Park View school news anchor Ethan DaSilva drops a prop into his cup of coffee, and co-anchor Sidra Khatoon reacts with embarrassment. The incident was scripted to add flavor. | RICK KAMBIC—Sun-Times Media

Anchors away at school

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Dairy Queen threw a fundraiser for Maier's Bakery owner Frank Silvio, who's battling cancer.
Historical society hopes to carve Indian heritage

BY RICK KAMBIC | rkambic@pioneerlocal.com

Morton Grove’s Historical Society is trying to raise $3,000 to create a wooden statue that resembles a Potawatomi eagle dancer, using a portion of the village’s Indian Marker Tree that was trimmed in 2011.

The project has been in the works for two years, but plans are now in place to move forward with the sculpture this summer in case the remaining part of the tree does not survive.

For 250 years, the main stem of the tree stood nearly 50 feet tall, with a second stem bent at the roots by Native Americans to signal the way toward water and nearby villages. That trail is now known as Beckwith Road, and that second stem still hangs over the road from property adjacent to Nashville Avenue.

Historical society member Mary Busch says the tree was still used by traveling Indians for years after the first Morton Grove settlers arrived. “Some of those early settlers would leave baskets of food near the tree to help the Indians who were traveling discretely at night,” Busch said.

Residents throughout the years fought to protect the tree, but in 2011 the village decided to cut the main stem down to 20 feet. Experts said the tree had shallow roots and the extreme height posed a safety concern during windy storms.

Two months later, the main stem was reduced to six feet so the historical society could take a 14-foot log and create a wood sculpture.

Busch said the ongoing health of the second stem was uncertain after the trimming and the society wanted to forever remember the icon while there was still a good log to carve from.

If the historical society can raise $3,000, Busch said the sculpture will finally be carved by an artist during the Sept. 21 Autumn Festival and later mounted onto a concrete slab outside the historical museum and education center.

“The latest tribe to live on or near this land were the Potawatomi, and the historical society believes that legacy should be remembered too, especially since our early settlers apparently tried to help them,” Busch said.

Village Arborist Bill Burns suggested a wood sculpture after he had a dying elm tree outside his house carved into a bear. Members of the historical society grabbed hold of his idea and have spent two years trying to make it a reality.

In those two years since the trimming, Busch said the second stem of the marker tree appears to have stayed healthy.

The tree was made a historic area in town and identified with a sign during the 1990s.
Niles Village Board honors Blackhawks

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

Niles Trustee George Alpogianis ducked below his seat in the Council Chambers June 25 only to emerge a few seconds later in a red hockey sweater.

Bearing a Jonathan Toews' jersey, Alpogianis delivered a proclamation from the village congratulating the Blackhawks on their historic record-breaking season and Stanley Cup championship win.

The Hawks' stunning 3-2 comeback victory over the Boston Bruins one night before returned the Stanley Cup to Chicago and threw fans across the city and the surrounding suburbs into a frenzy.

The village's proclamation commended the team for serving as "a great role model to our youth by showing teamwork, courage, and perseverance to win," and acknowledged how "a global sport like hockey, and a team like the Blackhawks, could bring villages, communities, individuals, families and friends together and unite them in celebration."

"Go Hawks!" Alpogianis concluded.

Afterwards an overly optimistic Trustee John Jekot called dibs on announcing another Chicago team's long-awaited victory, noting: "I'll take the lead role when the Cubs win the championship."
Niles working on new village website

BY IGOR STUDENKOV | Contributor

By Internet standards, the Village of Niles' official website is a dinosaur.

While parts of it have been tinkered with over the years, it has had the same basic design and layout since April 2005. But that is about to change. Throughout June, the Niles officials have been taking first steps toward creating a new website. The village hopes that the new website will be easier to navigate and allow Niles residents and businesses to better communicate with the government.

Unlike the current version of the site, which was developed in-house by the village's Information Technology Department, the new version is being developed by CivicPlus, a web design company based in Manhattan, Kan. The new website is expected to be unveiled sometime in November.

The Niles Board of Trustees has been looking to redesign the village website for years. It was one of the objectives of the Niles 2030 Comprehensive Plan. But it wasn't until the March 26 board meeting that the board took steps to make it a reality, approving a Request for Proposal for a website developer.

The Department of Community Development and Management Information Systems Department looked through several bids and unanimously decided to approve CivicPlus. According to Ross Klicker, Village of Niles' Business Coordinator, a lot of it had to with the fact that they had the expertise the village was looking for.

"[CivicPlus] provides all the services we need," said Klicker. "CivicPlus specializes in municipal websites, so they have the experience."

The fact that their proposal came in under budget was also a major factor. The board budgeted $70,000 for the project; CivicPlus' bid promised to cover everything $64,920. Charles Ostman, the Director of the Department of Community Development, said that the village is expected to be unveiled sometime in November.

Klicker met with the company representatives on June 25 to discuss the specifics. While many details are a long way from being finalized, he readily shared what he will be looking for.

"Better communication between the village and our residents and businesses," he said. "Easier navigation, making it easier to find information they need."

When asked what he meant by "better communication," Klicker said that the website would make it easier for residents and businesses to reach out to village government and services.

The website will feature better social media integration. And while the redesign would require some restructuring, Klicker assured Niles Herald-Spectator that none of the currently available information will be lost in the process.

Whatever the design may look like, the final deadline has already been set.
Heavy rains deluge Niles, flooding roads, homes

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

The fast-moving storm that swept through the Chicago area early Wednesday morning left its mark on Niles, submerging the village’s arterial roads and side streets and dumping water into residents’ homes.

Nearly 4 inches of rain fell early Wednesday, backing up the sewer system and causing village-wide flooding. Niles Police Sgt. Robert Tornabene said all of the town’s major roadways had closed at some point in the morning, including the intersection of Harlem Avenue and Howard Street, and Milwaukee Avenue between Dempster and Oakton streets.

A downed power line on Dempster near Alcott Avenue, and flooding on Greenwood Avenue, caused additional travel delays. Dispatched officers were still “running all over the place” by early afternoon to tend to the village’s submerged streets, Tornabene said.

Traffic flow resumed by 4:30 p.m., according to police, though standing water continued to slowly drain from local parks and parking lots.

More than five feet of water inundated the Tam O’Shanter Golf Course. Water poured from the flooded green into the North Branch of the Chicago River, which had reached its height capacity.

“You can reach over and touch the water, it’s that filled up,” said Tony Espinoza, from the public works department.

“Traffic was backed up for hours,” said the village’s public works employee

Traffic continued to slow on local roads and side streets, Tornabene said.

“Our parking lot is set up so it takes the water,” she said. “We did not have any large issues.”

Other schools in Niles weren’t as fortunate.

Gemini Junior High and Nelson Elementary both experienced some flooding, reported Scott Clay, superintendent of East Maine School District 63.

“Some areas around Culver Elementary School were effective in draining all rainwater. Our parking lot is set up so it takes the water,” she said.

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“This has happened before,” Lesko, 30, said. “We just take it as an opportunity to get rid of all the crap we have.”

Among the objects drenched in water Lesko found his high school and college diplomas.

Frank Troiani, a 35-year Niles public works employee who spent the day responding to residents’ calls, noted that the heavy rainfall didn’t have anywhere else to go.

The backyard of his own house on Waukegan Road across from Civic Center Plaza “looked like a lake,” he said.

“The ground’s not going to take any more water,” Troiani said. “When it rains that fast, it runs off.”

He added: “A 100-year rain every year – or every other month, lately – there’s nothing you’re going to do about it.”

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In floods’ wake, Niles speeds stormwater fixes

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

Village-wide flooding for the second time in two months has prompted Niles officials to seek speedier solutions for stormwater relief.

