Kate Gebultowicz, 18, and Magdalena Wierzchucki, 18, embrace each other after Maine East commencement at the Rosemont Theater on June 2. | CHANDLER WEST | For Sun-Times Media

Maine students take off

Read the full story [Page 5]
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Niles West High School students graduated in a ceremony last week held at Northwestern.
With the turning of 437 tassels at the Rosemont Theatre Sunday night, Niraj Shah encouraged his graduating peers from Maine East High School to dare to be different, to exceed expectations, and to use their skills to stand out.

In other words, be like Batman, he said.

"The Batman left the norm in the dust as he became the hero of Gotham City," said Shah, of Des Plaines. "I believe in you, class of 2013, to be yourself and go beyond social norms."

Shah's impersonation of "Dark Knight" villain The Joker and others' pop culture references complemented the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance" sendoff for seniors of the Park Ridge high school.

"The ceiling can't hold us," crooned senior class President Aayush Shah. "Shine bright like a diamond."

The graduating Blue Demons did just that during their time at Maine East, a class that featured 46 Illinois State Scholar honors, 94 President's Awards for Educational Excellence, and over $4 million in scholarships.
Thurs., June 6, 2013

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Grads
Continued from page 5

Paul Oshana, Niraj Shah, John Depa and Brandon Chi-Yui Leung earned the high school’s highest academic honors by ranking in the 99th percentile of their class.

The four Maine Scholars reflect the high caliber ingrained in the school. As Principal Michael Pressler pointed out, Newsweek recently listed Maine East among the best 2,000 high schools in the nation.

Members of the class of 2013 also strove to do good for others, in addition to achieving individual and team successes locally, nationally, and internationally in athletics, arts and sciences.

Some traveled to Pennsylvania last year to assist flooding victims.

The senior class council is donating $1,000 for families impacted by the recent tornadoes in Oklahoma.

They made a positive imprint at their alma mater, too, evidenced by eco-friendly refilling stations for water bottles and a $300 gift for the District 207 School-Based Health Center.

Depa commended his peers’ open-mindedness and understanding of others while attending a uniquely diverse institution like Maine East, what he called “quintessential snapshot of the world around us.”

With their diplomas in hand and now off on different paths - be it furthering their studies or serving in the armed forces - Pressler urged the graduates to continue to develop a sense of humanity and give back to society.

“It strikes me that the caring, thoughtfulness and kindness that I have so often seen from many of you for the past four years really
helped form the identity of this Maine East class of 2013," he said. "Through their deeds and words they represent all of us - faculty, staff, parents, loved ones - in ways that do us all proud."

That pride echoed off the walls during the hour-long ceremony, as family and friends cheered and whistled during the announcement of graduates' names.

In a back row on the packed auditorium's lower level, 82-year-old Amrishbala Parikh displayed quiet joy for the accomplishments of her National Honor Society grandson, Rachit.

When he strode across the stage, the petite grandmother in a pink sari sat up and waved, while nearby kin hooted merrily.

Was she proud of Rachit? An enthusiastic head nod and smile confirmed: Yes. ■

One graduate throws a beach ball at the conclusion of the Maine Township High School East Class of 2013 commencement ceremony, at the Rosemont Theater on June 2. | CHANDLER WEST—For Sun-Times Media

Graduates of Maine East High School Class of 2013 receive their diplomas at the Rosemont Theater on June 2. | CHANDLER WEST—For Sun-Times Media

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Seniors claim items, plan move to new Niles facility

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON  
johnson@pioneerlocal.com

Several Park Ridge seniors are moving forward with a plan to break away from the existing Park Ridge Senior Center and set up a new recreational facility in Niles.

Notice was given to the Park Ridge Recreation and Park District Friday that Senior Services, Inc., with the Senior Senate, "intend to run an independent senior center, not associated with the Park Ridge Park District" at the former Our Lady of Ransom School, 8300 N. Greenwood Ave. in Niles. The notice also states that SSI will begin removing furniture, electronics and other recreational items it owns from the existing Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., between June 1 and Aug. 1.

The new center is expected to open by September.

Carla Owen, SSI chairwoman, told the Park Ridge Herald-Advocate that the group has not yet signed a lease to rent space in the north wing of the Our Lady of Ransom building because the Chicago Archdiocese needs to approve it.

The seniors have discussed naming the new facility the Kemnitz Center for Seniors in memory of Betty Kemnitz, a member of the Park Ridge Senior Center whose estate SSI now officially controls, following a legal settlement with the Park Ridge Recreation and Park District. Money from that estate is being used to establish the new center.

"We hope to offer a unique center to (seniors)," Owen said. "We are going to be a regional center, not just for one or two communities."

In a statement Friday, Park Board President Rick Biagi said he regrets that "the relationship between the park district and SSI deteriorated during several years," but added that he supports actions taken by the board "to address a nearly $200,000 annual operating deficit that was occurring at the Park Ridge Senior Center for the past decade."

In 2011 the Park Board ended a long-standing agreement with SSI, which was followed by the departure of the Senior Center's manager, a lawsuit over who controlled the Betty Kemnitz bequest, and a decision by the board to no longer recognize the Senior Senate advisory body.

"I trust that both SSI and the park district will work diligently to provide much-needed recreational and social programming for seniors throughout our community in their respective facilities," Biagi added.

The school building at Our Lady of Ransom Church in Niles is the future home for a new senior center. JENNIFER JOHNSON-Sun-Times Media
IN PROFILE

New priest returns to Our Lady of Ransom

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Parishioners of Our Lady of Ransom Church in Niles may already know Mark Augustine from his work as a deacon within the parish.

Beginning July 1, though, his role will change. Augustine, 28, is one of 10 men who were ordained priests May 18 by the Chicago Archdiocese, and he's headed back to Ransom to serve as an associate pastor.

Born in Evergreen Park, Augustine attended schools in Bartlett and Streamwood before going on to Loyola University Chicago, where he studied history and political science. After college he entered the seminary.

Q: What turned you in the direction of the priesthood?
A: I studied in Rome my senior year of college — I went to Loyola University Chicago — and while I was there I was growing in my faith and trying to figure out where God was calling me. Through prayer and discernment and visiting Rome, St. Peter's and the cathedrals, I began to think God was calling me to serve as one of his priests.

Q: Growing up, did you ever think about being a priest?
A: I grew up Catholic my entire life, but it never really crossed my mind. I always planned on getting married and having a family. For a long time, my plan was to be a lawyer.

Q: How has the transition from secular life to religious life been?
A: For me, it wasn't too bad because I went straight from college into seminary, so I was comfortable with the academic setting. I hadn't really been living on my own, I hadn't had a career I was working on that I had to leave. I found the transition very easy. The seminary system is well structured that they foster a life of prayer and study.

Q: You've run the Chicago marathon three times. What was that like?
A: That was a very grueling experience that required just a lot of time and dedication and commitment. It was something that I found very joyous and it was kind of a runner's high after I finished the first one. That is what motivated me to run the marathon two more times.

Q: Do you hope to continue doing the marathon with your busy new life?
A: We'll see. I haven't ruled out the possibility.

Q: What are some other interests that you have?
A: I have a lot of interests — very outdoor activities. I really enjoy camping, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking trips, being out in nature. Also as a hobby I have learned to paint religious icons, so I hope to keep that as a practice.

Q: Which icons have you painted?
A: I've painted images of St. George the Dragon Slayer and St. Michael the Archangel.

Q: Why did you choose those two as inspiration?
A: St. George is my confirmation saint and the patron saint of the Boy Scouts, which I why I chose him. St. Michael was a way to guide and protect me during my years of priesthood.

Q: What have you been doing since your ordination?
A: I have time off right now. I've been going to classmates' ordinations in Springfield and I'm on my way to Knoxville, Tenn. for another classmate's ordination. Then I'll be visiting a group of sisters in Miami and then I'm going to a teen conference in Arizona to help with my ministry because I've been asked to help with the youth group at Our Lady of Ransom.

Q: Anything you'd like to tell your new congregation?
A: I'm just very much looking forward to serving the people at Our Lady of Ransom. I felt very welcome there during the few months I served as a deacon. I look forward to many years of fruitful service with them.
Morton Grove, Niles done paying Des Plaines for dispatch

Morton Grove and Niles are done payingDes Plaines for police dispatch services, officially severing a 10-year relationship.

The Illinois Commerce Commission was expected to disband the North Suburban Emergency Command Center on June 4, which was jointly paid for by Niles, Morton Grove, Park Ridge and Des Plaines.

Niles and Morton Grove signed contracts with Glenview earlier this year, taking advantage of modern technology and lower costs. Morton Grove was paying about $1 million as a partner in Des Plaines, but will save between $300,000 and $400,000 by becoming Glenview's client.

"Being a customer is a lot nicer than I first thought," Morton Grove Police Chief Mark Erickson said. "They want our business and are very accommodating to a need, plus we don't have to worry about big policy or purchase decisions anymore either."

Morton Grove Village Administrator Ryan Horne said the village paid $97,000 a month to Des Plaines as a full member. Since switching to Glenview in March, Morton Grove still had to pay $50,000 until the commerce commission disbanded the Des Plaines call center.

Those payments are now done, Horne said. The freed-up $300,000 to $400,000 will go toward rising pension contributions and other budget needs.

Because Morton Grove was still legally affiliated with Des Plaines until this week, Erickson said all emergency calls first went to Des Plaines and were rerouted to Glenview, after dispatchers figured out where the call came from. Erickson said the delay was two or three seconds - inconsequential, in his view.

"Our fire dispatch has been routed in the same way since they joined the R.E.D. Center in 1977," Erickson said, referring to the Northbrook-based consortium of fire departments. "There has never been an issue."

All emergency calls will now go directly to Glenview, where dispatchers will send police. Glenview dispatchers will send fire-related incidents to the Northbrook call center.

Sherrill Ornberg, executive director of the Des Plaines dispatch center, said the four police agencies are still discussing how to compensate each other for the equipment that is collectively owned. Des Plaines is now a dispatch provider, and Park Ridge agreed to a two-year contract as a client, Ornberg said. If Des Plaines pays Niles, Park Ridge and Morton Grove for their share of the equipment, then no upgrades are likely to occur.

Morton Grove left Des Plaines because of the center's old technology and because Des Plaines city officials were urging dispatchers to leave so the space could be repurposed.

Erickson said he did not want to pay $3 million to construct a new building. However, Ornberg said Des Plaines officials are no longer pushing them out.

A point of contention that arose after Niles and Morton Grove left the dispatch center was the staffing level. Ornberg said the dispatch center dropped from 30 dispatchers to 16, many of whom retired or took jobs at other centers. Only one was hired by Glenview, she said.

"We told Glenview that as a customer, we have no say and no preference in who got hired," Erickson said. 

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Long-serving officials who earned a permanent place in the Niles Park District’s history will soon have a physical space to also call their own.

The recent stepping-down of park commissioner Elaine Heinen after 33 years on the park board has prompted staff to look into creating a commemorative garden for public servants.

“I know we memorialize a lot of people when they’re not here, but I think it would be nice for people who are alive and well to see their service to the park community was acknowledged,” Park District Director Joseph LoVerde said.

He said staff sought to establish a space to honor all past commissioners instead of naming a building or park after a select few individuals.

“I think we should acknowledge all of the people who served the park district,” LoVerde said. “So many people have done so much for the community.”

Point Park, the grassy, triangular patch of land where Shermer and Waukegan Roads meet, is the targeted site for the commemorative garden.

With the park board's backing, staff expects to install a walking path and benches, as well as a brick inlay or plaques featuring the names of past commissioners.

Trees may also be planted for those who are deceased, including late park board president Charles Barbaglia.

LoVerde said he hoped to bring a rendering to the park board June 18.

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LoVerde said he hoped to bring a rendering to the park board June 18.

At that monthly meeting, commissioners are also expected to formally recognize Heinen’s service and appoint her successor.

Ailing health forced Heinen to leave her post mid-term last month and move out of district to an assisted-living home in Arlington Heights.

A new commissioner would join Niles’ recently seated and reorganized park board.

Incumbents Dennis O’Donovan and William Terpinas and appointee Julie Genualdi were sworn into office last month after an uncontested election in April.

Commissioners on May 21 also elected O’Donovan to take over the presidency post from Ray Czarnik, while Genualdi succeeds Terpinas as vice president.
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Golf Mill for sale

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

A longtime family-owned mall touted as the “crown jewel of Niles” may soon find itself under new ownership.

Commercial real estate firm CBRE announced Golf Mill Shopping Center was on the market during a recently-held convention for the shopping center industry, reported Ross Klicker, Niles’ economic development and marketing coordinator.

Klicker attended the mid-May conference in Las Vegas, and said he was surprised of the news in light of Golf Mill’s proposal last year for improvements to the site.

“It kind of came out of the blue,” he said, noting village staff is “still trying to figure out the impacts and how we can assist.”

Golf Mill Marketing Director Monika Klicki deferred all questions on the matter to the CBRE.

“We have no comment on that,” she said.

George Good, executive vice president for CBRE, said the brokerage firm is in early-stage talks with prospective investors.

The for-sale listing does not have an asking price, and there’s no way of knowing how long the selling process would take.

“I would suspect we would know later this year where we stand and where we’re going,” Good said.

What’s certain is the property’s power to pull a range of prospective outside buyers, from national conglomerates to local investment groups.

Located on a busy intersection with easy access to two expressways, Golf Mill attracts more than 11 million visitors annually, according to CBRE. Major retail anchors – including Sears, JCPenney, Target and an AMC theater – are already in place.

“A lot of the existing components are very strong,” Good said. “Given the demographics around the site, I think there’s an opportunity to take it to a better operating level.”

Klicker added, “Size, location, history – everything is attractive about this property.”

The sprawling 1.0 million square-foot mall is currently managed by Milwaukee Golf Management Corporation. The company’s listed agent, John F. Cuneo, Jr., is the son of the mall’s original developer.

In late 2011, Golf Mill officials lobbied Niles for a sales-tax hike in the mall, as a means for generating new cash to pay for capital projects. They sought to establish a special business district that would increase the mall’s sales tax by .25 percent, equal to 25 cents on a $100 purchase.

Golf Mill representatives had argued the projects were crucial for the shopping center to stay competitive with other nearby malls, but that wasn’t enough to convince village officials last March, who only a few months earlier had approved a quarter-cent, village-wide sales tax. Trustees rejected the mall’s proposal.

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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.

**DRUG POSSESSION**

Tomasz Kurzawa, 29, of 2406 Harrison St., Glenview, was charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver and retail theft on May 21. Police said Kurzawa stole a shirt from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center and while in custody, officers reportedly discovered 19 individual bags of suspected heroin and drug paraphernalia in his possession. He has a May 29 court date.

**DUI**

Andrew Karpinski, 25, of 8320 N. Oriole Ave., Niles, was charged with driving under the influence, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana on May 23. Police said Karpinski was found asleep behind the wheel of his vehicle which was running and parked in front of his home at 3:30 a.m. Karpinski's vehicle had also struck the car parked in front, police said. He has a July 3 court date.

Jennifer Cowles-Barabas, 50, of 8445 Shermer Road, Niles, was charged with driving under the influence and improper lane usage on May 25 following a traffic stop on Touhy Avenue near Gross Point Road at 12:50 a.m. She has a July 3 court date.

Malgorzata Pietruszka, 39, of 7064 W. Madison St., Niles, was charged with driving under the influence, speeding and improper lane usage on May 30 after he was found slumped over the wheel of his running vehicle in a parking lot on the 7700 block of Milwaukee Avenue at 3:30 a.m. Police said Munoz, when awakened, attempted to put the car into drive and drive away, but he was reportedly unable to operate the gear shift. He has a July 3 court date.

**CRIME BRIEFS**

**BATTERY**

A 34-year-old man told police he was punched in the face by another man in an unprovoked attack just before 1 a.m., May 26 at Playbook Sports Bar, 6913 N. Milwaukee Ave. The suspect then left the bar.

**DISPUTE**

Police were called to a home on the 8200 block of Park Avenue on May 29 after two brothers allegedly became involved in a verbal argument over a pair of shoes. Police contacted their mother who reportedly said she would “deal with the brothers when she got off work,” police said.

**THEFT**

A Park Ridge man told police he was punched in the face by another man in an unprovoked attack just before 1 a.m., May 26 at Playbook Sports Bar, 6913 N. Milwaukee Ave. The suspect then left the bar.

A Niles woman told police her purse was stolen on May 27 after she left it unattended in a shopping cart for about five minutes inside a store Golf Mill Shopping Center.
All Danny Pudi wanted to do at Notre Dame College Prep was make people laugh, because unlike "fitting in" and excelling in the conventional sense, he knew he could do it.

Fortunately, he had Notre Dame's staff and classmates behind him when he chose to embrace his "inner weird." The 1997 alumnus and star on NBC's comedy series "Community" had about 2,000 people doubled over with laughter on May 25 as he encouraged Notre Dame's 270-student graduating Class of 2013 to do the same in a commencement address that tied a "be the best version of yourself" message together with anecdotal stories from his days of yore.

Notre Dame's staff members — especially coaches Augie Genovesi and Mike Hennessy — were hit with a pleasant wave of nostalgia as Pudi talked about the time when Sister Carol gave him a detention for sucking on his toes in class and the other time, when guidance counselor Ms. Barry suggested he apply to Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College.

"I ended up not going to clown college — I was destined for far more mature pursuits, like building pillow forts, dressing up as Jamie Lee Curtis, pretending to deliver babies and pretending to be Batman," he said. "See? He hasn't changed," Genovesi whispered happily in the front row during a pause in the speech.

Genovesi, head wrestling coach and assistant athletic director at Notre Dame, was excited for Pudi to be this year's commencement speaker because he was an alumnus that was relatable and, most notably, successful. The half-Indian, half-Polish Chicago native was recently named one of Daily Variety's Top Ten: New Faces for Fall, and is best known for his role as quirky Abed on "Community," which co-stars actors Joel McHale, Ken Jeong and Chevy Chase. He's also starred in the recently-wrapped independent horror flick "Knights of Badassdom," Paramount's "Road Trip 2: Beer Pong" and another upcoming independent film "Thunder Geniuses," directed by Michael Clancy. But the kid with a unique sense of humor will forever be a Don from Notre Dame, in Niles.

Genovesi, Hennessy and Notre Dame College Prep valedictorian Patrick Adrian gives his speech during commencement at the school May 25. | CURTIS LEHMKUHL-Sun-Times Media

Notre Dame College Prep 1997 graduate Danny Pudi gives the commencement address during graduation at the school May 25. | CURTIS LEHMKUHL-Sun-Times Media

Notre Dame College Prep graduate Daniel Hyde gets a hug from his father Russell during the commencement ceremony at the school May 25. | CURTIS LEHMKUHL-Sun-Times Media
Notre Dame
Continued from page 15

Father Molinaro were among the teachers and staff at Notre Dame that Pudi said helped him find better outlets to express his comedic energy; they were the ones that suggested he lead the pep rallies after realizing he was using his detention time developing bits.

Audible laughs erupted from teacher's section of the crowd when Pudi recalled dressing up as a cheerleader at Northwestern's Welsh-Ryan Arena, where Notre Dame took on Deerfield in the IHSA Super-sectionals. Though Sister Carol disciplined Pudi for expressing himself in class, he said that she challenged him to make people laugh without taking his shoes off — which wasn’t easy — and taught him two important lessons: "There is a time and a place for silly behavior and 'think about what your mom would say when you are sucking on your toes," he said.

Pudi said he saw the perpetual pieces of advice, detentions and parent-teacher meetings as form of tough love meant to encourage his knack for hilarity at the right times, and in the right venues, and was able to take his comedic aspirations seriously because of it.

Because they believed in him, he became the weird person that he still remains to this day.

"You can dream. You can dream big ... you can dream weird. You can make your weird dreams happen," he said to the students.

After the ceremony, upon the suggestion that his strict religious upbringing gave rise to a need for comedic relief, Pudi said that the daily masses his mother forced him to attend likely fanned the flame.

"Part of it, the guilt, the punishment and the discipline is perfect fuel for comedy because you are always thinking about what you shouldn’t do — and when you are always thinking about what you shouldn’t do, either you’re going to do it or you’re going to talk about it," he laughed.

Before leaving with his aunt, who lives in the area, Pudi hung out with new and familiar faces, autographed graduation programs and took pictures with all that wanted one.

He noted that his visits back home, though they don’t happen very often anymore, would usually entail eating an abundance of Polish food and — if he's feeling nostalgic — Lou Malnati's and Superdawg.
Library lets patrons nix fines by donating food

BY IGOR STUDENKOV | Contributor

When people donate, they often don’t expect to get much in return. But the Niles Public Library is planning to take away something for donors this month.

During the Food for Fines Drive, which began on June 1 and will continue through June 15, library patrons are encouraged to bring in food donations. In exchange, the library will reduce the donor’s fines, dropping one dollar for every donated item. The drive is part of the library’s effort to encourage more people to participate in its summer reading programs and help the local charities in the process.

The Food for Fines drive grew out of the library’s efforts to get more patrons to take part in the Summer Reading Club. According to Sasha Vasilic, the library’s digital marketing coordinator, the staff realized that fines were keeping patrons away. "If people have fines on their cards, they might not want to come in to the library because they just don’t want deal with it," he said. "We want them to come back."

"I think we're used to giving away holiday time, but we forget that, in other months, there is still need," said Vasilic.

