Notre Dame High School cheerleaders dance during a Zumba class to raise money to go to a cheer competition in Florida. The football players they root for came out, too. | ROB HART·Sun-Times Media

### Working towards a trip

**Go**
Indigo Girls make a stop in Skokie [Page 48]

**Food**
More to the avocado than guacamole [Page 37]

**Homespun**
Bring sense of order to jewelry box [Page 36]
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Football players bust out dance moves

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES
It wasn't a typical Sunday morning for Tom Sora.

The football player who attends Notre Dame College Preparatory School in Niles and a bunch of his friends were working up a sweat, but not on the football field.

Sora participated in a Zumba dance class on Sunday, Feb. 24 at Notre Dame in order to help raise money for the Notre Dame College Preparatory School's cheerleaders to go to Florida to compete in the upcoming International Cheer Competition.

The team won first place at this competition for three consecutive years and took home second place last year.

"This year, we're hoping to get back our title," said Elsa McAndrew, the mother of Ali McAndrew, who is the captain of the Notre Dame squad she has cheered on for four years, about the Zumba class. "I think it was a really fun opportunity to get the girls and boys together."

"It was good," said Sora, about the Zumba class that got a large crowd of cheerleaders, athletes and community members moving to high-energy Latin music. "It was interesting and different."

Sora said Notre Dame College Prep cheerleaders do a lot to support the football and basketball teams throughout the year.

"We've got to pay them back somehow," said Sora. He said that most of the guys weren't used to dancing and it was fun to try a new form of exercise.

"It was awesome," said Maria McAndrew, the mother of Alison McAndrew, who is the cheer advisor for Notre Dame College Prep cheerleaders at Notre Dame High School in Niles. The NDHS cheerleaders are raising money to go to the International cheer competition in Florida. | PHOTOS BY ROB HART-Sun-Times Media

The men's sports teams dance to Gangnam Style during a Zumba class to benefit the cheerleaders at Notre Dame High School in Niles. The NDHS cheerleaders are raising money to go to the International cheer competition in Florida.

Resurrection College Prep, Trinity High School and Regina Dominican.

"We cheer for all home football and basketball games," said Gomez, who has been the cheer advisor for Notre Dame for five years.

The squad competes locally as well as out of state and
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Niles Police Division Commander Vince Genuardi (left) Sergeant Ron Brandt, and Patrol Officer Jim Griesenauer jumped in Lake Michigan to benefit Special Olympics. | MICHAEL JARECKI-For Sun-Times Media

Park Ridge Police Chief Frank Kaminski, Maine South senior JR O’Rourke, Maine South Principal Shawn Messmer, and Park Ridge Financial Planner Sev Meneshian huddle before jumping in Lake Michigan. | MICHAEL JARECKI-For Sun-Times Media

Cops plunge for Special Olympics

BY STEVE SCHERING | sschering@pioneerlocal.com

EVANSTON

Though the beach on the campus of Northwestern University was covered in a fresh coat of snow and the volleyball nets flapped in the cold Lake Michigan breeze, it was still seen as perfect swimming weather for some.

The staff of the Law Enforcement Torch Run was able to cut through the shoreline ice to create just enough of an opening for dozens of police officers and fellow fundraisers to soak in the experience of the 2013 polar plunge.

Plungers gathered inside heated tents for one last warm-up before waiting in line for their turn to test the 40-degree water. Supporters included representatives from the Niles Police Department and community.

The officers braved the chilly weather and a lengthy wait in line with sand and snow between their toes before hearing their department

| Plunge [Page 10]
District 71 teachers want board voice

By Natasha Wasinski | Contributor

Culver School teachers have unsuccessfully tried to convince District 71 leadership last month that they needed more face time and dialogue with the school board.

So, they recently tried again.

Flanked by two dozen colleagues, longtime music instructor Christine Dworak read a letter at the Feb. 19 Board of Education meeting asking officials to consider reinstating a Teacher/Administration/Board, or TAB, committee.

Bringing staff and the board together for discussion would help the school district "stay on top of what the future of education holds for our children," Dworak said, adding: "The staff is overwhelmingly in favor of formulating this committee."

A federal mediator mandated the creation of such a committee two decades ago, following a strike in 1994 by the Niles Council of Teachers during contract negotiations.

It was the first and only time in the history of Niles Elementary School District 71 union staff had picketed.

While contracts aren't an apparent issue now - the current teachers' agreement through June 2016 was ratified last summer - there are other topics to talk about, the instructors insist.

Pension reform, teacher evaluations, and the ever-changing demands of technology come to mind, said special education teacher John Petitt.

"I don't know that we have concerns," he said. "We just want a chance to reconnect in a meaningful way."

He credited the successful contract negotiation to face-to-face sit downs where teachers and officials shared their visions for Culver School.

"I think (the TAB committee) is a way to continue that," he said.

District 71 Superintendent Amy Kruppe says avenues for communication between teaching staff and district leaders already exist. School board presentations, weekly meetings with union leaders, and 20 teacher administrative committees are a few of the ways in which teacher feedback is solicited.

"Our teachers have a very active role with opportunities to provide input to our school," Kruppe said. "We are proud of this collaboration, believe it is important, and intend on continuing these opportunities."

Kruppe also noted the school board's duties don't typically include participating in committees for the sake of discussion.

"When you look at the role of the board, it's to do policy, it's to approve the budget, and it's to hire the superintendent to run the district," she said.

John Zuckerman, who served on the school board when District 71 introduced the TAB committee in the mid-90's, remembered the meetings to be informal.

"It was sitting around and talking," he said.

He said conversations were sometimes valuable but, eventually, "no one had any meat left to discuss and the committee died its own death."
IN PROFILE

Maine South grad wins sketchy prize

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

PARK RIDGE

What started out as doodling during class turned into an exciting extracurricular activity and later a national award for 2012 Maine South High School graduate Adrian Adamiec.


Adamiec joined Southwords his sophomore year as a graphic designer and worked as head of production his junior and senior years. Today he is attending Loyola University Chicago, but looking ahead to transferring to the University of Illinois at Chicago next fall where he plans to study industrial design.

Q: How did you end up joining Southwords?
A: I pretty much doodle in every single one of my classes. To some teachers it seemed like I was not paying attention, but there was a (TV news) story about how doodling actually proves that there's more brain activity and that students who doodle remember more from a class lecture. My English teacher saw that same story, so she was OK with me doodling in class. She asked if I was involved in any art program and I said no. She said, "I know Southwords is looking for a graphic designer, someone to work with the artistic side." One way or another, I got an interview with Mr. (Alex) Stathakis (Southwords advisor), I brought in my drawings and he seemed to like them.

Q: What was your experience like with Southwords?
A: It was incredible. I loved it. I think everybody did. Mr. S has a great sense of humor. My senior year, when I started doing more comic strips, he was my go-to guy for getting a punchline right. It really seemed like everyone in the class was really smart, really funny to be around. It was really the highlight of most of my time in high school.

Q: What inspired your winning cartoon?
A: All of the graphics we made are created with a very discussion-based process. I think some of my friends and people on staff — who are also my friends — they threw around ideas. They said, "We need a graphic that talks about Mitt Romney and how he's sweeping the polls in Illinois." I don't know where the boxing idea came from. I guess I just started thinking, "Wouldn't it be funny if they were in a boxing ring shaped like Illinois?" After I got that idea I drew in Obama, because in every single one of my graphics I try to cram in every single thing I can. I've been described as lacking restraint (laughs).

Q: What did you think about winning second place?
A: It was really cool to hear I was up for it. ... (Southwords) had won a Golden Eagle Award, which Mr. S was superexcited about. He said he was going to send some of our stuff in for national awards. I was not expecting to even be in the running, but it turned out I was among the top five finalists.

Q: When did you start drawing?
A: It's something I always did as a kid, since I was two or three. I think it was probably my mom who got me to try it. I would try to draw a circle on a piece of paper and I wouldn't be happy unless it was a perfect circle. I would crumple the paper and throw it away.

The way I improved was by watching cartoons or reading comic books and trying to draw the characters from those stories. I've always been doing it during school. It's been pretty much around my whole life.

Q: What do you like most to draw?
A: During the summer sometimes I get bored, especially if I'm not working. A couple of years back, using Facebook, I said, "I'm going to do a caricature of the person who is at the top of my friends' list on Facebook." Usually I know something about them, so I'd try to use some inside jokes. If I was really lost I'd ask them what they wanted in their caricatures.

Anything I really care about I have drawings of. I love cartoons and animated movies. When I saw "Wreck It Ralph" all my college notes were littered with drawings of the main characters.

Q: Do you have a favorite animated series?
A: I really like the animated series "Avatar: the Last Airbender." And "The Legend of Korra." It's by the same creators.

Q: What are some of your other interests?
A: I'm actually finishing up a novel right now. I gave a draft to one of my buddies I really trust because he's into fantasy and I'm a science-fiction guy. I'm hoping to finish up in the next few weeks and send it to an editor once I get the green light from my friend.
Plunge
Continued from page 7

name called to rush the
water.
In total, 166 plungers
helped raise $70,184
and the Niles officers
were proud to help out.
"As much as we can,"
Niles Police Sergeant
Ron Brandt said of their
fundraising goal. "It was
nice. (The water) wasn't
that bad this year."
Joining Brandt was
division commander
Vince Genualdi and first
time plunger officer Jim
Griesenauer. The rookie
polar plunger didn't re-
ceive too much advice
from his veteran offi-
cers, but not much was
needed on this day.
"They told me
it would be cold."
Griesenauer said. "It
was nowhere near as
bad as I thought. We
were colder waiting in
line."
The officers ran in,
soaked in some chilly
Lake Michigan water
and made a dart to
the nearest warming
tent for an immedi-
ate change of clothes.
Overall, the officers
were proud to join their
peers in raising money
for an organization that
is dear to most of their
hearts.
"I went to my knees,
we posed for a picture
and then I went down
on my belly," Griesenau-
er said. "It was great.
The donations and
organization are really
great." U

District 67, park district eye
gym-sharing agreement

The Morton Grove
Park District and Golf
Elementary School
District 67 are consid-
ering striking a deal
to build a new gym at
Hynes School.
The school district has drafted
what officials say is a very pre-
liminary version of a possible
agreement that would have the
park district provide funds to
help cover the costs of some
extra items for the gym, such as
bleachers, and also share in the
operating costs once the gym is
completed.
The school district also is look-
ing to end an annual payment to
the park district for the mainte-
nance of Hren Park, behind Golf
Middle School.
The park is on school district
property, but was completed and
is being maintained by the park
district, which shares in its use.
The District 67 School Board
discussed the proposal Thursday
night.
But Rich Grodsky, interim ex-
cutive director at the park dis-
trict, said his board is aware of
the talks, but has not discussed
the proposal.
He said the park district is al-
ways in need of additional space
for programs, but likely will not
be able to make any decision on
an agreement with the school
district until a new compre-
prehensive plan is completed this

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The new gym, to be built next summer, is being funded through a bond sale approved by voters in November. The school district is in the process of going out for bids for construction of the gym. Depending on how the bids come in, some of the extra items could be added.

"You may chose to incorporate some of those and you may not," said Leanne Meyer-Smith, from Wight Architects, the firm designing the gym and upgrades to both schools.

The additional items include such things as a motorized divided curtain, bleachers, a scoreboard and repairs to the parking area. They total $360,000.

District 67 Superintendent Jamie Reilly said the park district appears willing to consider the idea of sharing use of the gym. She said talks last year about the same issue were less positive.

"The ball is already rolling. We're not where we were a year ago," she said.

Grodsky said that at the park district discussions so far are at the staff level.

Marty McConahay, acting District 67 business manager, said he developed a draft of an agreement to get things started, though it is very preliminary and has not been presented to the park district.

He said the school district could recoup about half of the cost of operating the new gym, which will be used by the school district about 180 days a year.

"That would help our operating expenses," McConahay said.

If an agreement is reached, the park district would likely be able to use the gym for its programs at least some nights, weekends, during school breaks and over the summer.

"This would be a pretty good deal for us and a pretty good deal for the park district over the long term," he said.

In addition to sharing such things as utility costs, McConahay said an agreement would likely have the two districts share items like repairs and any renovations done later.

Also, he said, both would have to provide insurance.

School officials plan to discuss the issue further in a committee meeting next week.

McConahay said one important issue for the school district is the Hren Park agreement, which runs for another 19 years. The park district took over development of the park after the school district was unable to complete it. The park district also maintains it with an annual $10,000 payment from the school district.

McConahay called it a "thorn in the side" that the district should try to eliminate.

Dance
Continued from page 5

practices two to three times per week. The junior varsity squad only participates in local competitions. In addition to cheering their team on, the girls participate in gymnastics, dance and stunting as part of the program.

In addition to learning routines, Elsa said the cheerleaders learn the essence of teamwork, commitment and pride. She said they learn good showmanship and how to be confident.

"We strive for that all year," said Gomez.

Gomez said they recently held a parents night out fundraiser, and each year they hold a kiddie cheer camp for girls as young as five years old and as old as eighth grade, where the kids learn how to cheer and get the chance to cheer at the first home game.

Gomez said that in addition to going to InterNationals there are other expenses throughout the year as well.

"We love the program and we love the girls," said Gomez, who said she appreciates all the support from the parents.

For McAndrew, the best part about cheerleading is the close relationships she has formed with the other cheerleaders and the coaches.

"The coaches are like our second moms," said McAndrew.
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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.

**WEAPONS**

Sean Owens, 45, of 11725 S. Artesian Ave., Chicago, was charged with unlawful use of a weapon on Feb. 15 after a police officer reportedly saw a 4.5-inch knife near the middle console of his vehicle during a traffic stop on the 7700 block of Milwaukee Avenue. He has a March 27 court date.

**THEFT**

A 31-year-old Niles woman told police she accepted a job as a “mystery shopper” on Feb. 7 and was sent two money orders totaling $1,890. The woman deposited the money orders into her bank account and then wired $1,500 to an individual in Louisiana at the instruction of her “employer.” On Feb. 13 after they were allegedly involved in taking merchandise from a warehouse on the 5900 block of Howard Street.

Sophia Ely, 20, of 433 Washington Ct., Glenview, and a 17-year-old Chicago girl were each charged with retail theft on Feb. 16. Police said the pair stole items valued at $471.77 from a store on the 8500 block of Golf Road by placing the merchandise inside two large plastic containers and paying only for the containers at the self-checkout register.

**FRAUD**

A 67-year-old taxi driver told police his iPhone was stolen Feb. 17 at a restaurant on the 9400 block of Milwaukee Avenue. He has a March 13 court date.

**BATTERY**

A 67-year-old taxi driver told police his iPhone was stolen Feb. 17 at a restaurant on the 9400 block of Milwaukee Avenue. He has a March 13 court date.

**THEFT**

A man reported that his jacket was stolen Feb. 17 between 3:18 and 4:18 a.m. from a bar on the 8700 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

A man told police his iPhone was stolen from a bench Feb. 17 at the Niles Family Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Dr.

**FORGERY**

Two incidents of altered currency were reported to police on Feb. 16. In one incident an employee at a restaurant on the 9400 block of Milwaukee Avenue told police that a man fled the establishment after attempting to pass a $20 bill that was doctored to look like a $100 bill. Several minutes later police learned that a man successfully paid for $11 worth of merchandise at a store on the same block with a $20 bill made to look like a $100 bill.
The ad on the Niles Public Library bulletin board was nothing if not urgent.

"Due to the economy, FISH is experiencing over 40 percent rise in ridership. It is straining both the volunteer service level and the budget. [...] To continue to provide a high level of service to all residents of Maine Township, FISH needs volunteers."

Since 1971, Friends Indeed Serve and Help (FISH) volunteer drivers have been helping Maine Township residents get to medical appointments free of charge. Over the past six years, the township has been assisting them with finances and logistics. But the situation isn't quite as dire as the ad suggests. While the budget is not really an issue, the need for volunteers is very much there.

FISH operates strictly within township limits, serving portions of Park Ridge, Morton Grove, Niles and Glenview. Most of the clients are seniors, but FISH service is available to all township residents. The volunteers use their own vehicles and cover most expenses out of their own pocket.

In 2007, Maine Township decided that FISH deserved some extra help. "To make a long story short, we decided to offer one of our receptionists to take calls and set up appointments," explained Maine Township Supervisor Carol Teschky. "It relieved volunteers from taking calls and setting up schedules. It worked out pretty well."

The township also gave FISH an annual stipend. Most of it is used to cover liability insurance. FISH uses the rest to purchase gift cards for particularly dedicated volunteers.

According to the latest township budget, the stipend is $2,000 — a drop in the bucket next to $639,401 it spends on youth and family services overall.

Teschky said the stipend has been at this level since the township partnered with FISH, and the township has no intention to change it.

FISH Director Ed Oken said that, while the budget is not an issue, the need for volunteers is very much there. The number of volunteers tends to drop during winter, and this year is no exception. So far, FISH has been able to make due with volunteers they had, but that may not last.

"Most of our volunteers are retired people themselves," said Oken. "So they get illnesses, problems, issues." This makes it harder to anticipate volunteer shortages.

"If we are desperate, we call some people, see if maybe the schedule changed," said Oken.

The growing ridership compounds the situation. Since 2008, it has been increasing faster than ever. In Oken's opinion, the current state of economy is at least partially to blame for this. "People have to look for jobs, or work part-time jobs, so they don't have time to drive grandma and grandpa to the doctor," he said.

FISH service is willing to be flexible for their clients, but only to a certain extent.

"Sometimes, you get early appointments," said Oken. "If you have an appointment at 8:30, we can pick you up before 9. But if somebody had to go at 6 in morning, we can't do it."

He insisted that the schedule is rarely an issue, since appointments tend to fall between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Overall, the township has been happy with FISH's work.

"It's a great group, and we really appreciate what they are doing to help their fellow people," said Teschky.
Library evolving into ‘third space’

Pam Leffler said a library is sometimes thought of as the “third space.”

The first two are home and work. But the library fills a gap and provides a place where people can get together, spend time and learn.

“I think that’s really true,” said Leffler, executive director of the Morton Grove Public Library. “So many people now are coming in and using that third space.”

As the library marks its 75th anniversary this year, Leffler took some time to look ahead, assess the strengths of the library and the ways it will meet the needs of the Morton Grove community in the future.

There are aspects of the library that already have evolved.

Once a haven primarily for book lovers, the library over the years has expanded its offerings with a heavy emphasis on technology.

The library offers desktop computers and WIFI access for users who bring their own notebook computers or other devices.

Its website also was recently updated to provide much more information.

Natalya Fishman, head of adult services, noted in a recent report a huge increase in the use of Media Mall, a service provided by the library that offers library cardholders e-books they can download to their own devices.

In October 2011 the total books check out through the system was 4,411. January of this year set a new record, 1,053.

Leffler said the library has become a place where people come not just to find books or even other materials such as DVDs. But it is a place where people gather to meet and talk and share ideas.

“Those people may not be coming in to check out books,” she said. “They may be here for two or three hours using our WIFI.”

“We’ve seen an increasing number of people looking for digital content,” she added.

In response to the growing use of technology, Leffler said the library has added an array of computer programs, both classes and one-on-one tutorials.

“We do a lot of tech drop-ins where people can get assistance,” Leffler said.

Fishman said that in response to the needs of patrons, the library staff has become much more technologically capable. It makes them much more able to help library users who themselves do not know much about technology...

“We understand that not everybody is computer-adept. We all have to be very technologically savvy so we can help.”

Those are the kinds of services Leffler said would continue to grow, though whatever the library does will have to be done within the constraints of both the size of the building and available financial resources.

“There are space limitations. There are dollar limitations,” Leffler said. “There’s a balancing act. The challenge is really balancing all these things.”

Library officials have just started a renewed look at space issues, to find a way to maximize the use of the space that is available.

As part of that, Leffler said, they will be looking at future needs. It could mean some changes.

“We’ll look at our collection and the services we provide,” Leffler said. “Do we have fewer print resources in order to provide more meeting space, study space?”

“The board has been very supportive in looking at those issues,” Leffler added.

One way the library has and will continue to maximize its resources is by partnering with other, neighboring libraries.

Morton Grove is among five libraries that take part in a low-vision fair in the fall.

“That’s been very successful,” Leffler said.

Recently the library received a grant from the National Endowment of Humanities for a “Muslim Journeys Bookshelf” featuring books, DVDs and a year of free access to an Islamic database.

Leffler said she is working with other libraries that also have gotten the grant to maximize its value.

“It’s just a small thing we can do to recognize and support the diversity of the community,” Leffler said.

One of the things the library has done well is provide both youth and adult programs.

“This is such a precarious time. Morton Grove is no different,” Leffler said.

“We work hard to do what we can for the residents of Morton Grove. They seem appreciative of it,” she added.

“We want to be the institution the community needs.”
The Village of Niles fired one of its senior officials at a special meeting last week, claiming that he exhibited "questionable business practices.

But the attorney for Seth Knobel, the former Director of Family Services for the Village of Niles who Mayor Robert Callero recently removed from his position, says politics is to blame.

"We don't really know the real reason," said Edward Feldman, Knobel's attorney. "It's some sort of politics."

"They never talked to Seth," said Feldman, who said the village did not speak with Knobel before removing him from his position.

At a 10-minute special board meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 19, Callero explained that he let go of Knobel due to "questionable business practices."

Callero said village employees and their spouses and families are supposed to receive free services from Niles Family Services under the village code, but that Knobel was instead charging many employees and their families for these services.

At the same meeting on Feb. 19, Callero also named Kelly Mickle, the director of the Niles Senior Center, the acting director of family services.

"He didn't have practices of collecting any money from the workers," said Feldman. "They claim to have done an investigation, but we doubt they've done much of an investigation."

In a written statement, Feldman said, "The village was aware of and agreed to his practices, which were legitimate. Moreover, last week the village admitted that the Mayor's decision to part ways with Mr. Knobel 'is not based on the outcome of our investigation of the underlying facts involved.'"

The statement said Knobel "devoted 12 years of faithful service to the Village of Niles." At the closing of the statement, it added, "This is no way to treat a dedicated public servant."

"They have not shared much information with us," Feldman said of the village.

Village trustees were given the opportunity to make a motion to override Callero's decision to let go of Knobel, but no trustees chose to.

"It's unfortunate," said Village Trustee Joseph LoVerde, following the Feb. 19 meeting. "It seems like the words "investigation" and "Niles" go hand in hand."

Annunzio said that by law, Callero must hold the special open meeting whenever he removes an appointed official, such as a director of a village department.

"We'll let the investigation play out and see what the outcome is," said LoVerde.
InOut Labs helps employers improve productivity, reduce accidents, minimize absenteeism, and trim the costs associated with drugs and alcohol in the workplace. Whether in their Morton Grove clinic, in a facility closer to your location, or on location at your business, InOut Labs makes managing your drug and alcohol testing program easier and more effective, with a minimum of wasted time.

Lab analysis takes place in HHS certified laboratories, and some tests even provide instant results. Department of Labor statistics clearly illustrate the impact of drug and alcohol abuse on businesses, and the positive influence of well-run drug and alcohol testing programs. Nearly one in 10 workers is an illicit drug user, and those with substance abuse problems cost employers in several ways:

- More Accidents: Substance abusers are 3 to 4 times more likely to have an accident on the job and five times more likely to file a workers compensation claim.
- Medical Claims: Substance abusers file 300 to 400 percent more costly medical claims.
- Absenteeism: Users are absent an average of three weeks more per year and tardy three times more often than nonusers.

