Niles resident Apostle Kalamaris will turn 105 years old on March 20. Granddaughter Vicky Sfikas holds a photograph of Kalamaris when he was 100. | STACIE SCOTT-Sun-Times Media

Apostle, the century man

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Niles man turning 105

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

Not many people can look forward to celebrating their 105th birthday.

Apostle Kalamaris, who lives in Niles with his daughter, is one of those lucky few. He will reach that amazing milestone on March 20.

Kalamaris was in the Greek Merchant Marines, the Greek Navy and in the American Army during World War II.

"He left his native village in Greece to help out the family," said Margaret Sfikas, his daughter. "Kalamaris was the oldest son in his family."

Sfikas said her dad started working in the boiler room and worked his way up to becoming an assistant to the captain. In World War II, Kalamaris was in the American army and was stationed in England. He was a cook in the army and worked until the war was over. After the war, Kalamaris moved to Chicago.

Kalamaris also had a restaurant in Greektown and worked for a Greek painting company for more than 40 years, she said.

Old pictures of Kalamaris in his uniform while serving in the Greek Navy are hung on the walls in his bedroom. Kalamaris' granddaughter, Vicki Sfikas, is his caretaker during the day while her mom is working.

"He is the most honest person," said Sfikas, who said she did not want her grandmother to live in a nursing home. She said her 12-year-old son also would do anything to help take care of his grandpa.

Vicki said that her grandfather helped raise her when she was a kid and her parents were working, so she developed a very special bond with her grandfather. She said her grandmother took her dress shopping and always spoiled her. More importantly, he spent quality time with her and taught her many things.

Kalamaris was instrumental in starting the Greek Society Club at St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church in Niles. This group raises money for a church in St. Chios in Greece where he is from and the funds benefit people and families in need. Father Dean from St. Haralambos came to visit him a couple weeks ago.

Vicki said that the club he started decades ago allows her generation to truly appreciate where they came from in Greece.

Although Kalamaris can't remember certain things on a daily basis, he still can tell stories from his past.

"He still recognizes me, the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren," shared Margaret.

And even at 100 years old, Kalamaris could still be caught dancing. He was in good health until the past few years when he fell down and hurt his hip.

"At Thanksgiving, he was the life of the party here," said Margaret.

Patient, loving and caring are all words Margaret uses to describe her dad.

"All his friends are gone, but their children and grandchildren have always said how he's a good man. Everybody loves him in our little Greek community," she said.
School visitors may get fingerprint, background checks

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

Culver School may soon roll out new security procedures for visitors to the building, which include parents of students.

Under a proposal for volunteer screening, community resource persons, parents and others visiting the school would undergo a criminal-history record check and be fingerprinted before interacting with children.

The fingerprinting requirement would be congruent with the public high schools’ policy, which currently states District 219 volunteers must submit to a fingerprint-based criminal-history records check.

The elementary school district is also looking to refine its procedures for handling disruptive parents.

Superintendent Amy Kruppe said guardians of students are required to schedule appointments in advance. However, there have been instances of parents demanding to see school personnel immediately.

“We've had some ongoing issues,” Kruppe said. “We practice no bullying and things like that for kids, and we want to make sure teachers and administrators are treated that way, too.”

The district defines “uncivil” actions to include threats, threatening gestures, raised voices, and “any other behavior that may, at the sole discretion of administration, be determined to be disruptive to the educational environment.”

“In order to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment Niles Elementary School District 71 will not tolerate disruptive behavior by parents,” states the policy under consideration. “Parents who are disruptive on school property will be removed.”

Kruppe said the district needs documentation of the rules in order to call for police enforcement, if necessary.

The District 71 Board of Education gave preliminary support during a first reading of the revised policies last month. ■
Teens charged with mob attack

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Three teenage boys were arrested after they were allegedly involved in an attack on an 18-year-old Niles man who had asked them to leave his property.

Two Niles boys, ages 16 and 17, and a 17-year-old Park Ridge boy were each charged with mob action and criminal trespass in the March 2 incident that occurred just before 10 p.m. on the 7700 block of Oleander Avenue, south of Jonquil Terrace Park.

An 18-year-old Niles man told police he was snowboarding with his friends in the backyard of his Oleander Avenue home when a group of teens in Jonquil Terrace Park started throwing eggs at them. A short time later, the victim reported hearing screams at the front of the house. When he went to investigate, he saw about 10 juveniles from the park walking up the driveway, Niles police said.

According to police, one of the suspects, identified as the 16-year-old Niles boy, was holding a long metal pipe which he used to strike the victim in the face after the victim told the group to leave the driveway.

After being struck, the victim reported that his jacket hood was pulled over his head and he was pushed to the ground and punched by multiple individuals until his friends arrived to break up the attack.

Police said some of the suspects ran off, while others got into a vehicle and drove away. Officers located three of the teens at the corner of Howard Street and Olcott Avenue and they were positively identified by the victim as being involved in the attack, police said. A metal pipe was also reportedly recovered from the backyard of the victim's home.

In addition to the mob action and trespass charge, the 16-year-old Niles boy was also charged with battery, police said.

All three teens were charged as juveniles. Their court petitions were pending.

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With rising poverty, more flexibility at schools

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

More students will benefit from Title I programming next year when East Maine School District 63 transitions to using the federal dollars school-wide.

Currently, five of the district’s seven schools – Apollo, Twain, Nelson, Stevenson and Gemini – are considered “targeted-assistance schools” under Title I. The designation requires the government funds to only be used for lower-income students who are at-risk for academic failure. Enacted in 1965, Title I is the nation’s oldest program to help students of poor families achieve high academic standards.

Last year the poverty levels at the district’s elementary schools and junior high exceeded 40 percent, thus making them eligible to implement the Title I program school-wide. Poverty is measured by the percentage of students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch.

“This allows flexibility to expand programs to other classrooms,” said Charlene Cobb, executive director of teaching and learning.

In the fall, principals and teachers at the district’s Title I schools conducted a needs analysis to plan for how they would function under the new designation, she explained.

Apollo School, for example, seeks to purchase iPads for kindergarten classes to support differentiated learning and help all students become technologically literate.

Providing additional tutoring opportunities, increasing parental involvement, and assisting students with special needs are other ways in which the schools expect to use Title I funds.

The District 63 Board of Education approved the school-wide plans for Title I programming March 6.

While usage of the funds is still regulated by the government, the school-wide designation creates less restrictions.

Currently, literacy specialists whose salaries are covered by Title I may only provide direct assistance to children who qualify as at-risk. As a result, students are typically pulled from their general education classroom to receive the supplementary services.

Under a school-wide Title I program, a paraprofessional could work alongside a teacher and help all students.

“It enables them to support teachers more effectively rather than saying, “I can work with this student instead of that student,”” Cobb said.

She said at-risk children would benefit, too, since they won’t lose important instructional time to a “fractured day.”

“The greater amount of time a student can spend in a class with a highly-qualified teacher and someone who can come in to support that teacher is of great benefit to them,” she said.

Switching from targeted-assistance to a school-wide program will not impact the amount of Title I dollars the district receives, Cobb said, which this year amounts to approximately $979,000.
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District 207 giving back tax dollars

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

Taxpayers in Maine Township High School Dist. 207 will see lower property tax bills as a result of a move by the cash-flush board of education last week.

At District 207’s regular board on Monday, March 4, the board decided to give back $1 million in property taxes.

“I think this is the greatest testament to the cooperation between the board and the administration,” said Board Member Eric Leys, who is the chairman of the Finance Committee.

The abatement was due to the district having a $3 million surplus in the budget, explained Dist. 207 Business Director Mary Kalou. She said this is the first time the district has done this.

Kalou said that they earmarked $2 million of that surplus for future capital projects and the other $1 million will go back to the taxpayers, who should see the decrease in their property taxes in August.

On a $11,000 tax bill, this would amount to about $30 in savings for taxpayers, noted Kalou.

“What potential impact will it have on our ability to complete projects in years that we have significant budgets?” asked Board Member Margaret McGrath.

Kalou explained that the district does have a number of projects in its 10-year building plan, but they wanted to both put money aside for the upcoming capital projects and also give back to the taxpayers.

“The goal was to do a win-win,” said Kalou.

Dist 207 Supt. Ken Wallace noted that, on the plus side, the district spends a “much higher amount on education” than some of the surrounding school districts.

He said they spend a smaller amount of money on capital projects and they will be evaluating that in the future.

Board Member Donna Pellar abstained from voting on the tax abatement. All other board members voted in favor of the abatement.

“I’m just nervous about the future,” said Pellar, who said she was in favor of the idea of giving money back to the community.

Kalou said that currently there’s a large amount of uncertainty in terms of state and federal funding.

“With this action, we have set a new precedent that Maine 207 only keeps the tax dollars needed to support education programs and prioritizes returning money to taxpayers over building reserves,” Leys said in a statement after the meeting.

Leys explained that the finance committee will regularly consider the possibility of a property tax abatement every year moving forward.

Three years ago, Dist. 207 made significant reductions in their expenditures in order to have a healthy budget. In his statement, Leys credited administration and board members for making the necessary changes to be able to have a surplus and give back to the taxpayers.

Leys and other members of the finance committee were also applauded for their efforts to make the abatement possible.
New village planner digs into town

Bruce Sylvester is the new village planner for the Village of Niles, a position he started a couple months ago.

He was previously the community development director for a suburb of Madison, Wis. and is excited to be working in a more urban area.

Q: What drew you to the job as village planner for Niles?
A: Two things; on a professional level, I wanted to get back to a larger urban area and work in a fully developed community rather than working in a suburban edge community. On a personal note, my family and I wanted to move to a larger metropolitan area.

Q: What are some of your daily responsibilities as the village planner?
A: There's current planning, which is zoning administration; working with businesses that need zoning permits, like special permits and variations. There's comprehensive plan implementation, that includes a rewriting of the village's zoning code, which are the rules that regulate land use. I'm working on a bike and pedestrian plan with funding that the village received through the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. I'll also be helping other village employees plan for the Arterial Rapid Transit system that will go along Milwaukee Ave.

Q: What is the most challenging part of your job?
A: Probably trying to balance the two main activities; trying to do the current planning and stay on top of the zoning administration and doing justice to the long term planning.

Q: What is the most rewarding part of your job?
A: Feeling like the work makes a difference. Knowing the work in the long term improves a community and makes a community nicer.

Q: What are some of your daily responsibilities as the village planner?
A: Prior to this, I was the director of community development in a suburb of Madison, Wisconsin for 9 years. I spent 11 years in the Minneapolis area as a city planner for a couple of different communities.

Q: Did you enjoy your position in Wisconsin?
A: I loved it. It was great work, it was challenging work. It was annexing a lot of farms and turning them into subdivisions.

Q: How did you decide that you wanted to pursue a career in urban planning?
A: I got an undergraduate degree in sociology. A professor said they (sociology majors) can go into criminal justice, urban planning and I forgot what the third one was, but of the three, urban planning sounded the most interesting. He gave me a book from the American Planning Association that listed all the universities that had a masters program in urban planning. I went to the University of Illinois in Champaign. I've been doing urban planning for 20 years.
Culver kids write their own novels

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

In another world, 13-year-old Jenni Ballin doubles as a CIA agent named Regne who's on the run.

The Culver School seventh-grader created her fictional alter ego to star in a 40,000-word story she recently penned, titled "In the Shadows."

Ballin expects to self-publish the book by spring break at the end of the month, an ambitious goal for a teen made possible by a national young writers program.

Culver students in Katie Ranalli's enrichment class wrote stories as part of National Novel Writing Month, held annually in November.

In between the Thanksgiving holiday break and their typical school workloads, third through eighth graders at the Niles elementary school tapped away on keyboards connected to iPads, each with a different word-count goal in mind.

Younger students wrote novels of at least 800 words. Eighth graders wrote between 10,000 and 30,000 words, though some, like Ballin, aimed higher.

Writers who reached their goal in 30 days are eligible to receive five free paperback copies of their finished books from Amazon company CreateSpace if submitted online by June.

The young authors are now in different stages of the publishing process, be it adding more to a story, editing for correct spelling and grammar, or creating a book cover.

Some Culver students have books already for sale on Amazon.com, including "The London Lamp," by fourth-grader Sydney Schroeder, and "The Love Story" by Erika Karalli and "The Adventures of Weird Man" by Paul Yousif, both third graders.

“They have the potential to earn royalties if enough sell,” Ranalli said. “That gets their entrepreneurial brains going.”

But the project's biggest takeaway is believing they are writers in the first place.

“They think authors are these untouchable people,” Ranalli said. “I want them to consider themselves authors.

“It's about getting creativity out and building up confidence as a writer.”

To better understand the hard work her students put into the project, Ranalli participated in the program, too, writing a 50,000-word novel called "Memories of Boys."

Authoring a book was no easy task, she said, but like her students she found the experience to be meaningful.

“Sometimes (students) get frustrated about what it takes (to write),” Ranalli said, adding the project “really got them excited about the whole writing process.”

Eighth-grader Nicholas Stochmal said participating gave him the push he needed to put into words a story he's pondered for a while.

“I was able to finish something I was proud of,” said Stochmal, 14.

The project also allowed for differentiation in learning, as students wrote according to their own abilities and personal goals, and not for a standardized score.

Twelve-year-old Yourtana Sulaiman said writing might sometimes be difficult but that isn't stopping her from writing a sequel to her fantasy novel "The Map to Fortuna."

For her, content trumped the work of editing.

“I can't bring myself to revise it,” Sulaiman said.

On the other hand, Sedra Khan, 13, wants to perfect her novel before publishing it. She said writing for fun and not for a grade helped motivate students to think creatively.

“If you have no mind filter, I think it helps,” added Ballin.

The longtime "Harry Potter" fan had another tip for becoming a successful storyteller: "You have to be a reader to be a writer," she said.

Sixth graders Sofia Stefanis and Julia Matuszek wrote their own novels as part of Culver School's participation in National Novel Writing Month. | NATASHA WASINSKI-For Sun-Times Media

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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.

**BATTERY**

Nathaniel Huston, 26, of 2319 N. 73rd Ave., Elmwood Park, was charged with battery and violating an order of protection on Feb. 27. Police said a 32-year-old Waukegan man accused Huston of grabbing him and wrestling him to the ground in the parking lot of a store on the 6100 block of Touhy Avenue. The victim told police that his 25-year-old girlfriend was being chased through the parking lot by Huston and he was trying to come to her aid. Police said the Department of Children and Family Services was also notified because Huston's children were reportedly present and unattended during the alleged battery. Huston has a March 12 court date.

**DUI**

Angelo Hamilton, 49, of 9735 Sumac Rd., unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with driving under the influence on the morning of March 3 after he was stopped for allegedly speeding on the 8800 block of Milwaukee Avenue. He has a March 18 court date.

Bartek Bieszczad, 21, of 1911 DeCook Ave., Park Ridge, was charged with driving under the influence on the morning of March 3 after he was stopped for allegedly speeding on the 8600 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

**BURGLARY**

Someone attempted to break into a home on the 8600 block of Stolting on the night of March 2, setting off an alarm.

**THEFT**

Police said a 66-year-old Niles man was the victim of a theft when he transferred $29,000 to what he believed was a London bank. The victim told police he thought he was dealing with an actual bank via an online website and transferred the funds in an attempt to receive a higher interest rate.

A 53-year-old Chicago woman reported that on Feb. 27 that someone stole a bag containing $900 from the cafeteria office at Notre Dame College Prep, 7655 W. Dempster St.

An iPhone was stolen between Feb. 26 and Feb. 27 from a store on the 9400 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

**BURGLARY TO VEHICLE**

A GPS device was stolen on the morning of Feb. 26 from a vehicle parked on the 7200 block of Crain. The driver's side window was broken to gain entry, police said. Overnight between Feb. 25 and Feb. 26, GPS devices were also stolen from vehicles parked on the 7600 block of Oketo and the 8000 block of Davis, police said.

A GPS device and 10 baseball cards valued at $50 were stolen overnight between Feb. 28 and March 1 from a vehicle parked on the 7800 block of Nordica.
Mayoral candidates face off

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

Village trustees Chris Hanusiak and Andrew Przybylo are competing for the top spot in Niles, to be the new mayor.

The Niles Herald-Spectator talked to both candidates about why they want to lead.

What is your vision for the village?

Hanusiak: The vision is to continue the 2030 plan and get more of the public involved. We've done a lot of things over the last few years with the 2030 plan, streetscape on Milwaukee Ave. and keeping the taxes low.

Przybylo: To bring back a healthy and stable business economy that could support quality services that residents have come to expect at the lowest possible property tax rate. I would also like to put forth some new management skills for various departments in the Village of Niles. Cook County has performance management and it's evolved to the point where budget planning is being done by your performance.

What do you feel the role of the mayor is?

Hanusiak: To set the agenda for the village and have oversight about what goes on daily. Not to micromanage, but to have oversight about what's going on in the village. Also communicating to the businesses and citizens and going to events and supporting the events.

Przybylo: I suppose the role of the mayor is to lead and manage the council. The mayor does have power to appoint committees. I'd like to see each trustee in charge of one or two departments. (For example, a trustee would be in charge of a Safety Committee). It would give the trustees the chance to focus on something specific as opposed to running around village hall and doing odd jobs and sometimes interfering with the staff.

Why are you best-suited to be mayor?

Hanusiak: I'm a business owner and have leadership skills. I have the time to be able to do things. We need the oversight, someone needs to be here in the office, not a phone call away, but to be here. We have an $80 million budget, we need people who are responsible and are leaders.

Przybylo: I've been there quite a long time so I know the village. I know the village in terms of the people and services that the village provides. I know how it can be done better. I am someone from the business community who has managed a business with a significant payroll for over 20 years. Coming from county government for 10 years, I see a whole different picture. I have a business background and willingness to work with businesses.

How would you describe the village's financial picture?

Hanusiak: Financially, we're a healthy community. The biggest thing that needs to be taken care of is funding the pensions. Over the last three years, we put more money into the pensions than we did previously in the last 9 years.

Przybylo: The village financial picture is fine. The only thing that's hanging out there is pension contributions, but every year we do what is required, plus. The fact of the matter is there is no jeopardy to the pension fund. My opponents want to play that up.

Efforts have been made to make Niles government more transparent. Have these been successful? Should anything else be done?

Hanusiak: We voted for televised meetings. Why hide what's going on in the village? People need to be informed. I'd like to see not just our board meetings, but also show the finance meetings and the community development meetings, etc. I'd like to see all those meetings broadcast. If you put it out there, people are going to be interested and want to join and be part of it.

Przybylo: Efforts have been made to make Niles government transparent. I'm not happy at all (with the efforts). I think the Ethics ordinance needs to be better understood. I think it's an abomination that the Ethics Board is chaired by one of the village trustees. I would create an office of inspector general, which would be a lawyer at minimal cost, who would take the complaints and bring them to a citizens committee. (I'd like to see) mandatory ethics training for all employees plus all the elected officials.
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Keeping Tabs

How Illinois lawmakers voted in Congress for the week ending March 8, 2013

Major roll call votes in the Senate

**CIA DIRECTOR BRENnan**

Senators voted, 63-34, to confirm John O. Brennan, 57, the top White House adviser on terrorism, to lead the Central Intelligence Agency. He drew criticism over the administration's aggressive use of drones to kill enemies overseas without an accounting to Congress or the public. A "yes" vote was to confirm Brennan.

Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: Yes

**CAITLIN HALLIGAN NOMINATION**

Senators voted, 51-41, failing to reach 60 votes to end GOP blockage of the nomination of Caitlin Halligan, 45, to sit on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. She is general counsel for the New York County District Attorney's Office in Manhattan. A "yes" vote backed Halligan over criticism of a brief she wrote on gun manufacturers' legal liability.

Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: No

Major roll call votes in the House

**1. STOPGAP SPENDING**

Members voted, 267-151, to fund the operation of federal departments and agencies between March 27 and Oct. 1 at an annual rate of $982 billion. The bill locks in the blind cuts known as sequestration but eases their impact on military and veterans' budgets. A "yes" vote backed HR 933.

**2. REPEAL OF SEQUESTRATION**

Members voted, 188-231, to defeat a Democratic bid to exempt a stopgap spending bill (HR 933, above) from the across-the-board cuts known as sequestration. A "yes" vote backed the motion over Republican arguments this bill is the wrong vehicle for rekindling the sequestration debate.

Key votes ahead

In the week of March 11, the House will take up a federal budget blueprint authored by Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., while the Senate will debate a bill to fund the government from March 27 to Oct. 1.

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What it means to you

TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

CHICAGO

Emanuel summons Tunney, Cubs to meeting on Wrigley signs

Ald. Tom Tunney (44th) can talk as tough as he wants. Mayor Rahm Emanuel holds the cards in the Cubs’ dispute with the rooftops over Wrigley Field signage that’s holding up a $300 million plan to renovate the 99-year-old ballpark.

That much was perfectly clear on March 7 when Emanuel summoned Tunney and Cubs Chairman Tom Ricketts to City Hall.

The closed-door meeting marked the mayor’s latest and most direct attempt to satisfy the Cubs’ demand to resolve their signage dispute by Opening Day to avoid losing yet another construction season.

Tunney told reporters he would not agree to the Cubs’ request to lift city restrictions on outfield signs and night games and open Sheffield Avenue for street fairs on game days without a deal that includes more remote parking and police protection after Cubs games.

The Cubs say they need those new revenues to bankroll renovations without a public subsidy.

“The mayor knows there’s a bottom line to make this work. There needs to be some ability to have some signs inside the ballpark. There’s a floor to be able to finance this project,” said a source close to the Cubs, refusing to reveal a specific number of signs.

— Chicago Sun-Times

SPRINGFIELD

Pension cap proposal survives test vote in Illinois House

A day after Gov. Pat Quinn upbraided lawmakers for inaction on the state’s multibillion-dollar pension mess, House members found a proposal they could get behind, backing a measure to limit the salary on which a public employee’s retirement benefits could be based.

The measure — part of a leading proposal to bail Illinois out of its $96.7 billion pension crisis — was presented as a test vote March 7 as lawmakers continue to feel their way toward a universally agreeable solution.

Two Republicans joined Democrats in the 65-7 vote in favor of the amendment, which would cap the salary that pension benefits are based on at the limit set for Social Security, currently $113,000 a year. Supporters say it could save Illinois $1 billion a year.

Another 43 Republicans didn’t vote, in protest of the process.

Quinn on Wednesday blamed legislators’ inaction on the pension problem for what he called “the most difficult budget Illinois has ever faced.”

His $62.4 billion spending blueprint cuts $400 million from public education and proposes changing state law to slice $241 million from what otherwise are statutorily required payments to programs, services and research.

— The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Easter egg roll on for now, but White House tours are off

The White House says it is going forward with plans for its 135-year tradition of the Easter egg roll, while dashing the hopes of some Iowa children who hoped to visit the president’s home.

Sixth graders at St. Paul’s Lutheran School in Waverly, Iowa, had their upcoming visit canceled as the White House suspended all tours under across-the-board government spending cuts in a partisan budget battle.

The disappointed class put a video on Facebook asking for the tour to be reinstated. “The White House is our house, please let us visit,” the children say in unison.

The tours have become a political flashpoint along with the rest of the budget battle, with Republicans arguing the suspension is a stunt and questioning how much it will really save.

Presidential press secretary Jay Carney said last week that the Secret Service needs to make unfortunate trade-offs like all federal agencies, and its options included canceling tours, furloughing staff or cutting overtime. “In order to allow the Secret Service to best fulfill its core mission, the White House made the decision that we would unfortunately have to temporarily suspend these tours,” Carney said. “I’m not suggesting it’s a happy choice, but it is one that we had to make.”

— The Associated Press
Time for speaker to lead

Gov. Pat Quinn did all the talking in Springfield last week.

But the two guys standing behind him ultimately will decide if and how Illinois digs out of its seemingly bottomless financial hole. In Democrat-dominated Springfield, those two men are House Speaker Michael J. Madigan and Senate President John Cullerton. Quinn acknowledged as much during his budget address to the Illinois General Assembly.

Quinn once again made the powerful case for cutting public employee pension costs while also upbraiding legislators for failing to pass a comprehensive pension reform bill. There is little doubt his words were aimed mainly at the leaders who do the corralling, cajoling and strong-arming needed to get a bill passed.

They talk boldly about cutting pensions, but the Democratic leaders are not on the same page to make it happen. They need to get there, with Mike Madigan leading the way.

The speaker wields unmatched influence, in part because no one ever knows where he stands. It's past time for Madigan to make his views crystal clear.

Guys love sports because every once in a while, something that has never happened before happens.

Between the monotony of thousands of balls and strikes, running plays that end with no yards and a cloud of dust, or the first 47 minutes of every NBA game, sometimes lightning strikes.

Remember the Miracle on Ice in 1980, or Kirk Gibson's limp-off home run in the 1988 World Series, or Boston College's last second Hail Mary pass to beat Miami in 1984?

When it happens to a team you love, it makes the devotion you give your team worth it.