For the first Food for Fines drive, the library partnered with Maine Township Food Pantry. The drive took place around the same time last year, and both organizations were pleased with the results.

"I know it was successful last year, because our Summer Reading Club numbers went up," said Vasilic. "Maine Township was happy. They said it was pretty successful for them."

This year, the library is partnering with the Village of Niles Food Pantry. Patrons can drop off canned goods and food packaged in boxes, plastic bags or plastic jars at the circulation desk during regular hours. If they bring their library card, a dollar will be deducted from their fines for every item they turn in.

"Maine Township was happy. They voted to make it an annual event. We definitely encourage people in the community to donate food, and food pantry encourages it," said Vasilic.

The Food for Fines drive still has more then a week to go. But whatever happens, the Library Board of Directors is standing behind it — they've voted to make it an annual event.
As Niles' newly-seated mayor, Andrew Przybylo is putting people into place who help ensure smooth operations at the village.

Priority number one: Keeping Steven Vinezeano as top administrator for at least another year.

At Przybylo's request, the Niles Village Board on May 28 approved waiving a residency requirement, as well as temporarily suspending a policy on advertising village vacancies, to allow Vinezeano to serve as village manager.

Since the village manager is an appointed officer, and not an employee, the latter action was not necessary, according to Village Attorney Joseph Annunzio.

But Przybylo wanted all bases to be covered in light of past discussions by trustees to engage in a formal search and hiring process. Either way, Vinezeano is his top choice.

"I just want this cleared up right now that I'm going to appoint Steven Vinezeano next month whether or not it (the position) is advertised," Przybylo said. "So it's going to happen anyway."

Prior to assuming the position on an interim basis in December, Vinezeano, of Chicago, had served 10 years as Niles' assistant village manager.

Trustee Chris Hanusiak backed his appointment, but argued the administrative post should involve an agreement.

"We should offer the village manager a four-year contract so he knows where he stands," he said.

Freshman Trustee George Alpogianis sided with veteran Joe LoVerde that, for the purposes of moving forward immediately, an appointment would suffice.

"I think a year gives everyone a little breathing time to figure out what's going on," Alpogianis said.

Before establishing a precedent for signing on department heads for multi-year terms, officials would "need to sit down and talk about it," Przybylo added.

Hanusiak and Rosemary Palicki had rejected an omnibus bill for re-appointing all department heads and, thus, a roll call vote was taken for each selection.

The village board affirmed each of the appointees, including Vinezeano, though Palicki cast a "no" vote for Police Chief Dean Strzelecki, and Hanusiak did not endorse Bill Shaw for the information technology director post.

Przybylo also recommended new faces to join the following village commissions and boards: Billy Haido and Joe Kuffel to the Community Relations Commission; Denise McCreery to the Board of Ethics; Jerry Szczepanski to the Emergency Telephone System Board; and Alan Weel to the Police and Fire Pension Boards.

Village officials additionally approved creating four new standing committees for general government and information technology, public services, public safety and human services, in addition to the pre-existing finance committee.

Trustees appointed to each of the committees would serve as supporters for the various village departments, Przybylo explained.

Hanusiak asked for a clarification of the trustees’ duties, noting the described task of providing “oversight” implied a level of supervision would be involved.

Przybylo refuted the interpretation, saying: "What we are trying to do is to give true responsibility to the trustees to know and advocate for the department, not to supervise, per se."

He noted the village board would flesh out the committees’ formation and roles in time.
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Keeping Tabs

How Illinois lawmakers voted in Congress for the week ending May 24, 2013

Major roll call votes in the Senate

FEDERAL SUGAR PROGRAM
Senators voted, 45-54, to defeat an amendment to a pending farm bill (S 954) to add market forces to a program that protects growers and producers of cane and beet sugar. The program costs taxpayers nothing but raises food prices. A “yes” vote backed the amendment. Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: Yes

FOOD STAMPS CUTS
Senators voted, 40-58, refusing to trim $30 billion from the $800 billion, 10-year budget in S 954 for food stamps, known formally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The program already was cut by $4 billion in the bill. A “yes” vote was to further cut food stamps. Sen. Richard Durbin: No; Sen. Mark Kirk: Yes

GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS
Senators voted, 27-71, refusing to empower states to require genetically engineered foods sold within their boundaries to be labeled as such. A “yes” vote backed the amendment to S 954 over arguments it would usurp Food and Drug Administration authority. Sen. Richard Durbin: No; Sen. Mark Kirk: No

TOBACCO SUBSIDIES
Senators voted, 44-52, refusing to prohibit federal subsidies of crop insurance for tobacco growers. The measure was proposed to a pending farm bill (S 954) that subsidizes insurance for a range of crops, including tobacco. A “yes” vote was to end the tobacco subsidy. Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: Yes

Major roll call votes in the House

STUDENT LOANS
Members voted, 221-198, to set variable interest rates for Stafford student loans, effective July 1 when the current 3.4 percent rate will expire. The Republican bill would link the rate to that of a 10-year Treasury note plus 2.5 percentage points. At present, interest on Stafford loans is fixed at 3.4 percent, but will rise to 6.8 percent on July 1 unless Congress acts before then to head off the doubling of loan costs. A “yes” vote was to pass HR 3.

TEASER RATES
Members voted, 194-223, to defeat a bid by Democrats to prohibit lenders under HR 3 (above) from offering teaser rates and also requiring them to supply upfront information on the true, long-term cost of the student loan. A “yes” vote was to adopt the Democratic motion.
Aldermen grill Rahm aides over parking-meter deal

Chicago aldermen grilled Mayor Rahm Emanuel's top aides May 24 over whether a proposed settlement to end costly disputes with the operator of the city's parking-meter system would give the company a windfall for decades to come.

Ald. Michele Smith (43rd), Ald. Brendan Reilly (42nd) and Ald. Scott Waguespak (32nd) were among those who questioned whether meter-revenue projections that helped shape the Emanuel-brokered settlement are accurate.

They said the estimates appeared to be based on a small sampling of meters and, as a result, might underestimate how much money Chicago Parking Meters LLC would collect from a three-hour extension of parking hours that Emanuel agreed to, from 9 p.m. to midnight, in Reilly's River North ward, as well as proposed one-hour extensions in other neighborhoods.

"Unfortunately, I think the administration is using the wrong set of assumptions to determine the future value of those extended hours," Reilly said after questioning Lois Scott, the Emanuel administration's chief financial officer, and top City Hall lawyer Steve Patton at a City Council finance committee hearing. "A lot more work needs to be done vetting these projections to understand what this asset will provide CPM."

— Chicago Sun-Times

Madigan's pension-reform package goes down in flames

A pension-reform package crafted by House Speaker Michael Madigan went down to spectacular defeat in the state Senate Thursday, thrusting the search for a solution to Illinois' nearly $100 billion pension crisis into legislative chaos.

The bill's demise came as the Democratic-led House and Senate faced a scheduled midnight Friday adjournment with no apparent breakthroughs on the spring legislative session's biggest issues: pension reform, legalization of same-sex marriage, allowing people to carry concealed weapons and authorization for casinos in Chicago, the south suburbs and Lake County.

With those issues seemingly mined in legislative tar, the House approved a sprawling economic-development package that would fund a new DePaul University basketball arena near McCormick Place and possibly jump-start a south-suburban airport at Peotone. That measure, pushed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and backed by Gov. Pat Quinn, now moves to the Senate.

But the 16-42 Senate vote on pension legislation opposed by the state's largest public-sector unions unleashed a display of apparent bitterness from Madigan (D-Chicago) that seemingly targeted Senate President John Cullerton (D-Chicago) for not turning the tide in favor of the pension package.

— Chicago Sun-Times

Obama: Rising college costs hold back middle class

President Barack Obama on Friday urged Congress to prevent an increase in student loan rates, saying rising college costs hold back the entire middle class and unfairly saddle young people with more debt just as they are starting out in their adult lives.

Interest rates on new subsidized Stafford loans are set to double, from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent, on July 1. Lawmakers from both parties say they want to avoid the increase but are divided over how to act.

Obama made his case flanked by college students dressed in business suits and dresses during remarks in the Rose Garden on a steamy Washington morning. The event marked the beginning of a public campaign by the president to temporarily extend current student loan rates or find a long-term compromise to avoid the July 1 rate increase.

"We know that the surest path to the middle class is some form of higher education," Obama said. He said Americans now owe more on student loans than on credit cards. He said he and his wife just finally paid off their loans in the last decade and paid more on them than they did on their mortgage.

"We were lucky. We had more resources than many," Obama said.

— The Associated Press
A big day for big chumps in Springfield

What a bunch of losers.

And we, the people of Illinois, will pay the price. The Illinois General Assembly failed to pass a desperately needed bill to rein in public employee pension costs. So what if the state goes bust?

The Legislature failed, again, to cut a deal to bring a casino to Chicago. So what if Chicago goes bust?

The House did not approve a bill—its chief sponsor didn’t even dare call it for a vote—to legalize same-sex marriage in Illinois. So what if good and decent people continue to be treated like second-class human beings because of their sexual orientation?

And the Legislature approved and sent to Gov. Pat Quinn a bill that would legalize the concealed carry of guns in Illinois in an alarmingly free and dangerous manner. This ugly piece of work even preempts the right of home-rule governments to enact future laws on assault weapons—you know, those Chuck Norris fantasy guns perfectly designed for mass slaughter.

Friday in Springfield was a day for chumps all around.

Boy Scouts finding their moral compass

The Boy Scouts of America last week took a giant leap forward for some, but backward for others, when it decided to allow openly gay boys to participate in Scouting.

I’ve been involved in Scouting with my boys for 14 years, and I have another three years to go before I’m done.

It’s not for everyone, but for boys who want the experience, I’ve never thought any boy should be excluded. Boys come in to Scouting in kindergarten through Cub Scouts. If they stay with the program to the end, they leave, or “age out,” as it is called, when they turn 18.

Have there been gay kids in Scouting?

Of course. As gay rights has become more and more in the forefront of the news, everyone has seen the Eagle Scouts who have aged out of Scouting and now admit they were/gay.

But should there be gay kids in Scouting?

That’s the question the national council finally answered last week. Here’s why I think it is the right answer.

When boys enter Scouting at age 5, their own sexual identity isn’t part of the equation. And it shouldn’t be. That’s not what Scouting is about.

Scouting is about boys learning outdoor and leadership skills. One of the aspects I like about Scouting is it gives boys an opportunity to learn to work with men other than their parent. Young people need to learn to work with adults.

Sexual orientation has nothing to do with Scouting, which teaches boys about the outdoors, leadership, service and living a meaningful life. Those skills come in handy, gay or straight.

The next question is should the Scouts allow gay adult leaders.

I think it is only a matter of time. Most adult leaders in Scouting are parents and with more blended families and gay and lesbian couples adopting children, raising children, having children, how can those parents be kept out of the lives of their children?

I don’t think they can. Parents need to be involved in the lives of their children. Most troops are boy-led so we adults have little to offer other than advice and guidance.

I know some will ask, “What about protecting boys?”

The Scouts have good policy and education in place to protect boys now. Unfortunately, we now know that some boys in the past have been abused by predators posing as straight, upstanding community volunteers.

Scouting has been a good opportunity for my boys. It should be for all boys.
Not nice to fool with mother’s nature

“Sumer is Icumen In,” as the medieval English sing.

And when summer is in, the question all kids have, medieval or not, is: “Why do I have to wait an hour after eating before going swimming?”

The short answer is: Because your mother said so.

The longer answer is: Even though your mother says so, you really don’t have to wait an hour.

But since forever, mothers have been threatening their children with a watery death if they didn’t wait at least an hour after eating before going swimming.

This is a mother thing. If you ask your father if you can go swimming right after eating, he’ll look up from his paper and mumble, “Grumerumph.”

Splash!

No one knows when the mother-food-swimming doom prophecy originated. Perhaps some bog-dwelling mother first hollered, “Don’t go in the water yet, Grendel. You just ate three of those human-thingies. I don’t want you getting cramps and drowning!”

But down through the ages mothers have been forcing their kids to sit on the beach for at least an hour after eating.

The theory is that swimming right after eating could cause cramps, which could cause drowning.

Now, there never has been a documented case of eating causing drowning. And health groups point to a study of drownings that indicated only one percent of those drowning victims had eaten before going in the water. Those were parallel occurrences. No causal relationship found between eating and drowning.

Science does not support the eating/swimming theory.

After eating, the body redirects blood to the stomach to aid digestion. Exercise also requires blood flow to the muscles exerted.

Swimming right after eating could cause muscle cramps for lack of blood flow to the exerted muscles. But the cramps would not be serious enough to cause a person to sink or drown.

Also, a swimmer might feel nauseous after eating, if the meal were a large one or fat-filled — like a meal I might eat before swimming.

But scientists agree the body has enough blood to aid digestion and feed muscles exerted by swimming.

So, in this case your mother is wrong.

But would it kill you to wait after eating before you swim? Look at all she does for you. So, make her happy. Wait an hour.

Or...

“Hey, Dad, I know we just ate. But can’t I go swimming now? Huh?”

He’ll glance up from his paper and say, “Grumerumph.”

Splash!
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Encourage young people to register to vote

It's that time of year again. Graduations are upon us and students are now preparing to embark on the next stage of their lives. Whether going on to school or entering the military or the workforce, this is a big moment in a young person's life. As the celebrations begin, why not give a new graduate a gift that will last for years to come; why not encourage them to register to vote?

Voting brings us together as Americans - it is the one time when we are all equal. It doesn't matter if you're rich or poor, or young or old; elections are our opportunity to elect leaders who lift up our communities and make them better. Help the new grads in your life get started by registering to vote or updating their registration if they have moved.

As a member of the League of Women Voters, I'm proud to be part of a network of community volunteers that help make sure all young people have the chance to ask questions about issues, understand why voting is important, and get registered. We have helped tens of thousands of high school and college students get registered, including here in Glenview.

Contact the League at http://glenview.il.lwvnet.org/. Grads will thank you for helping them become active voters: it's a gift for them and for their community!

Joan Ziegler
President
League of Women Voters of Glenview

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Education in Focus

Niles West valedictorian ready to take off

BY NATALIE HAYES | Contributor

Graduation season at Niles West High School came to a close with a commencement ceremony for the Class of 2013, who celebrated four years of memories and said their final goodbyes Thursday night.

Valedictorians Rachel Bender and Patrick Liscio gave their traditional speeches to the nearly 670 graduates and their families who attended the ceremony May 30 at the high school. The Chicago-born, Lincolnwood-raised Bender talked to Pioneer Press about her college plans and what she'll remember most about high school. Liscio could not be reached for comment.

Q: What should the Niles West Class of 2013 be remembered by?
A: We're a strong group of kids who work hard at things. We all work together to bring out the best in each other and we worked well as one strong unit.

Q: What was your graduation speech about?
A: I based it off an Olympic runner, Billy Mills, from the 1964 Olympics. My track and cross country coach is the biggest fan (of Mills) ever and she told us his story. He was just a college student when he entered the Olympics but he planned so hard to win that race. He won, but he thought the work he put into planning to win the race mattered more than the end result. The topic of my speech was that success isn't all about winning but it's more about the effort beforehand that matters most.

Q: Were you nervous when you gave the speech?
A: Not really. They're my classmates, and I knew it was just a bunch of people who were there to watch us graduate.

Q: What kinds of emotions do you go through as you achieve such a significant life milestone?
A: I'm definitely going to miss everyone so much. We've gone to school together for the last four years and are used to the same routine of seeing each other every day, so it's hard to say goodbye. It's a sad thing but it's also a little bit exciting too.

Q: What was your grade point average (GPA) and what does it take to make it to the top of the class?
A: 4.0. A lot of it is taking the time to work hard and always trying your best. No matter what, you just have to keep on pushing. If you don't understand something,
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You keep going at it until you get it. I also took AP chemistry and physics, and honor bio classes.

Q: Did you participate in any extracurricular activities?
A: I was in track and cross country, and I later became captain of both varsity teams. As captain, I learned a lot of leadership skills that I wouldn't have had otherwise.

Q: What are you doing this summer?
A: I'm going to spend a lot of time with family before I go away to college. I'm looking forward to driving my younger sisters around a lot.

Q: Where do you plan to go to college?
A: The University of Kansas.

Q: What will you major in?
A: I'm a petroleum engineering major.

Q: That's a pretty specific field to major in. What career path are you considering?
A: I would ideally work in the gas and oil industry, hopefully doing work to lower gas prices.

Q: What was your most memorable high school moment.
A: At Niles West, we have the literacy center where students tutor other students. I volunteered tutoring math, science, and English, and I helped a student try to understand some difficult material for a test one day. That student came back to see me the next day and said they got a 100 percent on their exam. That moment made me feel really good.
New principal heads to Park View

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

As Morton Grove bids adieu to Park View Principal Susan Wings after 12 years, another long-serving administrator is picking up extra duties come July 1.

Assistant Principal Dave Pump will double as the director of staff development in the 2013-14 school year, The Park View District 70 Board of Education approved the administrative reconfiguring at a special meeting May 29.

The new role gives Pump a $10,000 bump in pay and puts him in charge of professional development and continuing education activities, as well as the district's mentorship plan for new teachers.

"Professional development is a key piece of all the different initiatives we have," said Superintendent Phil Collins.

"I see Dave as a great person to take this on."

Collins said the need to strengthen professional development became apparent during a review of the district's priorities over the course of the past year.

"There's a gap in terms of what we're able to do," he said. "Being a small district we end up wearing multiple hats."

The one-school elementary district's slim administrative team is currently comprised of five staff members, one of whom is non-certified.

Board President Tony Stegich thanked Pump for stepping up to the post, adding, "You're definitely a valuable part of this school and community."

At the same meeting, board members approved hiring Ivy Sukenik to head the school. Her one-year agreement comes with an annual salary of $119,000. Sukenik replaces Wings, who took a superintendent post with Harrison School District 36 in Wonder Lake.

In searching for a new principal District 70 leaders began with a pared-down pool of 16 candidates, six of whom were interviewed, Collins reported. He received 72 applications in all.

Sukenik, who was not present for the school board's vote, ultimately became the top choice. She started her career as a middle-school science teacher and currently serves as principal of Henking School in Glenview.

Collins hails from the same school system as Sukenik, having formerly served in District 34 as the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction before departing for Morton Grove last year.
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**CENTER OF CONCERN**


June 15, and 29: Legal counseling, by appointment

June 10, 17, and 24: Employment counseling, by appointment

June 10: Alzheimer's caregivers support group, 10:00 a.m.

June 11: Annual Miniature Golf Outing and Picnic, Mountain View Adventure Golf, 510 E. Algonquin Road, Des Plaines, 5:30-8:30 p.m. $15 adults, $8 children under age 12. RSVP by June 7. Rain date is June 12.

Preparation of simple wills and durable powers of attorney for health care and property also is available by appointment. Homeowners desiring additional income, companionship, or the ability to remain in their homes may wish to consider The Center of Concern's shared housing program. Residents are matched with screened applicants who possess a temperament suitable to shared accommodations.

**CLUBS**

**A Genealogy Workshop**

Sponsored by the Twenty-first Star Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, will be held from 1:30-4:30 p.m. June 15 on the third floor of the Park Ridge Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., across the street from the Pickwick Theater. Attendees will have the opportunity to work with a member on the lineage research team and receive assistance with application papers. This workshop is for women who are interested in joining the DAR. Bring all records and information. Reference books are available. Call Dorothy Wilson at (847) 329-6946.

**Knights of Columbus**

North American Martyrs Council Chapter, Niles, provides ways for members to help others in the community while trying to improve their family and spiritual lives. Call Bob Galassi, (847) 965-0920.

**MOMS Club**

Northern Chicagoland group holds weekly activities (such as play groups, outings, museums, park dates) and monthly member meetings and Moms Night Out. Call (773) 853-2884 or visit http://sites.google.com/site/momsclubnortherncity or email chicagomomsclub@gmail.com.

**Flea Market**

St. John Lutheran Church will hold an Outdoor Flea Market 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 15 in the parking lot at 7429 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Food and beverages will also be available. Call (847) 647-9867.

**Planning Ahead**

The professionals with Dignity Memorial provides of Chicago will host two free, no-obligation Veterans' Burial Benefits Seminars at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. June 13, at Golf Mill Shopping Center in Center Court. The seminars will address all funeral and burial benefits offered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, benefits offered by Dignity Memorial providers to all veterans and the importance of making funeral and cemetery arrangements in advance. Each veteran who attends will receive two free tickets to the Romanian Heritage Festival of Chicago to be held June 14-16 in Niles. Call (866) 991-7181, to reserve a seat.

**Niles Public Library Food for Fines Drive**

Exchange canned and packaged food for library overdue fines to help the Niles Food Pantry during the Niles Public Library Food for Fines drive through June 15 at 6960 W. Oakton St., the northeast corner of the Oakton and Waukegan intersection. Library hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Library members will get $1 in fines waived for each can or package of food donated during the drive for a maximum of $50 per household. Items especially needed include: butter, canned meats (tuna, fish, beef stew), canned vegetables and fruit, macaroni and cheese, rice and pasta.

**PARKS**

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

Niles Park District offers a wide variety of summer camp programs for preschool age through incoming eighth-graders. Full-day and half-day camps, sports camp, hockey and ice-skating camps. Stop by the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St. to register. Campers will enjoy swimming, weekly field trips, arts & crafts, sports, and tons of fun. Most camps begin June 10. Call (847) 967-6633 with questions.

