Skaters chart new plan

Daniel Przewoznik (from left to right), Keith Sokolowski, and Tom Sok discuss the Niles Park District's plans to build a skate park with Executive Director Joe LoVerde. | NATASHA WASINSKI-For Sun-Times Media

Read the full story [Page 5]

Go
Mind-blowing mind-reading in Rosemont [Page 49]

Food
Cherries a sign that summer is here [Page 38]

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Skate park plan rolls forward

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

Keith Sokolowski and his clan of extreme bike riders were starting to lose hope that a skate park would come to Niles.

After all, a few years had passed since they first floated the idea by the Niles Park District.

Tired of riding to Park Ridge, Glenview and Chicago to jump ramps and grind rails, the BMX boys set the wheels in motion with an online petition requesting the construction of a local skate park. More than 1,700 people backed the proposal.

A park committee was subsequently formed, and a commissioner touted the project during the 2011 election, but then communication was cut off, Sokolowski claimed.

The slow-moving project gained traction again last week when the 17-year-old and his friends were handed a preliminary layout design for the future park.

"I'm actually quite impressed we did this," Sokolowski said. "We honestly didn't think this would happen."

The park district earlier in the year had eyed the Iceland Skate Complex as the future home of the skate park, but additional construction costs and the possibility of flooding scrapped such plans.

Washington Terrace Park, on Washington Street and Ballard Road, is now the slated site for the outdoor recreational center for skateboarding, bicycle motocross, freestyle scooter riding and inline skating.

The space - 85 feet by 117 feet - is large enough to accommodate bike riders and more, Executive Director Joe LoVerde said. He said a typical skate park covers an area of about 6,000 square feet.

The enclosed park would feature bank ramps, grind rails and quarterpipes for the athletes' tricks.

The park board in November allocated $25,000 in its 2013 calendar year budget for the project. A recent proposal from American Ramp Company, headquartered in Joplin, Mo., pegged the park's total cost at approximately $83,000.

Though grateful for officials' efforts, Sokolowski expressed concerns over communication and the direction the project was headed.

"The proposed ideas are not the ones that are here," he said at the Park Board meeting June 18. "I was under the impression that the skate park commission was in charge of the location, was in charge of pricing, was in charge of the design overall."

Sokolowski also noted that Park Board President Dennis O'Donovan had "run (his) entire campaign on the promise that we would have this skate park a lot sooner."

It wasn't the first time O'Donovan had been chastised for his role in moving the project along.

A year and a half ago, commissioner Ray Czarnik, then serving as president, issued a release about the skate park stating the park board did not "condone the actions of a commissioner who speaks on behalf of the Niles Park District."

"The promise was a result of the teens distributing campaign literature, ringing doorbells and taking political brochure pictures at a Niles park location for the new skate park during the 2011 park commissioner election," Czarnik wrote in the release.

O'Donovan explained last week the project "wasn't in the park's eyes" when he ultimately got elected due to the Park Board's other priorities for facility renovations.

Now, with all commissioners on board, LoVerde suggested the teens stay actively involved to help hammer out the designs so the first wave of construction could begin as soon as possible.

"The committee needs to get together, work hard, get the pieces you need and we'll come up with the proper funding and get it going," he said.

"We would like all of your input."
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Park district looks to honor past members

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

Niles Park Board commissioners have two designs at their disposal for a commemorative garden in honor of their predecessors.

Park District Executive Director Joe LoVerde presented both renderings to the park board June 18, each featuring a curved crosswalk leading to a small plaza of engraved bricks and memorial plaques.

The idea to create a commemorative space for public servants in an existing Niles park originated last month following the departure of longtime commissioner Elaine Heinen. The garden would honor all former park officials dating back to 1954.

Point Park, the grassy, triangular patch of land where Shermer and Waukegan Roads meet, is the site slated for the garden’s construction. In one design, an elevated platform with a flagpole rests in the center of a plaza and is flanked by memorial plaques and stone seating. The other concept places stainless steel panels on a winding half-wall, and leaves the central space empty except for benches.

Fencing would remain around the park area, according to LoVerde, and none of the current landscaping – particularly three large trees – would be removed.

LoVerde said he envisioned the garden would provide a peaceful backdrop for sitting, reading and reflecting.

“They’re both really unique designs and the location works perfectly,” he said.

LoVerde said construction costs would be determined after commissioners settle on a design, adding: “My hope is that we’ll do a lot of this work in-house.”

CORRECTION

A brief on June 13 about Amina Zukancic intending to play for the Millikin University women’s soccer team, misstated the number of varsity letters she earned in soccer at Niles North. She earned three, not four.
School board alum back in action at park district

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

Patrick Byrne intended to take a short break from public office after having served School District 71 for the past eight consecutive years. He planned to be back in two years' time. Instead, it took only two months for the former school board president to take on another leadership role.

The Niles Park District welcomed Byrne to the board of commissioners June 18. He was one of six residents who applied for the seat following the departure of longtime commissioner Elaine Heinen, who stepped down mid-term this spring due to health concerns.

Byrne said he had seen an online posting about the vacant post and thought, "Why not?"

"I enjoy being involved within the village," he said. "I think it's important to be involved and give back to the community."

He added, "I didn't get the time off that I thought I would get, but that's OK."

A lifelong resident of Niles, Byrne grew up playing in his hometown's parks and lived only a "hop, skip and jump away" from Grennan Heights, he said.

His ties to the village's parks carried over into adulthood, as three of his four teenage children worked in the park district.

During his time with District 71, Culver Elementary School and the park district had a great working relationship, Byrne said.

While there's no question he brings a spirit of service to the park board - Byrne is the 2010 recipient of the Niles Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Dynamic Parent Volunteer Award - he expects the work of a park commissioner to be slightly different than that of a school official.

"In a school district, your hands are tied in a lot of ways with union contracts and state laws governing education," he noted.

Outside of public service, Byrne works in sales for a small production and packaging materials company. He acknowledged filling Heinen's shoes would be a "tall order."

Ailing health forced Heinen to move out of district to an assisted-living home in Arlington Heights.

LoVerde said the park district would plant a tree in Heinen's honor at a location of her choice, in addition to having her recognized at a commemorative garden for public servants currently in the works.
Niles Park district looking for place to grow community garden

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

Shawn Phillips envisions setting aside a special space in Niles for residents to harvest their own food. Whether it's tomatoes or turnips, broccoli or beans, volunteers would tend to their own plots to grow whatever they wish.

Phillips said his neighbors and friends are interested in participating. Village officials were receptive to the idea, too, and the Niles Park District expressed support.

The only issue is finding a place to create a sizable community garden. Phillips and park representatives have been exploring such options since he brought the proposal to the Park Board last month.

A friend's documentary inspired Phillips to pay closer attention to the origins of the foods he ate. He equated a growing interest in organic group gardening to the camaraderie and empowerment fostered by "war gardens."

"I started realizing that in the Chicago area, and pretty much all around the country, community gardens are coming back, kind of like the victory gardens of World War II," he said.

Phillips said the benefits to locally grown produce and communal gardening are numerous, as they provide the chance to spend time outdoors, meet new people, eat fresher foods, and learn how to care for plants.

"Some of it is going to be for people who want to grow food for themselves," Phillips said. There may also be opportunities for gardeners to donate fresh vegetables and fruit to a local food pantry, or to visit schools to teach children about gardening.

One site Phillips initially had high hopes for was an area in Courtland Park. He has since learned through conversations with ComEd that the power company doesn't allow community gardens on its land.

Phillips said a vacant lot across from Aldi on Waukegan Road would provide ample space for a garden. Venturing into neighboring Morton Grove may be a possibility as well, as organizers of the Morton Grove Farmers Market said they would support a joint effort, he reported.

He has also reached out to Cook County's Forest Preserve District to see if they have any available space. Park District officials encouraged Phillips to continue researching possible locations for the community garden, and pledged support in helping him secure a space.

"We'll keep looking," reported Executive Director Joe LoVerde.
New Morton Grove park director making moves

BY RICK KAMBI RICK KAMBI | rkambic@pioneerlocal.com

Tracey Anderson, the Morton Grove Park District’s new executive director, plans on providing hobbies and recreation to locals for years to come.

Tracey Anderson stands outside the Morton Grove Prairie View Center. Anderson is the new director of the Morton Grove Park District. | MICHELLE LA VIGNE-Sun-Times Media

Brian Sullivan had been the executive director of the park district for two years when he abruptly resigned in October, which led to past director Rich Grodsky taking the interim assignment.

Anderson was hired in April, and now says she already knows Morton Grove is where she wants to be long-term. She previously served as Homewood-Flossmoor’s superintendent of recreation and also worked at Olympia Fields’ Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center, the Lake Bluff Health Care Center and Vitas Hospice Care in Skokie.

Q: Why did you first get involved with parks and recreation?
A: I think it’s because I went to a Girl Scout camp when I was a child. I enjoyed it so much I became a camp director when I got to college. I became used to seeing the kids come back year after year and being excited about what we taught them. I liked how I was a positive influence on them.

Q: Why did you choose to accept this job in Morton Grove?
A: I like the ethnic and age diversity in Morton Grove and the surrounding area. Not everywhere has a good mix of seniors, single young people and families. Morton Grove is also close to where I first lived when I moved to the suburbs. I lived in Evanston for two years and then Skokie for two years.

Q: Do you have any personal goals, or are there goals the Park Board wants you to accomplish as executive director?
A: The board is in the process of setting goals for me, but I did walk into the Oriole Pool project so I’m sure there’s a high expectation that I finish it without any problems. Personally, I want to bring some stability to the district. There’s a lot of potential here and I want to help everyone in the organization get there. I see new programs, new intergovernmental agreements and possibly new facilities in the future and this staff can do it all.

Q: Do you specialize in anything that would distinguish you in this role?
A: I like to mentor and teach other park professionals. I’ve done almost everything in parks while working my way up from a part-time position. So, I can relate and I’ve done most of what I’ll be teaching. Because I look at the long-term, big picture, someone has to lay that groundwork and a mentor builds confident employees who stay and make the community even better over time. I enjoy building those relationships and watching others grow.

Q: What tends to be the least-utilized part of any park district that could be considered a hidden gem?
A: There are always long-time employees with a lot of experience and dedication that we can tap into, but sometimes forget about during the busy day-to-day operations. This industry is really cool because you help others have fun. For those veteran employees, their experiences can help us build new programs or bring back popular old ones. For the members, they may not know someone with a ton of experience in their hobby is sitting at the desk 10 feet away.

Q: Are you active in any sports or clubs?
A: I play golf, I have played volleyball and I love fitness classes, but I also have bad knees so I’m not as involved as I want these days.

Q: Are your children involved in recreation?
A: My son Joshua plays tennis. My other son, Jacob, played baseball but focused on football from fifth grade through high school. My daughter Jessica has done everything from water polo to swimming and diving to softball, volleyball and basketball. She’s very active.
Mold found in Culver School

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

Finding mold growing in a newer wing of Culver School was not the way Amy Kruppe wanted to kick off the summer season.

On the plus side - if there is one - no classes had to be disrupted.

"I'm glad the kids were not in school," the District 71 superintendent said.

Mold was discovered in an art room June 6, the last day of school for the Niles students.

A teacher had been cleaning out a storage space when she noticed mold on the wall hidden behind a box of supplies, Kruppe said. Upon further inspection, additional damage was detected in an adjacent technology lab.

School officials immediately called in Westmont-based STEM Environmental Management, Inc. and the district's architect, Sven Dahlgqvist, to assess the situation, which was believed to be caused by a leaky pipe.

Kruppe said the problem wasn't easily detectable, and that mold was growing "probably for a long period of time."

According to preliminary assessments by STEM, quantities of "heavy mold growth" were located on drywall in the elementary school's art room, kiln room, art storage room, and technology lab storage room.

The mold spanned approximately 40 linear feet and on both sides of the wall cavity, the contractor stated.

Field inspections indicated the contamination most likely extended into the ceiling and affected the existing drop ceiling tile system, metal grids and plaster ceilings. An overhead chiller system and ventilation system affected drywall and deteriorated framing, disinfecting shelving systems and furniture, and spaying cleaned surfaces with an anti-fungal agent.

The cost to replace removed ceiling, floor wall, and ductwork was not included in the remediation totals.

Park district cuts down IceLan\d renovation cost

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

The Niles Park District is still in the schematic design phase of overhauling the IceLand Skate Complex, but Park Board officials got their first look at what the revamped facility could become last week.

Executive Director Joe LoVerde presented commissioners with a scaled-back design plan for renovating the ice arena that is more in line with the district's budget.

Originally estimated to cost $3 million, the project's price tag had been inching toward $3.75 million, LoVerde said.

To help cut back on costs, soft landscaping is expected to replace excess concrete bordering the outdoor rink. Relocating the garage for Zamboni machines also resulted in savings, LoVerde said.

He added that expanding the outside rink to 85 feet wide by 185 feet long "allows us to cultivate our opportunity for high school hockey and (other) revenue generators."

The most exciting aspect for LoVerde, he said, is creating a space that embodies the same color scheme, circular desks, and layout that are found in other park district facilities.

Guests would enter the building from a new storefront entryway similar to the entrance at Grennan Heights - into a reconfigured lobby.

"The goal is to make this building a companion to every building we've built," he said.

LoVerde noted the plans are still being fine-tuned, and that improving drop-off points is on the "to do" list. Park district staff is also in the process of collecting past athletes' names for a new hall of fame.

According to LoVerde, the final phase of renovation would result in improvements for traffic flow and the installation of mechanical systems that are more efficient and environmentally friendly.

After the park board finalizes a design plan, renovations are expected to last through the spring of next year.
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The following incidents were listed in the official bulletin of the Niles Police Department. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

**DUI**

Heather Mix, 25, of 7 S. Chester Ave., Park Ridge, was charged with driving under the influence, speeding and driving without her license present on June 13. She was taken into custody on the 7300 block of Harlem Avenue at 4:24 a.m. She has a July 26 court date.

Joey Cesario, 26, of 8848 Dee Road, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with driving under the influence and speeding on the morning of June 15. He was taken into custody on the 8200 block of Milwaukee Avenue at 1:45 a.m. He has a July 3 court date.

Jason Bamaung, 27, of 8208 Newcastle Ave., Niles, was charged with driving under the influence and leaving the scene of an accident and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident on the morning of June 16. Police said Bamaung was involved a hit-and-run crash on the 6800 block of Keeney Street while reportedly driving home from a friend's house where he had been watching the Blackhawks game. He has a July 3 court date.

**RETAIL THEFT**

A 16-year-old Evanston girl was charged with retail theft on June 14 after she allegedly stole $271 in clothing from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. She was petitioned to juvenile court.

Approximately 80 car batteries were stolen from a storage area at a business on the 8500 block of Golf Road between June 13 and June 14. Police said the business recycles the batteries and receives $9 per battery, adding up to a loss of $720.

Sam Yacoub, 65, of 7920 Caldwell Ave., Niles, was charged with retail theft on June 15 after police said he exited a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center with a concealed bottle of $46 cologne in his pants. According to police, Yacoub drove away from the store after approached by store security and he was taken into custody at his home. He reportedly told police that he did not know what he had done with the cologne. He has a July 1 court date.

**BURGLARY**

Several flat-screen televisions were reported stolen from a townhouse on the 8000 block of Lyons Street between 12:05 and 12:30 p.m., June 15. The victim provided police with the names of two potential suspects.

**BATTERY**

A 14-year-old boy told police that he was playing basketball at Chesterfield Park, near Shermer Road and Niles Avenue, on the evening of June 15 when another player grabbed him and threw him to the ground. Police said the teen reported having seen the suspect before, but did not know his name. He was transported to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital by ambulance.

**BURGLARY**

Several flat-screen televisions were reported stolen from a townhouse on the 8000 block of Lyons Street between 12:05 and 12:30 p.m., June 15. The victim provided police with the names of two potential suspects.

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Many dance studios like to buy dancing shoes from dancewear makers and sell them to their students directly.

That way, they know students have the most appropriate dancewear, and they get to earn some additional money in the process. But there was one thing that frustrated dance studios: People could buy the same shoes at any store, cutting down on the studios' profits.

Glenview resident Scott Harris decided to change that. In 1996, he and Dave Faloona launched Revolution Dancewear — a dancewear maker that would sell exclusively to dance studios. The idea caught on, attracting clients from across the United States and Canada. Now based in Niles, the company has expanded beyond shoes, selling dance costumes and accessories. And while Revolution hasn't been completely immune to the economic downturn, it was ultimately able to remain profitable and expand into new markets.

Revolution started off small, selling four types of dance shoes out of Harris' basement. But the customer base slowly but surely increased, and its offerings expanded. By 2000, the company grew enough to allow it to move to a 21,000 square foot space in Glenview.

In 2003, Revolution decided to branch out into dance costumes and accessories. The company was the first to offer costumes and all related accessories in one package and shipped them ready to wear. According to Robb Lippitt, the company's current CEO, the costume line was so successful that it had to move to a larger space. Revolution moved to Niles in 2008.

While space was certainly a factor, Lippitt said that the location benefited Revolution in other ways.

"It's such a great location," he said. "It's accessible from both the city and the suburbs. You can ship anywhere in the country. There's a great talent base we can draw from. Creative people, technical people, marketing people."

Today, Revolution sells shoes and costumes in a wide variety of styles, including classical ballet, jazz, contemporary, urban and tap dancing. All of the design is handled in-house, and the Niles location serves as the North American distribution hub. According to Lippitt, the company currently supplies more than 11,000 studios.

The studios can buy products by ordering from the company's catalog or shopping on its website. To ensure that its products remain exclusive to dance studios, only verified dance studios get log-in credentials.

Lippitt credits Revolution's success to having a diverse selection and the company's commitment to putting customers first.

"We're completely focused on our customers," he said. "This business is built on listening to what our customers need and want." Dance studios have weathered the economic downturn better than other businesses, which helped to sustain Revolution's profit margins.

"Certainly, we've been mindful of challenges economy brought, and we've been working with studios to navigate them," said Lippitt. "I wouldn't say it hasn't affected us at all. We've been fortunate that it hasn't affected us that much."

In fact, over the last two years, the company has been expanding. In September 2012, it acquired DanceDirect, a United Kingdom-based dancewear retailer, allowing Revolution to sell their products in Europe. And in the beginning of June, the company acquired DanceStudioOwner.com, a digital studio owner resource, as part of its efforts to help the existing customers. Under the terms of the deal, current Revolution customers would be able to get DanceStudioOwner.com memberships at a reduced rate.

Even as it continues to grow, Revolution intends to keep its headquarters in Niles.

"We're very excited to be a part of the Niles community, we are expect to continue to be part of it for a long time," said Lippitt.
Radio Shack robbed at gunpoint in Niles

By Jennifer Johnson | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

A Radio Shack on Touhy Avenue in Niles was robbed at gunpoint June 18, police say.
The robbery was reported around 11 a.m. at the Radio Shack located at 5633 Touhy Ave. in the Village Crossing shopping center. According to police, a store employee reported that two men between the ages of 20 and 30 entered the store looking to upgrade a cellphone. After other customers had left the shop, the men pulled out black handguns and demanded money from the employee, police said.

An undisclosed amount of cash was reported stolen, as well as an unknown number of cellphones. The robbers then fled on foot from the store.
The robbery occurred in the same area of the shopping center where a man in December allegedly sexually assaulted a tanning salon employee and attempted to rob the business.

Anyone with information on the Radio Shack robbery is asked to call the Niles Police Department at (847) 588-6500.

Niles teens accused of entering unlocked cars

By Jennifer Johnson | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Two 16-year-old Niles boys are accused of entering at least two unlocked cars in the village on the night of June 15 and rummaging through glove boxes, consoles and bags.

Niles police were called to the area of Churchill Avenue and Washington Street around 11:30 p.m. after a witness reported seeing two individuals entering a grey Pontiac and red Volkswagen that were parked there. When the witness confronted the suspects, they allegedly ran north on Washington Street, but were stopped by police on the 7900 block of Davis Street.

Police said one of the boys had over $12 in change in his pocket, but he denied taking the coins from either of the vehicles. Police said the second teen had a GPS device in his possession that had been stolen from a vehicle in Morton Grove.
The owners of the Pontiac and Volkswagen both told police that nothing appeared missing from their cars, which they acknowledged had been left unlocked.
The teens were each charged with burglary and were awaiting a petition to juvenile court.
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How Illinois lawmakers voted in Congress for the week ending June 21, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Major roll call votes in the Senate</strong></th>
<th><strong>U.S.-MEXICO BORDER FENCE</strong></th>
<th><strong>IMMIGRATION SECURITY</strong></th>
</tr>
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<td>Senators voted, 39-54, rejecting a bid to require the building of 350 miles of double-layered fencing on the border with Mexico before undocumented individuals could start to pursue a 13-year path to legal status set forth in a pending immigration bill ($544, above). A “yes” vote was to kill a plan requiring periodic votes in Congress to affirm the Southwest border is impenetrable and that several other ultra-strict security and visa-control measures were serving their purpose. Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: No</td>
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<th><strong>Major roll call votes in the House</strong></th>
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<th><strong>2. FARM BILL DEFEAT</strong></th>
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<td>Members voted, 228-196, to outlaw abortions after 20 weeks of fertilization on grounds that the fetus can feel pain by then. This upends the Supreme Court’s holding in Roe v. Wade that abortion is legal up to viability, which usually occurs at 24 weeks or later. A “yes” vote was to send HR 1977 to the Senate.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>3. FOOD STAMPS SPENDING</strong></th>
<th><strong>4. COMMODITY PAYMENT CAPS</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members voted, 188-234, refusing to restore food-stamps cuts of $20.5 billion over 10 years in HR 1947 (above). Critics said the cuts would worsen hunger in the U.S., while defenders said they would wring waste and fraud from the program. A “yes” vote was to restore cuts totaling $20.5 billion.</td>
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<th><strong>Key votes ahead</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>The House is scheduled to take up a bill to expand offshore drilling, while the Senate will debate immigration policy. Both chambers may vote to avert a doubling of student-loan interest rates.</td>
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What it means to you

TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

CHICAGO

Protesters want city funds directed to CPS, not DePaul arena

Those Chicago public schools that haven’t already been shuttered are dying a slow death, the leader of an education advocacy group declared Friday as protesters rallying against school budget cuts marched downtown.

“Our schools have been underfunded, underresourced,” said Wendy Katten, director of the education advocacy group Raise Your Hand. “We have a Swiss cheese system, where our kids are not getting basic standards met, and it’s only gotten worse.”

In all, about 150 parents and students — many from cash-strapped North Side schools — marched downtown from the Thompson Center to the DePaul Center on Jackson. Katten led the march, carrying a basketball smothered in the names of shuttered CPS schools and those facing budget cuts in the upcoming school year. The marchers hoped to present DePaul University President Dennis H. Holtschneider with the basketball to protest tax-increment financing funds to help pay for an arena that will be home for the DePaul basketball team.

Last month, Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced a plan to build a 10,000-seat arena near McCormick Place that would serve as the new basketball home for DePaul, financed in part by $55 million in tax-increment financing.

— Chicago Sun-Times

SPRINGFIELD

Most committee members backed bigger pension cuts

Eight of the 10 members of a committee tackling Illinois’ $97 billion pension crisis supported a proposal to unilaterally cut benefits, but members say they’re keeping an open mind as they begin working toward a compromise.

Lawmakers voted Wednesday to form a bipartisan committee to try to end a stalemate between the House and Senate on how to address the nation’s worst state pension shortfall, which was caused largely by years of legislators skipping or shorting the state’s pension payments. The four legislative leaders appointed members from their respective caucuses, and the group is expected to begin meeting next week.

Gov. Pat Quinn has set a July 9 deadline for the committee to report back.

The Senate members are Democrats Linda Holmes, Kwame Raoul and Daniel Biss, and Republicans Bill Brady and Matt Murphy. The House members are Democrats Elaine Nekritz, Art Turner and Mike Zalewski, and Republicans Darlene Senger and Jil Tracy.

