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Community

Teacher who committed suicide was picked for award

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

When Richard Balentine was named the Niles Chamber of Commerce’s Teacher of the Year, it was at the encouragement of Niles mother Sandie Beierwaltes.

Beierwaltes nominated Balentine for the honor, saying she was impressed by the Notre Dame College Prep teacher’s interactions with students and the positive influence he had over her own son Jonathan, a Notre Dame graduate.

“He was a constant fixture there,” Beierwaltes said of Balentine, whose April 16 death at the Notre Dame campus has been ruled a suicide. “I was always impressed with the relationship he had with the parents and students. You’d see him and there would be a flock of people around him. He was just very kind and gentle. He had a way with the kids and they knew if they needed anything he was a person they could go to.”

Balentine took groups of Notre Dame students to New Orleans each year as part of a Habitat for Humanity project where they participated in building homes for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Jonathan attended the mission twice and even returned to help immediately following his graduation, Beierwaltes said. She attributed her son’s dedication to Balentine’s influence.

“He gave them experiences they normally wouldn’t have in their life,” Beierwaltes said.

The Niles Police Department said that prior to Balentine’s death he had been under investigation for an allegation of “inappropriate communications between Mr. Balentine and current or former Notre Dame students.”

Strzelecki this week declined to comment further on the allegations or the number of complainants. The investigation, he said, was “in its infancy” at the time of Balentine’s death.

“We’re going to wait and see if there is anyone else who calls (with an allegation),” Strzelecki said.

Balentine, who was set to receive a Teacher of the Year Award from the Niles Chamber of Commerce on April 27, was found...

[Teacher [Page 6] ]
dead on the morning of April 16 inside his residence on the Notre Dame campus at 7655 W. Dempster St.
The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office said Balentine was found hanged and ruled his death a suicide.
Police said Balentine had been interviewed by investigators on the morning of April 15, the day before he was found dead. Police released Balentine after the interview and have not determined if the communications were criminal in nature, the department said.
Teresa Connolly, spokeswoman for Notre Dame College Prep, said Balentine had taught at the school for six years. Though it is uncommon for teachers to reside on campus, she said Balentine was staying in an area that had once housed priests.
“He had been living here for a brief time while awaiting the closing on his condo,” Connolly said.
According to Connolly, Notre Dame was made aware of the police investigation, but school officials are not aware of any details beyond what police released publicly.
“We always cooperate with the police, but we have not been asked for any information,” she said.
According to a statement on the school’s website posted later in week, Notre Dame had not received any complaints regarding Balentine.
Ryan Blackburn, a spokesman for the Archdiocese of Chicago, said the Archdiocese was never involved in the police investigation, nor is it aware of the details behind the allegation.
A native of Pennsylvania, Balentine served as Notre Dame's director of campus ministry and was also chairman of the Religious Studies Department.
He had been nominated for a Teacher of the Year award by a parent and had been set to receive the award during the Niles Chamber’s Night of Roses banquet, said Chamber Director Katie Schneider.
Scott Czarnik, a former student in Balentine's religion class and a 2009 graduate of Notre Dame, described the teacher as “a friend as well as an educator.”
“The way he bonded with the kids was one-of-a-kind,” Czarnik recalled. “No other teacher would relate to us the way he did. He became close to everyone who wanted to become close to him.”
Czarnik said Balentine made himself available to his students after school, and kept in contact with them after the graduated. Czarnik said the two attended Blackhawks games together and were “friends outside of school.”
After graduating and moving to Arizona for college, Czarnik found himself reaching out to his former teacher when he was having trouble adjusting to college life.
He called the allegation that Balentine had engaged in “inappropriate communication” with students “very out of character.”
“As far as I knew him, he was a friend and that’s what he wanted to be — nothing more,” Czarnik said.
Anthony Lupo, also a 2009 graduate, called the allegation “shocking.”
“I never thought any of the communication I or any of my friends had with him was anywhere near inappropriate,” he said. “There was a fine teacher-student line there that I never saw crossed.”
Lupo knew Balentine as the chaplain to the school’s hockey team. Lupo, a member of the team, said Balentine drove the team bus to every hockey game.
Lupo called the teacher “one of the most genuine people I had ever met. He loved his students. He was strict in that he wanted you to do well in school, but if it was outside of school and you wanted to talk about sports or whatever, you could talk about that, too.”
Counselors and religious staff were made available to Notre Dame students and faculty following Balentine's death.
The Morton Grove Park District will enter the busy summer season with a new leader at its helm.

Tracey Anderson, a 25-year parks and recreation veteran, assumes the executive director post May 6.

Commissioners unanimously approved Anderson's hire at a special meeting on April 15. She will earn $102,000 annually.

Appointed as a "very vivacious person" with a great sense of humor, she said the park board sought "somebody (who) had a good fight" in them. The park district has been without a permanent leader since last October when Brian Sullivan, the former director, abruptly resigned to "pursue other opportunities," a park district release said.

Rich Grodsky, who retired from Elmhurst's park district last year, was tapped to serve in interim capacity in early November. He did not apply for the permanent position, park district spokeswoman Sue Braubach said. For assistance in finding the new top leader, the park district worked with executive search firm Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, which is headquartered in Rosemont. Over 40 applicants, half of whom had experience in parks and recreation work, applied for the position, reported commissioner Dominick Burdi. He said Anderson was one of three applicants interviewed by the park board for the job.

At the April 19 park board meeting, commissioner Kevin Lochner read a statement recognizing Grodsky's contributions to the Morton Grove Park District over the past five months. During his brief tenure, Grodsky completed the park district's five-year capital plan and orchestrated the financial and construction planning for the upcoming $6.44-million overhaul of Oriole Pool. Lochner thanked Grodsky for his time and work, noting "his experience and organizational skills make a tremendous difference in how quickly the park district was able to stay on course and find a new director." Park staff and officials echoed Lochner's sentiment. "We all feel a great deal of gratitude and we appreciate your hard work," Coursey told Grodsky.

His last day with the park district is April 25.

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**THE HOMESTEAD AT MORTON GROVE**

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Park district delays paving Harrer Park lot

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

Plans are on hold to pave a lot adjacent to Harrer Park where a now-vacant building stands.

Morton Grove Park District officials tabled a motion April 18 to authorize a $69,900 construction contract with Lake Zurich-based Chicagoland Paving Contractors, Inc. in order to buy more time for discussing the future of the 6210 Dempster Street site.

The park district purchased the former bank property in December 2010. In February, park officials approved tearing down the structure, which includes a drive-through, for $108,400.

Demolition was scheduled for March, but had been postponed due to pending permits. The park board is expected to take the matter back up May 2.

Harrer next.

Braubach said the 6210 Dempster Street site would be fenced off for safety purposes until the park board makes a decision on how to proceed.

The park district received eight proposals for asphalt work ranging between $69,900 and $90,730.

Long-term planning discussion is needed to be part of a larger, more elaborate project to create a state-of-the-art aquatic facility at Oriole.

The park district is eyeing for March, but had been postponed due to pending permits.

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It’s no wonder why Niles resident Melissa Anderson was chosen as the “Youth of the Year” by the Niles Chamber of Commerce.

The senior at Resurrection College Prep High School is a leader at school as well as at St. John Brebeuf Parish. She is also very involved with the Girl Scouts of America and is ranked as a Girl Scouts Ambassador. She will be honored at the Niles Chamber of Commerce’s annual awards ceremony on April 27.

Q: How did you feel when you found out you won the award?
A: I was surprised! I didn’t expect it at all.

Q: What are you involved in at St. John Brebeuf Parish?
A: I’m a Eucharist minister; I serve communion to the congregation during mass, I’m in the youth ministry. In grade school I was in the children’s choir and hand bell choir. The first Sunday of every month I teach students six through 10 about the readings of the gospel for the day.

Q: What types of activities do you do at Resurrection school?
A: At Res, I’m the junior class vice president and the vice president of the student council club. I’m a student ambassador. At open houses, we’re the tour guides for the families and every so often we have shadows for the day. I’m in a peer helping program at resurrection. I’m part of the National Honors Society. I played freshman volleyball and JV volleyball my second year. Sophomore and junior year, I was on the JV bowling team.

Q: Is it challenging being so busy and balancing activities, or do you enjoy it?
A: I love being busy. I’ve been involved ever since grade school and I love it.

Q: What inspired you to want to be so involved?
A: My grade school, St. John Brebeuf, was my building foundation with being involved in everything. I was the vice president in eighth grade of the student council. I looked up to everybody. It was a great experience.

Q: Do you know what you’d like to pursue after college?
A: Ever since I was little I always wanted to help animals so I’d like to be a veterinary technician.

Q: How would you describe yourself as a person?
A: I would say I’m a leader, not a follower.
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Judge orders payment from escrow to Glenview, Niles

A Cook County judge ordered payment from an escrow account to Glenview and Niles in a longstanding water-billing dispute between the villages. Judge Rita Novak signed the order April 17 that gives Glenview $1.2 million while Niles will receive $2.1 million.

Both parties agreed to the decision, in which Novak determined that Niles overcharged Glenview for 15 months from April 2010 to July 2011. The dispute began when Glenview officials discovered Niles had overcharged Glenview's North Maine Utilities by including in its water rate costs for its sewer system, and not providing North Maine Utilities with the lowest rate.

Glenview then withheld payments to Niles in escrow and asked for an audit of the village's utility records. In response, Niles sued Glenview for nonpayment and Glenview countersued.

In late March, the escrow account totaled $10 million, and a court hearing on the issue was set for June 28. "Niles officials have indicated a desire to resolve the dispute. Absent a resolution of the issue, Niles said it will continue to pursue its lawsuit," stated a Niles' release.

Niles also will continue to provide water to the Glenview customers. Glenview and Niles will hold discussions to resolve the remaining issues in the lawsuit. Should a resolution not result, Glenview will continue to pursue its counterclaim.

Niles teen arrested for theft

A Niles teen was taken into custody last week after he was seen allegedly throwing a video game system and suspected marijuana out of his car while being followed by police down several village streets.

Police said Eric Biarnesen, 18, of 8040 Ottawa St., was suspected of stealing three packs of cigarettes from an address in Elk Grove Village and an Niles police officer was dispatched to his home on the morning of April 15. Upon arriving at the home, police said a vehicle matching the description of the one seen in the Elk Grove theft pulled out of the alley and drove away.

While the officer followed the car, the driver began throwing items out the window including a bag containing suspected marijuana, an electronic scale, and a Nintendo DS video game system, police said.

The driver, later identified as Biarnesen, was taken into custody after driving down several streets and returning to the 8000 block of Ottawa Avenue, police said. Biarnesen also reportedly struck a parked car on Overhill Avenue, but no damage was reported by the owner.

Biarnesen was charged with theft, possession of marijuana and reckless driving. He has a May 21 court date.
A Park Ridge firefighter was slightly injured in a fall while responding to an appliance fire inside a single-family home.

The fire occurred April 16 inside the utility room of a two-story home on the 300 block of Cedar Street. Park Ridge Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Sorensen said the fire originated in the dryer, but whether it was the result of a mechanical malfunction, electrical problem or other cause remained under investigation. The fire was discovered by a resident of the home around 6:30 p.m. "I'm glad the resident was home because if she wasn't there to notice the fire, it could have been a lot worse," Sorensen said.

The fire was contained to the utility room, though smoke damage was reported throughout the home. Damage was estimated at $10,000.

While responding to the fire a firefighter suffered a minor leg injury after falling on an uneven surface outside the home, the Fire Department said. He was treated and released from Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.
Senior expo draws 1,600 at Golf Mill

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

Holding bags with free giveaways and useful information, senior citizens waited anxiously for the next round of entertainment to start at center court of Golf Mill Shopping Center on Friday, Apr. 19.

The seventh annual "Swing into Spring" Senior Expo is put on by the Mainstreamers, the senior citizen organization that is part of Maine Township. Dick Barton, public information coordinator for Maine Township, believes the event brought in about 1,600 people.

Seniors were able to chat with representatives and pick up brochures from about 70 different vendors and organizations, including the Niles Public Library, Niles Chamber of Commerce, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, Niles and Park Ridge Senior Centers, Pace bus, St. Matthew's church, The Summit of Park Ridge and Oehler Funeral Home.

"We look at it as a public service for seniors," said Barton. Seniors received information on how to stay healthy and active and they learned what organizations in the community can offer them.

"It's been a really good turnout," said Dan Balmes, a volunteer with St. Matthew's Church. "The entertainment definitely draws people here."

The day's entertainment included a performance by Norma and Heidi Lucky, who are award-winning ballroom dancers and Denny Diamond and the Family Jewels, who performed music by Neil Diamond and other musicians.

"The entertainment was upgraded," said Barton, compared to past years.

"I think it's very informative," said Iris Roman, of Morton Grove. "I like information and I like entertainment."

"I think it's great," said Edward Schwartz, of Skokie. "I like all the free giveaways."
Boston Marathon runner from Niles avoids blast

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

When Arije Ramirez was walking to the train station to go back to his hotel after proudly crossing the finish line at the Boston Marathon, he heard a boom, but didn’t think too much of it.

However, when he walked into a restaurant by his hotel, people were coming into the restaurant crying, and he knew something was really wrong.

The Niles resident crossed the finish line at the Boston Marathon after three hours and 13 minutes, a time that he is proud of. He was supposed to meet some friends near the finish line, but since he was experiencing some cramping he decided to go back to his hotel room instead.

"People started walking into the restaurant and hotel minutes later crying and freaked out over what happened," wrote Ramirez, in a Facebook message to the Niles Herald-Spectator. "In a way, I wish I was there to help anyone. At the same time I’m blessed to not have been there because who knows what could have happened."

Ramirez said he finally qualified for the Boston Marathon after trying for five years. "It’s such a big deal for everybody," said Ramirez. "There is camaraderie that runners share globally and this one sport unites the world," wrote Ramirez. "I’m sad this marathon or any can be ruined by one selfish person who put a scar on so many people...

In the wake of the bombs, that camaraderie held strong. "People on the street were giving people rides because they shut down the whole town," said Ramirez.

Although a sad experience to witness, Ramirez will not let what happened stop him from achieving his goals. "Hopefully I’ll qualify in Chicago this year and go back to Boston next year," shared Ramirez.

The Boston Marathon was Ramirez’s seventh marathon. He has three kids, the oldest one attending Maine South High School in Park Ridge.

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The following incidents were listed in the official bulletin of the Niles Police Department. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

**DUI**

Bayarkhuu Tumurbat, 23, of 4918 Conrad, Skokie, was charged with driving under the influence, speeding, improper lane usage and driving off the roadway on April 14. He was taken into custody at Washington Street and Park Avenue at 3:20 a.m. He has a May 31 court date.

**RETAIL THEFT**

Niki Tavoularis, 74, of 648 Shermer Road, Glenview, was charged with retail theft on April 16 after she allegedly stole $21 worth of clothing from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. She has a May 29 court date.

Diego Hernandez, 21, of 3758 Salem Walk, Glenview, was charged with retail theft on April 16 after he allegedly stole two baseball caps valued at $75 from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center.

**THEFT**

On April 12 a 28-year-old Niles man reported that a bottle of prescription painkillers was taken from his apartment on the 7600 block of Milwaukee Avenue. Police said the drugs went missing after the man spent the night with a woman he knew only by her first name.

A cigarette receptacle was stolen March 26 from outside a business on the 7900 block of Milwaukee Avenue. Surveillance video showed two men removing the receptacle just after 2 a.m. and placing it in the trunk of a silver vehicle. The object was valued at $165.

**DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

A 43-year-old Niles man told police on April 12 that he has been receiving text messages of a threatening nature from a man suspected of damaging his vehicle. One of the messages threatened to knock the victim's teeth out, police said.

A Niles man told police that another man threatened him on April 8 after they were involved in an accident on the 8400 block of Dempster Street.

**DISPUTE**

Police were called to the 7700 block of Dempster Street on the night of April 12 when a man reported that his 86-year-old mother picked up a kitchen knife after complaining that the television was too loud. Police spoke to the woman who reportedly stated that she was aggravated with her son and tired of him always making her chicken soup. Both mother and son agreed to stay away from each other for the remainder of the night, police said.

Police responded to a residence on the 7000 block of Greenleaf Street on the morning of April 15 after a 38-year-old woman allegedly removed a thermostat from the wall during an argument with a man inside the house. The pair agreed to stay away from each other for the rest of the day, police said.

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Floodwaters fill Maine Township homes — again

By Jennifer Johnson | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Thalia Davos has had enough.

She's tired of replacing her furnace, hot water heater and everything else destroyed by floodwaters pouring into her unincorporated Maine Township townhouse. And she's equally tired of cleaning up the mess that has been left behind in at least eight floods she's counted since moving into the Colonial Ridge subdivision on Robin Drive 17 years ago.

"It's time to move out," Davos said, standing in the alley outside her home last Thursday after yet another flood, her eyes on the swollen retention pond next door. "I cannot take it anymore."

This time, in addition to the eight feet of water in her basement, Davos watched as water flowed over her front steps, under the door and into her living room on the morning of April 18. She had already replaced her hardwood floors, which were ruined in an earlier flood.

Nearby, cars slowly made their way through the still-flooded alley on the east side of the densely-populated neighborhood north of Maine East High School, creating waves which flowed into the backyards of homes closest to the retention pond. Davos' husband, Gus, waded into the almost knee-deep water with a shovel, attempting to clear debris from a sewer to speed up the drainage.

But the water continued to flow as residents in the rows of townhouses behind him pumped out their basements, adding to the deluge.

"My husband just had heart surgery. Why does he have to clean the sewer? Why isn't the city coming out?" Thalia Davos asked. "Nobody comes to see if you are alive or dead."

Flooding is nothing new on Robin Drive and the neighboring Dee Road community to the west. Before last week, the area had flooded each year between 2008 and 2011. In the 1980s, one man drowned in his own basement.

Also not new is the frustration among residents in the ethnically diverse, mixed-income neighborhood who feel little attention has been paid to them as their homes flood and then flood again.

Because it is an unincorporated area, Robin Drive is under the jurisdiction of the township government. Maine Township Supervisor Carol Teschky said she and other township officials did visit the area the day of the flooding and provided sand, sandbags and trash receptacles for the residents to dispose of their damaged possessions.

"We've done everything we can," she said Friday from the township's Senior Expo at Golf Mill.

On Monday, Teschky and other township officials returned with clean-up kits consisting of mops, buckets, rubber gloves and cleaning solutions which were distributed to Dee and Robin residents.

On the morning of April 18, Julia Cabrales had just finished spring cleaning at her Robin Drive townhouse when, for the fourth time in as many years, she and her family found themselves again fighting against rising waters to rescue whatever they could from their basement. Stacks of boxes, children's toys and mattresses were piled high in the living room of the home, the floor still wet and muddy from water that had, once again, reached the first floor.

"It's unfortunate that we have to keep going through this," said Cabrales, a wife and mother of eight children who had also invited Pioneer Press into her home following the September 2008 floods that ravaged the area. Last week she described how her family pulled together to try to save their possessions as the water rushed in around 3 a.m.

"They get nervous, they get scared," Cabrales said of her children. "We were all forming a chain so we could bring up as much as we can. One was holding one thing, the other was holding another. They were the two smallest were asleep, but the older ones were in gear, helping us. They know we can't keep going through this every single time. It's expensive."

Nearby neighbor Brenda Berrum, 12, described how water reached the second stair on the first floor of her home.

"It smells really bad, too," she said.

Families on the east end of the subdivision blame overland flooding on the nearby retention pond which sits on property belonging to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital and is located within the...
Flood
Continued from page 15

The city of Park Ridge, Sarah Mitchell, engineer for the city of Park Ridge, said the city required water retention when the hospital built its north campus.

A call to Lutheran General was not returned.

Several residents in the area filed a lawsuit against a number of municipalities, including Maine Township and the city of Park Ridge, due to severe flooding that occurred in 2008. The case is still pending in Cook County Circuit Court.

A deluge of water on Dempster Street - which resulted in closure of the road for much of the day last Thursday - also flowed into the Robin and Dee neighborhoods, forcing residents to find higher ground for their cars. Adding to the residents' problems is Prairie Creek, which snakes through the area just feet from some homes; the Des Plaines River, which backs up into the creek and its tributaries; and the low-lying nature of the area, according to Maine Township Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano.

"They should have never been built there," Provenzano said of the townhouses, duplexes and apartments that line the small area across the street north of Maine East High School. "They were built next to a creek 40 years ago."

In 2010 Robert Cohen, Maine Township's Director of Emergency Management, reported that creek beds may also have been bulldozed in order to construct the residences decades ago. They were also built without stormwater detention, he said, something that would be required of new construction today.

According to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, the organization is evaluating floodwater storage and improvements along Prairie Creek that "would provide flood reduction to areas of Park Ridge and unincorporated areas of Maine Township north of Dempster Street and west of Greenwood Avenue."

A preliminary analysis is currently being finalized and the project, which would cost an estimated $19.8 million, would be funded by the MWRE, according to spokesperson Dan Wendt.

Prairie Creek, as well as the Prairie/Farmer Creek to which it connects, have long been part of watershed studies and projects over the years, including the Levee 50 project which was expected to relieve flooding in Des Plaines, Park Ridge and unincorporated Maine Township.

Until - or if - change comes to the neighborhood, residents who remain behind are hoping last week's flood will, finally, be the last.

"You try to think positive. It's hard, but you have to stay positive," Cabrales said. "What else can we do? Just keep going forward."
Village workers rescue biker from floodwaters

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

What they thought was a garbage bag floating on the street along with tree limbs, was really a man who fell off his bike and was stuck in deep water.

"All of a sudden a hand came up," said George Alpogianis, owner of Kappy’s Restaurant in Morton Grove and a new Niles village trustee. "He barely had his head up over the water."

Alpogianis lives in the area near Harts Road and Riverside Drive, and was out helping the Niles Public Works team with sandbagging during the rain that hit Niles and surrounding communities hard on Thursday, Apr. 18.

Alpogianis said the man, who was wearing a garbage bag as a rain coat, was trapped by his bike near a tree stump.

"He was pinned," said Alpogianis. He said that logs were flying through the water and it was a very dangerous situation.

When the man put his arm up, Tony Dati, Mike Reid and Peter Arvanitis heroically came to the rescue.

"He was all tangled up in his bike," said Dati. He said that the whole time they were trying to rescue him he kept pointing to Touhy Avenue and saying he had to go that way.

After the brave public works employees rescued the man in waist-high water, he didn’t talk with the men who saved him. Dati said he wasn't sure if he spoke another language and there was a language barrier.

"He just got on his bike and left," said Dati. He said the main thing is that the man is safe.

"They put their lives in harm's way," said Alpogianis. "It shows how great our village is and the people who work for us."

Dati said Alpogianis also helped them save the biker.

Throughout the village, streets were closed, homes were flooded and vehicles were stranded.

Niles firefighters rescued a few people who were stuck in their vehicles, shared Niles Fire Chief Steve Borkowski.

Four vehicles were stranded on the roads on April 18, according to Niles Police Sgt. Robert Tornabene.

"We've had vehicles that have gone around barricades that ended up getting stranded on the roadway," said Tornabene.

"It's been nonstop," Tornabene said Thursday morning. "There's flooding throughout the village."

Tornabene said the road was closed on Harts Road between Days Terrace and Franks Avenue due to the Chicago River cresting over the bridge. Howard Street was also closed between Nordica and Oak Park avenues.

"I can't tell you how big a flood situation it was yet," said Acting Village Manager Steve Vinezeano on Friday. He said that he did not think the numbers were as bad as in 2011, when the village received more than 750 calls about flooding. On Monday morning, Vinezeano said he still did not have any information on the number of homes affected by flooding.

Niles Public Works Director Scott Jochim said a tree limb also damaged a gas main under the bridge on Harts Road between Milwaukee and Touhy avenues.

Jochim said he is very proud of the public works employees that put their own lives in jeopardy to save the biker.
The U.S. Fund for UNICEF Midwest Region Board of Directors and staff offer a heartfelt Thank You to Martha Metz of Glencoe & Tina Trott of Winnetka for making UNICEF's Message of Hope 2013 gala a resounding success. Their talent, passion and hard work on behalf of UNICEF will touch the lives of the world's most vulnerable children.

Thank you and congratulations on an unforgettable evening!