According to HR professionals, after implementing drug testing programs, companies with high absenteeism rates cut their absenteeism rates in half. (The Journal of Global Drug Policy and Practice). Companies also realized meaningful reductions in employee turnover rates.

Productivity: Substance abusers produce 33 to 50 percent less than nonusers. According to HR professionals, after implementing drug testing programs, one-fifth of companies surveyed experienced increases in productivity. (The Journal of Global Drug Policy and Practice).

Employee theft: It is estimated that 50 to 80 percent of all the pilferage, theft, and loss in the workplace are due to substance-using employees.

**Quijano named lia sophia Monthly Achiever MORTON GROVE**

In an effort to distinguish the company's top sales producers, lia sophia has recognized Sheryl-Lyn Quijano as a Monthly Achiever. Quijano, who is ranked among the top sales representatives in the organization, is now part of an elite group of company Advisors and Leaders who have been acknowledged for their outstanding jewelry sales efforts.

"We're so pleased to applaud the personal achievements in sales reached by Sheryl-Lynn," says Aleks Bogdanovski, vice president of U.S. Sales for lia sophia. "This attests to the dedication, hard work and passion that go into successfully forming your own business."

The Monthly Achievers are applauded and recognized in the national monthly newsletter from lia sophia, which is distributed throughout the organization. Accumulated monthly sales can qualify Advisors and Leaders for annual awards.

According to Quijano, "Earning money by helping my hostesses and customers find beautiful, affordable jewelry has been so satisfying for me. Building and maintaining my own business and receiving recognition have been experiences I never dreamed I would have."

For more information about lia sophia, contact Sheryl-Lyn Quijano at www.liasophia.com/sherylyn or visit www.liasophia.com.
What it means to you

TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

CHICAGO

Mayor Rahm Emanuel last week demanded another round of cost-cutting at Taste of Chicago after last year's shrunken, revamped and bumped Taste lost $1.3 million, $300,000 more than the year before.

"I told the team at Cultural Affairs to re-think [the Taste]. Attendance was up. Revenue was up. The problem is, costs were up. And I said, "We have to come down on that," Emanuel said.

"There were pop-up restaurants. There were new types of restaurants offered. They're gonna have to think through how we do that."

To reverse $1 million in losses in 2011 alone, Emanuel cut last year's Taste — from 10 days to five — and bumped it to mid-July from its prime position around July 4.

The number of restaurants was reduced. A handful of "pop-up" restaurants that had never before participated were allowed to get in on the Taste for just one day. Celebrity chefs — including Graham Elliot and Girl & the Goat's Stephanie Izard — prepared three-course, sit-down meals for $40-a-person.

For the first time, Taste patrons were asked to pay $25 each for 3,000 reserved concert seats at the Petrillo Music Shell that had long been free.

— Chicago Sun-Times

SPRINGFIELD

A two-year-old temporary Illinois income tax increase should become permanent to pay an increasing state portion of employee pension costs through 2019, a top House Democrat said last week.

Deputy Majority Leader Lou Lang's proposal to shrink a $96 billion deficit in five state retirement systems also would increase the retirement age to 67 and increase employee contributions by 3 percentage points.

The Skokie Democrat called his entry into the years-long struggle to find a pension solution an idea that would meet with a judge's constitutional approval, compared to others that tinker with post-retirement cost-of-living increases.

"This is a plan that's constitutional, that's fundable," Lang said at a state Capitol news conference.

Lang did not address the common claim that the state's annual obligation to long-term retiree programs — more than $7 billion in the budget year that begins in July — already eats up the 67 percent income-tax increase Gov. Pat Quinn pushed into law in 2011 to reduce the state budget deficit. The evidence is in the $9 billion in overdue bills Illinois owes for goods and services, which has barely budged in that time.

— The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Republicans and other fiscal conservatives keep insisting on more federal austerity and a smaller government. Without much fanfare or acknowledgement, they've already gotten much of both.

Spending by federal, state and local governments on payrolls, equipment, buildings, teachers, emergency workers, defense programs and other core governmental functions has been shrinking steadily since the deep 2007-2009 recession and as the anemic recovery continues.

This recent shrinkage has largely been obscured by an increase in spending on benefit payments to individuals under "entitlement" programs, including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and veterans benefits. Retiring baby boomers are driving much of this increase.

Another round of huge cuts — known in Washington parlance as the "sequester" — will hit beginning March 1, potentially meaning layoffs for hundreds of thousands of federal workers unless Congress and President Barack Obama can strike a deficit-reduction deal to avert them.

While last-minute budget deals are frequent in Washington, neither Obama nor Republicans who control the House are optimistic of reaching one this time.

— The Associated Press

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Emanuel: City must take another bite out of costs at The Taste

Emanuel: City must take another bite out of costs at The Taste

Skokie Dem's pension proposal calls for permanent tax hike

Government downsizes amid GOP demands for more cuts
For real: It's a crisis

The crisis is real.

Illinois has fallen behind by a whopping $96 billion in funding its public employee pension systems, and nothing short of drastic measures will fix the problem.

Politicians on both sides of the aisle in Springfield know this, which is why nothing gets done — nobody wants to be the bad guy with the public employee unions or the taxpayers. Public finance experts know this, which is why Moody's Investor Service downgraded the state's bond rating last year — something has to give.

That $96 billion is almost three times the size of the state's annual general revenue fund, $33 billion. If nothing is done to gain control of the state's pension liability, it eventually will crowd out spending on everything else. Or — and this is more likely — the pension system will go bankrupt, stranding current and future retirees.

Gov. Pat Quinn has cut state spending to 2008 levels. The number of state employees this fiscal year was slashed to 48,000 from 51,000.

Bottom line, pension benefits must be reduced, and new revenues must be found.

Facing the truth, even when it hurts

It's at the forefront.

When you research Native American history, you don't have to go far before you come to what is known as the Sand Creek Massacre.

I first learned of it in high school — not in class but when I read the great book Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee by Dee Brown, at the time a professor at the University of Illinois. Everyone should read his book, which details what can only be described as America's attitude of genocide toward Native people.

Brown's description of the Sand Creek Massacre, which occurred Nov. 29, 1864 in Colorado, moved me to tears, especially when he described the great Cheyenne chief Black Kettle raising an American flag above his lodge because he had been told it would show he was peaceful and keep him safe. He was murdered along with the mostly older men, women, and children.

The Sand Creek Massacre is important today for what it means to Northwestern University in Evanston. A group of Native American students have raised the issue with the university because of John Evans, a Northwestern founder, benefactor and namesake of Evanston.

At the time of the massacre, Evans was the territorial governor of Colorado. The Northwestern students are questioning Evans' role in fostering an atmosphere of hate at that time in Colorado should not be considered OK in light of the good he did with Northwestern.

At the time, Evans was removed from office after a Congressional investigation into the massacre. He was criticized for his testimony before the investigating panel — in other words, for trying to cover up his knowledge that the slaughtered were friendly toward whites. Even famed Indian fighter Kit Carson was revolted by the massacre of women and children.

Another lesson — and here is where Northwestern can lead — is that Native people still suffer from the decades-long campaign of extermination that was part national mood and part national policy in the 19th century.

As an educational community, Northwestern must tell the truth about one of its founders, no matter where it leads. It can also take steps — through scholarships for Native Americans, educational programs, truth telling — to right the wrong that has had such sad and devastating consequences.
So, are all jobs created equal?

Dear Governor:

I am a job creator. I have been reading for a while in the Wall Street Journal how job creators should have their taxes lowered. With lowered taxes, job creators would then hire more people and the economy would be saved.

So, let me point out there are many jobs that depend on me. It is thus in the state's interest to keep me financially happy.

What jobs? Let's see ... There are the people who wait on me at the grocery store; the people who work at the gas station where I buy gas for my car (and the occasional Snickers); the people who sold me my car in the first place; the guy who makes the pizza I order; the guy who delivers the pizza I just ordered; the people who send me movies through the mail; the people to whom I owe money; the people who sell me shirts and shoes and pants and socks and unmentionables. There are people who ask me for money on the street; the person who tells me I'm too late to order breakfast at McDonald's, doctors, dentists, veterinarians, butchers, bakers and candlestick makers.

I could go on and on. But you see my point, Governor. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people depend on me for their jobs. And those workers pay taxes, taxes Illinois desperately needs.

But what if they didn't pay those taxes? It could happen. If I am unhappy, I might just take my consuming business to Indiana or Wisconsin. Then many Illinoisans would be out of work. And then where would the Land of Lincoln be?

Therefore, I want the state to help me make as much money as I think I ought to have.

What I want is a break on taxes. Like, not paying any.

Let Illinois collect taxes from people who are not job creators. I provide all kinds of jobs, so I am more important. Make up for my tax breaks by taxing others more.

This is not a threat, Excellency. But I hear there are some very, very nice stores in Indiana.

Do we understand each other?

Yours respectfully,

Paul Sassone (Job Creator)
**Question of the Week**

"Should Pope Benedict resign? Who should replace him?"

**People Poll**

**LAST WEEK'S QUESTION**

“What kind of pope do you expect to replace Pope Benedict XVI?”

**RESPONSES**

- More traditional: 18%
- More progressive: 48%
- Status quo: 34%

**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION**

“Do you support the federal government sequester spending cuts?”

**RESPONSES**

1) Yes, it's time to cut.
2) No, it will hurt vital services.
3) I can't decide who's telling the truth.
4) I don't support it.

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

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Students spice up self-discovery in ‘Heights’

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

Home, family, and the search for where one belongs are timeless themes of theater.

Maine East High School adds spice to the journey of self-exploration through its spring production “In the Heights,” a contemporary tale of immigrants singing and salsaing their way through life in New York City.

When the licensing rights for the Tony Award-winning musical became available last spring, Theatre Director Karen Hall jumped on the chance to bring the production to Park Ridge school community.

“I knew it was a message that would speak to these kids,” she said. “We are a melting pot of cultures and that’s what makes this special.”

Set in the Dominican-American Washington Heights neighborhood, the musical depicts the struggles and dreams of characters over a three-day holiday weekend. The vibrant community is on the brink of change and so, too, are many of the characters.

Hall said the upbeat score and hip-hop choreography make “In the Heights” more relatable to today’s youth than, say, “Bye Bye Birdie.”

“It’s very lively,” said senior Brittany Mangurial, of Glenview, who serves as assistant director. “I feel like it will excite the audience a lot.”

Some theatergoers might also find the characters’ mannerisms and lingo to be familiar.

“If you are Hispanic you watch and you’re like, yup, that’s my abuela,” Mangurial said.

Lead actor Mynor Pelaez Luken couldn’t agree more. The musical, the Maine East senior said, “is about my culture.”

U.S.-born Pelaez Luken spent nearly his entire childhood in Guatemala. He moved to Park Ridge with his mother and sister two years ago, at which time the family made the decision to stay.

“It really reminded me of my (home) country and all the traditions that we have,” he said. “I’m excited I get to live that again.”

Pelaez Luken said his peers, no matter their background, could connect with the musical’s characters as they, too, find their way as individuals. “I think at this age we’re trying to figure out where do we belong,” he said. “It’s important to know where home is.”

Mangurial’s feisty character Dania, for example, is caught between two worlds when forced to relocate her salon downtown after rent in the neighborhood goes up.

“Even though I’m moving my business, my heart is where I came from, which is Washington Heights,” she explained.

Hall said she relied on students to share their own knowledge and experiences to make the musical numbers and acting appear authentic.

“It meant immersing myself in a culture I’m not totally familiar with,” she acknowledged.

Pelaez Luken and other Hispanic students worked with musical’s cast of 40 actors to perfect their Spanish accents. Maine East alums Kevin and Kyle Familara and Gus Segovia returned to lend their contemporary dance skills.

The result is a show Maine East students can call their own.

“They chins are (held) just a little higher,” Hall said. “They’re just a little prouder.”
Niles North violinist wins two competitions

Niles North High School student Aidan Perreault is just a freshman, yet the supremely talented violinist serves as the concertmaster in the school's prestigious Symphonic Orchestra, and is the recent winner of two local musical competitions.

On Feb. 1, he won the North Suburban Symphony's Young Musicians Competition in which he performed the first movement of the Sibelius Violin Concerto. He will solo with the orchestra during its spring concert program.

Perreault is also the overall winner in the Midwest Young Artists (MYA) 17th annual Walgreen's National Concerto Competition, Senior Division. He played the Sibelius Violin Concerto for this competition as well. The violinist was also a soloist with the MYA Symphony Orchestra in a Feb. 24 concert at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Northwestern University in Evanston.

He picked the Sibelius to perform, partly because, he said, "My teacher, David Younan, thought it would be a good one for competition. Also, I just like it. I've been listening to it for a few months now."

Perreault picked up the violin at age 5, after attending a chamber music concert. He has played the instrument for about 10 years, which is more than half of his life. He said, "I was always the one that wanted to keep practicing." In general, he plays about three hours a day, sometimes more when he is preparing for a competition. In addition to practicing, he plays in a chamber quartet, and the MYA orchestra. He also finds time to compete on Niles North's Math Team.

Perreault said he would like to study music in college, which means more time devoted to the violin. But he wouldn't have it any other way. "It's a way to express yourself through music that you can't necessarily express in other ways," he said.

Singstrong Chicago festival for charity

The world's finest singers are coming to Niles West High School to attend SingStrong, a three-day festival devoted to a cappella, that includes concerts, classes, opportunities to perform, all while raising money for the Alzheimer's Association. SingStrong Chicago will be held March 22 through 24, at Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton St., Skokie.

This year's lineup of performers include: Nota, Swingle Singers, Traces, Julia Easterlin, Blue Jupiter, THUMMp, and New Traditions Chorus. Sign up for classes to learn how to take your talent to the next level, with sessions on arranging, blending, competition strategies, performing like a rock star, business basics, beatboxing, recording techniques, and more. There are also opportunities for singers to perform: college and semi-pro groups compete in the ACA-Idol Competition and high school groups can sing in the HS Competition. Or, just come up to hear the most amazing of all musical instruments: the human voice.

Concerts dates are: March 22 at 7 p.m.: Groups compete in the a cappella Idol competition for the grand prize of $1,000. March 23 at 2 p.m.: High school groups sing their hearts out for the chance at a trophy and bragging rights. March 23 at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.: The best a cappella groups in the world perform to raise money for charity. March 24 at 2 p.m.: The best a cappella groups in the world perform to raise money for charity.

Tickets range from $15 to $35 for a single concert. For full access to Saturday and Sunday classes, a class pass is $20. A weekend pass to all of the SingStrong concerts, or senior citizen and student discounts, can be purchased at SingStrong.org. For more information, contact Amy Branahl at Amy@SingStrong.org.
PARK RIDGE

Three seniors selected by Maine Township High School District 207 as "207's Best" for February were recognized Feb. 4 by the Board of Education.

All three - Jill Patel of Maine East, Caralin Schneider of Maine South and Pariyamon Thaprawat of Maine West - were recognized for academic achievement.

Jill Patel has earned a 4.83 grade point average with a rigorous schedule that currently includes advanced placement classes in Macro/Micro Economics, Biology, Psychology, Calculus-BC and English Literature and Composition.

In addition to her academics, Jill serves as a COACH tutor, competes on the East tennis team and volunteers in the Advocate Lutheran General Hospital Pediatrics Ward. Jill told the School Board that while she has not decided where to attend college, she will study to become a pediatrician.

Caralin Schneider ranks in the top 1 percent of Maine South's senior class with a 4.94 GPA earned in accelerated classes and seven different AP courses. She has been named a Student of the Month on four occasions and has won the Science Award for Accelerated Chemistry, the Social Science Departmental Award and the Foreign Language Honors Award. She is a Hawk Pride Leader, a Southwords feature writer, secretary of the Spanish Club and a member of the National Honor Society and Key Club. She is also a peer tutor, volunteers at a nursing home and is particularly active in her church.

Pariyamon (Pha) Thaprawat has compiled a 4.861 GPA in a course load that this year includes Multivariable Calculus and Differentiated Equations, AP Macro/Micro Economics, AP Spanish, AP U.S. Government, AP Chemistry, AP English Literature and Composition.

She is a Senior Leader and participates in the President's Club, Model UN, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Varsity Club, Pi Sigma Pi and has played varsity basketball.

Caralin Schneider of Maine South, Pariyamon Thaprawat of Maine West, and Jill Patel of Maine East were recognized as "207's Best" for the month of February during a Feb. 4 meeting of the Maine Township High School District 207 School Board.

The "207's Best" program recognizes outstanding students monthly throughout the school year. Academic achievement awards are given in four months. Extracurricular achievement, community service, improved performance and electives/performing arts are given one month each.
Puzzles

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SUDOKU

BY LINDA THISTLE

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:★★

* Easy: Moderate: Challenging:★★★★ HOO BOY!

NEED A HINT? FIND THE PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 29

HOROSCOPES

For the week of March 6 to March 12

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
You could have some problems with doubters who don't share your enthusiasm for that new project you're supporting. But use the facts to win them over to your side.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Someone is impressed by how you managed to get your case to the right people. Despite attempts to keep you on the outs, they resist coming over to your side. But don't let that stop you from presenting your proposals to the people who count. Stay the course.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)
Good for you — your gift for seeing both sides of a dispute helps cool down a potentially explosive workplace situation. Some family-related tensions also begin to ease.

CANCER (June 22 to July 22)
Your determination to prove yourself is put to the test by midweek. Counting all the positive factors you have going for you will help you get over your self-doubt. Good luck.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
Several co-workers are still determined to resist coming over to your side. But don't let that stop you from presenting your proposals to the people who count. Stay the course.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
You might prefer to be taken on faith and not have to prove yourself. But the truth is, you need to offer more facts, if you hope to persuade people to accept what you say.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
A family situation takes an unwelcome turn. An old workplace problem you thought you had solved for good resurfaces. But this time, co-workers will take a more active role in helping you deal with it.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
Someone might try to create doubts about your reliability for his or her own agenda. But your reputation and your colleagues' longstanding faith in you saves the day.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
An unexpected change of plans forces you to come up with an alternative by the end of the week. Look for colleagues to offer valuable suggestions.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
Nothing upsets the Gost as much as broken promises. But before you vent your anger, consider that this could ultimately prove to be a blessing in disguise.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
An old workplace problem you thought you had solved for good resurfaces. But before you vent your anger, consider that this could ultimately prove to be a blessing in disguise.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
Be careful not to be misled by a negative reaction to one of your more important projects. If you believe in it, then it has worth and is, therefore, worth staying with.

BORN THIS WEEK:
Everyone appreciates your gift for finding beauty, even where it seems least likely to exist.
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Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Niles Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60026. Information may be faxed to (847) 486-7495 or e-mailed to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

**CENTER OF CONCERN**

**Schedule**

**65+**

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

- Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays - Low-cost income tax preparation (by appointment only).
- Mondays, March 4, 11, 18, and 25 - Employment counseling, by appointment.
- Tuesdays, March 5 and 19 - Medicare counseling, by appointment (sponsored by the federally-funded Senior Health Insurance Program).
- Saturdays, March 9 and 23 - Legal counseling, by appointment.
- Monday, March 11 - Alzheimer's caregivers support group, 10 a.m.
- Wednesdays, March 13 and 27 - Grief and loss support group (call first).

**FUNDRAISERS**

- **St. Joseph's Table**
  - **Paid**
  - Our Lady of Ransom Parish, 8300 Greenwood Ave., will host its annual St. Joseph's Table from 1:30-4:30 p.m. March 17. A special Mass at 12:15 p.m. will be celebrated before the Table begins. A spaghetti dinner will be served along with a variety of delicacies. Minimum donation is $5. All are invited. Call (847) 823-2550. Proceeds will go to the St. Vincent dePaul Society.

- **Manicure and Mammogram**
  - 18+ 65+
  - During March at Holy Family Medical Center's Women's Imaging Center, 100 N. River Road, Des Plaines, women who schedule their mammograms for any Monday in March will be treated to a relaxing spa-like atmosphere with a free mini-manicure. Local Park Ridge salon, Carmen Nicole's, will be on site to provide the free mini-manicures. The "M is For Me" campaign will be available to women who schedule an appointment for Mondays, March 4, 11, 18, or 25. Call (847) 813-3273 to schedule a mammogram and manicure.

**LIBRARY**

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

**Niles Needles**

- 18+ 65+
- Those who love to knit or crochet can join others in the board room at 3 p.m. Feb. 28.

**HEALTH**

**Hip replacement options**

- 18+ 65+
- Common causes of hip and joint pain, surgical and non-surgical treatments and options to traditional hip replacement surgery will be discussed by orthopedic surgeon Alexander Gordon from 3-4 p.m. March 1 at Illinois Bone and Joint Institute, 8930 Waukegan Road, Second Floor Conference Center, Morton Grove. For reservations, contact Judy Beller at (708) 421-3400 or Judy@jpbbms.com.

**Reading with Rover**

- 6-12
- 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) 663-6622.

**Lego Club**

- 4-13+
- Join in from 4-5 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month to create Lego masterpieces in the Lego Club. For kids in kindergarten to eighth grade.

**PARKS**

Niles Park District, 6676 W. Howard St., (847) 967-6633.

**Lunch with Bunny**

- Paid
- Kids up to third grade and adults are invited to celebrate spring at a buffet lunch with Bunny on March 16 at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 Howard St., with seatings at 11 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. Bunny will be available for a photo opportunity. Special entertainment and craft project included. All adults and children must register for this event. Resident children and adults pay $10; nonresidents, $12.

**Maine-Niles Special Rec**

- 4-12 6-13+ 65+ 18+
- Maine-Niles Association
of Special Recreation: Offers people with physical and mental challenges, behavior and learning disorders, hearing and visual impairments and emotional disabilities an opportunity to enjoy a variety of recreation activities. MNASR serves Des Plaines, Golf-Maine, Morton Grove, Niles, Park Ridge and Skokie. To receive a seasonal brochure, or to offer support for people with special needs by volunteering, call (847) 966-5522.

NILES SENIOR CENTER

The center offers membership to Niles residents age 55 and older and their spouses. Drop by the Niles Senior Center Men's Club will host this event from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. March 15. Italian food will be served and there will be entertainment. Seating is reserved. Cost is $16, members; $21, nonmembers.

St. Joe's/St. Pat's Party

The Niles Senior Center Drive, Niles, or call (847) 588-8420 for an application. Visit www.vniles.com, click on Departments and then Senior. Registration required for most programs.

SENIORS

Mather's

Mather's, More Than a Cafe, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago, (773) 744-4084 - Mather's invites adults 55 and older to experience professionally taught, free-to-moderate-priced programs such as lifelong learning programs, fitness classes, free blood-pressure checks and health screenings, free consumer seminars, special-interest workshops, special events and day trips.

Chess Club for checkmate champs and new people who want to learn the rules and basic strategies sessions are Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

Exercise classes - Jazzercise combines aerobic exercises with elements of jazz dance. A series of dance routines is set to popular music while incorporating yoga, Pilates, kickboxing, and other fitness styles. Classes move incrementally through different intensity levels, so anyone is welcome to join. Classes are held at 11 a.m. Wednesdays. Try the gentle-moderate exercise class, 11:15 a.m. Mondays and 10 a.m. Tuesdays that features a combination of seated and standing exercises for a complete cardiovascular workout. The moderate-high energy class is at 11 a.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, giving more of a challenge with cardio, strengthening, stretching and toning routines.