Mayor Andrew Przybylo says the village is speeding up efforts to fight flooding in Niles, and is aiming to break ground on its stormwater relief project by March 2014.

Przybylo, village department heads and the Finance Committee set the plans after meeting Friday morning.

One year ago, the Village Board approved a $15 million stormwater improvement plan, which includes major sewer expansion work as well as financial assistance for residents to purchase helpful devices for flood control, such as an overhead sewer or check valve.

The village is currently in the planning and design phase for the program’s first three capital projects: the installation of a new sewer near Cleveland Avenue east of Osceola Avenue, the improvement of sewers and storage capacity on Main Street near Milwaukee Avenue, and the construction of new detention basins.

Preliminary engineering was expected to be completed by August. Przybylo said the plan was “scheduled too futuristically in light of all these storms and the people who are suffering.”

The fast-moving rains that swept through the Chicago area June 26 arrived on the heels of a torrential downpour in mid-April. Roadways, parks, schools and houses across Niles were inundated with water after both storms.

Przybylo said the earlier the engineering study is completed, the sooner the village can “start shoveling dirt, creating reservoirs, opening streets, and expanding the capacities of tunnels.”

He said the village might be able to break ground by the beginning of next year’s construction season.

Change can’t come soon enough for some residents, particularly those who live near Maryhill Catholic Cemetery.

Clutching her small poodle close to her chest, Gina Dobrzanski paced outside her family’s house in the hours after last Wednesday’s intense thunderstorm.

She’d had enough.

For the second time this year, sewer water rose waist-high in the basement of the Dobrzanski family’s home on Merrill Street near Main.

Feces and sewage waste came up from a toilet and busted pipe. A recently purchased water heater wasn’t working. Neither was a dryer.

Dobrzanski said her mother broke down in tears after waking up to the mess at 5 a.m. The family was still cleaning by mid-afternoon.

“I just need air,” Dobrzanski said.

“I can’t deal with this. This is not normal.”

Dobrzanski lives on the southwest end of the cemetery, in the area targeted for a new sewer line. Work crews are currently tearing up her block to install a water main unrelated to sewer-system improvement.

Residents located north of the cemetery on Oak Avenue between Grand and Prospect streets experience similar problems in the aftermath of a storm.

Nearly 100 townhouse units sit on that site and many – like Dobrzanski’s home – flood with backed-up sewage during downpours.

Newer construction on the other side of the street reportedly gets water reaching the tops of basement stairs.

“We always flood,” said Patricia Dalton, a 32-year resident of Niles. “This is nothing new.”

After the last few storms, she has hired professionals to remove the waste and dirty water that seeps into her home during heavy storms.

Przybylo said reports of sewage backups aren’t surprising.

“That can and will happen when a sewer system has a dual purpose ... in other words, sanitary and storm (drainage) were combined (in the past in Niles),” he said. “Then the world got sophisticated.”

Dalton said not only are the flooded sewers destructive – she has lost countless number of photos and other personal mementos, and had to replace a waterlogged furnace, water heater tank, washer and dryer – but also pose a health hazard.

She added: “The smell is atrocious.”

Some claim their concerns have fallen on deaf ears at Village Hall.

“Everybody’s all for talk,” Dobrzanski said. “Excuses every time.”

“I don’t know what’s happening with our basement but we’re moving out next year.”

For now, she’s trying to find a way to pay for the removal of mold that accumulated in her submerged basement.

The $2,000 her mother received in federal aid through FEMA this past spring was not enough to cover the estimated $10,000 in damages and cleanup from the April flood.

Przybylo said the village is “well over-budget” on its own flood-control assistance.

He said officials had set aside $450,000 for the cost-sharing program, which provides some relief to residents who purchase overhead sewers that can cost $8,000 to $10,000.

Homeowners who qualify receive grants totaling half of the improvement costs with a maximum of $4,000 given per home.

If everyone who was eligible applied today, the village’s share of the costs would likely be “well over $1 million,” Przybylo said.

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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.

**BATTERY**

Joseph Becker, 53, of 1416 Newlan Lane, Morris, was charged with domestic battery on June 19 after a 50-year-old woman accused him of giving her a black eye by headbutting her during an argument inside her Niles apartment two days earlier. Becker has a July 23 court date.

**DUI**

Mark Reyna, 24, of 8529 Springfield, Skokie, was charged with driving under the influence and reckless driving on June 18. Police said a traffic stop was made on Reyna’s vehicle after he was reportedly seen driving erratically southbound on Milwaukee Avenue for several blocks. He was also cited for disobeying a red light, following too closely and improper lane usage. He has a July 23 court date.

**SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT**

Police detained a 43-year-old man on the evening of June 21 after he was seen throwing away a black bag at the Village Crossing shopping center on the 6500 block of Touhy Avenue. A search of the bag revealed a black backpack that contained two books, food and a knife, police said. The man was also reportedly found in possession of a set of wire cutters and two cell phones. He was released without charges, but the wire cutters were retained by officers.

**BURGLARY**

A resident of an apartment on the 7900 block of Caldwell Avenue told police that on June 22 he discovered a jar of quarters empty and rolls of quarters totaling $97.50 missing from his bedroom drawer. The man also noticed his window pane was broken and that there were pry marks on the frame, police said.

**BURGLARY TO VEHICLE**

An iPad and GPS device were stolen between June 22 and June 23 from an unlocked vehicle parked on the 9400 block of Washington Street.

**THEFT**

On June 19 someone entered the men’s restroom inside a business on the 7900 block of Milwaukee Avenue, turned off the water and removed two toilet values from each of the stalls.

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Library to open new entrance, install self-checkout

BY RICK KAMBIC
rkambic@pioneerlocal.com

Getting into the library and checking out a book will soon be much easier in Morton Grove.

Using a $23,000 state grant, officials at the Morton Grove Public Library plan to install an electronic self-checkout station and permanently reopen the Lincoln Avenue entrance by this fall.

Currently, patrons can enter through a foyer on that side of the building but cannot leave that way. The interior double doors serve as an emergency exit and incoming foot traffic is funneled from the exterior doors through a narrow hallway and into the lobby. That hallway cannot handle two-way traffic, library officials say.

"I get the more complaints about the Lincoln Avenue entryway than any other topic," Library Director Pam Leffler said. "We have some structural problems in our way, but we hope to meet two patron needs with one project."

Because patrons only have one exit, the circulation desk checks out materials on the east side of the building, next to the Baxter Auditorium.

Leffler said the new automated self-checkout machine would be installed next to that foyer in lieu of establishing another circulation desk.

"People haven't mentioned (self-checkout) to us all that often but mostly we're constantly addressing convenience-related issues," Leffler said. "Self-checkout would allow patrons with only a few items to skip past those big families or people who spend considerable time inquiring about missing items or fines."

The majority of the $23,000 grant will go toward the machine, with leftover money set to help the library's early literacy programming, Leffler said.

Reopening that Lincoln Avenue entrance will involve additional "petty money" that Leffler said she's trying to "squirrel away" whenever day-to-day expenses get reduced.

Security is one main reason why those doors are not currently used. Leffler said past administrators allegedly had financial or logistical problems installing security gates that monitor theft of property.

After doing some research, Leffler said insurance rates would go down if the library installed cameras throughout the library, including at the entrances.

Theft of materials is actually lower than normal, she continued, and more residents are asking for study or meeting rooms than specific items to check out. The cameras would therefore address personal safety and also prevent library property from being damaged by visitors who do not check items out.

Once that camera system is installed, the Lincoln Avenue entryway should reopen.

Asbestos in the walls is the biggest obstacle, Leffler said. The library has a lack of electrical outlets for both the camera network and the new self-checkout machine, and drilling through the walls to create new wiring would expose the asbestos, she continued.