**Pioneer Park open**

Niles Park District Pioneer Park, 7135 N. Harlem Ave., has reopened for the 2013 season. This facility has an 18-hole mini-golf course for $5 per person and batting cages with 15 balls for $1. The Family Fun Nights will continue every Friday night. The $7 per-person fee includes one round of mini-golf, one batting cage token and dinner for each family member. Call (847) 583-2746.

**Summer Jr. Golf Programs**

Golf programs begin the second week of June for youngsters ages 3-5 looking to pick up a club for the first time in Pint Sized
Pro's class on Tuesday afternoons. Beginning players 6-13 years old for week long Summer Camps or once a week Monday Evening Clinics to improve their skills. More in-depth instruction and on-course lessons in our Advanced Junior Camps on Saturday mornings. Registration is also open for Beginning and Advanced Junior Leagues. View all classes online, www.niles-parks.org. Contact: (847) 583-2736 or email golflessons@niles-parks.org for more information.

NILES SENIOR CENTER

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

Spring BBQ

Presented by the NSC Men’s Club from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 7. Help celebrate the return of warm weather. Lunch will be burgers, brats, bean salad, coleslaw, and dessert with entertainment by Enzo Encandela. Reserved seating. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Cost is $15 for members and $20 for nonmembers.

Men’s Club Meeting

Speaker: Barb Chalko from the Illinois State Treasurer’s Office. Lunch features a bratwurst, chips, and dessert from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 17. $5 members, $7.50 nonmembers.

Lite Lunch and Movie

Movie: Moonrise Kingdom - PG-13 (94 min.) at noon, June 14.

Set on an island off the coast of New England in the 1960’s Lunch includes a bratwurst, chips and dessert and costs are: $5 members, $7.50 nonmembers. Movie is free.

Wii Bowling Tournament

Tournament from 2-4 p.m. June 20 with refreshments served, and prizes awarded. Call ahead to schedule Wii practice time if you wish. Space is limited. $2 members, $3 nonmembers.

Line Dance

Four classes with others who love to dance. From 1-2 p.m., Tuesdays June 11 through July 2. No partner needed. Enjoy easy-to-learn advanced dance patterns in Country, Ballroom, Top 40, Latin, Swing, and more. $12.50 members, $17.50 nonmembers.

Nature Photography

Capture nature through your lens, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. June 18 and 25. Focus on photographic strategies and skills while expanding your awareness and appreciation for the outdoors. $30 members, $35 nonmembers.

String Music

Beautiful Summer Strings with Jim Kendros. Enjoy beautiful string music for a summer day. Experience Bach’s wonderful “Air” for strings, Mozart’s “Romance from a Little Night Music,” Beethoven’s Romance No. 1 for violin and orchestra, and more from the Illinois State Orchestra, and more from the Illinois State University Wind Ensemble. $12.50 members, $17.50 nonmembers.

Center lock-in

Teens spend a night in the mall on June 8 at Golf Mill Shopping Center. Teens arrive 10:15 p.m. for a night of dancing, a mid-night movie, contests and prizes. Space limited to the first 100 teens and only center members by June 6. (Become a member by stopping at their location near Sears and mall entrance six in Golf Mill Shopping Center.) Tickets $10, which includes live DJ entertainment, DDR, Guitar Hero and Relay Race Contests, late night treats. Golf Mill Shopping Center is located at 239 Golf Mill Center, Niles. Visit www.golfmill.com or call (847) 699-1070.

HOCUS FOCUS

Find at least six differences in details between panels

Puzzle Answers

See page 28 for this week’s Super Crossword and Sudoku puzzles.
Though the idea of crowdfunding is hardly a new one, the Internet has spawned a renaissance that has made it possible for ideas like a Nikola Tesla museum and consumer 3-D printing to become a reality.

Crowdfunding is a democratized alternative to financing, allowing entrepreneurs and artists to appeal to consumers to help fund their projects rather than of venture capitalists and banks.

Skokie native Dan Salganik, brother Alan and father Eugene are bringing crowdfunding to a more local level with FunderHut.com, which they launched earlier this year.

"We have always been fairly active around the community and would often discuss with friends and family members around the dinner table how we could start new projects in the community," Dan said. "But we kind of found that the process took a very long time ... and you couldn't really get the money to get it going."

FunderHut, a mom-and-pop version of larger sites like Kickstarter.com and Indiegogo.com, works closely with project creators to develop fundraising campaigns that effectively market their goals to the local Internet community.

The hope is for site visitors to feel compelled enough to donate money that will help fund the project.

Chicago-based Siberian Animal Shelter, for example, raised $1,174 towards its $1,500 goal in less than two months through FunderHut, asking people to help raise enough funds for more food, medical resources and a new heated shelter to house the animals during the winter.

"So far, this is the only one in our town, which is located in Siberian town/Russian Federation, where animals are not protected by law and just a little amount of money being given by the government to support animal shelters," the shelter's FunderHut page explained.

Like with all FunderHut projects, Siberian Animal Shelter's project page was set up to show who was running the project, what the project was about, why they wanted to do it, what their goals were, how they planned to use the funds to achieve them, their fundraising timeline and ways for site visitors to share the page through social media.

Local youth program LETS GO Chicago is currently working on raising $10,000 in financial aid for its full-time youth participants to enjoy its Summer Solutions 2013 program in Rogers Park. The organization has so far raised $1,391 through FunderHut's site.

"With our community, there are so many potential projects and people that are interested in them, but have limited funds and time to dedicate towards making it happen," Dan said.

To encourage the community to voice their ideas, Dan said that FunderHut will accept most project proposals — except for those that are blatantly inappropriate.

The family trio has made it easy for people to jump from an idea to something that is more palpable because they take the time to study the market and guide project creators with tips that are specific to those industries.

While projects might not always reach their fundraising goals, creators can make them "variable."

As opposed to "fixed" projects, which FunderHut also allows, "variable" projects allow the creators to keep the amounts raised whether they meet their goal in time or not.

"It's a huge differentiator between us and our largest competitor," Dan said. "Variable projects mean that our projects do not have to reach 100 percent funding to receive the funds. If a project can fulfill their rewards at 50 percent funding, we find it completely acceptable for them to start a project on our website."

FunderHut is also different from its competitors because it encourages visitors to share their ideas for community improvement on its "Community Wishlist."

Those that have donated towards a cause or project are typically given "kudos" for their generosity, rather than stock, which can be as simple as a hand-written thank-you card, tickets to a play or a new gadget.

Alan said that the goal is to eventually become the "online town hall meeting," or a catalyst for community change when the red tape around local government becomes too hard to cross.

FunderHut will be driving home its motto "finding unity by funding community" when it hosts an event with the same title on June 12 at the Society Gallery in Chicago, featuring local artists, musicians, businesses, restaurants, cafes and more.

The goal is to create an event that promotes the unique individuals working to make Chicago a better place for people to live and play in. The event will also act as an opportunity for visitors to network and socialize.
Niles Symphony founder dies

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

Michael Crisci of the Niles Historical Society can vividly recall having to squeeze his way around a 10-foot Steinway grand piano while taking vocal lessons with Rev. Stanley Rudcki.

Crisci had participated in a choral group at Niles College in the mid-1970s. How Rev. Rudcki got the piano to fit into his apartment remains a mystery to this day.

“I knew him not well, but he made an impression on me as a young seminarian,” Crisci said. “He was just an incredible patron of the arts.”

After six decades years of serving the Archdiocese of Chicago and bringing to life the great symphony classics, the Rev. Stanley R. Rudcki died May 22 at Holy Family Villa in Palos Park. He was 85 years old.

Rev. Rudcki’s career as a seminary music professor, as well as founder and conductor of the Niles Symphony, inspired a countless of people in Chicago and its northwest and southwest suburbs.

A Chicago native with close ties to the Polish community, Rudcki studied simultaneously at Quigley Preparatory Seminary and the Chicago Music Conservatory in his youth. He would later return to the Conservatory to earn a master’s degree in music, followed by a short stint studying music at the University of Chicago.

When the Niles College Seminary debuted at Harlem and Touhy avenues in 1961, Rev. Rudcki grew the school as a teacher of music and literature.

He also drew music professionals from the Grant Park and Chicago Symphony Orchestras and Lyric Opera to form a new collaboration of artists that performed at parishes across the archdiocese. The Niles Concert Choir was part of that effort as well.

Albert Schorsch, who taught at Niles College for two years until its closure in 1994, said one of his colleague’s greatest contributions to the community were free summer festivals on the seminary grounds.

The outdoor concerts - featuring pop music, show tunes, and music scores - “were always well attended,” he said.

Schorsch’s daughter also took personal piano lessons from the priest, and today is a music teacher herself, he said.

Rev. Rudcki excelled bringing the classics to the mainstream masses, too, having conducted the inaugural U.S. presentation of Benjamin Britton’s “War Requiem” with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1968.

Paul Knez, a friend of Rev. Rudcki’s for 59 years, called it a “glorious piece of music.”

“He had true humility but he still had plenty of confidence in his music and gift of conducting,” said Knez, a Palos Heights resident. After the Niles College campus closed and the school relocated to Loyola University Chicago as the St. Joseph Seminary College, Rev. Rudcki and his musicians moved south to Palos Heights. The Niles choir disbanded.

Knez said the symphony, now based at St. Alexander Church, would continue to play together under the banner “Father Rudcki Heritage Concerts.”

“He was a priest first, a teacher second, and a conductor third,” Knez said of his longtime pal. “He was a brilliant person.”

Rev. Rudcki was buried at Resurrection Cemetery in Justice, and is survived by several nieces and nephews.
FEATURED HOME
BY WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE

$335,000

8626 N. Oketo Ave.,
Niles

House size: 1,252 square feet
Lot size: 6,968 square feet
Year built: 1959
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2.5
Garage: Two-car detached
Property tax: $5,797.05 (2011)
Exterior: Brick
School districts: East Maine School District
63 and Maine Township High School District 207

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PROPERTY TRANSFERS

BY WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE

Miles
8314 W Oak Ave: Paul Piessos to Dahilla G Bedavid, Dany Bedavid and Joseph Bedavid for $265,000 on April 17
8013 W Lyons St: Jose M Pineda, Noemi Vazquez and Jose M Pineda Jr to Sandra Awanas for $120,000 on April 17
9265 Courtland Drive: Leonard Max Trust, Leonard Max Trust and Max Leonard Trust to Aneela Ahtesham for $160,000 on April 17
827 W Catino Terrace: Ferenc Stibik to Zbigniew W Pawlik for $226,500 on April 15

Morton Grove
8910 Waukegan Road, #204: Steven A Irsay to Richard S Irsay and Anne S Irsay for $55,000 on April 15
8312 Avalon Drive, #16: Gangtsoe Lunsanutham to Mingzhuang Zhang for $230,000 on April 15
6935 Mayfair Ave, #13: Dolores R Salmanc and Dolores R Salmanc to Sung Jie Chung for $230,000 on April 16
9283 The Avenues: Chong Sik Kim and Su Nam Kim to Krzysztof Gasior, Marta Jablonska and Agnieszka Walkasz for $263,000 on April 17
9459 Overhill Ave: Leonid Khanin to Oksana Lesnik for $303,000 on April 17

Park Ridge
600 W Touhy Ave, #600: Elizabeth J Knit and Carey K Knit to Tina Bonetti and William Benetti for $465,000 on April 19
218 Meacham Ave: Helen J Bruce to Arnold Schmidt and Valerie Schmidt for $336,000 on April 15
403 Courtland Drive: Terence M Madl and Theresa J Madl to Tracey E Thanes for $445,000 on April 17
620 S Cumberland Ave: Charlotte E Anton Trust, Charlotte E Anton Trust and E Anton Charlotte Trust to Richard L Rosy and Joanne V Rosy for $715,000 on April 17
1772 Linden Ave: William R Werderick and Deanna Werderick to Jason Werderick and Jill Werderick for $455,000 on April 19
1805 S Washington Ave: Malgorzata Szurzynski to Richard Babula for $389,000 on April 19
2257 N Home Ave: Thomas Elvemulak and Leysi Elvemulak to Byju Mathew for $240,000 on April 16

Harwood Heights
7415 W Foster Ave: King Wang and Wang Judy Lee Wang to Lai Iaco and Veinstein A Iaco for $405,000 on April 15
7608 W Lawrence Ave, #3: Judicial Sales Corp and Olga Zobkiv to Renata Ochich for $36,500 on April 19

Glenview
112 Fernwood Drive: Stephen J Kohler and Michelle Z Kohler to Cleman Warda and Olivia Warda for $900,000 on April 16

Shakopee
Loree Ave: Lauron C Mumford, Michael J Jaski, William J Jaski and Camille A Popplock to Cornel Vaidos and Cisilla Maria Vaidos for $302,500 on April 16
4923 Jerome St: Mark M Kim and Sung Ok Kim to Sandy Fujinaka for $200,000 on April 16

Lincolnwood
6600 N Navajo Ave: Andrea C Erickson Trust and Mark S Cusin to Steven A Greenberg for $545,000 on April 17

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Continued from page 2

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THINGS WE LOVE

Support four-legged friends at PAWS Chicago’s 8K Run & 4K Walk, where you can also dig into food and drinks, a mini fitness class and pet photo ops. June 9, 9 a.m., $35/$45 day of registration, Montrose Harbor; Runfortheirlives.pawsevents.org

Protein Bar moved into the Merchandise Mart May 29 — and we can’t wait to dig into the health-centric spot’s organic quinoa bowls ($5.49 and up) and protein-packed drinks ($3.69 and up). 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza; Theproteinbar.com

AT THE PHOTO SHOOT

Local florists from Dandylion Florist Artistry, Anna Held Flower Shop and Scarlet Petal Florist joined us at the Garfield Park Conservatory with basic flowers and supplies in tow. Within an hour, they’d outfitted our models in exotic designs similar to what will be shown at this year’s Fleutorica event. Check out their work, and learn more about the event, on pages 14-15.

"When I walked into the Garfield Park Conservatory, the first thing I noticed was the beautiful garments made from real plants and flowers. I was so inspired to photograph this for Fleutorica and had a blast doing it." — Kirsten McColl

Local jewelry designer Winifred Grace’s cuffs ($155; Winifredgrace.com) pair perfectly with a dress for dinner or a tank top and jeans on a low-key afternoon. Browse the collection, as well as goods from other local artisans, at Dose Market’s second birthday celebration June 9. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., River East Art Center, 435 E. Illinois; Dosemarket.com

Brush up for summer soirees with MOOR Skin & Body Care products, a line full of natural botanicals that hydrate and fight signs of aging offered exclusively at The Spa at the Trump International Hotel and Towers. MOOR products start at $100, spa treatments start at $125. 401 N. Wabash; Trumpchicagohotel.com.

WHAT HAD YOU TWEETING

Wavefront Music Fest @wavefrontfest #Wavefront named a Top Ten Chicago Festival by the @SunTimes_Splash! Read what they had to say

A Better Chicago @A_BetterChicago: Thanks to @SunTimes_Splash for highlighting our benefit! A Better Chicago Benefit! via @SunTimes_Splash

OneFineStay @OneFineStay: We’re thrilled to have made it into @AmyTarach’s guide to modern family travel for @SunTimes_Splash

Rochelle Trotter @RochelleTrotter: Wonderful run-ins w/ @LauraSchwartz & @ChefKevinHickey at @SunTimes_Splash’s #SplashSwim500 at @FSChicago!

WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL HOME DECOR STYLE?

"Modern and dramatic — thanks to my friend (and interior designer) Jennifer Banks convincing me dark wood floors would look great next to floor-to-ceiling windows." — Publisher and Editor Susanne Negovan, susanne@suntimes.com

"I like more of a modern feel with clean lines and no clutter. But obviously with some garly touches!" — Director of Brand Strategy Zak Sterner, zsterner@suntimes.com

"Our Logan Square home is a blend of vintage furniture and decor, books, maps and my insane collection of Beatles paraphernalia." — Managing Editor Molly Each, meach@suntimes.com

"I love surrounding myself with warm colors like red and orange and neutrals like mocha. And my walls are adorned with paintings from local artists." — Associate Editor Rachel Handler, rhandler@suntimes.com

Editorial Assistants

Katerina Bizios, kbizios@suntimes.com

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Splash is distributed weekly inside Sun-Times Media publications.
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DRESSED TO THRILL
The sartorial savvy of seniors in the fashion studies program at Columbia College is on display at “Fashion Columbia.” Fifteen of the program’s top students will present three looks each in a runway event, which includes a live auction featuring a Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week getaway.

Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Columbia College Media Production Center, 1600 S. State
Cost: $75-$250. Call (312) 369-8611 or visit Colum.edu/FashionColumbia.
June 8

**BE LIKE BOND: THE STINGRAY AFFAIR**

This event is black-tie — but don’t let that stop you from rolling up your sleeves and getting your hands wet while checking out the Shedd Aquarium’s newest exhibit, “Stingray Touch.” Proceeds from the event — which also includes drinks, dancing and live music — support animal care, conservation, education, infrastructure and community access.

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Place:** John G. Shedd Aquarium, 1200 S. Lake Shore

**Cost:** $800. Call (312) 692-2713 or visit Sheddaquarium.org/gala.

---

**June 14**

**BLUE MASQUERADE BALL**

The dance studios of the Joffrey Ballet get a glam makeover for this inaugural fundraiser. Expect a lounge-like, South Beach vibe, specialty cocktails and of course, a dance party, courtesy of DJ Madrid.

**Time:** 8 p.m.

**Place:** 10 E Randolph

**Cost:** $95. For more information, visit Joffrey.org/blue.

---

**June 14**

**PROGRESSIVE: A MOVEABLE PARTY OF PERFORMANCE AND CUISINE**

Victory Gardens Theater becomes a party scene at this bewitching fundraiser, which includes food, cocktails and a multitude of performances. From the lobby to various performance spaces, the company’s home will be artfully transformed to celebrate the mystery and illusion of the theater.

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Place:** 2433 N. Lincoln

**Cost:** $75. Call (773) 328-2146 or email Bbarnes@victorygardens.org.

---

**June 15**

**A SUMMER SOIREE WITH GWYNETH PALTROW**

Actress, author, blogger and style icon Gwyneth Paltrow takes the spotlight as she receives the Renaissance Award at this benefit for the Gene Siskel Film Center, an offshoot of the School of the Art Institute. Clips of her most memorable performances will be screened and the Academy Award-winner will share her thoughts on the industry and her craft.

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Place:** The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Chicago, 160 E. Pearson

**Cost:** Tickets start at $400. Call (312) 846-2072 or visit Siskelfilmcenter.org/benefit2013.

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**June 16**

**CATCH IN THE CONFINES**

It's a game of catch that sports fans won't forget as the Chicago Cubs Charities and Advocate Children's Hospital open up Wrigley Field for guests to throw the ball around, run the bases and chill in the dugout. Everyone leaves with a T-shirt, photo, baseball and lunch.

**Time:** Noon

**Place:** Wrigley Field, 1060 W. Addison

**Cost:** $150 to participate, $15 guest tickets. Call (773) 404-2827 or visit Cubs.com/community.
Sheryl Lowe Jewelry Event at Neiman Marcus

Precious Mettle

By Katerina Bizios

Rob and Sheryl Lowe and Wendy Krimins

Rob and Sheryl Lowe took a break from Hollywood to host a Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation lunch May 24. More than 40 women involved with the nonprofit were invited to dine with the Lowes in the fourth-floor Zodiac Room at Neiman Marcus (737 N. Michigan) and view Sheryl’s pave diamond-studded jewelry collection at a special trunk show downstairs. Guests included Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University’s Director Dr. Steven Rosen and Foundation Board Chair Stephanie Lieber.

Photos by Ramzi Dreessen

Stephanie Lieber and Lisa Saul

Swim 500 Fashion Show

Making Waves

By Katerina Bizios

The Four Seasons Hotel Chicago (120 E. Delaware) transformed its pool deck into a runway May 23. An intimate group of 30 showed up at the hotel for a Splash-sponsored luncheon, where they got a sneak peek at this season’s hottest swim fashions and sipped Veuve Clicquot Champagne and vitamin-charged drinks from Peeled Juice Bar. Splash’s Samantha Saifer Bergard and the 900 North Michigan Shops’ Ryan Beshel emceed as models strutted poolside in 15 looks provided by the 900 Shops. After chef Kevin Hickey addressed the crowd, the party moved upstairs to Allium, where attendees chowed down on a selection from the restaurant’s new 500-calorie menu — including a 99 percent pure chocolate sorbet for dessert.

Photos by Ramzi Dreessen
The new motto on Chicago's party scene? "Go bold or stay home," as our fashionistas are donning their brightest garb this summer. Not for the faint-of-heart or fashion freshmen, this look demands an expert eye, so be sure to pick a color that flatters: Olive tones look great in oranges and reds, fairer skin shines in yellows and greens and hot pink is almost universally flattering. When it comes to accessorizing, there are two distinct roads: neutral or neon. Stay tame with tan or black, a la Costume National, which paired hot pinks with simple black on the spring runway, or go all out with a complementary neon, as seen at Moschino’s spring runway show, which paired bright yellows with fire-engine reds. Either way, keep jewelry to a minimum, and let the dress do the talking. The only thing that should shine brighter than your outfit is your personality.
Residents and staff members of Misericordia (6300 N. Ridge) work year-round to create original, inspirational artwork, and May 22, their efforts paid off: More than 1,300 guests turned out to bid on their pieces at the 16th annual Artist in All event. Co-chairs Margaret Babjak and Rebecca Pasquesi welcomed attendees to the Art Institute of Chicago's Modern Wing (159 E. Monroe), where they perused the 250 pieces — including paintings and photography — from more than 100 artists. A silent auction helped raise $400,000 to benefit the home, which supports developmentally disabled children and adults in Chicago.

