Skaters take home win

Wyatt Zwik, 11, dressed as Gru from "Despicable Me" and Hannah Kahhat, 6, skate with a team from Iceland skate rink at the 33rd annual Sweet Heart Open in Niles last weekend. | ROB HART-Sun-Times Media

Read the full story [Page 5]
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Niles skaters take home trophy

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES

Wearing yellow shirts and blue overalls, a group of minions from “Despicable Me” skated their hearts out and took home a first place trophy.

The 33rd annual Sweetheart Open Figure Skating competition was held at Iceland skating rink in Niles on Saturday, Feb. 16 and Sunday, Feb. 17. Iceland skaters won first place for their theater production program that was based on the movie, “Despicable Me.”

About 30 skaters from Iceland, ages five to adult, participated in the performance.

“It represents Iceland,” said Amy Forbes, Iceland’s skating director.

The Sweetheart Open featured about 300 skaters from the Chicagoland area, including Robert Crown, Twin Rink, Northbrook and more. The two-day event included 10 different contests, including solo, couple and team competitions.

Audience members were also entertained by fun light-hearted programs, which included two skaters dressed as characters from the movie “Monsters Inc.” dancing to “If I Didn’t Have You.”

Family and friends were busy purchasing flowers at Iceland to give to the performers who participated in various events, including freestyle, artistic, rhythmic, synchronized events and more.

Disguised as a minion, Nicole Hotca, of Niles, said she was both “nervous and excited” to take home the first place trophy.

Hotca said that last year the Iceland team took home second place at the competition.

“We kind of just upgraded,” Hotca said with a smile.

Nadia Castillo, Wyatt and Kailyn Zwik and Gianna Pauly were looking forward to the brief awards ceremony on the ice that took place during the competition on Sunday, Dec. 17.

Castillo, 9, said that performing is her favorite part about ice skating.

“It was really fun,” said Wyatt Zwik, who is also a hockey player at Iceland.

Mary Ahne was at the Sweetheart Open to support her 11-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, who has been skating for four years.

“She’s made a lot of good friends,” said Ahne, about why she is glad her daughter is involved in ice skating at Iceland.

“I think the competition helps her confidence,” said Ahne, of Park Ridge. “It teaches her discipline.”

“It’s a giant commitment,” said Forbes, about the large time commitment and monetary commitment that families make in order for their kids to be ice skaters.

Forbes said that the skaters get their programs in the summer and perform the same program at various competitions throughout the year. Many skaters spend three to six days a week on the ice, for several days a week, working on their programs, she said.

“It takes a long time to perfect their programs,” said Forbes, who said each program is about one to three minutes long.

For each event, the first through third place winners took home trophies and those who placed fourth through sixth place received medals.

Forbes said that almost every month skaters from Iceland participate in a competition that is hosted at various area skating rinks.
Increasing recycling and decreasing driving are two recommendations in the draft of the Niles Environmental Action Plan that were presented during a public hearing on Feb. 12.

The plan was created in partnership with Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) through its Local Technical Assistance program.

Kristin Ihnchak, of CMAP, discussed some of the recommendations to make the village more sustainable in terms of land use and development, transportation and mobility, open space, waste, water, energy, greenhouse gases and education.

Ihnchak said that the village of Niles the overall recycling rate is 19.5 percent compared to 34 percent nationally.

“It’s significantly lower here than a lot of other parts of the country,” noted Ihnchak.

In order to help boost recycling in the village, Ihnchak said that the plan recommends possibly using larger recycling bins and increasing public awareness about the importance of recycling. In public places, Ihnchak said the village may want to place recycling bins next to trash cans to encourage recycling.

Other recommendations in the plan include creating a village-wide bicycle and pedestrian plan, updating development regulations to allow and encourage sustainable buildings and developments, work with PACE to implement Arterial Rapid Transit routes, and adopting sustainable municipal policies, such as designing new municipal facilities in order to meet green building standards.

“Usage rates by Niles residents are pretty low,” said Ihnchak, about Niles residents who ride the PACE bus system.

After talking with residents at various meetings, Ihnchak said that Niles residents would like to see more open space for people to walk around and enjoy being outdoors.

Village Trustee Joe LoVerde, who is also the director of the Niles Park District, said that Niles being “land-locked” is a challenge.

“Sometimes it’s frustrating when you see that acreage sitting there and you can’t use it for anything,” said Loverde, about Cook County Forest Preserve land.

Ihnchak said that they would like to see the village provide better access to the forest preserves, which will at least increase the perception of having more open space in town.

The Environmental Action Plan will likely go in front of the Niles village board for adoption at the Feb. 26 village board meeting.
The stretch of Milwaukee Avenue between Oakton and Monroe streets has plenty to offer. Dotted with stores, medical offices, law firms and fast food eateries, it tends to get decent customer traffic even on slow days. Banners and new light poles were added a few years ago, but there haven't been many other improvements.

But that will change, as the Village of Niles embarks on the final leg of its the Milwaukee Avenue Improvement Project, which aims to clean up the road between Albion and Monroe streets.

Construction has been ongoing since 2009, with different phases completed as funding became available. The village is currently in the midst of phase three, which covers the stretch between Neva and Oakton streets. Niles secured the funding for phase four earlier this month. Once the construction is finished, the final leg of the project will be complete.

Like all the previous phases, phase four is largely funded through an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program grant. The grant is worth $747,840, which covers 80 percent of the phase's costs. Niles government will cover the remaining 20 percent.

According to Charles Ostman, Niles Director of Community Development, the design for phase four hasn't been finalized. But when the village applied for the grants, the proposal included brick pavers, decorative benches, planters and decorative fencing.

The reaction from the businesses in question has been mixed. Zoren Lalich, owner of the Lauch Deli, feels that the improvements are long overdue.

"We see other parts of Niles get improvements, but we haven't seen a whole lot of that here," he said. "[Area businesses are getting left behind."

While Lalich feels that his business in particular gets decent traffic, he believes that beautification could benefit the corridor as a whole.

"It's all about eye candy," he said. "If you improve roads and sidewalks, people will want to spend more time here."

Dominic Celli, owner of Celli's Beef, couldn't disagree more.

"I think this is the biggest waste of time and money," he said. "The construction projects [along Milwaukee Avenue] resulted in lane closures, more traffic and major intersections, which hurt local businesses."

Celli said that earlier phases had negative effect on his business, and he wasn't looking forward to more of the same.

"I lost business because people couldn't get in and out of my parking lot because of back-ups," said Celli. "Some people who would come here during lunch break are choosing not to come because they don't know if they'll have enough time to get in, get lunch and get back to work."

Construction is due to start in spring 2014.

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Sister Cities splits from village

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

The Niles Sister Cities Association has officially seceded from the Village of Niles and it will remain a 501 C-3 private corporation.

"The village was running it," said Sister Cities President George Alpogianis. "It was being run as a commission."

"I don't think it was being run properly," said Alpogianis, who described it as a "vacation club" for some village officials.

Since it has been separated from the Village of Niles, the corporation would have to petition the village board if they wanted support for an event, such as the annual Taste of Sister Cities. Village Attorney Joseph Annunzio said that the Sister Cities has been putting on the event without the village's assistance.

Now that the association has separated from the village, Alpogianis said that Commander Dennis McEnaney has stepped down from the Sister Cities board, because he is a police officer for the Village of Niles. Annunzio has also stepped down from serving on the Sister Cities Board.

"We're sort of asking them to hold tight until we look at the bylaws and see what changes we need to make," said Alpogianis.

The goal is to get other people from the community to be more involved in the association, including someone from Culver Dist. 71, the Niles Chamber of Commerce and the Niles Public Library.

"We're not sure if we're going to expand on the board or create an advisory board," said Alpogianis.

The newly appointed board of directors consists of Alpogianis as president, Dave Laske as first vice president, Julie Genualdi as second vice president, Elizabeth "Cooky" Kraus as secretary and Yee Kim as treasurer.

"I think someone from the board or the mayor should be someone that sits on the board of advisors," said Alpogianis.

Alpogianis said one of their major ideas is to add a sister city in Korea and Germany.

"They are two very large populations I don't feel are represented in our village," said Alpogianis.

Alpogianis said another idea is to create a German style Christmas market and invite people of all ethnicities to participate. He said they would also offer holiday storytelling.

"We've got a lot of great ideas," said Alpogianis. Alpogianis said they are trying to get people from all parts of the town involved in the Sister Cities Association.

"We're trying to expand it out to our community," said Alpogianis.

The newly organized Sister Cities Association will meet at 6 p.m. at the Niles Public Library on the fourth Monday of each month.
Storyteller spins tales for all ages

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

Storytelling has always been an important part of Debi Gajewski's life, so becoming a professional storyteller who touches the lives of many people was a natural fit.

The longtime Niles resident tells stories about a variety of topics at senior centers, the Niles Teen Center, and many other places. Gajewski, who owns The Story Spinners with her husband, shares interesting stories ranging from ghost stories, to Civil War stories, to preschool stories, to tales of Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Gajewski also helps others become better storytellers through coaching.

Q: How did you become interested in storytelling?
A: I loved stories when I was a child. I was raised by my grandparents. It was something that we did in my era after supper. We’d go out in the front porch and that was my entertainment. They would tell me stories. I really got interested.

Q: Was there someone who inspired you to be a storyteller?
A: My grandparents really did. I’m writing a book called “Stories on My Grandparents’ Porch.” It takes me back to when I was a child in the ’50s and the ’60s.

Q: What’s the most rewarding part about storytelling?
A: The way that it touches people. It touches their hearts and minds, their emotions. I can see it when they laugh, when they smile and when tears come rolling down their face, especially with the elderly and those with Alzheimer’s. I know that for those moments, it touched them. I like to uncover the things that are sort of swept underneath the carpet. I just did a story for Martin Luther King Day. I wanted a story about how we would feel if this happened to us.

Q: How do you tell a story successfully?
A: Sometimes I use puppets when I do younger children. At least 80 percent of the time I have costumes. I have a vintage handkerchief program and I show up with at least 100 handkerchiefs. Sometimes I sing. I have comical routines that are more for adults. Laughter is good medicine. It really depends on what people want to do.

Q: What are some of your favorite kind of stories to tell?
A: I really enjoy anything that makes a person want to know more. History tends to come up a lot when I get hired for schools. I like to find the things that no one has ever heard of. Chicago history is a favorite of mine.

Q: Any other thoughts about storytelling?
A: We need to connect with children on another level. The families aren’t communicating and sharing stories and I think we need to bring that back. The biggest hill we have to climb over is that we have a hard time convincing the public that storytelling is an oral tradition and not a reading from a book.
Oakton Community College students Holly Jensen of Morton Grove (left) and Esraa Eltayeb of Evanston participate in Oakton Community College's One Billion Rising event on Valentine's Day on the Skokie campus. || JOEL LERNER-Sun-Times Media

Oakton raises awareness about violence to women

BY MIKE ISAACS | misaacs@pioneerlocal.com

On a day usually reserved for romance and sweet talk, some Oakton Community College students and staff became part of a worldwide awareness event calling attention to violence against women throughout the world.

Sponsored by Oakton's Women's and Gender Studies Program, the “One Billion Rising” protests were held both at the Skokie and Des Plaines Campuses, 45-minute demonstrations empowering women and men to stand up against global violence against women.

Similar events occurred throughout the region, the country, even the world, and Oakton wanted in. In fact, said Oakton student Abigail Thomas, who helped with choreography for a universal dance that was part of every protest, 200 countries participated in the One Billion Rising demonstrations.

Thomas, 19, helped lead three sessions in preparation for the dance. She had much enthusiasm when she heard about the project — in part because she has worked a suicide hotline before and understands the rampant violence against women worldwide.

“The subject is very personal and dear to me,” said the freshman who wants to be a child psychologist. That Thomas started dancing at age 2 also made her an ideal choice to help participants get ready for the empowering dance.

“We are inviting one billion women and those who love them to walk out, dance, rise up, and demand an end to this violence,” states the One Billion Rising website. “One Billion Rising will move the earth, activating women and men across every
country. V-Day wants the world to see our collective strength, our numbers, our solidarity across borders. "What does one billion look like? On 14 February 2013, it will look like a revolution."

The organizers said the demonstrations were intended as a global strike, an invitation to dance, and a call to men and women to refuse to participate in the status quo until rape and rape culture ends.

The numbers are staggering and sobering. One in three women on the planet will be raped or beaten in her lifetime, according to the United Nations Development Fund for Women. One billion women have been violated.

"Women do not have to be victimized," said Kathleen Carot, chairwoman of Oakton's Women's and Gender Studies Program. "All of us can make change happen — both men and women. This is about standing up and letting our voices be heard."

Mostly women but also a few men participated in the dance in the lobby of Oakton's Skokie campus. They followed the dance steps that were displayed on a TV screen that took them through the 15-minute number. The lyrics were all about empowerment and not accepting the status quo that has led to suffering and tragedy throughout the world.

"I raise my arms to the sky. On my knees I pray. I'm not afraid anymore. I will walk through that door."

Rose Novil, professor of Library Services at Oakton, danced right beside Carot and other staff and students, moving her feet, thrusting her arms into the air.

"I wanted to be part of this," she said. "It's one of the beautiful parts of Oakton. People come together and can stand up and speak out for what is right."

Myles Glasgow of Skokie, a parent who came to support the cause, said that too many men "grow up very afraid" and cope with life through violence.

This was the inaugural One Billion Rising event. Oakton participants said they anticipate their school becoming a regular part of the global movement every Valentine's Day.

At one point during the event, Carot looked at her kids as she said they were all there "so little ones don't have to live in fear."

For more information on the One Billion Rising event, access www.onebillionrising.org. For more information about Oakton's Women's and Gender Studies Program, visit Oakton-WGS on Facebook.
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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.

**DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

Laura Walsh, 44, of 6808 N. Northwest Hwy., Chicago, was charged with disorderly conduct and criminal trespass on the morning of Feb. 9. An employee of a store on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue told police that a woman, later identified as Walsh, was locked inside a restroom stall, screaming and refusing to leave the store. Police said Walsh, who appeared to be intoxicated, exited after about 20 minutes and was taken into custody. She has a March 13 court date.

**DUI**

Brian Whittle, 46, of 7155 Lee St., Niles, was charged with driving under the influence and leaving the scene of an accident on Feb. 8 after police responded to a hit-and-run accident at Harlem Avenue and Oakton Street. Police said the driver of the vehicle that was struck took a photo of the offending vehicle’s license plate and driver, leading officers to Whittle’s home where he was found to be allegedly intoxicated. He has a Feb. 26 court date.

Nina Zwaig, 44, of 9128 Terrace, Niles, was charged with driving under the influence on Feb. 9 after she was stopped for a traffic violation on the 8600 block of Golf Road. She has a March 13 court date.

Oweiss Ahmad, 26, of 8831 Grand, Niles, was charged with driving under the influence on Feb. 9 after he allegedly failed to stop for a red light prior to making a right turn onto Greenwood from eastbound Ballard Road at 1:55 a.m. He has a March 17 court date.

Carlos Cuellar, 33, of the 5500 block of Lincoln Avenue, Morton Grove, was charged with driving under the influence on Feb. 11 following a traffic stop on the 7900 block of Milwaukee Avenue at 12:23 a.m. He has a March 27 court date.

**SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY**

Police said a man attempted to fill fraudulent prescriptions for painkillers on Feb. 7 at a pharmacy on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue. When the man was told his prescriptions would not be filled, he reportedly left the store.

**THEFT**

Two wallets were reported stolen Feb. 6 from lockers inside the men’s locker room at a fitness center on the 9200 block of Milwaukee Avenue. Another wallet and an iPhone were stolen Feb. 7 from a man’s locker.

On Feb. 9 two teenagers reported personal items stolen from the upstairs gymnasium area of the Niles Family Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Dr.

A 2003 Oldsmobile was stolen Feb. 13 between 12:15 and 1:30 p.m. from a parking lot on the 9200 block of Milwaukee Avenue. The owner’s wallet was also reportedly inside the vehicle.

Ten cans of baby formula valued at $335 were reported stolen Feb. 6 from a store on the 9500 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

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Open wide: College launches new dental clinic

BY MIKE ISAACS
misaacs@pioneerlocal.com

SKOKIE

For Sanford-Brown College's dental hygiene students and for the community they're soon to serve, Feb. 12 was a day about which to smile.

The school's new dental hygiene clinic is all about smiling - making smiles brighter and whiter, regardless of the patient's ability to pay.

"Win-win" is an overused cliche to be sure, but it's hard to describe this week's opening of the new dental hygiene clinic in any other way; students will receive hands-on experience in a state-of-the-art clinic, and the community will gain an option for free dental care.

Sanford-Brown educators said the creation of a dental hygiene clinic was always to be part of the program.

"With the growing need for preventative oral care and the flexibility a career in dental hygiene may provide, the dental hygiene program is an incredible opportunity to pursue a career in the dental field," Dr. Shirley Beaver said about a year ago, when the new program was first announced. "Our goal is to build a foundation that will help students pursue opportunities with the knowledge and clinical experience they need to succeed."

Beaver last week said that when she was hired to lead the program, it was always under the concept of creating a dental hygiene clinic so students could offer care to the community.

That concept became reality at last week's grand opening when the new dental hygiene clinic was shown off for the first time.

The clinic includes 15 stations allowing more than half of the class to work on patients at once. Educators said there is about $1 million in equipment at the new dental hygiene clinic, a benefit to both the students and the patients they'll see.

All of those students were on hand last week to celebrate the clinic, which they have been looking forward to since the start of their academic training.

"We've been working so hard to get to this point," said Angie Abdin, president of Sanford-Brown College's dental hygiene class of 2013. "There is no way we could get this kind of learning if we didn't have the clinic."

"The hands-on experience is so important," echoed student Liz Raya, of Chicago.

Student Blanca Kacouris, of Chicago, also appreciated the opportunity the students now all have.

"Without this kind of practice, we couldn't be prepared to work in dental offices," she said.

That may be why nearly 30 students, all wearing their purple dental hygiene uniforms last week, could be seen smiling throughout the celebration. Their excitement was palpable as they listened to speakers and walked through the new clinic.

"You students are going to see these people in the community and make a difference in their lives," said Skokie dentist Susan Becker Doroshow, secretary of the Chicago Dental Society.

Doroshow made one of the most impassioned speeches of the day when she told students that their career is about so much more than fixing teeth. These students will help people in ways that they probably don't even realize, she said.

"You won't see the hole in their heart that you fixed," she told students before calling the clinic "a place where magic can happen."

That may sound a little hyperbolic, unless you know the need that exists in the community.

In 2012, for example, the Skokie Review visited Jane Stenson School, where more than 50 percent of the student enrollment is classified as low-income. A team of dentists under the Illinois Mobile Dentists program came to Stenson that day to provide dental screenings for those who could not afford them. They were busy from morning until afternoon.

The free checkups included cleanings, fluoride and sealants to prevent cavities - services that the Sanford-Brown clinic will now be able to provide.

At the clinic's opening, Dr. David Miller of the Illinois Department of Public Health told dental students it was up to them to make a difference in the community.

Chicago Dental Hygienists' Society President Kasia Jiminez said the clinic will "open many doors of opportunity for students and the community." Also on hand to congratulate the students and school was Dr. Darryl Pendleton, associate dean for student and diversity affairs with the University of Illinois Chicago College of Dentistry.

But for all the words spoken on this happy day of celebration, it was really a day about smiles - the smiles on the faces of the students and the smiles that these students will soon help create in the community.

Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen emphasized that same point.

"It's really about the smiles on the faces of the young people," he declared before cutting the ribbon, signaling that the Sanford-Brown Dental Hygiene Clinic in downtown Skokie is now open for business.
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— Cate Blanchett, Academy Award-winning Actress

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— Robert Stromberg, Academy Award winner, production designer for “Avatar”

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— Donna Karan, Creator of fashion brand DKNY

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"Mind blowing. I've seen enough shows and none can compare to what I saw tonight... Go back and see it six times!"
— Richard Conner, renowned Broadway critic

"I am completely enchanted. This was a marvelous evening."
— Her Royal Highness Princess Michael of Kent

"This show really has a great spiritual core."
— Gurinder Chadha, Director of Bend it Like Beckham

"Vigorous physicality!"
— Denver Post

"It's a new realm of dance—there's a lot of depth to it, and a lot of meaning."
— Vanessa Harwood, former Principal Dancer of National Ballet of Canada

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Keeping Tabs
How Illinois lawmakers voted in Congress for the week ending 02/15/13

Major roll call votes in the Senate

HAGEL FILIBUSTER
Voting 58-40, senators failed to reach the 60 votes needed to end a Republican filibuster against the nomination of Chuck Hagel, a former Republican senator from Nebraska, as the nation's 24th secretary of defense. Hagel, 66, served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam in 1967-68, receiving two Purple Hearts as an infantry squad leader. The next Senate vote on Hagel is set for the week of Feb. 25. A "yes" vote was to end GOP blocking of the nomination.
Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: No

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
Senators voted, 78-22, to renew the Violence Against Women Act through fiscal 2016. A "yes" vote was to send the House a bill (S 47) adding protections for gays and Native American and Alaska Native women while extending programs to help victims of domestic and campus violence, battered illegal immigrants and others. The bill also provides funding to help police departments reduce large backlogs in laboratory testing of DNA evidence taken from rape victims.
Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: Yes

AUTHORITY OF TRIBAL COURTS
Senators voted, 31-59, against stripping S 47 (above) of a section allowing tribal courts to prosecute and issue protection orders against non-Indians in cases of domestic violence on Indian reservations. A "yes" vote was to remove the section on grounds it denies U.S. citizens their constitutional rights.
Sen. Richard Durbin: No; Sen. Mark Kirk: No

Major roll call votes in the House

1. FEDERAL WORKERS' PAY FREEZE
House members voted, 261-154, to freeze federal workers' pay through Dec. 31, denying a 0.5 percent increase set for March 27. A "yes" vote was to pass a GOP bill (HR 273) that also would extend until year's end a pay freeze for members of Congress. Civil servants' pay has been frozen for three years and congressional pay for five years.

Key votes ahead
Congress is in recess until the week of Feb. 25, when the Senate will resume debate on Chuck Hagel's nomination as defense secretary and take up a bill to avert across-the-board "sequester" cuts due to start March 1. The House schedule was to be announced.

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What it means to you

CHICAGO

O’Hare to get $30-an-hour hotel suites for weary travelers

Air travelers will soon have a place to rest their weary heads between flights at O’Hare Airport — and it won’t be those infamous cots opened in passenger terminals during snowstorms.