"The board is very devoted to making this building work," Leffler said. "They know it isn't perfect, but they understand the economic reality we face and are supportive of staff's efforts even though they might be slow or unconventional."

In the months leading up to the project, library maintenance workers will brainstorm and test ways to safely extend electricity to key parts of the library — most likely via secured pipes discretely mounted on walls.

Library Board President Mark Albers said Leffler presented the project last year and has the full support of the board. He said the only delay is a need to finish other projects, such as new carpeting.
How Illinois lawmakers voted in Congress for the week ending June 28, 2013

**Major roll call votes in the Senate**

**IMMIGRATION PLAN**
Senators voted, 68-32, to open a 13-year route to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants who entered the U.S. by the end of 2011; surge law enforcement and electronic surveillance on the U.S.-Mexico border; tighten the Canadian border; crack down on foreign visitors who overstay their visas; require all states to adopt the E-Verify system by which employers check on the legality of new workers; streamline family visas to reduce backlogs in reuniting kin in the U.S.; establish new or streamlined employment visas for low-skilled and high-tech workers and create a new program for temporarily admitting 112,000 or more seasonal farm workers each year. A “yes” vote was to send S 744 to the House. Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: Yes

**BORDER SECURITY**
Voting 69-29, senators amended S 744 (above) to further tighten the southern border against illegal crossings. A “yes” vote was to double the number of Border Patrol agents (to 40,000), require the government to build 700 miles of fencing, deploy drones and lay a blanket of electronic surveillance, at a 10-year cost of $56 billion. These and other security steps would have to be completed before any undocumented immigrant could achieve permanent residency. Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: Yes

**Major roll call votes in the House**

**1. DODD-FRANK RULES**
Members voted, 256-171, to pass a GOP bill to implement a new U.S.-Mexico treaty for Gulf of Mexico drilling in a way that exempts oil firms from transparency rules in the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial-regulation law. Those rules require companies to publicly disclose how much they pay the U.S. government or foreign governments for rights to extract oil, gas and minerals. They are included in a pact signed by the U.S. and Mexico in February 2012 to open 1.5 million acres spanning their nautical boundary in the western gulf to energy development. A “yes” vote was to send the GOP bill to the Senate. (HR 1613).

**2. BP OIL SPILL**
Members voted, 194-232, to defeat a Democrat-bid to require safety and environmental lessons from the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico to be applied to gulf drilling that occurs under HR 1613 (above). U.S. regulations already have been tightened in response to the BP disaster in 2010. This motion by Democrats also sought to require companies responsible for spills to pay all cleanup costs. The U.S.-Mexico treaty allows each nation to answer to its own environmental and safety laws. A “yes” vote backed the Democratic motion.

**Key votes ahead**
Congress is in Independence Day recess until the week of July 8.

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What it means to you

TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

CHICAGO

The City Council's Progressive Caucus came out swinging Thursday against "draconian" budget cuts at Chicago Public Schools. The cuts, they warned, would increase class size, reduce test scores and leave schools without essentials.

"We are alarmed by the stripping of basic necessities which define a school. The neighborhood schools have been reduced to beggars, lacking such essentials as sanitation supplies, library book funds, field trip money, playground supervision," the eight-member caucus said in a prepared statement.

The aldermen noted that "at least 850" school employees will lose their jobs. Some principals have been forced into the untenable position of combining classes to eliminate teachers.

"Class sizes will increase. ... Compounding this problem is the fact that next year, teachers will be evaluated largely upon the basis of their students' test scores. However, with bigger class sizes, less individual attention, and fewer enhancements to the curriculum, test score decline seems inevitable," the Progressive Caucus said in a statement.

"Injustice is written into the new budgets. ... Children will find some of their most enjoyable activities, subjects and extracurriculars deleted next year." — Chicago Sun-Times

SPRINGFIELD

Illinois' bad credit costing taxpayers millions of dollars

Like your cousin who doesn't pay his bills on time and squanders money he doesn't have, Illinois is paying the price — in both cash and reputation — for years of ignored warnings about its pension crisis, the worst in the nation.

Largely because of its unfunded retirement plans, Illinois has replaced longtime bottom-dweller California as having the lowest credit rating of any state. So when Illinois tries to borrow money, it faces the same problem as the spendthrift cousin: far higher interest rates.

The state's financial failings are so well-known, they have inspired a name on Wall Street — the "Illinois effect," a reference to the fact that cities, universities and other bond-issuing entities here must pay more in interest, even if they are responsible spenders.

"There are investors who won't buy Illinois or bonds with Illinois labels at any price. They just see it as toxic," said Brian Battle, director at Performance Trust Capital Partners, a Chicago-based investment firm. That means the state pays "the biggest penalty by a long, long shot."

Battle compared the Illinois situation to someone who has a good job and plenty of revenue. But "we just spend like crazy, don't pay our credit cards and haven't saved for retirement," he said. — The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Judges: Social Security pushes approval of claims

Driven to reduce a huge backlog of disability claims, Social Security is pushing judges to award benefits to people who may not deserve them, several current and former judges told Congress Thursday.

Larry Butler, an administrative law judge from Fort Myers, Fla., called the system "paying down the backlog."

A former Social Security judge, J.E. Sullivan, said, "The only thing that matters in the adjudication process is signing that final decision." Sullivan is now an administrative law judge for the Department of Transportation.

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee is investigating why many judges have high approval rates for claims already rejected twice by field offices or state agencies. Two current and two former judges spoke at a subcommittee hearing.

The number of people receiving Social Security disability benefits has increased by 44 percent over the past decade, pushing the trust fund that supports the program to the brink of insolvency.

Social Security officials say the primary reason for the increase is a surge in baby boomers who are more prone to disability as they age. — The Associated Press
Few pension choices

When it comes to solving the state's monstrous pension problem, we'd all do well to turn an old cliche on its head.

In the real world, there are just a few — not many — ways to skin the cat we affectionately call the state's $98 billion unfunded pension liability. And the sooner the state legislative committee tasked with wrangling that pension debt comes to terms with that reality, the better.

The theme of the committee's first hearing last week was to move beyond the two polarizing proposals that dominated the spring legislative session. The two sides were dug in all spring, and the inevitable happened at the end of the session: nothing.

There are only a handful of ways to dramatically reduce pension costs: You can reduce retirees' cost-of-living increases — that's where the big savings are — and/or raise the retirement age and increase employee contributions. Give or take a few smaller tricks, that's it.

Instead of scouring the universe for new ideas, how about starting there?

Many have fought for our freedom

The Fourth of July is one of my favorite holidays. I love the parades, fireworks, celebrations, games and cookouts that come with the holiday.

But I also love the holiday for what it means. It is Independence Day. We get to govern ourselves. We are free to come and go as we please. It is one of the greatest days in human history.

But I also know what freedom costs.

We are free because of the sacrifices of so many who came before us. It flows from Bunker Hill, where my ancestor Seth Makepeace, at age 16 and a member of the Massachusetts militia, stood guard and withstood the cannon barrage from British warships in Boston Harbor, to the town of Abbottabad, Pakistan, where members of Seal Team Six brought justice to terrorist leader Osama bin Laden.

Nearly all Americans are connected to this long trail of service and sacrifice to the nation, whether they personally served or not, because of individual family members who have done so. All of us have fathers, grandfathers, uncles, cousins who have served the nation and are part of that great story.

Whether Vietnam (my older cousins), or Korea (my dad), or World War II (my dad's older brother), we all have memories of freedom's cost.

I have been thinking of those ancestors who participated in the great march of freedom a great deal lately, because of what I will be doing on the day before the Fourth.

On July 3, I will be sitting with other parents and relatives in the review stands at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, Calif. That's where my oldest son will be graduating from boot camp for the U.S. Marines.

I have to admit that at first I was quite ambivalent about my son joining the Marines.