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

Fr. Jack Clair, Sister Rosemary Connelly, Joan (a Misericordia resident), Lois Gates and Kevin Connelly welcomed attendees to the Art Institute of Chicago's Modern Wing (159 E. Monroe), where they perused the 250 pieces — including paintings and photography — from more than 100 artists. A silent auction helped raise $400,000 to benefit the home, which supports developmentally disabled children and adults in Chicago.

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Mariano's Tastemakers Launch

With its 10 Chicago-area locations now up and running, you might say Mariano's Fresh Market is on a roll. On May 21, the upscale grocery store celebrated another recent launch: Tastemakers, a print and digital campaign featuring notable chefs from around the city, which was produced in collaboration with Splash. Bob Mariano began the evening by thanking his wife Nina for leading the campaign, then welcomed more than 70 VIP guests to their Greektown location (40 S. Halsted). Attendees noshed on flatbread pizzas, fresh oysters, sushi and watermelon salad while mingling with the chefs who starred in the campaign: Carrie Nahabedian of NAHA and Brichtille, Rodelio Aglibot of e + o food and drink, Meg Galus of NoMi Kitchen, Bill Kim of Urbanbelly, bellyQ and Belly Shack, Tony Priolo of Piccolo Sogno and Piccolo Sogno Due and Giuseppe Tentori of Boka and GT Fish & Oyster. Visit Marianostastemakers.com to view the campaign, which takes you behind-the-scenes with these local chefs as they shop the aisles of Mariano's to create their culinary masterpieces.

Nina and Bob Mariano

Dana Schueller and Carrie Nahabedian

Devyn Abdullah and D. Graham Kostic

Mamie Walton and Sean Eshaghy

Jennifer Lane, Tracey Tarantino DiBuono and Darby Hills

Photos by Ramzi Dreesen
Cutting edge renovations and expansive new services make Chicago’s Venue One the premier location for customized events.

Found in Chicago’s vibrant West Loop neighborhood, Venue One’s 33,000 square-foot production space, coupled with Event Creative’s production team, delivers an unforgettable and unique event experience.

Two floors of meeting and event spaces include state-of-the-art technology with 60 screens of full HD video, an LED color-changing light system, built-in surround sound and an image-mapping wall. The endless possibilities to utilize these systems are guaranteed to have your guests talking for weeks.

Event Center  I With a full inventory of lounge furniture, tables, chairs and dinnerware Venue One is capable of holding a sit-down dinner for up to 500 guests and a cocktail reception for up to 800 guests. Event designers customize these high-end furnishings with inspired fabric selections and floral arrangements.

Adding to your unparalleled experience is a brand new, full-service kitchen with chef-driven menu selections equipped for anything from cocktail parties to gourmet, multi-course meals.

Meeting Center  I Included in the recent renovations is Venue One’s state-of-the-art meeting center, which is perfect for corporate meetings, conferences, focus groups and presentations. This space offers seven private meeting suites, 30 HD video screens, conference rooms, a print center, presentation suites and more.

The entirely full-service meeting center provides on-site support and technology staff, so your meetings and events can run smoothly without technical setbacks.

Venue One is the perfect choice for proprietary events, experiential marketing events, small expos, social gatherings, fashion shows, networking events, galas, weddings and much more.

www.venueonechicago.com
312.327.0111 ext. 116
an EVENTCREATIVE venue

expansion opens summer 2013
1044 W. Randolph, Chicago, Illinois 60607
Mick's so cold!

The Rolling Stones rolled into town last week to kick off their three-night "50 and Counting" stint at the United Center. After flying in on a private jet, the Stones went straight to their swanky downtown hotel, where a group of fans was awaiting their arrival. The fans were hot for Mick Jagger, but the rocker was cold as ice. He denied autographs for the first several hours he was in the Windy City. But after a dinner date at Japanese restaurant Katsu in Rogers Park with his model daughter, Georgia, the rock star's attitude seemed to turn.

"Earlier in the day, he told fans a stern 'no' to autographs," an eyewitness said. "But after dinner, he was in a great mood! He told fans he'd sign one autograph each, and that's what he did."

Perhaps a little sake turned the rock legend's mood around?

Drama at 'Dancing with the Stars' finale

Though Kellie Pickler and Derek Hough were crowned "Dancing with the Stars" champs, it seems competitors Val Chmerkovskiy and Zendaya (below, top) had a last minute setback. Zendaya accidentally elbowed Val during rehearsals the Monday before the finale, and he was rushed to Beverly Hills plastic surgeon Dr. Rady Rahban.

"He had lacerated his brow," Dr. Rahban tells this column. "It was slit open and he needed stitches." Rahban says the injury may have affected Val's performance.

"His vision may have hindered him a little bit," Rahban said. "He was calm and focused on winning, but the show seems to be based on popularity.

So why didn't Val go to the ER? Because that's the LA way!"

Ben and Jen on the rocks?

Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner joked about their marital issues on "Saturday Night Live," but there's some truth to their problems.

"There have been issues with their marriage — especially a few years back when Ben fell off the wagon again," says an inside source. But things have turned around for the couple. "He seems to be on a great path right now."

Ben famously called his marriage "work" during his Best Picture acceptance speech at the Oscars, receiving flack from the press. But, with the help of his wife, he made fun of the incident on the season finale of "SNL." "His 'SNL' monologue is a sign that the couple is doing well, as his wife was willing to be a part of the joke," relationship expert Dr. Laura Berman told this column. "While Ben's comments about his marriage raised some eyebrows, I believe he was simply being honest about the reality of his marriage and long-term relationships in general."
Dominic Miller, Sting's guitar man, presses play on a Sunday in Chicago

BY ZAK STEMER

Touring for the better part of three decades is something that might get tiresome for certain men. But Dominic Miller, who's strummed the guitar with World Party, Phil Collins and, for the last 23 years, Sting, says he's just as thrilled to be a world-class rocker as he was in the beginning. "My first gig with Sting was in a stadium in Uruguay," Miller remembers. "It was 80,000 people. I told him, 'This is more people than I've ever played for.' He said 'I know,' and I said, 'This is more people than I have ever played for put together!'

Since then, Miller, who spent part of his childhood in Racine, Wis., has seen his share of the world's stadiums during his 1,300 performances alongside Sting. But he always carves out time for intimate solo shows, sans the lights, smoke and glory of an arena. "When I'm doing a small concert in front of a few hundred people, that's really scary," he admits. "There's no gimmick - it is what it is, and I love doing that. It reminds me what it's all about." So it comes as no surprise that June 7, after backing Sting at Ravinia, Miller is staging his own post-concert solo show at the Chopin Theater (1543 W. Division) for 200 guests.

On his guitar, Miller is a Renaissance man. "[When I started], I was the sort of guy who could play a lot of different styles, not a master of any one particular style," he explains. Now, after spending his career touring with the world's best, Miller has created his own signature sound. "My show is a musical journey," he says. "It's the common denominator of my musical interests and influenced by everyone I've ever played with."

With arrangements ranging from Bach to the Beatles, and Sting to Collins, Miller's style is an amalgamation of his eclectic tastes and instrumental flair. And he says he can't wait to bring it to the Windy City. "I'm very humbled to play in Chicago," he says. "I've seen amazing players in blues bars who have day jobs but can kick everybody in London who's a professional. It's a huge privilege to play in a city that's so plugged into the arts."

Here, the guitar hero sets the tone for his ideal Sunday.

See Miller live at the Chopin Theater June 7 at midnight. Tickets are $54 in advance, $74 at the door. Visit Rainzworld.ticketbud.com/dominic-miller-shape-of-my-heart for more info.

8 A.M.
Miller wakes up early at the Park Hyatt Chicago (800 N. Michigan) thanks to a "combination of enthusiasm and insomnia."

9 A.M.
Miller, who was born in London, is used to gloomy weather — so rain or shine, he takes a long walk along the lakeshore.

10:30 A.M.
He sits down for an American-style breakfast of bacon and eggs at NoMI (800 N. Michigan).

NOON
Back at the Park Hyatt, he does his daily Ashtanga yoga practice in his room, then winds down with a good read. Currently on his nightstand? Stonemouth by Ian Banks.

2 P.M.
Miller sets aside time to practice his guitar every day. "For me, practicing and playing are two different things. I practice super slow with Bach music. I deconstruct the playing down to zero," he says.

3 P.M.
"I have to make my pilgrimage to the Art Institute," Miller says. His favorite spots? The Impressionist collection, to see the Monets and Renoirs (left), and the American Art collection, where he checks out paintings by Edward Hopper.

10:30 P.M.
Since he's always learning from other musicians, he ends the night at Buddy Guy's Legends (700 S. Wabash) to hear some live blues.

8 P.M.
Miller and his bandmates head to MK Restaurant (868 N. Franklin) for a steak dinner.
As she prepares to return to Chicago, ‘E! News’ co-host CATT SADLER reflects on her journey from the Hoosier State to Hollywood

Each week, over seven million people tune in to “E! News” to watch Catt Sadler and her fellow correspondents deliver the day’s pop culture and entertainment news. She has interviewed some of the biggest celebrities in the world, from Meryl Streep to George Clooney. But none of that matters to her 8-year-old son, Arion.

“He asked me last night, ‘So if we were out at the grocery store and you ran into Ryan Seacrest, he’d know who you are, right?’” says Sadler. And I’m like, “Yeah, honey, he would,” she laughs. “It’s pretty cute.”

What Arion and his 12-year-old brother Austin, haven’t yet realized is that their mom has become a star in her own right. Since joining E! in 2006, the 38-year-old Indiana native has become one of the network’s fixtures, working as a correspondent on “E! News,” co-hosting “E! News Weekend” and the new show “A-List Listings” and covering the array of awards season red-carpet events.
But June 8, Sadler is taking a break from her television duties to return to the heartland. She's coming to Chicago to host Simply Stylist, a day-long event that brings together fashion and beauty experts for a day of networking (see sidebar). Sadler will moderate a panel of local industry leaders, such as Corri McFadden from eDrop-Off and Stacey Roney of Glossed & Found, as they share industry tips and tricks of the trade.

"Whether you're a blogger, designer, editor or stylist, [founder] Sarah Boyd created this day so all of the different parts of the industry could come together, connect and learn from one another," says Sadler. Getting involved in the event — previously held only in LA and New York — was a no-brainer. "Growing up in small-town Indiana, Chicago was our salvation," she says, noting that her family used to come to town to shop the Magnificent Mile and visit cultural institutions like the Shedd Aquarium. But the event also holds special meaning for Sadler. "When I was growing up and wanted to get into television hosting, if there was an event like this, I would have been all over it," she says. "This has a special place in my heart for people who dream to be in the fashion and beauty industries."

Sadler can relate. As a kid growing up in Indianapolis, and then Martinsville, a small town 45 minutes south of the capital city, she found her knack for performing at an early age. "I was in dance classes, was singing and I did all of my school musicals and plays," says Sadler. "I certainly loved an audience." But she started dreaming bigger at the age of 11, when she appeared briefly in the classic sports movie "Hoosiers." "I was an extra in the championship game," she says. "It's not like I had lines, but I can pause it and show my kids, 'There I am!' I kind of caught the Hollywood bug from that experience."

Sadler majored in journalism at Indiana University, securing an internship at a Fox affiliate in Indianapolis, where she shadowed reporters and covered everything from fires to homicides to feature stories. "But all along, my passion was entertainment," she says. After college, she was hired by the same station and picked to helm a "Youth Matters" segment, which caught the attention of an agent in New York.

From there, Sadler moved up the entertainment ladder. She worked as an entertainment reporter in San Francisco, married her college sweetheart and had her first son before returning to Indianapolis, taking a job at her original Fox affiliate and having another child. But all the while, Hollywood was calling. "I would sit in my living room and watch E! and think that there was no reason I couldn't be doing that," she says. "So with the support of my family and my then-husband, we cut a strategy to get back out to California. Before I knew it, I got the job of hosting 'The Daily 10.' And I've been here at E! five days a week for the last seven years."

She credits her rise through the ranks to having a supportive family and a then-husband, who cut a strategy to get back out to California. Before I knew it, I got the job of hosting 'The Daily 10.' And I've been here at E! five days a week for the last seven years.

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She credits her rise through the ranks to having a thick skin, finding her authentic voice and plenty of practice. "Put yourself on camera as often as possible and critique your work," she advises aspiring broadcast journalists. "Even if you have to create fake scenarios to practice the art of interviewing until you get a job, do it."

Now married to second husband, film producer Rhys David Thomas, Sadler has perfected the delicate balancing act of a working mother. After getting her sons out the door in the morning, her day is spent staying on top of Hollywood gossip ("If Rob [Pattinson] and Kristen [Stewart] broke up, it's in my inbox before the world hears about it"). Writing and editing scripts, tape voice overs and finally, filming segments. Then I'm finished by 5 o'clock and go pick up my boys," she says. "I've done this for 15 years now, and paid my long-hour, early-morning dues. Now, I've designed my life so I can be the mom, but then have this killer job that's so exciting. I feel like the luckiest lady in the world."

But to the outside world, what makes Sadler lucky is her chance to interact with celebrities on a daily basis. And though she's interviewed some of the biggest names in Hollywood, she's hardly immune to getting star struck. "I'll always be enamored with Johnny Depp, and I've interviewed him a half dozen times," she says. "You can't see Angelina Jolie in the flesh and not be awestruck. And George Clooney was everything I imagined he'd be — funny and interesting and engaging."

But there's one interview she's still waiting to get. "I've never interviewed Brad Pitt, and I think that's a bit overdue," she laughs.

With her passion for fashion, Sadler shines brightest while covering red-carpet events such as the Oscars — though it's the harder-hitting entertainment news that stands out to Sadler. "I remember when Britney Spears was going through her really troubled times. Same with Anna Nicole Smith and Michael Jackson. Because it's not just one day. You're reporting for months on these tragic stories. It weighed on me so much to think of what she was going through."

Her sense of empathy is just one of the things that she traces back to her upbringing — and though she lives in Los Angeles, she says she's still Midwestern to the core. "I married such a worldly man, and I love to travel. But I will forever be a blue jeans girl, with, you know, banjo music in the background... And I would never, ever change that."

In fact, one of Sadler's recent career highlights has nothing to do with the glamour of Hollywood. At Indiana University basketball games, students sitting under the baskets hold up giant celebrity heads — everyone from Bono to Beyoncé to the Super Mario Brothers — to distract the other team, and this past season, Sadler's face joined the ranks. "I was a big head this year" explains Sadler. "I'm such a die-hard Hoosier fan. I immediately texted everyone in my family. I knew it would mean more to them than winning an Emmy!"

**The style files**

"I never just do the obvious thing," says Sadler of her personal style. "I love to mix highs and lows. I might wear Prada shoes, but I wear them with H&M." With the help of stylist Amelien Kashiro, Sadler has become known for her style, and catalogs both her on-camera and off-camera outfits on Twitter (@AmCatSadler) with the hashtags #CattWalk and #OfftheCattWalk. Here, she details a few of her favorite looks.

**Top and pants from Macy's, Parade Design bracelet**

"Black and white is very on trend, as are crop tops. I liked the attitude I conveyed when rocking this look. Not everyone gets it, but I think the fashion forward crowd appreciates it."

**Torn by Ronny Kobo dress, Vita Fede bracelet**

"This bright purple peplum number is sexy and chic at the same time. I don't wear a lot of strapless dresses on 'E! News,' but this one was too good! It highlighted my curves and didn't require a lot of accessorizing."

**Boo Hoo dress, ASOS belt, vintage sunglasses**

"This mod blue dress was a fan favorite. Credit to my stylist on this one, who insisted on the belt and the vintage cat-eye sunglasses. The color is magnificent on brunettes and really translated well on TV."

**Greylin dress, Vita Fede jewelry**

"This blue and black dress is simple, but the silhouette works well with my figure. This design is perfect for almost any girl to own — slip into this go-to when you don't have a lot of time and want to appear effortless."
On Juni: Custom linen bandeau bikini detailed in lily grass, amaranthus, waxed yellow button mums and birch stem wreaths

“My inspiration was a culmination of everything. When I go into the zone of creating, my mind, body and spirit remember it all.”

- Keller Shields for RELLEKs by KELLER for Dandylion Floral Artistry

Power plants

With help from three major-player philanthropists, the Garfield Park Conservatory will host its most ambitious — and stylish — floral fashion show to date

STORY BY JENNY BERG
PHOTOS BY KIRSTEN MICCOLI

With a standard-issue uniform of overalls and rubber gloves, gardening isn’t always glamorous. But oh, the flowers! In their glorious hues and scented glory, the blossoms springing up all over Chicago’s lawns and yards this season are works of art, and June 12, they’ll be treated as such at Fleurotica, the annual benefit for the Garfield Park Conservatory. With the theme “Infinite Beauty,” this year’s floral fashion show takes over the Museum of Contemporary Art with a new vision and vibe, thanks to new megawatt co-chairs.

Helming the event for the first time are Whitney Lasky and Shauna Montgomery, two of the city’s most formidable philanthropists, who worked with fellow co-chair Deirdre Koldyke to put a new spin on the benefit. Because the Garfield Park Conservatory is now undergoing extensive revocations, the event needed a new home. And after securing the Museum of Contemporary Art, efforts to amp up the party fell into place.

“We needed to rebrand and reintroduce Fleurotica as the ‘hautest’ happening in the city,” says Montgomery. The fashion show will feature head-to-toe looks — crafted entirely with flowers and foliage and inspired by the conservatory’s different rooms — from some 30 local floral designers (there were only 12 last...
In anticipation of Fleurotica, designers from Anna Held Flower Shop, Scarlet Petal Florist and Dandylion Floral Artistry crafted high-fashion looks from flowers and foliage that offer a sneak peek of what you'll see on the runway.

On Christina: Six breeds of South American roses and two breeds of cymbidium orchids

“Our inspiration for the dress was the Cigarette Girls, often spotted roaming the aisles of theaters. We arranged the petals in an ombre design from darkest pink to lightest.”
- Laura Daluga for Anna Held Flower Shop (5557 N. Sheridan)

On Mercedes: Fern and tea leaves, seasonal flowers and flowering plants

“My design was inspired by the Garfield Park Conservatory itself and couture fashion. I wanted her to look like a woodland nymph, from the fern room in the conservatory, mixed with a runway show from Paris.”
- Sarah Anderson for Scarlet Petal Florist (1621 W. Carroll)

June 12, 7 p.m. Tickets $100-$500.
Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago. For tickets and more information, visit Fleurotica.org.

SHOOT CREDITS
Hair: Ruby Caputo for Mario Tricoci and Kat DeJesus
Makeup: Jenny Patinkin for Amazing Cosmetics
Shoot Coordinator: Katerina Bizios
Models: Christina, Mercedes and Juni with Factor Women Model Management

Luftwerk's "Luminous Field" installation at Cloud Gate

INFINITE LIGHT
In keeping with its artsy, forward-thinking setting, this year's Fleurotica will offer a preview of the Garfield Park Conservatory's "Infinite Light 2014" by Luftwerk. Helmed by local artists Petra Bachmaier and Sean Gallero, Luftwerk creates new media installations that combine video, light, sound, surface and structure that are used in live performances and at public venues, casting a dreamy spell over their surroundings. (You may have caught the duo's mesmerizing "Luminous Field" installation at Cloud Gate last year.)

Now, Luftwerk is turning its unique vision to the Conservatory. Incorporating cactus quills and energetic patterns emitted by plants, the scientifically advanced installation which will illuminate the facade of the Conservatory via radiant colors and LED lighting units fits right in with the mission of the Conservatory, and the preview will add an additional layer of drama to Fleurotica. "With nature there is science, and with science there is innovation," says Lasky. "Innovation will play a vital role in bringing the Conservatory to the Museum of Contemporary Art, through Luftwerk."

The installation is set to open at the Garfield Park Conservatory in fall 2014.
**style | TRENDING NOW**

**CB2:** Ixtapa lounge chair in yellow/aqua, $229, 800 W. North; cb2.com

"The woven 'spider web' design and the vibrant colors are perfect for outdoor spaces."

**Anthropologie:** Mutabilis rug, $78-$1,298, 108 N. State; Anthropologie.com

"This area rug is eclectic and modern with just the right amount of color. Great for any space that needs a little bit of movement without taking over the entire room."

**Jonathan Adler:** Moustache bottle stopper, $24, 676 N. Wabash; Jonathanadler.com

"If there is any wine left... why not put a 'stache on it?"

**Orange Skin:** Mangas pouf, $1,665-$2,400, 223 W. Erie; Orangeskincare.com

"For all of my fellow dog lovers — why not display your furry friend around the house in a quirky way?"

**Artistic Tile:** Estrella Be Bop white gloss finish mosaic, $50 per square foot. Luxe Home, 222 Merchandise Mart; ArtisticTile.com

"I love the abstract floral pattern of this backsplash tile. It's elegant and subtle and has the appearance of wallpaper but the texture of tile."

**Schmidt Brothers:** 15-piece set with downtown block, $199.95, West Elm, 1000 W. North; Westelm.com

"The reclaimed wood face with the exposed knives is a great look for any kitchen — pull in your stainless appliances and wood elements all with one cutlery set."