All of the House members and three senators voted in favor of a bill backed by Speaker Michael Madigan, a Chicago Democrat, that imposed across-the-board cuts.

— The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Watchdog faults background check of NSA leaker

A government watchdog testified there may have been problems with a security clearance background check conducted on the 29-year-old federal contractor who disclosed previously secret National Security Agency programs for collecting phone records and Internet data — just as news media disclosed more information about those programs.

Appearing at a Senate hearing, Patrick McFarland, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management’s inspector general, said USIS, the company that conducted the background investigation of former NSA systems analyst Edward Snowden, is now under investigation itself.

McFarland declined to say what triggered the inquiry of USIS or whether the probe is related to Snowden. But when asked by Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., if there were any concerns about the USIS background check on Snowden, McFarland answered: “Yes, we do believe that there may be some problems.”

Meanwhile, new details emerged about the scope of two recently disclosed NSA programs — one that gathers U.S. phone records and another that is designed to track the use of U.S.-based Internet servers by foreigners with possible links to terrorism.

— The Associated Press
Play it safe with head injuries

Mama, don’t let your sons grow up to be test crash dummies.

At a scientific debate last week, two top concussion experts found themselves at odds on the question of whether repeatedly getting hit in the head while playing a sport leads to depression and dementia later in life.

But while the science may not be settled, the sensible course of action in youth sports remains the same — avoid those knocks and take them seriously.

No parent should allow a son or daughter to play on any team in any sport that doesn’t adhere to strict rules with respect to concussions.

In Illinois, a high school football player who suffers a concussion can’t return to the field until a doctor gives written clearance — and that should be the rule for all sports at all ages.

If, as a parent, you find that your kid has one of those coaches who says “Shake it off,” shake him off.

Where do we draw the checkout line?

Uncle Stanley used to buy his Dad’s Root Beer by the quart.

After dinner most nights he would pour himself a glass of root beer, have some potato chips and enjoy his favorite TV shows, like “Gunsmoke” or “The Ed Sullivan Show.”

Uncle Stanley didn’t know then what we know now, that soda will make you fat. Yet, Uncle Stanley, at 6-foot-2 and 150 pounds, looked like a walking stick. I used to think his tie is what made his Adam’s apple bulge out of his throat.

I remembered Uncle Stanley last week when I read a story in the paper that the mayors of some major U.S. cities, including our own Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, are urging Congress to remove soda from the list of foods eligible to purchase with food stamps.

The rationale? The sugar-laden drinks are one of the causes of obesity. Since obesity leads to other health problems, the government shouldn’t allow poor people to buy it with food stamps.

If Congress were to make the move, soda would join alcohol, tobacco and non-food items on the banned list. Such a move raises a lot of questions inherent in government handouts, doesn’t it?

Does government have the right to tell people what choices they can make with government support? What about personal responsibility?

Why stop at soda? What about candy, ice cream, cakes, pies, desserts and so on?

Why dictate only to poor people what they can eat? Middle class and rich people suffer from obesity, too. Just last week the American Medical Association decided obesity was a disease. Why just focus on one food item that leads to obesity?

If Congress really cares about how food makes us fat in this country, then the grocery check-out counter is the wrong place to look.

In the 50 years since skinny old Uncle Stanley would enjoy an ice-cold glass of Dad’s Root Beer after dinner, the food industry has changed radically. Maybe, just maybe, mass-produced food in the United States has something to do with why we are all getting morbidly overweight.

Why can’t Congress start seriously investigating the beginning of the food chain, where it all starts with genetic engineering and growth hormones and factory farms run by gigantic corporations, and not come down on the poor guy at the checkout counter?

We are not all getting fatter because a single mom buys soda with food stamps.
His hangup? People always on phones

It’s an old joke, but one that strikes home:

If you walk down the street with a smile on your face, you’ll be surprised at how many people will come up to you and say, “What’s so damn funny?”

It’s probably always been true that strangers smiling at strangers is rare and evokes unease or anger in the stranger smiled at.

But what once was common is now epidemic.

Today we transact but don’t interact.

The grocery store is a good example. Watch as shoppers check out. So many are talking on their cellphone. They never speak to, or even acknowledge, the existence of the person waiting on him or her. An entire transaction has been performed without interaction.

We don’t interact with our environment, either.

How many times have you seen folks walking along the sidewalk, eyes fixed on their smartphone? They are divorced from where they are. They don’t see the flowers, the birds, the coyotes, or even Tyrannosaurus Rex that may be nearby.

And how many times have you seen folks wandering across the street, eyes fixed on their smartphone? They are divorced from their surroundings. They don’t see other pedestrians.

The store’s staff was doing their darnedest to interact with the customers. Some interacted back, others didn’t, others cell-phoned.

Just for the hell of it I smiled at a lady as she pushed her cart past. She smiled back.

That was nice.

Dare I smile at a guy? Will I be misinterpreted?

What the heck. I smiled at an older man as he glanced up from examining his receipt. He smiled back.

This, too, was nice.

And it occurred to me that almost all the world is populated by strangers to us. Comparatively, the number of people we know is microscopic.

Face it. You are surrounded by a sea of strangers. And they are human, just as you and I are.

So, why not smile? It might do some good.

And it can’t hurt. *

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Niles Herald-Spectator Wants to Hear from You

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

Pension reform needs new ideas

It predicted in March of this year that Illinois would probably exceed $100 billion in pension debt that month, which amounts to a huge and reckless shortfall in money owed to current and future retired teachers, judges, state workers, and even lawmakers themselves.

Moody's puts Illinois' pension debt at $230 billion. House Speaker Michael Madigan, Senate President John Cullerton and Gov. Pat Quinn are presently in a battle of wits to pass pension reform that would, at best, cut the state's $100 billion unfunded liability by $21 billion.

Neither Madigan's or Cullerton's proposals are true reforms. Both would kick the can down the road.

Democrats have talked about pension reform and rescuing the state from the pension crisis, while being unwilling to admit that they had a hand in creating it.

As predicted, Gov. Quinn's directive for legislators to return to Springfield on Wednesday, June 19, to talk pension reform was a futile exercise that wasn't worth the per-session day rate of $43,000 charged to taxpayers.

We need a thorough overhaul of the pension system. Reps. Jeanne Ives (R-42nd District) and Tom Morrison (R-54th District) are firm supporters of House Bill 3303 based on the plan of the Illinois Policy Institute, which would reduce Illinois' unfunded liability by 46 percent; protect guaranteed benefits already earned by retirees and current workers; and empower current workers to control retirement savings going forward.

Illinois can't continue along the same path. Despite Chicago's outward appearance, the inner core is broken and just a few steps away from complete financial ruin.

Nancy Thorner
Lake Bluff
THINK PURPLE ...THINK SUCCESS... 
THINK WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY!

JEFFREY LILES, 
Biology Graduate Program, 
Lena, IL 
(2012 Biology graduate) 
- Rhodes Scholar nominee 
- Learning to Lead Scholars Program 
- Centennial Honors College student 
- Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society 
- Student Government Association Vice President

- Peer Mentor 
- Provost Award of Excellence/Summit League Academic All-League Team 
- 2012 Outdoor All-Summit League selection 
- 2013 Academic All-Summit League Selection for Outdoor Track and Field

Congratulations, Jeffrey!

SAMANTHA (SAMMY) MARSHALL, 
Exercise Science, 
Naperville, IL 
- Leads the nation in stolen bases/game, third in triples and fourth in batting average 
- Broke WIU career stolen base record 
- First Team All-Summit League 
- Summit League Player of the Year

- Academic All-Summit League 
- Capital One/CoSIDA Second Team Academic All-District 
- Second Team National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Region

Congratulations, Sammy!

ELIZABETH ETTA, 
African American Studies, 
Macomb, IL 
- Truman Scholarship Finalist (first in WIU history) 
- Departmental Scholar - African American Studies 
- WIU Trustee Scholar 
- Member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society 
- WIU Centennial Honors College student/Honors College Ambassador 
- Young Professional Network Certificate Program 
- Mobile Food Pantry volunteer 
- Accepted to Seattle University School of Law (Fall 2013)

Congratulations, Elizabeth!

NATHANIEL MARSHALL, 
Biology & Psychology, 
Bushnell, IL 
- Two-time Summit League Track Athlete of the Week 
- Second consecutive trip to NCAA Outdoor Regionals 
- Weight Throw Champion - Summit League 2013 Indoor Track season 
- Academic All-Summit League for Indoor & Outdoor Track seasons 
- NCAA Regional Qualifier - Hammer Throw 
- Second Place Summit League Outdoor - Hammer Throw

Congratulations, Nathaniel!

wiu.edu
Area preps for Fourth festivities

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON  
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Two long-running celebrations marking Independence Day in Park Ridge return to the city again this year.

As always, Maine East High School is the place to be on July 3, where family entertainment and music will be followed by fireworks. The festivities start at 6:30 p.m., with music and children's games on the Park Ridge high school's campus at 2601 W. Dempster St.

Beginning at 8 p.m., the Brian Patti Orchestra will perform patriotic big band tunes at the football stadium, in preparation for the fireworks show that begins around 9 p.m. Immediately preceding the fireworks, Park Ridge Idol winner Megan Wilcox will make her debut with a performance of the national anthem.

Wilcox, who recently graduated from Emerson Middle School, was crowned Park Ridge Idol in April following the park district's first all-ages singing competition.

Mary Bart, the park district's recreation supervisor of youth programs and events, said this year's fireworks will contain some pretty neat surprises.

"We put some specialty bursts in our fireworks," she explained. These include images of hearts, American flags, and other objects that will appear in the night sky.

For the most part, visitors can expect to find a show familiar to years past as they gather with friends, family and neighbors.

"It's an all-generation event," Bart said. "It's just a wonderful event that we put on for the community and it's a safe environment."

Reserved parking will be available in the Dempster and Dee parking lot for a fee of $16 for residents and $28 for nonresidents.

The next day, the Kiwanis Club's 57th annual Kiddie Parade will wind around Hodges Park, Courtland and Vine Avenues beginning at 9:15 a.m.

Children are invited to participate in the annual parade by dressing up themselves, their bikes, wagons and pets according to the year's theme. For the 2013 Kiddie Parade, participants have three different choices: U.S. moments, famous Americans or traditional July 4th.

Each entry will be judged and ribbons awarded for best individual and best group. There will also be three awards in five age groups. Participants should register by 6:45 a.m. the day of the parade.

"Our members in the club have always thought it was important to carry on the tradition and the community has always been supportive of coming out the morning after the fireworks show," said Tim Coyne of the Kiwanis Club. "They seem to have a lot of fun putting together the different themes. It's a nice project for parents and kids to work on together."

Participation varies, but between 50 and 75 children typically join the walk. Anyone with questions about the Kiddie Parade should call Coyne at (847) 384-9209.

For those interested in large parades, the city of Des Plaines Independence Day Parade kicks off at 10 a.m. at Oakton and Center Streets and will travel north down Center to Thacker Street and the city's downtown. The theme this year is "Great Inventions that Changed America."

In Niles, the annual parade starts at 9 a.m. at Notre Dame College Prep and travels to Grennan Heights Park, Oketo Avenue and Kedzie Street. Music, games and pony rides will be part of the post-parade festivities at the park.
District 207 sets anti-hazing guidelines

BY IGOR STUDENKOV | Contributor

In the wake of Maine West High School's hazing scandal, Maine Township High School District 207 set out to find ways to prevent something like this from happening again.

In February, the District 207 Board of Trustees contracted Community Matters, a Sebastopol, Calif.-based nonprofit, to do a "school climate audit." The report would recommend steps the district could take to reduce hazing, bullying and other forms of student harassment.

Over the next four months, Community Matters gathered input from district officials, students, parents and members of the community. The final report was officially submitted to the board during its June 4 board meeting. The report, which has been posted on the district's website, recommended an overhaul of the school's disciplinary policies, adding resources and making students more involved in policy decisions. At this point, it is too early to say how
Hazing
Continued from page 23

- or when - those suggestions will be implemented.

Since 2000, Community Matters has been advising schools on how to reduce bullying and harassment.

For District 207, it used meetings, phone conversations and online surveys to get a sense of the issues and concerns facing the district as a whole and each school specifically.

According to the report, the staff in all three schools said that they didn't have enough time to get to know students personally. They weren't always sure what was the best way to handle student altercations and bullying, which left them feeling inadequate. The report also mentioned that the staff struggled to carry out school disciplinary policies consistently.

The students, in turn, complained that the staff's efforts to stop bullying weren't effective and its treatment of students wasn't equal. Some students felt that staff didn't always take their concerns about bullying seriously. The students wanted the district to include them in shaping school policies.

Maine East and Maine South students felt that existing anti-bullying initiatives weren't effective. Maine South staff wanted to have more input in shaping disciplinary policies.

Maine West, the report only listed concerns from parents, who felt that they didn't have enough opportunities to be involved in school and expressed concern that social media made bullying more vicious.

The report's recommendations call for a development of a new approach to handle student conflicts. Known as "restorative justice," it is based around two concepts. The staff should help students develop emotionally, building positive relationships and resolve their conflicts peacefully. If the conflicts aren't resolved peacefully, the students should have an opportunity to fix whatever damage they've done.

To facilitate that, the report recommended a number of steps, including increasing advising hours, giving teachers more time to talk to students, training the staff in restorative practices and giving students more opportunities to participate in policy decisions and air their concerns. The report also recommended taking steps to help parents recognize signs of bullying and access resources that can help.

The recommendations were meant as broad guidelines. It would be up to the district to work out the details. But whatever is ultimately decided on, the report urges the district to involve students, staff, parents and community members in the policy-making process.

David Beery, District 207's director of communications, said that the process is still in very early stages.

"It would take a few weeks, maybe a few months as we approach the new school year," he said. "[The board] will be delving into the recommendations and into ways they can implement them."

Rick Phillips, Community Matters' executive director, said that the change would take time, and it wouldn't be easy, but it will succeed if the district is committed to seeing it through.

"You need an administration that buys into that idea of focusing first on the environment and how focusing on that would help get other goals accomplished," he said. "It takes a degree of courage, it takes will, it takes leadership and commitment."
NEED A HINT? FIND THE PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 27
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.

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

Summer Camp

There are still openings for summer camp at Dee Park. Four two-week sessions, through Aug. 2. Grades K-6.

Taekwon Do

Popular martial arts classes for children, ages 7-15, and adults offered Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays all year round, Dee Park.

Ballet & Tap

Ages 3 years to adult ongoing classes year round.

Zumba Classes

Ongoing classes all year round at 7:15 p.m. Mondays at Feldman.

Facility Rentals

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

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.

Relay for Life

Help us cheer on the NSC Cancer Survivor Group's Relay for Life, American Cancer Society Event, as they walk victory laps on the track. Join in their birthday celebration for those who have beaten cancer. A Luminaria Ceremony takes place after dark from 6-10 p.m. June 28 at Maine West High School, 1755 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines. Call (847) 297-3000 or visit pioneerlocal.com for details.

Bridge Players Needed – All Levels

Social bridge group meets every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. Contact Jaymi Blickhan at (847) 599-4220.

Maine-Niles Special Rec

Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation offers people with physical and mental challenges, behavior and learning disorders, hearing and visual impairments and emotional disabilities an opportunity to enjoy a variety of recreation activities. MNASR serves Des Plaines, Golf-Maine, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Park Ridge and Skokie. To receive a seasonal brochure, or to offer support for people with special needs by volunteering, call (847) 966-5522.

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.

JCE SeniorLife

Take Charge of Your Diabetes

A free and interactive six-week workshop, designed for people with Type 2 Diabetes, meets from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursdays, July 11 to Aug. 15 at Lieberman Center for Health & Rehabilitation, 9700 Gross Point Road, Skokie. Meet new people, share experiences and learn about ways to improve your life. Each session will focus on providing you with tools to help you manage your diabetes and reach your personal goals. To register, call (773) 508-1073.

MOCUS FOCUS

Find at least six differences in details between panels.
Children now have a reward for walking throughout the winding corridors of Westfield Old Orchard Mall with mom and dad.

The mall's new play area opened last weekend, featuring a playground with slides, a climbable serpentine dragon, a maze through bushes, a toddler area full of climbable ladybugs and a stage for public events.

The two-day opening festivities attracted nearly 200 people, who got samples from nearby stores and a preview of monthly on-stage programming.

The playground and stage area, located near Crate & Barrel, is now known as PlaySpace.

Amber Bond, who frequents the mall every week, lives in Evanston and spoils her 2-year-old son Rowan with trips to local parks almost every day.

"When we have errands to run, we don't always have enough time left for the park," Amber Bond said at the June 23 opening. "This new play area is perfect for when we need to visit the mall. It's just as good as the park and we both get what we want."

The nearby interactive garden is also a positive for Bond.

"You don't often associate gardening with malls," Bond said. "It's nice to know I can learn about plants and gardening techniques while still having Rowan in sight."

The Organic Gardener, a Glencoebased organization, maintains the nearly two-dozen planter boxes of produce and flowers. A representative works in the garden and offers classes to parents and children between 1 and 3 p.m. every Tuesday and Saturday.

For children, the hands-on projects include watering, weeding,
transplanting and composting. The PlaySpace has several styled umbrellas for shade, but during the winter when snow falls and the garden is hibernating, patrons can still play. That's because heating coils were installed underground to melt snow on the playground. But as temperatures reached 90 degrees during the PlaySpace's grand opening, Teri Drennon said the playground surfaces were too hot for her 1-year-old daughter Zoey Pimento.

"I don't know if it's the color or type of material, but we've never had this problem with the parks near our house," said Drennon, who lives in Chicago's Lincoln Square. "It seems like wearing pants is the safe bet, but if I'm going to the mall, comparing the forecast with her outfit and then maybe changing her too much of a hassle."

Alexa Warner has two school-age children and twin toddlers. She said the PlaySpace is a perfect way to wear out all four kids.

"Some parks are only for kids old enough to run around," Warner said. "Here I can let the little guys crawl and climb the lady bugs while my older ones are riding slides within earshot."

The PlaySpace is located near Crate & Barrel and replaces an old playground near Macy's. That site is now a rentable, all-glass pavilion called The Cube.

Tim Geiges, Old Orchard's general manager, said the playground's relocation and upgrades were designed to attract more customers and also to drive foot traffic toward new shops like Vans, Sur La Table and Epic Burger.
PUBLIC AUCTION: FOR JERRY SAVARA
HELD AT CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
224 BRUCE RD., LOCKPORT, IL. (TURN RIGHT ON S. STATE ST/IL. 171 1.6 MI.,
TURN LEFT ONTO W. BRUCE RD 0.2 MI., WATCH FOR AUCTION SIGNS)
SATURDAY JUNE 29TH AT 10am

Check AuctionZip.com (ID #9525) for Photos and Listing

PARTIAL LISTING ONLY:
- RED ANGEL 20 GAL CROCK & NUMEROUS CROCKS & JUGS
- SANGCURA SPRUDEL WATER JUG
- MERAL WELLS, TEST
- TRUNKS - MODERN DAIRY CO. GALVANIZED MILK BOX
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- WASHBORN CHEESE MILK CAN
- KEROSENE LAMPS - GIG KITCHEN UTENSIL
- OLD CIGAR BOXES - CANTANITEWARE
- TRIO CABINET COFFEE POTS AND PANS
- CATRON, COOKWARE, COFFEE POTS AND PANS, CHERRY PITTER, BREAD BOX, ETC.
- MILLION DOLLAR BAKERS, BUCKETS, BASKETS, CURUTITALIAWARE, ETC.
- CRUET, SUGAR DELIVERER BOXES, STRAIGHT RAZORS, 5000 BOTTLES, BLUE CANNING JARS, COFFEE & GRAIN, TRASH, 2000 HANG HEAVY DUTY DUCKETS, ETC.
- SACRED TEA SET, COFFEE SET, ARTHUR A. HANDLES, SILVER PLATE Punch BOWL, SET
- DEUTEROS WARE ELDER SHOP 
- CANADA-FEVER CAMERON BUTTONS FROM THE EARLY 1800'S
- EIGHT VITL WOMEN'S HAT-HATS ROSES-REV. CAFÉ-RENDE SANTIQUE AND COSTUME JEWELRY
- MULLEN'S DAIRY 1/2 GAL
- MILLING'S DAIRY 1/2 PT'S, OTHERS
- COCA COLA BOTTLES - SAD IRONS - WHEATIES CEREAL BOXES - ASH CAN OPENERS - STANDARD OIL CO. STATION RUSH ADDITIVE CAN - DRUG STORE BOTTLES & TINS - GOLDEN BOOKS
- 1991 BASEBALL CARDS
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Celebrations

Theresa Klepitsch & Arthur Czerep
Engagement

Todd and Ruth Klepitsch of Park Ridge and John and Grace Czerep of Park Ridge proudly announce the engagement of their children Theresa Klepitsch and Arthur Czerep. Theresa earned her MSW at Loyola University Chicago. She is a Social Worker at Esperanza Community Services in Chicago. Arthur earned his BFA at Columbia College Chicago. He is an Art Director at HAVAS World Wide in Chicago. They will be joined in Holy Matrimony at St. Paul of the Cross in Park Ridge on May 17, 2014.

Amanda Milnamow & Nick Spychalski
Engagement

Dr. Dolores M. Eder of Park Ridge, IL announces the engagement of her daughter, Amanda E. Milnamow, to Nicholas F. Spychalski, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Spychalski, of Norridge, IL. Amanda is a graduate of Maine South High School '01 and University of Illinois '05. She received a Masters in Reading from Northeastern Illinois University, and a Masters in Administration from Concordia University. Nick is a graduate of Ridgewood High School '96 and University of Illinois '00. He received his Masters in Education from National Louis University and is a veteran of the Illinois Army National Guard. Both Amanda and Nick work as teachers in Chicago. A July wedding is planned at Independence Grove in Libertyville, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Gindin
60th Wedding Anniversary

Happy 60th wedding anniversary to Martha and Solomon Gindin who celebrated their 60th anniversary on June 21, 2013. Martha Rumsack married Solomon Gindin on June 21, 1953, a very hot Chicago day, in Albany Park, IL. They moved to Morton Grove in 1963, where they raised three daughters and now have three son-in-laws and eight grandchildren! Their love for one another, humor and strength through the best and worst of times has inspired each of us to live our very best lives. Mazel Tov! We look forward to celebrating each and every anniversary with you to come.

With Love and Admiration, Eileen, Alan, Shari, Mike, Debbie and David and your grandchildren.

Karen Bavaro & Jim Emmel
25th Wedding Anniversary

Jim Emmel and Karen Bavaro celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on June 4, 2013. They were married on June 4, 1988 at Mary Seat of Wisdom Catholic Church in Park Ridge, IL and live in Chicago, IL.
9915 N. Wendy Way, Niles

House size: 2,176 square feet
Lot size: 8,284 square feet
Year built: 1966
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 2.5
Garage: Two-car attached
Property tax: $8,158.28 (2011)
Exterior: Frame
School districts: East Maine School District 63 and Maine Township High School District 207

AGENT Sheila Doyle, Baird & Warner. 847-962-2686

HOUSE FOR SALE? For details to get a home listed on the Featured Home page, email homes@wrapports.com or call 312-300-7974
I would estimate that it is about 100 miles to drive to the nearest town.

To be fair, I would like to mention that the road conditions are not ideal.

In conclusion, the journey seems feasible, but caution should be exercised due to the road conditions.

Thank you for your attention and patience.

Best regards,

[Name]
Galena, Illinois
Looking backward, moving forward

By Audrey Henderson

Galena’s architecture reflects its successive history as a Native American settlement, a mining boom town, a rural farming community and, more recently, a regional tourist attraction. 85 percent of the buildings in Galena are included within a National Register Historic District. Originally settled in the 1600s by Native Americans, Europeans began to arrive in the late 1700s. The westward push into the region by Americans began in the 1800s, and by the middle of the century, the region produced 80 percent of the lead mined in the United States. Prior to becoming President of the United States, Galena was home to Civil War hero General Ulysses S. Grant. During this period, Galena also enjoyed its heyday because of its booming lead trade, boasting a population in excess of 14,000. However, a sharp decline in the demand for lead caused a steady population decline, reducing Galena to a struggling rural farming community.

