A rolling Scout success

Scout Leader Marcello Bondurant carefully lines up the handmade pinewood cars for the start of the Pinewood Derby at Golf Mill Shopping Center in Niles. | DAVE KRAUS-For Sun-Times Media

Read the full story [Page 5]
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Pinewood Derby rolls to success

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

John Liu pointed proudly at the red miniature car with two pennies in the front for headlights and a driver made out of Lego.

The spiffy, unique car was lined up next to several other brightly painted wooden cars and ready to go at the annual district Pinewood Derby held at Golf Mill Shopping Center on Saturday, Apr. 13. The event has been held at Golf Mill for the past five years.

This was the first time that Liu’s seven-year-old son, Caden participated in the Pinewood Derby event that involves many Cub Scout packs in the area, including Wilmette, Glencoe, Skokie, Evanston, Northbrook and more.

“He’s really excited,” said Liu, of Wilmette. “He always wants to win.”

A group of Cub Scouts waited anxiously at the end of the 45-foot track to watch the cars race to the finish line.

“I like when the cars come down,” said nine-year-old Cooper Ade, of Northbrook. “It’s so exciting to see who won.”

Each town has their own individual races and the district race that involves Cub Scouts from several towns is held at Golf Mill each year.

Several months ago, the Cub Scouts built their race cars with their father or other family member’s help. They are given a piece of wood, nails and wheels to create the cars that can’t be more than five ounces; there are length and width guidelines, as well. The kids and their family members cut the wood, sand it and paint and decorate their cars.

“That is what we promote, working with your son or grandson,” said Kofi Anaman, the district executive of Boy Scouts of America. “That’s the best part.”

“We want to make it less competitive,” said Anaman. “We just want them to have fun.”

Anaman said that some of the kids who participated won their local races, but they opened up the district race to other Cub Scouts this year as well, to make it less competitive in nature.

Katie Weissler, a troop leader, was getting ready to watch her son Nate’s car in action.

“The kids love it,” said Weissler.

Weissler said there are certain techniques to make the cars go faster, such as filing down the nails to get the smoothest ride and injecting the tires with graphite.

Holding his trophy, Dakota Gordon, 8, of Northbrook, took home a trophy in the district competition and recently broke the Northbrook record.

“He’s proud,” said his mom, Lee Gordon. “He’s happy he won, but he wishes everyone else could win also.”

Dakota was there with his parents and his grandma who were cheering him on. He said the best part of the whole experience was making the car with his dad.

“It’s a really fun family event,” said Marketing Director at Golf Mill Shopping Center Monika Kalicki.

Kalicki said it’s a great bonding experience between the Cub Scouts and their dads who build the cars together, but she said it’s nice to also see all the moms and grandparents at the annual event cheering the kids on.

“It brings people to Niles,” added Kalicki. “It draws people from different towns into our town.”
Morton Grove marathon runner safe in Boston

BY NICK KATZ
nkatz@pioneerlocal.com

A Morton Grove man had just finished the Boston Marathon Monday and was walking away towards the runner's village when he heard the first bomb go off.

Two blasts went off, one after another, near the finish line of the marathon on Monday. As of 4 p.m. Monday, the Associated Press reported two people had been killed in the blast and dozens had been injured.

Kirk Taylor, from Morton Grove, told the Champion he had just finished running his first Boston Marathon. His daughter had come to watch him and was waiting near the finish. However, he said, she had walked away before the explosions occurred.

"Fortunately she left to meet me," he said.

Taylor said he and some other runners were walking away from the race when they heard the explosion.

"We were all walking away. We heard a big explosion. We thought they were firing off a cannon. We turned around and saw lots of smoke." Taylor said the first thing did was call his daughter and make sure she was uninjured.

He then tried calling friends and family members to let them know he was not hurt, but had trouble getting through.

"It was just crazy," he said. "Everybody got on their cellphones trying to get through and nobody could make any calls."

Taylor said he and his daughter were holed up at their hotel after walking more than a mile back from the race. The hotel, Taylor said, is next to the hospital where some of the victims of the explosions were being brought.

"We're listening to all of the sirens," he said.

Taylor said he and his daughter are scheduled to fly back to Chicago on Tuesday and had not decided whether to leave the hotel before that.

"I'm just glad my daughter wasn't too close and that she is OK. Everybody we know is OK," Taylor said.

CORRECTION

In a story on April 11 about Notre Dame's indoor golf facility, the name of a graduate who expressed interest in supporting the project was misspelled. He is Bob Zientara, not Zantara.
Contradicting referendums put Niles in legal bind

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

Niles Village Attorney Joseph Annunzio is busy talking with different outside legal counsel about what's going to happen now that two different — and contradictory — term limit referenda passed during the Apr. 9 election.

"I'm getting all kinds of opinions," said Annunzio, on Monday, Apr. 15. "I don't know what any of this means yet. Later on in the week I'll have a better idea of what's going on."

One of the term-limit referendum questions was put on the ballot by the Niles village board, and it received 85.76 percent approval, according to unofficial results.

The second referendum question was put on the ballot by resident Joe Makula and a group of citizens, and received 85.86 percent of the vote.

The village's version 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 petition from the citizens' group states that term limits should prohibit all people from serving more than 16 years on the village board of trustees, including president/mayor of the village, effective immediately upon approval and passage of the binding referendum.

It is unclear whether or not Andrew Przybylo, who was elected on as mayor of Niles on the same ballot and has been a village trustee for 24 years, would be affected or not by the citizens referendum that passed. Annunzio said he did not have any comments at this time.

Gail Siegel, a spokesperson for Cook County Secretary David Orr's Office, said it is very rare to see situations like Niles is facing.

"We certify the vote, but we don't have legal opinions about the referendum," noted Siegel.
Three new mayors all Notre Dame grads

BY NICK KATZ | nkatz@pioneerlocal.com

Officials of Notre Dame College Prep are crediting the school's emphasis on community service.

But whatever the reason, in what just about anybody would consider an unusual confluence of events, three men elected to the office of mayors of local towns this month all are graduates of the Niles school.

The new mayor of Niles, Andrew Przybylo, graduated from the all-boys' high school in 1969.

In Morton Grove, Dan DiMaria, who first won a primary race and then the general election to become the town's new mayor, graduated from Notre Dame in 1985.

In Des Plaines, Matthew Bogusz, elected mayor of the city, is a 2005 graduate.

"We congratulate each of these men on successfully being elected mayor of their town."

Dan Tully
the school's principal and a 1994 graduate of Notre Dame

"It is inspiring to see the dedication that Dan, Andy and Matt have to the service of others. Our students are inspired by the examples these alumni have set," said President the Rev. John P. Smyth.

For his part, DiMaria said the school "preaches service," to not only religion, but to the community, something that has likely inspired graduates to serve their towns.

"It's cool. It's very interesting," DiMaria said. "It's that type of school. It's a school that teaches you about service and the community."

Tully echoed that idea.

"Service is one of our main tenets at Notre Dame College Prep," he said.

He noted that Notre Dame students this year are on track to provide more than 20,000 hours of community service.

"We extend our best wishes to Matt, Dan and Andy as they continue to serve their constituents," Tullly said.

Prior to being elected mayor, Bogusz was 3rd Ward Alderman in Des Plaines, DiMaria was a Morton Grove trustee and Przybylo was a Niles trustee.
Lifelong Skokie resident Alyse Burman lives to make her native town a better place by investing her time and energy in a host of health and education-focused charitable initiatives that have made a real difference, especially in the lives of students.

Ever since her adult children moved out of the house, Burman has fully engaged her passion for helping local students by starting a program to feed teens breakfast, so they don't come to school hungry and acquiring scholarship money to help students afford college.

Even Burman's career as a distributor of safety alert systems to the elderly is centered around helping others. Everything she does stems from her drive to advocate for education, whether it's showing seniors how to reach help in an emergency or giving an underprivileged student the same chance for an education as a wealthy student.

Berman told the Skokie Review about her work on the District 219 Educational Foundation and the Oakton Community College Foundation and why she thinks everyone should do their part make it a better community.

Q: What drives your passion to help education-related causes?
A: I think everyone deserves an education whether they can afford it or not, and everyone deserves to be fed and it's totally inexcusable that kids in our community should go hungry. When you think about students who can't afford basic supplies and food, it's just not right. Just because the state is broke doesn't mean our education systems should suffer.

Q: In what ways has the District 219 Educational Foundation helped fill in financial gaps affecting students left by the state's deficits?
A: The foundation was created to provide tools of education that are beyond the scope of what the district can provide. In the six years since the foundation was started, we've awarded more than $120,000 in grants and scholarships to District 219 students.

Q: You started a weekend backpack program with the Niles Township Food Pantry, so underprivileged students and their families would have enough food to eat during the weekends. What experiences gave you the idea to start the program?
A: We had heard that some students were going home hungry on the weekends, so we put together a program that sent students home with a backpack of food to feed their families over the weekend. We found out that many students were kind of embarrassed, so we put some food at the campuses and gave them the option to come back later and pick up the food after school hours.

I also spearheaded a program on behalf of the foundation that supplies students at Niles North and Niles West with breakfast bars in the morning before school so they don't go to class on an empty stomach.

Q: Describe your philanthropic involvement in health care.
A: I'm involved with Chicago Continuity of Care as well as the Lake and McHenry County division, which helps educate health care professionals on new information on health care reform and how it impacts their industry. I'm also on the Women's Board of Skokie Hospital, where I'm helping raise funds to improve the level of health care provided in the new cardiology wing. Last, I'm chair of the Illinois Pioneer Coalition of Cook County, which is a grassroots effort to help improve the quality of life for seniors who choose to age at home.

Q: You're co-owner of a business that supplies safety alert systems to seniors. How is your business tied into your charitable work with senior health programs?
A: There's an increase in the number of people aging in place, and they should be educated on the best services available to them. Many people don't realize there are so many free tools to help them live better lives, and I'm passionate about helping them live with dignity and integrity.

Q: In what ways does your passion for education carry over to the health field?
A: It's all about education. Everything I'm involved with is an educational process focused on making things happen in a positive way. We need to stick together as a community to make these things happen and that's why I volunteer.
Nearly four years after opening a new eight-story addition, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge is looking at another expansion plan, this time involving its emergency and operating rooms.

Hospital officials have not commented on the proposed expansion, but a letter received by Park Ridge 2nd Ward Alderman Rich DiPietro from a member of hospital staff details some of the plans. The emergency room’s expansion would add treatment stations, a 75-seat waiting area, eight triage rooms, a new entry with a patient drop-off area, additional parking and a separate waiting room for pediatric emergency patients and families.

Two new operating rooms are also proposed, as is a viewing room for observation of robotic procedures.

“This project is necessary to address the efficiency concerns with the configuration and sizing of the existing treatment areas,” the letter, dated March 8, states. “Moreover, we believe these additions will better service our patients and improve their safety.”

The project is reportedly the first phase of a four-phase expansion proposal. The projected cost is not yet known.

DiPietro said he has not seen any drawings or plans of the proposed expansion and learned about it just last week. Requests by Pioneer Press for information from hospital officials were not answered by press time.

"Whenever the hospital does, anything it’s a major issue in the 2nd Ward because it creates traffic and it creates congestion," DiPietro said. "I know it’s necessary, but you have to communicate with the residents."

In 2009 Lutheran General opened a new, state-of-the-art, 192-room “patient tower” attached to the existing hospital and Children’s Hospital, consisting of many private patient rooms and family areas. The addition also includes general surgery, neurology/stroke care, medical/cardiac intensive care, oncology, pediatrics, pediatric intensive care and obstetric care units.

The project initially drew criticism from representatives of inner-city organizations and an employee union who accused Advocate Health Care of investing more money in suburban hospitals than in its Chicago facilities, which serve poorer neighborhoods.

Jim Testin, director of community development for the city of Park Ridge, said the hospital has not presented any expansion plans to the city.
Bill could hurt small business competition, officials say

| BY TODD SHIELDS | tshields@pioneerlocal.com |

Suburban business leaders are fending off proposed state legislation they say would effectively block many local businesses from bidding on municipal contracts, such as removing trees infested by the emerald ash borer.

Illinois House Bill 924 could require private contractors to provide apprenticeship training for journeymen employees entering the trades field, such as piping fitting or plumbing.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Jay Hoffman, D-13th, of Collinsville, also would apply to public works and private projects that receive state or local assistance.

The proposed law would amend the Prevailing Wage Act, which Hoffman said already requires contractors that bid for state projects to contribute money toward job training funds.

"We say those contract rules should apply to all government contracts, meaning the same rules for villages that use state money," he said.

"The whole idea is that when you use state money, you use it in a responsible way to complete projects."

According to the National Institute on Money in State Politics, nearly a third of Hoffman's campaign donations came from organized labor in the 2012 campaign cycle.

"I have some concern about commerce in the north and northwest suburbs say this could hinder small businesses."

Tensley Garris, president of Northbrook Chamber of Commerce, urged members to write opposition statements to their state representatives.

"Our local business people won't have the ability to bid because many aren't large enough to offer apprenticeships," Garris said.

Ray Mullen, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce for Green Oaks, Libertyville, Mundelein and Vernon Hills, supported additional training in apprentice programs, but with a caveat.

"We do not believe in a requirement to operate such programs or that additional burdens should be placed upon municipalities and contractors to comply," he said.

The Glenview Chamber of Commerce also opposes the bill.

Rep. Carol Sente, D-59th, favors the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act that requires contractors to pay laborers, workers and mechanics employed on public works projects no less than the prevailing rate of wages.

However, Sente is undecided on House Bill 924, she said.

"I have some concern about small projects under a certain dollar value being included in prevailing wage due to the significant increase in cost for taxpayers," she said in email.
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Shabnam Mahmood shared her passion for Claude Monet, teaching a table full of young budding artists how to paste small pieces of colored crepe paper on a sheet with an outline of his work Water Lilies, Evening Effect.

The pieces of crepe gave their works a look somewhat like Monet's original French impressionist work, which each child had for reference.

"Make sure you keep looking at the painting in front of you," Mahmood told the children working in the basement of the Muslim Community Center Mosque in Morton Grove. "Be sure to overlap the paper. You'll be doing what Monet did, blending the colors."

The program "Saturday, Create Like the Masters: Children's Hands-On Art Workshop," was sponsored by the Parent Support Group of the MCC Full Time School.

Jill Alali, a member of the group, said it had several goals.

For one, she said, the school itself offers only limited art instruction and parents wanted to find a way to complement that.

"We don't have a lot of time during the day for a significant art class," she said. Beyond that, she said, the group reached out to the community at large in hopes of attracting some children who do not necessarily attend the Muslim school.

"We wanted to come up with something that would interest the community," Alali said. "We wanted to welcome the community into the mosque. We did it with that in mind."

In addition, she said, it allowed parents to become involved. Several volunteered to teach different areas of art, even if they had to do some last-minute cramming to learn about it themselves.

"Some are parents who are artists,
or parents who are art aficionados,” Alali said. “Our parent volunteers are really excited.”

Mahmood, who brought her twins to the event, was one of those excited by the program.

Though she’s a big fan of Monet’s works, she said it took a while to come up with the idea for pasting crepe paper to imitate the impressionist’s work.

“I did a lot of research online,” she said.

Each area in the mosque basement was set up to teach a different kind of art. At each the kids learned a bit about the type of art or artist and then had a hands-on project that demonstrated the technique.

Among the workshops offered in addition to Monet, were some on Arabic Calligraphy, blown glass, soft pastels, and “Get into the Fold,” a class on paper folding.

Like many of the parents with children at the workshop, Saima Majeed, of Niles, said her 5-year-old son seems to have some artistic talent.

“I brought him here to learn more,” she said. “Everybody says he’s very creative.”

Fozia Patel had both her 5-year-old daughter and 7-year-old son at the event.

In particular, she said, her son seems to have a talent or at least an interest in art.

“My son loves painting. I think he has a love of art,” she said.

It may be something he got from his mother, who said she also loves art.

“I love to draw. He loves to paint more,” Patel said. “I’m so happy I can bring him to this kind of thing.”

Alali said the idea for the program came out of a similar national program designed for schools without large art programs.

“Schools with lower funding get parents to come in and teach art and art masters,” she said. “We were just inspired by that program.”
The following incidents were listed among the official reports of the Morton Grove and Niles police departments. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

**Morton Grove**

**Police Blotter**

**Battery**

Robert Zein, 38, of 1 Washington St., Glenview, was charged April 5 with battery in connection with a March 13 incident. He was released on $1,500 bond with a May 17 court date. Police said an officer responding to a battery report on the 9200 block of National on March 13 found a 41-year-old Lake Villa man with injuries to his eye. The man said he had been hit with a bat. Zein was charged following an investigation by Morton Grove Police detectives.

**Retail Theft**

Nuran Sengullu, 47, of 2203 W. Oakton St., Park Ridge, was charged with retail theft on April 6 after she allegedly stole $76 worth of clothing from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. She has an April 25 court date.

**Niles**

**Crime Briefs**

**Battery**

Police said a Niles man accused his 30-year-old son of striking him in the head with a hammer on the morning of April 5 inside an apartment on the 9200 block of Maryland Avenue. Police were not able to immediately locate the suspect and an investigation was pending.

**Theft**

A Skokie man told police that his cell phone was stolen April 5 after he left it unattended on a bench inside the locker room of a fitness center on the 9200 block of Milwaukee Avenue. A Park Ridge woman told police her wallet was stolen on April 5 after she shopped at a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. An iPhone was reported stolen April 5 from an unlocked locker at the Niles Family Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Dr. The owner told police she performed a GPS search on the phone and traced it to an address in Skokie. The incident was under investigation.

**Burglary to Vehicle**

A man told police that a laptop computer was stolen on the evening of April 4 from his vehicle while it was parked on the 6700 block of Howard Street. Police said there were no signs of forced entry to the vehicle. A wallet was stolen between April 4 and April 5 from a vehicle parked on the 7200 block of Cram Street. Credit and debit cards from the wallet were reportedly used at various locations in Chicago. A window was shattered on a vehicle parked April 9 in a lot on the 9200 block of Milwaukee Avenue and a purse was stolen, police said.

A laptop computer was reported stolen April 9 from a vehicle parked in a lot on the 8400 block of Ballard Road. A backpack containing a laptop computer, external hard drive and several USB devices was stolen overnight between April 9 and April 10 from an unlocked vehicle parked on the 8200 block of Oconto Avenue. Later on April 10 the backpack was reportedly found in an alley on the 8100 block of Oconto, though the computer and hard drive were missing.

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Library series to focus on bullying

When the Morton Grove Public Library confronts the issue of bullying beginning this month, it won't be limited to child victims, though that is a big part of it.

But Nancy Brothers, the library's coordinator of programming, said the series will also look at online bullying affecting both children and adults, known as cyberbullying, as well as bullying that occurs in the workplace.

"People of all ages are being bullied by computer and phone," Brothers said. "We have heard from people who come to other programs at the library about being bullied."

The three-part series begins April 24 with a screening of the film "Bully," at 7 p.m. It will be followed by a panel discussion led by Golf Elementary School District 67 guidance counselor Lisa Featherstone, Melzer School social worker Bari Kaplan, Niles North High School social work intern Dan Raftery and Mary Senn the Village of Morton Grove social worker.

The series will continue at 7 p.m. May 1 with a talk by Carrie Goldman, an Evanston resident and author of the book "Bullied: What Every Parent, Teacher and Kid Needs to Know About Ending the Cycle of Fear."

The final event will take place at 7 p.m. May 20 with a discussion of cyberbullying by Sarah Migas, an Internet safety specialist with the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

All of the events are free and open to the public at the library, 6140 Lincoln Ave.

Brothers said that while schools often provide some type of anti-bullying programs, the library series will give parents a chance to learn more about the issue that may be confronting their children.

"The movie, she said, is particularly powerful in the way it follows five kids and their families over the course of a school year. The library is warning parents that the film may not be suitable for all children because of the strong content."

The filmmaker, she said, "was really turned on to how insidious bullying can be."

But Goldman's book, Brothers said, really convinced her that the program was needed. Goldman began by blogging about bullying issues affecting her own family and eventually wrote the book.

"It just got me to thinking the library should do this, we should offer this," Brothers said.

Christina Freitag, teen librarian at the Morton Grove library, said she has sometimes had teenagers participating in library programs bring up the issue of bullying.

"I really think the library is a good place to discuss this," she said. "The library can play a role in it."

Kaplan, the Melzer social worker, said that the elementary school has not had a major problem with bullying.

"What we have a lot of is name calling," Kaplan said. Kaplan said, however, she tries to head off problems by going into classes and talking to the kids about bullying and name calling.

"We have a lot of systems in place for dealing with it," Kaplan said. "We try to foster positive values."

But she said she is looking forward to hearing what parents have to say at the first library event.

"I am interested in hearing from parents about what their kids are coming home saying," she said. "Maybe they're not communicating at school. It will be helpful to hear from the community."