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Keeping Tabs

How Illinois lawmakers voted in Congress for the week ending April 19, 2013

Major roll call votes in the Senate

EXPANDED GUN CHECKS
Senators voted, 54-46, failing to reach 60 votes needed to advance a bid to require criminal and mental-health background checks on most gun purchases. A "yes" vote backed the so-called Manchin-Toomey measure to greatly expand background checks on gun sales. (S 649) Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: Yes

CONCEALED-CARRY LAWS
Senators voted, 57-43, failing to reach 60 votes needed to amend S 649 (above) so as to make it easier for individuals to carry concealed handguns to other states. A "yes" vote was to impose a de facto, uniform federal standard on the variety of state concealed-carry gun laws. Sen. Richard Durbin: No; Sen. Mark Kirk: No

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN
Senators voted, 40-60, refusing to outlaw the future sale, manufacture, possession and importation of 157 specific semi-automatic assault weapons while defining as legal 2,258 specific hunting and sporting firearms. A "yes" vote was to ban military-style assault weapons. (S 649) Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: Yes

REPUBLICAN GUN PLAN
Senators voted, 52-48, failing to reach 60 votes needed to advance a GOP alternative to a pending Democratic-drafted gun bill (S 649). A "yes" vote backed a bill that emphasized school-safety and mental-health efforts along with stricter enforcement of existing gun laws. Sen. Richard Durbin: No; Sen. Mark Kirk: No

MAGAZINE LIMITS
Senators voted, 46-54, to turn back an amendment to S 649 (above) that sought to outlaw magazine clips holding more than 10 bullets. Present law has no such limit on high-capacity magazines. A "yes" vote was to end a GOP-led filibuster against the amendment. Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: Yes

Major roll call votes in the House

1. CYBER-SECURITY, CIVIL LIBERTIES
Members voted, 289-127, to ease privacy and antitrust laws in order to spur data-sharing between U.S. security agencies and private firms such as Internet service providers. A "yes" vote was to send the Senate a bill to bolster cyber-security in the U.S. (HR 624)

2. PASSWORD PRIVACY
Members voted, 189-224, to defeat a motion to assure the privacy of passwords for social network sites such as Facebook as part of HR 624 (above). A "yes" vote was to prohibit employers from requiring employees to divulge their passwords as a condition of employment.

Key votes ahead

This week, the House will take up bills on pre-existing conditions and the Federal Helium Reserve, while the Senate will debate whether to allow states to collect sales tax on Internet transactions.

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What it means to you

TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

City IG blasts Rahm Emanuel for lack of access to documents

Chicago faces a “risk of increased waste, fraud and misconduct” by city employees and contractors because Mayor Rahm Emanuel has refused to give the city’s inspector general unrestricted access to city documents and the power to enforce his own subpoenas, Inspector General Joe Ferguson warned last week.

Ferguson fired back, one week after Emanuel made it clear he has no intention of introducing a legislative remedy to an Illinois Supreme Court ruling that could tie Ferguson’s hands and insulate Emanuel and his staff from investigation.

“The city faces risk of increased waste, fraud and misconduct among city employees and vendors by ignoring the problems the IGO faces ... This office has only the authority to do the job the mayor wants it to do and not the authority to do the job that it is statutorily obligated to do,” Ferguson wrote in a letter to aldermen that preceded his quarterly report.

“The mayor, in publicly stating that the IGO has all the authority it needs, is mandating that the IGO cannot follow the evidence where it leads. Instead, the mayor and his corporation counsel can cut off access to the evidence needed to definitively determine who, or what is responsible for possible waste, fraud and abuse in city government.”

— Chicago Sun-Times

Pat Quinn and Lisa Madigan differ on issues of guns, housing

Illinois voters got a peek last week at what a 2014 gubernatorial primary might look like, as Gov. Pat Quinn and his potential toughest Democratic challenger played up their individual efforts to help the housing market bounce back and offered differing takes on the state’s concealed carry discussions.

Quinn and Attorney General Lisa Madigan — who said she’s still mulling a decision on if she’ll run — separately addressed the Illinois Housing Leaders Conference in Springfield.

Quinn detailed state agency efforts with a focus on work to get veterans housing, while Madigan touted her office’s legal efforts to take on the banking industry, including a large 2011 settlement with a Bank of America subsidiary over allegations of discriminatory loans.

The ongoing work “at times feels like it has become my life’s mission to save homes and rebuild our housing market in the wake of the mortgage crisis that turned into a devastating foreclosure crisis,” Madigan told the group, which includes real estate agents. Her office sued Countrywide Financial Corp. in 2010, which helped lead to a $335 million national settlement the following year.

Quinn, a Chicago Democrat like Madigan, praised his own housing authority and real estate agents as the “heart and soul” of neighborhoods.

— The Associated Press

AP Poll: Public pessimism on sour economy is on the rise

For the third year in a row, the nation’s economic recovery has hit a springtime soft spot. Reflecting that weakness, only 1 in 4 Americans now expects his or her own financial situation to improve over the next year, a new Associated Press-GfK poll shows.

The sour mood is undermining support for President Barack Obama’s economic stewardship and for government in general.

The poll shows that just 46 percent of Americans approve of Obama’s handling of the economy while 52 percent disapprove. That’s a negative turn from an even split last September — ahead of Obama’s November re-election victory — when 49 percent approved and 48 percent disapproved.

Just 7 percent of Americans said they trust the government in Washington to do what is right “just about always,” the AP-GfK poll found. Fourteen percent trust it “most” of the time and two-thirds trust the federal government just “some of the time”; 11 percent say they never do.

The downbeat public attitudes registered in the survey coincide with several dour economic reports showing recent slowdowns in gains in hiring, consumer retail spending, manufacturing activity and economic growth.

— The Associated Press
Opinion

Legislature must figure out concealed carry

In the debate over the concealed carrying of weapons in Illinois, legislation must not put the public at greater risk of gun violence.

Advocates of concealed carry argue it makes citizens safer, but there is no systematic evidence of this. In one recent example, a Texas district attorney and his wife were shot to death last month even though the attorney was armed at all times and knew he had been threatened.

Illinois and the District of Columbia are the only places remaining in America with an outright ban on concealed carry. The U.S. 7th District Court ruled Illinois law is unconstitutional and gave the Legislature 180 days to agree on a law permitting some kind of concealed carry.

The 180 days runs out on June 9. If the Legislature doesn’t act by then, the case will be sent back to the lower court, and what would happen next is anyone’s guess. It would be wisest not to leave such an important issue up to the courts.

More patriots, massacred in Boston

If you have ever lived in Boston, it is a city you’ve come to love.

Many come to Boston as college students. While Harvard and MIT are across the Charles River in Cambridge, Boston itself is filled with colleges and universities that draw students from all over the United States. Nearly a quarter of Boston’s population is college-aged.

So there are many alums of Boston, who remember it as a special place and who have been hurting this past week in the wake of the terror bombings at the Boston Marathon.

Of course the entire nation has been shocked and hurt by the attack, but I think the choice of Boston and the marathon makes it especially painful.

Boston is really a small town despite it being a major American city. It is very parochial and provincial and its residents feel united by the special place that is their city.

The Boston Marathon is more than just a major race.

The day is a happy, family day. There’s the start of spring, the race which brings everyone to the finish line in Copley Square in the middle of the city and the nearby Red Sox game scheduled to end just in time for the end of the race.

It is held on Patriots’ Day, a state holiday that marks the beginning of the Revolution at Concord and Lexington on April 19, 1775.

Indeed, this idea of patriotism and the founding of the nation is very close in Boston. John Adams was president, but it is patriot Sam Adams who is revered. Paul Revere’s home is preserved in the North End and the Old North Church that signaled that the British are coming is there.

It is the site of Bunker Hill and the first Boston massacre.

History and patriotism are part of the city’s memory. One can’t walk through downtown Boston without passing by an old church that contains an old burial ground with the graves of patriots.

You can stop to honor the graves of the victims of the Boston massacre, or Paul Revere, John Hancock, and Sam Adams.

To live and walk among the patriots and the sites of the Revolution gives one a special sense of history and a real connection to what America is all about and what it means to be an American.

So in that way, the attack on Boston is truly an attack on all of us who love freedom and the gift of a nation the patriots gave us.

Little did we realize that history would happen again, and that the days of the patriots are not over.

We didn’t know that there would be new graves for new patriots, for the victims of the attack in Boston are certainly today’s patriots, as much as the heroes of the Revolution.
Famous John eats like average Joe

You don’t get much celebrity news out of this column.

And for that I am sorry. I haven’t encountered many celebrities in my life. There was the time when I was a boy that Gène Autry stepped on my foot as he rushed from the Chicago Theater to his waiting limo. And I once met and shook hands with Tito Gobbi. (If you don’t care for opera this will mean nothing to you. If you do care for opera it will mean everything to you. Tito Gobbi was one of the great baritones of the 20th Century.)

That’s about it for my encounters with celebrities.

But, I am proud to announce that this column today will give you some hot celebrity news. Ready? Here it is: Actor John Mahoney eats tuna salad sandwiches for lunch. No, I did not read this while waiting in line at the supermarket. I saw this with my own eyes. My wife and I were having lunch in one of those restaurants that used to be everywhere but have been squeezed out by fast-food burger chains. You know the kind I mean, family-owned, still serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, offers daily specials and always has meat loaf and mashed potatoes on the menu.

So, there we were, waiting for our beef stew to arrive when the host seated three people in the booth directly opposite me. One of the three was John Mahoney, distinguished actor of stage, screen and TV. Perhaps you know him best as Marty Crane, father of Frazier on the series of that name.

Is that John Mahoney? I whispered to my wife. With great subtlety she glanced in his direction. "I think it is," she said.

What should I have done? What would you have done? I wanted to avoid an I-Love-Lucy moment where I pestered him and wound up dumping a bowl of spaghetti on his head. But I really do admire his work. Should I just go and tell him that? Or should I just let him alone to enjoy his lunch?

I decided to let him alone. Let him eat. Though, if someone felt they just had to tell me how wonderful I was, I wouldn’t mind. But at least I came away with news for you. In addition to the tuna salad on toast, Mr. Mahoney had coffee. And halfway through his meal he ordered some french fries.

And that’s John Mahoney’s lunch. At least I’m pretty sure it was John Mahoney. □

Niles Herald-Spectator Wants to Hear from You

Please send your Letters to the Editor to News Producer Ben Meyerson at bmeyerson@pioneerlocal.com or by mail to Niles Herald-Spectator, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago, IL 60654. Please keep letters to 250 words or fewer. The Herald-Spectator reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and content. All letters must be signed to be published.
Thank you, Maine Township voters

We want to take this opportunity to thank the voters of Maine Township for the confidence they have placed in us by re-electing the Maine Township GOP incumbents slate. We sincerely appreciate your support and pledge to continue to do our utmost to excel in your expectations of us.

Always mindful of the individual taxpayer and closest to the people, Township Government has proven time and again to be the most responsive to both the individual and collective needs of the citizens of Maine Township. Because of this latest vote of confidence, we stand ready to continue to make available such essential assistance as clerk and assessor services, road maintenance, township code enforcement, social services, senior programs, general assistance, food pantry, emergency management and neighborhood watch. Using fiscal responsibility as our guiding principle, we promise to continue our excellent record of service to the community.

Carol A. Teschky, Gary K. Warner, Tom Rueckert, Robert Provenzano, Walter Kazmierczak, Laura J. Morask, Susan Moylan Krey and Peter Gialamas

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Education in Focus

Teachers bank on basketball fundraiser

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

After sinking a long two-point shot from top of the key, social studies teacher Matthew Arends raised his arms in triumph.

Danny Walker, who assists with extracurricular programming at Apollo School in Des Plaines, returned the favor with a steal and layup assist on the opposite end of the court.

Fans wearing blue and yellow in the bleachers went wild.

There were no losers in the fast-paced yet friendly basketball game between faculties at Gemini Junior High School April 12.

The only number that mattered was the amount East Maine School District 63 raised for children with cancer.

The district-wide basketball fundraiser, now in its 34th year, pits junior high staff members against their elementary and educational service center colleagues.

Gemini's former athletic director, Bill Gibson, organized the first basketball charity event in 1979 following the death of one of his pupils, Sharon Helbrun, from juvenile leukemia.

The event honors Helbrun as well as Gemini student Kelly Russotto, who succumbed to a brain tumor four years ago at age 12.

Gibson said the painful reality is that, with a yearly student population of about 800 students, some become fatally ill.

That's not to say nothing can be done to lessen the weight of statistics. Since event's inception District 63 has raised over $130,000 for pediatric services.

This year the community rallied to donate $5,614 to the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

The Friday night faculty face-off was held in the William Gibson Gymnasium, renamed last August for the fundraiser's founder.

Though retired from teaching, Gibson continues to run an after-school teen center and two open-gym programs for the school district. He handed over the reins for the charity game to math teacher and basketball coach Bob Wirtz, who has helped plan the event with Gemini's student council over the past 12 years.

“We're raising money for an amazing cause and, at the same time, it's bringing everyone together in our area,” Wirtz said.

Gemini took home a win for the second year in a row, but no one is really counting the score. Wirtz said the 60 staff members who step onto the court do more so for show than competition.

The players - some in jeans, a few with striped knee-high socks, and many with sweatbands - subbed in every two minutes.

“There is a wide variety of talent,” said Wirtz, who played alongside his wife and brother, also staff at Gemini.

“The kids get a kick out of seeing teachers playing,” he said.

Whether they throw air balls or alley-oop passes, "the kids of course cheer everyone on,” Gibson added.

Two rising stars who once walked the junior high's halls returned for the game.

Glenview songstress Iliana Incandela, a finalist last year on the CW music competition show, "The Next," had an endless line of youngsters seeking autographs.

Kids also surrounded Des Plaines native Charles McKinney, the DePaul Blue Demons' six-foot-three guard.

McKinney played with Gemini's squad, picking up an assist from Gibson's three-pointer. He also caught air a few times and slammed dunked the ball, causing Wirtz to pump his fists from the sidelines and students to scream.

It took the efforts of many to pull off the annual event.

Members of the Parent Teacher Organization worked with local businesses to get all food and beverages donated so that 100-percent of concession sales went to the children's hospital.

“They really went to town and hustled,” said language-arts instructor John Tumblebrow, who also serves as a student council moderator.

“This is like our favorite thing to do,” he said.

Seventh-grader Peter Azzo was on the ground with a camera capturing the electric atmosphere for the school yearbook. Gemini cheerleaders, along with a cheer squad from Maine East High School, tumbled during halftime.

Among them was 14-year-old Natalia Pieczonka, who grinned from ear to ear at the turnout.

“It's really nice for the community and it's all for a good cause,” the eighth-grader said. "It all worked out."
Dog escapes death, lands on Maine South stage

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

One of the stars of Maine South High School's latest musical production almost didn't live long enough to make his stage debut.

Rusty, a 1-year-old Chihuahua who plays the part of Bruiser in this weekend's debut of "Legally Blonde," was one day away from being euthanized at a Tucson, Ariz. shelter when he caught the eye of Jay Haines last summer.

"He was emaciated — you could see his bones he was so skinny," the Des Plaines resident recalled. "I asked (an employee) what the blue lines on his paper were and he said, 'He's a $10 special. He's going to be put down tomorrow.'"

Wanting to save the dog from the fate that awaited him, Haines adopted Rusty — then named Ranger — and nursed him back to health. Five months later he brought Rusty to the Maine South stage in Park Ridge for his very first audition.

"I wasn't sure the dog was going to work when it came to the audition, but it ended up being the best choice," said John Muszynski, director of "Legally Blonde." "I'm a softie for animal rescue and I think it's a great story. He's a wonderful little dog and I'm hoping people can find out about animal rescue when hear his story."

Haines himself is a proud stage parent of sorts.

"I tell him, 'You're going to work now because you're a working boy,'" he laughed.

"He's getting along with the other kids really well," Haines noted. "He's just a great little dog. He responded very well, better than I expected."

Rusty is also seemingly content to be carried around in a big pink purse by Giuliana Bartucci, who plays the lead role of Harvard Law student Elle Woods.

"Oh my God, I love the dog!" she exclaimed. "I have a Chihuahua myself so I'm used to them. He's so precious. He's just so cute."

But Rusty isn't the only pet on stage. A bulldog named Bear plays the role of Rufus Buonofuonte. Not exactly a mover and shaker, Bear was being carted about in a wagon during rehearsals.

"Both of the dogs seem to be pretty attentive — for the moment," Muszynski said, laughing. "You never know."

"Legally Blonde" tells the story of Elle Woods, a college sorority girl who, in an effort to win back her ex-boyfriend, enrolls in Harvard Law School. While there, she surprises everyone with her legal expertise.

Playing the part of Elle has required Bartucci to undergo her own personal transformation.

"I did end up dying my hair," said Bartucci, a natural brunette. "We were going to use a wig, but the role calls for so much energy and costume changes. It would be just way too hard with a wig."

She's also taken away some characteristics from her alter ego.

"She's made me a better person," Bartucci said of the character Elle. "I have to keep up her optimism and all her personality. She's a very loving, non-judgmental person and I think I've taken that out of rehearsal and applied that to my life."

Muszynski says audiences can expect a fast-paced, exciting, music-packed production — a "guilty pleasure" of sorts, but with an important message at its core.

"People think it's a fun, contemporary story, but for my students and the community it makes a really strong statement about not judging anyone on a surface level," he said. "There's so much more to them than just the color of their hair, per se."

Performances of "Legally Blonde" will take place April 26 and April 27 and May 3 and May 4 at 7:30 p.m., and April 28 at 2 p.m. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at www.seatyourself.biz.
Rowdy students shut down Niles West pep rally

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

Pep rallies are meant to be high-energy events. But the scene at Niles West High School Friday afternoon was borderline chaotic.

The boys' gymnastics team had just begun a tumbling routine at the last school-wide assembly of the year when the cheering and chanting started. Then rolls of toilet paper were launched. Colorful strands of silly string and confetti flew all around. The shouting rapidly got louder.

One student, hoisted into the air, briefly body surfed in the bleachers.

After seeing a bicycle tire-like object fly overhead, sophomore John Botonakis said he remarked to a buddy: "It's about to get crazy here.

As more than 200 of the 2,600 teens appeared increasingly out of control, principal Kalne Osburn abruptly called the event off.

But rowdiness ensued. After calls by staff to get out of the gym, some students began running through the hallways. Someone scribbled "2013" and "2014," representative of the class' graduating years, in washable paint on the walls. Someone else wrote "2013" up in the air.

"It wasn't anything like a riot," he said. "It was simply a group of seniors in the assembly who chose to behave in a way that was disruptive, and it bordered on unsafe."

Teens immediately took to Twitter to recount and question what went wrong. A Twitter account run by student publication Niles West News started using the hashtag #nwnassembly.

"Did that just happen? Was our assembly 9 minutes? Did I really have to wait 45 mins for my bus? What's with all the glitter?" wrote user @ morgGSTalt.

Several used the social media website to chastise their unruly peers, primarily the seniors, for being disrespectful to the event's participants and planners.

"Senior class should be ashamed," posted user @ Kyle_Collett. "Ruining Osburn's (sic) last assembly was what we'll be remembered by. Really showed them."

Osburn is leaving for a new job in Naperville after 14 years at District 219.

Students still managed to sneak in toilet paper, balloons and other celebratory props, just as they had in the past.

Senior Daniela Cicio said she didn't understand the administration's reaction. Such behavior had been tolerated as long as the behavior is appropriate.

"Utimately it's really just selfish behavior," Osburn said, adding disciplinary measures would be taken on Monday.

Botonakis, of Lincolnwood, acknowledged students might have gotten out of hand but they didn't need to be sent home.

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For the week of May 1 to May 7

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
You’ve set a fast pace for yourself. But as you approach your goal, you might want to slow down a bit in order to take time to reassess your situation and make changes while you can.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Patience continues to be a virtue for the Divine Bovine. So as eager as you might be to get things moving, remember that time is on your side. Make good use of it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
There’s a wee bit of uncertainty in the early part of the week. But things clear up as more facts come to light. Spend quality time this weekend with family and friends.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
An old friend’s return could open new possibilities for both of you. But don’t let yourself be rushed into anything. There could be some factors you haven’t yet explored.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
This week offers a challenge you’re raring to take on. And while eager to get started, do so slowly so that you can focus those sharp Cat’s Eyes on every detail.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
Put your skepticism aside and listen to advice from colleagues who’ve been where you are now. What they say could be helpful as you get closer to a decision.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
A family matter might again require your reassessing touch. Handle it, as always, with kindness and fairness, even if some of your kin prove to be especially difficult.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
Your ability to tackle even the most intricate details of a project is likely to impress some very important people. A relative shares news later this week.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
The Archer’s aim might be focused on the big picture this week, but don’t overlook checking for those details you might have missed.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
You might feel awkward asking for assistance, but who would refuse the charming Goat’s request? Do it, then go ahead and enjoy a musical weekend.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
Pour some cold water on that simmering misunderstanding before it boils over. The sooner things settle, the sooner you can move ahead with your plans.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
You’re in a highly productive period, which you feel can go on forever. But you could be courting exhaustion. Take time out to relax and restore your energies.

BORN dieser WEEK:
You can combine a sense of adventure with a penchant for practicality. Have you considered a travel-related field?

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**CENTRAL OF CONCERN**

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

The Center will be closed May 25-27 for Memorial Day weekend.

Monday, April 29 - Employment counseling, by appointment.

Saturday, April 27 - Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed).

Saturdays, May 4 and 18 - Legal counseling, by appointment.

Mondays, May 6, 13, and 20 - Employment counseling, by appointment.

Tuesday, May 7 and 21 - Medicare counseling, by appointment. (Sponsored by the federally-funded Senior Health Insurance Program).

**CLASSES**

**Animal assisted therapy**

Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy Inc. offers "Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy," dog training classes at various locations, including 6042 W. Oakton St., in Morton Grove. The fee is $60. Contact Dorida King at dhking4@yahoo.com or call (773) 736-9021 for schedules and locations.

Des Plaines Toastmasters

18+ 65+

An open house will be hosted by the Des Plaines Toastmasters Club #1645/30 at 7 p.m. April 29 in Room A of the Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St. The keynote speaker will be Romeo Gimeno, who will speak on "Creating A Speech in 20 Minutes or Less." Gimeno is a tutor, trainer, facilitator and teacher. A general meeting will follow the open house from 7:45-8:35 p.m. Contact Rich Ludwig at (847) 207-5065 or richgl0@comcast.net.

**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 Medical Assn. to the public.

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital is hosting a weekly Community Healthbeat lecture series at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at the hospital's West End Conference Center, 1775 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge. To register, visit www.advocatehealth.com/luth/ classsupportgroup or call (800) 323-8622 and mention class code B6G2. April 30: "Warning Signs and Living with Dementia."

Healthy Living Seminar

18+ 65+

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge, provides a variety of options for weight loss, including medically supervised very low and low calorie diets, nutrition exchange and long-term maintenance programs to help keep weight from returning. Team approach includes exercise training, nutrition education and 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 8N67.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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:**

Knights of Niles Chess Club at 3:45 p.m. April 26. Learn chess or improve your skills in a 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.

**Polish Storytime**

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

El Dia de los Ninos/El Dia de los Libros Children's Day/Book Day

Meet from 10:30 a.m. noon April 27. Come celebrate with stories and rhythms in English and Spanish. This celebration is for both English and Spanish speakers. Complete a craft, and enjoy a delicious treat.

Adult Programs:

18-65+

Smart Solution$. Initiative will present the following financial programs. Presented at the Niles Public Library, unless noted. To register, call the Niles Public Library at (847) 663-1234 or visit www.nileslibrary.org/calendar.

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.

Preventing Predatory Loans. A program on how to Prevent Predatory Loans will be presented at 10 a.m. April 29 at Maine Township Building, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge. The Preventing Predatory Loans program includes information on the proper authorities to notify if you are a victim and how to protect your home. Presenter: Jasmine Brewer, Director of Housing Counseling at Open Communities. Call (847) 297-2510, and ask for the Maine Streamers Department.

Smart Solution$. Target adults ages 50 and better, but is helpful for anyone seeking financial education. This initiative is made possible by a grant from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation through Smart investing@your library*, a partnership with the American Library Association. Log on to www.nileslibrary.org/smart-solutions to find out how you can successfully manage your financial future, and attend other library programs.

RELIGION

St. Paul of the Cross Catechesis

Registration for fall 2013-14 classes has begun. Classes are for preschool through eighth graders. 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 spccatechesis@yahoo.com.

Men's Kick-off

An informative meeting about this year's golf season at 10:30 a.m. May 3. Refreshments will be served. New participants are welcome.

Issues in the News

Got the Dot?

Assist first responders with the information they need. Become part of the Illinois Dot Program. The Illinois Dot Program is a statewide initiative designed to provide vital medical information on vehicle drivers and passengers. Information contained on the medical card can assist first responders in the “Golden Hour” immediately following a serious crash. Call the Niles Senior Center (847) 588-8420.

HOCUS FOCUS

Find at least six differences in details between panels

Puzzle Answers

See page 26 for this week's Super Crossword and Sudoku puzzles.
A few Golf Mill Shopping Center customers looked on as Niles Chamber of Commerce & Industry members and village officials lined up in front of the D&K Clothiers men's clothing store for the grand opening ceremony.

The April 16 ceremony was simple and to the point. Mayor Robert Callero cut the ribbon, and Chamber of Commerce members shook store president Klaudio Celiku's hand, congratulating him on joining Niles' business community.

The store already had a "soft opening" a month earlier. The grand opening, which was organized by the Chamber of Commerce, was meant to be D&K's official introduction to Niles. Even before the opening, the store was already getting decent traffic, and Celiku is hoping it will continue to increase in months and years to come.

The store was originally known Ramani's Clothiers. It opened in Middletown, Conn., six years ago. In August 2012, the store suffered heavy flood damage, forcing Celiku to look for another location.

According to the Middleton Press report at the time, he originally intended to stay in Middletown. But Celiku ultimately decided to move to Niles to be close to his sister.

The original location's landlord
owned the rights to the store's name, forcing Caliku to come up with an alternative. The store has always been a family business, and he decided on something that would reflect that.

"My father's name is Dylber and my name is Klaudio," said Caliku. "That's how you get D&K."