Since the 1980s, however, Galena has been able to preserve its historical and architectural heritage while populating its structures with eclectic shops, innovative art and artisan galleries, antique shops and specialty foods. As a result, Galena’s Main Street has been called Illinois’ second Magnificent Mile. Visitors would be well advised to reserve ample time to explore its well preserved and restored structures as well as its inviting establishments. Major attractions include General Grant’s Italianate style home and the Galena and U.S. Grant Museum.

ABOUT GALENA
Visitors come to Galena in western Illinois to enjoy its history, small town atmosphere and rolling landscape. In its architecture and attractions, Galena reflects both its history and its future, with charming surprises that make the three-hour drive from Chicago worthwhile.

www.WeekAway.com

Sponsored content by WeekAway. For more information on these or other destinations, visit WeekAway.com
Food Truck craze sweeps through Minneapolis

By Lisa Furgison

In the last two years the Twin Cities have become a hot spot for food trucks. With close to 100 food vendors setting up shop in Minneapolis and St. Paul, you're bound to find some good eats on the streets.

While both cities offer tasty curb-side treats, Minneapolis has more options. If you're in downtown Minneapolis, the food trucks can all be found on Nicollet Avenue or Marquette. On Nicollet Avenue, the trucks are set up between 5th Street and 11th street. On Marquette Avenue, the line of trucks stretches from 5th street to 8th street. Most are only open for lunch, so look for them between 11am-2pm. A few highlights:

**Dandelion Kitchen**
*Location:* Outside the IDS Center on Nicollet Avenue
*Menu suggestion:* grilled ham and brie

This fan favorite offers homemade soups, salads and sandwiches. The owners promote local farmers by using fresh, locally grown food as much as possible. Everything is made from scratch. You can even order homemade soda.

**Turkey To Go**
*Location:* Nicollet Avenue and 8th Street
*Menu suggestion:* turkey pita

Dubbed “The Best Bird in Town,” this vendor aims to please with giant turkey sandwiches. You can also have a custom-made turkey pita or a simple salad. The sandwich and the pita are wrapped in aluminum foil so it's easy to eat on the go.

**Little Red Wagon**
*Location:* Nicollet Avenue and 6th Street
*Menu suggestion:* kettle corn

If you're looking for a light snack while you peruse the streets of downtown, swing by the Little Red Wagon for some popcorn. This vendor has a thirty-year history of selling sweets in Minneapolis. You can even grab the kids a slurpie while you're there.

**TRUCKIN' TREATS:** Serving up good eats on the street are (clockwise from top) Dandelion Kitchen, Turkey To Go and Little Red Wagon

Looking for a little road trip this weekend? Check out one of these events within driving distance from Chicago.

**De Moines, IA**
De Moines Arts Festival
June 28-30
[desmoinesartsfestival.org](http://desmoinesartsfestival.org)

**Traverse City, MI**
National Cherry Festival
June 29-July 6
[cherryfestival.org](http://cherryfestival.org)

**Michigan City, IN**
Michigan City Kite Festival
June 29-30
[mcssummerfest.org](http://mcssummerfest.org)

**Hammond, IN**
Creedence Clearwater Revisited Concert
June 28
[southshorecca.com/events](http://southshorecca.com/events)

**Manitowoc, WI**
River Rendezvous
June 29-30
[mainlymanitowoc.com](http://mainlymanitowoc.com)
Joliet – a city of summer fun

Summer Sizzles in J-Town, so get ready for a great escape!

Silver Cross Field is ready to play host to you, your family and friends as the Joliet Slammers are into another hot season. Entertainment, excitement and affordable prices — not to mention an old-fashioned style ballpark with all the new amenities.

While there, check out the historic Rialto Square Theatre. Take a tour, or treat yourself to any of their outstanding performances. "A spectacular entertainment venue," say veteran visitors and entertainment writers.

From comedy to music for all ages, the Rialto is a must-see for its architecture, history and one-of-a-kind feel.

Discover why so many international visitors travel through Joliet each year along the Mother Road. The Joliet Area Historical Museum & Route 66 Welcome Center are great resources for planning your Route 66 road trip.

Speaking of The Mother Road, if wheels are your thing, take a trip to Joliet for a Route 66 Classic Car Show. Held once a month, each show has a special theme and includes musical entertainment, vendors and food booths. If that event gets you feeling the need for speed, then mark your calendar for Joliet's annual Race Fan Rally, held before NASCAR Weekend at Chicagoland Speedway. The City of Joliet rolls out the welcome mat for all with plenty of entertainment, food, beer tents, NASCAR drivers, simulators, classic cars, as well as raffle and prize drawings.

Concerts on the Hill at Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park will bring back the bygone era of outdoor music. American Legion Band and weekly musical guests, along with local entertainment, hot dogs and lemonade, are sure to please the grandparents and the young ones, too. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and sense of nostalgia for a sunset concert.

All ages and all interests will find something fun in Joliet — a City of Excitement. Let the Heritage Corridor CVB be your source for great events and terrific tourism gems. Start planning your getaway at HeritageCorridorCVB.com.

SUNDAYS, THROUGH AUG. 18, 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
Will County Farmers Market, Louis Joliet Mall, Essington Road entrance, shoppinglouisjolietmall.org
Stock up on fresh produce and more!

THURSDAYS, THROUGH AUG. 29, 6:30 P.M.
39th annual Concerts on the Hill, Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park, bicentennialpark.org
Visit the website for the 2013 weekly line-up of the free outdoor concert of family entertainment including bands, singers and dancers. Bring chairs and blankets for hill seating in front of the bandshell. Tasty, affordable concessions — great $2 hot dogs! Picnic baskets also are welcome and there's free parking.

JUNE 27-30
O'Reilly Auto Parts Route 66 NHRA Nationals, Route 56 Raceway, route66raceway.com
Once a year, the Route 66 NHRA Nationals — powered by Super Start Batteries weekend — returns to Joliet as drag racing's biggest stars roar down the dragstrip. The NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series is the world's fastest motorsport — watch as nitro burning Top Fuel Dragsters and Funny Cars breach the 300 mph speed barrier. Get up close and personal with the drivers as every ticket is a pit pass!

AUG. 3, 10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
Kidzfest, downtown Joliet
Bring your kids to downtown Joliet for Kidzfest, featuring interactive, educational and fun activities. New this year is Cartoon Network's Dragon Fest, an interactive display with games and prizes. Food and entertainment provided.

SEPT. 12, 4 TO 10 P.M.
Race Fan Rally, downtown Joliet, jolietdowntown.com
This annual kickoff event to the NASCAR weekend at the Speedway includes plenty of entertainment, food, beer tents, NASCAR drivers, simulators, classic cars and prize and raffle drawings. It's everything NASCAR related.

RIALTO SQUARE THEATRE
102 N. Chicago St. | 815-726-1111 | rialtosquare.com
The Rialto Square Theatre is a spectacular entertainment venue offering top-name concerts, comedy Broadway, symphonic, dance, theatre, and children and family shows. Get behind-the-scenes tours of this historic treasure, see the ornate architecture, listen to an organ concert, walk across the stage and visit the green room whose walls are adorned with hundreds of artists' signatures. The Rialto is also a perfect location for weddings, receptions or private affairs.
How to Manage Entrepreneurial-Minded Employees

By Emily Bennington, Monster Contributing Writer

See if this sounds familiar. You've just brought on a new hire (say a Gen Y or new grad) who you really like... well, except for one small problem: They're gunning to move up.

And while you think they're just dipping a toe in their current role, they're pushing for more responsibility and higher pay. This is a very tricky - and very common - dilemma for managers today.

In fact, I just interviewed a young woman who was 12 weeks into the workforce and already frustrated with her career. She worked for a great company, had a great manager and liked her job - so what was the deal? Get this: Her position had a two-year promotion track.

"Two years is like a decade to me," were her exact words.

Managing Racehorses

I know, I know: You're thinking that's ridiculous and she should feel lucky to be employed, right? Well, frankly, that's the problem. Because for as much as we like to moan about how long we had to pay our dues (and walk 8 miles in the snow) while insisting the next generation do the same, the fact of the matter is that it's a different world.

But it still doesn't change the fact that top talent - a.k.a. the ones we all want to hire - are like racehorses behind the starting line. They're stomping, chomping at the bit, and just waiting for the doors of opportunity to fly open so they can chase the career carrot.

Perhaps you recall the feeling. After all, it's the reason you started your business in the first place. You wanted that entrepreneurial paradox of control and freedom. And so do they.

Stoking Entrepreneurial Engagement

Alright... maybe you can't give them control. (After all, that's your job, right?) But there is something else you can give that means just as much - if not more - at this stage in their career. You can give them progress.

Because here's the thing: It's easy for new grads to feel as if they're falling behind when we're all surrounded by tales of 27-year-old CEOs. (Geez, even I feel behind sometimes!) But if your hire feels that he or she is learning, growing, and advancing their skills and network they will reward you with loyalty!

Just ask my first boss, Skip Lineberg, who turned what was supposed to be a temp job (for me) into a six year partnership - not to mention a book deal. In retrospect, I'm a little embarrassed to admit this but when I started working with Skip I asked for a promotion after just nine months. Here is the super-savvy way he managed it.

Next, a check-in.

He asked me to check-in with him after I'd finished a task or if I had any questions along the way. After that, I was on my own. And while my manager never gave me a formal deadline (I suspect that was a not-so-subtle initiative test) it took me about 6 months to get all seven tasks complete.

However, when everything was said and done I got the promotion - and he got to buy some time.

He also got to evaluate how I handled stress, how I solved problems, how committed I was, observed my employee attitude and if what I would bring to jumping through those hoops to earn that new position.

Smart cookie, huh?

This was definitely a win-win for both of us and an exceptional example of great management skills.

So if your Gen Y workers or new grads - or any employee really - feels like they're ready to move up, but you're not quite sure, remember: Make 'em prove they're worth it.

If they are - trust me - they will.
and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality of
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condition. The sale is further subject to con-

The subject property
the residential real estate arose pri-
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Municipality Relief Fund, which is
Judicial sale

Corporation, No third party checks
sale payable to The Judicial Sales

terms 25% down of the highest bid
with a detached 2 car garage. Sale
will be a single family

Property Index No 12-13-204-04-

from, as set forth below, the fol-

24th Floor, CHICAGO, IL, 60606,

cause on September 14, 2012, an

-ARWOOD HEIGHTS, IL 60706

.1741 NORTH OKETO AVENUE,

12 CH 02202

14244538906

IL 60602 (312) 476-5500.
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNCIL THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER) OF THE UNIT AT THE FORECLOSURE SALE, VERIFY ALL INFORMATION. IT THIS PROPERTY IS MONITORED TO CHECK THE COURT FILE TO VERIFY ALL INFORMATION BY THE COURT. UPON PAYMENT IN FULL OF THE JULIUS L. P. 765 ILCS 605/9(G)(1) AND SUPREME COURT, THEREFORE, PROPERLY ACT, 765 ILCS 605/9(G)(1) AND ITS QUALITY OF TITLE OR RECURSE TO PLAINTIFF AND IN AS IS CONDITION.

TAXES LEVIED AGAINST SAID REAL ESTATE OR TO THE SALE, THE SUBJECT PROPERTY CAN ALSO VISIT THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION AT 600 NORTH DEARBOURN STREET SUITE 1300, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602. TELEPHONE NUMBER: 312-607-1126.

FOR INFORMATION: ASSOCIATES ONE SOUTH WACKER DRIVE, 24TH FLOOR, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606-4650. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION RECEIPTS OF BIDDER AS SET FORTH BELOW.

PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ARE ADMONISHED TO REFERENCE THE COURT FILE NUMBER 14-10-30363.
Don't need it? Sell it fast. Call 247-999-3400

SAY IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS, CALL 847-999-3400 TO PLACE YOUR AD
The property is improved with a
Commonly known as 4641 West
24th Floor, CHICAGO, IL 60606,
uant to a Judgment of Foreclosure.
Delendants
HOMES CONDOMINIUM ASSOCI-
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUN-
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NORTHFRONTAGE
refer to tile number 14-lt-t8521.
LAW. For information, examine the
ACCORDANCE WITH SECTtON
Owner), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT
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mation by the court.
The Judicial Sales Corporation, will pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Revised Civil Code in accordance with the court's determination. The Purchaser shall have no further rights, interests, or claims to Plaintiff and in As Is condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. The proceedings can be stopped by the court.

The following real estate is hereby given pursuant to the court order:

The property is located at:

**Address:** 152 N. Spruce Ave, Skokie, IL 60629

The property will be sold at:

**Location:** Skokie, IL 60607

**Date and Time:** Thursday, June 27, 2013, at 10:30 AM

The property is subject to the following restrictions:

1. A lien for taxes and special assessments due and payable from 2010 to 2012.
2. A lien for special assessments due and payable from 2013.
3. A lien for general assessments due and payable from 2013.

The property will be sold in the following manner:

1. Subject to the court's determination of the proper valuation and the condition of the property.
2. The property will be sold for the highest bid by the court.
3. The purchaser shall have no further rights, interests, or claims to Plaintiff and in As Is condition.
4. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

The following information is provided for the property:

- **Address:** 152 N. Spruce Ave, Skokie, IL 60629
- **Property Description:** Residential real estate
- **Assessment:** $1,000 or fraction thereof
- **Restrictions:** Subject to the court's determination of the proper valuation and the condition of the property.
- **Sale Terms:** The purchaser shall have no further rights, interests, or claims to Plaintiff and in As Is condition.
- **Confirmation:** The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

For more information, please contact the Judicial Sales Corporation at (312) 236-5800.
NOTICE OF AUCTION

Foster Ravenswood Storage

1900 W Foster Ave
Chicago, IL 60622

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4A of the Self-Storage Facility Act, the contents of the below spaces will be sold at a public sale by competitive bidding on:

Tuesday, July 2, 2013 at 7:30 AM

Units to be auctioned:

104-50A

Life Storage of Ravenswood will hold a public sale to enforce a lien imposed on said property, as described below, pursuant to the Illinois Self-Storage Facility Act, Illinois Code 75/675, at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, July 3, 2013 at 9:46 AM.

Management reserves the right to withdraw any unit from sale.

Registered motor vehicles are sold "As is"/Parts Only, no titles or registration.

Tenant Name: Jerry Sparks

Unit #: 401

NOTICE OF AUCTION

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- Shop by monthly payment
- Search by mileage
- Browse hot vehicle categories

You've never searched for cars like this before.

Visit ToDrive.com today to take it for a spin.
Find your new car at...

todrive.com

search for new and used cars

- Shop by monthly payment
- Search by mileage
- Browse hot vehicle categories

You've never searched for cars like this before. Visit Todrive.com today to take it for a spin.
Public Notices

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PREVAILING WAGE RATES FOR LABORERS, MECHANICS AND OTHER WORKERS EMPLOYED ON PUBLIC WORKS, 2013-2014, FOR THE COOK COUNTY AREA UNDER THE JUDICIAL LEIN ACT, ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is an "Act regulating wages of laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in any public works by the State, county, city or any public body or any public subdivision of by any one under contract for public works," approved June 21, 1941, as amended, as the law of this State; and

WHEREAS, The aforesaid Act requires that the Illinois Elementary School District #71 of Cook County investigate and ascertain the prevailing wage rates for laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in performing construction of public works for the School District No. 71, and continue until all units are sold.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Education of School District #71 of Cook County, as follows:

Section 1: To the extent and as required by the Act, the prevailing wage rates for laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in performing construction of public works for the School District No. 71, as of June 1, 2013, and continue until all units are sold.

Section 2: Nothing herein contained shall be construed to apply the prevailing wage rates for laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in performing construction of public works for the School District No. 71, as of June 1, 2013, and continue until all units are sold.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCA TION OF NILES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #71:

SECTION 1: To the extent and as required by an Act regulating wages of laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in any public works by the State, county, city or any public body or any public subdivision of by any one under contract for public works, approved June 21, 1941, as amended, the general prevailing wage rates of wages for laborers, mechanics and other workers in the locality of Cook County employed in performing construction of public works for the School District No. 71, as of June 1, 2013, and continue until all units are sold.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCA TION OF NILES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #71:

SECTION 2: Nothing herein contained shall be construed to apply the prevailing wage rates for wages of laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in performing construction of public works for the School District No. 71, as of June 1, 2013, and continue until all units are sold.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCA TION OF NILES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #71:

SECTION 3: The Niles Elementary School District #71 Board Secretary shall publicy post or keep available for inspection any term or condition of the prevailing wage rates for laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in performing construction of public works for the School District No. 71, as of June 1, 2013, and continue until all units are sold.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCA TION OF NILES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #71:

SECTION 4: The Niles Elementary School District #71 Board Secretary shall mail a copy of this Resolution and this list of prevailing wage rates for laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in performing construction of public works for the School District No. 71, as of June 1, 2013, and continue until all units are sold.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCA TION OF NILES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #71:

SECTION 5: The Niles Elementary School District #71 Board Secretary shall cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the School District a copy of this Resolution and this list of prevailing wage rates for laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in performing construction of public works for the School District No. 71, as of June 1, 2013, and continue until all units are sold.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCA TION OF NILES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #71:

SECTION 6: The Niles Elementary School District #71 Board Secretary shall cause to be published a copy of this Resolution and this list of prevailing wage rates for laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in performing construction of public works for the School District No. 71, as of June 1, 2013, and continue until all units are sold.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCA TION OF NILES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #71:

SECTION 7: This Resolution shall be in force and effect upon its adoption and shall be in force and effect until the conclusion of the public hearing, the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois. This public hearing may be adjourned to a particular class of workers whose wages will be affected by the Board of Education shall mail a copy of this Resolution to any workman or employment except to the extent required by the Act, the prevailing wage rates for laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in performing construction of public works for the School District No. 71, as of June 1, 2013, and continue until all units are sold.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCA TION OF NILES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #71:

SECTION 8: Nothing herein contained shall be construed to apply the prevailing wage rates for wages of laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in performing construction of public works for the School District No. 71, as of June 1, 2013, and continue until all units are sold.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCA TION OF NILES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #71:

SECTION 9: The Niles Elementary School District #71 Board Secretary shall cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the School District a copy of this Resolution and this list of prevailing wage rates for laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in performing construction of public works for the School District No. 71, as of June 1, 2013, and continue until all units are sold.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCA TION OF NILES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #71:

SECTION 10: The Niles Elementary School District #71 Board Secretary shall cause to be published a copy of this Resolution and this list of prevailing wage rates for laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in performing construction of public works for the School District No. 71, as of June 1, 2013, and continue until all units are sold.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCA TION OF NILES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #71:

SECTION 11: The Niles Elementary School District #71 Board Secretary shall cause to be published a copy of this Resolution and this list of prevailing wage rates for laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in performing construction of public works for the School District No. 71, as of June 1, 2013, and continue until all units are sold.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCA TION OF NILES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #71:

SECTION 12: Nothing herein contained shall be construed to apply the prevailing wage rates for wages of laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in performing construction of public works for the School District No. 71, as of June 1, 2013, and continue until all units are sold.
NEW ACURA ILX DESIGNED FOR STARTER LUXURY BUYERS

By ARV VOSS
Motor Matters

With the new 2013 ILX, Acura is targeting the successful 20- and 30-somethings who want a starter luxury car. Acura says for this young market segment it had to invent, adapt and innovate at a rapid pace to meet the demands for the high-content, value-for-money ILX compact luxury sedan.

Basically, it comes down to the old-fashioned expression "bang-for-the-buck." Starting at $25,800, the ILX is well equipped with features wrapped in a luxury marquee badge. Acura calls the ILX's design edgy and fluid, with expressive lines flowing from the front of the signature grille back to the crisply styled trunk. Broad and pronounced front- and rear-wheel arches give the ILX an athletic presence, highlighted with a five-spoke wheel design.

A selection of three powertrains gives the buyer a decisive choice on performance for the dollar. First up is the 2.0-liter four-cylinder that makes 150 horsepower while also delivering 140 pound-feet of torque. It mates to a five-speed automatic with Sequential SportShift and Grade Logic Control.

Next up is the 2.4-liter that delivers 201 horsepower, along with 170 pound-feet of torque and connects to a six-speed manual gearbox with a single disk, dry-style diaphragm spring clutch. The final entry is the ILX Hybrid with a 1.5-liter engine that generates 111 horses and 127 pound-feet of torque linked to a Continuously Variable Transmission.

I spent most of my time piloting the 150-horsepower, 2.0-liter ILX, with shorter stints in the 2.4-liter during the national press launch held in Arizona. The 2.0-liter performed well but seemed lacking in sufficient power in passing other vehicles on a grade. My test vehicle featured both the Premium and Technology Packages, bringing the as-tested price to $32,295.

The 201 horsepower, 2.4-liter with the manual transmission was the most pleasing in terms of sporty performance characteristics, but Acura should really offer the availability of the automatic transmission for buyers who don't enjoy shifting gears.

Handling characteristics are responsive in the Acura ILX models, thanks to the Motion Adaptive Electric Power Steering. Noise isolation properties are upscale as they should be and the ride quality is compliant and comfortable. All Acura ILX models are front-wheel drive.

Interestingly, we discovered the ILX does not come with a gas strut hood prop, but rather offers a manual prop rod for the relatively heavy hood, and there's only one auxiliary power outlet that's placed in the center console.
To keep your Subaru operating at its best, Muller Subaru’s factory trained technicians always use Genuine Subaru parts!

Whether you purchased your vehicle from us or another dealership, we welcome the opportunity to Service Your Vehicle at any of our Muller Auto Group Service Departments.

Call Today or Schedule Your Service Appointment Online!

Check Out Our Money Saving Coupons Online!

www.mullerautogroup.com
847.433.7900
Route 41 & Park Avenue West · Highland Park, IL
PARDON OUR DUST

NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS

0% 84 mos

OPEN DURING CONSTRUCTION

NEW 2014 JEEP PATRIOT SPORT

- FWD, Aux Audio Input, Floor Mats, Rear Defrost
- All - Season Tires, CD Player, MP3 Player, ABS
- Brake Assist, Variable intermittent Wipers, Fog Lamps, Bucket Seats, Rear Bench Seats & More $14,000

28 HWY MPG | $11,995

NEW 2013 DODGE AVENGER

- Power Everything, 12v Outlet, Outside Temp, Aux Input, CD Player, Phone Integration, Remote Alarm, Traction Control, Advanced Multistage Front Airbags, Steering Wheel Mounted Speed Control & More $12,390

MSRP $12,390 | $29,490

NEW 2014 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 4X4

- Nav, Power Everything, CD, Head Airbag, iPod, MP3, Flex Fuel, Rear Speaker, Keyless Entry, Tire Pressure Monitor with Warning Lamp, Electronic Vehicle Information Center, Power Heated Exterior Mirrors & More $33,490

MSRP $33,490 | $19,790

NEW 2013 JEEP WRANGLER

- AWD, Power Steering, Convertible Soft Top, Spare Tire, Fog Lamps, Aux Audio Input, Choke, Steering Wheel Audio Controls, Rear Weather Protectors, Rear Seat Protection Sill, ABS, Full Size Spare Tire & More $13,500

MSRP $13,500 | $16,990

NEW 2013 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN

- Power Everything, Heated Mirrors, CD, Phone Integration, 3rd Row Seat, Captains Chairs, Flex Fuel capacity, Advanced Multistage Front Airbags, Tire Pressure Monitoring, Keyless Entry with Immobilizer & More $13,540

MSRP $13,540

NEW 2013 DODGE DURANGO 5X1

- Power Everything, Folding 2nd & 3rd Row Seats, Outside Temp, 12v Outlets, On - wheel Audio Control, Aux Input, CD Player, Advanced Multistage Front Airbags, SiriusXM Satellite Radio & More $30,490

MSRP $30,490 | $21,990

NEW 2013 DODGE CHALLENGER SXT

- Power Everything, iPod/MP3 Input, Head Airbag, Stability Control, Traction Control, Keyless Start, Aluminum Wheels, Tire Pressure Monitor with Warning Lamp, Illuminated Entry, Advanced Multistage Front Airbags, Keyless Entry, Security Alarm, Tinted Glass & More $26,990

MSRP $26,990 | $13,990

NEW 2013 CHRYSLER 200

- Power Everything, Heated Mirrors, Outside Temp, 12v Outlet, Aux Input, CD Player, Satellite Radio, Phone Integration, Advanced Multistage Front Airbags, Keyless Entry, Security Alarm, Tinted Glass & More $21,790

MSRP $21,790 | $13,500

NEW 2013 CHRYSLER 300

- Power Everything, Outside Temp, Remote Proximity Keyless Entry, On Wheel Audio Control, Aux Input, CD/AM/FM Radio, Satellite Radio, Power Heated Mirrors, Dual Zone Temp Control, Rear 60/40 Folding Seat & More $31,140

MSRP $31,140

SHERMAN

7601 N. Cicero Ave
800-411-1001
ShermanTimes.com

We service all Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep & Ram vehicles regardless of where you bought it!