Freitag too said the series will be a good opportunity for the community to learn more about bullying as well as to share personal experiences.

"The library is a great place to do this," she said. "I think it's a great opportunity for parents to open up and discuss this. I'm looking forward to what people have to say about the movie."
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How Illinois lawmakers voted in Congress for the week ending April 12, 2013

Major roll call votes in the Senate

ADVANCE OF GUN LEGISLATION
Senators voted, 68-31, to silence a GOP filibuster and start what is expected to be weeks of debate on gun legislation. This cleared the way for votes dealing with background checks, ammunition clips, assault weapons and other areas of federal firearms policy. A "yes" vote was to open debate on S 649. Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: Yes

INTERIOR SECRETARY JEWELL
Voting 87-11, the Senate confirmed Sally Jewell as Secretary of the Interior. Jewell, 57, had been chief executive of the outdoors-products retailer REI. She replaces Ken Salazar, who left the Interior Department in January. A "yes" vote was to confirm Jewell. Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: Yes

Major roll call votes in the House

1. LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
Members voted, 219-209, to codify a court's ruling that President Obama wrongly used recess appointments in January 2012 to fill vacancies on the National Labor Relations Board. The ruling is under appeal. This bill would temporarily shutter the NLRB, an independent agency that oversees union elections and labor-management relations. A "yes" vote was to send HR 1120 to the Senate.

2. EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS
Members voted, 197-229, to defeat a Democratic motion to exempt from HR 1120 (above) NLRB actions involving veterans, workers alleging sexual harassment or workplace bias and firms that send jobs abroad to avoid union hiring. A "yes" vote backed the motion.

3. HYDROPOWER, ENVIRONMENTAL RULES
Members voted, 416-7, to ease environmental rules to allow placement of small hydropower generators in Bureau of Reclamation conduits such as canals and pipelines. A "yes" vote was to send the Senate a bill (HR 678) to open up new electricity sources in the West.

Key votes ahead

The House is scheduled to debate cybersecurity, and the Senate will vote on gun measures, including the so-called Manchin-Toomey amendment to expand background checks on gun purchasers.
What it means to you

City Council hikes fines, jail terms for 'quality of life' crimes

Chicago offenders caught drinking, gambling and urinating on the public way will no longer be free to ignore their citations with impunity and blow off their administrative hearings — at least not without risking jail time.

Ignoring concern about the impact on overcrowded Cook County Jail, the City Council agreed Wednesday to throw the book at those offenders, up to 70 percent of whom are currently in default because they don't fear the consequences.

Aldermen approved Mayor Rahm Emanuel's plan to add six months of jail time and double the maximum fine — to $1,000 for drinking and urinating on the public way and $400 for gambling — for violators who fail to pay their initial fines and are no-shows at administrative hearings.

Similar penalties are already in place for offenders who ignore their marijuana tickets.

Prior to the final vote, Ald. Bob Fioretti (2nd) raised concerns about the impact on jail overcrowding if the city throws the book at "quality of life" offenders who blow off their fines and hearings.

He warned his colleagues to keep a "watchful eye" for the next two years on the "unintended consequences" of adding jail time.

"I don't know if this ordinance is as well thought out as it can be," Fioretti said. — Chicago Sun-Times

Quinn: Film industry brought $184M to Illinois in 2012

Tax incentives to draw movie and TV productions to Illinois have led to a record $184 million in spending last year by production crews working on shows like "Chicago Fire" and "Boss," Gov. Pat Quinn said Friday.

Quinn touted the benefits of more movie and TV work in the state during a visit to the Chicago set of the science fiction film "Divergent," which will feature Kate Winslet. Besides the money spent, Quinn said such productions also lead to hundreds of jobs.

In 2011, Quinn signed a 10-year extension of the Illinois Film Tax Credit, which provides a 30 percent tax credit to filmmakers for money spent on Illinois goods and services. That includes wages paid to Illinois residents.

The governor's office says that has paved the way for more productions in Illinois, including a higher number of television shows that helped boost last year's record spending figures.

Those programs included "Chicago Fire," "Boss," "Mob Doctor," and "Underemployed." Together, those four shows generated $92 million in spending last year, according to Quinn's office.

The previous Illinois record for yearly spending, set in 2010, was $161 million. — The Associated Press

House passes Republican bill to halt Labor Board action

The House on Friday passed a bill to prevent the National Labor Relations Board from conducting much of its business until a dispute over the president's recess appointments is resolved.

The Republican-backed measure, approved on a 219-209 vote that broke largely along party lines, is a response to a federal appeals court ruling in January that President Barack Obama violated the Constitution by filling vacancies on the board without Senate confirmation. The measure is not expected to gain traction in the Democratic-controlled Senate, where it goes next.

White House officials say the court's decision is flawed and insist the board can continue operating while the ruling is appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. But Republicans and their allies in the business community claim the agency lacks any legitimacy to issue decisions.

Obama has threatened to veto the bill, saying it would jeopardize workers' rights.

The board, which resolves disputes between unions and management, has operated under a cloud for months since the court's ruling. Republicans say the board's work is tainted, creating uncertainty for both businesses and unions that rely on its decisions. — The Associated Press
A smarter sex ed

You might be surprised to learn this about your child’s sex education instruction in public school, if the school offers sex ed at all.

There is no requirement that comprehensive, medically accurate information be taught, and state law says the main message should be abstinence-only until marriage.

If there’s nary a word about other ways to prevent pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases beyond abstinence, our law says that’s fine.

A bill before the state Legislature, backed by almost 40 Illinois groups, would change this. Schools wouldn’t be required to teach sex education; that would remain optional. Nor would it apply to any student below sixth grade. But if a district decides to teach sex ed to its 11- to 18-year-olds, it would have to include instruction on both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The bill stresses abstinence until marriage, calling abstinence “the only protection that is 100 percent effective against” unwanted pregnancy and STDs.

That’s the right message for children.

The beautiful, shining soul of a diplomat

Anne Smedinghoff, the River Forest woman and Fenwick graduate killed in a suicide bombing in Afghanistan, had a beautiful face.

I don’t mean that the way some might say models or actresses are beautiful, or the way others say a woman is the best-looking in politics or law or whatever.

I mean that her face, with her gentle smile and her deep brown but bright eyes, reveals the beauty of her soul.

We heard so much said last week from her family, friends and coworkers about her intelligence, humor and passion, her bright future and her simple humility. They are the things loved ones always say.

But I think her face reveals all those inner beauties, and tells us all we need to know about Anne Smedinghoff, the 25-year-old rising young star in the U.S. Foreign Service who died delivering books to schoolchildren.

She was one of America’s best. We hear so much about America’s Greatest Generation, the generation that won World War II. The praise and gratitude showered on them is much deserved.

But I’m willing to bet that another great generation of Americans is coming of age in our midst. Anne Smedinghoff is a shining example of that generation.

But don’t take my word for it. Here is what others have said about her:

“Serenely beautiful - that is always how I will remember Anne Smedinghoff,” said Irene Drago, her Fenwick Spanish teacher.

“A typical Friar,” Gerry Lordan, an assistant to the president at Fenwick, called her. “A typical Friar is a person who takes their ordinary gifts and does extraordinary things with them.”

“I knew her personally,” an Afghan man wrote to her parents on a blog set up by the Sun-Times. “She was a kind and great girl the Afghan people we will never forget her sacrifice to us and my country. (I cannot stop my tears from my eyes while I am thinking about her.)”

Another wrote a lengthy letter to her, remembering a bicycle trip through Jordan and then saying: “Foreign service to you was just that: service, not conquest. You are a TRUE leader and were the future of the best of what American foreign policy can be.

“The animals who took your life in southern Afghanistan don’t realize that they robbed themselves of a better future, and the world of a gentle soul.”

Anne Smedinghoff probably could have chosen any career, any field. She could easily have chosen a comfortable and safe life, like the one the Greatest Generation won for all of us Americans and the one she enjoyed growing up in River Forest.

Instead she chose service. She chose to make a difference and chose to make the world better.

In making that choice, she did more in her brief life than most do in a lifetime. For Anne Smedinghoff we should be forever grateful.
Don't prejudge.

People tell me that. Perhaps because I often have an opinion about, say, a movie before I've seen it.

But it's hard not to be squeamish about the upcoming film, "The Lone Ranger." I read that Johnny Depp is playing Tonto. OK, I can applaud offbeat casting of a proven talent.

But someone named Armie Hammer is playing the Lone Ranger. He sounds like the box of baking soda in my refrigerator. And sure enough, he is the son of the chairman and CEO of the Armand Hammer Foundation and the great-grandson of the original, industrialist Armand Hammer. All right, he knows about deodorizing ice boxes, but can he act? We'll find out this summer when the film is finally released.

There already has been one terrible Lone Ranger movie. Remember Kimpton Spilsbury as the Lone Ranger? Brrr.

I worry (not a lot, I grant you) that the new movie might schmutz up the Lone Ranger's reputation again. And that would be a shame.

This year is the 80th anniversary of the first Lone Ranger radio broadcast. And I vividly and happily remember the TV series.

A friend of mine once interviewed Clayton Moore. I was so jealous I whined and pestered my friend until he got me an autographed picture of Mr. Moore in full Ranger regalia. My friend and I hung our autographed photos on our office wall.

That's the effect the Lone Ranger had on us and millions of others. There still is a Lone Ranger fan club. And somewhere, on some TV in the world, the Lone Ranger, Silver, Tonto and Scout are riding to the rescue.

There are many Western heroes. But there is only one Lone Ranger. Lone — as I like to call him — had a purity that no other Western hero could match. He didn't have a home town, or even a home. He didn't drink, or smoke, or text or go bowling.

All he did was help others, dispense justice and practice brotherhood. His only recreation was to sit by the campfire with his friend Tonto and sip coffee from a tin cup.

The Lone Ranger was kind, tolerant, brave and modest. When those he helped wanted to thank or reward him, he and Tonto rode away — to help others, doubtless.

Such a fine person, even a fictional one, deserves to be treated well on film.

I hope he is. But I won't judge until I've seen the movie. Lone would want me to be fair.
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Mike McGreevy is better known for his social-science lectures than his culinary skills.

"Since I moved here in 2005, I have never used my stove," the Maine South High School teacher unabashedly admitted.

So what was he doing in Maine South's first-ever staff versus students Iron Chef cooking competition?

Whipping up dessert, of course. "It's 100 percent deliciousness with every spoonful," McGreevy said of the ice cream and cookies concoction he developed while teammates Dave Fermanich, Kevin Stock and Kerry Belville focused on their frying pans, penne noodles and pesto.

Despite their efforts, it was the student team of Ryan Buechel, Danielle DiCristofano, John Ryan O'Rourke and Aurora Walker who clinched the April 10 contest in Park Ridge high school's cafeteria. The trio outsoured teachers with three dishes: a guacamole and tortilla side dish; a penne pasta entree with chicken, avocado, mushrooms, spinach, basil and pesto; and an ice cream, strawberry and cookies dessert.

The Iron Chef contest, based on the popular Food Network television show of the same name, was developed as part of a series of school fundraising events to benefit the American Red Cross — specifically, victims of last year's Sandy Hook School shootings and Superstorm Sandy.

Each team was given 20 minutes to create their three dishes, with a "secret ingredient" (avocado) which was introduced later. The food was then judged by a panel of adults analyzing things like taste, appearance and creativity.

Despite a relatively small audience of students who came out to cheer on the teams, the chefs themselves enthusiastically threw themselves into the competition.

On the staff side, Fermanich, a science teacher, donned an apron covered with drawings of cartoon pigs and the words "I love bacon" while he ground up spinach for pesto. The judges would later describe the pesto as "a bit overpowering," though they liked the presentation and the combination of food on the plate.

"I've never done the Iron Chef before, but I love food and I love cooking," Fermanich said.

The food used by the teams was donated by GFS Food Services with the preparation equipment provided by Quest Food Management, the company that oversees school lunches at Maine South. There was no extra cost to the school to put on the contest, said Assistant Principal Rose Garlasco.

Ann Benson, food services director at Maine South, was involved with the development of the competition.

"I was trying to find a way to get these kids involved and get them excited with food," she explained.

Benson then teamed up with John Ryan O'Rourke to coordinate the event. O'Rourke, a member of Maine South's Presidents Club, reached out to other student groups to participate, including the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) club, Entrepreneurship Club and broadcasting and graphic design classes. Broadcasting students filmed the competition, while the graphic designers developed banners and the cheerleading squad sold T-shirts.

"It was a very good management experience," O'Rourke said of taking part in Iron Chef. "It's something that will benefit me when I go into the corporate world."

"It's a fun way to raise money at Maine South and switch things up a little bit," said DiCristofano, a member of FCCLA, who is preparing for a state competition in food preparation and thought the Iron Chef competition was a good way to practice for that.

The only complaint teammate Buechel had was the amount of time the amateur chefs were given. "I would have liked a little more time," he admitted. "It was a bit hectic."

Garlasco said students always enjoy taking part in activities with members of the Maine South faculty and staff and Iron Chef was just another way for them to do this. Teamwork was also a big part of the learning experience, she noted.

"I hope they had fun," Garlasco said.
Niles North Presents
22nd Annual Vocal Jazz Night

Niles North High School presents an unforgettable evening of music at the 22nd annual Vocal Jazz Night at 7:30 p.m. on April 20 in the Auditorium at 9800 Lawler Ave., Skokie. Performing at the event will be Take One, Sound Check and Harmonic Motion. Tickets are $10 each. Call the Box Office at (847) 626-2122. A free community performance will be held at 10 a.m. April 19.


Sound Check will sing "Get on Your Feet" and "When I Fall in Love," arranged by Kirby Shaw, and "Loves Me Like a Rock," arranged by Greg Gilpin. Sound Check performs under the direction of Logan Farris. The group includes Ena Allahverdi, Glenwin Ebreo, Jenny Boston, Michael Hennessy, Flonja Hoxha, Hugo Miranda, Elana Kennedy, Joey Oliveri, Roselle Mazor, Paul Regacho, Emma Reyes and Rose Zubek.

Take One will perform songs such as "Moondance," arranged by Jeremy Fox, "Ain't That a Kick In the Head," arranged by Ryan O'Connell and "Knock Me A Kiss," arranged by Steve Zegree. Take One includes Sally Alvarado, Jacob Austria, Emma Decker, Zajib Gohar, Taylor Gardner, Danny Joseph, Rebecca Pickering, Giorgos Losos, Olivia Reyes, Matt Sund, Sophie Steger, Noah Zeidman and Julia Thummel. Take One is directed by Daniel Gregerman.

The rhythm sections are directed by Barry Grossman. Musicians for Take One include: Jacob Nagler, bass; David Liljewall, guitar; Andrew Goldberg, drums; and Ari Bearman, piano. Musicians for Sound Check and Harmonic Motion include: Jason Woo, piano; Joe Fuchs, guitar; Josh Hoffman, guitar; Jonah Yaffe, drums and Jacob Nagler, bass.

West freshman named top speaker at debate championship

The Niles West Debate Team continues to garner accolades as the debate season winds down. The team competed at the Great Midwestern Novice and Junior Varsity Debate Championships at Iowa City West High School on April 5 through 7. Niles West sent 24 debaters to the competition, 14 in the Junior Varsity division and 10 in the Novice division. Freshman debater Soretti Donka was named the Number One speaker in the Novice division.

Forty-eight teams from the Midwest competed in the Novice division. Soretti Donka and Justin Jude went 4-2 in the preliminary rounds, and advanced all the way to the semifinals before ultimately losing on a 2-1 decision. Rebecca Harbeck and Samantha Seo were 5-1 in the preliminary rounds and advanced to the Semifinals where they were defeated by a team that ultimately won the championship. Out of 96 debaters, Donka was ranked the best speaker and Jude was the 10th best speaker. Willy Sargool competed individually due to his partner's illness and had a 4-2 record. He could not advance to the elimination rounds because he debated alone. Also competing were Simon Berdes, Atul Krishna, Mintra Osmin and Natalia Bafia.

Niles West Varsity debaters Vinay Patel, Kris Trivedi and Sana Khan judged for Niles West and were supportive coaches for the novice debaters.

Thirty-two teams from the Midwest competed in the Junior Varsity division. Niles West sent seven teams. Janata Ahmed and Nathan Anderson went 4-2 in the preliminary rounds and advanced to the Quarterfinals as the fourth seed. Unfortunately, they lost to the team that would win the championship. Walter Lindwall and Julia Sarata went 5-1 and advanced to the Quarterfinals as the second seed, before being bested by a team from Des Moines Roosevelt High School. Gershon Chan and Nick Charles were 4-2 and were the sixth seed entering the Quarterfinals but lost to a team from St. Paul Central High School. Out of 64 debaters, Gershon Chan was third best speaker, Miranda Kang was fourth best speaker, Janat Ahmed was sixth speaker, Walter Lindwall was eighth speaker and Nathan Anderson was ninth speaker. Also competing were Michelle Sproat, Alex Brown, Lizzie Prete, Alwin Alex, James McLeilan, Sahar Jiwan and Rexa Khan.

Niles West debaters Theo Noparstak and Jonass Placitis will compete in the Varsity post-season tournaments at the National Debate Coaches Association Championships in Nashville, the Tournament of Champions in Lexington, and the National Forensic League National Championship in Birmingham.

Niles West Debate’s Head Coach is Eric Oedo. He is assisted by Matt Fahrenbacher, Melanie Johnson, Kevin Bancroft and Val McIntosh.

Niles West Wyse Team earns medals

Niles West sent three students to the Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) state competition held April 8 at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. For the second year in a row, Patrick Liscio won first place in Mathematics. He also earned a fourth place medal in Chemistry. Zachary Cohen was awarded fourth place in Biology and Joseph Darga earned sixth place in Physics.

Culinary students are top in state

Commercial Foods Workshop students David Barak from Niles North and Vanja Selak from Niles West were both in the top six out of 31 students who competed at the Illinois Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) Culinary Arts Competition held at Kendall College on April 1. Now the top six will attend additional practice sessions at Kendall College, and three finalists will be selected to represent the state of Illinois at the Family, Career and Consumer Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Leadership and Competition in Nashville, in July. The top three chosen for the national competition will be announced at the awards session of the State Conference on April 20 in Springfield.

Barak and Selak, along with other members of the top six, have been invited to serve as sous chefs to the Executive Chef at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel. They will assist in menu preparation for the Illinois Foundation for FCCLA banquet held on April 19 during the state conference.

Niles West student earns travel scholarship

Niles West High School junior Sophia Bidney is a recipient of the Bertie Green Travel Award offered through the Spanish National Honor Society. Bidney, a member of the Niles West Chapter of the Society, is one of 24 high school juniors from across the country selected for an all-expenses paid trip to Costa Rica. Bidney will travel to Costa Rica in July 2013 to learn about the Costa Rican culture and continue her study of Spanish. In applying for the award, Bidney had to submit an essay, written in Spanish, as well as a 5-minute video demonstrating her proficiency in the Spanish language.
District 64 cuts seven non-tenured teachers

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 let go of seven teachers at a special board meeting on Monday, Apr. 8.

"We annually do a reduction in force of some of the non-tenured teachers," Board President John Heyde said after the meeting.

The district also let go of 14 part-time workers, according to District 64 spokeswoman Bernardette Tramm.

Heyde said some of the teachers may be hired back before the next school year, if more teachers were dismissed.

"It's a little more visible now than it used to be," said Heyde.

On Monday night, no one in the audience spoke regarding the dismissal of the teachers.


Carpenter, Franklin seeking new assistant principal

PIONEER PRESS

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 is looking for a new assistant principal of Carpenter and Franklin Schools.

Kelly Tess, who was hired last year by the district for the two-school position, has resigned and will join Winnetka School District 36 as assistant principal at The Skokie School. Tess was previously a teacher at schools in Northbrook, Glenview and in Alabama. She is a graduate of New Trier High School in Winnetka.

The assistant principal position for Carpenter and Franklin was created last year. District 64 said a search will begin to replace Tess, as well as Washington School's assistant principal who was recently named principal of that school.

Hutchison promoted to Washington School principal

PIONEER PRESS

The assistant principal at Washington School in Park Ridge is getting a promotion.

Jessica Hutchison will become the school's principal for the 2013-14 school year. Hutchison is currently Washington's assistant principal, a position she has held for less than one year.

Hutchison joined Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 after an 11-year career in Deerfield School District 109, where she was a teacher and literacy coach.

"Although Ms. Hutchison has only been at Washington for a short time, her dedication, deep knowledge of literacy and data-driven instruction, and natural leadership abilities immediately impressed the entire Washington community," said District 64 Superintendent Philip Bender.

Hutchison received her bachelor's degree from Elmhurst College and holds master's degrees from both National Louis University and Concordia University. She received her administrative certificate through DePaul University.

