Joanne O'Donovan kisses her daughter, Danette O'Donovan-Matyas, for winning a trustee position as a Niles New Party 2013 candidate Tuesday evening. KEVIN TANAKA-FOR Sun-Times Media

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Przybylo, Niles New Party roll to victory

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

With a smile on his face, Andrew Przybylo stood in the middle of a bustling room at the White Eagle Banquet hall on Tuesday night, soaking in the scene and shaking hands with his family and friends as they congratulated him.

As votes came rolling in, it was all very clear — Przybylo was undoubtedly the people of Niles’ choice to lead the village.

Unofficial vote totals revealed that 63 percent of voters picked Przybylo, who ran on a pro-business platform with a goal of keeping taxes low and bringing back services, such as animal control.

Trustees on his “Niles New Party 2013” slate, George Alpogianis, Danette O’Donovan Matyas and John Jekot all won seats on the village board, removing Louella Preston from office, after 28 years of service.

“There’s so many people to thank,” Przybylo said, to the crowd, as they cheered loudly for the new mayor. He thanked the trustees on his slate, his family, and his predecessors Mayor Nicholas Blase and Mayor Robert Callero, who were both at the event to show their support.

Przybylo said they worked hard going door to door and got support from people of various ethnic groups, senior citizens and people who live in multi-family dwellings.

In addition to running an active and successful campaign, Przybylo feels residents were tired of all the negativity on the board and hearing about what happened in the past.

“It’s surreal right now,” Jekot said, on election night. “Under Andrew’s leadership we’ll have to evaluate what needs to be done.”

Jekot said that one thing they will be doing is bringing back someone who can handle animal control issues in the Village of Niles.

Performance management is also at the top of the list for Niles’ new leader. Przybylo will put performance management in place in government offices in the village. He said community development is definitely a department he would like to implement performance management. Przybylo said that budgets would be based on metrics and if certain goals were met.

Przybylo said he’s a strong believer in maintaining or even lowering property taxes for residents and he believes a good way to do that is to reach out to businesses and make sure stores remain filled.

“We need to keep those stores filled,” said Przybylo. “If those stores are filled and the sales tax is coming in, then property taxes can be lowered.”

Alpogianis walked around the room greeting the large number of supporters that came out to celebrate with Przybylo and his slate.

“A lot of people put their faith in us,” said Alpogianis.

Although Trustee Chris Hanusiak and the Responsible Leadership for Niles party were not as happy as those celebrating at the White Eagle, Hanusiak maintained a positive attitude.

With a few of his close family members and friends still gathered at his store, Royal Kitchen and Bath, late Tuesday night, Hanusiak said he will continue to fight for what he believes in as a village trustee. Long-time trustee Louella Preston stood next to Hanusiak.

“I’m proud of all I’ve done in 28 years,” said Preston. She said she was thankful to the residents of Niles.
**D64 gets three new faces**

**BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com**

The Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 Board of Education will take on three new members while welcoming back the only incumbent who ran in the race. Unofficial vote totals show voters elected Scott Zimmerman to a full, four-year term as well as newcomers Terry Cameron, Vicki Lee and Dathan Paterno.

Zimmerman, a chief information officer for an industrial real-estate firm, was appointed to the school board in 2010 to fill a vacancy and was elected to serve the remaining two years of the term in 2011.

Cameron, a senior vice president of a revenue and payment cycle management business, served on the district’s Strategic Planning Committee. Lee, currently a stay-at-home mom with a background in telecommunications sales and management, is a member of the Carpenter School Parent-Teacher Organization. Paterno is a clinical psychologist and owner of a Park Ridge-based practice.

Stepping down from the school board are Pat Fioretto, Sharon Lawson and Eric Uhlig, all elected to a first term in 2009.

**Term limits and electrical aggregation get thumbs up**

**BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor**

Change is coming to Niles now that two referenda creating term limits for village trustees and the village president have been approved by voters.

But, it’s unclear what will happen now that they both were approved by voters.

One of the term limit referendum questions was put on the ballot by the Niles Village Board. It creates term limits of no more than three full terms for village trustees and no more than two full terms for president; but allows someone to serve three full terms as trustee plus two full terms as president.

The second question related to term limits was put on the ballot by resident Joe Makula and a citizen’s group.

The question asks if term limits should prohibit all people from serving more than 16 years on the village board of trustees, including as president of the village, effective immediately upon approval and passage of the referendum.

"The village will be better for it," said Makula, about his term limit proposal.

"The big difference is the people who voted for mine want it to take effect right now."

Another big question is whether Andrew Przybylo, who won the mayoral election by a wide margin, will still be able to serve now that the term limit referendum by the citizens group passed since its effective immediately. Village Attorney Joe Annunzio said he did not have a comment on the issue earlier in the day on Tuesday, Apr. 9. Makula said he wasn’t sure what would happen either.

"We’re all excited that term limits passed," said Village Trustee Chris Hanusiak, who lost in the mayoral race to Przybylo. Hanusiak said term limits prevent the same people from being in the office for many years.

A third referendum question, about electrical aggregation, also was approved by voters.

It gives the village the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of the program.
New board members voted onto District 63, District 207

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

Scandals tend to keep people from wanting to get involved in politics.

Quite the opposite has happened for Maine Township High School District 207: Four board vacancies drew a crowd of candidates to Tuesday's election.

Of the seven contenders in the running for four-year terms, three incumbents and a newcomer came out on top.

Unofficial vote totals showed Mary Childers, Jin Lee, Margaret McGrath and Carla Owen won Tuesday's election.

Incumbent Eric Leys also ran unopposed for a two-year term.

"All in all, it will be a board that works for the school district and the students and the taxpayers hopefully in a very cohesive fashion," McGrath said. "I'm feeling pretty good about the people I'm serving with."

Though McGrath and Owen ran on the same ticket with Eldon Burk and Jeffrey Spree, voters split the slate. Challenger Sean Story also didn't garner enough votes to earn a seat on the board.

"It's disappointing," Burk said of not being re-elected. "You think you're making a contribution and doing some good things, so I don't totally understand it."

The newly-elected said finances top their list of priorities.

"People want a conservative mind on the board," Childers said. "That's what I put out there; that's what we need."

In addition to taking on the responsibility of ensuring sound financial footing, officials have the extra challenge of steering the high school community through its hazing scandal.

The local ballot included a second contested Board of Education race at East Maine School District 63, where four seats were also up for grabs.

Unofficial vote totals showed newcomer Alexandra Brook joining Walter Gluzkin, Sheila Urban and Krystal Zec on the school board. Challenger Zeew Walny was the odd man out.

Brook said she appreciates District 63's uniqueness in serving multiple communities.

"One of the things I'm looking forward to is really trying to bring together all the different communities," Brook said.

Two years ago District 63's administration and bargaining units butted heads when a $1.7 million deficit resulted in layoffs, larger class sizes and cutbacks to programs.

While finances have since stabilized, the uncertainty surrounding state and federal funding and pension reform leaves District 63 officials, like most leaders of public school systems, on edge.

The Board of Education is due to negotiate all four unions' contracts this year.

"I can vouch firsthand how stressful that can be," Brook said. "Obviously we'll want to do right by the school, the district, the teachers and the staff, but most importantly, we'll want to do right by the students."
Villagers saving cash with new electricity supplier

BY NICK KATZ
nkatz@pioneerlocal.com

During the first nine months with a new electricity supplier, the average Morton Grove home will have saved $264, according to a report by the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative.

Morton Grove is one of nearly 100 communities in the state that have used the electric collaborative to find an electrical company to replace ComEd.

The village contracted with FirstEnergy Solutions Corp. to supply electricity to village residents at a rate 48 percent less than the cost with ComEd. The switch was authorized just over a year ago, when Morton Grove voters approved an electricity aggregation referendum.

In a report to the village, Sharon Durling of the electrical collaborative said that between August 2012 and this coming May, the village overall will save more than $1.8 million. A total of 7,989 users initially enrolled in the program, a figure that has since dropped to 7,502. Durling attributed that primarily to customers who have moved away.

Durling noted that Morton Grove did exceptionally well during the bidding process last year, a procedure that will be starting again to choose next year’s supplier.

The village contracted at 4.42 cents per kilowatt hour. That rate is available to residential and small business customers.

Durling noted that some neighboring towns contracted at a higher rate and are spending $37 more per household that Morton Grove residents.

Com-Ed's rate for the same period was 8.5 cents.

With the aggregation, the village can contract with any supplier to provide the electricity, but ComEd still is responsible for such things as delivery and billing.

Peter Falcone, assistant to the village administrator, said the village will be working with the electric collaborative again this year to find a supplier. The firm is able to obtain cheaper rates by representing several communities, he said.

At the same time the village is not bound by what the other towns do and can accept any bid it receives.

"They (the electric collaborative) are like an energy broker," Falcone said. "They market the village of Morton Grove with other suburban communities.

"It is a matter of having NIMEC does the heavy lifting for us. We want to make sure we get the best deal."

Falcone said the village will be using the same competitive bidding process that worked last year. The village will obtain a base rate and then options such as requiring that renewable sources be used.

Falcone noted that in addition to the low rate, the village contracted with FirstEnergy because it was the only bidder with a call center in the Midwest. "All the rest were overseas," he said.

No matter how bids come in, customers will be paying an additional penny per kilowatt hour that the state has granted ComEd.

That will be paid by all users regardless of who their supplier is, Durling said.

"There's no way around that unless you're going Amish," she said.

Editor's note: A story about electrical aggregation that was originally published in 2012 was mistakenly republished in the Morton Grove Champion's April 4, 2013 issue, instead of this story.

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Emergency management chief prepares Maine residents for the worst

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

Robert Cohen, director of the Office of Emergency Management for Maine Township, says he loves his job especially for those moments when he can see the smiles on the faces of community members in response to something positive they have done.

Cohen started volunteering at the township in 1991 and has been the director since 2003. He is a part-time paid volunteer, but says he puts in full-time hours. Cohen's area serves the unincorporated areas of Maine Township.

Q: What is the most rewarding part of your job?
A: For me, it's tangible. The results are tangible. I can go throughout the community and people will come to me and say, 'I really appreciate the information you gave me.' Those are the things that you strive to see — the quiet acknowledgments. A few years ago we had some major flooding in an unincorporated area. The following year there was a forecast from the weather service that we'd see flooding and we went out to the community and we were able to advise them that we have a potential for flooding and we started sandbagging. There were people out there, with smiles on their faces, bagging sand, saying they were glad we looked out for them.

Q: What does your job as director of the Office of Emergency Management for Maine Township entail?
A: I'm the leader for identifying hazards in the community and developing plans to mitigate and respond to any disasters.

Q: What was your previous occupation?
A: I was a consultant to the U.S. Navy for emergency management. I helped them write their plans for a given area. I've enjoyed disaster preparedness in one form or another since 1968. Before that my full time job was in customer service. For Illinois emergency management, we were deployed to Mississippi for two weeks. We were sent into work with Mississippi Public Health to develop an incident management program for them, as a result of Katrina. We were there working as part of the command staff.

Q: What does your emergency management plan cover?
A: Our plan covers terrorism, transportation accidents, power outages, storms, fires, anything you can think of.
Ebert's connection: the Pickwick Theatre

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Roger Ebert never reviewed films at Park Ridge's Pickwick Theatre, but the historic movie house did play a starring role in one of his widely watched television shows.

In the wake of Ebert's death on April 4, Pickwick owner Dino Vlahakis reflected on the use of the theater's famous marquee in the opening and closing credits of "At the Movies With Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert" which aired in the 1980s.

"I just think they wanted a nice, dramatic theater," Vlahakis said of the choice of the Pickwick's exterior for the weekly film-review show hosted by the two prominent Chicago journalists and film critics. "It has the beautiful marquee and it stands out."

The experience also allowed Vlahakis to meet Siskel and Ebert personally, a memory he treasures to this day.

"I'm sitting in my office with Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert as if we were college buddies talking about film," he recalled. "That was the neatest thing. They were really down-to-earth. Those guys could have easily moved to Hollywood or L.A., but no, they stayed here. They loved Chicago."

In the opening sequence of "At the Movies," the name of the show replaces "Pickwick" in the theater's marquee and both film critics are individually shown buying tickets at the Prospect Avenue ticket window.

"Half the people in line were my relatives," Vlahakis said, laughing. "We had a great time when we were doing that." (Vlahakis himself also appeared in the opening and closing segments of the program. He played the part of a theater usher sweeping up as Siskel and Ebert step out of the Pickwick lobby.

The inside of the art deco theater was not shown in the opening and closing credits of the program; actual episodes were filmed elsewhere.

Vlahakis recalled how he often encountered Siskel and Ebert at private showings for reviewers and theater owners. He described Ebert as a person who "loved everybody" and never thought of himself as better than those around him.

"He was the most influential film critic, but he was a down-home guy. He was a very regular person," Vlahakis said.

What made Siskel, who died in 1999, and Ebert unique and so popular was their way of looking at films from the perspective of an average viewer, Vlahakis believes.

"When they reviewed a movie, they reviewed it as though you were watching it," he said. "The film critics before them were selected by film companies — they were more (cheerleaders) for the films."

The Pickwick owner also appreciated Ebert's attention to smaller, independent films which gained a larger audience thanks to his reviews.

"Now that Roger and Gene are gone, I don't think we'll have other film critics like them," Vlahakis said.

Vlahakis' partner at the Pickwick, Dave Loomos, called Ebert's impact on the world of film reviews "immeasurable."

"He will be missed," he said. "He was the most influential film critic who ever lived."
Niles mayoral candidate’s spokesman ran stripper company

BY NATASHA WASINSKI AND BEN MEYERSON | Contributor and Editor

A consultant working for a candidate in Niles' hotly contested mayoral contest has an even hotter work history.

Bernie DiMeo, who’s running communications for the Niles New Party and mayoral candidate Andrew Przybylo, owned a company called Strippers of Chicago. The story was first reported by Patch.com.

The agency books male and female strippers, including "exotic dancers, topless waitresses, two girl shows and more," for private parties, according to its website.

Though the information has since been deleted, an archive of DiMeo’s LinkedIn profile says he owned Strippers of Chicago since 2003. He’s also listed online as the owner of strippersofchicago.com, the company’s website.

Whether he still owns a stake in the company is unclear. Though DiMeo’s LinkedIn archive said he still owned the company and a flyer obtained by Patch listed DiMeo’s name and number, DiMeo said he’s no longer involved.

“I sold my interest in 2008,” he said. “There’s nothing to discuss.”

DiMeo has sent press releases for the Niles New Party and blogged on Patch on the party’s behalf.

But in an interview Thursday, DiMeo said his past should have no bearing on next week’s election.

“I’m flabbergasted that anybody is more interested in that than the issues in the campaign,” DiMeo said.

Since he lives in Wilmette and isn’t running for public office in Niles, DiMeo said, “it amazes me (the information) would be in any story whatsoever.”

“They (Patch) sensationalized the story,” he said. “It’s pathetic.”

He said what matters more than his past business ventures are the Niles New Party Campaign candidates’ credentials and support for positive programs.

A message left with the Niles New Party campaign Thursday afternoon was not immediately returned. However, in an interview with Patch, Przybylo distanced himself from DiMeo.

“I didn’t know anything about that, but certainly that excludes him from any role,” Przybylo told Patch. “If it’s true, then that precludes him from any involvement in Niles with my administration. That is not right for Niles.”

Stolen candidate lawn signs reported to cops

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

The disappearance of lawn signs supporting his preferred candidate for mayor led one Niles man to report the incident to police last week.

The 41-year-old resident told police that two election signs supporting Andrew Przybylo for mayor of Niles were stolen overnight between March 28 and March 29 from the northeast corner of his lawn on the 8500 block of Osceola Avenue. The man believed signs belonging to two neighbors had been taken as well, police said.

At the time of the report police were unable to confirm if additional signs had, in fact, been stolen.
Gambling, red light camera cash could pay for pensions

BY NICK KATZ | nkatz@pioneerlocal.com

Morton Grove trustees will soon find out if they can use electronic gambling machine and red light camera cash to refill the village's woefully low pension coffers.

The Village Board will receive a report later this month on options for using the new revenue streams to pay down the debt.

Trustee John Thill raised the issue earlier this year and asked again at the board's April 8 meeting whether the new revenue can be used to help the village reach an appropriate funding level in the pension funds any faster. The village has been making large payments to both police and firefighter pension funds the past several years, but as in many, communities the pensions remain underfunded.

Thill said he has not heard any negative comments from other trustees since raising the issue. "I'd like to think that's positive," he said.

Trustee Shel Marcus, who served as mayor pro tem at the earlier meeting, said at that time the board directed the village staff to investigate the use of those funds for pension payments and report back to the board.

In November at a village board budget workshop a member of the Firemen's Pension Board questioned whether the village was budgeting enough in the fund for 2013. Jim Quinn said the $1.7 million the village included in this year's budget was not enough, based on a report by the village's own actuary.

Quinn said that based on that report, the village should have budgeted an additional $300,000.

Village Administrator Ryan Horne said at Monday's meeting that the village will have to put more money in the pension funds next year. He said that in the past the village has opted to use figures provided by the state to decide how much to pay into the funds, which have been lower than the figures provided by the village's actuary.

However, he said, the Illinois Department of Insurance will no longer be providing those numbers. Horne said the staff will have a report for the board by the April 22 meeting. But, he said, there could be some negatives in committing the money from the red light cameras and gambling machines to the pension funds.

"We want to make the board aware of any limitations that may place on us," he said. "It's a difficult decision that has to be made."

Mayor Dan Staackmann asked if Thill wants to use the money as additional payments to the pension funds, or use it to replace property tax money that is currently used.

"I hope that it's above and beyond what we are currently paying," Thill said. He said without the additional money, it will be difficult for the village to ever reach an adequate funding level in the pension funds.

The funding of fire and police pensions has long been a village issue.

Former Mayor Rick Krier, citing what he said was a failure of previous village boards to contribute enough to the pension funds, raised property taxes in order to make additional payments to the accounts.

His supporters have since contended that the tax hike was one of the reasons Krier lost to Staackmann when he ran for a second term as mayor. 
Stolen dog returned to family

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

A puppy stolen from a Niles parking lot Monday has been reunited with its family, while a Skokie woman faces charges in the dog’s theft.

Adina Tiran, 33, of 4050 Mulford Ave., was charged with one count of felony burglary to a vehicle in the alleged theft of the 7-month-old Pomeranian, named Luigi.

Niles police said surveillance camera footage from the parking lot led investigators to link two vehicles used in the crime to an address in Skokie.

Tiran, who reportedly renamed the dog Foxy during its brief stay, was taken into custody after she was seen by police leaving her home at 1:15 a.m. this morning holding the puppy in her arms, a press release from the Niles Police Department said.

The dog was stolen from its owner’s car while it was parked in the parking lot of Fresh Farms Market, 5740 W. Touhy Ave., around 2 p.m., April 1.

Niles Police Sgt. Robert Tornabene said investigators believe the theft was a “crime of opportunity” and that Tiran simply saw the dog and decided to take it.

Tornabene would not say if Tiran mentioned what prompted the theft.

Luigi’s owner told police that she had locked her vehicle while the dog was inside and it was unattended, but police found no signs of forced entry, Tornabene said.

If found guilty, Tiran could face between three and seven years in prison and a fine up to $25,000, police said.

Luigi belongs to a Chicago family and is described as a therapy dog.

“The dog is important to the family, particularly because it is a therapy dog for their children,” Tornabene said. “It’s been reunited with them, so it’s a good, positive story.”
The following arrests were listed in the official bulletin 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.

**RETAIL THEFT**

Esad Hadziahmetovic, 56, of 9148 Church St., unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with retail theft March 31 after he allegedly stole several clothing items and a pair of pliers from a Golf Mill store. The value of the items was $171. He has an April 25 court date.