The store offerings haven't changed much since the move. "We [sell] men's clothing, suits, sports coats, casual wear," said Caliku. "We offer alterations on site. We've got great selections for a great price."

He said that the response from the community has been positive. "The Chamber of Commerce has been great, and so has Golf Mill Shopping Center," said Caliku. "We offer alterations on site. We've got great selections for a great price."

He said that the response from the community has been positive. "The Chamber of Commerce has been great, and so has Golf Mill Shopping Center," said Caliku. "We offer alterations on site. We've got great selections for a great price."

The response from the customers has been positive as well. "We already started getting some regular customers," he said. Caliku is hoping the grand opening will bring in even more customers.

Monika Kalicki, the Marketing Director at Golf Mill, said having a male-oriented upscale clothing store benefits the shopping center, attracting new customers and adding diversity to the center's offerings. The fact that the store sells both formal and more business-casual clothing helps, too.

Katie Schneider, the Chamber of Commerce's Executive Director, said that she thought D&K Clothiers is a great fit for Niles. "It's a really nice store," she said. "It's great for our community. It's a family-owned business, which is really nice."

Chamber of Commerce member Roberta Koch said that she was impressed with D&K's customer service. "I ask if they might have a suit for my husband," she said. "He's tall, so suit shopping isn't easy. They said they could take care of it, and that makes me happy."
RIVERWOODS

The saddest moment in the 15-year history of Willow House is measurable: It came in the huge number of phone calls that followed a Stevenson High School student's suicide.

And that sadness was the spark of what may prove to be the brightest hour for both Willow House and another non-profit agency serving the grief-stricken, the Lauri S. Bauer Foundation for Sudden Loss. The groups are organizing a conference next week in Wheeling to battle teen suicide.

"I don't think we've ever had as many calls as we did for this one," Stefanie Norris, Willow House's executive director, said of the community's response to a 15-year-old girl's suicide during Spring Break.

"We can't just keep taking the calls and, one-to-one, help people as best we can. We know it's going to happen again.

"Why wait until we have more?" she added. "Let's do something now."

That something will be "Understanding, Preventing and Coping with Teen Suicide," a two-hour program with three featured speakers that the Bauer Foundation and Willow House are putting together May 1 at the Westin Chicago Northshore. Experts David Clark, Peggy Kubert and Nancy Perlson will answer questions from the audience and address points: recognizing someone who may be suicidal, what one can do to prevent suicide, and how to cope when someone close kills him- or herself.

"We really expect it to be a full house," said Scott Bauer, who created a foundation in memory of his wife, who died of a sudden heart arrhythmia. "It is, unfortunately, something that is really on the minds of a lot of people."

Students at Stevenson, Glenbrook North and Barrington high schools have all lost classmates in recent weeks. Norris said that spring has always been the time of year when suicide rates increase — a counterintuitive phenomenon that she said Clark would speak about.

There is no registration or fee for the event, Bauer said. He thanked the Westin management for waiving almost all of its typical rates.

"The Westin is charging us a minimal, minimal amount," he said. "The speakers are not charging us."

Norris said that when she came up with the idea for this event, she knew right away that she wanted it to be larger than anything her staff could handle. Willow House specializes in helping young people deal with losses of loved ones, and the Bauer Foundation specializes in helping survivors of an unexpected loss cope with their grief; the two groups have worked together before.

"We have a shared mission, and I think we could do a wonderful job putting a program together," Norris said.

Both said that the gathering needed to be their urgent priority — before spring goes much further.

"Unfortunately, these deaths just keep coming," Norris said.
April is Parkinson's Awareness month.

A local physician and researcher is using new research to show that we may need to take a second look at the strategies being considered as potential treatments for the disease. "It's an opportunity to pause, and to reconsider the treatment strategy," explains Dr. Demetrius Maraganore, Chairman of Department of Neurology at NorthShore University HealthSystems and Co-Director of the NorthShore Neurologic Institute.

After many years of research, Maraganore recently published a paper that questions the approach many scientists and researchers are taking as they look for a treatment for Parkinson's disease. Maraganore explains that Parkinson's is a complicated disease, and for many years the research focused on "identifying people at risk and trying to predict and prevent Parkinson's disease altogether."

That research led experts to focus on a specific gene, alpha-synuclein. Since its discovery as a cause of familial Parkinson's disease nearly 20 years ago, alpha-synuclein has been at the center of the research and the conventional wisdom was that suppressing this gene could be a treatment for the disease.

"Our research suggests therapies that seek to suppress alpha-synuclein in Parkinson's disease may actually accelerate the disease process and increase the risk for developing severe physical disability and dementia," Maraganore said.

Maraganore and the NorthShore team, in conjunction with a team of researchers from The Mayo Clinic, followed almost 1,100 patients for nearly 15 years. They wanted to see how natural levels of alpha-synuclein impacted outcomes. Researchers focused on the patients' need to use a wheelchair and/or their likelihood of developing dementia, two debilitating side effects of Parkinson's disease.

The results showed those with lower levels actually had a 23-percent greater risk of becoming wheelchair-dependent or developing dementia.

He is sharing this information not to disappoint those who are seeking a treatment or cure, or to discourage, but to encourage further investigation by the research community.

"It's a much more complex story," said Maraganore. "The number one therapeutic strategy for slowing or halting Parkinson's disease may be very effective in prevention, but could be devastating in treating the disease if you've got it. We believe it is our responsibility to release this data because this type of treatment may have long-term harmful effects. Our primary responsibility is 'first do no harm.'"

A vaccine that targets reducing alpha-synuclein levels is currently in Phase I clinical trials, and other preclinical research is targeting molecules that target the protein for reduction.

Maraganore and other researchers will now continue to review the results and see if they can replicate the findings. While this is occurring they will continue to undertake the task of trying to understand Parkinson's disease and to develop a safe and effective treatment.
**FEATURED HOME** By Wrapports News Service

8100 W. Foster Lane
Unit 307, Niles

- Condo size: 1,525 square feet
- Year built: 1980
- Bedrooms: 2
- Bathrooms: 2
- Garage: One-car attached
- Tax: $1,339.22 (2011)
- Exterior: Brick
- School districts: East Maine School District 63 and Maine Township High School District 207

**AGENT** Philip Schwartz, Baird & Warner, 773-883-2178

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

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PROPERTY TRANSFERS

NILES
7948 Neva Ave: Barbara A Connolly to Elizabeth L Lazicki for $128,000 on March 5
7657 N Oriole Ave: Donald J Schroeder and Debbie A Schroeder to George Howard and Elena Howard for $225,000 on March 7
8323 N Oketo Ave: Andrzej Chmielowiec to Elizabeth L Lazicki for $143,000 on March 8
8531 N National Ave: William J Christie to Nikola Kasanin, Dusan Kasanin and Slavica Kasanin for $160,500 on March 8
5226 Sulphur Court: Gregorio L Burke Trust to Maureen Grisetti Trust, Gilbrim Trust Co Trust for $127,000 on March 8

MORTON GROVE
8460 Callie Ave #506: Lorenz Schey to Martin B Bresler for $125,000 on March 8
6401 Lincoln Ave #505: Blake Eastman to Gregory M Eastman, Dale G Easman and Linda M Christie to Anwer M Ghani for $320,000 on March 6

PARK RIDGE
463 Summit Ave: James D Hock and Julianne C Hock to Grant Haughton and Leanne Miller to Glenn McClanahan and Susan Miller for $225,000 on March 5
9026 Linder Ave: Glen D Kawazoye to Dorina Beldie for $175,000 on March 5

HARWOOD HEIGHTS
4218 N Newcastle Ave: Kenny W Suh to Arlene Carrion for $222,000 on March 8
85 Park Plaine Ave: Artur Koszczuk and Izabela Koszczuk to Gregory Broudbres LLC to Dendorbres LLC to Gregory M Eastman, Dale G Easman and Sajida Anwer for $320,000 on March 8

SKOKIE
5226 Suffield Court: Gregory L Burke Trust to Maureen Grisetti Trust, Gilbrim Olipas and Kristina Olipas for $235,000 on March 6

NORRIDGE
7650 W Lawrence Ave #206: Marilyn G Schulz, Noreen C Aukst, Sue Carol Rose and Richard N Schmidt to Chicago Title & Trust Co Trust for $112,000 on March 6
5009 N Pittsburgh Ave: Jeffrey M Derendal Trust, Judy A Derendal Trust, Nancy Lee Schneider, Beverly Jean Schneider and Nancy Lee Summers to Chicago Title Land Trust Co Trust for $127,000 on March 8
9530 N LaWence Ave: Aida Radhima to Aspen Capital Trust for $110,000 on March 5

GLENVIEW
637 Garden Court: Dendorbres LLC to Sherman F Reynolds and Jane B Reynolds for $555,000 on March 6
8215 Lowell Ave: Dendorbres LLC to Rakhi M Bowkes, Robert Lee Bowker, Andrea F Bowker for $336,500 on March 6

LINDONWOOD
6400 N Cicero Ave #213: Victoria Ferker to Stella Zerofs for $143,000 on March 6
4212 Triumvera Drive #8: Alexander Polyakov to Nizar Somani for $163,000 on March 5
4000 Triumvera Drive #101: Anita Lefkowitz Trust to Jules Beuck for $90,000 on March 5
1426 Cove Lane #4126: Bok Soon Oh and Jenny Bok Oh to Cynthia Oh for $76,000 on March 8
1145 Pleasant Lane: James L Miller and Kimberly Miller to Glenn McClanahan and Susan McClanahan for $950,000 on March 8

7315 Kenneth LLC for $155,000 on March 8
8816 Dee Road: Robert Yalda to Ashok Pandya and Raishree Pandya for $70,000 on March 6
1387 Shamrock St: North Shore Holdings Ltd to Stacey E Chaput and Richard E Chaput Jr for $225,000 on March 6
1785 Sherwood Road: Ohio Basin Properties LLC to Melissa S Cruz and Ramiro Cundapi Cruz for $200,000 on March 7
901 Center St #104: Richard D Ladd to Patricio G Uribe and Margarita Gomez for $130,000 on March 6
1378 Perry St #402: Lynne Gregg to Wieslaw Makal and Elzbieta Makal for $170,000 on March 7
9716 W Lawrence Ave: Aida Radhima to Aspen Capital Trust for $110,000 on March 5
4356 N Sayre Ave: Mary Ann Wright Trust and Michael D Rocco Jr to Robert J Rocco for $200,000 on March 8
7315 Kenneth LLC for $155,000 on March 8
1378 Perry St #402: Lynne Gregg to Wieslaw Makal and Elzbieta Makal for $170,000 on March 7
1327 E Washington St #603: Gayle B Gilchrist to Steve Anton for $125,000 on March 5
Freshen up your home with handmade artwork

There's something about spring that makes you want to freshen up.

It's time to throw open the windows, clean up, declutter and bring a little brightness into life. (Although spring has been taking its sweet time getting to the Chicagoland area.)

This is also the perfect time to refresh your decor. All you need is a canvas and a couple of supplies. These three art projects won't take up too much time and don't cost much, depending on the size of your canvas.

**TAPE-PAINTING**

- A canvas
- Tape (you can use masking tape or a painter's tape)
- Acrylic paint
- Foam brush or pouncer

This is a versatile project. They can be in the same color palette, but the designs can be radically different. Tape-painting uses multiple strips of tape to make a design across the canvas. Take a strip of tape and lay it across your canvas. Make sure the ends of the tape reach the back of the canvas. Do this vertically, horizontally and diagonally. Don't fill the entire canvas with tape. The strips of tape should intersect, but you should still see spots of the canvas. Make sure the tape sticks to the canvas tightly or the paint will seep under the tape. Using acrylic paint, paint the entire canvas including the tape. Remember to paint the sides of the canvas too since they will be visible. Let the canvas dry for at least an hour, then remove the tape. You can create a pop of color by using one or more paint colors.

**FABRIC**

- A canvas
- Fabric that will fit your canvas
- Staple gun

You can find fabric at stores such as Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores, Hobby Lobby and IKEA. You can also use things like tablecloths or bed sheets if they fit your decor. Put the canvas in the middle of the fabric, with the back of the canvas facing up. Cut the fabric so there's at least a 2-inch border of excess that will be stapled to the back of the canvas. Start at a corner and staple the fabric to the canvas. Continue to staple the fabric, pulling it taut as you go, until the entire piece is stapled to the back of the canvas. Cut off any excess fabric.

**CRAYONS**

- A canvas
- At least two packs of 24-count crayons
- Hot glue gun
- Hair dryer or heat gun

This project is perfect for a kid's room or a craft room. Take the boxes of crayons and pair the like colors together. Arrange the crayons in a line, side-by-side, in a color pattern you like. You can either leave the crayon wrappers on or remove them. Take the hot glue gun and start gluing the crayons, point-side down, along one side of the canvas. Once all the crayons have been glued to the canvas, put down a tarp or a couple of garbage bags next to a wall. Lean the canvas, with the crayons on top, against the wall. Take the hair dryer and start melting the crayons. Continue to apply heat until the crayons melt all the way down the canvas in a pattern you like.

For more crafts and ideas, check out Heather’s blog at craftingandcooking.wordpress.com or follow our boards at pinterest.com/pioneerpressgo.
Eats come in eights at Just-8

BY VERONICA HINKE
Contributor

“If you really want to make a friend, go to someone’s house and eat with him ... the people who give you their food give you their heart.”

That Cesar Chavez quote is the mantra at Curt’s Cafe.

Since its inception one year ago, the nonprofit training cafe, located at 2922 Central St. in Evanston, has helped place a dozen participants in its at-risk youth program into schools or jobs.

Students learn employable skills working on the cafe line, individual mentoring and classroom instruction. Subjects range from computers to food history. Students receive a stipend while they train, as well as job placement assistance upon program completion.

“I love the concept behind Curt’s,” said Blythe Yost. Yost, a Winnetka native, has an exhibit of 20 watercolor paintings at the cafe through May 15.

“This show is an opportunity to help — to be involved,” she said.

The paintings, a series she calls “From Above,” were inspired through her work as a landscape architect. She operates two landscape businesses while living in Pearl River, N.Y.

“Just as in landscaping, there is a juxtaposition of natural, linear lines and swirly elements in these works,” she said.

Curt’s Cafe also hosts music performances, yoga sessions and other events.

And yes, there is plenty of food. The daytime menu features sandwiches, salads and snacks.

In the late afternoon, the cafe is leased to the owners of Just-8 Pizzeria. Ian Proctor and Trevor Trieschmann operate the business. Their menu reflects the name of their business, the premise of which is to offer items in batches of eight: eight different types of cookies, pastas, sandwiches, salads and even eight different custom pizzas.

“The Chezwick” pizza is topped with a spinach-artichoke blend made with cream cheese, mayo, onions, spinach and garlic, then covered with more spinach. “The Big Friendly Giant (BFJ)” is a tomato sauce pizza with bacon, feta cheese and jalapeno peppers. “The Sasquatch” is topped with chicken, bacon, red onion and barbecue sauce. The list goes on.

“My favorite is the BFJ,” Proctor said. “I really like hot foods and bacon, so the combination of ingredients is perfect.”

The pizzas are made with their Just-8 proprietary cheese blend and special dough they researched for months.

“We reached out to local pizzeria owners and family members who have been involved in the industry,” Trieschmann said. “We reviewed a ton of online articles, recipe books and videos and combined all the knowledge we found into what we believed would be the best recipe. It was a long process of trial and error, making batch after batch of dough and throwing tons of — average, at best — pizzas away for countless different reasons until we were finally satisfied.”

Their trial and error approach continues as they generate new ideas for pizza toppings.

The most interesting pizza we have made is a breakfast pizza,” Proctor said. “One of our friends jokingly asked if we could crack an egg on his pizza, and a couple days later we decided to try it out.”

The breakfast pizza could be a monthly special at Just-8. Plans also include expansion into the Northwestern University market.

Trieschmann and Proctor hope to also offer, “one day, down the line, wines and beers,” Trieschmann said.

How many of each? Eight — of course.

For more information, see www.curtscafe.org and www.blytheyost.com.

Just-8 Pizza Dough

Makes three 13-ounce pizza crusts

24 ounces all-purpose unbleached flour
1 teaspoon sugar
1 teaspoon garlic salt
1 teaspoon oregano
1 teaspoon rapid rise yeast
1 1/4 cups water
1/4 cup olive oil

Combine dry ingredients in a large bowl with a whisk to evenly spread seasonings throughout the flour. Using a mixer or your hands, slowly add olive oil and water until all liquid is incorporated. The dough should stick slightly to the bottom of the bowl, but not to the sides. If the dough appears too sticky, add a pinch more flour. If the dough is too dry, coat your hands with water and continue mixing by hand or add a slight drop at a time until you achieve the right consistency. The dough should be soft and smooth if well incorporated. Roll dough into thin, round shape. Add sauce and toppings. Bake until golden brown, about 15-20 minutes in 350-400 degree oven.

— Trevor Trieschmann and Ian Proctor

Food
Our relationship consists of a friendship. We enjoy going on vacation as well as experimenting with new recipes in the kitchen. She is my best friend. She supports and believes in everything I pursue. She pushes me to do my best and loves me unconditionally.

by Stephanie Tonn, Chicago

She always, always picks me up when I fall down, and I fall down a lot. I can go to her with anything, and she will help me. She has taught me the real right from wrong, and we love each other so much.

by Samantha Scheinfeld, Glencoe

She is by my side through thick and thin (especially thick), and she defends me whether I'm right or wrong (especially wrong). She is my friend, but she is much more. She's my mom. I only get one mom, and I'm glad it's her.

by Sophie Morris, Glencoe

She loves unconditionally. She's the most dedicated and nurturing mother, the most loving and supportive wife and the most inspirational and motivational teacher at St. Norberts (Northbrook). Her generosity and kindness inspires others. I'm eternally grateful to have been blessed with Josephine as my mother, role model and best friend.

by Christine MacVay, Wilmette

Honorable mentions inside...
Honorable Mentions

I love my mom because, not only is she my best friend, but also my rock. Without her, my two brothers, father and I would be nothing. There are not enough words to thank her for the sacrifices she makes for us each and every day. Love you mom!
by Kaitlyn Taylor, Norridge

I love my mom because she encourages me to do new stuff. When I get sad, she cheers me up. My mom will cheer me on when I do sports. She gets me stuff for holidays. She hugs me and says she loves me. She works hard everyday. I love her.
by Victoria Duszynski, Norridge

I love my step-mom because she's made me a better person. Each day, she makes the choice to work, teach me, love me, help me, correct me and put my needs before hers. The best day of my life was when my dad married my step-mom. She's my gift!
by Louie Jogmen, Park Ridge

I'm ten years old. I wrote my first “mom essay” when I was five.
“MY MOM and ME. I love my mom because she teaches me new things. When she teaches me new things, I get better than ever at it.”
I still feel the same.
by Erin Oakley, Evanston

She never gives up and always remains true to her core principals. In the race for Illinois Governor a few years ago, she was out-spent three to one. She lost that race but never gave up. Today, she is comptroller; her former opponent is in prison.
by Joseph Topinka, Universal City, Texas

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Honorable Mentions

I love my mom because she is helpful. She checks my homework every day. Also, she cooks and cleans for my family. One more thing is she loves me more than I love her.

by Martina Vitale, Norridge

She taught me:
— much magic happens at kitchen table chats.
— how to work hard. Even after a recent ALS diagnosis, she does five extra repetitions in daily therapy.
— how to keep in touch. What a gift to know someone is excited to hear about your day.

LOVE YOU LOTS!
by Julie Walczak, Park Ridge

Lupita’s
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Happy Mother’s Day

Think of Lupita’s when planning your Mother’s Day events. Chef Lupita will be featuring her “Like Water for Chocolate” menu. The dishes: Chile Nogada, Cornish Hen in Rose Petal Sauce, Turkey mole, and even the Wedding Cake, inspired by the book “Like Water for Chocolate” by Laura Esquivel.

Due to popular demand these specials will be available May 10th - May 16th.

Hours: Tues. - Thurs. 11:30 - 9 PM
Fri. & Sat. 11:30 - 10 PM • Sun. 5 - 9 PM
700 Main Street • Evanston • 847-328-2255

For a complete list of specials, be sure to log on to www.lupitasmexicanrestaurant.com
What Employee Benefits Matter Most to Job Seekers

By Monster Insights

It's an all-too-familiar recruiting scenario: You've found a qualified candidate that you hope to hire. Everything seems to be a go — until they decide to go with another option. They turned down your offer — why? The other job offered benefits that were more attractive. Understanding the motivational drivers for candidate job offers is key to a successful hiring process. The issue prompted the Monster Insights team, which has provided human capital information, research and data tools to help Monster customers with strategic workforce decisions for over 10 years, to research the topic further. The Monster Insights study, conducted in early 2012, included a cross-section of 1,679 participants by gender, employment, career level and household income. While the survey findings are not meant to be a final recommendation for HR managers and recruiters, they can help shed some much-needed light on the employee benefits that matter most to today's job seekers.

Average Importance of Benefits

Monster asked survey participants what is valued if they considered a prospective job compensation and benefits. Benefits included:

- Healthcare plan
- Vacation Time
- Pay Raise
- Employee Benefit
- Performance Benefit
- Retirement Plan

Monster then varied the benefit or benefit level to see how survey participants reacted to accepting the new job. Survey results found that a healthcare plan was the most valued class of benefits, accounting for almost one-third of the value prospective employees would place on a benefits package. Such a strong finding is consistent with past Monster employee benefit surveys which also showed how valuable healthcare is to job seekers and employees. Survey results ranked average importance by benefit as follows:

- Healthcare plan = 32%
- Vacation Time = 25%
- Pay Raise = 15%
- Employee Benefit = 10%
- Performance Bonus = 9%
- Retirement Plan = 8%

Average Importance of Benefits by Income

Income can have a major impact on how job seekers and employees value different compensation benefits. In general, survey findings found that the lower the income, the more important healthcare is to the job seeker. For example, those with income less than $50K per year indicated that healthcare could be up to 35% of the value of their compensation, while vacation time placed a distant second to healthcare benefits. However, those earning over $90K per year indicated vacation time as their most important benefit, narrowly outdistilling the importance they place on healthcare. Such findings suggest that varying the degree of compensation benefits by the current income level of a job seeker, particularly healthcare and vacation time, can greatly influence how a job candidate will perceive an offer.

Average Importance of Benefits by Gender

Both male and female survey participants placed healthcare as a high priority in compensation with vacation time as second. However, women appeared to place a bit more importance on vacation, while men valued a performance bonus slightly more than women. The study showed that varying compensation benefits and levels would generally have little to no impact between the sexes.

Average Importance of Benefits: Unemployed vs. Employed

Monster survey findings again show how important healthcare is and how it can be leveraged in recruiting. Unemployed versus employed job candidates in the survey indicated a significant difference in how they value healthcare benefits. While employed job candidates value healthcare, unemployed job candidates placed even greater value on this benefit. In doing so, the unemployed candidate is more willing to accept a lower pay increase in favor of the peace-of-mind that healthcare benefits can provide. In those having healthcare benefits, the study found that an employed job candidate will place greater value and consideration in a pay raise. All other benefits tested to have similar value between employed and unemployed job candidates.

Average Importance of Benefits by Career Level

Career level (entry, mid-career, management and executive) can play a strong role in how job candidates perceive compensation benefits. While these job levels place the same rank level of importance on each benefit class, there is relative distinction among a benefit class. Similar to the surveyed unemployed job candidates, an entry-level job seeker places the greatest value on healthcare benefits. They are also more willing to trade this benefit for a retirement plan or performance bonus, which they rate lower in importance. Those mid-career survey participants placed greater importance on vacation time compared to entry-level, managers or executives. However, managers and executives see greater value in performance bonuses over their entry-level or mid-career candidates.

Average Importance of Benefits: Those with Children vs. Those Without Children

A job candidate with children has a similar value system to job candidates without children. However, the Monster survey discovered some differences in benefit levels that could be useful in the recruitment process. Those job candidates that were childless appear to value a pay raise as a slightly higher value than those with children. And those without children also placed greater importance on such employee benefits as life insurance and disability insurance. Not surprisingly, job candidates that have children placed a much higher degree of importance on paid child care over those candidates without children. Knowing the family structure of a job candidate can enable the recruiter to fine-tune a compensation plan, optimizing it so that it has the most appeal to a particular job candidate.

Currently Hiring

AHD Association for Individual Development
AVERITT
BMO Harris Bank
Hickory National
Schneider

To Place An Ad, Call 847-998-3400

Featured Job

JOB FAIR
Thursday April 25, 1-4pm
309 W. New Indian Trail Court
Aurora, IL 60506

Provide community-based services to individuals with physical, intellectual disabilities and behavioral health issues.

For consideration, apply online: www.theassociation.org
**Data Analytics 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 an exceptional engineer with a stats background. You will be working with a very talented team which is very passionate about technology and building great experiences for consumers.

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 be versatile and willing to switch teams and projects as our fast-paced businesses grow and evolve. You must be eager to tackle new problems and to continually push back the limits.

You will be working primarily in Python and R, but you don’t have to be a guru at either to apply. We care more about your general software engineering skills, creative problem solving abilities and your passion for elegant solutions and product quality.

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.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

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.

Please apply at:

http://www.smartrecruiters.com/Aggrego/71862054

All your information will be kept confidential according to EEO guidelines.