Kathy Creely, a retired principal in Park Ridge-Niles School District 64, is currently serving as interim principal of Washington School.

According to District 64, 104 applications were received for the principal's position and 11 were invited for interviews with a screening panel. A team of teachers, a teacher assistant, parents, administrators, the superintendent and a Board of Education member then interviewed five finalists before Bender made his recommendation to the full School Board.
ACROSS
1 Non-PC computers 107 Former name of "Pizza Hut"
2 Refuge 108 Novels, e.g.
3 Kaulai, e.g. 109 Slang term for "crazy eights"
4 "Stunt" singer 110 College major, e.g.
5 "Harold S. --- " Go to White Castle" 111 "Boring" animals
6 Subbie glasses 112 "Boring" animals
7 "In the News" 113 "Tie-the-lang"
8 "Rock & Roll" 114 "Ten-to-14"
9 Soapy water 115 "Rock & Roll"
10 Rushlike 116 "Chicago"
11 "The Great Gatsby" 117 "To"-"Tse-tung"
12 "The Great Gatsby" 118 "Chinese"
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(***: Extremely challenging)

SUDOKU
BY LINDA THISTLE

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

HOROSCOPES

For the week of April 24 to April 30

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
Don't waste your time and energy fretting over remarks you consider unnecessary or unkind. Best advice: Ignore them, and just keep doing your usual good job.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Getting that new perspective on a workplace situation could lead to a solution everyone will accept. Meanwhile, make time to keep up with your creative pursuits.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
Those changes you planned to implement in early summer might need to be reassessed. But don't make any moves until you've discussed this with someone you trust.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
Your aspects favor harmony, making this a good time to work out problems in relationships—whether personal or professional, big or small. An old friend comes back.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
While you're still riding that high-powered beam, you might begin to lose focus by week's end. Could be you'll need to do a little cat-napping to restore your spent energies.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
An unexpected development creates a lot of excitement. Where it takes you is your decision. Check out the possibilities, then decide if you want to go with it or not.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
Although your supporters help you squash an unfair claim against you, don't let this go unchallenged. You need to learn more about the motives of those behind it.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
There are still some tasks to clear up by midweek. Then you can welcome the new month on a high note. A friend brings surprising but very welcome news.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
You might want to change your plans before they're set in cement. Consider advice from colleagues. But remember that, ultimately, it's your choice.

CARACOM (December 22 to January 19)
A difficult situation is working itself out. Lingering problems should be resolved by week's end, allowing the Goat to enjoy a calmer, less stressful period.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
Be careful not to move so quickly that you miss possible warning signs that could upset your plans. Slow down. Your supporters will continue to stand by you.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
Your generosity in sharing your time and wisdom with others leads to an intriguing development that could have you considering some interesting choices.

BORN THIS WEEK:
You have a way of influencing people to be and do their best. You would make an excellent teacher.
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**Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Toddlers 0-3</th>
<th>Kids 4-12</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>FAM</th>
<th>Teens 13+</th>
<th>Adults 18+</th>
<th>Seniors 65+</th>
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Submissions for Community Calendar are required two weeks preceding the date of publication. Send to Darlene Huston, Pioneer Press, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago, IL 60654; dhuston@pioneerlocal.com. Information may be faxed to (847) 466-7495.

**CENTRAL 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.
    - **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).

**COMMUNITY**

**Author Carrie Goldman**

- **18+ 65+**
  - Professionals In Learning Disabilities And Special Education will host Carrie Goldman, author of "Bullied: What Every Parent, Teacher, and Kid Needs to Know About Ending the Cycle of Fear." She will address multiple aspects of bullying, for bystanders, parents, and students as well as cyberbullying on May 14 at Gusto Ristorante Italiano, 1470 Waukegan Road, Glenview. Goldman will give her presentation at 8 p.m. following appetizers and dinner commencing at 6 p.m. Cost is $35 per member/student and $40 for non-members. Professionals and parents are invited to attend. Call Carrie Parks at (847) 831-4259.

**Medication Take Back Day**

- **18+ 65+**
  - Do you have expired, unused or unwanted medications in your medicine cabinet? Dispose of them safely from 10 a.m.-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 the Maine Community Youth Assistance Foundation, your police department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). For more information, contact MCYAF at www.mcya.com or (847) 858-7090.

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**Run For Res 5K Fun Run/Walk**

- **14 18+ 65+**
  - The Run for Res 5K Fun Run/Walk kicks off on April 20. The chip-timed 5K starts at 9 a.m. at the Resurrection College Prep High School parking lot and the route will be in the neighborhood sur- rounding Resurrection. The school is located at 7500 W. Talcott Ave., in Chicago. A course map is available at www.reshs.org. Advance registration fees are $30 per adult and $10 for students ages 6-18 through April 19. Registration may be completed on-line at www.reshs.org or in-person by visiting the school during regular school hours 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Event day on-site registration fees are $35 per adult and $15 per student. Children ages 5 and under are free with a registered adult. First- through third-place awards will be given at 10 a.m. and raffles at 10:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit Resurrection College Prep High School.

**HEALTH**

**Weight Loss Seminar**

- **18+ 65+**
  - Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge, provides a variety of options for weight loss, including medically supervised very low caloric diets, nutrition exchange and long-term maintenance programs to help keep weight from returning. Team approach includes behavior modification plus information relating to metabolic/bariatric surgical options including gastric bypass, sleeve gastrectomy, Lap-BAND placement and revision surgery. Sessions continue from 7-8 p.m. May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12. Call to register for this free program at (800) 323-8622 and refer to class code BG52. April 23: "Stroke Prevention"; April 30: "Warning Signs and Living with Dementia."

**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:**

- **6-13**
  - Knights of Niles Chess Club at 3:45 p.m. Fridays, April 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.

**Shakespeare Project of Chicago**

- **6-13**
  - The Reign of King Edward III will be presented from 7-9:30 p.m. April 19. Members of The Shakespeare Project will perform the final Niles Public Library theatrical reading of the season. Introduction starts at 6:45 p.m.
Adult Programs:

Smart Solutions Initiative will present the following financial programs. Two programs will be presented at the Niles Public Library. To register, call the Niles Public Library at (847) 663-1234 or visit www.nileslibrary.org/calender, except where noted. Initiative partner Maine Township will host the third program at their location, 1700 Ballard Road in Park Ridge.

Savvy Social Security Planning, an informative seminar will cover who is eligible for retirement and survivor benefits along with entitlement factors for this and other Social Security Programs at 3 p.m. April 24. Mayra Salazar, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration will also present information on statements, retirement options, working while receiving benefits, using the Retirement Estimator and online services.

Identity & Theft will take place at 10:30 a.m. April 25. Learn how to reduce your risk by managing your personal information wisely. Deidra Thomas, Consumer and Family Economics, University of Illinois Extension will demonstrate customer vulnerabilities and how to reduce the victimization process.

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.

Youth Cricket Clinic

Takes place on April 20 at Dee Park. Learn the proper techniques of the game. Call for details.

Youth Cricket Class

Children ages 7 to 15 will learn the skills of the game including batting, bowling, fielding and wicket keeping. Starts Mondays, beginning April 29 at Dee Park.

Facility Rentals

Various rooms, gyms, fields and a cricket pitch are available for rental for parties, meetings or ongoing activities. For room facility rates call (847) 297-3059.

Spring Basketball League

Games are played on Fridays and Saturdays at Feldman; clinic, 6-7 p.m. - for sixth- to eighth-graders

RELIGION

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 with questions at (847) 692-2758 or spcccatechesis@yahoo.com.

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.

St. Paul of the Cross Vacation Bible School

Register Now. Children entering 4-year-old pre-kindergarten through fifth grade will attend a fun-filled week of religion, songs, projects and games. 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.

NILES SENIOR CENTER

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

HOCUS FOCUS

Find at least six differences in details between panels

See page 24 for this week's Super Crossword and Sudoku puzzles.
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Luming de la Cruz and her husband took one of their favorite hobbies and turned it into a career that they love.

De la Cruz and her husband, Ed, started out social dancing with their friends in their basement.

“We really enjoy doing it,” said de la Cruz. She said people started to ask whether they taught dance lessons. “We got a lot of people asking about us.”

In order to accommodate all the people who were interested in taking dance lessons from the couple, in 1999, they opened their own studio, Dance Time With Friends.

The studio is located at 8800 W. Dempster St. in the Dempster St. Plaza Shopping Center in Niles.

The dance studio offers classes in Latin dancing and ballroom dancing. Dancers can learn styles they see on the popular television show “Dancing with the Stars,” such as the cha-cha, jive, samba, Viennese waltz, tango and more.

Private dance lessons are available, as well as semi-private lessons with a small group of people and group lessons. The studio also offers a Monday night singles class and an arm styling and technique class that helps people improve and develop their dancing skills.

De la Cruz said most of the dancers range in age from 30 years old to 80 years old, but they do teach a group of eighth-grade students from Northridge College Preparatory school in Niles.

Luming and Ed de la Cruz traveled to different states to study dance and received private instruction from renowned World Champion Nadia Eftedal and U.S. dance champions, such as Ron Mon- tez and Bob Powers. They also were coached by Teresa Shiry, a national dance champion.

“We’ve also brought some other coaches to the studio,” said de la Cruz.

De la Cruz said that many of the dancers at the studio work full-time and find dancing very relaxing.

“They find the best way to unwind is through dancing,” shared de la Cruz. “It’s very good exercise physically and mentally.”

Each fall the studio holds a showcase performed by its dancers at the Chevy Chase Country Club.

“It’s like a recital for our students,” said de la Cruz. She said some of their students perform at other functions throughout the year.

Rachel Weinstein and her husband have been taking classes at Dance Time With Friends since 2007. She said they take various classes throughout the week and they also do social ballroom dancing every Saturday night in the same studio.

“She’s a very, very good teacher and very patient,” noted Weinstein. “She’s a treasure to us. We love Luming and Ed.”

“When we can’t get some step she will go over it and over it with a lot of patience,” said Weinstein. She said that dancing is good for her mind and body.

“It’s a beautiful thing to do,” said Weinstein.
New tech helps find lost stuff fast

SETH SCHWARTZ | Contributor

Misplacing personal items such as laptops, cell phones, luggage or even pets is a predicament everyone wants to avoid.

The ability to locate such objects quickly ends a myriad of potential problems. Morton Grove's Andrew Tuch, Vice President of Sales for Real Technology Solutions has found the solution with Stick-N-Find, which released an adhesive disk roughly the size of a quarter you can affix to most flat surfaces.

A free downloadable app turns newer Android smartphones, iPads and iPhones into handheld radar screens that let you hone in on your tracked item within 100 feet.

You can identify and track up to 20 individual stickers on the radar screen and control the flow of information. Even if your phone is forgotten, with "Virtual Reverse Leash," the sticker will buzz and/or flash when separated from the phone. The Stick-N-Find uses an easily replaceable watch battery which can last up to one year.

The procedure is simple. Tap a sticker on the radar screen to activate the settings and decide if you would like it to buzz, flash its lights or both.

Public desire for this sort of technology, which was released in March, has been considerable. Through an indiegogo.com crowd funding campaign, the goal of $70,000 dollars was surpassed in 45 days, as Stick-N-Find raised just under $1 million from 12,313 people.

Morton Grove's Andrew Tuch has been representing GPS tracking and electricity-saving green technologies for both consumer and commercial applications. In business for nearly 13 years, Real Technology Solutions is constantly investigating new technologies that can benefit clients.

After meeting with the designers of Stick-N-Find at the Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show in January, Real Technology Solutions knew they had a winning product and immediately became the manufacturer's representative.

For the price, the public has found it to be a winning proposition. After all, it's hard to get started without your keys or laptop.

The product is available from www.sticknfind.com/info for $24.99 each.

Real Technology Solutions vice president of sales, Andrew Tuch, of Morton Grove is the manufacturer's representative for "Stick-N-Find," a small Bluetooth device that can be used with a smart phone to track important items. | BRIAN O'MAHONEY—Sun-Times Media

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Bathrooms: 2.5
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Get up and go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond

Every Thursday

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

NI LES

7619 N Oriole Ave: Dolores K Olsen Trust to Rossen H Samitchkov for $261,000 on Feb. 21.

9078 W Heathwood Drive #9078: Mi Jeong Kim to Natalia Kogan, Genya Polischuk and Mikhail Kogan for $67,000 on Feb. 27.

MORTON GROVE

8340 Callie Ave #308: Igor Davydov to Park Chut for $129,000 on Feb. 27.

8630 Ferris Ave #206: Yelena Geppert to Mun Jung An for $100,000 on March 1.

8917 Harlem Ave: Ann Marie Caughron Trust to Rossen H Samitchkov for $71,000 on Feb. 25.


8340 Callie Ave #308: Igor Davydov to Mun Jung An for $100,000 on March 1.

8450 Major Ave: Joan Gilbert and David Gilbert to Zelis T Arceta and Marissa J Arceta for $287,000 on Feb. 27.

PARK RIDGE

424 W Sibley St: James J Hyland and Alicia M Hyland to Salomea Klunzinger and Jeffrey R Klunzinger for $775,000 on Feb. 27.

513 N Broadway Ave: James J Bosco and Charlotte K Bosco to Jerome G Welland and Leah M Welland for $233,000 on Feb. 28.

707 S Home Ave: Lous Tsatsakis and Vicky Tsatsakis to Suzana Matic for $272,000 on Feb. 27.

201 Thames Parkway #8: Thomas Corcoran Trust and Norma J Corcoran Trust to Daniel McDermott and Julie Anne McDermott for $114,000 on Feb. 27.

ROSEMONT

6307 N Hawthorne St: Dennis J Jesse and Phyllis B Jesse to Joseph T Bologh and Samantha L Wong for $323,000 on Feb. 25.

630 Long Road: Michael J Miles to Glen Dell Properties LLC for $242,000 on Feb. 25.

1889 Admiral Court #80: Foster Bank to Andrea Collaro for $575,000 on March 1.

1234 Pleasant Lane: Miroslaw Owczarek to Christopher Czechowski for $425,000 on Feb. 27.

GLENVIEW

11213 Bird Street: James J Jett-Rivard, Ryan Rivard and Andrea Collaro for $575,000 on March 1.

516 Mission Avenue: Baronger Development LLC to Gabriel Navakas for $305,000 on Feb. 27.

SKOKIE

8137 Laramie Ave: Khadija Ahmed to Liqiang Wang and Li Huang for $365,000 on Feb. 28.

6301 Grand Avenue: Yana L Wong for $323,000 on Feb. 25.

4241 Oakton St: Paul Haake to Frederick G Haake Trust for $175,000 on Feb. 26.

3834 Louise St: Teresa Bednarczyk to Gregory Rankin for $272,000 on Feb. 28.

8840 Karlov Ave: Bruce Lowy to Gabriel D Kroll and Shoshana L Kroll for $379,500 on Feb. 25.

7115 Sumac Road: Rajnikant Patel to Abdul Majeed for $114,000 on Feb. 27.

LINCOLNWOOD

6948 N Keating Ave: Aghita Vayall and Binu Vayall to Jose Thattarettu for $217,000 on Feb. 28.

4601 W Touhy Ave #210: Shirley Cohen and Bhupen B Patel to Susanna Rossenga for $130,000 on Feb. 26.

6739 N Lawndale Ave: Joseph Ratliff to Arif Nikovic for $184,000 on Feb. 27.

6423 N Christiana Ave: James J Hyland and Guadalin Dell to Gabriel Navakas for $305,000 on Feb. 26.

2492 Church St: Jane Moore Picola and Joseph L Picola to Anastasios Douvikas for $379,500 on Feb. 25.

9364 Bay Colony Drive #644: Emma Bederian to Joanne Jung Jong and Ye Jin Lee for $63,000 on March 1.

711 S River Road #316: John T Empe to Mirosav Malarick for $90,000 on Feb. 25.

1503 E Walnut Ave: David S Lamb and Kelly L Wallace to Joseph T Meyer III for $298,000 on Feb. 27.


656 Pearson St #308: Intercounty Judicial Sales Corp and Bahlova to North Shore Holdings Ltd for $71,000 on Feb. 25.
Help your kids navigate the digital landscape with these tips from national experts.

Online safety cards

Is your family device-crazy? The Family Online Safety Institute has created a series of online safety cards that are perfect for families with multiple devices. These cards include a series of conversations and promises that parents and kids can make together. For more information as well as a link to the downloadable cards, visit http://www.aplatformforgood.org/pages/online-safety-cards.

MORE THAN MONITORING

"Online safety used to be all about monitoring your kids," says Lynne Kenney, pediatric psychologist and author of The Family Coach Method (www.lynnkenney.com). "It was only a few years ago that parents could control their kids' online activity by keeping the family computer centrally located."

These days, digital media has become so pervasive it's hard to find a time when our kids aren't plugged into a device. Kenney knows parents can't monitor their kids 24/7, which is why she believes it's more important than ever to help them become ethical digital citizens.

"As parents, we need to show our kids how to live with integrity because more than any other generation, they're going to need it," she said.

TEACH CONSEQUENCES

Natural consequences are excellent teaching tools as they reinforce good decision-making skills and highlight why bad decisions are indeed bad. When it comes to helping our kids make good decisions online, we need to teach them about consequences.

"Kids need to know that online, anonymity rarely exists," Kenney said. "They also need to understand that anything they post online will live in perpetuity and can potentially have a devastating effect on their future."

Forensic pediatrician Leena S. Dev agrees. "I tell kids that unless they're comfortable seeing their post on a billboard outside their home, they shouldn't be comfortable putting it online," she explains.

PRIVACY MATTERS

"As our children get older, the risks to their online privacy increase," says Mary Kay Hoal, founder of an Internet safety resource site for parents, www.YoursphereForParents.com. Hoal believes it's imperative to teach kids the difference between information that's okay to share and information that should always be kept private. It might seem intuitive to adults, but kids need to be reminded to never share their full name, address, phone number or the name of their school, sports teams or clubs. Hoal believes parents must educate their kids about the dangers associated with sharing too much information, such as identity theft, exploitation, financial loss and cyberbullying.

MODEL DESIRED BEHAVIOR

My favorite piece of advice comes from Nancy Gifford of the Family Online Safety Institute, which recently launched a website that promotes ethical digital behavior (www.aplatformforgood.org). Gifford points out that most children's behaviors are heavily influenced by their parents' habits, actions and attitudes. Therefore, Gifford tells parents to reflect on their own digital behavior, which includes asking questions such as, "Do I text and drive? Am I constantly connected to my device? Do I post inappropriate or unsupportive comments?" As parents we need to model the behavior we want to see, because our kids are sure to notice.
Called to the table by Mother Earth

BY VERONICA HINKE | Contributor

From whimsical cakes and cookies to grungy potatoes and horseradish roots to fancy four-course wine dinners, there are plenty of foods to toast Earth Day.

At Prasino in La Grange, chefs Riley Huddleston and Todd Feiti have planned a four-course dinner event for Earth Day, April 22. Each course will be paired with wine. In true farm-to-table fashion, the food will be sourced from Knutson's County Harvest and Prairie Fruits Farm, both located in Illinois.

"The menu was inspired by what is in season locally and reflects a sense of place," said Prasino Director of Marketing Ephi Maglaris. "Earth Day is all about recognizing the source of our food and connecting with it."

And Maglaris should know. She has participated in slow food dinners for years, including festivals such as Salone del Gusto and Terra Madre in Turin, Italy. "It is known as the biennial gathering for slow food," she said.

The dinner will feature Earth Day-appropriate foods - Parsnip Soup with a Wildflower Honey Crumble; Great Lakes Walleye Pike and, of course, plenty of new potatoes and spring carrots.

"Potatoes are a natural on Earth Day," said George Cruz, chef at City Park Grill in Highland Park. "They can be prepared so many different ways."

Cruz will make a favorite potato salad to pair with a horseradish-crusted salmon in celebration of Earth Day.

To make the fish, Cruz places it on the char grill for two minutes on each side. Then, he puts it in a coated pan and finishes it in a 350 degree oven for 8 to 10 minutes, depending on the thickness.

"I look for the topping to be nicely browned before removing the fish," he said.

Natural oils in salmon help hold the crust to the fish. Cruz makes his crust with one cup of tiger horseradish, three-fourths of a cup of Japanese bread crumbs, two tablespoons of fresh horseradish and one tablespoon of chopped parsley.

"The horseradish crust has a great zip," he said.

Deerfields Bakery, meanwhile, is putting a sweet and whimsical spin on Earth Day from watering-can cookies to a cake in the shape of a recycling can - overflowing with miniature bottles and cans.

"I wanted to create a cake with a recycling theme. I didn't have a picture to show the decorators, so I told them to use the same idea as Oscar the Grouch from Sesame Street, but leave Oscar out and put some plastic cake decorations instead," explained graphic artist Evelin Ullrich.