For one, it's dangerous. They are the first to fight.

For two, I have the typical biases that afflict so many of my Baby Boomer peers about military service. Our memories of Vietnam are negative. Most did all we could to stay out of that war. It is no accident that after World War II we elected seven veterans as president and have yet to elect a commander-in-chief who is a Vietnam veteran.

But the Marines are the best, and my son wants to be the best.

So while you're reading this, I will be at Camp Pendleton, where I get to be the parent of a U.S. Marine. Then my fears and biases will be washed away by pride in my son and the nation he chose to serve.

Have a Happy Fourth of July!
The optimist in him sees a tank half full

It's the 4th of July.

Know what that means? It means it is yet another golden opportunity for the gasoline companies to gouge us.

For some reason known only to conspirators in the Oil Industry-industrial Complex, gasoline prices change from day to day. And around holidays the change is usually up. Will it be up for the 4th of July? I don't know. I'm writing this before that holiday.

So, like you, I'm wondering: Should I fill up now on the assumption that gasoline prices will only go up as we near the 4th itself? Or, should I take a bearish stance and wait to fill up on the possibility that gasoline prices will decrease?

Wait, wait ...

Who am I kidding? I haven't filled up for years.

Illinois has the highest gasoline prices in America. Last time I bought gasoline I paid more in the neighborhood of $4.50 a gallon.

I can't afford to fill up, or live in that neighborhood.

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

Just one more reason to get up & go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond
Every Thursday

Storm spawns ‘lake’ in Niles

Just add water!
We always get this in our yard - though we don’t mind. It is better than the poor people that get it in their basements. The lake usually spans over 180 ft by 100 ft and is up to 4 ft at the deepest part.
The block is 8100 Prospect Street in Niles. You should see the street when the flooding starts - it takes over the entire intersection at Monroe and Prospect. It happens every big storm - again, as long as it doesn’t hit my basement, I am fine.

Enjoy the sunshine while it lasts!

Tina Reedy
Niles

25638 W. Long Beach Dr., Long Lake – Lake County
5 br, 5.5 ba on 1 acre, high and dry lake frontage with steel seawall. Amenities include gourmet kitchen open to great room, 4.5 car garage, exquisite master bedroom. Motor boats allowed and yacht club

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Agenda is a new Sun-Times entertainment section that offers the best of the Chicago Reader's coverage of events, restaurants and entertainment, along with critical voices and tips from the Sun-Times.
The increasing use of technology at Morton Grove's Park View School has led to a new media outlet: Double View.

Five middle school students in Elizabeth Schommer's broadcasting elective class are scripting, shooting, editing and merging scenes to create two all-inclusive video shows this summer.

"Technology is becoming a big part of students' education everywhere," Schommer said. "The schools have incorporated it into their classrooms; The critical challenge is to make the learning fun and to keep knowledgeable. Technology changes very rapidly."

Broadcasting, she continued, teaches the students basic skills of camera positioning, video editing and detailed writing. Secondarily, Schommer said the students learn to work together and get introduced to public speaking.

"We were a little stiff and had a lot of pauses when we first started shooting," said Ethan DaSilva, an anchor of the first show. "Mrs. Schommer told us to give more expression but stay professional. We did a lot of takes because we made a lot of simple mistakes. It takes a lot of work."

During the small summer school class, the students rotate and each one does every job. The first few weeks were spent learning how to use the equipment, learning broadcasting terms and creating ideas for segments.

On June 26, the first complete run of a show was finished. It was directed by Mia Catalla, anchored by DaSilva and Sidra Khatoon, with Anna Hatzopoulos behind the camera and Kayla Bailey editing footage.

Aside from news reporting, two special segments were recorded. Hatzopoulos showed viewers how to bake an apple crisp, while Catalla did a sports interview with Kat Harrison, who coaches various levels of volleyball, basketball, soccer and cheerleading at Park View.

The group's second show will include special segments on fashion and music. Khatoon plans to shoot footage in a jewelry class and Hatzopoulos plans to interview music teachers and students at Park View.

"I wanted all the students to have responsibility and creativity," Schommer said, noting that behind-the-scenes roles will also change. She also hopes to get the two shows broadcast on Morton Grove's public access station.

"I thought we were going to just learn about using a camera," Hatzopoulos said. "I didn't realize what was in the background mattered, and how many things need edited in a video to make it look good."

District 70 Superintendent Phil Collins was hired last year and immediately put an emphasis on incorporating technology into classrooms, including the use of iPads, video cameras and laptops to be used for projects and regular presentations.

Schommer substitute-taught in the district for two years and was just hired to fill a one-year leave of absence as a fifth-grade teacher. She's not sure if her broadcasting class can become an elective class during the regular school year, but she plans to stay long enough to advocate for it and a broadcasting club.

Before earning a master's degree in education,
Schommer got a bachelor's degree in electronic media from the University of Dayton. She spent three years in the video production business before deciding to become a teacher.

Just prior to her transition, Schommer and her cousin Justin Allen pitched a TV show to NBC and were allowed to film a pilot. The show was about five friends living in a one-bedroom apartment in Chicago as struggling college graduates trying to find jobs.

The show wasn't picked up, but Allen's career later blossomed and he's now the senior producer of a Dallas morning show called "Eye Opener."

Schommer said Allen is going to Skype with the class in a few weeks and give a walking tour of the set, while also answering questions from the students.

"The students will get to see how everything they're doing now can be done for a job," Schommer said. "I hope to give them something they can relate to and to aspire toward. Even if it's not broadcasting, those skills and work ethic are universal."
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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: **

* Moderate, ** Challenging, *** HOO BOY!

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Submissions for Community Calendar are required two weeks preceding the date of publication. Send to: Darlene Huston, Pioneer Press, 350 N. Orleans St., Chicago, IL 60654; dhuston@pioneerlocal.com. Information may be faxed to (312) 321-2191.

**CENTER OF CONCERN**

The Center of Concern: 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453, www.centerofconcern.org. Call for an appointment for services. The Center will be closed July 4 and open from 9 a.m. to noon July 5.

- July 16: Medicare counseling, by appointment (sponsored by the federally-funded Senior Health Insurance Program)
- July 17, and 31: Grief and loss support group (call first)
- July 8: Alzheimer’s caregivers support group, 10 a.m.
- July 13 and 27: Legal counseling, by appointment.
- July 27: Blood pressure & blood sugar testing, 10 a.m. to noon (no appointment needed).

**CLASSES**

**Animal assisted therapy**

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

**COMmUNITY**

**HIAS Chicago**

Join HIAS Chicago from 9 a.m. to noon July 13 at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish, 411 N. Wheeling Road, in Prospect Heights. Free assistance with Citizenship applications including legal screenings and referrals to ESL and Citizenship classes hosted by HIAS Chicago. Call (312) 357-4666.

**EXERCise/Nutrition for Cancer Patients**

A variety of exercise and well-being classes for cancer patients are offered at Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge. Call (800) 323-8622 to register — Gentle and Restorative Yoga: 6-7 p.m. Mondays, can be done in a chair if needed, class code 8C49. Exercise for Cancer: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, improve strength, stamina and flexibility, class code 8C47. Gentle Yoga: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Wednesdays, class code 8C46. Stress Reduction: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Thursdays, offers stress reduction techniques, class code 8C48. Nutrition for Optimal Cancer Wellness: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Fridays, Discusses foods and nutrients to help cancer patients and survivors eat healthy, class code.

**CLubs**

**Knights of Columbus**

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

**Niles Chapter Toastmasters**

Meets 7:15 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. Members learn how to feel comfortable and have self-confidence talking to an audience. Call (847) 583-9328.