For the past few weeks, Chicago's devoted hockey fans have been watching their beloved Blackhawks do something spectacular. Through 24 games, the Hawks went 21-0-3, failing to lose a game in regulation before falling to the Colorado Avalanche last Friday.

The streak was a feat that had never been done before.

If you are not a Chicago hockey fan yet, shame on you.

If you grew up in Chicago and grew up loving hockey, this is just about the greatest thing to happen since Bobby Hull. Winning the Stanley Cup in 2010 was sweet, but every year someone wins the Stanley Cup. What the Hawks have done to start this season is a once in a lifetime accomplishment. That's what makes it magic.

It's the stuff a kid's dreams are made of.

My friend Charley Krebs, a talented cartoonist by trade, posted an ode to the Blackhawks last week on his Facebook page, reminiscing about the Miracle on Ice in 1980, or Kirk Gibson's limp-off home run in the 1988 World Series, or Boston College's last second Hail Mary pass to beat Miami in 1984?

The streak was a feat that had never been done before.

today's kids wear the jerseys of their heroes, Toews and Kane and Hossa.

For us long-time Hawk fans, our devotion to a team and to players few remember today has been repaid and more. It's like falling in love with that team all over again.
Daylight time really cleans his clock

Daylight savings time is here. It started March 10. I hope you are all happy.

The U.S. Department of Transportation says you are. It has a poll to prove it. Americans like that there is more light in the evening. And daylight savings time is eco-friendly. It reduces the country’s electricity usage by approximately 1 percent a day.

And then, there is the patriotic angle. Daylight savings time originally was conceived by one of the greatest Americans, Benjamin Franklin, the guy who invented everything but the re-sealable jumbo food bag — in which, by the way, you can store an entire chicken.

Daylight savings time didn’t really get started in America until the 20th century. It was used during the two world wars, but didn’t really become official until Jan. 4, 1974, when President Richard Nixon signed into law the Emergency Daylight Saving Time Energy Conservation Act.

And as with all of President Nixon’s ideas, everyone loved this act.

Well, not really. There always are a few naysayers.

Farmers, for instance, don’t much care for daylight savings time. Chickens don’t tell time well, so they have trouble re-adjusting their work schedules twice a year.

There always are a few naysayers.

In Israel, ultra-orthodox Sephardic Jews have campaigned against daylight savings time because they recite prayers in the early morning hours of the Jewish month of Elul.

And daylight savings time creates problems in Calcutta because India straddles international time zones.

I am not a fan of daylight savings time, either.

While I don’t keep chickens, my problems with daylight savings time are:

1. Hot days (anything above 75 degrees) stay hotter longer because the sun doesn’t set until late.
2. People are outside shouting and blasting music through open windows (see hot weather above) until at least 9 p.m.
3. I don’t know where all this electricity savings is happening. My electric bill soars in the summer due to air conditioning. I bet yours does, too.

So, all of you, go ahead and enjoy your light.

Don’t give a thought to me or the residents of Calcutta.

Daylight savings time is here to stay. Spring ahead, fall down.

Niles Herald-Spectator Wants to Hear from You

Please send your Letters to the Editor to News Producer Ben Meyerson at bmeyerson@pioneerlocal.com or by mail to Niles Herald-Spectator, 550 N. Orleans, Chicago, IL 60654. Please keep letters to 250 words or fewer. The Herald-Spectator reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and content. All letters must be signed to be published.
Question of the Week

Where is your favorite place to eat in Niles?

Jennifer Bongiorno, Chicago
Firehouse Subs. It’s run by firemen and they have a soda machine where you choose your flavor.

Ginger Bongiorno, Chicago
Rigio’s for their pizza.

Quinn Sitt, Edison Park
The Niles Subway. People there are good at what they do.

Nicole Lappe, Chicago
Amici’s. It’s small and has good food.

People Poll

LAST WEEK’S QUESTION
Is Springfield complying with the court on concealed firearms?
RESPONSES
1) Yes. They are being thorough: 19%
2) No. The amendments equal a ban: 69%
3) I don’t know: 12%

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

This Week’s Question
“What’s your favorite part about St. Patrick’s Day?”
RESPONSES
1) Food and drink.
2) Parades and bagpipes.
3) Celebrating the religious feast.

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

Get up and go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond

Every Thursday
District 219

Niles North German students win trophies at competition

Herzlichen Glückwunsch (congratulations) to the Niles North German students that participated in the 2013 German Day High School competition held at the University of Illinois, Chicago recently. Niles North brought home two trophies in the annual competition. Students from 15 schools across the Chicagoland area participated.

Niles North students Sarah Staubber and Sofia Ballicora won first place in the City Guide competition, a category reserved for first-year German students only. The duo amazed the judges with their city tour of Füssen, Germany.

Niles North also brought home the coveted first place prize in the Skit category. The team of Georgia Christus, Lovely Garcia, A.J. Bunang, Ilyas Taraki, Brianna Anderson and Emma Eschker wrote and presented "Rosis Traum" a version of Red Riding Hood who gets lost in the "hood" for the win.

Credit also goes to Katharine Andrew and Ambrina Syed for their recitation of German poetry, David Liljewall for his essay composition and Ivan Korkes and Sabrina Gheorghita for the spelling competition.

Teacher coaches for the Niles North students are Lydia Ronning and Josef Neumayer.

Niles North Debate continues to impress at tournaments

The Niles North Debate Team continues to show improvement and impressive results as shown by their performances in their most recent tournaments.

At the Evanston Township Dead Presidents Tournament held Feb. 1 through 3, sophomores Luc Walkington and Leelabari Fulbel had a 4-2 preliminary record and advanced to the elimination debates as the 16th ranked team out of 66 in the Varsity division. The teams of Irene Diblich and Shelby Nordstedt and Karli Goldberg and D'Angelo Oberto Besso Pando finished with respectable 3-3 preliminary records in the Varsity division, while the freshmen team of Rubab Hyder and Alexis Johnson finished with a 3-3 preliminary record in the Novice division.

Debating at Harvard University Feb. 8 through 10, freshmen Ben Barov and Martin Barr finished with an impressive 4-2 preliminary record in the Junior Varsity division, ending up as the 41st ranked team out of field of 132. Also competing were: Maggie Balzekas, Rubab Hyder, Alexandra Gabor, Alicia Mathew, Ambria Benesch, Sam Eschker, Karli Goldberg, D'Angelo Oberto Besso Pando, Leelabari Fulbel and Luc Walkington.

At the Homewood-Flossmoor Debate Tournament held Feb. 22 through 24, Ben Barov and Martin Barr debated their way to the Novice Semifinals. The duo had a 5-1 preliminary record and entered the elimination debates as the third ranked team out of 36. Barov was named eighth speaker at the tournament. Alexandra Gabor and Alicia Mathew finished with a 3-3 preliminary record in the Novice division and D'Angelo Oberto Besso Pando and Rubab Hyder finished with a 3-3 preliminary record in the Varsity division.

The debate team is led by Head Coach Katie Gjerpen and assistant coaches Brian Rubaie, Katie Klante, Sarah Smaga and Carly Wunderlich.

North Musicians participate in IHSA Contest

Niles North High School students participated in the Illinois High School Association Solo and Ensemble Contest held March 2 in Schaumburg. Daniel Aisenberg received a Superior rating on clarinet, as well as the "Best of the Day" award. Ari Bearman received a Superior rating on trumpet. Erin Martin received an Excellent rating on flute. The North students are freshmen taught by Band Director Chery Filipek.
Board incumbent Eric Leys on...

...for many years, serving on the Des Plaines Library Board for 15 years and a Des Plaines Kiwanian since 1972.

...the current administration's handling of the Maine West hazing/sexual assault case: Due to pending activity in this area, I cannot comment specifically on this matter. Generally, it is not only the administration's responsibility, but the responsibility of every adult in each of our campuses to ensure that hazing does not occur under any circumstances, and that students are always protected first and foremost.

...seeking a referendum in the case of a financial downturn within the district: I believe that a prudent school board is responsible to take steps to ensure that it is not necessary to ask taxpayers for money via referendum. Maine 207 has shown leadership in this area.

...the prospect of annual tax levy increases: I do support an annual tax levy. The tax levy should be used as a line of credit. If you need it and don't have it, you can be in real trouble; you can't go back a year or two and say now we need it. However, in saying that we need the tax levy, I feel very strongly that if the money asked for doesn't need to be used to maintain our programs, then the board should provide an abatement for that given year.

...supporting a district referendum: I would like to say never on this one, however, never is a long time and who knows what the future holds. If the building needs of the district change drastically in the next 5 to 10 years (massive increase in enrollments, etc.) it might become necessary, however, that does not seem to be the trend in Maine Township.

...the hazing scandal: I believe the administration is making the necessary corrections and setting new guidelines for staff and students regarding the soccer hazing situation. I believe "all" students and staff will be much more aware of the problems of hazing and will be much more aware of what might be going on with a team or club, etc. regarding hazing.

Board candidate Mary C. Childers on...

...her background and connection with the district: As a licensed substitute teacher for Suburban Cook County, I consistently see how important public education is to the families of our community.

...why she is seeking a place on the board: [Attended a Board of Education Finance committee meeting last year] solidified my desire and commitment to serve on the 207 board. An active part of my life is spent talking to people throughout the district at many community events. I will use these channels to insure that I am consistently informed with a variety of perspectives.

...annual levy increases and referenda: In the current economic environment, a tax increase of any size should be a last resort. I also disagree with the practice used by some other school districts in the community of asking the voters for more money by referendum. As a school board member, I would do my part to assure that District 207 never follows suit.

...the hazing scandal: Since I am not a current board member, I am not privy to all of the confidential details of this tragedy. From my perspective, it is a primary responsibility of every single board member and every single adult in the school district to ensure that every student is protected and no student ever suffers in a situation such as this.

Board candidate Jin Lee on...

...his background: I've been a member of the Northeastern Illinois University Board of Trustees since 2005 and was elected Vice-Chair in 2008, 2010 and 2012. Since 1997, I have been the Director of Government Relations and Business Planning & Development for the Albany Park Community Center in Chicago (a not-for-profit social service agency).

...his reason for running: As a parent and someone very involved in the community, I realize it is our responsibility and obligation to provide the best quality education for our students and future generations.
As a School Board member, I promise to advocate for the following objectives: shape our schools to reflect the global society for our students, see that every student receives equal access to all opportunities, and bring stability, predictability and transparency to the school board's budgeting process.

...on annual tax-levy increases and referenda: Since I'm not in favor of supporting an annual tax levy increase, this should only be brought to the table if having no increase would adversely impact the quality of education or safety of everyone at the schools.

Maine Township is known for their quality schools. Therefore, I believe it is definitely a factor when families decide to become a new resident and we must maintain that level of excellence. However, I would only support a referendum to increase property taxes if the district's health takes a dramatic downturn on the quality of education, safety, maintenance, etc. Our residents are already paying too much in taxes.

...the Maine West hazing/sexual assault case: I agree with the board's actions to sharpen their focus on the root of the alleged hazing problems, and I support implementation of a policy that would require everyone to sign an anti-hazing pledge, organizing focus groups to study the matter, and establishing a telephone hotline where students can call anonymously. However, I also believe the school board should work closely with the teachers' union and make sure that due processes are being followed.

Board incumbent Margaret C. McGrath on...

...her background: I am an employee benefits and executive compensation attorney working for a global financial services firm; previously I worked for law firms in Chicago. I have three children, two are graduates of Maine South and my youngest is a freshman at South.

...her decision to seek another term with the board: The board faced tough budget decisions and pursued a new direction in its most recent contract with teachers, a direction that is sustainable for the taxpayers, fair for the teachers, and allows the district to continue recruiting the best teachers available but those changes must be maintained for the district to remain financially healthy for the long term. The district has faced a number of non-financial challenges, including the hazing scandal that is currently being addressed, and I want to continue the work that has been done to make the district a better, safer place for students.

...annual tax-levy Increases and referenda: I think a blanket answer to this question is impossible. Tax levies should be considered by the board based on the information available at the time of the levy, it has to be informed by the needs of the district over the long term and must consider the unknowns such state funding and shifting of pension liabilities from the State of Illinois to the district.

...hazing at Maine West: The administration has fully cooperated with DCFS, the Des Plaines police, and the state's attorney. While we would all like to see this move more swiftly to a resolution, we must work within the requirements of the law to ensure that due process is afforded to all accused parties.

Board appointee Carla R. Owen on...

...her interest in continuing to serve on the board: I

decided to run for the District 207 School Board because I want to help lead the district into the future. I believe we are at a very crucial point in history. The world after high school is very challenging, because the job market is constricted and the competition is more global than it has ever been. I believe we have to give our students the best preparation for the future that we can.

...district finances: Since being appointed to the board, I have spent time getting up to speed on our finances. Careful planning in the past has put the district in good shape financially. In the past, when we were facing financial issues, the administration and the board took strong steps to correct those problems by cutting expenses and eliminating jobs. Though those cuts were painful, they achieved the necessary result.

...the hazing case at Maine West: Hazing cannot be tolerated anywhere in the district. The district has had policies and procedures in place for a number of years to prevent hazing but because of the Maine West situation, more needs to be done to ensure that our students are safe and feel safe in school and in their extracurricular activities throughout the district.

Board candidate Jeffrey S. Spero on...

...seeking a spot on the board: It was always in the back of my mind three years ago when my daughter started at Maine West and I started with the Community Advisory Council. Ultimately, I made my decision to run on how much I currently have invested in my two children currently attending Maine West and a third one on the way. On a larger scale, I feel like I'm ready to make the commitment to the community and try to make a difference in the lives of our students.

...school district finances: The past few years have definitely been rough for taxpayers, students, teachers, and administrators in District 207. Luckily, the district has come out of the recession with a little more stability than before.

I would not be at all surprised if general funding cuts or pension reform from Springfield have a major negative impact in the next few years.

...the possible need for a district referendum: At the moment, I would not support a referendum movement. As I said earlier, I believe the district has taken the necessary steps to prevent a crisis state. Referendum must be used only in cases of extreme need.

...the Maine West hazing/sexual assault case: Overall, the district has responded appropriately to the allegations itself. However, I am disappointed that there has been so little direct interaction and dialogue with the student body at all the schools in the district. I realize that things may have been going on behind the scenes, but I can't help thinking that there has been too much attention placed on administrative proceedings and lawsuits.

Board candidate Sean M. Story on...

...his background: Long-time Park Ridge resident, where I currently live today with my wife and two children, ages 4 and 1.

I am currently a Vice President at Northern Trust in their Commercial Banking division, working with private equity funds, not-for-profits, private schools, and traditional middle-market companies. In the past I had worked at JPMorgan in their Private Banking Division, and Large Corporate Commercial Banking Division.

...his decision to run: My wife and I have invested ourselves in Park Ridge, and to raise our children in this great community and attend the excellent school systems. Having been a product of District 207, I would like to play an integral part in giving back to our community and helping invest in the ongoing success of D207 as a whole given that my children will also be there!

...annual tax-levy Increases: Given that property taxes consist of 3/4 of the districts revenues, assessing increases would be a primary consideration as long as the increase was in line with tax cap legislation, and warranted based on increases in expenditures as they relate to improving the schools within the district (and always after assessing how current resources are being allocated to curb excess spending and mitigate the impact of any potential future revenue needs).

...going to referendum if the district's financial health takes a downturn: We would have to assess the severity of the downturn, as well other potential options and act accordingly in the best interest of the district and how the actions at that time would affect the subject communities.

...preventing events like the Maine West hazing scandal: The board can look to develop leadership initiatives for throughout athletic programs that promote positive team building efforts (i.e. ropes courses, small team outings, and assigning veteran mentors to newcomers, etc.). It must be everyone's responsibility to prevent hazing, however, the board can work to be proactive in preventative measures through working to develop such programs and initiatives.
**HOROSCOPES**

For the week of March 20 to March 26

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Congratulations, Lamb. This is the week to finish your project and then bask in your well-earned approval. (And if you like, you can also say “bah” to all those detractors.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The bold Bovine could find a new opportunity too intriguing to ignore. But don’t charge into it. Go slowly so you see how things develop as you get more involved.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might try to soften your stand on that important issue. A little more flexibility actually could get you what you’re looking for. A new friend enters the picture midway.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your inner voice is on the mark when it advises you to tackle that family problem now! The sooner you’re able to come to terms with it, the better it will be for everyone.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Someone reveals important news about a longtime associate. But before you decide how to deal with this information, make sure it’s reliable and not simply self-serving.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Some intensive soul-searching early in the week can help you reach a decision by week’s end that should please both you and the other person involved. Good luck.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) The possibility of a career change is intriguing. Learn more about what it can offer and what it cannot. Weigh everything carefully. And ask questions.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Work is your priority this week as you try to make up for lost time. Expect help from someone who cares about you. Things take a welcome turn by the weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A health problem causes some anxiety early in the week. But prompt medical attention soon eases everyone’s concerns. Enjoy an art-filled weekend.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) As much as you might resent it, a changing situation could require you to adjust your plans accordingly. The good news: An associate agrees to cooperate.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) That old problem is finally resolved, just in time for you to take on a new work-related project. This one could be the super door-opener you’ve been looking for.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) The early part of the week presents some difficult hurdles. But once you get over them, you can start to focus on matters that are more important to you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are respected for your honesty and your dedication to doing the right thing, no matter how difficult that might be.
Singing in the shower never sounded so good.

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

Free 8” Kohler® Rain Head with 6 pc. Performance Showering Package purchase - $450 value!

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

Thursday, March 28: "Successful Aging: Resources and Programs for Older Adults," workshop, Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Elinwood St., Des Plaines; 9 a.m. (registration and continental breakfast). Free; call (847) 823-0453 or (847) 827-5551 to register.

Friday, March 29: Maine South Parents' Scholarship Club is hosting an NCAA Final Four party from 5:30-11 p.m. April 6 at Fairway Banquets, Niles. This parents-only fundraiser includes big-screen viewing of the games, appetizers, salad, pizza and desserts, silent auction, basketball shoot-out and more. Tickets are $35 per person in advance or $45 at the door. To purchase tickets, send payment to Maine South, 1111 S. Dee Road, Park Ridge IL 6006; mark envelope attention MSPSC and please include email for notification April 14.

Saturday, March 30: The Savoyaires will perform the music of Gilbert & Sullivan at 7 p.m. March 23 in the community hall of Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie. Join them for a wine and cheese reception followed by the show. Open to the community. Cost is $20 each. Call (847) 676-1566.

Tuesday, March 19: Medicare counseling, by appointment (sponsored by the federally-funded Senior Health Insurance Program).

Saturday, March 23: Legal counseling, by appointment.

Wednesday, March 27: Grief and loss support group (call first).

Saturday, March 23: Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed).

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**

**55+**
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 18 and 25 - Employment counseling, by appointment.
- Tuesday, March 19 - Medicare counseling, by appointment (sponsored by the federally-funded Senior Health Insurance Program).
- Saturday, March 23 - Legal counseling, by appointment.
- Wednesday, March 27 - Grief and loss support group (call first).
- Saturday, March 23 - Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed).

**COMMUNITY**

**Gilbert & Sullivan music**

**18+65+**
The Savoyaires will perform the music of Gilbert & Sullivan at 7 p.m. March 23 in the community hall of Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie. Join them for a wine and cheese reception followed by the show. Open to the community. Cost is $20 each. Call (847) 676-1566.

**Lapidary Arts Show**

**18+**
The Des Plaines Valley Geological Society will hold its annual Jewelry, Gem, Fossil, Mineral and Lapidary Arts Show March 23 and 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 is $3, adults; $2, seniors; students with school ID, $1; children under 12 are free. Call Lois Zima, (847) 298-4653.

**Blackhawk tickets**

**18+65+**
Golf Mill Shopping Center, in partnership with Golf Mill Ford, is bringing Blackhawks tickets to the mall for a no-purchase-necessary giveaway. Shoppers who visit Center Court of Golf Mill Shopping Center through April 14 can enter into a giveaway to win two free Chicago Blackhawks tickets; free parking is included. Value of this prize is $225. Entrants must be at least 13 years of age and submit a complete entry form, with a valid email and phone number into the marked ballot box at Center Court. The Chicago Blackhawks tickets are valid for the April 19 game versus the Nashville Predators, at 7:30 p.m. at the United Center. Winners will be chosen and notified April 14. For official rules, visit www.golfmill.com/offers.

**FUNDRAISERS**

**Final Four party**

**18+**
Maine South Parents’ Scholarship Club is hosting an NCAA Final Four party from 5:30-11 p.m. April 6 at Fairway Banquets, Niles. This parents-only fundraiser includes big-screen viewing of the games, appetizers, salad, pizza and desserts, silent auction, basketball shoot-out and more. Tickets are $35 per person in advance or $45 at the door. To purchase tickets, send payment to Maine South, 1111 S. Dee Road, Park Ridge IL 6006; mark envelope attention MSPSC and please include email for notification April 14.

**Dist. 207 Benefit**

**18+65+**
The Maine Township Educational Foundation is holding its annual Benefit Dinner and Auction April 4 at the Rosewood Restaurant, 9421 W. Higgins Road, Rosemont. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. This event raises funds for the Educational Foundation. Tickets are $50 each ($20 donation to the foundation). Entertainment will be provided by students of the Fine Arts Departments from Maine South, Maine East and Maine West High Schools. Raffle and silent auction items have been donated by local businesses to support foundation activities. Go to Facebook or visit www.main207foundation.org.

**St. Joseph's Table**

**18+**
Our Lady of Ransom Parish, 8300 Greenwood Ave., will host its annual Scholarship Dinner and Auction April 6 at Fairway Banquets, 9421 W. Higgins Road, Rosemont. The event raises funds for foundation scholarships to qualifying students in the senior class.

**Notre Dame fundraiser**

**18+**
Anyone in need of a mattress can save 30 to 60 percent off retail at the fundraiser to support the Notre Dame College Prep Athletic Program which will take place from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. March 23 in the school cafeteria, 7655 W. Dempster St., Niles. Brand name merchandise with factory warranties and delivery are available.

**Yoga for Kids**

**18+**
Learn yoga poses and breathing techniques and feel relaxed and energized afterward at 4 p.m. March 18. For kids in grades K-8.

**Family Bingo**

**18+**
Takes place at 5:30 p.m. March 22. A small snack will be provided.

**ACT Math Workshop**

**18+**
College Nannies & Tutors will lead this one-hour class at 1 p.m. March 16. Review problems from actual ACT tests, and learn test-taking skills and strategies for math. For teens in ninth through 12th grades.

**Impressionism with Eye on Fashion**

**18+65+**
Educator and Francophile Betty Winer returns to profile the upcoming Art Institute Exhibition in a slide-lecture format from 2-3:30 p.m. March 17.

**Writers' Roundtable**

**18+65+**
Anyone interested in
writing and who would like feedback, inspiration, therapy or just support may attend from 7-8:30 p.m. March 18.

Explore Your Tablet

Be ready to share questions and insights about tablet computing from 10-11:30 a.m. March 19. There will be a demonstration of how to get and use some great apps along with general information about using tablets effectively.

Women of the Civil War

Theresa Embrey of the Pritzker Military Library discusses their role, particularly as nurses, in this Women's History Month event from 7-8:15 p.m. March 20.

Film

"Beasts of the Southern Wild" will be shown at 2 p.m. March 21.

Gand's Brunch

Food Network Star and nationally acclaimed pastry chef, Gale Gand, will share stories and demonstrate a few dishes from her latest cookbook, "Gale Gand's Brunch," from 2-4 p.m. March 24. A book-signing will follow.

PARKS

Golf Maine Parks offices are located at Feldman Recreation Center, 8800 Kathy Lane (one block south of Golf Road on Western Avenue), in Niles or at Dee Park, at the corner of Dee and Emerson roads, Des Plaines. Call (847) 297-3000.

Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt

For children 10-12 years old. Bring a flashlight and hunt for eggs at 7:30 p.m. March 29 at Dee Park. Must pre-register prior to March 28 or there is a $1 charge.

Summer Camp

Sign up for camp at Dee Park – four two-week sessions, June 10 to Aug. 2. Sign up by May 3 and receive a 10-visit Water Spray Park pass.

Little Dribblers Basketball

Young participants ages 4-6 learn the basics fundamentals of basketball, Tuesdays, March 19 to April 16, at Dee Park.

Spring Soccer League

Leagues for children 4 years through eighth-grade at Dee Park. Practices begin March 18 and games begin April 6. (Games are played at Prairie Lakes in Des Plaines.)

RELIGION

Matzah Mitzvah Day

Pack Passover packages for patrons of the Niles Township Food Pantry; watch the documentary, "Food Stamp" and hear Rabbi Amy L. Memis-Foler's personal experience about her food stamp challenge from 9-11 a.m. March 17 at Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie.

Seniors

Auto Repair and Service program

To deal with a mechanic or a new car salesman, be sure to attend the Timely Talk, "Being the Smart Consumer with Automotive Repair and Service," presented by Edison Park businessman, Steve Ek, owner of Ek Automotive. The talk will take place at 2 p.m. March 20 at Norwood Crossing, 6016-20 N. Nina Ave., Chicago. Ek will discuss the basics of understanding auto repair and service, what questions to ask and what answers to listen for when the car is in a shop. Enjoy light refreshments participate in a prize raffle. Parking is located in the lot behind the building (entrance off Avondale Avenue). If attending, call (773) 577-5323.