The cake — as well as the other Earth Day-themed treats at Deerfields — is right up the bakery's alley. Deerfields will donate a portion of the proceeds from their Earth Day treats to the World Wildlife Fund.
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Cesia Chevalier: Colleges and universities recognize the importance of social media and the need to educate the emerging workforce. According to Schawbel, Microsoft estimates the cost to replace each Gen Y employee is $24,000.

Monster: Has social media changed the way companies now shape their company branding strategy? What are the key elements that a company should have in place for their social media strategy?

Chevalier: Using social media is a must for company recruitment/branding strategies. Todd Van Hoosear, Principal at the PR agency Fresh Ground, explained that successful social recruiting programs involve community, content, conversation and conversion. Todd added that these 4 C's are the cornerstones for companies building a branding and recruiting strategy using social media. More and more employers are utilizing social platforms to extend their employer brand and distribution network of job postings, while providing the opportunity for candidates to directly engage and get an inside look at the company culture. Facebook has turned into a viable place for professional networking as Facebook dominates time spent on other social sites. The younger demographic and specific industry sectors like nurses and others are not on LinkedIn, but they are on Facebook. However, keep in mind that with the increased popularity of recruiting through social media that social should be considered an “AND,” not an “OR” solution, and should be integrated as a part of a company’s overall recruiting strategy. Social media should never replace the traditional methods.

Chevalier: What advice do you have for employers who are looking to engage this demographic via social media?

Chevalier: It is important to give your recruiting team a voice on social media that’s separate from the corporate brand within social media sites. Career-focused social profiles at your organization enable students and alumni to ask questions about the employment process, understand your corporate culture and learn about your recruitment process. Have a communication strategy in place that focuses on being transparent and genuine. Finally, as we’ve successfully seen with BelKnown™, Monster’s professional networking app for Facebook, it’s essential to encourage the participation of employees and recent alumni in your social media strategy, as they are the best company ambassadors and will show potential candidates a genuine insight into your organization.

Chevalier: What picture emerged of today’s college graduates from Monster’s recent Emerging Workforce Summit? Why has the college grad demographic become so critical to our future workforce?

Chevalier: At Monster’s social summit on Educating and Engaging the Emerging Workforce, keynote speaker and Gen Y expert Dan Schwabel pointed out that today’s emerging workforce (18-29 years old) are extremely tech savvy, collaborative, flexible and passionate, adding that they will play a key role in driving employee innovation. Gen Ys will make up 75% of the global workers by 2025. In addition, Gen Y is becoming more entrepreneurial for multiple reasons: barriers have lowered to starting a company, while it is more difficult for them to find internships and professional jobs with little professional experience. Ryan Paugh, a Gen Y thought leader and community-building expert, believes that entrepreneurship is the solution America needs to help the current job market. He is a strong advocate of youth entrepreneurship and urges the government to do more to support entrepreneurs.

Chevalier: How can employers do a better job of meeting those expectations?

Chevalier: Employers should effectively onboard new hires to leverage the emerging workforce’s passion and energy while concentrating on retaining their talent. According to Schwabel, Microsoft estimates the cost to replace each Gen Y employee is $24,000.

Chevalier: How important is social media in reaching this demographic when it comes time to recruit?

Chevalier: It is extremely important for employers to engage the emerging workforce demographic where they live and breathe - online, using social media. Currently, there is a social network mismatch. Keynote speaker Dan Schwabel cited Jovvite’s 2011 Recruitment Survey, which reported that the majority of job seekers (almost 90%) are on Facebook, while less than 60% of recruiters are on Facebook. It is important for employers close this gap and be where the job seekers are. Employers need to enable recruiters to connect directly on social media, like Facebook, with a separate profile dedicated to careers.

Chevalier: Are today’s universities helping guide young grads in their social media usage and participation?

Chevalier: Colleges and universities recognize the importance of social media and the need to educate the emerging workforce. Kristin Mattera, adjunct professor at Suffolk University, teaches a social media class. At Monster’s Social Summit, Kristin presented how to transform social media training to real work outcomes, which is a main focus of her class. College/university career centers are also using social media to reach their students and alumni while educating students on their use of social media in a job search. Marilyn Sambataro, assistant director of graduate and alumni career services at Bentley University, discussed career services in the social
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- Working closely with photography, layout and Web staff to present a more complete picture of events and a more visually appealing presentation of coverage
- Thoroughly understanding the role of Coversing a Community
- Excellent communication and organizational skills

EDUCATION:
- Bachelor’s Degree in Journalism or related field preferred

EXPERIENCE:
- Background in news reporting, minimum of two years required
- Digital news gathering experience desired
- Must be able to work a flexible work schedule

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This is a role in our content generation team. You will be using machine learning to analyze data and identify trends and patterns that will be used to generate new ideas for content generation and improve / streamline our existing content generation processes.

JOB DESCRIPTION

You must demonstrate passion for software programming. If you have a github account on the side and can show us some high quality code you've written, that is a big plus.

Knowledge of practical statistical techniques, and a pragmatic approach and skill at modeling complex real world problems with software.

Practical knowledge of fundamental programming principles, such as common design patterns, object oriented design, common data structures and algorithms.

Collaborative, thoughtful approach to problem solving, including seeking out and giving careful consideration to other team members' opinions.

Strong commitment to quality in every aspect of your work.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of common data structures and algorithms.

Knowledge of practical statistical techniques, and a pragmatic approach and skill at modeling complex real world problems with software.

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Strong commitment to quality in every aspect of your work.

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http://www.smartrecruiters.com/Aggrego/71862054
All your information will be kept confidential according to EEO guidelines.

SERVER SIDE WEB ENGINEER
Chicago, Illinois

Aggrego aims to use data collection, data analytics, visualization technology to create the next generation of digital media. We are led by visionary entrepreneurs with a highly successful track record. We are a subsidiary of Wrapports LLC.

We're looking for exceptional engineers who love challenge and creative problem solving. You will be working with a very talented team which is passionate about technology and building great experiences for consumers.

We have roles in both our content generation and content management teams.

Job Description

We're looking for exceptional engineers who love challenge and creative problem solving. You will be working with a very talented team which is passionate about technology and building great experiences for consumers.

You must demonstrate passion for software programming. If you have a github account on the side and can show us some high quality code you've written, that is a big plus.

Knowledge of multiple software languages, and deep expertise in at least one.

Practical knowledge of fundamental programming principles, such as common design patterns, object oriented design, common data structures and algorithms.

Practical knowledge and appreciation of good software engineering practices, such as test driven development, regular code refactoring, continuous integration.

Experience and understanding of general database technologies. NoSQL experience is a plus.

Collaborative, thoughtful approach to problem solving, including seeking out and giving careful consideration to other team members' opinions.

Strong commitment to quality in every aspect of your work.

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http://www.smartrecruiters.com/Aggrego/71862054
All your information will be kept confidential according to EEO guidelines.

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MORTON GROVE

C.ALCARAZ, HARRIS N.A.; UNVICTOR

vs.

Plaintiff

TRUSTEE FOR THE

Io Plaintiff and in AS lS condition.

suant fo a Jadgment of Foreclosure

TICE IS HEREBY GIVEN lhat par-

GROVE, IL 60053

7546 LYONS STREET MORTON

Defendanls

NANCIAL CORPORATION

TEMS, INC

TV DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY

IN

Selling Officer, (312) 444-t 122

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES

ber 0904583

(312) 476-5500. Refer to File Num-

For information: Visit oar website al

receive a Certificate of Sale which

subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of

unit other than a mortgagee shall

est community, the purchaser of the

proved with a single family resi-

The mortgaged real estate is

purchased with a single family resi-

The mortgagee is a unit of a common inter-

The mortgaged real estate is

sell fo the highest bidder for cash,

25% down by certified
to the highest bid by certified
to the highest bid by certified

No fee shall be paid

the balance, including the Judicial sole

exclluding the Judicial sole

sale other than a mortgagee shall

the residential real estate arose pri-

other lienor acquiring the residential

The mortgaged real estate is

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sell fo the highest bidder for cash,
The Judicial Sale fee for Abandoned tion. No third party checks will be accepted. The close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation at the hour of 10:30 AM on May 3, 2013, at the The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois, 60606.


Defendants: BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., 9117 MARION AVENUE, MORTON GROVE, ILLINOIS 60076; NAHRIN ESTIFAN NK/A NAHRIN TROUB, 9117 MARION AVENUE, MORTON GROVE, ILLINOIS 60076; VALENTINATODOROVA; 9414 MARION AVENUE, MORTON GROVE, ILLINOIS 60076; BANK OF AMERICA, 120 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60602.

Plaintiffs: PIERCE & ASSOCIATES, 765 W. 31st Street, Suite 1300, CHICAGO, IL 60616.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure,確定, will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to Title, 10-15-12 CH 14737.

Sale terms: 25% down by certified funds within 24 hours, by certified funds. The real estate is improved with a mid-near condominium building.

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure, the purchaser of the property will NOT be entitled to a deed to Title, 10-15-12 CH 14737.

If the subject mortgaged real estate is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the property will NOT be open for inspection and entitled cause on February 8, 2013, at the The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, 2013, at the The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, 2013, at the The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive.

The defendant, 9414 MARION AVENUE, MORTON GROVE, ILLINOIS 60076, has been subjugated to general real estate taxes, debt service, and the Municipal Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate whose rights in and to the property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the property will NOT be open for inspection and entitled cause on February 8, 2013, at the The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive.


If you are advised that Plaintiffs are the owner of the property, you are advised that Plaintiffs are the owner of the property.

TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1705/005 of the Condominium Property Act. IF YOU ARE THE OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1705/005 of the Condominium Property Act.


The sale fee for Abandoned tion. No third party checks will be accepted. The close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, 2013, at the The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive.

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PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the Judgment of Foreclosure of The Judicial Sales Corporation, for the State of Illinois, et al., plaintiff, v. Defendant, et al., Case Number: 1 10 CH 036463, the subject property, 3950 asks Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076, is subject to or liens and is offered for sale without any representation or warranty, whether expressed or implied, as to quality or quantity of the property offered for sale, as to the condition of the property, or as to the condition of the premises. Prospective bidders are advised to personally view the Property at the time and place of sale, and to conduct their own independent investigation and verification of the facts, statements, representations, and information obtained. The highest and best offers will be made at the sale, and upon the conclusion of the sale, the highest and best offer will be accepted. The amount paid by the successful bidder will be paid in certified funds immediately at the conclusion of the auction. Judgment creditor, or Other lienor shall pay the amounts due and in accordance with the Judgment of Foreclosure and the foreclosure sale of the subject property. The property will be sold in its entirety, and the proceeds of the sale will be distributed in accordance with the Judgment of Foreclosure. The successful bidder will be required to pay the real estate tax bill for the subject property in advance of settlement. The property will remain the subject of a mortgage and other liens and encumbrances, and the property will be sold subject to all such liens and encumbrances. No representation is made as to the condition of the property or the condition of the premises. The property is available for viewing at 12:30 p.m. on April 18, 2013, at the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606. Bidders are advised to check the court docket to verify all information obtained and to view the property at the time and place of sale. The subject property is subject to any and all liens and encumbrances, and the proceeds of the sale will be distributed in accordance with the Judgment of Foreclosure. The property is available for viewing at 12:30 p.m. on April 18, 2013, at the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606. Bidders are advised to check the court docket to verify all information obtained and to view the property at the time and place of sale.
the residential real estate arose prior to the merger.

Pursuant to the Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above cause, on February 15, 2013, an order was entered permitting the mortgagee to sell the real estate described below without notice, hearing or reference to a referee. The mortgagee has purchased the real estate at public auction at the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the regular public sale held on May 2, 2013, at the The Judicial Sales Corporation at 315 West Madison Street, Suite 1300, Chicago, Illinois 60602. The true name(s) and address(s) of the owner(s) are:

F12020253

The owners reserve the right to receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to the condition of the property at the time of possession. The property will not be open for inspection prior to sale.

Defendants

ATIONS AND LIENS - DOMICILIARY

Mrs. Anthony Berfiseth, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, 10th Judicial Circuit, Skokie, Illinois 60077 Attention: Family Department. Domestic Relations Department.

For information, call Mr. Anthony Berfiseth, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, 10th Judicial Circuit, Skokie, Illinois 60077 Attention: Family Department. Domestic Relations Department.

Dated this 29th day of March, 2013. The Judicial Sales Corporation.

TROJAN WOLF

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Dated this 29th day of March, 2013. The Judicial Sales Corporation.
Notice is hereby given that a public sale by storage of the following personal property is to be held on the 18th day of April, 2013, at 1:30 p.m. at Storage Today, 500 W. Fullerton Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60614.

The property will consist of the following:

- Living room set
- Bases and personal items
- Bed frames
- Personal property
- Furniture
- Appliances
- Clothing
- Tools
- Sports equipment
- Books
- Electronics
- Household goods
- Motor vehicles
- Jewelry
- Antiques
- Artwork
- Collectibles
- Electronics
- Appliances
- Furniture
- Bedding
- Window coverings
- Televisions
- Video and audio equipment
- Appliances
- Office equipment
- Tools
- Sporting equipment
- Books
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Records
- CDs
- DVDs
- Video games
- Games
- Toys
- Musical instruments
- Instruments
- Cameras
- Lenses
- Tripods
- Accessories
- Spec
- Photo equipment
- Marine equipment
- Etc.

The property will be sold to the highest bidder, and all bids must be in writing. Bids will be accepted up to the day of the sale. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. The person with the highest bid will be the buyer and will be required to pay for the property in full at the time of the sale. All property must be removed within 24 hours of the sale.

Any monetary deposits will be made by cash, check, or certified check made payable to Storage Today. A 10% buyer's premium will be added to all sales.

Storage Today will be open to the public for viewing the property on the Wednesday before the sale, April 17, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All bidders are encouraged to view the property before bidding.

The sale will be conducted by Storage Today, 500 W. Fullerton Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60614.

For more information, please contact Storage Today at 773-539-3366 or visit their website at storagetoday.com.

Notice of Sale

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State of Illinois, the undersigned

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For more information, please contact Storage Today at 773-539-3366 or visit their website at storagetoday.com.
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- Search by mileage
- Browse hot vehicle categories

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HOUSE OF STYLE

HGTV’s Monica Pedersen prepares for motherhood and reflects on the work ethic behind her winning smile.
I source my truffles in Umbria, my prosecco in Veneto, and my family’s Sunday dinner at Mariano’s.

- Tony Pirolo
  Executive Chef / Owner
  Piccolo Sogno

Mariano’s

Greektown
Lakeshore East
North Elston
Roscoe Village
Arlington Heights
Hoffman Estates
Harwood Heights
Vernon Hills
Palatine
Frankfort

Shop well. Eat well. Live Well.
marianos.com
We're wild for Walter E. Smithe's latest furniture collection, designed in tandem with HGTV's Candice Olson. It's chock full of fresh, modern interpretations of familiar silhouettes, like this chic Cucina banquette, $1,599, 2009 N. Clybourn; Smithe.com

Get back to basics with the Four Seasons' Earth Day Facial, a 25-minute spa experience that uses plants sourced from organic farms around the world. April 22 only, $50, 120 E. Delaware; Fourseasons.com/chicagof

Snack sweetly with help from Magnolia Bakery and the Michael J. Fox Foundation, which have partnered through the month of April to aid those affected by Parkinson’s disease. $1.75 from the sale of each special cupcake will go toward the MJFF and Parkinson’s disease research. $3.75 each, 108 N. State; Magnoliabakery.com

No rani can resist the gold embroidery and Swarovski embellishments that adorn Azeeza Khan's South Asian-inspired line, Atelier AZZA. Shop the collection at the designer's new store, which opened April 13 at the Shops at North Bridge. $79-$695, 520 N. Michigan; Atelierazza.com

We have a bevy of people talking 'bout a #splashing weekend! @maisondelacour is featured in this week’s @suntimes_splash! Get... BucketFeet: Getting some love from @suntimes_splash about our #nextbucketfeet artist contest ellie forman: The Cubs and Cardinals are frenemies, love it, @Suntimes_Splash! “Andy Cohen: The ‘Real’ Host of Bravo” @bravoandy

What is your favorite Chicago neighborhood and why?

“Logan Square. I love running along the boulevards, grabbing dinner at Lula Cafe or Longman & Eagle and hitting up the farmer’s market every Sunday. There’s a huge sense of community there, too.”

“Devon Avenue. I'm a big fan of the out-of-this-world Indian and Pakistani food.”

“Backtown/Wicker Park is my favorite neighborhood to shop, Gold Coast for working out along the lake and West Loop for dining-- there is something for everyone in each hood!”

“Bucktown/Wicker Park is my favorite neighborhood to shop, Gold Coast for working out along the lake and West Loop for dining-- there is something for everyone in each hood!”

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Splash is distributed weekly inside Sun-Times Media publications.
April 18
- ‘MARA TAPP LIVE’
Award-winning local journalist and author Alexander Hemon and Shav Chicago Artistic Director Robert Scogin for a live installment of her WBZ radio show, followed by a reception. Proceeds benefit Cool Classics!, an after-school program created by Tapp that works to improve literacy and instill a love of arts and culture in low-income elementary school students.

Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: The Gratz Center at Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut

April 18
- ANIXTER CENTER BENEFIT FOR ABILITY
A leading provider of services to people with disabilities and related challenges, the Anixter Center conducts dozens of programs across the greater Chicago area. Their second annual fundraiser honors the vital contributions of their dedicated volunteers.

Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State
Cost: $350. Call (773) 929-8200 or visit Anixter.org.

April 19
- 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 Enge and Astrid McKinnon, the evening begins with a performance at the Auditorium Theatre, followed by dinner and dancing at the Hilton Chicago (720 S. Michigan).

Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: 50 E. Congress
Cost: $750. Call (312) 739-0120 or visit joffrey.org.

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 pjhchicago.com/zoob.

April 20
- ‘BIG MAC UNDER GLASS’
Don your best incognito attire for this lavish masquerade, supporting Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana. Fox TV sports anchor Lou Canellis will lead a post-dinner program, followed by dancing to the sounds of the High Society Orchestra.

Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, 301 E. North Water
Cost: $400. Call (630) 623-5300 or visit Ronaldmcdonaldhouse.org/chicago/.

April 21
- ‘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) 334-0335 or visit Aidschicago.org/springdinner.

April 22
- 2013 AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS
The Theatre School at DePaul University honors actors Stana Katic (“Castle”), S. Epatha Merkerson (“Lincoln”), Steppenwolf’s Amy Morton and Broadway lighting designer Paul Miller at this annual gala, which supports the Theatre School’s scholarship fund.

Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, 120 E. Delaware Place

April 23
- ‘CADAVER’
The MCA hosts a viewing of the award-winning animated short “Cadaver,” which features the voices of Oak Park-raised fashion wunderkind Tavi Gevinson, “Back to the Future” star Christopher Lloyd and Academy Award-winner Kathy Bates. Gevinson and director Jonah Ansell will be on hand to discuss their work.

Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago
Cost: $10, $8 for MCA members, $6 for students. Call (312) 397-4010, Mcachicago.org.

April 23
- ‘RESCUE OUR ANGELS’
Splash columnist Jenny McCarthy, along with guest hosts Chris and Jacqueline Laurita (above, “The Real Housewives of New Jersey”), Doug Clerget (“The Bachelorette”) and Miss America contestant Alexis Wineman, welcomes guests to this sixth annual event, honoring Generation Rescue founders Michele and Pete Doyle. Enjoy cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, with all proceeds benefiting the autism-advocacy organization.

Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Studio Paris, 54 W. Hubbard

April 26
- 12TH ANNUAL DRIEHAUS AWARDS FOR FASHION EXCELLENCE
Student designers showcase their work for a panel of judges at this high energy event benefitting the Macy’s Chicago Fashion Incubator. Hosted by WLS-Channel 7’s Linda Yu, the evening includes a cocktail reception and an auction conducted by Leslie Hindman Auctioneers.

Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: 700 S. Des Plaines
Cost: $175 or $300. Visit Driehausdesign.org.

April 27
- DISCOVERY BALL 2013
Bring out your best black tie garb to honor the centennial anniversary of the American Cancer Society. “Mike & Molly” star Billy Gardell and WLS-Channel 7 anchor Ron Magers will be on hand for this annual gala, with proceeds benefiting the American Cancer Society.

Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel, 221 N. Columbus
Cost: $250. Call (312) 279-7213 or visit Discoveryball.org.
BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO SLEEP SOMETIME.

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The 10th Anniversary Red or White Ball was the Steppenwolf Auxiliary Council’s turn to prove they could put on a great show. The group of young professionals did just that April 5, drawing more than 500 partygoers to Venue One (1044 W. Randolph) to drink, eat and dance the night away while supporting the theater. Ensemble member and honorary chair Kate Arrington and actor Michael Shannon ("Revolutionary Road," "Pearl Harbor") were in attendance, helping raise $80,000 to benefit the Steppenwolf for Young Adults program, which annually serves more than 15,000 individuals from Chicago-area schools and communities through productions and programs specifically geared toward young adults, teachers and families.