**Park Ridge Fine Arts Symphony**

Presents its Summer 2013 Season with Barbara Schubert, Music Director and Conductor through July 26. Five concerts by Park Ridge Fine Arts Symphony. All concerts are at 8 p.m. in Hodges Park, in front of Park Ridge City Hall.

- July 12: Travel the World in Song, Baritone David Guverson, a member of the Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago, comes to Park Ridge to present Vaughan Williams’ Songs of Travel.
- July 19: Passion and Poetry. Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 6, the “Pathetique.”
- July 26: Broadway to Hollywood. The Park Ridge Fine Arts Symphony concludes its five-concert season with its annual Broadway night.
- Aug. 2: Big Band Hits through the Decades by the Brian Patti Big Band. This evening features dancing in the street to favorite big band hits.
- Aug. 9: Special Bonus Concert by Rob Barton Big Band. An extra performance sponsored by the Park Ridge Recreation and Park District. For more details, visit our website: www.prfas.org.

**HEALTH**

**Weight Loss Seminar**

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge, provides a variety of options for weight loss, including medically supervised very low and low calorie diets, nutrition exchange and long-term maintenance programs to help keep weight from returning. Team approach includes exercise training, nutrition education and behavior modification plus information relating to metabolic/bariatric surgical options including gastric bypass, sleeve gastrectomy, Lap band placement and revision surgery. Sessions continue from 7-8 p.m., July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12. Call to register for this free program at (800) 323-8622 and refer to class code 8N67.

**Monthly Health programs**

- Monthly health seminars are free programs open to registered members; become a member by completing an application at the Golf Mill Shopping Center Customer Service Center. Each month a new speaker and topic is featured. The program includes free bingo after the health seminar, where winners receive instant prizes, beginning at 9:45 for members only. Coffee and a light breakfast is another perk.

**Seniors**

- June: Heart Health (sponsored by Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge)
- July 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12. Call (800) 323-8622 to register for this free program
- Monthly health seminars are free programs open to registered members; become a member by completing an application at the Golf Mill Shopping Center Customer Service Center. Each month a new speaker and topic is featured. The program includes free bingo after the health seminar, where winners receive instant prizes, beginning at 9:45 for members only. Coffee and a light breakfast is another perk.

- Feats of Fitness Health Seminars are free programs open to registered members; become a member by completing an application at the Golf Mill Shopping Center Customer Service Center. Each month a new speaker and topic is featured. The program includes free bingo after the health seminar, where winners receive instant prizes, beginning at 9:45 for members only. Coffee and a light breakfast is another perk.
Niles Park District offers a wide variety of summer camp programs for preschool age through incoming eighth-graders. Full-day and half-day camps, sports camp, hockey and ice-skating camps. Stop by the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St. to register. Campers will enjoy swimming, weekly field trips, arts & crafts, sports, and tons of fun. Call (847) 967-6633 with questions.

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

**Summer Jr. Golf Programs**
Golf programs begin the second week of June for youngsters ages 3-5 looking to pick up a club for the first time in Pint Sized Pro's class on Tuesday afternoons. Beginning players 6-13 years old for week long Summer Camps or once a week Monday Evening Clinics to improve their skills.

More in-depth instruction and on-course lessons in our Advanced Junior Camps on Saturday mornings. Registration is also open for Beginning and Advanced Junior Leagues. View all classes online, www.niles-parks.org. Contact: (847) 583-2736 or email golflessons@niles-parks.org for more information.

**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.

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

**Summer Camp**
Saturdays all year round, Dee Park.

**Ballet & Tap**
Ages 3 years to adult ongoing classes year round.

**Taekwon Do**
Popular martial arts classes for children, ages 7-15, and adults offered Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays all 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.

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

**Summer Camp Registration**

**Historical Society**
Niles Historical Museum will present its own version of an antiques roadshow. Well-known appraiser John Leonard will give a brief presentation on antiques, as well as give information on the artifacts, heirlooms, and interesting articles brought in for appraisal. Head for the attic or back of the closet. There is a limit of three items per person and each item must be preregistered by calling the museum at (847) 390-0160, before July 5. There is a $3 charge per item. You may pay at the door and only registered items will be accepted.

Niles Historical Museum, 8970 N. Milwaukee Ave., is open to the public 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Drop in, make arrangements for a tour, drop off artifacts and arrangements for a tour, or just come to visit. The new magnetic elevator makes the auditorium easily accessible. Call (847) 390-0160.
Friends, business associates and customers came out in droves to support the family of Frank Silvio during an all-day fundraiser on June 28 at the Dairy Queen on Dempster Street in Niles.

Silvio lives in Niles and is an owner of Maier’s Bakery in Morton Grove. The 37-year-old man has battled cancer for two years and has progressively gotten worse, friends said.

Karen Amato owns the Niles Dairy Queen, and volunteered to donate all profit generated on June 28 to help the Silvio family with medical bills and to start a scholarship fund for his two young children.

“My sister went to high school with him and I’ve known him as a fellow local business owner,” Amato said. “He is one of the nicest men I’ve ever known. He would do anything for anyone. I never saw him say ‘no.’”

The event was organized by Kristina Otte, who said Silvio was instrumental in helping her start the Morton Grove Farmer’s Market in 2009.

“Frank became like a brother to me,” Otte said. “He recognized my determination to provide fresh food and he made sure I didn’t stand alone. A lot of people know him that way. He really gets to know you, and now everyone is worried about him.”

Otte said Silvio builds warm friendships with anyone who walks into the bakery.

“This isn’t Silvio’s first case of cancer. Otte said he had cancer as a teenager in high school and was even paralyzed at one point, but it mysteriously went into remission while he was overseas in Europe.

“He thought it was a miracle,” Otte said. “He’s been a man of god ever since.”

St. Martha’s Church in Morton Grove and St. John Brebeuf Church in Niles were instrumental in driving people to the fundraiser, Otte said. While some people ordered ice cream, others bought cases of Dilly Bars to pass out at work. Some even stopped in to put money in a donation bucket.

Silvio is best known throughout Niles and Morton Grove for his chocolate donuts.

“Frank is popular for having given out his fantastic chocolate donuts at all the parades and community events,” Amato said. “There isn’t a single person who hasn’t liked his donuts. Maier’s Bakery is a highly-anticipated spot in the parades.”

As a member of both the Niles and Morton Grove chambers of commerce, Silvio built many connections.

“The businesses in Morton Grove is big into sticking together,” said Debbie Juris, executive director of the Morton Grove chamber. “They always rise to the occasion and they care about one another.”

Juris also worked at the Niles chamber for several years and grew up in Niles. She said she knew Silvio as a kid and he grew up with her oldest sons.

“When my oldest son passed away, people came together to help us and it made a big difference,” Juris said. “Frank has fought a good fight. He’s a great kid, with a great family, and he runs a perfect small business. He’s in our hearts.”

Otte said Silvio was opposed to the fundraiser because he didn’t want to bother his friends, but he later caved in. Otte said about 50 people sent monetary donations prior to the event because they couldn’t attend.

Any donations will still be accepted by calling Otte at (847) 583-1160.

Amato said she hopes other businesses step up and host similar fundraisers for Silvio.
Growing up with a neurologist for a father inspired at least one aspect of Sara Koveleski Kraut’s Park Ridge business.

Clients with neurological conditions, like Parkinson’s Disease or Multiple Sclerosis, or inner ear and balance disorders like vertigo can find some relief through the therapy Kraut and her staff provide at Advanced Physical Therapy and Health Services, a specialty that, according to Kraut, is rather unique.

“That’s where we saw a niche and that’s where we wanted to fill it,” Kraut said of her clinic’s focus on neurological and vestibular conditions. “Being exposed to medical things growing up, I had a natural curiosity for it, but even in physical therapy school the neurological component was spurred by interest. I wanted to open a clinic that not only did orthopedic stuff, but also focused on neurology and vertigo.”