*All prices plus tax, title, & $164.30 doc. fee. All applicable factory rebates & incentives applied. 0% APR for 84 mos available on select new models to qualified buyers, must finance thru Ally Bank, in lieu of factory rebate. Financed amount is $11,995/84000 borrowed. No payments for 90 days to qualified buyers thru Ally Bank, see dealer for details. See dealer for details. Savings from MSRP. MSRP may not be the actual selling price within the trade area. Source is Chrysler year to date. 1) MPG based on 2012 EPA HWY mileage estimates. Actual mileage may vary. Vehicle availability based at press deadline and all vehicles subject to prior sale. Dealer not liable for typographical errors in this ad. See dealer for terms & conditions. Manufacturer incentives subject to change without notice & may affect dealer's selling price. Financing subject to credit approval & insurability. Some may not qualify. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Offers expire 3 days from pub.
NEW 2014 NISSAN VERSA
$9,995

NEW 2013 NISSAN ROGUE
AWD
$199 / 39 MO LEASE ZERO DOWN

NEW 2013 NISSAN PATHFINDER
$23,995

NEW 2014 NISSAN NOTE
In Stock

2013 NISSAN ALTIMA
$16,995

BERMAN'S STAR NISSAN & MID CITY NISSAN

5757 W. Touhy Ave • Niles
StarNissan.com • 888-598-7491

4444 W. Irving Park • Chicago
MidCityNissan.com • 888-590-8666

Offers to qualified buyers. Offers cannot be combined. *Plus tax, title, lic & doc fee. 1) 30% off MSRP on select new Nissans. Ex: New 2013 Altima 2.5 Special $24,500 - 30% = our price $17,150. Stk# n7947. Special advertisement vehicle. Price is plus tax, title, lic & doc fee. See dealer for details. 2) On select new models. *Plus tax, title, license & doc fee, plates, 1st mo payment & security deposit. 12k m/y, 15c/mi over. You must qualify. Dealer will not honor errors in this ad. No prior sales. Pictures for illustration only. Offers end 3 days from pub.
NEW 2013 CHEVY CRUZE #CV 13487 $13,450
119
CHEVROLET L. /24 MO LEASE

NEW 2013 CHEVY SPARK #CV13442 $11,450

NEW 2013 CHEVY SONIC #CV13412 $12,850

NEW 2013 CHEVY SILVERADO #CV13361 $16,750

NEW 2013 CHEVY MALIBU #CV13364 $17,450

NEW 2013 CHEVY EQUINOX #CV13428 $20,550

NEW 2013 CHEVY CAMARO #CV13487 $21,550

NEW 2013 CHEVY IMPALA #CV13337 $24,950

NEW 2013 CHEVY TRAVERSE #CV13417 $25,850

NEW 2013 CHEVY VOLT #CV13321 $31,950

NEW 2013 CHEVY TAHOE #CV13354 $33,850

WE DELIVER WITH 50 VEHICLES UNDER $10,000 GREAT SELECTION OF USED

'01 HONDA ODYSSEY CT13294A $2,990
'01 PONTIAC GRAND AM CV13497A $14,987
'05 DODGE STRATUS Z99008 $6,637
'06 CHEVY MONTE CARLO CV12190A $6,792
'06 FORD ESCAPE Z9914 $6,987
'06 CHEVY COLORADO CT13221A $6,983
'06 JEEP COMMANDER CT13285A $7,836
'07 CHEVY COBALT CV13147A $7,882
'07 SATURN AURA CV13184A $9,462
'10 TOYOTA COROLLA Z9981 $11,900
'02 TOYOTA LANDCRUISER Z9972 $12,980
'08 SCION TC Z9995 $12,658
'11 DODGE AVENGER CV1286A $12,714
'12 CHEVY MALIBU LT Z9969 $13,756

NEW 2014 CHEVY SONIC #CV13412 $12,850

NEW 2013 CHEVY TRAVERSE #CV13428 $25,850

NEW 2013 CHEVY VOLT #CV13321 $31,950

NEW 2013 CHEVY TAHOE #CV13354 $33,850

WE DELIVER WITH 50 VEHICLES UNDER $10,000 GREAT SELECTION OF USED

'07 CHEVY CAMRY Z9939 $13,861
'04 TOYOTA 4 RUNNER CV13425A $13,865
'07 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER Z13000 $14,763
'10 JEEP LIBERTY Z9984 $14,993
'09 PONTIAC G8 Z9975 $16,858
'11 SUBARU FORESTER Z9987A $19,682
'09 CADILLAC ATS Z9997 $19,982

NEW 2013 CHEVY MALIBU #CV13364 $17,450

'10 CHEVY TRAVERSE Z9865 $23,716
'13 CHEVY MALIBU LTZ Z9909 $24,438
'08 CHEVY SUBURBAN LTZ Z9944 $30,710
'11 GMC ACADIA DENALI Z9992 $33,778
'11 CHEVY AVALANCHE LTZ Z9918 $33,967

SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

CHEVY PALATINE
151 E. Lake Cook Rd., Palatine
888-544-9155
GrossingerPalatineChevrolet.com

NEED CREDIT? WE CAN HELP! CALL OUR CREDIT HOTLINE TODAY: 888-544-9155

CHEVY PALATINE
151 E. Lake Cook Rd., Palatine
888-544-9155
GrossingerPalatineChevrolet.com

All vehicles subject to prior sales. Offers to qualified buyers. *Plus tax, title, lic & $65.50 doc fee. 1) 0% APR for 72mo to qualified buyers. $13.86 per $1000 financed. Bank buy down rate. $20k max financed. 2) 4mo lease (36mo lease Volt $2995 down Cruze, Equinox $2000 down Malibu, Impala, Camaro, Silverado, Volt, Traverse) ($3500 down Tahoe). Plus tax, title, security deposit, license and $164.90 doc fee. 10k mvl. 15% of loan. 164.90 dealer disclosure. 3) Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this ad. Offers end 3 days after pub.
Gurnee Hyundai

0% APR & $0 Payments for 90 Days!

$1,500 - $6,000 in Savings!

BRAND NEW 2013 HYUNDAI

ACCENT

LEASE FOR ONLY

$109/MO.

36 month lease with $2,899 total due at lease signing (total due includes 12 months payment and $9 refundable security deposit required).

OR Save $2,000!

BRAND NEW 2013 HYUNDAI

ELANTRA

LEASE FOR ONLY

$119/MO.

36 month lease with $2,995 total due at lease signing (total due includes 12 months payment and $9 refundable security deposit required).

OR Save $3,000!

BRAND NEW 2013 HYUNDAI

SONATA

LEASE FOR ONLY

$129/MO.

36 month lease with $2,999 total due at lease signing (total due includes 12 months payment and $9 refundable security deposit required).

OR Save $4,000!

Gurnee Hyundai’s Low Price Guarantee

We’ll beat any deal on a new Hyundai!

Plus tax, title, license and doc fee on all prices/payments. Offers with approved credit. All incentives applied. Photos for illustrative purposes only. *0% APR for 72 months available on select Hyundai models with approved credit through HMI is a buy rate. $13.88 per thousand financed. Maximum amount financed is $15,000. See dealer for details. **Bring in any advertised price from a competitive Hyundai dealership in today’s newspaper and Gurnee Hyundai will beat it. Must be comparable cars, comparably equipped. Gurnee Hyundai reserves the right to purchase the competitive dealer's vehicle. Offers expire 7/8/13.
When A Great Deal Matters, Shop Rob Paddock's...

Evanston Subaru in Skokie

HOT SUBARU SAVINGS

2014 Subaru Forester
NOW IN STOCK

36 TO PICK

New 2013 XV Crosstrek 2.0i Premium

36 MPG

19% APR

$99.00*/MO.

All-Wheel-Drive, ABS, Side Curtain Airbags, MP3, Full Power

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT

36 month lease, $2,995 due at signing. DJA #9345

A free weekly event EVANSTON SUBARU PRESENTS A free weekly event
FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT ON THE VILLAGE GREEN IN DOWNTOWN SKOKIE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 3RD AT 7PM. HURRICANE SAXOPHONE QUARTET (BACK TO THE BEATLES)

EVANSTON SUBARU in SKOKIE

3340 OAKTON STREET - SKOKIE, IL 60076

EvanstonSubaru.com 1-888-858-4089

* Add tax, title license and $164.30 doc fee. ** Finance on approved credit score Subject to vehicle insurance and availability. *Lease on approved credit score. Lease, 10k miles per year, 15 cents after. Lessee responsible for excess wear and early termination of lease. Option to purchase: Imp.$11,385, For.$14,833. Legacy $12,090, Outback $13,359 ° Gas mileage is EPA estimates All offers end in 3 days, unless noted.
NEW 2013 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY

EVENT

FULLY LOADED TOWN & COUNTRY

FROZEN ROSE 1

NEW 2013 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN

OWN & COUNTRY

NEW 2013 DODGE DART SXT

LIMITED

NEW 2013 CHRYSLER 200 LIMITED

WNC TO THE UN TRY

CHECK OUT THESE OTHER GREAT DEALS:

LEASE A T&C

$249 MO.

WITH $2,999 DUE AT SIGNING

LEASE A SXT

$149 MO.

FOR 24 MONTHS WITH $2,999 DUE AT SIGNING

LEASE A 2014 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4

$359 MO.

FOR 36 MONTHS WITH $2,499 DUE AT SIGNING

LEASE A 2013 CHRYSLER 200 LIMITED

$129 MO.

FOR 24 MONTHS WITH $2,999 DUE AT SIGNING

Visit one of your local CHICAGOLAND CHRYSLER Dealers to find out more.

Antioch Chrysler Dodge Jeep and Ram

Bettenhausen Chrysler Jeep

Bettenhausen Motor Sales

Crystal Lake Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Crystal Valley Chrysler Jeep Dodge

De Paul Dodge Chrysler Jeep

Dundee Chrysler Dodge Jeep

Feeny Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Fields Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Gurnee Dodge Chrysler Jeep

Hawk CJD of Forest Park

Jack Phelan Dodge of Countryside

Larry Roesch Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Liberty Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram

Mancini's Chrysler Dodge Jeep

Marino Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Naperville Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Napleton's Des Plaines Chrysler Dodge Jeep

Napleton's North Western Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Napleton's River Oaks Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Riverbend Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Sherman Dodge Chrysler Jeep

South Chicago Dodge Chrysler Jeep

South Oak Chrysler Dodge Jeep

St. Charles Chrysler Dodge Jeep

Sunnyside Chrysler Dodge Ram

Taylor Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Thomas Dodge Chrysler Jeep of Highland

Tyrone Motor Corp.

Wickstrom Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Zeigler Chrysler Dodge Jeep - Downers Grove

Zeigler Chrysler Dodge Jeep

Bettenhausen Motor Sales

Larry Hoesch Chrysler Jeep

Taylor Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Wickstrom Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Zeigler Chrysler Dodge Jeep

Fields Chrysler Jeep Dodge

St. Charles Chrysler Dodge Jeep

Zeigler Chrysler Dodge Jeep

Antioch Chrysler Dodge Jeep and Ram

Bettenhausen Chrysler Jeep

Jack Phelan Dodge of Countryside

Larry Roesch Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Liberty Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram

Mancini's Chrysler Dodge Jeep

Marino Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Naperville Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Napleton's Des Plaines Chrysler Dodge Jeep

Napleton's North Western Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Napleton's River Oaks Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Riverbend Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Sherman Dodge Chrysler Jeep

South Chicago Dodge Chrysler Jeep

South Oak Chrysler Dodge Jeep

St. Charles Chrysler Dodge Jeep

Sunnyside Chrysler Dodge Ram

Taylor Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Thomas Dodge Chrysler Jeep of Highland

Tyrone Motor Corp.

Wickstrom Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Zeigler Chrysler Dodge Jeep - Downers Grove

Zeigler Chrysler Dodge Jeep

Bettenhausen Motor Sales

Larry Hoesch Chrysler Jeep

Taylor Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Wickstrom Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Zeigler Chrysler Dodge Jeep
Get a $50 Restaurant Gift Card With Test Drive.

**0% APR FINANCING ON 10 NEW 2013 MODELS**

With approved credit, 0% APR for 60 months on New 2013 Corolla, Camry LE, RAV4 LE, Highlander LE, and Sienna LE. Limited time offer. See dealer for details. Applies to stock #s 36 and 16430. Must be 18 or older with valid driver's license. No purchase necessary. Offer expires 6/30/13. See dealer for details. Sample lease 1% of current list price. Customer is responsible for tax, title, license, and a $499 acquisition fee. 72-month lease. $1699 due at signing, plus tax, tag, and title. 12,000 miles per year. See dealer for complete details. Safety先进技术 not available on all models. While supplies last.

**New 2013 TOYOTA COROLLA LE**

Lease For $169 Per Month

With approved credit, 36 month lease, $1999 due at signing, 12,000 miles per year, plus tax, tag, title, and $164.30 doc fee. Offer expires 6/30/13.

**New 2013 TOYOTA CAMRY LE**

Lease For $199 Per Month

With approved credit, 36 month lease, $2999 due at signing, 12,000 miles per year, plus tax, tag, title, and $164.30 doc fee. Offer expires 6/30/13.

**New 2013 TOYOTA RAV 4 LE**

Lease For $229 Per Month

With approved credit, 36 month lease, $2999 due at signing, 12,000 miles per year, plus tax, tag, title, and $164.30 doc fee. Offer expires 6/30/13.

**New 2013 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER 4X4**

Lease For $239 Per Month

With approved credit, 36 month lease, $2999 due at signing, 12,000 miles per year, plus tax, tag, title, and $164.30 doc fee. Offer expires 6/30/13.

**New 2013 TOYOTA SIENNA LE**

Lease For $299 Per Month

With approved credit, 36 month lease, $2999 due at signing, 12,000 miles per year, plus tax, tag, title, and $164.30 doc fee. Offer expires 6/30/13.

**New 2013 TOYOTA PRIUS V TWO**

Lease For $229 Per Month

With approved credit, 36 month lease, $2999 due at signing, 12,000 miles per year, plus tax, tag, title, and $164.30 doc fee. Offer expires 6/30/13.

**New 2013 SCION TC**

Lease For $159 OR Lease For $199 Per Month

With approved credit, 36 month lease, $2599 due at signing, 12,000 miles per year, plus tax, tag, title, and $164.30 doc fee. Offer expires 6/30/13.

We meet or beat our competitors' deals!!

**Brand New 2013 Kia SOUL**

Lease For $49 Per Month

STK#52049 With approved credit, 36 month lease, $5000 due at inception. 12,000 miles per year. $0 due at signing, plus tax, title, and $164.30 doc fee. Offer expires 6/30/13. See dealer for details. Offer cannot be combined. Available on all models except Soul Plus.

**Brand New 2014 Kia FORTE**

Lease For $99 Per Month

STK#62009 With approved credit, 36 month lease, $5000 due at inception. 12,000 miles per year. $0 due at signing, plus tax, title, and $164.30 doc fee. Offer expires 6/30/13. See dealer for details. Offer cannot be combined. Available on all models except Forte Plus.

**Brand New 2013 Kia OPTIMA**

Lease For $99 Per Month

STK#52063 With approved credit, 36 month lease, $5000 due at inception. 12,000 miles per year. $0 due at signing, plus tax, title, and $164.30 doc fee. Offer expires 6/30/13. See dealer for details. Offer cannot be combined. Available on all models except Optima Plus.

**Brand New 2014 Kia Cadenza**

Lease For $319 Per Month

STK#52099 With approved credit, 36 month lease, $5000 due at inception. 12,000 miles per year. $0 due at signing, plus tax, title, and $164.30 doc fee. Offer expires 6/30/13. See dealer for details. Offer cannot be combined. Available on all models except Cadenza Plus.

**We're Open 7 Days a Week!**

**Serving the Community for over 20 Years!**

Classic Dealer Group

**515 N. Green Bay Rd. Gurnee, IL 60031**

**877-608-3399**

**Classical Dealer Group.com**

The friendliest place in town!

2012 PRESIDENT'S AWARD WINNER!

Thanks to our customers, we are a 9 time winning dealership!

Get a $50 Restaurant Gift Card With Test Drive.

**$49 DOWN**

& MAKE THE PAYMENTS ON THE WINDOW!

With approved credit purchase price effects monthly payment.

Get a $50 Restaurant Gift Card With Test Drive.

**$49 DOWN**

& MAKE THE PAYMENTS ON THE WINDOW!

With approved credit purchase price effects monthly payment.

Get a $50 Restaurant Gift Card With Test Drive.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Make</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Mileage</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Volvo</td>
<td>S60</td>
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<td>Loaded</td>
<td>25,896a</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Ford</td>
<td>Focus</td>
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<td>$5,883</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Jeep</td>
<td>Liberty 4x4 Sport</td>
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<td>Loaded</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Ford</td>
<td>Excursion LTD 4x4</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Chevrolet</td>
<td>Astro</td>
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<td>Loaded</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Chrysler</td>
<td>Town &amp; Country</td>
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<td>Loaded</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Chevrolet</td>
<td>Silverado 4x4</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Extra cab</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Audi</td>
<td>A4 Quattro</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Loaded</td>
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<td>Suzuki</td>
<td>SX4</td>
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<td>Loaded</td>
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<td>Impala</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Loaded</td>
<td>27,487a</td>
<td>$9,997</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Toyota</td>
<td>Matrix WGN</td>
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<td>BMW</td>
<td>335i Sedan</td>
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<td>Ford</td>
<td>Edge AWD SEL</td>
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<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>NAVIGATOR 350</td>
<td>Black, Leather, Sunroof</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Pontiac</td>
<td>Solstice</td>
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<td>Only 6k miles</td>
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<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>Navi</td>
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<td>Loaded</td>
<td>29,803a</td>
<td>$24,994</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prices/Payments plus tax, title, & doc fee. All manufacturer rebates incentives applied. Manufacturer’s Suggested Retail Price may not represent actual sale price. **Lease for 39 months with $0 down, plus tax, title, & doc fee. Offer expires 6/30/13. Taxes not included in payment.**

Miles: 10,000 miles per year, $15 per mile thereafter. *To qualified buyers on select vehicles. **Payments may be deferred up to 90 days. To qualified buyers, with approved credit. Interest accrues from date of delivery. Must finance thru Ally financial. ***On select vehicles to qualified buyers.
NO HIDDEN FEE GUARANTEE

NEW 2013 CHEVY IMPALA
LIMITED SUPPLY!

NEW 2013 CHEVY SONIC
BUY FOR $12,840 $0

NEW 2013 CHEVY SILVERADO
BUY FOR $15,980 $0

NEW 2013 CHEVY EQUINOX
BUY FOR $20,480 $0

Raymond
QUALITY PRE-DRIVEN SALES EVENT!

2004 CHEVROLET VENTURE LS SUPER CLEAN #K51408...$15,998
2003 NISSAN MAXIMA GLS LOADED XTRA CLEAN #P10779...$10,998
2002 FORD EXPEDITION XLT EDDIE BAUER #6933A...$11,998
2004 CHEVROLET 1500 EXT CAB 4X4 PU #307798C...$15,998
2005 DODGE CARAVAN #K634A...$6,998
2005 CHEVROLET HHR LS LS$199...$6,998
2000 BMW 323I #W4736A...$6,998
2006 PONTIAC G6 GT #P2099A...$6,998
2007 HYUNDAI TUCSON #K4426A...$7,998
2005 CHEVROLET CORVETTE CPE #P10305...$7,998
2008 JEEP COMPASS #C0911A...$6,998
2005 NISSAN QUEST GXE #P2990A...$7,998
2008 CHRYSLER VUE #S1029A...$5,998
2003 LEXUS RX300 #K49888A...$6,998
2009 NISSAN CUBE #K49888A...$12,998
2009 CHEVY TRAVERSE #P10906A...$12,998
2011 TOYOTA COROLLA S #P10906A...$14,998
2011 HONDA CIVIC EX #P10906A...$13,998
2011 FORD FUSION LOADED #K5908A...$15,998
2007 HONDA CR-V EX #K4959A...$16,598
2008 FORD F250 SUPERDUTY PICK UP #P1029A...$17,998
2013 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS #P1029A...$18,998
2011 CHEVROLET G3500 15 PASSENGER VAN #P10041...$18,998
2011 DODGE NITRO #K4535A...$20,998
2009 INFINITI G37X SPORT #K4575A...$21,998
2009 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE 4X4 #K4575A...$23,998
2011 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SAHARA HARD TOP #K46906A...$28,998
2012 AUDIA T7 GORGEOUS #K302772A...$28,998
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Choice for change

Lake Chapin Shores an option for those thinking 'retirement'

Almost 26 percent of the U.S. population belongs to the baby boom generation and nearly half of that group of 81 million is thinking about moving.

According to a recent article at HomeSight.com on retirement trends, 50 percent of younger Boomers (ages 41-45) and 50 percent of older Boomers plan to buy a new home for their retirement, and about half (47 percent) of those who will move say staying within three hours of family is an important consideration in relocating. Many other nesters are choosing to purchase vacation homes in locations where they may like to live permanently.

In the Midwest, Boomers looking at second homes within easy driving distance that can become their primary residence when they are ready to downsize or retire, but that can also serve as a comfortable vacation opportunity for the whole family in the meantime, have some great options.

An example is a second home community built to accommodate changing family size, an active lifestyle and a quality investment opportunity is located just 80 minutes from Chicago, in southwest Michigan. Lake Chapin Shores offers homes ranging from 1,300 to 3,800 square feet of contemporary living space on one to three levels (not including decks and porches). Homes offer open, flexible floor plans and maintenance-free living in a secure, community, surrounded by scenic views of the 600-acre all-sports lake and plenty of options for outdoor activities and social networking.

Designed with families in mind, Lake Chapin Shores has become a refuge from the stress and bustle of everyday life, a place where memories are in the making.

Homeowners Carole and Gary report that it was a family decision to build. Their kids are grown with families of their own, so “we asked them if we build it, will they use it. They do.”

There is lots to do at Lake Chapin Shores and in the surrounding area. Couples are finding a safe haven for quality time together, including dinners for two at local fine dining spots, a cruise on the lake or a walk along its shore, a dip in the pool, a game of golf at local country clubs or public courses, a tour of the county’s wineries or lake-riding along tranquil country roads. For children and grandchildren, there is a playground, heated pool, dockside fishing and plenty of fun at the beaches and ice cream parlors, the sandwich and pastry shops. There is tubing, water-skiing, kayaking and every type of vacation-time sport, year-round. A concierge service is available to help homeowners prepare for special events such as family reunions and holiday parties.