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

History has repeated itself for local nonprofit Erie Neighborhood House. Since the late 1800s, the organization has supported Chicago’s immigrant population with community-based education programs, and on April 4, more than 400 guests toasted to its continued success at the 2013 Future of Promise Dinner at the Hyatt Regency Chicago (151 E. Wacker). Jose Ramos demonstrated the positive effects of the Erie Neighborhood House’s workforce development program, taking to the stage to share a motivational speech about his own experience finding work and providing for his family with the help of Erie House.

Illinois State Senate president John Cullerton, Deloitte’s Deborah DeHaas and corporate partner Walgreens were honored for their support of the organization, which raised more than $300,000.

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 Erie Neighborhood House, up to a total of $10,000. Up to $1,000 can be matched per individual donation.
Who needs a knight in shining armor when you can suit up in your own glimmering metallic gown? Take a lesson from these heavy-metal ladies, who are rocking vibrant silvers, golds, bronzes and even radiant colors with metallic finishes. The high-sheen fabrics grab attention, but it's the accessories that drive the look home — power up with lustrous silver or gold jewels, belts and shoes. When it comes to makeup, we love the look of a smoky eye. Pump up the energy by using glam blue, green or gold shadows, a look favored by top makeup artists and seen on the Burberry Prorsum catwalk last month. With so many designers making gleaming dresses, you're sure to find one worth its weight in gold.
Forget the spring sun — nothing could outshine the 60 women who pulled out their best sparkles for Sequins at Breakfast, held April 5 at Cru Kitchen and Bar (25 E. Delaware). The inaugural event, created by Amanda Puck of XA, The Experiential Agency and Lindsay Avner of breast cancer-prevention nonprofit Bright Pink, celebrated women as they bonded over food, fashion and mimosas. Erica Strama of The Shops at North Bridge led a session of “glittery girl talk” with the rest of the sequin-studded host committee: Kiran Advani of Skoog Productions, Lynne Bredfeldt of the Park Hyatt Chicago, Kimberly Burt of Maison PR, Jena Gambaccini of Chicityfashion.com, Dana Gordon of Dana Rebecca Designs, Azeeza Khan of Atelier AZZA and Julie Selakovitch Saunders of Saks Fifth Avenue. The women raised more than $1,000 through an auction and ticket sales for Bright Pink.
GUCCI CHICAGO 60TH ANNIVERSARY

A BIT OF FUN

BY KATERINA BIZIOS

For the past 60 years, Italian luxury brand Gucci has helped customers around the world put their best foot forward with the classic Horsebit loafer. To celebrate six decades of comfort and style, the 900 N. Michigan Shops welcomed nearly 200 guests to sip cocktails, peruse the new 1953 collection of men's and women's loafers and customize their own pair with Gucci's Made to Order program. Hosts Nicole Gable and Matt Dudek, Whitney and Jerry Lasky and Traci and Mario M. Tricoci joined guests such as Gucci North America president Christophe de Pous, Marc Brooks, James Goeke, Luca Lanzetta and Kelli Zink, who selected materials, colors, lining and horsebit finishes for their loafers while surrounded by images of celebrities wearing the iconic shoe.

PHOTOS BY JEFF SCHEAR

Mario M. and Traci Tricoci

Christophe de Pous, Nicole Gable and Matt Dudek

Jerry and Whitney Lasky

Jenny Sepulveda and Pete Byrd

Stay in or Night Out?

Your life, your Choice

PEAK OF LUXURY LIVING

You're Invited!

GRAND OPENING PARTY & DESIGNER SHOWCASE

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Dear Jenny,
I read your blog all the time! I was wondering if you have any advice for letting go of possessive mannerisms. I have a hard time believing that things don't belong to me (I'm almost 30), even friends or boyfriends. I have that "he's mine" or "she's my friend" kind of mentality. Are there healthy ways to slowly move away from this kind of thinking?

-Sarah from Illinois

Jenny says: Thank you for being a loyal reader. I appreciate it!

Believe it or not, feeling possessive has nothing to do with age. It has more to do with personality and experiences. Typically a person who is possessive is domineering and strongly-willed. In addition to having a controlling personality, possessiveness also stems from insecurity, lack of trust or jealousy. The great news is that even though you have been possessive in past relationships, you are not destined to always feel that way. You can change.

Dig deep and ask yourself why you feel so possessive of friends and boyfriends, you can begin to change your behavior. There are steps you can take to reform your way of thinking. One of the best ways to overcome possessiveness is to ask the important people in your life for reassurance. Share your insecurities and be honest. Ask them to help you overcome your problem. If you need to be told you are loved and valued, ask for validation. Most likely they will give it to you.

Another tool you can use when you start to feel twinges of jealousy and possessiveness is to assess the situation and react accordingly. Remind yourself that your friends and boyfriend are not objects. They are people and have feelings just like you. This may seem easier said than done, but sometimes thinking in simplistic terms is freeing to the mind. If you are unable to identify the reasons why you are possessive, or you continue to have difficulty controlling your emotions, it is time to seek professional help. In order for any relationship to be successful it must be truly balanced or feelings of resentment and irritation will destroy it. Give yourself a pat on the back for realizing your possessive nature and the desire to change it. That's often the hardest thing.

Good luck!

READ JENNY'S DAILY BLOG AT CHICAGOSPLASH.COM
Interior MOTIVES

Decorator Michael S. Smith crafts his picture-perfect, luxurious Sunday in downtown Chicago

BY ZAK STEMER

Take a bottle of Chanel No. 5, arguably the most famous perfume, and sniff it. It's not a simple scent — it's a combination of essential oils and aromatic compounds, layered on top of each other to create a scent that changes over time and smells slightly different on each person who wears it. Interior design, according to famed decorator Michael S. Smith, is based on the same principle. “It's all about mixing rooms and creating a balance. It's like creating a custom fragrance,” he says. “You can create a room that's immersed in a particular idea.”

When it comes to crafting a custom space, Smith is one of the best; he has an eye for antiques and a knack for fusing cultures. In 2008, he was commissioned by President Obama and the first lady to redecorate the White House and Oval office, where he combined Native American art, rugs woven with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. quotes and contemporary New York furniture. On April 19, he'll serve as honorary chair and guest speaker at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Antiques & Garden Fair (for more information, go to Chicagobotanic.org/antiques).

With his new book, Building Beauty: The Alchemy of Design, due out next month, Smith is showing off one of his most impressive masterpieces: a meticulously crafted Palladian-style Los Angeles home. “I started building this house eight years ago, and it was highly specialized. Every aspect was really detailed. If I needed a stone that I was obsessed with, I went to Italy and picked the stone,” he remembers. “When I decided to write this book, I had seven different photographers in the house. I thought, if you see the photography from all these directions, it would give you a sense of what the house feels like.”

The home is now being sold and its contents are up for a buzzed-about auction at Christie's April 23-24. With antiques spanning eight centuries, including a gilded mirror from the 1740s, masks from the Ivory Coast and a carved Buddha from the Ming Dynasty, it's a museum-quality collection of artifacts. Despite Smith’s globe-spanning style and Los Angeles roots, he says he deeply appreciates the city of Chicago. “It's my adopted hometown, and I think there's a real greatness in its architecture,” he says. “I always have at least one project there.”

SPLASH | APRIL 14-20, 2013
Monica Pedersen is best known for her ability to transform other people’s homes on a tight budget — and with a bright smile. Now, she’s facing a big transformation in her own life: her first baby, due in July. And she’s confronting it with the same courage that helped her overcome a series of early-life tragedies to become a beloved TV star.

"I was afraid to have kids for a long time," says Pedersen, who's been with her husband, Erik, for nearly 16 years. "I've had some big losses in my life, and was afraid to love someone that much. But the timing is perfect. I told my husband that I think this will be the best year of my life."

It certainly could be the busiest. Since Pedersen's breakout role in 2006 as host of HGTV's hit series "Designed to Sell," where she helped renovate homes that were about to go on the market, the North Shore resident has been juggling a jam-packed schedule. She's traveling around the country for various HGTV hosting gigs, promoting her first book, Monica Pedersen Make it Beautiful: Designs and Ideas for Entertaining at Home, acting as a spokeswoman for Kohler Co. and the Las Vegas Furniture Market, crafting the new Driehaus Resource Center for the Chicago Fashion Incubator at Macy's on State Street and designing her own product lines for brands like Softline Home Fashions and Surya. "I took 42 trips last year," she laughs. "That means I went through security 84 times. I took off my shoes 84 times. It's exhausting, but it's my passion."

What makes Pedersen's success particularly sweet is the hardship she had to overcome to find it. "I've not had this Hallmark life," she says. "Things haven't come easy. People assume that they have, because I go on TV and I have a smile on my face. But I've overcome a lot to get where I am today."

Tragedy struck Pedersen early: When she was a high-school junior in her hometown of Wood Dale, she lost her twin brother, Michael, to suicide. Her parents’ 37-year marriage ended in divorce a few
that I could be there for my parents, “It gave me freedom and flexibility so I could work in college to help pay her tuition. I never had to keep a job outside of school. I've always put my dreams of TV journalism on hold and began modeling full time, something she'd occasionally tried to do the right thing by my family,” she says. “I took whatever path was necessary to be there for the people I loved. And you can never go wrong that way.”

During one such trip home in her mid-20s, she experienced her first heart attack. “When I was 27 at a Blackhawks game, and was engaged five weeks later. We were madly in love,” she says. “We didn't care what anyone else thought.” The two are now happily ensconced in a home that Pedersen says was, of course, a “total fixer-upper.” They’re currently remodeling again in preparation for their new arrival. ‘I’ve done this for so many people, and now it’s time to do it for myself,’ Pedersen says. Though she's enjoying creating a nursery for her future daughter, she admits it's a bit agonizing to watch other people do the grunt work. “It’s driving me nuts,” she says, laughing. “Usually, when I want to move a couch, I just do it myself.”

Pedersen says HGTV has been "totally supportive" of her pregnancy, and she anticipates she’ll scale back on her hectic travel schedule to focus on motherhood for a bit. And she can’t wait to introduce her child to the world of design: “That’s all I can think about. Doing crafts with my daughter. I’m already Googling crafts and she’s not even born yet. My husband thinks I’m crazy.”

Pedersen attributes that unbridled passion — and her intense work ethic — to her upbringing. “Nobody ever did anything for me. Nothing was handed to me, nor did I ever think it would be,” she says. “So I always tell young people to keep their dreams alive, but don’t be afraid to take different roads to get there. When you finally end up getting what you want, it might be even better than you imagined in the first place.”

Above: Pedersen hosts her sixth "HGTV Dream Home Giveaway.”

At left: Pedersen with husband Erik, whom she met at a Blackhawks game and became engaged to five weeks later. "We were madly in love. We didn't care what anyone else thought.”

"Designed to Sell.” We ripped everything out. We had no idea what we were doing, and we were at the hardware store everyday. But I fell in love with it.”

Bitten by the design bug, Pedersen started doing freelance work for friends and helping real estate agents stage homes between print and commercial bookings. In 2005, at 35, "I knew I had to hang up my pumps," she says — so she asked her agent to find her jobs where she could exercise her design talent. "I was like, 'I don't know what I'm gonna do, but I need to get into this business.'"

After Pedersen proved her prowess in several small roles ("I got this one Sears commercial because I was the only one who knew how to use a drill"), HGTV came calling. "The same casting director from Sears said, 'I know you're good with tools, but can you decorate?' I said, 'Yes. But everything's on a budget,'” she says. "And he just said, 'Perfect!'"

After auditioning for five months, Pedersen landed the coveted hosting gig on “Designed to Sell,” (where this reporter once worked for her) and spent the next four years designing nearly 300 rooms on a budget of only $2,000 per episode. "I got the job because I do my own design work,” she says. "I had a team behind me, but the concepts were mine. A lot of people assume that I was wheeled in, smiling for the camera — but I was sewing, painting, digging, planting bushes. I worked really hard.”

The work paid off: Pedersen’s now a regular on the network. In March, she hosted her sixth annual “HGTV Dream Home Giveaway;” and on April 14, she’ll host the “HGTV Smart Home Giveaway," introducing viewers to a high-tech abode in Jacksonville Beach, Fla., which they can enter to win on HGTV.com through May 31. “It was smarter than I was,” she jokes of the home, which allows its occupants to digitally monitor energy use and control security, climate and lighting. “I was standing there shooting and I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, how do you work this remote?’”

Though Pedersen describes her personal aesthetic as traditional, her off-screen choices have been anything but. She met Erik at the age of 27 at a Blackhawks game, and was engaged five weeks later. "We were madly in love," she says. "We didn't care what anyone else thought.” The two are now happily ensconced in a home that Pedersen says was, of course, a “total fixer-upper.”

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Spruce up your home’s style with help from interior designer Anthony Michael

BY JOURDAN FAIRCHILD

ow that the winter blahs are behind us, we’re wishing that our homes could reflect the freshness beyond our windows. “By the end of winter, I’m craving color, freshness and things that make me feel renewed,” says Chicago-based interior designer Anthony Michael. To satiate his needs, Michael relies on little pick-me-ups — particularly in the home department — such as vibrant hits of color and accessories that instantly brighten a room. Lucky for us, he was willing to share a few of his favorite trends, using some of his recent projects as examples of how to make it work. The result? A slew of ideas sure to put a spring in anyone’s step.

ALL-NATURAL FABRICS

“Like so many homes built in the last 30 to 40 years, this space originally lacked architectural details,” Michael says. “But rather than paint the walls, which I think would’ve looked a little cold, I covered them in grass cloth to add warmth, depth and texture.”

Take a page from Michael’s playbook and adorn your walls in an eco-friendly beige grass cloth. $180 for a 36” x 12 yd roll; Burkedecor.com

This faux jute pillow can repel water and look dapper at the same time — plus it goes with virtually any color palette. From $39.50 for 18” square, Pottery Barn, 1000 W. North, (312) 944-0467; Potterybarn.com

Put an extra layer of texture underfoot by rolling out a sturdy, versatile sisal rug. From $56 for 2’x 2’, Restoration Hardware, 938 W. North, (312) 475-9116; Restorationhardware.com
In this living room, Michael drew inspiration from the home's extensive landscape and gardens just beyond the wall of windows. "When you have a view like this, you can't ignore it," he says. Michael layered on texture in the form of floral curtains, wooden shades and pillows in the same color family, but boasting a larger-scale motif.

**FLORALS GALORE**

This framed French textile may be vintage, but it feels fresh and modern. $135, Jayson Home, 1885 N. Clybourn, (773) 248-8180; Jaysonhome.com

**GET THIS LOOK:**

Floral curtains rejuvenate a space while hinting at the beauty just beyond the glass. $44.99 for 40" x 84" panel, Bed Bath & Beyond, 530 N State, (312) 755-9890; Bedbathandbeyond.com

Floral motifs are popping up everywhere, like on this zinnia-inspired blanket made of eco-friendly material. $128, 50" x 60"; Wayfair.com

POPS OF GREEN

Michael uses this season's "it" color to invigorate an otherwise neutral room. "I love the acid green in this painting because it's so pungent and refreshing," he says. "I also paired it with a vase of French tulips to really set the tone for the season."

**GET THIS LOOK:**

Thanks to its groovy, white ceramic base and happy shade, we're giving this Jonathan Adler lamp the green light. $28, JC Penney, Ford City Mall, 7601 S. Cicero, (773) 581-6600; Jcpenney.com

Make guests green with envy by using this cheery wood tray to corral items on a bar, countertop or desk. $33, JC Penney, Ford City Mall, 7601 S. Cicero, (773) 581-6600; Jcpenney.com

This vibrant print of a painting by Belgian artist Pol Ledent makes a big statement without breaking the bank. $39.99; Art.com

Inspired by its James Beard Award winning feature, the Chicago Reader's Key Ingredient Cook-Off will feature Chicago's most celebrated chefs as they go head-to-head using some of the world's most curious ingredients.

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**THE CHEFS**

PAUL VIRANT of Perennial Virant  •  DAVID POSEY of Blackbird  •  JARED WENTWORTH of Longman & Eagle  •  PHILLIP FOSS of El Ideas  •  CHRIS PANDEL of Bristol/Bailea  •  JARED VAN CAMP of Nicetone/Old Town Social  •  CARLOS GAYTAN of Mexique  •  SANDRA HOLL of Café Floriole  •  PAULA HANEY and ALLISON SCOTT of Hoosier Mama Pie  •  MARK STEUER of Carriage House/Bedford JOHN ANDERES of Telegraph Wine Bar  •  BARRY SORKIN of Smoque  •  CLEETUS FRIEDMAN of Fountainhead  •  DUNCAN BIDULPH of Rootstock  •  MARIANNE SUNDQUIST of Mess Hall & Co.  •  ROB LEVITT of Butcher and Larder  •  MATT TROOST of Three Aces  •  BEN SHEAGREN of Hopeleaf  •  RYAN LAROCHE of NoMi Kitchen SEAN SANDERS of Browntrout  •  DALE LEVITSKI of Frog N Snail/Sprout  •  MICHAEL DEAN REYNOLDS of Leopold  •  JUSTIN WHITE of Smallbar  •  PATRICK & MIKE SHEERIN of Trenchermen  •  GREG BIGGERS of Café Des Architectes  •  NATHAN HUNTINGTON of Argent  •  EVAN PERCOCO of State & Lake Chicago Tavern
Sally Schwartz, founder and creative director of the Randolph Street Market, offers tricks of the trade to create a well-curated collection.
Lauren Bush Lauren merges fashion and philanthropy to help feed children around the globe

BY RACHEL HANDLER

Lauren Bush Lauren — Princeton grad, model, granddaughter of George H.W. Bush and daughter-in-law of Ralph Lauren — could have done anything with her life. But after taking a college trip to Guatemala with the UN’s World Food Programme in 2006, Lauren was inspired to spend it making a difference.

She promptly started her own nonprofit, FEED, designing the organization’s signature burlap tote and putting its proceeds toward feeding hungry children across the globe. The bags became a bona fide trend, adorning the arms of celebs like Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon — but more importantly, they’ve helped provide more than 60 million meals to date worldwide.

Lauren’s just getting started. Through April 20, she’s partnering with Clarins and Macy’s for the Gift with Purpose initiative: For every purchase of two Clarins products (one of which is a skincare item), customers will receive a FEED 10 pouch stuffed with Clarins samples and provide 10 meals to children in need. We caught up with Lauren just as the campaign launched:

**Splash:** When was the moment you realized you were actually making a difference in children’s lives?

**Lauren:** The minute I sold the first FEED bag, because each bag sold feeds one child in school for one year. Six years later, we’re offering more than 60 products on Feedprojects.com and at retailers around the world. World hunger is an overwhelming issue, but FEED enables people to get involved — we’ve provided more than 60 million meals globally and nutritional supplements to more than 3.5 million children.

**Splash:** How did your current partnership with Clarins come about?

**Lauren:** Clarins has been a long-term partner of FEED. The Gift with Purpose program was the brainchild of Clarins’ Chairman Christian Courtin-Clarins, who I traveled to Honduras with last May to visit schools where lunches were being provided. Clarins’ initial goal was to provide 1 million meals through our partnership, and we’ve already surpassed that goal, providing 2.5 million meals in two years.

**Splash:** You travel all over the world for FEED initiatives. Can you walk us through your on-the-road beauty routine?

**Lauren:** My beauty routine is pretty much the same when I travel as it is at home: natural and easy. I always make sure to pack a lip moisturizer, because planes can be very dehydrating.

**Splash:** Why combine fashion and philanthropy?

**Lauren:** Doing things to affect change and help others is what makes life most meaningful, and the idea for FEED was to make giving easy and fashionable. Everyone wants their style to reflect their values, so what better way to do that than through a bag that also provides meals around the world?

For more info about FEED, visit Feedprojects.com. To take part in the Gift with Purpose initiative, head to Macy’s (312-781-1000; Macys.com).