And so she did. Advanced Physical Therapy recently marked 10 years in Park Ridge at 444 N. Northwest Hwy., growing from a one-therapist clinic to a staff of five.

“I like the whole idea of physical therapy where it’s more natural healing and exercise,” Kraut said of her desire to pursue this line of work. “I’ve always been big into fitness and health and having the opportunity to help people recover and get back to their normal functioning and daily activities turned me on to it.”

After working as a physical therapist at an outpatient clinic for two years, Kraut decided to open up her own business. “I wanted it to be patient-centered,” she said. “I didn’t want the focus to be on how many patients you could see each day and how much money you can make.”

All of Advanced Physical Therapy’s clients are referred by physicians. Typical ailments the therapists at Advanced Physical Therapy see are orthopedic conditions, like back and neck pain, and problems with shoulders, ankles, feet, hips and knees. The clinic also sees a number of patients with Parkinson’s Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, and gait and balance disorders.

Nancy Valles of Park Ridge has been seeing Kraut for therapy to help strengthen a weak right leg. “I’m trying to build endurance, stamina and balance,” Valles explained. “It’s a slow process, she admitted, but the therapy seems to be working.

“Sara is very attentive to your needs,” Valles said. Other services offered at Advanced Physical Therapy include personal training, Pilates and massage therapy from licensed massage therapists.

Massage, said Kraut, can be helpful for relaxation, but it also releases tension, improves general mobility and muscular issues and can be beneficial to those who suffer from headaches.

A small workout room with exercise equipment greets clients when they arrive is available for them to use as part of their therapy, either as a way to start an exercise program or continue it after an injury or medical condition.

Kraut is also travels the country teaching other physical therapists. Her primary focus is on utilizing Pilates in rehab and physical therapy for Parkinson’s patients.

“I teach other therapists how to properly evaluate and treat people with Parkinson’s,” she explained.
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Bathrooms: 2.5
Garage: Two-car detached
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Morton Grove
8340 Callie Ave, #108: Rosemarie Alioto to Asad Haque for $133,000 on May 13
6337 Hemings Court: Isaac Ollinger and Alanna Ollinger to Mary Ann White for $320,000 on May 14
5837 Monroe St: Arkady Pergament and Nadine Pergament to Sher Ann Bianzon and Sherton Bopone for $307,000 on May 15
7237 Lake St: Meghan R Keeler and Meghan Sarac to Terri L Falletti for $245,000 on May 17

Park Ridge
208 E Kathleen Drive: Michael Calahan and Joelien Krantz to Robert W Sikkila and Jennifer Nichols for $250,000 on May 15
520 Austin Ave: Arnold Menet to William Higgins and Jennifer Nichols for $114,000 on May 17
210 N Grace Ave: Virginia Clark to Robert Ga- to Peter Martin and Rachel Ray for $320,000 on May 16

Glenview
1114 Vernon Drive: Geraldine A Kolb Trust, A Kolb Edward Trust and Edward A Kolb Trust to Aaron R Turner and Amy C Turner for $320,000 on May 15
1020 Heatherfield Lane: Ralph Kolb Trust, Ralph Kolb Trust, Kolb Ralph Trust, Lauren Kolb Trust, Kolb Lauren Trust and Kolb Lauren Trust to Anne R Burke and Ryan M Roeder for $415,000 on May 16
600 Naples Court, #601: Yun Hi Han to Mee Sook Lee for $320,000 on May 16

Skokie
4919 Louise St: Yong Edward L G to Maneesh K Philip for $355,500 on May 15
8711 Laramie Ave: William D Bolsen Jr and Beverly J Bolsen for $419,000 on May 17
8929 Kolmar Ave: Paul M Panitch and Wieslawa Panitch to William D Bolsen Jr and Beverly J Bolsen for $419,000 on May 17

Lincolnwood
4919 Louise St: Yong Edward L G to Maneesh K Philip for $355,500 on May 15
7737 Kenneth Ave: Den Luu to Tracy Luu for $170,000 on May 17
8033 Lowell Ave: Allen L Farber, Wendy S Farber and Wendy S Goldwater to Roberto Monastero and Anne B Monastero for $400,000 on May 15
8929 Kolmar Ave: Paul M Panitch and Wieslawa Panitch to William D Bolsen Jr and Beverly J Bolsen for $419,000 on May 17
8711 Laramie Ave: William D Bolsen Jr and Beverly J Bolsen for $419,000 on May 17

Every Thursday
Southwest Summer Fest 2013

Support our featured businesses on July 13th and enjoy these activities *
No purchase required for general admission

*Any Purchase at Tacos Mario or La Michoacana includes Kids Face Painting and Family Portraits. Any purchase at Mr. Doggies includes entry into Dog Beauty Show.
**Family Portraits**
 Bring any purchase receipt from Tacos Manos (4540 W 63rd St) or La Michoacana (6610 S Pulaski Rd) for a professional digital photo.

**Dog Beauty Contest**
 Purchase at Mr. Doggies (6352 S Pulaski Rd) includes entry into contest and a Facebook photo by a professional photographer.

**Facepainting**
 Artists will turn kids into wild animals.
 Purchase receipt required.

**Music/DJ**
 Enjoy music from a DJ.

**Location**
 Republic Bank
 Parking Lot
 Saturday July 13
 11am-3pm
 6501 S. Pulaski Rd

*Ad created by ENTERG*
Celebrate summer one sip at a time

When Johanna Cook of mommacuisine.com first started her Summer Cooking Tour, she had no idea it would be such a hit. "I knew I wanted to do something different," Cook said, "so I created a tour where I could visit local farmers markets and demonstrate how to make simple dishes using local ingredients."

Two years and 15 markets later, Cook is not slowing down. This year she is touring farmers markets around the area sharing her unique recipes for busy parents. I recently chatted with Cook about her experience and asked her to share some of her favorite recipes for cool and chic cocktails and mocktails.

Fresh Watermelon Milk Tea Boba

You need:
- 2 cups vanilla bean ice cream
- ½ cup peach nectar (or puree)
- ½ cup sparkling white wine
- ¼ cup milk

Directions:
Blend ingredients together and serve. Makes 2 servings.

Blood Orange Jalapeño Margarita

You need:
- 2 tablespoons jalapeño-infused tequila
- 2 teaspoons agave nectar
- Juice of two limes
- Juice of one blood orange

Directions:
Shake ingredients together with ice and serve. Makes 2-3 servings.

Meet Johanna Cook of Momma Cuisine at these upcoming events:
- July 20, 10 a.m.: New Lenox French Market
  Market hours 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
  New Lenox Village Hall, 1 Veterans Parkway
- July 25, 3 p.m.: Western Springs French Market
  Market hours 2-7 p.m.
  Hillgrove Avenue (between Lawn and Grand avenues)
- Aug. 3, 10 a.m.: Vernon Hills French Market
  Market hours 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
  Metra Parking Lot 75, east Route 45

This recipe pays homage to a childhood classic with a twist. Instead of using artificial ingredients to create the strawberry flavor, Cook goes for the real thing by incorporating locally grown, fresh berries.

You need:
- 1 cup fresh strawberries (sliced)
- ½ cup sugar (honey will also work)
- ½ cup water
- 1 capful of vanilla extract
- 4 cups of ice-cold almond milk (unsweetened)

Directions:
Create strawberry syrup by boiling water, strawberries, sugar and vanilla in a saucepan for about 15 minutes. Place syrup in blender and blend until smooth. Stir syrup into ice-cold almond milk and serve immediately. Makes 3-4 servings.

Join the fun!

BLOOD ORANGE JALAPEÑO MARGARITA

Originally created for Cinco de Mayo, this recipe calls for jalapeño-infused tequila that Cook created herself. Simply soak 2 teaspoons of dried jalapeños in 2 cups of tequila for several hours (about five). If you don't have dried jalapeños, Cook recommends muddling fresh ones. Just make sure you de-vein the pepper thoroughly and take out all the seeds.