With assurances that O’Hare will not become a “no-tell motel,” the City Council agreed last week to allow second-floor space in the rotunda between Terminals 2 and 3 to be turned into 29 “extended-stay suites” for weary air travelers.

Minute Suites plans to offer suites for $30-an-hour or $120 overnight for travelers in by 11 p.m. and out by 7 a.m.

The 62-square-foot suites will include a daybed sofa, workstation, high-definition TV and personal computer with Internet access.

Aldermen signed off on the agreement, one of 10 new concessions at a dozen locations at O'Hare domestic terminals expected to collectively generate at least $5.6 million in annual revenues for the city.

But not before Aviation Commissioner Rosemarie Andolino put to rest their concerns about creating a staging round for terrorists and about hourly rentals that could turn Minute Suites into a haven for sexual trysts.

- Chicago Sun-Times

SPRINGFIELD

Illinois Senate OKs doctors’ license fee hike to retire debt

The Illinois Senate approved a measure last week to raise physicians’ licensing fees to $700 to help the state rehire workers who license and investigate doctors.

The Senate voted 38-19 on the bill in an attempt to retire a deficit in the medical unit of the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation by temporarily raising a three-year doctor’s license to $700.

The unit’s budget woes forced more than half of the department’s medical watchdog staff to be laid off last month.

Illinois officials and doctors have been at odds for months over how to adequately and fairly fund the unit. While both sides acknowledge that physicians’ license fees should increase, they cannot agree on how much. They also disagree on whether the department should take a short-term loan to rehire the 18 staffers who were let go Jan. 15.

The Senate proposal, sponsored by Senate President John Cullerton, now moves to the House for consideration. Separate legislation awaiting House action mimics the Senate measure in borrowing $6.6 million from a tax fund for rehiring staff. But the House version, sponsored by Speaker Michael Madigan, permanently raises the fee to $750.

- The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

House votes to extend pay freeze for federal workers

The House voted Friday to extend a pay freeze for federal workers, already in effect for more than two years, for another nine months.

Republicans, who largely backed the measure, said it would save $11 billion in the long run and that economically secure public servants could go a little longer without a raise.

Most Democrats, and the White House, criticized the bill as an example of anti-government bias and said Republicans, instead of debating a bill that has little chance of advancing in the Democratic-controlled Senate, should be concentrating on avoiding the pending automatic cuts to federal programs that could have a painful effect on the economy.

The House measure, approved on a 261-154 vote, blocks an executive order issued by President Barack Obama last December that would give the nation’s 2 million civilian federal workers a 0.5 percent cost-of-living raise from March 27, when the current federal spending agreement expires, through the end of the year.

The White House has indicated it will also include a 1 percent federal pay increase in its 2014 budget proposal.

- The Associated Press
Preschool works

Study after study shows that kids who go to high-quality preschool do much better in the long run.

For at-risk children, there is no better social investment we can make. Kids who complete a good preschool program graduate high school in greater numbers, earn more as young adults and are less likely to go to jail.

President Obama wants to use federal money to reach all low- and moderate-income 4-year-olds and to create a partnership with states, which largely oversee government preschool programs, to encourage them to reach all 4-year-olds.

Conservatives already are dismissing this as another government attempt to throw money at programs that don't work. They are right to raise concerns about the uneven quality of preschool programs. Just three in 10 4-year-olds are in what's considered a good program, based on a review by the National Center for Education Statistics.

But this is a chance to make preschool better and more accessible so that every 4-year-old child can go to a quality program, not just a lucky few.

Football dangers deserve a closer look

If you care about the future of high school football and the safety of student athletes who play the game, plan to attend a forum Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Vernon Hills High School auditorium.

The forum is organized by State Rep. Carol Sente, who has sponsored legislation in Springfield for schools to limit football tackling practice to just one day a week.

The legislation is aimed at addressing the growing concern about the safety of football, specifically the long-term damage that can be caused to the brain by repeated blows to the head over time.

People will question the merits of the legislation on all sorts of grounds. How can schools monitor every practice? How can you teach football without teaching tackling?

What about blocking? There are head blows in blocking, too.

Sente deserves kudos for raising the issue. The real question is about the future of high school football.

In light of the lawsuit filed by a growing number of former pro players — up to 4,000 now — against the NFL, how can any entity which serves young athletes sanction football?

What high school or college would also want to be liable for potential brain damage to thousands of former high school and college players?

Will there come a time when high schools can't get insurance for the football team?

Sente's legislation, which is now in committee in the General Assembly, might be considered the first death knell, or the first salvo, depending on your point of view, about the high school game.

Football is going to change. The question is whether youth football can survive.

Commentator Bob Costas, on the TV program "Meet the Press" on Super Bowl Sunday, said: "The way football is currently played in the NFL is fundamentally unsustainable."

President Obama weighed in, too, saying that if he had a son he'd think twice about letting him play football.

Now we have Sente's proposal. But if football is so dangerous to young people that it has to be limited, why stop there? Should schools allow it at all? Logically, that's the next question, because research shows that it is the repeated blows to the head over time, not necessarily concussions, that are causing problems.

If schools ban soda and candy from vending machines because students might become overweight, repeated blows to the head looks like the greater danger to the health and safety of students.

That's the underlying issue every school is going to confront sooner or later. The debate starts Feb. 25.
Car-repair fear is the wheel deal

My car needed an oil change, so I took it in.

I always get the oil changed promptly. I had a car once I didn't and, well, that's a story only Edgar Allan Poe could write.

So, I take my car in regularly now. But with some trepidation. Because I don't want to spend any more than for an oil change, which means I have to get by the car-repair adviser.

It is obvious I need my car in working order. If it isn't I can't get where I want to go, or I could wind up taking a horizontal tour of a hospital emergency room.

Like so many people I have no idea how a car works. If you told me it was all gerbils on a treadmill I'd probably believe it. So, I sit on the edge of a plastic chair in the waiting area and watch the ladies of "The View" as the car-repair adviser critically and somewhat disdainfully examines my car while the oil is being changed. He returns.

"Sir, I notice one of your windshield wipers sticks."

Yes? Can you change it?

"We could. But the manual says that a stuck windshield wiper is a sign that you need new brakes, a new transmission, four new tires and a paint job."

Can I put that off for a while?

"You could. But it's possible the steering wheel can snap back and impale you as the seats burst into flame."

Heavens. How much would it be to fix that?

Since I don't want to be skewered while bursting into flame I sign off on the repairs. The garage makes a tidy profit and Madison (the car-repair adviser's daughter) gets a college education.

That's what I'm afraid will happen as I sit, poised on the edge of the chair in the waiting room as Barbara Walters goes on about the most interesting people of the year, none of whom I am.

I see the adviser through the glass, hands on hips staring down at my car, much as a vascular surgeon might look at a heart-transplant patient. He writes something on a clipboard and strides back into the waiting area.

"Mr. Sansoon?"

Yes.

"You're OK, but it's just about time to have your fuel injectors cleaned."

I think I'll wait on that. Maybe next time.

Oh, baby! I'm out with just an oil change.

Oh, and I should have that windshield wiper repaired, of course.
Question of the Week

“What is the most memorable new event you’ve seen on TV?”

Devin Faus, Schaumburg: “I would say the NIU shooting or 9/11. Those are what stick out most for me.”

Shalvoria Tiller, Chicago: “Probably the first election of Barack Obama.”

Jennifer Jacob, Skokie: “I think the most memorable was the Sandy Hook shootings.”

Aleemee Gueco, Bartlett: “When Michael Jackson died.”

People Poll

LAST WEEK’S QUESTION: “What draws you to watch the State of the Union address?”
RESPONSES:
1) The policy: 23%
2) The pageantry: 7%
3) Patriotism: 7%
4) Status quo: 3%
5) I don’t watch: 63%

THIS WEEK’S QUESTION: “What kind of Pope do you expect to replace Pope Benedict?”
RESPONSES:
1) More traditional: 23%
2) More progressive: 7%
3) Status quo: 7%

To respond to this week’s People Poll question, visit niles.suntimes.com
Maine high schools to require laptops

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

PARK RIDGE

The way Maine Township high school students read their textbooks is about to change.

Beginning next school year, incoming freshmen and sophomores will be required to purchase a Chromebook laptop computer during summer book sales. It's a new initiative from the District 207 Board of Education, which recently approved the $1.07 million purchase of over 3,000 Chromebooks for the first year of a three-year roll-out.

The district will be reimbursed when families pay for the computers through their technology fee. The cost per Chromebook, which includes cords and a protective cover, is currently estimated at $319, said Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Barb Dill-Varga.

"It's a device that will allow students to access digital resources, in some cases replacing their print textbook," Dill-Varga said.

The computers will belong to the students once they purchase them and will be used to download digital books, access Internet resources, share documents through Google, turn in assignments and take exams, Dill-Varga explained.

One of the benefits of the computers is that families could likely see savings, as digital textbooks cost relatively less than printed textbooks, she added.

During January a meeting of the District 207 Education Committee, Dill-Varga explained that digital books can cost as little as $20, while printed textbooks can range from $90 to $120 for Maine students.

"It's the right time for us to start to shift away from the high cost of printed textbooks," Dill-Varga said.

The district is floating the option of letting families pay for the computers in four installments over the first year. They also have an existing program in place to help families who cannot afford the cost of the computers, Dill-Varga explained.

Chromebooks run on the Google Chrome operating system and are among the least expensive laptops. The Chromebooks purchased for District 207 students have safeguards in place that are intended to keep students from visiting Internet sites they should not be looking at during class, particularly when they are taking exams, Dill-Varga said. Teachers will also have the ability to view the computer screens of every student, she added.

Maine East High School science teacher Aida Awad has been piloting Chromebooks in her geology class this school year.

"It's surprising, but they really do love them," she said of her students.

Awad explained that some of the advantages of using this particular type of laptop include the speed, eight-hour battery life and ability to resume a project in seconds after closing the computer.

"That's a really big advantage, that you can seamlessly move from using the device to doing something else," Awad said.

She also uses the Chromebooks to incorporate online video into her instruction and to have students store reports and research papers in a Google Document file that Awad can access and offer feedback on.

"They have dramatically changed how I teach and how a lot of other teachers teach," she explained. "We have really moved much more toward student-centered learning."

But students are not the only ones who will need to adjust to their new virtual classroom. Teachers will also require lessons in working with Chromebooks.

"There are a lot of details to work out, not the least of which is professional development for teachers," Dill-Varga said. "Instructively, it will be an important change that the teachers will have to think about."
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DISTRICT 219

New administrative appointments at District 219

The Niles Township High School District 219 Board of Education made several administrative appointments at its Feb. 11 meeting, including directors of humanities and assistant directors of special education. The appointments become effective on July 1.

The district is reorganizing so that, beginning in the 2014-15 school year, a new Humanities Department structure will be in place that will include English, reading, and history. Sanilida Cheng will be director of humanities at Niles West High School and Tony Bradburn will be director of humanities at Niles North.

Cheng and Bradburn will work with the English and reading and social studies departments over the next year to align curriculum content so that literacy skills are specifically reinforced and emphasized through the scope and sequence of all humanities classes.

Cheng has been director of English and reading at Niles West since 2008. She serves on the Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) panel for the evaluation of new teachers. She began at West as an English teacher in 2002. Cheng earned a master's degree in administration from National-Louis University and a master's in teaching English from the University of Chicago. Her bachelor's in English is also from the University of Chicago.

Tony Bradburn has been director of English and Reading at Niles North since 2011. Before that, he was Division Head for English and ESL for three years at Dundee Crown High School in Carpentersville. Prior to that, Bradburn taught English at Rolling Meadows High School and served as a staff development coordinator. Bradburn earned a master's in school leadership from Concordia University and a master's in teaching from Rockford College. He has a bachelor's in English from Illinois State University.

The Board also appointed assistant directors of special education at both schools: Edward Pieczynski at Niles West and Page Powell at Niles North. Pieczynski has been a Special Education teacher in the district since 2005 and for the past two years has been Special Education Coordinator at West. Powell has been North's special education coordinator for two years. Prior to that she was a special education teacher at North in the Bridges transition program. Both Page and Pieczynski started in District 219 as paraprofessionals.

Niles West presents "The Importance Of Being Earnest"

The Niles West Theater Department presents Oscar Wilde's comedy "The Importance of Being Earnest" Feb. 21 through 23 in the Black Box Theatre at 5701 W. Oakton St., Skokie. This biting and satirical British comedy pokes fun at high-society rules through three acts of knee-slapping wit and farcical mistaken identity. Performances are 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Tickets are $10 for adults and $7 for students, senior citizens and children.

For tickets, call (847) 626-2633 or visit www.nileswesttheatre.com. A free community performance will be held at 10 a.m. Feb. 21.

The cast of "The Importance of Being Earnest": Alex Wood as John "Jack" Worthing; Cameron Broderick, Algernon Moncrieff; Susy Montoya-Quinchia, Gwenvidián Fairfax; Sharon Pasia, Cecily Cardew; Elissa Hoffman, Lady Bracknell; Mira Berksen, Miss Prism; Rudy Newman, Rev. Dr. Chasuble; Andre Eramina, Merriman; and Peter Garbis, Lane.

The Production Team for "The Importance of Being Earnest": Andy Sinclair, director; Steven George, technical director/scenic design; Kimberly Morris, costume/properties design; Charlotte Rathke, lighting design; Adam Rosenthal, sound design; Cynthia Philbin and Jackie Garvey, Box Office management.


Artists earn awards in Scholastic Art and Writing Competition

An astounding 70 Niles Township High School District 219 artists earned recognition in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, an organization that identifies teens with exceptional literary and artistic talent. The competition, founded in 1923, is the nation's longest-running, largest, most prestigious program for creative teenagers in the visual and literary arts. Notable past winners include Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, Richard Avedon, Robert Redford and Joyce Carol Oates.

The awards are an important opportunity for students to be recognized for their creative talents. Teens in seventh- through 12th-grades can apply in 30 categories of art and writing for the chance to earn scholarships and have their works exhibited or published.

Gold Key winners have achieved the highest level of recognition on the regional level. Their work is sent to compete on a national level for scholarships. Gold Key winners, Niles North: Andrew

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Gold Key winners have achieved the highest level of recognition on the regional level. Their work is sent to compete on a national level for scholarships. Gold Key winners, Niles North: Andrew
Ardelean, photography; Richa Basnet, design; Marom Benzaken, drawing; Lianne Coballes, drawing; Serena Hocharoen, mixed media and drawing; and Diana Shlikhtova, drawing. Niles West: Denise Alasu, photography; Rebecca Bujdei, photography; Amanda Lay, photography; Jessica Klier, photography; Kira Pulley, photography and digital art; Rosey Saro, photography; Justyna Magiera, ceramics; Karoline Nissan, ceramics; Ema Zivkovic, photography; Nicole Nienow, watercolor and acrylic painting; and Edan Scott, watercolor.

Silver Key winners demonstrate a high level of achievement. Approximately 10 to 15 percent of all regional submissions earn Silver Key Awards. Silver Key winners, Niles North: Andrew Ardelean, photography; Hoa Cao, design; Taylor Hillen, design; Justin Salomon, design; Kevin Luc, photography; Corie Adams, drawing; Shenar Dinkha, photography; Gabrielle General, drawing; Anna Hershinow, drawing; Serena Hocharoen, drawing; Alexa Jasenof, drawing; Noreen Khan, ceramic/glass; Marta Lemesh, photography; Mira Leshem, ceramic/glass; Marta Lemesh, photography; Kira Pulley, drawing; Anna Poloz, drawing; and Jungha Suk, drawing. Niles West: Jawariya Khan, photography; Ida Jacob, photography; Aisha Mahmoud, photography; Kate Schierbeek, photography; Sarah Schierbeek, sculpture; Brendan Tiongson, photography; Jessica Phan, pen and ink; Beata Soltys, color pencil; Barbara Magiera, color pencil; and Nicole Nienow, mixed media.

The Honorable Mention Award recognizes students with artistic potential. Approximately 15- to 20-percent of all regional submissions receive these awards. Honorable Mention, Niles North: Andrew Ardelean, digital art; Arina Durmic, photography; Saba Kalantarpour, design; Regina Roberg, photography (three awards); Corie Adams, drawing; Mali Gurovsky, drawing; Sarah Lewin, drawing; Mateo Ruiz, painting; and Victoria Sorin, drawing. Niles West: Narcis Ardelean, photography; Nicole Nienow, watercolor; Autumn Brunson, ceramics; Zohair Hussain, ceramics; Jessica Phan, pen and ink; Edan Scott, watercolor; Beata Soltys, color pencil; Barbara Magiera, mixed media; and Nicole Nienow, watercolor.

The Alliance presents over $250,000 annually in awards and scholarships to top winners of the awards and their teachers. Niles North award winners are taught by Lori Real, Deanna Sortino and Amy Zwikel. Niles West teachers include: Deanna Sortino, Barb Wismer, John Zilewicz, and Christopher Sykora.

Niles North DECA students raise awareness of epilepsy

Niles North High School DECA students Shazil Lakhani and Annie Modi worked on a recent DECA project to raise community awareness about epilepsy and seizure safety. These leaders are members of the WHO Club - short for We Help Others. They focus on service projects that help Danny Did and so many other groups. Special thanks to students Shazil Lakhani and Annie Modi and teachers Mr. Sharma and Mrs. Dunham for organizing a productive day of awareness and education.
Using the numbers from one to nine, place a number in each empty box so that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ***

*(: Moderate; **: Challenging; ***: HOG BOY!)*

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Opening February 23
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**

**66+**

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).
- 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).

**Blarney Bash**

**18-65+**

This event from 6:30-11 p.m. March 9 at Galvin’s Public House, 5901 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago, will benefit the Center.

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and collections, or just come to visit. The new magnetic elevator makes the auditorium easily accessible. Call (847) 390-0160.

**LIBRARY**

Niles Public Library: 6960 W. Oakton St., (847) 663-1234 or online at www.nileslibrary.org. Registration is required for most programs unless otherwise indicated.

**Internet programs**

Get free help with computer and tech-related questions from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Experts will be on hand to work one-on-one.

**Niles Needlers**

Genealogist Steve Szabados will discuss the major online resources for genealogy research from 2-3:30 p.m. Feb. 24. He will unlock the secrets of FamilySearch, Ellis Island, Find a Grave, Ancestry, Heritage Quest and even the use of message boards to solve the brickwall problem.

**PUZZLE ANSWERS**

See page 28 for this week’s Super Crossword and Sudoku puzzles.

**HOCUS FOCUS**

Find at least six differences in details between panels

**Purim celebration**

Those who love to knit or crochet can join others in the board room at 3 p.m. Feb. 28.

**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. 28; sign up for a 20-minute slot; for kids in kindergarten and older. Call (847) 663-6222.

**NILES SENIOR CENTER**

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

**Film**

See “Moonrise Kingdom” from 2-3:45 p.m. Feb. 21.

**Shakespeare Project**

See “Twelfth Night” from 7-9:30 p.m. Feb. 22.

**Family movie**

Is at 2 p.m. Feb. 25.

**Lego Club**

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

**‘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 fetuccini Alfredo and sweet peas or chicken breast marsala. Cost is $64, members; $69, nonmembers.

**Issues in the News**

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.

**SENIORS**

**Walking program**

Golf Mill Shopping Center: Hosting “Feats of Fitness,” a mall-walking program Mondays through Saturdays, to enable seniors to walk within an enclosed environment. Health seminars and blood pressure screenings offered throughout the year every month from 9-10 a.m. on the second Wednesday. Call Golf Mill management office at (847) 699-1070.
Spotlight

Asian buffet dishes up rainbow

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES

Whether you're craving sushi, lobster or steak, the new Ginza Buffet that opened at Golf Mill Shopping Center on Feb. 1 offers it all.

The contemporary restaurant offers more than 300 all-you-can-eat dishes that are prepared fresh every day. "We serve lobster, crab and oysters," said Owner Ken Chen. He owns the steak, seafood and sushi buffet with his partner, Sky Liu, who owns similar restaurants on the East Coast.

Chen said they have a wide variety of sushi, including tuna, salmon, yellow tail, rainbow roll and much more. He said lobster and sushi are very popular items that are found in the buffet that offers more than 50 special rolls.

The restaurant serves primarily Japanese food, but also offers some Korean dishes as well. Some popular cold dishes include oysters in Ponzu sauce and jumbo shrimp cocktail. The restaurant offers more than 30 main entrees including lobster, scallops, beef ribs and more. Customers can also choose their own ingredients for a chef to cook in their stir-fry.

Chen currently owns a smaller restaurant in Highland Park called Sushi Kori, which has been in business for about four years.

Chen said he felt that Niles was the perfect place to open a seafood and sushi buffet, because of the large Korean and Asian population in the village.

"Golf Mill is a very good location for that kind of business," said Chen, about the restaurant's first couple of weeks in operation. Although the 10,000 square-foot restaurant sports a contemporary look, Chen describes Ginza Buffet as a casual dining atmosphere. "A lot of families come to eat here," said Chen. Liu has been a chef for more than 10 years and Chen has been a sushi chef for eight years.

If a customer feels something is missing from the buffet, such as Kung Pao chicken, the chefs will fulfill their request if possible.

"They have done phenomenal," said Director of Marketing Director Monika Kalicki, who feels the restaurant will attract more people to the mall.

Kalicki said that the seafood and sushi is of very high quality and always very fresh. Ginza Buffet has 18 full time employees and about six part time employees.

The price of the lunch buffet is $11.95; and the dinner buffet is $21.95 on the weekdays and $25.95 on the weekend.

Those who would like a chance to win dinner for two at the new Ginza Buffet restaurant can take a photo in front of the rose display at center court and email it to Angelika.Jurczyk@golfmill.com to enter to win. The drawing will take place on Feb. 28.

Ken Chen, at the front desk of Ginza at Golf Mill Center in Niles, is the owner of the new restaurant along with partner Sky Liu. | JOE CYGANOWSKI-For Sun-Times Media
When you call Krex Computers, you might be greeted by a recording that talks about the store's custom-built computer systems that include either a 5.25 or 3.5-inch floppy drive.

While owner Al-Amin Lakhani admits the message is probably due for changing, he is proud of the fact that customers can indeed still find a variety of floppy drives at the Morton Grove store, something some of them need to access old data they've never transferred to a newer format.

"We still have floppy drives. People still have data on floppy drives," Lakhani said.

Lakhani got out of school in the 1980s, with a degree in computer science and he says more book knowledge than practical knowledge.

"I went to work for a company and started really learning," he said.