Hooked on Fishing

The new fishing season will be discussed from 1-2:30 p.m. March 20. New participants are welcome.

Credit History

The University of Illinois Extension Services will lead a workshop from 10 a.m.-noon March 27. Participants will learn about credit reports, how they are used, how to order a free copy and read and dispute errors; also ways to build and repair credit history.

Puzzle Answers

See page 24 for this week's Super Crossword and Sudoku puzzles.
If you grew up anywhere near Chicagoland, chances are you tasted them.

Affy Tapple's chocolate and caramel coated apples have been fundraising staples for over fifty years. But what many people don't realize is that, for the past 12 years, those apples have been made in Niles.

Long based in Chicago, Affy Tapple moved to Niles in 2000 in an effort to expand its facilities without losing too many of its workers. Since then, it has continued to help schools, churches and other organizations with fundraising by offering well-recognized products at affordable prices. And while the economic downturn has dented fundraising orders somewhat, it remains an important part of Affy Tapple's business.

The company traces its roots to the Kastrup family, who pioneered the concept of caramel-dipped apples in 1948. In 1952, the family opened its first store in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood. According to Affy Tapple's official website, the name came from pure business pragmatism - it would be the first name in the phone book.

In 2000, the company moved to a larger, more modern facility in Niles. According to Kenneth Waity, an Affy Tapple customer service manager, the choice of location came down to what made the most economic sense. The proximity to Chicago was also an important factor.

"They wanted to relocate somewhere the workers could reach, so they could keep the majority of the workforce," he said.

Affy Tapple has been supplying products for fundraisers since 1960, and the company continues to look for ways to enhance the experience. Its current website offers a number of tools fundraisers can use, including a fundraising tool kit, an
online profit calculator and a customer hotline.

In addition to its original caramel coated apples, Affy Tapple offers several types of caramel and chocolate-coated apples, some of which are coated with peanuts, chocolate chips and sprinkles.

According to Waity, there is no one product most people seem to prefer - though they do have preferences about the apple inside.

"Granny Smith - that's the apple that's most popular," he said. "But we can't always guarantee [our products] would have Granny apples inside. It could be Michigan apples, or some other apples, depending on what's available."

In some ways, Affy Tapple offerings advertise themselves.

"A lot of people grew up with our product," said Waity. "It's well-known throughout Chicagoland, so there's recognition."

There also offer a good deal. Affy Tapple offers their products in 24-apple cases. Each case costs $20.00, or $0.83 per apple. If a fundraiser orders more than twenty cases, the case price drops to $18.00.

But perhaps the best deals can be found at the Affy Tapple factory store. Located at 7425 N. Croname Road, it offers some individual apples for 25 cents and cases for $5.00 each. But there is a catch - the discounts only apply to products that are a day from expiring. So unless fundraisers need to get more apples in a hurry, the discounts aren't particularly useful.

Even in this economy, Affy Tapple's efforts appear to be paying off. The orders have declined, but not a particularly large extent.

"I think orders declined a little," said Waity. "In this economy, [organizations] don't have as much money to spend as they used to, so they had to cut back."
FEATU RED HOM E
By Wrapports News Service

AGENT Mary Beirne, Koenig & Strey Real Living, 773-435-4326

6815 N. Milwaukee Ave.,
Unit 602, Niles
House size: 1,340 square feet
Year built: 2003
Bedrooms: 2
Bathrooms: 1.5
Garage: One-car attached
Tax: $4,438.07 (2011)
Exterior: Brick
School districts: Niles Elementary
School District 71, Niles Township
Community High School District 219

$199,900

Photos provided by VHT Studios

HOUSE FOR SALE? For details to get a home listed on the Featured Home page, email homes@wrapports.com or call 312-300-7974
PROPERTY TRANSFERS By Wrapports News Service

NILES
7716 N Oleander Ave: Gayle L Queens Trust to Miroslaw Herdzik for $175,000 on Jan. 23

7053 W Grennan Place: Bull A Reo-Illinois Residential LLC to Steven M Borkowski for $185,000 on Jan. 25

8146 N Ozanam Ave: Green William Trust to Duke Express Inc for $145,000 on Jan. 22

MORTON GROVE
8615 Georgiana Ave: Ann B Carlson to Carpenter Paul Robert Trust for $215,000 on Jan. 25

7418 Lake St: SNL Realty LLC to Beata McGuire Trust for $260,000 on Jan. 23

5334 Conrad St: Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp to Navida Khatoon for $268,000 on Jan. 25

9300 Mason Ave: Fannie Mae to Curt A Rhode for $260,000 on Jan. 23

5501 Madison St: John Anastos Trust to Timothy Mason for $215,000 on Jan. 22

7418 Lake St: SNL Realty LLC to Beata McGuire Trust for $260,000 on Jan. 23

940 N Northwest Highway: Diane McGuire Trust to Miroslaw Herdzik for $253,000 on Jan. 25

7716 N Oleander Ave: Gayle L Queens Trust to Miroslaw Herdzik for $175,000 on Jan. 23

GLENVIEW
361 Parkview Road: Registration Systems Inc to Scott Tracy Stern for $270,000 on Jan. 25

821 S Cumberland Ave: Robert Petkofski to Ivan Runac for $320,000 on Jan. 23

1400 S Prospect Ave: Gilbert Yost II to Keith Irvin for $240,000 on Jan. 24

940 N Northwest Highway: Diane McGuire Trust to Madalena Talaka for $115,000 on Jan. 25

1125 Tyrell Ave: Open Home LLC to James R Stach for $312,000 on Jan. 23

DAR PLAINES
8894 Knight Ave: Ryszard Domanski to Jacek Kuczmiel for $60,000 on Jan. 23

8940 W Church St: Intercounty Judicial Sales Corp to Sherwin Yellen for $94,000 on Jan. 23

8200 Leslie Lane: JCA Fund LLC to Syed M Quadri for $30,000 on Jan. 23

8840 N Western Ave: Hoyne Savings Bank to Shimon Khamo for $60,000 on Jan. 23

NORTHBROOK
7676 Greenwood Road: Victor Baginski to Joshua Ettinger for $1,075,000 on Jan. 23

7647 W Berwyn Ave: Steven P Ahlgrim to Meaghan A Cremins for $19,500 on Jan. 25

5555 N Aberdeen Ave: Leonel Rivas to Anhuy Tu for $215,000 on Jan. 25

1164 N Mulligan Ave: Witek Monika Trust to Milenko Neric for $223,000 on Jan. 23

7053 W Grennan Place: Bull A Reo-Illinois Residential LLC to Steven M Borkowski for $185,000 on Jan. 25

ByWrapportsNewsService
Keep your kids safe online with these tips from national experts.

**Keep Lines of Communication Open**

According to the Crimes Against Children Research Center (www.ojjdp.gov), 66 percent of children who see online pornography are exposed to it as a result of unintentional exposure caused by pop-up ads, erroneous search results and email spam. To combat this issue, as well as protect our children from a multitude of other dangers, forensic pediatrician and child abuse expert Leena S. Dev recommends talking to your kids about the potential issues related to online usage.

"Parents should let their kids know that they should absolutely come to them any time and every time they see something unusual pop up on the computer screen," Dev said. "Even if it's something as simple as a low battery indicator, it's a good idea to get kids into the habit of telling their parents about anything that doesn't seem quite right."

**Reinforce Stranger Danger**

Just as we teach young kids to "never talk to strangers," we need to teach our children about avoiding "talking" to strangers online. Dr. Amy Barton knows firsthand the dangers that could arise when a child "befriends" a stranger on the internet. As a pediatrician who specializes in child abuse cases, Barton works closely with law enforcement agencies to crack down on abuse and endangerment issues. She believes parents need to teach their kids that people are not always who they say they are online. In fact, sometimes older men or women can pose as kids for nefarious reasons. Barton suggests that parents set up boundaries and guidelines for their kids' internet usage such as enforcing a policy where they can only communicate with people whom they actually know in real life.

**Make Technology Work for You**

Social media expert Britt Michaelian (brittmichaelian.com) recommends setting up Google alerts with your kids' names so you can be alerted any time their names appear online. You can also install computer programs that monitor, block or filter your children's online activities. But be careful, as even the best programs have flaws and workarounds which make them more like safety helmets or seat belts, rather than fail-safe security systems. For more information about ways technology can help you, visit www.wiredsafety.org.

**Go Beyond Centralized Computers**

In the "olden days" (i.e. pre-smartphones and tablets), parents could "protect" their kids by keeping the family computer in a centralized location where parents could easily monitor all activity. These days, the Internet is everywhere and social media has become a way of life. Therefore, it's vital for parents to teach their kids to be ethical digital citizens. In part two of this series (which will be published next month) we will explore what it means to be an ethical digital citizen and look at ways we can empower our kids to safely engage within the world of social media.
Spring clean your plate

BY VERONICA HINKE | Contributor

Spring cleaning can be just as important for your diet as it is for your wardrobe.

Spring officially begins with the arrival of the vernal equinox on March 20. Whether it feels like it or not, it's time to get ready for warmer weather. More than looking good, that means feeling good. Detoxify from all of those wintery carbs with seasonal foods that double as cleansing agents.

"Your body is much happier eating according to season," says Anh Tran, a nutrition consultant and licensed acupuncturist. "In spring, everyone wants to start feeling lighter for summer. Seasonal tune-ups are important."

Through her Points of Wellness offices in Arlington Heights and Long Grove, Tran counsels on ways to rid toxins and begin fresh for spring. The Vernon Hills resident had a jump-start on many health-conscious individuals: She was raised among a Chinese-Vietnamese influence.

When following a spring cleanse diet, Tran often works with ingredients like scallions and ginger and frequently turns edible flowers like dandelions, violets, lavender and chrysanthemums into flavorful, detoxifying teas, or "tisanes." She pours boiling water over the flowers and adds a little honey or rock sugar as a sweetener.

In a springtime stir-fry, she includes a curious cleansing ingredient: wood ear mushroom. The mushroom, which is available through most Asian grocers and markets, is used in Chinese medicine to prevent heart disease as it helps control cholesterol.

"Cooked wood ear mushrooms have a dark color and a crisp texture that just soaks up flavor," Tran says. "Even after they are soaked in water, they still have a crunchy texture."

And some of her recipes feature more familiar ingredients. Tran's delicious asparagus and crabmeat soup celebrates the season of those sturdy, green spears.

"Asparagus, according to Chinese medicine, is cooling in nature," she says. "Its action is to clear heat, detoxify and promote blood circulation."

The popular vegetable has a recognizable smell when it is cooked.

"That funny smell when you cook asparagus is sulfur," explains Karen Raden, a registered dietician with an office in Northbrook. "Asparagus is a good source of sulfur and glutathione, which both help to support detoxification. Asparagus is also an excellent source of folic acid, which is so important for heart health, and potassium, which is a natural diuretic."

Asparagus and crabmeat soup

4 cups of chicken broth
¼ teaspoon sugar
¼ teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
2 garlic cloves, chopped
8 ounces fresh or canned lump crabmeat, picked over and drained
Black pepper, freshly ground, to taste
2 tablespoons cornstarch, mixed with 2 tablespoons cold water
¾ pound fresh green or white asparagus (Trim asparagus, breaking off and discarding the base of each stalk about where the bright green color fades. Cut each stalk crosswise diagonally into 1-inch pieces, but leave the beautiful tips intact. You may also use a 15-ounce can of white/green asparagus spears.)
1 egg, lightly beaten
2 scallions, thinly sliced

Combine broth, sugar and salt in 3-quart soup pot. Bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer very low while preparing remaining ingredients. Heat oil in skillet. Add garlic and stir fry about 1 minute, or until aromatic. Do not burn. Add crab, asparagus, salt and pepper. Stir fry over high heat for a few minutes. Set aside.

Bring soup to boil. Stir in cornstarch mixture, and stir gently until soup thickens and it's clear. While soup is actively boiling, drizzle in egg, letting it swirl to form lacy egg drops in the hot broth. Add the stir-fried crab and asparagus.

Sprinkle in green onion and pepper and remove from heat.

— Anh Tran, Points of Wellness
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2013

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Colbenton, Oliver Edward
Of Northbrook, IL, and Nuremberg, Germany,
February 25, 2013.
Beloved husband of Nancy (nee Krieger); loving father of Ariane (Hans Landstorfer) Colbenton; grandfather of Felix and Kerry; brother of Marian (Elfred) DuSold; uncle of Garrett (Lisa) Derner.
Services and Interment Private. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra, FO Box 717, Park Ridge, IL, 60068. Info 847-251-8200.

Edwards, Jennie H.
92, of Park Ridge, IL. Beloved wife of the late Raymond; dear sister of the late Wandeline Gardner, Olive Smith, Mary Hughes and Jimmy Henry; fond aunt of Geraldine Hughes Smith, Harry J. Hughes, Larry D. Smith, Eddy Joe Smith, Joe M. Edwards, Sandra Kay Welii and the late James M. Smith and David Smith; dear friend of Bruce Towne. Member of the Park Ridge Historical Society.
Jennie’s funeral was held Tuesday, March 12, 2013 1pm at Central Baptist Village 4747 N. Canfield Ave., Norridge, IL. Interment in Memory Gardens Cemetery. Memorials to American Cancer Society appreciated.
Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

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The Blackhawks' captain on the lockout, his love of the game and leading the team to another Cup.
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With St. Patrick's Day on the horizon, we're stocking up on 21 Drops' Hangover aromatherapy blend. Made with juniper fruit, geranium leaf, lavender and cardamom essential oils, it stimulates the lymphatic system to help flush toxins from the body. $29, mySpa at the Fairmont Chicago, 200 N. Columbus; 21drops.com

Stay silky smooth with Moroccanoil's new dry body oil, which uses a combination of argan, olive and avocado oils to keep skin supple. $38, Blue Mercury, 2208 N. Halsted; Moroccanoil.com

FEEL ULTRA-FEMININE THIS SPRING with Macy's exclusive Marilyn Monroe Collection, featuring halter dresses that cinch at the waist, gingham tie-front button-down tops and pink polka-dot denim. The new line was a career highlight for me. Not only is he confident and comfortable in front of the camera and had all 10 of the women in the room wrapped around his finger.

— Marla Ponce, photographer

AT THE PHOTO SHOOT

Though we showed up to the shoot armed with plenty of outfits for Jonathan Toews, he walked in wearing the perfect All Saints gray henley (shown on the cover). When we told him he has great style, he smiled and played it cool, saying he never hears that.

"I am a huge fan of Jonathan Toews, so I was a career highlight for me. Not only is he extremely handsome, but he is confident and comfortable in front of the camera and had all 10 of the women in the room wrapped around his finger."

— Kristin Warken, hair stylist

"It was great meeting Jonathan. He arrived straight from practice and we started right on the photo shoot. He was down to earth and a pleasure to work with."

— Kristin Warken, hair stylist

STYLISTS

Stylist Eric Himel

Venue: United Center

Stylist: Eric Himel

Shoot Coordinator: Katerina Bizios

Cover outfit: henley, AllSaints, his own; pants, G-Star, his own; belt, Hugo Boss, $135; available at Saks Fifth Avenue Men's Store (717 N. Michigan)

Cover outfit: henley, shown on the cover. With his own pants, belt, Hugo Boss, $135, available at Saks Fifth Avenue Men's Store (717 N. Michigan)

What had you tweeting

Alison Victoria @alisonvictoria: Big night for @PAAWchicago! We raised over $90,000! Thank you to @Suntimes_Splash for the amazing write-up!

Corri McFadden @CorriMCfadden: @Suntimes_Splash @jaslenegonzalez @ShopEdropOff Adore This Piece! Thanks for including us! Jaslene Looks GORG!

Gino Rocco @GinoJRocco: My favorite part of the Sunday @Suntimes is @Suntimes_Splash

AmazingCosmetics @amazingcosmetic @jaslenegonzalez @suntimes_splash: Gorgeous Cover Today!

Question: Where is your favorite spot for Sunday brunch? Tweet your answers to @Suntimes_Splash and look for your response in next week's Dining & Libations issue.

Dining & Libations issue.

SPLASH

WHAT IS YOUR SECRET HEALTH OR BEAUTY TIP?

"My mom made me use Nova body lotion on my face everyday. It's all I do and my skin is so soft that people are always touching my face."

"I drink crazy amounts of water every day and use Darphin Paris eye cream morning and night. It's like a 20-minute nap."

"Put eyedrops in before you go out — they make the whites of your eyes brighter so you don't look tired in photos."

Editor

Susanna Negovan, susanna@suntimes.com

Managing Editor

Molly Ench, meach@suntimes.com

Associate Editor

Rachel Handler, rhandler@suntimes.com

Art Director

Jessica Sedgwick, jsedgwick@suntimes.com

Photographer

Ramzi Dreessen, rdreessen@suntimes.com

Editorial Assistants

Zak Stemer, zstemer@suntimes.com

Katerina Bizios, kbizios@suntimes.com

Director of Brand Strategy

Liza Sweitzer, liza@suntimes.com

Director of Events

Samantha Saifer Berngard, sberngard@suntimes.com

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Founder

Michael Ferro

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March 18
- "F.E.W. KIDS ON THE BLOCK"
Evanston's F.E.W. spirits teams up with Chicago's hottest young chefs for a dinner benefiting the Chicago Food Depository. Participants are all under 30 years old — chefs Will Johnson (Filini), Derek Simcik (Atwood Café) and Eric Mansavage (Farmhouse) will create the five-course dinner, while mixologists Alex Renshaw (Sable) and Sterling Field (Carriage House) whip up the libations.
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Atwood Café, 1 W. Washington
Cost: $75. Call Atwood Café at (312) 368-1900.

March 19
- "LA VIE EN ROSE: COUTURE FOR A CAUSE"
Chicago-based fashion designer Elda De La Rosa debuts her spring collection in a salon-style event at the Peninsula Hotel's Avenues ballroom. The soiree, which begins with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, benefits the Edgewater Development Corporation.
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: 108 E. Superior
Cost: $100 ($125 at the door). Call (773) 506-4016 or visit Edgewaterfashion.brownpapertickets.com.

March 21-23
- COMPAGNIE MARIE CHOINUARD
Montreal choreographer Marie Chouinard brings her rendition of Igor Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring" to the Museum of Contemporary Art, along with a new work inspired by Belgian-born poet and painter Henri Michaux. Chouinard's "Ad-rap-tation." Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Navy Pier, 800 E. Grand
Cost: $20-35. Call (312) 595-5600 or visit Chicago Shakespeare.org.

March 22-30
- LATINO THEATRE FESTIVAL
The Goodman Theatre's biannual fest kicks off with an appearance by Cuba's Teatro Buendia. The company, known for reinterpreting classics texts, presents its take on Juan Rulfo's 1955 novel Pedro Páramo, a magical tale about a man's return to his mother's hometown and the ghosts that greet him.
Place: 170 N. Dearborn
Cost: $14-$27. Call (312) 443-3800 or visit Goodmantheatre.org.

March 23
- THIRD ANNUAL COMMON GROUND FOUNDATION AWARDS GALA
Hip-hop artist Common welcomes supporters to the annual fundraiser for his foundation, which utilizes the arts to empower young people.
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Four Seasons Hotel, 120 E. Delaware
Cost: Individual tickets, $300 and $500. Call (773) 295-1915 or visit Commgrounfoundation.org/events.
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Late Chicago business leader James Tyree was known for his philanthropic spirit, and on Feb. 28, more than 500 family members, friends and business associates honored his legacy by giving back at the first annual cocktail reception and fundraiser for the James Tyree Foundation. The event was held at the River North headquarters of Mesirow Financial to honor Tyree, who was the company's chairman and CEO — and the owner of the Sun-Times — until his death in 2011. Allison Rosati and Rob Stafford (left) of WMAQ-Ch. 5 introduced speakers such as current Mesirow Chairman and CEO Richard Price, Wolcott School's Miriam Pike and Tyree's wife, Eve. Attendees like Mayor Rahm Emanuel, BMO Financial CEO Ellen Costello and the Rev. Scott Donahue of Mercy Home for Boys and Girls helped raise more than $500,000 for the foundation, which will benefit Chicago's Wolcott School, Hyde Park Day School, Mercy Home and the James C. Tyree Program for Diabetes Care and Innovation at the University of Chicago's Kovler Diabetes Center.

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

PHOTOS BY RAMZI DREESSEN AND MICHAEL WESTON
Chicago's leading ladies are going sunny-side up in one of spring's hottest trends, rocking every shade of yellow from golden honey to lemon meringue. Feel flirty by pairing the color with soft pinks or greens, or stay slick with a high-contrast yellow/black combo.

A word of caution: Every skin tone looks different in yellow, so find the tint that lets you glow rather than fade. With the right hue and a bright smile, you'll instantly be Little Miss Sunshine.
Commute to Downtown?
Work out before work, at lunchtime, or before you catch your train.

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ART INSTITUTE SNEAK PEEK
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Shawnelle Logan and Diana Palomar

Cheryl and Eric McKissack and Suzanne Arkie

Robin and Steve Solomon

Anne Pramaggiore and Andrea Zopp

BY TALIA BEECHICK

Nearly 300 guests journeyed to the Modern Wing of the Art Institute of Chicago (111 S. Michigan) on March 2 for a sneak peek of the museum's new exhibit, "They Seek A City: Chicago and the Art of Migration, 1910-1950." After sipping cocktails at Terzo Piano Restaurant and dining in the Modern Wing, they strolled past the exhibit's more than 80 works of art, many created by the city's new artists — some of whom were African-American migrants from the South and Eastern European Jewish immigrants. After the Art Institute's Leadership Advisory Committee welcomed singer Terisa Griffin to the stage for some big band jams, then directed attendees to the gaming lounge, where they played craps, blackjack and pool. Funds raised will help the committee promote and sustain diversity at the Art Institute.

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

PHOTOS BY VICTOR POWELL
The American Cancer Society celebrated its 100th birthday in style Mar. 2, hosting nearly 500 guests at its annual Black and White Ball. WMAQ-Channel 5's Allison Rosati emceed the event, held at the Westin Lombard Yorktown Center and co-chaired by Terry and Renee Graber and Jim and Penny Covert. Guests participated in a live and silent auction for items like a Kiawah Island getaway, premium tickets and parking for Bulls, Blackhawks, Cubs and White Sox games and a tour of California's Wine Country, raising more than $450,000 for the ACS.

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

PHOTOS BY VICKI ETTELSON

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Dear Jenny,

Hi Jenny! I have trouble meeting women. And when I do, I feel that I get used for a couple of dates without ever moving out of the "friend" category. I have tried online dating, but I feel my personality is my strong point and it's tough to be funny online! Can you help me get more dates?

— Billy from Hagerstown, Md

Jenny says: Well, my answer depends on how old you are. If you are still in your 30s, I would suggest going where single girls go: to the clubs. We love to dance! Now, if you are over 40 or just not into the club scene, then I would suggest going to restaurant bars. Girls always have "girls' nights out" that begin with dinner. But if you haven't been able to score lately, I would rethink your appearance. Girls notice clothing and hairstyles, and if yours are dated, you won't get the double take you're hoping for from a hottie. If you're not sure what styles are current, go to men's clothing stores' websites. You might have to move out of your comfort zone and lose the penny loafers you've had since college.

Getting upgraded out of the "friend" category also requires you to bring some heat. Heat is sex appeal. It sounds like you have a great personality, but we want macho guys in the bedroom. The best way to show heat is to exude confidence, so whatever you do, don't be too self-deprecating with girls when you meet them. We put you in a "friend" category if you do.

So, in summary: Go shopping, hit the gym and head to where single girls hang out. But most of all, don't forget to bring the heat, and you will have them begging to be more than a buddy.

Jenny McCarthy Offers Unconventional Wisdom

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Salon savant Mario Tricoci styles his ideal Sunday in Chicago

BY ZAK STEMER

If Mario Tricoci let his hair go wild, he could pass for a mad scientist — and it would be a fairly apt description. The expert stylist and founder of Mario Tricoci Salons & Day Spas likes to take hair care and boil it down to its chemical components, determined to find the holy grail of the industry: hair rejuvenation. "People want to have thicker hair without surgery," Tricoci says. "There's two products we've come across that do this." As of this month, he'll stock at-home regimens of both DS Laboratories and Nioxin shampoos at his thriving salon's 16 Illinois locations. DS Labs shampoo is designed to restore hair lost within the last ten years, while Nioxin focuses on thickening existing hair.

Before the shampoos hit the shelves, Tricoci put them to the test, using them on himself and his staff. "We've been testing [DS Labs shampoo] for 60-90 days and we've been getting great results," he says. With his methodic evaluations, Tricoci could just as easily be running a pharmaceutical company. "We're not going to jump into this. We're training each and every one of our staff to do the most professional work," he explains.