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**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

**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.

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

You must be versatile and willing to switch teams and projects as our fast-paced businesses grow and evolve. You must be eager to tackle new problems and to continually push back the limits.

Our primary technologies are Python, Ruby on Rails and Javascript, but you don’t have to be a Python or Ruby guru to apply. We care more about your general software engineering skills, creative problem solving abilities and your passion for elegant solutions and product quality.

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.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

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.

Please apply at:

http://www.smartrecruiters.com/Aggrego/71862054

All your information will be kept confidential according to EEO guidelines.

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**Hiring Events**

For our Geneva, Batavia, St. Charles, West Chicago, Glen Ellyn, North Aurora, Carol Stream, Wheaton, Glendale Heights, Aurora, Lisle, and Naperville area stores

Wednesday, May 1st
6pm - 10pm & 3pm - 7pm
Herrington Inn
1S. River Lane
Geneva, IL

Please apply at:

http://www.smartrecruiters.com/Aggrego/71862054

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**Are you made for ALDI?**

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AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN
chase of the unit at the foreclosure

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14-10-25203 Attorney ARDC No.
(630) 794-5300 Attorney File No.

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SALE AD, CALL
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NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an Order of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois Count y, IL Honor to Wm. F. Miller, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois County, a deed of sale will be entered in the above described real estate at the sale.

The sale is to be held at 10:00 AM on February 22, 2013, at the Judicial Sales Corporation, 1 So uth Wacker Drive - Suite 100, B ur r R idge, I L 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please check the court file to determine the nature of the transaction.

No third party checks will be accepted. No third party checks will be accepted. The sale will be by credit bid at the highest bid by certified funds or by any other person or corporation, or by any other method of sale, and is offered for sale without any representation or warranty as to the condition of the property or as to the amount of the debt or taxes owed against said real estate and is subject to general or special assessments, or other liens levied against said real estate and is subject to any and all recorded agreements, liens, easements, or other encumbrances on said real estate.

The sale will be conducted in accordance with the procedures and requirements of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois County, and is offered for sale without any representation or warranty as to the condition of the property or as to the amount of the debt or taxes owed against said real estate and is subject to general or special assessments, or other liens levied against said real estate and is subject to any and all recorded agreements, liens, easements, or other encumbrances on said real estate.

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For more information, visit PIONEERLOCAL.COM/CLASSIFIEDS.
The owners reserve the right to sell the property on or before the scheduled date.

April 25, 2013.

To be received prior to and on or before April 25, 2013.

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Fall Out Boy's Pete Wentz and Patrick Stump are ready to 'Save Rock and Roll'
Savings on fully-customized closet doors, space-transforming sliding room dividers and wall slide doors.

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

HURRY! Ends April 30
THINGS WE LOVE
THIS WEEK

Rock the royal look this spring with Pomellato's new Victoria ring. The stunning jet and rock crystal piece, inspired by Queen Victoria, is set in matte and polished rose gold. $6,350, 41 E. Oak; Pomellato.com

Stop by sushi spot Arami for a sip of Chicago's first private-label sake, Ichio No Tori (meaning "the first gate"). The traditional rice sake has hints of hazelnut, soft cocoa and umami, and is produced by Ohmura Brewery in Shizuoka, Japan. $10/glass, 1829 W. Chicago; Aramichicago.com

We're sweet on Miss Dottie's Pound Cake — owner Tassie Tagarelli bakes the delicious cakes fresh daily from within a friend's bakery in Chicago, using only organic ingredients. $25-$45, (630) 742-3223; Missdottiespoundcake.com

Read our lips: We're loving Lipstick Queen's new navy-blue shade, Hello Sailor. The sheer tone, which goes on lilac and makes teeth whiter and complexions brighter, is available exclusively at Barneys New York. $25, 15 E Oak; Barneys.com

WHAT HAD YOU TWEETING

Emily Florez @EmilyFlorezNBC: @MRelerfordNBC5 you rocked that lace!"@Suntimes_Splash: Lookin' fab in lace in this Sunday's issue of Splash!

Joe Lupo/Jesse Garza @VisualTherapy: NYikram... always on trend RT @Joshikram On Trend: IKram Goldfman via @Suntimes_Splash

Israel Idonije Ftndt @Team1IF: Great @idonije article on Team1IF's annual humanitarian trip. Thanks, @Suntimes_Splash!

Monika Dixon PR @MonikaDixon: Many congrats to @mindbodychi for this shout out in @Suntimes_Splash for becoming a mentor at @lmermanAngels!

AT THE PHOTO SHOOT

Fall Out Boy's leading men, bassist Pete Wentz and singer Patrick Stump, entered the Island Def Jam offices in Midtown with their shades on, fresh off a flight from London. Despite getting just an hour of sleep the night before, they were friendly and camera-ready in no time. When they weren't posing and dancing along to Justin Timberlake's "The 20/20 Experience," they reminisced about family, friends and life in Chicago. See Page 12.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST CAR?

“It was a hand-me-down, tan, stick shift Mazda 626. I got it right after 'Pulp Fiction' came out, and I nicknamed it 'Travelin'.”

“A navy blue Ford Granada, which bore more than a slight resemblance to a boat. To honk the horn, you had to push in the long turn signal switch. It was amazing.”

“The two [Patrick, left, and Pete] were full of energy and up for it. We didn't have much time together, but we sure had a lot of fun shooting the story for Splash.” — Photographer Diana Scheunemann

Cover Credits
Photographer: Diana Scheunemann represented by ArtMix
Venue: Island Def Jam Records
Shoot Coordinator: Katerina Bizios
ON PATRICK:
Shirt: Topman
Jeans: Levi's
Shoes: Cole Haan
ON PETE:
Top: Givenchy
 undershirt: UNIF
Pants: AllSaints
Shoes: Diesel

“Lovely in lace: Michelle Relerford”

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Stop by sushi spot Arami for a sip of Chicago's first private-label sake, Ichio No Tori (meaning "the first gate"). The traditional rice sake has hints of hazelnut, soft cocoa and umami, and is produced by Ohmura Brewery in Shizuoka, Japan. $10/glass, 1829 W. Chicago; Aramichicago.com

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Founder
Michael Ferro

Splash is distributed weekly inside Sun-Times Media publications.
THE CALENDAR

this week

April 25
- 'CELEBRATING GROWTH'
  Christopher House welcomes 350 of Chicago's philanthropic and business leaders to Germania House for the organization's biggest fundraiser of the year, which includes dinner, dancing and live and silent auctions. Diana Rauner will be honored for her early childhood education work, and proceeds help low-income children and their families with educational and other support services.
  Time: 5:30 p.m.
  Place: 108 W. Germania
  Cost: $300. Visit Christopherhouse.org/benefit.

April 25
- 'WORDS OF WISDOM'
  Educator, author and therapist Susan Stiffelman is a parent's best friend, hailed for her straightforward advice on child rearing. Hear her speak at Chicago Children's Theatre's third annual Lunch & Learn event, co-chaired by Elizabeth O'Connor Cole, Sonny Garg and Lynn Lockwood Murphy.
  Time: 11:30 a.m.
  Place: Union League Club of Chicago, 65 W. Jackson
  Cost: $135. Call (773) 227-0180 or visit Chicagochildrenstheatre.org.

April 26
- 12TH ANNUAL DRIEHAUSS AWARDS FOR FASHION EXCELLENCE
  Twenty five student designers from five different fashion programs will work their runway past a panel of judges - including designers Elise Bergman and Marle Whitney and Macy's buyer Nulee Gee - at this high-energy runway event benefiting the Macy's Chicago Fashion Incubator. Benefactors Inese and Richard H. Driehaus join emcee WLS-Ch. 7's Linda Yu in welcoming fashion fans for an evening that includes a cocktail reception and an auction conducted by Leslie Hindman.
  Time: 6:30 p.m.
  Place: 700 S. Des Plaines
  Cost: $175 or $300. Visit Driehausdesign.org.

To honor Autism Awareness Month, Hub 51 and Paris Club will donate $1 from every specialty cocktail sold, and Bub City will give $1 from each Mexican Firing Squad cocktail to Generation Rescue.

April 27
- 'DEAL ME IN!'
  Play it close to the vest in support of the Israel Sport Center for the Disabled at its seventh annual Poker Tournament and Casino Night. A pioneer in the field of sports rehabilitation, the organization has helped thousands of individuals stay active, empowered and injury-free.
  Time: 6:30 p.m.
  Place: 350 W. Mart Center
  Cost: $100, $175 or $225. Call (773) 875-2425 or visit Afiscd.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-Ch. 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) 279-7214 or visit Discoveryball.org.

April 27
- PROMIC-CON
  826Chi, the nonprofit that supports the writing skills of students ages 6 to 18, encourages guests to bust out their inner nerds at this prom-centric benefit at the School of the Art Institute. Geek it up in your best costume or don secondhand formalwear for a night of dancing and dweeby abandon.
  Time: 8 p.m.
  Place: 112 S. Michigan
  Cost: $40. Visit 826chi.org/promic-con.
next week

May 4

KIDS AND KITES FESTIVAL
Cut loose with the family in the great outdoors at the 15th annual Kids and Kites Festival. The afternoon includes face painting, arts and crafts, balloon artists and, of course, kites, which are provided free of charge.
Time: 10 a.m.
Where: Cricket Hill, near the intersection of Lake Shore and Montrose

Jordyn Howell enjoys the 14th Annual Kids and Kites Festival at Montrose Harbor in Lincoln Park, | JOHN WHITE-SUN-TIMES

April 29

SHINING STAR BALL
Celebrate 25 years of the Shining Star Ball, Clearbrook's annual black-tie fundraiser. WLS-Ch. 7 anchor Ravi Bahlwach serves as emcee, and the night also features a raffle, live auction and music from The Dan Hayes Orchestra. Proceeds benefit Clearbrook Clinic, which provides occupational, physical, speech and behavioral therapies to children and adults with developmental disabilities.
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, 120 E. Delaware

April 30

CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST 98TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
A vital conduit between donors and those in need, the Chicago Community Trust celebrates nearly a century of philanthropy with an evening at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance. Enjoy dinner, music and a conversation with Michael Pollan, best-selling author of The Omnivore's Dilemma and In Defense of Food.
Time: 5 p.m.
Place: 205 E. Randolph
Cost: $125. Call (312) 616-8000 or visit Cct.org/98celebration.

May 1

14TH ANNUAL WOMEN IN SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON
Former Mayor Richard M. Daley serves as guest speaker at the Women's Board of the Field Museum's annual luncheon and fundraiser. Themed "The Chicago Legacy: From Burnham to Daley," (a current museum exhibit), the presentation is emceed by WFLD-Ch. 32 anchor Bob Sirott. Proceeds benefit the Board's Science Fellowship, which is awarded to a female graduate student.
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Place: Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore

May 3

' BUTTERFLY BALL'
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon
Cost: $600. Call (312) 553-2000 or visit Naturemuseum.org.

May 4

'SEEDS OF HOPE'
Taking place among the bright blooms of the Chicago Botanic Garden, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Lake County's ninth annual fundraiser honors Staffan Schuberg with the 2013 Terri Zinner award for his work with children and the community. Micah Materre of WGN-Ch. 9 hosts, and proceeds benefit CASA.
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: 1000 Lake Cook, Glencoe

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Thanks to the third annual Bricks and Ivy Ball, the Chicago Cubs Charities can add $1.2 million to their scoreboard. The homerun event drew more than 800 guests to Navy Pier's Grand Ballroom (600 E. Grand) April 11. An all-star line up of attendees — including Tom Ricketts, Theo Epstein, Ernie Banks and Kerry Wood — turned up to support the organization, which funds programs geared toward youth sports access and improvements in health, fitness and education for at-risk kids. The evening included a heartfelt video that showed players Darwin Barney, David DeJesus, Anthony Rizzo and Jeff Samardzija interviewing Chicago youth who've been helped by the Cubs Charities, dinner and live and silent auctions.

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 Chicago Cubs Care, up to a total of $50,000. Up to $1,000 can be matched per individual donation.
The race is on for most stylish partygoer, and the current frontrunners have streamlined their outfits with stark black and white, donning the color combo on everything from formal gowns to fierce skinnies. For a chic and simple look, stick to minimal makeup in shades of nude, as seen on the Balenciaga runway in March. Or be daring by adding pops of bright color for a va-va-voom look that’s sure to grab attention. Our favorite? A rich, matte red lip, a swipe of mascara and matching fire-engine nails. The high-octane look is the perfect way to earn your fashion (racing) stripes.
Student artists from the Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts) had the chance to exhibit their talents April 11 at the school's Kerfuffle event, held at the Museum of Contemporary Art (220 E. Chicago). Guests perused artwork while sipping cocktails and later enjoyed entertainment by the ChiArts Jazz Combo and solo singers from the Music Conservatory. Attendees included Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Linda Johnson Rice, Deseree Rogers, Ramsey and Jan Lewis and emcee Robin Robinson. Nearly $300,000 was raised for ChiArts, which provides intensive pre-professional training in the arts and a comprehensive college preparatory curriculum for Chicago high school students.

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 Chicago High School of the Arts, up to a total of $5,000. Up to $1,000 can be matched per individual donation.

Photos by Robert Carl
**MESSAGE OF HOPE GALA**

**LIFE SAVERS**

Julene Stellato and Margot Pritzker

Julene Stellato and Margot Pritzker participate in the interactive stations.

Adam and Nora Gifford

Michael and Ingrid Morris

Adam and Nora Gifford

Michael and Ingrid Morris participate in the Interactive stations.

BY KATERINA BIZIOS

On April 12, more than 500 guests rallied for the world's children during UNICEF's sixth annual Message of Hope gala. Interactive stations were set up at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago (120 E. Delaware) to help educate attendees on the organization's mission to provide children and families with access to safe water and sanitation. Co-chair Martha Metz spoke at length about one of UNICEF's goals: reducing the death rate of children from preventable diseases to zero. UNICEF's Next Generation Chicago board of young professionals hosted the afterparty, where revelers danced the night away. The evening raised a record $913,000 to help support UNICEF's global survival and development programs for children.

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

PHOTOS BY LILIANE CALFEE

**HAVE MERCY! SPRING GALA**

Derek Marks, the Rev. Scott Donahue, Jeff Love and Kristine Marks

Lindsay Scandiff and Mike Psaltis

Charlene Yaneza and George Nolan

Laura Blake, Stefanie Schumann and Jackie Pilon

By Kalyn Kaher

More than 400 guests made themselves at home at the Trump International Hotel and Tower Chicago (401 N. Wabash) April 10 during Mercy Home for Boys and Girls' sixth annual Have Mercy! spring gala. Hosted by the organization's Junior Board, the evening included eating, drinking and dancing to tunes from DJ Ryan Pullano. A silent auction, with items such as Bulls floor seats, signed Blackhawks memorabilia, Lollapalooza passes and a one-night stay at Trump International Hotel and Tower, helped raise nearly $80,000 to benefit Mercy Home's Legacy of Learning campaign, an initiative that guarantees access to education for every child under the organization's care.

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

PHOTOS BY CARLOS JAVIER ORTIZ

CHICAGOSPASH.COM | APRIL 21-27, 2013
Sweet dreams

Is it ever acceptable to fantasize about another person when you're in a relationship?

Dear Jenny,

Is it OK to fantasize about someone else but not go any further than that? Is it good for a marriage, or is it bad? As long as it doesn't lead to anything, I would think it's alright. What do you think?

—Marty from Illinois

Jenny says: Of course it's OK! I'll be the first to tell you I've had myriad bedroom fantasies. With the constant barrage of sexy images all across the media, it's hard not to wonder what it would be like to be with someone else.

A little erotic daydreaming can be normal. Psychologists say that sexual fantasies can actually improve the quality of a relationship. Sex starts in the brain, so when you're imagining yourself taking part in any form of physical activity it helps your body get ready. So, let your thoughts run wild and have fun — it will not ruin your marriage. In fact, fantasizing might even enhance your sex life. The more you think about it, the more you want to have it!

A word of caution: For most, imagining having a steamy session with another person will remain only a fantasy. However, if those thoughts go from occasional to frequent, you may be more likely to act out on your desires.

So, as long as you're able to keep your third-party fantasies in your brain and not your bed, your thoughts are private and a safe way to spice things up — plus, your partner will ultimately benefit. It's a win-win situation.

Send questions to Askjenny@suntimes.com

READ JENNY'S DAILY BLOG AT CHICAGOSPLASH.COM
Rick Mancuso, owner of Lake Forest Sports Cars and racing aficionado, shifts gears for his Sunday in Chicago

BY ZAK STEMER

Rick Mancuso spends his days at Lake Forest Sports Cars (990 N. Shore, Lake Bluff) surrounded by Ferrari Enzos and Aston Martin Vanquishes, the car made popular by James Bond in "Die Another Day." To put that in perspective (in case you're not a car connoisseur), it's much like singing karaoke with Adele and Sting: A little intimidating and very, very exciting. But this is the high-speed world that Mancuso has made his home. "We deal with limited-volume, high-performance, elegant and beautifully built cars," he explains of his Lake Forest dealership. The spot specializes in five brands: Aston Martin, Ferrari, Lotus, Maserati and McLaren, with "one or two more brands possibly coming soon," he hints.

And Mancuso isn't slowing down: He's gearing up to go full-throttle with his business, opening a new McLaren showroom downtown with his brother Rob Mancuso at the corner of Huron and Clark in June. "It will be the first McLaren satellite showroom in the country," he says. "We'll try to do a couple of showrooms like that around the city — smaller, boutique-type centers where customers can learn about the cars and get the experience."

When he's out of the office, Mancuso likes to be on the track. He's spent the past 25 years proving his mettle on the racecourse, completing the arduous 24 hours of Daytona endurance race three times along with a slew of other impressive racing victories. Now, motorsport has become a family activity for Mancuso, one that he shares with his two sons, Adam and Nick. "They're better drivers, and never fail to remind me of that," Mancuso says, laughing. "We have a few grudge matches coming up, though."

Here, the king of the track hits the gas on his perfect Sunday.

8 A.M.
Mancuso takes a drive (usually in his favorite Aston Martin Vantage) to Luxbar (18 E. Bellevue) for a healthy oatmeal breakfast with his friends.

2 P.M.
After spending a few hours at the office, Mancuso pops into Smith's Mens Store (770 N. Western, Lake Forest) for some shopping and mingling. "It's always about the people. I have good friends there," he says.

10 A.M.
Mancuso takes his time on the drive back to the North Shore. "My time by myself is important to me — my music, my temperature, my environment. It's therapeutic."

5:30 P.M.
The Mancuso clan heads back downtown to The Capital Grille (633 N. St. Clair) for an early dinner. When deciding what to eat, "I listen to the waiter's suggestions, and it's always good," he says.

8 P.M.
Mancuso and his wife head to the Regal Theatre (300 Parkway, Lincolnshire) to take in a movie. "I like the complete opposite of what my wife enjoys," he jokes. "I like high-activity movies." A recent favorite? "Zero Dark Thirty" with Jessica Chastain.

10:30 P.M.
He ends the night with a quick workout — light weights and Pilates — at his Lake Forest home.
Breaking the Fall

Fall Out Boy's Pete Wentz and Patrick Stump on their time off, turning out a new album and taking a rock ‘n’ roll risk

STORY BY JOHN DUGAN | PHOTOS BY DIANA SCHEUNEMANN

I don’t think we’re the biggest band in the world, but any time you’re in a band, you’re in a bubble. People appreciate you, or are paying attention to you, at the very least,” says Fall Out Boy’s Patrick Stump. “When you get out into the world, though, you’re just like everybody else.”

But the local band has always stood out from the crowd—Fall Out Boy is among Chicago’s biggest music success stories of the previous decade. Named for a “Simpsons” character, the band was formed in Wilmette in 2001 by hard-core scene vets Pete Wentz, Joe Trohman and Stump. The trio’s sound was very much inspired by Green Day’s catchy, snotty punk and rapid tempos and by The Get Up Kids, a '90s-era band from Kansas City that headed up the second wave of what some call “emo” — a punk sound that marries controlled rock aggression with emotional vulnerability.

FOB released its first indie full-length album, “Take This To Your Grave,” in 2003, then signed to Island Records for 2005’s “From Under the Cork Tree,” which went multiplatinum in an age of otherwise slipping sales. Stump and Wentz emerged as the leaders of the band, with bassist and lyricist Wentz becoming an unlikely alt-punk heartthrob for MTV’s “TRL” set. He nearly overdosed on anti-anxiety meds during the making of “Cork Tree,” and by 2008 had married pop singer Ashlee Simpson (they divorced in 2011).

As quickly as they’d risen to fame, Fall Out Boy began a descent. The band’s fifth album, “Folie à Deux,” expanded their sound palette, but was a commercial disappointment, despite guest spots from Elvis Costello and Lil Wayne. In late 2009, the band issued a greatest hits album and announced an indefinite hiatus, citing the strain of Wentz’s celeb marriage on the band. It appeared that this Boy’s life was winding down.

“It is really important to have to sit there and pay your bills, mow your lawn and do some dishes,” says 28-year-old lead singer/guitarist/tunesmith Stump (married in Chicago this past September) on the band’s time away from the spotlight. The growing-up time, he contends, made his excitement about a new record possible.

But in the three years before their hush-hush reunion in late 2012, neither Stump nor his bandmates gave up on music. Quite the contrary: Wentz, 33, made electro tunes with Black Cards; guitarist Trohman, 28, and drummer Andy Hurley, 32, played in metal projects like The Damned Things; and Stump released a solo album, “Soul Punk,” in which he played all instruments and experimented with styles that guitar-heavy Fall Out Boy would never touch.

Until now. The quartet’s new album, “Save Rock and Roll,” ventures into uncharted territory, favoring the clubby end of the radio dial. Synths and electronics propel tunes such as club anthem “My Songs Know What You Did in the Dark (Light Em Up),” while “Just One Yester-
day” recalls Adele, of all people. Despite the title, the album is largely devoid of the rock guitar layers that usually form the skin of a FOB tune. Stump’s solo album, it seems, indicated a new direction for the band — which was his strategy all along. “I wanted to do a record and get out some of these ideas so we could force it into the band,” he explains.

A “return-to-form record,” as Stump calls it, would have probably easily pleased the faithful suburban emo kid. But rehashing the band’s fervent and cathartic punk was not an option that Stump seriously entertained.

“There’s a Picasso quote, something along the lines of, ‘Even plagiarism would be preferable to repeating one’s self,’” he says. “Repeating one’s self as an artist is a negative thing, unless you can find a valid reason for it. We looked at ourselves and said, ‘Is there any reason to do this thing again?’”

To hammer that point home, the band announced the album by posing for an Instagram photo, taken in snowy Chicago, in which they are burning their previous albums. And to nail down the new sound, FOB reconvened (a difficult feat, considering Stump and Wentz spend most of their time in L.A., Trohman in New York and Hurley in Milwaukee) and began work with producer Butch Walker, whose credits include Pink, Weezer and Taylor Swift albums, at his Santa Monica studio.

On top of all that, they didn’t tell their label what they were up to. “The ability to make this album in secret was great, because there weren’t expectations,” says Wentz. “It allowed us to take our time — and we could throw it out if we wanted to.”

There were false starts: Wentz and Stump (who fuse the former’s lyrics and the latter’s compositions by way of adjacent studios) tossed out tunes that either didn’t make sense in the Fall Out Boy anthology or sounded too much like classic Fall Out Boy. Wentz’s latest lyrics, he thinks, benefit from his time taking a break from the machinery of fame and from FOB’s reflexive, drawn-from-a-diary personal viewpoint.

“Sometimes when you broadcast so much, it becomes white noise. [Being away] allowed me to home in on what I thought was important,” he says. “In the past, I’ve written a love song like, ‘This song is vaguely about the perils of celebrity,’ or stuff that people can’t relate to. On this album, it was about trying to make concise statements that are relatable to more people, because that’s what we attempted to do with the band when we began.”

Previous album collaborations featured everyone from Jay-Z to Debbie Harry, and “Save Rock and Roll” has star turns from Courtney Love, rapper Big Sean and Elton John. The guest spots seemed to materialize serendipitously, says Stump: “Elton John reached out to us and said, ‘Hey, I just wanted to say I really like the single.’ We hadn’t finished mixing the album, so we said, ‘Hey, you’re a fan, would you be interested in working together?’ Elton was on board to sing on the title track.

The most surprising bit about “Save Rock and Roll” is not that it exists, or that it is an of-the-moment pop album. It’s that Fall Out Boy has the mettle to take a risk and shed the youthful skin that once made it a staple for high-schoolers and tweens. “Save Rock and Roll” is an audacious album that positions rock not as a fixed sound, but as an attitude, and an adventurous record that the guys say they had to make to even consider giving FOB another turn. But it seems that sense of adventure is what fuels Stump and Wentz.

That and their influence on youth. Wentz says he relishes “the possibility that this album could reach somebody the way that ‘Dookie’ by Green Day reached me, and let me know it was OK to be this weird kid at my school. If this record could be in any way like that, could in any way inspire those kids or unlock that in them, that’s what we’re inspiring those kids to do.”
HOT PURSUIT

SETH PUTNAM HITS THE GAS ON SOME OF THE WORLD'S FASTEST SUPERCARS, (AND THANKS TO XTREME XPERIENCE, YOU CAN DO IT, TOO)
So when his college roommate, Adam Olalde, who was working for a luxury rental car company, suggested they start their own business focusing on track time in powerful machines with expert instruction, Moore didn't need much convincing. He and Olalde joined forces to create Xtreme Xperience, providing rookie racers with the chance to take the supercars on a high-powered spin while accompanied by local pros who are native to each track. In the year since the business got off the ground, they've partnered with 15 tracks across the country to create a full experience that offers at least three laps in a customer-chosen supercar for about $400.