In about 1990 he decided to go out on his own, and opened Computer Brain Inc. in Skokie.

He still owns that store, now in its second location since moving to Lincolnwood.

Being in the same business, he knew Steve Krex and about four years ago leaned that Krex wanted to move on.

"We started our businesses about the same time. We knew each other and when I heard he wanted to move on," Lakhani said.

Krex accepted, and Lakhani took over Krex Computers in 2008.

Though many of the independent computer stores that sprouted up with the advent of personal computers long ago were driven out of business by big box stores and large computer retailers like Dell, Lakhani said his ability to provide personal service has allowed him to keep going.

Lakhani and his staff at Krex build new systems for customers at the Morton Grove store. That enables them to customize a computer based on the customer's needs.

In some cases, that may mean a more basic system for someone interested in simple tasks like word processing and email, or a more powerful system with a fast, multi-core processor, snappy video card and lots of memory for a system designed for gaming.

"All of our systems are custom-made," Lakhani said.

"We try to find out what they want to do and then we make a recommendation.

"We customize it to their needs. That's what we specialize in," Lakhani said. "We use quality parts to build a system that suits their needs."

The use of standardized components, from hard drives to optical drives and memory modules, makes it easier and often cheaper to replace a part that has failed or to upgrade a system. The components, even something like the motherboard, are easily replaceable with parts purchased at Krex or any other supplier.

That's different than many prebuilt, name-brand systems that often use expensive parts that can only be purchased from the computer's manufacturer.

"You're held hostage. You have to buy their proprietary components," Lakhani said.

A big part of his business, Lakhani said, is service. In addition to servicing Krex systems, the shop can repair pretty much anything, including replacing broken screens or defective circuit boards in notebook computers.

The store also does a considerable amount of virus removal for customers whose systems become infected. Maintenance and repairs can be done onsite or at the store.

As for himself, Lakhani has one word for what he enjoys about computers. "Speed, speed and speed," he said.
7738 West Oakton St.,
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Lot size: 4,860 square feet
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Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2.5
Garage: One-car attached
Tax: $5,598.87 (2011)
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Blockbuster or flop? The Movie Review section has the scoop.

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**NILES**

7515 N Waukegan Road: Chicago Title Land Trust 0000000029099 to 7515 Waukegan LLC for $0 on Jan. 4

6911 W Howard St: Federal National Mortgage Association to David Janish for $202,000 on Jan. 2

7338 N Waukegan Road: Judicial Sales Corp to Niles Investment Group Inc for $0 on Dec. 31

6830 W Oakton St: Federal National Mortgage Association to Rizaldy Bicaldo for $198,500 on Jan. 2

8047 N Milwaukee Ave: Miriam Jacobson Trust to Andan Cap LLC for $110,000 on Jan. 4

8047 W Churchill Ave: Chicago Title Chicago Trust Co Trust 00000000118888 to 8047 Churchill LLC for $0 on Jan. 2

**MORTON GROVE**

8900 Osweego Ave: Donna J Fischer Trust to John R Fischer for $0 on Jan. 4

7710 Dempster St: Soon Ok Park to Steve S Park for $0 on Jan. 3

9120 Newcastle Ave: Raymond F Leusch to Raymond F Leusch for $0 on Jan. 4

7345 Arcadia St: Anthony J Dixon to Patrice Lambert for $215,000 on Jan. 2

7926 Lotus Ave: Chicago Title Land Trust 00000060109402 to Chicago Title Land Trust 0008002360875 for $160,000 on Jan. 3

5901 Carol Ave: Judy A Jansen to Aurimas Palaitis for $235,000 on Jan. 4

9301 Waukegan Road: Chicago Title Land Trust 00000060123403 to Hills Dev Silo for $3,850,000 on Jan. 2

8912 Marmora Ave: Richard L Wishoff to Salman Rehman for $176,000 on Jan. 3

9421 Sayre Ave: Lawrence Allen Troka to Lawrence Allen Troka for $0 on Jan. 3

**PARK RIDGE**

1136 N Greenwood Ave: Beal Equities Inc to Shahr Y Yacoubian for $370,000 on Jan. 4

404 S Delphina Ave: Karl Ivar Pearson to Glenna Rae Pearson Trust for $0 on Dec. 31

1716 Vine Ave: Yalcin Uysalbas to Patrice L Harrison for $135,000 on Jan. 3

1130 S Greenwood Ave: Robert H Fischer to Lawrence S Kloc for $315,000 on Jan. 4

1712 S Crescent Ave: Renee Verdisaros Trust to Keith M Verdisaros for $0 on Jan. 3

1712 S Crescent Ave: Keith Verdisaros Trust to Keith M Verdisaros for $0 on Jan. 3

433 S Home Ave: GHK Properties LLC to Dennis A Frantsve for $420,000 on Jan. 2

**GLENVIEW**

43 Parkview Road: David N Smith to James B Kepka for $354,500 on Jan. 2

5533 Mulford St: Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp to Arubia Elahi for $180,000 on Jan. 4

7700 E Frontage Road: Overheadguich LLC to Forsythe Technology Inc for $7,000,000 on Jan. 3

5459 Lincoln Ave: Linh Chi Le to Linh Chi Le for $0 on Dec. 31

861 Niles Center Road: Daniel Levin to Terence Whalen for $115,000 on Jan. 4

8440 Laramie Ave: Sophia Vassiliou to Sophia Vassiliou for $0 on Dec. 31

5132 Lee St: James Sibley Jr to James Sibley Jr for $0 on Jan. 3

**LINCOLNWOOD**

4842 W Sherwin Ave: Yusuf Patel to Devon Bank for $0 on Dec. 31

4842 W Sherwin Ave: Devon Bank to Yusuf Patel for $0 on Dec. 31

**CHICAGO**

7301 W Howard St: Adam Matuszek to Patrick F O'Connor Trust for $0 on Jan. 3

7301 W Howard St: Adam Matuszek to Patrick F O'Connor Trust for $0 on Jan. 3

7301 W Howard St: Adam Matuszek to Patrick F O'Connor Trust for $0 on Dec. 31

8406 W Cram St: Achille Trust for $0 on Jan. 4

8454 N Chester Ave: Jack Achille to Jack Achille Trust for $0 on Jan. 4

8406 W Crain St: Chicago Title Land Trust to Patrick F O'Connor Trust for $0 on Jan. 2

1716 5 Crescent Ave: Keith M Verdisaros for $0 on Jan. 3

8912 Marmora Ave: Richard G Wishoff to Shahi Y Yacoubian for $370,000 on Jan. 4

5901 Carol Ave: Judy A Jansen to Aurimas Palaitis for $235,000 on Jan. 4

8440 Laramie Ave: Sophia Vassiliou to Sophia Vassiliou for $0 on Dec. 31

5132 Lee St: James Sibley Jr to James Sibley Jr for $0 on Jan. 3

4842 W Sherwin Ave: Yusuf Patel to Devon Bank for $0 on Dec. 31

4842 W Sherwin Ave: Devon Bank to Yusuf Patel for $0 on Dec. 31

7301 W Howard St: Adam Matuszek to Patrick F O'Connor Trust for $0 on Jan. 3

6941 N Monon Ave: Saverio C Schiro to Saverio C Schiro for $0 on Jan. 4

6941 N Monon Ave: Saverio C Schiro to Saverio C Schiro for $0 on Jan. 4

6249 N Newcastle Ave: Susan Rae Nielsen Trust to Richard E Nielsen Trust for $0 on Jan. 4

6232 N Neenah Ave: Thomas J Como to Eric T Peters for $230,000 on Jan. 4

6768 N Keota Ave: Edward Crosan Trust to Marty R Cook for $205,000 on Jan. 4

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15 yr fixed | 5.000 | 0.000 | $995 | 20% | 4.987
5/1 ARM | 5.000 | 0.000 | $995 | 20% | 5.000
7/1 ARM | 5.500 | 0.000 | $995 | 20% | 5.375
30 yr fixed | 5.000 | 0.000 | $1870 | 20% | 5.392
15 yr fixed | 5.000 | 0.000 | $1870 | 20% | 5.287
5/1 ARM | 5.000 | 0.000 | $1870 | 20% | 5.000
7/1 ARM | 5.500 | 0.000 | $1870 | 20% | 5.392
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15 yr fixed | 5.000 | 0.000 | $1424 | 20% | 5.392
5/1 ARM | 5.000 | 0.000 | $1424 | 20% | 5.000
7/1 ARM | 5.500 | 0.000 | $1424 | 20% | 5.392
30 yr fixed | 5.000 | 0.000 | $1424 | 20% | 5.392
15 yr fixed | 5.000 | 0.000 | $1424 | 20% | 5.287
5/1 ARM | 5.000 | 0.000 | $1424 | 20% | 5.000
7/1 ARM | 5.500 | 0.000 | $1424 | 20% | 5.392

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Finding Zen in a slow cooker
How two busy moms and one crockpot are transforming dinnertime

Meg Barnhart, founder of The Zen of Slow Cooking (www.thezenofslowcooking.com). Barnhart, along with culinary expert Jane McKay, is transforming the way we think about dinner by creating a website dedicated to producing more Zen and less stress in your daily life, especially around the dinner hour.

BETH ENGELMAN
MOMMY ON A SHOESTRING

It’s hard to believe, but it was only six years ago that dinnertime was my biggest worry,” Barnhart said. “My husband was constantly traveling and my three kids were going in three different directions. Afternoons were dedicated to being a chauffeur, homework helper and scheduler, making it nearly impossible to get a healthy meal on the table.”

Fortunately, things soon turned around when a friend suggested Barnhart purchase a crockpot. “It sounds silly, but using a slow cooker really changed my life,” Barnhart said. “I was able to restore peace and calm in my home by focusing my attention on my kids, while dinner slowly came together in a foolproof way.”

CHOOSING A SLOW COOKER

Since your slow cooker will become the workhorse of your kitchen, it’s important to choose one that fits your family’s needs and lifestyle. Both Barnhart and McKay recommend finding a slow cooker that has a cast iron insert, which can be used to brown meat or sauté vegetables.

“Not only does the cast iron insert improve overall flavor and appearance,” McKay said, “but it also saves on washing up since you don’t have to use a separate pan.”

Other issues to consider when buying a slow cooker include durability, temperature controls and price range, so it’s important to read online reviews such as those found on Amazon, Consumer Reports or Yahoo.

Chocolate Chip Pumpkin Bread

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cooking time: 2 hours

1 tablespoon flour
1 cup whole wheat flour
1 cup all purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup semi sweet chocolate chips
1/2 cup olive oil (or 1/2 cup butter)
1/2 cup maple syrup (or 1 cup sugar)
2 eggs
1 tablespoon 2% milk
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup pureed pumpkin

Spray a 2-pound loaf tin (or other round tin) or slow cooker insert with nonstick oil and shake in 1 tablespoon flour to coat the surface. Turn your slow cooker to high.

In a large bowl, mix the flours, baking soda, salt and chocolate chips. Add the olive oil, maple syrup, eggs, milk and vanilla, making sure that the ingredients are thoroughly beaten and the mixture is without lumps. (Note: if using butter and sugar instead, cream those ingredients in a separate bowl before mixing the eggs, milk and vanilla.) Stir in the pumpkin.

Pour mixture into loaf tin and cook on high for 2 hours.
Hamantaschen cookies
a sweet sign of Purim

BY VERONCA HINKE | Contributor

It wouldn't be Purim without hamantaschen, the triangle-shaped pocket cookies traditionally exchanged on the Jewish holiday.

"They're such an exclusive cookie; you only get them once a year," said Skokie resident Beth Chiet.

Chiet and her daughter Jenna, 10, were part of a group of volunteers who baked hamantaschen together in the kitchen at Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah in Wilmette in advance of Purim festivities.

On the evening of Feb. 23, which marks the beginning of the 24-hour-long holiday, the biblical story of Purim will be read aloud from the Book of Esther at the synagogue. The story tells how Haman bribed King Ahasuerus of Persia to allow him to kill the Jews. The translation of Hamantaschen is "Haman's pockets," which references the coins Haman stuffed in his pockets to bribe King Ahasuerus. Haman was hanged, however, and his plans failed, when Esther, a favored wife of the king, revealed her Jewish ancestry.

Esther's disclosure sparked a celebratory day of feasting that is still observed annually — with plenty of hamantaschen cookies.

And making the cookies can be as much fun as eating them.

"I like folding them," Jenna said.

But while the process of folding three edges toward the center of each cookie can be a fun step, it can also be a tricky part of the baking process.

"If you don't press the dough firmly enough, the cookie ends up looking like a big blob," Beth said.

The folds point to the center of each cookie, which is filled with apricot, raspberry and other fruit jams. Other popular fillings include chocolate and poppy seed.

Jenna's favorite is chocolate and her friend Rebecca Aisenberg, 10, also of Skokie, agrees.

"Hamantaschen cookies come in a lot of different flavors, but I like chocolate the best," Rebecca said.

With their moms, the girls and their friend Eli Spector made hamantaschen at the synagogue. Some may be served after the reading on Feb. 23; others could be included in "mishloach manot," or gift baskets that will be delivered as part of an annual fundraiser. And others might be enjoyed at the synagogue's carnival on Feb. 24.

"We just enjoy getting out with the kids and celebrating at the carnival," said Rebecca's mother, Nora Aisenberg.

Whatever the event, the Beth Hillel Sisterhood has used the same trusted recipe for hamantaschen for more than 30 years. The recipe is one of 750 favorites shared in a cookbook the group published 14 years ago, World of Our Flavors II.

"I have been baking hamantaschen for many years, since I was a youngster, and later with my own children," said Wilmette resident Gail Schneiderman, who was involved in the cookbook production. "Now the next generation, our grandchildren, participate with great delight."

For details about Purim festivities at Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah, see www.bhcbe.org.

---

Hamantaschen

1 cup sugar  
3 eggs  
3/4 cup oil  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
4 1/4 cups flour  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
2 heaping teaspoons baking powder

powder  
Solo pie and pastry filling  
Beat eggs; add sugar and vanilla. Add oil and mix well. Sift together flour, salt and baking powder. Add to mixture and blend well. Roll out into 1/4-inch thickness. Cut into 3-inch circles. Place 1 teaspoon of filling in center of each circle. Pinch sides together, forming a closed triangle over the filling. Bake at 375 degrees for 10-15 minutes on a greased cookie sheet. Yield: Approximately 60 hamantaschen.

---

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THINGS WE LOVE

THIS WEEK

Carry on colorfully with Tiffany Leather Collection’s reversible totes, which come in shades like Tiffany blue and coral. Each has a detachable zipper pouch and an optional cross-body strap. $675, Tiffany.com

Cathay Pacific Airways’ new Premium Economy Class features a quieter, roomier cabin than traditional Economy. Even better? Buy a round-trip ticket to Hong Kong through Mar. 3, and receive a $100 in-flight voucher, redeemable for any duty-free item onboard. Visit Cathay-pacific.com.

Settle into spring with Aerin’s floral illuminating powder: The palette’s six pastels swirl into one soft shade to add a pop of color back into your complexion. $55, Aerin.com or Esteelauder.com

Get fit at Flywheel’s Highland Park studio, which is holding high-energy, complimentary indoor cycling classes from Feb. 21 - Feb. 24. 600 Central, Flywheelsports.com

AT THE PHOTO SHOOT

Fabio Viviani showed up with a suitcase in hand — we caught him just before an evening flight to New York. Siena Tavern co-owners Lucas Stoloff and David Rekhson were also at our shoot, and the trio spent the afternoon laughing, joking and talking about the new restaurant.

“He’s a total breath of fresh air that the city needs. He really made my job fun and easy.”
— Groomer Sarah Lukasiewicz

COVERAGE CREDITS

Photographer: Anthony Tahiler
Groomer: Sarah Lukasiewicz for Amazing Cosmetics
Stylist: Eric Himel
Shoot Coordinator: Katerina Bizios
Venue: Siena Tavern (51 W. Kinzie)
Shirt: Hugo Boss, Saks Fifth Avenue, $89
Jacket: Zegna, Saks Fifth Avenue, $1,795
Tie: Hugo Boss, Saks Fifth Avenue, $95

What had you tweeting

Tay @taylcolle7XO: @Suntimes_Splash @Kristencav looks AMAZING after just having a baby!! gorgeous ♡
Merisa @MerisaCano: Thanks @NievesLavi @ShopSarca @Suntimes_Splash! Great time at @BoardingHse brunch + fashion
Mario Murguello C @marlomurguello: @JennyMcCarthay @Suntimes_Splash nice article Jenny!! I suggest that we think and reason with our brain, and feel and love with our heart!!
Jaslene Gonzalez @jaslenegonzales: Shooting my cover for Splash magazine! I'm loving it! @Suntimes_Splash

Question: Complete this sentence: Home is ...
Tweet your answers to @Suntimes_Splash and look for your response in next week's Real Estate, Home & Art issue.

SPASH

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— Editor Susanna Negovan, susanna@suntimes.com

“I'm obsessed with Porter Airlines to Toronto — you get to jump the security lines at Midway and land at an airport that's a quick ferry boat ride to downtown Toronto.”
— Editor Susanna Negovan, susanna@suntimes.com

“For road trips, I load my iPod with tons of 'This American Life' episodes. You get lost in the stories (and Ira Glass's soothing voice) and you're at your destination before you know it.”
— Art Director Jessica Sedgwick, jsedgwick@suntimes.com

“Stay hydrated! I always carry a bottle of water, it really makes a difference for your skin and energy levels.”
— Director of Events Samantha Saifer Berngard, sberngard@suntimes.com

“Never pack your jewelry. I always carry mine with me.”
— Director of Brand Strategy Liza Schweitzer liza@suntimes.com

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Founder Michael Ferro

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Feb. 19

- **WOMEN'S INNOVATION NETWORK (WIN) BLACK HISTORY MONTH INNOVATION PANEL**
  WMAQ-Channel 5's LeeAnn Trotter moderates a conversation on entrepreneurship with achievers such as Jetta Bates, creator of JettaSetting; artist and educator Makeba Kedem-DuBose; PR ma-ven Dorit Wilson; and Dawgeline Sangster, author and founder of Think Royalty, Inc.
  
  **Time:** 6-8 p.m.
  **Place:** International House, University of Chicago, 1414 E. 59th
  **Cost:** Free. RSVP at Ladiesofwin.org.

Feb. 20

- **G-EAZY**
  After opening for Lil' Wayne and Snoop Lion (back when he was Dogg), the Oakland-born artist — whose album “Must Be Nice” reached No. 3 on the iTunes hip-hop chart last fall — steps up his independent career with a 34-city tour. He brings his unique sound to Lincoln Hall, with Ground Up and Skizzy Mars opening.
  
  **Time:** 7 p.m.
  **Place:** 2424 N. Lincoln
  **Cost:** $15 in advance, $20 at the door. Visit Lincolnhallchicago.com.

Feb. 21

- **FIELD OF DREAMS ANNIVERSARY GALA**
  At its 18th annual event, Girls in the Game — which provides fitness opportunities, health education and leadership development to young women — honors Olympians Brandi Chastain, Allyson Felix and Swin Cash, plus local fierce females like ESPN Chicago anchor Sara Spanil and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.
  
  **Time:** 6 p.m.
  **Place:** Chicago Marriott Downtown, 540 N. Michigan
  **Cost:** $175. Call (312) 633-4263 or visit Girlsinthegame.org/fieldofdreams.

Feb. 22

- **SHIRLEY MACLAINE**
  The saucy star, who most recently gave Maggie Smith a run for her money on “Downton Abbey,” stops by St. Charles to reflect on her colorful career as a singer, dancer, actress and author.
  
  **Time:** 8 p.m.
  **Place:** Arcada Theater, 105. E. Main, St. Charles
  **Cost:** $49-$125. Visit Oshows.com.

- **PAWS 'Animal Magnetism'**
  Bring your favorite furry companion to this annual event, benefiting our four-legged friends. Enjoy dinner, dancing and a raffle with items such as passes to Lollapalooza and Four Seasons gift cards.
  
  **Time:** 7 p.m.
  **Place:** Galleria Marchetti, 825 W. Erie
  **Cost:** $125 in advance, $150 at the door. Visit Animalmagnetism.pawsevents.org.

Feb. 23-March 23

- **SHORT SHAKESPEARE: ROMEO AND JULIET**
  Rachel Rockwell, one of the city's busiest and most admired directors, adapts the timeless tragedy, creating a compact and compelling family-friendly production.
  
  **Time:** Saturdays at 11 a.m.
  **Place:** Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Navy Pier, 700 E. Grand
  **Cost:** $200-$5,000. Visit Jamestownfoundation.org/living-through-giving or call (888) 334-1738.

Feb. 24

- **OSCAR EXPERIENCE: CHICAGO 2013**
  Like New Year's Eve, Academy Awards night is an occasion to be shared — seeing the stars and what they wear is so much more fun with a crowd. There’s no better way to celebrate this annual spectacle than at the Gene Siskel Film Center’s “Oscar Experience,” the only event sanctioned by the Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Sciences. Don your best cocktail attire and root for your favorites while enjoying drinks and dinner from Pure Kitchen. General admission: $100. VIP $300 (includes preferred seating and swag). 6 p.m. 164 N. State. Call (312) 846-2072 or visit Siskelfilcenter.org.

March 2

- **'GGLASSQUERADE'**
  Lookingglass celebrates 25 years of wildly inventive theater with this blowout event at the Four Seasons.
  
  **Time:** 5:30 p.m.
  **Place:** 120 E. Delaware
  **Cost:** Tickets start at $1,250. Call (773) 477-9257 or email Events@lookingglassetheatre.org.

March 2

- **'THEY SEEK A CITY: CHICAGO AND THE ART OF MIGRATION, 1910-1950'**
  The next big Art Institute exhibit, “They Seek a City,” explores how artistic newcomers to Chicago shaped the cultural profile of their adopted home. The museum’s Leadership Advisory Committee hosts an opening gala with cocktails in Terzo Piano restaurant and dinner in the Modern Wing.
  