The Lake Chapin Shores community features 21 homesites, each with a different elevation and panoramic views, direct lake access, heated pool, a variety of floor-plan choices with 12 flexible construction design options geared to convenient, hassle-free living. Each model includes cherry or maple cabinetry, choice of natural granite countertops, energy efficient appliances, cozy gas or wood-burning fireplace and terrific views with screened porches and expansive decks. Models are adapted to fit the specific needs of individual owners by Pioneer Homes, a certified “green” builder. Materials and equipment are high quality, selected for quiet efficiency, durability and the need for little or no maintenance.

Plan the short trip to southwest Michigan and Lake Chapin Shores. Call 888-TO-MICHIGAN (888-866-4244) for an appointment to tour the community and take a boat ride around the lake. Visit the Website at www.LakeChapinShores.com for a look at each of 12 model home options, photos and video of Lake Chapin Shores living and a complete list of materials and specifications.
Wireless ‘out there’
Add digital fun to your outdoor living space

It's always been possible to watch the big game or your favorite movie from your deck or patio.

But until the arrival of wireless technology, you would have needed a really long extension cord and a super-long cable connection (or rabbit ears) to do it. And rain would have ruined your fun in more ways than one.

Now, wireless technology and a host of advances in how digital devices are manufactured and function have made it much easier to enjoy electronic entertainment in the great outdoors. Versatile technology could be part of what's driving the growth in outdoor digital entertainment.

Installations of outdoor entertainment systems doubled from 2010 to 2011 (the most recent numbers available), and the average project cost nearly $8,000, according to the Custom Electronic Design and Installation Association (CEDIA).

Adding sound and audio systems is a great way to liven up outdoor kitchens and living spaces, patios and even screened porches. If you're looking to outfit your outdoor spaces with the latest in digital fun, here are a few ideas to get you started.

- Adding high quality sound to your deck or patio is as easy as upgrading your home audio system. Modern systems allow you to wirelessly transmit sound (either music or audio from the TV) throughout your home. Bringing that sound outside requires a wireless setup and incorporating outdoor-ready speakers into your existing sound system. Sensitive system parts, like the radio tuner or CD player, reside safely indoors, and the wireless function transmits the sound outside to weather-resistant speakers.

- No more super-long extension cords and wheeling the TV in and out of the house. Wireless technology allows you to mount a TV outdoors and access content from your digital cable, satellite TV feed, DVD player or even indoor game console. Be sure to safely mount your television using a mount made for outdoor use.

- When choosing a TV for outdoor use, keep in mind positioning and concerns like sun glare. If you want to go with a plasma TV, it will be important to protect the set from sun and rain, and you'll need to mount it in the shade. A weatherproof LCD can be a better option if you won't be able to avoid sun glare.

- Keep in mind that where you position electronics will affect your enjoyment of them. Just as you arrange seating indoors to provide the best view of your TV, you'll need to arrange outdoor furnishings to ensure your electronics are both visible and protected, and have easy access to an outdoor power source.

- Water and electronics are notoriously bad together, so even if your outdoor electronics are weather resistant, it pays to protect them from the elements as much as possible. Consider adding an awning to your outdoor living space and outfitting it with an automatic rain sensor. Motorized retractable awnings that have these sensors will open to shield your outdoor living space when it begins to rain, even if you're not home at the time.

Stay connected: Adding a TV to your outdoor spaces using wireless digital technology expands outdoor “living” without the hassle of cords, antennas and other paraphernalia. Experts caution to be sure your outdoor entertainment equipment is made for outdoor use. | SUPPLIED PHOTO

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Melissa McCarthy
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Wear your heart on your wrist with Lynette Lovelace's glass and silk Life Therapy bracelets. The pieces, studded with turquoise stones said to absorb negativity, come in a variety of colors meant to represent every type of mood. $18 and up, The Green Goddess Boutique, 1009 W. Armitage; Lifetherapy.com

ROOF on theWit (201 N. State) takes movie night to new heights Mondays through Oct. 7. Settle in at dusk and catch favorite flicks on the restaurant's 20-foot screen, accompanied by complimentary popcorn. Upcoming shows include "The Big Lebowski" (June 24) and "Back to the Future" (July 1). View the full schedule at Roofonthewit.com.

The cronut craze is sweeping the nation — be one of the first Chicagoans to snag a croissant-doughnut hybrid at Gür Sweets, where chef Rubina Hafeez is stuffing the sweet treats with mango filling. $5, 162 N. York, Elmhurst; Gur-sweets.com

The Chicago-based skincare experts at H2O+ are keeping things smooth this summer with the Spa Sea Salt Skin Smoother. The exfoliating scrub softens dry patches with a mix of sea salt, almond oil and an anti-aging marine blend. $27, Ulta, 114 S. State; Ulta.com

WHAT IS YOUR MUST-WATCH TV SHOW OF THE SUMMER?

"Suits," a delicious summer dramey set in a law office that is full of romance and backstabbing. Plus, it stars my No. 1 celebrity crush, Gabriel Macht.

"Breaking Bad." I'm already hooked.

"Covert Affairs." I'm not saying that I want to be a spy, but I'm not not saying it.

"I'm glad to have Alexander Skarsgard back in my life every week with the new season of 'True Blood.' I'm already hooked."

"I'm a sucker for some Piper Perabo in 'Covert Affairs.

With crooked chemistry, rooms full of cash and exploding crystals, it's gotta be "Breaking Bad."

“Suit,” a delicious summer dramey — set in a law office — that is full of romance and backstabbing. Plus, it stars my No. 1 celebrity crush, Gabriel Macht.”

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Splash is published weekly by Splash Publications LLC, a Wrapports Company, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago, IL 60654
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June 25
- TERLATO FAMILY WINE DINNER
West side restaurant Two welcomes locally based winemaker John Terlato for a four-course meal. Executive chef Tom Van Lente and his team have crafted the menu — which includes seared scallops with lime and chili and a black pepper tagliatelle with beef short rib ragu — to be paired with some of Terlato's best bottles.
Time: Cocktail reception at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:30 p.m.
Place: 1132 W. Grand
Cost: $65 per person. Visit 113two.com for more info.

June 27
- 'BELLEVILLE' AT STEPPENWOLF THEATRE
Hailed as a "thrillingly good play" when it premiered at the Yale Repertory Theatre, Amy Herzog's "Belleville" explores the disintegration of a seemingly ideal relationship as a young American couple living in Paris discovers how little they really know each other.
Place: 1650 N. Halsted
Cost: $32.50-$78. Call (312) 335-1650 or visit Steppenwolf.org.

June 27
- CHICAGO DEBATE COMMISSION LUNCHEON
At its second annual "Make Room for Debate" luncheon, the organization honors Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle with the "Champion of Debate" award for her commitment to improving educational opportunities for Chicago youth. Top student debaters will also be on hand to demonstrate their deliberative prowess.
Time: 12 p.m.
Place: University Club of Chicago, 76 E. Monroe
Cost: $125, $100 for nonprofit/government employees and students. For more information, visit Chicagodebateleague.org.
**next week**

**July 4**

- **FOURTH OF JULY AT THE CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM**
  The museum's 54th annual salute to the holiday is a family-friendly event, with a children's parade led by the World's Tallest Uncle Sam, a reading of the Declaration of Independence and musical performances.
  
  **Time:** 10 a.m. to noon
  **Place:** 1601 N. Clark
  **Cost:** Free admission to the outdoor event on Uihlein Plaza, free Museum admission for Illinois residents. Learn more at Chicagohistory.org.

**July 5-7**

- **WAVEFRONT MUSIC FESTIVAL**
  Now in its second year, this three-day electronic dance music festival adds a welcome note to the city's fest-packed scene, as dozens of acts from established DJs to up-and-coming producers hit the lakefront. This year's headliners include Fatboy Slim, Diplo and Justice.
  
  **Time:** Noon to 10 p.m.
  **Place:** Montrose Beach.

**July 6**

- **DAVID BYRNE AND ST. VINCENT AT RAVINIA**
  David Byrne could have called it quits after the Talking Heads, but his creative itch proved too powerful. Now, he's found an artistic soul mate in St. Vincent, the singer/songwriter whose open-ended lyrics and eclectic arrangements are apt counterparts to Byrne's own singular strategies.
  
  **Time:** Gates open at 5 p.m., show begins at 7:30 p.m.
  **Place:** 200 Ravinia Park, Highland Park
  **Cost:** Lawn seats $27 in advance, $32 day of show; reserved seats $55 or $65. Visit Ravinia.org.

**July 4**

- **GIFT OF SIGHT GALA**
  The Illinois Eye-Bank's annual Gift of Sight Gala recognizes Northwestern University ophthalmologist Dr. Robert Feder and Spin's own Susanna Negovan. At the bash, enjoy tunes from DJ Megan Taylor and an auction that includes a getaway to the St. Regis Punta Mita and a private tour of Terlato Winery in Napa Valley.
  
  **Time:** 6 p.m.
  **Place:** Peninsula Chicago, 108 E. Superior
  **Cost:** $350. For more info, visit Worldslargestblockparty.com.

**July 6**

- **CSO AT THE MORTON ARBORETUM**
  Ravinia isn't the only summertime gig for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra — the ensemble brings its sweet sounds to the Morton Arboretum with a lively program of tunes from Rimsky-Korsakov's "Capriccio espagnol" to Toussant's "Popurrí de Perez Prado."
  
  **Time:** 3 p.m.
  **Place:** 4100 Lincoln, Lisle
  **Cost:** $20. Call (312) 294-3000 or visit Cso.org/morton.

**July 6**

- **DAVID BYRNE AND ST. VINCENT AT RAVINIA**
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  **Place:** 200 Ravinia Park, Highland Park
  **Cost:** Lawn seats $27 in advance, $32 day of show; reserved seats $55 or $65. Visit Ravinia.org.
Gwyneth Paltrow: Oscar winner, People Magazine's 2013 Most Beautiful Woman and — as of June 15 — winner of the Gene Siskel Film Center's prestigious Renaissance Award. More than 400 guests, including the Film Center's Executive Director Jean de St. Aubin and Siskel's widow Marlene Iglitzen, rolled out the red carpet at the Ritz-Carlton Chicago (160 E. Pearson) to honor the movie star, who sparkled in an Alexander McQueen minidress and Pomellato jewelry. After receiving the award from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago President Walter Massey, Paltrow engaged in an intimate Q-and-A with longtime friend (and Lifetime's “The Conversation” host) Amanda de Cadenet. Ellen Sandor, chair of the Film Center's advisory board, was also honored for her 10 years of leadership with a video narrated by actor and Chicago native Bob Balaban. More than $400,000 was raised to benefit the film center's programming and educational initiatives.

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

PHOTOS BY RAMZI DREESSEN AND DAN REST

In it to Gwyn it

BY KATERINA BIZIOS

Co-chairs Eda Davidman and Melissa Sage Fadim

Richard, Ellen and Julie Sandor

Doug Regan and WLS-Channel 7's Kathy Brock

Shirley and Walter Massey

Tina and Jeffrey Weller

Marlene Iglitzen with Will, Callie and Kate Siskel
Just because we've had to trim starch from our diets doesn't mean it has to leave our closets. The chicest look of the season is a crisp white blouse. On the spring runway, Victoria Beckham channeled flirty femininity with sheer fabrics, while Alexander Wang took a menswear-inspired approach with long, darted shirts. On the party circuit, pop the collar for instant preppy punch. The blouse is basic, so to keep from being boring, take fashion risks with statement jewelry, bright skirts or any textures that might be hard to match. It's a trend that's always cutting edge.
more than 5,000 volunteers geared up for a day of giving back June 15 for Chicago Cares' 20th annual Serve-a-thon. At the largest single day of community service in the city, volunteers came together to beautify classrooms, school libraries, playgrounds and parks on 28 work sites in underserved communities. The day kicked off and ended at Daley Plaza (50 W. Washington) with live music, food, drinks and special guests Chelsea Clinton, who spent the day volunteering, Gov. Pat Quinn and Chicago Bears announcer and Serve-a-thon emcee Jim Riebandt.

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

Over the past 15 years, Susan and David Axelrod have helped raise $26 million to find a cure for epilepsy, enlisting the help of political heavyweights like Hillary Clinton along the way. First appearing as a keynote speaker for the organization in 1999, Clinton returned to Chicago June 13 for the Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy's (CURE) 15th annual benefit, held at the Navy Pier Grand Ballroom (600 E. Grand). Clinton took to the stage in front of more than 1,000 guests to speak about brain research and the possibility of a cure for epilepsy, and was met with a standing ovation from attendees. The event raised $1.5 million for CURE.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event. The Sun-Times Foundation and the Chicago Community Trust will match every dollar donated to Citizens United in Research for Epilepsy (CURE), up to a total of $50,000. Up to $1,000 can be matched per individual donation.
FLEUROTICA

GREEN DAY

BY KATERINA BIZIOS

horticulture met haute couture June 12, when 31 landscape artists and floral designers sent botanical creations down the runway at Fleurotica, held at the Museum of Contemporary Art (220 E. Chicago). Pre-show, models dressed in floral-inspired looks from Neiman Marcus Michigan Avenue greeted guests during the cocktail hour, then co-chairs Deirdre Koldyke, Whitney Lasky and Shauna Montgomery helped kick off the runway show, where designers like Jennifer De Muth and Kyle Hustedt of H. Bloom and Jeff Jonas and Jose Liera of Mariano's Fresh Market showcased garments made entirely of plants and flowers. Sarah Anderson of Scarlet Petal was crowned the winner of the runway competition for her design, inspired by the Garfield Park Conservatory's Fern Room. One guest went home with a custom 20-karat gold ring by jeweler and guest of honor Coomi Bhasin. More than $200,000 was raised to benefit the Conservatory's art and urban environmental programs.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event. The Sun-Times Foundation and the Chicago Community Trust will match every dollar donated to the Garfield Park Conservatory, up to a total of $5,000. Up to $1,000 can be matched per individual donation.

FORE A CAUSE

BY TAYLOR ELLIS

n May 28, golfers at Medinah Country Club (6N001 Medinah) made the fourth annual Patriot Day a hole-in-one success. Guests including Jarrett Payton, son of Chicago Bears Hall of Famer Walter Payton, and honorary chairman Jim Cornelison, the Blackhawks' national anthem singer, golfed with veterans and later enjoyed dinner in the country club's Oasis dining room. Proceeds from the day benefitted the Illinois Patriot Education Fund, which provides educational and financial assistance to Illinois military families.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event. The Sun-Times Foundation and the Chicago Community Trust will match every dollar donated to the Illinois Patriot Education Fund, up to a total of $5,000. Up to $1,000 can be matched per individual donation.

FOCUS FUNDRAISER

SPEAKING VOLUMES

BY KALYN KAHLER

ree Spirit Media's youth participants are used to reporting the news, but their own successes made headlines May 30 at the organization's annual Focus fundraiser. Nearly 200 guests — including Toni Preckwinkle and ESPN reporter Lester Munson — filled Red Car Chicago (455 E. Illinois) for the event, held to benefit Free Spirit's film, digital media and journalism programs for underserved urban youth. Participants India Bouldin and Gerardo Dura emceed the evening, highlighting the work of their peers and sharing anecdotes from their own experiences. Proceeds from the evening will support Free Spirit Media's teen programs.

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

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Dear Jenny: I recently divorced and am now a single parent.
I’m having a really hard time juggling my career, my children’s activities and my own personal life. I’m trying to stay positive, but truthfully, I feel overwhelmed and resentful. Do you have any words of wisdom?
— Jessica

Jenny says: It’s very easy to feel overwhelmed and resentful about your situation — especially if you didn’t choose it. As a single parent, you will most likely have added financial stress, definitely have much less personal time and you will be responsible for most of your children’s needs. However, I can tell you from experience, you will eventually adapt and things will become easier.

If you haven’t already, reach out to friends and family for support. Find people who can help you if you’re in a bind. Emergencies and last-minute things will come up, and if you don’t have a group of people you can rely on, now is the time to start thinking about who can help you out in a pinch. Having a strong support network will help you through this new phase of your life. Not only will you need help with your children, but you will also want — and need — a life outside of working, raising children and paying the bills.

Find other single mom friends. As much as you love your married friends, you will want to surround yourself with people who have gone through or are in the same situation as you. Be patient with yourself and your children. Have a positive attitude and, above all else, remember there is no such thing as the perfect parent. Do the best you can and focus on what you can control. And at the end of each day, give yourself a pat on the back, celebrate your successes and learn from your mistakes. Eventually, you’ll see there are benefits of single parenting, such as less conflict and tension in the home. Stay positive!

Send questions to Askjenny@suntimes.com

READ JENNY’S DAILY BLOG AT CHICAGOSPLASH.COM
Funnyman Craig Robinson spends a sidesplitting Sunday in Chicago

BY ZAK STEMER

Ever wonder what will happen to those left behind on Judgment Day? Fortunately, Craig Robinson's latest flick, "This is the End," lays it all out. The movie, which stars Robinson as a "heightened version of the Craig Robinson you all know and love," follows the Chicago-born comedian and his godforsaken buds (James Franco, Seth Rogen, Jonah Hill, Danny McBride and Jay Baruchel) as they try to survive — and escape — the Hell on Earth that post-apocalyptic Hollywood has become.

"It's the most outrageous, wildest movie I've ever been a part of," says Robinson, 42, who's made a name for himself in outlandish, raunchy comedies like "Knocked Up," "Hot Tub Time Machine" and last month's relatively tame "Peeples." Since his roots are in improv, which he learned at Chicago's Second City, it's no surprise that many of Robinson's most memorable on-screen moments are off-script. Case in point: His hilarious cameo as a bouncer in "Knocked Up." "That was improvised half and half," says Robinson. "The second half was all unscripted."

"This is the End" was yet another chance for Robinson, a former music teacher at the Horace Mann Elementary School in the South Shore neighborhood, to show off his impressive off-the-cuff wit. "We were filming a scene where Seth was pushing around Franco, dressed as the Green Goblin from 'Spiderman,' on a skateboard," he remembers. "I was playing Mary Jane in red lipstick. It wasn't on the call sheet. It was just like 'Here it is!'"

With his apocalyptic comedy now in theaters, Robinson hopes he'll have more time to focus on his other passion: His music/comedy combo band, The Nasty Delicious. "We do what the moment calls for," he explains. "Instead of me doing jokes and songs and moving on, it's a comedy concert. It's pretty dope. It's time for me to take it to the next level."

Here, one of Earth's last men standing (at least in the movie) spends his perfect Sunday in his hometown.

---

10 A.M.
After waking up in his South Side home, Robinson and his mother go to the Resurrection Church of Chicago (10700 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.).

NOON
With locations across the city, Robinson's favorite lunch spot, Harold's Chicken Shack is never far.

2 P.M.
Robinson heads north to Grant Park for people-watching. "There are arguably some of the prettiest women in the world walking in downtown Chicago," he says.

7 P.M.
If the Bulls happen to be playing, Robinson goes over to the United Center (1901 W. Madison) and watches the game while eating some classic Connie's pizza.

OR
He goes back to his old Second City stomping grounds to check out the new talent on the main stage (1616 N. Wells).

11:15 P.M.
To wrap up the night, Robinson walks down the block to Zanie's (1548 N. Wells) to do a guest set for his Chicago fans. "I miss back home, and want to thank Chicago for all the support," he says.
MISSY from the BLOCK

Melissa McCarthy on her Plainfield roots, being broke in New York and never playing the diva

BY ZAK STENER
Melissa McCarthy has always been a funny girl. But not because she was cute (though she was) or unexpectedly crude (though she could be). She was funny because she was quick; she always had reply, a reference or a self-deprecating, soft jab. Now, with three movies out this year — a starring role in the box-office busting "Identity Thief," a stint in the debaucherous finale "The Hangover Part III" and this month's "The Heat" — McCarthy, 42, is standing tall as Hollywood's Queen of Comedy.

But the Plainfield native, who used to go by Missy and grew up with my oldest brother, shoe designer Brian Atwood, hasn't let the fame go to her head. "There's no departure from reality," McCarthy says of her ascent to stardom. "I don’t know why, but I'm not questioning it because it’s working in my favor.

If you don’t recognize McCarthy from her Emmy-winning CBS show "Mike & Molly," where she plays a sweet elementary school teacher married to a Chicago cop she met at Overeaters Anonymous, chances are you know her from her career-defining turn in "Bridesmaids." That scene-stealing role as Kristen Wig's rough-around-the-edges friend not only catapulted McCarthy's career from the small screen to the silver screen, but made her a favorite among Tinseltown's reigning comedy royalty. Her appeal, which is due to her on-screen likability and physicality, was enough for Judd Apatow to immediately create a role for her in his "Knocked Up" spinoff, "This is 40," and for the script of "Identity Thief," letting her wild creativity take scenes to a new level. So it's no surprise that in "The Heat," McCarthy didn't hold back, and took Bullock along for the ride. "There's a bar scene and at one point — I think we both felt drunk — we got into a roll of tape and we ended up taping up our faces. None of that was written. It turned into such lunacy that while both our faces were taped up, I turned to her and said, 'Are you thinking about your Academy Award right now?'"

But for all of McCarthy's current success, her climb to the top was a long time in the making. After graduating from Joliet Catholic High School, McCarthy moved to Boulder, Colo., to work as an au pair. It wasn’t until high school pal Atwood visited McCarthy that things started to change. "He said, 'What the hell are you doing out here?' " McCarthy remembers. "I said, 'I dunno.'"

She packed her bags and moved into his small Hell's Kitchen apartment (back when it was one of Manhattan's less reputable neighborhoods). "On the second night he said, 'You're going to go do standup,' and I didn't have the common sense to say, 'I can't do that.' I said, 'All right, I guess.'"

On stage for the first time at The Duplex, McCarthy picked up the mike and just started talking. "I told long, bizarre stories about being amazing and tall and wealthy in New York. None of those things were true," she laughs. "No one knew what to make of me because I was dressed like a club kid: I had a big wig, and I had Brian's gold lame swing jacket on and gigantic heels. I looked like a club kid. I was totally in drag. I was a woman trying to look like a man trying to look like a woman."

"She brought the house down," my brother recalls. "People were screaming and laughing so hard. I had chills the moment that happened because I knew everything was the way it should be."

Two decades into her career, McCarthy has kept her childhood friend close — further proof of her down-to-earth nature. On her first walk down the Oscars red carpet as a nominee, McCarthy wore his custom-made heels. When she hosted "Saturday Night Live" in April, she took to the stage teetering on Atwood's sky-high, pink crystal-encrusted platforms, jokingly complaining, "My quads are seizing up," whilst tripping and falling face first. "That was the most nervous I've been because I thought, 'If I do really go down, I'm going to break my ankle.'"

But for McCarthy, physical comedy is all part of the draw. And while her weight has garnered negative — and sometimes harsh — comments from critics, she manages to stay positive. "I think every actor uses everything they have. Whether they're short or tall, accent or no accent. You can't separate your comedy from who you are."

It helps that McCarthy has managed to find her piece of paradise with her own family. She's married to fellow actor Ben Falcone, whom she met during her tenure at The Groundlings, and who is most recognizable for his role as the air marshal in "Bridesmaids." Together they have two daughters, Vivian, 6, and Georgette, 3.

Her trick to keeping family and work balanced? Take a cue from circus folk. "We're kind of carnies," she admits. "You go where the work is and you travel and you live in different places with different people and you get really close to them. Then it's over and you move to a different city." But the McCarthy-Falcone clan sticks together as much as possible — during this interview, she was on the set of her next film, "Tammy," which Falcone is directing.

McCarthy also sticks by famous cousin (and Splash columnist) Jenny McCarthy.

While rumors have swirled of a supposed feud, she is quick to set the record straight. "That's a made-up, crazy story. It's literally one of the ones where you read it and go, 'Who has that job?' It must be so fun to make something up and then write it down. We've never had a problem in our lives. I'm waiting to hear a story that I'm, like, an alien. If you're going to make something up, make it really good."

When it comes to McCarthy, there's no need to embellish. After 22 years, she's still Missy. But with an Emmy.