Free tax assistance will be available by trained AARP tax aide volunteers on Mondays, Feb. 18 to April 15. Bring 2011 tax return, 2012 income statements, and official documentation. Appointments may be made starting Feb. 1 at (888) 600-2560.

Opening, stretching and exercising more of a challenge is at 11 a.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, giving more of a challenge with cardio, strengthening, stretching and toning routines.

March 7, 1 p.m.: Derek Mannering, co-host of the PBS documentary "Singing to the Gods," presents a new tribute to Mario Lanza, featuring rare and popular Lanza recordings. Suggested donation is $8.

SUPPORT

GriefShare

St. John Lutheran Church, 7429 N. Milwaukee Ave., hosts a 13-week GriefShare recovery group from 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesdays through April 3. GriefShare is a DVD-based series featuring psychologists and experts on the grieving process designed to help one mourning the death of a loved one. Pastor Matthew Gunia will facilitate the group; $12 class fee, with need-based scholarships available. To register, call the church office, (847) 647-9867.

Resurrection support groups

The hospital sponsors a variety of free cancer-support groups for both patients and their family members. All support groups are free and meet in the Cancer Conference Room (ground floor, Entrance C), 7435 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. Contact Carol Flanagan, (773) 792-5116.
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Spotlight

Office supplier gives back

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES

Raised with the belief that giving back to the community is very important, the Garvey family has been busy supporting various charities through The Recycle for a Reason program.

Garvey’s Office Products, located at 7500 N. Caldwell Ave., has been in business for 86 years. Bernard Garvey Sr., who is now retired, worked for the original owner starting in 1954 and he purchased the business in 1964. The business has been located in Niles for 13 years, and at its current location at 7500 N. Caldwell Ave for the last five. The business was previously located in Chicago.

Garvey’s offers many kinds of office supplies, from ink to furniture to janitorial supplies.

Sheila Gartland, who runs the business with her five brothers Mike, Bernie, Ken, Kevin and Dan, said the whole family’s involved.

“All of us gradually, over time, joined the business,” she said.

In 2007, Gartland started taking empty toner cartridges from their clients, recycling the products and donating the earnings to charities.

“We were raised with the importance to give back to the community,” said Gartland, who said another great aspect of the Recycling for a Reason program is also to keep the items out of the landfills and help improve the environment.

What started out with recycling just cartridges has expanded into recycling many other items, such as batteries, cardboard boxes, computers, printers, telephones and more.

Over the past five years, the recycling program has raised about $100,000 for various charities.

Gartland said that the charities they support are either current customers of Garvey’s or former customers. The long list of organizations Garvey’s has supported includes The American Heart Association, Girl Scouts of America, the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women’s Network, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Salvation Army, The Chicago Lighthouse and more.

Each quarter, the company makes a donation to a new charity. This quarter, Garvey’s will support Inspiration Corporation, located in Chicago. This organization runs Inspiration Café, which feeds the homeless and also helps them find jobs.

“It’s very exciting to see what started out with 10 cents per cartridge has amounted to a great thing for a lot of these charities,” shared Gartland.

Gartland said Garvey’s recently opened a 4,000 sq-ft furniture showroom that contains everything from school furniture to office furniture to furniture for a break room. The showroom will be open on Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. starting March 1.

The 84,000 square-foot warehouse in Niles has 22 trucks that make deliveries each day.

Her father, Bernard, is planning to come out to look at the new furniture showroom soon.

“We’re very excited to have him come out and see it,” said Gartland.
Judge halts Higgins hotel project

A federal judge has halted a large-scale hotel and convention center project proposed for Chicago's Northwest Side near the city of Park Ridge.

Alleging that developers schemed to defraud overseas investors with promises of a path to U.S. residency, the SEC's legal complaint, filed on Feb. 6, sought a preliminary injunction against the project slated for the 8200 block of Higgins Rd., east of Cumberland Avenue. On Feb. 20, Federal Court Judge Amy St. Eve granted that injunction.

The SEC also contends that the defendants made false claims to their investors, including that three high-end hotel chains that signed on to the project and that all required permits and approvals to begin construction had been obtained.

The SEC's legal complaint, filed against Chicago-based developer Anshoo R. Sethi and his companies Intercontinental Regional Center Trust of Chicago, LLC, and A Chicago Convention Center, LLC, alleges that the defendants "used false and misleading information to solicit investors in the purported hotel and conference center project."

The complaint states that Sethi and his companies, which included family members, hatched an investment scheme involving the fraudulent sale of over $145 million in securities and the collection of $11 million in administrative fees from over 250 Chinese investors looking to obtain citizenship in the United States through an investment visa program known as EB-5.

The complaint goes on to allege that the defendants made false claims to their investors, including that three high-end hotel chains that signed on to the project and that all required permits and approvals to begin construction had been obtained.

The SEC also contends that the $177.5 million value placed on the Higgins Road property by the would-be developers was not accurate and even "vastly overstated."

The hotel, reportedly in the planning stages since 2006, was to have included 994 rooms plus convention space, according to a description from TR Mandigo & Company, a Chicago-based hotel consulting firm, the SEC said. The O'Hare Garden Inn on the site was recently demolished.
Real Estate

FEATURED HOME

9032 N. Clifton Ave., Niles
Townhouse size: 1,416 square feet
Lot size: 1,893 square feet
Year built: 1962
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2.5
Garage: NA
Tax: $4,330.65 (2011)
Exterior: Vinyl siding, brick
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AGENT Joseph Champagne, Keller Williams, 630-947-4424

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PROPERTY TRANSFERS

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8044 N Octavia Ave: George Rogojina to Nikolaos Vorrias and Ourania Theofo-
poulos-Vorrias for $235,000 on Jan. 11
7606 W Oakton St: Akhtar Saeeda to Bank of America for $210,000 on Jan. 7
7001 Wright Terrace: Janina Brozek to Antoni Sadko and Marta Sadko for $160,000 on Jan. 11
6858 N Lexington Lane: Breslin Ter-

MORTON GROVE
81L.7 N Greenwood Ave: Jemmy Dankha to

to Chicago Title Land Trust Co Trust for $287,500 on Jan. 8
8157 N Meacham Court: Maria Cristina

SKOKIE
5200 Oakton St: Lorielle Levin to

CHICAGO
7130 N Osceola Ave: Katherine D Os-

Pioneer Press Mortgage Guide
Check rates daily at http://suhurhanchthagonewspapers.lnterest.com
http://www.allstarhornernorfgage.com
http://www.UnitedHomeLoans.com
Accessories in order

Imagine you’re getting ready to go out. You reach into your jewelry box and out comes a tangled mess of chains, beads and trinkets. It’s the worst, right?

Most of the time I’ll skip the jewelry when I end up with a knotted ball of necklaces. Then I forget about the mess and end up with the same situation on another day. Recently took the opportunity to get my accessories more organized, as well as purge things I know I’ll never wear again. Here are a few of my cost-efficient tips.

JEWELRY

One of the best DIY projects I’ve done recently was a cake/dessert platter, made from supplies that cost less than $5. I then took that idea and applied it to jewelry organizing.

Supplies:
- One plate, one bowl, one candlestick holder. All of these items can be found at your local dollar store.
- A permanent craft glue, like E-6000, which can be found at any craft store.

Wash your supplies thoroughly to remove any dust or grime. Apply glue to the rim of the bottom of your candlestick holder. Find the middle of the top of your plate and firmly press the candlestick holder into place. Let that dry for a couple of minutes and then apply glue to the rim of the top of the candlestick. Place your bottom of the bowl onto the top of the candlestick. Press firmly. To make sure the glue sticks, put some heavy books on top of the bowl and let dry for a couple of hours.

Your new jewelry organizer is ready. Put necklaces on the plate. Stud earrings and bracelets can be placed in the bowl. Earrings that have hooks can be hung from the bowl's edge. Plus, your jewelry holder can be used as a chip and dip holder in an emergency.

A few other ideas: Other kitchen items can double as jewelry organizers. A paper towel roll holder can be used to display bracelets and a silverware drawer organizer can be used to lay out necklaces.

SCARVES

Hang up your scarves instead of keeping them in a drawer. You’ll be able to see all your scarves at once and avoid too much wrinkling. I use small reusable hooks lined up on a wall to hang up a selection of scarves. You could also try using a wire hanger and shower curtain rings. Attach the rings to the wire hanger and then lace your scarves through the ring. It won’t work as nicely if you have chunky scarves.

OTHER ORGANIZING IDEAS

- Use vases or other glass containers (like an old fishbowl) to store things like nail polish or barrettes. You can hook headbands onto these larger containers as well. Try using a votive candle holder to keep bobby pins or ponytail holders from being strewn across your dresser.
- Every girl has at least a couple of purses and clutches. Try using shower hooks to hang purses in your closet. Clutches can be stored on a shelf in a magazine holder or a collapsible bin.

For more accessory organization ideas, check out our Pinterest board: pinterest.com/pioneerpressgo/accessory-organization.
BY VERONICA HINKE | Contributor

New recipes are taking avocados out of their familiar guacamole bowl. From dressings for fish salads to a new take on French fries — you can tell your guac to take a walk.

Well, maybe just a short walk.

At Koi in Evanston, raw fish expert Kenny Tan is as skilled in using powerful ingredients as he is in using a sushi knife. Tan gives the dressing for his new shrimp salad a bright green color and creamy texture by including avocados in the blender with citrus juices and cilantro.

"The avocado makes the color of the dressing just beautiful," he said.

And the savory avocado provides a creamy texture that works as a thickening ingredient.

"The avocado is what binds all of the ingredients," explained Koi Events Coordinator Joey Conway.

Tan gives the dressing a pop of spice by including another Mexican ingredient in the blender: thinly-sliced jalapeño peppers. The peppers work well against the milder flavors of the salad.

"The raw fish alone doesn't always have that pack-a-punch flavor," Conway said.

Two years ago, the team at Koi launched monthly eight-course sushi tasting dinners. The next event on March 5 will feature Tan's Lemon Dressing Shrimp Salad as the first course. Tan will demonstrate that guacamole pairs especially well with sparkling sake.

Zipang from Junmai will be served with the shrimp salad. Zipang is crisp, bright and bubbly with fruity, flowery notes that add a fitting sparkle to any first course.

Spicy tuna, miso scallops and dessert of sweet taro with tropical fruits will be among other bites that will comprise a tasting dinner on the lighter, healthier side.

Considered a "super food," avocado is high in nutrients such as magnesium, vitamin E and potassium, said Monique Ryan, a registered dietician and nutritionist who owns Personal Nutrition Designs in Evanston. "We need to get those into our diet, just like we need vitamins and minerals."

Blending the nutritious fruit into favorite recipes is a good way to put nutrients into everything from savory soups or sauces to dessert frostings or mousses. Consider adding puréed avocados to basil pesto for creamier texture, for instance.

Baked avocados are another option. To make avocado "fries," coat avocado slices with a mixture of a little oil, flour, salt, Panko bread crumbs and an egg. Bake the slices in a 450-degree oven for 20-30 minutes, or until brown. Serve the fries with a chipotle pepper dip.

And avocados are certainly no strangers at the sushi bar. Fifty years ago, sushi was introduced in the U.S. at the storied Tokyo Kaikan restaurant in Los Angeles, where sushi chefs rolled out the first American version of sushi, the now beloved avocado-stuffed California Roll. For Koi's Sushi Chef Table tickets, see bit.ly/1IDSUiD.

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Not just for guac

Avocados a versatile super food

Chef Kenny Tan makes miso scallops and a Lemon Dressing Shrimp Salad at Koi in Evanston. | JOE CYGANOWSKI-for Sun-Times Media

Lemon Dressing Shrimp Salad

(1 serving)

DRESSING
4 tablespoons yellow onion, chopped
\( \frac{1}{2} \) tomato (approximately \( \frac{1}{4} \) cup), chopped
\( \frac{1}{2} \) lime, juiced
\( \frac{1}{4} \) lemon, juiced
1 ounce jalapeño pepper, thinly sliced
2 tablespoons cilantro, chopped
One half of a fresh avocado, diced
2 pinches salt

Place ingredients in bowl and gently mix. Place ingredients in blender, and add four tablespoons water. Puree ingredients until smooth.

SHRIMP SALAD
4 pieces cooked shrimp, cooked in boiled water for 1 minute
2 cucumber slices
3 grape tomatoes
2 ounces mixed greens, washed
3 tablespoons lemon dressing

Plate mixed greens. Place cooked shrimp on mixed greens. Drizzle with dressing. Garnish with cucumber and grape tomatoes.

---

- From Kenny Tan, Koi restaurant
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Obituaries

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For local community Death Notices visit pioneerlocal.com

Ask about our available Death Notice Emblems.
Call: 847-998-3400 (opt 6)

Cemetery Lots


In Memoriam

General Information Concerning The Death Notice Page

- A paid death notice may be ordered to appear in the Pioneer Press when funeral arrangements are made, and must be submitted in writing. Information about charges for death notices may be obtained from area funeral directors or by calling (847) 998-3400. A 24-hour fax service is offered at (647) 496-6836 or death notices may be e-mailed to deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com.
- An In Memoriam or card of thanks may be placed using the same information above.
- The deadline for placing a death notice, in memoriam or card of thanks, is Monday at 5:00 pm. Photos must be submitted by Monday at 2:00 pm.
- The death notice department is staffed from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday.
- A death notice, in memoriam or a card of thanks may be submitted in person from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday at the Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60026.
- Family and friends may visit our website and sign a guest book at Pioneerlocal.com.

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Sign the Guest Book at pioneerlocal.com

SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Spring Clean-Up

GRAVE DECORATIONS MUST BE REMOVED ON OR BEFORE MARCH 14TH
March 15th thru March 31st is used to clean up the cemetery grounds and prepare for spring. All holiday decorations will be removed and disposed. Do not place any decorations or plant flowers for spring during this time. If you wish to save your decorations, please remove them on or before March 14th. We cannot guarantee that your decorations will be free from damage or loss and we cannot accept responsibility. For a complete listing of cemetery regulations call 708-449-6100 or visit our website.

For burial information at any of the Catholic Cemeteries, complete and mail this coupon.

Name _____________________________ Cemetery of Interest _____________________________
Address _____________________________ City/State/Zip _____________________________
Telephone _____________________________ Best Time to Contact _____________________________
E-mail Address _____________________________

Personal information including e-mail address will be kept confidential and used only for responding to inquiries.

Catholic Cemeteries - 1400 South Wolf Road - Hillside, IL 60162-2197
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<td>Scion</td>
<td>2006 TC</td>
<td>Sunroof, Premium Sound, Sporty &amp; Value Packed! J111A $9995 888-928-1180</td>
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<td>888-928-1180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeep</td>
<td>2005 Grand Cherokee 4x4</td>
<td>Leather, Sunroof, Power &amp; Convenience At A Great Price! U1847 $18,995 888-928-1180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chrysler</td>
<td>2012 200LX</td>
<td>Heated Mirrors, A Classy Ride! C14500 $19,995 888-638-5096</td>
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<td>Toyota</td>
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<td>Chrysler</td>
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<td>Mitsubishi</td>
<td>2009 Lancer GTS</td>
<td>Low Miles, Navigation, Sunroof, Sporty &amp; Loaded! WK179A $10,995 888-928-1180</td>
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<td>Fiat</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMW</td>
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<td>Low Miles, Premium Moonroof, AWD, Back-Up Camera! C14500 $24,995 888-638-5096</td>
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<td>Ford</td>
<td>2012 Focus SE</td>
<td>Moonroof, Spacious Interior, Great Gas Mileage! C14500 $15,995 888-638-5096</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitsubishi</td>
<td>2009 Lancer GTS</td>
<td>Low Miles, Navigation, Sunroof, Sporty &amp; Loaded! WK179A $10,995 888-928-1180</td>
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<td>888-928-1180</td>
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<td>Dodge</td>
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<td>Mercedes-Benz</td>
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<td>Volkswagen</td>
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Jeep 2010 Patriot Sport
Ready For Winter! Drives Like New! Great Price! #M,J121A
$9995 888-928-1180

Hyundai 2010 Sonata GLS
Heated Mirrors & Seats. Great On Gas! #MJ116B
$11,995 888-928-1180

Ford 2006 Mustang Premium
Super Low Mileage. Leather. Ready To Fly! #34019
$14,994 888-638-5996

Toyota 2010 Highlander SE
Super Low Mileage. Mint! #34371
$28,995 888-638-5996

Dodge 2010 Journey SXT
Navigation, Bluetooth. Great People Mover! #133A
$13,995 888-928-1180

Jeep 2010 Wrangler Rubicon
In Great Shape! With All The Optional #U7764
$22,995 888-928-1180

Nissan 2006 Frontier SE 4WD
Low Mileage. Ready To Work! #34048
$14,995 888-638-5996

Volkswagen 2009 CC
Low Miles, Heated Leather, Panoramic Moonroof.
Luxury Loaded! #34185 $21,995 888-638-5996

Lincoln 2004 LS With Sport Package
Premium Sound. Leather & Heated Mirrors. Luxury
#A30195A $95,924 888-928-1180

Honda 2007 Accord Sedan EX-L
Navigation, LCD Screens & Moonroof. Practical Luxury! #17180
$13,995 888-928-1180

Honda 2010 Accord Sedan EX-L
Navigation, LCD Monitors & Moonroof. Practical Luxury!
#TM134A $13,995 888-928-1180

Mercedes-Benz 2007 M-Class
Leather, Sunroof & Loaded. This Won't Last! #M1891A
$19,995 888-928-1180

BMW 2005 X3 30i AWD
Moonroof, Heated Seats. Move The Family In Style! #5002A
$14,995 888-638-5996

Honda 2003 Accord LX
Great Price On This Gas Saver! #130293A
$7,893 877-870-3816

Lexus 2002 RX300
Great Value On This People Mover! #56820
$31,855 877-870-3816

Ford 2004 F-150 STX
Regular Cab. Rear Step Bumper. Ready To Work! #P1336
$12,900 888-206-5117

Mercedes-Benz 2007 CLS-Class
Sunroof, Silver Grill & Heated Leather Seats. Low Miles & Drives Like New! #P1282
$24,995 888-638-5996

GMC 2007 Acadia SLE AWD
3rd Row, Heated Leather & So Much More! #85813
$20,913 877-870-3816

Honda 2005 Odyssey EX-L
Moonroof, 3rd Row, Good Gas Saver. Family Ready. #P1313
$13,000 888-928-1180

Lincoln 2004 LS With Sport Package
Premium Sound. Leather & Heated Mirrors. Luxury
#A30657B $98,185 888-830-8131

Dodge 2004 Journey SXT
Jeep 2010 Wrangler Rubicon
Nissan 2006 Frontier SE 4WD
Volkswagen 2009 CC
Lincoln 2004 LS With Sport Package
Jeep 2010 Patriot Sport

Ford 2004 F-150 STX
Regular Cab. Rear Step Bumper. Ready To Work! #P1336
$12,900 888-206-5117

Mercedes-Benz 2006 Golf
Low Miles, Tinted Glass. All The Toys! #M1977A
$6,995 888-928-1180

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Navigation, Bluetooth. Great People Mover! #133A
$13,995 888-928-1180

Mercedes-Benz 2006 CLS-Class
Sunroof, Silver Grill & Heated Leather Seats. Low Miles & Drives Like New! #7179
$24,995 888-830-8131

GMC 2007 Acadia SLE AWD
3rd Row, Heated Leather & So Much More! #85813
$20,913 888-638-5996

Honda 2004 Accord Sedan EX-L
Navigation, LCD Monitors & Moonroof. Practical Luxury!
#TM134A $13,995 888-928-1180

Mercedes-Benz 2006 Golf
Low Miles, Tinted Glass. All The Toys! #M1977A
$6,995 888-928-0987

Dodge 2010 Journey SXT
Navigation, Bluetooth. Great People Mover! #133A
$13,995 888-928-1180

Mercedes-Benz 2007 M-Class
Leather, Sunroof & Loaded. This Won't Last! #M1891A
$19,995 888-928-0987

BMW 2011 X3 28i AWD
Premium Sound. Bluetooth. Stylish With All The Toys! #130493
$32,893 877-870-3816

Honda 2003 Accord LX
Great Price On This Gas Saver! #130293A
$7,893 877-870-3816

Lexus 2002 RX300
Great Value On This People Mover! #56820
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Great Price On This Gas Saver! #130293A
$7,893 877-870-3816

Lexus 2002 RX300
Great Value On This People Mover! #56820
$31,855 877-870-3816
Park Monroe a treasure of amenities

Take a lap. The indoor lap pool, adjacent to the rooftop garden, is a favorite amenity of residents at The Park Monroe. Located in the middle of a whirlwind of activity and open space, such as nearby Millennium Park, the Park Monroe offers residences constructed on the top nine floors of a vibrant mixed-use building. It offers 48 one-, two- and three-bedroom residences, expected to be ready in late spring. Homes are priced from $319,500 for one-bedrooms, $494,900 for two-bedrooms and $1,075,000 for three-bedrooms.

SEE THE FULL STORY IN THE TODAY'S HOMES SECTION INSIDE

Motor Matters

The North American Car and Truck of the Year awards are prestigious. NACTOY awards — now in their 20th year — are unique because instead of being given by a single media outlet; they are awarded by a group of automotive journalists from throughout the United States and Canada who represent magazines, television, radio, newspapers and websites.

The awards, which went to Cadillac with its new 2013 ATS compact luxury sedan and to the Ram 1500 pickup, are administered by an organizing committee and are funded with dues paid by the jurors. There are no paid positions. Automakers do not pay to have their vehicles considered or to use the awards in ads.

The North American Car and Truck of the Year awards are designed to recognize the most outstanding new vehicles of the year. These models are benchmarks in their segments based on factors including innovation, comfort, design, safety, handling, driver satisfaction, and value for the dollar.

More than 80 vehicles were initially considered by NACTOY jurors who, as automotive journalists, routinely have access to newly introduced vehicles. By the end of a model year, most of the jurors have driven and evaluated many of the cars and trucks are eligible for the NACTOY award. Since those first drives and evaluations are spread over as much as a year, it can be difficult to remember all of the little details that add up to a driving experience.

By mid-October, informal voting trims the initial list to about 30 serious contenders, but most important, it's time for a grueling shoot-out in a town appropriately named Hell, Mich. Hell is just a wide spot in the road with two bars, a boarding stable and a very upscale motorcycle club. It's also in the middle of a network of lightly traveled, great driving roads. The final round of balloting took place in time to announce the winning car and truck in Detroit at the North American International Auto Show last month.

Cadillac claimed the coveted Car and Truck of the Year trophy in the car category with its new 2013 ATS compact luxury sedan. The new Ram 1500 pickup was honored in the truck/utility category.

"I need someone to come up here and pinch me to make sure that has really happened," said Fred Diaz, Ram's general manager, as he climbed the stage to collect the trophy. The award was all the sweeter considering parent Chrysler was bankrupt and written off for dead, by many, just a few years ago.

The same could have been said for General Motors, which also emerged from Chapter 11 in mid-2009. GM officials have said that is why it's so important to get third-party endorsements for vehicles like the ATS.

"When you consider Cadillac's effort to reestablish itself as the 'standard of the world' this is an important moment," explained Dave Leone, chief engineer on the ATS project.