**On your feet**

Shoe designer Charlotte Olympia Dellal is stepping into Neiman Marcus April 18 to present her new Charlotte Olympia Birthday Shoe collection, pose for Polaroids with attendees and sign soles. While perusing the pumps, snack on sweets and peek into your future with the help of a tarot card reader. 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., 737 N. Michigan; Neimanmarcus.com

**Mini models**

Convinced your kid is runway-ready? Find out at Madison & Friends’ 7th Annual Model Search. Dress them up in looks from Madison & Friends’ current spring or summer lines, then head to the shop April 20, where photographers will snap pics and talent scouts will determine if they have star power. Call (847) 729-4464 to sign up. 43 E. Oak; Madisonandfriends.com

**Fashion fête**

Support the Gorton Community Center April 20 at Luxe Northshore, an annual fashion show and benefit. Sip signature cocktails, grab gourmet bites prepared by local chefs, participate in a live auction and catch glimpses of rare art, luxury autos and spring styles from Neiman Marcus. 7 - 11 p.m., $125-$500, 990 North Shore, Lake Bluff; Gortoncenter.org
Jackson Miranda and Jordan Sterner believe in love at first sight. The Don Julio brand ambassador and dermatology physician assistant met less than a year ago during a night out at Market Bar (1113 W. Randolph) and were instantly smitten, taking the plunge only 10 months later on March 9. The duo wed in a 1930s-era hunting lodge in Sterner’s hometown of Dune Acres, Ind., surrounded by 120 of their closest friends and family members, including Sterner’s brothers, famed shoe designer Brian Atwood and Splash Editorial Assistant Zak Sterner. Guests navigated the winding woodland roads of Dune Acres to reach the lodge, where they took part in a brief but emotional ceremony that mixed Sterner’s Jewish heritage with Miranda’s Puerto Rican upbringing. The party then moved upstairs, where Sterner’s parents Alex and Dusty welcomed Miranda to the family with a heartfelt speech. After dinner, the couple ruled the dance floor, and kept partygoers laughing and dancing all night long. At the end of the evening, revelers hopped on a party bus back to the city for more celebrating. The excitement for Sterner and Miranda didn’t end there — they’re expecting their first child this summer.

CHEERS

Executive VP at the Heartland Group Jon Rotter and his wife, lawyer Lindsay Rotter, are gushing over their 6 pound, 12 ounce bundle of joy, daughter Logan Reese, born April 4. We’re rooting for A Mind and Body Total Fitness CEO and President Alex Vasileski, who just joined the Imerman Angels team as a mentor. Vasileski, a two-time non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma survivor, will provide support for cancer fighters and caretakers in his new role.

Cheers to Shelly Holzman, who retired last May from accounting firm Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP and Goldie Kellin, assistant principal at Gray Elementary School, on their engagement, which came after 15 years of friendship turned romantic. They’re planning June nuptials at his Glenview home.
Amy Morton (right) qualifies as restaurant royalty. Her father, Arnie, created the Morton's steakhouse empire, and several of her siblings have a hand in the food industry — including brother David, who co-owns local spots DMK Burger Bar, Fish Bar and Ada Street. Now, family and community are at the heart of her restaurant, Found Kitchen and Social House, which opened late last year.

Paintings that used to decorate the original Morton's restaurant hang on the walls, amid artwork that Morton found at antique stores, and on the ceiling, next to quotes from J.R.R. Tolkien and Jack Kerouac, there's one from her father: "If you can afford to eat here, you can afford to wear whatever you want!"

It's an apt motto for Morton's Evanston eatery, where you'll find both blue jean-clad neighborhood folks and dressed up diners settling into the boho atmosphere and digging into dishes from chef Nicole Pederson (Lula Cafe, C-House). For Morton, it's a long-awaited return to the industry. After helming Old Town spot Mirador for three years, she closed it down to raise her three daughters, but as they got older, Morton realized she was ready to get back into the game.

"I am a deep believer that timing is everything — that was one of my dad's most notable quotes," says Morton. "I said I would never go back to work until I had the right person to work with, and that I could make a difference. Then once I decided on Evanston, it all fell into place."

At Found, Morton serves up rustic American farm-to-table plates such as creamy polenta with almonds, mushrooms, blue cheese and an egg ($11); lamb meatballs with pistachio chimichurri and yogurt sauce ($13) and a Slagel Family Farms steak with potatoes ($26), pairing them with craft cocktails and an eclectic wine list. And she's doing it all with a distinct mission. "We're committed to policies and practices that are focused on sustainability and social responsibility," says Morton. The Found team decorated the space with repurposed furniture and décor, sources almost all of their meat and produce from local farms and works with Connections for the Homeless to hire people transitioning out of homelessness — a cause that's dear to Morton's heart.

While the restaurant allows Morton to connect with the neighborhood around her (she's an Evanston resident), it's also a way for her to keep her family legacy alive. Morton says her 12-year-old daughter came in recently, wanting to learn the restaurant's table numbers. The spot keeps her connected to the past, too. "The best part of owning Found is being able to talk about my dad so much," says Morton. "People come in and want to share memories of him. I love it."

Found Kitchen and Social House, 631 Chicago, Evanston, (847) 868-8945; Foundkitchen.com
real estate

Sweet dreams

Owning your fantasy home is finally a reality

BY LISA SKOLNIK

If you’re dying to buy your dream home, now may be your moment. It’s currently 50 percent cheaper to buy than rent in the Chicago metropolitan area, according to the Winter 2013 Rent vs. Buy Report from real estate website Trulia — even though asking prices rose 7 percent in the last year to outpace rent increases of 3.2 percent. If you’re anxious about the economy, it may not be worth it to wait: The data suggests buying won’t be this cheap in the near future, since prices and mortgage rates will likely rise.

Ready to turn your reverie into a reality? Fewer homes are dreamier than this 5,876-square-foot, seven-bedroom, 6.5-bath-Nantucket-style confection built in 2008 at 119 E. Ninth in Southeast Hinsdale. It’s listed for $3,499,000, a price that reflects the star-quality facelift its owners, Tania and Martin Lapointe (of Chicago Blackhawks fame), gave the house after buying it in May 2011 for $2.85 million. Using top-of-the-line luxury materials, the couple turned the space from sweet to spectacular. “They have fabulous taste and changed everything out, from the finishes and light fixtures to all the hardware, tile and stone. They even replaced the barley twist stair balusters with clean-lined posts,” says Coldwell Banker broker Dawn McKenna (left, call 630-546-3763), who likened the process to giving “a classic American beauty with great bones a swanky London vibe.” Even the roof went from showy Kelly green to urbane slate gray, giving the place sophisticated curb appeal.

A lot for less

You don’t need a million-dollar budget to score your dream home. Consider this enchanting four-bedroom, 1.5-bathroom 1928 English cottage at 823 Marvin Parkway in Park Ridge for $480,000. It currently belongs to Christopher Clinton Conway, executive director of the Joffrey Ballet until last month when he relocated to his hometown of Los Angeles. When he moved here for the job in 2006, “he thought he’d live in Evanston, but fell for this place right off the highway with easy access to the Loop and the airport,” says Prudential Rubloff broker Douglas Smith (call 312-264-1268). Conway renovated the place from top to bottom, updating its mechanicals, plumbing, kitchen, bathroom and roof, restoring its charming interior details and landscaping the lot to perfection. “Nothing has been left undone,” says Smith.

The interior (left) and exterior (above) of 119 E. Ninth
The truth about Will and Jada

Jada Pinkett Smith recently made headlines by addressing the longstanding rumor that she and hubby Will Smith have an open marriage. Though Jada denies it, she did say that she tells her husband to do whatever he wants.

"I think people get that idea because Will and I are very relaxed with one another," said Jada. "But I've always told Will, you can do whatever you want as long as you can look at yourself in the mirror and be OK.

Sources say it's hardly news. "They've had an open marriage for years," a source tells this column. "This isn't a secret to any Hollywood insiders. They do not have a traditional viewpoint on marriage. They're free-spirited and have had an alternative relationship for a long time."

Sources add that Will and Jada have allegedly hosted wild parties, too. "They're very open-minded," the source said. "They like to live life on the edge."

Chelsea's 'Dancing with the Stars' dish

I caught up with Chelsea Kane at the Villa La Estancia in Puerto Vallarta, where The "Baby Daddy" star dished on the current season of "Dancing with the Stars." "I'm rooting for Mark [Ballas] and Aly [Raisman]," she said. "I asked her how she thinks "DWTS" can influence relationships, namely the "Bachelor" romance between born-again virgin Sean Lowe and Catherine Giudici — which is reportedly on the rocks. "The show does have an effect on personal relationships," Chelsea said. "But I do know Sean and [dance partner] Petra are getting along well."

Another source tells this column that Sean and Catherine are fighting a lot. "Catherine has ended up in tears. There's major trouble in paradise, and a wedding is looking doubtful."

Chelsea's ABC Family show just got signed for another season, and she says she's close with the entire cast. "We're all in Mexico on vacation together, and this is our second trip. Everyone gets along and our second season will be better than the first."

Liam and Miley through?

In a recent column, I wrote that Miley Cyrus and her fiance, Liam Hemsworth, were headed for a breakup. Now, sources tell me that not only is Miley not wearing her engagement ring anymore, but Liam has been spotted seeing other women. "They both are checked out of the relationship and moving on," said the source.
Settle down stylishly in any of these Chicago-area rental buildings, where amenities abound

1225 Old Town
A modern building that promotes green living, 1225 reduces its carbon footprint with a bike storage room, multiple outdoor spaces and a fresh, organic market on the main level. Studios, one, two and three bedrooms start at $1,846. 1225 N. Wells, (312) 750-1225; 1225oldtown.com

AMLI River North
Construction isn't quite complete, but based on AMLI's nine other Chicago-area spaces - this outpost is sure to fill quickly. Amenities include an outdoor movie theater, electric-car charging stations and granite countertops. Studios, one, two and three bedrooms start at $1,950. 71 W. Hubbard, (877) 442-5135; amli/rivernorth.com

EnV
EnV is steps away from the city's greatest dining and nightlife destinations - but you'll never want to leave. The contemporary units feature exposed ductwork, stainless steel appliances and all-glass balconies. Studios, one, two and three bedrooms start at $1,729. 161 W. Kinzie, (855) 571-9927; Envchicago.com

Trio
With Trio's onsite pet store, salon, bank, grocery and fitness center, residents never have to wander far. Spacious balconies (there's one in every unit) offer views of the Fulton Market District. One, two and three bedrooms start at $1,850. 670 W. Wayman, (312) 291-9521; trioapartments.net

K2
Now leasing, K2 is the newest addition to K Station's group of apartment buildings. It's sleek, modern and community-driven, with a terrace party area, basketball courts, movie theater and pool cabanas. Studios, one, two and three bedrooms start at $1,650. 365 N. Halsted, (855) 886-7774; k2apts.com

Parc Huron
Floor-to-ceiling windows offer unbeatable views of River North, an area filled with shopping, dining and culture. And a community wine room and terrace make Parc Huron a destination in itself. One, two and three bedrooms start at $1,955. 469 W. Huron, (312) 854-8400; rmk.com/parc_huron

Park Evanston
Situated in refreshing quiet (yet never dull) Evanston, this building offers stunning city views - especially from the rooftop pool and top-floor fitness studio. Valet dry cleaning and an in-building florist are bonus amenities. Studios, one, two and three bedrooms start at $1,356. 1630 Chicago, Evanston, (866) 796-2528; Parkevanston.com

Sky 55
Curved glass windows look onto an urban panorama, but Sky 55 is just as luxurious on the inside. Granite and hardwood are two of the high-end finishes, and walk-in closets are a welcome addition. One and two bedrooms start at $1,697. 1255 S. Michigan, (866) 792-1894; sky55chicago.com

SoNo EAST
Lincoln Park's newest rental building, SoNo East, boasts unique amenities like a stainless steel swimming pool, cell-signal booster and preferred reservation status at Lettuce Entertain You restaurants like RPM Italian (52 W. Illinois) Studios, one, two and three bedrooms start at $1,712. 840 W. Blackhawk, (312) 664-6400; Sonoeast.com
SAVE UP TO 20% STOREWIDE.*

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*Discount off full retail price. Not applicable with other discounts.

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Making money make sense
Accord's base engine is an all-new direct-injected 2.4-liter inline four-cylinder engine producing 185 horsepower and 181 pound-feet of torque. It delivers four percent more power and 12 percent more torque than its predecessor, while using regular fuel and meeting PZEV and ULEV-2 emissions standards. Its Environmental Protection Agency fuel economy rating of 27 miles per gallon city/36 mpg highway represents an improvement of 11 percent in combined driving at 30 mpg.

The available 3.5-liter V6 engine delivers 278 horsepower (an increase of seven horsepower) and 252 pound-feet of torque. Accord V6 models with an automatic have a new generation of variable displacement technology where the engine operates on three or all six cylinders to help boost fuel efficiency or power as needed.

The 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine produces 185 horsepower, 181 pound-feet of torque, and gets 1,000 miles on a tank of regular fuel, for a four percent improvement. More compact and efficient than the five-speed automatic it replaces, the six-speed automatic improves acceleration and fuel efficiency.

The new MacPherson strut front suspension is lighter than the double wishbone system it replaces, and provides better ride and handling qualities. An electric motor assists the rack-and-pinion steering rather than the hydraulic assist of the previous Accord. The result is reduced steering effort, improved precision, feel and stability, and less power consumption.

On a 1,000-mile drive, the V6 powertrain in our test car was quick, smooth and silent, while getting 34.5 mpg at mostly 75 miles per hour. Steering is well weighted and precise with good on-center feel.

Inside, all tactile surfaces and controls are pleasing to the touch and easy to operate. The upper instrument panel is now one seamless piece of soft-touch material. Cloth velour upholstery is standard, while the Accord EX-L and Touring grades have leather seating surfaces.

Accord's length has decreased more than three inches and wheelbase is almost an inch shorter, but interior dimensions have benefited. The sleeker shape increases rear legroom over an inch.
Chicagoland's
ONLY Stellar Care Winner
2012 2013

April
SAVINGS DAYS

Our BIGGEST Selection in History!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Mileage</th>
<th>APR</th>
<th>Specials</th>
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<tr>
<td>2014 Subaru Forester</td>
<td>32 MPG</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>212 to choose incentives</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013 Subaru Impreza 2.0i Sedan</td>
<td>36 MPG</td>
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<td>32 MPG</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>NO SECURITY DEPOSIT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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- Bluetooth
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Come in for great savings on a **HUGE SELECTION** of new Chevys!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Offer Price</th>
<th>MSRP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013 Chevrolet Malibu LS</td>
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<td>2013 Chevrolet Silverado</td>
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<td>2013 Chevrolet Cruze LS</td>
<td>$198 mo. for 36 mos.*</td>
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**2013 Chevrolet Impala**
- Lease: $1,599 due at lease inception.
- No security deposit required.
- Demo #P12028
- MSRP: $26,380

**WE'RE OVERSTOCKED ON PRE-OWNED:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Chevy Monte Carlo</td>
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<td>Dodge Ram 2500 4WD</td>
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<td>Saab 9-3 Aero Convertible</td>
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<td>Chrysler 300-Series</td>
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<td>Dodge Challenger SXT</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Dodge Challenger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chevrolet Colorado Crew Cab</td>
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**CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED**

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<td>300-Series</td>
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<td>Challenger</td>
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<td>Challenger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chevrolet Colorado Crew Cab</td>
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NEW 2013 CHEVY EQUINOX $20,750
NEW 2013 CHEVY CAMARO $21,750
NEW 2013 CHEVY TRAVERSE $25,750
NEW 2013 CHEVY VOLT $33,750

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2012 CHEVY MALIBU LT $11,900
2011 NISSAN ALTIMA $11,900

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CHEVROLET

CHEVROLET

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<td>Dodge Ram 1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Chevrolet Impala</td>
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<td>2001</td>
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<td>Buick Lesabre</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Mercury Sable</td>
<td>P25713</td>
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<td>2004</td>
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<td>2006</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>Jeep Grand Cherokee 4X4</td>
<td>P2437A</td>
<td>$3,896</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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2007 JEEP CHEROKEE K3056A $12,998

2010 FORD CARGO VAN P9097 $12,998

2007 AUDI A3 S-LINE K3062B $12,998

2010 JEEP PATRIOT K4864A $13,998

2011 KIA OPTIMA EX K4852A $15,998

2011 HYUNDAI ELANTRA LIMITED K4455A $15,998

2008 TOYOTA RAV4 LIMITED P90961 $16,998

2008 FORD F150 SUPERDUTY P9050A $17,998

2013 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS P10007 $18,998

2012 CHEVROLET DAKOTA ALL THE TOYS P10029 $20,998

2009 INFINITI G37X SPORT K4407A $21,995

2009 CHEVROLET TAHOE 4X4 P30801A $22,995

2011 INFINITI G37X K4407A $23,995

2011 BUICK ENCLAVE CXL P30825A $24,995

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Stock #</th>
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<td>1995 DODGE RAM WAGON</td>
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Gerstad touts new model at Bailey Estates

In an effort to take advantage of the rebounding new home buying market, Gerstad Builders has completed a new furnished ranch model at Bailey Estates in Williams Bay, Wis.

The new Bay View ranch plan offers 1,740 square-feet of stair-free living space and is priced at $214,990. The home includes such amenities as a full English basement, central air conditioning, hardwood flooring and GE stainless steel appliances (gas range, microwave range hood and dishwasher).

Set on a large 1/4-acre homesite, the Bay View represents the sixth ranch plan available in the mid-priced community. For those with growing families, the third bedroom and roughed-in third bathroom at the basement are an absolute must. For empty-nesters, the floor plan eliminates the need to climb stairs, and the dinette at the front of the home is adjacent to the ergonomically efficient kitchen.

"With the residential home market experiencing a rebound for the first time in four years, we thought now would be a great time to introduce an entirely new ranch plan at Bailey Estates," stated Roger Gerstad, president of Gerstad Builders. "We hope families take some time to walk through our furnished home and check out our quality construction and attention to details."

Designed to reflect traditional exterior architecture, the home features a side-load two-car garage, steeply-raked rooftlines and decorative brick (per plan). Because of clever architectural details like a cathedral ceiling in the great room, 8-foot ceilings in all other rooms and the elimination of unnecessary walls between the kitchen and great room, the feeling of spaciousness is emphasized significantly. A luxurious master suite completely occupies one side of the home for maximum privacy and is finished with a ceramic tiled shower stall, oversized soaking tub with ceramic tile deck, dual clothes closets and dual bath vanities.

In addition to the new Bay View under construction, Bailey Estates offers a variety of ranch and two-story homes that typically feature vaulted ceilings, 8-foot first-floor ceilings, three to five bedrooms, two to three baths, living room, formal dining room, family room, professionally designed kitchen with 42-inch upper cabinets, breakfast area, basement and an attached two-car garage. These homes provide 1,740 to 3,177 square feet of living space and are base-priced from $209,990 to $284,990.

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

Within Bailey Estates, Gerstad Builders also offers homebuyers the opportunity to modify any available floor plan. Homes can be expanded, additional volume ceilings can be incorporated, and interior and exterior walls can be relocated.

The sales center is at 438 Ashley Drive off Bailey Road, approximately 3/4 mile west of Highway 67. The sales center is open on weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment during weekdays. Call (262) 245-9750 or (262) 903-5555 or visit www.gerstandbuilders.com.

New at the bay: Gerstad Builders' new Bay View ranch plan now offered at Bailey Estates in Williams Bay, Wis., offers 1,740 square feet of stair-free living space and is attractively priced at $214,990. Among the features is a great room with a stunning vaulted ceiling that adds a sense of spaciousness to the main living area.
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Obituaries

Anderson, Eleanor M.
Born April 26, 1914 in Morton Grove, IL, passed February 20, 2013 in Newtown, PA. She was predeceased by her parents, Michael Winandy and Matilda (nee Haupt), and her husband of 48 years, Roy Carl Ernest Anderson. She is survived by her sons, Thomas (Susan) and Robert, and her granddaughters, Gwyneth (Trevor Griffiths) and Kirsten Anderson.

Eleanor spent most of her life in Morton Grove, IL and was an active member of St. Martha Catholic Church. After her husband passed, she moved out east to be near her family. Eleanor enjoyed wildlife and the outdoors.

A funeral mass will be held Monday, May 6 at 11:00 am. at Saint Martha Church, 8523 Georgiana Avenue, Morton Grove, IL 60053. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the Nature Conservancy (www.nature.org).

Coleman, Rodney S.
Age 75, of Park Ridge. Owner and Proprietor, Park Ridge Auto Clinic, Talcott Rd., Park Ridge. Beloved husband of Rosalie; Dear father of Suzanne M. Coleman, M.D. and John B. (Kimberley Hogan) Coleman; Loving grandfather of Benjamin, Blythe and Greta; Devoted son of the late William and Byrdie (nee Levy); Fond brother of Marvin "Mickey" Coleman.

Memorial gathering will be held Friday, April 19th, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., at HABEN Funeral Home & Crematory, 8057 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Funeral info: 847.673.6111 or www.habenfuneral.com.

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Blockbuster or flop? The Movie Review section has the scoop.

Just one more reason to get up & go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond Every Thursday
Elvis from ‘Heartbreak Hotel’ to ‘Viva Las Vegas’

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Maybe Elvis Presley hasn’t left the building after all.

You may think he’s lurking in Gorilla Tango’s Skokie Theatre when Steve Richards presents his tribute to the late artist, “The Elvis Presley Story.” Richards believes he has captured an important element of Elvis’ performances that many other impersonators miss. “Elvis sang from his heart,” the performer said. “When he sang, it really hit you in the heart. That’s what his fans, to this day, are looking for.”