**Art Effect:** dog show plaque, $73, 934 W. Armitage; Shoparteffect.com

"For all of my fellow dog lovers — why not display your furry friend around the house in a quirky way?"

**Arhaus:** Kensington SM extension dining table, $2,099, 1980 N. Clybourn; Arhaus.com

"Get that DIY, reclaimed look without lifting a finger. Seats 10 comfortably and becomes the statement piece of the dining room."

**Jayson Home:** Cosmo chandelier, $2,195, 1885 N. Clybourn; Jaysonhome.com

"I've been looking at a chandelier from Le Lumiere forever and can't seem to justify the price. This gives the same look."

**Restoration Hardware:** Maison double vanity sink, $2,035-$3,055, 938 W. North; Restorationhardware.com

"French Oak double vanity for his and hers. I love the antique look and the clean lines."

**Alison Victoria,** interior designer and host of DIY Network's 'Kitchen Crashers,' reveals her blueprint for a stylish home
LOFT-y ambitions
As if you needed another excuse to shop the Mag Mile: LOFT has staked out a spot on the acclaimed avenue. Head to the two-story shop’s grand opening June 5 to snag some of summer’s top trends, enter to win $250 — and spend $75 or more to get a free gift. Best of all, there’ll be a team of LOFT stylists on-hand to aid you in your search for the perfect look. 6 p.m.-9 p.m., 670 N. Michigan; loft.com

Sip and style
CB boutique is celebrating its one-year anniversary in style: On June 6, owner Mallory Ulaszek is inviting guests to take 20 percent off all merchandise while enjoying wine tastings courtesy of Terlato Wines International and light appetizers from Market House on the Square. 6 p.m.-9 p.m. 662 N. Western, Lake Forest; Shopcityblue.com

Brand new
Westfield Old Orchard is adding to its repertoire of major retail chains and Michelin-recommended restaurants this summer with a series of new shops. Vans opened in May, while Splendid, men’s denim pop-up shop ZipFit, Lululemon Athletica and Roka Akor are set to open in June and July. 4999 Old Orchard Center, Skokie; Westfield.com

Femme fatale
Add some sparkle to your style with plus-size boutique Vive la Femme’s new Fairy Dust Bar. Sponsored by Spa Soak (1733 N. Milwaukee), the bar is stocked with glow powder, lip gloss and curling irons to help you amp up your look while perusing the shop’s pieces — all of which are color-coded to identify which body type they’ll flatter most. 2048 N. Damen; Vivelafemme.com

Everyday man
Men of Chicago, rejoice: the Wit Hotel has teamed up with modern menswear store Haberdash to keep guys in style. Stop by the Wit’s lobby to visit Haberdash’s pop-up shop, which features hard-to-find footwear, apothecary and accessory brands like Sperry, Quoddy, Reigning Champ, Malin & Goetz, Filson and Ashland Leather. Or, opt for the Haberdash at the Wit room package, which includes overnight accommodations, a $50 gift card to Haberdash, a custom tie and a personalized styling session. Through Labor Day, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. daily, 201 N. State; Thewithotel.com
Diana Gramenos’ and Scott Hoyer’s trip down the aisle was all about simplicity. The duo met on Match.com in 2011, got engaged one year later and spent just five months planning their April 21 nuptials at Loft on Lake (1366 W. Lake). “We were on the verge of eloping, so the key was not looking at more than one of anything,” laughs Gramenos-Hoyer, a sales manager at Select Plus, a division of Sittercity, and Gramenos, the attorney president of Disability Corner, invited 70 friends and family members to their ceremony, where they exchanged vows and officiated. Lander’s shared the sweet story of their courtship. Gramenos and her father — a former dance teacher who celebrated his 83rd birthday that same day — kicked off the reception with a foxtrot, which required only a quick rehearsal in the bridal suite to perfect. Guests then formed a circle for a nontraditional game of spin the bottle: When the bottle pointed at each participant, they had to freestyle-dance to a playlist crafted by Hoyer, who’s a musician in his free time. The evening wound down on a sweet note as the couple cut into a cake that was a mini replica of Gramenos’ dress — one of their favorite details of the evening.
sunday dinner

FRENCH BLISS

Twenty years after its opening, Le Bouchon continues to please with classic Gallic dishes

BY DAVID HAMMOND

Bouchon means "cork," says chef Jean-Claude Poilevey, who has helmed the kitchen at Le Bouchon since its opening in 1993. It's an appropriate appellation — according to Poilevey, in France, diners pack tightly into these customarily small restaurants like a cork into a wine bottle. At Le Bouchon, Chicago diners follow suit, tucking into the intimate French restaurant, which dishes up elegant yet simple Lyonnaise items, such as French onion soup ($8), steak au poivre ($24) and bouillabaisse ($23).

As the Bucktown restaurant turns 20, they're bringing in a new chef: Poilevey's son, Oliver, who has worked at the Publican, Avec and Le Bouchon's sister restaurant, La Sardine. They're also celebrating with a week of special events, including a nose-to-tail dinner June 2 and specially priced entrees through June 8. On any given day, here's what you can expect to find at this local landmark:


Chef stats, Jr.: Jean-Claude's son, Oliver, once drove deliveries for Jimmy John's in his hometown of Oak Park: "I was there one year; I wrecked two cars," he says with a laugh. After a stint in a restaurant in Paris, Oliver returned to Chicago and cut his teeth in some of the city's best restaurants.

Vibe: A bouchon is, by definition, packed tight. After a 2008 "Check, Please!" segment aired, featuring then-Sen. Barack Obama reminiscing about dinners there with Michelle, "lines were out the door and around the corner ... for days," says Jean-Claude. As for the POTUS' taste? "Obama was a young, handsome, charming young man," says Jean-Claude, "but he was no great gastronome: He liked his steaks well-done." Sacre bleu!

Must-try dish: Rabbit is a challenging meat to cook, since it's lean and dries out quickly. But in the saddle of rabbit ($22), Oliver overcomes that problem with lots of butter and a sprinkle of herbs, resulting in a tender, meaty dish.

The secret ingredient: "I put fish sauce in the frog legs," says Oliver, a fan of Asian cuisine. Bouchon's frog legs ($10) carry the unmistakably delicate aroma of this fermented fish condiment — and it works beautifully. Still, when told of his son's unorthodox approach to this classic, Poilevey pere shakes his head, declaring, "Fish sauce? In frog legs? No, never."

Presidential advice: On "Check, Please!" not-yet-President Obama cautioned that at Le Bouchon, "reservations are required." Nonetheless, as he assured the nation, one can usually get same-day reservations around 5 p.m. But whatever time you dine at this time-tested Chicago spot, expect crowds — it is, after all, un bouchon.

1958 N. Damen, (773) 862-6600; Lebouchonofchicago.com
One-week wonders

At press time, these single family homes — all located near top-notch elementary schools — were currently on the market. But given Shaffer's one-week rule of thumb, don't delay if you're interested.

- 3259 W. Berteau, a 2,400-square-foot, three-bedroom, three-bathroom 1959 raised ranch on a 34-foot wide lot. Listed for $425,000, it's near several elementary schools, Horner Park and I-90 (contact Prudential Rubloff broker Marcella Kane, 312-264-1192).
- 5451 N. Kildare, a 2,048-square-foot, three-bedroom 2.5-bathroom built in 1998 and located in Sauganash Woods, is up for $595,900 and boasts proximity to I-90, grocery stores and the excellent Sauganash elementary school (contact Baird & Warner broker Myrna Scher, 312-981-2826).
- 6586 N. Oconto, a 1,866-square-foot, four-bedroom, three-bathroom Colonial, built in 1953 and up for $519,000, is right near the heart of culturally and commercially rich Edison Park and near Ebinger elementary school (call Baird & Warner broker Amelia Terrell, 773-263-3405).
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L.A. TAN
Tap your inner art critic this summer at these 10 local galleries showcasing new works

Catherine Edelman Gallery
With “The Chicago Project V: Selections from our Online Gallery” (July 12-Aug. 31), Edelman celebrates the 10-year anniversary of its online initiative celebrating local photographers like Clarissa Bonet and Eddee Daniel. 300 W. Superior, (312) 266-2350; Edelmangallery.com

Galerie F
This year-old Logan Square gallery focuses on printed works ranging from concert posters and fine art. This summer, be sure to check out the Roald Dahl exhibit, showcasing printed illustrations by the legendary author (July 18-Aug. 23). 2381 N. Milwaukee, (773) 819-9200; Galerief.com

Highland Park Art Center
This suburban spot is part art school, part gallery space. An upcoming Americana exhibit dubbed “Warriors and Art: A Path to Healing” (June 7-July 14) features works created by veterans to benefit charity. 1957 Sheridan, Highland Park, (847) 432-1888; Theartcenter.org

Hilligoss Gallery
A gallery for the true art collector, Hilligoss boasts pieces from renowned artists. Currently on display at event space The Murphy: gorgeous oil paintings of abstracted Chicago scenes by Nikolai Blokhin (through August). 50 E. Erie, (312) 755-0300; Hilligossgallery.com

Jackson Junge Gallery
While co-owner Laura Lee Junge’s artwork is always on display, the gallery also shows works by her contemporaries. This summer, it’s celebrating local photographer Dimitre with “Chicago: One City Many Colors” (July 11-Sept. 8). 1589 N. Milwaukee, (773) 227-7900; J2gallery.com

Liz Long Gallery at Chicago Urban Art Retreat Center
Each month, this gallery shows submitted artworks that follow a specific theme — except in July, when an un-themed exhibit will showcase the work of emerging artists, regardless of their subject matter. 1957 S. Spaulding, (773) 542-9126; Urbanartretreat.com

Thomas McCormick Gallery
The namesake owner fulfilled a lifelong dream when he opened this gallery in 2000, and has since become a prominent art buyer/dealer/collader. This month, the gallery displays “Island Works” by artist Mary Abbott (June 7-August 10). 835 W. Washington, (312) 266-6800; Thomasmccormick.com

Vertical Gallery
Brand new Vertical Gallery has both a chic Ukrainian Village storefront and a well-established online store. The gallery’s June exhibit, “Second Chance: Found Objects Repurposed for a New Life,” (through June 29) is a timely topic in the eco era. 1016 N. Western, (773) 697-3846; Verticalgallery.com

Zhou B Art Center
Founded by Bridgeport brothers Shan and Da-Huang Zhou, this gallery fuses Eastern and Western art. The upcoming “Lightsense” (July 19-Aug. 11) is an experience-based exhibit bringing together art and technology. 1029 W. 35th, (773) 523-0200; Zhoubartcenter.com
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A home for life: Adapting homes for owners who choose to “age in place” is the major task of certified remodeling “CAPS” specialists. One popular choice is a home addition, such as an in-law suite with its own entrance. Other home remodeling and built-home projects also make aging in place more comfortable, and safer. These include safety handrails in places where slipping might occur, like the bathroom. This is just one of the more popular remodeling projects. Another is new kitchen drawers that elevate them.

A real plus is the backseat, as it’s one of the largest in the segment, and provides this car with legitimate seating for four adults. The 200 Convertible also offers one of the most generously sized (13.3 cubic-feet) trunks in the segment; it’s spacious when the roof is raised but a little cramped (7.0 cubic-feet) with it lowered. I took the kids on a camping trip with car, a last-minute change as the compact SUV I was going to use that week became unavailable, and (with top up), all of our gear just fit.

For 2013, the Chrysler 200 Convertible is available with two engine combinations: a 2.4L four-cylinder engine backed with an ancient four-speed automatic on LX versions. This combination is not recommended, as the engine groans and whines out due to the four-speed. I don’t recommend the four-cylinder as a first choice unless you’re on a very tight budget, and do a lot of short round-town trips without a full load of friends.

Standard equipment includes: Sentry Key engine immobilizer, illuminated keyless entry, security alarm, speed control, power locks/windows/top via the key fob, rear window defroster, power trunk lid release, Electronic Vehicle Information Center (EVIC), universal garage door opener, bi-functional halogen headlamps, automatic headlamps with turn off time delay, power heated exterior mirrors, automatic temperature control, six-way power driver and front passenger seats, steering-wheel-mounted audio controls, leather-wrapped steering wheel, leather-wrapped shift knob with chrome accent, ambient LED interior lighting, leather seats, Media Center 430 CD/MP3/40 gigabyte hard drive with 28 GB available storage touchscreen radio, and Uconnect hands-free phone, iPod connector. The convertible and the sedan have different equipment levels and trim quality improvements. I hope the cars get a new name to help elevate them.

Editor: Paul Kelma
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The National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB) estimates that more than 70 percent of homeowners doing a remodeling project are planning for the future needs of themselves or their parents. This trend has become so prevalent that the NAHB established the CAPS designation, where select builders and remodelers become certified as an Aging in Place Specialist. A CAPS Specialist is trained in Universal Design Principals, which makes a home more livable for all ages and stages of life. "Aging in place" is a term that refers to staying in your home comfortably and safely, in your later years.

"With a few modifications, you can create an environment where one can age gracefully. Most importantly, studies show that aging adults are healthier and happier if they remain in their own homes," said Jack Philbin, a partner in AlP (Age In Place) Custom Builders and president of Philbin Construction, a company that has been serving homeowners since 1987.

"The renovations should incorporate your signature tastes, be appealing, and thus value-enhancing. There is no need for accessible home improvements to ever look or feel institutional in any form or fashion. An experienced CAPS Specialist will fuse innovative design elements with the highest craftsmanship," said Philbin.

According to Philbin, here is an overview of the three most popular changes being requested.

- **Barrier-free bathrooms**: Revamping the existing space to add a luxurious walk in shower with a sitting stool. The shower should have an entry threshold of less than four inches to eliminate tripping hazards. Simple changes can also include adding single-lever style faucets and anti-scalding devices.
- **Accessible kitchens**: Reconfiguring the layout to make it more open and adding new cabinets with easy-to-use roll out shelves. Many opt for new appliances with easy-to-use controls.
- **Additions**: Adding a first-floor master suite for themselves or their parents eliminates any problem with climbing stairs in a two-story home.

A CAPS Builder will also conduct a thorough home evaluation, suggesting other Universal Design elements. These can include leveling or removing sunken floors and rooms, widening hallways or doorways, and adding lighting and other accessibility features throughout the home.

AlP (Age In Place) Custom Builders specializes in creating aesthetically pleasing barrier-free living environments.

For more information on Universal Design home modifications and renovations, visit the Website www.AlPCustomBuilders.com, email to info@aipcustombuilders.com, or call (847) 830-0570.
Renovation for any age a wise choice

Most Americans over 50 want to stay in their home as they age, but few are making the renovations they need to ensure easy and comfortable living for years to come.

In fact, 80 percent of people older than 50 say they prefer to remain in their home indefinitely, according to an AARP survey. The Hartford and MIT Age Labs found that while 96 percent of baby boomers are aware of the changes they could make to their current home to make it more comfortable as they grow older, only 26 percent have made such modifications.

Consider some of the following functional, yet beautiful, touches that help make a home safer and more comfortable for residents of all ages.

**Hardwood floors**
Replacing carpet with hardwood floors can help accommodate difficulties ranging from respiratory problems to decreased mobility. Unlike carpet, hardwood flooring doesn't trap dust, pollen or other particles that cause problems for those with allergies and respiratory issues. Wheelchairs and other mobility equipment can glide more easily over a hard surface, and hardwood floors require far less maintenance. Homeowners can choose from a variety of hardwood flooring options that meet their needs and fit their budgets.

**New furniture**
Changing out furniture can make a huge difference in the comfort and style of a home. Enhance maneuverability by allowing ample room between furnishings, and by picking accessible pieces such as counter-height dining tables and chairs. Likewise, it's easier to sit in and stand from firm

SEE RENOVATE, PAGE 3

Life gets better at Lake Chapin Shores

"Older" only means "better." Active and fit are becoming common characteristics of the growing population of those aged 55 and older. This lively, fully-engaged group wants more with less. They want more opportunity to enjoy a full life and they want a lot less hassle and home maintenance to get in the way. Growing numbers of "55+" are choosing to move to communities that can meet their changing needs.

The key to the ideal vacation home seems to be finding a spot that the whole family enjoys. Smart buyers are looking for a family retreat that offers something for everyone: from playgrounds and pools for the grandkids to water sports and nearby activities for the grown kids.

Forbes.com reported that 11 percent of this group said they planned to buy a different home within the next three years, and that folks who moved were happier than those who stayed put. Those who made short-distance moves, getting away but staying near family and friends, were the happiest of all.

To accommodate their changing lifestyle, many of the boomer generation are exchanging their places in the suburbs or city for a dream house/second home in the country that gives them the benefit of flexible, open floor plans and maintenance-free living in a secure community, surrounded by scenic views and plenty of options for activities they enjoy.

Lake Chapin Shores in southwest Michigan is a terrific example of the type of the lifestyle destination that the new generation of "older but active" is looking for: a beautiful waterfront community located on 600-acre all-sports Lake Chapin, just 90 minutes from downtown Chicago. Homeowners in this lakeside retreat enjoy privacy with spectacular views, boating, water sports and great fishing. The convenience of services including year-round maintenance of the heated swimming pool, docks and roadways, common area landscaping and concierge options to prepare the home and/or boat for a family reunion, holiday party or other special events makes living easy.

In addition to the abundant lake and community activities, owners who enjoy an involved lifestyle find plenty to keep busy with scenic vineyards and world-class wineries, fine-dining restaurants, public and country club golf, scenic hiking and biking trails, casinos, unique antique shops and markets all nearby. Local towns host a variety of festivals, art shows and celebrations all summer long.

"Ken loves to fish on the private, secluded lake. He can go out any time and fish for a world-class Steelhead or Walleye without seeing anyone else. I love the wineries, antique shops, quaint towns and the Country Club," said Barb, a Lake Chapin Shores homeowner.

"We both love the restaurants, especially the Grand Mere Inn. We visit and shop at the wineries and breweries. Restaurants are top-notch and the prices are good too."

Homes at Lake Chapin Shores range from 1,300 to 3,200 square feet of contemporary living space (not including decks and porches), with樱桃, oak or maple cabinetry, choice of natural granite countertops and energy-efficient appliances. Each of the 12 home models includes open floor plans, with cozy gas or wood-burning fireplace with screened porches and expansive decks.

Materials and equipment are high quality, selected for quiet efficiency, durability and the need for little or no mainte-
RENOVATE | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

sofas and chairs than deeper, softer options.

Kitchen updates
Kitchen shelves that pull out make utensils, pots and pans, and ingredients much more accessible, and do not require a kitchen remodel. A wide range of products and kits enable homeowners to easily install sliding shelves themselves, or they can hire a contractor to do the job. Also, consider swapping out knobs for handles on cabinets and drawers to make them more accessible and easier to use.

More lighting
Make sure all areas of your property, inside and outside, are well lit. Pendant lamps, inset ceiling lights and track lighting help illuminate a room from above, preventing glare that can cause temporary blindness. Opt for switches to turn lights on and off, and locate them at the entrances of each room. If a home's wiring isn't set up this way, the homeowner may need to contact an electrician.

As we age, we want to remain as independent as possible, which includes being able to stay in our own home for as long as possible. With a few functional changes, homeowners can create a beautiful space now that can enable them to live more comfortably later.

— Courtesy of BrandPoint

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Total due at lease inception $1,449. Includes 1st payment. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

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Model # RM4H5MW, Stk # H39006

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Total due at lease inception $1,449. Includes 1st payment. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

2013 Honda ODYSSEY EX
Model # RL4N4DEW, Stk # 29453

$259 #
Lease Per Month For
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Total due at lease inception $1,629. Includes 1st payment. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

Shop Online @ muller-honda.com

*Plus tax, title, license and doc fee. All rebates and incentives applied. #Based on closed and leased. To qualified buyers with approved credit. 12,000 allowable miles per year, 15¢ for each additional mile (13 Odyssey 20¢ for each additional mile). *13 Civic: Residual: $12,248, *13 Accord: Residual $13,962, *13 CR-V: Residual $16,826, *13 Odyssey: Residual: $19,287. Additional options extra. Lessee is responsible for excess wear/tear, maintenance and insurance. Subject to early termination penalty. Valid three days from publication. Dealer will not honor errors in this advertisement. Not available with any previous offers. *0.9% APR Financing to qualified buyers with approved credit.
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MOMMY ON A SHOESTRING

Take the stress out of air travel with these crafts, games and activities that will keep even the littlest passengers entertained.

**AIR SICKNESS BAG SCRAPBOOK**

Showcase souvenirs from your trip with this mini scrapbook made from air sickness bags.

**You need:**
- 2 air sickness bags
- Double-sided tape
- Colored markers
- Stickers

**Directions:**
- Lay bags flat on the tray table.
- Fold each bag in half.
- Tape the bottom flaps down with double-sided tape.
- Next, place one bag on top of the other with the bottom flaps facing each other.
- Tape the bags together (flap to flap).
- You now have a mini scrapbook that has a front cover, two inside pages and a back cover. Each page also has a pocket so you can store additional souvenirs and mementos.
- Decorate the cover with stickers and markers, being sure to leave room for additional pictures, vacation artifacts and embellishments.

**AIR SICKNESS BAG PUPPETS**

Paper bags make great puppets, and air sickness bags are no exception. Create cute puppets such as pufferfish, dolphins and aliens with markers and colored paper. You can bring along pre-cut colored paper and double-sided tape, or have your children cut their own shapes on-board using Transportation Security Administration-approved blunt tip scissors.