**DUI**

Jesus Rodriguez, 31, of 748 E. 5th Ct., Des Plaines, was charged with driving under the influence on the morning of April 2 after his vehicle was stopped for reporting speeding on 8100 block of Dempster Street. He has an April 18 court date.

**BATTERY**

A 20-year-old Rockford woman told police that she was punched several times in the face and slapped by an acquaintance on March 27 inside a motel room on the 7200 block of Waukegan Road. The woman told police the physical altercation occurred after she confronted the man for "using pimp language" and calling her an offensive name. Police said the victim's report of the incident was inconsistent as to how many times she was allegedly struck and how she knew the man. The man reportedly denied hitting the woman and told police that they got in an argument after she asked him for $40 to go to Evanston. No charges were filed.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**

Approximately 50 white vinyl fence pieces were kicked out in the front yard of the Oakton Manor Park building, 8100 N. Ozanam Ave., between March 27 and March 28. Police said the pieces were found all over the front playground area near the building's entrance. Damage was estimated at more than $500.

A Niles man reported that his car's four tires were slashed, the paint was scratched, and windshield wiper blades and a temporary license plate were stolen overnight between March 29 and March 30 on the 9400 block of Washington.

**DISPUTE**

Police were called to a home on the 7000 block of Main Street on the morning of April 3 after a 38-year-old man and his brother became involved in an argument over a broken bowl of rice. No physical contact between the men was reported, police said.

A 51-year-old Niles man told police that on March 31 his adult son picked up a construction horse and used it to hit him in the shoulder during an argument over money at Golf Mill Shopping Center. An investigation was pending.

A Niles man and his adult son reported that their car was parked on the 7000 block of Carol on March 28 and their tires were slashed.

Police were called to a home on the 7000 block of Carol on March 28 after a 38-year-old man and his son became involved in an argument over a broken bowl of rice. No physical contact between them was reported, police said.
'Fashion police' miss target, still get smiles

BY IGOR STUDENKOV | Contributor

Up until Saturday, the Niles, Park Ridge and Des Plaines police departments' prom dress drive was a success.

A joint effort by each town, "Fashion Police: Prom Possible" set out to collect prom dresses, shoes, jewelry and accessories for high school girls who would otherwise have trouble covering prom-related expenses.

The donations exceeded expectations, with the three departments receiving more than 1,000 items overall.

But when it came time to distribute the donations, the response was lackluster. The police officers at the distribution said they got enough of a response to try again next year, but it was clear that they were already thinking about what they could do differently the second time around.

The police departments collected the donations throughout the entire month of March. The donations were slow at first, but they picked up speed during the last two weeks.

"I lost track of [the number of dresses] after 120," recalled Park Ridge Police Department Community Strategies Officer Julie Genualdi. "When I came back from vacation [a few days ago], I found dresses piled up at my desk."

"I'm very impressed with the participation of the residents, especially with other events [like Prom Possible] going on," said Niles Police Department Chief Dean Strzelecki.

Sgt. Robert Tornabene, the Niles Police Department's Training and Public Information Officer, estimated that 400 donated dresses came from Niles.

Some donations were larger than others. Genualdi said that all of the donated jewelry was from a teacher from Park Ridge.

Internet outreach spread the word beyond the police departments' jurisdictions.

"Because we were [advertising] on social media, we got 150 dresses donated from Lisle," said Tornabene. "That's how we got a lot of our donations — through social media."

As the word spread, teachers from local schools volunteered to help the girls find the right outfits and accessories. Kylie Fischbach, a 15-year-old nail artist, volunteered to paint nails for the visiting girls.

The distribution was scheduled to take place Saturday, April 6 at the Niles Senior Center, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. But within the first two hours, only 20 students showed up.

While that wasn't a complete disaster, it was still far below what the police departments were expecting. Genualdi recalled that, when the police departments held a

![Image: Vikki Singer of Park Ridge looks for a prom dress during the Fashion Police: Prom Possible event on Saturday at the Niles Senior Center. Singer is a student at Maine South High School.](buzzorr-sun-times-media)
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Continued from page 15

coat drive in October 2012, they handed out 200 out of the 600 donated coats. It turned out that, when the departments set the distribution date, they didn’t realize that District 207 high schools would be having an ACT practice test until noon.

Officers hoped that the traffic would pick up after the test was over, but that didn’t happen. At 2 p.m., the overwhelming majority of the dresses were undistributed.

Tornabene said that the police departments would talk to the Glass Slipper Project, a Chicago-based charitable prom organization, and see if they would accept their donations.

The response from the students who did show up was overwhelmingly positive.

“The help was great,” added her friend, Aimun Lavi, “And I liked that it was, like, one-stop shopping. You get the dress, the shoes and the accessories, all in one place. Saved us a lot of time.”

Klaudia Pajak, a Maine East High School senior from Glenview, said that she only came because her teachers were volunteering. She wound up leaving with two dresses.

Everybody was very welcoming,” said Pajak. “And they were pretty helpful. They didn’t beat around the bush. If they thought something didn’t work, they said ‘that doesn’t work, you should try something else.’”

To Tornabene, the positive responses were reason enough to try again next year.

“We wish we would’ve had a better turnout, but it is what it is,” he said. “I think [we’ll do it again]. We just got to change a few things. We’ve had enough smiles to make it worthwhile.”
What it means to you

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CHICAGO

Mayor: ‘Hand-in-glove’ with schools chief on closing schools

Mayor Rahm Emanuel said last week that he is “100 percent hand-in-glove” with Schools CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett, who “spoke eloquently” in rejecting the notion that it’s racist to close 54 mostly-black elementary schools.

Chicago Teachers Union President Karen Lewis has denounced the closings as “racist” and “classist” because most of the 30,000 displaced students are African-American and most of the Chicago Public Schools on the hit list are on the predominantly-black South and West Sides.

At a school board meeting earlier in the week, Byrd-Bennett said those suggestions insult her “as a woman of color.” She also turned the tables on Lewis by saying what’s racist is to refuse to challenge a status quo that’s failing African-American students.

On April 4, Emanuel praised his handpicked schools chief for speaking “eloquently” on the sensitive subject. The word “racist” never passed his lips.

“I support the thrust of what Barbara said. We’re 100 percent hand-in-glove ... The status quo is unacceptable. The status quo is failing too many kids. And it can’t not only be met with silence. It has to be met with action,” the mayor said.

— Chicago Sun-Times

SPRINGFIELD

Quinn uses campaign cash for three-day mission to Mexico

Gov. Pat Quinn traveled to Mexico this week, promoting Illinois as an ideal partner for business and trade, but the three-day trip could also boost the Chicago Democrat’s standing with immigrant and Latino voters, key voting blocs in the 2014 gubernatorial election.

Quinn, who was scheduled to depart Wednesday, will be the first Illinois governor to visit Mexico in 13 years. He’ll be traveling with a delegation of business and state agency leaders, with a focus on creating jobs and boosting exports. He’s also scheduled to meet with Mexico’s secretary of agriculture, the mayors of Mexico City and Patzcuaro, and two state governors.

Quinn sidestepped questions about the impact on the trip with Illinois voters, but said he is paying his way for the trip with his own campaign funds and he played up the importance of Illinois’ Mexican diaspora.

“There’s a lot of special ties that Illinois has to the people of Mexico and we want to strengthen those ties,” he told reporters after a related event in suburban Chicago.

Quinn announced details of the trip during an event at a suburban Chicago so-called Welcoming Center, one of five under his Office of New Americans, which provides services to immigrants.

— The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Pentagon struggles with high cost of providing health care

The loud, insistent calls in Washington to rein in the rising costs of Social Security and Medicare ignore a major and expensive entitlement program — the military’s health care system.

Despite dire warnings from three defense secretaries about the uncontrollable cost, Congress has repeatedly rebuffed Pentagon efforts to establish higher out-of-pocket fees and enrollment costs for military family and retiree health care as an initial step in addressing a harsh fiscal reality.

The cost of military health care has almost tripled since 2001, from $19 billion to $53 billion in 2012, and stands at 10 percent of the entire defense budget.

Even more daunting, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that military health care costs could reach $65 billion by 2017 and $95 billion by 2030.

On Wednesday, when President Barack Obama submits his fiscal 2014 budget, the Pentagon blueprint is expected to include several congressionally unpopular proposals — requests for two rounds of domestic base closings in 2015 and 2017, a pay raise of only 1 percent for military personnel and a revival of last year’s plan to increase health care fees and implement new ones, according to several defense analysts.
Illinois can’t afford higher minimum wage

A plan afoot in Springfield to bump up Illinois’ minimum wage is the wrong economic medicine for a state struggling to keep jobs and businesses.

Gov. Pat Quinn proposes to raise the minimum wage to $10 an hour over the next four years — a full $2.75 higher than most neighboring states.

Right now, Illinois’ minimum wage of $8.25 is $1 higher than Kentucky, Indiana, Iowa and Wisconsin, and 90 cents higher than Missouri.

The intent of backers is good, especially when the gap between America’s highest and lowest earners is as wide as at any time since the robber baron days of the 19th century.

But trying to remedy that imbalance on the state level would send jobs over the border or into oblivion. Putting more money in the pockets of workers is a laudable goal. But this bill is not the way to do it.

Congress and the president sure have made a mess of things.

They can’t agree on what should be done.

They can’t even agree on getting together to talk about what should be done.

As managers of the greatest country on earth, our leaders are failures. They can’t pass a budget. They cut spending mindlessly because they can’t prioritize. They refuse to put the nation first above their own constituencies, whether it be party, district (often the same thing) or state.

They need help. And that’s why I’m here.

I don’t have an answer to every problem facing the nation. But I think I can fix things so the people responsible for coming up with solutions actually do their jobs.

If I were king of the universe, here is what I would do.

First, I would take Congress and the president off the payroll. These should not be salaried jobs like an assemblyman on the factory floor who gets paid every week no matter what.

Congress and president should be a pay for performance position. If Congress and the president reach their objectives at the end of the year, say like balancing the budget, then give them each a $1 million bonus.

It would only cost the country $536 million. I say that’s a bargain if we get a balanced budget, immigration reform and gun laws that make sense.

Oh, they could get a base salary, say $50,000 so they could live like everyone else when they screw up.

The key is setting the national objectives. Once the objectives of the nation are set, I don’t care who is in Congress or who is president. Achieve the objectives, and they get their money and can go away.

So instead of electing members of Congress, we should have an election to set priorities. Corporations do it all the time. They change priorities; they don’t change the workers.

Here’s how you do it. Come up with 100 top issues facing the country and put them on a ballot. Now give every voter 100 votes. Instruct the voter to cast their votes based on what they want done. They can cast all 100 votes for one issue, or 50 each for two issues or divide up their 100 votes any way they want, say, 60 votes for a balanced budget, 25 for immigration reform, 10 for tax the rich, and five for gun control, or whatever.

When the election is over, Congress gets paid based on what they accomplish among the big issues.

They can still mess around with their dams and highways and space programs, but if they want the $1 million bonus, they’d better get cracking on the big issues.

Oh, and no retirement program either. You want a pension? Get a regular job.
He gives texting two thumbs down

I text, therefore I am.

Maybe that’s it. Perhaps we have come to believe that unless we are texting, or emailing, or talking on a phone, we do not exist. We think that only communicating with an electronic device demonstrates our existence.

After all, what separates living people from dead people? Dead people can’t text.

How else to explain such seemingly bizarre occurrences as an actual sighting of two people sitting together at a restaurant and talking to each other — on cell phones?

How else to explain the results of a recent AT&T survey of 1,011 adults who were asked if they texted while driving? Forty-nine percent said they did.

This is despite the acknowledgement of 98 percent of those 1,011 people that they knew such texting was dangerous.

How dangerous? The National Safety Council says that 100,000 crashes a year involve texting drivers.

The Center for Disease Control states that nine people are killed each day by distracted drivers — 3,731 in 2011.

According to the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, it takes approximately 4.6 seconds to send or receive a text. During that time, a car going 55 mph travels the length of a football field.

Also, texting drivers are 23 times more likely to crash than non-texting drivers.

Nevertheless, we text. Are we no longer capable of not texting?

Has our genetic material been reprogrammed so that we must text?

Has this transformation overridden our fear of being injured or killed in a crash?

I don’t know about you, but when I read that 49 percent of adults admit to texting while driving I get scared.

When I read that 49 percent of adults admit to texting while driving I get scared.

Who is hurtling at me out there, unseen and uncaring?

A quotation from Revelations — with an appropriate update — comes to mind:

“And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him and texted was Death, and Hell followed with him.”
We need a pope with humility

Thank you for your recent articles about St. John Brebeuf Catholic Church as it kicks off its 60th Anniversary. On behalf of all parishioners, I appreciate your spreading the Good News!

In your April 4 edition, the Viewpoint article “Pope Francis reminds us what matters,” furthered the same end of spreading “Good News” by highlighting the humility of Pope Francis who washed and kissed the feet of 12 detainees in a youth jail in Rome.

Yes, we need popes who are brilliant scholars but we now need a pope who grasps the power of compassion and does so with humility so that it never points to himself but to a higher reality. Pope Francis' simple but profound actions help all of us both Catholic and non-Catholic or for that matter, the non-believers, see the unseen in our society. His example teaches us that by living simple lives, focused not on ourselves but on those who are poor and hurting, we come to embrace our own poverty. Our loving embrace can bring healing to that which imprisons all of us. The encounter sets us free to make a new start.

The actions of Pope Francis exemplify the principle attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, “Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words.”

We invite everyone to come to St. John Brebeuf this year and celebrate our 60th Anniversary with us.

Father Mike Meany
Pastor of St. John Brebeuf, Niles
In May of 2004, then-Superintendent Gary Zabilka compared the success of Park View School's Science Olympiad team to the "glory days" of the Chicago Bulls.

Teams from the school had won five state championships and gone to the national competition seven times.

But like the Bulls without Michael Jordan, the Science Olympiad program began to decline after science teacher and head coach Matt Cole retired.

Now, the school's retired technology coordinator, a group of volunteer parents, a few staff members and a dedicated group of students on this year's team are working hard to bring back some of that former glory.

The current Park View Science Olympiad team placed second in the regional competition March 16 at Oakton Community College. That earned the team a chance to compete in the state Science Olympiad April 20 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

In the Science Olympiad, students in teams compete in a variety of areas: everything from forestry, where they have to identify various trees, to "mission possible," in which they build a Rube Goldberg-type...
machine that carries out a series of tasks.

Park View team members have been practicing and working for months to get ready and are in the process of making some modifications to the entries they used at the regional in hopes of improving their standing in Urbana-Champaign.

Sue Cooper, who retired last year as the schools' technology coordinator, said she took over the program when it began floundering after Cole's retirement. She had seen how well it worked after her own daughter, who was a member of the Science Olympiad team in high school, carried that interest over to graduate school study of ornithology.

"That's when I saw the Science Olympiad go full circle," Cooper said. "It's a long-lasting love of what they become interested in."

Cooper said it also gives kids who may not excel in something like athletics a chance to shine in a different way. "They are able to have a niche for them to be able to learn and succeed," she said.

Cooper took over the program about three years ago and stayed with it this year even after her retirement. She also recruited parents to coach 20 of the events.

"I saw the program kind of floundering," Cooper said. "My last few years before I retired I thought I could do it. It's tough to follow in the footsteps of Matt (Cole)."

At an initial meeting with parents, Cooper said she told them she needed coaches. "People kind of shrunk in their seats," she said.

But those who volunteered, even though many did not have any background science, "lit up to their subject. They come to the events and they're right up there with the kids cheering."

In all, students this year are competing in 23 events. The team consists of 15 "varsity" members as well as a group of alternates.

For Conor Ramseyer, going to state means spending additional hours studying books and photos of trees.

Ramseyer is taking part in the forestry competition and will need to be able to identify various species.

He's also a member of the team competing in two other events, one of them "sound of music," which requires that they build two instruments and play a song.

He said the team built the required violin and created a second instrument, a "deraphone," composed of a series of long pipes with flip-flops attached to the ends.

Team member Michael Rohn, wearing the team's blue T-shirt with "Go for the Au" on the back, is competing in three construction type categories, mission possible, experimental design and helicopter.

One of the hardest, he said, is experimental design, because there is no way to know ahead of time what he will have to do. The students are presented with materials and told what to build when they arrive at the competition.

For Rohn, a seventh-grader, it's been his first Science Olympiad - but a good one.

The mission possible team placed first at the regional.

"We tried a lot of different ideas over about three months," he said. "lt's a fun event."

Tia Chung Swanson came up with the "Go for the Au" on the T-shirts, referring to the chemical symbol for gold. ("lt's kind of science-y," she said.)

Appropriately, Swanson competes in rocks and minerals, but also in boomilevers, a competition to build a kind of cantilever. "lt's like a wooden stilt that connects to the wall and extends," she said.

Swanson, who was under extra pressure because her dad was also her coach, took a fourth place in the Boomilevers category at the regional.

"It was only the second time we competed in that," she said.

Cooper said in some cases, students build projects for the regional that they have to build all over again for the state competition.

"They spend all these hours building these only to destroy them at the competition," she said.

In an effort to improve in some of categories, Swanson said the students video-recorded the projects during their earlier competition at Oakton.

"We try to see what worked and see if we can make it better," she said.

Cooper is hopeful the team will do well at state.

"Science Olympiad is like taking a test in a class you never had," Cooper said. "But if we get the right mindset and work really hard, anything is possible. These kids work really hard."

"It's really fun," Swanson said. "You learn the skills you need in life."
American Red Cross to benefit from school fundraiser

Maine South High School will hold a McTeacher's Night Fundraiser benefiting the American Red Cross from 5-8 p.m. April 17 at McDonald's 1032 Northwest Highway, in Park Ridge.

Participants must use the fundraiser slip provided by the school. Fifteen percent of money brought in with slip will be donated to the American Red Cross. There will also be a special appearance by Ronald McDonald at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call (630) 699-6099.

District 207's Best for April honored for academic achievement

Three seniors selected by Maine Township High School

Maine West, Emma Ropski of Maine South and Barbara Skrzypek of Maine East were recently recognized for Academic Achievement.

Renee Pond has earned a 4.88 grade point average while taking the toughest classes Maine West has to offer. In addition to excelling academically, Renee is an outstanding athlete and musician, playing softball and the French horn. In the latter role, she will be featured as the lead horn in West's upcoming production of "Beauty and the Beast." In her introductory letter, Principal Dr. Audrey Haugan wrote that "Renee is an all-around student athlete, who has made the most out of her high school career.

She has balanced the demands of an incredibly difficult academic schedule with her music and athletic commitments with seeming ease. Renee told the board she plans to study biological sciences at either the University of Illinois or the University of Washington.

Emma Ropski has compiled a 4.90 GPA through a schedule that includes seven Advanced Placement courses. She has been named an AP Scholar, a National Merit Commended Student and has been a South Student of the Month nine times. She is a Hawk Pride Leader, R.E. Leader, Varsity Club president, captain of the girls cross country and track teams, Key Club member and has been published in the school's foreign language magazine. In his introductory letter, South Principal Shawn Messmer wrote: "what impresses me most about Emma is the common language all of our teachers use to describe her; open-hearted, kind, honest, hard working, thoughtful, positive leader. Emma told the Board she plans to study psychology in college.

Barbara Skrzypek has excelled in eight Advanced Placement and numerous accelerated courses at Maine East. In his introductory letter, East Principal Dr. Michael Pressler noted that no fewer than six of Barbara's current teachers nominated her for this honor, a testament to the respect they have for her work. All six lauded Barbara's intelligence, work ethic, curiosity and diligence. One observed that "What impresses me most about Barbara is simply brilliant." Barbara told the Board she plans to attend either Loyola University of Chicago or the University of Illinois at Champaign and pursue a combination of her academic interests.