"Every actor uses everything they have. Whether they're short or tall, accent or no accent. You can't separate your comedy from who you are."
Making it work

A group of Chicago fashion designers leaves quite the ‘Impression’ on an upcoming exhibit at the Art Institute.

BY KEVIN AEH

It’s safe to say that the designers at The Chicago Fashion Incubator at Macy’s on State Street now know what it’s like to be reality show contestants. Early last month, they were invited to participate in an art-inspired design challenge. In honor of “Impressionism, Fashion, and Modernity” — an exhibit opening June 26 at the Art Institute of Chicago (111 S. Michigan) — each designer (along with two CFI alums) had to create a modern-day garment inspired by a featured Impressionist painting. Gloria Groom, a curator at the museum, examined each look, selecting the ensemble that best reflected the exhibit’s vision. The winning outfit will debut at the Art Institute along with the exhibit, and the others will take center stage on the seventh floor on Macy’s State Street (111 N. State) starting June 24. Here’s what the designers had to say about the experience:

(SEE IF YOU CAN MATCH THE REST OF THE LOOKS WITH THE PAINTING THAT INSPIRED THEM)
1. Ashley Zygmunt’s interpretation of “Le Pont de l’Europe” by Gustave Caillebotte (1876)
CFI alum Zygmunt’s piece relies on plenty of symbolism: The feminine lace on her jacket represents the mystery of the man and woman walking in the painting, and the double lapel represents the confusion and abnormalities of the man’s sexuality.

2. Katelyn Pankoke’s interpretation of “A Ball” by Jean Beraud (1878)
Pankoke is a bridal designer, so she was initially attracted to the woman wearing the white gown, but later chose to focus on the draperies instead. “The red in the drapes made me choose to envelop my woman in the color to ensure the wearer gets the attention of every eye in the room — and keeps it there.”

3. Lagi Nadeau’s interpretation of “The Millinery Shop” by Edgar Degas (1885)
Green was an unexpected color for this time period, so Nadeau was surprised to find the shade featured on the ribbon in the painting. She used the hue as inspiration for her dress, which features a printed romper underneath layers of organza.

4. Miriam Cecilia Carlson's interpretation of “The Shop Girl” by James Tissot (1883)
In her statement of inspiration, Incubator alum Carlson says the shop girl in the painting reminded her of herself. “I studied in Paris and when I returned to Chicago, I started my own clothing line and opened my own shop in Lincoln Park,” she says.

5. Agnes Hamerlik’s interpretation of “The Two Sisters” by James Tissot (1863)
Hamerlik observed the emotionless faces of the two aristocratic women in this painting and decided it was missing something: A heart. So the designer reinterpreted the painting when she created a sophisticated period gown.

Yamanaka wanted her design to embrace the circus’ sense of playfulness. She also drew upon her Japanese heritage, fashioning the bodice with a Japanese kimono belt and accessorizing the dress with a Japanese umbrella.

7. Olivia Hwang’s interpretation of “Women in the Garden” by Claude Monet (1866)
Hwang was inspired by Monet’s depiction of holiday leisure in nature, so she designed a luxury cruise look: a convertible bolero jacket with a detachable train, a polka-dot blouse with a bow and a pair of silk charmeuse pants.

DID YOU GUESS THEIR INSPIRATIONS?
Angi Taylor, 103.5 KISS FM's morning co-host, broadcasts her summer music fest must-haves.

**Select Item:**
- **AstroWife:** custom manicure, starts at $20; AstroWifey.wordpress.com
  - "Local manicurist-to-the-stars AstroWifey is the queen of sexy nail art and can rock out your mani like no other. Custom cool!"

**Select Item:**
- **Steve Madden:** Cyprus gladiator sandal, $89.95, 1553 N. Milwaukee; Stevemadden.com
  - "A pair of hot gladiators is a festival staple, and this colorful pair will compliment any summer outfit. Flat, yet fab."

**Select Item:**
- **Topshop:** Butterfly cat eye sunglasses, $32, 830 N. Michigan; Us.topshop.com
  - "Leave the aviators at home — it's time to stand out."

**Select Item:**
- **Coppertone Sport:** sunscreen SPF 50, $11.99, CVS stores citywide; Coppertone.com
  - "I'm a runner, and this stays in place through athlete sweat, so it will be your best friend through the whole weekend."
The Tommy Hilfiger Surf Shack capsule collection brings retro California cool to Chicago

By Rachel Handler

When envisioning the beachside bonfires and sunset clambakes that composed American surf culture in the 1960s, prep-centric designer Tommy Hilfiger isn't necessarily the first name that comes to mind. But this summer, the line pays homage to the era of the Beach Boys and the Kennedys with its Surf Shack capsule collection, a series of nautical-inspired separates. “We're blending East Coast prep with West Coast cool,” says Trent Wisehart (right), creative director for Tommy Hilfiger. “It's all about putting a modern twist on classic styles.”

In a similarly vintage-meets-modern move, Hilfiger is hawking the collection from within a 1970s-inspired bus, which is traveling across the country through mid-July — and stopping at Chicago's North Avenue beach June 29-30. “The entire city has such a great vibe, but North Avenue beach has always been one of my favorite spots,” says Wisehart. The mobile pop-up shop has been remodeled to look like a classic beachside surf shack, complete with a white-washed interior, hot pink rims, sisal carpeting and grommet detailing.

Inside the shack — and also in stores worldwide — you'll find brightly hued shoes, clothes, sunglasses, bags and watches that work both on and off the beach. Pieces for men include graphic tees ($35), a high-collared cotton jacket ($129) and patterned shorts ($68), while women can strap on bikinis in pastel shades ($128), cover up with a chambray playsuit ($149) and tote around summer essentials in a playful, surfboard-shaped wooden clutch ($299). The pop-up shop is also stocked with custom-designed, limited-edition surfboards ($2,000 each), designed by five American artists in collaboration with the Art Production Fund, which supports public art projects.

Though the collection hasn't completely abandoned Hilfiger's penchant for prep — stripes, popped collars and a pair of classic loafers ($88) make their requisite appearances — its aesthetic is decidedly California casual. “Tommy always talks about his first collection being inspired by the ease and attitude of the West Coast lifestyle,” says Wisehart. “California's energy and spirit is part of the brand's DNA.”

Power players

Men of Chicago, update both your professional wardrobe and your LinkedIn connections at Trunk Club Men's Outfitters and VentureSHOT's “Food, Fun and Fashion” event June 26. While sipping beverages from Peroni and Good Vines and networking with pros from local businesses, you'll have access to a personal stylist who can help you create a workplace-worthy look. 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., 325 W. Ohio; Eventbrite.com/event/6742762433

Sweet tooth

Combine sugar with style at von Z, a brand new Bucktown boutique opening June 27 and founded by local designer Jenna Zielbauer and her husband Patrick. In addition to carrying domestic and European clothing, shoes and accessories, Jenna will sell her own line, Cotton Candy Couture — and spin fresh cotton candy on the weekends. 1872-1N Damen; Shopvonzb/og.com

Beautiful disasters

“One man's trash is another man's treasure” is the spirit that drives Wreck Creation's Nell Galati to craft his unique pieces. From within his Lincoln Park retail store (1659 N. Halsted), which opened last month, Galati repurposes vintage materials to build furniture and abstract wall hangings. June 29-30, you can also find his designs at the Randolph Street Market (1350 W. Randolph). Wreck-creation.com

From Aspen with love

Aspen-based luxury retailer Cos Bar officially opened the doors of its first Chicago location June 7. Located in Highland Park, the spot stocks skincare, makeup, fragrances and bath and body products from brands like Clinique, Giorgio Armani and Nars. 662 Central; Cosbar.com
BY KATERINA BIZIOS

On an early date, Jennifer Dayan and Roger Chams took their relationship to new heights — they spontaneously flew to the New Orleans Jazz Fest. “If you have that much fun traveling with someone you just met, you know it’s something special,” laughs Dayan. Three years later, Chams surprised Dayan again by proposing to her post-hike atop Masada in Israel. Upon the duo’s return to Chicago, they began planning their dream destination wedding in Cabo San Lucas, a significant locale for them because of past trips to the city. In the days leading up to their May 18 nuptials, traditional Mexican food, tequila and the local nightclub scene set the stage for some serious bonding between the couple’s 70 friends and family members. “By the end of it, everyone was so comfortable with each other,” says Dayan. Chams capped off the wedding itself with yet another surprise: a fireworks display. “Even my parents, who were hesitant about a destination wedding, were dancing and having the time of their lives,” says Dayan. “It was perfect.”

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ENRIQUE MORALES

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FLYING HYATT

The largest hotel in Chicago elevates its culinary offerings

BY MOLLY EACH

Once a quick stopover for business travelers and families on vacation, hotel dining has become a destination in its own right, with the best on-site spots attracting not only food savvy-travelers but locals eager to dig into gourmet dishes. The Hyatt Regency (151 E. Upper Wacker, Chicagoregency.hyatt.com) is the latest to throw its toque into the restaurant ring. The biggest hotel in Chicago (and the world's largest Hyatt) recently wrapped up a three-year, top-to-bottom, $168-million renovation, which included a revamp of the classic Stetson's steakhouse and the addition of the more casual American Craft Kitchen & Bar. Here's what you'll find at the Hyatt Regency's new dining destinations:

AMERICAN CRAFT

KITCHEN & BAR

The vibe: Situated in the lobby, the laid-back spot is filled with bright, natural light. TVs in the bar make it ideal for catching a game, while the tables beneath the atrium's skylights are perfect for both a quick bite and a multi-course meal.

The food: "We have an eclectic crowd," says sous chef Daniel Kelly. "[Some] want to spend $12 on a sandwich, and others want a $50 steak." To accommodate various dining styles and every meal — American Craft does breakfast, lunch, dinner and room service — Kelly's menu offers American comfort food ranging from simple, flavorful dishes such as a grilled T-bone with mushrooms and onion rings ($36) to well-executed diner-esque offerings like a BLT ($13). There's also a rotating list of Blue Plate Specials for lunch, including chicken potpie ($15) and a pulled pork sandwich ($15).

The drinks: The "craft" in the restaurant's name references its curated selection of craft beers and cocktails. Sip suds from local breweries Half Acre and Two Brothers or try the Windy City, made with Wisconsin-based Death's Door gin, Cointreau and lemon juice ($15).

Must-try dish: The Rushing Waters rainbow trout, topped with tomato, asparagus and capers ($22). With fish sourced from Wisconsin and asparagus from Steiner Farms, the item is indicative of Kelly's local-first approach. (For further proof, check the bottom of the menu, which details the farms and purveyors where he sources his ingredients.)

STETSON'S MODERN STEAK + SUSHI

The vibe: Stetson's has long been a staple in the Hyatt Regency, but the remodeled spot now has a more contemporary energy, thanks to a new expanse of windows on one wall, a chic sushi bar on the other and pops of modern artwork.

The food: The menu is inspired by traditional steakhouse fare, but items like filet mignon (8 oz. $39) and a grilled duroc pork chop ($28) share space with rich sashimi and nigiri ($4-$6 per piece) and maki rolls ($15-$21). Chef de cuisine Kostas Chaldaropoulos — who began his career with the Hyatt in his native Greece — also serves up share plates like Maytag blue cheese beignets ($10), a crab duet of soft shell and blue crab ($14) and black mission fig bruschetta with prosciutto and burrata cheese ($9).

The drinks: The extensive wine list, crafted by sommelier Amy Witz, is showcased on an iPad — complete with the option to email favorite wines to yourself. Cocktail offerings include a Stetson Street Manhattan, featuring an Evan Williams 10-year bourbon made specially for the restaurant ($15).

Must-try dish: Don't leave without sampling the slightly charred grilled octopus ($18), a Greek-inspired dish served with a vibrant salad of shaved apples and lemon zest. Or the pressed red and yellow watermelon ($9) — the fruit is slightly dehydrated, infused with basil and ginger, then topped with arugula, pepper vinaigrette and smoked feta cheese.
Buyers are gravitating toward Andersonville's small-town feel

Requisite perks for a hot city neighborhood today are simple but inclusive: Buyers want good services, diverse shops and eateries, great schools and transportation options — not to mention a broad array of housing. Andersonville, an enclave in Edgewater bordered by Broadway to the east, Foster to the south, Ravenswood to the west and Bryn Mawr to the north, has all of these attributes and then some. “The restaurants and home furnishings shops are now legendary draws,” says Baird & Warner broker Pam Ball. “It's one of the few city neighborhoods that has a bona fide downtown area and a small-town feel.” Andersonville also boasts picturesque housing options, which range from vintage walk-ups to drop-dead gorgeous single family homes in the Lakewood-Balmoral Historic District, plus school options that are rapidly on the rise, thanks to involved parents.

All this makes the area an enviable place to live — which explains why there were only 17 active listings on the Andersonville market at press time. “Everyone wants to live here, so most listings turn over in a matter of days. People who want to live here cultivate agents who specialize in the area,” says Ball, who is about to list a well-priced two-flat for $385,000 and has already scheduled showings for three interested parties. She also has a smaller listing that's a sweet deal: a beautifully renovated, charmingly decorated one-bed, one-bath, light-filled condo in a courtyard building at 1427 W. Summerdale (unit A, above) for $185,000. “It's cheaper to buy than rent something comparable,” says Ball (call 312-909-1219).

Ball lives in Lakewood-Balmoral, as does fellow realtor Maureen Murnane of @properties, giving them a leg up on listings in the area. While Ball had two active listings go pending before we went to print, and Murnane had three fly off market in a flash, the latter still has a renovated two-bed, two-bath, 1,600-square-foot duplex at 1650 W. Rascher, unit 2E, for $359,000. Both realtors add that they are posting several new listings in the next two weeks (call Murnane at 312-927-1661).
Kim's krazy delivery

True to family form, Kim Kardashian's baby arrived with a hurricane of behind-the-scenes drama.

When Kim went into labor prematurely, it altered Kanye West's plans to promote his new album, "Yeezus," that weekend—and possibly find himself in a compromising situation. Not only did Kanye miss his release party at Hollywood's Milk Studios due to the birth, but he also missed hanging with a few of his former girlfriends, who were scheduled to attend the bash.

"There were some women invited that he's had a relationship with," says an insider. "There was word that Kim wouldn't show up, even before anyone knew she went into labor."

Kanye has fought off cheating rumors before, and according to a source, Kim better watch her back. "Kanye hasn't been completely faithful to Kim," the source says. "He has a wandering eye, they're never together and have fought a lot recently. It's not a good recipe."

Even though momager Kris Jenner announced that Kanye and Kim are going to move in with her so she can help out, Kanye is not on the same page.

"Kanye does not want to move in with Kris!" says another source. "He does not want Kris to have control over their family, and a living arrangement with her will not last long—if it even happens at all."

Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne back on!

In a recent column, I reported that the rocker couple was separated after Ozzy had fallen off the wagon. But—as my sources predicted—the couple is on the right track, and have even moved back in together.

"There was never any real talk of divorce," my source insists. "Sharon took the drastic measure of moving into a hotel to get Ozzy to sober up."

Blind Items ...

- A celebrity power couple, with one half boasting Chicago ties, is struggling with their marriage, and have even consulted a divorce attorney. Together they make more than $100 million, and they regularly associate with many A-list friends.

- An actor, who became famous from a cult classic film as a child, is scary skinny. The good-looking Cubs fan struggled with weight issues as a child, and filmed a movie in Chicago a few years ago. I recently ran into the celebrity dad and asked if he'd lost all the weight for a role. He blamed the weight loss on "old age."
Globe trotter

Expand your horizons this summer with these 10 cultural festivals

Chinatown Summer Fair
Packing more into one day than many fairs do in a weekend, Summer Fair has a Dragon and Lion Dance procession (above), arts and crafts and delicious samples of Chinese cuisine. July 21. Wentworth between Cermak and 24th; Chicagochinatown.org

Chicago Country Fest
Lincoln Park transforms into an outdoor music venue, with live country music entertaining crowds for two straight days. Get in the country spirit with local barbecue and a mechanical bull. $5 suggested donation. June 29-30. Clark and Armitage; Starevents.com/festivals/chicago-country-fest

Chicago Pridefest
A month of honorary pride events — including drag shows, performances by artists like Dev and Blu Cantrell and a pet parade — culminates in the 44th annual Gay Pride Parade June 30. Montrose and Broadway to Sheridan and Diversey; Chicagopride.gopride.com

African/Caribbean International Festival of Life
Uniquely multicultural, IFOL brings the best of reggae, R&B and Caribbean and African music to Union Park. An on-site Health Awareness Pavilion, featuring inspirational speakers and health screenings, is dedicated to the fight against diseases like cancer and diabetes. $20. July 4-7. 1501 W. Randolph; Martinsinterculture.com/ifol.html

Evanston Ethnic Arts Festival
This North Shore fest honors diversity of all kinds, giving visitors a taste (and sight and smell) of cultures from across the world — feast on Italian ice or try your hand at origami. July 20-21. Dawes Park, 8052 S. Damen; Cityofevanston.org

Ginza Holiday Festival
This 58th annual festival transforms Old Town into Ginza — a district of Tokyo famous for its entertainment — and brings Japanese tradition to Chicago. Try the kintoki (a Japanese snow cone), learn Judo and hear taiko drumming. $6. Aug. 9-11. 435 W. Menomonee; Ginzachicago.com

Brasil Fest Chicago
There's something for everyone at Brasil Fest, returning to Logan Square for its second year. The bash features deliciously authentic food, samba performances and capoeira (a type of Brazilian martial art). August 23-25. 132 W. Logan. Brasilfestchicago.com

Taste of Greece
Experience Mediterranean culture along a stretch of Halsted known for its abundance of authentic Greek restaurants. New to the festival this year: an area devoted to the Grecian fine arts. August 24-25. 100-400 S. Halsted; Greektownchicago.org

Taste of Polonia
More than 30,000 people pack Jefferson Park for Taste of Polonia. Hosted by the Copernicus Foundation, it’s among the city’s most popular ethnic fests and the largest Polish festival in the nation. $7. Aug. 30-Sept. 2. 5216 W. Lawrence; Topchicago.org

North Side Irish Fest
It’s a late summer St. Patrick’s Day in the North Center neighborhood. Indulge in delicious Irish cuisine — or overindulge with the daily eating contests. $5. Sept. 13-15. Lincoln and Irving Park; Starevents.com/Festivals/north-side-irish-festival
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Why cherries are tops

BY VERONICA HINKE | Contributor

It’s cherry picking time, and with recipes savory and sweet, chefs and bakers are making the most of the short season.

“After a long, cold winter there is nothing better than juicy, bright cherries to let you know summer has arrived,” says Andy Motto. As Executive Chef at Quince at the Homestead in Evanston, Motto is known for a few recipes that showcase the plump, little fruits.

Last summer, cherries starred in Motto’s entrée of duck, duck egg and wild rice. A dark gin cocktail called Cherry Bomb was inspired by Door County, Wis. — and the acres and acres of cherry trees there. The drink is a mixture of two ounces of rum, one ounce of lime juice, chopped mint (from the restaurant garden), one quarter cup of fresh local cherries, two teaspoons of sugar and a splash of soda water — with a cherry on top, of course.

This season, Motto will likely pickle cherries to accent a grilled corn salad. After roasting and chucking four ears of corn, he blends the corn kernels with blanched fava beans, diced red bell pepper, diced red onion, mayonnaise, chopped basil and extra virgin olive oil. He adds a sprinkle of salt and pepper and mixes the salad together.

With all the modern recipes, traditional, sweet cherry desserts still hold their own as classic favorites. And there is no place that is more classic than Roesser’s Bakery in Chicago. Bakers there have been baking with cherries since 1911, Black Forest Torte — heavy with chocolate frosting and oozing cherries — catered to the bakery’s original, predominantly German clientele.

Today, cherry turnovers and fresh pies topped with traditional lattice crust are often on the shelves at Roesser’s. The bakery is now owned and operated by River Forest resident John Roesser and his wife Barbara.

A cookie dough crust Roesser likes is an alternative for those hoping to avoid all of the fuss of a pie crust. "The recipe is as old as the bakery," he quips.

The cookie dough crust can be filled with any fruit, pumpkin or sweet potato pie mix. Even seafood salad works well. Place the filling on top of the crust and bake the tart until it reaches the desired temperature.

Roesser has a trick for making cherries even sweeter, too: "I am a sugarholic," he says, "so I mix one quarter teaspoon corn starch with cherries in them to help seal the cut edges and sweeten whatever juice comes out."

Whether spending his time making cherry pies or those voluptuous Cherry Chocolate Torte, Roesser likes his choice to follow his dad’s footsteps in the business.

---

Cookie Dough Crust for Cherry Tart

(Makes two, eight-inch tart bottoms)
1/3 cup granulated sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
5 ounces butter
1/4 teaspoon vanilla
1 small egg
1/2 1/3 cups flour

Mix sugar, salt and butter together. Add one small egg and 1 teaspoon vanilla into sugar mixture. Mix, scraping bowl, until incorporated. Add 1 and 2/3 cups flour and mix everything together until flour is incorporated. Divide dough into two equal parts and chill for easier rolling.

Roll out dough to cover an eight-inch shallow pie tin. Press the dough around the edge with a fork. Poke holes in the bottom so dough bakes evenly.

Bake at 380 degrees for about 12-14 minutes until edges brown. To aid in baking, take for first five minutes with another pie tin on top of the dough (like a sandwich). Allow to cool before adding filling and cherries (below).

CREAM CHEESE FILLING:
6 ounces cream cheese
1/2 ounce butter
2-3 drops of vanilla extract
1/4 teaspoon corn starch
1/3 cup sugar
Pinch of salt

Combine cream cheese, butter and vanilla extract and cream together well. Sift together corn starch, sugar and salt and add to cream cheese mixture. Mix for about one minute.

When ready to serve the tarts, spread cream cheese filling evenly on crust bottoms and then fill with fresh, sugar-coated cherries that have been halved and pitted. Sprinkle top with sugar.

—from John Roesser
Get into gear with road-trip ready snacks

Several years ago my parents invited me and my kids to join them on a grand road trip to Wyoming.

The five of us had barely settled into the 12-passenger van my parents rented before it occurred to me that this sort of trip — the kind where you are both the parent and the child — had the potential to be a huge disaster. And right on cue, my mother started crying hysterically at Wall Drug in South Dakota because I had asked her to sit in the backseat, just as my son accidentally wet his pants, and my dad was unexpectedly bitten by a dog while trying to buy a horseback ride for my daughter. I was doling out tissue, clean pants and Band-Aids all at the same time and rapidly realized that I was going to have to take control of this situation if we were going to survive it.

So logically, I bought a bobble-headed buffalo for our dashboard. My dad, the consummate cowboy, wanted to name the silly thing “Tatonka” after the Native American word for buffalo and my two little pipsqueaks in the back wanted to name it “Buffy,” of course. In that moment we made our first road trip compromise and named our new mascot “Buffonka.” We went on to have a memorable family adventure and my dad still keeps Buffonka on a shelf in his office to this day.

Few things in life are as exciting to me as loading up the car for an honest-to-goodness road trip adventure, but my desperate bobble-headed buffalo purchase taught me that compromise is an essential ingredient in any successful road trip.

Chips, cheeseburgers and beef jerky have their place, but making a healthy compromise by offering your family a well-balanced array of homemade snacks will keep hunger in check and tourist trap crying fits at bay.

Filling up a cooler with grab-and-go breakfast, lunch and snack options prevents dastardly drive-thru diversions, but still leaves plenty of opportunity to stop in at a road-trip worthy restaurant for a hearty dinner with loads of local flavor. Snacks are a key ingredient for any well-organized road trip and just as you pack your clothing days in advance of a trip, it’s best to do a little forward thinking when it comes to packing a cooler for the car. My hearty muffins, homemade trail mix, indulgent cheese spread and rolled sandwiches can all be made a day in advance of any road trip and will keep well when organized in a properly packed cooler.

So take a lesson from the bobble-headed buffalo and give any of these simple recipes a try on your next road trip adventure!

