. He's been my coach since kindergar-ten, always telling me what I can do better. He's been a great help for 14 years.”

Sean Heneghan, who is 31-9, qualified for state with a 5-4 win over Maine South's Thomas Ingram.

“A year ago, few would have had Notre Dame senior heavyweight Gino Orlandi pegged as a qualifier for the state tournament.

But Orlandi (32-10) will be one of the three Dons competing at this weekend's event, which will be held today through Saturday at Assembly Hall in Champaign.

Orlandi was Notre Dame's only wrestler to reach the finals at Saturday's sectional, where he was edged out 2-1 by Leyden's Javier Rhoades.

“He's a tremendous over-achiever,” Genovesi said of Orlandi. “He was two wins under .500 last year. But he stuck around and did what he was supposed to do in the offseason. He dedicated himself. He's got a great work ethic and a great sense of humor. He's a great kid.”

EXPERIENCE COULD HELP
For a third straight year, Maine South senior Terry Calkins qualified for state out of the sectional's back draw.

Calkins (31-4) finished third at 126 pounds on Saturday, and said he expects experience to be a key to his performance this weekend.

“I feel these other kids who are at state for the first time could be scared. It's scary in Assembly Hall. It's a big place,” said Calkins, who has lost his only two matches at state. “I've been there twice already and know what it feels like. I've gotten the butterflies out and I'm ready to go.”

WORKING HARD
After losing 8-2 in a grueling sectional final to Oak Park-River Forest's Joe Aria (undefeated and ranked No. 1), Niles West 182-pounder Vaughn Monreal-Berner promptly went to a corner of the gym and did an extensive workout of pushups and sprints.

Wolves coach Anthony Genovesi said that kind of effort is common for Monreal-Berner, a senior who is 33-7 and heading to state for the first time.

“He's been our hardest work-er over the years,” Genovesi said. “He's the captain for football and wrestling and has pushed himself to grit to where he's at.”

Monreal-Berner said he may walk on at a Division I wrestling program or join the Marines.

TOUGH BREAK
Evanston senior Brandon Vamarasi (220) was forced to prepare for state this week without his usual drill partner, Evanston assistant coach Thomas Ingram.

Three days before the sec-essional, Vamarasi broke Ingram's ankle in what the wrestler referred to as a freak accident.

Ingram, a 2005 Evanston grad who has been on the coaching staff for four years, was on crutches as Vamarasi took third at the sectional. But Ingram didn't have any hard feelings toward Vamarasi.

“We were wrestling live at practice and Brandon did exactly what I told him to do when somebody throws a leg in,” he said. “I coached him well and he listened to me well and broke my ankle.”

Vamarasi, who is 35-10 and ranked No. 1), Niles West 182-pounder Vaughn Monreal-Berner promptly went to a corner of the gym and did an extensive workout of pushups and sprints.

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BOYS BASKETBALL
Friday
Lyons vs. Proviso West 7:30 p.m.
Lake Zurich at Lake Forest 7:30 p.m.
Notre Dame at Marian Catholic 7:30 p.m.
Glenbrook North at Maine East 7:30 p.m.
Libertyville at Warren 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday
North Chicago at Lake Forest 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday
Nazareth at Benet 7:30 p.m.
After three Division I men’s basketball coaching jobs, Rey has found a home at Northridge.