Like any good luxury hobby — golf, wine, cigars — there are endless threads to explore, from the characteristics and specs of the cars to the nuances of each track. For the Autobahn, the closest Xtreme Xperience track to Chicago, Moore recommends the Audi R8, which offers a balanced setup perfect for the L200-foot straightaways and the track's combination of acute and obtuse turns. But the varied characteristics of the cars and tracks are just bonuses. The most important reason Xtreme Xperience exists, Moore explains, is to give regular folks the chance to play with big toys that are, most of the time, economically out of reach.

"For a lot of people, this is a bucket-list activity," he says. "We had a guy from Maranello, Italy, where they make Ferraris. He grew up next to these cars but never got to drive one, and he came out to drive with us at Autobahn. He was crying."

The wind is jetting smoothly above our heads as we complete our third lap in this demon of an automobile, surging effortlessly past 100 mph. As we cross the finish line, the Lamborghini brakes crisply into its place, ready for the next wide-eyed driver. I let go of the bull's horns, feeling a bit like a matador. But instead of one of us conquering the other, the beast and I have simply learned how to move together.

Xtreme Xperience; Thextremexperience.com.
Autobahn Country Club, 3705 CenterPoint Way, Joliet; Autobahnc.com.

Meet the Cars
Xtreme Xperience's fleet includes a range of exotic makes from Lamborghini to Mercedes-Benz. Here are three of our favorites:

- **Porsche 997/911 Turbo**
  - MSRP: $137,000
  - Engine: Rear-Engine 3.6L TT H6
  - Horsepower: 473 hp at 6,000 rpm
  - Top speed: 198 mph
  - 0-60 mph: 3.7 seconds

- **Ferrari F430 F1**
  - MSRP: $218,000
  - Engine: Mid-Engine 4.3L V8
  - Horsepower: 483 hp at 8,500 rpm
  - Top speed: 196 mph
  - 0-60 mph: 4.0 seconds

- **Audi R8 4.2 FSI Quattro**
  - MSRP: $150,000
  - Engine: Mid-Engine 4.2L V8
  - Horsepower: 520 hp at 7,900 rpm
  - Top speed: 187 mph
  - 0-60 mph: 4.4 seconds
1. Oribe: purse-sized dry texturizing spray, $19.50, Blotique, 1 E. Huron; Oribe.com

“This little miracle spray does it all. It adds volume, keeps frizz at bay (especially in humidity) and has UV protection. Plus, I can skip a shampoo without sacrificing style.”

2. Tory Burch: Catarina silk caftan cover-up, $375, Nordstrom, 520 N. Michigan; Shop.nordstrom.com

“This is so much more than a cover-up. I plan to wear this from brunch to the beach to the bar.”

3. Luna: chocolate-dipped coconut bar, $0.99, Whole Foods, 1101 S. Canal; Lunabar.com

“My best to avoid the temptation of airport food so I load up my bag with these guilt-free snacks. If I close my eyes, I can pretend it’s a Mounds candy bar.”

4. Patagonia: women’s Torrentshell jacket, $129, 1800 N. Clybourn; Patagonia.com

“I never realized how much I needed a rain jacket until my husband bought me this one before our trip to Europe. It packs into its own pocket so it’s super convenient to throw in your bag while you’re sightseeing.”

5. Acure: USDA organic argan facial oil, $18, Ruby Room, 1743-45 W. Division; Rubyroom.com

“I’m always looking for products that pull double-duty. It sounds crazy, but this argan oil is a face and hair serum all in one. And a portion of the proceeds benefit one of my favorite nonprofits, Bright Pink!”


“My eyes are sensitive to sunlight, so I’m always looking for stylish frames with polarized lenses.”

7. Peter Thomas Roth: instant mineral powder SPF 45, $30, Sephora, 520 N. Michigan; Sephora.com

“I love not camping, but I’m serious about sunscreen, and this mineral powder is great for on-the-go touch-ups. It’s the perfect no-mess solution for reapplying at the beach.”

8. Anne Taintor: I Love Not Camping luggage tag, $9.99; Annetaíntor.com

“Many of these days my phone doubles as my camera, so I can’t afford to run out of power. I keep this in my bag at all times to get a charge on-the-go.”

9. Flight 001: emergency charger, $20; Flight001.com

10. Bose: SoundLink Bluetooth mobile speaker, $299.95, 520 N. Michigan; Bose.com

“This wireless speaker is compatible with any smartphone and works off of Bluetooth technology so you can listen to hours of music on the beach.”


“I’ve tried every sunless tanner on the market and this remains my all-time favorite. It dries instantly with virtually no scent so it’s easy to keep up the faux glow.”
Their spring collection, currently carried at Chicago locations like Saks Fifth Avenue, Nordstrom and Barneys New York, breaks away from Helmut Lang's typical neutral color palette and dives into color with vibrant hues of amber and orange, cerulean blues and fire engine reds. "We were originally inspired by these crustaceans in some photographs we saw," explains Nicole. "We love these colors, these textures and the translucency. It's the idea of the wet look." True to their history of incorporating high-tech fabrics, this collection features wool-nylon hybrids, laminated cottons and a Japanese fabric that is made with the same fibers used in TV screens. By mixing the fabrics with their newfound color craze, they've created standout pieces like a glossy linen jacket in cardinal red ($495), a chroma cutout dress in shimmering citrine ($435) and a nylon mesh dress with a printed aquamarine kaleidoscopic pattern ($735).

Nicole and Michael design with a scientific approach paying close attention to every material selection and silhouette proportion and whittling the design down until there's nothing left to take away. "I'm very detail-oriented," says Michael. "I like to look at classic things and then chop off a lapel to make it look less obvious. But you can try too hard to do something different just for the sake of being different. I love classic with something that gives it a twist or an edge."

Every season, the couple tries to find a new twist. "We want to mix it up for our customer. After a while you look in your wardrobe and say, 'I hate everything in my wardrobe! I want all new things!' " Nicole jokes. "We're women, we're very fickle."

While Helmut Lang continues to evolve each season with new silhouettes in new shades, they're committed to preserving their classic looks and making them available at a lower price point — with their diffusion line Helmut Helmut Lang (dresses start at $125). "It's our timeless pieces," says Nicole. "There are certain blazers that we've done that people still love and still want." Although by that logic, it could easily carry almost everything in the Lang repertoire.

Shop Helmut Lang at Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan, Saksfifthavenue.com; Nordstrom, 520 N. Michigan, Nordstrom.com; Barneys, E E. Oak, Barneys.com; or visit Helmutlang.com to see the entire collection.

AT THE HELM

Michael and Nicole Colovos, the husband-wife duo behind Helmut Lang, debut their bright spring collection

BY ZAK STEMER

It's unlikely that a Spaniard and a New Zealander, both based in New York, could come together and design clothing that is so utterly Chicagoan. Yet that's exactly what Michael and Nicole Colovos have done with Helmut Lang, the line they took over after Mr. Lang stepped down in 2005. The couple, who was in Chicago for a personal appearance last month, form a unique design dynamic: Michael has a pure fashion background — he attended the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York — while Nicole was previously a senior market editor for Harper's Bazaar magazine. They decided to go into business together in 2002, launching the denim line Habitual, and were quickly recognized as a fashion force, winning the first CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund award for emerging designers.

As the creative directors of Helmut Lang, a brand known for its edgy and deconstructed design, they sketch with a specific woman in mind: "Sophisticated and tough, but still sexy and chic," says Michael. It's a woman with a Midwestern work ethic — she can run a company by day and a family by night (much like Nicole, who balances work with three young children at home). And with the line's special focus on creating outerwear, it's a brand that's perfectly geared toward Chicago's capricious weather.

new in store

SHOPTING SPY

The latest intelligence from the retail scene

Ready to wed

Brides to be: head to Nicole Miller in Old Town through Sunday, April 21 to take up to 30 percent off the designer's sleek selection of wedding gowns. The original prices of the 52 dresses on sale range from $800 - $3,000. 1419 N. Wells; Nicolemillercollections.com

Centuries of style

Hunt for timeless treasures at the 16th Annual Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair, which runs April 26 - 29. The esteemed event showcases centuries-spanning art, antiques and jewelry from more than 100 of the world's top dealers. $15 admission, 222 W. Merchandise Mart; Merchandi semartantiques.com

Press 'PAWS'

Stop by Edith Hart April 28 for the latest installment of the boutique's Babes and Bagels series, which benefits animal-welfare nonprofit PAWS. Nellcote (333 W. Randolph) is bringing the bagels, freshly forged in its in-house flour mill, and Edith Hart is bringing the fashion — namely, new apparel from brands like Brian Lichtenberg, Otis and Mac, Wildfox and White Suede. 12 - 3 p.m., 1917 N. Damen; Edithhart.com

'Taylor' made

Lord & Taylor's Oak Brook outpost is springing forward with its recent storewide renovation. The awe-inspiring additions include an 8,000-square-foot shoe department — with soles from Stuart Weitzman, Kate Spade and Vera Wang — as well as expanded handbag, line and fashion jewelry and cosmetics departments. 180 Oakbrook Center; lordandtaylor.com

Deco midcentury chaise; similar styles available at the Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair

Brides to be: head to Nicole Miller in Old Town through Sunday, April 21 to take up to 30 percent off the designer's sleek selection of wedding gowns. The original prices of the 52 dresses on sale range from $800 - $3,000. 1419 N. Wells; Nicolemillercollections.com

Nicole Miller wedding gown

CHICAGOSPLASH.COM | APRIL 21-27, 2013 17
ERYN SIEGEL & JIM SNEDIKER

Eryn Siegel and Jim Snediker like to approach life with laughter. Siegel, a senior manager in sales development at Pandora, and Snediker, the CEO and founder of Stock Manufacturing Co., a company that designs and manufactures clothing locally, met six years ago while doing improv at Second City Chicago. The two performed together several times, and "many goofy nights" later, they were talking "future puppies and vacation homes," says Siegel. Snediker proposed on Christmas 2011, and the couple immediately started planning for their fall 2012 wedding at Greenhouse Loft (2545 W. Diversey). The ceremony reflected the pair's nontraditional style: Guests threw neon pom-pom balls at the couple at the end of the ceremony and Siegel's mom, a retired art teacher, made decorative vase centerpieces with neon pink rocks. The most ornate detail was Siegel's shoes, a pair of Taryn Rose cream wedges that she spent 40 hours bedazzling with 5,318 Swarovski crystals. Despite her shiny soles, Siegel says a close friend from the couple's Second City days stole the show, officiating the ceremony and bringing their nearly 200 guests to laughter and tears as he recounted anecdotes about the couple. "One guest even admitted they wished the ceremony went on for longer," laughs Siegel. For their closing act, Siegel and Snediker partied with friends and family at Mahoney's (551 N. Ogden), then walked back to their hotel at 5 a.m. with Siegel still in her wedding dress. "No cab would pick us up," says Siegel. "It was priceless."
TJYJTED PLAT 14S OF
MOEJUCA
Kenca 3uque taKes
the hem at a new
ver North eatery
BY MOLLY EACH
A two-floor, 17,000-square-foot space
with the largest HD TV in the Mid
west isn't where you'd expect to
find a two-time James Beard-nomi
nated chef. But that's exactly what's happening
at new River North spot American Junkie,
where Kendal Duque (formerly of Sepia,
Chicago Firehouse and City Tavern) is bring
ing his approachable yet sophisticated fare to
the bar and restaurant. On the menu? Gourmet
cut favorites, such as smoked chicken nachos
($12) and pork belly sliders with quail egg
($10), and complex dishes like a sea scallop
pasta with artichokes and goat cheese sauce
($21) and a bison ribeye with mushroom sprouts
and sauce ($29).
Upon being introduced to the team behind
Riot Hospitality Group, which owns Ameri
can Junkie outposts in Arizona and Califor
nia, Duque knew it was the right fit. "In the
restaurant industry it's hard to find someone
who is very real. But with them, what you see
it what you get. It was refreshing." Over a plate
of arctic char with a citrus salad ($17), the chef
dishes on his career evolution.
Splash: While you were coming up, you
worked in some notable kitchens, including
Jean Georges. Which stand out to you?
Duque: Rocco [Dispirito] had one of
the toughest kitchens. There were people
who didn't even last a day. We worked from
morning to night, six days a week. It was so
tough. He ran a really militaristic
tich kitchen. But he was such an
innovative chef. I still use what
I learned.

S: Would you say you run a
tough kitchen?
D: For me, it's about inspira
tion, reminding them why they
got into this business. With
celebrity chefs and the popular
ization of food in general,
a lot of kids are getting into
this business [with different
expectations]. In reality, it's
tough being there 12-14 hours a
day, doing the same tasks and
sometimes having someone yell at you. So
you have to stop and ask them, 'Are you sure
this is what you really want?'

S: How have you seen the industry change
since you started out in the 1990s?
D: I grew up in that world of the old-school
chef, where they were nobodies — the celeb
rity thing hadn't happened yet. All the horror
stories that you'd hear about the yelling and
the throwing stuff — I think my generation has
sort of eschewed that. But there's a fervor that
still lives within us that's almost nostalgic. It's
two completely different worlds, and at least
I think I sort of have a duty to remind [young
chefs] that this is where I came from and why.

S: How do you do in your
downtime?
D: Life is short, and now that
I'm older, I feel more like there's
not enough time in life to do what
we want to do. I have a couple TV
shows here and there that I watch
with my wife, but as chefs, we're
always moving a million miles an
hour. It's something that you have
to love or you sink, because there's
always someone more passionate
or more creative or someone with
more energy. You can never rest on
your laurels.

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The exterior of 848 W. Lakeside

Dozens of prominent art and antiques dealers from across the globe will be showing at the International Antiques Fair April 26-29 at the Merchandise Mart. Drop by and support local talent such as Winrietka gallery Arts 220, which specializes in 20th-century modern pieces. Mathieu Mategot’s metal magazine stand (above, $2,400) and Jean Marias’s ceramic hand ($950) are both stunning examples of French mid-century design. View the full list of vendors at Merchandisemartantiques.com.

**FAIR 411**

Smaller multi-unit properties are in high demand right now “because they give you the ability to buy now, earn rental income and turn the place into a single-family in the future,” notes Coldwell Banker broker Pam Rueur (312-867-8114), whose charming Ukrainian Village two-flat at 2033 W. Haddon (above), a renovated two-bedroom, two-bathroom Victorian charmer with a one-bedroom rental unit, garnered six offers and sold within hours of hitting the MLS (it closes at the end of May). But there are a slew of similar options out there. Here are some current multi-unit darlings:

- 2160 N. Bell for $749,000, a Bucktown three-flat plus coach house (call Baird & Warner broker Ray Speare, 773-497-9125).
- 1407 W. Ohio for $618,000, a West Town two-flat on an extra wide lot (call Baird & Warner broker Debra Flynn, 312-671-1670).
- 6440 N. Bosworth for $559,900, a Rogers Park three-flat with a three car garage (call Baird & Warner broker Mark Munro, 847-477-6937).

The key to living beyond your budget may be in a multi-unit property

Want a home that foots some of the bill on its own? Renting it out via Airbnb.com is one way to do it, but there’s a lot to be said for the old-fashioned approach of owning a multi-unit property. "The pros are huge," says Jameson Sotheby's International Realty broker John McGeown (right, 312-867-2074). "With rent coming in from other units, you can cover a chunk of your mortgage and operating expenses - or even make money - especially if you do the management and maintenance yourself." There are also potential tax advantages: Deductions range from interest on mortgage payments and property taxes to operating expenses and depreciation.

The key is to find the right property for your needs. Most people opt for two- or three-flats, which require less work but also don't bring in the same income, notes McGeown. His listing at 848 W. Lakeside in Uptown, a handsome, Prairie-style, 1903 five-flat for $1.325 million, has a 3,000-square-foot, three-bedroom, two-bathroom owners' unit plus four 1,500-square-foot units that bring in a nice monthly sum. It's also in pristine condition, though keeping it that way will be the measure of success for the next owner. "The DIY approach only works if you're really disciplined," adds McGeown, who also heads High Fidelity Property Management.

The interior of 848 W. Lakeside
Kim Kardashian and Kanye West's hot romance is already starting to fizzle!

The Hollywood couple—who are expecting their first child together in July—are fighting about several issues, including where to live. Chicago native Kanye reportedly wants to stay in France, where he's been working on an album, but Kim does not want to live away from her L.A.-based family. Sources tell me the relationship has been doomed from the start, and it's only a matter of time before they break up.

"They had a hot romance in the beginning," says the source. "Kanye is very attracted to Kim. However, they come from two different sides of the tracks and ultimately want different things out of life."

"Kanye's life is not as flashy as people expect," the source continued. "This is a guy who didn't have a cell phone until he started dating Kim. He spends hours in the recording studio and he's a homebody. On the other hand, Kim is super flashy and loves to go to all the glamorous Hollywood parties. Their differences are becoming a huge problem in their relationship."

Kardashian legal problems mounting

Kim's relationship is not her only problem these days. Though she's scored recent victories in her divorce case with estranged husband Kris Humphries, her legal problems are far from over.

Kim's ex was demanding emails from some of Kim's closed accounts, and April 15, according to reports, the judge denied his request. Kim also won points in court when Humphries failed to appear at a mandatory settlement conference in L.A. However, inside sources tell me the Kardashian family is facing several lawsuits right now involving various deals brokered by mom-ager Kris Jenner.

"There are situations where the Kardashians did not follow through with certain obligations in their contracts," the source said. According to another source, some business deals involved people who were very close with the Kardashian family.

"It's sad, because the Kardashians have let down business associates who considered them family," the source said. "They have turned their backs on a lot of people who helped them build their empire, and burned a lot of bridges. Their actions are catching up with them."
Take a spur-of-the-moment road trip to any of these destinations within a three-hour drive of Chicago.

Coloma, Mich.
A cluster of nearby towns make up the Lake Michigan Shore Wine Country, a romantic getaway where couples can forge their own trail and hop from winery to winery. Don’t miss the Italian villa-inspired tasting room at Contessa Wine Cellars. 3235 Friday, (269) 468-5534; Contessawinecellars.com

Harbor County, Mich.
Experience all things outdoorsy just around the bend, on the opposite coast of Lake Michigan. Try a back-roads bike tour, relax on the beach or test your treasure-hunting skills on a geocaching adventure. Harborcounty.org.

Hammond, Ind.
More than slots and blackjack, Horseshoe Casino is an all-inclusive entertainment destination. Stop here to see concerts, comedy shows — Jason Alexander and Cheech & Chong are performing this season — and even boxing fight nights. 777 Casino Center, (219) 473-7000; Horseshoe Hammond.com

Lake Geneva, Wis.
A spacious stretch of sand alongside Riviera Pier, Lake Geneva Beach is a perfect day trip for the whole family — don’t forget the picnic cooler and a few rafts for the water. Wrigley Drive, (262) 248-4381; Cityoflakegeneva.com

Milwaukee
Plan a trip in June for Summerfest ($15), the world’s largest music festival. With more than 800 acts — from Pitbull and Jason Aldean to Billy Idol and LL Cool J — there’s something for everyone. 200 N. Harbor, (414) 273-2680; Summerfest.com

Oglesby, Ill.
Choose your own adventure at Starved Rock State Park, set against the backdrop of 18 canyons that are millions of years old. Try hiking, hunting and horseback riding; there’s even a winery for those no-kids-allowed getaways. Route 178 and Route 71, (815) 667-4726; Starvedrockstatepark.org

Springfield, Ill.
See where Abraham Lincoln hung his stovepipe hat at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. Go on a free home tour or explore the neighborhood: four full blocks restored to their 1860s-era appearance. 426 S. Seventh, Springfield, (217) 492-4150; Nps.gov/IHo

St. Louis
In a city full of breweries, the must-do tour is of the Anheuser-Busch headquarters. Make it an adults-only trip and try the Beer School ($10), where you’ll learn ingredients and pairings and master the perfect pour. 12th & Lynch, (314) 589-2626; Budweisertours.com

Wisconsin Dells, Wis.
Pack a swimsuit for this trip: The area offers more than 20 water parks and dozens of activities like kayaking, jetskiing and fishing. Huge resorts offer family-centric fun, or try a more rustic cabin lodging for two. (800) 559-9653; Wisdells.com
“This is a compulsive, emotional read about love, lies and the ties that bind. It proves, once again, that the Bradford is the most fabulous teller of stories.”
- The Daily Mail (UK)

“Secrets From The Past is another cracking read from one the nation’s favorite storytellers.”
- The Sun (UK)

“Bradford has earned her place as grand mistress of women’s fiction. More than a story, this is a novel that presents readers with opportunities to evaluate their choices and set a course of their own lives.”
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“Queen Of The Genre”
- Sunday Times (UK)

“Bradford’s characters are so real, readers clamor to know them better.”
- USA Today

“Few novelists are as consummate as Barbara Taylor Bradford at keeping the reader turning the page. She is one of the world’s best at spinning yarns.”
- The Guardian (UK)
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- Tony Priolo,
  Executive Chef / Owner,
  Piccolo Sočno

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Bloomington Trail
a big boost for
Wicker West owners

Big link, big boost: Residents of Wicker West 1555 in the West Town community will benefit greatly from the Bloomington Trail development, a 14.6-acre park and recreation enhancement depicted here that will connect sections of the Bucktown, Wicker Park, Logan Square and Humboldt Park neighborhoods. The rapidly emerging West Town community is targeted for the $91-million recreational improvement, which includes a planned 2.7 mile-long bike and jogging trail. Work on this massive City of Chicago park and recreational project is expected to begin this summer, with completion in 2015. Wicker West, on the other hand, has only one condo unit left for sale.

SEE THE FULL STORY IN TODAY'S HOMES ON PAGE 18

BY SUE MEAD
Motor Matters

Sleeker, bigger and more torque than any others in the class, says Hyundai of the 2013 Santa Fe. Let's get over being surprised by the innovation and consistent good products coming from Hyundai — once deemed a bargain-basement automotive brand. But the fact is Hyundai continues to surprise and delight.

As its sales in the U.S. approach 700,000 vehicles, the automaker is now the forth best-selling car brand in America. We took a closer look at what's innovative about the Santa Fe.

For starters, there's a completely revamped exterior, more upscale interior amenities, a host of advanced safety technologies, and a more powerful lineup of motors, with impressive fuel economy. The big news is the choice between the short wheelbase (106.3 inches/length 184.6), five-seater version and the new long wheelbase (110.2 inches/length 193.1), three-row, six- or seven-passenger model. Starting at $24,450, the 2013 Santa Fe is available in four trim levels: Sport, Sport 2.0T, GLS and Limited.

There are three powertrain options. Base is a 2.4-liter four-cylinder that produces 190 horsepower and 181 pound-feet of torque; it has improved fuel economy and acceleration. Stepping up is a 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder that gets 264 horsepower and 269 pound-feet of torque; a 3.3-liter V6 that delivers 264 horses and 282 pound-feet also is available. All are matched to a six-speed automatic transmission with manual shifting capabilities, and can be ordered in front-wheel-drive or all-wheel-drive configurations.

We drove the 2013 Santa Fe Sport AWD 2.0T (20/27 miles per gallon) over a course of 150 miles in the Park City, Utah region. Our motoring took us on a wide variety of roads, including unpaved forestry roads. Despite the high-elevation of more than 8,000 feet, we had ample power on tap at all times and the well-modulated brakes (vented front and solid rear discs), include ABS with brake assist technology.

On the road, Santa Fe is supported by front MacPherson struts and rear stabilizer bar suspension components. Standard are traction control, stability control and seven airbags, including a driver's side knee airbag.

The 2013 Santa Fe's exterior is more taut and tailored, defined by a wide grille, powerful shoulders and a snipped rear. Designers say the new look is more robust evolution of Hyundai's design philosophy of "Fluidic Sculpture." Chrome shines up the grille and door handles, while LED accents brighten headlamps. A roof spoiler is standard, and emphasizes Santa Fe's crouching stance.

Inside, we found increased room, a cushier feel and more technology options. Notable is the comfortable and airy cabin, which is well appointed without a cluttered feel. Storage abounds, including an overhead console sunglasses holder, two front and two rear seat cup holders, door bottle holders, cooled glovebox, enlarged central storage console, front seatback pockets, and an innovative cargo under-tray and floorboard storage.