  **Time:** 6 p.m.
  **Place:** 353 N. Clark
  **Cost:** $250. Call (630) 932-1151 or visit Cvent.com/d/bcqd7s.
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Special Thanks to: Maypole Productions, Tablescapes, Revolt Events, and Erin Staner Designs.
The Chicago Auto Show put its gears in motion for the 105th time on Feb. 8, launching the 10-day affair with First Look for Charity. At the black-tie bash, nearly 8,000 guests flooded McCormick Place to get a sneak peek at the roughly 1,000 cars on display before the show opened to the public. WMAQ-Channel 5's Alicia Roman and Cheryl Scott presided over the red carpet, then joined attendees in sipping cocktails, snacking on hors d'oeuvres and perusing the impressive automobiles sprawled across the one-million-square-foot space. At the end of the night, two lucky guests took home the event's grand prizes: a Buick Encore and Hyundai Santa Fe Sport. Equally epic were the fundraising efforts — more than $2 million was raised for 18 local charities.
whether they're jetting off to a tropical paradise or braving the Chicago freeze, partygoers know that blue is the coolest color for any temp. Flattering on any skin tone, the watery hue is having its time in the sun this season. Jazz it up with sequins or lace, or keep it ultra-refined with elegant gathering. Whatever you choose, break out the accessories — belts, bags and bling are all fair game. A chic cerulean gown is the perfect choice for this month's galas, but a sleek, above-the-knee cut is a must-pack for any stylish getaway. It's the perfect antidote to the winter blues.
Step Out for the Sun-Times Foundation at Saks Fifth Avenue

Shoe story

Shoe lovers stepped out in the name of fashionable fundraising Feb. 7 to join Jacky Ferro (wife of Wrapports Chairman Michael Ferro) and Elizabeth Cole for a design-your-own Manolo Blahniks event at Saks Fifth Avenue (700 N. Michigan). The well-heeled women shopped for spring fashions while selecting their shoes’ style, fabric, material and heel height — and at the register, 5 percent of their purchase was donated to the Sun-Times Foundation, which assists community organizations in reaching their fundraising goals. The giving continues all month, as Saks cardholders can choose to donate to the Sun-Times Foundation at checkout through Feb. 28.

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

By Katerina Bizios

Elizabeth Cole and Jacky Ferro

Fara Cardelli, Samantha Wolf and Liz Weiner order custom Manolos.

Cindy Chereskin and Beth White

Cla Souleles and Elizabeth Ryan

Rochelle Trotter

Meredith Wood Prince

Julie Saunders and Amie Wersching

Nina Mariano and Eleni Bousis

Photos by Ramzi Dreessen
Chicago got its own taste of fashion week on Feb. 10, when Alexis Cozzini of Gold Coast boutique Sarca joined Splash in co-hosting a brunch and fashion show featuring Nieves Lavi New York's spring collection. Fashion-forward guests such as publicist Amanda Puck, Luxury Garage Sale's Lindsay Segal and Mario Tricoci's Megan Bueschel flocked to Alpana Singh's River North hot spot The Boarding House (720 N. Wells). They sipped mimosas, enjoyed brunch and viewed a presentation of the line's bright prints and flowing silhouettes paired with jewelry by Damen + Division. Post-meal, the namesake designers, Sam Nieves Velez and Sharon Lavi, were on hand to answer questions and discuss their work.

Photos by Ramzi Dreessen
Boys to men

How to handle guys in their 20s who just won’t commit to you

Dear Jenny,
I need some advice. I am 22 years old, a college student and grew up in the Chicago area like you. I have feelings for two guys who, unfortunately, do not want to commit to me. They like to party, drink and go out with their friends — including girls. When I spend time with each of them, we always have fun and there's a connection, but sometimes I feel like I am wasting my time. I'm not sure if they will ever grow up and want to commit.

One guy just turned 21 and the other one is 25 — do you think that these guys will ever want to commit, or am I just wasting my time? I don't know what to do. Please help!
- Confused and lonely

Jenny says: Without knowing either of these guys, it's hard for me to give you the answer. However, from my experience, I can tell you that most guys in their early- to mid-20s are not looking to commit (and are you? I mean, you are dating two guys...). There are some who are, of course, but for the most part, guys that age like to party, hang with their friends and pick up chicks. I don't doubt that they enjoy being with you and genuinely like you, but if you are looking for something long-term, I would continue on your way. Chances are, you won't find it with either of them.

In the meantime, you're 22, have some fun yourself! Trust me, when you're an old cougar like me, you're going to wish you could relive being single in your 20s all over again. Enjoy!
Julie Smolyansky, new member of the United Nations Foundation’s Global Entrepreneurs Council, spends a day in her hometown

BY ZAK STEMER

Julie Smolyansky is ready to take the world by storm, and she’s not wasting any time. As a member of the Global Entrepreneurs Council — the United Nations Foundation’s group of 10 elite young business moguls — she’s tasked with brainstorming ways to use new technology to combat issues like poverty, famine, illness and inequality across the world. But Smolyansky is undaunted by the huge undertaking. “I want to do whatever I can to help humanity,” she says. “I know it sounds crazy and big, but it’s the U.N.”

Taking on big projects is how Smolyansky made a name for herself. Ten years ago, she became the youngest CEO of a publicly traded company, Lifeway Foods, after she took over for her father. Since then, she’s used technology and creativity to help the company grow to an $80 million-per-year business. “We were very early on social media,” she says. “When we put Lifeway on Twitter, the only other brands I could see there were Whole Foods and Starbucks.” It’s important to Smolyansky that Lifeway, which specializes in producing kefir (a Russian mixture of grain and dairy), promotes healthier lifestyles through nutrition. “By raising awareness of probiotics, we can impact the health of our communities and reduce healthcare costs,” she says. “We want to take some very inexpensive ideas and save lives.”

Our nation’s health isn’t her only concern. “Women’s issues have always been a passion of mine,” she says. In the past, she’s worked with supermodel Christy Turlington for Every Mother Counts, an organization supporting maternal health in developing countries. As part of her efforts, Smolyansky took a trip to Bangladesh, visiting nonprofit sites across the country and reaching out to local mothers.

With her technological savvy, business acumen and powerful passions, Smolyansky seems perfectly primed for her current position alongside big names like Barbara Bush and Warby Parker co-founder Neil Blumenthal.

Here, the mogul and global problem solver takes us through her comparatively relaxing Sunday in the city.
Celebrity chef Fabio Viviani woos Chicago with his passion for Italian food and infectious smile.

STORY BY MOLLY EACH
PHOTOS BY ANTHONY TAHLIER
Fabio Viviani has charisma. When the celebrity chef walks into a room, he takes a moment to greet everyone — ladies with a kiss on the cheek or hand, gents with a handshake. Between his trademark smile and native Italian accent, Viviani leaves almost every woman in the room a little weak-kneed in his wake, though winning hearts is hardly his intention; it's just who he is. "Since I was young, I've had an enormous respect for women. They were always the pillar of our household," says Viviani.

The 35-year-old chef, who shot to fame as one of the final four contestants on season five of "Top Chef," is set to bring his charms to Chicago on a regular basis. He's teamed up with restaurateurs David Rehkson and Lucas Stoioff of DineAmic hospitality group — the team behind Bull & Bear and Public House — for their new venture, a modern Italian restaurant in River North dubbed Siena Tavern.

"It's Italian-inspired," says Viviani of the 230-seat spot. "There are five or six dishes that are as Italian as it gets, but with [the rest of the menu] we wanted to use traditional flavors with a twist. We add that edge that you get when you down to River North." Adds Rehkson, "It's Italian, but it's still everyday and accessible. You can come here a few times a week and you don't feel like you just ate a ton of pasta and you're so full." Viviani cites the meatball, made with Kobe beef and homemade ricotta cheese, as an example of a traditional dish that has been modernized. "We make everything from scratch," he says.

The trio's partnership kicked off three years ago, when Viviani was in town for work, and the hotel concierge recommended Public House for a beer. Viviani liked the spot so much he asked to meet the owners, and the three struck up a quick friendship. So when Rehkson and Stoioff started toying with the idea of an Italian concept, joining forces with Viviani seemed like a natural fit. "We synergized very well," says Stoioff. "Even though he's from a different part of the world, we're all similar, and we're all friends, so that makes it fun. And when it's fun, you get better ideas and you work harder." For Viviani, it's an ideal match. "I've been in the restaurant business for 25 years," says the chef, who started working in kitchens by the age of 11. "And good management is the number one reason people fail in the restaurant industry. These guys have that down." While DineAmic is working on projects across the country, the fact that they call Chicago their home base was also a selling point for Viviani. "Chicago is the place to be right now if you want to have a good meal." Some of his favorite chefs are based here, and people like to go out — it doesn't matter how cold it is."

The dream of an Italian concept, joining forces with Viviani and Rehkson, started with a simple meal. "Somewhere in the heart of River North, the trio went to Italy for a week of research, traveling around Viviani's homeland to eat, drink and take in the culture. "We got an inspiration of every restaurant we ate in Fabio's house with his parents, and literally, more of our menu inspiration came from his mom than any other restaurant in Italy," says Rehkson. "Some people try to reinvent the wheel, but there are some dishes that were invented 500 years ago and they're perfect the way they are," says Rehkson. "It's safe to say that the trip also solidified their friendship. "I love these guys to pieces, but going out with them in Italy was like going out with two ballerinas," Viviani jokes. "Fabio wanted to eat gelato and ride in gondolas. We wanted to go out," Rehkson counters with a laugh. And it turns out Viviani's popularity is global. "We're walking around Florence and every five minutes someone comes up to him," says Stoioff. "When we're here, it's twice as much. If we're walking from Bull & Bear to Siena Tavern, we have to budget extra time for the stopping."

His instant recognition is hardly surprising, given that he was voted "Fan Favorite" on his season of "Top Chef." But while he's grateful for the opportunity, he's quick to note that for the contestants, reality is a far cry from what Bravo portrays. "I've been very blessed with Bravo, because it exposed the passion for everything I do," he says. "That said, "Top Chef" is a brand, and they're trying to promote it with this fairy tale that we are all friends and love each other and get together. When I'm in town, I text Stephanie [Izard, of Girl & the Goat] because I think she's awesome and I love her food, and Dale [Levitski of Frog n Snail] too. But do I ever see them? Not. It was a good experience, but you have to go back to work after the show. I have friendships with people — I'm friends with Richard Blais and Mike Isabella is a great guy — but do we hang out like Bravo would like you to believe? Never!"

Fabio Viviani has charisma. When the celebrity chef walks into a room, he takes a moment to greet everyone — ladies with a kiss on the cheek or hand, gents with a handshake. Between his trademark smile and native Italian accent, Viviani leaves almost every woman in the room a little weak-kneed in his wake, though winning hearts is hardly his intention; it's just who he is. "Since I was young, I've had an enormous respect for women. They were always the pillar of our household," says Viviani.

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The trio traveled to Italy for inspiration: "We ate in Fabio's house with his parents, and literally, more of our menu inspiration came from his mom than any other restaurant in Italy," says Rehkson. At the heart of everything Viviani does is his goal to make people happy. "I try to treat people the way I'd like to be treated from somebody who has had the luck and notoriety," he says. "Eat a little of my food, I'll give you a hug and kiss, show you directions, if I can make you happy, great. Whatever I can do. I'm not pretentious. I'm not a celebrity by any means. I just had the luck to showcase my craft on TV and be myself, which is the most important thing."
MIAMI BEACH

Sun, surf and bright, uninhibited style make this Southern city a no-brainer for any chic traveler.

It’s scientifically proven that sitting at News Cafe on Ocean Drive with an iced latte in hand will instantly reduce stress levels by 60 percent.

Here’s the secret to South Beach success: Avoid “hip” hotels that mask their subpar service under a veneer of faux grooviness. The King & Grove Tides gets my stamp of approval. Built in 1936, the airy beachfront suites and beautiful public spaces emanate relaxed elegance and an authentic art deco vibe — and the complimentary beach lounge chairs and umbrellas are a game-changer. Another A-list property is the revamped but equally historic Betsy Hotel. Located on Ocean Drive, it’s got a sprawling rooftop with views of the ocean, a full-service spa and a fabulous on-site restaurant, BLT Steak.

You can’t beat starting the day on the beach, but for me, tranquility demands a spa visit. The award-winning Mandarin Oriental Spa takes rejuvenation to another dimension. The attentive staff performs all services inside gleaming white and bamboo suites with sweeping views of Biscayne Bay.

When it comes to dinner, getting all dolled up is a prerequisite. Pull on something sexy and head out to one of the many of-the-moment hot spots. Best bets? Juvia, Il Gabiano, Prime 112, Zuma and Villa Azur. The food will always impress, but the vibrant tropical ambience will make you feel worlds away from home.

News Cafe: 800 Ocean, (305) 538-6397, Newscafe.com
Prime 112: 112 Ocean, (305) 538-6397, Prime112.com
Zuma: 270 Biscayne, (305) 577-0277, Zumarestaurant.com
Juvia: 1111 Lincoln, (305) 763-8272, Juviamiami.com
Villa Azur: 309 23rd, (305) 763-8688, Villaazurmiami.com
Il Gabiano: 335 S. Biscayne, (305) 373-0063, Ilgabianomia.com
King & Grove Tides: 1220 Ocean, (305) 604-5070, Kingandgrove.com
The Betsy Hotel: 1440 Ocean, (305) 531-6100, Thebetsyhotel.com

From due north to way out west, plan a spring trip to one of our country’s most fashionable locales

It’s almost spring-break season, and there’s nothing more appealing than the idea of skipping town and recharging with a stylish sabbatical. From road trips to cross-country flights, Amy Tara Koch — style expert, “Windy Cindy Live” and “Today” contributor and acclaimed author — shares her favorite weekend escapes, chock full of the hottest shopping, dining, cultural activities and even some time at the spa.
GLEN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Who needs Lake Tahoe? Deemed the "Most Beautiful Place in America" by "Good Morning America," Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is a veritable winter wonderland — and it's just a six-hour drive from Chicago.

Check into one of the rooms, suites or condos at the Homestead: America's Freshwater Resort and take part in the smorgasbord of chilly weather activities happening in and around this 500-acre property. There are 15 downhill ski runs, dozens of cross-country skiing trails, rangers lead snowshoe treks through the dunes every Saturday throughout February, and fun-seekers of all ages can partake in the resort's ice skating and sledding.

After an arduous day on the slopes, it's all about eating. Restaurant options abound, from fine dining to cafeteria-style - try Pizzeria Mozza for some of the best pizza you'll find in the Midwest. For a more casual dining experience, Beppi's restaurant offers traditional Italian cuisine.

LOS ANGELES

Great weather, standout style, outdoor adventures and top-notch restaurants — a weekend in Southern California is a perfect mélange of chill and thrill.

Stock up on next season's wardrobe essentials by scouring West Hollywood's design district, then head to Melrose Avenue to splurge on top designers at iconic retailer Fred Segal. A few doors down, resale-savvy shoppers can spend hours at Decades, rifling through reasonably priced pieces from Chanel and The Row.

How do Angelinos stay slim? They hit the trails for a hike in the city's many parks. Try Runyon Canyon, L.A.'s magical juxtaposition of urban sprawl and nature. Located 10 minutes above Sunset Boulevard, the 45-minute hike offers sweeping views of the city and the Hollywood sign.

Why dine out if you can't see and be seen? For great food and equally awesome star-gazing, dig in at lunch spots like Urth, Mauro's Cafe or the charming French style brasserie, The Little Next Door. Finish off with a nightcap at the legendary Chateau Marmont — perched upon the velvet-fringed sofa with a martini in hand, it's easy to feel like you belong among the glitterati.

Washington D.C.

Rediscover national pride — and see what's trending with the power set — with a trip to our nation's capital.

You won't find any more sun in D.C. than you will in Chicago. But there's an inherent energy in the capital that recharges even the most style-starved traveler.

Savor a few nights of luxury by booking a room at the Four Seasons Hotel. Located in the belly of Georgetown, this property is walking distance to all things trendy (I prize convenience). The fact that mega-chic power eatery Bourbon Steak is situated in the hotel lobby is an added bonus. Simply put, this hotel is expensive. But the hundreds of free attractions in the city — such as the National Zoo, the Botanic Gardens and The Jefferson Memorial — take the sting from one's wallet.

Home to countless museums, historic monuments and archives, D.C. is the prime spot to brush up on your cultural knowledge. The weekend hit list? Ford's Theatre, the site of Lincoln's assassination; the Museum of American History, boasting Julia Child's kitchen, civil rights mementos and a fragment of Plymouth Rock; and the National Air & Space Museum for all things aviation. Tip: Avoid massive crowds and visit these historic landmarks in the evening. Many institutions provide "moonlight tours" that are far more enjoyable.

Between activities, sugar up at Georgetown Cupcakes (home to the TLC hit "D.C. Cupcakes") or Pie Sisters.
Hidden Gems

Julie Lampert, owner of ELTIF Designs, shares a few of the things that make her life sparkle.
SHOPPING SPY
The latest intelligence from the retail scene

Shopping in Memphis
Danielle Colby is a Jill of all trades: She's owned and competed in a female roller derby team, created her own professional burlesque troupe and currently stars on the History Channel's antiquing reality show, "American Pickers." Now she's channeling her passion for all things vintage into her new Bucktown shop, 4 Miles 2 Memphis. The store stocks cosmetics, accessories and handmade clothing fashioned with upcycled materials like silk, satin, taffeta and lace. 1734 W. North, 4miles2memphis.com.

Spring to life
Suit up for spring at Randoons: Through Feb. 23, the shop is selling select women's apparel, handbags and accessories for up to 60 percent off. The store has also shaved 30 to 70 percent off of its selection of shoes and boots, and 40 percent off of all candles and gifts. 962 ½ Green Bay, Winnetka, Randoons.com.

Smell the roses
Marni, the iconic brand known for its luxury women's apparel, debuts its first fragrance at Saks Fifth Avenue this month. Switzerland-born designer Consuelo Castiglioni drew inspiration from her homeland's woody landscape when creating the fragrance, which combines strong rose notes with traces of cinnamon bark, cardamom and cedar. Snag the scent in a shower gel ($50), body lotion ($55) or classic eau de parfum (starting at $105) at 700 N. Michigan or Saksfifthavenue.com.

Shop from the "Hart"
Switch up your Sunday routine with Edith Hart's "Babes and Bagels" series. At the Bucktown boutique's monthly bash, sip Champagne and nosh on bagels as personal stylists dole out shopping tips. During February's fete, held in honor of National Heart Health Month, Fleet Feet will share info on their upcoming female-only marathon, one lucky shopper will win a monthlong membership to Core Power Yoga — and 15 percent of all purchases will go to the American Heart Association. Feb. 24, 12-3 p.m. 1917 N. Damen, Edithhart.com.

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ever after

Alana Grelyak and Michael Gabriele

BY KATERINA BIZIOS

It took Alana Grelyak a few months to take Michael Gabriele's invite for coffee seriously. Though they first hit it off at a party he threw in November 2009, their five-year age difference made her hesitant to go out with him — so he used Facebook to stay in touch until she had a change of heart. They dated for three years before getting married last fall at the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, where Grelyak's parents and grandparents were both married. Selecting the music for the ceremony was particularly meaningful for the couple — Gabriele is a director and producer at DDB Chicago, and Grelyak an associate composer at Sonixphere — so when a Ukrainian quartet sang Grelyak down the aisle, "everyone was crying," she says. The reception took place at the Adler Planetarium, a spot the couple felt would accurately represent Chicago's culture to Gabriele's Italian family. After cocktail hour in the colorfully lit Clark Family Welcome Gallery, the party moved into the main hall, where the duo had their first dance. In Southern Italian tradition, Gabriele's family wrapped the two in colorful streamers and showered them in confetti, setting a celebratory tone for the rest of the evening. Just before midnight, the DJ announced the newlyweds' departure, and the crowd waved farewell. The evening concluded on an even sweeter note — guests snacked on Italian treats that Gabriele's mother, grandmother and uncle had spent weeks baking.

For more photos, go to Splash.suntimes.com or download our free Splash by Chicago Sun-Times iPad app. | PHOTOS COURTESY VICTORIA SPRUNG PHOTOGRAPHY

Wedding bells will ring for Executive Vice President of the White Sox organization Kenny Williams and Zoraida Sambolin (above), host of CNN's "Early Start." Williams popped the question on Christmas Eve, and Sambolin confirmed the news to fans by posting a photo of her ring on Facebook.

Congrats to design diva Allison Victoria (right) of the DIY network's "Kitchen Crashers." She'll make multiple appearances on the Travel Channel's "Hotel Impossible" over the next two months. The Chicago native will also participate in PAWS Chicago's "Animal Magnetism" event Feb. 22.

Hats off to Chicago-based skincare company H2O Plus, which made two changes to its leadership team this week, appointing Robert Seidle (far left) as Chief Global Business Strategy Officer of its parent company Pola Orbis, and naming Richard Ruffolo (right) president and CEO.

Send us your Cheers at Splash@suntimes.com
On the menu: moqueca, a seafood stew. Inset: shortbread caramel cookies.
Classic bungalows are a Chicago staple — and an affordable housing option.

BY LISA SKOLNIK

If you're looking for a home with comfort, quality construction and decent square footage — minus the high price tag — consider a classic bungalow. Combining thoughtful design, sound construction and affordability, the American version of this home flourished in the early 20th century, and remains a great value today — especially in Chicago. Our city is a bungalow bastion thanks to former Mayor Richard M. Daley, who lionized the dwelling in 2000 with his Historic Chicago Bungalow Initiative, which is still in place to help spur sensitive restorations of the structures.

In Chicago, the iconic bungalow is a compact brick structure that's one-and-a-half stories high and 20 feet wide, and situated on a standard city lot (25' x 125'). Despite the rigid standards, options abound in a broad price range. At the top of the rung is 2857 W. Wilson, a handsome four-bedroom, three-bathroom 1919 model in Ravenswood Manor with a detached two-car garage for $669,000. With artful, multipaned leaded glass windows, an elegant tiled roof and expansive interior with Craftsman detailing, it's a definitive example of Chicago's finest. "It's also in pristine shape and set on an oversized corner lot. So it's extremely sunny and has a gorgeous yard that's larger than what you usually get with a Chicago bungalow," says Baird & Warner broker Mary Jaeger (call 312-720-0690).

Other options

Well-priced bungalows are available across the city. On the far South Side in Beverly, at 10747 S. Hale, a 1,800-square-foot, four-bed, two-bath 1925 classic on an oversized lot comes in at $145,000 (call Dream Town broker Ting Tsu-tana, 312-545-3207). Nearby, at 9947 S. Damen, a grander option is a 3,200-square-foot, five-bed, 2.5-bath built in 1919 with an oversized lot and intact architectural details for $435,000 (call Prudential broker Nancy Hotchkiss, 708-237-7722). On the Northwest Side, there's 5639 W. Patterson, a recently updated three-bed two-bath with a two-car garage for $269,500 (call Century 21 broker Nancy Duklc, 773-575-0929). Far north in Rogers Park, a 1,866-square-foot, four-bed 2.5-bath at 2937 W. Greenleaf — with impeccably preserved Craftsman detailing — can be purchased for $419,900 (call Century 21 broker Phyllis Smith, 847-677-1200).