You need:
- 2 tablespoons jalapeño-infused tequila
- 2 teaspoons agave nectar
- Juice of two limes
- Juice of one blood orange

Directions:
Shake ingredients together with ice and serve. Makes 2-3 servings.

STRAWBERRY ALMOND MILK

Don't be fooled by the name - this is not your mother's milkshake. Cook adds sparkling wine to the base of this drink, which adds a touch of crispness and prevents the shake from tasting too sweet.

You need:
- 4 cups water
- 5 cups steeped black tea (lukewarm)
- ¼ cup condensed milk

Directions:
In a large pitcher, mix the blended watermelon juice, black tea and condensed milk. Stir until the milk has mixed fully with the tea and juice. Fill each glass with ¼ cup of bobas, add ice and top with fresh watermelon milk tea. Makes 3-4 servings.

Tip: When serving this drink to kids, I like to add a very thin straw to prevent the pearls from slipping through. I then give them a spoon to eat the pearls after they have consumed the drink.
Outdoor gourmets are firing up their grills for the July 4 holiday and most agree on one thing — the secret to a successful barbecue is in the sauce.

Ask brothers Dave and Larry Raymond. In 1982, Dave entered their barbecue sauce recipe in Mike Royko's storied Ribfest competition. They didn't win. "The judges were late," Dave Raymond recalls, "my ribs were toasted — and so was I." But three years later, their sauce took second place and "my ribs were toasted — and so was I." But three years later, their sauce took second place and Dave Raymond sold the company, Sweet Baby Ray's. The Barbecue Pulled Chicken at Convito Cafe & Market in Wilmette is made with Jersey Mary's barbecue sauce. The recipe for the sauce was developed by the mother of the restaurant's assistant manager, Roberta Trenbeth.

"Anybody that makes their own ribs should have their own barbecue sauce," Dave Raymond says. "Get a niece or nephew to make a label and package the sauce in Mason jars for Christmas presents. People will give the jars back to get more. Pretty soon, you'll be able to charge for the sauce."

By 2003 when Dave Raymond sold the company, Sweet Baby Ray's was worth $37 million.

So it's no wonder that when Jeff Shapiro, owner of Real Urban Barbecue in Vernon Hills and Highland Park, recently planned a tour of barbecue spots in Austin, Texas, he turned to the barbecue sauce genius for a list of recommendations. Dave Raymond suggested Smitty's Market, Franklin Barbecue, The Salt Lick and others. Shapiro and his wife Nancy will visit the restaurants over the July 4 weekend from their home in Highland Park, or as Jeff jokes, Highland Park. "We've redefined the city," he says.

Shapiro's aptly-named "Firecracker" barbecue sauce will be on the menu at Real Urban Barbecue for July. Each month, Shapiro adapts his standard tomato-based barbecue sauce (see sidebar recipe) to introduce a new flavor. Last month, root beer barbecue sauce was featured. In October, he made pumpkin-flavored barbecue sauce. He makes Firecracker by adding a little sriracha sauce, chili peppers, chili oil and chili paste.

"It's a little bolder," Shapiro says. "It goes nicely with everything from double-smoked brisket to burnt ends."

But some stick with tried and true barbecue sauce. Evanston resident Roberta Trenbeth stayed true to her mother's barbecue sauce recipe — without changing a single ingredient — when she bottled it up and marketed it. Her sauce, Jersey Mary, is sold nationwide, including at Convito Café & Market in Wilmette, where Trenbeth is an assistant manager.

Trenbeth recalls how, while she grew up on Chicago's South Side, her late mother, Mary Jekus, developed the recipe. The low-sugar sauce is thin, but still produces a thickening coat of flavor on meat. "It caramelizes really nicely in the oven," Trenbeth says. The sauce, nostalgically named Jersey Mary because her mother grew up in New Jersey, seasons everything from meats to desserts to Bloody Marys. Trenbeth and her husband Rich will enjoy the drinks with family at home after the parade in Evanston on July 4. For recipes savory and sweet featuring barbecue sauce, see jerseymary.com/index.html.
YOUR Local Worship Guide

CHICAGO
Edison Park Lutheran Church
6626 N. Oliphant Ave. Chicago, IL
(Across park from Edison Park Metra)
773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurcho.com
Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor
Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry
Matt Haider, Worship/Music
Theda L., Children/Youth/Family

St. Paul Lutheran Church
6550 N. Cansfield, 60631,
(708)367-3544, www.stpaulcanfield.org
Street level, Air Conditioned
Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45 AM
Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30 AM
Saturday Worship 6 PM
Lutheran Unity School - West
Pre K-Grade 8, SHARING GOD,
TOUCHING LIVES EVERYWHERE

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)
6201 W Peterson Ave.
Chicago, IL (773) 631-0715
Saturday Worship 5:30 PM
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
Holy Communion Weekly
Pastors: Barbara Berry-Bailey
and Jeffrey King

GLENVIEW
Rohr Chabad Center of Glenview
701 Harlem Avenue, Glenview
Shabbat morning services 9:30 am
NO membership required
For all your Jewish needs call
847-910-1738
www.ChabadofGlenview.com

Morton Grove Community Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)
8944 Austin Avenue
(Lake and Austin)
Morton Grove, IL
(847) 965-2982
www.mgcppresbyterian.org
Sunday Worship 10 AM
Fellowship 11 AM
Rev. Lolly Dominski
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(LCMS)
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www.st-john-niles.org
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- Polishing Gloves: $14.00, Sale Price: $8.99
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For More Information, Contact Us at 1-800-777-0800.
Stop Stereotyping: Overcome Your Worst Diversity Enemy

By: Sondra Thiederman, Monster Contributing Writer

Perceiving individuals accurately is an important skill for anyone who wants to get hired and be successful once on the job. And while most people strive to understand those who are different, the tendency to stereotype can skew perceptions. Still, it's important to comprehend the difference between a stereotype and a reasonable generality about a group of people.

The thing that distinguishes a stereotype from other types of generalities is that stereotypes are inflexible. When we generalize, for example, that all men may like sports, that women tend to be nurturing or that people from parts of Asia generally value saving face, we are making working generalities. These are flexible, and we clearly recognize they do not apply to all members of those groups.

Stereotypes are different from working generalities in that they are applied inflexibly to all members of a group. It is one thing to say, "Some gay men are artistic," and another to declare with certainty that, "All gay men are artistic." The latter statement, and ones like it, are just plain inaccurate. In fact, anthropologists have established that there are more differences within groups than between them. For those of us who like life and relationships to be simple, this is bad news and might make us a bit uncomfortable, but the brutal reality is that inflexible stereotypes will always be wrong.

Given that stereotypes are so wrong, it is odd how quickly we learn them. Our family, friends, coworkers and the media all easily implant these inflexible categories on our impressionable minds and hearts. The most powerful source of stereotypes, however, is our own negative experiences. The reason negative experiences are more apt to create stereotypes is that we want so much to keep from repeating them. A child touches a hot stove and feels pain. From that experience, he generalizes all hot stoves will cause pain. This learning mechanism works great with hot stoves but is less effective with people and human behavior. Just because one man is sexist does not mean all are. Just because one disabled person takes advantage of status does not mean they all will. Just because one white person is racist does not mean all are.

Let Go
Even the most enlightened among us resist giving up the stereotypes that make us feel more secure and in control. Here's how to let go:

• Identify Stereotypes: One challenge to ridding ourselves of stereotypes is the fact that we are unaware of what they are. Identifying your stereotypes is easier than you think. It is a matter of monitoring your thoughts when you hear an ethnic last name, see a skin color, hear an accent, see a disability, learn that a person is gay, etc.