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

Teachers nominate students, and an executive committee makes final decisions. Honorees are then recognized by the Board of Education, which instituted the program.
Puzzles

SUPER CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Ding-dong producer (4, 10)
5 Olympic chant for the Dream Team
11 Super Bowl six-pointers
14 "Thou..."
19 No more than
20 His - (common folk)
21 Like sashimi
22 More robust
23 Indicate person using scissors?
25 Manning ot
26 Run-down
28 Drive ...
29 Output of an animal using seeds
31 Clothed tor
32 Don too
33 See 39-...
34 Pre-CIA org.
35 US. broadcast overseas...
36 of the center
37 From the beginning
40 Symbol on a musical staff
42 What a loudmouthed person leads?
43 What one has while watching an Eastwood film?
44 Abject fear
45 Sign up
46 Dissolved
47 Mend
48 Airport info
49 Writing of
50 Common
51 Edible tubes
52 Like a desert
53 Unlike a desert
54 "O.K.", unpublished
55 Bire ready to be shipped?
56 "I, A. Law" co-creator
57 U.K.'s home
58 "The Wiz."
59 Ponch player
60 Oyster, e.g.
61 What a DJ speaks into
62 "保持 good form" (Tennis great)
63 King of bombs
64 Lower than,
65 Unanimously between the upper and lower arm?
66 Mend
67 Not at all
68 1964 Beatles
69 Fudd?
70 WWII female
71 "Where's Poppa?"
72 Scutters
73 "The Wizard"
74 Into the air
75 "The Wiz"
76 Mandi
77 Biro
78 Gay (Dobbs)
79 Pre-CIA org.
80 Poseidon's river
81 Minus
82 Gay
83 Do away with
84 Long to be seen
85 Related to the kidneys
86 Gold, to Iran
87 "The Wiz"
88 "The Wiz"
89 "Keep the beat"
90 "The Wiz"
91 "The Wiz"
92 "The Wiz"
93 Inflamed
94 British film
95 "There are many locks"
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HOROSCOPES

For the week of April 17 to April 23

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You easily handle your tasks this week, thanks to those high energy levels that never seem to run down. But pace yourself, Lamb, for the demanding week ahead.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) With the arts dominant this week, you might want to pick up any of those creative projects you've neglected. A workplace situation benefits from some fresh insight.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Music helps replenish your energy levels. Play your CDs if you must. But a live concert could prove more rewarding, especially if you go with that very special someone.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Close friends reach out to help perk up your lagging social life. That workplace situation also eases, leaving you time to do more fun things by week's end.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A revelation clears up that perplexing job-related problem. Some changes will have to be made, which, no doubt, will meet with the Big Cat's roaring approval. Good luck.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Reaching out to someone in need is the noble thing to do. But try to restrain the temptation to add a lecture — no matter how well-intended — to your good deed.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Keeping to your work schedule could prove difficult with all those personal distractions. Best advice: Stay with it. There'll be time later for socializing.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) As you try to finalize a new agreement, but the sure-footed Goat ignores the stumbling blocks and stays the course.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Jumping hurdles this week might be vexing for most, but not for that sage Sagittarian, who recognizes that meeting a challenge can open up opportunities.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) More obstacles might be thrown in your path as you try to finalize a new agreement. But the sure-footed Goat ignores the stumbling blocks and stays the course.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) We know the Water Bearer takes pleasure in giving to others. But why not let someone else enjoy the experience too by accepting that offer of help?

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You might find you need to ease up on your hectic schedule this week. Don't fret about it. It could be helpful to take a break and replenish your energy supply.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of finding practical solutions to complex problems, and you do it with grace.

NEED A HINT? FIND THE PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 31
GREATER GREAT ROOMS

For 55 years, Airoom Architects and Builders have turned the drab into the dramatic. With a 55-year remodeling warranty,* making the house you have into the home you want is closer than you think.

Your project begins at airoom55.com, or call 888.349.1714.

Submissions for Community Calendar are required two weeks preceding the date of publication. Send to: Darlene Huston, Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026; dhuston@pioneerlocal.com. Information may be faxed to (847) 486-7495.

**CENTER OF CONCERN**

**Schedule**

**65+**

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

- Mondays, through April 29 - Employment counseling, by appointment.
- Tuesday, April 16 - Medicare counseling, by appointment (sponsored by the federally-funded Senior Health Insurance Program).
- Wednesday, April 24 - Grief and loss support group (call first).
- Saturday, April 20 - Legal counseling, by appointment.
- Saturday, April 27 - Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed).

**CLUBS**

**United Methodist**

**WOMEN**

**18+ 65+**

A Ladies Only Spring Luncheon and Fundraiser for local missions will be held at noon April 13 at 1st United Methodist Church of Park Ridge, 418 Touhy Ave., Park Ridge. Ellie Carlson will present "The Rise and Fall of Ladies Underwear," a humorous look at undergarments through the ages. Tickets cost $20 each. Call (847) 825-3144.

**DAR**

**18+ 65+**

The Twenty-first Star Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet at 11:30 a.m. April 13 at the Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Noon luncheon, with a meeting and program to follow. Chapter member and DAR Museum Docent Barri Shinn will present "A Step in Time." This program will look at the shoes held in the collection of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Washington, D.C. Call Dorothy Wilson at (847) 328-6946.

**THE 20TH CENTURY CLUB OF PARK RIDGE**

**18+ 65+**

Meets at 1 p.m. April 16 at the Presbyterian Church, Delphina and Crescent Avenues. Following the general meeting, Carla Bush, Literature Chair, will introduce Leslie Goddard presenting "Below Stairs: A Servant's Life in Early 20th Century England." This memoir served as direct inspiration for the 1970's "Upstairs, Downstairs" series and one of many sources of inspiration for today's popular television series, "Downton Abbey."

The club also is sponsoring its Annual Paperback Book Sale, and encourages members to bring books for exchange and/or sale. Refreshments will be served. Members are welcome to bring guests ($2.00 visitor fee). For additional information, call P. Long at (847) 823-8784.

**HEALTH**

**WEIGHT LOSS SEMINAR**

**18+ 65+**

Do you have expired, unused or unwanted medications in your medicine cabinet? Dispose of them safely from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 27 at the Park Ridge, Niles or Des Plaines Police Stations. Drop off prescription and over-the-counter medications in their original containers. Do not remove labels. Personal information (name, address, doctor) should be crossed out, but information about the medication should be legible. This event is sponsored by MCYAF, the Maine Community Youth Assistance Foundation, the Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). For more information, contact MCYAF at www.mcyaf.com or (847) 858-7090.

**FUNDRAISERS**

**PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**13+ 18+ 65+**

Shop "Le Cheap Boutique" for Bargains Galore Vintage and unique jewelry, handbags, scarves and more will be available at Le Cheap Boutique, an accessory resale event to be held April 13 and 14 at Park Ridge Community Church, 100 S. Courtland Ave., in Park Ridge. Shopping hours are 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. April 13 and 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on April 14. Other items will include belts, hats and gloves as well as ties for men, cookbooks and more. Proceeds will benefit community outreach programs at the church. Call (847) 823-3164.

**LEGO CLUB**

**10+**

Knights of Niles Chess Club at 3:45 p.m. Fridays, April 12, 19 and 26. Learn chess or improve your skills in this fun after-school activity. Mr. Chris will help participants learn everything from the names of the pieces to winning strategies. For kids in kindergarten- through eighth-grades.

**LIBRARY**

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

**PROGRAMS FOR KIDS:**

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Join in from 4-5 p.m. April 22 on the fourth Monday of each month to create Lego masterpieces in the Lego Club. For kids in kindergarten to eighth grade.

Polish Storytime
Meets at 10 a.m. April 26. Share stories and songs in Polish (with a bit of English). Craft and snack included. For kids ages 2 and up, with grownup.

El Dia de los Niños/El Dia de los Libros Children’s Day/Book Day
Meets from 10:30 a.m.-noon April 27. Come celebrate with stories and rhythms in English and Spanish. This celebration is for both English and Spanish speakers. Complete a craft, and enjoy a delicious treat.

Shakespeare After Hours Film Discussion: Anonymous
18-65+
Will be held from 7-10 p.m. April 12.

Have you dreamed of joining a writing group? If you write and would like feedback, inspiration, or just support, come to our writing group from 7-8:30 p.m. April 15. Inspirational experts in the fields of writing and publishing will be periodically featured.

VBS takes place in the mornings starting June 24 - 28. Visit www.spc-catechesis.net and follow the VBS link for information and registration forms. Or call (847) 692-2758.

HOCUS FOCUS
Find at least six differences in details between panels

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

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Conquer Your Clutter Workshop
18-65+
Amber Kosteln-Cussen will teach how to organize home or small business at 7 p.m. April 11 at Feldman Recreation Center; $10.

St. Paul of the Cross Catechesis
Registration for fall 2013-14 classes has begun. Classes are for preschool through eighth grades. There are many class types, times and day options to choose from - a place for everyone. Visit www.spc-catechesis.net and click on the registration link for information and forms. Call or email the church for questions at (847) 692-2758 or spc-catechesis@yahoo.com.

St. Paul of the Cross Vacation Bible School
Register Now. Children entering 4- year-old prekindergarten-through fifth-grade will attend a fun-filled week of religion, songs, projects and games.

Spring Basketball League
18+ 65+
Games are played on Fridays and Saturdays at Feldman; clinic, 6-7 p.m. - for sixth- to eighth-graders.

Summer Camp

 Writers’ Roundtable
18-65+

St. Paul of the Cross Motivators Group

Religious Education - Niles Senior Center

REPUBLICAN

NILES SENIOR CENTER

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.

NMNSC’s Annual Rummage Sale
The Annual Rummage Sale will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. April 20. Over 40 vendors; 50/50 Raffle; lunches will be sold featuring $2 hot dogs. Great place for the whole family. Call Jaymi at (847) 588-8420.

Visually Impaired Motivators Group
MacuHealth Regional Representative will present the latest research on MacuHealth vitamins designed to prevent further eye damage cause by macular degeneration 10:30 a.m. April 16.
Spotlight

Bakery sticks to home through expansion

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

Using only top-of-the-line ingredients is what sets Oak Mill Bakery apart from other bakeries in the neighborhood, owner Bogna Iwanowska-Solak says.

Oak Mill Bakery, located at 8012 N. Milwaukee Ave., started with one store that opened 27 years ago across the street from its current location.

Since then, the business has grown into one with six different locations and a site in Des Plaines where all the baking magic takes place.

“We have a very good product,” said Iwanowska-Solak. “We use the best ingredients that are available on the market. We use natural ingredients, not artificial.”

Iwanowska-Solak said they use “top of the line” ingredients such as fresh fruits, natural butter, the best oils and the best chocolate that is on the market.

“Iwanowska-Solak said the Niles location was very busy, so about five years ago they decided to open in other locations. Today, they have a few stores in Chicago, one in Harwood Heights and one in Arlington Heights.

The bakery specializes in high-end cakes, European pastries, tortes, sweet table displays and more.

“We do all kind of parties; weddings, wedding showers, christenings, communions, bridal showers, corporate, birthdays, anything you can imagine,” said Iwanowska-Solak.

Customer service is also a big part of what gives Oak Mill Bakery’s customers a positive experience, many of whom are regulars.

“The best thing to do is come in and sit with our consultation people and they can give them advice,” said Iwanowska-Solak.

Iwanowska-Solak has a good number of Polish customers, but also sees a lot of Russian, Jewish, Serbian customers and much more.

“Everybody comes through our doors,” said Iwanowska-Solak.

And in order to accommodate all the people who enjoy the delicious treats at Oak Mill Bakery, they offer sugar-free, gluten-free and eggless options on certain products if requested.

In the little spare time that she has, Iwanowska-Solak dedicates her time to the Polish American Association and the Gift from the Heart Foundation. She also supports the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra.
New shop arrives on yogurt scene

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Since he moved to Park Ridge over a year ago, Geoff Bryant has seen frozen yogurt shops start popping up in the city.

But Bryant, manager of the brand-new Menchie's frozen yogurt in Uptown, welcomes the competition.

"There's more than enough people in Park Ridge for the yogurt to go around," Bryant said from inside his shop at 110 N. Northwest Highway, the walls painted in bright lime and fuchsia. "I think it will be sort of neat."

Menchie's, a make-your-own yogurt franchise that originated in Southern California, opened to Park Ridge customers on April 8 in the Shops of Uptown.

Grand opening festivities, including free yogurt and a ribbon cutting with the Menchie's mascot, are scheduled for Saturday, April 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Additional events, featuring giveaways and discounted yogurt, will continue throughout the week.

Menchie's features 16 different yogurt flavors, including the always-popular chocolate, vanilla and cake batter. There are also sorbets and the "Skinny Mini," a low-carb, sugar-free flavor.

"Nobody will have close to the number of flavors we offer," said owner Randy Sturges.

Customers at Menchie's fill their own dishes with as much frozen yogurt and toppings as they want. Their purchase is then weighed to determine how much they'll pay. The cost is 47 cents per ounce, Bryant said.

In addition to a variety of flavors, Menchie's also offers 36 different dry toppings, from gummy bears and M&Ms, to granola and roasted peanuts, in addition to fresh fruit, hot fudge, caramel and peanut butter.

For kids, Menchie's has a "party room" available at the front of the store, complete with a colorful mural featuring Menchie's characters.

"Menchie's prides itself on the atmosphere within the store," said Sturges, who opened a Glenview location last year. "It's really friendly.

Sturges, a former Chicago resident, looked to Park Ridge for his next franchise at the suggestion of friends.

"I thought Uptown had some real possibilities," he said, noting the high traffic volume on Northwest Highway.

He then asked Bryant, who also manages the Glenview location, to
come on board.

Bryant said customers can expect the Park Ridge Menchie's to host fundraisers for local schools and become involved in the community. There will also be outdoor seating available when temperatures warm up.

"Park Ridge, being such a family-type community, is just an ideal place to be located," he said.

Bryant added that he has already met with owners of Yogli Mogli, a frozen yogurt franchise at Oakton Street and Prospect Avenue, and the new Yourgurt, a shop just two blocks east on Northwest Highway.

"I look at it as sort of friendly competition," Bryant said of the other establishments in the neighborhood.

Auctioneer, a shop just two blocks east on Northwest Highway:

"I look at it as sort of friendly competition," Bryant said of the other establishments in the neighborhood.
FEATURED HOME

By Wrapports News Service

$150,000

7138 W. Greenleaf St.,
Niles

House size: 1,666 square feet
Lot size: 3,091 square feet
Year built: 1965
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2.5
Garage: None
Tax: $1,853.82 (2011)
School districts: Golf Elementary
School District 67 and Niles Township
Community High School District 219

AGENT Sheila Doyle, Baird & Warner, 847-905-5247

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

Get up and go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond

Every Thursday
How To Get Rid Of Knee Pain Once And For All... Without Drugs, Shots, or Surgery

Now, in Northbrook, IL, one doctor is helping local residents with knee pain live more active, pain-free lives.

Living with knee pain can feel like a crippling experience. Let's face it, your knees aren't as young as they used to be, and playing with the kids or grandkids isn't any easier either. Maybe your knee pain keeps you from walking short distances or playing golf like you used to. Nothing's worse than feeling great mentally, but physically feeling held back from life because your knees hurt and the pain just won't go away!

My name is Dr. Kim Martin, owner of North Shore Health Solutions. Since we opened, we've seen hundreds of people with knee problems leave the office pain free. If you're suffering from these conditions, a new breakthrough in medical technology may completely eliminate your pain and help restore normal function to your knees.

Due to the expected demand for Laser Therapy, I urge you to call our office right away. The FDA cleared the first Laser Therapy in 2002. This was after their study found 76% improvement in patients suffering with knee pain. Unlike the cutting type of laser seen in movies and used in medical procedures, Laser Therapy penetrates the surface of the skin with no heating effect or damage. Laser Therapy has been tested for 40 years, had over 2000 papers published on it, and been shown to help in damaged tissue regeneration, decrease inflammation, relieve pain and boost the immune system. This means that there is a good chance Laser Therapy could be your knee pain solution, allowing you to live a more active lifestyle. Professional athletes like Tiger Woods and team members of the New England Patriots rely upon Laser Therapy to treat their sports-related injuries. These guys use Laser Therapy for one reason only...

Finally, you have an option other than drugs or surgery. Let me present you with Laser Therapy. New research in a treatment called low level laser therapy, or Laser Therapy, has a profound effect on patients suffering with knee pain. Unlike the cutting type of laser used in movies and used in medical procedures, Laser Therapy penetrates the surface of the skin with no heating effect or damage. Laser Therapy has been tested for 40 years, had over 2000 papers published on it, and been shown to help in damaged tissue regeneration, decrease inflammation, relieve pain and boost the immune system. This means that there is a good chance Laser Therapy could be your knee pain solution, allowing you to live a more active lifestyle. Professional athletes like Tiger Woods and team members of the New England Patriots rely upon Laser Therapy to treat their sports-related injuries. These guys use Laser Therapy for one reason only...

Do You Have Any of the Following Conditions?

- Arthritis
- Knee pain
- Cartilage damage
- Bone-on-bone
- Tendonitis
- Bursitis
- Crunching and popping sounds

Living with knee pain can feel like a crippling experience. Let's face it, your knees aren't as young as they used to be, and playing with the kids or grandkids isn't any easier either. Maybe your knee pain keeps you from walking short distances or playing golf like you used to. Nothing's worse than feeling great mentally, but physically feeling held back from life because your knees hurt and the pain just won't go away!

My name is Dr. Kim Martin, owner of North Shore Health Solutions. Since we opened, we've seen hundreds of people with knee problems leave the office pain free. If you're suffering from these conditions, a new breakthrough in medical technology may completely eliminate your pain and help restore normal function to your knees.

Second study showed patients who used the laser therapy had less pain and more range of motion days after treatment. If the laser therapy can help these patients, it can help you too.

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Altoids might be known as the “curiously strong mint,” but for many, it’s their container that makes them special. Made of a strong, sturdy metal, Altoids tins are small enough to fit in your pocket, but roomy enough to be transformed into a multitude of cool objects.

**SURVIVAL CANDLE**

This candle is perfect to have in case of an emergency because it’s portable, easy to stow, and the tin lid ensures the wicks stay dry. I keep a matchbook inside the tin so I have both a candle and a light should the need arise.

**You need:**
- Clean Altoids tin
- 4-6 tea lights
- Glass jar
- Hot glue gun or strong adhesive
- Scissors

**Directions:**
Use scissors to cut the tea lights into small pieces. Set the wicks aside. Use a glue gun (or strong adhesive) to attach two to three wicks to the bottom of the tin. Place wax pieces in jar and place jar in a pot of boiling water until wax melts (about 10 minutes). Pour the waxy liquid into the tin. Make sure the wax doesn’t cover the tip of the wicks. Wait 24 hours or until wax hardens before using.

**DECOPAGE TREASURE BOX**

I’m a firm believer that every kid should have a treasure box. Whether they’re used for storing sweet notes, mementos or bits and pieces of “precious junk,” a treasure box can hold a world of endless possibilities.

**You need:**
- Clean Altoids tin
- Mod Podge
- Paint brush
- Decorative objects (old photographs, pages from favorite books, magazine pictures, etc.)

**Directions:**
Use Mod Podge to glue decorative objects around the top, bottom and sides of tin. Allow a few hours to dry, then seal with a topcoat of Mod Podge.

**MAGNET GAME**

This game is great when you need to keep your kids occupied at a restaurant, grocery store or even the carpool lane.

**You need:**
- Clean Altoids tin
- Nontoxic acrylic primer and paint
- Small photograph
- Computer printouts of funny facial features (available online at www.letteringdelights.com or other clip art sites)
- Magnet tape

**Directions:**
In well-ventilated area, prime and paint tin. Set aside to dry. Glue a small photograph to the tin, making sure there is ample space around the photo for adding magnets. (Note: magnets will not stick to the photograph). Cut out clip art pieces and attach to magnet tape. Store magnets inside tin for easy access.

**DESKTOP PLANTER**

Add a touch of green to any space with this mini desktop garden.