Set on a corner lot, this Ravenswood Manor home (2857 W. Wilson) gets more sunlight than your average bungalow.

STRAP HAPPY

This simple, elegant oak veneer storage stool is neutral enough to work in almost any decorative environment — and it's a practical addition, thanks to its ability to perform double-duty. $249 at CB2, 800 W. North, (312) 787-8329, Cb2.com.
Mixed reactions to Rihanna and Chris Brown's reunion

Rihanna and Chris Brown are making it no secret that they're back together and totally in love. The couple were spotted together all over Hollywood during Grammy weekend, hitting exclusive parties — and they didn't refrain from the PDA. This may be a hard pill to swallow for some people, considering the fact that he physically assaulted her on the night of the Grammys four years ago. But many in her inner circle are happy about the reunion, including her family.

"Her family loves Chris," an insider said. "She's brought him back to Barbados, and they all are very fond of him. They've been hoping for years that they'd get back together. They even want the pair to get married!"

Sources say that even though they've been broken up for years, they never fell out of love with one another.

"Over the years, they have communicated and seen each other, but now it's been long enough that they feel like they can be together again publicly," said the source.

There are a couple of people who aren't over the moon about the reconciliation: Chris's ex, Karreuche Tran, and Jay-Z.

"Karreuche is still friendly with Chris and she's still on his payroll," a source said. "But his reunion with Rihanna has to sting. That's why she stuck it to Chris by tweeting 'congrats' to his nemesis Frank Ocean for his Grammy win."

Jay-Z also didn't want RiRi to get back with Chris, but he's respecting her decision.

"Jay-Z realizes that she's a grown woman, and she's going to do what she wants to do. He was cordial to Chris when he accompanied Rihanna to his pre-Grammy party at the Soho House," the source said.

Katy and John still together

Even though Katy Perry and Muse drummer Dominic Howard got very cozy at the band's afterparty in L.A. — as I reported a few weeks ago — she's still with boyfriend John Mayer.

Katy and John hopped around Grammy events together last weekend and appeared to be very happy and in love.

"They're still going strong!" a source said. "Even though their schedules conflict a lot, they're always happy when they are reunited."

John even told Rolling Stone, "I'm happy in all aspects of my life."

But another source warns: "Don't let that fool you! He's still a bad boy and always will be — he's just smarter about it now!"

If John messes up, at least Katy has Dominic waiting for her on the sidelines. The Muse drummer is infatuated with Katy, and it never hurts to have a backup plan!

Katy Perry and John Mayer are still together, despite reports of her cozying up with Dominic Howard (inset).
Suite serenity
Find your own urban escape at any of these 10 Chicago hotel spas

By Rachel Handler

Balance Spa & Fitness at the Palmer House Hilton
Let your hair down with Balance Spa's slate of beauty services, which include custom conditioning treatments ($25+) and makeup applications ($55+). 17 E. Monroe, (312) 422-1336. Palermohousehiltonhotel.com

Bliss Chicago Spa at W Chicago
This spa tames tension with 16 treatment rooms, movie-and-a-manicure nail stations and a brownie buffet. Get glowing skin in 30 minutes with the Oxygen Blast facial, which includes a fruit acid peel, vitamin massage and hydrating oxygen spray ($85). 644 N. Lake Shore, (877) 862-477, Wchicago-lakeshore.com

Elysian Spa and Health Club at Waldorf Astoria Chicago
This upscale spot tailors its facials, massages, hair treatments and makeup applications to each individual guest. Try the Elysian facial, which banishes rosacea, wrinkles or stubborn blemishes ($195). 11 E. Walton, (312) 646-1310, Waldorfastoria.com/chicago

MySpa at Fairmont Chicago
Need a power nap? Stop into the Fairmont for the Deep Sleep, a 50-minute massage performed with lavender, geranium and ylang ylang, during which you're encouraged to snap some extra shut-eye ($145-$160). 200 N. Columbus, (312) 946-8945, Fairmont.com/chicago

Nomi Spa at the Park Hyatt Chicago
Revitalize your visage with NoMi's signature hydro facial (starting at $110), which eschews lasers but still successfully resurfaces skin. Best of all, the staff pairs each service with a sweet treat and beverage. 800 N. Michigan, (312) 239-4200, Parkchicago.hyatt.com

Spa at Dana
Treat fingers and toes at the boutique River North hotel — its comprehensive slate of nail services includes a 40-minute hot stone manicure ($50), a no-chip pedicure ($70) and a red wine- and rose-infused mani-pedi ($125). 660 N. State, (312) 202-6040, Danahotelandspa.com

The Peninsula Spa
Escape the ordinary at this glamorous spa, which boasts an outdoor sundeck, a fitness center with complimentary classes and holistic skincare and body treatments like the Balinese massage with volcanic hot stones ($265). 108 E. Superior, (312) 573-6860, Peninsula.com/chicago

Spa@TheWit
Press refresh at this cheerful, casual spot, where you'll find a lounge with tea and fresh fruit, rain showers and the fruit pulp and spice facial, which uses apples and grapes to revitalize dry skin ($130). 201 N. State, (312) 239-9402, Thewit hotel.com

The Spa at Four Seasons Hotel Chicago
The classic Chicago standby spins stress into serenity with a wet treatment room, massage suites and an aesthetics room. Throughout February, partake in sweet treats such as a deep chocolate massage ($150) and a red velvet mani-pedi ($140). 120 E. Delaware, (312) 280-8800, Fourseasons.com/chicagoof

The Spa at Trump
Take a deep breath inside Trump Tower, where "spa attaches" perform services like the Black Pearl body treatment — crushed black pearls and a silky wrap that exfoliate and hydrate skin ($375 per person, $700 per couple). 410 N. Wabash, (312) 588-8020, Trumphotelcollection.com/chicago
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- Giuseppe Tentori, Chef/Owner/Michelin Star Recipient, Boka/GT Fish and Oyster

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HOME on the RANGE
Land Rover sets the bar for SUV style and luxury

BY JEFF TAYLOR
For Sun-Times Media

Land Rover's goal for the 2013 Range Rover was to make it lighter, stronger, and the most luxurious model in its 40 plus years of existence.

I tested the all-new 2013 Range Rover on road, and did some extreme off-roading to experience this vehicle's complete spectrum of capability.

The new V8 model, reaching dealers soon, is 700 pounds lighter than the outgoing model. The weight reduction comes from the all-aluminum body and front/rear chassis. Land Rover indicated the new, aluminum platform delivers significant enhancements in performance and agility, and improves fuel economy.

The exterior styling cues, like the "floating" pillarless roof, clamshell hood and simulated side vents are retained. Bold headlights and a stabilized grille lead the way rushing back to an upright, yet reduced greenhouse. New elements include head- and taillights that stream back into the front and rear fenders.

The new exterior styling gives way to an all-new interior that is luxurious and extremely quiet. The biggest change is the 50 percent reduction of switches, knobs and dials on the dash and center stack. Land Rover indicated they responded to customers who asked for a less-is-more approach.

I felt Land Rover went a bit too far by taking the majority of functions and making them accessible on an eight-inch touchscreen display. I was disappointed by the lack of a cargo bin/cubby hole on the center console; while there is a center armrest storage bin and side door pockets, they are not as easily accessible.

On the plus side, the interior features 4.7 inches more legroom than the outgoing model. Wood veneers, leather, trim materials and chrome accents are richer and more abundant than the current Range Rover. If you are looking for tech features, Range Rover comes fully stocked with standard and optional features, from a high-powered audio system, navigation, 3D driver screen graphics and connectivity. New this year is a standard split power tailgate.

Effortless on-road acceleration is delivered by two 5.0-liter V8 engines, backed by a new eight-speed ZF automatic transmission. Range Rover will tow up to 3,500 pounds. Torque control, emergency brake assist, hill start assist, engine drag torque control, emergency brake assist and corner brake control.

The new dimensions and suspension tuning make this latest generation less tippy-feeling and even more mountain goat. The 2013 Range Rover has a high-tech terrain response system that allows you to select the proper suspension setting to conquer a variety of surfaces like sand, snow, mud and rocks.

With a ground clearance of almost 12 inches, max approach angle of 34.7 degrees, max departure angle of 28.6 degrees, ramp breakover of 28.3 degrees and a max wading depth of 35.4 inches, the Range Rover can handle more than makes most drivers comfortable.
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National sales event
Toll Brothers offers special incentives, ‘more home’

If you’re in the market for a new home, you don’t want to miss Toll Brothers’ National Sales Event, going on now through Feb. 24.

The nation’s leading builder of luxury homes is 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.

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.

“Visit this weekend and let us show you how much more you will get if you buy today,” said Nicolle Gardiner, senior sales manager for Toll Brothers. “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 have a final opportunity to own one of the stunning rowhomes at The Crossings at Morton Grove. These stylish residences are just steps from the Metra station 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 feet homes starting in the upper $200,000s.

Final four: Toll Brothers’ National Savings program is also available on the final four rowhomes now for sale at The Crossings at Morton Grove (right). The luxury homebuilder is offering savings and other incentives through Feb. 24 at its communities across the Chicago region, including South Barrington, Elgin and Morton Grove.

Only the best: This Stansbury design (above) is just one of several available at The Woods of South Barrington, offering the largest homes and homesites Toll Brothers offers. I WILLIAM TAYLOR - TAYLORPHOTO.COM

Regency at Bowes Creek Country Club is the only community in South Barrington catering to those 50 years of age or better. Regency features a private gated entry and a well-appointed clubhouse with 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 $700,000s at The Woods of South Barrington. The community offers the largest Toll Brothers homesites in Chicagoland, so homes can be expanded with side additions, such as a first-floor guest suite or sun room. Regency at The Woods of South Barrington is the only community in South Barrington catering to those 50 years of age or better.

Regency features a private gated entry and a well-appointed clubhouse with a pool, fitness center, tennis and bocce courts, and a heated pool, and social rooms for banquets, billiards, or cards. Low-maintenance single-family ranch and two-story homes offer up to 3,400 square feet and begin in the low $300,000s.

A new section of homesites on a cul-de-sac have just been released and are selling quickly.

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

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Mortgage affordability needs looser standards

What is your assessment of the new set of regulations issued by CFPB?

That question draws this quick reaction to the hundreds of new mortgage rules recently issued by CFPB, contained in 804 densely packed pages: the agency has done a credible job in an incredibly difficult situation. The rules cover a lot of territory, but those pertaining to borrower affordability probably have attracted the most attention. This article will comment on the new affordability rules, leaving other important issues for future columns.

The regulatory focus on affordability reflects our recent experience with a housing bubble, a period of self-reinforcing home price escalation. The bubble induced lenders to liberalize mortgage underwriting rules, relax enforcement of the rules, and approve loans to borrowers who could not afford them. The bubble burst early in 2007 when house prices stopped rising and started to decline.

The Dodd-Frank bill passed in 2010 was a reaction to the excesses of the bubble period. Among other things it authorized a new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which it charged (among other things) with formulating and clarifying mortgage affordability rules. Dodd-Frank also required CFPB to define "qualified mortgages," which are mortgages that lenders can make with no or minimal risk of legal liability for violating the affordable loan rules.

In my view, the Dodd-Frank approach to home mortgages was a knee-jerk reaction that was ill-advised. A nationwide housing bubble is a rare episode in our financial history. One has to go back to the 1920s to find anything at all comparable. While revamping the rules to prevent a recurrence of that event, even if it happens only once a generation, might make sense if the new rules were a standby, to be applied only when the situation demanded them, that is not the case.

The new rules will take effect Jan. 10, 2014. They were ill-advised because the problem today is the opposite of the one for which the rules were intended. When the bubble burst early in 2007, the excessive liberalism in mortgage lending practice was quickly replaced by its opposite: excessive restraint. The problem today is that many perfectly good loans are not being made because of the heightened risk aversion of lenders, and the tightened affordability rules already in place.

The lender response reflects the heavy losses realized on loans made during the bubble period, plus the fines and legal expenses they have incurred in their aftermath. The tightened affordability rules by regulators and by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, issued after the bubble burst, were based on the premise that "although we should have done this five years ago, better late than never." In fact, never would have been better than late.

A central characteristic of the current affordability rules is their rigidity. A loan applicant who does not measure up on the affordability scale will be rejected, regardless of the strength of other transaction features. As an important example, I have received scores of letters from self-employed borrowers with high credit scores who were willing to put as much as 40 percent down but could not get a loan because the income they were able to document was viewed as insufficient.

Rejecting applicants who have a past record of meeting obligations and are willing to bet on their ability to afford a loan by placing substantial equity at risk is absurd. CFPB was obliged under Dodd-Frank to set new affordability rules despite the fact that the existing rules are unduly restrictive. Its implicit challenge is their rigidity. A loan applicant who does not measure up on the affordability scale will be rejected, regardless of the strength of other transaction features. As an important example, I have received scores of letters from self-employed borrowers with high credit scores who were willing to put as much as 40 percent down but could not get a loan because the income they were able to document was viewed as insufficient.

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TODAY'S HOMES

TRANSACTIONS

3341 Fairlawn Dr: Rodriguez, Josefina; $164,000
4213 Linden Tree Ln: Williams, Patrick Chase; $430,000

Glenview

601 Mulberry Pl 31: Hoffman, Barbara; $570,000

Grayslake

59 Keeneland Ct: Singh, Surendra & Kaur, Jaswinder; $115,000
41 S Slusser St: Donisch, James & Sara; $200,500

Gurnee

1395 Clavey Ln: Mauricio, Jason & Cameron; $236,000

Highland Park

620 Homewood Ave 103: Ruzicka, Carl F & Tang, Qian Yi; $277,500

Lake Bluff

113 Oak Ave: Spires, Scott & Jeanette; $315,000

Lake Forest

1160 Griffith Rd: Simpson, James & Claire; $250,000
1360 Lawrence Ave: Fedyb, Eric R & Amelia H; $1,010,000
1350 N Western Ave 103: Davidson, A Bryan & Cynthia M; $332,000

Lake Villa

2594 W Columbia Bay Dr: Natoli, James A & Meints, Katherine A; $435,000
25640 W Glade Dr: Kelser Ill, William M; $145,000

Libertyville

146 Broadway St: Bora, Peter & Maria; $250,000

Lincolnshire

45 Coldstream Cir: Schatz, Anthony & Elizabeth; $457,500

Morton Grove

8340 Callie Ave 205: Cobaiovic, Natlia; $105,000

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

5901 Carol Ave: Palatini, Aurimas & Ruta; $235,000
7100 Greenwood St: Freeman, Jordan; $171,000
9111 Marion Ave: Siddiqui, Mohammad; $340,000
106 Prairie Ct: Kim, Ung K & Young M; $268,000

Mundelein

964 Braeburn Rd: Ratzinger, John S & Judith K; $52,000
514 N Greenview Ave: Cote, Benjamin J & Kelly R; $112,000
23485 W Ivanhoe Rd: Mariani, Andrew T & Kathleen M; $350,000

Niles

9008 N Maryland St: George, Benny & Sophie B; $600,000
7001 W Wright Ter: Brozek, Janina; $160,000

Northbrook

2414 Burgundy Ln: Nitzschke, Jens & Kozue; $279,000
1580 Chapel Ct: Schack, Daniel A & Silver Schack, Mara R; $546,000
1160 Heritage Oaks Dr: Wenk, Palaja & Andrew; $575,000
2506 Illinois Rd: Walsh, Christopher J & Susan K; $777,000
2643 Longmeadow Dr; Gossler, Aaron & Erin P; $350,000
3325 Prestwick Ln: Glauberman, Adam & Kelly; $741,000

Park City

464 Frontage Rd: Mata, Mercedes & Rodriguez, Maria D; $98,000

Round Lake

515 E Lake Ave: Hernandez, Luis & Maria; $112,500
241 W Arden Ln: Pekala, Veerendra Kumar; $234,000

Round Lake Heights

980 Black Cherry Ln: Thompson, Scott & Michelle; $204,500

Skokie

3601 Grove St: Gianoulis, Rose & Chordas, John; $240,000
5105 Madison St 503: Young, Michael M; $185,000
5533 Mulford St: Elahi, Arubia; $180,000

Vernon Hills

318 Pine Lake Cir: Zayats, Igor & Tetyana; $200,000
1041 Sanctuary Ct: Avula, Hari Kn & Kondreddy, Shalini; $299,000
1853 Sawgrass St: Sayward, Kenneth & Nicolette; $800,000
201 Southgate Dr: Wang, Gang; $357,000
720 Telluride Ct: Wozniak, Pawel T & Dorothy; $207,000

Wilmette

1130 Ashland Ave: Arzamanian, Armanouhi & Yousefzai, John; $765,000
1107 Greenleaf Ave 1B: Krzyminski, Shanon; $370,000
1041 Ridge Rd 206: Fujishiro, Tomoko; $180,500

Winnetka

1386 Ashbury Ave: Rubenstein, Richard A & Patricia A; $1,250,000
1025 Elm St: Peletis, George N & Toshiko; $1,080,000
1289 Forest Glen Dr 6: Healy, Terence E & Jennifer C; $716,000
349 Hawthorn Ln: Vegas, Luis & Mitas Vegas, Elizabeth; $925,000

Zion

3300 Emmaus Ave: Boren, Scott A; $75,000

Winnetka

1130 Ashland Ave: Arzamanian, Armanouhi & Yousefzai, John; $765,000
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349 Hawthorn Ln: Vegas, Luis & Mitas Vegas, Elizabeth; $925,000

Zion

3300 Emmaus Ave: Boren, Scott A; $75,000

For more information, visit the Showcase Communities at: http://tinyurl.com/GTKBuilders

www.HartzHomes.com
At Yorktown Place, Hartz Homes offers distinctive home design with new two-bedroom condominiums starting at $185,000. This ideal location sits in the shadow of the recently renovated Yorktown Mall, residents benefit from easy access to over 100 retail shops as well as exciting dining and entertainment options, such as Rock Bottom Brewery, Flat Top Grill, and Lucky Strike Lanes. Yorktown Place Features:
- Elevator Convenience
- Carriage Duplexes
- Indoor Heated Garage
- Professionally Landscaped Grounds
- Individual Lock Storage Units
- Intercom Security System with Video Identification Screening

Manhattan
T. J. Cashely Builders, Inc. II
Western Trail
Route 52 (3 miles south of Lauraway approx.)
2110 24040 Arabian Ave.
Single Family
From $199,900 to $265,900
815-462-0422 - model, 708-349-1575 - main office

www.cashelybuilders.com
Great selection at affordable prices of 2-story and ranch homes with optional floor plans ranging from 150 to 2000 sq. ft. Brick 1st floor, generous size basement, attached 2-car garage, energy efficient, with maintenance free exterior. Homes can be customized to suit individual needs. Minutes from 1-55.

T. J. Cashely Builders, Inc. II
Sky Harbor
2150 Alta Vista (Schoolhouse and Lauraway)
Single Family
From $239,900
815-462-0422 - model, 708-349-1575 - main office

www.cashelybuilders.com
2-story and ranch homes with optional floor plans ranging from 150 to 2000 sq. ft. Brick 1st floor, generous size basement, attached 2-car garage, energy efficient, with maintenance free exterior. Homes can be customized to suit individual needs. Great views of surrounding countryside.

Voss Homes/Eagle Ridge Corp
Crystal Springs
702 Teal Drive
single-family $269,000 to $369,900
815-462-9090

www.vosshomes.com
New single family ranch and 2-story homes ready to move in and built to order. Real estate brokers welcome.

Morton Grove
Toll Brothers
Brookside Circle
5530 Butterfield Rd., Oak Brook, IL
From $199,900 to $265,900
815-462-0422 - model, 708-349-1575 - main office

www.tollbrothers.com
2-story and ranch homes with optional floor plans ranging from 150 to 2000 sq. ft. Brick 1st floor, generous size basement, attached 2-car garage, energy efficient, with maintenance free exterior. Homes can be customized to suit individual needs. Great views of surrounding countryside.

www.meadowridgenorthbrook.net
Attached Maintenance Free Living
6025-4055th Special Construction Pricing, New Plans and New Availability
2117 Washington Drive (Corner of Techy & Mead)
## Builder Showcase Directory

### Northlake

**WOLF RIDGE CONDOMINIUMS**

- **77 N WOLF ROAD**
- **CONDO**
- **$129,900 - $189,900**

[www.wolfridgecondos.com](http://www.wolfridgecondos.com)

WOLF RIDGE is a community of new construction luxury condominiums conveniently located one block north of North Avenue in close proximity to expressways making travel to O'Hare Downtown Chicago and suburbs quick and convenient. Reduced pricing starts at $129,900 and 5% seller financing is available. Call today for more information.

### Oakbrook Terrace

**Oliviarbuc**

- **744 Oliviarbuc Drive**
- **Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181**
- **Townhomes from $375,000**
- **708-328-3422**

[www.HarzHomes.com](http://www.HarzHomes.com)

Oliviarbuc offers an exceptional lifestyle. These elegantly designed townhomes offer numerous luxury features, unique curb appeal & a maintenance-free lifestyle. The community is in a prime Oakbrook Terrace location, minutes from the finest entertainment venues, recreational facilities and shopping and dining opportunities.

### Orland Park

**T. J. Cachey Builders, Inc.**

- **Colette Highlands Townhomes**
- **108th Avenue and 157th Street**
- **Townhomes $250,000 to $265,000**
- **708-349-8586 - model, 708-349-1575 - office**

[www.tjcacheybuilders.com](http://www.tjcacheybuilders.com)

Spacious 2 & 3 bedroom townhomes with central air conditioning, oak doors and trim, private 2 car attatched garage and deck or patio. Lake and park views available. Units ready for immediate occupancy or select your own finishes. Maintenance free exteriors, professionally landscaped with underground lawn sprinkler. Walking distance to the train.

### Plainfield

**Epcon Communities**

- **Villas at Fox Run**
- **16651 S. Fox Run Circle**
- **Maintenance-free luxury condo and single family ranches Upper $100s to mid $200s**
- **815-609-0150**


Epcon Communities, Villas at Fox Run Circle. Maintenance-free luxury condo and single family ranches. Upper $100s to mid $200s. Come tour our model homes and see why we’re already sold out.