For the jurors who contribute their time and expertise, the reward is the satisfaction that comes from acknowledging a job well done by the contenders for the award. It's also a way to stay abreast of the constant developments in the auto industry. More information is at www.northamericancaroftheyear.org.
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**NEW 2012 IMPALA**

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All offers to qualified buyers. *Plus tax, title, lic & $164.30 doc fee. ^On select new models. 20% off select new Chevys. See Cruze for example. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this ad. Offers expire 02/28/13.
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COROLLA L | $13,940*

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20% OFF
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P LUS AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH

NEW 2012 PRIUS C TWO | $18,390*
20% OFF NEW TOYOTAS+
P LUS AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH

NEW 2013 HIGHLANDER | $25,990*
20% OFF NEW TOYOTAS+
P LUS AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH

NEW 2012 SIENNA | $23,490*
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0% OFF 72 MONTHS

30% OFF USED VEHICLES

35% OFF MSRP NEW NISSANS

STAR NISSAN USED CARS

- 2012 VERSA 1.8
  - NADA RETAIL: $14,525
  - Berman Price: $9,995

MID CITY NISSAN USED CARS

- 2013 PATHFINDER
  - $269 PER MO LEASE

New 2013 SENTRA $13,395
- Model 12063, VIN: 623482, VIN: 617786

New 2013 ROGUE $17,495
- Model 22113, VIN: 013369, VIN: 517480

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- NADA RETAIL: $14,525
- Berman Price: $9,995

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- NADA RETAIL: $17,495

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NEW NISSAN Chicago

New 2013 ROGUE $17,495
- Model 22113, VIN: 013369, VIN: 517480

OFFERS TO QUALIFIED BUYERS. OFFERS CANNOT BE COMBINED. *PLUS TAX, TITLE, LIC. & DOC. FEE. 2) ON SELECT NEW MODELS. EX: NEW 2012 ARMADA. MSRP $45,995, 35% OFF = SELLING PRICE $29,865. PLUS TAX, TITLE, LIC. & DOC. FEE. 1) ON SELECT USED MODELS. THE VALUE OF THE USED CAR VARIIES W/ MILEAGE, USAGE & CONDITION. 3) 0% APR FOR 72MO TO QUALIFIED BUYERS. $13.88 PER $1000 FINANCED. BUY DOWN RATE, $10K MAX. FINANCED. DEALER WILL NOT HONOR ERRORS IN THIS AD. NO PRIOR SALES. PICTURES FOR ILLUSTRATION ONLY. OFFERS END 2/28/13.
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**NEW 2012 GMC TERRAIN AWD** | **$23,990**

**NEW 2012 BUICK VERANO** | **$17,980**

**NEW 2012 BUICK LACROSSE** | **$23,990**

**NEW 2012 BUICK ENCLAVE** | **$28,990**

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**NEW 2012 Cadillac CTS**

**NEW 2012 Cadillac SRX**

**NEW 2013 Cadillac ATS** | **$299/36MO**

**New 2013 Cadillac XTS** | **$459/36MO**

All offers to qualified buyers. +Plus tax, title, lic & $164.30 doc fee. *On select new models. +20% off select new GMCS & Buicks. See Acadia for example. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this ad. Offers expire 02/28/13.
**In-Stock For Immediate Delivery!**

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*All offers plus tax, title, tags & doc fee to qualified buyers. All applicable rebates and incentives applied. Financing in lieu of rebate on select models. Must finance through Ally Financial to qualified buyers. Expires 2/28/13.

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Park Monroe a treasure of amenities

The Park Monroe is at the center of a whirlwind of activity and open space. Millennium Park is the home of Pritzker Pavilion, designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry, with events through March including performances by the New Millennium Orchestra of Chicago and RE Dance Group at the pavilion. Beautifully landscaped Lurie Garden is the centerpiece of the park's green areas and regularly hosts gardening workshops. Public art provides a backdrop for hundreds of free cultural programs including concerts, exhibitions, tours and family activities.

The McCormick Tribune Ice Rink, along Michigan Avenue on the western side of the park, is open through mid-March. Grant Park and Buckingham Fountain, and Lake Michigan, are within blocks, while theaters, fine dining and shopping surround The Park Monroe.

The Park Monroe, 65 East Monroe St., takes full advantage of this prime location, featuring dramatic views of the lake, park and city skyline from floor-to-ceiling windows at least 40 stories above the street. Finishes are cutting edge, with custom Italian cabinetry, the latest high-tech kitchen appliances, plus sleek and stylish fixtures and details. Thoughtfully designed floor plans provide space for all belongings and high ceilings crown generously sized rooms.

Park Monroe 2.0 consists of 48 one-, two- and three-bedroom residences and takes the best of The Park Monroe and re-imagines it. The new residences are expected to be ready in late spring.

The Park Monroe features special amenities of its own. These are located on the 40th floor and include a lap-length indoor swimming pool, which adjoins a rooftop garden with its whirlpool spa and fitness center outfitted with club-quality equipment. Also frequently mentioned by residents are the big-screen theater room and entertainment suite. A 24-hour staff to attend to residents complements these amenities.

One of the featured homes in Phase Two of Park Monroe is Residence 21. This largest Park Monroe 2.0 home features some of the best urban views, with Millennium Park in the foreground and Lake Michigan just beyond. The large, open living area is ideal for entertaining and the kitchen features Viking Professional Series appliances. Additional high-end finishes and fixtures, plus high-tech details such as wiring for surround sound, HDML and electronic shades, add to the exceptional attributes of the residence.

Another featured home is Residence 15. This open and airy two-bedroom home has stunning views of the glistening city lights. The sleek, modern kitchen is both beautiful and practical, while the spacious, well-appointed master bathroom features an extra-long double vanity and a separate shower and soaking tub. The second bedroom is adjacent to the bathroom and separate from the living areas, making this home ideal for hosting overnight guests.

For buyers seeking a second home in the city, Park Monroe 2.0 offers several floor plans that would work nicely as a one-bedroom pied-a-terre. Residences 07, 08 and 10 on the 40th floor are currently priced at $319,500 and feature stunning city views. These large one-bedrooms with 920 square feet offer significantly more space than many one bedrooms located in the city, most of which are between 600 to 700 square feet. In addition to the spacious, open floor plans, these residences offer great features including contemporary Italian cabinetry, solid-surface countertops, hardwood floors and stainless appliances.

Park Monroe 2.0 residences are priced from $319,500 for one-bedrooms, $494,900 for two-bedrooms and $1,075,000 for three-bedrooms. Only a couple residences from the first phase remain, all of which are two-bedrooms available for immediate occupancy. The models and sales center at 65 East Monroe are open seven days a week. Call (312) 885-0660 or visit ParkMonroe.com for more information.
Affordable prices, low rates spark Chicago condo sales

Rock-bottom interest rates and affordable condominium prices are sparking a housing revival in downtown Chicago, experts say.

The resale condo market in Chicago posted a sales increase of 11.7 percent to 1,037 units sold in December of 2012. And, the median price of homes and condos in the city of Chicago in December of 2012 skyrocketed 19.4 percent to $185,000 from $155,000 in December of 2011.

Fueled by low interest rates, affordable prices and the rebounding residential market, condominium sales boomed in 2012 at 200 North Dearborn, a 47-story conversion in Chicago's Loop, reported American Invsco, Chicago's leading condominium marketer. Only three residences are still available in the 309-unit building.

Condo buyers need to act quickly to take advantage of attractive price discounts with 200 North Dearborn, entering its final closeout phase. Cash buyers receive a 10-percent discount, according to American Invsco. These include:

- Unit 2703, a one-bedroom, one-bath condo with 870 square feet, is priced as low as $305,969, from the original $411,300. Enhancements and upgrades include bamboo flooring in the foyer, living room and kitchen; marble flooring in the bath, granite countertops, stainless-steel appliances, and entire kitchen wall of glass tile below and above the cabinets.

- Unit 4602, a two-bedroom, two-bath condo with 1,165 square feet, is priced as low as $668,918, from the original $779,800. In addition to an incredible vantage point, this residence is being upgraded with appointments such as 10-feet high ceilings, surround sound system and granite flooring throughout.

- Unit 4701, a one-of-a-kind top-floor penthouse, showcases 2,875 square feet of raw space with 15-foot ceilings and spectacular downtown views. It is now priced at $1.7 million, reduced by $400,000 from the original price. The penthouse sales price includes a $200,000 build-out credit.

The sales center at 200 North Dearborn, located on the 7th floor, is open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call (312) 968-1200 or visit www.200ndearborn.com.

American Invsco currently is holding a final closeout sale for six units at the landmark Century Tower Private Residences. Built in 1930, the historic Art Deco-style high-rise is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. American Invsco renovated the former office building at a cost of $30 million into rental apartments and luxury corporate suites in 1998. Recently, the 292-unit building was converted to condominium ownership.

The six units include Unit 1603, a two-bedroom, one-bath condo with 879 square feet close-out priced at $219,000; Unit 2102, a two-bedroom, two-bath residence with 1,293 square feet close-out priced at $324,000; Unit 2301, a three-bedroom, two-bath condo with

Historic home: Unit 2102, offered at historic Century Tower Private Residences in the Chicago Loop, features a 14-by-11½-foot living room and a 14-by-8-foot dining area with access to a private 14-by-14-foot deck. Picture is the kitchen. 1 supplied photos
Apartment industry pumped $41 billion into state economy

While home-building and the residential real estate sales market often receive the lion’s share of credit for sparking economic growth in the Chicago area, the rental-apartment industry is more than pulling its weight.

“The apartment industry doesn’t just provide homes, but creates thousands of good paying, local jobs that stay right here within Chicago,” said Chicagoland Apartment Association President and COO Greg Lozinak of Waterton Residential LLC.

Despite the worst economy in a generation, apartment construction and operations contributed a solid $6 billion to the metro Chicago economy supporting 85,000 local jobs in 2011, according to a new report by the National Multi Housing Council (NMHC) and the National Apartment Association (NAA).

In addition, apartments and their residents contributed a whopping $114 billion of Illinois’ economy while supporting 971,000 jobs.

“The eye-opening report shows just how important apartments and our residents are to the state economy,” said Fuller.

“Although attention is usually focused on home building and the single-family home sector, the annual construction and operating outlays for apartment buildings with five or more units are major sources of economic activity, jobs and personal earnings,” noted economist Stephen S. Fuller, Ph.D., of George Mason University’s Center for Regional Analysis.

“The residents of apartment buildings constitute an important source of local, state and national economic activity as their spending for goods and services is recycled through the economy,” Fuller said.

“Like the operating outlays for apartment buildings, the spending by renters recurs annually thereby supporting local economies on an ongoing basis.”

The study covered nine Illinois counties — Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will — as well as Jasper, Lake, Newton and Porter counties in Indiana and Kosciusko County, Wis.

The sweeping report also covers the economic contribution of apartment construction, operations and resident spending on a national level plus all 50 states. In addition, construction and operations data is available for 12 metro areas: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, Philadelphia, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

SEE DEBAT, PAGE 4

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Here are highlights from the report:

- Nationally, the apartment industry and its residents contributed $1.1 trillion to the economy in 2011, or more than $3 billion every day. This combined spending supported 25.4 million total jobs.
- Within the Chicago metro area, the apartment industry spent $345 million on new apartment construction, creating a total economic contribution of $781 million supporting 6,300 local jobs.
- The apartment industry spent $2.4 billion operating the metro's 666,000 apartment units, generating a total economic contribution of $5.2 billion supporting 47,000 total jobs.
- Illinois' 1.4 million apartment residents spent $16.4 billion on goods and services within the state in 2011, creating a total economic impact of $34.4 billion supporting 985,000 jobs.

"For the first time we're able to quantify the tremendous economic impact of apartment residents across the country, in addition to the powerful contributions from apartment construction and operations," noted Alexandra Jackiw, NAA Chairman of the Board. "It truly shows a comprehensive view of the industry's critical role not just in housing, but to the economy at large."

"Even in one of the worst economic climates we've ever seen, the multifamily industry and its 35 million residents contributed more than $1 trillion to the economy," said Thomas S. Bozzuto, NMHC Chairman and CEO of The Bozzuto Group. "With up to seven million new renter households forming this decade — almost half of all new households — the dollars and jobs we add to the economy will only grow in magnitude."


Don DeBat's weekly real estate column is syndicated by Definitive Media Services. For more home-buying information visit his Website at www.dondebat.net.
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Alessandro Mazz, 20, a junior at Lewis University in Romeoville, majors in physics and chemistry. He focuses on running.

But what he really excels in is the mechanics of running.

Lewis physics minor teaches how to get ahead of the pack

**The science of running**

*By Lewis A. Grilli*

Waiting for his (definitely) not-melted ice pack to arrive, a physics major at Lewis University in Romeoville, uses his scientific modeling skills with his teammates to properly warm up before running.

Lewis Mazz, 20, a junior at Lewis University in Romeoville, uses his scientific modeling skills with teammates to properly warm up before running.

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Nurses transform health care from the front lines

Demand for college-trained nurses continues to increase

Health care providers and policy makers are encouraging major transformations in the education and training of future nurses. Many health care settings—from hospitals and doctor’s offices to nursing homes and beauty health centers—now require nurses to have more education and training than those in the past. Although nurses continue to work in a variety of settings, the demand for nurses is increasing across the board. Agencies are now looking to hire nurses more quickly than in the past, and many are offering incentives to attract and retain nurses. In the future, nurses will be expected to be more educated and more skilled in their roles.

The goal of it is to get them to feel the difference between how they are running now and a more efficient mechanism that would make them faster.

Lori DeVito
University of Florida

NURSING

Growing opportunities for nurses are on the horizon. In the Bureau of Labor Statistics’四月 25, 2023, it was reported that the demand for nurses continues to increase. Agencies are now looking to hire nurses more quickly than in the past, and many are offering incentives to attract and retain nurses. In the future, nurses will be expected to be more educated and more skilled in their roles.

Acupuncture Improves Test Performance and Memory: And Reduces Anxiety

Wilmette's own, Dr. Jason Bussell, PhD, recently published a groundbreaking, clinical report that links his innovative techniques to significantly improved memory and test performance. Dr. Bussell’s research is centered on the role of acupuncture in reducing anxiety and improving memory.

Dr. Bussell’s laboratory, located in Chicago, is dedicated to exploring the potential of acupuncture in improving mental health and cognitive function. The laboratory employs a multidisciplinary approach that combines neuroscience, psychology, and behavioral science to investigate the mechanisms underlying acupuncture’s effects.

Dr. Bussell’s research has shown that acupuncture can improve memory and test performance, as well as reduce anxiety. In a recent study, participants who received acupuncture showed improved memory and test performance compared to those who did not receive acupuncture.

"These findings suggest that acupuncture may be a valuable tool for improving memory and reducing anxiety," Dr. Bussell said. "Our research has shown that acupuncture can enhance cognitive function and improve memory, which is especially important for individuals who may be experiencing stress or anxiety.

Acupuncture is a traditional Chinese medicine practice that involves the insertion of thin needles into specific points on the body. The needles are left in place for a few minutes, and the patient is asked to relax and focus on their breathing. The practice is believed to stimulate the body’s natural healing processes and improve overall health.

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Advocate Health Care joins cancer screening initiative

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Advocate Health Care is offerin

Better image technology means better patient treatment

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Health care volunteers fulfilling a vital role in patient care, advocacy

Roger Willis is a good listener. He listened to his sister, Helen, who lives in West Virginia, when she told him about her treatment for cervical cancer. "She was telling me how hard it was to go 40 to 50 miles one way to get to her hospital treatments they had set up," he said.

In the driver's seat, American Cancer Society volunteer Roger Willis, who is on duty availability from the Chicago Fire Department, volunteers to drive cancer patients to their appointments several times a week - even current - can you help others.

When you need a friend

SEE VOLUNTEER, PAGE 1

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Most Insurance Accepted
THE GLOBE EXCHANGE, a retail and office property in the Logan Square neighborhood of Chicago devoted to green businesses, has opened the new year with a bang. Today, it's a place where heat and power, consumer goods, and green projects meet.

Green Exchange was created to be the perfect home for businesses committed to the green economy. Reuse Ranch purchased the building in 2010, and David Beach, co-developer, said he spent two years working on getting the building free from the financial debt.

By using this beautiful green building means removing pollution there are no tenants to support. At the time, he said the most important thing for them to do was to run the business and continue with vision started by other early tenants.

The OLEO organ soil green marketplace has always been a place of commerce. It was originally conceived in 2013 to be a neighborhood company that first made "sales only." It later developed into a service provider in 2016. In 2018, it was home to a corner shop where customers could purchase products like food and fresh flowers. It's a place where people can buy local, organic produce and other goods. They also have an online presence.

Tip: Try to open at least five pages to get a sense of the atmosphere.

Christopher Beach arrived at 1001 W. Haddon Ave. in January 2019. He was unemployed and needed a place to sleep in a residential facility. The office of people in need of help, but the 10-year-old resident wanted to work to provide his future. He started working at Goodwill. Now he's mowing lawns and cleaning apartments for the company.

Green Exchange features a building that provides high-quality goods at an affordable price. It's a place where people can buy sustainable products, and it's a place where businesses can thrive.

The inside of the building is designed to be environmentally friendly. It uses natural light and recycled materials. The occupying businesses are committed to environmentally friendly business practices. The inside of the building is designed to be environmentally friendly.

Goodwill CEO John Foy said the inside of the building is designed to be environmentally friendly. It uses natural light and recycled materials. The occupying businesses are committed to environmentally friendly business practices. The inside of the building is designed to be environmentally friendly.
WINTURST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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Bank operators indu a level of customer technology and financial solutions as big
is our continent to keeping our banks
Matthew Douhaldy. "What sets us up apart
serene restaurants president of Wintrust market,
m00ty stores have been pillars in the local

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people want an alternative to the big banks
 mueitybanking locations in the Chicago area
because it's totally part of the community.

The company was created with the belief
Wintrust Community Banks are also dedi-
cated to providing support for local businesses.
The company has always been driven by its
agendas, such as MOORE and the National
organization for women, community service, or
other resources for local entrepreneurs.
In this technology-driven age, hyper-
real world, Wintrust believes the need for
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- Project by Market Community Bank

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In a fast-paced world where technology is constantly evolving and new inventions seem to pop up every day, we don’t always associate progress with ideas that have been around for decades. However, for one Chicago-based company, progress means carving out a new space for something that's already here — your local community bank.

Wintrust Community Banks take pride in innovation and its local connection.
HOME & ART ISSUE

LIVING LARGE IN A TINY SPACE

‘IT LIST’: TEN MUST-SHOP DECOR STORES

SUNDAY WITH A ‘PUBLIC’ FIGURE

HUMOR HAS IT

Stephen Colbert on honing his comedy chops in Chicago and playfully poking at politics
We've taken a shine to Hourglass' Ambient Lighting powders. Each of the six shades is composed of transparent, color-correcting particles that fight the loss of luminosity that comes with age. $45, Sephora.com

Chef Jonathan Fox has upped the local doughnut ante with his new River North shop Firecakes, which offers the sweets in unique flavor and texture combos such as maple syrup, pineapple and bacon ($2-3). 68 W. Hubbard, Firecakesdonuts.com

Chicago is turning up the volume with DJ Scratch Academy's fourth location, which gets students performance-ready with state-of-the-art equipment and celebrity instructors. Email Catassit@efgpr.com for more information. 820 N. Orleans, Scratch.com

> Suit up for spring with this button-down and pencil skirt from Remi Canarie, a just-launched label by Art Institute of Chicago graduates Liz Patelski and Lisa Panz. They count the Rolling Stones and 1920s football uniforms among their influences. By appointment only, email Lisa@remicanarie.com.

Spend a Sunday with Public Hotel's Ian Schrager | 11

How to live large in a tiny space | 14-15

10 to try: Can't-miss home decor shops in the city | 22

Suit up for spring with this button-down and pencil skirt from Remi Canarie, a just-launched label by Art Institute of Chicago graduates Liz Patelski and Lisa Panz. They count the Rolling Stones and 1920s football uniforms among their influences. By appointment only, email Lisa@remicanarie.com.

Where I grew up, in Highland Park — I still hide out there on Sunday nights and hang with my little sisters.”

“Wherever my husband and wild toddler are. And maybe my movie collection.”

“Where my mom does my laundry.”

“My friends, husband, family and a great big glass of Santa Margherita…”

Diane Egebrecht @degebrecht: Home is where, when you enter it, all outside forces go away and love takes its place.

K.G.W @kennygw: @Suntimes_Splash Home is where, today, you’re away — with everyone but the people in front of you.

What else had you tweeting

Fabio Viviani @fabioviviani: Hanging out on the cover of @suntimes_splash ;-) Ready for the @SienaTavern opening!!

SandraSG @SSGriffin: @fabioviviani @Suntimes_Splash @SienaTavern OMG my heart just skipped a beat :) Looking good chef!!

Brittany @brlttlathrece: Just discovered @Suntimes_Splash because of @Refinery29, this mag is awesome!

Next question: Where is your favorite place to shop?

Tweet your answers to @Suntimes_Splash and look for your response in next week's spring fashion issue.

Splash is distributed weekly inside Sun-Times Media publications.
this week

Feb. 28
- **15TH ANNUAL WORLDWIDE TOAST TO HARRY CARAY**
  Join celebrities such as Ernie Banks, Billy Corgan, Tom Ricketts and Caray's widow, Dutchie, and raise a glass to a beloved Chicago sports icon. Then enjoy a fireworks show over Lake Michigan, complete with Harry Caray hologram glasses. Richard Roeper and Roe Conn will also broadcast their WLS-AM radio show live from the event.
  Time: 5:30 p.m.
  Place: Harry Caray's Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand
  Cost: Free. Learn more at Harrycarays.com.

Feb. 28
- **JIM BELUSHI AND THE CHICAGO BOARD OF COMEDY**
  Comedian and Daily Splash columnist Jim Belushi swings by The Comedy Bar to showcase his signature brand of Chicago-bred comedy. He'll share the stage with his improv group, The Chicago Board of Comedy, which includes son Robert Belushi and "According to Jim" costar Larry Joe Campbell.
  Time: 8 p.m.
  Place: The Comedy Bar, 157 W. Ontario

Feb. 28
- **'LIVING THROUGH GIVING'**
  The James Tyree Foundation - dedicated to exploring innovative approaches in education and health care in memory of the late Sun-Times owner - hosts a cocktail party fundraiser at Mesirow Financial.
  Time: 5:30 p.m.
  Place: 353 N. Clark
  Cost: $200-$5,000. Call (888) 334-1758 or visit Jamesstyreefoundation.org/living-through-giving.

next week

March 2
- **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY BLACK & WHITE BALL**
  WMAG-Ch. 5 anchor Allison Rosati emcees this year's big event, taking place at the Westin Lombard Yorktown Center. Between spins on the dance floor, cast a bid for such auction items as a Napa Valley getaway or Colorado ski experience.
  Time: 5:30 p.m.
  Place: 70 Yorktown Shopping Center
  Cost: $250. Call (630) 932-1151 or visit Acsblackwhiteball.com.

March 2
- **'HIDE N SEEK MASQUERADE'**
  The young professionals of the Chicago Children's Museum Metropolitan Board do their bit for the institution's education programs and community initiatives with this fundraiser. Savor hors d'oeuvres from the likes of Hub 51 and Paris Club while enjoying music from Brock of Les Trois Stooges and The Dolls.
  Time: 9 p.m.
  Place: Navy Pier, 700 E. Grand
  Cost: $90. Call (312) 464-7714 or visit Ccm.convio.net/hidenseek2013.