To find more information about the kind of scissors and craft supplies you can bring on board an airplane, visit the TSA website at [www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/prohibited-items](http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/prohibited-items). Tip: Some liquid glues are not allowed, so “stick” with glue dots or double-sided tape.

**PORTABLE GAMES**

Keep the electronics to a minimum by bringing along a few portable games. When my 7-year-old and I travel, Spot It! by Blue Orange Games is our go-to activity. Not only does it come in a self-contained (and easy to pack) tin, but the game is simple to understand, yet challenging enough to keep players engaged and focused.

Another favorite is Rush Hour by ThinkFun. The game comes in a handy yellow pouch and includes 40 puzzles of varying difficulty. You can also buy additional booster packs for players who have already completed the initial 40 challenges, making it a game that can grow with your child.

Finally, there is the turbulence-friendly peg board Insanity game. Like most peg board games, Insanity sets up a puzzle where you have to transfer pegs in as few moves as possible. The straightforward concept is much harder than it looks, which will keep your kids thinking, guessing and trying new solutions while time “flies by.”

**KEEP BUSY HANDS BUSY**

For parents, there are few things as stressful as keeping your toddler occupied on a plane. After all, no one wants to be “that parent with the crying kid.” Julie Fisher, mom of three, has the perfect trick for keeping little ones busy and engaged.

“Traveling is always hardest for the littlest kids, the ones who can’t yet write or really color,” Fisher said. “A packet or two of small colorful Post-its is really all they need. They can put them all around the seat, the armrest, even the tray table. A roll of tape also works. Let your kids take small pieces off and stick them onto a piece of paper. It might sound silly but it really works.”

Don’t have Post-it notes? Colorful Band-Aids work equally well and can add a touch of make-believe to the whole experience. Another way to keep little fingers occupied is to give your kids bubble wrap. Toddlers love popping the bubbles and the multisensory experience can often soothe the fussiest kids.

Have a travel tip you’d like to share? Visit us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/pioneerpressgo](http://www.facebook.com/pioneerpressgo). We’d love to hear from you!
Rock star local chef launches his own line

BY VERONICA HINKE | Contributor

While chef Jaime Laurita was on tour cooking for Steven Tyler, the Aerosmith front man told him: “You know, I really wish you’d let your freak flag fly.”

Those words hit hard, and Laurita went on to develop a style based on the energy he channeled from Tyler and multiple other touring musicians, including Sting, Josh Groban, Sarah McLachlan (definitely the “biggest foodie,” he says), Barry Manilow and Madonna. He could have returned to the road with Madonna recently. “I decided to launch my product line instead,” he explains. “I was ready.”

From his kitchen in North Barrington, Laurita develops recipes featuring his new flagship line of foods and wines. Each item in his line reflects his family’s heritage. Laurita grew up in New Jersey as one of 11 children in an Italian family. Several of his siblings, including sister Caroline Manzo, have appeared in Bravo’s reality TV series “Real Housewives of New Jersey.” The show aired Laurita’s nuptials to long-time partner Rich Lane in 2012.

At home, Laurita is surrounded by views of his heavily-wooded property and choroused by birds chirping in the adjacent sun room. He rescued them from a breeder. “My girlfriends,” he says. While he works, Laurita channels the energies of the dynamic artists he has supported.

“Food has meaning. I cook very passionately, like Water for Chocolate,” he says, referring to Laura Esquivel’s 1989 novel in which the main character, Tita, expresses herself through food. “The first thing I do is step up to the cutting board with love and gratitude.”

His intentions are evident in everything from his “Rosie the Pink Cow,” (a “float” he creates by pouring his new rose water-infused Bello Boy Moscato over homemade vanilla ice cream and topping it with sprinkles of crushed pink peppercorns) — to chicken stock. “This is my magic juice right here,” he says, holding up a clear glass jar of liquid he has cooked down from chicken carcasses. Laurita, who trained at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, uses it to flavor his Summer Pasta with Figs, Pancetta and Basil, a recipe that features his new Bucatini pasta.

Laurita’s line also includes his Chef Jaime Laurita Prosecco, three infused oil sprays (lemon, truffle and roasted garlic), San Marzano tomatoes in glass jars, extra virgin olive oil and five different pasta varieties.

**Summer Pasta with Figs, Pancetta and Basil**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 pound of Chef Jaime Laurita Bucatini</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 tablespoons of Chef Jaime Laurita Olive Oil</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tablespoon of Chef Jaime Laurita Garlic Olive Oil</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tablespoon of butter</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pinch of crushed red pepper</td>
<td>2 tablespoons of pancetta, diced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 shallot, diced</td>
<td>8 California fresh figs, diced (about 1 cup)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cup of chicken stock</td>
<td>1 cup of chicken stock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pinch of salt, to taste</td>
<td>pinch of black pepper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 basil leaves, chopped</td>
<td>4 tablespoons of lemon juice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 tablespoons of lemon juice</td>
<td>3 tablespoons of goat cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemon zest from one lemon</td>
<td>in order to lightly brown it for about three minutes. Add shallots to pancetta and saute for another three minutes. Then gently add diced figs. Do not stir too hard or the fresh figs will break apart. Add stock and bring to gentle simmer in order for sauce to get heat enough to melt goat cheese. Season with a pinch of salt, pepper, basil and lemon juice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In large pot, boil pasta following directions on package.

In large saucepan over medium heat, add both olive oils and butter. Once butter melts, lower heat and add red pepper and pancetta.
YOUR Local Worship Guide

CHICAGO

Edison Park Lutheran Church
6226 N. Oliphant Ave. Chicago, IL
(Across park from Edison Park Metra)
773-631-9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com
Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor
Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry
Matt Haider, Worship/ Music
Michael Lyga, Children/ Youth/ Family

St. Paul Lutheran Church
5650 N. Canfield, 60631,
(708)867-5044, www.stpaulcanfield.org
Street Level, Air Conditioned
Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45AM
Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30AM
Saturday Worship 6PM
Lutheran Unity School - West
Pre K-Grade 8, SHARING GOO,
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Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)
6201 W Peterson Ave.
Chicago, IL (773) 631-0715
Saturday Worship 9:30PM
Sunday Worship 10:30AM
Holy Communion Weekly
Pastors: Barbara Berry-Bailey
and Jeffery King

GLENVIEW

Rohr Chabad Center of Glenview
701 Harlem Avenue, Glenview
Shabbat morning services 9:30 am
NO membership required
For all your Jewish needs call
847-441-6599
www.ChabadofGlenview.com

MORTON GROVE

Morton Grove Community Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)
6944 Austin Avenue
(Lake and Austin)
Morton Grove, IL
(847) 965-2982
www.mgccpresbyterian.org
Sunday Worship 10 AM
Fellowship 11 AM
Rev. Lolly Dominski
Handicapped Accessible
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St. John Lutheran Church
(LCMS)
7429 N. Milwaukee Ave.
847-647-9867
www.st-john-niles.org
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Sanctuary Handicap accessible
Sunday Worship at 9:30
Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45
Rev. Matthew Joseph Gunia, Pastor
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-1 John 3:20

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Oakton Street & Laramie Avenue
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www.stpeterunccskokie.org
Sunday Worship 10 AM
Sunday School 9 AM
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Minyan Mon-Thurs 7 PM;
Sat & Sun 6 PM
Monthly Shabbat dinners at 6:30 PM
Religious School Tues & Sat;
Rabbi Jeffrey Well
Cantor Benjamin Warschawski
Rabbi Neil Brief, Emeritus

KEHILLAT SHALOM
An Egalitarian Conservative Congregation
Lay Led Shabbat Service, 9:45 AM
9610 Niles Center Rd, Skokie
847-679-6133
www.kehillatshalom.org

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

St. Timothy Campus
9000 Kidare Ave. Skokie
Sunday Worship
10 am: St. Timothy's Lutheran
11:30am: 시키고 성 교회
1pm: 시키고 나무교회 (PCUSA)
www.StTimothySkokie.org

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

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Temple Beth Israel
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Skokie, IL 60076
847-675-0951
www.tbiskokie.org

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10:45 am Traditional Service
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Fridays 7:00-9:30 pm
Assyrian Fellowship
Tuesday Evenings 7:15-8:45 pm
New Life Youth Group
(for Jr & Sr High Youth)
2nd Saturday
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Sunday 9:00 AM Followed by breakfast
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Sun School 10 AM Sept.-May
Pastor Gary Faleide

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St. John Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)
7214 Cass Avenue, Darien
(630) 969-7967
www.sjldarien.org
Services:
Saturday, 5:00 PM Contemporary
Sunday, 9:00 AM Traditional
(Nursery available)
Sunday School 10:15 AM
Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM
Full-Day and Half-Day Pre-School
and Daycare available.

**HINSDALE**

Hinsdale United Methodist Church
Garfield at 55th Street
Sunday Worship
Times: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM
Christian Education for
All Ages - Visit our
website for days & times
www.hinsdaleumc.com

Grace Episcopal Church
120 E. First St., 630.323.4900
Sunday Services:
7:30 AM The Holy Eucharist, Rite I
8:00 AM Grace Café
9:00 AM Church School Classes
and Adult Forum
10:00 AM The Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Nursery Care is available 8:30-11:30 AM
Weekday Worship:
Wednesday Noon – The Holy Eucharist
Friday 9:00 AM – Morning Prayer
www.gracehinsdale.org

**COUNTRYSIDE**

Hope Lutheran Church - LCMS
4650 Joliet Road, 708-354-1718
Sun. Service 9:15 AM
Communion every Sunday
Sun. School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM
Handicap Accessible

**HINSDALE**

Evangelical Covenant Church of Hinsdale
412 S. Garfield St.
630-323-2218
www.hinsdalecovenant.com
Traditional Services: 9:00 AM,
Worship and Education 10:15
Contemporary Service 11:15 AM

**COUNTRYSIDE**

Evangelical Covenant Church of Hinsdale
412 S. Garfield St.
630-323-2218
www.hinsdalecovenant.com
Traditional Services: 9:00 AM,
Worship and Education 10:15
Contemporary Service 11:15 AM

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St. Cletus Catholic Church
500 West 55th St., (708)352-6209
Weekend Mass Schedule
Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 7:00 AM. 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM,
11:00 AM, 12:30 PM (Spanish)
Weekdays:
8:00 AM
Rev. Robert J Clark, Pastor
Rev. Kenneth Baker, Assoc. Pastor
Rev. Edgar Rodriguez, Assoc. Pastor

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La Grange Bible Church
850 S. 7th Ave 708-354-2485
www.lagrangebible.org
Sunday Worship: 9:00 AM,
Adult and Junior Bible Study
8:00 AM
Rev. Kenneth Parker, Youth Pastor

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY NATIVITY - EPISCOPAL**

275 S. Richmond Ave., (630) 323-6220
Sunday Services: 7:30 AM; 9:30 AM
with Nursery Provided
Children's Liturgy Sat. 5:00 PM & Sun. 9:30 AM

**HINSDALE**

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church
8404 Cass Avenue, 630.652.5800
www.ourladyofcarmel.org
Saturday Mass: Sat. 5:00 PM
Sun., 8:15, 10:00 AM, 12:15 Noon;
Dinner Mass Mon.-Sat. 9:00 AM

Grace Episcopal Church
120 E. First St., 630.323.4900
Sunday Services:
7:30 AM The Holy Eucharist, Rite I
8:00 AM Grace Café
9:00 AM Church School Classes
and Adult Forum
10:00 AM The Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Nursery Care is available 8:30-11:30 AM
Weekday Worship:
Wednesday Noon – The Holy Eucharist
Friday 9:00 AM – Morning Prayer
www.gracehinsdale.org

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Sun. Service & School 10 AM
Wed. Meeting 7:30 PM
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630) 323-0781

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Sunday Services: 7:30 AM; 9:30 AM
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Children's Liturgy Sat. 5:00 PM & Sun. 9:30 AM

**HINSDALE**

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8:00 AM Grace Café
9:00 AM Church School Classes
and Adult Forum
10:00 AM The Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Nursery Care is available 8:30-11:30 AM
Weekday Worship:
Wednesday Noon – The Holy Eucharist
Friday 9:00 AM – Morning Prayer
www.gracehinsdale.org

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST**

Sun. Service & School 10 AM
Wed. Meeting 7:30 PM
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(630) 323-0781

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www.UCHinsdale.org
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Sunday School: 9:00 AM,
Nursery: 8:45 AM
Contemporary Worship: 10:30 AM

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Grace Episcopal Church
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9:00 AM Church School Classes
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10:00 AM The Holy Eucharist, Rite II
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Puls, Ruth E.
Passed away May 31, 2013. Beloved wife of the late Harry John Puls; loving mother of James (Katherine) and the late Susan Puls; dearest grandmother of Susan Puls and James Puls; fond stepsister of the late Harry (late Gloria) Johnson.

In state Monday, June 17 from 10 a.m. until the time of funeral service, 11 a.m. at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 260 N. Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge. Interment Memorial Park. Nelson Funeral Home handling arrangements. 847-823-5122 and online guestbook www.nelsonfunerals.com

Singer, Greg K.
Age 46, passed away at his home holding his wife's hand on Sunday, May 26, 2013 after a three month battle with cancer.
He was born on October 15, 1966 in Skokie, IL and was the son of Gerald and Elaine (Hecker) Singer. He graduated from UW Madison with a degree in Fine Arts. He married Mariah Mertes on September 16, 2006 at their home in Sun Prairie.
He worked for American Family Insurance as a senior sales rep. He loved playing with his girls, backgammon, table tennis and music, especially Reggae and the band XTC. His trademark was the eyeglasses he wore for over 16 years. He also enjoyed riding motorcycles. Greg was very quick witted and had a brilliant sense of humor.
He is survived by his wife, Mariah; his daughters, Hollie and Hazel; brothers, Gary (Jarmila) Singer (Sam and Ben) and Neal (Hillary) Singer (Reid and Dean) both of Glenview, IL; his mother-in-law, Cindy Keim of Waupaca; father-in-law, Mike Mertes of Washburn. He was preceded in death by his parents, Gerald and Elaine.

A Memorial Open House was held at the family home on Sunday, June 2, 2013 from 1 to 3 p.m. Memorials may be made for an education fund for Hollie and Hazel.
44 | THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2013 | NIL

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CAR STORY
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George Carbray's 1967 Cutlass Supreme convertible
By John Puterbaugh - john.puterbaugh@wrapports.com

For George Carbray, the adventure of his 1967 Cutlass Supreme convertible is in the process of restoring it. "I actually bought the car because my wife has a horse, and on weekends that we don't go up to our lake house, she would be going to horse shows and I had nothing to do. So I bought a car," Carbray said. The car was in the same family in Morocco, Ind., for 55 years until Carbray bought it last spring. The previous owners rebuilt it about 11 years ago, and Carbray is in the process of putting the finishing touches on it. Working with Custom Cars Unlimited in La Grange, he had the chrome and metal redone this past winter, as well as having the seat backs repainted and a dent in the hood repaired and repainted. "It's getting close to show-quality," Carbray said of his project. Next winter, he plans to have the engine repainted and some interior panels replaced. The car has a 320 cubic-inch, 320 horsepower engine, paired with an automatic transmission. "You don't see a lot of the '67 convertibles around; production wasn't that high," Carbray said. "Cutlass became much more popular in the '68 to '72 models."

Don Krukowski's 2013 Camaro ZLI
By John Puterbaugh - john.puterbaugh@wrapports.com

Don Krukowski of La Grange Park has always been a Camaro man. When he was 26, he had a 1981 Camaro Z28, the last of that generation's body style. "And then I had two kids and they grew up. One's 20 and one's 16, so I said 'it's time for Dad to have another toy again,'" Krukowski said. "This is only my second new car; I'm 51 years old. My other new car is an '88 [Chevy] S10 Blazer. I still drive it; it's only got 120,000 miles [on it]."

He got the new Camaro in November 2012, and had to wait about three months between ordering it and receiving it, due to some custom orders he made. In addition to the car's new touchscreen radio, navigation and other controls, Krukowski ordered special silver wheels as opposed to the stock black, as well as a sunroof. He also wanted inferno orange, a less common color that took a little bit extra time. The engine is an LSA supercharged with 580 horsepower, married to a 6-speed manual transmission.

In the six months he's had the car, Krukowski said he's had some really nice trips down to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, where his son is a student. "It's a nice car; I can't say anything bad about it," Krukowski said. "It just wants to go. It's just a very good cruising car. The faster you go, it just wants to go more."
Director getting a kick out of lighthearted show

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

What's cooking at Devonshire Playhouse these days? "Corn and cheese," according to director and choreographer Liz Yerkovich.

It's a recipe sure to please, though, because the theatre group is staging the 1934 Broadway musical, "Anything Goes," which is loaded with laughs and filled with such Cole Porter standards as "I Get a Kick Out of You," "You're the Top," and the title song.

About that "corn and cheese" reference, Yerkovich explained, "I keep telling the cast there's nothing serious about it. There's no crying. There's not even a really serious scene in the show but I enjoy that because all we get to do is have tons of fun."

There are several other reasons why Yerkovich wanted to stage this show. "I wanted to do a classic," she said. "Plus with being a tapper, I wanted to do a show that involved tap dancing. I love Cole Porter's music and I love the time it takes place, the 1930s. It's very, very funny and the characters are crazy fun."

That includes Reno, played by Abby Rakocy, and Billy, played by Nyk Sutter, two passengers aboard an ocean liner sailing from New York to London.

"Reno has got a history," related Rakocy, who is an assistant director at the Big Ten Network. "She's an Evangelist turned nightclub singer. She's been with a lot of men and seen a lot of hard things. She always turns up onstage with a different drink in her hand."

Reno may have a hard edge but, "She's really got a soft spot for Billy," Rakocy said. "She starts out the show thinking she's in love with him and then she realizes his heart belongs to somebody else."

Rakocy is getting a kick out of playing Reno because, "She's sassy, she's very confident and her songs are great. I don't usually sing this style so I'm learning even more about how to stretch my range singing it in the style that she would."

Sutter, who plays Billy, has been singing, dancing and acting since he was 11. "By the time I graduated from high school, I had done over a hundred productions," he reported. Sutter is the creative director and a company member with Oak Park's Circle Theatre.

His character Billy doesn't usually do much dancing, "but because Nyk is a beautiful dancer, I got to put a little bit more of a dancing vibe in Billy's character," Yerkovich said. "Billy wears his heart on his sleeve," Sutter said. "He is very free willed and he's extremely passionate. He will stop at nothing to get what he wants, whether it's defeating others around him or making up stories, putting on a disguise or putting on an accent to try to get close to the woman that he loves."

Sutter enjoys the fact that Billy is unlike any other character he has played. "I've always been typed as the featured kooky character or the best friend," he revealed. "This is my first opportunity to play the leading man. Every day, I learn something more about myself and I learn something more about the character as well."

The cast of characters also includes a debutante, her uptight British fiancé, a pair of second-rate gangsters, two allegedly reformed Chinese gamblers, a bishop, FBI agents and the ship's crew. The plot is as light as a soufflé but it blends perfectly with Cole Porter's memorable score.
‘H.M.S. Pinafore’ docks in Evanston

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES | Contributor

The original Gilbert and Sullivan script and score for “H.M.S. Pinafore” will open the Light Opera Works 2013 season.

Performances will be weekends, June 8-16 at Cahn Auditorium in Evanston.

Rudy Hogenmiller, artistic director of LOW, who is directing and choreographing the 1878 operetta, did admit to some minimal tweaking. "We are moving the time frame up to 1910 to get away from the Victorian period. It makes the show a little freer, but we have not changed any words and the sensibility is the same."

For this show the pit orchestra includes 25 musicians. “G&S shows are classical in their orchestration, which is slightly different from most musical theater productions,” said Roger Bingaman, conductor and since 2005 the company’s first designated music director. That means there is a full string section, two violins, a viola, cello and base, as well as two flutes, an oboe, two clarinets, a bassoon, French horns, trumpets, trombones and percussion.

“The size of the orchestra depends on the show,” he explained, noting that the company’s next production “Cats,” has 20 pit musicians and four on the stage.

Regarding the difficulty of shows packed with everything from patter songs to ballads, Bingaman observed, “The orchestrations are deceptively difficult. While the orchestra sounds fairly simple and lively, there are some very difficult passages for all the instruments.”

For the conductor, he declared, “The most challenging thing is to hit the correct tempo, so that the choreography is not labored or frantic and so that the words are clearly sung.”

Indeed the wit and humor of W. S. Gilbert’s words are essential to the enduring appeal of these 19th-century pieces.

The show stars Jeff Award winner James Harms as Sir Joseph Porter, who returns to the Light Opera Works stage after his leading portrayals of Don Quixote in “Man of LaMancha” and Fagin in “Oliver!” in 2012.

Other cast members are Michael Cavalleri as Captain Corcoran, Dane Thomas as Ralph Rackstraw, Sarah Kelly as Josephine, Dawn Bless as Little Buttercup, and Ryan de Ryke as Dick Deadeye.

Light Opera Works presents “H.M.S. Pinafore” weekends, June 8-16.
Baroque Band, (above) a period instrument orchestra, performs music inspired by 'The Godfather' at 7:30 p.m. June 8 at Nichols Concert Hall in Evanston. Baroqueband.org.

Dream Come True Cabaret, a family show of magic and comedy, takes place at 7:30 p.m. June 10 at Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave. Gorillatango.com.

Author Greg Borzo discusses his book, Chicago Cable Cars, at 7 p.m. June 12 at the Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. Visit nileslibrary.org.