### Popular Grove

**Gerstad Builders**

- **The Trails of Dawson Creek**
- **112 Dawson Creek Trail, Popular Grove, IL**
- **Single Family**

From $156,990
815-547-0600
www.GerstadBuilders.com

Priced from $156,990 to $285,990, the single-family homes of the Trails of Dawson Creek present a variety of styles to meet the needs of different families. Ranch, two-story and tri-level homes are available from two to five bedrooms and from one to 3.5 baths in about 1,300 to 3,200 square feet of living space.

### Vernon Hills

**Weiss Development**

- **River's Edge**
- **425 Benjamin Drive**
- **Luxury condos $319,900-489,900**
- **847 821-8000**

[www.RiversedgebyWDC.com](http://www.RiversedgebyWDC.com)

Nestled against the Half Day Forest Preserve, you'll love the wooded views in one of four remaining two bedroom plus den condos with up to 2,325 sq ft. This impressive community boasts a nature park near a bike trail, outdoor parking, fitness center, and a clubhouse.

### Chesterton, IN

**Phillippe Builders**

- **Village Green at Coffee Creek**
- **605 Village Point**
- **Townhomes from $200's**
- **219-921-1200**

[www.phillippebuilders.com](http://www.phillippebuilders.com)

Settled among hundreds of acres of green space and environmental restoration, Coffee Creek has become a national model for sustainable development. The land contains 17 acres of non-buildable areas and wetlands, nearly 250 acres are contained in the preserved green space, parks, and constructed wetlands for hikers, bikers, and nature lovers.

### Lowell, IN

**Phillippe Builders**

- **Spring Run**
- **2163 Oatwood Lane**
- **Single-family Homes**
- **$219,608-6595 or 708-946-0100**

[www.phillippebuilders.com](http://www.phillippebuilders.com)

Spring Run is a community in which neighbors are friends, children feel safe and small-town values exist. Encircled by ponds, woods, rolling hills, and unique designs from which to select, Spring Run offers a location near the high school and minutes from the historic downtown. Single-family homes start in $180's.

### St. John, IN

**Phillippe Builders**

- **The Gates of St. John**
- **9010 165th Place - Entrance off of Rt. 231 between Parish and Cline, 1.5 miles east of Rt. 41**
- **Single-family home**
- **$219-558-8900 or 708-946-0100**

[www.stjohnbuilders.com](http://www.stjohnbuilders.com)

The Gates of St. John is a community characterized by beauty, charm and tradition. It is named, The Gates of St. John, is a community characterized by beauty, charm and tradition.

### Chesterton, IN

**Phillippe Builders**

- **Village Green at Coffee Creek**
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### Williams Bay, Wisconsin

**Gerstad Builders**

- **Bailey Estates**
- **439 Ashley Dr., Williams Bay, WI**
- **Single Family From $299,990**
- **262-245-9750 • www.GerstadBuilders.com**

The spacious homes in Bailey Estates have from three to five bedrooms and up to three bathrooms in 1800 to about 3200 square feet of well designed living space. Homes are situated on large home sites of almost a half acre up to 1 1/2 acres. Standard features such as GE appliances, Kohler fixtures and oak or white Colonist doors and trim put the finishing touches on each new home. Just five minutes from shopping and medical facilities, Bailey Estates offers single-family homes from $209,990 to $307,990.

For more information, visit the Showcase Communities at: tinyurl.com/GhKBuilders
Wolf Ridge condos offer incentives, price discounts
Spring deal ... now

Buyers will receive a pre-spring price reduction of up to $30,000 on remaining move-in-now homes at Wolf Ridge Condominiums, a 60-unit residential development at 77 N. Wolf Road just north of North Avenue (Route 64) in downtown Northlake.

"Along with the price reductions — ranging from $20,000 to $30,000 on immediate occupancy residences — the next five buyers can lock in 5-percent down payment seller financing and receive two free parking spaces valued at $9,500," said Paul Dincin, partner in Catapult Real Estate Group, the exclusive marketing agent for Wolf Ridge Condominiums.

"For a limited time, the developer — the City of Northlake — is offering to give the buyers both a heated indoor parking space and an outdoor parking space," Dincin said. The heated indoor parking is valued at $7,500, and the outdoor space is worth $3,000, Dincin said.

"Our unique seller-financing program is offering 30-year fixed-rate conventional financing for the next five qualified buyers at 4.825 percent interest with a low 5-percent down payment," said Jeffrey T. Sherwin, mayor of Northlake.

The Phase II sales at Wolf Ridge Condominium are under way. Twenty-five immediate-occupancy luxury condominiums have been released for sale, said Terrie Whittaker, director of brokerage services for Catapult Realty, LLC, the exclusive broker for Wolf Ridge. Twenty-four units already are sold and occupied in Phase I of the development.

Two-bedroom residences with one or two baths and 1,180 to 1,463 square feet of living area are offered at Wolf Ridge. Prices now begin at $129,900 for the most affordable two-bedroom, one-bath layout. The price was reduced from $149,900, a savings of $20,000. The most affordable two-bedroom, two-bath floor plan now is priced at $149,900, reduced from $174,900, a saving of $25,000. Monthly assessments range from $249 to $280.

Purchasers may choose from nine spacious condominium floor plans at Wolf Ridge, and tour three models currently on display.

Each condominium home at Wolf Ridge features a private balcony, designer kitchen with room for a table and a standard black or white appliance package, including refrigerator, oven/range, microwave, dishwasher, double-bowl stainless-steel sink and laminate counter-tops.

Better deal?: New discounts and incentives are in effect at Wolf Ridge Condos in Northlake (above). Pictured is the living room of the Belle model (below).

Wall-to-wall carpeting is standard in main living areas and bedrooms. Kitchens and baths feature ceramic tile. In-unit laundry with washer and dryer hookups and laundry tub is standard. Each unit has individually controlled heating and central air conditioning and radiant heating in the floor.

Development amenities include a decorated lobby with two elevators, intercom system, indoor heated parking, individual private storage lockers, and a fire sprinkler system throughout the building, radiant heat snow-melt at entryways and garage entrances and solid reinforced brick construction.

Wolf Ridge features ample free guest parking. The development overlooks a park and features elegantly landscaped grounds.

Nearby are Millennium Park and Community Center, the Northlake Public Library, Center Point Recreation and Preserve, and the local business district.

The Wolf Ridge Condominium sales center and models at 77 N. Wolf Road in Northlake are open Tuesday and Thursday from noon a.m. to 4 p.m., on Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Call (708) 492-1010, or visit www.wolfridgecondominiums.com.
Luxury living

474 N. Lake Shore lets buyers to ‘go custom’

In today's real estate market, condominiums generally come as they are. New construction virtually stopped in 2008 and very few new condominiums have entered the market. In most residential buildings, the developer completed interiors of the unsold homes with basic, standard finishes.

The ability to customize a home for a new buyer in an existing building is a rare opportunity. This benefit was generally only available for buyers during the pre-construction phase of the development. One developer of a high rise in the Streeterville neighborhood understood the wants and needs of condominium buyers and has continued to allow customization of the homes that are currently on the market. The development is 474 North Lake Shore Drive, commonly known as "474."

Buyers at 474 have the opportunity to choose from a variety of kitchen cabinets, granite countertops, hardwood flooring and stainless steel appliances to create homes that suit their tastes.

474 North Lake Shore Drive is 98 percent sold. The 10 remaining homes range from a 741-square-foot one bedroom to a spacious 2,005-square-foot three-bedroom penthouse.

Residence 2004, a one bedroom facing north, would be ideal for a first-time buyer or someone seeking an affordable second home convenient to all the excitement of the city. At the other end of the spectrum, penthouse Residence 6103, on the top floor of the building, features breathtaking views of the skyline, including the John Hancock Center, as well as Lake Michigan and Navy Pier.

With three sizable bedrooms and plenty of closet space, there is room for everyday in this home.

In addition to the beautiful interiors offered at 474, it is a full-amenity building. Amenities include a state-of-the-art fitness center with professional equipment, an indoor pool, steam room and sauna.

The building also offers indoor and outdoor entertaining options on the 16th floor sun deck. An indoor 1,200-square-foot party room and catering kitchen, opens out to the impressively furnished sun deck with gas grills and awe-inspiring views. This entertainment suite is the perfect place to host friends all year round.

474 is a highly desirable development at the intersection of Lake Shore Drive and Illinois Street. The building sits just west of Navy Pier, allowing for stunning views of the lake and the city.

The development is located in the heart of Streeterville. The neighborhood includes some of Chicago's best restaurants. Residents can walk from 474 to a breakfast hotspot like Yolk, lunch at RL or dinner at Maison voicing Lakeshore East Park. For gourmet groceries, Fox and Obel is located on the same block and world-renowned shopping on the Magnificent Mile is minutes away. Nearby are a 21-screen AMC theater and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, both of which are minutes away. Nearby are a 21-screen AMC theater and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. The lakefront path, for biking or jogging, is across the street, while The Art Institute and other museums are in walking distance.

474 is also located near Millennium Park, where the very popular ice-skating rink is open through mid-March, weather permitting. Come spring, visitors to the park will flock to Lurie Gardens and Pritzker Pavilion's verdant lawn.

People from around the world visit Chicago to experience all of the culture and attractions, which are always available to the fortunate residents of the downtown area.

The central location of the building is particularly attractive for commuting to work. There are many ways to get to multiple destinations in Chicago from Streeterville. The various bus routes and the "L" make public transportation a breeze. Access to the highways via Lake Shore Drive or through the north side of downtown is also easy for those traveling to the suburbs or outside the center of the city.

With the floor plan options still available, the ability to customize a new home and the unbeatable location in the Streeterville neighborhood, 474 is a great place to own a home, however since only ten residences remain, those interested should act quickly for the best selection.

The on-site sales center is open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

The prices start at $299,900 for one-bedroom, $494,900 for two-bedrooms and $799,900 for three-bedroom penthouses. Call the sales center at (312) 245-7200 or visit the Website at www.474ncondo.com for additional information.

Top view: Penthouse Residence 6103 features this spectacular view of Lake Michigan and Navy Pier, as well as views of the John Hancock Building and Gold Coast skyline.
Face it... you haven't smiled this much in years. Welcome to an enclave community built for the modern lifestyle. A place where a magnificent waterfall entryway greets your arrival, and spacious and gracious condominiums are set amid an 18-acre lake, that offers you the serenity of being away from it all.

$15,000 in FREE UPGRADES - PLUS - 1-year Homeowners Assoc. Fees!

Luxurious 3 & 4 bedroom all brick & stone townhomes with full basement in premier Wheeling location from $289,900

BEST BUY IN TOWN
Special Financing from 2.75%

www.PrarieParkatWheeling.com
700 N. Wolf Rd. in Wheeling
(Just south of Lake Cook Rd. and Milwaukee Ave.)
847-229-0100 Open 11am to 5pm Daily
A Smith Family Construction Inc. Development

www.northfieldgroup.com
Open daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Take 294 N, exit Lake Cook Rd.,
go west to 516 Milwaukee Ave.
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IT'S OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY & WE ARE CELEBRATING WITH THESE LIMITED TIME OFFERS!

NEW 2013 CHEVY EQUINOX
FULLY FACTORY EQUIPPED
STK #24712 / MSRP $24,580

$20,770 OR $238**

MONEY DOWN
FINANCE PAYMENT
SECURITY DEPOSIT
OR AT SIGNING

NEW 2013 CHEVY TRAVERSE

STK #25020
MSRP $31,335

$24,980

Security Deposit: $0 Due at Signing

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MSRP $26,780

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MSRP $36,975

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118 ROUTE 13 ANTI0CH

SALES: M-F 9-9 SAT 9-7
SERVICE: M-F 7-9 SAT 9-5
BODY SHOP: M-F 7-9 SAT 9-5

LIMITED TIME OFFERS

NEW 2013 CHEVY IMPALA

STK #23905
MSRP $26,780

NEW 2013 CHEVY EQUINOX

STK #24712
MSRP $24,580

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STK #25020
MSRP $31,335

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$18,790 STK #23905
MSRP $26,780

$30,990 STK #24653
MSRP $36,975

Raymond Chevrolet

250 PRE-DRIVEN VEHICLES AVAILABLE FROM $1,995!

NEW 2013 CHEVY EQUINOX

STK #24712
MSRP $24,580

NEW 2013 CHEVY IMPALA

STK #23905
MSRP $26,780

NEW 2013 CHEVY TRAVERSE

STK #25020
MSRP $31,335

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SALES: M-F 9-9 SAT 9-7
BODY SHOP: M-F 7-9 SAT 9-5
SERVICE: M-F 7-6 SAT 9-4

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### Auto Show Special

**2012 Chevrolet CRUZE**
- Auto Show Special Pricing: $17,995
- AVAILABLE ON SELECT NEW 2012 & 2013 MODELS!

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- Auto Show Special Pricing: $21,995
- AVAILABLE ON SELECT NEW 2012 & 2013 MODELS!

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Cover Story
'Everything is Illuminated' for Next Theatre Company.

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

Family Friendly
'Really Rosie' lights up the Gorilla Tango stage.

What to Do
Your calendar for this week and beyond.

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

Listen
Anne Frank's diary inspires 'Annelies,' an afternoon of music at Ravinia.

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Journey to a wiped-out town in ‘Illuminated’

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

There was a town in the Ukraine called Trochenbrod that is no more. Nearly the entire population — over 5,000 Jews — was wiped out during the Holocaust.

A young American writer named Jonathan journeys to that area in search of a woman who may have saved his grandfather from that fate in “Everything Is Illuminated.”

Devon de Mayo directs Simon Block’s adaptation of Jonathan Safran Foer’s novel for Next Theatre Company. “I saw the original production of this play in London in 2005. I thought it was a story that needed to be seen by Chicago audiences,” de Mayo said.

The play somehow manages to insert a great deal of humor into a very serious subject. “The play is hilarious,” the director said. “But it goes to really, really dark places.”

In preparation for staging the show, de Mayo read and reread the source novel. She noted that dramaturg Kristin Leahey provided invaluable information on the history of Trochenbrod and what was happening in the Ukraine during World War II. The director and her cast also viewed a new documentary, “Lost Town,” on a search for “this town that was wiped off the map. After the Nazis came through, only 33 people survived,” de Mayo reported.

The main character Jonathan is inspired to take this journey by the death of his grandfather and an old, yellowed photograph he has been given of his grandfather as a young man.

Highland Park native Brad Smith plays Jonathan. “He’s obviously very intelligent but also a little inexperienced and naive as far as getting out of his comfort zone and going out into the world,” Smith said. "It’s very clear as the show progresses that it is both Jonathan’s story and very much Alex’s story as he learns secrets that his grandfather has been keeping all his life about what his grandfather did during the war," Smith said.

Jonathan’s guide and translator on this journey is a young Ukrainian named Alex (Alex Goodrich), accompanied by his grandfather (played by Bill Norris) and the grandfather’s dog, Sammy Davis Jr. Jr. Actor Goodrich described Alex as "a young Ukrainian man who has grown up in a big city, relatively lower class."

Much of the humor of the show is based on the way translator Alex mangles the English language. "It’s the best malapropisms I’ve ever heard,” Goodrich reported. "If I show up and memorize these words in the right order and just say them, my job is done."

The actor found an unusual way to capture a Ukrainian accent — by listening to the Brooklyn-based Ukrainian gypsy folk rock band Gogol Bordello. Of course, he received a lot more assistance from dialect coach Eva Brenneman.

Alex is helping Jonathan track his family’s history in World War II and yet, "His family history has never been discussed," Goodrich said.

The actor indicated that when he first read the script, he wondered why his character is the one who periodically talks to the audience. "It’s very clear as the show progresses that it is both Jonathan’s story and very much Alex’s story as he learns secrets that his grandfather has been keeping all his life about what his grandfather did during the war," Goodrich said.
Managing Editor Jennifer Thomas' entertainment picks for this week:

1. 'The Future of Food,' talk by author Josh Schonwald is at 7 p.m. (today) Feb. 21 at the Dawes House, 225 Greenwood St. See Evanstonhistorycenter.org.

2. Suzanne Vega performs at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Feb. 22 as part of a 93XRT show at S.P.A.C.E., 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Visit evanstonspace.com.

3. Seed Swap and Lecture takes place Feb. 24 at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe. Lecture is 2 p.m., seed swap 3-5 p.m. Visit chicagobotanic.org.


5. 'Farewell Show: Ceramics by Peter Hessemer and Paintings by Jim Krauss' are on display to March 22 at Oakton College's Koehnline Museum. See Oakton.edu/museum.
Think 'Lincoln' has Oscars locked? 'Argo' begs to differ

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

The Oscar for Best Picture of 2012 is very much up for grabs.

The simple fact that Ben Affleck had not even been nominated in the Best Director category for "Argo" (The shame!) made it seem highly unlikely that film would win the top prize — simply because Best Picture and Best Director almost always go hand-in-hand. Now, however, with "Argo" having won Best Picture awards at the Golden Globes (where Affleck also won Best Director), the Producer's Guild, BAFTA (the British movie awards, where Affleck also won Best Director) and the Directors Guild (another Best Director prize), the film seems poised to split the traditional pairing for the first time since 1989's "Driving Miss Daisy."

Or maybe not. "Lincoln," in addition to its other virtues, is the sort of prestige picture the Academy has always loved to recognize (and being the highest-grossing film among the nine Best Picture nominees doesn't hurt). Also, the fact that Affleck was snubbed as a Best Director contender could indicate that the Academy isn't feeling "Argo," for whatever reason.

Only one thing is certain: There's going to be an unusual element of high drama and suspense at the Academy Awards this year. If "Lincoln" and "Argo" split the vote and cancel each other out, what next? "Silver Linings Playbook" for Best Picture? Don't bet on it, but...

Here are my nervous predictions for winners in the major categories.

Best Picture: "Argo." 

Best Director: Steven Spielberg, who certainly deserves it for "Lincoln" and who hasn't won in this category since "Saving Private Ryan." (Nominees: Michael Haneke, "Amour”; Benh Zeitlin, "Beasts of the Southern Wild”; Ang Lee, "Life of Pi”; Steven Spielberg, "Lincoln”; David O. Russell, "Silver Linings Playbook")

Best Actor: Daniel Day-Lewis who, in addition to deserving it, has already picked up prizes from the Golden Globes, the Screen Actors Guild, BAFTA and a long list of critics awards including the Chicago Film Critics Association. (Nominees: Bradley Cooper, "Silver Linings Playbook”; Joaquin Phoenix, "The Master”; Daniel Day-Lewis, "Lincoln”; Denzel Washington, "Flight”; Hugh Jackman, "Les Miserables")
Best Actress: The lead in this extremely tough race seems to be narrowing down to Emmanuelle Riva for "Amour" and Jennifer Lawrence for "Silver Linings Playbook." The smart money's probably on Lawrence, because she gave a knockout performance (as usual) and she's already won at the Golden Globes and the Screen Actors Guild. I'm picking Riva, though, because her performance was extraordinary—and because the voters at BAFTA thought so too. (Nominees: Jessica Chastain, "Zero Dark Thirty"; Quvenzhané Wallis, "Beasts of the Southern Wild"; Jennifer Lawrence, "Silver Linings Playbook"; Naomi Watts, "The Impossible"; Emmanuelle Riva, "Amour")

Best Supporting Actor: Alan Arkin hit another career peak in "Argo," but Tommy Lee Jones ripped up the screen in "Lincoln"—and he has a prize from the Screen Actors Guild to prove it. (Nominees: Alan Arkin, "Argo"; Robert De Niro, "Silver Linings Playbook"; Philip Seymour Hoffman, "The Master"; Tommy Lee Jones, "Lincoln"; Christoph Waltz, "Django Unchained")

Best Supporting Actress: Let's just say it straight out. It's going to be Anne Hathaway for "Les Miserables." She's already won at the Screen Actors Guild, the Golden Globes and BAFTA. And if anybody ever drove a truck through an Oscar moment, she did with "I Dreamed a Dream." (Nominees: Amy Adams, "The Master"; Sally Field, "Lincoln"; Anne Hathaway, "Les Miserables"; Helen Hunt, "The Sessions"; Jacki Weaver, "Silver Linings Playbook")


Best Original Screenplay: The screenplay category often turns into a consolation prize for films that didn't win Best Picture, meaning "Zero Dark Thirty" (Mark Boal), "Django Unchained" (Quentin Tarantino) and "Flight" (John Gatins) are almost certain to qualify. The more high-profile "Zero Dark" would seem to be the obvious choice, if not for the fact that Boal won so recently for writing "The Hurt Locker" and Tarantino has already won at the Golden Globes and BAFTA. Unless the Writers Guild awards suggest otherwise, I'm betting on the big T. (Nominees: Michael Haneke, "Amour"; Quentin Tarantino, "Django Unchained"; John Gatins, "Flight"; Wes Anderson and Roman Coppola, "Moonrise Kingdom"; Mark Boal, "Zero Dark Thirty")
Anne Frank-inspired concert at Ravinia

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES | Contributor

Anne Frank died at age 15 in a Nazi concentration camp, but her diary, left behind when she and her family were arrested in Amsterdam by German police, has made her a household name.

The diary has been published in more than 60 languages and her tale has been dramatized on Broad-

way, in film and in numerous television specials.

A constellation of musicians will present one of the most recent tributes to her memory, a choral setting by British composer James Whitbourn of her diary, at Ravinia Festival Sunday afternoon in Bennett Gordon Hall. The title of the work is "Annelies," which is the young girl's birth name.

The Ravinia program will star clarinetist Bharat Chandra, soprano Arianna Zukerman and the Lincoln Trio, violinist Desiree Ruhstrat, cellist David Cunliffe and pianist Marta Aznavoorian. The Chicago Children's Choir will sing.

The program is sponsored by consulting firm Mesirow Financial. "A number of different stories have to be told to understand how this came to be," said Richard Mesirow of Highland Park, vice president and son of Norman Mesirow, the founder of the firm.

"To me it is an example of the Yiddish word 'bashert,' which means 'meant to be.'"
"I heard the Lincoln Trio at Northmoor Country Club," he began. "They stayed for dinner and we had a chance to talk."

Meanwhile, Mesirow Financial had constructed an auditorium in their downtown office, which holds about 250 people and was meant for corporate meetings. When Cedille Records, the local label specializing in recording Chicago classical music, became a Mesirow client, the financial firm used that space for a benefit concert for Cedille.

The program included violinist Rachel Barton Pine, soprano Patrice Michaels and the Lincoln Trio. "It was a lovely evening, a great success," Mesirow said. The next morning, Veda Levin, a senior member of the firm, said "Does anyone remember Texaco Presents? Why don't we do Mesirow Financial Presents?" And the idea was born.