**You need:**
- Clean Altoids tin
- Pebbles
- Soil
- Small succulent plant or stalk of bamboo

**Directions:**
Add a layer of pebbles to the bottom of tin and then cover with soil. Add succulent plant to the soil and sprinkle with a few drops of water.
Enjoying a spring break vacation filled with palm trees, ocean surf and sandy beaches can leave Midwesterners longing for the sunny days of summer even more than usual at this time of year.

Sure, I appreciate the perky purple crocuses popping up all over the place these days, but chilly temperatures and the memories of a warm and recent Florida vacation have left me feeling solidly trapped between the doldrums of winter and the honest onset of spring.

Rather than get mired down by the fact I have to pull on socks in the mornings rather than brush sand off the bottoms of my feet in the afternoons, I've decided that bringing the flavors of Florida to my home kitchen is the ideal way to wait out the long last moments before the temperatures begin to rise in earnest.

Fish and oysters and peel-and-eat shrimp are mainstays of any seaside diet and whipping up a brightly flavored ceviche is a simple way to put a Floridian spin on supermarket fish. Ceviche celebrates a culinary chemical reaction — citrus acid is used to "cook" raw fish. Using the freshest tilapia available and preparing the dish as close to the time of service as possible ensures this alternative cooking method remains as safe as possible.

Although ceviche originated in Peru, creative cooks have been putting their own spin on the dish for hundreds of years. In my version, buttery avocado, herbal cilantro and sweet oranges work in unison to bring balance to the fish in this chili-spiked ceviche. Soaking the red onion in the lime juice while you prep the rest of this recipe will mellow the harsh onion flavors and prevent them from overpowering this delicate dish.

When served alongside a batch of crispy homemade tortilla chips, this vibrantly hued ceviche evokes memories of vacations past and the promise of summer with every bite.

### Sunny Day Ceviche with Homemade Chips

(Makes 8 appetizer servings)

- 1 cup of freshly squeezed lime juice (6-8 limes)
- ½ cup of red onion, minced
- 1 pound of fresh tilapia (about 4 fillets)
- 1 red fresno chili or jalapeno, seeds and ribs removed; minced
- 1 orange
- ½ cup of chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 avocado, cut into a small dice
- 4 flour tortillas
- ½ teaspoon of salt mixed with ½ teaspoon of ground cumin

Combine the lime juice and the minced red onion in a small non-reactive bowl and set aside. While the onions soak, cut the tilapia fillets into ½-inch pieces and place in a medium non-reactive bowl. Sprinkle the minced chili over the fish. Grate 1 teaspoon of orange zest over the fish and mix well. Peel the orange and remove the segments. Chop the orange flesh into chunks roughly the same size as the fish and add to the bowl. Pour the lime juice and onion mixture over the fish and mix well. Cover and refrigerate for two hours, stirring the ceviche after the first hour. Mix in the diced avocado and the chopped cilantro just before serving. Season the ceviche with salt and serve at once in the avocado shells with chips on the side.

While the fish marinates, prepare the homemade chips. Cut the flour tortillas horizontally into thirds and cut each section into triangles. Fill a medium skillet halfway with oil and heat until a tortilla triangle sizzles on contact. Fry the chips in batches until golden brown and crunchy. Remove the chips to drain on paper towels and season at once with the cumin-salt. Allow the chips to cool to room temperature and serve alongside the ceviche.
ANDY COHEN
Bravo’s main man on his book, his network and taking over late night

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L.A. TAN

Australian Gold Stedicke Beauty
We're sweet on Sprinkles' newest cupcake flavor: Cuban Coffee, topped with dark-roast frosting, cinnamon and cocoa. Stop by Thursday, April 11 between 9 and 11 a.m. and whisper "Splash" to snag one for free. 50 E. Walton; Sprinkles.com

Kids and adults alike can celebrate National Robotics Week at the Museum of Science and Industry's Robot Block Party. The week-long event includes hands-on robot demonstrations, lectures from top university robotics scholars and live science demos. $10-$18, April 6-14, 57th and Lake Shore; Msichicago.org

We're sweet on Sprinkles' newest cupcake flavor: Cuban Coffee, topped with dark-roast frosting, cinnamon and cocoa. Stop by Thursday, April 11 between 9 and 11 a.m. and whisper "Splash" to snag one for free. 50 E. Walton; Sprinkles.com

BonnBonn Baby's moisture-wicking onesies, blankets and sheets — beloved by celebrity moms like Samantha Harris and Jodie Sweetin — keep tots dry and happy. $13-$38, Pulse Gift Shop, 675 N. Saint Clair; Bonnbon babycar.com

Get your hands on some affordable high fashion with Derek Lam for DesigNation, a new collaboration between the designer and Kohl's inspired by Lam's recent trip to Rio de Janeiro. All pieces $88 and under, 2140 N. Elston; KohlsSpringcollections.com/designation

We're sweet on Sprinkles' newest cupcake flavor: Cuban Coffee, topped with dark-roast frosting, cinnamon and cocoa. Stop by Thursday, April 11 between 9 and 11 a.m. and whisper "Splash" to snag one for free. 50 E. Walton; Sprinkles.com

"I was obsessed with this gigantic, mechanical Big Bird that had a tape deck in its stomach. It was just as terrifying as it sounds."

"I carried my stuffed lamb everywhere until I was almost 9. It was a serious problem. My parents took it away and then brought it back out on my 18th birthday."

"My Samantha doll looked exactly like me. We dressed alike, too. Now it just seems creepy."

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this week

April 7
- **'LET THEM EAT CHAOS'**
  In Second City's 101st revue, "Let Them Eat Chaos," Jeff Award-winning director Matt Howe leads veteran Second City cast members — including Edgar Blackmon, Holly Laurent, Tawny Newsome, Katie Rich and Steve Waltien — in a freewheeling excursion that explores our various paths through the world, from the white-capped Atlantic to the haunt of Panamanian poets.
  
  Time: 7 p.m.
  Place: 1616 N. Wells

April 10
- **CHICAGO WING MADNESS**
  Chicago's first responder police officers and firefighters go gullet-to-gullet in this chicken wing-eating competition, benefiting the Starlight Children's Foundation Midwest. WCFL-Ch. 26's Aly Bockler and WPWR-Ch. 50's "Mancow" Muller emcee the event, while WMAG-Ch. 5's Art Norman and Horseshoe casino executive chef Thomas Spoor are among the judges.
  
  Time: 5:30 p.m.
  Place: Dick's Last Resort, 315 N. Dearborn
  Cost: $25. Call (312) 251-7827 or visit Chicagowwingmadness.com.

April 12
- **MESSAGE OF HOPE GALA**
  The Midwest regional office of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF gets its message out at this sixth annual shindig, co-chaired by Martha Metz and Tina Trotz. In addition to learning about the organization's efforts through interactive displays, attendees can bid on goods ranging from Cubs tickets to a weekend at the Sundance Film Festival.
  
  Time: 6:30 p.m.
  Place: Four Seasons Hotel, 120 E. Delaware
  Cost: $750. Call (312) 222-9121 or visit Unicefusa.org/messageofhope.

April 13
- **AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION'S CHICAGO HEART BALL**
  Since 1982, this black-tie gala has raised more than $13 million to support medical research, education and community programs that fight heart disease and stroke. Enjoy heart-healthy victuals, then get your heart pumping as you shake to the sounds of Lynne Jordan and the Shivers.
  
  Time: 6 p.m.
  Place: Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand
  Cost: $1,000. Call (312) 476-6632 or visit Heart.org/chicago.

- **HAVANA BLUE**
  River North Dance and the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic Chamber Ensemble offer a vibrant souvenir of Cuba, featuring the intoxicating music of Carlos Jobim, Dizzy Gillespie and Osbert Davis and the dynamic choreography of Frank Chaves.
  
  Time: 8 p.m.
  Place: Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress
  Cost: $32-$76. Call (800) 982-2787 or visit Auditoriumtheatre.org/musicandmovement.

April 15
- **DAVID SEDARIS**
  Known for hilarious and caustic memoirs such as Me Talk Pretty One Day, Naked and When You are Engulfed in Flames, humorist David Sedaris (above) alights at the Arcada Theatre in St. Charles to read from his soon-to-be published, Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls.
  
  Time: 8 p.m.
  Place: 105 E. Main, St. Charles
  Cost: $49-$69. Call (630) 952-7000 or visit Oshows.com.

April 18
- **TASTE TAKES FLIGHT**
  Fifteen top toques — including celebrity chef Jamie Laurita and chef/author Amelia Levin — will plate it up at this third annual fundraiser for WINGS' (Women in Need Growing Stronger) Safe House, the emergency residence for women and children fleeing domestic violence. Sip on wines and feast on everything from hors d'oeuvres to main course bites to desserts.
  
  Time: 6:30 p.m.
  Place: 105 E. Main, St. Charles
  Cost: $250-$500. Call (312) 739-0120 or visit Aidschicago.org/springdinner.

April 20
- **WHIRL 2013**
  Meet and mingle with fellow humans and animals alike at the annual Brookfield Zoo benefit. After getting acquainted over cocktails with the two-toed sloth, wallaby and spotted genet, guests will enjoy dinner, dancing, a raffle and a live auction.
  
  Time: 6:30 p.m.
  Place: Brookfield Zoo, 3300 Golf, Brookfield
  Cost: $600. Call (312) 553-2000 or visit Pjchicago.com/zoo.

next week

April 15
- **THE JOFFREY BALLET SPRING GALA**
  Kick up your heels at this black-tie bash for Chicago's world-class ballet company. Hosted by the Women's Board of the Joffrey Ballet and chaired by Deborah and Cody Engle and Mrs. McKay McKinnon, the evening begins with a performance at the Auditorium Theater, followed by dinner and dancing at the Hilton Chicago.
  
  Time: 6:30 p.m.
  Place: 50 E. Congress
  Cost: $750. Call (312) 739-0120 or visit Joffrey.org.

April 18
- **'A ONE WOMAN SHOW: AN EVENING WITH PAULA POUNDSTONE'**
  Paula Poundstone — comedian, panelist on Chicago's own "Wait, Wait ... Don't Tell Me!" and devoted HIV/AIDS awareness supporter — brings her signature brand of comedy to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's annual spring dinner.
  
  Time: 5:30 p.m.
  Place: Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan
  Cost: $250-$500. Call (312) 334-0935 or visit Aidschicago.org/springdinner.

April 20
- **'WHIRL 2013'**
  Meet and mingle with fellow humans and animals alike at the annual Brookfield Zoo benefit. After getting acquainted over cocktails with the two-toed sloth, wallaby and spotted genet, guests will enjoy dinner, dancing, a raffle and a live auction.
  
  Time: 6:30 p.m.
  Place: Brookfield Zoo, 3300 Golf, Brookfield
  Cost: $600. Call (312) 553-2000 or visit Pjchicago.com/zoo.
Shopping for a cause is always in style, and the Splash-sponsored Shopping for Love event, held in conjunction with Kristina McGrath, was no exception. More than 300 attendees — including Joffrey Ballet Women's Board president Melissa Babcock and party mavens Jodi Fyfe and Debi Lilly — turned out to McGrath Acura (1301 N. Elston) to shop spring fashion and indulge in spa services from Advanced Dermatology, Amazing Cosmetics, AstroWife and Leah Chavie in a sleek environment crafted by Event Creative. Guests stocked their spring wardrobes with items from local lines Atelier Azza, Dana Rebecca Designs, Laudi Vidni and Damen + Division, as well as boutiques Sara Jane, Luxury Garage Sale, Edith Hart, eDrop-Off and Lulu's at the Belle Kay, and they also indulged in bites from Pure Kitchen Catering and sipped Santa Margherita prosecco.

Between door donations and the sale of eDrop-Off T-shirts, more than $2,000 was raised for the American Heart Association.
Ladies are lacing up their wardrobes, sporting one of fashion's most feminine trends. A far cry from grandma's doily or Austin Powers' flamboyant sleeves, modern lace is a sleek, no-frills statement. From chic black to eye-popping color, there's no wrong way to wear it. When it's time to accessorize, skip the big jewelry, which will interfere with — or worse, snag on — the fabric's intricate pattern. Then, strike a pose. It's a look guaranteed to win first lace.
More than 500 guests blazed a trail to the Swissôtel Chicago (323 E. Wacker) on March 7 to support the civic nonprofit Leadership Greater Chicago at its sixth annual Celebrate Leaders Dinner. Emcee Lisa Parker of NBC-Ch. 5 presented Ric Estrada, president and CEO of Metropolitan Family Services, with the 2013 Distinguished Fellow Award, and introduced keynote speaker and best-selling author of Freakonomics and SuperFreakonomics, Steven D. Levitt. Attendees like U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, McDonald’s CEO Don Thompson and Executive Director of Public Engagement for the Mayor’s Office Felicia Davis helped raise a record-breaking $380,000 for the organization’s Fellows Program, which sheds light on key issues facing the Chicago region and challenges leaders to bring about positive change in the community.

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

City Year Chicago made waves at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel (221 N. Columbus) March 14, as nearly 400 guests helped celebrate the 14th annual Ripples of Hope Awards Dinner. After a gourmet meal, partygoers mingled with community leaders such as Michael Alter of the Alter Group, Mark Furlong of BMO Harris Bank, John T. Cusack of DLA Piper, Stephen Quazzo of Pearlmark Real Estate Partners and Mike Watts of Transwestern. The organization bestowed its signature Red Jacket to Glenn Tilton of JPMorgan Chase and David Vitale, president of the Chicago Board of Education, for their commitment to local students and their educations. The evening made the grade, raising more than $600,000 for City Year Chicago, which recruits and trains young members to serve as CPS tutors and mentors with one important goal: to keep students in school.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event. The Sun-Times Foundation and The Chicago Community Trust will match every dollar donated to the City Year Chicago, up to a total of $10,000. Up to $1,000 can be matched per individual donation.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS MCGUIRE
For its third annual benefit, the Cameron Can Foundation—a locally based charity that helps support children coping with pediatric hydrocephalus and other long-term neurological conditions—rang in St. Patrick's Day a little early alongside more than 300 guests at Rockit Bar and Grill (22 W. Hubbard) March 14. This year’s theme, “Sham-Rock It Out,” was inspired by the Irish heritage of the Friends of Cameron grant recipient, 2 1/2-year-old Declan Keddy. The benefit attracted attendees such as Gov. Pat Quinn, Ald. Robert Fioretti, Illinois State Treasurer Dan Rutherford, former Chicago Bear Otis Wilson and Rockit Ranch Productions CEO/Founder Billy Dec. Hosted by honorary chair Antonio Romanucci, the evening included cocktails, appetizers and music from DJ Danny Diebold. More than $100,000 was raised to help provide care for Keddy, as well as for the Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago Patient Emergency Fund and the Pediatric Hydrocephalus Foundation.

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

BY KATERINA BIZIOS

PHOTOS BY RAMZI DREESSEN
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Dear Jenny,

How do you know when it's time to say goodbye to a friend? I have been feeling like this for a few years and I just don't know whether I should do it or continue to hang in there. It's draining me.

—Anna from Chicago

Jenny says: This is a great question because everyone can relate to outgrowing a friend at some point in their lifetime. What I have come to realize is that it's not "when" you should say goodbye, it's to "whom" you should say goodbye.

Let me explain. Letting go of a friend is a serious thing to do, so the decision should be carefully thought-out. It shouldn't happen because of jealousy, or because of a fight. Those things need to be worked out. Our friendships are life lessons and if we fail one, the next friend that comes along will be sure to show us the exact same problems we never dealt with. So it's always best to do everything you can to work through situations before you move on.

Now, if you have a friend that you noticed is not spiritually growing with you — and I don't mean going to church, I mean evolving within their own life the way you are evolving in your own — and it's causing problems, then it's time to consider moving past this friendship.

My cousin recently went through the ending of a friendship. I asked her how her life is now that she's cut the cord.

She replied, "Even though I'm grateful for the times we did have together, my life feels so much more peaceful. She was one of those friends that needed to create drama in her life, and no matter how many times I tried to calm her, I finally realized I was taking on her pain. I also felt like I had to hold back any happiness in my own life because I felt so bad about hers. After years of this, I realized some people need to have drama in order to survive and I don't. Drama does not serve me, and I needed to not take on hers anymore and just say goodbye."

You will know it's the right time to end a friendship only when you are actually ending the relationship. Not before or after. It happens when it's supposed to happen, so don't focus on that. Really spend the time to make sure you're doing the right thing for the right reasons, and be brave enough to make the change.

As Buddha says, "An insecure and evil friend is more to be feared than a wild beast; a wild beast may wound your body, but an evil friend will wound your mind."
Don’t be fooled by 13-year-old Kiernan Shipka’s small stature and sweet smile — she’s actually a whip-smart wunderkind with a black belt in taekwondo. “Don’t worry, I won’t hurl you,” she teases.

Chicago-born Shipka, who’s best known for her role as “Mad Men’s” resident angst-y teen, Sally Draper, is legally required to be tight-lipped about the new season of the series (which debuts April 7 at 8 p.m. on AMC), but she will say that the premiere episodes are “fantastic.” She also hints that viewers will see Sally gain more confidence than ever as her father deals with the politics of a firm in flux and the blossoming acting career of his latest wife, Megan.

Shipka’s currently juggling promotional photo shoots and interviews for the show as well as a (nearly) normal childhood, so she lives her life minute-to-minute. “I actually have a guitar lesson right after this,” she says. “And I have ballet after guitar.” In her downtime, she also writes her own songs (with Taylor Swift-esque lyrics and a Lumineers-inspired sound), plays on a tennis team and cultivates her own personal sense of style, which has made her something of a cultural icon among teens and adults.

“To be able to dip into style has been really fun,” she says of both her own garments and the retro pieces she dons on the series. “My style is always changing. I love getting grungier on occasion. When I think about my street style, I think of what ‘Gossip Girl’ character I’m currently idolizing.”

Shipka’s always been confident when it comes to pursuing her passions — she left Chicago to jump-start her acting career when she was only 6 years old and hasn’t looked back. “I’m sort of a kindergarten drop-out,” she admits. Though Shipka now calls Los Angeles home, she says that Chicago holds a special place in her heart, and she returns to Lakeview often to visit her friends and family. “It’s my absolute favorite city,” she says. “I think it’s so beautiful and has so much character.” And it’s fairly obvious to anyone who watches the show that the young Miss Shipka has become an expert in character.
Andy Cohen reveals his method for scouting reality stars, the details behind his book — and why there’s no Chicago ‘Housewives’

By Molly Each
Andy Cohen can get away with anything. Credit his mischievous smile, his endless amounts of energy or the fact that his show comes complete with cocktails, but the Bravo executive and host of "Watch What Happens Live" might be the only television personality who can coax Tina Fey to reveal the worst "Saturday Night Live" host (she named Adrien Brody), have the famously plumped Lisa Rinna play a game called "Lips Mountan," or get any of the "Housewives" to divulse how they really feel about their castmates. So what's his secret?

"Once you show the guest you're celebrating them and not making fun of them — and that's something I've done with the "Housewives" for years, simultaneously roast them and celebrate them — they're in for the ride," says Cohen. "We like to have fun, and I poke fun at myself. Everybody is in on it."

Cohen, 44, took a similar approach with his first book, Most Talkative: Stories from the Front Lines of Pop Culture, which was released in paperback this month and will have him swinging through Chicago April 10 for appearances at Macy's and Barnes & Noble. The book is a laugh-out-loud collection of tales detailing his journey from his childhood in St. Louis to his current role as executive vice president at Bravo. "I wrote it in about 4½ months, and it was exhausting and exhilarating," says Cohen. "There's a new chapter in there for the paperback, an epilogue that talks about everything that happened after the book came out, from different people's reactions to getting lampooned on 'Saturday Night Live.'" True to form, in the book Cohen playfully and lovingly pokes fun at everyone from his parents to past and current "Real Housewives" to — most intensely — himself. (The book contains hilarious vintage Cohen photos and anecdotes of his most ridiculous moments as an up-and-coming news producer.) In fact, referring to Tarar Killam's impression of him on SNL, Cohen wishes he would have pushed it further. "The sketch was really well-written. But my eyes are kind of crossed, and I would have gone there if I were him," he says.