'Mine,' about a first-time mother who believes her baby is not her own, is on stage June 13-Aug. 11 at Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Visit the gifttheatre.org.

Evanston Symphony Orchestra presents 'From the City of Light to Eternal Rome,' 2:30 p.m. June 16 at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall in Evanston. Evanstonsymphony.org.
Feeling festive? Check out these outdoor events

It's time to get in a festive mood, and the easiest way to do so is to attend one of the many festivals that are part of summer in the suburbs.

**Custer's Last Stand Festival of the Arts, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.**
**June 15-16** in the historic Main Street Station Shopping District at Chicago Avenue and Main Street, Evanston. Featuring artists and craftspersons exhibiting and selling their works, a sidewalk sale, more than 30 food vendors, live entertainment and children's activities. Visit www.custerfair.com.

**Morton Grove Days, July 3-6** at the American Legion Memorial Civic Center, 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Hours are 5-11 p.m. Wednesday-Friday; 2-11 p.m. Saturday. The festival includes carnival rides and games, a food court, beer garden and live entertainment, with a fireworks show at 9:45 p.m. July 4. Music lineup — Windy City Country, Underwater People, 7:45 p.m. Thursday; Vintage Vynil, 6 p.m. Friday; Hairbangers Ball, 8:30 p.m. Friday; Cheryl Rodey, 6 p.m. Saturday and Strain Busy Sky, 8:30 p.m. Saturday. See www.morton-grovewedays.org.

**Fountain Square Art Festival, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.** July 6-7 at Sherman Avenue and Church Street, downtown Evanston.

**Taste of Park Ridge.**


**Chicago Botanic Garden Art Festival,** featuring works with a botanical theme by 85 juried artists, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. July 6-7 on the Esplanade at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. Free admission; parking $20 per car. Visit www.chicagobotanicgardenartfestival.com.

**Island in the City Festival, July 11-14** at Norridge Community Park, 4631 N. Overhill. Free admission. The event features live entertainment, food vendors and carnival rides. Hours are 5-10 p.m. Thursday; 5-11 p.m. Friday; 1-11 p.m. Saturday; and 1-10 p.m. Sunday. Music lineup — Thursday: The Chicago Rat Pack, 6:15-7:45 p.m.; The Chicago Catz, 8:30-10 p.m. Friday: Your Villain My Hero, 6:45-8:15 p.m.; Evolution, 9-10:30 p.m. Saturday: 6:45-8:15 p.m.; 7th Heaven, 9-10:30 p.m. Sunday: American English (Beatles tribute), 4-5:30 p.m.; The Fortunate Sons (Creedence Clearwater Revival tribute), 6:15-7:45 p.m. Visit www.tasteofparkridge.com.

**Skokie Art Guild's 52nd annual Art Fair, July 13-14** on the Village Green, 5211 W. Oakton, downtown Skokie. The fine art fair includes watercolors, oils, sculpture, photography, drawing, ceramics, pottery, jewelry and more. Visit www.skokieartguild.org.

**Big Greek Food Fest of Niles, July 19-21** on the grounds of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 7373 Caldwell Ave., Niles. Hours are 5 p.m.-midnight Friday; 3 p.m.-midnight Saturday and Sunday. Featuring authentic Greek food and pastries, children's activities, live music, a Greek taverna, festival dancers, cooking classes and more. Admission: $2 (free before 5 p.m.); $1 seniors; free for children under 12. Visit www.biggreekfoodfestofniles.org.

**Des Plaines Summer Fling, July 19-21** along Ellinwood Street, between Lee Street and River Road, downtown Des Plaines. Hours are 6-11 p.m. Friday; 3-11 p.m. Saturday and 3-10 p.m. Sunday. Features live music, food, crafts vendors and carnival rides. Free admission. Visit www.desplainessummerfling.org.

**Mount Prospect Downtown Block Party, 5-11 p.m.** July 26 and 11 a.m.-11 p.m. July 28 at the intersection of Emerson Street and Busse Avenue, downtown Mount Prospect. Includes live music, family activities and food vendors. Visit www.mpdowntown.org.

**Jeff Fest Arts & Music Festival, July 26-28** at Jefferson Memorial Park, 4822 N. Long Ave., just west of Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago. Hours are 6-11 p.m. Friday; noon-11 p.m. Saturday; noon-10 p.m. Sunday. Headlining bands are Dan Dot Dot on Friday, Magic Box on Saturday, and Michael McDermott on Sunday. Also featuring the Urban Folk Circuit traveling craft market, food trucks, drum circles and a juried art show. Admission is $7, $5 before 5 p.m. Free admission for children ages 12 and under. Coolers and lawn chairs are not permitted. Visit www.jeffest.org.

**North Shore Festival of Art, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.** July 27-28 at Westfield Old Orchard Mall. 4999 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. Featuring works by more than 120 juried artists, live music and children's activities. Free admission. Visit www.northshorefestivalofart.com.
Island in the City Festival in Norridge.

activities. Call (847) 868-2439 or visit www.lincolnwoodfest.com.

Edison Park Fest, Aug. 16-18 in the downtown area around the Edison Park Metra Station, 6730 N. Olmsted, Chicago. The event includes food, beverages, live music, Family Stage activities, Kids' Play Area and a dog show. Admission is free. Visit www.edisonpark.com/epfest or call (773) 631-0063.

Skokie's Backlot Bash, Aug. 23-25 in a closed-off, two-block portion of Oakton Street, between Lincoln and Laramie avenues adjacent to Village Hall. Hours are 6-10 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday. The event features free live music, an amusement park/carnival, 5K run, silent movies at the Skokie Theatre, a classic auto show, a business expo and sidewalk sale, food and beer. Music lineup — Friday: Rivals of the Peacemaker, 6:30 p.m.; The Steepwater Band, 8:30 p.m. Saturday: Filisko & Noden Roots Duo, noon; The Blue Coast Band, 2 p.m.; The Wanton Looks, 4:30 p.m.; Deal's Gone Bad, 6:30 p.m.; The English Beat, 8:30 p.m. Sunday: Kitty Devine & the Big Whoop, noon; The Intimate Machines, 1:30 p.m.; The Artist Formerly Known as Vince, 3 p.m.; Simple Simon, 4:30 p.m.; Tributosaurus becomes "Kool & the Gang," 6:15 p.m. Visit www.backlotbash.com.


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Everyone’s a Scot for the Highland Games

BY LAURA AMANN | Contributor

You don’t need a Scottish heritage to enjoy the Highland Games Festival on June 14 and 15, but you do need a sense of fun.

Whether you come for the bagpipers or the Highland dancers or the many athletic competitions, including traditional Scottish contests such as the caber toss (a 20-foot, 140-pound tree trunk) or the clanchneart (throwing a 16-pound river stone), it’s hard to be bored.

This is the third year at the Itasca location; the popular festival has outgrown numerous other locations in its 27 years.

"One thing I always hear is that it’s one of the nicest groups of people you’ll ever meet," said Julia Witty-Miller, director of programming for the Chicago Scots, which puts on the festival. "You don’t need to be Scottish, but by the end of the day you’ll be immersed in the culture and heritage."

Families will feel as if they’ve been transported to Scotland for the weekend as the group

The color guard is part of the traditional Parade of Clan Tartans during the Highland Games.
The Scottish Festival and Highland Games takes place June 14 and 15 in Itasca.

painstakingly recreates all things Scottish.
Among the many activities going on Friday evening and all day Saturday: Highland Dance competition, piping and drumming competitions, rugby exhibition, dogs of Scotland, Parade of Clan Tartans, genealogy information, cultural exhibits and a Celtic Marketplace.
For the kids there is mini golf, crafts and carnival attractions.
Adult attendees can get in the spirit of the games with the Kilted Mile Fun Run/Walk, British Car Show, Haggis Hurling Contest for women, Knobbly Knees Contest for men and the Haggis Eating Contest.
The Celtic Rock Stage will host musical performances throughout the day beside the beer tent, which will also include whisky tastings and seminars.
Most everyone agrees that the highlight of the weekend is the Closing Ceremonies and the Massed Bands Show, with 1,000 bagpipers and drummers joining together for traditional musical selections. "It just gives you goosebumps," said Witty-Miller. "The overpowering sound of it is very emotional. It just connects the entire event."
Don Morrison of Hinsdale knows firsthand all the work that goes into making the Highland Games a success. He's been a member of the Chicago Scots for 20 years and has been active in the Games for the past 13 years, chairing everything from parking to arts and culture to being in charge of the whole event. He's been tasked with field layout for the last three years, including the recent move from Oak Brook to Itasca.
He also heads up the British Car Show, which showcases cars such as the Jaguar, Rolls Royce and Lotus.
Morrison's parents emigrated from Scotland and he lived in Britain for several years, making him a good judge of the games' authenticity.
"Most of the games are pretty historical, especially the heavy athletics such as the caber toss and hammer throw, they go way back," he said.
All proceeds from the event benefit the Scottish Home, an assisted living and nursing care facility in North Riverside operated solely by the Chicago Scots.
The Skokie Park District’s dance program keeps growing. That means that the 14th annual Devonshire Dance Recital, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, June 9 at Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton St., will be bigger and better than ever.

“Last year we had 197 dancers. This year we have 229 dancers,” said Cultural Arts Supervisor Caryn Watson. “Our theme is ‘Seasons of Dance,’ in which we’re highlighting all the different seasons. Our little ones go at the one o’clock show and our older dancers go at the four o’clock show.”

Dancers, ranging in age from 3-17, will perform in a variety of dance styles, including jazz, modern, lyrical, ballet, Pointe, circus dance (which combines tumbling and dancing), pom and cheer, and tap. They will be performing to such numbers as “Autumn in New York,” “Turn, Turn, Turn,” “Colors of the Wind,” “Winter Wonderland” and “Singin’ in the Rain.”

Tickets are $8 in advance, $10 at the door.

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

Kids can help find some hidden ladybugs at the “Yoo-Hoo, Ladybug!” Storytime, 7 p.m. Friday, June 7 at the Village Crossing Shopping Center Barnes & Noble, 5405 Touhy Ave., Skokie. Children will hear that Mem Fox story and then do a ladybug project.

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

Magic Show, 2 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. Sunday, June 9 at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. Pick up free tickets at the Youth Services Desk 30 minutes before either of the performances.

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

The lifecycle of monarch butterflies from eggs to adults will be on display at Kohl Children’s Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, through Sept. 1. The habitat allows butterflies to explore while visitors learn all about them. The cost is $9.50 for children and adults, $8.50 for seniors.

For details, call (847) 832-6600 or go to www.kohlchildrensmuseum.org.
Big bugs are big fun

The Morton Arboretum in Lisle is playing host to artist David Rogers' "Big Bugs" through Sept. 8.

The 10-creature show is part-art installation, part-science lesson.

"Big Bugs" was first shown at the Arboretum in 2008. It features a dozen enormous bugs, some more than 10 feet tall, including a ladybug, speaker, dragon fly, grasshopper and praying mantis, all made out of wood and other natural materials.

"Trees and bugs have a relationship with each other, that when we had the opportunity to bring ['Big Bugs'] back again, we jumped on that," said Mary Samerdyke, the Morton Arboretum's manager of interpretation. "The bugs themselves are so beautiful and so well-executed. They are [anatomically] correct and beautiful works of art."

The Arboretum is spread out over 1,700 acres but the


A giant spider is part of David Rogers' "Big Bugs" exhibition at the Morton Arboretum that runs through Sept. 8. | COURTESY OF MORTON ARBORETUM

BY KARA SPAK | kspak@suntimes.com

"Big Bugs" are all within walking distance of each other in the core area, near the visitor's center. The oversize bugs are stroller and wheelchair-accessible. There's rotating programming throughout the length of the exhibition and children are invited daily to pick up an "Official Bug Detective Guide" to help them explore what makes these bugs tick.

Not all bugs have the pretty look and sweet reputation of the ladybug, but that's part of the appeal. "I think a lot of it is there is kind of a creep factor," Samerdyke said. "They live in the basement, some of them bite. But for a number of bugs - the ladybugs for instance - they are super healthful. They eat insects that are not great for plants and at the Morton Arboretum, we are all about what is great for the plants."
Lt. Dan is coming to the Ravinia Festival.

Gary Sinise, known for his role as Lt. Dan Taylor in the 1994 hit movie "Forrest Gump," is bringing his band to the town where he grew up. "I've wanted to play at Ravinia for a long time. I worked on the ground crew, raking leaves, taking out the garbage," he said.

But for nine seasons, Sinise's time was at a premium as he was busy playing Detective Mac Taylor on the CBS TV show, "CSI: NY." Plus he has been deeply involved in touring with his band, which he co-founded in early 2004 with Chicago-based musician, composer and professor Kimo Williams.

Sinise became closely identified with his the Lt. Dan character, but the idea of a band evolved almost a decade later, he explained when reached by phone in Los Angeles, where he lives with his wife Moira Harris and their children Sophia, Mac and Ella. "After 'Forrest Gump' I did some USO tours as an actor," he explained. "I'd be introduced as Lt. Dan. I'd greet the troops, sign autographs, that sort of thing."

Sinise has always enjoyed playing the guitar, but music was put on the back burner as his acting talent developed, first in high school and later at Illinois State University. Sinise is known in the Chicago area as a founder of Steppenwolf Theatre Company along with Terry Kinney and Jeff Perry.

Fast forward to 2003 and

Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band

8 p.m. June 13
Ravinia Festival, 418 Sheridan Road, Highland Park
Tickets, $65/$55 pavilion; $22/$27 lawn
(847) 266-5100; www.ravinia.org

Steppenwolf's production of "A Streetcar Named Desire," when Kimo Williams was commissioned to do the music for the Tennessee Williams' drama in which Sinise played Stanley Kowalski. Sinise moved to Los Angeles in 1987, but he and Williams began playing together "just for fun" when Sinise was in Chicago.

Jam sessions led to charity gigs and soon Sinise believed he could give more to the men and women attending USO shows. "Instead of just shaking hands, I thought they would like some music," he said. "So we began taking the band on our tours. We've been to Afghanistan several times, and at least half a dozen times to Iraq. After Ravinia we're going again to Okinawa, Japan."

In "Forrest Gump" the Lt. Dan character lost both his legs in the Vietnam War. That role touched Sinise deeply and through his Gary Sinise Foundation he has begun doing concerts to raise money for an organization that builds Smart Homes, residences that have been adapted for use by individual veterans who have sustained severely disabling injuries.

Among those who are delighted to see Sinise at Ravinia is the festival's president and CEO Welz Kauffman. "Gary has a special connection to Ravinia," he said. "He's a true hometown boy, an alum of Highland Park High School, which, of course graduates its senior class from Ravinia's pavilion stage each summer."

Kauffman then went on to tell a story. "Not only did Gary work here back when he was building what would become his own legendary theater company, he used to steal our toilet paper to stock Steppenwolf."

The two met about a decade ago when Regis and Kelly telecast their show from the festival with Kauffman and Sinise as guests. "Gary got the biggest laugh by returning all the toiletries he 'borrowed' from us on live, national television. He owned the place that day, and I have a feeling he's going to own this place on June 13."
Time is running out: It's October 2055 and there are suddenly a massive number of deaths in downtown Chicago. Ex-beat copy Jack Reed must piece together what happened in Evanston in author Nathan Thompson's science fiction novella, The Watch in the Sand. The book explores such in-the-news topics as nanotechnology, healthcare and wireless communication. Thompson's novella is available at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.

A laughing matter: Five suburban women will be joking around at the second annual Chicago Women's Funny Festival, June 6-9 at Stage 773 in Chicago. Going for laughs will be Samantha Gold of Buffalo Grove, Claire Swanson of Park Ridge, Veronica Elizabeth and Sarah Gallagher of Hinsdale, and Liz Bell of Barrington. They will be joined by some 400 other women from around the country in this festival of standup, sketch, solo, musical and improvisational comedy. For tickets, call (773) 327-5252.

Pride of the 'burbs: Jessie Fisher, a native of Highland Park and Lake Forest, is featured in About Face Theatre's "The Pride," June 6-July 13 at Victory Gardens' Richard Christiansen Theater. The play maps the gay rights movement from the 1950s to today. Fisher has performed with Chicago Shakespeare Theater, American Theater Company, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble and Lookingglass Theatre, among others. For tickets, call (773) 871-3000.

Viva Ars Viva: The Skokie Fine Arts Commission awarded its 2013 Skokie Award for Artistic Excellence to the Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra and its music director Alan Heatherington. The award is given annually to an individual or group that has made significant contributions to furthering the arts in Skokie. Heatherington accepted the award on behalf of the orchestra at a June 3 reception at Skokie Village Hall.

Picture this: Linda Kollacks of Libertyville was awarded Best of Show at the May 20 Lake County Art League Spring Members' Show for "Julia at Fountain." Other winners included Barbara Rogers of Deerfield, first place for "Emily," and Anne Anderson of Lake Bluff, second place for "After the Storm."
OPENING THIS WEEK

THE INTERNSHIP

Rated
PG-13 for sexuality, some crude humor, partying and language
Stars
Vince Vaughn, Owen Wilson, John Goodman, Rose Byrne
When their jobs are rendered obsolete by the digital age, two middle-aged salesmen (Vaughn and Wilson) decide to compete with college-age kids for coveted positions at Google.

THE KINGS OF SUMMER

★★★
Rated
R for language and some teen drinking
Stars
Nick Robinson, Gabriel Basso, Moises Arias, Nick Offerman, Erin Moriarty
Frustrated by their parents, three teen boys (Robinson, Basso and Arias) run away and build a home for themselves in the woods. Jordan Vogt-Roberts directed the coming-of-age comedy, a hit at this year's Sundance festival.

STILL PLAYING

AFTER EARTH

Rated
PG-13 for sci-fi action violence and some disturbing images
Stars
Will Smith, Jaden Smith, Zoe Kravitz
After crash-landing on now-hostile Earth a thousand years after mankind was forced to leave it, a young soldier (Jaden Smith) embarks on a dangerous journey to signal for help for himself and his injured father (Will Smith). M. Night Shyamalan co-wrote and directed the sci-fi adventure.

NOW YOU SEE ME

★★½
Rated
PG-13 for language, some action and sexual content
Stars
Jesse Eisenberg, Mark Ruffalo, Woody Harrelson, Melanie Laurent
If you're in the mood for grand-scale style sans substance and you don't care if what you're watching makes much sense, you could do worse than this prestidigitation tastic tale of Vegas variety mega-magicians stealing millions of dollars from bad guys as part of their stage act. A grumpy FBI agent (Ruffalo) bumbles after the Four Horsemen (Eisenberg, Harrelson, Isla Fisher and Dave Franco) as their magical thievery grows more and more mind-boggling, as do the gaps in story logic, until a final big surprise that pretty much invalidates everything that's happened earlier. Sometimes, Hollywood tricksters can be too tricky for their own good.

EPIC

★★★½
Rated
PG for mild action, some scary images and brief rude language
Stars
Amanda Seyfried, Beyonce Knowles, Josh Hutcherson, Jason Sudeikis
It's not really surprising that this Lilliputian tale of a life-or-death struggle between the forces of well, life and death, looks great and serves up plenty of slam-bang action and comedy. After all, Blue Sky Studios has had the spectacular entertainment thing covered since debuting a little more than a decade ago with the first "Ice Age" movie. It is a bit unusual, though, that mortality should play such a key role in setting the film's mood. After young Mary Katherine (Seyfried) accidentally encounters the tiny forest civilization long suspected by her eccentric scientist father, she's shrunk down to bug size "Alice in Wonderland"-style. Then she's reluctantly recruited into a war between the forces of good Queen Tara (Knowles) and evil King Mandrake (Christoph Waltz). Death and rebirth get almost equal billing in "Epic," which also features the early demise of two central characters while others mourn losses of others. All of which combine to create a subtle element of melancholy that weighs "Epic" down, just a tad, while simultaneously giving it a satisfying sense of emotional depth.

FAST & FURIOUS 6

★★★
Rated
PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action and mayhem throughout, some sexuality and language
Stars
Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham, Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez
The sixth installment in the $1.5-billion-grossing "Fast & Furious" franchise shows no signs of slowing down or mellowing out. Or confining its speed-crazed car stunts to the limits of reason and physics. In this case, though, insane and outrageous equals good dumb fun at 200 miles per hour. After toppling a Brazilian drug lord and relieving him of $100 million in "Fast Five," Dom (Vin Diesel) and his good-guy crew of street-racing international felons have been recruited by their former nemesis, the perennially pumped Agent Hobbs (Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson), to take out a look-alike of fast-driving genuine bad guys — which just happens to include Letty (Michelle Rodriguez), the presumed-dead love of Dom's life. Think she might have amnesia, maybe? The fate of the world is also at stake, kind of, but here's all you really need to know: More than 300 souped-up rides get flashed, smashed, crashed and trashed with admirable style.

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic
Contrived drama almost spoils ‘Summer’ fun

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

“The Kings of Summer”

Living in a makeshift dwelling might not be much fun for grown-ups, but it's pure paradise for the three teenage boys in this generally light and agreeable coming-of-age comedy.

Until testosterone asserts itself, that is, and things get ugly. Not quite as ugly as things get in "Lord of the Flies," for example (another cautionary tale about young men fending for themselves in the wilderness), but unsavory enough to turn their summer adventure sour. At least temporarily.

The feature debut of TV director Jordan Vogt-Roberts (“Funny or Die Presents”) and erstwhile David Letterman intern Chris Galletta, “The Kings of Summer” (a big hit at Sundance under its original title "Toy’s House") is the story of two 15-year-old best friends with big-time parent problems.