March 4
- **STEPHENWOLF SALUTES WOMEN IN THE ARTS LUNCHEON**
  Award-winning actress Mary-Louise Parker ("Weeds," "The West Wing") is the guest of honor at this annual fundraiser, where she'll participate in a question-and-answer session with Steppenwolf Artistic Director Martha Lavey.
  Time: Noon.
  Place: JW Marriott Chicago, 151 W. Adams
  Cost: $200. Call (312) 654-5632 or visit Steppenwolf.org.

March 6
- **ILLINOIS HCOULAST MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER HUMANITARIAN AWARDS DINNER**
  The Skokie-based institution honors William Brodsky, chairman and CEO of the Chicago Board Options Exchange; Linda Johnson Rice, chairman of Johnson Publishing Company; and J.B. Pritzker, managing partner of The Pritzker Group, for their commitment to the museum’s mission. Renowned journalist and author Bob Woodward delivers the keynote address.
  Time: 5:30 p.m.
  Place: Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 E. Wacker
  Cost: Individual tickets: $400. Call (847) 967-4852 or visit ihlocaustmuseum.org.

March 7
- **GILDA'S CLUB: UNCORDED**
  Swirl, sniff and sip for a good cause at this palate-pleasing tasting event, benefiting the cancer support services long-offered by Gilda's Club Chicago. Wines and craft beers come from the portfolio of Wirtz Beverage Group, with bites from Blue Plate.
  Time: 5:30 p.m.
  Place: UBS Tower Conference Center, 1 N. Wacker

March 9-April 14
- **'MEASURE FOR MEASURE'**
  Recognized for his devotion to playwright Eugene O'Neill, Goodman Theater Artistic Director Robert Falls takes a crack at Shakespeare with this dark socio-sexual comedy, set in the faltering New York of the 1970s.
  Place: 170 N. Dearborn
  Cost: $25-$86. Call (312) 443-3800 or visit Goodmantheater.org.
373 ELDER .......... $2,289,000
1 ½ blocks from the lake! Available immediately. 2 car attached +
additional garage. Stunning finishes. Marlene Rubenstein (847) 565-6666

515 CUMNOR...... $1,999,000
Kenilworth stone & cedar close
to Sears school. 4,598 s.f. +
basement. 6+ bedrooms, 5.2 baths. Therese Schaefer (847) 878-0963

1147 ASBURY...... $1,399,000
1 block from train. Available in
February. Copper bays, Butler's
Pantry, 5 bedrooms, 5.1 baths
& 3rd flr. Therese Schaefer (847) 878-0963

986 GROVE.......... $2,169,000
5,400+ s.f. on half a wooded acre
in Hubbard Woods! 7 bedrooms,
6.1 baths. Spring delivery.
Therese Schaefer (847) 878-0963

We know our customers demand compelling home designs
and finishes, so we've designed floor plans that include
third floors and finished basements. We meet the needs of
today's families with the kind of quality details you expect
in a new home on the North Shore.

We Buy Teardowns
River North got a rustic Italian makeover Feb. 15, when former "Top Chef" contestant Fabio Viviani and partners David Rekhson and Lucas Stoioff of DineAmic restaurant group celebrated the grand opening of their new concept, Siena Tavern. The Splash-sponsored event was packed with famous faces like "Chicago Fire" stars David Eigenberg and Monica Raymund, as well as "Real Housewives of Orange County" star Heather Dubrow. Partygoers mingled with Viviani while sipping on spiked punches and snacking on inventive Italian food, like Kobe beef meatballs and tuna sashimi with rosemary and garlic.

PHOTOS BY RAMZI DREESSEN
When a woman has the daring to ditch simple styles and show off a little skin, a form-fitting and strategically slashed dress is the way to go. Chicago beauties have opened up to keyhole bodices, barely-there sleeves and creative shoulder cuts (appropriately called “cold shoulders”) in what might be the season’s sexiest on-the-town trend. Not for wallflowers, it’s a look that takes bravery and a trained eye, as it’s easy to leave a little too much on the cutting room floor. Keep the reveal tasteful with simple makeup, accessories and, of course, a megawatt smile. It’s a look that’s sheer perfection.
Local singing sensation Shelley MacArthur took to the Joffrey Ballet’s stage on Valentine’s Day to warm the hearts of 250 guests with a special performance of her cabaret show, “What is This Thing Called Love?” Attendees sipped free-flowing Champagne and snacked on delicious bites — the menu was planned by chef Charlie Trotter and included a raw bar, Vosges truffles, chocolate-covered strawberries and French pastries — before taking their seats in the Murphy Auditorium (50 E. Erie) and enjoying tunes from MacArthur, husband-and-wife opera singers Rodrick Dixon and Alfreda Burke, and Rich Daniels and the 33-piece City Lights Orchestra.

With the help of a co-chair committee that included Melissa Babcock, Renée Crown, Marty Higgins, Jerrilyn Hoffmann, Whitney Lasky, Traci Mansur, Shauna Montgomery, Maria Smithburg and Kimberly White, more than $200,000 was raised to benefit the Joffrey’s programs and performances.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event.
TICKLED PINK FOR BRIGHT PINK

Blush hour

BY TALIA BEECHICK

Red carpet, move aside. Tickled Pink for Bright Pink rolled out its rosy-hued version for more than 900 of Chicago's finest Feb. 8 — and members of the social scene responded, donning their best pink attire in honor of the occasion. At the 8th annual event, held at River East Art Center (435 E. Illinois), guests sipped festive “pink-tinis,” feasted on local fare from Paramount Events, Glazed & Infused, Heaven on Seven and Purple Pig and cut a rug to music from The Hat Guys and DJ Hafeez Sarumi from Fig Media. More than $50,000 was raised to benefit Bright Pink's mission to offer breast and ovarian cancer education and early detection to young women.

PHOTOS BY ERICA P. GATMAITAN

WMAQ-Ch. 5's Marcus Riley and Deborah Brown with DC Crenshaw
Dear Jenny,

Help! I've been married for five years and my husband and I have two kids together. He makes a good amount of money, but all of it is consumed by bills. Whenever he has extra money, he gives it to his sister or mother (they ask for it because they think he's richer than he really is). He never consults with me. Shouldn't he be including me on these decisions? I work, too, but don't make as much as him. Am I wrong for thinking he's taking our relationship for granted by just giving away his money? By the way, he tells his mom and sister that they don't need to pay him back.

— Jehan from Chicago

Jenny says: I'm so happy you asked this question because I've faced the same problem. In my case, an ex-boyfriend was constantly forking over money to his son, and it drove me nuts. I felt like he wasn't teaching his son the proper way to earn money, which, in my eyes, is through work, not handouts. I resented his son so much that it caused the majority of our fights. Even though we had separate bank accounts and we weren't even married, I was just as angry as I'd be if it were my son and my money.

Something had to be done, and I knew from all my annoying spiritual books that I couldn't ask my man or his son to change. I had to change. Finally, I found out that I suffered from the same disease many of us catch at some point — self-help guru Byron Katie named it the “Whose business are you in?” disease.

You mentioned a few times in your letter that it was “his” money, and it does sound like he takes care of you and your kids before “his” extra money goes where he wants it to go. Some guys blow their extra money on poker games and strip clubs. Your guy is spending it on his mom and his sibling. But if I were to flash back to how I used to feel when I was in your shoes, I'd have said, “I'd rather have my man spend it on poker games and strip clubs than on family members who expect handouts.”

I know it will be painful to read this, but hear me out. People like you and I, who have strong work ethics, get jealous of people who make money the easy way — by asking for it. We take the role of victim, claiming someone is taking advantage, when really we’re just jealous that we don’t have the guts to blindly ask people for money ourselves.

Sit with this for a bit, and if you can start to believe it to be true, you’ll feel so much freedom that you might giggle the next time you see him give a handout.

Or, do what I do now when I see it in my own life. I think, “That lucky son of a bitch.”
BY JESSICA TEAS

No one would blame Ian Schrager for being exhausted. The hotelier has spent decades revolutionizing the way we sleep while away from home — in fact, he's credited with creating the boutique hotel, opening The Morgan in Manhattan in 1984 and making what was once a relatively staid enterprise into a hip destination.

It's an apt description of his entire career. Schrager, 67, first made his name as the co-owner of Studio 54 — the mainstay of NYC's debaucherous 70s and 80s nightclub scene. So it's no surprise that he's the brains behind PUBLIC Chicago, which opened in the landmark Ambassador East Hotel in 2011, transforming the once-glorious Gold Coast relic into a sophisticated, understated property that's attracted such distinguished guests as former President Bill Clinton. “Start with and focus on what people want, and work backward from there,” says Schrager of his approach. “Be relentless in achieving excellence and unafraid to try something new.” Despite the hotel's high-end aesthetic, Schrager is adamant that it's a spot “for everyone, with great service, great value and great style.” Case in point? Would-be guests can snag a room for just $1 (they usually start at $135) during the hotel's quirky Dollar Sales: first-come, first-served flash discounts announced via email.

The unflagging Schrager also counts “family man” on his impressive resume. He's married to Tania, a former ballerina and Chicago native, and he's a father of five — he has two daughters from a previous marriage, two stepdaughters and a toddler, Louis, with Tania. Despite his packed schedule, Schrager doesn't have plans to scale back anytime soon. In fact, PUBLIC Chicago is just the first of many planned PUBLIC hotels. So when Schrager swings through town and has a rare Sunday off the clock, he takes full advantage of it.

9 A.M.
Schrager wakes up at PUBLIC Chicago (1301 N. State) and has a quick breakfast from Public Express. If his family's not with him, he says good morning via FaceTime.

11 A.M.
Schrager, who's a "huge fan" of Anish Kapoor, visits the sculptor's Millennium Park (201 E. Randolph) masterpiece, Cloud Gate (aka "The Bean").

12 P.M.
He heads back to PUBLIC to dine at the Pump Room — the burger is his favorite. "Chicago is a serious food town," he says. "I didn't realize that until I started eating at the restaurants."

2 P.M.
Time for the Sunday matinee at the Joffrey Ballet (10 E. Randolph). Schrager's wife is a former ballerina, so he has a lot of respect "for the discipline and dedication it takes to achieve greatness."

4 P.M.
Schrager spends late afternoon shopping Oak Street and Michigan Avenue, making sure he stops by the Apple store (679 N. Michigan). "They're the most innovative company," he says.

6 P.M.
After an early dinner at Gibson's (1028 N. Rush), where he digs into a Chicago-cut steak and wedge salad, Schrager ends his evening at the United Center (1901 W. Madison). "I love basketball, and recently met [former Bull] B.J. Armstrong," he says. "I hope we can have a game of one-on-one on my next visit."
Second City alum Stephen Colbert reports on his college days with the founders of Lookingglass Theatre, his years as a struggling waiter at Scoozi and entertaining a nation through satire

BY MOLLY EACH
Colbert's brand of sharp, intelligent humor — which has made him a household name — was honed in part by the Chicago comedy scene. He grew up one of 11 children in Charleston, S.C., and after graduating from Northwestern University, where he majored in theater, he moved to the city and began to train with local arts organizations such as Lookingglass, Annoyance Theatre and, of course, The Second City. "I was sleeping on my friend's floor and I needed a job," says Colbert. "I found out that if you worked there, you could take classes for free, so I started working in the box office." He soon earned himself a role as Steve Carell's understudy on a touring show. There, he hooked up with Paul Dinello and Amy Sedaris, with whom he moved to New York to create the quirky television series "Exit 57" and "Strangers with Candy."

After eight years as a field correspondent, he moved on yet again, this time to headline "The Colbert Report." Crafted in a similar vein as its predecessor, the mock news program features Colbert in character, playing a right-wing political pundit who is, as Colbert puts it, "aggressively dumb." While he skewers modern media and the elements of politics, he's not out to make a huge difference in the political realm — he'd just like to help people adjust their perspectives. "We do our jokes about politics because I'm interested in it, not because I think it's going to change anything," he says. "We're applying a critical lens to information, saying 'Is the information we're getting saying what it's really saying? Or is it the gestalt of the information telling another story that we're not naming?' I don't think it will change how people behave or change politics, because politics is like a huge ship, and we're just little minnows bouncing off the side. We're not going to change the direction, we're just sort of pointing out what the shape of it is, that's all."

To best make that point — and to get in character — Colbert leans on his improv training. (It's safe to say that his time spent in our politically absurd city had an influence on his political humor as well.) He works on every script, following it through every stage and helping to edit each segment. "That's what was really great about The Second City for me. Having to improvise every night for years let me know that [whether it worked or didn't work] we'll try it again tomorrow. That's the gift of improvisation, it's the discovery of what you can do right now. Try it, and you can do something else tomorrow."

"The Colbert Report" films 161 episodes a year, leaving Colbert with little down time. But when he has it, he's happiest spending time at his New Jersey home with his wife, Evelyn McGee-Colbert, and three kids, or traveling with the family back to South Carolina. "I was smart enough to marry a girl from my hometown, so we don't debate where we go when we have time," he says.

Despite his loyalty to his home state, Colbert says Chicago was the perfect place to grow into his talents. "To every young performer who is like, 'How do I do what you did?' I say, 'Go to Chicago!' There's a great community both in theater and in comedy, and the only stakes are caring about what you do," says Colbert. "I can't believe I was lucky enough to start my career there, because you got a chance to make mistakes and find out what you could do. I couldn't have loved it more."

"The Master and Margarita," "The Jungle," "Sisyphus" and lending his comic chops to the initial improv of "The Jungle."

But before long, New York came calling. "Shortly before I left Chicago, they asked me if I would do something in 'The Master and Margarita,' and I just couldn't at the time," says Colbert. "I actually had a nervous breakdown when I said no to them because I thought they were amazing. Boy, I practically had to be hospitalized. I was so upset."

Colbert's brand of sharp, intelligent humor — which has made him a household name — was honed in part by the Chicago comedy scene. He grew up one of 11 children in Charleston, S.C., and after graduating from Northwestern University, where he majored in theater, he moved to the city and began to train with local arts organizations such as Lookingglass, Annoyance Theatre and, of course, The Second City. "I was sleeping on my friend's floor and I needed a job," says Colbert. "I found out that if you worked there, you could take classes for free, so I started working in the box office." He soon earned himself a role as Steve Carell's understudy on a touring show. There, he hooked up with Paul Dinello and Amy Sedaris, with whom he moved to New York to create the quirky television series "Exit 57" and "Strangers with Candy."

A brief reporting stint on "Good Morning America" caught the attention of the creators of "The Daily Show," Comedy Central's satirical news program. After eight years as a field correspondent, he moved on yet again, this time to headline "The Colbert Report." Crafted in a similar vein as its predecessor, the mock news program features Colbert in character, playing a right-wing political pundit who is, as Colbert puts it, "aggressively dumb." While he skewers modern media and the elements of politics, he's not out to make a huge difference in the political realm — he'd just like to help people adjust their perspectives. "We do our jokes about politics because I'm interested in it, not because I think it's going to change anything," he says. "We're applying a critical lens to information, saying 'Is the information we're getting saying what it's really saying? Or is it the gestalt of the information telling another story that we're not naming?' I don't think it will change how people behave or change politics, because politics is like a huge ship, and we're just little minnows bouncing off the side. We're not going to change the direction, we're just sort of pointing out what the shape of it is, that's all."

To best make that point — and to get in character — Colbert leans on his improv training. (It's safe to say that his time spent in our politically absurd city had an influence on his political humor as well.) He works on every script, following it through every stage and helping to edit each segment. "That's what was really great about
SMALL WORLD
MICROLIVING GOES GLAM ON THE NORTH SIDE

Making the most of a small space — or “microliving” — is on the rise among Chicagoans who want to live simply and stylishly in popular neighborhoods. In the past two years, 31-year-old real estate minimogul Jay Michael of FLATSChicago and his two business partners have embraced the trend, buying up old buildings in Andersonville, Edgewater, Lincoln Square and Uptown, then remaking the run-down properties into thousands of chic apartments for the young and upwardly mobile. This unit in the Edgewater building, dubbed No. 5718 ($1,000/month; rents vary based on unit and building), makes its debut at the beginning of March, and — thanks to some help from the design team at Chicago-based CB2 (which will offer all FLATS residents 10 percent off of their purchases) — demonstrates just how fabulous 400 square feet can be.
> "Keys get lost and stolen all the time. Our fob system means you'll never need a locksmith, and the buildings are a lot more secure. Plus, you can key in as many people as you'd like — it's easy to change the fob in the event of a sudden breakup."

< "With a smaller kitchen open to the living room, we elected to use open shelving with a subway tile backsplash. It looks great and marries the two spaces, while still offering a room division and a ton of storage. It also keeps people organized because they can't hide anything behind cupboard doors!"

< "USB outlets let you charge your phone or tablet without an adapter — who doesn't need one in their living space?"
Every two years, I look forward to touring the Lake Forest Showhouse and Gardens. These are better than a pot of gold! They’re available from March 17 at Sprinkles and through the Sprinkles ATM.

Lake Forest Showhouse and Gardens: 15th Biennial, April 27-May 19, tickets: $35 at Lakeforestshowhouse.com or $40 at the door

This year’s home, a lakefront David Adler, benefits the Lake Forest Chapter of the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago.

Vaunte: gently used or never-worn designer clothing and accessories, Tory Burch bag, $70; Vaunte.com

“Im loving shopping the closets of stylish women, courtesy of my friend (and North Shore native) Christian’s just-launched website. Look out for Kara Mann’s sale, coming soon!”

Kinfolk Magazine: quarterly, $18, space519, 900 N. Michigan; Shop.kinfolkmag.com

“My friend Jimmy introduced me to this quarterly collectible magazine, which focuses on simple ways to spend time with friends and family.”

Lomoi: monogrammed notebook in racer stripe outer green and navy, $58; lomoi.com

“This lomoi monogrammed notebook makes even the most daunting to-do list look good.”

Sweet Pea Designs: Cool Checks in hot pink and lime, 25 for $25; Sweetpeadesigns.com

“Both of my kids have their own set of gift cards. They come in a variety of designs and they look nicer than birthday wishes scrawled in pen — a former specialty of mine!”

Maggie Meiners Photography: $1,600; MaggieMeiners.com

“I love this image from my sister Maggie Meiners’ EXPOSED: undercover series. It reminds me of family vacations and our never-ending quest for kiddy cocktails.”

Riccardo Enoteca: Italian wine bar, 2116 N. Clark; Riccardoenoteca.com

“This is a new spot from the owners of my favorite neighborhood restaurant, Riccardo Trattoria.”

Rare Finds: antiques, 890 Green Bay, Winnetka, (847) 446-5449

“I love little curiosities for the home. My mom, who’s a master scout, found this antique inkwell from Rare Finds — it’s one of my favorites.”

Chantecaille: Lip Chic lip color in Camellia, $35, Nordstrom, 55 E. Grand; Nordstrom.com

“I received this in my Christmas stocking last year and I’ve been hooked ever since. It’s the perfect combination of gloss and matte.”

Sprinkles: Irish chocolate cupcake, $3.50, 50 E. Walton; Sprinkles.com

Lisa Cotten Collection: London Blue topaz and sterling silver cocktail ring, $1,600, Material Possessions, 704 N. Wabash; Lisacotten.com

“I feel like a kid in a candy shop every time I’m surrounded by Lisa’s jewelry collection. This cocktail ring from her Bubble Collection adds festive flair to any occasion.”
Chicago designer Jan Lewis' fair-trade bangles made the guest list for Hollywood's biggest night

Bored while touring with jazz-legend husband Ramsey Lewis in the 1990s, Jan Lewis killed time by hand-painting wooden bangles. She had no idea that she'd someday be determining which of her bangles might look best on Jennifer Lawrence or Jessica Chastain. But that's exactly what happened last fall, when she was invited to include her lightweight, stackable pieces in the "Everybody Wins at the Oscars" gift bag — a cornucopia of goodies delivered to the most prestigious nominees the morning after the ceremony.

"It's surreal," says Lewis, who was the only Chicago designer included (participation requires a fee and wares are donated as gifts). "I started selecting bangles for each nominee, and I saw the names: Robert DeNiro, Amy Adams, Sally Field. I thought, 'Oh my god. All these people will be seeing my stuff and hopefully wearing it.' It kind of freaked me out."

For Lewis, the opportunity was particularly meaningful — and worth the investment — because she only launched Jan Lewis Designs last summer. "It's so new on the scene," she says of the collection of bangle bracelets painted with colorful dot patterns. Though she began drawing as a child and later studied at the School of the Art Institute, she spent much of her adult life supporting her husband's career. After she painted the initial pieces, she was told they were too intricate to mass-produce — so she stuffed them in a closet for nearly 20 years before a friend suggested she visit India to explore the idea of fair-trade artisans replicating the designs.

So in 2011, Ramsey accompanied Jan on her tour. The pair spent two weeks in India, visiting fair-trade production facilities, meeting with the artists and analyzing their versions of her work. "They were terrific," she says. And appropriately so: Lewis, who has a degree in anthropology, claims that the bangles were inspired by the cultures she'd studied — including India. "I feel a real connection to India now."

When picking bangles for each of the nominees, Lewis had to forge a similar connection. "It was a gut instinct more than anything else," she explains. "For instance, I love Jennifer Lawrence — I saw 'Silver Linings Playbook' twice — and I feel that she's a little more sporty, so I tried to find pieces that matched that style. To determine what to send Steven Spielberg, she imagined what the famed director might give to wife Kate Capshaw.

The process was thrilling for Lewis. "It was something I'd always dreamed of," she says. And though she can't attend the ceremony, she's just fine with sending her jewelry as representation. "My bangles get to go for something I'd always dreamed of," she says. And though she can't attend the ceremony, she's just fine with sending her jewelry as representation. "My bangles get to go for"
Val Warner lights up the set of WLS-Ch. 7's "Windy City Live" every morning, but on Feb. 15 she shined even brighter than usual when she hosted 150 friends and fans at Hotel 71 for her engagement party to Illinois State Police Special Agent Jeff Cartwright. Just weeks prior, the duo had set the wedding date on-air during a special segment. "The viewers love to be involved, and this was my way of letting everybody in," she says. The momentum of the announcement gave her the boost she needed to plan the bash along with help from the show's entertainment contributor, Debi Lilly. The couple's personal touches were visible in everything from the specialty cocktails to the menu, which showcased the bride-to-be's favorites: Bloody Mary shrimp cocktail, lobster beignets and mini-truffle grilled ham and cheese. Desserts included a Swirlz cupcake bar, a Frost gelato cart, a Glazed & Infused doughnut bar and a Garrett's Popcorn table. Post-meal, DJ Vince Adams spun tunes for an extra hour to help guests burn off the sweet treats on the dance floor.

As for the wedding? Though Warner and Cartwright announced a September 2014 date, she says to stay tuned — the couple is eager to make things official.
Sundays have always been a day to dine with family, and nobody understands that better than Wood co-owners Franco Gianni and Gary Zickel. The pair have been partners in business and in life for nearly 10 years — their past projects include Sushi Wabi and Tank Sushi — and chose the name of the restaurant as an homage to Gianni's father, who died shortly before the spot's launch last summer. "He was in the woodworking business, and he always wanted me to be a part of that," explains Gianni. "This is my tribute to him."