Fast forward to the Four Seasons hotel and a benefit for Merit School of Music. "The Lincoln Trio was playing and Desiree (Ruhstrat) came up to me and said that Ravinia was interested in programming 'Annelies' but the piece needed to be recorded," Whitbourn said. "Welz Kauffman and I shook hands and it was agreed."

Whitbourn the composer had gone to school in England with David Cunliffe, cellist with the Lincoln Trio. "He was ahead of me at the Skinners' Grammar School for Boys," Cunliffe explained. "There weren't many musicians there and he influenced me in my musical studies."

Whitbourn's choral piece for soprano and chorus had been written for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and was performed in 2005. In 2009 he arranged it for chamber ensemble and it was performed in the Hague in the Netherlands.

Soprano Arianna Zukerman, daughter of violinist Pinchas Zukerman and flutist Eugenia Zukerman, was soloist for the chamber premiere in the Hague. "We performed it on what would have been Anne's 80th birthday," she said, when reached at her home in Washington, D.C. area, "and we were in a building that had been a Jewish synagogue."

She will reprise the soprano role in Bennett Gordon Hall Sunday. "Anne's story is so remarkable," Zukerman said. "My grandparents were Holocaust survivors, and I remember going to the Anne Frank house in Amsterdam when I was a little girl. Everyone has a connection to her."
Listen
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‘Grapes of Wrath’ opera premiers at NU

By Dorothy Andries | Contributor

John Steinbeck’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Grapes of Wrath* has been made into a full-scale opera by one of America’s most successful living songwriters, Ricky Ian Gordon.

Staged in Minneapolis in 2007, the opera will receive its Chicago-area premiere at Northwestern University over the next two weekends.

“There came a moment when I knew I wanted to be an opera composer,” said Gordon, whose songs have been performed by such operatic and Broadway luminaries as Renee Fleming, Dawn Upshaw, Nathan Gunn, Kelli O’Hara and Audra MacDonald.

“So I sent 16 of my songs out to a number of opera companies,” he continued. “Minnesota Opera got back to me and said they wanted to do an opera based on Steinbeck’s ‘Grapes of Wrath’ in conjunction with Utah Opera.

“Let me re-read the book,” he replied, but in fact, he had never read it. Facing a cross-country flight to Los Angeles, he bought a copy and started reading it on the plane. “It was unbelievably gripping,” he said during a phone interview from his home on New York City’s Upper West Side. He admitted he initially found the story "a scary thing."

The opera took four years to write. "I’m a Jewish boy from Long Island," he said. "What did I know about the Dust Bowl?"

So in addition to reading Steinbeck’s book, he traveled the country and talked to people, some of whom lived through the Dust Bowl. He also read the award-winning nonfiction book *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan. "Ken Burns’ PBS series ‘The Dust Bowl’ used material from that book," Gordon said.

Some Chicagoans might remember Frank Galati’s adaptation of “Grapes of Wrath” which originated in 1988 with Steppenwolf Theatre and went to Broadway in 1990, winning the 1990 Tony Award for Best Play.

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"My opera is quite different from Galati's intimate play," Gordon said. "In the book, Steinbeck alternates between the story of the Joads, with what was going on in the government at that time. I use the chorus for the part about what was happening in the government."

Playing Uncle John in the original cast of "Grapes of Wrath" was baritone Robert Orth, a role he reprised in Utah and Pittsburgh and will portray again at Northwestern. In addition to singing the standard operatic repertoire, Orth has made a career of performing in new American operas such as portraying Frank Lloyd Wright in "Shining Brow" and the title role in "Nixon in China" with Chicago Opera Theatre.

"I'm an American," said Orth, speaking from his home in Libertyville. "I'm thrilled to do American operas."

As a child Orth lived in Chicago, Montana and Texas, where he experienced dust storms. "I remember the clouds, the howling winds all the time," he said of that time. "We hung wet rags around the bed of my baby brother, but when the storm was over there was red dust everywhere."

In preparation for the opera, he and the entire Northwestern cast watched the Ken Burns series. Director of Opera at NU Michael Ehrman also watched the Burns pieces. "I have wanted to do 'Grapes of Wrath' since I came to Northwestern," he declared, "but I was waiting for the right voices, and now I have them."

He has plenty. The cast numbers 67, including 11 local children. Erhman believes that might be the largest cast ever assembled at Cahn for a Northwestern opera.

Ehrman's association with the composer goes back to the early 1980s when they were both beginning their careers in Manhattan. "I remember when Ricky would compose a new song, he'd invite us all over to his apartment and play it for us," he said.

For Ehrman, the presence of Robert Orth from the original cast is a terrific plus. Gordon's praise for the baritone who plays Uncle John is even more effusive. "If you are an American opera composer, you have to write a role for Robert Orth."
family musical 'Really Rosie'  

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Everything will be «Really Rosie» at Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, March 2-April 7. That's when A-Squared Theatre Workshop presents the family musical with book and lyrics by Maurice Sendak and music by Carole King.

Melissa Mok plays Rosie, the leader of the Nutshell Kids, who are neighborhood friends. "She is the one who creates what they're going to do during the day," Mok said. On this particular day, "She gets them to audition for her so they all have their own little song to sing."

Rosie has a way of uniting the friends. "They all have their individual personalities and little quirks but she gets them all to come together and have a really great time," Mok said. The actor is convinced families will love the show because of the wonderful music and story "we can all relate to."

Tickets are $14. For details, call (773) 598-4549 or go to www.gorillatango.com.

Check out our Top Five picks for the weekend's best bets.

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BLESSED ME, ULTIMA

Rated
PG-13 for some violence and sexual references
Stars
Luke Ganalon, Miriam Colon, Benito Martinez
An elderly medicine woman (Colon) helps a Latino boy (Ganalon) come of age in his World War II-era village. Carl Franklin (“Devil in a Blue Dress”) directed the drama.

STILL
PLAYING

BEAUTIFUL CREATURES

★★★
Rated
PG-13 for violence, scary images and some sexual material
Stars
Aiden Ehrenreich, Alice Englert, Jeremy Irons, Emma Thompson
This so-so supernatural teen romance is sort of like “Twilight,” basically, except it’s about witches instead of vampires and the perpetually menace mortal is a boy. Young aspiring writer Ethan (Ehrenreich) takes notice when Lena Duchannes (Englert), niece of the richest guy in town (semi-evil warlock Irons), shows up for high school just in time to turn 16 and be claimed as a particularly powerful good or bad witch, with potential repercussions for the fate of mankind. There are plenty of magical subplots to keep things needlessly complicated and just enough spell-casting action to keep the scenario from becoming lethargic. Yet, as in “Twilight,” the only thing that really matters is whether or not it all ends in love’s sweet, somewhat freaky, song.

SNITCH

Rated
R for some violence
Stars
Dwayne Johnson, Susan Sarandon, Jon Bernthal
In order to free his son, who has been set up in a drug deal, a father (Johnson) goes undercover for the DEA. Ric Roman Waugh (“Felon”) directed the thriller.

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.

IDENTITY THIEF

★★★
Rated
R for sexual content 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 doles them out frequently as loveable sociopath con-artist Emily (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.

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 before switching to TV, “Side Effects” is a narrative chameleon that shifts through four or five different genres, beginning as a domestic/medical 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.
New releases on DVD, Blu-ray

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

NEW THIS WEEK

ARGO

****
Rated
R for language and some violent images
Stars
Ben Affleck, John Goodman, Alan Arkin, Bryan Cranston
Combining real-life espionage drama with a side order of Hollywood satire, "Argo" is never less than fascinating and it's also, by turns, extremely suspenseful and surprisingly funny. This is something special, deftly and entertainingly recounting the little-known true story of a CIA operative who flew into Iran during the 1980 hostage crisis and rescued six Americans who had managed to slip away to the Canadian embassy. The major laughs come from the Hollywood satire when a phony movie production is set up with the help of a makeup artist and a washed-up producer. That's all forgotten in the nerve-wracking final act when Affleck and his charges try to bluff their way out of the country. Extras include commentary by Affleck and featurettes such as "Rescued from Tehran: We Were There."

ANNA KARENINA

★★★½
Rated
R for some sexuality and violence
Stars
Keira Knightley, Jude Law, Aaron Taylor-Johnson
With more than two dozen film adaptations of Tolstoy's classic novel already in existence, director Joe Wright and screenwriter Tom Stoppard apparently felt something extra-clever was needed to spruce up the old girl for another go-round. Hence the decision to set this "Anna Karenina" on the stage of a 19th-century theater. That intriguing device is executed with impressive visual flair by Wright, with his actors perpetually moving from one setting to another while dodging moving scenery. Unfortunately, so much effort is made to keep us visually dazzled that it's difficult to maintain emotional involvement as the story unfolds.

FUN SIZE

★ ★
Rated
PG-13
Stars
Victoria Justice, Chelsea Handler, Thomas Middleditch
A strange blend of sweet young romance and crude high school sex comedy on training wheels, "Fun Size" seems to be setting out to model sleazy teen behavior for impressionable 'tween girls. This Nickelodeon production is nowhere near as raunchy as the average R-rated teen comedy. It does set out in that direction, with enough entry-level infusions of potty humor, gross-out gags and precocious sex to titillate wanna-be teenagers. It's all about one wild Halloween night for nice girl Wren (Justice) and her not-quite-so-nice best friend April (Jane Levy), who fumes when Wren's dad (Handler) makes her take her obnoxious little brother trick-or-treating. Extras include a gag reel and deleted scenes.

For more, go online to read the full list of new releases in the Entertainment section of your town's page.
THE PIG FLIES AGAIN

PFX THE PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE
Tue, Feb 26 at 8pm
A flawless Pink Floyd concert recreation!

THE IRISH ROVERS
Fri, Mar 01 at 8pm
Farewell tour ends 2015! Don't miss one of their final Chicago concerts!

Janis Ian
Thu, Mar 14 at 8pm
Known for "At Seventeen" & "Society's Child," this un-sung folk legend & 2013 Grammy winner should not be missed!

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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CINÉARTS 6 AND XD
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Evanston
(847) 491-9751
www.cinemark.com

HIGHLAND PARK THEATRE
445 Central Ave.
Highland Park
The theater is currently closed for maintenance.

RENAISSANCE PLACE CINEMA
1850 2nd St.
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(847) 258-7282
www.landmarktheatres.com

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PICKWICK THEATRE
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Park Ridge
(847) 604-2234
www.pickwicktheatre.com

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**THIS WEEKEND & BEYOND**

**STAGE**

**“Booth”**

18+

Presented as a staged reading at 8 p.m., Feb. 23 and 2 p.m., Feb. 24 at Oakton Community College's Studio One, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. $8. Call (847) 635-1900.

**Gorilla Tango’s Skokie Theatre**

18+


**“Little Women: The Musical”**

FAM

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

**“Twelfth Night”**

13-18

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.

**“Vigils”**

18+

Feb. 28-April 21 at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago (Jefferson Park), at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sundays. $25-$30. Visit www.thegifttheatre.org.

**“The Whipping Man”**

18+


**CLASSICAL**

**Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra**

13+ 18+ 65+

Performing at 3 p.m., March 3 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. The program includes works by Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Schubert. $36-$75, with discounts for seniors and youth. Visit www.arsviva.org.

**Baroque Band**

18+

The period-instrument orchestra performs “La Dolce Vita,” a celebration of the music of Arcangelo Corelli, at 7:30 p.m., March 9 in Nichols Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. $35; $30 senior citizens; $15 students. Call (312) 235-2368 or visit www.baroqueband.org.

**Evanston Symphony Orchestra**

13+ 18+

“Slavic Favorites,” 2:30 p.m., March 3 at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Program features guest soloist Irina Miresanu performing Dvorak’s Violin Concerto in A Minor. Tickets in advance are $28, $23 seniors; at the door, $35, $30 seniors. $5 students. Call (847) 864-8804 or visit www.evantonsymphony.org.

**Four Score Festival**

13+ 18+

Hosting concerts at 3 p.m., March 3 and 10 at Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. $30; $20 seniors; $10 students; for each concert. Generation Next Winner’s Concert, 7:30 p.m., March 8 at Nichols Concert Hall, is free. Call (847) 905-1500, ext. 108.

**Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra**

18+

“Magnificent Mozart,” 3:30 p.m., March 3 at Queen of All Saints Basilica, 6280 N. Saguaman Ave., Chicago. Free-will donations accepted. www.lssso.org.

**Midwest Young Artists**

13+

MYA’s youth music ensembles will perform on Feb. 24 at Northwestern University’s Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. The Youth Orchestras and soloists perform at 1 p.m.; Youth Orchestra, Choral, and Wind Symphony and soloist at 3 p.m.; and MYA’s Orchestra and soloists at 7:30 p.m. $30; $15 students. Visit www.myas.org.

**Alice Millar Chapel**

13+

At Northwestern University, 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston. Information: (847) 491-5441; tickets: (847) 467-4000. Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m.: Women’s Chorus performs a Lenten concert featuring Pergolesi’s “Stabat Mater.” $6; $4 students.

**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

This Weekend and Beyond | Get out and enjoy your community
What to Do
Continued from page 59

Park Ridge Civic Orchestra

Directed by Jonathan Munby

"From Spain to Scotland, the Mendelssohn Way," 2:30 p.m. March 10 at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. $25; $20 students and seniors. Visit www.parkridgeworldorchestra.org.

Pick-Staiger Concert Hall

At Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. www.pick-staiger.org. Feb. 24, 3 p.m.: Symphonic Wind Ensemble. $6; $4 students. Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m.: Percussion Ensemble. $6; $4 students. Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m.: University Singers perform French chansons (songs) and motets. $6; $4 students.

Rembrandt Chamber Players

Presenting "Lyrical Dvorak," 7:30 p.m. March 10 at Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. The program includes works by Dvorak, Malcolm Arnold and Ginastera. The concert will also showcase the winners of the 18th annual high school competition. $35; $25 young adults. For information, visit www.rembrandtchamberplayers.org.

Segovia Classical Guitar Series

Presented by Northwestern University's Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music and the Chicago Classical Guitar Society, through April 13. Visit www.pick-staiger.org. Feb. 24, 3 p.m.: Uruguayan guitarist Alvaro Pierri will perform works by Paganini, Ponce and Ginastera, in Lutkin Hall, 700 University Place, Evanston. $22; $12 students.

Chambers


Ethical Humanist Society Second Saturday Coffeehouse

7574 N. Lincoln Ave. (at Howard), Skokie. www.ethicalhuman.org/coffeehouse. March 9: Folksinger Larry Meisow performs love ballads, political and satirical songs following 8 p.m. open mic (7:30 p.m. sign-up, any genre, all acoustic). $8.

InterContinental Chicago O'Hare Hotel

Montrose Room, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. www.intercontinentaltinhotel.com. Feb. 23, 8 p.m.: Folk rock singer Michael McDermott. $15; $20 VIP.

Mullen's Bar & Grill

8313 W. Lawrence Ave., Norridge. (708) 452-3190. Feb. 26, 7-10 p.m.: Jazz Community Big Band. No cover.
North Shore Center for the Performing Arts

Pick-Staiger Concert Hall
At Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. www.pickstaiger.org. Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Jazz Orchestra. $6; $4 students.

S.P.A.C.E.

AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES
Open auditions
"A Night on the Red Carpet"
The James Downing Theatre will hold auditions for the courtroom drama "You're the Jury: The State vs. Max Cooper," 7-9:30 p.m. March 4-5 at Edison Park United Methodist Church, 6740 N. Oliphant, Chicago. There will be cold readings from the script. Bring a current headshot and resume if available. Production dates May 4-19. Contact Jane Allyson at jane.allyson2@gmail.com or (773) 414-4477.

BENEFITS
"Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs"
Pioneer local.com
Presented by Chicago Kids Company Theatre for Children through Feb. 27 at the Stahl Family Theater, at St. Patrick's High School, 5900 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago. Tickets at http://chicagokidscompanytheatre.org or call (847) 675-0951.

"Ralph's World in Concert!"
Pick Staiger Concert Hall
5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000. For information, visit www.rosemonttheatre.com. March 15-17: Disney Live! Mickey's Music Festival. Performances at 7 p.m. Friday; 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sunday. $15, $25, $35, $70.

"Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs"
Pick Staiger Concert Hall
5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000. For information, visit www.rosemonttheatre.com. March 15-17: Disney Live! Mickey's Music Festival. Performances at 7 p.m. Friday; 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sunday. $15, $25, $35, $70.

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What to Do
Continued from page 61


COMEDY

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre


DANCE

Akoo Theatre at Rosemont

13+ 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. www.tickemaster.com. March 2, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.: Lord of the Dance. $24.50-$59.50.

FILM

Lincolnwood Public Library


Northwest Chicago Film Society


Portage Theater


Skokie Art Guild

18+ Offering figure drawing workshops from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays at the Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie. Live models; no instructor. Fee per session is $20; $12 for members. Call Steve Gal, (847) 673-4450, or visit www.skokieartguild.org.

ORGANIZATIONS

Skokie Photographic Society

18+ Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the Village Hall, 5127 Oakton St., Skokie. Call (847) 677-8324.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Film Incubator Program

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave, Skokie, offers a six-week workshop where youth ages 7-13, in tandem with professional filmmakers, create a short film, working on all aspects of the production. At the end of the term movies are premiered at the Skokie Theatre for family and friends. Cost is $380 per six-week session. Sessions begin March 14 and March 16. www.gorillatango.com.
Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000. For information, visit www.allstatearena.com. Parking is $20, cash only. **March 8, 7:30 p.m.** Stars on Ice "Now & Then" Tour, with Dorothy Hamill, Kurt Browning, Ekaterina Gordeeva and others. $25-$85.

**"Fools Tango"**  
18+  
Puppet and mask performance, 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, March 1-May 11, at Theatre Zarko, Studio 213, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. (No performances April 13-14.) $20. Call (847) 350-9275 or visit www.theatrezarko.org.

**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. 13, 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**  
9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. (847) 967-4889. www.iho Holocaustmuseum.org. Admission: $12; $8 for students and senior citizens; $6 for children ages 5-11. **March 17, 1:30-3 p.m.: In Conversation With... Holocaust survivor George Levy Mueller. A book signing will follow the program. Free with museum admission; reservations required. March 21, 6:30-8 p.m.: Elliot Lefkovitz, Loyola University and Spertus Institute faculty member reviews and discusses Bernard Wasserstein's a On the Eve: The Jews of Europe Before the Second World War, 2012 National Jewish Book Award finalist. He will be joined by a panel of Holocaust survivors. Free with museum admission; reservations required.

**Mitchell Museum of the American Indian**  

**Hershey Felder in An American Story**

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-Pam Kragen, The San Diego Union Tribune

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Jobs for Veterans:
How Hiring Veterans Can Boost Business

By: Jen Hubley Luckwaldt, PayScale.com

What can a grateful nation do for its veterans? How about give them a job?

Many companies across the United States are making a pledge to hire veterans and active reservists. It's a way to say thank you and, best of all, it's good for the bottom line.

And the job outlook for veterans could be getting better. In his recent tour to promote his jobs bill, President Obama announced that he will push for a tax break for businesses hiring veterans.

The proposed tax credit, called Returning Heroes, would offer up to $5,600 for companies hiring veterans who have been out of work for six months or longer: the Wounded Warriors credit would offer up to $10,000 for companies hiring wounded veterans who have been out of work for the same length of time.

"We ask our men and women in uniform to leave their careers, leave their families and risk their lives to fight for our country," Obama said. "The last thing they should have to do is fight for a job when they come home."

Veteran Job Protections

Veterans have job protection under the Uniformed Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. USERRA guarantees active reservists, guardsmen and veterans the right to keep their jobs, or be reemployed at similar jobs, during and after periods of service. It also requires employers to make reasonable accommodation for injured or disabled veterans who are returning to work.

For companies like LadderPort, a small manufacturing firm in Brighton, Mich., adhering to the law is both patriotic and sound financial policy.

"It can be profitable for your company," says Dick Dyk, LadderPort Director of Security. "You need to think outside the corporate box."

Dyk is a volunteer for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Defense Department Agency that encourages employers to sign a pledge stating that their company will honor the law and reemploy veterans, active reservists and members of the National Guard. The ESGR also acts as an ombudsman, mediating conflicts in the workplace.

LadderPort Operations Manager Michele Oras says that 20 percent of the company's employees are veterans, active reservists and members of the National Guard. She stresses the benefits that military-trained employees have to offer companies, including specialized skills and abilities that are often hard to find in the civilian workforce, such as:

1. Specialized training

Many veterans have skills that place them in high demand for certain types of jobs in areas like engineering, manufacturing, security, and intelligence. But even the youngest and least senior members of the military have more training than the average entry-level applicant.

All veterans have been through four months of boot camp and many months more of additional, specialized training for their occupation specialty.

2. Team training

Members of the military are trained to work as a team. For manufacturing companies like LadderPort, that's a distinct advantage.

"We need guys that can work together without being on top of each other and willing to be part of the team, rather than I, I, I," says Oras. "The faster they can get our products out the door, the more money we make."

3. Personal responsibility

Returning veterans and active reservists understand responsibility better than most. Very young servicemen and women have huge responsibilities in the military, far beyond the obligations that most of us face at work.

"Everybody always says there's no 'I' in team. Well, that's junk," Dyk says. "It stands for individual responsibility ... And the military creates people that do that better than anybody else."

4. Financial considerations

Even if companies never see a dime in tax breaks, hiring veterans can contribute positively to a company's financial picture. In addition to providing free training in a variety of valuable professional skills, it may also help keep your company in the running for government contracts, says Oras, since it's less likely that the government would award a contract to a company that wasn't in compliance with USERRA.
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NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE

Morton Grove

In the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois

County Department - Chancery Division

Morton Grove

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

I-CH-9500

Plaintiff vs. 

Purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale, which will be issued to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real property:

2006-11-11 East Main Street (SECURITY TITLE & TRUST COMPANY, LLC)

The mortgaged real estate is subject to any lien, mortgage, or other obligation which may be required by law to be recorded in the office of the County Recorder of Cook County, Illinois.

The purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale which will be issued to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real property:

2006-11-11 East Main Street (SECURITY TITLE & TRUST COMPANY, LLC)

The mortgaged real estate is subject to any lien, mortgage, or other obligation which may be required by law to be recorded in the office of the County Recorder of Cook County, Illinois.
The following is hereby given notice that pending foreclosure on the property as described.

**NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NO. 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., as registered owner, and Siena at Skokie, LP, as registered owner, being the holder of the judgment and execution against Defendants, ROMAN BUYAK, MARIYA BUYAK; NICOLAE M. ROMAN, JR.; DEBORAH ROMAN, M. ROMAN, JR.; JOHN ROMAN, M. ROMAN, JR.; ROMAN ROMAN, M. ROMAN, JR.; ROMAN B. ROMAN, M. ROMAN, JR., and ALL OTHERS CONSIDERED DEFENDANTS.

The real estate is a Condo unit located at 3508 61st St., Skokie, IL 60077.

The minimum bid is $30,000. The balance of the amount paid by the purchaser will be used to pay the assessed real estate and personal property taxes due and payable on the real estate in accordance with Section 16-205 of the Illinois Property Tax Code.

Any person having a judgment lien on the real estate, or any portion thereof, and a lien or interest in the property as more fully described, shall have the right to redeem the real estate within forty (40) days after the date of Sale, but not after the date of entry of the Judgment of Foreclosure, provided that such redemption shall be made by tendering to the purchaser at the sale or the judicial officer conducting the sale, the amount of money bid at the sale or the amount that would be payable by the holder of the judgment lien, if the sale had been made to the holder of the judgment lien, together with interest on such amount from the date of the Judgment of Foreclosure to the date of payment of such amount, at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount bid. The sum tendered shall be in certificated funds or wire transfer. Provided further, that if the holder of the judgment lien is the successful bidder at the sale or the holder of the judgment lien is the mortgagee, judgment creditor, assignee of the judgment lien, or the general receiver, any other person shall have the right to purchase the property by tendering to the purchaser or the judicial officer conducting the sale, within twenty-four (24) hours after the sale, an amount equal to the amount paid by the successful bidder at the sale or the amount that would be payable by the holder of the judgment lien, or the mortgagee, judgment creditor, assignee of the judgment lien, or the general receiver, if the sale had been made to the holder of the judgment lien, together with interest on such amount from the date of the Judgment of Foreclosure to the date of payment of such amount, at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount bid. The sum tendered shall be in certificated funds or wire transfer. Provided further, that if the holder of the judgment lien is the successful bidder at the sale or the holder of the judgment lien is the mortgagee, judgment creditor, assignee of the judgment lien, or the general receiver, any other person shall have the right to purchase the property by tendering to the purchaser or the judicial officer conducting the sale, within twenty-four (24) hours after the sale, an amount equal to the amount paid by the successful bidder at the sale or the amount that would be payable by the holder of the judgment lien, or the mortgagee, judgment creditor, assignee of the judgment lien, or the general receiver, if the sale had been made to the holder of the judgment lien, together with interest on such amount from the date of the Judgment of Foreclosure to the date of payment of such amount, at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount bid. The sum tendered shall be in certificated funds or wire transfer.

Any redemption shall be made by the tendering of cash or certified funds. If the holder of the judgment lien is the mortgagee, judgment creditor, assignee of the judgment lien, or the general receiver, the funds tendered shall be applied toward the satisfaction of the debt which the judgment lien secured, and any excess shall be paid to the successful bidder at the sale.

Any person having any other judgment lien or interest in the real estate shall have the right, upon application to the judicial officer conducting the sale, to be excluded from the sale, and no person having any other judgment lien or interest in the real estate shall be entitled to purchase the property at the sale, except by tendering to the purchaser the same amount that would be payable by the holder of the judgment lien, or the mortgagee, judgment creditor, assignee of the judgment lien, or the general receiver, if the sale had been made to the holder of the judgment lien, together with interest on such amount from the date of the Judgment of Foreclosure to the date of payment of such amount, at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount bid. The sum tendered shall be in certificated funds or wire transfer.

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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 directly at (217) 241-1700.

Both Pioneer Press and the Doings recommend discretion when responding. Please refer questions and comments directly to ICAN.
NOTICE OF SALE

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the order of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois County, the Judicial Sales Corporation will sell Abandoned Residential Property situated at 5040 W. Warren Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60639 on October 7, 2013 at 10:00 AM in Chicago, Illinois. The real estate is offered for sale on October 7, 2013 at 10:00 AM in Chicago, Illinois. The real estate is offered for sale with the highest bidder as set forth below. The highest bidder shall be entitled only to a return of the amount paid by the highest bidder at the sale. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the highest bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that is subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the highest bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale. If the purchaser does not meet the conditions of the property, the purchaser shall be entitled only to a return of the amount paid by the purchaser at the sale. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. If the sale is to be held in the Cook County Circuit Court, the purchaser shall be entitled only to a return of the amount paid by the purchaser at the sale. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. If the sale is to be held in the Cook County Circuit Court, the purchaser shall be entitled only to a return of the amount paid by the purchaser at the sale. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the highest bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale. If the purchaser does not meet the conditions of the property, the purchaser shall be entitled only to a return of the amount paid by the purchaser at the sale. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. If the sale is to be held in the Cook County Circuit Court, the purchaser shall be entitled only to a return of the amount paid by the purchaser at the sale. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the highest bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale. If the purchaser does not meet the conditions of the property, the purchaser shall be entitled only to a return of the amount paid by the purchaser at the sale. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. If the sale is to be held in the Cook County Circuit Court, the purchaser shall be entitled only to a return of the amount paid by the purchaser at the sale. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Please refer to file number 121L00733-13. According to the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(b)(1), the property is subject to a judgment of foreclosure for the failure to pay a mortgage. The judgment was for $262,480.60, plus interest, costs, and other fees. The property is located at 1428 W Montrose Ave, Chicago, IL 60622. A public auction will be held on Wednesday, February 27, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. The sale is subject to the approval of the court and the terms set forth in the judgment. The sale is scheduled to be held at 1428 W Montrose Ave, Chicago, IL 60622. The highest bidder will become the owner of the property after the sale. The property is subject to a judgment of foreclosure and is offered for sale without any warranty or representation. The sale is subject to the approval of the court and the terms set forth in the judgment. The sale is scheduled to be held at 1428 W Montrose Ave, Chicago, IL 60622. The highest bidder will become the owner of the property after the sale. The property is subject to a judgment of foreclosure and is offered for sale without any warranty or representation.
STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PROBATE DIVISION

Case No. 2012 P 01082

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that on March 21, 2013, a sale will be held at Mr. Davis & Company, 206-1 South Dunbar Street, Chicago, Illinois 60616 to sell the following real property:

1:45 pm and continue day by day until all units are sold.

The goods to be sold are generally described as household furniture and household appliances.

The sale will be conducted at the Officering, Chicago, Illinois, and will be open to the public.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, 201 North LaSalle Street, Room 250, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

4500 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60657.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

3220 North Ashland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60657.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

1111 North Halsted Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

2101 North Wells Street, Chicago, Illinois 60614.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

1850 North Clybourn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60614.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

3305 North Stryker Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60657.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

1750 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60612.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

225 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

1540 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:


The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

1700 West Aldine Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60660.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

3333 West Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60657.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

1114 North State Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

2106 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60614.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

1900 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60614.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

400 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

300 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

100 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

200 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

120 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

330 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

200 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

100 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

200 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

120 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

330 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

200 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

The sale will be conducted at the property located at:

100 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606.
is filed within such 30 day period, then the Bonds shall be authorized to be filed with the Secretary of the District signed by electors of the Local Government Debt Reform Act.

Docked by a city or other political subdivision.

Such additional ordinances or proceedings shall in all instances become effective immediately without publication or change in the Project and the purpose described in this Ordinance.

payable from recreation program fees, facilities fees, and all other revenue sources. Such additional ordinances or proceedings shall in all instances become effective immediately without publication or change in the Project and the purpose described in this Ordinance.

In the District is hereby authorized to issue general obligation bonds for the purpose of financing capital improvements for public purposes, as described below, pursuant to the Illinois Municipal Bond Reform Act of 1995, 5 ILCS 7/105. The Bonds shall constitute "Alternate Bonds" under the terms of Section 4.8 of the Illinois Local Government Debt Reform Act of 1995, 5 ILCS 7/4.8.

Please take notice that on February 19, 2013, the Board of Commissioners of the Skokie Park District adopted the Ordinance Authorizing the Issue of General Obligation Bonds for the purpose of financing capital improvements for public purposes, as described below, pursuant to the Illinois Municipal Bond Reform Act of 1995, 5 ILCS 7/105. The Bonds shall constitute "Alternate Bonds" under the terms of Section 4.8 of the Illinois Local Government Debt Reform Act of 1995, 5 ILCS 7/4.8.

The goods to be sold are generally described as house furnishings, vehicles, and other goods to be sold "As Is / Parts Only," no titles or registration.

Management reserves the right to withdraw any unit from sale. Regulated or motor vehicles are sold "As Is / Parts Only," no titles or registration.

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD, CALL 847-998-3400

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Skokie Park Commission, Thursday, March 21, 2013, Village of Skokie, 5127 Glaton Street, Skokie, Illinois 60077, at 7:30 PM. The Board of Commissioners of the Skokie Park District, being duly sworn, says:

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION TAKEN

Mid-Moving and Storage

Such additional ordinances or proceedings shall in all instances become effective immediately without publication or change in the Project and the purpose described in this Ordinance.

Dale Forbes

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2013

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30 Years

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- 2 complimentary practice round tickets to the BMW Championship (available to the first 200 people each day)
- Bonus subscription to Golf Digest
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- Great golf destinations
- Lanny Wadkins' appearance courtesy of Encompass Championship

Order tickets online at chicagogolfshow.com  Donald E. Stephens Convention Center • Rosemont

Get up and go

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

Every Thursday
Mundelein's Brust saves Wisconsin

Mundelein alumnus Ben Brust was the hero in the Wisconsin men's basketball team's Feb. 9 win against then-No. 3 Michigan, hitting the game-tying 3-pointer at the buzzer to send the game to overtime as well as the game-winning 3-pointer in the extra period.

With the Badgers down 60-57, Brust launched a half-court heave to knot things up at the end of regulation. Then, with 39 seconds left in overtime, Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan went back to Brust. The Hawthorn Woods native stepped up again, nailing the go-ahead 3-pointer that brought the game to its final score of 65-62.

Brust finished the afternoon with a team-high 14 points — including four 3-pointers — in leading the Badgers to their 17th win of the season. The junior guard was the team's second-leading scorer (11.2 points per game) through 24 games and has played a major role in Wisconsin's surprise season.

With the win, the Badgers (17-7, 8-3 Big Ten) moved into a tie for second place and sit within a game of first.

Have a suggestion for the College Roundup? Email Nick Bullock at bullockpioneerpress@gmail.com.
As the No. 2 seed, the Notre Dame boys basketball team is among the favorites to emerge from the Glenbrook North Sectional.

But top-seeded Maine South, not to mention No. 3 New Trier, No. 4 Niles North, No. 5 Loyola and No. 6 St. Patrick all have similar sectional-title aspirations.

Notre Dame has defeated Niles North and St. Patrick this season, but lost earlier this month to suddenly-streaking Loyola.

Dons coach Tom Les said it’s hard to designate one team as the favorite to win the sectional.

"I think it’s pretty much up for grabs," he said. "There are five or six teams that are capable (of winning)."

The Dons, who entered the Tuesday’s season finale against Lincoln Park with a 21-5 record, start the postseason at 6 p.m. Feb. 26 when they face either No.15 Von Steuben or No.18 Maine East in the Class 4A Glenbrook South Regional.

One thing Les knows is that his Dons are not likely to encounter a style of play they haven’t seen this season.

"I think it’s pretty much up for grabs," he said. "There are five or six teams that are capable (of winning)."

The Dons, who entered the Tuesday’s season finale against Lincoln Park with a 21-5 record, start the postseason at 6 p.m. Feb. 26 when they face either No.15 Von Steuben or No.18 Maine East in the Class 4A Glenbrook South Regional.

Notre Dame's Donte Stephenson dribbles by his defender thanks to the pick set by teammate Danny Lazzara. Visit niles.suntimes.com/sports to view a photo gallery from the game.

Mooney's career-high 35 points proved the Air Force-bound senior has fully recovered from a tailbone injury that forced him to miss a game-and-a-half in early February.

Meanwhile, senior forward Justin Halloran appears to be getting his touch back after missing five weeks in December and January after injuring the index finger of his shooting hand.

Halloran knocked down 7-of-8 fourth-quarter free throws against St. Charles North, two other key Dons showed they were getting back to 100 percent.

Leads scorer Matt
Schedule leaves little time for hoops

BY JONAH ROSENBLUM | Contributor | @Pioneer_PrepsJR

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

The Yeshiva boys basketball team hasn't practiced in about a month, according to Shlomo Ashkanazy.

That's hardly the result of laziness. Instead, it's the result of the taxing schedule of an Orthodox Jewish school.

Ashkanazy estimated that he was at the Skokie school from 7:30 in the morning until 8:30 at night on Mondays, Tuesday and Thursdays. With Friday dedicated to the Sabbath, forcing students to abandon school early to avoid the early sunsets of the winter season, only Wednesdays and Sundays remain for basketball. And with Yeshiva trying to fit in as many games as possible, there simply isn't much time remaining for practice.

"It affects it a little bit, but no excuses," said Ashkanazy, a junior point guard. "We take those two hours (per practice) and put them to the best."

There's also not much space for Yeshiva to work with. According to coach Ira Shyman, the court his team played on Monday at Christian Liberty was far bigger than what his team is accustomed to working with. After the game - a season-ending 41-40 overtime loss to Roycemore - he huddled with one of his juniors and asked him to return in better shape so that he can better handle the larger IHSA courts.

Even so, his team kept running on Monday night.

"You can see them watching them play defense," Shyman said. "They're dying tired and they're moving their feet and they're playing. We only had three fouls in the fourth quarter and we had to start fouling on purpose because we were moving our feet so well on defense."

And his team kept improving all season long.

"I can't complain about the way they played," Shyman said. "This team was, frankly, terrible in November and December, and for the last six weeks, has gotten steadily better every game."

By season's end, Yeshiva had earned the No. 4 seed in the Class 1A Christian Liberty Regional. Roycemore was the No. 5 seed.

"What I told them is that in the three years that I've been coaching varsity basketball, this is the first time that my team steadily got better all year long," Shyman said. "Every other team plateaued like in the middle of January and then just coasted through the rest of the year. These guys kept getting better. You can't ask for any more than that."
Blue Demons set their sights on ‘big future’

BY ERIC VAN DRIL | Contributor | @EricVanDril

Evanston

After exchanging handshakes, Maine East’s players sat on the sidelines at Beardsley Gym and let the image of what it looks like to win a regional title sink into their memories.

Maine East coach Karol Hanusiak hopes that vision, along with lessons learned from a 60-30 blowout loss to Evanston on Feb. 14, provides the Blue Demons with extra motivation this offseason.

“We're only losing two seniors,” Hanusiak said. “I've got all these kids coming back. I want them to see what it looks like, what the feel is and the pictures (Evanston’s players took with the plaque), everything. Hopefully they'll want that.”

The core of this year’s team was comprised primarily of juniors, and the Class of 2014 — including Elanta Slowek, Shaylee Sloan, Jazlene Gonzalez and Maria Protic — led the program to its first regional championship game in 11 years. This season was also the first time in 11 years the Blue Demons (15-15) reached double-digit victories, according to Hanusiak.

Maine East’s success did not make its postseason matchup against one of the state’s best defensive squads any easier, according to freshman guard Janelle Alba Garner.

“It was a little bit overwhelming, but you've got to get past that so you can play your best out there (to) get the win,” said Alba Garner, a freshman. “We have such a big future with this team.”

As Hanusiak said throughout the season, Maine East has had to learn how to win and get accustomed to playing in tight situations with games on the line.

The next step for returning players is to challenge, and defeat, teams like Evanston.

“This is good for us,” Hanusiak said of the 30-point loss to the Wildkits. “No one wants to beat teams that are inferior to you. You have to beat the better teams and, unfortunately at times, you have to lose to the better teams in order for you to get better.”

Maine East’s Elanta Slowek scores against Evanston in the Evanston Regional final on Feb. 14. Visit parkridge.suntimes.com/sports to view a photo gallery from the game. | JOEL LERNER-Sun-Times Media
When Alex Galanopoulos looks back on her junior basketball season, June 22, 2012, will always be the point when everything went south.

Galanopoulos tore her left ACL as she went up for a layup at the Doug Bruno Basketball Camp that day. The injury, a complete tear of the ACL and a torn meniscus, required surgery and forced Galanopoulos to miss her junior basketball season after starting as a sophomore.

In spite of the injury, Galanopoulos was one of the Wolves' two captains this season. The junior concentrated on being a vocal leader — "I was always screaming ... (to) let everyone know what we're doing," Galanopoulos said — and provided inexperienced players like sophomores Julia Easter and Katherine De Lara with words of encouragement.

"We had a really young team, so this year was a learning experience for everyone," Galanopoulos said. "I told them they shouldn't feel pressure, everyone's going to make mistakes this year and it's nothing to worry about. Shake it off, and you'll be fine."

Those words of encouragement helped De Lara and her teammates keep pushing, even at the most difficult points of Niles West's 4-20 season. "Alex is a really good leader," De Lara said. "We were in games where (she) could just tell that we wanted to give up, and she would be there to tell us to just keep working at it. That was one of the things about our team: We never game up, no matter what the score was."

During the early stages of her recovery, Galanopoulos said she cried a lot. But those tears eventually led to motivation. "I just had to stay strong through it all; crying about it wasn't going to make it any better," Galanopoulos said. "So I just have to work really hard at therapy."

As she approaches month seven of her nine-month road to recovery, Galanopoulos said she is ahead of schedule and will most likely be at full strength near the beginning of May. She says she hopes to play AAU basketball to prepare for her return to Niles West's lineup next season.

Galanopoulos' return figures to help improve the team's ball handling and shooting, two of Niles West's biggest weaknesses this season.
Niles North's 56-55 victory over Deerfield. It largely kept both out of the lane and forced Niles North to rely on its outside shooting. The triangle-and-2 is one of many zone defenses the Vikings have encountered this season — they saw a 2-3 zone, a 3-2 zone, a triangle-and-2 and a box-and-1 just against Deerfield — and Niles North's B.J. Beckford drives to the hoop as he's guarded by Deerfield's Patrick Burns during their game on Friday in Deerfield. Visit skokie.suntimes.com/sports to view a photo gallery from the game. CHANDLER WEST-for Sun-Times Media
in Niles North's narrow win over Deerfield, but the squad's other guards missed all five of their 3-point attempts.

With so much attention now on Nix and Beckford, Myles, a junior, and seniors Penn and Jason Taylor must contribute more offensively. All three guards have done so at various points since Dillard's dismissal, Nix said. Myles hit five 3-pointers and scored a career-high 19 points against Hersey on Feb. 9, while Penn scored 10 points in that same game. Penn and Myles combined for 12 points in a 61-40 victory over Maine East on Feb. 8.

Still, Dillard's dismissal places the heaviest burden on Beckford and Nix. Not only have they received the most attention from opposing defenses, but both — especially Nix, because Dillard can no longer spell him at point guard — also must stay out of foul trouble.

"With (Dillard) out, I guess they're more focused on me and Malachi," Beckford said. "We have a lot more players on our team that can score too, and (opponents) don't realize that. We're not too worried about losing Lorenzo. We're still going to play how we play."
Alcock's medal a highlight for Trevians

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CHAMPAIGN

New Trier had five wrestlers qualify for the Class 3A state meet, but only Chris Alcock was able to finish with a state medal.

The senior became New Trier's first state medalist since Walker Kahn took fifth at 275 pounds in Class AA in 2002. Alcock (31-9) placed sixth at 126 Saturday at Assembly Hall after losing his final match to Plainfield Central junior Nick Nasenbeny 4-0. Alcock guaranteed himself a medal with a 2-0 win over Edwardsville's Haydon Grammer in the wrestlebacks.

"I should have kept shooting (against Nasenbeny). I didn't get a shot," Alcock said. "It was a good ending (to my career). One of my goals was to go to state, although I thought I could do better."

Alcock climbed back through the wrestlebacks after losing his quarterfinal match to eventual state champion Jered Cortez (48-0) of Glenbard North by a technical fall at 1:12. Alcock went 3-3 in the state tournament.

Alcock had to overcome minor injuries during the season that kept him out of action for two weeks. He recovered in time near the end of the season to make the first state tournament appearance of his career.

"(Alcock) progressed every year. He developed his own style," New Trier coach Marc Tadelman said. "He did not become a state qualifier last year. He worked hard at it (this year). He wrestled all year round, lifted weights and developed into a pretty good wrestler."

The only other New Trier wrestler to compete in more than one match was senior Paul Papoutsis at 160, who went 1-2 in the state meet. Papoutsis (25-11) lost to Downers Grove South's Alex Anaya in the wrestlebacks, just one victory shy of earning a medal.

Colin Kenyon at 113 and John Benson at 220 lost their only state matches. One other qualifier, M.J. Pritchard at 120, was withdrawn by Tadelman from the state meet shortly before it began Thursday. Tadelman would not comment on Pritchard's status.

SUTER THIRD

Glenbrook South senior Jacob Suter (38-3) defeated Dundee-Crown senior Ray Grigle (18-8) by a pin in overtime to take third place at 220.

Suter became the Titans' first state medalist since Craig Swenson placed second at 145 in Class AA in 1990. Suter became the first third-place finisher in school history after winning his two wrestleback matches.
He lost in the semifinals 5-2 to eventual state champion Tom Howell (38-5) of Marist.

MONREAL-BERNER MEDALS

Vaughn Monreal-Berner (36-10) not only has the longest name of any Niles West state wrestling medalist, but the senior also became the heaviest after finishing sixth at 182.

Monreal-Berner lost his final match to Mount Carmel's Jimmy Mickens 7-0. He won three matches through the wrestlebacks after losing in the quarterfinals to eventual state runner-up Donnie Bell of Homewood-Flossmoor.

Prior to Monreal-Berner, the heaviest medalist in school history was 1962 state champion Bob Herkert at 165. Monreal-Berner became the school's first state medalist since Stephen Robertson finished second at 112 in Class AA in 2008.

GALLARDO WINS ONE

Evanston Regional champion Notre Dame sent three wrestlers to state, but sophomore Jimmy Gallardo at 113 picked up the team's only win.

The Dons went a combined 1-4 in the state meet. Gallardo (34-6) won 4-0 over New Trier's Kenyon in his opening match.

The other qualifiers, Sean Heneghan (152) and Gino Orlandi (285), lost their only matches Thursday.
Mount Carmel's Jimmy Mickens (left) wrestles Niles West 182-pounder Vaughn Monreal-Berner (right) during their fifth-place match at Saturday's Class 3A state tournament. | MATTHEW GROTT-Sun-Times Media

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