In addition to stocking these follicle-saving formulas, Tricoci is out to educate the population even further on at-home hair care and makeup, recently launching a new how-to video series on his website Tricoci.com. "There are no secrets anymore in our industry. We try to share everything with our guests," he says. "That's what made us who we are. We don't hide anything in a brown paper bag." That philosophy, along with his laser-like focus on results, has helped Tricoci to grow his hair empire from the root up over the last 40 years.

Here, Chicago's mane master styles his perfect Sunday in the city.

6:30 A.M. Tricoci starts his day in his Streeterville apartment's gym, pool and sauna. "[After my workout] I can go to work and nothing can stop me," he says.

8 A.M. Breakfast is minimal — just three or four shots of espresso for Tricoci — but wife Cheryl makes pancakes and cheesy eggs when their three grandsons are over.

10 A.M. Tricoci loves to drop by some of his 16 salons and 10 Tricoci Universities to meet with the staff. "It's important that new staff know I am available," he says. "Plus, I always learn from them."

NOON Time for a lunch at the Peninsula (108 E. Superior), RPM (52 W. Illinois) or Hub 51 (51 W. Hubbard) — any excuse to walk around the city.

5 P.M. Tricoci relaxes by heading to an early movie at Streeterville's AMC River East (322 E. Illinois). Recent favorites include "Lincoln" and "Django Unchained."

7 P.M. For dinner, Tricoci whips up his specialty pasta all'amatriciana. "I pride myself on making some of the best pasta," says the native Italian.

9 P.M. Before bed, he reads French and Italian Vogue, as well as Italian newspapers, to keep up on the latest beauty and fashion trends.

SPLASH | MARCH 10-16, 2013 11
Chicago sports fans don’t necessarily go for the superstars; they like the hardworking type of guys who will just grind it out. That’s the type of team we have.”
At the start, you give a few different smiles, then a serious badass face,” he jokes. “After that, I’m out of ideas. But it gets me out of my comfort zone and it’s a fun thing to do.”

Catching Toews off the ice is a challenge this season. Thanks to the NHL lockout - during which owners and the players union battled over a new collective bargaining agreement - the schedule has been condensed to include 48 games in 99 days. But the sped-up schedule seems to suit the Blackhawks. At press time, the team was off to the best points start (20-0-3) in NHL history, and hadn’t lost a single game in regulation time (though they’ve lost three in shootouts). Toews credits the team camaraderie for its dominant record.

“We went on the road for two weeks to start the year, so it was a good thing for us,” he says. “Guys were hanging out, going for dinner and doing that sort of thing. The more you spend time together it helps the chemistry, both in the locker room and on the ice.”

During the lockout, though, Toews took some time for himself. While teammates such as Patrick Kane and Bryan Bickell played overseas, Toews stayed put, taking advantage of the time off by working out and making sure he was fully recovered from last year’s head injury, which sidelined him for the final 22 games of the season. “I wanted to be in better shape so when the season did start, I was ready to go,” he says. “It was kind of nice to get that break, but once we got to Christmas it was like, OK, enough is enough, the joke is over. Let’s play hockey.” But the downtime was also tough for Toews. “Going through the lockout, you kind of realize what you take for granted, and it’s being around the guys and going on the road,” he says. “It’s what you’ve been doing since you were 5 years old, and that’s taken away from you and you feel pretty empty.”

The time away from the rink was a drastic change for Toews, who has eaten, slept and breathed hockey for almost his entire life. He grew up in Winnipeg, Canada, one of two boys in a hockey-obsessed household, dreaming of playing in the NHL. (His younger brother, David, plays in the minor leagues.) “It was hockey all the time,” says Toews. “My dad made a backyard rink when we were growing up, and all the money my mom and dad made they pretty much spent sending us to hockey camps and buying us equipment. It was our life.” When he was 15, he moved to Minnesota to attend the prestigious Shattuck-St. Mary’s boarding school, known for its exceptional hockey program. After graduation, he attended and played two seasons at the University of North Dakota before the Blackhawks drafted him at age 19. Since then, he’s been a whirlwind of accomplishments: He was made team captain a year after joining the team, won Olympic gold in 2010, led the Blackhawks to the Stanley Cup shortly after and was named playoff MVP. So which was more of a thrill? “To be playing for Team Canada at the Olympics, it was a dream come true,” says Toews. “But to win the Stanley Cup here in Chicago, with the group we had, that’s a bond you have with those guys for the rest of your life. There’s nothing more special than that.”

Despite his high profile, the guy playfully known as “Captain Serious” takes a more low-key approach to everyday life. After games and on off days, while other athletes frequent the club scene, Toews prefers to visit his favorite restaurant, a low-profile sushi spot in the South Loop, or take in a movie. And he shuns flashy spending when it comes to cars — he just bought a Chevy Volt — and clothes. “I do the whole one-stop shop: You find something you like, buy it and wear that same thing for the next five months until you can’t wear it anymore and then it’s time to go shopping,” he says. In the off-season, he heads back to Canada to visit family and friends, and spends time at his cabin on Lake of the Woods in Ontario.

But when he’s on the ice, he’s completely focused on helping the Blackhawks win. “We’ve been on a roller coaster ride the last two seasons, and I think this year we’ve found that consistency and we’ve found our depth,” he says. “Every single guy knows their role, and has confidence in themselves, even if they’re up against the other team’s top players. Top to bottom, we all [take responsibility for games], so there’s not as much on just a handful of guys. We have a lot of skill sets, and that makes us a really good team.”

He’s grateful to Chicago fans for sticking by the team during the lockout and coming back ready to cheer — and he’s eager to bring the Stanley Cup back in their honor. “One of the biggest surprises has been the support from the fans after everything they went through with the lockout, and all the crap in the press about the arguments,” he says. “They’ve come back and they’re excited about hockey. They want a trophy.”
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Right: Newscippings featuring the location's history as a Russian bath decorate the restroom walls.

Below: A hot pool

HEAT WAVE

Sweat away your winter woes in Wicker Park's Red Square

D ivision Street Russian and Turkish Baths has loomed over Wicker Park since 1906, but if you've never ventured inside, it's probably because you weren't sure what went on — but guessed it had to do with a bunch of sweaty men sitting around in robes (or less).

You guessed right. But the new owner of the bathhouse, Alex Loyfman, has opened the doors of the 18,000 square-foot building under a different name, Red Square Cafe Lounge, and is aiming to lure a new generation of sauna seekers with a sleek renovation, an onsite café and an expanded service menu that ranges from manicures and facials to waxing for women and men. “We wanted to modernize our spa services to put them on par with today's highest standards, yet still keep the best of the Russian and Turkish traditions intact,” says Loyfman.

Here's how a typical visit unfolds: An ID or wallet must be surrendered upon check-in. A 15 percent tip is automatically added to spa services, and there's a $30 day fee for access to the facilities. All of this news is delivered in a brusquer tone than you'd expect at a typical luxury spa and amid much bustle around the front desk.

But once on the table in one of the seven treatment rooms, even the chatter that drifts in from the hallway disappears during massages ($65 for 60 minutes) so intense that they can reduce their recipients to tears. Ask for Lana if you want the knots literally walked out of your back, or book an appointment with Neal for pressure so firm you'll be sore the next day. For the truly adventurous, a Russian plazta treatment ($30-$55) is not to be missed: Inside a super-hot sauna, you'll be smacked into submission with toxin-releasing oak branches dipped in skin-softening olive oil.

Give yourself plenty of time before and after your treatments to languish in the various saunas, steam rooms and baths in the locker rooms. “Any way you choose to alternate hot and cold, it will work wonders for your cardiovascular health,” Loyfman claims.

The sweating is best when treated as a social occasion, so bring a group of friends. And if you really want to go old-world, wrap up the day with a bowl of borscht and a few vodkas in the 3,500 square-foot restaurant and bar, which is designed to evoke a 19th-century dining car and serves Russian small plates, specialty cocktails and beers. Hey, you've got to hydrate.

Red Square, 1914 W. Division St., (773) 227-2284; Redsquarechicago.com
**ABOUT FACE**

**Carrie Lannon**, Public Relations Director at locally based ULTA Beauty, shares the things that make her life lovelier.

1. Sweet Mandy B's: cupcakes, $1.50-$3.95, 1208 W. Webster; Sweetmandybs.com
2. Simply Being: guided meditation for relaxation and presence iPhone app, $0.99, available at the App Store.
   “I use this meditation app to relax or help me focus. I just plug in my headset and go to a calmer place.”
3. Mariano's Fresh Market: roses, start at $9.50, 40 S. Halsted; Marianos.com
   “I always have fresh flowers in my office and at home as an instant mood-lifter. Roses from Mariano's last the entire week.”
4. ULTA: tinted self-tanning gel, $7.64, 114 S. State; Ulta.com
   “I avoid the sun, so this fast-drying, non-sticky, non-smelly gel gives me a healthy glow year-round.”
5. Karyn's: extra virgin organic coconut oil, $27.50, 1901 N. Halsted; Karynraw.com
6. Bose: Quietcomfort 15 acoustic noise-cancelling headphones, $299.95, Shops at North Bridge, 520 N. Michigan; Bose.com
   “These are larger than most headphones, but they allow me to tune out all around me. They’re great when I travel.”
7. Healthy Results: Fitness, nutrition, wellness and coaching services, 922 W. Diversey; Healthyresultsteam.com
   “Their training team gives me routines for home and travel, not just when I’m in the gym.”
8. Art Institute of Chicago: member sketch classes, prices vary, call 312-499-4111 to make a reservation, 111 S. Michigan; Artic.edu
   “My sketching class at the museum is a peaceful way to spend three hours. It’s a great way to train your eye to see details.”
9. Urban Decay: eyeshadow primer, $20, Ulta, 114 S. State; Ulta.com
   “An amazing primer that keeps my eye makeup fresh throughout the day and night.”
10. Old Town Oil: infused vinegars, 375 ml bottles start at $15, 1520 N. Wells; Oldtownoil.com
   “I use every flavor from chocolate to fig as a healthy alternative to salt or butter.”

“I believe that treating yourself is part of wellness, and Sweet Mandy B's cupcakes are a favorite.”

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16 SPLASH | MARCH 10-16, 2013
Christos Garkinos and Cameron Silver, owners of LA's Decades, bring their vintage designer wares to Chicago

BY ZAK STEMER

Chicago is about to receive fashion royalty. On March 16-17, Christos Garkinos and Cameron Silver, stars of Bravo's new reality show, "Dukes of Melrose" and the duo behind Los Angeles-based shop Decades, are throwing their annual trunk show at space519. At this year's event, they'll display huge selections of Prada and Chanel (including a brand-new spread of Chanel handbags) as well as men's items for the very first time — and Garkinos is thrilled. "We came across this great $10 million collection," he says. "It has Gucci and Zegna and furs and everything. I love seeing men wear fur in Chicago."

Garkinos has always had a flair for fashion — and he's never been afraid to take bold leaps with his personal style. After he graduated from the University of Michigan, he took a job with Clorox in San Francisco. "I went to work in this seersucker suit and yellow tie," he laughs. "They sent me home." As for Silver? "Cameron is a fashion butterfly," Garkinos explains of his risk-taking partner, who has been snapped wearing a hot pink suit and ascot.

The pair have co-owned Decades for 13 years, where they're known for their uncanny ability to scout and edit a stunning collection of couture clothing and accessories. Until recently, the vintage and consignment arms were two distinct stores (Decades and Decades Two, respectively). "For the first 11 years, it was upstairs and downstairs, with two separate entrances," says Garkinos. But after they moved to the same floor, "It was like when you have a long-distance relationship and it's exciting, and then when one person decides to move to your coast, you're like, 'Oh my god,' " he says. "We literally had a wall come down. It was like, 'Hi, I'm West Germany, you're East Germany. Nice to meet you. Let's have fun!'"

Now that they're two of LA's most revered names in vintage, Garkinos and Silver have parlayed their success into a reality show, which debuted during Bravo's fashion block March 6. The series follows the duo through 2012's red carpet season as they travel the world in search of items for their celebrity clients. "What I love most is that it's really funny. It feels like a sitcom more than a reality show," says Garkinos. "And you'll get to see amazing, amazing fashion."

The Decades trunk show:
March 16, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.,
March 17, noon-6 p.m.,
space519, 900 N. Michigan Shops; space519.com

From top:
Hervé Léger dress, Chanel bag and Versace heels

Neapolitan
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Solé search
Stock up for spring at Bloomingdale's new women's shoe department. It's now twice the size, so designers like Christian Dior, Chloe, Giuseppe Zanotti and Nike are joining favorites like Fendi and Tory Burch to create the ultimate shoe shopping paradise. 900 N. Michigan, 3rd floor; Bloomingdales.com

Just for gents
Men of Chicago, Ryan Newman wants to help you revamp your wardrobe (and slip you a bit of whiskey in the process). The sartorial entrepreneur and founder of label Wilfred Newman has built his brand crafting custom shirts and suits for celebs like NHL all-star Brian Campbell and the Smashing Pumpkins' Billy Corgan. Now, he's stocking a selection of ready-to-wear casual sweaters and accessories at his new River North storefront. 750 N. Franklin; Wilfrednewman.com

Give a hand
Co-chairing an event this season and not sure what to wear? Eliminate wardrobe woes with Neapolitan's new Gala-Get-Give program. Find the dress of your dreams at the shop, and the owner will donate 20 percent of your purchase to the charity you're supporting. Browse designer labels such as J. Mendel,

SPLASH | MARCH 10-16, 2013 17
ever after

Kathy Hart and Billy Baruth

BY KATERINA BIZIOS

You may know her as one half of WTMX-FM's hit morning radio program, "The Eric and Kathy Show," but Billy Baruth met Kathy Hart before her career took off. One Saturday night in 1995, Hart's brother dragged her to a Crystal Lake bowling alley — and while she wasn't thrilled about the scene at first, her attitude changed when she spotted Baruth working behind the bar. She describes it as a “whoa” moment, and though the two hit it off immediately, they remained just friends for nearly 15 years. But in 2010, with previous marriages behind them and four kids between them, their connection turned romantic, and within two years they were engaged. They decided to keep things intimate: They packed up and took their kids to Philipsburg, Montana, a town of 800 that they'd visited a few months prior. Former governor of Montana Brian Schweitzer, who'd hosted the couple during their trip, officiated the ceremony on Feb. 17 in a log cabin off the lake.

The kids had a role as well: Hart's daughter Annika (11) served as the “best woman,” Baruth's son Ben (13) was the best man, Hart's oldest son Xander (13) walked her down the hallway and her five-year-old son Allen was the ring bearer. "They teased us, because they thought going to Montana to get married was weird, but once they all got dressed up, they loved it," says Hart. After the ceremony, the group headed over to Montana John's Silver Saloon for a reception, where they dined on an Italian-style spread and wound the night down. "As odd and unique as the setting was, it was my true fairy tale," says Hart. "Billy and I were always meant to be together."

CHEERS!

She said yes! The Modal Group commercial real estate consultant Eli Mash proposed to "Windy City Live" associate producer Jessie Kalin with rose petals and 100 candles, turning their friendship-since-high school into happily ever after.

Four-time Emmy winner and Telemundo Chicago news anchor Tsitsi-Ki Felix celebrated her birthday with close friends at Moe's Cantina while also celebrating another milestone — the launch of her new cosmetic line, TTK Collections. Check out the line, which combats aging while celebrating inner beauty and empowerment, at Ttkcollections.com.

Linda Johnson Rice and Jesse White

Hats off to Pastor Corey B. Brooks Sr. of New Beginnings Church of Chicago, the Johnson Family and Johnson Publishing Company and Secretary of State Jesse White for receiving awards in community leadership from Fifth Third Bank in honor of Black History Month.

Send us your cheers at Splash@suntimes.com
The Lakeview restaurant adds sweet treats to its menu of gourmet gluten-free fare

BY JOURDAN FAIRCHILD

Last year, when Susan McMillan and Amelia Fonti set out to find a chef to bring their new gluten-free restaurant concept to life, they did what some people do when they're searching for a new sofa: they placed an ad on Craigslist. “Then we had a Top Chef-style cook-off, and Noah was the clear winner,” McMillan says of Noah Sandoval, the 31-year-old executive chef of their Lakeview restaurant, Senza. Now, after six months of building a loyal fan base, McMillan and Fonti are opening up their dinner-only restaurant for a few morning hours to hawk their artisanal breads and pastries.

They've made their name on Sandoval's innovative evening fare, but baked goods have always been part of their mission. Originally, the duo imagined a cozy coffee shop where they'd serve up comfort food and their delicious muffins and pastries. But meeting Sandoval — a veteran of Takashi, Green Zebra and Schwa — opened their eyes to the world of gluten-free gastronomy. Noticing a lack of dinner options for gluten-free diners, they decided to tweak their plan. “He can cook anything,” McMillan says. “So it seemed a shame not to let him use his strengths.”

Sandoval spent weeks developing two different menus: a four-course prix fixe ($50) and a nine-course tasting menu ($100), with every item incorporating gluten-free flours, sauces and more. “I would put our pasta up against any other in the city,” Sandoval says, citing the pork belly dish with carrots and maple crème fraîche as another favorite. As for McMillan and Fonti? They kept on baking, and when requests for their bread grew, the duo set up an off-site bakery so they'd have plenty of space to roll out their dough. They take orders from clients like Wishbone Restaurant for batches of bread, pizza crust and bread crumbs, and now, each Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, patrons can stop by the restaurant to grab coffee with a wheat-free blueberry muffin ($1.50) or dark chocolate doughnut ($2.50).

To reflect the restaurant's elegant yet inviting approach to food, the team called on Karen Herold of 555 International, the brains behind Girl & the Goat and GT Fish & Oyster, to work her magic. Herold layered strips of frayed fabric to add texture to the walls and incorporated worn wood finishes and a chalkboard menu to create a casual, lived-in look. And with just 42 seats, Senza's atmosphere can't help but feel intimate. “We created this restaurant, and now our bakery, for all of those people in the gluten-free community that had nowhere else to go,” McMillan said. Talk about a home sweet home.

2873 N. Broadway, (773) 770-3527, Sensachicago.com

Chicago is home to an ever-increasing number of restaurants with gluten-free menu options, and with GrubHub's cuisine filters, gluten-free diners can find and order the perfect meals straight to their doors!

Bountiful Eatery
3312 N. Broadway St.
Among Chicago's best-known gluten-free restaurants, Bountiful Eatery has a menu stacked with fresh, healthy and reasonably priced dishes. A few of our favorites include the 1/3 lb. Bison Pita Burger and Warm Hearty Bowl with quinoa and chickpeas.

Mana Food Bar
1742 W. Division St.
This Wicker Park spot features some of Chicago's best vegetarian and gluten-free menu options. A few of our favorites for takeout include the Bi Bim Bop and Spicy Mushroom and Goat Cheese Tamale.

Eat Fit
1151 S. State St.
Eat Fit serves up high-quality nutrition that meets any dietary requirement for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The Southwest Quinoa with Chicken Bowl is a gluten-free GrubHub’s favorite.

Naked Pizza
953 W. Diversey Pkwy.
Thanks to Naked Pizza, gluten-free diners don't have to cut one of Chicago's staples out of their diets. All of its 12” Pizzas can be ordered with a gluten-free crust! We recommend trying their best-selling Superbiotic Pizza, topped with a variety of vegetables and herbs.
competition is stiff in the real estate world right now, as buyers — ostensibly tired of rising rents — fueled a 37 percent jump in local home sales in January, according to listing service Midwest Real Estate Data (MRED). And supply was low to begin with. “The number of existing homes for sale in the Chicago area fell more than 36 percent last year to its lowest point since the height of the market in 2006,” says MRED CEO Russ Bergeron. Many buyers, used to getting their way with sellers these past few years, “want it all,” says Prudential Rubloff broker Annie Holowatyj (call 773-572-6522). “Everything has to be done and the home has to be pristine.”

No wonder her listing at 2451 N. Ashland, an outstanding soup-to-nuts rehab of an 1887 A-frame, sold in just one day when it went on the market last month for $700,000. But one thing that hasn’t gotten any easier is the financing process — so the 2,800-square-foot, four-bed, 3.5-bath house just came back on the market for the same price. According to Holowatyj, the builder, Walter Boltchouk of WB Construction, is a 20-year industry veteran with a very specific aesthetic. “He likes things clean-lined, open and airy, and is extremely picky about the details,” she says. “He dug out the basement to make sure all three floors had 10-foot-high ceilings and insulated it to the hilt for noise control because it’s on Ashland.” Witness the attention to detail for yourself at the open house March 10 from 1-3 p.m.

CELESTIAL SEATING

Furniture designer and Rhode Island School of Design student Jamie Wolfond already has a hit on his hands — he crafted his funky Lunar stool from balloon-molded expanding foam, solid maple legs and plastic tips. $650 each at Jamiewolfond.com.

WAITING FOR TLC

Records show that WB Construction bought 2451 N. Ashland in January 2012 for $135,000. If you have the funds, wherewithal and experience to rehab a similar single-family home, here are some that are ready for your efforts:
- 2837 W. Greenleaf in West Rogers Park for $270,000 (Prudential Rubloff broker Judith Harris, 847-425-5262)
- 2221 W. Augusta in Ukrainian Village for $365,000 (Coldwell Banker broker Joseph Gasbarra, 312-623-2103)
- 2221 W. Augusta in Ukrainian Village for $172,000 (Baird & Warner broker Claire Deane, 773-573-0238)
- 7623 N. Rogers in Rogers Park for $269,900 (Baird & Warner broker Lynn Pufpaf, 773-339-3367)
- 1655 W. Superior in East Village for $254,997 (New Market Realty broker Karla Silvazuela, 773-969-6289)
‘Dancing with the Stars’ secrets

The season 16 cast of “Dancing with the Stars” has been revealed, and though the show hasn’t even premiered, there’s lots of drama unfolding behind the scenes. Andy Dick, who last appeared on “Celebrity Rehab,” is already causing problems. “He’s very difficult to work with,” an inside source says. “He is not cooperating with his dance partner, and the problems with him seem to be escalating.” But the source says that he does have dance experience, which could give the troubled star an upper hand in the competition.

The couple at a disadvantage is Karina Smirnoff and Jacoby Jones, as the Super Bowl champion had to delay practice for several days because of knee surgery. “They’re trying to stay optimistic and they believe they will be able to catch up with the others,” said another source. Victor Ortiz told this column he’s certain he will win this fight. “Lindsay and I are working very hard. I like to see competition, but at this point I can’t say I have any.” The boxer believes he’ll be able to use some of the moves he’s learned in the fighting ring on the dance floor. “Some footwork will possibly carry over,” he said. His weakness: “I have never danced in my life!"

Through the grapevine

Matthew Bellamy and Kate Hudson are working on another baby — but it’s not the kind you think. The couple are in talks to launch their own wine label with Ampelos Cellars. I hung out with Kate’s stepfather, Kurt Russell, who has his own label, Gogi, under the same company, at an Ampelos wine tasting party and he said the lovebirds are currently working on the project. Kurt was also raving about how Matthew performed his Muse concerts in Los Angeles sick as a dog. “He had a temperature of 104 degrees the night of the show,” Kurt said. I was shocked to hear this because I was at that show and he put on such an amazing performance. “Matt pushed through because he did not want to let his fans down,” another source said. Now that’s a true rock star!

Kylie and Jaden: The real deal?

Kylie Jenner is reportedly dating Jaden Smith, Will and Jada’s son, but my sources smell a rat. “It’s a publicity stunt,” one source said. “This is nothing but a Kris Jenner special!” Another source said, “500 percent guaranteed it’s a publicity stunt! The older girls are shutting Kris out, so now her energy is directed at making the younger girls the moneymakers.” Cha-ching!

Above: Ravens wide receiver Jacoby Jones and “Dancing with the Stars” partner Karina Smirnoff.

Left: A behind-the-scenes shapshot shows boxer Victor Ortiz getting “knocked out” by partner Lindsay Arnold.