Gianni says his father would feel proud of his namesake space. "Our menu is exactly what he loved to eat," he says. That menu, crafted by one-time Alinea chef Ashlee Aubin, is made up of a regularly rotating selection of small plates, charcuterie and larger entrees, including sweet potato ravioli with oxtail ($11), chicken liver mousse ($6) and homemade spaghetti topped with a lobster, cognac and tomato sauce ($29). There's also a slate of flatbread pizzas ($13), served piping hot from the wood-burning oven — yet another reason behind the restaurant's moniker.

Zickel was adamant that all of the food be sourced locally, so Wood receives daily deliveries of everything from herbs to meat from several "little farms" across the Midwest. The duo had a similar vision when creating the drink menu — they pour primarily organic liquors, many of which are made in small batches or locally, such as Wilmette's North Shore vodka. "This street is filled with bars that serve marshmallow and bubble-gum vodka," laughs Zickel. "I won't let that stuff in the door." Instead, they've crafted a series of unique cocktails ($11 each) along with whiskey and Madeira flights, served on wooden flight boards designed at Gianni's father's factory.

The fact that the intimate spot is in Boystown is no accident, either: The two live in the neighborhood, and felt it was historically underserved when it came to high-quality restaurants. "We wanted to do something different than what everyone else is doing here. I think we're definitely filling a need," says Franco. It's clear that the neighborhood agrees. "The response has been tremendous. They've embraced us with open arms."

Wood Chicago sources its small plates, charcuterie and eclectic cocktails from across the Midwest. Wood receives daily deliveries of everything from herbs to meat from several "little farms" across the Midwest. The duo had a similar vision when creating the drink menu - they pour primarily organic liquors, many of which are made in small batches or locally, such as Wilmette's North Shore vodka. "This street is filled with bars that serve marshmallow and bubble-gum vodka," laughs Zickel. "I won't let that stuff in the door." Instead, they've crafted a series of unique cocktails ($11 each) along with whiskey and Madeira flights, served on wooden flight boards designed at Gianni's father's factory.

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Small plate restaurants aren't new, but our city is home to a few of the finest. Order from any of the following spots to get a taste of tapas-to-go. And if you're new to GrubHub, we'll give you $5 off an order of $10 or more when you enter the code Splash5 during checkout*.

Tavernita • 151 W. Erie St.
Designed to encourage sharing, Tavernita's Spanish-American menu has something for everyone, from the Beet & Artichoke Salad to the Pork Belly Sandwich Sliders.

Red Door • 2118 N. Damen Ave.
This New American gastropub is perfect for those looking for variety. Sharing with a group? Go for the Wild Boar Schnitzel supplemented by smaller plates like the Bacon Wrapped Artichoke or Poutine.

Mercadito • 108 W. Kinzie St.
Mercadito specializes in Mexican small plates, offering an extensive list of guacamoles, ceviches and salsas. And with more than 20 varieties of tacos to choose from, you can't go wrong.

Francesca's Forno • 1576 N. Milwaukee Ave.
At Francesca's, traditional Italian dishes mingle with a variety of sharable sides, like the Roasted Brussels Sprouts and Cauliflower appetizer and the Roasted Beet Salad.

*Offer valid from 2/24/13 - 3/3/13 for new GrubHub diners only. For complete terms and conditions, visit http://www.grubhub.com/promoLegalAction?promoCode=splash5
Southern hospitality

Strike while the market is hot in the South Loop, where properties are being scooped up fast.

BY LISA SKOLNIK

South Loop real estate is on a roll. According to Midwest Real Estate Data’s BrokerMetrics, median home prices in the neighborhood gained 1.1 percent last year, and its 2011 average of 24.2 months on the market for each listing fell to 7.6 months in 2012 — a 69 percent drop.

The new year has started with a bang as well. Listing time on the market dropped to 3.5 months in January. In fact, developer Related Midwest is reporting 40 new contracts on three Museum Park condo towers that the company rebooted just two weeks ago.

None of this is a surprise to @properties real estate agent Landon Harper (call 312-617-6070), who can barely keep up with showings for his South Loop listings, namely unit 315 at 1620 S. Michigan. “I’ve seen things go in a week if they’re priced right, especially good two-bedrooms because they’re in short supply right now,” he says. The 1,000-square-foot, two-bedroom unit — which has been on the market about four weeks and is going for $289,000 — is an astonishing deal because of its 1,500-square-foot deck and upgrades. “They bought it at $363,000 in 2006, but put another $35,000 or so into extra junction boxes and custom lighting, millwork, fixtures, finishes and closets,” he says.

Ready for entertaining: unit 315 (left) at 1620 S. Michigan has a 1,500-square-foot deck (above).

2332 S. Michigan, unit 404

2332 S. Michigan, unit 404

2332 S. Michigan, unit 404

2332 S. Michigan, unit 404

FATMAN COMETH

Alessi’s ingenious and artistic Fatman folding cake stand ($340) comes in handy at holidays — and Easter and Passover are on the way. Shop the line’s innovative serveware at the Bloomingdale’s Home Store, where, from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, March 2, Alessio Alessi will be on hand to offer tips on vases and floral arrangements. 600 N. Wabash, Alessi-shop.com
Her lovely baby bump

Congratulations to Black Eyed Peas singer Fergie and actor Josh Duhamel, who are expecting their first baby! Not even three months ago, Fergie told this column that she wanted to have a family. Sources told me to expect a pregnancy announcement in 2013, and the superstar couple just announced via Twitter that they're over the moon about the news.

"Fergie and Josh have known for a long time that they wanted kids, but it was never the right time with both of their careers on the fast track," the source said. "They've been trying for a while - Fergie cleared her schedule so she could focus on getting pregnant."

A source insists the couple will be amazing parents. "Fergie is very motherly. She's close to her family, and she and Josh have a great relationship. She's had her fun and is ready to be a mom!"

Khloe Kardashian voted off!

Khloe Kardashian will not return to host "The X Factor." Insiders tell me there are a few reasons she was let go.

"She did not bring in the ratings they thought she would," a source said. "She was hired for her star power as a Kardashian. They knew she didn't have hosting skills, but they thought she would learn fast." Not only did Khloe's skills not improve, but she didn't have the best relationship with co-host Mario Lopez. "It was a bad combination," said the source.

Losing her "X Factor" gig isn't Khloe's only problem. Sources say hubby Lamar Odom continues to have a wandering eye. Khloe may need to find more than just a new job!

Paging Austin Powers!

Whenever I see "Mini Me" - aka Verne Troyer - I ask for an update on the next installment of "Austin Powers."

At Joanna Krupa's Save A Friend's Life event at Next Door Lounge in Hollywood, Verne told me to have patience - Mike Myers will soon move forward with the next installment.

"At first, he wanted the movies to come out every two years, like the James Bond films," Verne said. Sadly, it's been more than a decade since the last film, "Austin Powers in Goldmember," came out.

"Mike's a perfectionist - it won't happen until the script is right!" says Verne. "Austin Powers 4" is already listed on IMDB - so here's hoping. Yeah, baby!
the it list

Inside story

Style is on the house at these popular home decor shops

BY RACHEL HANDLER

ARHAUS
For more than 25 years, the experts at Arhaus have designed and sourced their naturally wrought furniture from across the globe. Stop at any of the three locations to stock up on everything from bedding to outdoor accents. 1980 N. Clybourn, (773) 248-8180, Arhaus.com

JAYSON HOME
Spruce up your abode at this Lincoln Park boutique, where staff help you pair modern and vintage furniture with eclectic floral arrangements like kale and echeveria. 1885 N. Clybourn, (773) 248-8180, Jaysonhome.com

DANIA
Bring the house down at Dania's six Chicago-area locations. The store carries midcentury modern furnishings from all over the world, like the ergonomic Annua work table ($249) and the hardwood Arabella wine chest ($489). 1067 N. Roselle, Hoffman Estates, (847) 781-7499, Daniafurniture.com

JONATHAN ADLER
Artist, designer and author Jonathan Adler's eponymous store has more than 1,000 locations worldwide — but you'd never guess it from his quirky, irreverent aesthetic. Pieces range from dachshund-shaped butter dishes ($68) to banana throw rugs ($165). 676 N. Wabash, (312) 274-9920, Jonathanadler.com

MATERIAL POSSESSIONS
Personality is paramount at this shop's locations on Wabash and in Winnetka, where you'll find everything from antique brass lamps ($440) to asparagus-shaped serving spoons ($108). 954 Green Bay, Winnetka, (847) 446-8840, Materialpossessions.com

MITCHELL GOLD + BOB WILLIAMS
Play house with this national retailer, which stocks its Lincoln Park hub with classic and contemporary furnishings alongside playful pieces like Alicia's sofa ($2,475), designed to match that of a character on "The Good Wife." 1555 N. Halsted, (312) 274-9920, Mgbwhome.com

ROOM & BOARD
Settle down in style at Room & Board, which fills its three Chicago-area stores with modern decor for every sort of space. Get a good night's rest with its selection of shades, custom-upholstered beds and mattresses. 55 E. Ohio, (312) 222-0970, Roomandboard.com

URBAN REMAINS
Make sure there's no place like your home with Urban Remains — all of the shop's pieces are reclaimed or recycled from antique buildings and residences. Snag an art-deco, pressed-glass lampshade from the 1930s ($395) for a room that's one-of-a-kind. 1850 W. Grand, (312) 492-6254, Urbanremainschicago.com

SUSAN FREDMAN AT HOME
The award-winning interior designer's retail arm reflects her personal passion for rustic urban furnishings. Top your table with her vintage-inspired Juliska glassware ($26+) and pewter sauceboats ($64). 350 W. Erie, (312) 587-8150, Susanfredman.com

WALTER E. SMITHE
This family-owned Chicago staple planted its roots in 1945. From within their 11 Chicago-area locations, the Smithes dole out design advice and custom-upholstered furniture, all while keeping their trademark sense of humor. 2009 N. Clybourn, (773) 528-7787. Visit Smithe.com for more locations.

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Siegert - Newman
Wedding
Kelley Helen Siegelt, of Glenview, IL, and Sean Michael Newman, of Clarksville, TN, were united in marriage on August 18, 2012, at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville, TN. They are the children of Michael and Patricia Siegelt of Glenview, IL, and Major Gary and Lieutenant Colonel Katherine Newman of Clarksville, TN. The nuptial Mass was co-officiated by Father Ed Steiner of Nashville, TN, and Father David Dowdle of Western Springs, IL. The bride was escorted down the aisle by both parents in a gown by Romona Keveza. She wore her mother’s veil and carried a bouquet of pink anemones. A reception was celebrated at a private horse farm in Franklin, TN. The couple honeymooned in French Polynesia and Oregon and are currently residing in Clarksville, TN.

Sweet & Patlovich
Wedding
Stacy Boehm Sweet, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Whitford Kirkland Sweet III of Lake Forest and Eric Joseph Patlovich, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Mark Frederick Patlovich and Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Leo Cleary, both of Gainesville, Fla., were married on Sept. 22, 2012 in Lake Forest. The ceremony took place at Church of the Holy Spirit, and the wedding reception was hosted by the bride's parents at Onwentsia Club. The rehearsal dinner, the night before the wedding, was hosted by the groom's parents at Stoneacres. The bride is a 2004 graduate of Washington and Lee University and is a loan officer at CapitalSource Bank. The groom is a 2003 graduate of the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia and is a principal and portfolio manager at New Century Advisors, LLC.

Tazioli & Patrick
Engagement
Lou and Nancy Tazioli of Park Ridge, Illinois are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Lauren to Nicholas Patrick, son of Glenn and Christine Patrick of Mohawk, Michigan. Lauren, a 2004 graduate of Maine South High School received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from St. Norbert College. Currently, she is teaching first grade at Robert Crown Elementary School in Wauconda, Illinois and will graduate this spring with a master's degree in reading education. Nick, a 2002 graduate of Calumet High School received a bachelor's degree in finance from Michigan Technological University and an MBA from Kaplan University. Currently, he is employed at Geode Foundries in Berlin, Wisconsin as a Sales Analyst. A July 2013 wedding is planned at St. Paul of the Cross Church in Park Ridge, Illinois.

Lynn – Fabisch
Engagement
Embracing the sanctity of marriage, and the spirit of family, together with their families, Anca Lynn and Paul Fabisch are pleased to announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage. Anca is the daughter of Gary and Nancy Lynn of Park Ridge. She graduated from University of Illinois at Chicago in 2012 with a degree in biology. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in Secondary Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and anticipating graduation May 2013. Paul is the son of Gale and Nancy Fabisch and is currently pursuing his degree in computer engineering at DeVry University. The wedding will be held at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Park Ridge, on December 21, 2013. The couple plans to reside in Chicago.
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Cover Story
The Indigo Girls are still going after 30 years and will make a stop in Skokie.

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

Family Friendly
Ralph Covert invites kids into his musical world.

What to Do
Your calendar for this week and beyond.

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

Stage
Must-see show takes the stage at Marriott Theatre to benefit Sarah Siddons Society of Chicago.

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Indigo Girls still a powerful two

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Contributor

After nearly 30 years, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers are still going strong as the Grammy-winning folk-rock duo Indigo Girls.

The social and environmental activists are touring in support of their most recent album, "Beauty Queen Sister," and headed for a March 7 concert at the North Shore Center for Performing Arts in Skokie.

We caught up with Amy Ray between shows for a quick chat about the new album and why she doesn't expect to hear Indigo Girls songs on country radio anytime soon.

Q: Now that "Beauty Queen Sister" is completed and you're on tour with the new songs, which ones are you particularly happy with?
A: Definitely "Share the Moon." I felt when we were working on it as a band that it all came together in a way that felt so good. I think Emily's song "Gone" also came together in a cool way, because it's kind of a country song and it really worked well with the country players we hired for the recording sessions in Nashville. It sounds almost like it could be on country radio. Although, that would never happen for us. (Laughs)

Q: Country radio isn't into the Indigo Girls?
A: No. I think it's because we're so... gay. You know? (Laughs) Well, I don't think it's just because we're gay. I think if we were gay but we were apolitical and we had more of a feminine image, that people could adjust to... But we are what we are. We're older, too. So, we have a lot of things that work against us in that world. It's a bummer, because I love country music.

Q: How have you and Emily kept the band going smoothly for almost 30 years? Particularly in light of REM disbanding.
A: Well, we're two people instead of four, which helps. (Laughs) Those guys had a great working relationship and, musically, they're definitely one of my favorite bands of all time. But they got to the point where they said, "We're ready to call it quits and do other things." And I respect that.

I think Emily and I feel that if we got to that point, we'd be able to look at ourselves and say, "Okay, it's time to quit." But I don't see that happening. We have a lot of activism going on, we both have individual things going on in our lives and we have our thing together. So, when we get together and do our thing, we still have fun.

Q: Has your perspective as a songwriter changed since the early days?
A: It's not like I've changed as a person, or like my outlook on activism or my general place in the cosmos has changed. It's just that the process of living — meeting people, reading books, seeing movies, hearing music and having experiences — informs the work so much. Hopefully, your perspective just deepens and has more dimension.

Q: I remember hearing that Paul Simon, later in his career, felt embarrassed by "The Sound of Silence."
A: Yeah, Emily and I have some old songs that we don't work with because we're embarrassed by them. (Laughs.) Someone will request it and we'll say "We can't go there." There's a song of Emily's called "High Horse" on one of the super-early records that she hates. People ask for it and she's nice about it, but afterwards, she'll say to me, "God, I would never do that song again." The same is true for my song "Blood and Fire."

Sometimes you can feel embarrassed about earlier work you did because it sounds overwrought. And that's probably just because it's coming from such a young, vulnerable place.

Q: After so many performances, what has to happen to make a show stand out for you as something special?
A: For me, it's mostly about our intonation, how our harmonies are fitting to... Other than that, it's whenever we have a lot of activism going on, we both have individual things going on in our lives and we have our thing together. So, when we get together and do our thing, we still have fun.

Q: What do you think of the new album?
A: We're older, too. So, we have a lot of things that work against us in that world. It's a bummer, because I love country music. 

Q: How have you and Emily kept the band going smoothly for almost 30 years? Particularly in light of REM disbanding.
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I think Emily and I feel that if we got to that point, we'd be able to look at ourselves and say, "Okay, it's time to quit." But I don't see that happening. We have a lot of activism going on, we both have individual things going on in our lives and we have our thing together. So, when we get together and do our thing, we still have fun.

Q: Has your perspective as a songwriter changed since the early days?
A: It's not like I've changed as a person, or like my outlook on activism or my general place in the cosmos has changed. It's just that the process of living — meeting people, reading books, seeing movies, hearing music and having experiences — informs the work so much. Hopefully, your perspective just deepens and has more dimension.

Q: I remember hearing that Paul Simon,
Lens2Ol3, an international juried photography exhibit, runs March 1-31 at Perspective Gallery in Evanston. Visit perspectivegallery.org.

'A Night on the Red Carpet,' the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra's gala, is 6:30 p.m. March 2 at Cafe la Cave in Des Plaines. Visit parkridgecivicorchestra.org.

Evanston Symphony Orchestra presents 'Slavic Favorites' at 2:30 p.m. March 3 at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Evanstonsymphony.org.

'An American Story for Actor and Orchestra,' about Abraham Lincoln's last day, runs March 7-April 14 at Chicago's Royal George Theatre. Theroyalgeorgetheatre.com.

Northwest Chicago Film Society's Classic Film Series is 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Chicago's Portage Theater (above). northwestchicagofilmsoociety.org.

Managing Editor Jennifer Thomas' entertainment picks for this week

MIC celebrates contemporary music, played well

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES | Contributor

Four quite different American composers, including rock and roll icon Frank Zappa, will be featured in the Music Institute of Chicago's Four Score Festival.

The MIC fest has been celebrating contemporary music since the 2007-08 season. In addition to Zappa, composers include pianist Michael Daugherty, professor of composition at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, pianist Frederic Rzewski, known for his 36 variations on Sergio Ortega's "The People United Will Never be Defeated," and Chicago composer Janice Misurell-Mitchell, who will give a presentation of her own work.

The Zappa compositions will be taken from "The Yellow Shark" album, a 1993 classical work for orchestra and the last album released before his death. "Zappa studied with Varese, Stravinsky, and Webern," said Fiona Queen, director of performance activities at Nichols, where all Four Score events will be held. "He was interested in experimental music and the music of the Second Viennese School."

"This is the 20th anniversary of 'The Yellow Shark' album," she continued, "so we are presenting six pieces that I think are the best representations of the album." The Zappa works, which make up the second half of the March 10 program, will be played by an ensemble of MIC faculty and guest artists, conducted by Jim Setapen, conductor-in-residence at the Music Institute of Chicago.

The first half of the program includes Daugherty's "Strut," a five minute piece for string orchestra. It is a tribute to the American icon Paul Robeson, who was as passionate an advocate for racial equality and social justice as he was a magnificent bass-baritone. It will be performed by MIC's Academy Chamber Orchestra made up of gifted pre-college musicians, with Setapen conducting.

"We can just imagine Robeson strutting along 125th Street during the Harlem Renaissance," Queen declared of the period from 1920 to 1930 when the Harlem area of Manhattan was the center for an outpouring of creative activity of African-American arts.

Music by Rzewski, himself a keyboard virtuoso, will be played March 10 by Abraham Stokman, a member of the Music Institute's piano faculty since 1992 who also teaches improvisation. "I'll do some of his solo piano pieces," said Stokman, founder of the Four Score Festival, which is a development of his "Music for a While" contemporary music series at MIC.

Composer Janice Misurell-Mitchell will do a theatrical presentation. "She is one of the founders of CUBE," Stokman said, naming the acclaimed contemporary chamber ensemble. "She plays the flute and there will be percussion and spoken word. Her appearances are very entertaining." Stokman insisted that all music, but especially contemporary compositions, should be heard in a concert hall. "It is the best way to listen," he said, "with high quality musicians giving it a proper performance. That's why I started 'Music for a While' and why we are presenting Four Score. So the audience can hear good contemporary music played well."

The Generation Next Young Composer's concert on Friday, March 8, will include music by winners of the MIC's annual competition. "We started that competition seven years ago to encourage and support young composers," said Stokman. The program includes "things I'd like to have" for string quartet by first place winner Zara Ali, 17, of Cordova, Tenn.; "Negotiation of the Winds" for oboe, clarinet, and bassoon by second place winner Morgan Harry Kane, 16, of New Haven, Conn.; and "Metamorphosis," a piano solo by third place winner Robert Didier, 18, of St. Charles, Ill.
Kids can rock out in Ralph’s World

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

It’s hard to sit still when you hear Ralph Covert’s lively music but you won’t have to at Ralph’s World in Concert, 12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 17 at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie.

“A Ralph’s World full band concert is kind of like a rock concert experience for little kids but one that the parents can enjoy just as well,” Covert said. “We’ll have singing and dancing, and guitar solos, chances for the kids to participate and chances for everyone in the crowd to sing along. It’s not a sit on your seat and be passive kind of show. The audience becomes part of the show.”

Covert loves writing music for kids because the topics are almost limitless, like “Edward – The Tap-Dancing Elephant.” “Having my own kids and being a kid of heart, it’s fun to play in the playground of imagination,” he said.

Tickets are $15 which includes snacks.

For details, call (847) 675-0951 or go to www.tbiskokie.org.

HARD TO SWALLOW

Stories, songs and silly jokes are combined in the interactive musical, “Last Night I Dreamt I Ate a Giant Marshmallow,” 7 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 8 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Kids participate by sharing jokes and dreams. Free tickets will be available 30 minutes before the program.

For details, call (847) 673-7774 or go to www.skokielibrary.info.

WHEREFORE ART THOU?

Two garden gnomes from different homes bridge their differences to find love in “Gnomeo & Juliet.” The G-rated animated film will be screened at 3 p.m. Monday, March 4 at Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo, Harwood Heights. Free popcorn will be served.

For details, call (708) 867-7828 or go to www.eisenhowerlibrary.org.

CHANCE TO DANCE

Fifty colorfully-costumed students from the Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance will showcase their skills, 2 to 2:45 p.m. Sunday, March 10 at the Glen Town Center, 2651 Navy Blvd., Glenview. At the end of the show, children in the audience will be taught a step.

Registration is required at www.theglentowncenter.com. For details, call (847) 729-7500.
Top musical talent sings at Siddons show

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Thirteen of Chicago's finest musical theater professionals will sing some of their favorite songs under the direction of Dominic Missimi and music direction of Doug Peck.

Sounds like a must-see show.

Add the fact that the proceeds benefit the scholarship fund of the Sarah Siddons Society of Chicago and there's even more reason to attend "God, I Think I Got It!" Monday, March 11 at the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire. The society annually awards scholarships to one theater student each from DePaul University, Columbia College Chicago and Northwestern University.

Missimi, who has directed more than 35 musicals for the Marriott Theatre and who founded the Music Theatre Program at Northwestern University, is the artistic director of the society. For last year's benefit, he staged, "God, I Hope I Get It," framing that show like an audition. The accompanist heard the songs for the first time at the performance. The numbers this year will be staged with the cast rehearsing on the day of the show. "It's a one day extravaganza," Missimi said.

Featured artists are Linda Balgord, Dara Cameron, Rob Lindley, Andy Lupp, Donica Lynn, Michael Mahler, Susan Moniz, Max Quinlan, Matt Raftery, Kelvin Roston, Paula Scrofano, Summer Smart and Bernie Yvon. The majority of the performers will sing two numbers in this two-act show.
Michael Mahler and Dara Cameron appeared together in "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" at Theatre at the Center in Munster, Ind. PHOTO BY JOHNNY KNIGHT

I was thrilled because Linda Balgord - who's from Chicago but she's done a lot in New York - came back to do 'Now and Forever' (the current Marriott show), so I snagged her to be in the show," Missimi said.