Morning glory muffins. [PHOTOS BY MELISSA ELSMO]

Whole wheat tortilla roll-ups with vegetable cream cheese, cucumber, dill, red pepper, arugula and sliced turkey.

Pimento cheese dip with pretzels.

Mel’s favorite portable snacks:

When packing a cooler, keep 25 percent of the space reserved for ice or frozen drinks to ensure cool air keeps flowing around packed foods.

Homemade Trail Mix: Combine 8 ounces of mixed dried fruit plus 2/3 cup raisins. 1/2 cup of dark chocolate chips, 2 cups of mixed nuts, 3 cups of honey Nut Cheerios and mix well. Store the mix in an airtight container. Transfer to snack bags for a road trip.

Pimento Cheese: Beat 1/2 cup minced onions, 1 minced garlic clove, 3 cups of cheddar cheese, 1 chopped roasted red pepper, 1/4 cup of mayonnaise together in the bowl of a stand mixer and season with pepper. Transfer to small jars and refrigerate. Serve as dip for pretzels or celery sticks.

Roll-ups: Spread a whole wheat tortilla with vegetable cream cheese and top with thinly sliced cucumber, dill sprigs, diced red pepper, arugula and sliced turkey. Roll up and wrap with plastic wrap. Refrigerate until cold and slice into five equal portions. Store the cut roll-ups in an airtight container in refrigerator until ready to pack the cooler.

MOM’S MORNING GLORY MUFFINS (Makes 1 dozen)

When my mom started tearing up on our family road trip, it turned out she was just hungry. She would have been better off if she had eaten one of these wholesome muffins earlier in the day. Ever since then, these have become a favorite road trip snack!

Wet Ingredients:
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup of vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla

Dry Ingredients:
- 2 cups of all-purpose flour
- 2/3 cup of sugar
- 2 teaspoons of baking soda
- 2 teaspoons of cinnamon
- 1/2 cup of golden raisins
- 1/2 cup of chopped walnuts
- 1/2 cup of chopped dried apricots
- 3 cups of Honey Nut Cheerios
- 2 cups of mixed dried fruit

Mix Ins:
- 2 cups of grated carrot
- 1 cup of golden raisins
- 1/4 cup of chopped walnuts
- 1/4 cup of flaked coconut
- 1/4 cup of caramels

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Beat the wet ingredients in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment until combined. Mix the dry ingredients together in a bowl and gradually add them into the wet mixture with the machine running on low. When the mixture forms a dense batter, remove the bowl from the mixer and fold in the carrots, raisins, walnuts, coconut and caramels by hand with a rubber spatula.

Spray a muffin tin with non-stick cooking spray and fill the tins 3/4 full of batter. Bake the muffins for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown and a toothpick comes out clean. Allow to cool and store in an airtight container.
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- An in memoriam or card of thanks may be placed using the same information above.
- The deadline for placing a death notice, in memoriam or card of thanks, is Monday at 5:00 pm. Photos must be submitted by Monday at 2:00 pm.
- The death notice department is staffed from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday.
- Family and friends may visit our website and sign a guest book at Pioneerlocal.com.

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MODERN NOSTALGIA: Bill Collopy's 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air Convertible

I have admired trifive convertibles since I was 8 years old and owned my first one when I was 15. The '55 has always been my favorite body style. There's something about the tough look and stance without all the glitz of the '56 and '57s. I owned several Trifives during my high school years and after returning from Vietnam, bought, sold and traded many others. I never had enough time or money to build exactly what I wanted until our kids finished school and got out of the house.

When the last one left the nest, the search began for a '55 convertible project car. I knew a guy with a '55 project who needed money for his business so we made a quick deal. It was a perfect candidate with a solid frame and fresh engine and transmission.

My first call was to the metal-working magicians at Nostalgic Auto Body in Island Lake. Nostalgic performed a total restoration of the body and frame. They made several subtle body and trim modifications including a remote electronic fuel filler access in the taillight assembly. The car was taken to bare metal and after minor floor pan and body panel repairs, was reassembled. All panels were smoothed and gapped laser straight.

The car was then disassembled and all panels were sprayed with a beautiful, custom blend, two-tone paint with six coats of clear. After a painstaking reassembly process, it was wet sanded and buffed with awesome results!

Schebe's custom Hot Rod Interiors in Sandwich installed the new interior and canvas top. I wanted to upgrade the interior and top but maintain the classic styling of the '55 Chevy, keeping things clean, simple and neat. They did an excellent job of carrying the exterior color combination through the entire interior.

Ready for mechanicals, I called on Barnes Automotive in Arlington Heights, Ill. They installed the engine/drive train and performed all mechanical upgrades. A 383 stroker motor and 700 R4 trans were installed along with Billet Specialties polished aluminum, Trac rotary system, vintage heat and air, polished aluminum, modular radiator system, aluminum radiator hoses, custom Billet aluminum valve covers, and topped off with a beautiful English, EFI, polished aluminum, eight stack fuel injection system. The results speak for themselves. A neat, clean, absolutely stunning engine compartment. Underneath, complete upgraded suspension, disc brakes, 2 1/2 inch stainless steel, custom exhaust system with block hugger headers, stainless brake and fuel lines and stainless fuel cell were added. The car rolls on 18 inch Nitto NT555 Extreme ZR tires, complemented by Billet Specialties Turbo wheels.

The car took three years to complete and since the car has earned a top 20 pick, numerous Best of Show awards, scored 996 at the Classic Chevy Convention, Best in Class at the Chevy Corvette and Muscle Car Show and Best in Class and 'Chairman's Pick' at the Milwaukee World of Wheels.

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WATC YOUR TEAM LIVE ON highschoolCUBE.
Mind-reading masters promise mind-blowing show

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Contributor

Got something on your mind?

You might have trouble keeping it a secret when the International Masters of Mind-Reading take the stage June 29 at the Montrose Room in Rosemont. The climactic event of the annual convention of the Psychic Entertainers Association will feature five acclaimed performers from around the world, each with a particular mind-blowing specialty.

"I'm really excited by this line-up," said Morton Grovel, a Skokie native (and Berwyn resident) Neil Tobin, who's co-hosting the show as a PEA board member. He's also the magician/mentalist whose "Supernatural Chicago" one-man show has been running for nine years at the Castle nightclub in Chicago.

"I don't know if there's ever been a show of this sort with such a global selection of talent on one stage."

The mind-reading masters include Lior Manor of Israel, famed for his baffling demonstrations of super-memory, Pelle Tornell of Sweden, an expert on applying non-verbal cues to read people, influence decisions and predict actions, Marc Salem of New York, one of the world's foremost authorities on non-verbal communication who has demonstrated his expertise with two shows on Broadway and three in London, and Jeff and Tessa Evasion of Canada, who have performed their mental-telepathy act in more than 35 countries.

Jeff and Tessa Evasion will appear with the International Masters of Mind-Reading.

Psychic abilities have fascinated mankind since ancient times, when people went to oracles to ask what their future holds, but Tobin says the place where that crosses over into entertainment is more recent.

"There have been mind-reading demonstrations by magicians going back a few centuries, but mentalism really hit its stride in vaudeville," he explained, noting performers such as the spiritualist Davenport Brothers (who communicated with the spirit world while chained inside a locked cabinet) and the mind-reader Alexander: The Man Who Knows.

More recently of course, performers like The Amazing Kreskin and the spoon-bending Uri Geller have made a name for themselves as psychic entertainers, though Kreskin was an early example of a performer who did not claim actual psychic powers. Today, it seems, performers may or may not base their shows on hocus-pocus about their paranormal mental abilities, but they still have the same goal — audience amazement.

"There's increasing interest in the psychological aspect of what we do," Tobin said. "And more and more performers have been able to stay relevant by emphasizing that. In the past, when a performer said he was going to read someone's mind, he might have secretly been using non-verbal cues. Now that audiences know more about that sort of thing, though, we're able to treat it a little differently."

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MELISSA ETHERIDGE AND FRIENDS

JUNE 29

JOAN OSBORNE
PAULA COLE
JESSIE PAYO

RAVINIA.ORG
"Woza Albert!" takes satiric look at apartheid

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

As a young actor, Tim Rhoze starred in a production of "Woza Albert!," an inventive play about South African apartheid.

"I recalled how the story was so impacting on the audience that I want to bring that experience back, now that I have a theater where I can produce," said the Evanston resident who is artistic director of Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre.

"Also, apartheid is one of those things that we don't even talk about anymore as though it never existed," he continued. "I want to bring that back to the forefront so we can have a discussion about our history in the world."

Rhoze directs the play by Percy Mtwa, Mbongeni Ngema and Barney Simon, June 29-July 14.

"It is a story about two South African street performers, who play multiple characters," Rhoze said. "And they are all waiting for the arrival of Morena — the name for Jesus Christ — to help them overcome the oppression of apartheid."

Joy knows a great deal about apartheid because, as artistic director of Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre in 2000, she produced "Sarafina," a play about the resistance to apartheid by children of South Africa. "At the time, we did a lot of research," Joy said. "It’s really important for people to have a sense of the global struggle and how it’s all connected," Joy added.

Director Rhoze concluded, "I’m excited to have people know that Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre is continuously producing high-quality shows with the best talent that Chicagoland and the Midwest can offer up. I’m very, very proud of what we’re doing as a collective."
Managing Editor Jennifer Thomas' entertainment picks for this week

**King BMX Stunt Show**
bicycle aerial stunts show takes place 7, 8:30 and 10 p.m. June 28 and 4, 7 and 10 p.m. June 29 at MB Financial Park in Rosemont. Free.

**Soda**
performs classic rock, '80s hits, reggae and more at 7 p.m. June 28 at Norridge Community Park, 4631 N. Overhill Ave. Norridgepk.com.

**'My First Sony,'**
a play about a boy obsessed with documenting life on his tape recorder, takes place in English at 6:30 p.m. and in Hebrew at 8:30 p.m. July 1 at the Skokie JCC.

**Morton Grove Days**
runs July 3-6 at the American Legion Memorial Civic Center, 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Visit www.mortongrovedays.org.

**Tempel Lipizzan Stallions**
(above) perform on select dates through Sept. 22 at Tempel Farms, 17000 Wadsworth Road, Wadsworth. Visit Tempelfarms.com.
Dressed to 'Impress' — ties between fashion, painting and modernity

BY KYLE MACMILLAN | Contributor

Given the abundance of Impressionist exhibitions in the last few decades, simply assembling a heady assortment of eye-catching works by the likes of Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Edgar Degas is no longer good enough.

To secure loans of key artworks from other museums, persuade institutions to sign on as touring venues and pique the interest of increasingly over-saturated viewers, curators have to come up with shows that offer fresh, innovative ways to look at this pivotal artistic era.

And that is exactly what curator Gloria Groom has done in a groundbreaking exhibition running through Sept. 22 at the Art Institute of Chicago. It is the biggest and most important Impressionist presentation to be on display there in nearly two decades.

The exhibit, co-organized by two of the world's other great repositories of Impressionism, the Musee d'Orsay in Paris and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, contains 75 paintings, 17 dresses and an array of fashion accessories, works on paper and related ephemera — about 300 objects in all.

Because landscapes dominated Impressionism, many of the mostly 1860s and '70s works of this exhibition, which tend to be portraits and interior scenes, are lesser known, and some are being seen for the first time in the United States.

That said, the exhibition contains its share of oft-seen masterworks, such as Renoir's "The Loge" (1874) and "Madame Georges Charpentier and Her Children" (1878) and Mary Cassatt's "Woman with a Pearl Necklace in a Loge" (1879), not to mention well-known selections from the Art Institute's own collection, such as Georges Seurat's "A Sunday on La Grande Jatte — 1884" (1884-86).

That choice of subject matter also helps explain why certain major Impressionists, such as Camille Pissarro and Alfred Sisley, are nowhere to be found, and other, slightly less well-known ones like Berthe Morisot and Frederic Bazille are amply showcased.

The exhibition's thesis is...
relatively simple: By the mid-19th century, with the rising importance of an upwardly aspiring middle class, industrialized production of apparel and new attitudes toward dress and social life, fashion played an increasingly influential role in modern French society.

Indeed, a new kind of independent-minded, fashion-oriented woman emerged, a type that came to be known as La Parisienne, a moniker that recurs repeatedly throughout this show.

To help illustrate the connections among between the art and fashion of the era, some of the paintings are paired with dresses similar to the ones featured, and examples of other kinds of apparel and accessories pictured are also on view, including hats and corsets.

To further help transport visitors back to the time when these artworks were made, the galleries have been given a period feel, with curved-window vitrines like those in a 19th-century French dress shop.

"Impressionism, Fashion and Modernity" offers a new way to look at an old subject, and it serves as a refreshing reminder that this once-revolutionary art movement was about much more than boating parties and pretty paintings.
Bicycle stunt show comes to Rosemont

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Backflips and tailwhips are two of the aerial stunts that will thrill kids, and their parents, when the King BMX Stunt Show comes to MB Financial Park at Rosemont, 5501 Park Place. The bicycle stuntmen will perform at 7 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Friday, June 28, and 4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. June 29.

BMX refers to bicycle motocross — stunt riding on a bicycle over either rough terrain or an obstacle course. The King BMX riders, who have appeared on The X Games and “America’s Got Talent,” will execute stunts both on the ground and on ramps set up in the park.

Keith King of King BMX.

For details, go to www.mbfparkatrosemont.com.

SMALLS’ CHANGE

Scotty Smalls is having trouble fitting in at his new town, particularly since he can’t throw a baseball. But life improves for the fifth-grader when the neighborhood gang leader recruits him for “The Sandlot.” The 1 hour and 41 minute PG film will be shown at 4 p.m. June 28 at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave.

For details, call (847) 965-4220 or go to www.mgpl.org.

CREATURES ARE COMING

Your family can see a variety of exotic animals when A Zoo to You makes a stop at Oakton Park, 4701 Oakton St., Skokie, 7 p.m. July 2. There will be a 45-minute presentation of mammals and reptiles at this free event.

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

MOVIN’ WITH MOM (OR DAD)

Newborns through 24-month-olds, with an adult, will engage in stories, songs and fingerplay during Wiggleworms, 9:30 to 10:05 a.m. July 2 at Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave. Siblings are welcome.

For details, call (847) 825-3123 or go to www.parkridgelibrary.org.

SEE A ROYAL, BE A ROYAL

Party dresses and tiaras will be the costumes of the day at the Princess Ball 4 to 5 p.m. July 24 at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Contestants from the Miss International Pageant and Miss Teen International Pageant will lead games and dancing. Parents are encouraged to bring cameras. Registration begins July 1 and the event is for ages 3-9.

For details, call (847) 673-7774 or go to www.skokieparks.org.
Gluten-free guru ready for Company

BY TOM WITOM | Contributor

A unique gustatory experience awaits diners at Company in Evanston.

The leasable restaurant space provides a temporary arena where entrepreneurial professional chefs can strut their stuff.

The venture, which debuted in January, is the brainchild of Eric Singer, a chef for 22 years at Lucky Platter in Evanston, and his business partner Craig Golden, who is associated with Union Pizzeria and S.P.A.C.E. in Evanston and Longman & Eagle in Chicago.

"We've built a small, intimate restaurant with a fully equipped kitchen," said Singer. "The chefs we team up with temporarily want to use our facility to show off their skills without incurring the expense of owning their own venue."

Since the launch, Company has had a steady stream of chefs rotate in and out of its kitchen, including some who have booked the space more than once. Among them are D'Andre Carter, who previously worked as executive sous chef at Moto, and Heather Bublick, who was with Moto and Tru. Others who have taken over the kitchen are Sam Barron from Everest Room and Erwin Dreschler from the now-closed Erwin.

Next up will be personal chef William "Beau" Blackburn of Des Plaines-based Beau K Catering and Professional Chef Services, a strong gluten-free advocate who will serve five-course dinners at Company June 28 and 29.

The menu both nights will feature Blackburn's take on classic bruschetta, a stone crab salad, an entree of either braised Moroccan beef short ribs or Moroccan-spiced Kobe-style Wagyu beef filet on garlic-mashed fingerling potatoes, a grapefruit sorbet palate cleanser and chocolate sabayon with fresh berries for dessert.

Singer said guest chefs serve from 16 to 20 diners who pre-pay online and sit at three communal tables. Chefs can offer wine pairings or permit patrons to bring their own wine or beer.

Blackburn spent 17 years working in advertising and media before earning a culinary degree in 2010 at Kendall College in Chicago. He recently hosted his 180th private party since founding his company, which he plans to re-christen In-Home Private Catering.

Blackburn offers gluten-free meals, Blackburn said: "I can cook for all sensitivities — dairy, peanuts, soy, vegan and vegetarian. If someone I'm feeding doesn't like or can't tolerate certain foods, I will leave them out of the menu."
Mercer Foundation spotlights songwriters

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES | Contributor

Three-time Academy Award winners Alan and Marilyn Bergman will be honored at the Johnny Mercer Foundation Songwriters Project at Northwestern University.

The evening will also be packed with premieres of pieces created by the 14 Mercer participants during the weeklong program of master classes and workshops on Northwestern's lakefront campus.

"They are chosen competitively and range from their early 20s to middle 30s," said Heather Schmucker, producing director of NU's American Music Theatre Project. "We have an orientation and party for them on Sunday night, but after that they are in classes and workshops from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Usually, they spend their evenings working on their songs."

The program embraces all kinds of musical styles, including folk, pop, music theater, American roots, Alt-indie, R&B, Afro-soul, bluegrass and country. "We also help them get acquainted with the song industry and the music business," Schmucker explained, "because that's what they'll need to know if they are going into that profession."

In the spirit of Johnny Mercer, who himself wrote 1,500 songs, the annual songwriters' concert includes honoring musical stars. Past honorees include Heather Headley, Ann Hampton Callaway, Liz Callaway, Capathia Jenkins, Christine Ebersole, Charles Strouse and Stephen Schwartz.

Among the Bergmans' contributions to what is affectionately called the Great American Songbook, are their Oscar-winning songs "The Way We Were" from the 1973 movie of the same name and "The Windmills of Your Mind" from the original 1968 film "The Thomas Crown Affair." They also won an Oscar for their original song score for the 1983 film "Yentl."

They have collaborated with composers Marvin Hamlisch and Michel Legrand, as well as performers, including Barbra Streisand, Quincy Jones and others during their 50-year career in film, television and stage, winning numerous Emmy Awards and Grammy nominations.

"Songwriting is a craft," said Alan Bergman, when reached by phone in the couple's Los Angeles home, "and like any other craft there are rules. You are writing for the human voice, so you have to know the strengths and limitations of that instrument and of the English language," he continued. "You have to be careful putting vowels that close the throat on the high notes. The words should have the same accent on the syllables as when they are spoken. And do not make false rhymes — mime and thine don't rhyme!"

He added some wise advice to lyricists: "If the words aren't working, find another way to say it." The Bergmans prefer that the music be written first. "Ninety percent of the time we write with the music in hand," Alan stated.

Alan and Marilyn were born in the same hospital in Brooklyn and raised in the same neighborhood. They didn't meet, however, until they had both moved to Los Angeles. They married in 1958. "In the 50-plus years we have been working together, I don't ever remember it being difficult," said Marilyn. "If we have a disagreement about a word or phrase, then the one who feels the strongest about it prevails.

"We trust each other," she declared. "We're very lucky to work with someone you love, doing something you both love."
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THE HEAT

***½
Rated
R for pervasive language, strong crude content and some violence
Stars
Melissa McCarthy, Sandra Bullock, Marlon Wayans, Michael Rapaport
An uptight FBI agent (Bullock) and a loose-cannon cop (McCarthy) are forced to work together to take down a vicious drug lord.

WHITE HOUSE DOWN

Rated
PG-13 for prolonged sequences of action and violence including intense gunfire and explosions, some language and a brief sexual image.
Stars
Channing Tatum, Jamie Foxx, Maggie Gyllenhaal, James Woods
After being turned down for a position with the Secret Service, a Capitol cop (Tatum) is on hand when the White House is invaded and the president (Foxx) is taken hostage by a paramilitary group.

STILL PLAYING

MAN OF STEEL

***
Rated
PG-13 for intense scenes of sci-fi violence, action and destruction, and for some language.
Stars
Henry Cavill, Amy Adams, Michael Shannon, Russell Crowe
Though its self-mythologizing smacks of pomposity at times and its super-mega-spectacular action sequences are so mind-boggling it’s sometimes hard to follow what’s going on, you have to give “Man of Steel” credit for one thing. It’s not dull. This latest attempt to reboot the “Superman” franchise (a decided improvement over the decidedly dull 2006 “Superman Returns”) generates plenty of entertainment and excitement when everything’s clicking. It’s essentially a reworking of the familiar Superman origin story with a fair amount of new stuff tossed in. The first half of “Man of Steel” is devoted to young Clark Kent trying to figure out who he is and what he wants to do about it before a whopping confrontation with Krypton’s renegade General Zod (Shannon), with the fate of the Earth at stake. The best thing about it, though? Henry Cavill seems to have been born to play the lead role.

THE BLING RING

***½
Rated
R for teen drug and alcohol use, and for language including some brief sexual references
Stars
Emma Watson, Katie Chang, Israel Broussard, Claire Julien, Leslie Mann
It’s not clear precisely what Sofia Coppola had in mind when she made this bizarre, true-crime misadventure, but it’s obvious that, regardless, she was the perfect person for the job. Her intimate familiarity with the milieu of the Los Angeles rich kids, plus her insider’s view of the cult of celebrity, makes her ideally suited to tell this peculiar story of a group of spoiled, suburban-L.A. high-school students who stole $3 million in clothing, designer goods, jewelry and cash from the homes of their favorite celebs. And she does so with a lean, energetic narrative drive that’s far different from the languorous pacing of her earlier films (“The Virgin Suicides,” “Lost in Translation,” “Marie Antoinette”). Most intriguingly, there’s little in the way of moral judgment in “The Bling Ring” or heavy messages about our cultural obsession with the lifestyles of the rich and paparazzi-plagued. Coppola seems content to simply recreate the strange circumstances and let us draw our own conclusions about what it all means.

MONSTERS UNIVERSITY

***½
Rated
PG-13 for intense frightening zombie sequences, violence and disturbing images
Stars
Billy Crystal, John Goodman, Steve Buscemi, Helen Mirren
There’s nothing particularly wrong with “Monsters University” except that it’s not particularly — or even mildly — inspired. And humor isn’t something we’ve come to expect from Pixar Animation. After the modest virtues of “Brave” and the dreariness of “Cars 2,” a downward spiral seems to be setting in at post-Disney Pixar. In this prequel to the 2011 hit “Monsters, Inc.,” Mike and Sully (Crystal and Goodman) meet at college and totally do not get along. For a while, that is, until circumstances and the need to learn lessons about friendship, cooperation and team effort, force them onto the same side in an underdog vs. alpha dog fraternity competition that’s lifted straight out of “Revenge of the Nerds.” A bit of emotional complexity tacked on at the end comes too late, but it’s a plus that the big teaching point ends up being about the value of plain old hard work and dedication.

WORLD WAR Z

***½
Rated
PG-13 for intense frightening zombie sequences, violence and disturbing images
Stars
Brad Pitt, Mireille Enos, David Morse, Daniella Kertesz
Traditionally minded aficionados might take issue with the speed demon pace of the undead in “World War Z,” the comparative shortage of gore and the (gasp) complete absence of brain-munching. But it’s hard to imagine anyone faulting it in terms of pure, nonstop, run-amok zombie craziness. Despite all the bad press about major production problems, this long-anticipated adaptation of the best-selling novel delivers, spectacularly, whether you see it as an action movie with horrific elements or vice-versa. Primarily because of the galvanic pacing and unexpected creep-show skills of director Marc Forster (“Quantum of Solace”) and an impressive performance by Brad Pitt as the calm, compassionate, reluctant action hero. Pitt plays Gerry Lane, a former U.N. investigator dragged into tracking down the source of a sudden and shockingly fast-spreading worldwide zombie plague in order to keep his family safe on an aircraft carrier. The big difference here is that these zombies aren’t so much hunger-crazed ghouls as they are the mindless embodiment of a virus, driven exclusively to infect the uninfected. Which creates the opportunity for a new and freshly terrifying depiction of the undead as an unstoppable swarm, one that rushes like a tidal wave over every imaginable sort of defense. A zombie tsunami, if you will. Don’t miss it.
Movie Review

‘White House’ explodes familiar territory

BY BRUCE INGRAM I Film Critic

“White House Down” ★★½

It’s déjà vu all over again as this White House-under-attack thriller goes over pretty much the same ground the scruffier “Olympus Has Fallen” covered just three months ago.