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Barre Bee Fit
This ladies-only studio offers a barrage of barre-based classes at its three Chicago locations, but the original Barre Bee workout is still our favorite: 60 minutes of muscle toning (and intermittent blasts of cardio) that leaves every muscle aching the best way. $18 per class. 435 N. LaSalle, (312) 595-1600; Barrebeefit.com

Core Power Yoga
With 13 locations sprinkled in the city and suburbs (and a 14th coming later this month), Core Power has become virtually synonymous with hot yoga. Whether you're new to the practice or a vinyasa virtuoso, 60 minutes in 103-degree heat will have you bending in ways you didn't think were possible. Membership packages start at $135. 34 S. Vine, Hinsdale, (630) 568-3670; Corepoweryoga.com

David Barton Gym
Though DB's goal is to help you "look better naked," the tongue-in-cheek ASSolutely ABifulous studio class targets and tones the muscles that make jeans fit perfectly: quads, glutes, hamstrings and abs. $99 monthly plus $250 initiation fee. 600 W. Chicago, (312) 836-9127; Davidbartongym.com

Equinox
This hip health club is always rolling out new studio classes at its four locations — right now, we're loving MetCon3 with Tonya Dugger. Not for the faint of heart (or muscle), MetCon3 taxes every tendon with high-intensity cardio choreography. Free with membership. 200 W. Monroe, (312) 252-3100; Equinox.com

East Bank Club
Learn a dance routine each week during Gloria Araya's exuberant Latin Core Rhythms class (Saturdays at 11 a.m.), which incorporates salsa, mambo, Afro-Cuban dance and jazz. But don't let her cheerful demeanor fool you: This is a gut-busting workout. Free with membership. 500 N. Kingsbury, (312) 527-5800; EASTBANKCLUB.COM

Exhale
Exhale, both a spa and a fitness destination, works the mind and the body. Its Core Fusion Sport class replaces the usual barre with a weighted ball to tone every part of the torso. $25 per class. 945 N. State, (312) 753-6500; Exhalespa.com

Fitness Formula Club
Bust a move in FFC's Zumba, a Latin dance-inspired fitness class offered at all nine locations that's even more fun with friends. Variations of each movement make it perfect for all skill levels — no dance experience necessary. Free with membership. 1114 Lake, (708) 363-1114; Ffc.com

Flywheel
At its two Chicago-area outposts, Flywheel puts a twist on the average spin class: it introduces upper-body exercises and pits cyclists against each other in a friendly competition through in-studio Torqboards that show which bikes are leading the pack. $25 per ride. 600 Central, Highland Park, (847) 780-4320; Chicago.flywheelsports.com

Shred 415
Get a one-of-a-kind workout at Shred, which combines treadmill training with strength intervals to build endurance and burn fat. This spring, founders Bonnie Michell and Tracy Roemer will open a third location on the North Shore. $24 per class. 230 W. Division, (312) 291-8722; Shred415.com

Yin Yang Pilates
Owner Laura Cappelletti adheres to the Stott Pilates method, a modern take on the traditional practice that promotes spinal rehabilitation. Learn the basics in a one-on-one session, then try a group fitness class. $17 for group class, $75 for private. 111 S. Rand, Lake Zurich, (847) 719-1800; YinYangPilates.com
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SUBARU XV CROSSTREK DELIVERS VERSATILITY

BY ARV VOSS
Motor Matters

The 2013 Subaru XV Crosstrek is attractive and sporty in appearance, displaying a low shoulder line and blacked out “B” and “C” pillars, giving it an almost coupe-like persona heightened by a low 0.35 drag coefficient. Ground clearance is 8.7 inches, and towing capacity is limited to 1,500 pounds.

Perhaps the XV Crosstrek is not a vehicle suited for serious rock-crawling or traversing the legendary Rubicon Trail, but it’s certainly up for fording small streams and tackling slick-covered roads and muddy trails with gusto.

While very sporty and fun to handle, the XV Crosstrek also is highly functional. The seats seem a little firm at first, which is soon offset by the support they provide. Exterior mirrors have been moved from the “A” pillar to the door, improving outward visibility, which turns out to be excellent.

Ride quality is comfortable and compliant, even over rough terrain, and the handling characteristics serve up an athletic and sporty feel with good steering response and vehicle stability. And of course Subaru’s symmetrical all-wheel-drive system performs flawlessly on both slippery wet and rough-dry surfaces.

The 2.0-liter engine is normally aspirated and does not have direct injection, which Subaru believes is an unnecessary expense, but it delivers an energetic acceleration response nonetheless, along with fine fuel economy at 25 miles per gallon city and 33 mpg highway.

Versatility is key with the 60/40-split rear seat backs that fold flat for a level load surface. The Crosstrek has plentiful storage nooks and the roof rail system comes with a 150-pound load limit.

The 2.0i Limited model adds leather-trimmed upholstery, a six-speaker audio system with larger 4.3-inch display and HD Radio with iTunes tagging capability, automatic climate control, leather-trimmed steering wheel and shift knob, Lineartronic CVT, the all-weather package, a rear-vision camera and auto-on/off headlamps.

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History inspires

Built-ins, finishes harken to historic living

Built-ins are not a new concept. The earliest examples of wall benches, settles, and aumbries (small cupboards in churches) date back to the Middle Ages. Originally built as architectural features, built-ins have evolved over the years into stand-alone pieces of furniture.

With input from some of the top local interior designers, North Shore Builders has developed home plans that boast sensational built-ins, finishes and details; epitomizing the style and craftsmanship one would expect for a new home on the North Shore.

North Shore Builders has made its name synonymous with creating historically inspired homes boasting custom built-ins and features, which work to create an interior that is both functional and attractive.

"Many of our clients were seeking high-quality finishes in their kitchens and living spaces. As these rooms typically serve as the most utilized spaces for many families, creating built-ins with both gorgeous form and function has become a priority for our new homes on the North Shore," said Therese Schaefer, sales manager for North Shore Builders.

"Though function is key, the aesthetic of the home cannot be compromised to accommodate it. We strive to create built-ins that not only satisfy the homeowner's lifestyle, but also their tastes."

Whether homeowners are looking for mud room storage, a drop zone or a drop dead gorgeous Butler's pantry, incorporating built-ins and decorative trim work can add attractive and practical space to any home. With the team from North Shore Builders, styles for built-ins and finishes are endless. From rustic to regal, simple to chic designs, built-ins can transform a room from utilitarian to unique and add an element of luxury and attention to detail that keeps new construction from looking ordinary.

North Shore Builders has a home available for delivery this summer at 986 Grove in Winnetka for $2,229,000. Located on a lovely wooded half acre, the winding drive leads up to this 5,386-square-foot home and will house any size family in the lap of luxury. The all-brick Colonial exterior also includes a three-car attached garage. In the fall North Shore Builders will deliver 515 Cumnor in Winnetka for $1,999,000. Located close to the accredited and sought after Bears School, this New England style home boasts built-ins, luxury finishes and terrific family living space. North Shore Builders also purchases tear downs and can help you build your dream home on the lot of your choice on the North Shore.

Winnetka-based North Shore Builders was named #1 in new home value for Chicago's North Shore Builders. The company's energy efficient homes meet "green" standards to ensure a family years of peace of mind ownership. For further information visit www.nsbgreen.com, call Therese Schaefer at (847) 878-0963, or email tschaefer@nsbgreen.com.
New custom ranch to debut at Bailey Estates

A new ranch plan is debuting at Bailey Estates, a semi-custom single-family home community by Gerstad Builders in Williams Bay, Wis. The 1,740 square-foot Bay View ranch is priced at $214,900, including such desirable amenities as a full English basement, central air conditioning, hardwood flooring and GE stainless steel appliances (gas range, microwave range hood and dishwasher).

Set on a large ½-acre homesite, the home represents the sixth ranch plan available within the mid-priced community. The new Bay View plan was designed to be attractive to a wide range of homeowner lifestyles. For those with growing families, the third bedroom and third bathroom are an absolute must. For empty-nesters, the floor plan eliminates the need to climb stairs and the dinette at the front of the home is immediately adjacent to the ergonomically efficient kitchen.

Designed to reflect traditional exterior architecture, the home features an attractive side-load two-car garage, steeply raked rooflines and decorative brick (per plan). Because of clever architectural details like a cathedral ceiling in the great room, eight-foot ceilings in all other rooms and the elimination of unnecessary walls between the kitchen and great room, the feeling of spaciousness is emphasized significantly.

A luxurious master suite completely occupies one side of the home for maximum privacy and is finished with a ceramic tiled shower stall, oversized soaking tub with ceramic tile deck, dual clothes closets and dual bath vanities.

Bailey Estates offers a variety of ranch and two-story homes that typically feature vaulted ceilings, 8-foot first-floor ceilings, three to five bedrooms, two to three baths, living room, formal dining room, family room, professionally designed kitchen with 42-inch upper cabinets, breakfast area, basement and an attached two-car garage. These homes provide 1,740 to 3,177 square feet of living space that are base priced from $214,900 to $326,900.

Gerstad Builders also offers an extensive variety of options, including skylights, three-car garages (per plan), wood-burning fireplaces, additional volume ceilings, custom millwork, imported ceramic tile, Corian or granite countertops, hardwood flooring, and English or walkout basements.

Within Bailey Estates, Gerstad Builders also offers homebuyers the opportunity to modify any available floor plan. Because each home is stick built, customizing is possible. Homes can be expanded, additional volume ceilings can be incorporated, and interior and exterior walls can be relocated.

The community is served by Williams Bay Elementary School and Williams Bay Jr./Sr. High School. Residents of the community can also enjoy a variety of recreational activities along the serene countryside, from skiing and ice skating in the winter months to golf, swimming and other water sport activities in the summertime.

Sales center for Bailey Estates is at 438 Ashley Drive off Bailey Road, approximately 3/4 mile west of Route 67. The sales center is open on weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment during weekdays. For more information, call (262) 245-9750 or (262) 903-5865, or visit www.gerstadbuilders.com.
Toll Brothers hosts spring open house

National luxury home builder Toll Brothers is hosting a special spring open house event at all of its new home communities in South Barrington, Elgin, and Morton Grove. The event takes place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17.

In addition to viewing the decorated model homes, the event offers a rare opportunity for visitors to take a guided tour through homes under construction.

"With so many homes underway, this is an ideal time to come out and see all the possibilities you have to customize when you build a Toll Brothers home," says Cheryl Molfese, sales manager for Toll Brothers' popular new community in South Barrington.

Toll Brothers is known for the customization opportunities it offers to home buyers. Every home offers hundreds of pre-priced options, from altering floor plans with structural options such as a first-floor in-law suite, expanded kitchens, finishing the basement, or adding a playroom to individualizing interior appointments from a vast selection of cabinetry, countertops, backsplash, flooring, trim, and lighting choices.

The national luxury home builder is seeing a significant increase in buyer interest and sales.

"My clients are confident that the time to buy is now," said Molfese. "They don't want to miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take advantage of the unbelievable mortgage rates and incredible pricing."

The open house event takes place at Toll Brothers communities across Greater Chicagoland. In Morton Grove, buyers can take advantage of the final opportunity to own one of the stunning rowhomes at The Crossings at Morton Grove. These urban-style chic residences are located just steps from the Metra and start at $351,995 offering three levels of living plus a rooftop deck and a two-car garage. Quick occupancy is available.

In Elgin, enjoy country club living without the fees at Bowes Creek Country Club, a premier golf club community surrounding the award-winning Rick Jacobson-designed public golf course. Buyers can choose from spacious townhomes or single-family homes with prices starting at $199,995.

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

In South Barrington, Toll Brothers is offering luxury single-family homes from the $700,000s at The Woods of South Barrington. These grand homes include an impressive list of features and the largest home sites offered anywhere in Chicagoland by Toll Brothers.

Regency at The Woods of South Barrington is the only community in South Barrington catering to those 50 years of age or better. Regency features a private gated entry - a big comfort for snowbirds — and a well-appointed clubhouse affording residents the luxury of an on-site gym with scheduled classes, tennis, bocce, and shuffleboard courts, a heated pool, and social rooms for banquets, billiards, or cards. For community information and maps, visit www.TollBrothers.com/CFST.
Building confidence
55+ housing market on a positive course

The right mix. Perhaps Phillippe Builders has the right idea. Its award-winning Gates of St. John community in Valparaiso, Ind., recently won top builder honors. A land plan that calls for vast open spaces and a variety of homes, from first-family homes, luxurious move-up designs, custom masterpieces and the convenience of maintenance-free living in townhomes and single-family ranch cottage homes. That means a home for everyone, including those in the 55+ market. A number of other builders are pursuing similar strategies throughout the region.

Builder confidence in the 55+ housing market for single-family homes showed continued improvement in the fourth quarter of 2012 compared to the same period a year ago, according to the National Association of Home Builders' (NAHB) latest 55+ Housing Market Index (HMI) released recently. The index increased 10 points to a level of 28, the fifth consecutive quarter of year over year improvements.

"We continue to see increased optimism from builders and developers in the 55+ housing segment," said Bob Karen, chairman of NAHB's 50+ Housing Council and managing member of the Symphony Development Group. "Those customers who had been on the sidelines waiting for more stability in their local markets are starting to make their move toward either purchasing a home or renting an apartment that is designed to more specifically suit their lifestyle."

There are separate 55+ HMIs for two segments of the 55+ housing market: single-family homes and multifamily condominiums. Each 55+ HMI measures builder sentiment based on a survey that asks if current sales, prospective buyer traffic and anticipated six-month sales for that market are good, fair or poor (high, average or low for traffic).

"Like the overall housing market, the 55+ segment of the market is undergoing a slow but steady recovery," said NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe. "That said, there are serious obstacles to a continued and stronger recovery. While problems with tight credit conditions for buyers and obtaining accurate appraisals are still lingering, new problems like spot shortages and rising costs for labor, materials and lots are beginning to emerge."

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Villas at Fox Run, an Epecon Community, is located in the heart of Plainfield and is maintenance-free luxury ranch living at its best! Our community is nestled in beautiful surroundings near shopping, dining, and entertainment, and offers a well-equipped 3,000 square foot clubhouse, community ponds, and walking trails.

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**Vernon Hills**

Weiss Development
River’s Edge
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Luxury condos $319,900-489,900
847-821-8080
www.riversedgewdc.com

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**Western Suburbs**

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2183 Oakwood Lane
Single-family Homes
180’s
815-908-6595 or 708-946-0100
www.tollbrothershomes.com

Spring Run is a community in which neighbors are friends, children feel safe and small-town values exist. Enchanted by ponds, woods, rolling hills, and unique designs from which to select, Spring Run offers a location near the historical village. Single-family homes start in $190’s.

St. John, IN

**Philippie Builders**
The Gates of St. John
9010 105th Place - Entrance off Rt. 231 between Parish and Cline - 1.5 miles west of 231
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900’s
219-558-8800 • www.thegatesofstjohn.com

Gates of St. John Community
A pedestrian-friendly, multi-generational community on more than 700 acres with distinct, inter-connected neighborhoods featuring a tree-lined boulevard, walking and riding paths, water features, community fishing pond, green spaces, playgrounds and soccer fields. Like the magnificent decorative gates for which it is named, The Gates of St. John is a community characterized by beauty, charm and tradition.

Valparaiso, IN

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3175 Indian Summer Circle
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On the front burner: Students receive practical culinary training in Kendall's Michelin-recommended fine dining restaurant, which is open to the public.
Colleges respond to challenge of choosing a major

Today the spiraling cost of tuition and the specter of years of indebtedness from college loans are strong incentives for students to complete an undergraduate degree in four years.

But what if they are undecided about their future career and find themselves at a crossroad when it comes to declaring a major? A detour down the wrong path can be costly in both time and money. That’s why colleges and universities are going the extra mile to connect students with a major attuned to aptitudes and interests and that will lead to a satisfying and in-demand career.

“We’ve found, and research on the national level agrees, that a third of incoming freshmen are undecided on a career. And, after that first year another third who thought they knew what they wanted to major in had changed their minds,” said Chuck Beutel, vice president of admissions and enrollment services at the University of St. Francis in Joliet.

“And we tell them that’s perfectly okay,” he added. “Now they’re free to explore other options that will help them make a more informed decision.”

DePaul University offers similar discernment services for undeclared students at both its Loop and Lincoln Park campuses through the school’s Offices for Academic Advising Support, which were formed in 2007.

“In their first conversations with prospective students our admissions counselors try to get a feel for the things that motivate the student – his hobbies, extracurricular activities, long-term goals and what he is really passionate about. Then when the student enrolls, he is assigned an academic adviser who offers guidance all four years,” said Emily Williams Knight, president of Kendall College in Chicago.

The college requires students to complete at least two internships prior to graduating in any program. The first internship occurs during a student’s sophomore year when schedules are still flexible and courses required for a major aren’t locked in yet.

“These internships offer real day-to-day work experience that either reaffirms for the student that he is on the right career path or, even more importantly, shows him that this specialty may not be the best fit after all,” said Knight. Although a student may be in the right major, Kendall’s varied concentrations within the school’s Hospitality Management Program may require student to fine-tune their focus without needing to start over.

“A student who was enthusiastic about specializing in Meeting and Event Planning may decide that Global Tourism, Destination Management or even our new Beverage Specialty is more attuned to his interests,” Williams Knight said. And, more choices are always in the pipeline. Based on market data and input from industry leaders, Kendall has recently added a new concentration in this field, Sustainable Management in Hospitality and Tourism.

The president added that the academic advising and internship route is working. In 2011, Kendall was ranked first in Chicago for preparing students for careers in hospitality management and culinary arts in a survey of Michelin Guide restaurants and management at the city’s leading hotels.

Equally impressive is that Kendall reported that 91 percent of its June 2012 graduates found employment in their field of study within six months of graduation.

Jean Guarino is a local freelance writer
CAMPUS VISITS OFFER TASTE OF COLLEGE LIFE

Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science: An all-campus open house will be held on April 27. Prospective students are invited to learn more about programs, tour state-of-the-art labs and meet with current students, faculty and admissions representatives. The campus is located at 3333 Green Bay Road, North Chicago. Call 847-578-3000 or visit www.rosalindfranklin.edu

Purdue University - Calumet: Walking tours of 90 minutes are scheduled Monday through Wednesday and Fridays. In addition, academic preview tours focusing on specific areas of study are offered throughout the academic year. Visit http://webs.purduecal.edu/visit/academic-preview-tours for dates and programs.

Purdue Calumet is located at 2300 169th St., Hammond, Ind. Call 800-HF-PURDUE ext. 2400 in Indiana and Illinois.

Indiana University Northwest: IUN will host a Spring Preview at 5:30 p.m. March 20 beginning in the Savannah Center; register online at www.iun.edu/admissions. Scheduled walking tours are also available at 10 a.m. Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 11 a.m. Fridays. IUN is at 3400 Broadway, Gary, Ind. Call (888) 968-7486 or visit www.iun.edu

Chicago State University: Campus Tours are held Fridays 10 a.m. for groups and 2 p.m. for individuals. For more information please call 773-996-2813. Virtual tours of campus highlights and campus housing are available through http://www.ecampus.com. The college is located at 9501 S. King Drive, Chicago; 773-996-2000; www.csu.edu

Chamberlain College of Nursing: The three Chicago-area campuses of Chamberlain will be hosting spring open houses on the same dates and times: April 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. and April 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The three locations include 1221 N. Swift Road, Addison; 3300 N. Campbell Ave., Chicago; and 18624 West Creek Drive, Tinley Park. RSVP online at http://chamberlain.edu or call 630-983-3680 for the Addison campus; 773-961-3000 for the Chicago campus and 708.860.2000 for the Tinley Park campus.

South Suburban College: To arrange a campus tour, call the Office of Admissions at (708) 210-5718 and request to visit the campus. You will be transferred to one of our recruiters who will arrange a convenient time for your visit, and work out the necessary details. The main campus is at 1800 S. State St., South Holland. The University & College Center is at 16333 S. Kilbourn Ave., Oak Forest. www.ssc.edu

Coyne College: Schedule a visit at one of the school's two Chicago campuses: 330 N. Green (773-577-8100) and 230 W. Monroe (800-699-5958); register for visits online at www.coynecollege.edu

Benjamin University: The university's spring open house is April 6 from noon to 3 p.m., starting at the Krasa Student Center. Tours as well as information on admissions, financial aid and college majors will be available. Register online for the open house at www.ben.edu/future_students/freshmen/events/springoh.cfm

Benedictine University: The university offers Saturday Information Sessions from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., which include an admission presentation, question & answer session and campus tour, on select dates including March 23, April 6, 13 and 27. An additional session on March 16 is specially designed for prospective students interested in the university's graduate programs. Call 800-HI-PURDUE ext. 968-7486 or visit www.ben.edu/ or calling 312-662-4100.

The Adler School is at 17 N. Dearborn St.

University of St. Francis: The university offers Saturday Information Sessions from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., which include an admission presentation, question & answer session and campus tour, on select dates including March 23, April 6, 13 and 27. An additional session on March 16 is specially designed for prospective students interested in the university's graduate programs. Call 800-HI-PURDUE ext. 968-7486 or visit www.ben.edu/ or calling 312-662-4100.

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Manufacturing spurs increase in trade school enrollment

As overseas production operations return to the United States, enrollment in trade schools continues to rise. Despite high levels of unemployment, domestic manufacturing companies are finding it difficult to fill positions, thanks in part to an attitudinal shift over the years wherein young people did not consider manufacturing a respectable or attractive trade.

Such attitudes are starting to change, as indicated by the surging enrollment at trade schools. The Dunwoody College of Technology in Minneapolis, for example, is experiencing its highest enrollment in years, with students young and old looking to take advantage of the growing number of available manufacturing positions. Thanks to high demand, the school has even introduced a six-month certificate program for the first time in its history.

Many manufacturers have bemoaned the lack of qualified machinists to fill positions, and those manufacturers are emphasizing that today's machinists must be computer literate and be skilled in computer-aided design and engineering. That increased demand for skilled workers has driven up their wages. In fact, a 2012 study from Georgetown University's Center for Education and the Workforce noted that 63 percent of workers with associate's degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering or manufacturing earned more money than the average person with a bachelor's degree in the humanities or social sciences.

As trade schools continue to benefit from the return of manufacturing jobs, recent college graduates continue to find a job market that is less than welcoming. Analysis of government data for the Associated Press found that in early 2012 half of recent college graduates were either unemployed or underemployed (working in positions unrelated to their degree).

Such a reality has been advantageous to trade schools, which have become an increasingly attractive option for the masses of unemployed men and women.
Financial considerations for returning to school

As the economy has struggled, many adults have found themselves heading back to school. Mass layoffs contributed to high unemployment rates and left many adults without work wondering if going back to school is a good way to weather the storm and, once that storm is over, stand out among a crowded pool of job seekers.

In 2009, 100 community colleges were surveyed by the American Association of Community Colleges, which, based on the survey, reported that community college enrollment had increased from 2 percent to 27 percent in just a year's time. Displaced workers played a significant role in that spike in enrollment, as men and women who lost their jobs increasingly decided to find a new career path that might offer more security.

Though the economy has slowly started to recover, many adults are still considering a return to school. Of course, school can be expensive, and it helps to explore your financial options when mulling a return to school.

Where will the money come from?
Determining the cost of graduate school is not easy, as tuition varies greatly depending on a student's course of study. Public graduate schools are typically more affordable than private schools, but tuition will be expensive regardless of the university. Even adults who don't want to pursue a graduate degree but a new field of study entirely should expect tuition to be substantially higher than it was when they were students years ago.

That said, adults must decide where the money for their continued education is going to come. Paying out of your own pocket will require some sacrifices in other areas of your life and could also deplete your personal savings. Financial aid, grants and private loans are other options, and each of these should be thoroughly explored before making a final decision.

Will your employer help pay?
For those men and women who are still employed and want to continue their careers, it's quite possible your employer will help pay your tuition. Employer-funded tuition programs might earn your employer a tax deduction, so don't just assume your employer won't help cover some of the bill for your education.

Courtesy of Metro Creative
Women in science seek to bridge gender gap

When the high school class of 2014 graduates from college in five years, more than 8 million jobs will be available in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). For students today, STEM is their future.

Innovations driven by STEM are shaping today's economy. Though STEM accounts for a majority of job growth in the U.S., the number of students enrolling in relevant degree programs in college to fill these positions continues to decline, leaving a gap of skilled professionals. Women, in particular, are underrepresented in STEM. While women account for nearly half of all filled jobs nationwide, only a quarter of STEM-related positions are held by women.

Given the known gap, many women industry pioneers are showing young girls they too can be successful in STEM. They are leading the charge in bettering the world by developing innovations and technologies such as global, online crowd-sourcing platforms that allow supporters to give funds from mobile devices. Others are advancing alternative energy products that deliver electricity, water and other basic resources in developing countries.

To help bridge the gap and ready the next generation of women innovators, many organizations support initiatives to introduce students, specifically young girls, to the importance of STEM. DeVry University, for instance, has its annual HerWorld program.

"HerWorld was created 16 years ago to educate high school girls about STEM and careers in STEM," says Donna Lorraine, provost/vice president of Academic Affairs at DeVry University. "Our goal is to show girls how they can make a difference in the world through these fields."

A recent study by the Girl Scout Research Institute found that more than 80 percent of high school girls surveyed expressed interest in considering a career in a STEM field, including engineering, information technology and software development. This is a positive outlook, as positions in STEM are becoming available more rapidly than opportunities in any other field.

HerWorld empowers young women to succeed alongside their male counterparts by participating in confidence-building activities and hands-on workshops. They also hear inspirational stories from real, female role models working in STEM fields.

This year, nearly 7,000 girls from high schools across the country will attend local events during National HerWorld Month in March. Emmy-Award nominated actress Mayim Bialik, renowned for her roles on television series Blossom and The Big Bang Theory, is partnering with DeVry University to further the mission of HerWorld and inspire these girls by sharing her personal STEM journey - balancing her acting career while earning her Doctorate of Philosophy degree in neuroscience from UCLA.

Courtesy of Brandpoint
reports that 39.1 percent of employers already require a BSN for new hires, and 77.4 percent strongly prefer BSN-prepared nurses.

For those interested in gaining a leg up on the competition in their pursuit of a career in nursing, Chamberlain College of Nursing offers a three-year BSN degree program. Chamberlain is currently accepting applications for courses beginning July 7.