While most Bravo fans are used to seeing Cohen in front of the camera, he's best known in the industry as a force behind the scenes. He got his start at CBS as a news clerk in the early '90s, and was there for a decade, working his way up to senior producer for programs such as "The Early Show" and "CBS This Morning." He made the leap to Bravo in 2005, and has since been instrumental in turning Bravo into a cable network powerhouse. He helped create iconic shows such as "Project Runway" and "Top Chef," which has won both an Emmy award and a James Beard award, as well as programs such as "Flipping Out," "The Millionaire Matchmaker" and, of course, "The Real Housewives" franchise. He now serves as the executive vice president of development and executive producer for "Top Chef" and all of the "Real Housewives" programs.

With Cohen at the helm, the network has become known for showcasing "big personalities who are good at something, addictive and different from anything you've seen anywhere else," he says. He says that when scouting...
F rom aspring astronauts to rookie rock stars, these 10 summer camps — both near and far — offer an unforgettable experience for kids.

Near: Have a young football fan in the house? The Chicago Bears franchise hosts five-day, non-contact youth football training camps for kids ages 6-14 throughout the city and surrounding areas, including Evanston, Geneva, Naperville, Lake Forest and Libertyville. Skills and instruction are led by high school, college and pro coaches, with the occasional appearance by former NFL players. Locations vary. $330-$404; Prosportsexperience.com/bears

Far: Future World Cup winners can hone their skills at Vogelsinger Soccer All-Star School. Campers start their days with soccerobics, which combines physical conditioning with soccer skills, then hop onto the field for training courtesy of a staff of international pros. Sessions range from one to three weeks, with camps in California, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Wisconsin. All junior athletes will receive a complete Nike uniform and a Nike soccer ball. Locations and prices vary. Visit Ussportscamps.com for more info.

If you've got a kid, chances are that they can — without even looking at a calendar — tell you exactly how many weeks, days, hours and minutes it will be before that final school bell rings and they're set free. And while they harbor visions of beaches and ice cream, the pressure is on to keep them entertained — and ensure summer isn't entirely void of learning. Whether your kid is a science star, an art whiz or an athlete, there are summer camp experiences both close to home and far away waiting for them. So parents, get out your calendars — let's plan summer.
THE GUITAR HERO
Near: Camp Jam’s motto is “no canoes; lots of rock.” At the five-day overnight camp, musicians ages 11-17 can form a band, attend singing and songwriting courses, jam with instructors and star in their own MTV-style rock and roll video. Lake Forest Academy, 1500 W. Kennedy, Lake Forest. $1,495; Campjam.com

Far: Creativity is king at Long Lake Camp for the Arts, a performing-arts mecca ensconced in the Adirondacks which boasts theater, fine arts, music, rock, dance, circus, film and sports departments for campers ages 9-16. 83 Long Lake Camp, Long Lake, N.Y. Three-week overnight sessions: $5,450 and up; six-week overnight sessions, $9,350; Longlakecamp.com

THE DIMINUTIVE DIPLOMAT
Near: Jump-start an interest in foreign languages with the help of the Lycée Française de Chicago French International School. The organization offers French language immersion day camps for both Lycée and non-Lycée students for a range of ages and fluency levels. If your worldly kid is interested in languages beyond French, Lycée also offers camp programs through partners such as ChinaKids Chinese Language Center, German School Chicago and the Turath Institute for Arab Arts and Culture. 613 W. Bittersweet. Five-week session, $205-$765; Lycéechicago.org

Far: Encourage your teen to experience the world firsthand with Teenager Language Vacation. The organization offers 12-19 year olds the chance to learn French, German, Mandarin, Italian or Spanish in various locations across the globe. While abroad, students stay in a supervised residence or with a host family, take morning and/or afternoon language lessons and engage in cultural and social activities and planned excursions. Dates, session lengths and prices vary by location. Visit Teenagerlanguagevacation.com for more info.

THE MAD SCIENTIST
Near: Imagine a summer spent designing a spacesuit, building rockets or programming robots. Kids ages 5-14 can do just that at the Adler Planetarium’s day camp, which gives aspiring astronauts and tech buffs the chance to brush up on their science skills. 1300 S. Lake Shore. Session lengths vary. $130-$295; Adlerplanetarium.org

Far: The only camp in the world with its own zoo, Cub Creek Science and Animal Camp encourages youngsters ages 7-17 to embrace their primal instincts. They’ll be able to adopt a monkey or kangaroo for a week, learn to investigate a crime scene and craft crazy concoctions during chemistry courses. Bear River Ranch, 16795 State, Rolla, Mo. One- to six-week overnight sessions, $825-$4,950; Msciencecamp.com

THE INTREPID EXPLORER
Near: Kids ages 4-13 get back to basics during The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum’s day camps. Along with live animal encounters and nature explorations, mini-adventurers have unstructured playtime to build forts, climb trees and dig for worms. 2430 N. Cannon. Two-week sessions, $425-$725; Naturemuseum.org

Far: Braving the Minnesota Boundary Waters, backpacking in the Porcupine Mountains and sea kayaking through Lake Huron are just some of the adventure trips available for grades 7-11 through McGaw YMCA’s Camp Echo. Each excursion is tailored to a specific age group and skill level, but all impart a deep respect for the natural world. 12-day overnight sessions, $1,400-$3,850; Mcgawymca.org/campecho/camps
Retail icon and mom to twin toddlers, Ikram Goldman turns her style-savvy eye to children with these kid-centric picks.

1. Ikram: remote control car in a can, $20, 15 E. Huron; ikram.com
   “It’s the best instant gratification for a boy (or girl).”

2. T-Shirt Deli: custom kidswear, $14 - $28, 1739 N. Damen; Tshirtdeli.com

3. Morf’s: Yoda or Storm Trooper tee, $68, Barneys New York, 15 E. Oak; Barneys.com
   “Our friends Mellody Hobson and George Lucas gave these to my boys as presents, and they can’t stop wearing them.”

4. Ikram: Japanese stickers, $10, 15 E. Huron; ikram.com
   “They’re not only good for kids, but for adults, too. Put them on your phone, on books or organize them into a little story. It’s a fabulous way to engage your kids for a bit.”

5. Phyto: Petitphyto detangling spray for kids, $26, Anthony Cristiano Salon, Trump International Hotel & Towers, 401 N. Wabash; Anthonycristiano.com
   “For me, it’s easy to brush my boys’ hair, but for my husband Josh, it’s a little harder. He uses this to better ease the brush through tangles.”

6. The LEGO Store: prices vary, Water Tower Place, 835 N. Michigan; Lego.com
   “The LEGO store is imaginative, interactive and kids of all ages love it — including moms and dads.”

7. Cherokee: boys’ rash guard tee, $12.99, and boys’ tropical swim trunk, $12.99, Target, 1154 S. Clark; Target.com
   “Target has the most fun bathing suits for boys. They’re colorful and bright.”

8. Ikram: bear key chain bag, $35, 15 E. Huron; ikram.com
   “It’s a really cool charm that can be incredibly useful at a moment’s notice.”

9. Native: kids Jefferson in popsicle orange, $30; Nativeshoes.com
   “I cannot leave home without them in the summer. Our boys love them. Their feet can get wet, they’re easy to clean and take on and off, and you can dress them up or down.”
IN CHARACTER

Tiffany & Co. opened up its 1920s archives for the new Great Gatsby and Ziegfeld collections

BY RACHEL HANDLER

Even the most devoted fans of F. Scott Fitzgerald may be surprised to find out that the Jazz Age scribe was once a client of Tiffany & Co. There isn’t a record of exactly what he bought, but it’s possible that he commissioned the esteemed jeweler’s wares for beloved wife Zelda — or perhaps he was imagining how they might look draped across the elegant, high-society characters in his famed novel, The Great Gatsby.

Either way, it’s appropriate that when director Baz Luhrmann and costume designer Catherine Martin began designing the jewels for the upcoming film version of the book, they immediately looked to Tiffany.

“Back then, Tiffany was known for its stunning glasswork and jewelry design,” explains Liza Zito, group director of Tiffany & Co. in Chicago. “It catered to the lifestyle represented by Jay Gatsby and his social circle. So it was a natural fit.”

Martin worked closely with Tiffany for nearly 18 months, delving into the jeweler’s 1920s archives to find inspiration and guarantee authenticity. “They wanted to create gems that symbolized the story’s themes of wealth and privilege,” says Zito.

That painstaking effort is apparent in the resulting 30-piece collection of stunning platinum, diamond and pearl pieces. The crown jewel, according to Zito, is Daisy Buchanan’s (played by Carey Mulligan) Savoy headpiece, which came directly from Tiffany’s archives and is adorned with cultured pearls and diamonds. “It’s really the epitome of the era,” says Zito.

The design team also tied many of the pieces to the plot of the film. “Jay Gatsby’s obsessive love for Daisy Buchanan is the central theme in the movie,” Zito says, “so the daisy motif recurs throughout.” Daisies decorate Jay Gatsby’s (Leonardo DiCaprio) signet ring, pearl tassel necklace, $1,200, and pearl and onyx ring, $450.

Though the Great Gatsby Collection may stretch budgets (prices are available upon request), fans of the film can get their hands on similar pieces through Tiffany’s more affordable, movie-inspired line, the Ziegfeld Collection, also launched this month. Named for New York’s legendary Ziegfeld Theatre, a model of Art Deco architecture that opened in 1927, the 14-piece fashion collection “captures the period’s cool elegance,” says Zito.

Pieces run from $300 to $1,200 and include a freshwater cultured pearl tassel necklace, a sterling silver and black enamel daisy pendant, $550, a freshwater cultured pearl and onyx headpiece (worn by Carey Mulligan) and emerald-cut diamond earrings (prices available upon request); the Ziegfeld Collection’s pearl tassel necklace, $1,200, and pearl and onyx ring, $450.

Find the Ziegfeld and Great Gatsby Collections at Tiffany & Co., 730 N. Michigan, (312) 944-7500; Tiffany.com

SHOPPING SPY

The latest intelligence from the retail scene

Blown away

Smooth out your strands — and your mood — with Blowtique’s new mimosa bar. Every Saturday and Sunday through June 16, the salon’s stylists are serving up $35 blowouts and $70 updos with a side of fresh fruits and juices, perfect for pairing with your own bubbly brought from home. 1 E. Huron; Blowtique.com

Style search

Step forward in style with BucketFeet. The artist-designed footwear brand is on a mission to give global exposure to unknown creative talent with its “Become the #NextBucketFeetArtist” contest. The winner will receive $1,000 in cash, an all-expense-paid trip to Chicago, VIP tickets to Lollapalooza and a BucketFeet shoe contract, which lands their winning design in stores worldwide this fall. Enter before May 3 at Bucketfeet.com.

New in town

Whimsical, feminine frocks are in abundance at new Lincoln Park boutique Frimson. Stop in during the month of April to take 10 percent off eclectic apparel from designers like Eva Franco, Raoul, Waverly Grey and Bansri, a brand previously worn by characters on “Gossip Girl” and “Sex and the City.” 715 W. Armitage; Frimson.com.

From left: The Great Gatsby Collection’s Savoy headpiece (worn by Carey Mulligan) and emerald-cut earrings (prices available upon request); the Ziegfeld Collection’s pearl tassel necklace, $1,200, and pearl and onyx ring, $450.
Mark Pruitt & Lori Toepper

Mark Pruitt and Lori Toepper’s journey to the aisle was all about beating the odds. The couple reconnected more than 30 years after first meeting in the halls of Bolingbrook High School, and Pruitt popped the question on New Year’s Eve 2012. They rang in the New Year with dreams of a destination wedding, but instead, Toepper was diagnosed with breast cancer a few months later. The two spent much of their engagement in and out of the hospital as Toepper underwent a double mastectomy and eight rounds of chemotherapy. “It was an ugly situation, but it had some beauty to it,” says Toepper. “I honestly believe God gave me Mark to go through this with me. It made me want to marry him even more.” During one such hospital stay, Toepper’s oncologist recommended she apply to Wish Upon A Wedding, a nonprofit that produces weddings and vow renewal ceremonies for couples facing terminal illness and serious, life-altering circumstances. Toepper’s application was accepted, and on March 17 Pruitt and Toepper were married in front of 50 of their closest friends and family members at Room 1520 (1520 W. Fulton). The newlyweds partied the night away, posing in the photo booth, drinking, dining and dancing, and left for their honeymoon in Hawaii one day later. “It was so beautiful,” says Toepper, who’s currently cancer-free. “We are very blessed and very thankful.” — Katerina Bizios
Spilling the beans
Put down the burger and fries — nutrition expert Keri Glassman says kids can eat healthy on the road

Keri Glassman, nationally recognized nutritionist, author and mother of two, knows firsthand what it takes to get kids to eat healthy. "Just don't talk about it," she advises. "I'm a big believer in just presenting healthy food, not saying, 'We can't eat unhealthy stuff,' or 'We have to eat this healthy stuff.'"

That strategy has certainly worked for Glassman, who says her own kids, 6-year-old Maizy and 9-year-old Rex, have developed a taste for things like turkey meatballs and bananas. They've also inspired her to partner with the JW Marriott to create a new kids menu, which helps "junior jet-setters" build good eating habits while traveling. "So many parents think, 'Oh, we're on vacation, we don't need to eat healthy,'" she says. "But I like to think about traveling as a time to test out new, healthy dishes, then bring them back home."

At the JW Marriott Chicago, award-winning chef Michael Reich, who has two kids of his own, is crafting Glassman's menu of "comfort food favorites with a healthy twist" and serving it up in the hotel's Lobby Lounge or via room service. There's a free Kids Nosh section with cucumber and carrots, Big Kids offerings such as a turkey sandwich and loaded in butter and oil. And the same goes for adults. They'll order fish because they think it's a better choice, but sometimes a few ounces of lean steak and steamed vegetables might be healthier than buttered fish.

Splash: What's a typical "healthy" restaurant menu item that's secretly unhealthy?
Glassman: People order chicken fingers all the time, and think, 'Oh, my kids are eating chicken, it's healthy' — but it's not. It's fried and loaded in butter and oil. And the same goes for adults. They'll order fish because they think it's a better choice, but sometimes a few ounces of lean steak and steamed vegetables might be healthier than buttered fish.

Splash: Did you test the JW Marriott recipes on Rex and Maizy?
Glassman: I always test things out with them. They loved the turkey meatballs. But I think kids like mini anything. One day, Maizy was hungry before dinner and I said, "You can have red peppers or you can have slices of turkey." And she said, "Why don't I have red peppers with the turkey wrapped around it?" It looked pretty, she put it on a little plate and she was totally happy. That inspired me to create the Kids Nosh section.

Splash: How do you keep them well-behaved in restaurants?
Glassman: [Laughs] I am no parenting expert. If they're exhausted and want to be at home, or if you're traveling and have no choice, you need to have activities for them. I like to limit technology at the table, so we always have a notebook, pieces of paper and markers. That's why we included an activity book with the Marriott menu — it'll keep them engaged for awhile.

JW Marriott Chicago, 151 W. Adams, (312) 660-8200; Marriott.com
real estate

Charm in Margate Park

How long will this pristine 1939 art deco duplex last?

Going, going, gone

Margate Park is definitely feeling the heat of a hot market, as evidenced by the fact that every listing we tried to feature sold before we went to press. The following properties are currently under contract, but don’t lose hope yet — as any house-hunter knows, this doesn’t always mean the sale is guaranteed.

• 841 W. Castlewood, a five-bed, 4.5-bath 1907 manse listed for $1.29 million on the block Studs Terkel called home (RE/MAX Exclusive Properties broker Marlene Granacki, 773-520-7447).
• 5059 N. Sheridan, unit 3, a four-bed, three-bath vintage condo listed for $380,000 (Prudential Rubloff broker Pamela Butler, 312-980-5115).

Danish designer Ole Wanscher’s Egyptian folding chair, designed in 1957 and in production until the 1970s, is timeless enough to complement any room. It’s being reissued by Cati Hansen & Son in oak or mahogany with black, cognac or natural saddle leather. $1,410 and up. Morlen Sinoway Atelier, 1052 W. Fulton; MorlenSinoway.com
Kardashian baby update

On a recent episode of "Kourtney & Kim Take Miami," Kourtney Kardashian offers to serve as a surrogate mother for younger sister Khloe — and sources say the offer stands.

"Kourtney has a big heart, and would serve as a surrogate for Khloe if that's what she wanted," the source said. "It wasn't just another fake plot line for their reality show."

Khloe’s been struggling to get pregnant for years now, and it’s been a painful journey for her and hubby Lamar Odom.

“She’s happy that her sisters have been able to get pregnant, but it’s also bittersweet. She’s so great with children, including her stepkids, but she wants a child of her own.”

Meanwhile, Kim’s family members have been standing up to all the haters who are labeling the pregnant reality-TV star as “fat.”

“Kim is trying to not let the weight comments get to her,” said a source. “And she’s secretly laughing all the way to the bank, because she knows she’ll be able to make more money off of weight loss deals if she packs on as many pounds as possible. It’s all about money and business deals for that family.”

Miley and Liam’s rocky romance

Amid speculation that Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth’s romance is on the rocks, my sources confirm they won’t make it down the aisle.

“There have been big problems between the two of them for months now,” according to an inside source.

“They’re at two different places in their lives.”

While Liam is focusing on his movie career — with several projects in the works — Miley is just looking to have a good time.

“Liam’s movie career is hot right now. He blew up with ‘The Hunger Games’ and he has several movies lined up. Miley is just looking to party. She was good for Liam’s career in the beginning because of her popularity, but her party-girl reputation is damaging Liam’s rising stardom.”

Friends of the couple don’t believe they’ll make it to the altar. “They have too many serious problems to work out. A wedding is just not in the cards for them right now.”

Lea stands by her man

Lea Michele is gleeful about Cory Monteith’s decision to go to rehab. The couple, who took their romance public last April, have struggled with relationship problems revolving around Cory’s substance abuse.

“He hasn’t been the greatest boyfriend to Lea. He’s made some stupid decisions, and he definitely has had a wandering eye. Lea’s proud of him for making the brave decision to get help, and she’s standing by him!”
These 10 must-shop local boutiques aren't kidding around when it comes to pint-size fashion

**Cutie Poops and Bottoms**
From organic baby food to "treehugger" onesies ($22.50), CPB is a completely eco-friendly baby boutique. The shop encourages cloth diapering and even offers mommy-and-me yoga sessions. 14910 S. LaGrange, Orland Park, (708) 873-4588; Cutiepoopsandbottoms.com

**Giggle**
In addition to clothes, gear and nursery furniture, founder Ali Wing's now-nationwide boutique offers new-parent necessities like white-glove delivery, in-home assembly and registry appointments. 2116 N. Halsted, (773) 296-6228; Giggle.com

**Kooky Kidstuff**
Owner Johele Tabuena first opened Kooky as a temporary pop-up shop - now its three permanent locations are places to grow up with, carrying items for kids ages 0-14. 509 Oakbrook Center, Oak Brook, (630) 746-8359; 844 W. Armitage, (773) 726-4444; 520 N. Michigan, (312) 527-0552; Kookyshop.com

**Frankie's on the Park**
The perfect place for your picky 'tween, Frankie's carries petite pieces from J Brand, Wildfox and more. Plus, fun in-store events support various children's charities. 2322 N. Clark, (773) 248-0400; Frankiesonthepark.com

**The Red Balloon**
What began as a children's furniture store now has two locations filled with clothes, toys and keepsakes. Personalized pieces are the must-haves: pillows ($35) or cool striped sweaters ($99) that bear kids' initials. 5407 N. Clark, (773) 989-8500; 1940 N. Damen, (773) 489-9800; Theredballoon.com

**Twinkle Twinkle Little One**
While it stocks adorable clothes like herringbone vests (48) and newsboy caps ($24) - the must-haves at this upscale baby boutique are ultra-stylish items for the nursery or kids rooms. 2007 W. Belmont, (773) 472-3000; Twinkletwinklelittleone.com

**Urba Baby**
Family-owned and still in its infancy, Urba Baby is a growing business: owner Marti Goyal opened a second location last summer. She carries the must-have accessory for any urban baby - a "Made in Chicago" tee ($26). 1117 W. Armitage, (312) 622-2229; 1751 W. Division, (773) 728-2229; Urbababy.com

**Madison & Friends**
It stocks stylish kids' clothes in a fun environment, but M&F isn't just for little ones. Mom and dad can shop the downstairs Denim Lounge after finding outfits for their mini-me's. 43 E. Oak, (312) 642-6403; Madisonandfriends.com

**Psychobaby**
The Bob Dylan romper ($47) and 'Cute as Hell' one-piece ($26) are rock-star favorites, but you can create almost anything in the Custom Shop. And what parent can't relate to the boutique's hilariously honest name? 1630 N. Damen, (773) 772-2815; Psychobabyonline.com

**Preggers**
Opened by a mother and her daughters, Preggers carries everything from maternity wear to bibs and blankets. It's a boutique to stay with until baby grows big. 900 N. Michigan, (312) 943-6262; Preggersmaternity.com

**The Rock & Onesie**
Soft pants are a perfect gift for boys or girls. And don't forget to hit the sales area in the back.