Instead of Gerard Butler and Aaron Eckhart playing the one-man army and the commander in chief contending with paramilitary bad guys in “Olympus,” we have Channing Tatum and Jamie Foxx in the same situation, only with bigger explosions, courtesy of director Roland Emmerich (“Independence Day”).

Tatum plays John Cale, a three-tour veteran of Afghanistan, who has landed a job with the D.C. police protecting Speaker of the House Raphaelson (Richard Jenkins). What he really wants to do, though, is join the Secret Service, mainly because his plucky daughter Emily (Joey King of “Ramona and Beezus”) hero-worships President Sawyer (Foxx) and currently doesn’t think much of her divorced dad.

Of course, that’s before Dad takes her to the White House for his unsuccessful Secret Service job interview and a tour that’s interrupted by the hostile takeover, which wipes out the Secret Service and leaves him with the job of rescuing the president and keeping his nuclear launch codes out of the hands of the villains.

“White House Down” is one of those movies that is difficult to talk about without spoilage, though the things that happen are so blatantly obvious it seems silly to conceal them. Nonetheless, we will be circumspect. Let’s just say that treachery plays a major role and that the general source of the trouble is the military industrial complex, which isn’t at all pleased with President Sawyer’s plan to create peace in the Middle East.

After a long, meandering buildup, Emmerich gets the action under way with a major explosion and our hero immediately springs into action and saves the president from capture. That’s a big yay, of course, but it also presents an unexpected problem in terms of keeping the film focused on generating suspense.

While “Olympus” created ongoing tension by concentrating exclusively on Butler as he worked his way toward the president one bad guy at a time, “White House” eliminates that as a goal very early. And shifts to action-buddy-comedy mode as Foxx and Tatum exchange snappy banter while trying to keep him out of enemy hands.

That’s not to say there’s nothing enjoyable about “White House Down.” The action scenes are spectacular and Nicolas Wright is a bonus as Donnie, the White House tour guide, who seems more upset by the situation than anyone else.

Even so, if you only have time to watch a lone hero save the White House in one movie this year, your best bet is the one that takes the job seriously.
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THIS WEEKEND & BEYOND
A list of regional events for you to go out and enjoy

SUMMER CONCERTS

Live at the Lake Summer Entertainment Series
FAM
At 7 p.m. Thursdays, through July 25, at Lake Park Memorial Pavilion, 2200 Lee Street at Farago Avenue, Des Plaines. Call (847) 391-5700.

Summers Concert Series
FAM

Tunes On Tuesday
FAM
Through July 30 at 7 p.m. at Harrer Park Pavilion, 6250 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Free admission. See www.mortongroveparks.com.

Mount Prospect Community Band
FAM
Presenting free concerts at 7:30 p.m. Mondays, through July 29, at the Veterans Memorial Band Shell, 411 S. Maple St., Mount Prospect. Information at www.mppd.org.

Sizzling Summer Spectacular
FAM

Fridays on the Green
FAM
Concert series at 6 p.m. the first and third Fridays of each month, through Aug. 30, on the Village Green in front of Village Hall, 50 S. Emerson St., Mount Prospect. Visit www.experiencemountprospect.org.

Niles Park District
FAM
Host free family concerts at Oak Park, Lee and Ottawa streets, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Fridays, July 12-Aug. 16. Food will be available for a nominal fee. Visit www.niles-parks.org.

Norridge Park District
FAM
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, 7 p.m.: Spazmatics (‘80s hits) and Kathleen Messmer. July 12: “Travel the World in Song,” with baritone Da-vid Govertsen.

Park Ridge Fine Arts Symphony
FAM

Sunday Sundown Concerts
FAM

STAGE

“A Cole Porter Songbook”
13+ 65+
Presented by Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre through July 21 at the No Exit Cafe, 6970 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago (Rogers Park). Curtain at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 7 p.m. Sundays. No show June 30. $29; $25 students and seniors. Call (800) 595-4849 or visit www.theo- u.com.
What to Do
Continued from page 61

at 3 p.m. July 13 and Aug. 3 at the Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave. The play features 11 vignettes that satirize elements of African-American culture. Admission is free. Visit www.cityofevanst
ston.org/fjtheatre.

Shakespeare on the Ridge

"I Will Kiss These Walls"

"Mine"

"Mine"

Claire Aebersold and Ralph Neuweem perform Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring" and works by Schubert and Ravel. July 14: Music Institute faculty and guest artists plays works by Debussy, Prokofiev and Bartok. July 16: Music Institute faculty offer a varied selection of four-hand and two-piano repertoire. July 19: Olga and Yuri Sherbakov perform works by Ukrainian and Russian composers, including Rachmaninoff's Suite No. 1 for Two Pianos. Tickets for each concert are $30; $20 seniors; $10 students. Visit www.musicinst.org or call (847) 905-1500, ext. 108.

Chicago Duo Piano Festival
Concerts take place at 7:30 p.m. July 12, 16 and 19 and 4 p.m. July 14 at Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. July 12:

Allstate Arena
6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000. Parking is $20, cash only. July 9: Gigantour, featuring Megadeth, Black Label Society, Device, HELLYEAH, Newsted, Death Division. $39.50, $49.50, $65. 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
7574 N. Lincoln Ave. (at Howard), Skokie. (847) 677-3334. www.ethicalhuman.org/
coffeehouse. July 13: Americana with The Lost Highway Band, following 8 p.m. open mic (7:30 p.m. sign-up, all genres, all acoustic). $8 includes refreshments.

“Songwriters — In Concert”

Hosted by the Johnny Mercer Foundation Songwriters Project at 8 p.m. June 29 in Northwestern University’s Josephine Louis Theater, 20 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Fourteen emerging songwriters will share the stage with lyricists Alan and Marilyn Bergman in a program of original pop, folk, music theatre and country works. $10-$30. Visit www.tic.northwestern.edu.

S.P.A.C.E.


ART GALLERIES

Bocoo Cultural Center and Café
184
1823 Church St., Evanston. (847) 864-8164. Through July 19: “Site Specific,” an exhibit of small mixed media collages by Lincolnwood native Betsy van Die. Artist’s reception 6-8 p.m. June 28.

Brickton Art Center
184

Oakton Community College
194

BOOKS & POETRY

Author talk
184

Linwood Public Library
184

CHILD’S PLAY

Summer Art Camp

Held 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Lincoln Terrace Art Studio and Gallery, 5027 Warren St., Skokie. Open to ages 6-15. Sessions include July 8-12; July 15-19; July 22-26; July 29-Aug. 2; Aug. 5-9 and Aug. 12-16. $270 per week includes all art supplies. To register, email sonya@skokieartclasses.com or visit www.skokieartclasses.com.

Zanies Comedy Club


FAIRS & FESTIVALS

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; 11 a.m.-6:30 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, 8:30 p.m. Wednesday; Underwater People, 7:45 p.m. Thursday; Vintage Vinyl, 6 p.m. Friday, Hairbangers Ball, 8:30 p.m. Friday; Cheryl Rodkey, 6 p.m. Saturday and Straw Busy Sky, 8:30 p.m. Saturday. For information, visit www.mortongroveldays.org.

Taste of Park Ridge

July 11-14 in downtown Park Ridge, along Summit Avenue between Prospect and Touhy avenues, along the north side of the Park Ridge Metra station. Hours are 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday. Features food and beverages from area restaurants, entertainment and family activities. 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: 1969, 6:45-8:15 p.m; 7th Heaven, 9:30-10:30 p.m. Sunday: American English (Beatles tribute), 4-5:30 p.m; The Fortune Sons (Credence Clearwater Revival tribute), 6:15-7:45 p.m. For information, visit www.tasteparkridge.com.

Big Greek Food Fest of Niles

July 17-21 on the grounds of St. Haralampos 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 and pastries, children’s activities. For information, visit www.attachment.com.

What to Do [Page 64]
What to Do
Continued from page 63
Crafts and 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
1 p.m. July 19-21 along Elginwood 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, children's activities, arts and crafts vendors and carnival rides. Free admission. Visit www.chicagoshakes.com.

Mount Prospect Downtown Block Party
1 p.m. July 26 and 11 a.m.-11 p.m. July 27 at the intersection of Emerson Street and Busse Avenue, downtown Mount Prospect. Includes live music, family activities and food vendors. For information, visit www.mpblockparty.com.

Jeff Fest Arts & Music Festival
1 p.m. 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. Offering music ranging from soul, alternative rock and folk rock to techno pop. Headlining bands are Dot Dot Dot on Friday, Magic Box on Saturday, and Michael McDermott on Sunday. Also featuring the Urban Folk Circuit traveling craft market, food trucks, Kids' Zone, 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 liquor are not permitted. Visit www.jefffest.org.

Polish Festival of Music, Art and Food
1 p.m. July 27-28 on Summit Street between Touhy and Prospect avenues, and in Hodges Park, Park Ridge. The festival features live music, including rock, pop, blues, Polish folk ensembles, Lajkonik and more, Polish foods such as kielbasa, pierogi and potato pancakes, an art exhibition, folk art craft market, and children's activities. Free admission. Visit www.polishfestinparkridge.com.

North Shore Festival of Art

Lincolnwood Public Library
4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.hlincolnwoodlibrary.org. June 28, 1 p.m.: "Lincoln." July 5, 1 p.m.: "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey." July 11, 10:30 a.m.: "Quartet." July 12, 1 p.m.: "Snitch."

Niles Public Library
6960 Oakton St., Niles. www.nileslibrary.org. July 18, 2 p.m.: "Life of Pi," rated PG. July 23, 2 p.m.: Travel Musicals Film Series features "Cabaret." July 25, 2 p.m.: International Film Series features "To Rome with Love."

Monday Night Car Show
Classic cars will be on display 6-9 p.m. Mondays, through Sept. 2, in the west parking lot of Westfield Old Orchard shopping center, 4999 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. Also featuring music, food and hourly raffles. Free admission. For information, visit www.mondaynightcarshows.com.

MUSEUMS
Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center
9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. www.ilholocaustmuseum.org. Admission: $12; $8 for students and seniors. Through Sept. 8: "Fire in My Heart: The Story of Hannah Senesh." Hannah Senesh died by firing squad in 1944, but has endured as one of Israel's most iconic heroes after volunteering for a mission to rescue downed Allied fliers and Jews from Nazi-occupied Hungary. July 14, 1:30 p.m.: "A Yiddishe Maydel Sings in Chicago." Eleanor Reissa, daughter of Holocaust survivor, sings Yiddish music for the third annual Sarah Lazarus Memorial Concert, accompanied by pianist Grant Sturiale. $10. Advance reservations and payment required.
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Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation athletes compete at nationals

Led by Chris Viau's strong showing, five participants represented the Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation at the boccia nationals. Boccia is a Paralympic sport similar to bocce. Viau reached the finals at nationals, which was held May 16-19 in East Lansing, Mich. The 36-year-old from Evanston also was invited to participate in the World Cup Competition in Kansas in August and this summer's Paralympic training camp to practice with the U.S. Boccia team in Chicago.

Fellow M-NASR athlete Jessica Witek, a 27-year-old from Park Ridge, was invited to the training camp as well.

The following M-NASR athletes also competed at nationals: 52-year-old Bob Gustafson of Evanston, 30-year-old Slawek Jedryczka of Des Plaines and 29-year-old Josh Kain of Park Ridge.

"It was a great opportunity for the athletes to interact with other talented athletes from around the country, and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience," M-NASR coach and program manager Lauren Ruiz said in a statement.

Over 65 athletes from as far away as New York and California competed at the national tournament at Michigan State.

Dons' Nicholson chooses Millikin

Notre Dame alumus Sean Nicholson plans to play football at Millikin in the fall, according to a statement released by the Division III school in Decatur.

"We are very excited that Sean has decided to continue his academic and football career at Millikin University," Big Blue coach Patrick Etherton said in the statement. "Sean comes from a great high school program. We are looking for Sean to have a great career at Millikin."

Nicholson, a Niles resident, earned two varsity letters in football at Notre Dame where he played defensive end and left tackle. As a senior, Nicholson earned a Chicago Bears Player of the Week honor. He also won his team's Most Improved Player Award, Offensive Lineman Award and Iron Man Award for playing on both offense and defense.

Nicholson plans to study computer science.

I'LL BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...

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Brandon Moss of the Oakland As has a flair not only for the dramatic, but also the comical. Moss ended a 6-hour, 32-minute marathon against the Angels in April of 2013 with a walk-off home run in the bottom of the 19th — the dramatic. But when usual team prankster Josh Reddick pronounced himself too tired at almost 2:00 a.m. to do the honors, Moss mashed a cream pie into his own face to celebrate — the comical. And get this: Moss had homered in the sixth inning as well. Only one other player in big league history — Boston's Vern Sterling in 1951 — hit two homers in one game more innings apart. Moss's came 13 innings apart, while Sterling's were 14 (the 1st and the 15th).

As if that Oakland-Los Angeles marathon game in late April of 2013 wasn't odd enough, here's another twist. As pitcher Brett Anderson had been scheduled to start the game, but he was scratched with a sprained ankle. But after using six pitchers through 12 innings, the As were forced to call on Anderson anyway. He took the mound in the 13th, tossed 79 pitches over more than five innings, and got the win when Brandon Moss blasted his walk-off homer in the 19th.

Did you ever hear about the time television viewers changed the outcome of a sporting event? It was the 1987 San Diego Open, and golfer Craig Stadler used a towel to kneel on to keep his pants dry while hitting his ball from beneath a low-hanging branch. Alert viewers called officials to say Stadler had "built a stance," a rules violation. They reviewed the video after the final round and disqualified Stadler for not penalizing himself and turning in an incorrect scorecard, costing him second-place money.
North Shore receives high praise from pros

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

GLENVIEW

There might be a mutiny if some place other than North Shore Country Club hosts the 2015 Encompass Championship.

By all accounts, the initial Champions Tour tournament was a winner, and the golf course was the star.

Like Philadelphia-area Merion Golf Club did at the U.S. Open two weeks ago, North Shore showed the classics never get old.

"I absolutely love it," said tournament champion Craig Stadler, who holed a 12-foot putt for par on the 18th hole to hold off a Sunday charge by Fred Couples. "I played it a couple of times when I was in college way back when, and it's wonderful. It probably has the best fairways I've seen ever.

"It's just a wonderfully conditioned golf course. It's probably the best, right there with Augusta (National)," I would say."

The Encompass Championship has one more year left on its contract with North Shore and there's an option for a third year.

Blaine McCallister, who tied for 64th, said the players were lucky the club agreed to host the tournament.

"What a treat to come and play an old-style golf course," he said of the track that hosted the 1933 U.S. Open.

"It's a great, great course, and I'm so happy for us." The Encompass Championship has reinforced the course's pedigree as eight tour stops that hosted the 1933 U.S. Open.

Tom Ealy, the president of Northbrook-based Encompass insurance, said Saturday he hopes the tournament stays put for the foreseeable future.

"There was no way for the members to know what they were getting into with this," Ealy said. "Now that they've tasted it, I hope they say they never want to lose it.

"I can't imagine after this week, either one of us will want to end this yet.""---

One component of the tournament was the celebrity pro-am, featuring former Chicago Bear Brian Urlacher and former Chicago Bull Toni Kukoc.

Although not a household name, Chad Watson also was part of the pro-am field. He was there to play and raise awareness for the Illinois Patriot Education Fund, which offers educational opportunities to families of Illinois servicemen and servicewomen who were either disabled or killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A Frankfort resident, Watson is a 30-year-old Marine veteran who lost his right leg in Iraq in 2006.

"It's definitely something I will never forget," Watson said. "It's huge exposure for us, the Illinois Patriot Education Fund, to basically get the word out. I know there are a lot of service members in the region like myself who need the support."

The tournament did more than just raise awareness for local charities.

Ealy expressed his excitement for the charitable dollars that will go to both Bears Care and the McCormick Foundation.

"This tournament's been successful because we've profiled our charities," he said. "The exposure can only help them. In that way, (the tournament) already has paid dividends."

"What excited me was the ability to build something, and I can tell you on Sunday we have the makings of something really good," Galeski said.

"We are thrilled we are the ones who were able to bring it back," Ealy said. "We wanted to do this in our hometown."

"There might be a mutiny if some place other than North Shore Country Club hosts the 2015 Encompass Championship."
Bears rookie returns to school — for a few days

BY MIKE ECKERT I Contributor | @EckertMike

Some people ask their neighbors for a cup of sugar. Kyle Long asked his for a key to the weight room.

Long, the first-round draft pick of the Chicago Bears, recently moved into a building near Niles North. Needing a place to work out for a few days, he contacted the Vikings athletic department, which was more than willing to accommodate the offensive lineman from the University of Oregon.

“He made a very good first impression,” Niles North athletic director Karl Costello said. “He said anytime we want to contact him, he’d come talk to our athletes and our kids. He’s a very welcoming young man.”

Bears media relations coordinator Mike Corbo said that Long wasn’t able to participate in the team’s off-season workout program at Halas Hall until the last day of finals at Oregon, per NFL rookie rules.

“After Oregon’s last final for the semester, he was able to work out with the rest of our rookies at our facility this past week,” Corbo said in an email.

That left four days for Long to work out at Niles North alongside the school’s current players.

“It was nice for them to see him doing a lot of the same things we do,” Niles North strength and conditioning coach Mark Feldner said. “And at the same time, they saw the effort he puts in and what it really takes. It’s always nice for them to see guys who model things well for them.”

Niles North’s football players are now involved in a summer program of camps and workouts.

“We try to tell the kids that this is part of their every day,” Feldner said. “Getting back to Kyle, it’s nice for them to see that we’re not lying to them. It’s part of every day for everybody else.”

The facilities at Niles North lived up to Long’s standards, according to Costello.

“We have a heck of a weight room,” Costello said. “He was complimenting us on that, comparing it to the weight room at the University of Oregon.”

Long isn’t the first NFL player to be around the Niles North football program.

“We’re kind of used to it,” Costello said. “(Arizona Cardinals running back) Rashard Mendenhall’s brother, Walter, is on our staff, and Rashard is a big supporter of our program. His former high school coach, Mark Egofske, is our coach. Rashard just made a donation to our program that enabled our staff to buy football shoes for a lot of our kids.”

While Long’s stay at Niles North was only four days, Costello said it went smoothly for both Long and the Vikings.

“Our kids were very appropriate,” Costello said. “They let him get in his workout, and they didn’t bother him. Then when they were done, they would talk and introduce themselves. You always want to make sure you’re respecting the private space of a professional athlete.”

Kyle Long, pictured at the University of Oregon’s NFL pro day on March 14, worked out at Niles North for a few days earlier this month. | DON RYAN-AP
James becomes a YouTube sensation

BY TIM FROEHLIG | Contributor | @TFroehlig

When Chris James' trainer, Jack Cascio, posted a video online of the Notre Dame senior-to-be doing some amazing things during a workout earlier this month, he figured it'd get a few hits.

But when the running back and his mentor logged on to YouTube just two days later, both were beyond stunned at what they saw. The video, which was posted June 19, had already generated over a million hits.

"That really blew my mind," James said. "In the first day alone, it got like 750,000 views."

The video shows James, who is listed at 6 feet and 210 pounds, jumping 68 inches high onto the top of a stack of plyometrics cushions, among other things.

As of Monday, the video had nearly 1.4 million views.

"Chris is a freak of nature, he really is," Cascio said. "I've had some videos I've posted blow up and get a decent amount of views before, but nothing like this. It just goes to show you how hard Chris has worked in the offseason to become even better.

"One of the things we work on is making sure everything he does is in short, quick bursts. The average play in football last just 6 or 7 seconds, so I've tailored it so he's specifically doing things that relate to what his body will go through repeatedly during the course of a game. I think Chris feels a little slighted it took everyone so long to notice how skilled he is. He won't say that, but he uses it as motivation."

During his junior campaign, James ran for 2,089 yards and 33 touchdowns for the Dons.

"His work ethic is simply second-to-none," said Notre Dame coach Mike Hennessey, whose club reached the Class 6A state quarterfinals in 2012. "So nothing he does surprises me. I've seen his workouts, and they're something to behold."

Since receiving offers from five Division I schools by early February, James has picked up scholarship offers from 11 more Division I schools. His latest came on a trip down south a few weeks ago.

"I stopped at Tennessee because they'd been saying they wanted to meet me," James said. "By the time I left, and after speaking with a few of their coaches, they offered me almost right away."

Though he's not in a rush to make his decision, James admitted he's "starting to narrow some things down."

"I just don't want to have to worry about it for too long," James said. "I'm in no hurry, but at the same time I do have to start cutting some teams out of the mix, otherwise it will become too overwhelming."
Former Notre Dame College Prep guard Matt Mooney was scheduled to leave Wednesday for basic training at the Air Force Academy ahead of his freshman year.

Instead, the 2013 Sun-Times all-area selection was preparing for surgery later this week on his left leg after suffering a broken fibula and torn deltoid ligament in a bicycle accident Friday morning.

The injury almost certainly will prevent Mooney from playing for the Falcons in 2013-14. The 6-foot-2 guard said he was planning to speak to Air Force coaches Monday night about his options for the coming year.

"I can't participate in basic training, so there are two options: go to Air Force Prep School (located at the Academy in Colorado Springs) and do my recovery and rehab there, or stay (in the Chicago area), take some online courses and do my rehab (in the Chicago area)," Mooney said.

Mooney said he hoped the school's scholarship offer would still be there for him, and said the Air Force coaching staff has been supportive since the injury.

The incident occurred when the back wheel of Mooney's bike slipped as he tried to turn. Mooney was riding at a forest preserve near his home in Wauconda. Mooney was on the bike because doctors had advised him to avoid running and jumping for a week due to an inflamed foot. With basic training and summer basketball workouts at Air Force looming, Mooney said he didn't want to let his physical fitness suffer, especially after he had worked so hard on his stamina, strength, speed and agility in recent months.

Mooney described the injury as pretty nasty, but said his first thoughts were about his basketball career rather than the pain.

"When it happened I immediately thought, 'Oh my gosh, what's going to happen with Air Force?' I was supposed to leave in a few days," said Mooney, who was initially treated at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington.

Mooney already has seen multiple specialists, including a doctor affiliated with the Chicago Bulls. One doctor told Mooney he could be fully recovered four to six months after surgery.

Notre Dame coach Tom Les said Mooney's track record suggests that he will find a way to rebound from this setback.

"Based on how he is in school and how he was on the court, I think he will turn a negative into a positive," Les said. "He's handled adversity in the past. I don't know if he's had this big an issue, but I think he'll get over this hurdle."

Mooney said he has been trying to look on the bright side.

"Actually, it could be a blessing in disguise," he said. "I'll have the extra year to mature and develop, and I can slowly get used to Air Force and the military lifestyle. But I don't even know if there is a spot in the prep school. I'll talk to the coaches (Monday) night and (Tuesday) know what I'm doing."

In this Feb. 17 photo, Notre Dame's Matt Mooney shoots a 3-pointer over St. Charles North's Quinten Payne. Mooney, an Air Force recruit, broke the fibula and tore the deltoid ligament in his left leg Friday. PATRICK GLEASON-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA
Notre Dame's James becomes an Internet sensation with video

A workout video featuring Notre Dame running back Chris James (3) has received over a million views on YouTube. | STEVE JOHNSON | for Sun-Times Media

Read the full story [Page 70]