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$21,990
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'05 Scion xC .......... $9,000

'10 Nissan Versa ..... $11,995
'05 Nissan Murano SL $12,000
'06 Cadillac CTS ..... $12,500
'04 Toyota 4Runner SR5 $13,000

'09 Nissan Cube ......... $13,000
'11 Nissan Altima ...... $13,495
'10 Nissan Sentra ...... $13,500

'08 Jeep Grand Cherokee $13,995

'07 Infiniti M35x ...... $15,500

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'05 Nissan Altima $5,995
'07 Chevrolet Uplander $5,995
'00 Toyota 4Runner LTD $5,995
'04 Chevrolet Aveo $6,995
'03 Cadillac CTS $6,995
'05 Subaru Forester $6,995
'03 Honda Element $7,995

'09 Nissan Versa $7,995
'06 Pontiac Torrent $7,995
'08 Nissan Altima $8,995
'03 Audi A4 Quattro $8,995
'07 Jeep Compass $9,995

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Offer to qualified buyers. Offers cannot be combined. *Plus tax, title & doc fee. 2) You must qualify. May affect final payment date. 1) On select used models. The value of the used car varies with mileage, usage & condition. 3) 0% APR for 72mo to qualified buyers. $13.88 per $1,000 financed. Buy down rate, 3) APR for 72mo to qualified buyers. $13.88 per $1,000 financed. Buy down rate, 4) Plus tax, title, license & doc fee. 5) First mo payment: $1,995, 156/mo. You must qualify. Dealer will not honor errors in this ad. No prior sales. Pictures for illustration only. Offers end 3 days from pub.
**QUALITY PRE-DRIVEN SALES EVENT!**

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<td>Grand Cherokee 4x4</td>
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36 Month lease, $2,999 due at signing. Includes 1st payment. No security deposit required.

New 2013 Nissan JUKE S AWD
#13147, Model#20113, VIN#3NCP61DN8BC502787
36 Month lease, $2,999 due at signing. Includes 1st payment. No security deposit required.

New 2013 Nissan PATHFINDER
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New 2013 Nissan MAXIMA
#13450, Model#13113, VIN#1N4AR5DN1CN663863
36 Month lease, $2,999 due at signing. Includes 1st payment. No security deposit required.

New 2013 Nissan ROGUE S
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36 Month lease, $2,999 due at signing. Includes 1st payment. No security deposit required.

New 2013 Nissan NV2500
#12118, Model#81312, VIN#1N4BN2CV5CC618008
36 Month lease, $2,999 due at signing. Includes 1st payment. No security deposit required.

New 2013 Nissan JUKE S AWD
#13471, Model#20113, VIN#3NCP61DN8BC502787
36 Month lease, $2,999 due at signing. Includes 1st payment. No security deposit required.

New 2013 Nissan PATHFINDER
#13321, Model#22113, VIN#5N1AZ2CT1CA869301
36 Month lease, $2,999 due at signing. Includes 1st payment. No security deposit required.

New 2013 Nissan ALTIMA 2.5 S
#13104, Model#13112, VIN#1N4AM5CN0CN636398
36 Month lease, $2,999 due at signing. Includes 1st payment. No security deposit required.

New 2013 Nissan MAXIMA SE
#13450, Model#13113, VIN#1N4AR5DN1CN663863
36 Month lease, $2,999 due at signing. Includes 1st payment. No security deposit required.

New 2013 Nissan VERSA
#13121, Model#11153, VIN#3NLSE1HN4DL004736
36 Month lease, $2,999 due at signing. Includes 1st payment. No security deposit required.

New 2013 Nissan ROGUE
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36 Month lease, $2,999 due at signing. Includes 1st payment. No security deposit required.

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West Town blooming

Bloomington Trail a big boost for Wicker West owners

The rapidly emerging West Town community is targeted for a $91 million recreational improvement called the Bloomingdale Trail, a planned 2.7 mile-long bike and jogging trail.

Plans call for the trail to run along the elevated old Canadian Pacific Railway spur along Bloomingdale Ave. (1800 North) from Ashland Avenue west to Ridgeway Avenue (3732 West), which is about three blocks east of Pulaski Avenue.

Work on this massive City of Chicago park and recreational project is expected to begin this summer, with completion in 2015.

Some $53.5 million of the project's cost already is funded by the city and federal government.

The 14.6-acre project will provide a recreational connection to Humboldt Park and include construction of new pocket parks. The trail, which will feature 38 bridges, will connect sections of the Bucktown, Wicker Park, Logan Square and Humboldt Park neighborhoods.

"Wicker West 1555 is only two blocks south of the planned Bloomingdale Trail and strategically located between established Wicker Park and the airy, 219-acre green recreational space of Humboldt Park," said Realtor Sara Benson, president of Chicago-based Benson Stanley Realty, the exclusive broker.

"Bloomingdale Trail is West Town's version of a Lincoln Park jogging and biking trail along Lake Michigan," Benson said. "When the trail is completed, Wicker West 1555 buyers and neighborhood residents can bike or jog to Humboldt Park or restaurants and shopping in nearby Bucktown and Wicker Park in minutes."

However, there is only one unit left at Wicker West.

The 4-story elevator building, on the southeast corner of North and Talman avenues, was recently purchased by Mosaic Development, LLC, a real estate investment firm, which is completing construction on the building, and marketing the remaining condo unit priced at $329,000.

Available at Wicker West is Unit 2A, a two-bedroom, two-bath simplex condominium model with 1,512 square feet of living area and a private 191-square-foot roof-top deck. It is open for viewing at Wicker West 1555.

Listed at $328,000, Unit 2A features a spacious 21-by-18½-foot living/dining room with a gas-log fireplace showcasing a stone mantle and surround. French doors open from the living room to a private 18-by-10-foot roof deck. The adjoining island kitchen opens onto the living room, and offers custom granite counter tops with translucent glass backsplashes. The main living areas feature bamboo flooring.

The unit has a 13-by-16-foot master-bedroom suite with private balcony, and large dressing room. The adjoining master bath features a Jacuzzi tub and walk-in shower. A second bedroom with nearby shower/bath completes the condominium.

Buyer incentives at Wicker West 1555 include a free washer-dryer hook-up valued at $1,000 and a free Maytag washer and dryer valued at $1,800, Benson said.

Wicker West 1555 homes feature a designer-appliance package.

Bathrooms showcase porcelain floor tile and marble and porcelain tile in the tub and shower areas.

The development also has one ground-floor commercial space.

The Wicker West Condominiums model and sales center is at 1555 N. Talman Ave. Call Benson Stanley Realty at (312) 337-4600, or visit the development Website at www.WickerWest1555.com.
Spectacular is standard

Park Monroe 2.0 offers wealth of amenities

Condominiums offer many conveniences in-house, and within their particular neighborhoods. One building in the Millennium Park area of downtown Chicago meets that expectation, adding spectacular views, and enjoys a central location with all of the city culture and amenities a buyer could want.

As a result, "Park Monroe 2.0," the second phase of The Park Monroe at 65 East Monroe Street, is selling quickly. Unveiled only six months ago, more than half of the new homes are already under contract.

"The sales volume at the Park Monroe has been exceptional. Potential buyers readily realize that the Park Monroe is a very boutique residence in the heart of all the city activities," said Pat Young, vice president of sales for Equity Marketing and The Park Monroe.

Park Monroe 2.0 also offers "modern living." Located on the building's 40th or 41st floor, homes soar above many penthouses and feature dramatic views of the lake, park and city skyline from floor-to-ceiling windows. Residences are stylish and contemporary with 10-foot ceilings, spacious floor plans and ample storage options.

Kitchens create a chef's paradise. Contemporary Arrex Italian cabinetry, solid-surface countertops and gourmet appliances establish the setting for owners to express their own culinary creativity. Even if a resident is not inclined to prepare gourmet meals, the kitchen serves as a beautiful focal point.

The bathrooms at Park Monroe 2.0 are finely appointed with stone or tile. Residents can enjoy a relaxing soak in the spacious tub or wash the cares of the day away in the oversized shower. Arrex cabinets and some of the newest, most efficient fixtures are featured.

Park Monroe 2.0 homes also include some of the latest technology. All residences are wired for the newest television innovation: 4K ultra-definition screens that offer a level of detail not previously seen outside a movie theater. Select homes are also wired for built-in, mobile device docking stations, to set up many of the latest "smart" home functions. Homes also have individually controlled cooling and heating on demand, and high-tech kitchen appliances that make food preparation, storage and cleanup a breeze.

One available home is Residence 4009, offering 1,619 square feet with two bedrooms, two baths and a den. The modern kitchen is both beautiful and practical, while the well-appointed master bathroom features a separate shower and a soaking tub. Abundant storage space includes an extra-large walk-in closet in the master bedroom.

Another choice is Residence 4105. This two-bedroom home faces south and enjoys wide-open views of the lake, park and city. It features high ceilings, an open floor plan and spacious and airy feeling throughout. The open kitchen features Bosch appliances, while the 450-plus-square-foot master bedroom suite offers an immense walk-in closet, his-and-her sinks and both soaking tub and separate shower.

Without leaving The Park Monroe, residents enjoy a host of amenities that "amenities make you feel like you live at a resort," said Young. These include an indoor pool, entertainment suite with catering kitchen, three-season sun terrace with garden and year-round spa, Blue Ray theater room, fitness center, indoor dog run and grooming spa area.

The Park Monroe is less than one block west of Michigan Avenue and Millennium Park. The lake and lakefront path for jogging, walking and biking, is a few blocks away. Museums, theaters, fine dining and shopping surround the building. In addition, many residents are able to walk to work downtown.

Remaining Park Monroe 2.0 residences are priced from $624,500 for two-bedrooms and $1,075,000 for three-bedrooms. The models and sales center at 65 East Monroe are open seven days a week. Call (312) 683-0550 or visit ParkMonroe.com for more information.
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From Julie Bode’s third-grade class at Saints Faith, Hope & Charity in Winnetka

“love my mom because she is loyal and kind. She can be warm and gentle. She is a great mother, makes my lunch and puts me to sleep. She also gives me hugs and kisses, noogies and stories, jokes and books, and she has a lovely smile.”

by Caroline Pruchnicki

“love my mom because she is caring and loves me so much, and she is good at sports. I love playing games with her, too. She is so supportive and I love cuddling with her. I love her so much. Happy Mother’s Day!”

by Charlie Fritzschke

“love my mom because she is so nice. She is always there for me when I need a little help. She has a great sense of humor, and she always makes me laugh. Being around her makes me feel comfortable and warm. She is the best mom ever.”

by John Kasten

“love my mom because she helps me with my homework. She helps me with my book reports. She takes care of me when I’m sick. She signs me up for camps. My mom makes my lunch for me. She helps me with my spelling packet. BEST MOM EVER. Love, Johnny”

by Phoebe Dwyer

“love my mom because she is so supportive. She cares for me so much. She is so nice and helps with things I need help on. She loves me, too. She is so funny.”

by William Schreiber

“love my mom because she helps me with my homework. She helps me with my book reports. She takes care of me when I’m sick. She signs me up for camps. My mom makes my lunch for me. She helps me with my spelling packet. BEST MOM EVER. Love, Johnny”

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“love my mom because she is kind and cares for me. She helps me when I need help. She loves me too. She is loyal and polite. I can always depend on my mom. She is always nice, and she does incredible things. She always makes me happy.”

by Tierney Purcell

“love my mom because she is kind and cares for me. She helps me when I need help. She loves me too. She is loyal and polite. I can always depend on my mom. She is always nice, and she does incredible things. She always makes me happy.”

by Tierney Purcell
Happy Mother’s Day!
From our staff to our moms.
And to yours.

I love my mom because
she laughs at all my jokes
and puts up with my humor.
Even though I don’t live with
her, she’s there for me when
I need her and a quick phone
call away. She is the most
caring mom a girl can ask
for, and I truly appreciate
all that she has done for me.
Mom: you are the best; love
you, sista!

by Marissa Davis,
marketing coordinator

I love my mom because she is
my guardian angel and brings
me luck. When I see birds playing,
I’m reminded of her beautiful
laugh. When the rain stops
and the sun shines, I think of
her warm hugs. And when I get
a lucky parking spot, I’m sure to
thank her. Because I know she’s
looking out for me from up there
in heaven.

by Jenny Williams, designer

What I learned before
I was 10 years old
started me on this career
that I love. My mom taught
me how to put a smile on
someone’s face and that life
is not all work. I love my mom
for sharing her passions with
me: from roller skating to
oil painting to wrapping the
perfect present.

by Barbara
Harrington,
creative
director

I love my mom because she’s never gonna
give me up; never gonna let me down; never
gonna run around and desert me.

by Tammy Matthews, editor
Not your average mother. Not your average gift.

BY WENDY ALTSCULHER  
For Sun-Times Media

Flowers, perfume and jewelry are fine for some moms but not yours. Your mom is exceptional — brilliant even — and she deserves a gift that reflects your adulation for her. Something that she wants most of all: time spent with you. Here are some Mother's Day gift ideas for your family's woman of the hour.

Creative expression is good for the soul

Whether your mom is a novice or a seasoned expert, she'd love an art class at Evanston Art Center — something that will bring out her imaginative side and provide an opportunity for her to bump shoulders with a new artistic social group.

"An art class or workshop at the Evanston Art Center can be a perfect antidote to a hectic life," said Norali Nelson, executive director at the Evanston Art Center. "Set in a former private mansion on the shore of Lake Michigan, the Evanston Art Center facility offers moms the opportunity to create a work of art, learn a new skill and socialize with like-minded students. Busy moms can connect with their creative sides and spend a few hours working in an art studio under the guidance of an experienced teaching artist." Talented and acclaimed instructors teach classes in painting, photography, printmaking, ceramics, jewelry, drawing and sculpture. While there, your mom can visit the three exhibition galleries and who knows, maybe her work will be featured in the Studio Gallery, which houses art by current students. Visit www.evanstonartcenter.org/schedule for more information.

Good smells in the kitchen

Has your mom ever wanted to learn how to make hand-churned gelato, French soufflés or authentic Italian pasta from scratch? Sur La Table offers a couple of Mother's Day cooking classes, including Mother's Day Macarons and Mother's Day Dinner in Italy. Visit www.surlatable.com/category/Web-Cooking-Root/Cooking-Classes for more information.

Mother's Day Dinner in Italy," said a Sur La Table representative. "These classes let you explore a world of cuisines and disciplines."


Take mom on a mini-vacation

Your mom works hard and maybe the Mother's Day present she needs most is a vacation away from it all. Take her to the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. She can recharge her batteries at a destination that is close to home, without taking extended time off of work, pulling kids out of school or breaking the bank to go on a hunt for food or provisions. She is sure to be satiated at one of the nine different dining options.

"Experience exciting Las Vegas-style dining and entertainment at Kalahari Restaurant & Bar, the comfortable atmosphere of Great Karoo Food & Spirits and a relaxing cocktail at Ivory Coast Lounge," said Nelson. "For coffee-lovers, savor a hot cup of cappuccino along with favorite breakfast treats at Java Maniaro. Moms can also tempt their sweet tooth at the Sweet Hut or grab a quick snack at one of the many water park dining locations." She will love the indoor theme park-1,000 square feet of multi-generational fun, complete with bumper boats, rope courses, laser tag, a six-story Ferris wheel, an African-themed carousel, bowling, go carts, mini golf, arcade games and much more. The biggest attraction, however, is Kalahari's indoor the-the largest in Wisconsin.

"Guests can take a ride on America's first indoor super-loop water-slide," said Nelson. "Visit www.kalahariresorts.com for more information."

"Kalahari is great for families looking to get away. They offer an authentic experience unlike any other in the surrounding areas," said Travis Nelson, Kalahari spokesperson. "Due to Kalahari's unique attractions, family fun activities, outstanding accommodations, unmatched customer service and reasonable prices, families can create memories without opening their wallets too wide."

"Experience exciting Las Vegas-style dining and entertainment at Kalahari Restaurant & Bar," said Nelson. "For coffee-lovers, savor a hot cup of cappuccino along with favorite breakfast treats at Java Maniaro. Moms can also tempt their sweet tooth at the Sweet Hut or grab a quick snack at one of the many water park dining locations."

Special Section
SPECIALSECTIONS.SUNTIMES.COM

Tube-run: Take your mom to the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. She will enjoy Las Vegas-style dining at Kalahari Restaurant & Bar, the comfortable atmosphere of Great Karoo Food & Spirits and a relaxing cocktail at Ivory Coast Lounge. SUPPLIED PHOTO

That's amore: Sur La Table offers several Mother's Day cooking classes, including Mother's Day Macarons and Mother's Day Dinner in Italy. SUPPLIED PHOTO

For more information.
IF!fl(1IJTJA

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2013

YOUR Local Worship Guide

SKOKIE

Temple Judea Mizpah
Your Reform Jewish Home Serving the North Shore since 1954
We Welcome Interfaith Families
Outstanding Religious School
Annual Memberships starting at $150.00
847-676-1566
www.TempleJM.org

Central United Methodist Church
8237 Kenton Ave., Skokie
(847) 673-1311
www.skokiecentralumc.org
Worship: Sundays at 10:30 AM

St. Timothy Campus
9000 Kildare Ave. Skokie
Sunday Worship
10 am: St. Timothy’s Lutheran
11:30am: 시카고 선교교회
1pm: 시카고 나무교회 (PCUSA)
www.StTimothySkokie.org

Congregation Bene Shalom
4415 Devon, Skokie (847) 677-3330
www.bene-shalom.org • Interfaith Families Welcome
Rabbi Dr. Douglas Goldmaster
Asst. Rabbi Shari Chen, Soloist Charlotte Brooks
All services voice and sign language
Check our website for service times

Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church
4950 W. Pratt Ave., Skokie
WE'RE GROWING & MAKING CHANGES!!
9:30 a.m. Praise and Celebration Service with Praise Band
Adult Sunday School
10:30 am Sunday School (All ages)
10:45 am Traditional Service with Choir
(Adult Classes in English & Assyrian) Friday 7:30-9:30 pm
Assyrian Fellowship
Tuesday Evenings 7:15-8:45 pm
New Life Youth Group
(for Jr. and Sr. High Youth) 2nd Saturday
Monthly 7:30-9:30 pm-CW Café with Open Microphone:
Guitar, Singing, Poetry, Comedy
“All Positive Forms of Entertainment”

SKOKIE

St. Peter’s United
Church of Christ
Oakton Street & Laramie Avenue
847-673-8166
www.stpeteruccskokie.org
Sunday Worship 10AM
Sunday School 9AM
(Sept. thru May)
Rev. Richard Lanford
Childcare Provided
Air Conditioned Sanctuary

Devar Emet Messianic Synagogue
7600 Niles Ave., Skokie
847-574-9146
www.deveremt.org
Join us for Shabbat Services at 6pm
“A Community of Jews who believe and teach that Yeshua (Jesus) is the Promised Jewish Messiah”

KOL EMETH
Conservative Congregation
Rabbi Barry Schechter
5130 Touhy, Skokie
(1 block west of Eden’s)
847-673-3370

Beth Hillel Congregation
Bnai Emunah
3220 Big Tree Lane, 847-256-1213
www.bhcbe.org
Kabbalat Shabbat Fridays 6:30 PM
Shabbat Service - Saturdays 9:15 AM
Jr. Congregation, Tot Shabbat,
Torah Time 10:30 AM
Followed by Kiddush
Daily Minyan AM and PM
Rabbi Allan Kensky
Cantor Pavel Roytman
Rabbi Michael Cohen, Ed. Dir.

SKOKIE CENTRAL TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION
Traditional Service - Mixed Seating Services led by:
Rabbi Dr. Michael Gottesman
Minyons: Mon. & Thurs. 8:00 AM
Kabbala Shabbos Sept. to June at candle lighting time
Saturday 9:00 AM Followed by Kiddush
Sunday 8:30 AM Followed by breakfast
Sanctuary handicapped accessible!
4040 Main Street, Skokie, Illinois
847-674-4117
www.wix.com/skokiecentral/shul

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call
630-978-8277
or
worship@Pioneerlocal.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Worship Times</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHICAGO</td>
<td>Edison Park Lutheran Church</td>
<td>6626 N. Oliphant Ave, Chicago, IL</td>
<td>773.631.9131</td>
<td><a href="http://www.edisonparkchurch.com">www.edisonparkchurch.com</a></td>
<td>Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Across park from Edison Park Metra)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sunday Worship 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor</td>
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<td>Carole Edwards, Associate In Ministry</td>
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<td>Matt Haider, Worship /Music</td>
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<td>Michael Lydia, Children/Youth/Family</td>
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<td></td>
<td>St. Paul Lutheran Church</td>
<td>5650 N. Canfield, 60631</td>
<td>(708)867-5044</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stpaulcanfield.org">www.stpaulcanfield.org</a></td>
<td>Street Level, Air Conditioned</td>
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<td>Sunday Worship 8:15 &amp; 10:45AM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible 9:30AM</td>
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<td>Lutheran Unity School - West</td>
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<td>Pre K-Grade 8, SHARING GOD,</td>
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<td>TOUCHING LIVES EVERYWHERE</td>
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<td>(LCMS)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sunday School &amp; Bible Class 10:45</td>
<td>Welcoming traditional worship</td>
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<td>Holy Communion 3rd &amp; 5th Sunday</td>
<td>Sanctuary Handicap accessible</td>
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<td>Early Communion - 1st Sunday 9:00 am</td>
<td>Sunday Worship at 9:30</td>
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<td>Sunday School - 10:35 am</td>
<td>Sunday School &amp; Bible Class 10:45</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Adult Bible Study - 10:45 am</td>
<td>Rev. Matthew Joseph Gunia, Pastor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Handicapped Accessible</td>
<td>&quot;For whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart...&quot; 1 John 3:20</td>
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<td>Serving the Community</td>
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<td>Sharing God’s Promises</td>
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<tr>
<td>NORRIDGE</td>
<td>Zion Lutheran Church</td>
<td>8600 W Lawrence Avenue</td>
<td>(708) 453-3514</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday Worship 9:30</td>
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<td>Norridge, IL 60706</td>
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<td>Holy Communion 3rd &amp; 5th Sunday</td>
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<td>Serving the Community</td>
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<td>Sharing God’s Promises</td>
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To showcase your House of Worship here call 630-978-8277 or Worship@Pioneerlocal.com
Obituaries

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Michael Carbonara Jr.
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Telephone Best Time to Contact
City/State/Zip
Address
Name
Cemetery of Interest

Bus: (708) 343-6161

Michael Carbonara

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2013

Obituaries

Schiemann, Janet
(nee Brooks, formerly Snider) Of O'Fallon, Missouri, Fortified with the Sacraments of the Holy Mother Church on Friday, April 19, 2013 at the age of 73. Loving wife of Cletus Schiernann, beloved daughter of the late Warner and Jane Brooks; devoted mother of James (Tara) Snider, Jack Snider, Mary Jane Voorhees, Julie (Joe) Cole, and Joseph (Pamela) Snider. Dear sister of Carol and Warner Brooks; cherished grandmother of numerous grandchildren. She is also survived by Cletus' 7 children and grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her first husband, James E. Snider.

Services: The family is being served by The Buse Funeral and Memorial Center, 3950 West Clay Street, St. Charles, MO where visitation will be held Monday, April 22, 2013 6:00-8:00 PM. Visitation will also be held Tuesday, April 23, 2013 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 7701 Highway N, Dardenne Prairie, MO with a Funeral Mass to follow at 10:00 AM. Interment Calvary Cemetery. Flowers or Memorials may be made to the USO of Missouri. Visit www.busefuneral.com.

Society and Miseracordia contributor.

Preceded in death by father, Chester Millweard; mother, Claire Louise Millweard; brothers, Michael and Lucite Stephen.

Survived by beloved husband, Russell Jersey; mother, Claire Louise Millweard; brothers, Michael (Josie) Millweard, Thomas (Cindy) Millweard and soul mate, sister and accomplice, LuAnn (Greg) Gornik; mother-in-law, Jeanette Jersey; sister-in-law of Gall (John) Bajkowski and Ray (Michelle) Jersey; beloved nieces and nephews, Michael, Timothy, and Lisa Gornik; Christy and Thomas Millweard Jr.; Matt and Katie Bajkowski; Dawn and James Jersey.

Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

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Call: 847-998-3400 (opt 6)

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Share the memories with your local community through a Death Notice

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Email: deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com

SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Remembrance
Love's Greatest Gift
Place a Card of Thanks or an In-Memoriam
Call: 847-998-3400 (opt 6) Email:deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com

General Information
Concerning The Death Notice Page

• A paid death notice may be ordered to appear in the Pioneer Press when funeral arrangements are made, and must be submitted in writing. Information about charges for death notices may be obtained from area funeral directors or by calling (847) 998-3400. A 24-hour fax service is offered at (847) 486-6936 or death notices may be emailed to deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com.
• An in memoriam or card of thanks may be placed using the same information above.
• The deadline for placing a death notice, in memoriam or card of thanks, is Monday at 5:00 pm. Photos must be submitted by Monday at 2:00 pm.
• The death notice department is staffed from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday.
• Family and friends may visit our website and sign a guest book at Pioneerlocal.com.
“This machine can store almost as many resumes as a filing cabinet.”

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Through our partnership with Monster, we've combined the local reach you've always depended on with Monster's innovative online tools for employers. Power Resume Search matches qualified job seekers with job opportunities by finding and suggesting related job titles, industries and skills based on your needs. It uses 6Sense search technology to deliver precise results ranked and compared side-by-side. Together we deliver a comprehensive recruitment solution, so you'll find just what you're looking for in an ideal candidate. Monster. Find Better.