-- Jessica Sedgwick

**Rowdy Sprout**
Bob Dylan romper, $47, and Freshly Baked Cupcake one-piece, $26, both at Psychobaby.

**Persnickety Lou Lou**
Top, $44 at Preggers.

**Twinkle Twinkle Little One**
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HYUNDAI ELANTRA COUPE POUNDS PAVEMENT IN STYLE

BY SUE MEAD
Motor Matters

Two, six, 40.

If Hyundai were playing the numbers, that would be a winner. The 2013 Elantra Coupe should win over buyers with its sleek two-door style, efficient six-speed gearbox and 40 miles per gallon highway fuel economy. On the outside, the Elantra Coupe is a sweet swoop of sophisticated design that borrows some cues from its four-door sibling, but has more edgy fog lamps and a tick more length. The headlamps and taillamps are sleek, jeweled slits angling toward the car's midsection.

Sedonaic-looking lines run across the side panels, punctuated by pronounced wheel arches front and rear. The back end is slightly higher than the front, which creates a speed look, along with an integrated deck lid spoiler on the SE trim, and chrome-tipped exhaust pipes.

The Hyundai Elantra Coupe is available in two trim levels: GS with the six-speed manual transmission and the SE priced at $19,745.

Under the hood is a 1.8-liter inline four-cylinder shared with the Elantra sedan; it delivers 148 horses and 131 pound-feet of torque. A six-speed manual transmission is standard; an automatic six-speed is available. Technologies such as electronic throttle control help boost responsiveness and fuel economy, which is 29 miles per gallon city/40 mpg highway with the manual transmission and 28/35 with the automatic.

On the road, it's clear this coupe was tuned for a sportier and firmer road feel than the sedan version. MacPherson strut front suspension, with coil springs and gas shock absorbers, is matched with a lightweight coupled torsion beam rear suspension design, creating steering stability.

We drove the SE version that was engineered with slightly different suspension geometry for an even sportier ride. Our drive included a variety of roads and different road surfaces, and we enjoyed the coupe's handling in the corners, with little body roll and the ability to cut in and out of traffic with ease.

We appreciated the gearing in the automatic transmission and the ability to manually shift gears using the Shifttronic system, but didn't get to try the manual. Notable features are crisp steering feel from the motor-driven power rack-and-pinion steering, and good brakes. Standards include stability control, four-wheel disc brakes with ABS, electronic brake force distribution and brake assist.

Aluminum pedals on the SE version add another sport touch. Although the coupe is designed to seat five, four passengers would be a smarter choice, especially for the climb into the back seats.

Inside, the coupe is sparse and modern looking, with a thoughtful layout and easy-to-access knobs and buttons. There is a collection of nice touches like standard heated seats, cruise control, air conditioning, power windows, a Bluetooth hands-free calling system with voice recognition, a tilting/telescoping steering wheel and deeper side bolsters for a more supportive driving experience.

The standard audio system is a 172-watt AM/FM/satellite radio/CD/MP3 setup with six-speakers and iPod/USB auxiliary input jacks. Touchscreen navigation is available; it includes a high-resolution, voice-activated seven-inch screen. The system also integrates a rearview camera.

Editor: Paul Kelma
Asst. Editor: Suzanne Witt
Director Automotive Advertising: Terry Boyle 312.321.2975

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Location is key. Streeterville includes some of Chicago's best restaurants. Residents can walk from 474 to a breakfast hotspot like Yolk, lunch at RL or dinner at the popular Purple Pig on Michigan Avenue. For gourmet groceries, Fox and Obel is located on the same block, while shopping on the Magnificent Mile is minutes away. Nearby are a 21-screen AMC theater and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre on Navy Pier.

The lakefront biking/hiking path is across the street, while the lakefront biking/hiking path is across the street. Millennium Park is also nearby. Visitors can enjoy Lurie Gardens and the Pritzker Pavilion's verdant lawn. The free concerts at the Pritzker Pavilion are an excellent way to enjoy live entertainment surrounded by the city's renowned skyline.

Living in Streeterville is convenient, whether a person is working, going to school or has retired. There are multiple public transit options and, for drivers, there is access to Lake Shore Drive and the expressways. For those who travel out of town, getting to Midway Airport from Streeterville via Lake Shore Drive is easy.

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474 also offers an indoor lap pool, a whirlpool spa and fitness center. Additionally, residents enjoy the convenience of a 24-hour doorman, a receiving room and a dry cleaner on-site.

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Summer Hires: How your Small Business Can Compete for College Hires

By: Emily Bennington, Monster Contributing Writer

The US Small Business Administration estimates that small businesses have created 64 percent of new jobs in the last decade. Yet it's sometimes easy to feel like a “small fry” with campus recruitment, particularly for seasonal hiring for summer.

If you want to keep college visits in your recruiting strategy, but don't have the hiring resources for “can't miss” spots in the career fair, what do you do? To find out, we asked the experts. While each had a different approach, they all agreed on one thing: There are plenty of great hires out there - IF you know how to look.

Step One: Broaden Your Horizon

It can cause a sinking feeling: your business is about to play second-fiddle on a certain campus. If so, turn your attention to places where you can be a bigger fish in a smaller pond. “I recommend that small and medium-sized businesses consider recruiting at institutions larger firms might ignore,” says Jennifer Jacoby, Associate Director of Career Services at Rollins College in Florida. “We go out of our way to recruit student applicants and make an on-campus career fair or interview day as smooth as possible for our employers.”

Jacoby adds that both the career center and the students are able to provide extra attention at her school, but many companies won't consider recruiting at colleges without many of the obvious majors desired by large employers. Still, Jacoby says the proof is in the applicant - and smaller schools are capable of holding their own. “I think businesses would be very pleased with the quality of student they find at an institution that's a little off the traditional beaten path.”

Step Two: “Get Guerilla”

“Small businesses that don't have the resources to compete with large organizations need to get guerilla in their approach,” says Brad Karsh, who founded career services company JobBound after 15 years in corporate recruiting. When he served as VP/Director of Talent Acquisition for Leo Burnett Advertising in Chicago, Karsh said he would seek opportunities to connect with students one-on-one, including classroom presentations and even letter campaigns. “We'd go to the president of campus student groups, from marketing clubs to fraternities and sororities, and ask them to recruit for us,” he says. “They'd not only give us the names of students we should talk to, but they would also send letters to those students on our behalf.”

Karsh said this personal touch enabled him to build relationships beyond the career fairs that resulted in many key hires.

Step Three: Sell Your Size as an Advantage

Sure the perks can be sweet, but not every career newbie is cut out for corporate life - and many aren't interested anyway. Janet Smith, President of Ivy Planning Group, conducted a series of focus groups recently to gauge student perception and interest in various industries.

To her surprise, more students were interested in working for small to mid-sized businesses than the big names. “Smaller companies have an advantage they just might be underestimating,” she says. “Fewer layers to access senior executives, an opportunity to take on more responsibility sooner, and perhaps some cynicism about 'big business' often represents the right combination for top talent graduates.”

Step Four: Make the Hiring Process Quick and Painless

Indeed, one thing many students have come to expect from “big business” are long wait times between initial meetings and a formal offer. Shawn Loutensock, Career Services Program Manager at Neumont University in Utah, says he has everyone from small companies to large, Fortune 500 businesses recruiting on campus - and the recruiting and offer process for small businesses is generally much quicker. “I find that many students tend to take the first offer they see, rather than holding out for something bigger or better,” he says.

In fact, Loutensock shared the story of a mid-sized company that came to his campus from Washington D.C. recently to fill a few positions. “They brought several reps and each interviewed a student 30 minutes each. Then, they took several students out to dinner.”

The result? “They had offers the next morning,” he says. Sometimes it pays to be nimble.
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In the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, County of

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VIRGINIO DI BELLENTINO, Plaintiff,

vs.

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The Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, County of

Judicial Sales-Realty Ests.

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Maude Maggart: Singing for the joy of it

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Maude Maggart was destined to be a singer.

"It was something that came naturally," the Los Angeles-based cabaret artist said. "When you find something that feels natural and enjoyable, you want more of it. That sort of translated into having a career in music."

The cabaret artist will share her joy of singing with local audiences when Northlight Theatre presents Maude Maggart in Concert, Saturday, April 20.

It's not surprising that Maggart's love of singing evolved into a career. Her musical roots go back two generations, starting with her grandmother, who starred in the "George White Scandals of 1926," and her grandfather, a vocalist with the Harry James Big Band. Her parents performed on Broadway and singer/songwriter Fiona Apple is her sister.

Maggart has enjoyed acclaim since she first began performing in her native New York. Her early career was helped because of the encouragement of two well-respected performers.

"I met Michael Feinstein and Andrea Marcovici, who were my two mentors, through a songwriter/lyricist named Marshall Barer, who was a good friend of my father's," Maggart related. She was 12 years old at the time. "I would attend with my father when Marshall Barer had soirees at his house," she recalled. "He had a baby grand white piano. Various people would get up and sing. That was fun to be a child sitting on a couch watching all of this."

Although she had known Feinstein and Marcovici since childhood, they didn't become her mentors until years later after Barer had died and the two singers heard Maggart perform one of Barer's songs at a memorial service for him.

"It sort of grew from there," Maggart said. "Both of them liked the way I sang and wanted to help guide me because I wasn't sure what kind of direction I wanted to take musically."

"They introduced me to their audiences in cabaret," she said.

It was a natural fit because Maggart always sings songs she likes and they tend to be ones from the Great American Songbook—favorites with cabaret audiences. Cabaret is a perfect fit for Maggart's talents and interests. "It's very intimate and there's a lot of breathing space," she said. "The kind of cabaret that I like is very subtle—not over the top. It's kind of a breath of fresh air to me to sing and listen to a simple song performed simply."

Maggart has performed at such prominent places as Feinstein's in Manhattan and the Colony Hotel in Palm Beach to rave reviews. For the Northlight performance, she plans to present some of her favorite stories and songs from past shows that she has created.

You can expect to hear a story about songwriter Marshall Barer. "He was really gifted and a very strange person. He makes for a wonderful storytelling subject," Maggart said. The singer will also share interesting facts she has culled through our research. "I like discovering little gems of musical history that not everyone is familiar with," she said.

Maggart's diverse song selection will range from such well known favorites as "You Go to My Head" to some lesser known gems like Irving Berlin's "Pack Up Your Sins and Go to the Devil."

This will be a quick trip to Chicago for Maggart so she only has plans to do one thing while she's here, she said: "Give a good show."
Test your crime-solving skills on 'Midnight Cruise'

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

A luxury cruise ship turns into the scene of a killing and every guest is a suspect in "Murder on the Midnight Cruise."

There's no "fourth wall" with Independent Stars Playhouse's dinner-theater production of Marge Weging's murder mystery. Audience members are also under suspicion because the guilty party is sitting somewhere in the dining room. Those who are innocent will have the opportunity to help solve the crime.

This is the second murder mystery that Elmwood Park resident Weging has written for the theater company. Her previous work, "Murder at the Comedy Club," was performed in 2011.

"We've done dinner theaters for the last couple of years," said Artistic Director Dominic Clemente Jr. of Elmwood Park, who directs the show. He reported that patrons particularly enjoyed Weging's last murder mystery.

For this show, Weging has created a colorful group of suspects, including a lounge singer, a cruise director, a retired businessman, the captain and the bursar. The passenger list also includes an older couple celebrating their anniversary, and a mother traveling with her stepdaughter. "They all have different motives," the playwright reported.

"The variety of characters will appeal to everyone," Clemente added.

When the murder occurs, the passengers are gathered in the dining room for dinner. "There just happens to be two detectives on the cruise," the director related. They begin questioning the people onboard. "All the characters have something to do with each other," Clemente said. "There's a reason for each character to want to kill the person that dies."

Audience members won't initially realize who is under suspicion. "All the actors are going to be mingling with the crowd," Clemente explained. "You won't even know who the actors are until we start getting into the show. That's what makes it fun. You don't know if you're sitting with a cast member or not."

After all the facts are revealed, the audience will vote to determine who dunit. "Then, on the spot, the detectives have to put together the reasoning behind why they did it," Weging said.

Weging praised the cast, noting, "although the backstories are very, very detailed, they also have some room for improv."

"There are main plot points that we'll hit," Clemente said. "But everything in the middle is going to be made up by the audience's reactions."

Cast members include Reen Bernasor (River Grove), Joe Cadena (Niles), Ross Epping (River Grove), Jimmy and Kevin Kaucher (Oak Park), Brian McGee (Norridge), Mary Muckle (Chicago), Cassidy Nordstrom (Forest Park), Ann and Katherine Schury (Chicago), Jackie Staszak (Franklin Park) and Andrew Williams (Oak Park).

Because the show is so dependent on improvisation, there were only two rehearsals. At the first rehearsal, the director talked through each character's background story with the cast members and they decided how the characters would relate to each other. At the second rehearsal, the cast worked on the "fine points" of the story, Clemente explained. "There are five or six major plot points that we want to hit to help the audience judge who they think the murderer is."

The show is a fundraiser but Clemente added that another goal of presenting it is "to get as many audience members involved as we can."

That's why everybody gets to play detective.
'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof' will be performed April 11-14 and 18-21 at Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. Call (847) 635-1900.


'Built Out of a Box: Mail Order Homes in Park Ridge' is on display to June 2 at Iannelli Studios Heritage Center in Park Ridge. A talk and housewalk is at 1 p.m. April 14. Kalofoundation.org.

Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra performs a pops concert, 'Space Cowboys,' at 3 p.m. April 14 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. See svso.org.

Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players presents 'Brahms, Beethoven, Bartok' at 3 p.m. April 14 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge. See chicagophilharmonic.org.
The Bach Week Festival turns 40 in Evanston this month and is showing new signs of life and vigor, including the first foray south of Howard Street for the celebration of the monumental composer.

The festival continues under the direction of organist Richard Webster, who worked on and performed in the inaugural festival in 1974 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Evanston, while a music student at Northwestern University, and has been the festival's director since 1975. As is traditional, the concerts feature musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Lyric Opera Orchestra, as well as players from first-rate ensembles in the Chicago area.

Guest artist for April 19 and 21 is award-winning pianist Sergei Babayan from the Cleveland Institute of Music, who will perform on the Hamburg Steinway grand piano at Nichols Concert Hall. He studied with Helmuth Rilling, a world-renowned authority on the music of J.S. Bach.

"Bach has such a large embrace," Webster said. "His music can be played on modern instruments, and Babayan is an amazing pianist."

Babayan and the Bach Week Festival string players will open the 7:30 p.m. April 19 concert with Bach's Concerto No. 1 in D Minor and Concerto No. 5 in F Minor.

Bach's cantata "Himmelskonig, sei willkommen" will be presented with the Bach Week Festival Chorus and Orchestra conducted by Webster. Soloists include festival favorite Emily Lodine, mezzo-soprano; Hoss Brack, tenor, and Douglas Anderson, bass.
Bach Week Festival

7:30 and 10 p.m. April 19; 3 p.m. April 21
Music Institute of Chicago, 1400 Chicago Ave., Evanston
2:30 p.m. May 5, Anderson Chapel, North Park University, 5149 N. Spaulding Ave., Chicago
$30, $20 seniors, $10 students and children.
800-595-4849; www.bachweek.org

Events has always been at least one candlelight concert at 10 p.m. and this year is no exception. On opening night harpsichordist Jason Moy will give a 45-minute program, titled "Bach, Couperin and the German Art de Toucher le Clavizin."

"I will be playing music by three members of the Couperin family who were renowned for their expressive harpsichord playing, and whose art Bach and his German contemporaries revered and emulated," Moy explained.

The 3 p.m. April 21 performance marks a confluence of important milestones. In addition to Bach Week's 40th season, it is also the 10th anniversary of the Music Institute's Nichols Concert Hall as well as the city of Evanston's 150th birthday.

This coincidence was noted by Fiona Queen, director of performance activities at Nichols Concert Hall, who also serves as operations manager for Bach Week. "Last year, when it came to my attention that these three anniversaries were going to coincide, I suggested that the Bach Week Festival partner with the Music Institute of Chicago to bring in world-acclaimed pianist Sergei Babayan to perform Bach's 'Goldberg Variations,"' Queen said. "I was delighted that Evanston 150 also embraced the idea of a triple-anniversary celebration concert."

Babayan will also play Franz Liszt's powerful Ballade No. 2 in B Minor and Olivier Messiaen's meditative "Premiere communion de le Vierge" from the composer's "Vingt Regards sur L'Enfant-Jesus."

"Going into the city for our third concert on May 5 is a big step," said Webster, who left St. Luke's and is now music director of historic Trinity Church in Boston. "But North Park is thrilled to have us there."

The connection sparkles with kismet. "North Park just appointed a new Dean of Music, Craig Johnson," he continued, "and he and I were college roommates at Northwestern. Plus I was best man at his wedding, so we are longtime friends."

Director of Choral Activities at the university is Julia Davids, who is also director of the Evanston-based North Shore Choral Society. Her 20-voice North Park University Chamber Singers will sing Bach's 'Magnificat in D' with the Bach Week Festival Chorus, an ad hoc 30-voice ensemble auditioned annually for the spring concerts. "We had our first rehearsal recently," Webster said, "and it was a love-fest. We are keeping each other on our toes."
Ah, those days of yore when people flung cows over walls and knights dreamed of being on Broadway.


Jedlicka Performing Arts Center is staging the hilarious show, with book and lyrics by Eric Idle, music by John Du Prez and Eric Idle, and which is packed with Broadway musical theater references and silliness. Dante J. Orfei directs.

As in the movie on which it is based, "Spamalot" follows the quest of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table to find the Holy Grail. Naperville native Brett Baleskie plays the most celebrated knight of all, Sir Lancelot. "In the beginning, he's like a big brutish male," the actor said. "In the script he's described as the homicidal, bloodthirsty knight. Then he learns a lot about himself during the show."

Monty Python fan, saw the pre-Broadway tour of "Spamalot" in 2004 on a high school field trip. "It's my kind of humor, very slapstick, very dry," he said.

Northbrook resident Daniel Ermel plays the cowardly Sir Robin. "In this musical of knights and swords, I'm very afraid of anything regarding that kind of thing," Ermel noted.

Sir Robin prefers musical theater over knightly pursuits. "I sing a song called, 'You Won't Succeed on Broadway.' It's about trying to explain to King Arthur what you need in order to have a successful Broadway show," Ermel said, coyly adding, "I won't give away any more than that. It's a very entertaining song with a lot of spectacle."