Richards’ show begins when Elvis is discovered by Sun Records. “His first song, for his mom, was ‘My Happiness,’ for which he was paid $3.40,” the performer related. The show then moves to Elvis with RCA, which he joined after leaving Sun Records. That’s where he recorded such hits as “Heartbreak Hotel” and “Don’t Be Cruel.”

“But there are some that no one has ever touched on that I’m going to do. They’re fantastic songs,” Richards said. These include, “I Want You, I Need You, I Love You” and “Love Me.”

“Naturally, we’re going to touch on ‘Viva, Las Vegas.’ And we’re going to do ‘My Blue Moon Turns to Gold Again,’ which no one ever does,” Richards said. “Then we’re going to go into the Vegas years.”

Other Elvis hits that Richards sings in the show include “Bridge Over Troubled Water,” “Kentucky Rain,” “Jailhouse Rock” and “In the Ghetto.” Richards has planned a surprise ending for the show.

Elvis aficionado Tom Sanocki put together the show for Richards. It’s two solid hours of performance. “I don’t take a break,” Richards reported. He performs to recorded music. Richards is particularly fond of Elvis’ gospel numbers. “It really touches me,” he said. “It’s so powerful. He’s one of the few people that cried through his voice, through his heart, through his songs.”

When presenting programs on other artists, Richards sometimes like to bring out Elvis “just to freak people out. When you’re doing Neil Diamond and all of a sudden you switch to Elvis, people say, ‘There’s no way he can do that.’”

Richards also pays homage to Garth Brooks, Elton John, Billy Joel and John Lennon in tribute shows. He chooses to create shows around artists who “touch something inside of me with their music and with their performances,” he said. “You learn from the greats. You don’t just listen with your ears. You listen with your heart.”
Dancing down the rabbit hole

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

A classic tale will be told without words when Salt Creek Ballet presents "Alice in Wonderland."

The imaginative production, featuring around 40 talented young dancers plus professional guest artists, will be performed on Saturday and Sunday, April 20 and 21, at North Shore Centre for the Performing Arts in Skokie.

The production, which was choreographed by Salt Creek Ballet's Artistic Director Sergey Kozadayev and Susan O'Connell, a former member of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, was first staged in 2001. This is the fourth time it has been presented in the Chicago area.

Kozadayev said that the company reprises the show every two or three years because, "A new generation is involved." That's the Glenbrook South High School senior's main role but she also dances several smaller parts.

Eva Tumanova of Glenview version is like Lewis Carroll himself, guiding Alice through Wonderland," Kozadayev explained.

Alice's adventure begins with a trip down a rabbit hole. Sixteen-year-old Nicole Gibson of Hinsdale plays Alice. Nicole described Alice as "a sweet little girl who is tired on a hot summer day from listening to her lessons — and has this huge imagination."

The Hinsdale Central High School sophomore, who has been dancing for 13 years, was excited when she was cast in the role. "It didn't hit me when I first was told that that was my part," Gibson said.

She doesn't consider herself the star, though. "'Alice' is not the typical ballet where one person is featured and everyone else is there in a duet or a trio or corps," she explained. "Everyone's part is special and very important to the production.

The Salt Creek Ballet performs "Alice in Wonderland" April 20 and 21 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts.

Salt Creek Ballet presents 'Alice in Wonderland'

2 p.m. Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21
North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie
$26-$32 for adults, $20-$25 for children under 12
There will also be a Mad Hatter's Crafty Tea Party, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 20 in the lobby. Tickets are $10 per child ($5 if you purchase a performance ticket) and $5 per adult.
(847) 673-6300; www.northshorecenter.org

"It more of a theatrical ballet," Gibson continued. "There's a lot of acting involved."

Eva Tumanova of Glenview plays Alice's nemesis, the Queen of-Hearts. "It's a very passionate and somewhat evil role," Tumanova said. "You really have to feel in charge and the boss of everyone." That's the Glenbrook South High School senior's main role but she also dances several smaller parts.

Eva was born in Moscow and immigrated to this country with her family at the age of 2. She began studying dance when she was 8 because her parents, who played piano for the Salt Creek Ballet, brought her to rehearsals. "I only started liking dance when I was in eighth grade," she said.

Her change in attitude occurred because, "I started improving and understanding what it is to try hard," she said. "It's just an amazing feeling, both physically and emotionally. You feel so in touch with the movement you're doing."

Performing with the Salt Creek Ballet is a joy for Tumanova because, "It's such a high standard that you feel proud to be part of something like that."

Kozadayev believes that dance is a perfect way to share Carroll's tale with audiences. "Ballet is a universal language," he declared. "You don't have to translate. Body language all people understand."
Managing;’ Editor Jennifer Thomas’ entertainment picks for this week

[1] ‘The Disappearance of Daniel Hand’
by Actors Training Center Conservatory is on stage at 7:30 p.m. April 19 and 20 at the Wilmette Theater. WilmetteTheatre.com.

runs April 19 to Aug. 11 at the Block Museum on Northwestern’s Evanston campus. Visit blockmuseum.northwestern.edu.


‘Drawing’ celebrates influence of Chicago architect

BY KEVIN NANCE | Contributor

Even without his secret weapon, the Chicago architect Walter Burley Griffin probably would have won an international competition to design Canberra, the Australian capital city, in 1912.

Griffin’s scheme had in spades what those of his far more famous main competitors, Eliel Saarinen and Alfred Agache, did not: drama, clarity, harmony with the existing landscape and a geometric plan with distinct districts linked along axial lines.

But Griffin also had another huge advantage. His design for Canberra was visualized in a series of intricately decorated, richly colored and often vast renderings on fine linen by his wife, the great draftsman and muralist Marion Mahony Griffin, whom he’d met while both worked in the Oak Park studio of Frank Lloyd Wright.

“They’re spectacular works of art,” says Northwestern University architectural historian David Van Zanten, chief organizer of “Drawing the Future: Chicago Architecture on the International Stage, 1900-1925,” the eye-popping new exhibit opening April 19 at Northwestern’s Block Museum. “The plans of their main competitors were nice, conventional drawings roughly one meter square, but Marion’s are really gigantic — some of her cross-sections are 20 feet long — and incredibly vivid and elaborate, layered with copper, silver and gold metallic paint. The Australians could have said either ‘Oh my God!’ and run away, or ‘Wow, let’s go with it!’”

The latter response prevailed, and a few of the Canberra drawings are the starting point of “Drawing the Future.” The exhibit examines the work of the Griffins before, during and after the Canberra competition, which was highly influential despite the fact that the capital city was completed in modified form only in the 1960s, long after Walter Griffin’s death.

“Marion’s gift for drawing and presentation probably sold the project to the jurors as much as Walter’s ideas did,” says Corinne Granof, a curator at the Block, which boasts a large collection of Marion’s Canberra competition renderings as well as her drawings for other designs by Wright and her husband. “They have such a strong decorative quality, and reproductions don’t do them justice at all. You really have to see them in person to appreciate how remarkable they are.”

The exhibit also explores how the Griffins helped spread Chicago’s architectural and urban design legacy through dialogue with architects and city planners — including Tony Garnier, Rudolph Schindler, Robert Mallet-Stevens and Ludwig Hilberseimer.
Karl Hilberseimer — in Paris, Vienna, London and elsewhere as they traveled in search of jurors for another competition to design Australia's Parliament building. Part of that legacy was derived from Wright, whose ensemble-oriented ideas about urban planning probably influenced those of Walter Burley Griffin, and whose interest in Japanese prints obviously informed Marion Mahony Griffin's highly stylized draftsmanship. The Griffins were also heavily indebted to Daniel Burnham's Beaux Arts scheme for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and Jules Guerin's exquisite large-scale watercolor illustrations for Burnham's 1909 Plan of Chicago.

"Urban planning was still in its infancy at that time," Granof says. "The synergy between architects' thinking about how to design a modern city using geometric principles as organizing features, and how Chicago architects approached modern building, turned out to be important in the history of city planning. The exhibit shows how the Griffins became a big part of that history."
Artists go on location with Mother Nature

BY JOANNA BRODER | Contributor

Artist Kathryn Gauthier, a painter and interior designer, draws inspiration from being out of doors.

“I enjoy getting out and communing with nature,” said Gauthier, of Chicago, “and I think it’s important to sort of, I think it’s important to keep that connection even though it’s not informing the work that I’m doing that much.”
Gauthier is one of over 50 Chicago professional artists who will participate in "Brush with Nature," an outdoor painting demonstration that will take place at the Emily Oaks Nature Center in Skokie from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 20.

With their easels set up along the Nature Center's walking path, artists will talk with visitors while painting en plein air, a French phrase that translates as "open air," or "outdoors" and is used to designate the practice of painting or drawing outside. Impressionist painters were particularly fond of working en plein air.

The goal of "Brush with Nature" is "two-fold," said Debra Hatchett, executive director of Anatomically Correct, the nonprofit organization organizing the event.

"It's not just showing the artists work, but it's also educating the public and getting the public involved in the arts in some way," she said.

Hatchett, a visual and performing artist based in Skokie, added that the event will be free and family-friendly. The Artists will be out regardless of the weather conditions.

"We spend a lot of time with kids on electronic gadgets and very little time out experiencing the world. This is something they can all do as a family. They can all participate," she said.

She said the artists participating in the event are approachable. "They want to talk about their work. They're excited to get people involved," she said.

The first 25 people to come to "Brush with Nature" will receive a complimentary mini canvas to start their own outdoor plein air painting.

"They can take those little canvasses and they can create their own work or they can give them to the artists and have the artists make something for them," Hatchett said. "They can do whatever they want with the little canvass, but the seed is there so that they are given the opportunity to maybe go make something that they wouldn't normally try to do.

"It's all about learning," Hatchett said. "It's all about educating and at the same time giving the artists some attention that they're not getting in other settings."

We have beauty all around us, "but sometimes we don't see it until someone with skills takes it and puts it into a composition that we admire and we say 'wow I never noticed that before,'" Gauthier added.
Death penalty still worth talking about

BY CATEY SULLIVAN | Contributor

It's been over two years since Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed a bill abolishing the state's death penalty and more than a decade since husband and wife team Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen's play "The Exonerated" premiered.

Can the piece — scripted from interviews with six people wrongfully sent to death row — still hold up in terms of either relevance or drama?

Absolutely, says director Cat Miller of the play debuting April 19 at Evanston's Josephine Louis Theatre in a co-production of Next Theatre and Northwestern University.

"The moratorium — which is not in place across the country — might mean someone isn't literally going to be murdered for something they didn't do, but it doesn't solve the problem (of wrongful convictions)," said Miller. "I grew up being taught to very much believe in the system, that police were always good and justice would always prevail. Maybe that's often true, but it's not always true. It's really important to challenge those kind of assumptions."

Skokie's Alfred Wilson finds his assumptions challenged daily. Portraying Delbert Tibbs, veteran actor Wilson channels Tibbs to tell the story of a one-time Chicagoan who spent a chunk of the 1970s on Florida's death row after being convicted of a rape and murder he didn't commit.

Unless you've been there, it's tough to wrap your mind around the prospect of being innocent, railroaded, locked up and sentenced to die, noted Wilson, who met Tibbs during a run of "The Exonerated" in Milwaukee.

"These are real stories — it's not that the police and the attorneys are totally bad and the exonerated are these saints," he said. "This isn't about preaching to the choir. What I hope is that the production keeps people talking. Personally, I wrestle on a daily basis with how I feel about the death penalty. When I look at how wrong our justice system can go, I think we just shouldn't be executing people. Ever."

"Then something happens like with that six-month-old baby getting shot," he said referring to the March murder of Jonylah Watkins on Chicago's South Side. "That's just evil. The person who did that, that's a person I don't want to share oxygen with."

Northwestern University senior Alex Jacobs plays former death-row inmate Kerry Max Cook in the production. "One of the things that really shocked me was that in a lot of the cases in the play, you see how for the cops and the prosecutors, so much of their careers depend on numbers — on arrest and conviction rates. Sometimes it almost seems like a game they're playing," he said.

It was no game for Cook, who describes being brutalized repeatedly during the decades he spent in prison. Imprisoned in 1977, Cox was released 22 years later, his prosecutors condemned by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals for having engaged in "egregious prosecutorial misconduct."

"That he was able to get on with his life, get married, have a family, become an author and speak out the way he does, I find that deeply inspiring," said Jacobs.
They're baaaaack: Actor Jacqueline Williams, an Evanston resident, has returned to Steppenwolf Theatre in the world premiere of Tarell Alvin McCraney's "Head of Passes," directed by Tina Landau. Williams was one of the stars of Landau's acclaimed 2010 production of "Brother/Sister Plays," also by McCraney. The show runs through June 9. For tickets, call (312) 335-1650.

The price is right: Erin Daly is following in the footsteps of Barbra Streisand. The Park Ridge resident has taken on the role of Ms. Marmelstein in Lost Note Theater Company's inaugural production, "I Can Get It For You Wholesale," April 27-May 1, at Strawdog Theatre Company's Hugen Hall. That show marked Streisand's Broadway debut. For tickets, go to brownpapertickets.com.

From far and wide: Actors are traveling from all over the suburbs to be in director Brian Rabinowitz's production of "The Diary of Anne Frank," through April 26 at Metropolis Performing Arts Centre. The cast includes Jocelyn Adamski and Grace Melon of Oak Park, Mark Anderson of Winnetka, Kirk Swenk of Wilmette, Jeffrey Rubin of Skokie and Laura Reinhart of Buffalo Grove. For tickets, call (847) 577-2121.

The French Connection: The music of France is featured in Elgin Opera's "Savoir Flaire," April 20-21 at the Sears Gallery Theatre at Elgin Academy. Kimberly Albrecht and Brittany Albrecht of Barrington, Sharon Starr of Libertyville, Aracely Garza and Katie Coughlin of Buffalo Grove and Warren Kammerer of Inverness will be among the cast singing arias, art songs and musical numbers from "Les Miserables" and "South Pacific." For tickets, call (847) 695-5014.

The right step: A dream came true for Irish dancer Tyler Schwartz. The 22-year-old Libertyville resident won the Senior Men's World Title at the World Irish Dancing Championships held in March in Boston.

Cheryl Lynn Bruce, center, and from left, Tim Hopper, Ron Cephas Jones, James T. Alfred, Jacqueline Williams and Glenn Davis, in Steppenwolf Theatre Company's production of "Head of Passes." | MICHAEL BROSIOLOW PHOTO

It's a snap(shot): Vernon Hills resident Richard Ryndak won the $500 Phoebe Boyd Scholarship for his black and white photograph, "Badlands" at the College of Lake County's Student Art Competition.
Everyone loves Dr. Seuss. That's one reason why Jessica Sawyer wanted to stage "Seussical Jr." for Devonshire Young Performers. Sawyer directs a cast of 28 third-through-seventh-graders.

"lt seemed like a perfect show to do with that age group," Sawyer said. "They know and love the characters." Their parents do, too. "lt's a world of complete nonsense," Sawyer admitted, but children relate to the characters. They might think, "l've felt like Gertrude who seems unnoticed. Or l've felt like Horton, who is trying so hard to do something and nothing he does is working for him," the director noted.

Performances are 7 p.m. April 26, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. April 27, and 3 p.m. April 28 at Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie. Tickets are $11, $9 for students and seniors.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2400 or go to www.skokieparks.org.

Colorful characters abound in "Seussical Jr." at Devonshire Cultural Center.

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Enchanted April

By Matthew Barber
From the novel by Elizabeth Von Arnim

Four English women rent a castle on a remote Italian island to come to grips with their lives and relationships and fall under the spell of their idyllic surroundings.
Sometimes it is good to be reminded of just how transcendent the familiar can be.

A case in point: Director David H. Bell's sublime revival of the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic, "South Pacific," now at the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire.

Bell's ability to make a story unspool with the most natural fluidity and deftly punctuated wit is a given, and here he has even handed over his usual choreographic duties to Matt Raftery, very much the skilled protege. But this expertly cast production is particularly impressive for the way it brings a deep intimacy to the musical's epic tale of love and war, prejudice and acceptance.

Bell and his cast make you listen afresh to the show's exceptionally bold and ambitious book — the work of Hammerstein and Joshua Logan, drawn from the stories of James A. Michener. The actors truly capture the sense of what happens when, far from home, people try to cope with internal and external chaos.

Elizabeth Lanza, who invariably brings a sense of total naturalness and emotional heat to her work, is Ensign Nellie Forbush, the "hick" from segregated Little Rock, Ark., who discovers more about herself and the world than she ever expected while serving as a Navy nurse during World War II. She is wholly compelling, and there is a palpable chemistry between her and her easily sophisticated Emile de Becque (Stephen R. Buntrock).

But there are star turns throughout here, right down to each distinctively limned Seabees and plucky staff nurses.

Stef Tovar may just be the best Luther Billis ever, bringing a comic restlessness to this adventure-seeking, mischief-making, happily horny sailor who clearly has his own big crush on Nellie. Bethany Thomas is a magnificent Bloody Mary, alternately ruthless and funny, and is in full command in "Bali Ha'i" and "Happy Talk."

Ben Jacoby lives up to Bloody Mary's assessment of the young, Princeton-educated Lt. Joseph Cable as "a sexy man," with the mix of his lustrous voice ("Younger Than Springtime"), clow skepticism and fervent engagement with the lovely Liat (Emily Morales, who brings a winning eagerness to her encounter with him).

Raftery sees to it that the iconic numbers are full of zest — from the laughter-inducing "There Is Nothin' Like a Dame," to "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair" (complete with washtub and shower jerry-rigged to a bicycle). Last but not least, with music direction by Ryan T. Nelson, and an orchestra led by Patti Garwood, the production gives full voice to a score that's timelessness is beyond question.
much of what’s said is worth hearing. Especially the final summation of one survivor who points out that even while living in darkness for nearly two years, the choice to struggle to survive made them free.

OBLIVION

Rated
PG-13 for sci-fi action violence, brief strong language, and some sensuality/nudity
Stars
Tom Cruise, Morgan Freeman, Olga Kurylenko

One of the last members (Cruise) of a cleanup crew on the de-populated Earth after an extended war with aliens discovers a crashed ship that calls into question all he’s been told about the conflict. Joseph Kosinski ("Tron") co-wrote and directed the sci-fi thriller.

NO PLACE ON EARTH

Rated
PG-13 for thematic elements including brief violent images
Stars
Chris Nicola, Saul Stermer, Sam Stermer

A remarkable story of survival that suffers from a lackluster documentary-style production, "No Place on Earth" is one of those films best viewed at home — perhaps on a History Channel re-run somewhere down the line. The History Channel produced "No Place" and it certainly put its stamp on this true tale of Ukrainian Jews who outlasted the Nazis during the Holocaust by hiding for 511 days in two deep caves. Pseudo-dramatic reenactments alternate with talking-head recollections to tedious effect, though

STILL PLAYING

42

Rated
PG-13 for thematic elements including language
Stars
Chadwick Boseman, Harrison Ford, Nicole Beharie

It’s been awhile since Hollywood put a good, on-the-field baseball movie over the plate, not to mention one that also switch-hits as an inspirational drama, and "42" scores solid base hits 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 Boseman in a breakout role), major-league baseball’s first African-American player — who bore the brunt of racial hatred for breaking baseball’s color barrier. The pace lags occasionally and Helgeland overdoes the sentimentalidade from time to time, but the running, hitting and fielding is effective and Ford is a plus as crusty Brooklyn Dodgers GM Branch Rickey, who set the history-making change in motion.

THE COMPANY YOU KEEP

Rated
R for language
Stars
Robert Redford, Shia LaBeouf, Susan Sarandon, Julie Christie, Nick Nolte

A former Weather Underground activist (Redford) goes on the run after a journalist (LaBeouf) uncovers his identity. Redford also directed the drama.

TRANCE

Rated
R for sexual content, graphic nudity, violence, some grisly images and language
Stars
James McAvoy, Vincent Cassel, Rosario Dawson

An art auctioneer who has gotten mixed up with criminals partners with a hypnotherapist to recover a lost painting. Danny Boyle ("127 Hours") directed the crime thriller.

EVIL DEAD

Rated
R for strong, bloody violence and gore, some sexual content and language
Stars
James McAvoy, Vincent Cassel, Rosario Dawson

An art auctioneer who has gotten mixed up with criminals partners with a hypnotherapist to recover a lost painting. Danny Boyle ("127 Hours") directed the crime thriller.

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 motorcycleist (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.
Movie Review

'No Place' has no drama

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

“No Place on Earth”

** 1/2

A remarkable story of survival that suffers from a lackluster documentary-style production, “No Place on Earth” is one of those films that’s best seen on DVD or on demand — or during a History Channel re-run somewhere down the line.