For more information about Chamberlain's three-year BSN degree program, visit chamberlain.edu/BSN.

**Northwestern College:** Northwestern College's Naperville Campus at 1809 N. Mill St. completed its Holiday Drive for 2012, with all proceeds benefiting The Family Shelter Service, which assists women and children of DuPage County who have been victims of domestic violence. During November and December, students, staff, faculty and the Naperville community donated a variety of toys for the children and clothing for both women and children.

Family Shelter Service is a temporary shelter for battered women and their children. Many of these families leave all of their possessions to escape their abusive environment. In an effort to provide some joy to these children and their mothers, Northwestern College's Naperville Campus asked its students, staff and faculty to participate by donating a gift at any dollar amount. Learn more about Northwestern College at www.northwesterncollege.edu or call 888-205-2283.

**Adler School of Professional Psychology:** At the Adler School of Professional Psychology, we believe it is possible to earn a living while also creating real change. Our vision is to train socially responsible graduates who meet the needs of individuals, as well as the communities they serve. Our curriculum has earned national and international recognition from professional organizations, individuals, and employers worldwide. Students receive a unique blend of theory and practice and have real-world practicum and internship experiences.

A new flexible evening/weekend program will be starting in the fall. The M.A. in Public Policy and Administration teaches students to integrate concepts of social change and social justice into public service, particularly through consultation with communities most affected by policy.

- The Urban Mental Health Concentration explores the unique skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to work across disciplinary and professional boundaries to develop and implement public policies that promote mental health in urban populations.

- The Human Rights Advocacy Concentration examines the theoretical foundations and critical issues of advocacy planning and strategies for action.

In addition, we offer Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology (Psy.D.) degrees with specialized tracks in child and adolescent psychology, and a military psychology track. Our M.A. in Counseling Psychology offers many specialties. Fall classes are forming now. Join us at our Open House from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 2 at 17 N. Dearborn, Chicago, to learn more. To speak directly with admissions or to RSVP, please contact us toll-free at 888-371-8900 or admissions@adler.edu.

**Benedictine University:** It's important in today's job market to position yourself for a move into an expanding career field. Benedictine University's adult accelerated undergraduate and graduate programs are designed to prepare working adults for careers in growing industries like business administration, education, management and human resources. These disciplines are expected to continue to expand over the next decade, making professionals with the appropriate certification more valuable.

Human Resources, in particular, was recently cited by bestdegreeprograms.org as one of the "Top 10 degrees for the future." To help meet this demand, Benedictine offers a master's degree in Human Resources Management. The outlook for business school graduates is also improving. Last year, 82 percent of graduates were employed and the average salary for graduates was $40,000 more than the average salary for graduates with a Master of Business Administration degree increased to $100,000, according to BusinessWeek. Benedictine offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in Business Administration, Organizational Leadership and Management, as well as Sales and Marketing certificates. Education continues to be a strong employer, especially for teachers with specialties in math and science or special education. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, positions for elementary and special education teachers are expected to grow by 17 percent from 2010 to 2020.
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8. Purdue Calumet offers residential facilities—not dorms. They’re apartments—furnished suites with private bedrooms, semi-private bathroom(s), kitchen and living room.

9. Our professors are respected worldwide. ...in steel manufacturing technologies, high energy physics, water quality and more.

10. Purdue Calumet has a growing athletics program. We field 12 men’s and women’s teams in basketball, tennis, baseball, softball, cross country, soccer, women’s volleyball and men’s golf squads.

Rosalind Franklin University: Assistant professor Beth Stutzmann, Ph.D., has spent the last 10 years investigating neuronal signaling in aging and Alzheimer’s disease. At the root of her research is the desire to understand the early disease processes that cause brain cells to malfunction in Alzheimer’s. In other words, she is looking at what pathological events are occurring before the tragic physical and behavioral changes develop. Uncovering these events may offer more effective strategies to prevent disease progression. Stutzmann’s research suggests that alterations in critical neuronal signaling factors, such as calcium, are an early component in the disease cycle that contributes to the memory loss in Alzheimer’s disease.

Stutzmann came to Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science (RFUMS) from the University of California, Irvine, in 2008 to explore this area of interest, intentionally seeking RFUMS for its commitment to research paired with its strong basic science program, an environment where she knew her research would thrive.

“I love the process of investigation. There are things that, as researchers, we believe are important and we get to explore them. Not only is this satisfying on a personal level, you feel you’re contributing to a greater good. It’s enormously satisfying when you add even a little piece to the puzzle,” Stutzmann said. Her desire to help students is clear. She speaks passionately about teaching and mentoring, saying her own mentors had the biggest impact on her career.

“I really believe in paying it forward and encouraging all young scientists,” she said. RFU is at 3333 Green Bay Road, North Chicago; call (847) 578-3000 or visit www.rosalindfranklin.edu.

South Suburban College: More than 100 years ago, community colleges were created as publicly funded institutions of higher education at community-based facilities. Today there are more than 1,100 community colleges in the United States that share the goal of allowing students to take advantage of nearby locations, flexible class schedules and affordable tuition. Students who attend community colleges also benefit from small
The Princeton Review and named a "Military Friendly School" by G.I. Jobs magazine, University of St. Francis was also recently honored for its online programs by U.S. News & World Report. USF was named the top Illinois school overall for online graduate nursing programs. Among private schools in Illinois, USF has the top ranked online bachelor's programs and graduate business programs, and was ranked second for its online graduate education program.

This year, USF launched an entrepreneurship major, an intermodal transportation institute, an English language and acculturation program, a preparation program for school principals, an RN to BSN fast-track program in nursing and a revamped MBA program. In the athletic arena, the USF men's cross-country team won the 2012 NAIA national championship and numerous other accolades have been earned by student-athletes in all sports.

Potential students are invited to attend a spring visit event at the university's main campus at 500 Wilcox St., Joliet. Admissions counselors will be present to answer questions and application fees will be waived for attendees.

Freshman campus visit day for high school students: March 16: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; RSVP: (800) 735-7500 or www.stfrancis.edu/visit
Open House for adult and transfer undergraduates: March 21: 5 - 8 p.m. RSVP: (800) 735-7500 or www.stfrancis.edu/openhouse
The University of St. Francis is a Catholic, liberal arts institution that serves 3,400 students nationwide. Visit www.stfrancis.edu for more information.

Kendall College: Chicago's Kendall College is the first private institution in Illinois to freeze tuition for a student's entire time in college, according to an article in Crain's Chicago Business.

The school is proud to extend this opportunity to incoming students who enroll before April 8. In order to qualify for tuition that never increases, students must be enrolled in three out of four quarters each year.

The tuition freeze applies to all of the school's degree programs, which include bachelor's degree programs in business, early childhood education, culinary arts and hospitality management. The College Board of New York reports that tuition has grown an average of 2.6 percent beyond inflation each year since 2001 at four-year private, nonprofit schools. At four-year public schools, the cost has jumped an average of 5.6 percent over inflation during the same period.

In this challenging economic environment, Kendall's initiative to reduce financial uncertainty can help education become more accessible to students and their families. "We made the decision that we can deliver a high-quality product without relying on tuition increases," says Kendall President Emily Williams Knight.

"I can't make college free, but I can take a step to make it attainable."

For more information on the tuition freeze, visit www.kendall.edu or contact Kendall's Office of Enrollment at 1.888.90.KENDALL (1.888.905.3632).
Late spring ACT, SAT dates

College admissions tests — the ACT and SAT — are a huge part of the college application process. High school counselors typically provide students with the lowdown on when to take these all-important tests. Following is a brief guide to how to register for the tests and the test dates for the remainder of the academic year.

**ACT**

Sign up online (actstudent.org/regist/index.html) or use the packet provided by your high school counselor or found in your school's college guidance office. The cost is $35 for the test without a writing portion and $80.50 for the exam with the writing test. Fees include the option of sending scores to four colleges of your choice for free; the fee for additional schools is $11 per school.

Remaining test dates for the 2012-2013 school year are April 13 (March 8 registration deadline) and June 8 (May 3). For more information about ACT registration, call (319) 337-1270.

**SAT**

Students can register online (collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/calenees/fees.html) or through packets provided by high schools. The cost is $50 for the basic SAT. Additional optional fees include a $23 registration fee for basic subject tests, $23 for language with listening tests and $12 for all other subject tests. Registering by phone costs another $15. Fees include sending scores to four colleges of your choice for free; the fee for additional schools is $10.50 per school.

Remaining test dates for the 2012-2013 school year are May 4 (April 5 registration deadline) and June 1 (May 2). For more information about SAT registration, call (866) 630-9305.

Each testing service does provide late and standby registration for a fee; visit their websites for more information.
SingStrong celebrates glory of the human voice

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

One of the most remarkable musical instruments is the human voice.

You'll have a chance to hear numerous examples of its beauty and power at SingStrong Chicago, a three-day festival devoted to a cappella singing, March 22-24 at Niles West High School in Skokie. There will be concerts, featuring some of the most celebrated a cappella groups and individuals, and a wide variety of classes taught by a cappella professionals.

Freddie Feldman of Skokie, who owns a recording studio dedicated to producing a cappella albums, is the producer of SingStrong Chicago and director of technology for SingStrong National.

A SingStrong Festival has been presented in Reston, Virginia, for five years as SingStrong D.C. Throughout that time, SingStrong Executive Director Jonathan Minkoff has been urging Feldman to produce one of these events in Chicago.

"We had to find the right venue and that was the tricky part," Feldman related. "We raised money for the Alzheimer's Association so we try to keep the cost as low as possible."

They decided that Niles West would work best. "The high school connection was really key to tie in with the community and get the students while they're young hooked on a cappella," Feldman said.

Feldman enlisted Amy Branahl, Niles West's choral director, to serve as site coordinator and high school competition coordinator.

"I got connected with SingStrong when I went to SingStrong D.C. last year and talked to them about possibly bringing the festival to Chicago," Branahl said. "Not a lot of people have exposure to a cappella or, if they do, it's on a smaller scale."

Branahl's goal was to expose more people to the art and also to help her students. "We have a cappella groups at our high school," she said. "It's good for our students educationally to expand their horizons and see what the next level is — that they could do a cappella professionally if they chose to do that. It's definitely a genre that's picking up from The Sing-Off on NBC to the movie 'Pitch Perfect'. There's amazing a cappella ensembles around the world."

Feldman and Executive Director Minkoff selected the professional groups that will appear. "Some of the groups are performing both in D.C. and Chicago — Nota, Blue Jupiter, Julia Easterlin and Traces," he said. "Those were chosen as the best groups around."

"Nota was the winner of the first season of 'The Sing-Off' on NBC," Feldman reported. "One of the members of the group is actually an Alzheimer's researcher out in California so it's a charity close to his heart."

Feldman praised Traces as "an amazing women's group from New York City. They've won two regional harmony sweepstakes competitions — the first time a woman's group has ever done that."

Blue Jupiter, based in New York City, performs every hear at SingStrong D.C. "They're sort of our host group,"

Feldman explained. "Jonathan Minkoff, our executive director, sings in Blue Jupiter."

Julia Easterlin is described as a live-looper. Feldman admitted that it was hard to explain her technique. "She's a solo a cappella act performing with a machine that's called a looper," he said. "She sings something and it loops it over and over. It's incredible."

Feldman has also selected some Midwest groups to perform, including THUMMp, a rock a cappella group from Detroit; a couple of local beatboxers; and the New Tradition Chorus from Northbrook.

"We tried to have a really great cross-section of unaccompanied vocal music," Feldman said. "We do everything we can to spread the love of vocal music and raise as much money as we can for this amazing charity."
Longtime entertainer comes to Skokie Club

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

There's a party going on every Thursday evening at the Skokie Club.

That’s because Ester Hana is playing, singing and engaging restaurant patrons with her wit and lively personality.

On a recent Thursday, some couples danced near their tables and almost everyone joined in for sing-alongs.

Hana, whose repertoire is vast, performed every song that was requested and the multilingual entertainer even accompanied one patron who sang a song in Chinese.

Entertaining and charming people is a lifelong habit for Hana who began studying the piano when she was five in her native Philippines. Her teacher was Hana's 14-year-old cousin.

"When I was eight, my father bought me a piano," Hana recalled. After that, she took the two-hour trip by bus to the city every week for lessons.

Each morning, Hana would do piano exercises at 4 a.m. "My sister would go at 5 o'clock and then my brother at 6 o'clock," she said.

By the time she was 11, Hana was giving piano lessons to her younger siblings and helping students in another town rehearse for a musical.

She started playing piano professionally in her uncle's band when she was 17.

Although she studied medical technology in college, Hana never got a job in that field because she was always able to earn a living as a performer.

Hana performed extensively in Thailand where she moved in 1972 with her Thai husband. In 1974, the couple and their two children relocated to America, settling in Chicago, where Hana earned a master's degree in music and piano performance from Roosevelt University.

Hana's first job in Chicago was accompanying an Italian singer at Little Bucharest. Later, she accompanied him at Europe at Night. "I think that's the one that gave me visibility," Hana said. "There I learned about Yugoslavian songs." And that's also where she began singing in addition to playing the piano.

Soon Hana was performing at some of the most popular bars on Rush Street, including the legendary theater hangout, Punchinello's. She also played and sang at the Ark in Glenview, Sorriso, Yvette, Toulouse, Gable on Clark, Le Studio, Huckleberry's, the Gaslight Club and other prestigious venues around the country.

The popular entertainer is pleased to add the Skokie Club to her list of regular performing venues. "This is a place that the young people should discover," Hana said. "They must have a jumping place in Skokie."

Nick Laris, who co-owns the restaurant with his brother George, is pleased to have Hana performing regularly. "She's good and she's very popular with the people," Laris said. "It's something unique for the customers."
Managing Editor Jennifer Thomas' entertainment picks for this week

Cherish the Ladies
Irish folk band (above) play at 7 p.m. March 15 at S.P.A.C.E., 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Visit evanstonspace.com.

Trinity Irish Dancers
perform at 4:30 p.m. March 16 at Five Roses Pub, 5509 Park Place, Rosemont. Visit trinityirishdancers.com.

Chicago Chamber Musicians
present "Revolutionary Czecho-slovakia" at 7:30 p.m. March 17 in Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Visit chicago-chambermusic.org.

'Cinderella'
will be performed at 7 p.m. March 21-23 at Resurrection College Prep High School, 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. Visit www.reshs.org.

'Vigils'
is on stage through April 21 at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Visit gifttheatre.org.
Orchestra keeping it positive for next concert

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES | Contributor

The St. Patrick's Day concert by the New North Shore Chamber Orchestra doesn't include a single Irish composer, but the rich selection of music is sure to satisfy audiences of all heritages.

Under the baton of Maestro Anatol Lysenka, the 50-piece ensemble will play Von Weber's Oberon Overture, Wagner's Prelude to "Die Meistersinger," "Light Cavalry Overture" by Johann Strauss, Jr., "Radetzky March" by Johann Strauss, Sr. and the intermezzo from "La Boda de Luis Alonso" by Spanish composer Geronimo Gimenez.

The centerpiece of the concert will be the performance of Piano Concerto No. 1 by Franz Liszt award-winning and Steinway artist Susan Merdinger of Highland Park.

Locally Merdinger has performed live on WFMT, at Bennett Gordon Hall at Ravinia, Preston Bradley Hall in the Chicago Cultural Center and with the Highland Park Strings.

At the invitation of Charles Pikler, principal violist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, she played on the Chicago Symphony's chamber series at the Art Institute of Chicago last year. "I've been invited to play again this year," she said, "an all Schubert program on May 19."

She is particularly pleased about playing Liszt with the New North Suburban Chamber Orchestra. "I haven't performed it in 13 years," she said.

"Our program includes so many positive works," said Lysenka, who after six years as summer conductor of the orchestra, was appointed principal conductor in 2010.

Lysenka, who hails from Belarus, received a master's degree in conducting at the Belarusian Conservatory of Music and a second master's in opera and symphony conducting from the Moscow State Conservatory.

He came to the United States in 2000 and settled in Skokie. In connection with American Music Festivals, he has conducted the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra and the short-lived Glenview Symphony. In 2005, Lysenka founded the Tutti Chamber Orchestra in Chicago.

He was among those working with Harvey Treger, founder of the North Shore Chamber Orchestra, to invigorate the ensemble after more than a quarter century of affiliation with Northwestern University's Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music.

"We did a lot of good things with Northwestern," said Treger. "We provided a great opportunity for more than 80 student conductors and soloists in college and graduate school to perform with a community orchestra."

The trade-off for the non-professional volunteer musicians in the chamber orchestra was the use of NU's vast library of music scores and the opportunity to perform in Alice Millar Chapel on the university campus.

In 2010 the orchestra became independent and now plays in the Unitarian Church of Evanston. It uses music from the Petucci Library, a virtual library based in Canada that provides open access to music scores in the public domain.

As for the history behind the orchestra's name?

"We started out rehearsing in Nichols Middle School in Evanston in 1980. There have been so many changes that we decided to call ourselves the New North Shore Chamber Orchestra," Treger said.
The Easter Bunny is ready for breakfast

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

The big, fluffy guest of honor will greet kids and pose for photos at Breakfast with the Bunny, 9:30 a.m., Saturday, March 30 at Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton St., Skokie.

"This year, we have breakfast catered by the company that runs the cafe at our Skatium, Rent-A-Chef," said Mary Grear, events supervisor for the Skokie Park District. The menu will include French toast and eggs.

In addition to hobnobbing with the bunny, entertainment will include a balloon artist and craft projects.

"There will also be a free raffle - Easter baskets, really nice books," Grear said.

At 11 a.m., children ages 2-10 can participate in a free toy-filled egg hunt.

"We lay out 6,000 eggs on the field next to Oakton Park," Grear said.

The cost for residents is $10 for ages 2-12, $15 for ages 13-adults; non-residents pay $2 more. Register early because the breakfast sells out. The egg hunt is free for everyone.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2700 or go to www.skokieparks.org.

SLICK SONGS

Glide over the ice to the sounds of music by stars of a popular TV show during American Idol Night Skate, 8:30 to 9:50 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at Oakton Ice Arena, 2800 W. Oakton, Park Ridge. Skaters will be entered in a drawing for two tickets to a Chicago Wolves hockey game.

For details, call (847) 692-3359 or go to www.prparks.org.

HATS OFF TO THE DOCTOR

Kids will hear The Cat in the Hat and enjoy related activities at a Dr. Seuss: Read Across America Storytime, 11 a.m. Saturday, March 16 at the Village Crossing Shopping Center Barnes & Noble, 5405 Touhy Ave., Skokie. It's part of a National Education Association celebration.

For details, call (847) 329-8460 or go to www.barnesandnoble.com.

MUSIC! MUSIC! MUSIC!

There will be an open house, Instrument Petting Zoo and performance of "Peter and the Wolf" at Music Institute of Chicago's Family Day of Music, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets are $10 per family (up to six members). From 1 to 6 p.m. there will be free musical performances.

For details, call (847) 905-1500, ext. 108 or go to www.musicinst.org.

YOUR CALL

Gather the gang for a fun-filled evening at Family Bingo, 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 22 at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. A snack will be served. A caregiver must stay with children in 2nd grade or younger.

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

Summer runs from June 6 through Sept. 15 when more than 120 events, including 80 debuts, hit the stage at the Ravinia Festival in Highland Park.

The complete Ravinia schedule was announced March 7. Tickets are now on sale to donors and will open to the public April 25 at Ravinia.org.

**CLASSICAL NOTES**

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra will be in residence July 11-Aug. 17 and tickets for 2,500 of the pavilion's 3,400 seats will be a modest $25 each, even on the Gala Benefit night.

Opera lovers will hear a concert version of Giuseppe Verdi's "Aida" on Aug. 3, with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by Ravinia's music director James Conlon, with soloists Latonia Moore, Michelle DeYoung and Roberto Alagna. The program is a tribute to the bicentennial of the composer's birth and "Aida" is this summer's "One Score, One Chicago," pick.

The CSO marks the 200th anniversary of Richard Wagner's birth and the 100th of Benjamin Britten and music by both composers July 17 in the pavilion.

The Ravinia Women's Board's annual Gala Benefit Concert July 27 includes music by Verdi, Britten, Prokofiev and Wagner, with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and pianist superstar Lang Lang as soloist in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3.

Lang Lang skyrocketed to stardom after debuting at the 1999 Ravinia Gala, as a last-minute substitute for an ailing Andre Watts. Funds support the festival's REACH*TEACH*PLAY initiative to bring music to children in Chicago Public Schools.

The Los Angeles Master Chorale and the Chicago Philharmonic will present the Midwest premiere of "The Gospel According to the Other Mary" by John Adams in the pavilion Sept. 7.

The Martin Theatre hosts more than 20 events. Soprano Patricia Racette will present a program titled "Diva On Detour" June 22. Jane Glover leads the Music of the Baroque Orchestra and Chorus in Handel's "Israel in Egypt" on July 9, and soprano Nicole Cabell will sing Ricky Ian Gordon's song cycle "Silver Rain" in the Martin July 30 with the composer on the piano.

The Los Angeles Master Chorale and the Chicago Philharmonic will present the Midwest premiere of "The Gospel According to the Other Mary" by John Adams in the pavilion Sept. 7.

Lawn admission for all classical concerts is free to children and students through college.

Ravinia is setting up numerous special offers for festival fans, with $10 tickets for 26 shows in Bennett Gordon Hall. Kauffman began the $10 pricing in 2011 and it was such a success that it has continued...
Violinist Rachel Barton Pine will perform the complete Paganini: Caprices over two nights at Bennett Gordon Hall Aug. 17-18. Ravinia's Steans Music Institute celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Steans fellows will present 17 free afternoon and early evening concerts throughout the summer. The festival has also commissioned eight songs to be given their world premieres by Steans vocal artists the evening of Aug. 12.

CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

Judy Collins and Don McLean share billing June 6 and Sting returns on June 7 and 8. The Ravinia debut of Celtic Woman takes place June 12.

Actor Gary Sinise, a graduate of Highland Park High School, returns June 13 for the Ravinia Festival debut of The Lt. Dan Band, named for the character he played in "Forrest Gump."

The Chicago Jazz Orchestra will present a tribute June 14 to Benny
RIVER NORTH
DANCE
CHICAGO

Pop-rock lineup:

June 6 — Judy Collins with Don McLean
June 7-8 — Sting
June 9 — Joan Baez with Indigo Girls
June 13 — Cary Shins and the Lt. Dan Band
June 16 — Jewel
June 20 — Yes
June 22 — James Hunter with Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings
June 26 — Jackson Browne with Sara Watkins
June 27 — Los Lonely Boys with Los Lobos and Alejandro Escovedo
June 28 — Darius Rucker with Rodney Atkins and Jana Kramer
June 29 — Melissa Etheridge with Joan Osborne and Paula Cole
June 30 — The Go-Go’s with the B-52s
July 2-3 — Goo Goo Dolls with Matchbox Twenty
July 6 — David Byrne & St. Vincent
July 13 — Anita Baker
July 14 — Willie Nelson & Family with Lukas Nelson & P.O.T.R.
July 19 — Sheryl Crow with Kristen Kelly
July 20 — Under the Sun Tour with Smash Mouth, Sugar Ray, Gin Blossoms, Vertical Horizon and Fastball
July 22 — Jethro Tull’s Ian Anderson
July 26 — Brian Wilson with Al Jardine and David Marks
July 29 — Heart with Jason Bonham
Aug. 2-3 — Steely Dan
Aug. 11 — Gipsy Kings
Aug. 17 — George Thorogood & the Destroyers with Buddy Guy
Aug. 18 — The Goat Rodeo Sessions
Aug. 20-21 — Journey
Aug. 23 — Lyle Lovett
Aug. 24-25 — Chicago
Aug. 27 — John Hiatt & The Combo with the Robert Cray Band
Aug. 30 — Alabama

Ravinia

Continued from previous page

Goodman in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Ravinia debut of the legendary Chicago-born clarinetist and conductor during the summer of 1938.

The massive Mormon Tabernacle Choir, accompanied by the orchestra at Temple Square, return to the festival pavilion June 15.

Ravinia debuts include Darius Rucker, Rodney Atkins and Jana Kramer on June 28, Melissa Etheridge Live, Jessie Payo and Paula Cole join returning Joan Osborne on June 29.

Country music singer-songwriter Willie Nelson returns to present a program with his Family July 14 in the pavilion and Sheryl Crow returns July 19 with special guest Kristen Kelly.

Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys, will present a concert July 26 with Al Jardine and David Marks, making Ravinia debuts.

Swiss conductor Ludwig Wicki, noted for presenting film scores, will lead the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in Howard Shore’s score for “The Lord of the Rings — The Two Towers” as the film is being shown on pavilion and lawn screens Aug. 15 and 16. With the orchestra will be the Lakeside Singers, Chicago Chorale.
Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings and Chicago Children's Choir, with Kaitlyn Lusk, vocalist.

Classical superstar cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who has a well-known interest in every type of music, will be joined Aug. 18 by fiddler Stuart Duncan, bass Edgar Meyer, and mandolinist Chris Thile in the Midwest premiere of music from "The Goat Rodeo Sessions," which is the title of their 2011 album.