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Nissan 2009 Maxima S
Low Miles, Moonroof, Alloys, Seek & Ready For You! #34760
$22,995 866-638-5096

Nissan 2010 Altima 2.5 SL
Low Miles, Leather, Moonroof, Very Clean & Great On Gas!
#34357 $18,995 866-638-5096

Nissan 2010 Armada Titanium 4x4
Low Miles, Bluetooth, 3rd Row, Back Up Camera & More!
Loaded! Must See! Call For Pricing! #37438A 888-461-2602

Chrysler 2008 300C AWD
Low Miles, HEMI, Premium Audio & More! Beautiful! #CP1336
$21,500 888-695-0977

Chrysler 2012 Town & Country Touring
Bluetooth, 3rd Row, Leather, Like New & Great For The Family!
#CP1372 $25,500 888-695-0977

Ford 2012 E-250 Cargo Van
Low Miles Starting At 1900 Four To Choose From! #P14911
$18,950 888-461-2602
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<th>Make/Model</th>
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<tr>
<td>BMW 2005 X3 SUV</td>
<td>AWD, Moonroof, Leather &amp; More! Beautiful! Must See! #5002A</td>
<td>$13,995</td>
<td>866-960-7980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeep 2009 Wrangler Sahara 4WD</td>
<td>Super Low Miles, Removable Roof &amp; Very Clean! Must See! #18005</td>
<td>$22,995</td>
<td>866-960-7980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hyundai 2012 Sonata GLS</td>
<td>Heated Mirrors, Bluetooth! Very Sleek &amp; Great On Gas! #24035</td>
<td>$15,995</td>
<td>866-960-7980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audi 2007 Q7 Premium</td>
<td>Low Miles, Heated Leather, Sunroof &amp; More! Great People Mover! #21030</td>
<td>$24,995</td>
<td>866-960-7980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chevy 1995 Impala SS</td>
<td>Insanely Low Miles! This One Owner Vehicle Is In Great Shape! Must See This Awesome Find! #71530</td>
<td>$15,995</td>
<td>866-960-7980</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMW 2011 328i Sedan</td>
<td>Leather, Moonroof &amp; MP3 Player. Perfect Condition #19034</td>
<td>$25,095</td>
<td>866-928-0987</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volkswagon 2008 Beetle CD Player, Low Miles &amp; Drives Like New! Playful &amp; Safe! #11411</td>
<td>$16,995</td>
<td>866-928-0987</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMW 2007 525i</td>
<td>Moonroof, MP3 Player &amp; Leather. Drives Like New! #1147</td>
<td>$16,995</td>
<td>866-928-0987</td>
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WE TOLD YOU WE WERE WORKING ON IT.

Congratulations to the SIU Debate Team on making us one of only six universities ever to win both national titles in a single year. Ironically, this means that our current standing as a top national debate program is no longer open for debate. Mike Selk and Josh Rivera won both the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence National Championship (NPTE) and the National Parliamentary Debate Association National Championship (NPDA). The only two national championships there are.

We are incredibly proud of the honor the entire SIU Debate Team brings to Salukis everywhere.
Julissa Ochoa of Moraga CA and Anand Kumar of Walnut Creek CA announce the engagement of their daughter, Sharmila Kumar, to Kevin Dooley, son of Renata Dooley of Park Ridge IL and Raynard Dooley of Dallas TX.

The future bride graduated from Claremont McKenna College with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She is employed as a Relationship Manager by Wells Fargo Capital Finance in Santa Monica, California.

The fiancé, a 2001 graduate of Maine South High School, received his Law degree from the University of Chicago Law School and is employed as a corporate attorney at Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher LLP in Los Angeles, California.

A 2013 wedding is planned at the Church of Santa Maria, in Orinda, California.

To place your special announcement in the Celebrations Section, please send inquiries to:
celebrate@pioneerlocal.com

NEWS WHEN YOU WANT IT. IT’S A LOCAL THING.
check out happenings in your area at PIONEERLOCAL.com
Get personal with artists via Expanding Visions

BY STEPHANIE FOSNIGHT REGETEER | Contributor

Most people are comfortable discussing the artistic construct of a novel in book club, or debating the merits of a movie with friends.

But not many, according to Joanna Pinsky, are comfortable delving into the world of art interpretation.

"Art enriches our lives and helps people communicate," said Pinsky, artistic director of the Evanston art education and outreach not-for-profit Art Encounter.

Yet few have the skills and confidence to examine art, especially contemporary art.

"Often people looking at artwork are intimidated because they don't have an understanding of contemporary art," Pinsky said.

That's why she started Expanding Visions 25 years ago, a twice yearly, nine-week series of art tours where participants take it in turn to visit artists in their studio and then private collections.

"I engage the group in interactive discussion that allows them to look more deeply at the art," Pinsky said. "Through the response discussion process, they look at the work in a different way."

So far this spring participants have toured the house and studio of an artist who incorporates her work into the design of her home, a private North Shore collection specializing in painting, lithographs and studio art glass, and two Bridgeport studios of up and coming multimedia artists.

Skokie resident Vita Browne has been attending the Expanding Visions series for several years now, and has discovered how much she enjoys contemporary painting. She's also developed a new appreciation for the process that artists put into creating their work.

"Joanna is very, very knowledgeable and if you don't like the art, at least when she's finished with you, you'll appreciate it," Browne said.

Although Browne herself isn't an artist, she's learned how to look at a contemporary piece and carefully examine it.

"It has definitely changed the way I look at modern art," she said, especially deceptively complex pieces like a monochromatic canvas.

"Those paintings are not quite as simple as they look," Browne said. "Joanna really pulls out the interesting things. For example, if there's a red dot on a painting, how it would change if that red dot wasn't there."

Expanding Visions is one of the educational programs of Art Encounter, a 30-year-old not-for-profit dedicated to art outreach. Art Encounter works hard to make art accessible, bringing it into community places like schools and nursing homes, and to others who don't normally learn to see or appreciate art.

The goal of programs like Expanding Visions, which guests can visit once but then is only open to members, is not only to fund the outreach programs but also help members appreciate art in a new way.

"The idea is to see, over the course of the series, how artists work. The artists really enjoy this because they seldom get feedback on their work," Pinsky said.

And tour participants may discover new ways to approach art.

"The idea is to get people to really see how the texture, meaning, scale, and text all contribute to the ideas of the artwork," Pinsky said. "Our mission is really dedicated to educating and empowering people of different ages and backgrounds through interactive explorations of visual art."
Members of Chicago Writers' Bloc will introduce a dozen new plays, April 29 through May 22 in Evanston.

“Our annual showcase is a wonderful chance for our members to present their work before a live audience,” said Zan Skolnick of Lincolnwood, spokesman for Writers’Bloc. “Usually, we read them for each other and comment, but that’s not the same thing.”

A number of the playwrights in this showcase, of course, have had full productions of their works at various times throughout their careers. Among them is Joanne Koch of Evanston, who with Honey West, wrote the play book of Evanston, who with Honey West, wrote the play book for the opening night musical “Genderella,” with music by Ilya Levinson and lyrics by Myrna Petlicki of Skokie. The show chronicles one person’s gender journey based on an original story by Honey West, whose cabaret act ran for 13 years in Chicago and in touring productions.

“I’ve been writing plays for at least 15 years,” said Koch, an Midwest Emmy winner and head of the graduate writing program at National Louis University. Among her 17 plays and musicals that have been produced are “Soul Sisters,” “American Klezmer,” and “Belle Barth: If I Embarrass You—Tell Your Friends.” “Belle was a female comedienne in the 1950s,” Koch said. “They called her the female Lenny Bruce.”

Composer Levinson, assistant professor at the music department of Columbia Chicago, wrote the music for “Barth” and is the composer for “Genderella,” while Petlicki, an arts writer for Pioneer Press newspapers and managing editor of Footlights, wrote the lyrics.

The opening night performance is a gala benefit and begins at 7 p.m. The event includes a silent auction, raffle and free refreshments and performances. Funds will be used by Chicago Writers’ Bloc to assist with the cost of readings for its members.

Festival plays will include: “Jersey Justice” by June Finfer at 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 30. It’s about the murder of an elderly white shopkeeper in Trenton, N.J., and the arrest of African American men by the police.

“The Beneficiary” by Zipporah Porton at 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, about one Harry Gold who finds a way to make millions. His method is legal, but his agent has doubts about his ethics.

“By Reason of Sanity” by Blake Levinson at 8 p.m. Monday, May 6, explores the relationship between a troubled lady therapist and her client, a battered black woman.

“Myrna Petlicki of Skokie. The show chronicles one person’s gender journey based on an original story by Honey West, whose cabaret act ran for 13 years in Chicago and in touring productions.

“Itch Loves Louie” by Liz Ellison at 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 15 tells the story of two home-schooled sisters, Itch and Dobs, who long to experience the real world, but find their escape plans are quite different.

“One Red Grain of Sand” by Gerald Bailey, with book and lyrics by Fran Zell and music by Karen Mendoza, which tells the story of five women at a gym, who lose their fat fetish and find friendship.

“All Other Nights” by Nikki Paley Cox at 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 22 is a comedy about a daughter who comes home to celebrate a Passover Seder in the hopes of reconciling with her family, but in the end questions her belief in family and in faith.

“We’ve had new play festivals in Chicago in the past,” said Skolnick, “but this is a way to bring the festival north to Evanston, because there is so much support for theater on the North Shore.”
Managing; Editor Jennifer Thomas' entertainment picks for this week

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
by Big Noise Theatre Company is on stage April 26-May 12 at Prairie Lakes Theater, 515 E. Thacker, Des Plaines. See bignoise.org.

Bella Voce
a capella chorale presents 'The Sweetness of Spring' at 7:30 p.m. April 27 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 939 Hinman Ave., Evanston. Bellavoce.org.

Oakton Six Piano Ensemble
performs at 8 p.m. April 27, and 3 p.m. April 28, at Oakton College's Footlik Theater, 1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines. Call (847) 635-1900.

'I Never Saw Another Butterfly,'
a Holocaust memorial concert, takes place at 5 p.m. April 28 at North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe. Call (847) 535-9873.

Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra
(above) plays at 3 p.m. April 28 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300 or arsviva.org.

Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra
(above) plays at 3 p.m. April 28 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300 or arsviva.org.
Modern dance in step with folk music

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Who knew contemporary dance and folk music could happily coexist?

Evanston native Julie Nakagawa, artistic director of DanceWorks Chicago, and Deborah Lader, of the folk trio Sons of the Never Wrong, think they've achieved a perfect blend in "My Witness."

The two arts organization will join forces on that 25-minute piece choreographed by Gina Patterson on Saturday, April 27 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. It will be the culmination of a concert in which each group also performs individually.

Nakagawa discovered the Sons of the Never Wrong when she attended a special event. "I thought they were fantastic as artists and as people — and fun, smart and generous," she said. "We knew we wanted to work with them at some point."

It took years for that collaboration to come together. To make that happen, Nakagawa called on Austin, Texas-based choreographer Patterson. "I thought that her musical taste and her personality and her movement would be a nice complement with the Sons," Nakagawa said. "So I set them up on a blind date via technology. It was a match."

Nakagawa described the resulting work as "a journey. From the title to the music to the movements to the environment created by the lighting, everyone has a journey, whether you're an artist on stage or an audience member sitting in a comfortable seat in the North Shore Center."

The full company (six dancers) piece is performed to a series of songs by the Sons of the Never Wrong.

"It's an unusual collaboration,"
admitted Lader, adding that DanceWorks "is open to new ideas."

Lader noted that "My Witness" was created five or six years ago so it is set to some of Sons' older songs. Revisiting the piece "is fun," Lader said, "because we don't often play these particular songs. We have eight CDs so we have so much music to choose from."

Lader described the piece as having "a very emotional trajectory." Most of the songs were written by band member Sue Demel. (The third member is Bruce Roper.)

One number, "Girl Shanty," is "a complete celebration of girliness," Lader said. "Three women dance the piece and it completely comes to life." "Crazy Dog," also by Demel, is "very quirky. It involves moaning hums."

Five other songs conveying different moods are included. "It takes you on a little bit of a rollercoaster of life experience," Lader concluded.

The Sons of the Never Wrong will open the show with one of their more typical performances. "We're going to do our usual thing," Lader said. "It's crazy and funny and we go with the flow of whatever the evening is going to bring us. Our music is pretty eclectic. Our songs range from being gritty and rockand-roll-ey to really beautiful, folky with beautiful harmonies. We're striving to entertain people but also make them feel something."

DanceWorks Chicago's portion of the show begins "with a little appetizer that's a surprise," Nakagawa said. You have to come early to experience that treat.

After the Sons perform, DanceWorks will open the second half of the program with the premiere of a solo piece being designed for all six dancers by Chicago-based choreographer Joshua Manculich. The piece was selected from the company's DanceMoves choreographer competition.

They will also perform a new work "From Here to There," created for the full company by choreographer Francisco Avina for DanceWorks Chicago's presentation in Auditorium Theatre's New Music and Movement Festival earlier this month. It will be only the second time the piece has been performed.
Son's secret sparks father's crisis in ‘Next Fall’

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

A father dealing with the serious condition of his son following an accident has to face a long-kept secret in "Next Fall."

Actor Jim Morley of Northbrook plays that father in the Chicago premiere of Geoffrey Nauffts' Tony-nominated play at AstonRep Theatre Company.

"Butch is kind of an old-fashioned, very religious Southern Baptist father," Morley said. "Family and friends come together at the hospital after Luke, my son, has been hit by a car and is in a coma. Luke is gay but not out to his family. The conflict arises when Luke's boyfriend, who he's lived with for five years, is in the hospital waiting room as well."

Luke is a devout Christian like his father. His boyfriend Adam is an atheist.

Although Butch and Luke live far apart — Luke in New York and Butch in Florida — the father and son are very close. Whether he knows it or not, Butch doesn't acknowledge that Luke is gay.

Butch's attitude toward gay people is "very antagonistic," Morley said. "His philosophy is all Biblical based so, as with many Southern Christians, he looks down on the lifestyle, will not accept it and has told Luke that if he ever told him he was gay, he would never let him see his brother again."

Then he meets Adam in that hospital waiting room. "A conflict arises when we get to the hospital and there's no legal arrangement for the boyfriend," Morley related. "The family doesn't acknowledge him and he has no right to go into the room."

Playing Butch is a big change for Morley. "I've always tended to play more comedy," he said, "and this is a very difficult dramatic role."

The actor is enjoying the opportunity "to stretch and play a different kind of a role," he indicated.

"The whole conflict of religion and the modern lifestyle is a fascinating aspect of this play. Our society has changed so much in the last ten years and the idea of whether or not religious beliefs can co-exist with that change is interesting to approach."

Morley earned a theater degree from Northern Illinois University. "After graduating, I worked for the
Jim Morley during rehearsal for “Next Fall.”

Chicago Park District for eight years teaching drama to kids and doing adult productions at Theater on the Lake and at Indian Boundary Park,” he reported. After that, he spent 10 years away from theater working in business.

In the mid-'90s, when his three children were a little older, Morley began doing theater again. He is still in the business world, working as a mortgage banker, but has found time to carve out a performing career. Since then, Morley has appeared in “Lettuce and Lovage” and “Shadowlands” at Redtwist Theatre. He has also performed with Polarity Ensemble Theatre, Irish Repertory of Chicago, Circle Theatre, Bailiwick Theatre, Promethean Theatre Ensemble, First Folio Theatre and Azusa Productions.

The actor said that when he initially read the play he found it “incredibly powerful. I have three kids in their 20s so to read a play about a father dealing with a son in his 20s in a coma is going to strike any parent. The idea of losing a child is just terrifying to any parent.”

Morley said that “Next Fall” delivers “a surprisingly positive religious message.” He added that audiences are likely to leave the show “thinking about the role of faith in our society and what rights we are going to allow to gay couples.”
Super heroes, cops, families at center of TV pilots

BY ROB OWEN | Contributor

At this point in the TV season, viewers begin to fret about the status of their favorite shows.

But even as network executives ponder the fate of shows, they're also playing judge, jury and executioner on a raft of pilots for prospective news series.

It's "pilot season," and these test episodes are in production, including NBC's Pittsburgh-set modern-day "Hatfields & McCoys" pilot that's filming in Boston. It stars Virginia Madsen ("Smith") as blue-collar-family matriarch Eloise McCoy and Rebecca De Mornay as wealthy Mary Hatfield. The official description of the show says the family feud is reignited by a "startling death" that unleashes decades of resentment that leads the clans to do battle for control of Pittsburgh.

This year NBC has the most pilots in production - 26 - followed by CBS and ABC with 24 each, 16 for Fox and eight for The CW, according to TheWrap.com.

At most, 35 of the 98 commissioned pilots will be picked up to series.

Which potential shows stand the best chance? Networks love a known quantity. So anything that sounds familiar in title or topic probably stands a better chance. Same goes for a known star or producer, which is why NBC ordered a new Michael J. Fox

If picked up as a series, Eddie Murphy would guest star in a CBS TV remake of "Beverly Hills Cop."
comedy to series without shooting a pilot first.

Common themes this pilot season include military backdrops and shows about adult children and their parents. The CW has several shows set in the future, including one about humans re-colonizing a nuked-out Earth and another about aliens and humans co-existing. A couple of comedies are about assistants to demanding bosses.

Here are a few of the shows being produced that could become series this fall or next midseason - we'll know for sure when networks announce their fall schedules the week of May 12.

“Big Thunder” (ABC): Ever ridden the Big Thunder Mountain Railroad ride at a Disney park? That ride was the inspiration for a drama about a New York doctor and his family relocating to a frontier mining town that turns out to have a mysterious underbelly.


“Beverly Hills Cop” (CBS): The movie series becomes a TV series with Eddie Murphy and Judge Reinhold back as guest stars, but the focus shifts to Aaron (Brandon T. Jackson), son of Axel Foley (Murphy). Shawn Ryan (“The Shield”) wrote the pilot.

“The Surgeon General” (CBS): Still searching for a successful medical show, CBS goes all the way to the top with this drama about the surgeon general of the U.S. (Jason Isaacs).

“NCIS: Red Team” (CBS): An introduction to the characters from this planned spinoff aired on last week’s “NCIS: Los Angeles.” John Corbett, Scott Grimes and Kim Raver star.

“Crazy Ones” (CBS): Drama writer David E. Kelley tries a

sexualized version of “Logan’s Run,” this drama, based on a book series, is set in a world where love is illegal and is eradicated by a procedure when citizens reach a certain age; so naturally a young woman (Emma Roberts) falls in love 95 days before she’s due to get that treatment.

“Rake” (Fox): Imagine “House” but with a lawyer (Greg Kinnear) at the center.

“About a Boy” (NBC): “Parenthood” and “Friday Night Lights” writer Jason Katims adapts the Hugh Grant movie for TV with David Walton (“New Girl”) in Grant’s role.

“Ironside” (NBC): A remake of the 1970s Raymond Burr drama about a police detective in a wheelchair.

Sarah Michelle Gellar stars in a CBS pilot, “Crazy Ones,” with Robin Williams, as a daughter and father working in the same ad agency.

Sat, Apr 27 | 7:30pm
A one-of-a-kind live music & dance concert that reaches an inspiring level of harmony with an uplifting 25-minute collaborative piece, My Witness.
Chris Ellis would love to play Bert in a Sesame Street Live show. "I think Bert is amazing," the performer said. But Ellis is 6'2" tall, which makes him a natural for the role of Big Bird. He began playing Big Bird 10 years ago when he was 20 years old. He will be singing and dancing as that lanky, loveable yellow creature in "Elmo Makes Music," May 1-5 at Akoo Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont.

Ellis admitted that it's tricky maneuvering in Big Bird's costume, particularly because of his character's huge feet. "But I've been doing this so long, it's very natural to me now," he said.

Playing Big Bird is lots of fun, Ellis said, especially the kids' excited reaction when the curtain opens and they first see him. "He is larger than life," Ellis said.

Tickets are $15-$30, $40 for Gold Circle Seats and $90 for Sunny Seats. For details, call (800) 745-3000 or go to www.sesamestreetlive.com.

**IT'S THEIR DAY TO READ AND PLAY**

There will be stories and rhythms in both English and Spanish at El Dia de los Ninos /El Dia de los Libros (Children's Day/Book Day), 10:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 27 at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. Event includes a craft project and a treat.

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

**PRETTY PAPER PROJECTS**

Kids ages 8 and older, and their parents, will explore the historical art form of Victorian Paper Crafts, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 28 at the Skokie Heritage Museum, 8031 Floral Ave. The children will create cornucopias and do paper cutting. Cost is $5 for residents, $7 for nonresidents.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 3000 or go to www.skokieparks.org.

**HALF-CENTURY HAPPENING**

Amelia makes sponge cake out of real sponges. That's why kids ages 4-8, accompanied by a parent, will want to attend Happy Birthday, Amelia Bedelia, 6:30 p.m. April 30 at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. The celebration of the children's book series' 50th anniversary includes crafts and games.

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

**SEEMS LIKE SUMMER**

It will at Dave Rudolf's Wacky World of Fun's Beach Party, 7 p.m. May 2 at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. The interactive family event includes hula hoops, bubble machines, beach balls, limbo, a conga line and more, plus Rudolf's original music. Registration is required.

For details, call (847) 677-5277, ext. 234 or go to www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org.
New releases on DVD, Blu-ray

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

NEW THIS WEEK

GANGSTER SQUAD

★★
Rated
R for strong violence and language
Stars
Sean Penn, Josh Brolin, Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone
Action-comedy director Ruben Fleischer (“Zombieland”) is no stranger to mayhem and crime, but taking on this ersatz, film noir-style and almost entirely humorless hard-boiled cops and robbers saga still seems a bizarre choice. “Gangster Squad” works within a just barely true-to-life framework to re-imagine the downfall of the post-World War II era Los Angeles gangster kingpin Mickey Cohen (Penn) — courtesy of a crew of maverick cops organized to attack him outside the law. Brolin is suitably square-jawed as the gangster squad honcho and Gosling is a plus as his enigmatic, world-weary right-hand man. But the mannered tough-guy dialogue is as over the top as the bullet-riddled final showdown in the heart of downtown LA — and both are equally unconvincing. Extras include “The Gangland Files” featurette about the real-life Gangster Squad, Mickey Cohen and more, plus commentary with Fleischer.

HAUNTED HOUSE

★★
Rated
R for crude and sexual content, language and some drug use
Stars
Marlon Wayans, Essence Atkins, Cedric the Entertainer
The scariest thing about “A Haunted House” is that it’s almost unwatchable, but it made almost $40 million in its first week at the box office. Unfortunately, that’s the funniest thing about it, too. This tedious “Paranormal Activity” parody features co-writer and co-producer Wayans and Essence Atkins as a couple who wire their home with security cameras to catch a ghost (or a burglar) in the act. The low-level raunchy/gross-out content is a matter of taste (demonic flatulence, anyone?), but the real problem with “A Haunted House” is that it plays like a bunch of random sketches with little sense of forward motion — and seems to last several particularly dull and tedious lifetimes in which absolutely nothing is funny.

THE IMPOSSIBLE

★★★1/2
Rated
PG-13 for intense realistic disaster sequences, including disturbing injury images and brief nudity.
Stars
Naomi Watts, Ewan McGregor, Geraldine Chaplin
Grueling, harrowing, difficult to watch at times — yet utterly compelling. Spanish director Juan Antonio Bayona (“The Orphanage”) takes an artful approach to this real-life disaster movie. It depicts a vacationing family’s efforts to survive after their beach-front resort in Thailand is wiped out by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Bayona captures the enormity and power and terrifying suddenness of the 100-foot-tall tidal wave, which devastated thousands of square miles and took 300,000 lives, in a brief but breathtaking 10-minute sequence. But the real subject of “The Impossible” is how far the separated and injured mother and father (Watts and McGregor, each delivering emotionally wrenching performances) are willing to go to remain alive, care for their children and maintain varying degrees of hope of being reunited. Extras include commentary by director Bayona, featurettes and deleted scenes.

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ARThUR NeWMAN

Rated
No MPAA rating
Stars
Colin Firth, Emily Blunt, Anne Heche

A man (Firth) who fakes his own identity so he can begin a new life moves in with a woman (Blunt) who is also trying to leave her past behind.

THE BIG WEDDING

Rated
R for language, sexual content and brief nudity
Stars
Robert De Niro, Susan Sarandon, Robin Williams, Amanda Seyfried

A long-divorced couple (De Niro and Keaton) pretend to be married when the families gather for the wedding of their daughter (Seyfried).

KON-TIKI

Rated
PG-13 for some violence, sexual references, language, thematic elements and smoking
Stars
Pal Sverre Hagen, Anders Baasmo Christiansen, Gustaf Skarsgard

The story of Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl's (Hagen) 4,300-mile trip across the Pacific in 1947, made to prove that South Americans could have settled in Polynesia in pre-Columbian times. Norway's entry for this year's Best Foreign Language Oscar.

MUD

Rated
PG-13 for a disturbing violent sequence
Stars
Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Tye Sheridan, Jacob Lofland

Two teenage boys (Sheridan and Lofland) make a pact with a fugitive (McConaughey) to help him elude bounty hunters and reunite with his true love (Witherspoon).

PAIN & GAIN

Rated
Rated R for sexual content, some graphic nudity, language, violence and drug use — some involving teens
Stars
Dwayne Johnson, Mark Wahlberg, Rebel Wilson, Anthony Mackie, Ed Harris

Three Florida bodybuilders (Johnson, Wahlberg and Mackie) become involved in an extortion ring and a kidnapping gone terribly wrong. Michael Bay (“Transformers”) directed the action comedy.