Christopher Pazdernik's choreography is "challenging but fun," Ermel reported. The dialogue came more easily to him because he is a long-time fan of the source film. "I watched that movie like crazy when I was younger," he explained.

Playing a larger-than-life character is no stretch for the Carthage College music theater graduate. He has been performing in children's theater for the last year-and-a-half, working with Chicago Kids Company and touring with Madcap Puppets. In addition, he serves as music director of Wishing Star Theatre in Libertyville.

Morton Grove native Steve Malone plays King Arthur's sidekick Patsy. "It's a very active role," Malone said. "I have to tap dance. I get hit with a flying cow." He also sings a great song, "Always Look on The Bright Side of Life."

The actor said that Patsy is "almost like a son to King Arthur - even though the age difference is the exact opposite. I'm 25 years older than the person playing King Arthur."

Malone began doing shows in seventh grade and appeared in every production at Niles North High School. He continued doing theater at Indiana University, even though it wasn't his major. Malone, who earned an MBA from Northwestern University, worked in television advertising sales for years, then ran a boarding place for dogs and, about 10 years ago, switched to real estate sales. That's about the same time he returned to theater. "Spamalot" is Malone's 75th show.

"The whole thing about the show is that it's all in the details," Malone said. "You have to listen very closely. I've been telling friends and family you might want to come a second time."

Buffalo Grove native Andrew Sickel, who graduated from Elmhurst College in February, plays a variety of roles in the show. "It's a lot of fun because I get a lot of opportunities to work with more of an improv comedy style of acting," he said.

Sickel's main character, the flamboyant Prince Herbert, doesn't appear until act two. But the actor is busy from the beginning of the musical, opening the show as the Historian. "He's like a witty British professor who narrates the show," Sickel explained. "Jumping back and forth into his costume from other costumes to narrate is a lot of fun."

He also plays a French guard. "I do get to hop between accents," Sickel said. "And it's Monty Python, so you get to purposely sound unauthentic to the accent."
Vivid tale of love and fear in ‘Yellow Moon’

BY CATEY SULLIVAN | Contributor

With its heightened, lyrical language, Scottish Highlands setting and young-outlaws-on-the-run plot, David Greig’s “Yellow Moon” reads like an impressionistic version of “Bonnie and Clyde.”

But despite the wide-open landscape of the richly poetical piece, “Yellow Moon” is ideally suited to the spare blackbox intimacy of Writers’ Theatre’s Books on Vernon space. So notes Stuart Carden, who is directing Writers’ back-of-the-bookstore production opening in previews April 16. “This is one of those pieces that would really suffer in a large space,” Carden said.

“Yellow Moon” is a four-person drama that traces the troubled adventures of Lelia and Lee, two teens on the lam from desperately unhappy homes and the violence that alters their fates forever. “There’s a narrative aspect to the script that makes the audience complicit in the storytelling and the actions. You make the audience complicit and you raise the level of intensity,” he said.

The story centers on Lee (Josh Salt, a theater major at Columbia University last seen in the Goodman Theatre’s “Teddy Ferrara”) and the luminously understated Leila (Ashleigh LaThrop, last seen in Lookingglass Theatre’s splendid “Metamorphoses”). Both troubled teens seek to escape their stifling hometowns and yearn for something elusive that only gains definition as they travel.

The drama also features John Lister and Karen Janes Woditsch.

Part coming-of-age saga and part quest, “Yellow Moon” is propelled by love and fear in a journey through mountains and mansions, car chases, snow storms and midnight swims. “It was so powerful to me. It set my teeth on edge the first time I read it,” said Salt.

Carden intends to draw audiences into the couple’s world with minimalist design that highlights the gorgeous language. Lighting will be straightforward, the set will be stark. “There’s no differentiation between the way the audience and the way the stage is lit,” said Carden, “The connection with the audience is primal. We need to see them as much as they need to see us.”
A screening room remembrance of
Roger Ebert

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

Over the years, people often have asked me how I'm able to see films and write about them before they're released.

When I explain that there's a screening room downtown for reviewers, they often have a follow-up question: Do you see Roger Ebert there? Sometimes, back in the day, they'd ask about Siskel and Ebert. More often, though, it was just Roger, whose death last week after his long battle with cancer, inspired an outpouring of appreciation. I believe that's because there was something about him that made Roger almost synonymous with movies in the minds of many people. And that's not just because TV made him famous.

It didn't hurt that he was a brilliant writer with a particular talent for making critics' reviews clear, direct and memorable or that he had written virtually every major film released worldwide since 1962. Over time, he became an authority on film, not just another pundit with an opinion. But I think the real reason people related so well to Roger as a

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reviewer is that he obviously loved movies himself and took them seriously.

That was certainly borne out by his behavior in the screening room. During the more than 20 years I saw him there, I never witnessed him making a snide, cynical or movie-weary remark — a not uncommon trait among people who see three or four hundred films a year, as Roger did for decades.

You could chalk that up to professionalism, I suppose, but there was something else I noticed about Roger in the screening room that can only be explained by his being, essentially, a good and decent guy. When I started going there as a Variety staffer in the late '80s, "At the Movies" was at the height of its popularity and movie studios often scheduled private screenings for Siskel and Ebert. It was generally understood, though, that if other reviewers happened to be there when one was about to begin, the door was open.

That's a policy I always associated with Roger because he had a collegial attitude toward the other reviewers in Chicago. I think that's because he was at heart a journalist of the old school and a Chicago newspaperman in particular. Despite his great success, his manner always gave the impression that he considered himself, on some level, as a guy working a beat, just like everyone else.

I saw a lot to admire and respect about Roger over the years but, even so, I wasn't prepared for the courage he displayed when his long battle with cancer took a serious turn for the worst in 2006. A lot of people might have given up in that situation or withdrawn, at least, to try to cope in private. But Roger kept on working, kept on doing what he loved, even as his illness grew more and more debilitating. Physically debilitating, that is. His mind, as evidenced by his writing, and his spirit only seemed to grow stronger.

And he kept writing right up until the end — with his final review being a three-and-a-half star review of Terrence Malick's "To the Wonder." Things aren't going to be the same after Roger's passing, certainly not in the screening room where he sat in the same seat — an aisle seat, of course, in the back row — for movie after movie after movie. He'll be remembered, though, for his bravery as well as his brilliance and the daunting professional standard he set.

I'm sure there'll never be a time when I tell people about the screening room that they'll stop asking, "Did you see Roger Ebert there?"
Good eating, day to day from Curtis Stone

BY TOM WITOM | Contributor

Recent fatherhood has added a new perspective to the already busy life of chef, cookbook author and food show host Curtis Stone. "Since becoming a dad, I feel like my life went through a real transformation," said Stone.

Because the arrival of a newborn son made a hectic schedule even more so, he explained, "It brought home an understanding of the added challenges a home cook — mom or dad — faces in order to put a homemade meal on the table.

Stone, who will be at Barnes & Noble in Old Orchard, Skokie, at 7 p.m. April 18 for a book signing, said the collection of recipes in his new book, What's for Dinner? (Ballantine Books), addresses challenges cooks typically face day by day. Each chapter focuses on a different proposition.

"Motivating Monday," for example, is designed to start the week on a solid footing with well-balanced, healthy meal recipes. "Time-Saving Tuesday" responds to the time crush all are under and includes recipes requiring a maximum of 15 to 30 minutes' preparation. "One-Pot Wednesday" recipes minimize cleanup, while "Thrifty Thursday" relates to budget-conscious cooking by focusing on dinners costing $10 or less.

Other themes include "Five-Ingredient Fridays," "Dinner Party Saturdays" and "Family Supper Sundays."

What's for Dinner? is Stone's fifth cookbook, and presents more than 130 "all-new" recipes, including the author's vegetable lasagna. "It's relatively easy to make — but so good. Everyone that I have served it to, vegetarian and non-vegetarian alike, has said they love it," said Stone.

Another popular dish, Turkey Meatballs with Marinara Sauce, makes meatballs "so juicy and satisfying you won't need pasta," Stone writes in his book.

For saving time, Stone recommends the mise en place approach of lining up all the ingredients and equipment needed. "That way of visualizing everything, I think, will make for a more efficient cooking experience," he said.

Another suggestion is to choose a recipe to suit one's schedule. With 20 minutes till dinner on the table, don't tackle something complicated.

What about would-be cooks who hesitate to try a new recipe, ingredient or technique?

"The important thing when starting out cooking is just that: to get started," said Stone. "The more that you do, the more comfortable you will feel. If you start with simple recipes that are going to make your life a little easier and do the same ones a couple of times, you'll master them and they will become part of your repertoire."
Sharks will circle Park Ridge library event

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

We are more dangerous to sharks than they are to us. That's one fact families will learn when deep sea diver Deanna LaSusa-Hotchner presents Great White Sharks: Defanging the Myths, 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 21 at Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave.

"So many people are afraid of sharks and don't want to go into the ocean because they're fearful that they're going to be eaten," LaSusa-Hotchner said. "The reality is that in the past decade 90 percent of the shark population has been decimated. I consider myself lucky when I'm scuba diving if I'm able to see a shark."

LaSusa-Hotchner will speak about the shark's anatomy, natural behavior, adaptations and threats it faces. The diver considers the most important part of her presentation explaining, "What people can do in their day-to-day lives to help our oceans."

The show will be interactive because, "Children like to share what they know," LaSusa-Hotchner said. Reservations are required. For details, call (847) 825-3123 or go to www.parkridgelibrary.org.

PEACH OF A SHOW

An enormous piece of fruit helps an orphaned boy escape from his two horrid aunts in "James and the Giant Peach." A musical version of Roald Dahl's classic book will be presented by American Eagle Productions, 3 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 14 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Pick up free tickets starting at 2:30 p.m. that day.

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

Deep sea diver Deanna LaSusa-Hotchner will give a presentation on Great White Sharks.

UP CLOSE WITH ANIMALS

Kids will be entertained and educated during Mammals and More, 2 p.m. Sunday, April 14 at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. The Flying Fox Conservatory will present some unique creatures from around the world.

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

STAR QUALITY

Your kids might spend more time practicing on their musical instruments, dancing or singing if you bring them to the Honors Performing Arts Showcase, 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 14 at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. This is the fifth year that the library has honored young artists. For details, call (847) 965-4220 or go to www.mgpl.org.

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD

Maybe Rumpelstiltskin isn't as bad as your kids were led to believe. Author Liesl Shurtliff shares her take on the fairy tale when she reads, "The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin," 6 p.m. Monday, April 15 at the Village Crossing Shopping Center Barnes & Noble, 5405 Touhy Ave., Skokie.

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

**EVIL DEAD**

**Rated**
PG-13 for thematic elements including language

**Stars**
Chadwick Boseman, Harrison Ford, Nicole Beharie

Brooklyn Dodgers headman Branch Rickey (Ford) turns the world of baseball upside down when he breaks down the color barrier by hiring Jackie Robinson (Boseman), the first African-American to play in the major leagues. Brian Helgeland ("L.A. Confidential") wrote and directed the drama.

**THE COMPANY YOU KEEP**

**Rated**
R for language and some drug content

**Stars**
Robert Redford, Shia LaBeouf, Susan Sarandon, Julie Christie, Nick Nolte

An art auctioneer who has come to support his lover and her life, an ambitious married woman (Ronan) who gets the news that her girlfriend is pregnant at the same time hundreds of offspring from his days as a paid sperm donor are filing a lawsuit to learn his identity. Andrew Niccol ("Gattaca") co-wrote and directed the sci-fi thriller based on a novel by Stephenie Meyer ("Twilight").

**STILL PLAYING**

**JURASSIC PARK 3D**

**Rated**
Rated PG-13 for intense science fiction terror

**Stars**
Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Richard Attenborough

Steven Spielberg's 1993 smash about genetically cloned dinosaurs running amok in a paleolithic theme park returns — in three-dimensional dimensions.

**THE PLACE BEYOND THE PINES**

**Rated**
R for language throughout, some violence, teen drug and alcohol use, and a sexual reference

**Stars**
Ryan Gosling, Eva Mendes, Bradley Cooper

A daredevil motorcyclist (Gosling) turns to crime to support his lover and their baby and runs into a collision course with an ambitious rookie detective (Cooper). Derek Cianfrance ("Blue Valentine") wrote and directed the drama.

**G.I. JOE: RETALIATION**

**Rated**
PG-13 for intense sequences of combat violence and martial arts action throughout, and for brief sensuality and language

**Stars**
Channing Tatum, Dwayne Johnson, Ray Park

The G.I. Joes are challenged again by their mortal enemy, Cobra, while contending with threats from inside the government. Jon M. Chu ("Step Up 2: The Streets") directed the action adventure.

**THE HOST**

**Rated**
PG-13 for some sensuality and violence

**Stars**
Diane Kruger, Saoirse Ronan, William Hurt

A young woman (Ronan) contends with an invasion of aliens who take over the bodies of humans and erase their memories. Andrew Niccol ("Gattaca") co-wrote and directed the action thriller.

**TYLER PERRY'S TEMPTATION**

**Rated**
PG-13 for some violence, sexuality and drug content

**Stars**
Jurnee Smollett-Bell, Lance Gross, Vanessa Williams, Kim Kardashian

An ambitious married woman (Smollett-Bell) begins an affair with a billionaire (Robbie Jones) that threatens to ruin her life.

**ADMISSION**

**Rated**
PG-13 for language and some sexual material

**Stars**
Tina Fey, Paul Rudd, Michael Sheen, Lily Tomlin, Wallace Shawn

Tina Fey fans are likely to be at least a bit disappointed by the mismatched moods and modest laughs in this so-so romantic dramedy. Fey is likeable as workaholic Princeton admissions officer Portia, who gets blindsided when she meets former college classmate John (Rudd), who's now the founder of a very non-Ivy League alternative high school. John introduces her to Jeremiah, an off-the-charts brilliant autodidact student, and then informs her she's the baby she gave up for adoption and hoping to study at Princeton. Naturally, that dilemma causes tighty-wound Portia to unravel as she attempts to pull strings in a way that jeopardizes her career. There's nothing wrong with the way that's handled, but it stands in ongoing awkward contrast to the film's light comic touches and Portia and John's genre-mandated, but less than credibly motivated, romance. That doesn't mean "Admission" isn't worth watching. It only means that it doesn't quite live up to its full potential. If it were a prospective college student, it wouldn't be Princeton material.
Movie Review

Robinson bio ‘42’ scores a solid hit

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Contributor

“42”

It’s been awhile since we were offered a good, on-the-field baseball movie, not to mention one that also switch-hits as an inspirational drama, and “42” scores on both those fronts.

Just don’t expect to see anything particularly flashy, either on the diamond or in the script.

Written and directed by Brian Helgeland (“A Knight’s Tale”), “42” tells the story of Jackie Robinson (TV actor Chadwick Boseman in a breakout role), Major League Baseball’s first African-American player — who bore the brunt of racial hatred for breaking the color barrier and became an early symbol of racial equality in America. And, though it might seem anti-climactic to mention it, Robinson enjoyed an exceptional 10-year career ultimately leading to a spot in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

In the opening scene of “42,” however, Robinson is just an ideological/financial gleam in the eye of Brooklyn Dodgers general manager Branch Rickey (Harrison Ford, almost unrecognizable in a fat suit and facial prosthetics), who announces his plan to recruit a non-white player for the Dodgers. Brushing aside the consternation of underlings who predict dire consequences, Rickey points out that African-American fans buy tickets too and says, “Dollars aren’t black and white; they’re green.”

Eventually, the crusty, cantankerous Rickey is revealed to have a moral motivation for his decision (not much of a surprise, given his frequently stated religious beliefs), but he’s a secondary figure, appearing only when his new player needs backup. “42” is Robinson’s story and Boseman does an admirable job playing the reluctant hero, a quick-tempered sort who initially signs on, despite Rickey’s stipulation that he must “have the guts not to fight back,” so he can use the major-league paycheck to marry his fiancée Rachel (Nicole Beharie).

Rickey’s plan is for him to succeed by exhibiting sterling character and “conspicuous” skills on the field, and that’s the way the rest of “42” plays out. Virulent, beady-eyed racists pop up here and there (such as Alan Tudyk as Philadelphia Phillies manager Ben Chapman), and Robinson must overcome their taunts by playing outstanding baseball.

The pace lags occasionally and Helgeland overdoes the sentimentality from time to time (to the tune of an overbearing score by Mark Isham), but the baseball sequences are always effective — and it helps, of course, that Robinson’s story is well worth the telling.
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THIS WEEKEND & BEYOND

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

STAGE

"Aspects of Love"


"Blithe Spirit"

Presented by Piccolo Theatre through May 11 at the Evanston Arts Depot, 600 Main St., Evanston, at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays. $25; $22 seniors; $15 students. Visit www.piccoloteatre.com.

"Everything is Illuminated"

Presented by Next Theatre through April 14 at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. $30-$40; $15-$20 young adult and students. Visit www.nexttheatre.org.

"Fame — The Musical"


"Hauptmann"

Presented by BoHo Theatre through April 21 at The Heartland Studio, 7016 N. Glenwood Ave, Chicago (Rogers Park). Curtain at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Sundays. $20. Call (866) 811-4111 or visit www.BoHoTheatre.com.

"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; $15 students. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org.

"Vigils"

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

"Bougainvillea" is among paintings by Peter Bialecki that are on exhibit through April 30 in the Village of Lincolnwood's art gallery at Village Hall, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Visit www.lincolnwoodil.org/artgallery.cfm.

"Fame - The Musical"


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"Shakespeare Project of Chicago"

Presenting a theatrical reading of "The Reign of King Edward III" at 7 p.m. April 19 at the Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. Introduction starts at 6:45 p.m. Call (847) 663-6405 or visit www.nileslibrary.org.

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CLASSICAL

Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra

13- 18
Performing at 3 p.m. April 28 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. $36-$75, with discounts for seniors and youth. Visit www.arsviva.org.

Chicago a cappella


Chicago Chamber Choir

"Burst Out Singing!" 7:30 p.m. April 13 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1509 Ridge Ave., Evanston. The program includes the music of J.S. Bach, Leonard Bernstein and others. $18 in advance; $20 at the door; $15 students. Visit www.chicagochamberchoir.org.

Chicago Philharmonic

"Nordic Romance," 7 p.m. April 21 at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. The program includes works by Grieg and Sibelius. $25-$75. Call (847) 866-6888 or visit www.chicagophilharmonic.org.

What to Do [Page 58]
Lutkin Hall
18
At Northwestern University, 700 University Place, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. April 20, 7:30 p.m.: Britten and Lutoslawski Centennial Celebration, with soloists Kurt Hansen and Theresa Brancaccio. $8; $5 students.

Pick-Staiger Concert Hall
13-18, 65*
At Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. www.pickstager.org. April 13, 7:30 p.m.: Brazilian guitar virtuoso Sergio and Odair Assad join Cuban clarinetist Paquito D’Rivera for a program of tangos, sambas and boleros. $28; $12 students. April 14, 3 p.m.: Bienen Contemporary/Early Vocal Ensemble performs Le Jeune’s “Reflections on the Vanity and Inconstancy of the World.” $6; $4 students. April 19, 7:30 p.m.: Symphonic Wind Ensemble performs works by Bach and von Weber. $6; $4 students.

Regenstein Recital Hall
18*
At Northwestern University, 60 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. April 17, 7:30 p.m.: Small Jazz Ensembles present a tribute to Dave Brubeck. $6; $4 students.

North Shore Concert Band
13-18, 65*
“American Emblems,” 3 p.m. April 21 at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. $18; $13 seniors; $7 students and children. Visit www.northshoreband.org.

Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, 28 dom,” 2:30 p.m.

Music Institute of Chicago
Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. www.musicinst.org. April 12, 7:30 p.m.: Pianist Abraham Stokman plays works of Bach, Brahms, Ravel and others. $20; $15 seniors; $10 students.