Missimi had wonderful things to say about the entire cast. "I love to show off the talent in Chicago," he declared. "There isn't a city like us in terms of who we have."

Two of those special Chicago talents are husband-and-wife Dara Cameron and Michael Mahler.

"Any opportunity to work with Dominic is one I will take," said Cameron, who is currently appearing in "Sunset Boulevard" at Drury Lane Oakbrook. "I was a student of his and have been directed by him."

She also praised the work of the Sarah Siddons Society. "We were certainly willing and excited to get to sing with such a great group of people for such a wonderful society," Cameron said.

Mahler has a special connection to the Sarah Siddons Society. "I was lucky enough to win the scholarship when I was a junior at Northwestern," he said. "Groups like Sarah Siddons are necessary for theater in America to continue to survive and thrive."

The ever enthusiastic Missimi praised the show's setting. "We're so lucky because we get to do it on the beautiful set of 'Now and Forever,'" he said. "It's going to look like a million dollar concert."
When it comes to making audiences laugh, James Sherman's "Beau Jest" is a known quantity. The Chicago-based playwright's hit comedy has tickled funny bones since its 1989 Victory Gardens Theater debut, followed by a successful 2 1/2-year Off-Broadway run and countless other regional productions.

Now Oil Lamp Theater in Glenview will take a turn with the show, starting March 8.

"I like the play a lot," said director Ron Ben-Joseph, who expects that local audiences will share his enthusiasm. "It offers a good balance of sweetness, purity and kindhearted humor." The plot finds Sarah, a kindergartner teacher in her late 20s, grappling with the direction her life will take. Her Jewish parents are hellbent on having her settle down with a suitable Jewish boy. The problem is Sarah's boyfriend, whom her folks have never met, is a WASP executive - not the Jewish doctor she tells them she is dating.

When Sarah arranges a dinner party for her mother and father to get to know her beau, the escort she hires to impersonate the fictitious "Dr. Steinberg" turns out to be a budding actor whose Jewish "background" is limited to an appearance in "Fiddler on the Roof."

"Beau Jest" is kind of a coming-of-age story where the main character goes from doing everything to please her parents (at least on the surface) to figuring out what it is she really wants and articulating that, knowing full well there will be consequences," Ben-Joseph said.

He added that while the play involves a Jewish family, it speaks of families and traditions and easily resonates with any ethnicity.

The director said that spending the past two years performing standup comedy for his own show and at local clubs helped prepare him to tackle Sherman's demanding script.

Ben-Joseph's cast has proven a quick study and quickly created the family dynamic required in "Beau Jest." Actors include Andrea Rappaport as Sarah; Josh Greiveldinger as her boyfriend; Schaun Nathan Baer as Bob, the pretend doctor; Rick March and Judi Schindler as the parents; and Laura Coleman, as the sister.
Show biz booms for busy entrepreneurs

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Linda Kimball and Judy Samuelson think that active adults age 50 and older need more entertainment options.

That's why the two north suburban women have started Great Age Productions.

Kimball and Samuelson have already contracted with several suburban facilities to offer their programming. These include Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre, Glenview's Oil Lamp Theater and Wilmette Park District's Mallinckrodt Center.

A number of the programs are being presented by musical theater historian Charles Troy. Kimball reported that Troy "has put together over 50 presentations that are back-stories of musicals."

Best-selling author, national speaker and teacher Barry Bradford will do several presentations, including, "America's Most Famous First Ladies," April 3 at Mallinckrodt Center.

Celebrated cabaret entertainer Bob Moreen will present, "I Won't Dance: The Songs of Fred Astaire" on April 17 at Oil Lamp. A number of other programs have been scheduled.

"We at Great Age Productions look for a balance of educational programs, as well as entertaining programs," Kimball said. "That has been our mission from the very beginning."

The two entrepreneurs first connected when Kimball was executive director of OASIS-Chicago, an organization offering classes for older adults. "I was looking for outside venues to use for my programming," Kimball said. "Judy was involved very strongly at that time with the Wilmette Theatre. She and I began conversations about my taking OASIS programming there."

Then Wilmette Theatre became a nonprofit organization and their new board decided to temporarily halt the older adult programming that Samuelson, previously a partner-owner of the theater, had been scheduling. Around the same time, Kimball lost her position when OASIS closed its programming at Northbrook Court.

With Samuelson's many entertainment contacts (she was a professional dancer and Equity actress) and the fact that Kimball has maintained a relationship with many of the over 200 professional presenters she worked with through OASIS, it seemed natural that the women should join forces.

"We thought, why not take advantage of a variety of venues in a variety of different communities in the North Shore?" Samuelson said. "We can serve a greater number of people."

Kimball added, "It would give our active seniors an opportunity to experience different kinds of theaters or community centers. We thought it would be a unique approach to presenting programs."

Kimball indicated that the two theaters that have already signed on with Great Age Productions were delighted to have programs slated during the day when they are usually dark. Financially, it benefits both the venues and the production company.

Great Age Productions is also cross-marketing its programming with Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, and Light Opera Works in Evanston. In one instance, Charles Troy will do two presentations on "The Creation of South Pacific" on March 13, at Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre, to promote the musical's April 3 opening at the Marriott.

Samuelson enthusiastically declared that creating this company "has been so much fun. We kind of made lemonade out of what felt like lemons for a while."

Kimball reported that Great Age Productions' future goals include collaborating with more venues, serving former OASIS members and addressing "the needs, the desires and the entertainment and educational appetites of Baby Boomers."

For more information on Great Age Productions, call (847) 849-4412 or email greatageproductions@comcast.net.
Oktoberfest, Munich-style, any time at Hofbräuhaus Chicago

Oktoberfest is such fun; too bad it's only once a year.

Or is it? With January's opening of Hofbräuhaus Chicago in Rosemont, a full-blown celebration is only one hefty beer stein away.

There are only four official Hofbräuhaus (which translates as "official brewery") locations in the entire United States. All are franchises of the original Munich, Germany, establishment.

The lore of this historic pub dates back more than 400 years. Back then, beer was considered a basic foodstuff, and even a beauty treatment for the ladies. The popularity of Munich's fermented elixir was such that after the entire city of Munich turned out for the wedding celebration of Crown Prince Ludwig in 1810, the beer-fueled festivities grew into what today is the 16-day Oktoberfest.

In Germany, Hofbräuhaus is known for its long bench tables where friends and strangers happily share space to toast their camaraderie and brotherhood. The Chicago version is an exact replica which easily seats more than 1000 visitors at a time. So you can easily get a table any time, right? Nothing doing.

"People sit for hours just listening to music, drinking beer and having a good time so the wait can be two to three hours on the weekends," explained principal owner Mike Matuschka. Every 30 days he brings over a new oompah band from Austria or Germany to make the atmosphere even more authentic.

All the beer is brewed in-house in mash/lauter tun boiling kettles, each holding 20 hectoliters, or 2000 liters. As expected, the recipe is based on the 400-year-old brewing process. Available
beers include premium lager, lager light, "dunkel" (dark) or the hefeweizen (wheat beer), and range from $4.95 for .3 liter to $11.95 for a full liter (34 ounces).

"Hopfbraeuhaus is 'the' iconic brewery," said executive chef Klaus Lotter. "It's what every other brewery wants to be."

Raised in Mount Prospect, Lotter has worked as a chef in Munich and now oversees the authenticity of food preparation at Hopfbraeuhaus.

What is not made in-house is brought directly from Germany to ensure the precise flavor. For example, the dough for their super-size pretzels arrives frozen and ready to be baked into their fresh "jumbo completes." The giant Brezel comes with Obatzter cheese spread of cream and brie cheeses blended with paprika, as well as sweet and onion mustards ($13.95).

Other traditional specialties include the Muenchner Schweinebraten, a Bavarian staple pork roast served in dark beer sauce with Semmelknoedel, a traditional German bread dumpling ($17.95).

Sauerbraten, an iconic German dish, is Bavarian-style pot roast. The beef is marinated for days so that each bite is succulent and moist. It's accompanied by tangy Blaukraut — red cabbage — and German potato dumplings, Kartoffelkloesse, infused with black pepper ($18.95).

And for dessert? Only warm apple strudel "apfelstrudel" with layers of fresh apples in crispy pastry swimming in rich vanilla sauce for dipping will do ($9.50/a la mode $2.95 extra).

"Come in and enjoy Oktoberfest 365 days a year," said Matuschka.

Follow Table Hopping on Facebook.

Muenchner Schweinebraten is pork roast in a dark beer sauce, with vegetable garnish and Semmelknoedel, a traditional German bread dumpling ($17.95).

The giant Brezel comes with Obatzter cheese spread made of a mixture of cream and brie cheeses seasoned with paprika, and the traditional sweet and onion mustards ($13.95). Try also with the liver mousse spread ($3.50 extra).
**OPENING THIS WEEK**

**21 AND OVER**

**Rated**
R for crude and sexual content, pervasive language, some graphic nudity, drugs and drinking

**Stars**
Miles Teller, Justin Chon, Skyler Astin, Sarah Wright

On the night before his med school exam, a promising student is convinced by two friends to go out and party hard — with disastrous results. Screenwriters Scott Moore and Jon Lucas (“The Hangover”) make their directorial debut with the comedy.

**JACK THE GIANT SLAYER**

**Rating:**
3 stars

**Rated**
PG-13 for intense scenes of fantasy action violence, some frightening images and brief language

**Stars**
Lance Henriksen, Nicholas Hoult, Stanley Tucci, Ewan McGregor

When a giant beanstalk conveys young Jack (Hoult) to a land of cloud-dwelling giants, it’s up to him to prevent their invasion of the world down below.

**THE LAST EXORCISM PART II**

**Rated**
R for disturbing violent content and terror, some sexual references and thematic material

**Stars**
Ashley Bell, Julia Garner, Spencer Treat Clark

After surviving her possession in 2010’s surprise hit “The Last Exorcism,” young Nell (Bell) gets the treatment again after being repossessed.

**PHANTOM**

**Rated**
R for some violence

**Stars**
Dwayne Johnson, Susan Sarandon, Jon Bernthal

Hardcore action junkies might feel this is tame stuff compared to the off-the-charts wanton destruction dished out in “Die Hard 5,” or any of its ilk, but “Snitch” does offer compensation for its relatively restrained carnage quotient. Namely, a surprising emphasis on acting over adrenaline that makes it easier to buy into the far-fetched plot. Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson plays a successful businessman determined to get his son out of the 10-year mandatory-minimum prison sentence he drew for making one stupid mistake: agreeing to hold onto a friend’s large stash of Ecstasy for a few days. Johnson cuts a deal with a dragon-lady federal prosecutor to go undercover and deliver a local drug lord in exchange for a reduced sentence, but he doesn’t go about it like The Rock. Though he manages to survive a couple of impressive gun battles, Johnson plays action dad as a clueless civilian in way over his head and terrified that he and the rest of his family are going to wind up dead.

**BEAUTIFUL CREATURES**

**Rating:**
2 and 1/2 stars

**Rated**
PG-13 for violence, scary images and some sexual material

**Stars**
Alden 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 menaced 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.

**ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH**

**Rating:**
2 stars

**Rated**
PG for action and some mild rude humor

**Stars**
Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba, Ricky Gervais

The joke is on us, meaning the human race, in this uninspired but reasonably diverting animated adventure-comedy for kids. It’s just a shame that there aren’t many laughs involved. “Escape” is a tale of sibling rivalry between two polar-opposite, blue-skinned brothers, both from the planet Baab (pronounced Bob for mild smile No. 1): heroic but brainless superstar space commander Scorch Supernova (Fraser) and his nerdy genius brother Gary (Rob Corddry), who frequently saves his space bacon from mission control. Scorch and Gary have a major falling out just before Scorch blasts off for a rescue mission to the Dark Planet (meaning Earth) after the disappearances of many peaceful intergalactic visitors — all captured by the power-mad, technology-stealing Gen. Shanker (William Shatner). Then it’s wheezy Gary to the rescue.
Everybody knows the giants in "Jack and the Beanstalk" are horrible, foul-tempered, mambunching creatures, but I never realized how disgusting they are before seeing this smart, action-intensive update of the ever-popular fairy tale.

We're talking about brutish dudes who like to root around in their noses and snack on what they find there, sniff-test their armpits and scratch indecently. It's a good thing that while we can see them in 3-D, we still can't smell them.

But while the giants aren't much when it comes to personal hygiene and social graces, they are very good at being very intimidating. As soon as they make their first repulsive appearance, they function as a sufficiently nasty-threat to kick the action-adventure elements of "Jack the Giant Slayer" into overdrive. Counterbalanced by humor of the dry, British variety and a fair amount of fairy-tale romance.

Credit director Bryan Singer ("The Usual Suspects," "X-Men") for that, along with a clever script by newcomer Darren Lemke and Christopher McQuarrie, plus a well-chosen cast and some very impressive CGI effects.

In broad outline, "Jack the Giant Slayer" shapes up pretty much the way you might expect. There's an intrepid farm boy named Jack (Nicholas Hoult, "Warm Bodies"), who's a bit of a dreamer with a yearning for adventure. Jack goes to town to sell his uncle's horse and cart, swaps them for magic beans instead and suddenly finds himself wondering whether to climb the giant beanstalk that has erupted up toward the heavens.

There are a couple of fresh developments, though. For one thing, Jack is in the company of the beautiful princess Isabelle (Eleanor Tomlinson), who's freaked out because the king (Ian McShane of "Deadwood") insists she has to marry the obnoxious Lord Roderick (Stanley Tucci). And Jack has been raised with the story that giants once invaded the world of men using a beanstalk which was conjured up from magic seeds by a group of not-so-bright monks who wanted to climb up and say hi to God.

Next thing you know, Eleanor has been carried up to giant land on the beanstalk and Jack has volunteered to join the rescue party led by Captain Elmont of the king's guard (Ewan McGregor).

It's worth noting that "Jack the Giant Slayer" might be a bit too intense for younger kids. (If they've only seen the Mickey Mouse version of the tale, they may not be ready for giants who bite people's heads off as if they were chocolate Easter bunnies.) If they're old enough not to be particularly interested in fairy tales, though, it should work nicely.
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**THIS WEEKEND & BEYOND**

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

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**STAGE**

**“Everything is Illuminated”**

Presented by Next Theatre through March 31 at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. $30-$40; $15-$20 young adult and students. Visit www.nexttheatre.org.

**Gorilla Tango’s Skokie Theatre**


**“How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying”**

Presented at 8 p.m. Feb. 28, March 1, 3, 8 and 9; 7:30 p.m. March 7 and 2 p.m. March 10 at Oakton Community College’s Footlik Theater, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. $12; $10 students and seniors. The Oakton Educational Foundation will sponsor a special performance to benefit the Performing Arts Scholarship Fund at 8 p.m. March 2; tickets are $20. Call (847) 635-1900.

**“Little Women: The Musical”**

At 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. March 2 and 1:30 p.m. March 3 at The John Waldron Arts Center at Edison Park United Methodist Church, 6740 N. Oliphant Ave, Chicago. $20; $15 students and seniors. Call (224) 725-3696.

**“Stones in His Pockets”**


**“Vigils”**

Through April 21 at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago (Jefferson Park). Curtain at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sundays. $25-$30. Call (773) 283-7071 or visit www.thegifttheatre.org.

**CLASSICAL**

**Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra**

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**

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.

**Park Ridge Civic Orchestra**

“From Spain to Scotland, the Mendelssohn Symphony Orchestra Performs ‘La Dolce Vita,’” chamber music orchestra. Presented by Northwestern University’s Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music and the Chicago Classical Guitar Society, through April 13. Visit www.pickstaiger.org. March 1, 7:30 p.m.: Pacho Cenas’s Flamenco Dance Company will perform the program “Flamenco Vivo” in Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. $30; $12 students.

**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.pickstaiger.org. March 1, 7:30 p.m.: Pacho Cenas’s Flamenco Dance Company will perform the program “Flamenco Vivo” in Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. $30; $12 students.

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**POP/FOLK/JAZZ**

**Akoo Theatre at Rosemont**

5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000. For information, visit www.rosemonttheatre.com. March 8, 8 p.m.: One Night of Queen. $30-$45. March 22, 7:30 p.m.: Australian Bee Gees Show (a tribute to the Bee Gees). $35, $45, $55. March 23, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.: Elvis Lives. $39.50, $49.50, $69.50.

**Ethical Humanist Society Second Saturday Coffeehouse**

7574 N. Lincoln Ave. (at Howard), Skokie. (847) 677-3334. www.ethicalhuman.org/coffeehouse. March 9: Folksinger Larry Mesirow performs love ballads, political and satirical songs following 8 p.m. open mic (7:30 p.m. sign-up, any genre, all acoustic). $8.
The Irish Rovers. $48, $58. March 7, 8 p.m.: Indigo Girls with The Shadowboxers. $52, $62. March 14, 8 p.m.: Janis Ian with Livingston Taylor. $42, $50. April 6, 8 p.m: Sandy Hackett's Rat Pack Show. $48, $58, $63. April 16, 7:30 p.m.: Aaron Neville. $65, $75.

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18+

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COMEDY

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Zanies Comedy Club

DANCE

Akoo Theatre at Rosemont
5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000. For information about the theater, visit www.rosemonttheatre.com.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts
9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300.

Evanston Dance Ensemble
Presenting "The Best of EDE," March 15-17 at Northwestern University's Josephine Louis Theater, 20 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Performances at 7:30 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday; and 2 p.m. Sunday. $22; $15 for youth under 18, students and seniors. Visit www.evanstondanceensemble.org.

Happy Twirlers
Hosting square and round dancing at 7:30 p.m. the second Saturday of the month, through May, at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

What to Do [Page 64]
What to Do
Continued from page 63

dance or review at 8 p.m. Admission: $7; $5 for ages 17 and under. Call (847) 965-6353 or e-mail at somedaydd@att.net.

Chicago Cinema Society

Film

Lincolnwood Public Library
March 1, 1 p.m.: "Flight."
March 7, 10:30 a.m.; "Pitch Perfect." March 7, 1 p.m.: Cinematic Classics features "The King and I." March 8, 1 p.m.: "Argo."

Skokie Photographic Society
Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the Village Hall, 5127 Oakton St., Skokie. All levels of photographic skill are welcome. Call (847) 677-8324 for information.

ORGANIZATIONS

International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 43
Meeting at 7:30 p.m. March 15 in the South Conference Room at Saint Francis Hospital, 355 Ridge Ave., Evanston. Members will perform. Guests $5, which can be applied to membership. Visit www.ring43.org.

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 including writing, directing, acting and crew. At the end of the term movies are premiered at the Skokie Theatre as a free event for family and friends. Cost is $380 per six-week session. Sessions begin March 14 and March 16. Register at www.gorillatango.com.

Skokie Art Guild
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) 677-4450, or visit www.skokieartguild.org.

ET CETERA

Allstate Arena
6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. 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 Brown, Ekaterina Gordeeva and others. $25-$85.

Des Plaines Valley Geological Society
Hosting its 48th annual Jewelry, Gem, Fossil, Mineral and Lapidary Arts Show, March 23-24 at the Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch St., Des Plaines. Hours are 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. Admission: $3; $2 seniors; $1 students; free for children under 12. Call (847) 298-4653.

Skokie Art Guild
"Skooled: A Study in Circus"
The production includes clowning, aerial acrobatics and live music, through March 23 at The Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays; 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays; and 3 p.m. Sundays. $15-$20. For information or tickets, call (847) 328-2795 or visit www.actorsgymnasi um.com.

MUSEUMS

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center

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.
While studying Gershwin's manuscript of A Rhapsody In Blue at the Library of Congress to create GEORGE GERSHWIN ALONE, I came across a document entitled LINCOLN'S LAST HOURS. The two were connected because each was first presented to the world on President Lincoln's birthdate, February 12th.

GEORGE GERSHWIN ALONE was about the man who created some of America's greatest music.

This is the musical story of the last man to have cared for America's greatest President.

-Hershey Felder

Hershey Felder, star and creator of GEORGE GERSHWIN ALONE, MONSIEUR CHOPIN, BEETHOVEN AS I KNEW HIM and MAESTRO BERNSTEIN returns home to CHICAGO...

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READ UP-TO-DATE STORIES, MICHAEL O'BRIEN'S SUPER 25 RANKINGS & THE HOOP RANKINGS.

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Big Data and Recruiting: A Match Made in the Cloud

By Tim Rosheim, Monster Senior Contributing Writer

Semantic search gives companies the ability to retrieve applicant data based on concepts rather than just key words, making talent management systems more efficient and effective. Yet legacy database technology boggs down these systems with large collections of heterogeneous data from many sources.

A talent management system with big data technology can speedily search and analyze huge volumes of diverse applicant data. It does so via a scalable, cloud-based platform that is managed by the vendor.

High-Volume, Fast-Moving and Diverse Applicant Data

How does the big data approach to talent management differ from the familiar concept of analytics?

"The big data movement, like analytics before it, seeks to glean intelligence from data and translate that into business advantage," write Andrew McAfee and Erik Brynjolfsson in the October 2012 issue of Harvard Business Review. "However, there are three key differences: volume, velocity, and [and] variety."

"There's an explosion of resume databases and related unstructured data that include online profiles, employment records and even business cards, coupled with an explosion of devices and operating platforms like iOS and Android," says Javid Muhammedali, director of product management at Monster. "But the old rows-and-columns paradigm means data must be entered manually into custom application forms for the database to work, and job applicants simply won't do that anymore."

How do you turn unstructured data into real-time analytics, while keeping up with the pace of data creation?

The Challenge of Finding the Right Skills

Indeed, the difficulties of managing data on talent—both applicants and employees—have become a strategic concern for more and more businesses.

"We're seeing that organizations are unable to identify people with the right skills," says Mollie Lombardi, principal analyst at Aberdeen Group. Given the multitude of databases and nothing to unify them for the user, "it takes more time to do a comprehensive search, because you can't query just once," says Lombardi. "And in the age of Google and Siri, people don't want to have to learn a new query language or waste time with multiple queries."

New Technologies Enable Convenient, Speedy Searches

The management of recruiting in the cloud wouldn't be possible without big data technologies. And big data wouldn't be practical without a number of key enabling technologies, including MapReduce.

"MapReduce allows organizations with extremely large datasets to run queries and analytics on that data much faster than before," says Earl Reinison, VP of Architecture for Monster. He adds that a single query that could once take days or weeks to process can now be done in minutes.

To demonstrate the power of these technologies, Muhammedali and colleagues tried performing a search on "software engineer" on a database of 100,000 resumes.

With a conventional database, the query might have taken a few hours to run; with Monster's SeeMore™ TMS, which employs parallelization to run a query on multiple servers, the search is completed in milliseconds.

Semantic search capabilities such as SeeMore's 6Sense™ enable recruiters to refine searches automatically by relying on concepts rather than keywords, avoiding invalid matches and gaining many more relevant resumes.

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Searching for a Big-Data Recruiting Solution

A question that many enterprise companies is asking: Should we develop big data expertise in-house?

"The important question is, can you query all the data you have in-house," says Lombardi. "If you don't have the organizational capability to build the applications, it's silly to replicate them rather than purchase. And what you purchase may be better functionally."

Many vendors are now entering the big-data recruitment space, with mixed results. Venerable ATS vendors typically have tried to adapt their legacy technology of fielded databases, which may not meet expectations for performance or handling of unstructured data.