STILL PLAYING

DISCONNECT

Rated
R for sexual content, 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.

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 sentimentality 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.
Director Bay gains by taking dramatic pains

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

"Pain & Gain"

There's no shortage of pain in this near-alchemical transmutation of a grim true-crime story into whacked-out black comedy, but bikis in the way of gain.

The fact that crime doesn't pay in "Pain & Gain" makes it easier to justify director Michael Bay's decision to give this particularly heinous tale of fraud, kidnapping, torture and murder the light-touch treatment. The justice-is-served angle is basically a gift, though, a built-in feature of the real-life story. The reason "Pain" works as well as it does - it's a personal best from Bay - is that he mixes his typical visual flash-and-dazzle with a brand-new emphasis on character development and performance. He even ties it all up with an actual overarching theme, namely a seriously warped view of the American dream on the part of the main bad guy.

That would be Daniel Lugo (Mark Wahlberg), whom we first encounter as he's being busted by a small army of cops. A lifelong believer in self-improvement, fitness and the American ideal of working your way up from nothing, Daniel is a permanently pumped bodybuilder and physical trainer, who knows that business well. Unfortunately, he doesn't make enough to pay his rent. Fed-up, he talks two other muscled-up trainers, Paul and Adrian (Dwayne Johnson and Anthony Mackie), into kidnapping a rich client, named Victor (Tony Shalhoub), and forcing him to sign over all of his assets before they let him go. Only Victor immediately recognizes Daniel and refuses to sign any documents despite a month of beatings.

Bay spins the story here by softening the gang's quite brutal torture techniques and by portraying Victor as a supreme jerk, making it easier to stay somewhat sympathetic with the Sun Gym gang and laugh at their incredible incompetence. The outcome is the same, though. The gang unsuccessfully attempts to kill Victor in increasingly hideous ways. They still wind up with his money thanks to some equally incredible incompetence on the part of the Miami police. Thus encouraged, they eventually try to repeat the procedure with an even richer phone-sex kingpin (Michael Rispoli) with much messier results after a double homicide.

All of the performances in "Pain" are believable enough to add considerable substance to the ongoing criminals-are-stupid jokes. When these guys do something especially inane - like indignantly returning a chainsaw to Home Depot because it clogs and stalls during an attempt to dismember a victim - it seems perfectly reasonable to them and understandable to us after getting to know them.

Maybe it has the ring of truth simply because it actually is true. This is definitely one to be filed under "No One Could Make This Stuff Up."
Movie theaters

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www.cinemark.com

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The theater is currently closed for maintenance.

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Highland Park
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What to Do This Weekend and Beyond | Get out and enjoy your community

THIS WEEKEND & BEYOND

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

STAGE

"The Exonerated"
18+
Through May 5 in Northwestern University's Josephine Louis Theater, 20 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. $25; $22 seniors; $10 students. Visit www.tic.northwestern.edu.

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre

"Legally Blonde"
13-18+
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. Visit www.seatyourself.biz.

"The Wizard of Oz"
18+
Presented by Rising Stars Theatre Co. through May 5 at the Stahl Family Theatre 5900 W. Belmont, Chicago. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. $17; $15 seniors and children. Visit www.risingstarschicago.com.

Tenor Peder Reiff will be among the soloists when the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra presents "A Journey to Freedom" at 2:30 p.m. April 28 at the Pickwick Theatre, 8 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. The program includes Mahler's "Songs of a Wayfarer" and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. Tickets are $25; $20 for students and senior citizens. Visit www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org or call (847) 692-7726.

"Stella & Lou"
Presented by Northlight Theatre May 3-June 9 Tenor Peder Reiff will be among the soloists when the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra presents "A Journey to Freedom" at 2:30 p.m. April 28 at the Pickwick Theatre, 8 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. The program includes Mahler's "Songs of a Wayfarer" and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. Tickets are $25; $20 for students and senior citizens. Visit www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org or call (847) 692-7726.

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus
18+

Samuel Thaviu Memorial Concert
18+
Featuring violinist Gerardo Ribeiro, pianist Eric Larsen and cellist Kenneth Olsen, 1 p.m.

May 5 at the North Shore Senior Center, Arthur C. Nielsen Jr. Campus, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield. A reception will follow the concert. $10. Call (847) 784-6030 to register.

POP/FOLK/JAZZ

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

Ethical Humanist Society Second Saturday Coffeehouse
13+ 18+

Icon Key

Toddlers 0-3
Kids 4-12
Family FAM
Teens 13+
Adults 18+
Seniors 65+

Submissions

You Want In? Here's How:

Submit GO events one week prior to the date of publication

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

Email: Send submissions to gol@pioneerlocal.com
Fax: 847-486-7451
What to Do
Continued from page 67

ethicalhuman.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.

Kickers

The Lakeside Singers
18+ 65+

ART GALLERIES
"Art for All Seasons"
18+
The paintings of Peter Bialecki are on exhibit through April 30 in the Village of Lincolnwood's art gallery at Village Hall, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood. Visit www.lincolnwoodil.org/artgallery.cfm.

Oakton Community College
18+ 65+
Koechnine Museum of Art, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 635-2633. www.oakton.edu/museum. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. Through April 26: "OakArt 2013," featuring paintings, drawings, ceramics, digital art, and photography by student artists.

Skokie Art Walk
18+
Works by professional and student artists will be showcased in restaurants and businesses in downtown Skokie, along Oakton Street and Lincoln Avenue, during the month of May. Special activities will be held noon-5 p.m. May 18, including receptions at display locations, roaming musicians, and artists painting outdoors near the gazebo in the Memorial Park at Krier Plaza. Also, from noon-2 p.m. children ages 3-16 can enjoy "make and take" art workshops at Bughouse Studio, 4845 Oakton, and Lincoln Terrace Art Studio; Gallery, 5027 Warren St. Visit www.skokieartwalk.org.

American Society of Artists
18+
Seeking artists and craftspeople 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.

Exhibitors sought
Custer's Last Stand Festival of the Arts, to be held June 15-16 in the Evanston Main Street Shopping District, seeks artists and crafts exhibitors. To apply, call (847) 328-2204 or visit www.custerfair.com.

Lincolnwood Public Library
13+ 18+
4000 W. Pratt Ave. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. April 28, 2 p.m.: Poetry Slam. Participants of any age can read or recite a poem (original or borrowed). May 3, 10:30 a.m.: Robin Loeb reviews The Art of Hearing Heartbeats by Jan-Philipp Sendker.

CHILD'S PLAY
Akoo Theatre at Rosemont
5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000. May 2-5: Sesame Street Live: "Elmo Makes Music." Performances at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Saturday; and 1
p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday. $15, $25 and $30; $40 Gold Circle seats and $90 Sunny Seats also available.

“Once Upon a Mattress”

Presented by JCC Young Actors Ensemble at 7 p.m. May 2 and 9 and noon and 3:30 p.m. May 5 and 12 at Mayer Kaplan JCC, 5050 Church St., Skokie. $12 if purchased by April 22, $15 after that date; $8/$10 for ages 7 and under. Visit www.gojcc.org/theater.

Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory

Presented May 4-12 at Youth Company Chicago Studios, 5340 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. $17; $13.50 youth. Visit www.youthcompanychicago.org.

COMEDY

Gorilla Tango’s Skokie Theatre


Zanies Comedy Club


at 7:30 p.m. and new dance or review at 8 p.m. Admission: $7; $5 for ages 17 and under. Call (847) 965-6353 or e-mail at somedaydd@att.net.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts

DANCE

“Bodies of Memory”

9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.northshorecenter.org. April 27, 7:30 p.m.: DanceWorks Chicago and Sons of the Never Wrong. $20, $26, $32.

Leikarringen Heimhug Norwegian Folk Dancers

Meet weekly, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Norwood Crossing, 6016 N. Nina, Chicago. $8 members. Call (773) 961-7525 or visit www.ballroomchicago.com/youngatheartclub.htm.

Fairs & Festivals

Art fair

Presented by the American Society of Artists, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. May 11 at Hodges Park, Prospect and Vine streets, Park Ridge. Includes Art In Action, with some artists working and demonstrating at their booths at various times during the show. Free admission. Call (847) 991-4748 or visit www.americansocietyofartists.com.
What to Do

Continued from page 69


Documentary screening

Free screening of Josh Aronson's "Orchestra of Exiles," the story of violinist Bronislaw Huberman, who rescued musicians from Nazi Germany by founding the Palestine Orchestra, 11 a.m. May 2 in Room A145-152 at Oakton Community College, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 635-1458 or email jewish-studies@oakton.edu.

Lincolnwood Public Library

Documentary screening

Free screening of Josh Aronson's "Orchestra of Exiles," the story of violinist Bronislaw Huberman, who rescued musicians from Nazi Germany by founding the Palestine Orchestra, 11 a.m. May 2 in Room A145-152 at Oakton Community College, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 635-1458 or email jewish-studies@oakton.edu.

Northwest Chicago Film Society

Meeting at 7:30 p.m. May 3 at Saint Francis Hospital, 355 Ridge Ave., Evanston. Close-up magic expert Eric Jones will perform and teach. For experienced magicians only. Guests $20 which can be applied to membership. Visit www.ring43.org.

Organizations

Chicago Photographic Collectors Society

Presenting the Camera & Image Show and Sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. May 5 at the Holiday Inn Chicago North Shore, 5300 W. Touhy Ave., Skokie, featuring more than 50 dealers. Admission $6; $4 students and children. Visit www.chicagophotographic.org.

The Actors Gymnasium

Hosting a performance of circus acts at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. May 18 at the Noyes Cultural Art Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. $15. Call (847) 328-2795.

"Fools Tango Two"

Puppet and mask performance for adults, 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, through May 11, at Theatre Zarko, Noyes Cultural Art Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. $20. Visit www.theatrezarko.org.
Iannelli Studios Heritage Center
Through June 2: "Built Out of a Box: Mail Order Homes in Park Ridge."

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center

Museums

What to Do
"The drama of young lives gone haywire is related in a headlong rush that is almost whispered in your ear and never lets up."

The New York Times

BY DAVID GREIG
DIRECTED BY ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR STUART CARDEN

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Don't Miss

This Week

Niles North

BASEBALL

Today
At Maine West, 4:45 p.m.
Saturday
Hosts Niles West (DH), 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday
Hosts Highland Park, 4:45 p.m.

BOYS GYMNASTICS

Friday
At Glenbrook North, 6 p.m.
Wednesday
At IHSA Sectionals, TBD

GIRLS SOCCER

Today
At Glenbrook North, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday
At Leyden, Noon
Tuesday
At Maine East, 7 p.m.
Wednesday
Hosts Waukegan, 7 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Today
Hosts Highland Park, 4:45 p.m.
Friday
Hosts Regina (DH), 4:45 p.m.
Saturday
At Montini, 1 p.m.
Monday
Hosts Deerfield, 4:45 p.m.
Tuesday
At Maine West, 4:45 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS

Today
Hosts Highland Park, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday
At Glenbrook North, 4:30 p.m.

BOYS TRACK

Friday
At Prospect Invite, 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS TRACK

Friday
At Niles North Invite, 4:30 p.m.
Monday
At Maine West, 4:30 p.m.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Today
Hosts Highland Park, 6 p.m.
Friday
At Evanston, 6 p.m.
Tuesday
Hosts Maine East, 6 p.m.

On July 17, 1988, the Boston Red Sox's Wade Boggs, an eventual Hall-of-Famer and member of Major League Baseball's prestigious 3,000-hit club, opened the eighth inning against the Kansas City Royal's Israel Sanchez, now an assistant coach for Niles North.

Sanchez, a left-hander, remembers he worked the count to 1-2 then threw what he called one of the best sinkers of his life. He thought it nipped the outside corner.

The ump called a ball. Sanchez argued the call. So too did his manager, who would get ejected, his pitching coach and legendary Royals third baseman George Brett. Sanchez walked Boggs, then, still frazzled, walked the next batter. There were two on, nobody out, as Ellis Burks, who was a single short the cycle, stepped to the plate. Jim Rice, another future Hall-of-Famer, waited in the on-deck circle.

The ump called a ball. Sanchez argued the call. So too did his manager, who would get ejected, his pitching coach and legendary Royals third baseman George Brett. Sanchez walked Boggs, then, still frazzled, walked the next batter. There were two on, nobody out, as Ellis Burks, who was a single short the cycle, stepped to the plate. Jim Rice, another future Hall-of-Famer, waited in the on-deck circle.

The Vikings' success this year, as is true in baseball for almost every team at any level, is predicated on the defensive side. In the team's nine wins (it is 9-5-1 after a 7-3 win Saturday over Lane), it has given up 15 runs. In five losses, the team has given up 45 runs.

"Every year is pretty much the same for all of us at the high school level — you only go as far as the pitching and defense," Niles North coach Ed Toledo said.

Going far is certainly in the mix for Niles North in a season where the team is off to its best start in years and has grand ambitions for the rest of the season. The goals: win 20 games, the conference and a regional title.

"At least potential-wise, this could be the best team we've had (under Toledo)," said Ron.
Zajorski, an assistant coach who's spent 17 years with the high school.

“Our senior class is outstanding,” Toledo added. Top-to-bottom, he said, the seniors are the most dedicated group he has ever had.

Among them is pitcher, shortstop and three-hitter Matt McTague, who has been crucial to the offense and pitching staff. After his junior season was marred by three separate injuries — torn elbow ligament, broken hand, broken wrist — McTague is healthy and hitting .429 with a 2.57 ERA on the mound. (All individual stats through 14 games.)

“Sometimes your hardest working kids are not your most talented players,” Toledo said. “That’s natural at this age because they can do it so well without much effort. But our most talented kids are our hardest working kids.”

That includes McTague and other senior leaders like Elliot Mark, who is off to a blistering start, hitting .457 with 13 RBI. Zajorski pointed out that seniors Ari Cone and Nik Erickson have stepped up as pitchers.

A third of the way through the year, the Vikings will look to its senior class for leadership as it tries to iron out some early season inconsistencies. Pitching will play a major factor.

“This year we have high expectations for the pitching staff,” said Sanchez, who oversees the Vikings’ rotation.

“The game has changed quite a bit since I played, quite naturally,” said Sanchez, who pitched in the majors in 1988 and 1990 for the Royals. “But the more it changes, the more it stays the same.”

No kidding. With two runners on and no outs, Sanchez struck out a batter then relied on his outfield to record the final two outs with no runs scored in the inning. Pitching and defense — some things never change.
The Notre Dame boys lacrosse team is in the middle of its 2013 season, and coach Chip Seiple is still looking for an answer.

"We lack the one guy that finishes," Seiple said. "We started the season all playing as individuals, but they have started to mesh more lately and are working together as a team. I expect to see our scoring improve the rest of the season."

After a 3-1 start to the season, the Dons have dropped three in a row.

"We were playing great, but I think our heads got too big," junior captain James Maibuecher said. "I think we slacked off. We've got to get back to playing like we were."

The team has had to adjust to new personnel, which was a result of a major overhaul of the roster this season: Eleven players on last year's team have since graduated.

"We are predominantly juniors now; we have only one senior. Most of our impact players are juniors," said Seiple, who is in his second season as lacrosse coach at Notre Dame after his team went 7-9 last year.

With that young roster makeup, Seiple sees this season as a chance to grow together while stockpiling as many wins as the team can muster.

"What we will have is another year with essentially the same team," he said, looking forward to 2014.

The lone senior on the team is Anton Mueller, who plays the attack position. His best skill is the ability to carry the ball, something Seiple said is a strength of the entire team.

"We carry the ball well, and we move the ball well," Seiple said. "But we have a young defense, with only one returning varsity defender."

Among the defenders is junior captain Kim McCoy, who "is not very physical, but he is very skilled. He is one of the more skilled players I have ever coached," Seiple said.

The midfield is anchored by Maibuecher, for whom Seiple offered the greatest praise: "He is probably one of the quickest players I have seen at any level I have coached."

The team's top goal scorer is junior Sean Remlinger, who had 10 goals and two assists going into Tuesday's game against Bartlett. Maibuecher had six goals and six assists.

"We are working to develop that faith you need in your teammates, and that is starting to come along," Seiple said.

Maibuecher said a number of the players played together on travel teams over the summer to help build team chemistry, and plan to do so again this summer as the majority of the team prepares for its senior season.

"But we want to do our best no matter what age we are," said Maibuecher. "This is not just a building season."
Glenbrook South alumna Jennifer Zucker was recently named the Midwest Conference Pitcher of the Week after throwing a no-hitter and stringing together several strong starts for the Beloit (Wis.) College softball team at the MWC Softball Classic.

The freshman from Glenview threw a no-hitter against Grinnell (Iowa) College on April 14 in East Peoria. Zucker struck out 10 batters in that game and set a Buccaneers single-season record with 141 strikeouts. Through Sunday, Zucker has a 3.03 ERA and just 15 walks in 134 innings pitched.

During the MWC Softball Classic, which ran from April 12-14, Zucker logged a 2-2 record with a 1.22 ERA, 34 strikeouts and three walks.

Another area athlete, Lake Forest native Megan Salm, is also on the Beloit College softball team. The sophomore has started in 29 of the team's 30 games. She sits fourth on the team in RBI with eight and fourth in hits with 16.

Ben Gullo, a Lake Zurich alumnus, was named Ohio Valley Conference Pitcher of the Week on April 15. Gullo recently entered the Eastern Kentucky Colonels' starting rotation when a spot opened up because of injury. After becoming a starter he rattled off four straight quality starts.

Gullo's most recent gem came in a 7-3 win against Tennessee-Martin on April 13 in Richmond, Ky. The sophomore from Lake Zurich pitched eight innings and allowed three runs on just five hits while striking out a career-high 13 and walking just one batter. His previous career high in strikeouts was six.

In one stretch, from the fourth inning through the sixth against Tennessee-Martin, Gullo retired nine straight batters.

River Forest native Matt Lynch also is on the Colonels' staff. He's appeared in 13 games and is 0-3 with an 8.25 ERA.

The following area athletes recently earned 2012-13 Academic All-Ivy honors in winter sports:

- Stevenson alumnna and Lincolnshire native Michelle Shnayder, a junior on the Brown gymnastics team, was the all-around champion at the Ivy Classic and a second-team All-Eastern College Athletic Conference selection.
- Loyola alumnus Matt Sullivan, a senior on the Brown men's basketball team, was a first-team Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-American and earned second-team All-Ivy honors. Sullivan is from Wilmette.
- North Shore alumnus Peter Callahan, a senior from Evanston on the Princeton men's track and field team, was the NCAA champion in the distance medley relay and earned first-team All-American honors.
- Stevenson alumnna Tara Feld, a senior on the Yale gymnastics team, was a qualifier in the USA Gymnastics Collegiate Nationals and won the floor exercise individual title at the Ivy Classic. Feld is a native of Buffalo Grove.
- Hinsdale Central alumna Adabelle Ekechukwu, a junior on the Harvard women's track and field team, earned All-American honors in the weight throw and became the first female Ivy League athlete to break the 20-meter mark in that event. Ekechukwu hails from Oak Brook.

Have a suggestion for the College Roundup? Email Nick Bullock at bullockpioneerpress@gmail.com.
Local gym focuses on triathletes

BY KATE HEDLIN | Contributor | @SportsLoisLane

John Villani wanted something different than a traditional gym. A fervent cyclist, Villani was attracted to Amphibian Multisport in Libertyville.

“I’ve been to the other big gyms,” the Libertyville resident said. “My core love is cycling, and here, your training reaches a higher level.”

Villani doesn’t seem to be the only one who feels that way. Libertyville’s Marty Taylor came up with the idea for Amphibian Multisport — a gym designed for triathletes, cyclists and other endurance athletes — two years ago. Taylor, an Ironman finisher and triathlon coach, saw the chance to open a facility that would focus on training for a triathlon’s various stages (running, biking and swimming).

Taylor’s girlfriend and business partner, Kristin MacCarty, remembers when he texted her about the idea. A triathlete herself, MacCarty saw the potential in a one-stop facility.

Amphibian Multisport opened on Nov. 1, 2012, and Taylor retired from active Navy duty in February of this year. He said there has been an “overwhelming response,” and the gym has more than 70 members, most of whom live in the Libertyville area. Taylor said he expects that number to double when the facility opens a pool in the fall.

MacCarty, whose background is in corporate finance, believes in the potential for a triathlon-focused gym. She likened the possible growth of triathlons to the trajectory that running and marathons experienced in the 1980s.

"The very first time I crossed the finish line, it changed my life," MacCarty said. "lt changes who you are. I want to get this out there to other people. People think it's impossible to complete a triathlon, but you can come to this place, talk to Marty or I, and see that it is possible."

The choice to set up at 753 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Libertyville was an obvious one for the owners. MacCarty is a resident of the area, and both her and Taylor have found that the North Shore attracts a lot of triathletes because of the access to uninterrupted trails and a lack of congestion that city paths are known for.

They expect to break ground on a two-lane pool next month as part of a new 7,000-square-foot facility. "lt’s not about looking good. lt’s about making you a better athlete," he said.

Some gyms provide options like cardio classes and free weights, but Taylor said the goal of Amphibian Multisport is to help members get stronger and improve their times, not their overall fitness.

"lt’s not just about paying dues," he said. "Everyone’s a team. You want to support each other and help them succeed."

CompuTrainers are a big selling point.

"Being able to bring your own bike was attractive," Villani said. "You really enhance your training with the ability to go up against other racers."

Jim Wolter, a Libertyville resident who is also an Amphibian Multisport member, said that although the facility draws elite athletes, there’s also a sense of community.

"It’s not just about paying dues," he said. "Everyone’s a team. You want to support each other and help them succeed.”
Don’t Miss

**Simon sisters among state hopefuls**

**BY KENT MCDILL | Contributor | @Pioneer_Press**

Sunshine Simon was a junior last May when she ran the 100-meter hurdles and the 300 hurdles for Niles West in the Class 3A girls track and field state championships.

She was overwhelmed by the experience and not ready for the scope of the event.

“It was so scary,” said Simon, now a senior. “I was so shy and nervous. I went again, I will have the experience. I will be confident. I won’t be nervous.”

The Wolves girls track and field team has several athletes capable of meeting state qualifying times, heights or distances this spring, and Simon is one of them. So is Sunbright Simon, Sunshine Simon’s twin sister.

Sunbright Simon runs the 300 hurdles and 400, and the two girls are also on Niles West’s 4x400 relay team. Coach Mark Medland hopes the sisters both get down to state this year.

“We are going to have to choose what is better for Sunbright,” Medland said. “But I think they make each other better, and they push each other in the 300 hurdles. Sunshine has gone 46.7, and Sunbright is at about 48.9.”

As a freshman, Sunshine Simon was an alternate for the 4x400 team at state. She did not qualify for the meet her sophomore year, and last year she finished 17th in the 100 hurdles and 16th in the 300 hurdles. Medland wants her to make the all-state team, which requires a top-nine finish in the state meet.

“Her goal is to break 15, and that is what we need to do to get all-state. She does have the ability, and I think she can do that.”

Medland thinks the 4x400 team can qualify, with sophomore Katherine De Lara running first, freshman Brittany Clark on the second leg, Sunbright Simon running third and Sunshine Simon fourth.

“If we can get all four of them running at 60 seconds, we have a state qualifying team,” Medland said.

In this March 15, 2012, photo, Niles West’s Sunshine Simon (right) pulls ahead in the 55-meter hurdles during the CSL Indoor Conference Invitational at Glenbrook South.

Curtis Lehmkuhl - Sun-Times Media

State potential

Niles West coach Mark Medland also has some field stars aiming for state qualifying. Senior shot putter Jasmine Townsend has been to the state meet the last two years and he is being pushed by sophomore Fionna Kanam, who is throwing 37 feet in early meets.

Discus thrower Vishna Patel, a senior, and high jumper Lily Chatman, a senior, also have potential qualifiers, as well.

Given the cold weather this season, the Wolves coach likes the team’s progress.

“We are having a very good season,” Medland said.

*This Week*

**Niles West**

**BASEBALL**

Today

At Glenbrook South (Titan Invite), 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday

Hosts New Trier, 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Hosts Lake Forest, 4:30 p.m.

**BOYS TENNIS**

Saturday

At Maine West (Titan Invite), 9 a.m.

**BOYS VOLLEYBALL**

Today

At Maine West Invite, 4:30 p.m.

**SEASON PASS**

**FACEBOOK:** facebook.com/SportsPioneerPress

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For the latest Niles West news, scores and photo galleries, visit Skokie.Suntimes.com/sports

Don’t Miss

**Saturday**

Baseball: Niles West at Niles North doubleheader, 10:30 a.m.

Niles West was upset in this meeting a year ago. The Vikings, who finished their 2012 campaign with a 16-20 record, beat up on the Wolves’ pitchers en route to a 13-2 victory.

**Wednesday**

Boys volleyball: Niles West at New Trier, 6 p.m.

New Trier has been one of the CSL South’s top teams this season, and it just won the Downers Grove South Invitational on Saturday. Niles West is right there with the Trevians. The Wolves nearly beat the Trevians on April 16, falling 23-25, 25-22, 28-26.
In this May 4, 2012, photo, Niles West's Sunshine Simon competes in the 300-meter hurdles at Weiss Field in Waukegan. JOE SHUMAN-for Sun-Times Media

Sunshine Simon looks to qualify in 100 hurdles, 300 hurdles again