Northside Concert Band
13-18, 65*
“A Journey to Freedom,” 2:30 p.m. April 28 at the Pickwick Theatre, S. S. Prospect, Park Ridge. The program includes Mahler’s “Songs of a Wayfarer” and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9. $25; $20 students and seniors. Visit www.parkridgecivicorchester.org.

Bluegrass Legends Concerts
13-18, 65*
Held at the American Legion Music Hall, 1030 Central St., Evanston. www.chicagobluegrass.com. $20; $15 for children 16 and under and seniors. April 27, 8 p.m.: Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers.

Ethical Humanist Society Second Saturday Coffeehouse
13-18
7574 N. Lincoln Ave. (at Howard), Skokie. (847) 677-3334. www.ethicalhuman.org/coffeehouse. April 13, 8 p.m.: Folksinger/songwriter/activist Kristin Lems in a spring concert of her traditional and original songs. $8.

Gorilla Tango’s Skokie Theatre
18*

Hanging Gardens Banquets
13-18*
8301 W. Belmont Ave., River Grove. (708) 456-2900. April 23, 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. The Ridgewood High School jazz band opens. $10.

The Lakeside Singers
18*, 65*
“Home Grown,” music by George Gershwin, Aaron Copland and others. 8 p.m. April 26 at the Music Institute of Chicago’s Nichols Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. $30; $20 students and seniors; $10 children under 12. www.lakesidesingers.com.

Lincolnwood Public Library
4000 W. Pratt Ave. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. April 21, 2 p.m.: Tropixplosion presents Caribbean music.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts
18*
9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.northshorecenter.org. April 16, 7:30 p.m.: Aaron Neville. $65, $75. April 18, 8 p.m.: David.

Sanborn Trio (R&B/jazz), $39-$65.

Pick-Staiger Concert Hall
18*
At Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. www.pickstager.org. April 12, 7:30 p.m.: The Asphalt Monument, a 12-member street and marching band, will perform its indoor program, “Unpack the Elephant.” $18; $10 students.

Regenstein Recital Hall
18*
At Northwestern University, 60 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. April 17, 7:30 p.m.: Small Jazz Ensembles present a tribute to Dave Brubeck. $6; $4 students.

Smooth Jazz Chicago
18*
Hosting events at the InterContinental Chicago O’Hare Hotel, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets at www.smoothchicago.com.

S.P.A.C.E.

ARPEGGIO
901 N. River Road, Skokie. Tickets at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000. April 27, 7:30 p.m.: ARBPA the Concert, a tribute to ABBA featuring Waterloo the band. $30, $35, $45.
Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre

Seeking shows for the spring and summer. All-inclusive producing deal includes all infrastructure free of charge, including audition and rehearsal space, performance space, box office, online ticketing, basic marketing. Visit www.gorillatango.com and click on "Producers" to learn more about producing a show at the theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie.

American Society of Artists

Seeking artists and crafts artists to jury to participate in the Arts & Crafts Adventure show, to be presented May 11 in Hodges Park, Park Ridge. Visit www.americansocietyofartists.org or call (847) 991-4748.

Mount Prospect Historical Society

Hosting its "History in the Headlines" fundraiser at 6 p.m. April 20 at Rob Roy Golf Course Clubhouse, 505 E. Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, featuring two inaugural meals from the Lincoln White House. Patrons are encouraged to attend in period dress. Ticket options are the $25 "First Inaugural" menu and the $75 "Second Inaugural" menu. Visit www.mtphist.org or call (847) 392-9006.

Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra


Philharmonic Chamber Players

Brahms, Beethoven, Bartók
Sunday, April 14 at 3 p.m.
St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Park Ridge
Brahms Trio for Clarinet, Cello and Piano in A minor
Bartók Contrasts for Clarinet, Violin and Piano
Beethoven Piano Trio in E-flat Major, Opus 70, No. 2
Kari Davies, Violin; Margaret Daty, Cello; John Goodwin, Piano; Wagner Campos, Clarinet

Tickets $10-20. Students are free.
205 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge
(866) 811-4111
www.chicagophilharmonic.org

BOOKS & POETRY

Barnes & Noble

55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. (847) 676-2230. www.bn.com. April 18, 7 p.m.: Curtis Stone discusses and signs What's for Dinner? Special event rules will apply. April 19, 7 p.m.: Tattoo artist Kat Von D signs Go Big or Go Home. Special event rules will apply. April 26, 7 p.m.: Susanna Calkins discusses and signs Murder at Rosamund's Gate.

Mount Prospect Public Library

10 S. Emerson St., Mount Prospect. (847) 253-5675. April 12-14: Mount Prospect Friends of the Library spring book sale. Friday, 6:30-9:30 p.m., members only night, with $5 memberships available at the door. General public sale 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday.

Lincolnwood Public Library

4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. April 15, 3:30 p.m.: Kid Flick - "Wreck-It Ralph."

Zanies Comedy Club


CHILD'S PLAY

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre

7924 Lincoln Ave. Skokie. www.gorillatango.com. April 20, 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., and April 21, 1:30 p.m.: "We Are Monsters," produced by Broadway, Our Way. $12.

"Alice in Wonderland"

Presented by Salt Creek Ballet at 2 p.m. April 20-21 at the North

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What to Do
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Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. $26-$52; $20-$25 for children under 12. Mad Hatter's Crazy Tea Party, 12:30-1:30 p.m. April 20 in the lobby, $10 per child; $5 per adult (performance tickets are additional). Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northshorecenter.org.

Happy Twirlers
Ballroom dancing for all ages at 7 p.m. the second Saturday of the month, through May, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 855 Lee St., Des Plaines. $6 per guest. Call (773) 685-8407.

Intergenerational dance performance
“We Hope, Conspire” will be presented at 3 p.m. April 13-14 at Norwood Crossing, 6016-20 N. Nina Ave., Chicago. Free. Call (773) 577-5326 or e-mail info@norwoodcrossing.org.

Nordic Romance
Sunday, April 21, 7 p.m. @ Pick-Staiger
David Perry, Violin, Leader
Scott Speck, Host
Grieg Two Lyrical Pieces
Sibelius “En Saga” A Recreation of Original
Grieg Holberg Suite from Holberg’s Time
Svendsen Romance for Solo Violin
Nordic Romance

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts
April 27, 7:30 p.m.: DanceWorks Chicago and Sons of the Never Wrong. $20, $26, $32.

Polynesian Paradise Dancers
18+ 65+
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
18+ 65+
Ballroom dancing for all ages at 8 p.m. Fridays at the American Legion, 9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park. $10; $8 members. Call (773) 961-7525 or visit www.ballroomchicago.com/youngatheartclub.htm.

FILM
“Crossed Swords” (1938)

Screening and discussion of the documentary “Refuge: Stories of the Selfhelp Home,” a film focusing on local Holocaust survivors, in Room P103. Free. E-mail jewishstudies@oakton.edu.

“Star Trek: The Next Generation — The Best of Both Worlds” 18+
Screened at 7 p.m. April 25 at Niles 12, 301 Golf Mill Center, Niles and Randhurst Village 12, 200 Randhurst Village Drive, Mount Prospect. Visit www.FathomEvents.com.

LECTURES
Gorilla Tango’s Skokie Theatre
18+ 65+
7924 Lincoln Ave, Skokie. www.gorillatango.com. April 24, 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.: “The Creation of ‘Oklahoma’” a multimedia presentation by theater historian Charles Troy. $12 in advance; $14 at the door.

ORGANIZATIONS
International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 43
18+
Meeting at 7:30 p.m. April 17 in the auditorium at Saint Francis Hospital, 355 Ridge Ave, Evanston. Wood.
Aragon, award-winning Spanish magician, will perform and teach. Guests $20 which can be applied to membership. For information, visit www.ring43.org.

Skokie Photographic Society

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

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Niles Public Library

6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405. www.nileslibrary.org. April 15, 7 p.m.: Writers' Roundtable, a writing group that provides feedback, inspiration and support.

ET CETERA

“Brush with Nature”

A free plein air painting demonstration will take place 11 a.m.-3 p.m. April 20 at the Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel Ave., Skokie. More than 50 professional artists will set up their easels and paint along the nature center's walking paths. The first 25 visitors will receive a free mini canvas and various art supplies to start their own outdoor plein air painting experience. Open to all ages. Visit www.brushwithnature.org.

“Fools Tango Two”

Puppet and mask performance for adults, 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, through May 11, at Theatre Zarko, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. No performances April 13-14. Tickets are $20. Call (847) 350-9275 or visit www.theatrezarko.org.

Oakton Community College

1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. April 13, 1-7 p.m.: "Creating Justice: A Celebration of Art and Activism," a free event highlighting the connection between social justice issues, music, film, the visual arts and more. To register or for more information, contact Mohamed Mehdi at mmehdi@oakton.edu.

MUSEUMS

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center


April 14, 2 p.m.: Artifact Talk: Rescue and Renewal — The Jewish Cultural Reconstruction Collection of the Hebrew Theological College. Grace Cohen Grossman will detail the JCR's task at the end of World War II to identify looted, "heirless" Jewish ceremonial objects and books, and to reclaim them for the Jewish people. Free with museum admission; reservations required.

Iannelli Studios Heritage Center

255 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. (847) 261-4595. www.kalamfoundation.org. April 14, 1 p.m.: Opening of a new exhibit, "Built Out of a Box: Mail Order Homes in Park Ridge." Park Ridge researcher Annie Eriksson will give a presentation on Sears and other catalogue houses, followed by a housewalk. $15. The exhibit will be on display through June 2.

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Friday, April 19th vs. Purdue
1:30 p.m. - Vandy Christie Tennis Center

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NO. 4 NORTHWESTERN VS.
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VS. NO. 10 STANFORD
Sunday, April 14
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Postgame Autographs

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“Maybe it’s time we hang the help wanted sign”
Fenwick alumnus Chris Wendt, a junior defender on the UCLA men's water polo team, recently earned Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches All-Academic honors.

To be eligible for the all-academic award, student-athletes must have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.2 or higher and they had to have played in at least half their team's games in 2012.

Wendt, a River Forest native, was also a 2012 All-American honorable mention selection and finished fifth on the Bruins this past season in scoring with 34 goals. He also finished with 22 exclusions, 21 field blocks, 19 steals and 16 assists. Wendt also made the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation All-Academic team for the third year.

A number of area athletes recently competed in the 2013 NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Championships March 20-23 in Shenandoah, Texas. Evanston alumna Sarah Thompson of Williams College (Mass.) took home first place in the 200-meter freestyle and the 1,650 free. The sophomore also took second place in the 500 free and was a member of the 200-free relay team (eighth place), the 400-free relay team (fifth), the 800-free relay team (fourth) and the 400-medley relay team (fourth).

—Nick Bullock

Have a suggestion for the College Roundup? Email Nick Bullock at bullockpioneerpress@gmail.com.
Indoor golf facility a boon for Dons

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

NILES
Kyle Kolodziej noticed a flaw in his swing in the fall that he immediately wanted to fix.

Even as the temperatures plummeted and snow started covering the ground, the Notre Dame sophomore - who lacked a driver's license and thus easy access to the nearest golf dome - still was able to correct whatever was causing him to hook the ball.

What's more, Kolodziej did so without ever leaving the high school's property.

In November, Notre Dame opened what is believed to be the area's first on-campus, indoor golf facility. Located between the baseball and football fields, the building is 1,000 square feet and cost nearly $30,000, Notre Dame golf coach Bob Beckman estimated. The money was raised by the athletic booster club, mostly through donations.

"This all came together better than what we first envisioned," said Beckman, who's been in charge of the program since 1988.

On Saturday, the school will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony and building dedication.

The facility includes two hitting bays, each equipped with a wireless video camera connected to a laptop computer that hosts a software program designed to analyze a player's swing.

The Vi program, which can be controlled remotely and offers 1080p high-definition resolution, is what helped solve Kolodziej's swing trouble.

"It allows you to break down your swing, so it's really easy to catch the mistakes you are making," he said.

"I was able to see that my hands were out of position on my downswing, which is what caused the snap hook."

Notre Dame sophomore David Steinle also endorsed the state-of-the-art setup.

"I've learned how to hit more shots and learned how to control the ball better," said Steinle, who, like Kolodziej, lives on Chicago's Northwest Side.

Next to the hitting bays is the TruGolf simulator, which cost roughly $7,000. The system allows players to hit every shot in golf, including chips and putts, and features more than two dozen golf courses to play.

Kolodziej and Steinle are Notre Dame's best bets to become the team's first qualifier for the state tournament.
competed as a senior in 2008. Although the idea for an indoor practice facility first originated back in the 1990s, Beckman said he officially proposed the plan to Notre Dame athletic director Mike Hennessey in December 2011.

"I had never asked for anything before, and I told him I would do what I could on my own," said Beckman, who built an artificial putting green at the school in the late 1990s. Once word spread, alumni, led by 1968 graduate Bob Zantara, started expressing interest in supporting the project. Construction started late last school year, and the building was ready for occupancy shortly after the fall golf season ended.

"The school paid for all the materials, and we found labor to build it," said Beckman, who headlines the school's operations department. "Pretty amazing."

The players were floored by what the Notre Dame community was able to accomplish. "It's very exciting," Steinle said. "It's so cool, and it's definitely something that has helped me improve my game. When it first opened, I was in here almost every day, sometimes for two or three hours. "Someone was always in there."

When Beckman first took over the golf program more than 25 years ago, he said the Dons had 12 players. This past season, he carried twice that many and more than 30 tried out for the team.

"I'm very lucky to have an administration that believes in me," Beckman said.

Notre Dame's indoor golf facility includes two hitting bays, each equipped with a wireless camera connected to a laptop computer. The setup allows golfers to analyze their swings with the help of computer software.
Toledo delivers in cleanup spot

BY ERIC VAN DRIL | Contributor | @VanDrilSports

NORRIDGE

One of Tommy Toledo's primary goals when he stops onto a baseball field is to simply do his job.

"I've always been taught, wherever you're hitting in the lineup, you've just got to do your job and not try to do too much," Toledo said. "If I'm in the four hole, that's great. If I'm in the nine hole, that's great. As long as I can play."

Toledo has hit fourth in Niles West's order this year, a spot in the lineup where driving in runs is crucial. Toledo's job carries great responsibility, but it's also one of the most enviable in the CSL because he's hitting behind Tommy Williams, Matt Delavega and Kyle Colletta. All three players are fast, and able to wreak havoc by stealing bases and distracting opposing pitchers with their speed.

Colletta, a senior shortstop who Niles West coach Garry Gustafson considers to be one of the top players to ever play for the Wolves, reached base five times Saturday against Ridgewood. He also stole three bases. Toledo recorded three RBI against the Rebels at Niles West's DH and, as further proof the junior is doing his job, he advanced Colletta four separate times.

The Wolves beat Ridgewood 9-3 to improve to 4-1, and Gustafson has liked what he's seen from Toledo thus far. "Tommy's coming in as a junior and he's a kid that can hit for power and hit for average, as long as he stays within the strike zone," Gustafson said. "He has a good approach, and Tommy could be a good RBI guy for us, especially (with) the three guys hitting ahead of him."

Toledo is likely to accumulate a bevy of RBI as the season progresses if he continues hitting well in the No. 4 hole. But he also knows the vital nature of producing in the cleanup role, and that the Wolves are full of talented players who would welcome the opportunity to hit fourth in the order.

"We have real depth this year, so I know that there are always people on the bench that want that spot and there's always guys later in the lineup that want to hit there," Toledo said. "But until they prove it and until I prove I can stay there, (me hitting fourth) now it's going to go."
Pajak shows pronounced improvement

BY ERIC VAN DRIL | Contributor | @VanDrilSports

Kiaudia Pajak’s work ethic has allowed her to become Maine East’s cleanup hitter and starting third baseman.

Pajak, who tried out for softball last year after a two-year hiatus, was immediately placed at third base. Third base is one of the most difficult positions to play in softball, largely because of the long throws across the diamond and the lightning-quick reaction time required. Pajak struggled with both aspects at times as a junior.

"One game I got hit in the face with the ball, and it was like, Thank God I’m wearing a mask," Pajak said. "I really think that coach (Emiliano Hernandez) putting me at third base, I think I had something to work hard for."

Pajak has become much steadier for the Blue Demons this season, both Pajak and Hernandez said. The Glenview resident regularly stayed after practice last year to work on her fielding and to become more consistent throwing to first base. Pajak is now able to stand closer to opposing hitters — she stands about even with the base, moving in at least three steps from last year — because she feels more comfortable at third and she said her throws are no longer sailing over the first baseman’s head.

Part of the reason for her hard work is “to make others happy,” the senior said. “If I know I can’t get my throw to first, I’m going to stay to after so my team’s happy with me.”

Pajak has also worked hard to learn the intricacies of playing third base.

Pajak provided an example of that Friday against Niles West when she fielded a ground ball during the sixth inning of the Wolves’ 14-4 victory. After snaring the grounder, Pajak immediately checked the runner on third base, which is something Hernandez said she wouldn’t have done last year. After seeing Carissa Lamascese had sprinted too far away from third base, she sprinted toward the senior and tagged her out.

“A lot of kids, you tell them to do something and they don’t even try to attempt it,” Hernandez said. “She tries it. She’ll go out and the minute you say something, she goes right in there and does it. She’ll give it a shot. From there, it’s kind of like she’s got a little bank of things that she’ll just work at and works at and (she) gets better.”
Vikings stepping up in Baccala’s absence

BY ERIK SCHMIDT | Contributor | @ErikSchmidtMU

SKOKIE
Niles North’s No. 1 tennis player has played remarkably well at the start of the 2013 season, but it’s not who you think.

With senior star Dave Baccala out with an injured knee, it’s been unassuming junior Zach Oppenheim holding down the top spot for the Vikings. And for someone who never even played singles until this year, Oppenheim has handled the unexpected promotion with a great deal of poise and confidence.

“I was a little bit disappointed hearing Dave was out, and a little scared,” Oppenheim said. “Definitely a little nervous knowing I was going to have to step up and play No. 1, but I’ve just tried to embrace it and have fun.”

In his inaugural match at No. 1 against a tough Lake Forest Academy team, Oppenheim impressed with a 7-6, 6-4 win and led Niles North to its first win over the Titans since 2009. The Vikings went 1-2 in their tournament, falling 13-8 to Wheeling and 15-2 to Stevenson on Friday.

North to its first win over the Titans in three years. But perhaps even more remarkable is how Oppenheim handled his first loss of the year, a 6-1, 6-1 thumping at the hands of Glenbrook South senior Ross Gan on April 4.

“That was his first defeat but he’s doing OK,” Niles North coach Rich Jaffe said. “He knew he played a high-level guy and he said he played well and hit the ball crisp. He’s in good spirits and knows he’s got a lot of good tennis ahead of him this year and he’s stepping up to the challenge.

From a physical standpoint, it’s been Oppenheim trying his best to fill the void that Baccala has left, but emotionally it’s been senior Farhan Noormohammad who’s taken it upon himself to lead the team with a colorful and fun-loving personality.

“It’s pretty much all the people who were on the team last year trying to step up and lead,” Noormohammad said. “But our main goal is just to have fun; that’s just what it’s about and what we want to do.”

Like Oppenheim, Noormohammad was thrust into a wildly unfamiliar position because of Baccala’s injury. He went from playing No. 2 doubles to No. 3 singles — something he hasn’t quite
adapted to as easily as the leadership role.

"It's been a whole new experience for me," Noormohammad said. "I've never played singles before in my life and now I have. So we all just have to make do with what our situation is."

Baccala is likely to miss up to six more weeks, or possibly the whole season, according to Jaffe. For Oppenheim, that means continuing to contend with giants almost every time he hits the court. For Noormohammad, it entails keeping the team in high spirits.

But that's OK, because both players have been surprisingly adept at their new roles.

"We're still adjusting," Oppenheim said. "Dave's our No. 1 and he's our leader. In terms of games, he'll usually finish first and then help us out. So it's been different, but we're all doing our best."
Ready or not

Baccala's injury has forced several Vikings into unfamiliar roles.