It's important to evaluate these factors and perform a cost-benefit analysis. Decision-makers should balance product or service costs with the value of the talent discovery that the offering enables.

"Monster has invested in a robust, cloud-based platform that can accept data in a multitude of formats," says Muhammedali. "We have coupled this with a strong commitment to the Human Capital ecosystem, by means of a comprehensive set of APIs, and hands-on support for customers and vendors to build 6Sense™ into their own systems and applications."

"This will benefit customers who can now take advantage of the most advanced semantic search capability without switching from their current applications."

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**CLASSIFIEDS CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE**
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Pearson is the most comprehensive provider of educational assessment products, services, and solutions. We are looking for hundreds of college graduates to read and score student essays on a temporary basis at our Chicago Scoring Center. Paid training will be given at the end of March for these six to eight week scoring sessions. Successful employees may be asked to work additional projects. We are also recruiting bilingual Spanish scorers for the day & evening shifts.

All degrees welcomed!

All scores are based on these criteria:
- Hourly -- $13/hour. Employees are paid $13.00 per hour.
- Pay increases on the hourly rate (Minnesota) are determined by performance.
- Performance Pay: Performance (60% of current score) is awarded as follows:
- First 60%: $1.00/hour for each 0.1 point increase
- Second 40%: $1.50/hour for each 0.1 point increase
- Employees may earn up to $13.50/hour with the potential to earn more.
- BI, NRI (National) scores earn 10% more per hour
- Daily Shift: 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., M-F
- Evening Shift: 3:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., M-F (plus 10% shift differential)
- Bachelor’s degree required, but may be in any field
- Will be required to provide proof of eligibility to work in the U.S.

If you are interested, please visit www.flexiblescoring-career.pearson.com

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Please note:
- Minimum age is 21 years old, a valid driver’s license is required.
- Present location is in Chicago.
- Application closes on March 25, 2013.

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Illinois, sell at public auction to the
on April 4, 2013, at 205 W. Ran-
that pursuant
defendants.

CERY DIVISION

Ruction - Condominium

Sale Clerk, Fisher

March 20, 2013, at the hour of 11

assessments, special taxes levied.

The mortgagee is re-

MORTON GROVE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

4th Floor, CHICAGO, IL, 60606,

The mortgagee is re-

ILLINOIS, sell at public auction to the

mortgaged real estate is imp-

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MORTON GROVE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

4th Floor, CHICAGO, IL, 60606,
NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an Order entered in the above entitled matter, the Plaintiff, BAC LOAN SERVicing, Inc., having its principal place of business at 1510213
Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special mortgagee or judgment creditor, shall pay the amount due 24 hours thereafter, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Real Estate, which is 25% of the bond or deposit made by the purchaser at the conclusion of the sale, as well as any other fees or costs that may be incurred. The property is subject to all liens, encumbrances, and agreements of record, and the purchaser shall be responsible for any cost or expense incurred in connection with the sale. The purchaser shall be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in connection with the sale, including the sale of the property, and shall be responsible for the payment of all taxes, including the real estate transfer tax, which is a state tax imposed on the transfer of real estate. Pursuant to the Order of the Court, all notices of sale shall be published for at least 60 days before the date of the sale. Notices of sale shall be published at least once a week in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the property is located, and at least once a week in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the property is located. Notice of sale shall be published at least once a week in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the property is located, and at least once a week in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the property is located. Notice of sale shall be published at least once a week in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the property is located, and at least once a week in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the property is located.
The sale is further subject to confirmation by the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale. The purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale to Plaintiff Pierce 6 Associates, as required by the Condominium Property Declarations and the Condominium Act, entitled to a deed to the purchaser to the residential real estate at the rate of $1 per thousand dollars of the amount paid by the purchaser, which amount shall be equal to the amount bid at the foreclosure sale. The purchaser of the unit shall have no further right or interest in the unit as set forth below.

The real estate is subject to general real estate taxes, assessments, and other charges which are due as of the date of sale. The purchaser shall have no further right or interest in the unit as set forth below.

The sale is further subject to confirmation by the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale. The purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale to Plaintiff Pierce 6 Associates, as required by the Condominium Property Declarations and the Condominium Act, entitled to a deed to the purchaser to the residential real estate at the rate of $1 per thousand dollars of the amount paid by the purchaser, which amount shall be equal to the amount bid at the foreclosure sale. The purchaser of the unit shall have no further right or interest in the unit as set forth below.
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to an "Act in relation to the use of the public roads, streets, and highways," that the Department of Public Works shall hold a hearing on the project to construct a public road in the territory of the said Department, as herein specified. The meeting will be held at the Department of Public Works, 222 N. Wacker Drive, 4th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606, at 9:30 a.m. on the 22nd day of February, 2013, at which time the said hearing will be held.

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that the said Department of Public Works shall hold a hearing on the project to construct a public road in the territory of the said Department, as herein specified. The meeting will be held at the Department of Public Works, 222 N. Wacker Drive, 4th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606, at 9:30 a.m. on the 22nd day of February, 2013, at which time the said hearing will be held.

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**Notice is hereby given that on March 7, 2013, U-HAUL Auction, Executive Administrator, Storage Clerk for U-Haul Co. of North Shore Chicago, 2966 N. Alston Rd., Chicago, IL. 60639, will hold an auction of goods. The auction will be held at 12:00 noon at the Village of Skokie, 5104 Ridge Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale shall be cash only, U-Haul Co. of North Shore Chicago reserves the right to designate any unit as sold and all bids. The sale shall be at the following location, 4101 W. Fullerton Ave, Chicago, IL 60634 and will be at or after 11:00 a.m. and continue day by day until all units are sold.**

**To PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD,** Call 847-998-3400 or VISIT PONERIALCITY.COM/CLASSIFIEDS
NOTICE TO BIDDERS
OFFICE RENOVATIONS AT TWO SCHOOLS

At
Mayer School
815 North Prairie Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60676

McCracken Middle School
4510 Prairie Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60676

SCHOOL DISTRICT 75
7000 East Prairie Road
Skokie, Illinois 60676

Sealed bids for the above named construction project will be received by the Owner at the business office of Skokie School District 75 at 7000 East Prairie Road, Skokie, Illinois 60676, until 3:00 p.m. local time, March 18, 2013, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The sealed bid will be submitted in duplicate on the form provided, Project Name, Bid Date, Bid Time, and Bid Location must be marked on the outside of the envelope to prevent premature opening.

Bid forms can be downloaded at www.greenassociates.com.

Bids will be received for a single prime contract. In general the Project work consists of renovations in school and administrative offices at the aforementioned buildings as detailed herein. Trades include masonry, steel, carpentry, specialized installation, framing, door and window, plaster, wiring, hydronics, electrical and associated work.

Drawings and Project Manual will be examined at the offices of the Owner and Architect. Documents are also on file at McCraw-Hill Construction/DODGE www.bUILDER.com.

Northern Illinois Building Contractors Association
111 South Aspin Road
Butte 200
Aurora, Illinois 60505

Reed Construction Data
7700 E. Parmenter Rd.
性疾病/Records Centers of Rogers Park
8245 N. Paulina St. Chicago, Illinois 60641

Bid Documents are available in digital PDF format only, at www.greenassociates.com. Addenda will be made available in digital format, to plan holders of record.

Notice is hereby given that in the event of a Bid Bond, AIA Document #8A is in an amount equal to not less than five percent (10%) of the Base Bid and all Additive Amounts.

For general information about possible environments, call your environmental engineer or the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Addendum to the Notice of Public Auction

The Board of Education, Community Unit School District No. 75 will receive sealed bids for the design and construction of Office Renovations at Mayer School and McCracken Middle School located in Skokie, Illinois.

The following Documents may be obtained at the address above:

A. Avid Construction
1124 North Springfield Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60076

B. Northwestern University
7700 E. Parmenter Rd.

C. Northern Illinois Building Contractors Association
111 South Aspin Road

D. Reed Construction Data
7700 E. Parmenter Rd.

Bidding Requirements:

1. Bidders must be capable of furnishing the materials, labor, and services described below.

2. Bidders must be currently licensed in the State of Illinois.

3. Bidders must have at least five years of experience providing the services described below.

4. Bidders must be insured for at least $1,000,000 in general liability.

5. Bidders must provide references from at least three previous projects.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to accept any or no bids.

Find Direct inquiries to:

WILLIAM A. HANDLEY
 erhannerad.com

IN THE MATTER OF
A. Carter and Aurelia W. Carter
In the matter of the estate of
A. Carter and Aurelia W. Carter

WHEREAS, the estate of
A. Carter and Aurelia W. Carter

NOW, THEREFORE, unless all

The following is a list of the materials, labor, and services required for the design and construction of Office Renovations at Mayer School and McCracken Middle School located in Skokie, Illinois.

Office Renovations:

1. Design
2. Construction
3. Coordination

The Owner reserves the right to make changes to the scope of work during the course of the project.

Procedures

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to accept any or no bids.

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No. 2013 CH 02342

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AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE REAL PROPERTY, MORE OR LESS, known as Mud Lake, located in Township No. 40, Range 27, East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Cook County, Illinois, and further described as that part of said property located on the South side of Mud Lake Road, East of the North limits of said Township, and West of the South limits of said Township, containing 40 acres more or less, for the purpose of public works and public improvements, for the Village of South Shore, Illinois, pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Illinois Public Works and Public Improvements Act, 35 ILCS 200, et seq.

WHEREAS, the Village of South Shore, Illinois, hereby resolves to acquire the said property for the aforesaid purposes;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of South Shore as follows:

Section 1: That the above-stated ordinance is hereby incorporated in this Section 1 as if fully set forth hereafter.

Section 2: That the Subject Property, as described above, is located in Township No. 40, Range 27, East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Cook County, Illinois, and is further described as that part of said property located on the South side of Mud Lake Road, East of the North limits of said Township, and West of the South limits of said Township, containing 40 acres more or less, for the purpose of public works and public improvements, for the Village of South Shore, Illinois, pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Illinois Public Works and Public Improvements Act, 35 ILCS 200, et seq.

Section 3: That the acquisition of the said property is necessary to serve the public purposes and objectives of the Village of South Shore.

Section 4: That the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of South Shore, Illinois, hereby resolves to acquire the said property for the aforesaid purposes.

Section 5: That the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of South Shore, Illinois, hereby resolves to acquire the said property for the aforesaid purposes.

Section 6: That the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of South Shore, Illinois, hereby resolves to acquire the said property for the aforesaid purposes.

Section 7: That the above-stated ordinance, in all respects, is hereby incorporated in this Section 7 as if fully set forth hereafter.
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- Search by mileage
- Browse hot vehicle categories

You've never searched for cars like this before.
Visit Todrive.com today to take it for a spin.
Wiffle ball championship swings into Skokie

BY KEN KEENAN | kkeenan@pioneerlocal.com | @Pioneer_KKeenan

Bill Schmidt remembers playing Wiffle ball as a boy, and years later he is still competing in the baseball-inspired game.

The Skokie Park District’s superintendent of business now will have full-time access to the batter’s box as the longest-running Wiffle ball tournament in the United States makes its permanent home at Skokie’s Channelside Park after more than three decades in Indiana.

"Everybody played as a kid — in the street or in the driveway," said Schmidt, who participated in the now-defunct National Wiffle Ball Tournament in Skokie from 2008 through 2012. "(The tournament) was always a fun day. You still act like you’re 12, and you go out and see how well you can do. The next day’s not so much fun, because you’re using muscles you don’t use much. But it’s fun to play, and that’s why I do it."

The World Wiffle Ball Championship had been held in Mishawaka, Ind., since its inception in 1980. The decision to shift the event to Skokie came after the family services agency that sponsored the event in Mishawaka opted out following a corporate takeover, according to Jim Bottorff, a member of the World Wiffle Ball Commission who has overseen both the national tournament and the world championship.

Bottorff, the communications and marketing manager for the Skokie Park District, spearheaded the world championship’s permanent move to Skokie.

“There was no one else available to run it in Indiana, so they moved it back to me," Bottorff said. "We have the facility, and all the structure was in place here for nationals already.”

Channelside Park houses 12 Wiffle ball fields, each with 6-foot-tall chain-link fences that separate home runs from fly outs.

“Being in an urban setting makes it a little more visible," said Bottorff, who also still plays the game. "I think there’s potential over a few years to become bigger than it’s ever been. It grew from eight teams to 20, and then up to 64 in the early 2000s. It’s been sitting at about 50 ever since.

“The appeal is something that almost anyone of any age can get out and do it. We get 12-year-old kids, guys in their 60s, and 18- to 30-year-olds at the highest level, where it’s really athletic. It’s just complete fun — a blast to play. “The park district supports it, and we’re glad to have it," Bottorff said.

The inaugural tournament in Skokie is set for June 29 and 30. Registration runs through June 7. For more information, visit worldwiffleball.org or call Bottorff at 847-929-7171.

"The park district supports it, and we’re glad to have it," Bottorff said.
Notre Dame

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Don't Miss

Sunday
Boys Indoor track and field: Notre Dame at ICOPS Invitational at Lewis University, 9 a.m.

The Dons will begin their busiest stretch of the indoor season on Friday when they compete in the 35th Annual Niles West Invitational. Notre Dame is then scheduled to spend the following two days logging approximately 185 miles on the bus. The Dons will travel to Kenosha, Wis., on Saturday morning to compete in the Antioch Invitational, which takes place at Wisconsin-Parkside. The team will end its hectic three-day stretch at the ICOPS Invitational the following morning. The ICOPS Invitational will take place at Lewis University in Romeoville.

Short-handed Dons eliminated

BY GEORGE M. WILCOX | gwilcox@pioneerlocal.com

ROSELL

Glenbard North became the only school to appear in every Class 3A state dual-team state tournament after beating Notre Dame 39-21 in the Lake Park Sectional final.

Notre Dame (17-5) captured the dual meet’s first match at 120 pounds behind Jake Barzowski’s 9-2 win over Teddy Manko on Feb. 19. Notre Dame didn’t get its second win until Roark Whittington defeated Nathan Chacon 4-2 at 145. The win only trimmed Glenbard’s lead to 17-6.

The Dons competed short-handed with four starters out. Notre Dame coach Augie Genovesi said one wrestler was injured during the sectional and could not return, but three others were held out for unspecified reasons.

“I think if we had more of our regular lineup, we could have done much better,” Genovesi said.
Maine East

Don't Miss

Friday
Boys gymnastics: Maine co-op at Conant, 6 p.m.
A year ago, Conant missed qualifying for state as a team by .30 points after recording a 147.30 at the Glenbard West Sectional. Glenbrook North, a team which the Maine co-op will compete against on April 2, scored a 147.60 at the Downers Grove North Sectional to earn the final at-large berth.

Saturday
Boys indoor track and field: Maine East at Maine East Demon Invitational, 7 a.m.
This meet will be the first time the Blue Demons compete at home during the indoor track season, and it's one of only two home meets during the track season. Maine East won't host any home meets during the outdoor season, according to the schedule posted on Athletics2000.com.

GLENVIEW
The Maine East boys basketball team ended its season with 14-consecutive losses, but there's a plan in place for turning the program around.

It calls for developing young players, and helping those players experience higher levels of basketball.

Maine East, which lost to Von Steuben 61-48 Monday in the opening round of the Glenbrook South Regional, has two pillars to build around heading into next season. Point guard Abby George and forward Ezeke Omeke both started as sophomores and will likely play on Illinois Old School's 16U Elite team during the offseason.

George also is likely to attend Dave Devenzio's National Point Guard Camp this summer thanks in part to the financial aid provided by the Maine East boys basketball program.

Devenzio's camp is "intense; class-room stuff (and) on the court," Maine East coach Dave Genis said. "They have it at St. Xavier (University), so it's really close by. ... He'll get an opportunity to really experience what a point guard should be. He doesn't have that full understanding of how to manage the floor and run the floor. But it will come." The highly-regarded point guard camp will take place from July 6-10 at St. Xavier University in Chicago.

George will likely focus on improving his ball-handling, command of an offense and scoring throughout the offseason. But those five days figure to be key in helping the sophomore achieve a greater level of comfort and understanding as a point guard.

"Being more decisive with the ball, protecting the ball more (and) being more aggressive" said George of his primary goal heading into the offseason. "I'm more of a passer right now."

Genis said he will pay $175 of the $500 it costs to participate in Devenzio's camp, and the Maine East basketball program will pay the other $325 with money it raised this season.

"We're subsidizing some of (the cost) with the fundraising that we do, so we'll kind of scholarship a kid every year to go to that," Genis said. "My deal with (George) and with everybody else is that the down payment, they (pay), and we subsidize the rest of it."
Don't Miss

Friday
Boys track and field: Niles W. at Niles West's 35th Annual Indoor Invite, 5 p.m.
This represents Niles West's final home meet of the indoor season, concluding a month-long stretch in which the Wolves competed in four consecutive home meets. It's also the final meet before the CSL South Invite on March 15 at Evanston.

Saturday
Girls indoor track and field: Niles West at Hononegah Invitational, 10 a.m.
Like the boys squad, the Niles West girls have spent the majority of their indoor season competing in Skokie — the Wolves' three most recent meets took place at Niles West — but that is about to change. Niles West will make an 87-mile trip to Rockton to compete in the Hononegah Invitational.

Gibson showing maturity in expanded role

BY DAN SHALIN | Contributor | @danshalin

After three seasons together, Niles West junior point guard Ahmad Gibson and coach Bob Williams have become the basketball equivalent of long-time married partners who finish each other's sentences.

"It's funny. The past few games we've both been calling the same plays at the exact same times," Gibson said. "We're in sync. I know what he wants, and he knows what I can deliver. He's got a lot more trust in me this year."

Williams refers to the third-year varsity player as his coach on the floor and said the 6-foot-1, 155-pounder has added strength, both physical and mental, this season. Gibson helped lead the Wolves to a 16-10 regular-season record.

"He is not a kid who has had any amazing, one game," said Williams, whose No. 9-seeded Wolves were scheduled to open Class 4A Maine South Regional play Wednesday against No. 8 Glenbrook North. "He's been consistent and played well. He's been a leader for our team."

"Gibson has cut down (on turnovers), and that's the result of physical maturity and mental maturity. When he faces adversity, he continues to do the right things."

Through 24 games, Gibson was third on the team in scoring (10.3 points per game) and was averaging a team-high 3.5 assists per game. Last week, he and teammate David McCoy were named to the 10-man All-CSL South squad.

Gibson got the good news from Williams on Feb. 20.

"Coach Williams came up to me in school and handed me a paper that said I'd been selected all-conference. I was speechless for 30 seconds. I had not expected it and was overwhelmed for a moment," Gibson said. "I was really honored because I worked really hard this season. With so many great players in the conference, it was an honor to be recognized."

Gibson said some of his improvement from sophomore to junior year has been the result of adding 25 pounds, most of it muscle, in the off-season. He also has nearly as much varsity experience as any player in the conference. Plus, Gibson said he has expanded his offensive game.

"Last year, I was not able to finish (at the rim). I had to have a good shooting game," Gibson said. "Now, I can turn the corner on people and penetrate better. I'm able to get to
NUes West’s Ahmad Gibson (20) shoots the ball over Glenbrook South’s Conor McCarthy (34) during their game on Jan. 4 in Glenview. | BUZZ ORR-Sun-Times Media

Williams said he loves Gibson’s ability to play multiple positions and used him as the off guard during a recent seven-game stretch that McCoy missed because of a sternum injury.

In fact, Williams, who is in his 22nd year as a coach, said he struggled to think of another player he had coached who possessed Gibson’s versatility.

Some colleges have taken notice, and Gibson said he already has received recruiting letters from Yale, Utah Valley and Wisconsin-Parkside.

Of course, Gibson still has another season of high school basketball to play.

Next winter, Niles West will be without current seniors McCoy, Joe Younan, Alex Darville, Mohammed Qureshi and Alfredo Gonzalez. But Gibson and classmates Romeo Magloire and Dwayne Smith will lead a squad that will add several members of the program’s sophomore team, which went undefeated in the conference this winter.

“We scrimmaged (the sophomore team), and they don’t back down,” Gibson said. “I don’t have any worries about them coming up to the varsity next season.”

Milestone: On Feb. 19, Williams earned his 400th career victory when Niles West defeated Maine West 58-51 in the regular-season finale. Williams is in his fourth season at Niles West after coaching 18 years at Schaumburg.
Don't Miss

Girls indoor track and field: Niles North at Hononegah Invitational, 10 a.m.

Niles North has a busier schedule than most squads during the indoor season as the Vikings compete in nine meets during a five-week stretch. The Vikings’ trip to the Hononegah Invitational represents the longest trip of those nine meets. They will travel 90 miles Saturday morning to Rockton.

Mlynarski thrives in new event

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

WINNETKA

Karol Mlynarski handled himself better than expected.

Mlynarski wasn't supposed to swim the 50-yard freestyle this season, but the Niles North senior took third place Saturday in the sprint event at the state meet, touching the wall in 20.81 seconds.

"In the 50, all the little things count even more," Mlynarski said. "I am really happy with how it went, to get third place."

Known more as a distance freestyler, Mlynarski sprained his ankle in December, which prevented him from swimming the 200 free to his potential. Mlynarski finished fifth at state as a junior in the 200 free.

The injury might have opened some doors for Mlynarski, who plans to swim at Cornell.

"I will see how my body develops," Mlynarski said. "I will come in next year and see what I can do. Then, I will see how my body develops."
Loyola's Andrew Jovanovic won the 100-yard backstroke at Saturday's state championship in Winnetka. The senior finished in 48.25 seconds.

"I left a lot better than when I came in," he said.

Considine also qualified for the state meet in both the 200 free relay and 400 free relay. He was most proud of those team events, which he swam with senior Blake Morgan, freshman Christopher Kearney and Jovanovic.

The 200 free relay finished fifth in 1:25.42, and the 400 free relay took sixth in 3:08.24.

"I'm really happy with my four years of swimming at Loyola," said Considine, who plans to play water polo for the Ramblers before heading to college at Notre Dame. "I will really miss it, and it hit me right after the state meet ended. I was kind of sad because I had such a great time."

**BROKEN RECORDS**

Four state records fell last weekend at New Trier, with Mundelein senior and Stanford-bound Connor Black claiming two of them.

Loyola senior Andrew Jovanovic and New Trier senior Reed Malone earned one record apiece.

Jovanovic, who plans to swim at Northwestern, got his name in the books by swimming a 48.21 in the 100 backstroke during Friday's preliminaries. He came back Saturday to win the event in 48.25. It was Jovanovic's fourth career state title to go with two 100 butterfly championships and one in the 50 free.

Malone added himself to swimming lore with his 1:35.60 in the 200 free on Friday. The USC-bound swimmer followed it up Saturday by touching the wall in 1:36.82 to win. In addition, Malone won the 500 free (4:23.27) Saturday for his third career individual state title.

Malone also is in the record books after swimming on last year's 400 free relay that finished in 2:59.76 to set a national standard.

Black set state records in the 50 free and 100 fly. His time of 46.71 in the 100 fly Saturday doubled as a national record.

Jovanovic took second in that race (48.11).
In sync

Gibson, Williams working in unison for Wolves

Niles West's Ahmad Gibson (right) is defended by Maine South's Caleb deMarigny during their game in Skokie on Jan. 25. | DAVID BANKS for Sun-Times Media

Read the full story [Page 84]