For a complete list of every program in the 2013 season, visit www.ravinia.org.
Old-fashioned baking, wholesome foods at Sweet Dreams

BY LEE A. LITAS | Dining Columnist

For anyone who thinks organic means nothing but sunflower seeds, tofu or teeth-shattering granola, Martha Sutton has good news.

She’s executive pastry chef at Sweet Dreams Organic Bakery & Café in Glenview, and when she says organic, she means ripe fruit, genuine cream, raw sugar, fair trade chocolate and rich cocoa from Ecuador. “There is just no compromise in ingredients. As a chef these are without a doubt the best ingredients I have ever worked with.”

As former executive chef to a number of white tablecloth North Shore establishments, Sutton was looking to sink her teeth into something she really believed in and was struck by Sweet Dreams’ insistence on being a one hundred percent organic scratch bakery. “There are just so few of those left,” she said.

Family-owned and operated since 2005, Sweet Dreams follows the philosophy of owner Mary Sopcic who grew up eating this way in her native Croatia. When Sopcic decided to share her organic lifestyle with the world, she found that, “amazingly, eight years ago, that was cutting edge,” said Sutton.

So what is organic, really? “Organic means free of any hormones, pesticides, additives or artificial flavors,” explains Sutton. If it’s not certified organic by the FDA, it does not go into any product at Sweet Dreams. That means all Sweet Dreams regular, gluten-free, vegan and gluten-free vegan options are organic. “We try to make everything delicious regardless of what it does or does not have in it,” said Sutton.

Case in point: SD’s densely-chocolate and ultra rich gluten-free peanut butter cups sweetened with agave nectar ($2). They’re not good because they are gluten-free; they’re just good.

While desserts take center stage, savory dishes and even spirits abound. Sweet Dreams makes delicate crepes filled with a spicy creamed chicken goulash, served with a side salad and tangy vinaigrette. Or sample the popular grilled chicken ciabatta sandwich with avocado and greens, offered with a cup of thick, homemade navy bean soup ($14.50 each). Pair the meals with any of SD’s organic wines or beer ($7-$8 glass/$20-$24 bottle).

Sutton and Sopcic take turns at baking. Sopcic makes her family’s famous strudel by rolling out a homemade phyllo-type dough on a special table she designated just for this. The delicate pastry is layered with organic apples in the fall; and plums, ripe blueberries and sweet cherries and cheese throughout the rest of the year ($3.50/slice).

“It’s how baking used to be,” said Sutton.

Assortment of minis includes a gluten-free peanut butter cup sweetened with agave ($2), traditional éclair filled with pastry cream ($2.25), almond shortbread cookie with apricot jam ($1.50) and a gluten-free almond sandwich with raspberry jam ($2), and a blueberry kolacky with cream cheese dough ($1.50).
New ‘Creatures’ exhibit lights up Field Museum

BY KARA SPAK | kspak@suntimes.com

Let there be light — in suburban backyards and the deepest seas, in the darkest caves and on the stumpiest logs.

Nature's lanterns are lighting up the Field Museum courtesy of the exhibit "Creatures of Light: Nature's Bioluminescence."

Bioluminescence means living things that create their own light. Think fireflies, foxfire mushrooms and thousands of deep sea fish, many microscopic, that live so far below the water's surface that they exist in a world of total darkness.

The exhibit began as a collaboration three years ago between Leo Smith, Field Museum assistant curator of fishes, and a colleague at New York's American Museum of Natural History. Smith was studying the ponyfish, "an unassuming fish with a bioluminescent pouch off its throat and stomach that looked like a doughnut," he said.

From those discussions came the exhibit, looking at this unique, peculiar phenomenon found in an assortment of critters from glowworms in New Zealand caves to backyard fireflies in Chicago. Much of the exhibit focuses on the life aquatic because that is where most bioluminescence happens. It's not common on land — less than 20 percent of bioluminescent creatures live outside of the ocean.

The exhibit is model based, so insects and fish are blown up tens to thousands of times their normal size for a close look at their lighting mechanisms. "Because of the giant models we can focus on the diversity of the animals," Smith said.

It's an exhibit filled with buttons to press and computer screens to play with, geared for children. "When you first walk in it unfolds in an atmosphere of mystery," said Janet Hong, project manager for exhibitions. "It really brings you back to childhood, the feeling of holding a firefly in your hands. It's dark in here and very beautiful."

The American Museum of Natural History has created a free "Creatures of Light: Nature's Bioluminescence" app, available for use in the exhibit and to download from iTunes. It features visuals set to music composed for "Creatures of Light."

Creatures of Light: Nature's Bioluminescence

Through Sept. 8
Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago
(312) 922-9410; www.fieldmuseum.org

In "Creatures of Light: Nature's Bioluminescence" at the Field Museum, visitors are introduced to the world of biofluorescence — animals and organisms that react basically to black light. For example, in the desert at night, you can pull out a black light, turn it on and suddenly all the scorpions scatter and you see their little blue bodies.
**OPENING THIS WEEK**

**BEYOND THE HILLS**

**Rated**
No MPAA rating

**Stars**
Cosmina Stratan, Cristina Flutur, Valeriu Andriuta

The friendship between two young women who grew up in the same orphanage is tested when one tries to convince the other to leave her convent and move to Germany with her.

**THE CALL**

**Rated**
R for violence, disturbing content and some language

**Stars**
Halle Berry, Michael Eklund, Abigail Breslin

A veteran 911 operator is haunted by the memory of her phone encounter with a serial killer, until another woman calls after being kidnapped by him.

**STILL PLAYING**

**DEAD MAN DOWN**

**Rated**
R for violence, language throughout and a scene of sexuality

**Stars**
Colin Ferrell, Noomi Rapace, Terrence Howard

The right-hand man (Ferrell) of a New York City crime lord is seduced by one of his boss's victims (Rapace), who's seeking revenge.

**EMPEROR**

**Rated**
PG-13 for violent content, brief strong language and smoking

**Stars**
Tommy Lee Jones, Matthew Fox

Despite the presence of Jones as Supreme Commander Douglas MacArthur, this unconvincing and ineffective story about the early days of America's occupation of Japan never rings true. Perhaps because a large part of it is fictional: the tragic lost-love story of General Bonner Fellers (Fox), revisited in flashback, as he investigates whether or not to put Emperor Hirohito on trial as a war criminal. There's abundant raw material for a first-class historical drama about the Occupation but, unfortunately, this isn't it.

**UPSIDE DOWN**

**Rated**
PG-13 for some violence

**Stars**
Tommy Lee Jones, Matthew Fox

Despite the presence of Jones as Supreme Commander Douglas MacArthur, this unconvincing and ineffective story about the early days of America's occupation of Japan never rings true. Perhaps because a large part of it is fictional: the tragic lost-love story of General Bonner Fellers (Fox), revisited in flashback, as he investigates whether or not to put Emperor Hirohito on trial as a war criminal. There's abundant raw material for a first-class historical drama about the Occupation but, unfortunately, this isn't it.

**OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL**

**Rated**
PG for sequences of action and scary images and brief mild language

**Stars**
James Franco, Michelle Williams, Rachel Weisz, Mila Kunis

Credit director Sam Raimi for "da noive," as the Cowardly Lion might put it, to skip down the same Yellow Brick Road as one of the most beloved and iconic of all Hollywood movies. His heart is in the right place, in this consistently entertaining and visually eye-popping prequel, despite a bit too much hipster attitude from the star and an over-emphasis on wise-cracking dialogue. Franco is fine as the selfish, obnoxious Professor Oz, transported from his cheesy carnival-magician gig in Kansas to the Land of Oz. He becomes involved in a power struggle between three witch-sisters, who believe he is the fulfillment of a prophecy. There are dramatic lags, here and there, but one thing never flags: the visual dazzle Raimi has always been famous for.
Love defies double gravity in 'Upside Down'

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

"Upside Down"

Romeo and Juliet? They had it easy. At least when they stood up their heads pointed in the same direction. That's not so for the star-crossed, gravitationally-challenged young lovers in the sci-fi romance "Upside Down," who not only live in separate worlds but also have entirely different ideas about which way is up.

You get a pretty good idea of what to expect from "Upside Down" in the opening moments, which combine cosmic visuals with what may be the longest, most confusing, scene-setting voiceover monologue ever filmed. It goes all the way back to the creation of the universe to explain the existence of a solar system containing twinned planets, each with its own opposing gravitational fields. Then it explains, after a dazzling split-screen view of the situation, that these two worlds coexist face-to-face, with the Up Top planet thriving by exploiting the world Down Below. Which has led to a state of interplanetary tension resulting in a strict rule forbidding the people of Down Below from ever entering Up Top. Though that probably wouldn't happen too often anyway, because matter from one world is antimatter in the other — and the two can't come into contact for more than an hour without bursting into flame.

Now, we all know that good science fiction tries to be as plausible as possible. Unfortunately, this film isn't, not even for a moment. So let's think of it as semi-magical romantic fantasy instead and give Argentine writer/director Juan Solanas ("Northeast") a free pass on that score.

Into the film's topsy-turvy setting stray young Adam and Eden, who meet one day when the boy is out harvesting the Secret Pollen of the Pink Bees, which his aunt uses to make floating pancakes (just go with it). Child Adam climbs the highest tree on the highest peak Down Below and spots child Eden doing much the same across from him, Up Top. From there, they grow into teens (and become Jim Sturgess and Kirsten Dunst), fall in love, steal some smooches when Adam drags Eden Down Below on a rope, and are tragically separated when a hit squad tries to kill them. Adam is shot, Eden is injured and years pass. Then Adam spots Eden on TV Up Top and decides to risk everything to see her again, concocting a Pink Bee wrinkle cream to get himself a job at the evil corporation where she works. At which point many more complications kick in, including the previously mentioned bursting-into-flame issue.

The thing is, there are two ways to look at "Upside Down." Watch it with your head and you're likely to spend most of the time in frustration. Watch it with your heart, and you just might find that its ardent mood and romantic imagery makes sense in a way that works just fine without logic.
A comprehensive list of movie times is available online at www.pioneerlocal.com. Choose your publication, and then select the Entertainment tab.

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<tr>
<th>Theatre Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>CENTURY 12 EVANSTON/CINEARTS 6 AND XD</td>
<td>1715 Maple Ave, Evanston</td>
<td>(847) 491-9751</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cinemark.com">www.cinemark.com</a></td>
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<td>9701 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont</td>
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<td>5 S. Prospect Ave, Park Ridge</td>
<td>(847) 604-2234</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pickwicktheatre.com">www.pickwicktheatre.com</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
This Weekend and Beyond | Get out and enjoy your community

**THIS WEEKEND & BEYOND**

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

**STAGE**

**"Arms and the Man"**

Presented by Old World Theatre Company at 8 p.m. March 14 and 2:30 p.m. March 17 at Congregation Kol Emeth, 5130 W. Touhy Ave., Skokie. $22; $10 students. Call (312) 857-8487.

**"Everything is Illuminated"**

Presented by Next Theatre through March 31 at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. $30-$40; $16 students. Visit www.nexttheatre.org.

**Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre**


**"The Night of the Iguana"**

Performed at 8 p.m. March 14-15 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. March 16 in Northwestern University's Hal and Martha Hyer Wallis Theater, 1949 Campus Drive, Evanston. $10. Visit www.tic.northwestern.edu or call (847) 491-7282.

**"Stones in His Pockets"**

Presented by Northlight Theatre through April 14 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. $25-$72; student tickets $15, subject to availability. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org.

**NEW COMMA BAROQUE**

The period ensemble presents "All the Mornings of the World," a program of music of the French Baroque, 8 p.m. March 15 at Musical Offering, 743 Custer Ave., Evanston. $15; $10 students. Visit www.renovosstrings.org.

**"The New" North Shore Chamber Orchestra**

Performing at 3:30 p.m. March 17 at The Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1330 Ridge. The program includes works by Strauss, Wagner, Weber and others. $15; $5 students. www.northshore-chamberorchestra.org.

**Northwest Symphony Orchestra**

"Midsummer Night's Dream," 3:30 p.m. April 7 in the Theatre for the Performing Arts at Maine West High School, 1755 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines. $20; $15 seniors; $10 students. Visit www.northwestsymphony.org.

**The Orion Ensemble**


**POP/FOLK/JAZZ**

**Akoo Theatre at Rosemont**

5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000. March 22, 7:30 p.m.: The 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.

**Hanging Gardens Banquets**

8301 W. Belmont Ave., River Grove. (708) 456-2900. March 26, 7-10 p.m.: Jazz Community Big Band, an 18-piece big band based in Norridge, plays the music of Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton and others. $10.

**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.

**Lincolnwood Public Library**

4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnmwoodlibrary.org. March 17, 2 p.m.: Live@Lincolnwood presents Chicago Voice Exchange performing a cappella rock classics and originals.

**Submissions**

You Want In? Here's How:

Submit GO events one week prior to the date of publication

Entries must be typed. GO listings are free. Include brief descriptions of the event, date, address, time and phone number.

Email: Send submissions to gol@pioneerlocal.com

Fax: 847-486-7451

**Icon Key**

**18+** Seniors 65+

**Kids 4-12**

**Family**

**Toddlers 0-3**

**Teens 13+**

**Adults 18+**

**What to Do [Page 66]**
What to Do
Continued from page 65

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.

April 18, 8 p.m.: David Sanborn Trio (R&B/jazz). $55, $65.

S.P.A.C.E.

McGill in The Studios at SPACE (folk). $15.

ART GALLERIES


AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

Playwriting competition

18+ Oakton Community College's Play On festival seeks submissions of original one-act scripts (10 pages or less) from community college students in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. E-mail scripts as a Word document to katet@oakton.edu by April 5. Include a cover page listing name, phone number, mailing and e-mail address, and school name.

Easter egg hunt

Easter egg hunt

$15, $25, $35, $70.

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre


"Ralph's World in Concert!"

Skokie Theatre

Children's entertainer Ralph Covert performs at 12:30 p.m. March 17 at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St, Skokie. $15. For tickets, call (847) 675-0951.

Also Call about our Murder Mystery Train™ Every Saturday

Also Call about our Murder Mystery Train™ Every Saturday

5400 N. River Road,
"The Secret Garden"

11 a.m.
Presented by Edge of the Wood Theatre through March 16 at Edgebrook Community Church, 6736 N. Loleta Ave., Chicago. $15; $8 students. Visit http://edgeofthewood.org/resident-theatre.

DANCE

"Alice in Wonderland"

11 a.m.
Presented by Salt Creek Ballet at 2 p.m. April 20-21 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. $26-$32; $20-$25 for children under 12. Mad Hatter's Crafty Tea Party, 12:30-1:30 p.m. April 20 in the lobby, $10 per child; $5 per adult (performance tickets are additional). Visit www.northshorecenter.org.

Evanston Dance Ensemble

11 a.m.
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

11 a.m.
Hosting square and round dancing at 7:30 p.m. the second Saturday of the month, through May, at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 855 Lee St., Des Plaines. $6 per guest. Call (773) 685-8407.

Leikarringen Heimhug Norwegian Folk Dancers

11 a.m.
Meet weekly, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Norwood Crossing, 6016 N. Nina, Chicago. New members, age 16 and older, welcome. No dance experience needed, just interest in Scandinavian folk dance. Call (847) 823-7596 or e-mail kronmo8l5@gmail.com; or (847) 692-6616 or karlp57@aol.com.

Line dancing

11 a.m.
For all ages, held from 7-10 p.m. every Tuesday at the White Eagle Banquet Hall, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Beginner lessons are at 7:30 p.m. and new dance or review at 8 p.m. Admission: $7.50 for ages 17 and under. Call (847) 965-6353 or e-mail at somedjaydd AT ATT.NET.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts

11 a.m.
River North Dance Chicago. $36, $46.
April 20-21, 2 p.m.: Salt Creek Ballet presents "Alice in Wonderland." $26, $32. April 27, 7:30 p.m.: DanceWorks Chicago and Sons of the Never Wrong. $20, $26, $32.

Polynesian Paradise Dancers

11 a.m.
Performing "Postcards from Paradise" at 6 p.m. April 14 at Gorilla Tango Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. $15. Visit www.gorillatangotheatre.com or call (847) 677-7761.

Young at Heart

11 a.m.
Ballroom dancing for all ages at 8 p.m. Fridays at the American Legion, 9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park. $16; $8 members. Call (773) 961-7525 or visit www.ballroomchicago.com/youthatheartclub.htm.

COMEDY

Curt's Cafe

10 a.m.
2922 Central St., Evanston. (847) 868-8385. March 22, 7:30 p.m.: "An Evening of Comedy & Music" with Debbie Sue Goodman and friends. $3.

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre

10 a.m.
Through March 23, 7:30 p.m. Saturdays: "Breaking Belting." $20. March 30, 7:30 p.m.: The Meshuganas, a stand-up comedy revue featuring Hollie and Steve Himmelman. $22.
Ongoing, 9 p.m. Saturdays: "Holy Bouncing Boobies! A Batman Burlesque," 18 and over. $28-$35.

Zanies Comedy Club

10 a.m.


March 29-30: "Blood, Sweat and Beers" with Steve Himmelman. $22.


Leibkind's Burlesque. "18 and over. $28-$35.

March 29-30: "Blood, Sweat and Beers" with Steve Himmelman. $22.


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What to Do
Continued from page 67

March 28, 1 p.m.: Cine- 
matic Classics features 
“Out of the Past.”

Niles Public Library
6960 Oakton St., Niles. 
www.nileslibrary.org. 
March 21, 2 p.m.: Closed 
captioned screening of 
“Beasts of the Southern 
Wild.”

Northwest Chicago 
Film Society
March 18, 1 p.m.: “Park 
Row” (1952). 
March 20, 2 p.m.: “Only 
Angels Have Wings” (1939). 
March 27, 2 p.m.: “City of 
Fear” (1959).

LECTURES
Niles Public Library
6960 Oakton St., Niles. 
www.nileslibrary.org. 
March 17, 2 p.m.: “Im-
pressionism with an 
Eye on Fashion.” Betty 
Winer previews the 
upcoming Art Institute 
exhibit, “Impressionism, 
Fashion, and Modernity,” in a slide-lecture 
format.

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., Evan-
ston. Members will 
perform. Guests $5, 
which can be applied to 
ring43.org.

Des Plaines Valley 
Geological Society
Hosting its 48th annual 
Jewelry, Gem, 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.

WORKSHOPS & 
CLASSES
Niles Public Library
6960 Oakton St., Niles. 
(847) 663-6405. www. 
nileslibrary.org. March 
18, 7 p.m.: Writers’ 
Roundtable.

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

St. Patrick Celebration
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- CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

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by Marie Jones

directed by J.R. Sullivan

Presented in association with Utah Shakespeare Festival

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*Subject to availability. Some restrictions apply.
Willoughby Anderson & Michelangelo D'Agostino
Engagement

Susan Willoughby Anderson and Michelangelo Vincent D'Agostino are to be married on April 20, 2013 by Father Bob Hoffenkamp at St. Henry Catholic Church in Nashville, Tennessee. Willoughby Anderson is an associate at Schiff Hardin, LLP in Chicago. She graduated from Harvard College and received a Ph.D. in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She received a J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. She is the daughter of Susan Dorsey Anderson and Julian Wayne Anderson of Birmingham, Alabama. Michelangelo D'Agostino is a Data Scientist at Braintree in Chicago. He graduated from Harvard, Berkeley. Mr. D'Agostino formerly served as Senior Analyst in Digital Analytics for the 2012 Obama campaign. He is the son of Vincent D'Agostino and Josephine D'Agostino of Park Ridge, Illinois. The couple will honeymoon in Italy and will reside in Chicago after the wedding.

Alison Cooley & Vincent Kovacs
Engagement

Maryann and Larry Boubel of Park Ridge announce the engagement of their son, Vincent Kovacs, to Alison Cooley, daughter of Nancy and Curtis Cooley of Camanche, Iowa. Vincent and Alison met during their years at the University of Iowa and now reside in Chicago. They enjoy trying new restaurants around their neighborhood, attending concerts together and spending time with their rescue German Shepherd, Soy. The groom-to-be is a graduate of Maine South High School of Park Ridge, Vincent graduated from the University of Iowa in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Marketing. He is an Assistant Broadcast Negotiator at Group M, a media-marketing firm, in Chicago. His fiancé graduated the University of Iowa in 2010, where she earned her degree in Art Education. Alison is a teacher at Christie’s Carousel of Learning in Park Ridge. A May wedding is planned at a location in Chicago that holds special meaning to the couple. Dr. Donald Batz, the pastor from Alison’s home church, St. Mark’s Methodist in Camanche, will perform the marriage ceremony.

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Blessman
60th Anniversary

Richard and Charmaine (Husack) Blessman are celebrating 60 years of marriage on March 29, 2013. Chicago-born Charmaine met Dick as young students at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and the romance began. In 1963, they were married in Dick’s hometown of Havana, Illinois, surrounded by family and friends. They enjoyed living in Western Springs for 53 years, and several years ago they moved to Plymouth Place in LaGrange Park. Their love and commitment is an example to us and to all who know them. We look forward to celebrating many more years of happiness!

Love, Marshall, Lee, Kate, and grandchildren Daniel, Tami, Thomas, Benjamin and Elizabeth.

To place your special announcement in the Celebrate section, Please send inquiries to kfontana@stmedianetwork.com
Talent Management that Taps the Semantic Cloud

By: John Rossheim, Monster Senior Contributing Writer

Large employers with complex and rapidly evolving labor needs require an integrated talent management system that will support long-term success.

Unfortunately, such a solution has been easy to imagine but nearly impossible to realize.

Knowing that recruiters can miss opportunities to fill openings internally, HR leaders also covet semantic search to identify talent—in whatever terms it is described and wherever in the enterprise it resides—from employee resumes to job descriptions or profiles on SharePoint sites.

“Organizations are used to looking at their own workforce data and at external data,” says Mollie Lombardi, research director of Aberdeen Group’s human capital management practice in Boston.

“Now they want to look at internal and external at the same time, and it’s a big challenge, because there’s lots of data in different formats. It gets complicated.”

This complex convergence of data is a challenge for older database searches, which categorize people into predetermined occupations and classifications. In contrast, semantic search evaluates the multifaceted skills and experiences within a resume and provides instant candidate matching and analysis against the job’s requirements.

Until recently, incorporating semantic search into a talent management system has been prohibitively expensive, given the massive computational resources it requires. Enter talent management—based on semantic cloud computing.

An Integrated View of the Workforce and Labor Pool

Semantic cloud talent management is beginning to fulfill the promise of integrated workforce planning by combining rich workforce data from multiple internal and external sources, while linking with ATS systems and APIs for third-party applications.

“The world doesn’t need yet another talent-management system,” says Javid Muhammedali, senior product director for Monster’s SeeMore™, Monster’s July 2011 entry in the nascent cloud-talent management space. “What the world needs is a cloud-based platform to take employers’ existing systems, integrate them and make them semantic-aware.”

Featured Job

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“SeeMore helps identify talent gaps and oversupplies,” says Muhammedali, enabling employers to slice a comprehensive database of their internal workforce, with available workers in the relevant geographic area.

Talent management that taps the cloud may be able to boost retention of key employees, and even tell you “which categories of employees and which specific employees are flight risks,” according to a Deloitte Consulting report on HR in the Cloud.

The State of Ohio Adopts Semantic Talent Management

Multinational companies are not alone in seeking to attract and retain top talent. The State of Ohio has partnered with Monster’s SeeMore™ to improve employers’ visibility into the workforce.

Ohio’s workforce data-mining and job-search system brings together jobs posted directly to Ohio Means Jobs; it also pools resumes targeted at individuals who live or want to work in Ohio. Employers can then query the state’s workforce database in detail; job seekers can see where their skills are needed.

“We receive and fulfill requests from economic development people with needs from employers,” says Birnbrich. “I had a request from a city that wanted to know how many fork-lift operators Ohio has. I searched our database of 2.1 million resumes and within 5 minutes I sent them an email saying that there are 2,700 people with ‘fork-lift operator’ as their job title, and that 270 have Microsoft Excel experience and 420 have done inventory management.”

Fast, Cost-Effective Implementations

Enabled by nimble programming techniques, cloud-based talent management also has the ability to tie into more cumbersome legacy systems to make them semantic-aware. The result promises a rapid return on investment that organizations, both public and private, now typically require.

In uncertain times, this new talent-management paradigm offers valuable workforce intelligence to point the way forward.

“Cloud talent management lets you answer the question, ‘Where is the talent for where my business is going,’ taking into account skills, competencies, geographies, and so on,” says Lombardi. “You can think about how to get your workforce ready for what’s coming in 6 to 12 months. Sometimes you can’t find people fast enough, so you have to grow them internally.”
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if the purchaser has not acquired the
real estate for a period exceeding $300,
AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN "AS IS" Condition. The sale is further for sale without any representation of the amount paid by the purchaser for the property at the sale or by any other person on behalf of the purchaser for the property at the sale.

The sale is further for sale without any representation of the amount paid by the purchaser for the property at the sale or by any other person on behalf of the purchaser for the property at the sale. The property is sold as is and all faults.