History Channel Films produced “No Place” and it certainly put its stamp on the finished product. Talking-head recollections alternate with dramatic recreations to tell us how several Jewish families in the Ukraine attempted to outlast the Nazis by hiding for 511 days in two deep caves. And how some eventually triumphed.

The film opens with New York City civil servant (and spelunker by avocation) Chris Nicola revisiting a giant gypsum cave in Western Ukraine where he found artifacts suggesting that someone lived in the cave not so long ago. After asking questions in a nearby village, he was informed with a shrug that some Jews hid in the caves during World War II — but no one knew anything about them. So he searched personally for news of survivors and, after nine years, he made contact with 90-year-old Saul Stermer, who told him about his family's ordeal.

And it’s quite a story. In 1941, after the Nazis invaded the Ukraine, Esther Stermer, the matriarch of the clan, said they would find a place to hide rather than go to the ghettos where the other Jews in the area (only 5 percent survived in the Western Ukraine) were being transported. Thirty-eight members of three families hid in the nearby caves, where they were supplied by young men of the family who made arrangements to stay above ground. The situation wasn’t even particularly unpleasant in the beginning, when the families had many of their belongings to furnish the cave and sufficient food and water. Then, over time, some were captured, others were forced deeper and deeper into the caves, where they lived in near-total darkness, and venturing outside for food was a deadly risk. In the end, their only hope was that the Russians would invade and drive away the Germans before they died of starvation.

Emmy-winning TV producer/director Janet Tobias does a serviceable job dividing the story into two chief elements: personal memories of a handful of Stermer family members who recall their days in the cave, and dramatizations meant to illustrate their recollections. Unfortunately, the formality of the interview process undercut much of the emotion from their memories, except for a few poignant exceptions, and the recreations often simply show us, in plodding detail, what we’ve already heard.

Nonetheless, a lot of what’s said in “No Place” is worth hearing, such as one of the family members pointing out that the struggle was worthwhile because while they were in the cave they were free. They weren’t prisoners or victims; they chose to struggle to survive. And survive they did, to create future generations of Stermers — some of whom escort their grandparents as they revisit the caves.

“We beat the odds,” one woman notes with satisfaction. “They didn’t beat us.”
Charlie Sheen and Lindsay Lohan star in "Scary Movie 5."

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**THIS WEEKEND & BEYOND**

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

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**STAGE**

**“Cat on a Hot Tin Roof”**

*Performances April 27 or May 25.*

$20.

“Legally Blonde”

*Presented at 7:30 p.m. April 26-27 and May 3-4 and 2 p.m. April 28 at Maine South High School, 1111 S. Dee Road, Park Ridge. $10. www.seatyourself.biz.

**The Wizard of Oz**


**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. Visit www.nileslibrary.org.

**Gorilla Tango’s Skokie Theatre**


**Bella Voce**

*The a cappella choral ensemble presents “Sweetness of Spring” at 7:30 p.m. April 27 at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 939 Hinman Ave., Evanston. $30; $15 students. Visit http://bellavoce.org.

**Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra**

*Presenting Sibelius’ Symphony No. 2 in D and Corigliano’s “Gazebo Dances.” $36-$75, with discounts for seniors and youth. Visit www.arsviva.org.

**Bach Week Festival 2013**


**Lutkin Hall**

*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. April 23, 7 p.m.: Leone Buyse flute master class. Free.

**Northshore Concert Band**

*“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.

**Park Ridge Civic Orchestra**

*“A Journey to Freedom,” 2:30 p.m. April 28 at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 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.
What to Do

19, 7:30 p.m.: Symphony Wind Ensemble performs works by Bach and von Weber. $6; $4 students. April 22, 5:30 p.m.: Northwestern Concerto/Aria Competition. Free. April 23, 7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Saxophone Ensembles and Quartets. $6; $4 students.

At Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. www.pickstaiger.org. April 19, 7:30 p.m.: Symphonic Wind Ensemble performs works by Bach and von Weber. $6; $4 students. April 22, 5:30 p.m.: Northwestern Concerto/Aria Competition. Free. April 23, 7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Saxophone Ensembles and Quartets. $6; $4 students.

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What to Do

Continued from page 57

at the Dance - Waltzes, Conversations, "Listen to the Dance - Waltzes, Marches, Polkas and Tangos." Pianist Jeffrey Siegel performs music of Schubert, Strauss, Prokofiev and Sousa. $22; $16 students.

The Studio of Rhona Reagen

18-18+

Presenting its spring concert of music by Bach, Brahms, Telemann, Vivaldi, Mozart and others at 2 p.m. May 5 at Garrett Theological Seminary, 2121 Sheridan Road, Evanston. Free.

Ethical Humanist Society Second Saturday Coffeehouse

18-18+

7574 N. Lincoln Ave. (at Howard), Skokie. www.ethicalhumanist.org/coffeehouse. May 11: Soprano Christine Steyer in "So You Want to be a Diva?" following 8 p.m. open mic (7:30 p.m. sign-up; any genre, all acoustic). $8.

Regenstein Recital Hall

18-18+

At Northwestern University, 60 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. April 25, 7:30 p.m.: Ensemble Dal Niente performs works by Bienen School composition students. Free.

Six Piano Ensemble

18-18+

Performing popular, classical and ragtime selections at 8 p.m. April 27 and 3 p.m. April 28 at Oakton Community College's Footlik Theater, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. $17; $14 students and seniors. Call (847) 635-1900.

Skokie Concert Choir

18-18+

Annual Spring Choral Concert, 3 p.m. May 5 at Ezra Habonim-Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie. $10; $4 children. Call (773) 251-7890.

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus

18-18+


Lincolnwood Public Library

18-18+


MAUDE MAGGART IN CONCERT

18-18+

Hosted by Northlight Theater at 9 p.m. April 20 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. $45; $100 VIP. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org.

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 Northwest, plays the music of Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton and others. The Ridgewood High School jazz band opens. $10.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts

18-18+


S.P.A.C.E.

18-18+

1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. www.evanstonspace.com. (847) 492-8860. April 18, 7:30 p.m.: Phil Angotti Band CD release show, $12/$15. April 20, 7:30 p.m.: Luke Winslow King in the Studios at SPACE, $12/$15. April 21, 7 p.m.: "Words & Music," with host Ingrid Graudins and featuring George Gershwin, Aaron Copland and others, 8 p.m. April 26

EAST

18-18+


Oakton Community College

18-18+


GT Skokie Young Artists

18-18+

SuperZeros!, a sketch comedy revue devised and created by a youth ensemble, will hold auditions for performers ages 9-15, 6:30-8:30 p.m. April 19 and 5-7 p.m. April 20 at Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Prepare a monologue, story or joke. Cold readings will
be available for anyone without a prepared piece. If possible, bring a headshot and resume. To set up audition time, contact director Victoria Montalbano at victoria@gorillatango.com.

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.

Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra


Gorilla Tango’s Skokie Theatre

7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. 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.

Youth Company Chicago

5340 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. www.youthcompanychicago.org. Free musical theatre workshops for elementary- and middle-school-aged students on April 20, 10-11 a.m. for grades K-2; 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. for grades 3-7. Also accepting registration for “Wizard of Oz” summer music theatre camps for ages 4-13, starting June 24.

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 Holberg Suite from Holberg’s Time
Svendsen Romance for Solo Violin and Strings, Opus 26

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**“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. Visit www.brushwithnature.org.

**Lyric Opera**

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13+ 18+ 65+


**ILINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER**

9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. (847) 967-4889. www.ilholocaustmuseum.org. Admission: $12; $8 for students and seniors. Through April 21: “Courage: The Vision to End Segregation, The Guts to Fight for It.” April 21, 2 p.m.: Peter Balakian presents “Raphael Lemkin, Cultural Destruction and the Armenian Genocide.” Book signing to follow. Free with museum admission; reservations required. May 5, 1 p.m.: Gershanov Family Student Contest awards, featuring the winners of the 2013 Leo & Antonia Gershanov Memorial Student Arts & Writing Contest. Students in grades 7-12 will be recognized for their poetry, stories, artwork and musical compositions expressing the theme of “Beyond the Inner Circle: Expanding My Boundaries of Caring.” Free with museum admission; reservations required.

**“Fools Tango Two”**

18+

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. $20. Visit www.theatrezarko.org.

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13+ 18+ 65+


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Fifarek adjusting to singles spotlight

BY ERIC VAN DRIL | Contributor | @VanDrilSports

Notre Dame's Tim Fifarek trained with fellow junior Joe Wilk during the offseason, working toward his goal of becoming a singles player this year.

Fifarek said they spent nearly every day practicing together, which allowed Fifarek to build his fitness and prepare for a challenge match during Notre Dame's preseason.

"I kept asking (Notre Dame coach Steve Jankowski) if I could have a chance to face the original second singles guy (senior David Dickson) and try to beat him, and I did," Fifarek said. "Last year I played doubles, so it's a big step for me to go from doubles to singles."

After accomplishing that goal, the Chicago resident has often practiced against sophomore Ryan Sullivan, Notre Dame's No. 1 singles player over the last two seasons.

Playing singles typically takes longer and requires athletes to have greater fitness. Fifarek said switching to singles also has made him to try to enhance his shot-making. More specifically, Fifarek has hit shots toward the corners of the court with more frequency this season to wear down his opponents.

In an effort to adopt Sullivan's net game, Fifarek has become better at deciding when to rush to the net and when to stay on the baseline.

Fifarek's transition from doubles to singles required him to adjust his training and refine certain aspects of his game.

Fifarek's doubles partner last season, junior Walt Thomas, has been impressed with how Fifarek has adjusted to singles play.

"He's off to a pretty good start," Thomas said. "lt was an easy transition."
Goldstick named to all-tournament team

Deerfield alumnus Andrew Goldstick, a sophomore shortstop on the Washington University in St. Louis baseball team, was named to the University Athletic Association Championship All-Tournament Team.

Goldstick led the Bears to a 5-3 record and a share of the conference title.

The Deerfield native finished the tournament with a .387 batting average (12-for-31), a .500 on-base percentage and he reached base in all eight games. He also recorded three doubles, seven runs, four RBI and a tournament-high five stolen bases.

The tournament was held March 10-17 in Sanford, Fla.

Goldstick has started all 27 of the team's games this season. Through those 27 contests, the Bears have a 17-10 record and Goldstick has a .273 batting average, a .341 on-base percentage and a team-high 13 stolen bases.

Sophomore Noah Doppelt (Evanston graduate), sophomore Ryan Slawin (Glenbrook North graduate), freshman Max Golembo (Stevenson graduate) and freshman Matt McCareins (Evanston native) are other area athletes on the Bears baseball team.

Doppelt is batting .311 with a .408 on-base percentage in 24 games.

Golembo has played in 23 games. He's batting .257 with a .406 on-base percentage thanks to a team-high 19 walks.

Dan Kelly, a Fenwick alumnus and freshman on the Boston College men's swimming team, excelled at the Atlantic Coast Conference Championships. The River Forest native swam in five final events.

Kelly anchored Boston College's 200-yard medley relay team that set a school record of 1 minute, 31.30 seconds (eighth place). He also anchored the Eagles' 200 free relay team that set a school record of 1:21.37 (eighth).

Then, after a teammate broke Kelly's school record in the 50 free, Kelly retook the top spot with a time of 20.43 (28th).

Kelly then anchored Boston College's 400 free relay team that set a school record with a time of 3:01.34 (seventh).

Kelly also took 30th in the 100 free with a time of 46.09.

Boston College took eighth out of nine teams at the ACC Championships, which were held Feb. 27-March 2 in Greensboro, N.C.

Fellow Boston College swimmer Maureen Barron helped her women's team earn points in four events at the ACC Championships.

Barron, a Fenwick alumna and Darien native, swam the anchor leg for the Eagles' 200 medley relay team, which finished eighth with a
time of 1:47.11.

She also swam on the Eagles' 200 free relay team, which finished ninth with a time of 1:36.41. Barron swam the anchor leg on Boston College's 400 medley relay team, which placed ninth with a time of 3:55.36.

Finally, Barron was a part of her school's 400 free relay team. The Eagles took ninth (3:31.15).

The Boston College women's tournament was held Feb. 20-23 in Greensboro, N.C.

Glenview native Michael Fallon helped the UMass-Lowell men's hockey team to the best finish in its Division I history with a 28-11-2 record. The River Hawks earned Hockey East regular season and tournament titles, an NCAA Northeast Region Championship and a trip to the NCAA Frozen Four.

The team fell to Yale 3-2 in the national semifinals on April 11 at the Consol Energy Center in Pittsburgh.

Fallon, a freshman forward who attended Loyola, played in 30 of the team's 41 games and finished the season with two goals and six assists, as well as a plus-8 rating.

Have a suggestion for the College Roundup? Email Nick Bullock at bullockpioneerpress@gmail.com.

Not to say that major league baseball players aren't tough. Of course they are. Still... Take the case of Texas Rangers shortstop Elvis Andrus. Granted, it was only a spring training game, but Andrus had to miss it because of "sensitivity in his left arm." What did that mean? Apparently Andrus had gotten a tattoo two days before, and it was still sore. Tattoos can be tender, but could you imagine the NFL's Ray Lewis or Tom Brady, the NHL's Alex Ovechkin or Sidney Crosby, or the NBA's LeBron James or Kobe Bryant missing a game - even a pre-season game - because of a new tattoo?

Once upon a time, if you were a NASCAR driver, you grew up in the South. No longer. Fact is, only two of the top 20 or so stock car racers are southerners - Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Ricky Stenhouse. All the others grew up in the far West (such as Jimmie Johnson, Kyle Busch, Jeff Gordon), the Midwest (Dario Franchitti, Matt Kenseth, Carl Edwards), even New England (Joey Logano) and in foreign countries (Juan Pablo Montoya).

The debate over the greatest big man in NBA history will never be settled - Bill Russell, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Bill Walton, Wilt Chamberlain, Akeem Olajuwon, Shaquille O'Neal - but the fact is that no center had a greater impact on the game than Wilt. By the time he graduated from the University of Kansas and before he ever started a game in the NBA, three rules had already been changed because of Wilt's play. No longer allowed were offensive goaltending, lobbing baseline inbound passes over the backboard, and taking off from the foul line to dunk free throws.
Blue Demons take second

The Maine East girls water polo team posted a record of 3-1 and took second at the Elk Grove Tournament on Saturday.

Maine East registered victories against Meadows (10-2), Elk Grove (6-2) and Deerfield (16-4) before falling to tournament champion Libertyville 7-3. The Blue Demons outscored their opponents 19-2 in the first quarter of their three wins.

Maine East junior Maria Protic scored a team-high 12 goals in the tournament. She scored all three of Maine East's goals against Libertyville.
Don't Miss

Today
Baseball: Niles West at Evanston, 4:45 p.m.
The Wolves got off to a fast start in conference play, beating defending CSL North champs Glenbrook North 4-2 on April 9. Then, on Saturday, Niles West blanked Maine East 10-0.

Today
Boy’s water polo: Niles West at Maine South, 6 p.m.
Niles West played in the St. Patrick Tournament over the weekend and began the tournament with a 9-8 victory over Fremd on Friday. Senior Max Romanelli scored the game-winning goal with 44 seconds remaining. The Wolves finished the tournament with a 3-1 record.

This Week
Niles West

BASEBALL
Today
At Evanston, 4:45 p.m.
Saturday
Hosts Union Grove (OH), 10 a.m.
Thursday (4/25)
At New Trier, 4:45 p.m.

BOYS GYMNASTICS
Friday
At Niles North Invite, 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER
Today
Hosts Niles West Tourney, 5 p.m.
Saturday
At Niles West, 10 a.m., 1 p.m.
Monday
Hosts Taff, 6:45 p.m.
Wednesday
Hosts Evanston, 7 p.m.

SOFTBALL
Today
At New Trier, 4:45 p.m.
Tuesday
At Evanston, 4:45 p.m.
Thursday (4/25)
At New Trier vs. Maine South, 4:45 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS
Today
At Evanston, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday
At Willowbrook Invite, 8 a.m.
Tuesday
At Glenbrook South Invite, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday
Hosts Notre Dame, 4:45 p.m.

BOYS TRACK
Friday
At Notre Dame Relays, 5 p.m.

GIRLS TRACK
Friday
At Glenbard East Invite, 4:30 p.m.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL
Today
Hosts Maine South, 6 p.m.
Friday
At Downers South Invite, 5 p.m.
Saturday
At Downers South Invite, 8 a.m.
Tuesday
At Glenbrook South Invite, 6 p.m.
Thursday (4/25)
Hosts Evanston, 6 p.m.

BOYS WATER POLO
Today
At Maine South, 6 p.m.
Tuesday
Hosts Glenbrook South, 6 p.m.

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Lack of captains has ‘worked well’

BY ERIC VAN DRIL | Contributor | @VanDrilSports

PARK RIDGE
Displeased with her team’s leadership during her first two seasons as Niles West’s softball coach, Nicole Reynolds decided to try something a bit unorthodox this season.

The Wolves don’t have captains this year.
Reynolds’ goal in breaking from the norm was to try to provide each of her players with the opportunity to lead while also encouraging everybody on the team to develop the characteristics of captains.

“The last two years, we’ve had captains that were just captains by name and not anything else,” Reynolds said. “We told the kids, ‘If you’re going to be a leader, you’re going to lead anyways; no matter what.’ Our kids have embraced that and everyone’s stepping up the slack and doing the little things they need to do. It’s actually worked well, that no one’s captain just by a name.”

Established seniors like all-conference pitcher Krista Dawson remain vital to the team, but the change has encouraged first-year varsity players like junior outfielder Kacie Simkins and freshman catcher Shannon McHugh to speak up and take on a greater role.

“I feel like it has (worked) because it kind of gives the younger kids a voice,” said Simkins, who hits cleanup for Niles West. “You don’t feel like the seniors and the captains have to take over everything. You can contribute a lot, too.”

When asked if there has been a player who has particularly benefited from this change, Reynolds singled out McHugh.

Reynolds said McHugh hasn’t hesitated in sharing her opinion behind the plate in spite of being a freshman. It’s something that might not have happened if Niles West had more of a traditional hierarchy.

“I think it’s helped the younger girls because they can say what they need to say, too,” Reynolds said. “We’ve got younger kids starting, which also helps. We’ve got kids — seniors and juniors — that are in starting positions where, even if they’re not a captain, they can say what they need to say and lead by example in the field.”

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**Brand pushes Vikings to be their best**

**SKOKIE**

There's competitive and then there's Alyssa Brand competitive.

The Niles North sophomore girls soccer player is known for being highly competitive in nearly everything she does.

"She wants to win every single drill," Niles North assistant coach Filip Cejovic said. "She gets upset when her side loses a drill, but that's her great thirst for improvement for herself and the team."

On the first day of practice back in March, the team played a game of knockout, a popular grade-school contest in which participants dribble around and try to take the ball away from other players.

"There was no way Alyssa was going to get knocked out," Niles North coach Paul Elkins said. "She carries that competitiveness from the drills to the games."

"I just hate to lose at anything," Brand said. "I try to lead by example in our drills to get everyone to do the best they can. I'm very focused. I just hope I'm not being too mean."

Brand's motivation clearly rubs off on the team.

"We see what a hard worker she is. Alyssa always gives her all in practice," sophomore midfielder Luci Valenzuela said. "She's always telling us to pick it up and work harder. Having her out there makes me better."

In a 4-0 home victory over Northside on Friday,
Brand put all of her athletic skills on display, scoring a goal, recording an assist and controlling the midfield. She turned in a dominating performance.

"She was fantastic out there. A very competitive player," Northside coach Robert Albritton said. "She has great touch, really good foot skills. Knows where to put the ball and how to make her team better."

The Vikings have enjoyed success in several sports in recent years — such as boys basketball, girls volleyball and boys swimming and diving — and big things could be on the horizon for the girls soccer team as well with 13 of the 17 varsity players being underclassmen.

"Alyssa can put the program on the map," Elkins said. "The sky's the limit for her."

Brand expressed a desire to play in college.

"I've had a chance to talk to a couple of coaches," she said. "It's exciting."

First, Brand has two-plus years to lead the Vikings in the CSL North.

"Last year playing on the varsity, Alyssa was talented, but not our best player," Elkins said. "But this year, she not only has the skills, but she has the confidence that makes her the best player."

Niles North's Danielle Yonan (left) defends Northside's Dana Antunez (2) during the first half of Friday's game. | BRIAN O'MAHONEY-for Sun-Times Media

Niles North's Sara Beladi and the Vikings beat Northside 4-0 on Friday in Skokie. | BRIAN O'MAHONEY-for Sun-Times Media
Leading the way

Valenzuela scores twice in Niles North's shutout win

Niles North's Luci Valenzuela (19) dribbles ahead of Northside's Bella Manobianco (20) during the first half of Friday's game. | BRIAN O'MAHONEY for Sun-Times Media

Read the full story [Page 70]