Joe (Nick Robinson) is so fed up with his overbearing single dad Frank (Nick Offerman) that he's taken to calling the cops and accusing him of abuse whenever he gets too annoying. Patrick (Gabriel Basso) is so mortified by his infantilizing mom and dad (Megan Mullally and Mark Evan Jackson) that he breaks out in hives. Understandable, considering his dad asks him at one point if he needs to go potty.

When the situation with his father finally becomes unbearable during summer break, devil-may-care Joe decides to run away and build a home of his own in a clearing he's discovered in the woods. Patrick agrees to join him and, accompanied by an exceedingly strange kid named Biaggio (Moises Arias), they set off on a journey to manhood with pilfered cash, canned goods and construction materials.

Things go great for the first few weeks. While their parents fret, the boys build a two-story shack out of bits and pieces like a porta-potty door frame, go hunting for bison and bear, and cultivate Taiko drumming skills on a nearby pipeline. There's not a whole lot happening, in other words, but that's not a problem because “Kings” is a mood piece, part "Stand by Me," part John Hughes teen comedy, and it's the performances that make it work — for the most part. All three boys are excellent and the grown-ups are good for laughs, especially Mullally and Offerman, who ultimately reveals a sympathetic dimension to Joe's gruff, widowed dad.

Unfortunately, the good times screech to a halt when Joe invites his secret crush Kelly (Erin Moriarty) to visit and she becomes a point of contention. A game-changing point of contention that basically turns likable Joe into a vicious poster boy for insane jealousy — and pushes “Kings” toward dramatic developments that seem entirely contrived.

Boys will be boys, of course, and hormones do have a way of kicking in unexpectedly, but maybe not in quite so much of a Jekyll and Hyde manner.
Looking for fun? Check out our Top Five picks for the weekend's best bets.

Just one more reason to get up & go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond

Every Thursday
**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

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**SUMMER CONCERTS**

**Summer Concert Series**

**Fridays on the Green**

Festival series at 6 p.m. the first and second Fridays of each month on the Village Green in front of Village Hall, 50 S. Emerson St., Mount Prospect. Visit www.experiencedonight.org. **June 7:** Friday Night Lawn Jockeys.

**Norridge Park District**

Presenting concerts at Norridge Community Park, 4631 N. Overhill Ave., on select Fridays. In the event of inclement weather, concerts will be held in the Norridge Recreation Center. Visit www.norridgepark.com. **June 28:** Free summer concert series, 7-9:45 p.m. Thursdays, through Aug. 15, at MB Financial Park, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, featuring food and beverage tents on the great lawn. Outside coolers cannot be brought into the park. Visit www.rosenmont.com. **June 6:** Free summer concert series, 7-9 p.m. Fridays, through Aug. 23, at the Village Green in front of Village Hall, 50 S. Emerson St., Mount Prospect. Visit www.experiencedonight.org. **June 7:** Friday Night Lawn Jockeys.

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**Tunes On Tuesday**

At 7 p.m. Tuesdays, through July 30, at Harper Park Pavilion, 6250 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Free admission. See www.mortongrove-parks.com. **June 11:** The Neverly Brothers (oldies). **June 18:** The Barefoot Hawaiians. **June 25:** The Lisa Rene Band (rock).

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**Sizzling Summer Spectacular**

Concert series at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, through July 18, at the Mount Prospect Veterans Memorial Band Shell, 411 S. Maple St. Free admission. Visit www.mppd.org. **June 13:** "Hello Summer" Dance Party with music by a DJ.

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**STAGE**

**Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre Dramatic Reading Series**


**"The Invasion of Skokie"**

Presented through June 23 by ShPiel Performing Identity at Mayer Kaplan Jewish Community Center, 5050 Church St., Skokie. Performances at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sundays. $28; $20 seniors; $10 students. Call (800) 838-3006.

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**"Stella & Lou"**

Presented by Northlight Theatre through June 9 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Performances are Thursday at 7:30 p.m.; Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. $25-$72; $15 students. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org.

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

Presenting music by J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn and Grieg at 3:30 p.m. June 16 at The Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1330 Ridge. $15; free for those under 18. See www.northshorechamberorchestra.org.

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**What to Do [Page 62]**
What to Do
Continued from page 61

Pick-Staiger Concert Hall
$13-$15-
At Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. www.pickstaiger.org. June 6, 7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Chamber Orchestra presents "American Folk Music." $6; $4 students. June 7, 7:30 p.m.: Symphonic Band presents an electronics-inspired program. $6; $4 students. June 8, 7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra and University Chorale present "American Explorer." $8; $5 students.

POP/FOLK/JAZZ

Akoo Theatre at Rosemont
$18-
5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. www.rosemonttheatre.com. July 5, 7 p.m.: Cody Simpson, $37.50. July 20, 7:30 p.m.: ABBA the Concert, a tribute to ABBA featuring Waterloo the band. $30-$45.

Allstate Arena
$18-
6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. www.allstatearena.com. Parking is $20, cash only. June 14, 8 p.m.: Fleetwood Mac, $49.50, $79.50, $149.50. July 6, 7:30 p.m.: American Idol Live 2013, featuring the top 11 finalists from American Idol. $33.50-$66. July 18-19, 7:30 p.m.: New Kids On The Block, 98 Degrees and Boyz II Men — The Package Tour. $29.50, $49.50, $69.50, $89.50.

Ethical Humanist Society Second Saturday Coffeehouse
$18-

Smooth Jazz All Star Show
$18-
Featuring saxophonist Marion Meadows, guitarist Marc Antoine and keyboardist Brian Simpson, 7 p.m. June 15 at the Hotel InterContinental O'Hare, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. $49-$69. Visit www.smoothchicago.com or call (312) 725-0740.

S.P.A.C.E.
$18-

ART GALLERIES

Brickton Art Center
$18-
Oakton Community College


AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

The Savoyaires

Holding auditions for Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Mikado," 7-9:30 p.m. June 7; 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. June 8; and 1-4 p.m. June 9 at First Congregational Church of Evanston's Church House, 1417 Hinman Ave., Evanston. Four female and five male principal roles and a large mixed chorus. Prepare one song in English, preferably by Gilbert & Sullivan; a second song is encouraged but not required. An accompanist will be provided. Schedule appointment at www.savoyaires.org/auditions.

Youth ensemble auditions

GT Skokie Young Artists seeking an ensemble of youth actors ages 8-13 to adapt and perform a version of "Peter Pan." Auditions will be held 3-5 p.m. June 8 and 5-7 p.m. June 9 at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave, Skokie. There is no cost to participate. Prepare a one-minute monologue, or one minute of text from your favorite book. Cold readings will be available for anyone without a prepared piece. If possible, bring a headshot and resume. To set up an audition, contact director Chelsea Taylor at chelsea.taylor29@gmail.com.

Play On auditions

Auditions for Play On, the Midwest's only community college playwriting festival, will be 6-9 p.m. June 10 and 12 at Oakton Community College's Studio One, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. No appointment is necessary. Festival directors are casting men and women of all ages and ethnicities. Prepare a monologue and be ready to do cold readings. The festival will be staged July 23-25. For information, call (847) 635-1976 or e-mail katet@oakton.edu.

Call for artists

Seeking artists for the Skokie Art Guild's 52nd annual Art Fair, to be held July 13-14 on the downtown Skokie Village Green. Prizes and awards. Visit www.skokieartguild.org or call (847) 677-8163.

BIG NOISE THEATRE COMPANY

Holding auditions for "Ruthless!," 7-10 p.m. June 10 and 12 at Light Opera Works Rehearsal Center, 516 4th St., Wilmette. Prepare two 32-bar cuts of an uptempo standard musical theatre piece and bring music in the correct key. Accompanist will be provided. Also bring two copies of your resume and headshot. Production dates Sept. 28-Oct. 13 at Prairie Lakes Theater, Des Plaines. Call Daiva Paulis; (312) 371-9945.

GT Skokie Young Artists

Holding auditions for "The White Rabbit Goes to Neverland," 5-7 p.m. June 15-16 at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Open to ages 9-15. Prepare a monologue, story or joke. If available, bring a headshot and resume. To set up an audition, contact director Ted Drury at ted.drury20@gmail.com.

Call for artists

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BENEFITS

Infuse Chicago

Infuse Music presents a benefit concert at 7
**What to Do**

Continued from page 63


**DANCE**

Chicago Dance Chapter of USA Dance

Monthly party, "It's Raining Men," on June 8 at The Centre at North Park, 10040 Addison, Franklin Park. Cha cha lesson at 7:30 p.m.; open dancing 8:15-11 p.m. $10; $8 members; $6 students. Visit www.usadancechicago.org.

"Flamenco Passion"


Line dancing

For all ages, held from 7-10 p.m. every Tuesday at the White Eagle Banquet Hall, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Beginner lessons are at 7:30 p.m. and new dance or review at 8 p.m. Admission: $7; $5 for ages 17 and under. Call (847) 965-6353 or e-mail at somedaydd@att.net.

Traveling Tap Dance Super Show

Featuring The Tapmen, as well as original musical performances, short films and comedic sketches, 6 p.m. June 22 at Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. $12. Visit www.gorillatango.com or call (773) 598-4549.

**TOURS & OUTINGS**

Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park

Located along the east side of McCormick Boulevard, between Dempster on the north to Touhy on the south. Free, docent-led tours featuring a different section of the two-mile long park are offered each month. Tours last approximately one hour and feature discussions of the sculptures, their creating artists, types of materials used and techniques employed as well as the artists' concepts for the various pieces. The park is handicapped accessible but the tours require walking between the sculptures, so people who have difficulty are encouraged to bring a wheelchair. All tours begin promptly at 1 p.m. No reservations needed. Visit www.sculpturepark.org or call (847) 679-4265.

**FILM**

Lincolnwood Public Library

4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. June 7, 1 p.m.: "Silver Linings Playbook." June 13, 10:30 a.m.: "Promised Land." June 13, 1 p.m.: Cinematic Classics features "Dinner at Eight." June 14, 1 p.m.: "Future Weather."

Niles Public Library

6960 Oakton St., Niles. www.nileslibrary.org. June 20, 2 p.m.: Screening of "Won't Back Down," rated PG. June 22, 2 p.m.: "Rise of the Guardians," rated PG. June 23, 2 p.m.: Screening of "The Sound of Music," rated G.

**WORKSHOPS & CLASSES**

Skokie Art Guild

Offering figure drawing workshops from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturdays at the Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie. Live models; no instructor. Fee per session is $20; $12 for members. Call Steve Gal, (847) 673-4450, or visit www.skokieartguild.org.

**COMEDY**

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre


Zanies Comedy Club

BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER
presents JACKIE TAYLOR'S

AIN'T NO CRYING THE BLUES
IN THE MEMORY OF
HOWLIN WOLF

Directed by RUEBEN D. ECHOLES
Starring RICK STONE

PREVIEWS BEGIN SATURDAY, JUNE 1!

A new story of the life and times of one of the greatest blues singers the world has ever known.

OPENS JUNE 9 - TICKETS NOW ON SALE! Reserve yours today at 773.769.4451 or at blackensemble.org

BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER YOU IN?
Grid is an interactive hub for the Chicago business community—a gathering place for the city’s professionals and business owners to take names and swap ideas.

Get on the grid
chicagogrid.com
Maine East boys basketball coach Dave Genis was faced with a difficult choice over the winter. With a promising freshman class, Genis could either promote some of the top players to higher levels or keep the group together as a team. "It's kind of difficult to foster any kind of belief in winning when you haven't had that sense," said Genis, whose varsity team went 5-21 overall and 1-9 in the CSL North during the 2012-13 season. "That's the reason why we wanted to keep them together, to give them some success and learn how to win together."

The decision paid off. The Blue Demons had a big winter at the freshman level and the A team won the 2013 CSL North title. "We had momentum," point guard Milan Grover said. "We were motivated by our freshman coach (Ian Thomas). He told us that we weren't a winning team and we would only be expected to win like five games. We won 18 or 19 games."

The success of the freshmen highlights a change in the basketball culture at Maine East. Genis attributes it to a partnership with the Illinois Old School AAU program. He had nearly 40 of his players participate in the Illinois Old School program this spring as opposed to just a dozen last year. Most of the freshmen played AAU this spring at the 15U level — and once again stuck together as a team. "It's been a huge change," Blue Demons senior Evan Nazzal said. "Everyone is playing basketball more often, not just in local gyms, but playing against different competition from other parts of the area. It's not the same people every day, so they're getting better all through the year."

As a senior, Nazzal didn't play AAU this spring. Instead, he took to coaching. Under AAU rules, a high school coach can't lead an AAU team with more than a couple of his or her players on it. Maine East got around that regulation by having a former member of the basketball program coach the freshmen. "It worked out really well for us," Genis said. "Evan knows our system offensively and all that stuff. The kids responded really well to him. It's tough for an 18-year-old kid to step right in and coach guys that are only a couple of years younger than you. But he showed a lot of maturity, as well as a lot of knowledge for a guy his age in his first coaching job."

Nazzal, who plans to play basketball in the fall at North Park University, wasn't sure of the AAU team's record, but did say it finished second in several tournaments. "I feel the season went well," he said. "We were kind of a small team playing against much bigger kids, but we were more athletic. They played really well together and really hard."

"He pushed us to where we could do something," Grover said. "He wouldn't just put in five, six guys a game. He'd sub us in and gave us an opportunity for the future."

Nazzal said he hopes to return to coach the group next spring for the AAU season. And the group of freshmen will look to continue the success this winter with the Blue Demons. "It'll be an interesting progress to watch," Genis said.
Klein earns academic honor at Wash U.

BY NICK BULLOCK | Contributor | @Pioneer_Press

Hinsdale Central alumna Kate Klein, a senior on the Washington University in St. Louis women's tennis team, was recently named to the 2013 Capitol One Academic All-District Five Division III Women's At-Large First Team. Recipients were selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Klein, an anthropology and Spanish major, holds a 3.90 grade-point average. As a tennis player, she recorded 95 career wins for Washington University. In her senior season, Klein tallied 24 victories while leading the Bears to the NCAA Division III quarterfinals for just the second time in school history.

New Trier alumnus Chad Sawyer, a sophomore on the Connecticut College men's lacrosse team, was recently named United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association All-American honorable mention.

The Northfield native had previously been named to the All-New England Small College Athletic Conference First Team and the All-New England Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association Second Team. Sawyer recorded 31 goals — good for second on his team and eighth in the NESCAC — and 10 assists this season. He led the Division III Camels to a 12-4 record, which included an 8-2 mark in their conference.

Fellow New Trier alumnus Christopher Williamson, a senior goaltender for the Bowdoin College (Maine) men's lacrosse team, also was named to the All-NESCAC First Team. The Winnetka native finished the season ranked first in the conference in saves (188), second in save percentage (.606) and fourth in goals-against average (8.06).

Deerfield native Annie Sullivan was recently named a captain for the 2013-14 Yale women's tennis team. She also was awarded, by a vote from her teammates, the Lisa Rosenblum Award for being the team's most valuable player.

Sullivan has earned All-Ivy League honors in each of her first three seasons at Yale. This past season, she finished with a 19-1 singles record en route to earning second team All-Ivy League honors. Sullivan, who attended Woodlands, also earned second team All-Ivy League honors in doubles.

Glenbrook North alumnus Hanna Yu was a member of the Bulldogs tennis team as well, Playing Nos. 3 and 4 singles, she went 25-10 as a sophomore during the 2012-13 season.

Lake Forest native Samuel
Chad Sawyer (32), a New Trier alumnus and a Connecticut College sophomore, was named United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association All-American honorable mention. BOB MACDONNELL

Lytle, a golfer for Hobart College (N.Y.), recently received the Rookie Award at the annual Block H Awards Dinner.

As a freshman this season, Lytle finished fourth on the team with an 84.9 scoring average while playing in nine tournaments. His season-low score of 79 came on Day 1 of the Liberty League Qualifier.

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CHASE CHEVROLET
JENNINGS VOLKSWAGEN

If the first month of the 2013 major league baseball season is any indication, the game is becoming all about home runs or strikeouts. On the one hand, the 50 home runs blasted on April 30th were the most in one day since September of 2007. On the other, the average of 15.29 whiffs per game in April was the second highest ever, topped only by September of 2012 (15.47), the previous full month of play. By the way, one of those 50 homers was hit by Atlanta pitcher Tim Hudson, who also posted his highest win that day -- only the second of 110 200-game winners in history to homer in his milestone win. The other was Bob Lemon of Cleveland on September 11, 1958.

Hitless-at-bats were indeed the story of the early 2013 baseball season. Detroit pitchers posted seven straight double-digit strikeout games in April, the longest such streak since 1921. In one Detroit game, the Tigers and Mariners totaled 40 strikeouts in a 14-inning game, tied for second most since 1920. And in a Boston-- Cleveland game, the teams combined for 25 strikeouts and 15 walks in a nine-inning game, the first regulation game ever with at least 25 Ks and 15 free passes.

Pity the long-suffering fans of the NBA's Los Angeles Clippers. The 2012-13 season was the 43rd in franchise history (which began in Buffalo and moved to San Diego before settling in L.A.) and arguably the best, although they did lose in the first round of the playoffs. Get this: In their first 42 seasons, the Clippers had never -- ever -- posted a winning record on the road. They finally did so in 2012-13.
When the Niles West football team opens its summer camp later this month, coaches and players expect there to be a different vibe around the program.

The Wolves are coming off a season in which they went 5-5 and qualified for the playoffs for the first time since 2004. Niles West had won just three games in the previous two seasons.

Yet, there still is plenty of work to do for the Wolves, who lost their final five games last fall, including a 69-42 setback against Palatine in the Class 8A playoff opener.

“Our kids, the seniors that left us, their focus, everything they did, was to play that 10th game (make the playoffs),” Niles West fifth-year coach Scott Baum said. That’s going to be our No. 1 goal again.

But the kids who were juniors and sophomores last year say, ‘Hey, wait this is cool, let’s do something more!” So, re-evaluate our goals. We want to play a 10th game, but be better prepared (to get to an) 11th game than we were last year.”

The summer schedule calls for equipment to be distributed next week and for workouts to begin the week of June 17. Baum said Niles West would hold eight of the 25 contact days permitted by the IHSA in June and the rest in July. Summer camp is scheduled to end July 28 and preseason practice will begin August 14.

The coach said he expects the camp to focus on more advanced concepts than in previous seasons.

With participation growing in the local feeder programs, more players are coming out for the team with a background in the sport.

“I think we have a lot of talented people who have been playing football for a long time, and they know what they’re doing,” said 270-pound lineman Dennis Gargovic, who will be a senior next season. “We won’t have to work as much on teaching basic skills. We can work on things that require more time, things we couldn’t work on in other years.”

Additionally, continuity on the coaching staff means players will not have to learn many new philosophies, schemes or terms. Bill Pistorius will be the team’s defensive coordinator for a third straight year, Mark Steger will run the offense for a second straight season and Brad
Hokin returns to coordinate special teams.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

In addition to intrasquad workouts, Niles West plans to participate in multiple 7-on-7 passing leagues—a one-day Central Suburban League event in July and a weekly league that Niles West will host from late June through mid-July.

For a third straight year, Niles West will host the weeklong NFL-sponsored Player Development Camp, which will take place in mid-June.

For a third straight year, Niles West will host the weeklong NFL-sponsored Player Development Camp, which will take place in mid-June.

The event includes full-equipment practices against another team, in this case Maine East, along with leadership training. Former NFL players are brought in as guest speakers.

Baum said the camp is beneficial to programs like Niles West and Maine East, where smaller numbers and subsequent reliance on two-way players can make it difficult to conduct full first string-versus-first string practices.

**STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES**

Niles West coaches will spend the summer looking to identify offensive lineman to plug into a unit that returns just two regulars in Gargovic and classmate Louis Reinemann.

The departure of linebacker James Williams also has left a void on defense.

Running back/defensive back Nick Johnson is a returning playmaker, and wide receiver/defensive backs Garrett Iverson and Andrew Milhulet both will be counted on heavily as seniors in 2013.

After splitting time at quarterback with departed senior Mike McGivern last fall, junior-to-be Tommy Galanopoulos is expected to be the team's No. 1 signal caller this season.

Gargovic said the Wolves have confidence in the 6-foot-1, 180-pound Galanopoulos.

"Tommy is really good," he said. "Now, he has played a year and gotten everything down. I think he can be a good leader on the offense. He has experience and should have more confidence. He knows he's the quarterback, though that's going to be a lot of pressure."

**NEXT LEVEL**

A handful of athletes from last year's Niles West team are expected to play college football in the fall.

Williams signed to play at Division II St. Cloud (Minn.) State, while running back Jake Glotzer is set to attend Division II Southwest Minnesota State. Defensive back Tommy Williams and lineman Isaiah Gardner intend to play for NAIA Robert Morris while lineman Joe Matuschka is bound for Division III Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Defensive back Anthony Underwood is expecting to play college ball, and this week was going to make a decision as to where, according to Baum.

Meanwhile, star defensive lineman Vaughn Monreal-Berner plans to join Glotzer at Southwest Minnesota State, but he intends to wrestle.
In this Oct. 19, 2012, photo, Niles West's Nick Johnson screams in excitement after making a play in Evanston. Johnson is expected to help lead the Wolves in 2013. | JON DURR-for Sun-Times Media

Wolves hope to build on first playoff appearance since 2004

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