The Real Property located at 505 Lincoln Avenue, Morton Grove, IL 60053, shall be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, for the sum of $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser for the property at the sale or by any other person on behalf of the purchaser for the property at the sale.

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The purchaser shall pay the sum of $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser for the property at the sale or by any other person on behalf of the purchaser for the property at the sale.

The property may be inspected by any person interested in the property prior to the sale.

The sale is further for sale without any representation of the amount paid by the purchaser for the property at the sale or by any other person on behalf of the purchaser for the property at the sale.
Judicial Sales - Real Est

**FORECLOSURE NOTICE**

The mortgaged property is located at 31514 West 71st Street, Homewood, Illinois 60430. The debtor is listed as Harry and Helen Trzeciak. The mortgagee is New Era Financial, Inc.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The sale will be conducted on March 13, 2013, at 10:30 AM at 1500 South Wacker Drive, Suite 1510, Chicago, Illinois 60606. Bidders must deposit $5,000 or fraction thereof in certified funds, bank draft, cashier's check, or wire transfer. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Court. The highest bidder will be entitled to purchase the property at the foreclosure sale for $300,000 or fraction thereof. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Court.

**FOR INFORMATION:**

Visit our website at www.tjsc.com or call our office at 312-603-0500.

Selling agent: Gary Kristofich.

**LEGAL**

**BID NOTICE**

If you have any questions, please contact Gary Kristofich at 312-603-0500.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

The sale will be conducted on March 13, 2013, at 10:30 AM at 1500 South Wacker Drive, Suite 1510, Chicago, Illinois 60606. Bidders must deposit $5,000 or fraction thereof in certified funds, bank draft, cashier's check, or wire transfer. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Court. The highest bidder will be entitled to purchase the property at the foreclosure sale for $300,000 or fraction thereof. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Court.

**FOR INFORMATION:**

Visit our website at www.tjsc.com or call our office at 312-603-0500.

Selling agent: Gary Kristofich.
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE — TO BE HELD AT THE LOCK UP SELF STORAGE, 3859 West Devon Ave, Lincolnwood, IL 60712.

BEGINS AT 10:00 AM.

CONDITIONS: All units will be sold to the highest bidder. Bids only taken for each unit in entirety. Payment must be made by cash or check. No personal checks accepted. All goods must be removed from the unit within 24 hours. Payment due immediately after successful bid. Unit availability subject to prior settlement of account.

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- Friday: At Wheeling, 4:30 p.m.

**BOYS GYMNASTICS**
- Today: At Evanston, 6 p.m.
- Saturday: At Maine South, 11 a.m.
- Thursday (3/21): At Maine East, 6 p.m.

**GIRLS WATER POLO**
- Today: Hosts Niles West, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday (3/21): Wednesday: Hosts Maine West, 4:30 p.m.

**SOFTBALL**
- Friday: At Leyden, 4:45 p.m.
- Wednesday: At Leyden, 4:45 p.m.

**BOYS TENNIS**
- Thursday (3/21): Hosts Notre Dame, 4:45 p.m.

**BOYS TRACK**
- Tuesday: At Highland Park Indoor CSL Meet, 4:30 p.m.

**SOFTBALL**
- Friday: At Leyden, 4:45 p.m.
- Tuesday: At Leyden, 4:45 p.m.

**BOYS VOLLEYBALL**
- Today: At Wheeling, 6 p.m.
- Thursday (3/21): At Highland Park Indoor CSL Meet, 4:30 p.m.

**BOYS WATER POLO**
- Today: At Glenbrook South, 6 p.m.
- Friday: Hosts Maine East, 4:30 p.m.

**BOYS GYMNASTICS**
- Friday: At Leyden Eagle Invite, 4:30 p.m.

**BASEBALL**
- Wednesday: Hosts Northridge, 4:30 p.m.

**GIRLS SOCCER**
- Friday: At Leyden Eagle Invite, 11 a.m.
- Tuesday: At Evanston, 6 p.m.
- Thursday (3/21): At Niles West Invitational, 11 a.m.

**GIRLS TRACK**
- Today: At Niles West (hosted by Niles North) Indoor CSL Meet, 4:30 p.m.

**BOYS VOLLEYBALL**
- Today: At Glenbrook South, 6 p.m.
- Friday: Hosts Maine East, 4:30 p.m.

**BOYS WATER POLO**
- Today: At Glenbrook South, 6 p.m.
- Saturday: At Maine South Hawk Invite, 4:30 p.m.

**GIRLS WATER POLO**
- Today: Hosts Maine West, 4:30 p.m.

### This Week

**Maine East**

**BADMINTON**
- Friday: At Leyden Eagle Invite, 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday: At Evanston, 6 p.m.
- Thursday (3/21): At Niles West Invitational, 11 a.m.
- Tuesday: At Evanston, 6 p.m.
- Thursday (3/21): Hosts Niles West, 6 p.m.

**BOYS GYMNASTICS**
- Friday: At Leyden Eagle Invite, 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday: At Leyden Eagle Invite, 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday (3/21): Hosts Niles West, 4:45 p.m.
- Tuesday: At Leyden, 4:45 p.m.

**BASEBALL**
- Wednesday: Hosts Northridge, 4:30 p.m.

**BOYS VOLLEYBALL**
- Today: At Niles West Invitational, 11 a.m.
- Tuesday: At Illinois North Indoor CSL Meet, 4:30 p.m.

**SOFTBALL**
- Today: At IBA, 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday: At IBA, 4:30 p.m.

**BOYS WATER POLO**
- Today: At Glenbrook South, 6 p.m.
- Friday: Hosts Maine East, 4:30 p.m.

**BOYS GYMNASTICS**
- Today: At Leyden, 4:45 p.m.
- Thursday (3/21): At Leyden Eagle Invite, 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday: At Ridgewood, 4:30 p.m.

**BASEBALL**
- Wednesday: At Leyden Eagle Invite, 4:30 p.m.

**GIRLS TRACK**
- Today: At IBA, 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday: At IBA, 4:30 p.m.

**BOYS WATER POLO**
- Today: At Glenbrook South, 6 p.m.
- Saturday: At Maine South Hawk Invite, 4:30 p.m.

**GIRLS TRACK**
- Today: At Leyden Eagle Invite, 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday: At Glenbrook North, 6 p.m.
- Thursday (3/21): At Evanston, 6 p.m.
- Thursday (3/21): Hosts Niles West, 6 p.m.

The Vernon Hills alumna and Southern Illinois sophomore Kelly Gallagher recorded her first sub-five-minute mile with a time of 4:58.58 at the Illinois State University Big Meet in Allendale, Mich., on Feb. 8.

**SALUKI MEDIA SERVICES**

Vernon Hills alumna Kelly Gallagher, a sophomore on the Southern Illinois track and field team, anchored the Salukis to a third-place finish in the women's distance medley relay at the Missouri Valley Conference Indoor Championships on Feb. 21 in Cedar Falls, Iowa. The finish earned her All-MVC honors. She also placed ninth in the mile run with a time of 5 minutes, 3.88 seconds.

Earlier this season, the Vernon Hills native recorded her first sub-five-minute mile with a time of 4:58.58 at the Grand Valley State University Big Meet in Allendale, Mich.

Matt Palucki, a Maine South graduate and forward for the Lincolnwood Lincolnwood, recently earned second-team All-University Athletic Association honors. The sophomore from Park Ridge started in all 27 of the Bears' games and helped lead the team to a 21-6 record, including a 10-4 mark in conference play. He finished the season fourth on the team in scoring with 9.5 points per game. He also led the team in rebounding with 8.1.

Niles West alumna Jewell Loyd, a guard on the Niles West basketball team, was recently named Big East Freshman of the Year. The Lincolnwood native was the third player in program history named Big East Freshman of the Year. The Lincolnwood native was the third player in program history to receive the award. She also earned all-conference honorable mention honors and was a unanimous selection for the Big East All-Freshman Team.

Loyd finished the regular season third on the team in scoring with 11.7 points per game and second on the team in rebounding with 5.3 per game.

- Nick Bu flock

Have a suggestion for the College Roundup? Email Nick Bullock at bullockpioneerpress@gmail.com.
The Niles North boys basketball team won three games the season before Malachi Nix came to high school.

Prior to Nix's arrival, the program's last winning season came during the 1999-2000 campaign. The Vikings also captured a regional championship that season. It was the program's first regional title and its only one pre-Nix.

In his four seasons as a starting guard, the 5-foot-8 Nix transformed the Vikings into an area powerhouse. With Nix on the court, Niles North won 84 games, three regional titles, two CSL North championships and one sectional title.

As a senior, Nix, who remains undecided on a college, helped the Vikings set a single-season record for victories with 27 and got the team to a third consecutive sectional final. Niles North lost 65-42 to New Trier on Friday.

"I don't think people understand how hard of a process this has been for us, how hard the players worked, how much they invested," Niles North coach Glenn Olson said.

"It doesn't make sense how successful we were, and a lot of it was because of Malachi. He elevated the play of everybody. He made the other guys believe."
"He always brought so much energy into the gym. He always was ready to play. One thing that was so special about him, even though he's small, is he has so much bounce to him. He can come down the court and pull up and hit a 3-pointer, and it's so hard to stop because he gets up so high and fast."

Andrew McAuliffe
Glenbrook North senior forward

**BY THE NUMBERS**

- Nix finished with a program-record 1,532 career points. He scored 549 as a senior, averaging 17.1 per game. He also leaves the Vikings first in career steals with 215.

- Nix scored a career-high 44 points, including 18 in the fourth quarter, in an 84-80 win over Morton at Gordon Tech on Feb. 17. More importantly, the win - the team's 24th - tied the program record for wins in a single season. His 20 free throws also were a team record for a single game.

- In four seasons, Nix helped the Vikings go 84-36, the best four-year stretch in school history. The Vikings won their second conference championship in three seasons in 2013 by going 10-0 in league play. He even blocked a potential game-tying shot in the final minute of a 56-55 win over Deerfield.

- Nix saved his best games for the ones that mattered most. In the team's 68-57 win over Loyola on March 1 in the regional final, Nix scored 30 of his 39 points in the final two quarters.

- Nix wasn't all about points. He also averaged 3.5 assists, 3.5 rebounds and 2.8 steals a game during his senior season.

"I didn't think much of Niles North until he got there, and I think everyone else would agree with that. What they built with him is really impressive."

Reid Berman
New Trier senior guard

"Malachi's four-year body of work deserves recognition. He hit big shots, set records and provided leadership. All of that is impressive, but it's the wins that really stand out. Malachi did whatever he could to help his team win games."

Paul Harris
Highland Park coach
Trevians trying to rebound in 2013

BY ERIC VAN DRIL | Contributor | @EricVanDril

WINNETKA
New Trier's ultimate goal has been the same for nine seasons.

While winning a state title is rarely discussed during preseason boys lacrosse practices, seniors Tyler Schmarak and Rory McGinnis both agree that the Trevians are eager to try to wash away the disappointment experienced last season when their streak of seven consecutive state championships ended.

"I think the biggest thing that's different is last year, there was kind of a sense of, 'All right, we're New Trier, we can win state,'" said Schmarak, a midfielder. "But after losing last year, we realized we're mortal. We have to earn every win we get. We're not just going to win, like coach (Tom Herrala) has been saying, because we've got New Trier written on our jerseys. There's an extra sense of drive. We really need to go out there every game and play our best."

Schmarak added: "We have to go out there and prove we're the best team in Illinois."

The Trevians' goal has remained the same after last year's squad - a team which finished 12-12 - was eliminated in the state quarterfinals by Wheaton Warrenville South.

New Trier responded by playing together more often in the offseason and trying to get stronger.

"We also have much more specific goals, like being more physical and being better teammates to each other," McGinnis said. "We spent a lot more time on the field together this offseason, and in the weight room. Our team's a lot stronger, faster and just overall more talented."

Getting into the weight room and becoming a stronger, more physical team was a particularly large point of emphasis for Herrala. Not only does adding strength figure to help as the team tries to overtake Loyola, the defending state champions, but it also will likely be of benefit against the seven out-of-state opponents on New Trier's schedule.

New Trier's seniors "have made the effort to make sure they're holding kids accountable for being in the weight room," Herrala said. "That aspect of it has changed. We've been ramping it up over the years. We're playing some of these out-of-state teams and they're just always bigger and stronger. We have a strength and conditioning coach (Jim Davis) here at New Trier now, and that's been a big addition."

New Trier begins it season with the Oak Park-River Forest Invitational on March 16.
Girls lacrosse has undergone a transformation in Illinois since John Dwyer became Loyola's coach in 2001.

At that point, Dwyer estimates that about 90 percent of the girls who entered the Loyola program - one of the state's best, and the winners of the last four state championships - hadn't played lacrosse before high school.

Now, Dwyer says that number has shrunk to about 5 percent.

"We're getting kids now that have played since third or fourth grade, on a very competitive basis," Dwyer said.

But that trend extends well beyond Wilmette. Dwyer has noticed that as the sport has become more popular - more schools have teams now than ever - girls lacrosse players have started playing earlier and earlier.

In fact, the Ramblers have tried to help boost the sport's popularity and increase the competition by traveling to schools like Mother McAuley.

"On the girls side, our coach's organization is very supportive of new programs and emerging programs and growing programs," Dwyer said. "Just for example, we went down a couple years ago in January and did a clinic for Mother McAuley when they were just starting the sport. We've helped a number of schools kind of get off the ground and get their program going and stuff like that. If one of those teams comes along and beats us one day, ultimately it's really good for the program and it's good for the sport, nationally and for the state."

Mother McAuley finished 12-5 last year and was ranked No. 12 in Illinois by LaxPower.com.

When Sarah McKenna became the girls lacrosse coach at Evanston in 2008, the first thing she did was start a feeder program to try to close a widening gap between the Wildkits and state powers Loyola and New Trier. That feeder program, which McKenna says has been run by the Illinois Girls Lacrosse Association out of Evanston for the last five years, has helped increase the skill level and lacrosse IQ of her team.

It's also helped the Wildkits stay more competitive with programs like Highland Park, Deerfield, Maine South and Glenbrook North in the CSL.

"They know where they're supposed to be, they know why they need to do things," McKenna said. "They're very smart. I think that's definitely helped, and it's throughout the state. It's not just at Evanston. They're getting a lot more coaching and they understand the game of lacrosse a lot better."

In this June 1, 2012, photo, Loyola's Anna Schueler gets fouled by a New Trier defender during the state championship game. Schueler scored five goals in the game to help the Ramblers win a fourth-straight title. | JOEL LERNER Sun-Times Media

Look out for...

Anna Schueler (Sr.)
Attack
Loyola
Schueler will be heavily relied upon as the Ramblers pursue their fifth consecutive state championship this spring. The Michigan recruit was one of the most dangerous players in Illinois last year. She scored a game-high five goals in Loyola's 11-7 victory over New Trier in the state championship game.

Kelsey Murray (Sr.)
Attack
New Trier
Murray was the state's top goal scorer as a junior and earned first-team All-American honors for the second consecutive year. The Stanford recruit also broke New Trier's single-season records for goals (118), assists (86) and draw controls (102) last season. She will be joined by All-American midfielder Katy Weeks and All-State midfielder Claire McCain this season.

Autumn Koh (So.)
Goalie
Glenbrook South
Koh won the starting goalie job at Glenbrook South as a freshman and submitted two of her best performances during a playoff run that ended just one game short of a Final Four berth. Koh committed to play lacrosse at Navy less than two months ago.

Maggie Holohan (Jr.)
Midfield/attack
Glenbrook North
The Spartans returning players are headlined by Maggie Holohan and Caitrin Holohan. The sisters each earned All-CSL honors a year ago - they were the only Glenbrook North players to do so - and Maggie Holohan was an honorable mention All-State selection by the HSWLA.
New Trier's Mang prepared to lead

New Trier badminton player Audrey Mang is finally ready to step into a full-fledged leadership role for her senior season.

After playing behind teammate Mari Georgiadis, who went undefeated and won a state championship two years ago, and having a full season of playing No. 1 singles under her belt, Mang wants to take responsibility of a young New Trier team that fields just four seniors.

"(Mang) was in the No. 1 singles spot last year, which is a hard place to be at New Trier," coach Deborah Ofcky said. "Being No. 1, you always have a bull’s eye on you. But she’s a leader in the program."

Despite being the team's top singles player last season, Mang wouldn't say she was its clear-cut leader.

"It was intimidating trying to step up into that role at No. 1 singles when (Georgiadis) left," Mang said. "But I definitely didn't feel unnecessary pressure from my coach or anything. And I think that all the leadership from the people older than me culminates into how I think I'll be as a leader this season."

Mang won a match in the championship bracket at state last year and reached the fourth round of the consolation bracket. Two years ago, she won one match in the championship bracket and made it to the third round of the consolation bracket. These experiences have hardened her mental approach.

"It doesn't get more high-pressure than that," Mang said. "It's put me in a position where I need to persevere. It's forced me to push forward."

Although Ofcky doesn’t see Mang as the team’s vocal leader, the coach has seen improvement in that area that could make a notable difference in how the season turns out.

"When she says something, everybody stops," Ofcky said. "When she talks, people listen because she’s usually thought it through and it’s the right thing to say. I'm very fortunate to have her on my team and to be her coach."

"And I think that all the leadership from the people older than me culminates into how I think I'll be as a leader this season."

Audrey Mang
New Trier senior
New bats improved player safety

BY ERIC VAN DRIL | Contributor | @EricVanDril

It's been a little more than 14 months since the IHSA made the use of BBCOR bats mandatory.

The BBCOR bats, as teams across the state quickly learned last season, have a smaller sweet spot than composite bats and decrease the velocity of the ball leaving the bat. The risk of playing baseball still remains, but the coaches of four of the CSL's top programs — Glenbrook North's Dom Savino, New Trier's Mike Napoleon, Maine South's Bill Milano and Niles West's Garry Gustafson — all agree the change has made baseball safer.

All four also agree that using BBCOR bats has altered how the game is played.

"The game was definitely dramatically changed," Gustafson said. "I feel, in some way or another, it's changed everyone's outlook on how you're going to attack people offensively."

Among the CSL's top teams in 2012, Gustafson's squad was arguably the most impacted by the switch to BBCOR bats. The Wolves' lineup featured a slew of power hitters, and was headlined by Kevin Ross. Ross, an eighth-round selection by the Pittsburgh Pirates last year, hit just two or three home runs last season, according to Gustafson.

In Gustafson's opinion, Ross would have reached double digits before the BBCOR rule was implemented because he was "as strong and had as fast a bat speed as anyone who's ever come through here," he said.

But, as Milano noted, what would have been a home run two years ago with the more potent bats often turned into a double or a triple with a BBCOR bat.

Glenbrook North and Maine South — last year's CSL North and CSL South champions, respectively — have both made teaching pitchers to effectively use off-speed pitches a point of emphasis in recent years.

The ability to mix a fastball with an accurate off-speed pitch is something which has typically equated to success on the high school level, regardless of what bat is being used.

But it appears to be even more crucial now, especially for pitchers who aren't overpowering.

The changeup "is even more important now because when you get somebody on their front foot, there's nothing behind the new bats," Maine South pitching coach Jason Marscano said. "That ball's going nowhere."

All four coaches agreed that offensive and defensive fundamentals remain vital.

They also agreed that their team's personnel — not the bats — will largely dictate their style of play.

Although Niles West was affected by the rule last year, Gustafson has been happy with the change.

"The kids were using big-barrel bats that were full of life... and they could whip those big bars around. It was like having a missile hit back at you," Gustafson said. "I think it's definitely a safer game."

Look out for...

Gabe Dwyer (Sr.)
Catcher
Niles North
Dwyer hit .306 last year with 19 RBI and a .425 on-base percentage.
He also possesses a lightning-quick release behind the plate and figures to be vital in working with a Vikings staff which lost James Fuller, last year's No. 1 starter, to graduation.

Kyle Colletta (Sr.)
Shortstop/pitcher
Niles West
The Northern Kentucky recruit will move to shortstop this season following the graduation of Kevin Ross. Colletta is entering his fourth season starting on varsity. "I feel that Kyle will be one of the top players to ever play at Niles West," Wolves coach Garry Gustafson said.

Danny Rafferty (Sr.)
Outfielder/starting pitcher
Loyola
Rafferty, a sweet-swinging lefty, will likely hit in the middle of the Ramblers' lineup and play outfield when he's not on the mound. Last year, the Wilmette resident showed just how effective he can be when he allowed zero earned runs over seven innings in a 3-1 victory over then-No. 1 Mount Carmel. Rafferty is a Bucknell signee.

Brad Margolin (Sr.)
Catcher/outfielder/pitcher
Glenbrook North
Margolin will serve as a jack-of-all-trades player for Glenbrook North this spring. He figures to be one of the Spartans' two-best pitchers — senior Jake DeRousse is also in that conversation — and also will play catcher and in the outfield.
Margolin is slated to play catcher at Washington University in St. Louis.
The unpredictable Illinois weather isn't the only concern of area softball coaches, many of whom are also dealing with an influx of young and inexperienced talent.

Last week's snow and rain has kept the players indoors longer than many coaches hoped. While the majority spoke highly of how well the girls have adjusted, many admitted to being particularly anxious to see how their young squads fare on the field.

Niles North is one of those teams that has had to make some changes, which could make it difficult for the Vikings to bounce back after a disappointing season in 2012.

The Vikings, who went 14-18 overall and finished third in the CSL North, bring back several solid hitters to form a formidable lineup, but any improvement this season may hinge on two of their young pitchers - freshmen Juliana Livieri and Carolyn Dwyer.

"We have some good young pitching ... and it always comes down to pitching," Niles North coach Karin Wick said. "I think one of our strengths is going to be pitching. We have a lot of options and not a lot of schools have the kind of depth we do."

Wick is optimistic about the potential impact her young pitching staff could have this year, but while she is focused on the progress in the circle, other clubs are more concerned about how a lack of experience at the plate could impact their season.

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Loyola is replacing a left fielder and second baseman and while coach Marty Jennings said the competition has been good, he recognizes the challenges that the lack of experience could have as the Ramblers try to repeat as Class 4A regional champions.

"We've got a returning starting pitcher and catcher and that's important, but ... I'm concerned about the new kids," Jennings said. "There's several that have never played at this level."

It's a predicament Maine South can appreciate after entering last season with a bulk of new talent.

Maine South went 14-21 last year, losing in the regional championship to Jennings' team.

"We have quite a few returning players and that doesn't happen a lot," Hawks coach Emmy Pasier said. "After having to fill some big spots last year we are expecting some great things now that they have some extra experience."
Hirsch part of team-oriented senior class

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

NORTHBROOK
For Billy Hirsch to be on the court in the fourth quarter last week in the team's sectional semifinal loss against New Trier was a personal victory for the Notre Dame senior.

After not playing basketball at all as a junior, Hirsch decided to come out for the team following the football season. But a broken finger prevented him from trying out with the rest of the players.

Tom Les gave Hirsch a special tryout, but the Notre Dame coach made no promises.

"I told him I couldn't even guarantee I could keep him on team," said Les, whose team ended its season with a 59-58 loss to the Trevians at Glenbrook North on March 7. "If I did, I told him I couldn't guarantee he would play at all."

With an assist from the other players who pushed for his inclusion, Hirsch made the Dons. Even though he started at the bottom of the rotation, the 6-foot-2 guard worked his way into the rotation by season's end.

"I am proud of myself, what I was able to do this season," said Hirsch, who broke the pinky finger on his left (shooting) hand. "I have to thank my teammates for helping me get into the groove. It was a great opportunity to be on a great team, to play with a lot of great guys."

Added Les, "He was a great story. He went from maybe not playing at all to being a huge contributor for us, especially in the playoffs."

Hirsch was one of seven seniors on the Dons, who finished 24-6 overall and 5-3 in the ESCC, one of the deepest conferences in the Chicago area.

"Our seniors were awfully good," Les said. "They were good leaders and set a good example for our underclassmen. They bought into playing great defense and bought into giving up their own personal agendas for a team goal."

Along with Hirsch, seniors Donte Stephenson, Matt Mooney, Eddie Serrano, Jake Maestranzi, Justin Halloran and Danny Lazzara helped the Dons win the Wheeling Hardwood Classic in December and a regional title.

Mooney, who will play at Air Force, was Notre Dame's lone all-league representative. The 6-4 guard scored 23 points in his final game with the Dons. Like Hirsch, Lazzara increased his role and playing time throughout the season. The 6-4 forward went from practice player to occasional starter.

"Those are guys who don't get their names in the paper, and they are not in many of the highlights," Les said. "But, like all the other guys, they were very important to our success. They both set an example for everybody with how they acted."

"Our locker room was great, and our practices were great. That isn't always easy to find. There are good teams that don't have that kind of feeling."
Tough loss

Notre Dame falls to New Trier by one in sectional semifinal

Members of the Notre Dame boys basketball team watch the final seconds of their loss to New Trier in the sectional semifinals at Glenbrook North on March 7. CURTIS LEHMKUHL-Sun-Times Media

Read the full story [Page 79]