• Look for Consistency: Do you have the same reaction to members of a given group each time you encounter them? Ask yourself: "Do I have these reactions before or after I have a chance to know the individual?" If the answer is before, these are your stereotypes. Practice labeling these automatic responses as stereotypes and reminding yourself that they have little validity as accurate indicators of an individual's character, skills or personality.
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**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

A public sale will be held on Friday, July 12, 2013, at 10:00 AM, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, 15W030 North Frontage Road, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606, to sell the following described real estate:

- **12 CH 5270**
  - Property: 1127 ORIOLE AVENUE MORTON GROVE, IL 60053
  - Property Index: 2007-1-12
  - Property Description: Commonly known as 9127 ORIOLE AVENUE MORTON GROVE, IL 60053

- **11 CH 5270**
  - Property: 8539 CALLIE AVENUE MORTON GROVE, IL 60053
  - Property Index: 2007-2-85
  - Property Description: Commonly known as 9127 ORIOLE AVENUE MORTON GROVE, IL 60053

- **10 CH 5270**
  - Property: 1817 MAYFAIR STREET MORTON GROVE, IL 60053
  - Property Index: 2007-1-18
  - Property Description: Commonly known as 1817 MAYFAIR STREET MORTON GROVE, IL 60053

The real estate is subject to the following:

- Mortgages or other liens
- Condemnation
- Any other encumbrances

The real estate will be sold subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Notice of Sale Public Notice, which is on file with the Cook County Clerk's Office and available for inspection.

The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon receipt of a purchase contract, the bid will be deemed to have been made in good faith and the real estate will be conveyed by the court. The sale is not open for inspection. The property is subject to any other liens or encumbrances.

The sale will be conducted by The Judicial Sales Corporation, 15W030 North Frontage Road, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606, and all bids must be made in writing. The sale will be conducted under the terms and conditions set forth in the Notice of Sale Public Notice.

For further information, contact the court or visit www.tjsc.com for a copy of the Notice of Sale Public Notice.

**NOTICE OF Sale Public Notice**

A public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above cause, a sale will be held to sell the above described real estate. The sale will be conducted at 10:00 AM, on July 12, 2013, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, 15W030 North Frontage Road, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606.

The sale will be conducted under the terms and conditions set forth in the Notice of Sale Public Notice.

The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon receipt of a purchase contract, the bid will be deemed to have been made in good faith and the real estate will be conveyed by the court. The sale is not open for inspection. The property is subject to any other liens or encumbrances.

For further information, contact the court or visit www.tjsc.com for a copy of the Notice of Sale Public Notice.
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Regional Class A Drivers needed. 48 hrs weekly home time. Min 23 yrs old.

1 yr exp. Top pay. Recruiting@veriha.com or call 800-333-9291

Drivers Driver Trainees Needed. Various runs available. Excellent Bonus and Pay. Join the deBoer team now! deBoer Transportation 800-825-8511 Online: www.deboertrans.com

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The Judicial Sales Corporation at

ATTORNEY'S NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE

The Judicial Sales Corporation, as a result of a judgment in favor of the plaintiff, is authorized to sell the real estate described below at public auction to the highest bidder.

**Description of Property:**

The real estate is situated at 230 W. Monroe Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, 60606, and is subject to general real estate taxes and other liens, including a mortgage on the property.

The sale is subject to the following conditions:

- The purchaser must pay the full amount of the judgment, including interest and costs, in cash or certified funds at the time of the sale.
- The purchaser must sign a bill of sale and transfer the property to the plaintiff.
- The sale is subject to the conditions set forth in the judgment.

**Terms of Sale:**

- The balance, including the Judicial Sale Fee, will be paid in full at the sale.
- The purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will be recorded in the county where the property is located.
- The property is sold "as is, where is," without warranty or representation as to the condition of the property.

For more information, contact the Judicial Sales Corporation at 312-236-5500.

**Note:** This notice is given pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure in accordance with Section 17-1.16 of the Illinois Revised Statutes, and the property is subject to a sale pursuant to a mortgage foreclosure.

**Judicial Sales Corporation**

One South Wacker Drive, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois 60606-4650 (312) 236-5500

This notice is given pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure in accordance with Section 17-1.16 of the Illinois Revised Statutes, and the property is subject to a sale pursuant to a mortgage foreclosure.

**Note:** This notice is given pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure in accordance with Section 17-1.16 of the Illinois Revised Statutes, and the property is subject to a sale pursuant to a mortgage foreclosure.

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the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned estate: Commonly known as 5220

The Judicial Sales
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-8000

For information:
Mr. Anthony White at 773-523-4470, Tel: 1-877-773-4470, Fax: 773-523-4489

The real estate is improved with a

doors and other fixtures, and is in condition.

The real estate is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied by subdivisions (g)(4), and other lienors acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to, and include the period of sale.

The real estate is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied by subdivisions (g)(4), and other lienors acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the foreclosure sale.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser will be required to pay in addition to the Judicial sale fee, any amount required by The Condominium Property Act.

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The property is subject to any other mortgage or encumbrance.

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the Fair Debt Collection Practices

SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE, IL 60527

refer to file number 14-10-27395.

AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN

FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF

ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-

by The Condominium Property Act,

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NOTE
Illinois Income Guidelines

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<th>Household Member</th>
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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (VoIce). Individuals who are hearing impaired or speech disabled may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (800) 877-8349 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

RESOLUTION 11101 OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #44

PARK RIDGE-NILES, ILLINOIS

Community Consolidated School District #44 announced its policy for free lunch for those students unable to pay for meals. The policy allows for a family that applies for free meals to have its size and income criteria determined for eligibility.

Illinois Income Guidelines

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U-HAUL STORAGE AUCTION 2013 750805 Lincoln Park

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, ILLINOIS REVISED STATUTES

CHAPTEF 114, PARAGRAPH 301, ET. SE0

Notice is hereby given that on July 11, 2013, U-HAUL Auction & Storage Clerk for U-Haul Co. North Shore Chicago will be offering for sale under the Judicial Lein process, for public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale are: cash, credit and debit only. U-Haul Co. of North Shore Chicago reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 5000 N. Kostner Ave., Chicago, IL. 60639 at 2:00pm and continue until all units are sold.

Time: 2:00pm - 7:00pm

- U-HAUL STORAGE AUCTION 2013 750805 Lincoln Park

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Time: 2:00pm - 7:00pm
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WEDDINGS
FROM BRIDE TO GUEST, HOW TO LOOK YOUR BEST
10 MUSIC OPTIONS FOR A MEMORABLE RECEPTION

PARTIES
GILDA'S CLUB AGENTS OF HOPE DINNER
ALL ABOUT MEN AT THE WALDORF ASTORIA CHICAGO & MORE

DANIEL SUNJATA
The Chicago native steps into the spotlight as the star of USA's new series 'Graceland'
PASSION. LOVE. ROMANCE.

HOTEL SAX
CHICAGO

333 N. DEARBORN STREET, CHICAGO
WWW.HOTELSAXCHICAGO.COM
(312) 245-0333
THINGS WE LOVE

FEED — founded by Lauren Bush Lauren and EHen Gustafson to help combat global hunger — has teamed up with Target for the FEED USA + Target collection. Pieces range from clothing to sporting goods, and each carries a number, indicating the number of meals to be donated with its sale.

Add a personal touch to the sweets table with Magnolia Bakery’s customized cupcakes. Top the treats with an image or text — or add a personalized tag — for a wedding favor that truly takes the cake ($5.25 each, Magnoliabakery.com).

Planning a wedding? Take a cue from event expert Derrick Taylor of Taylor & Co. and go with a barn theme, a charming and on-trend way to say “I do.” From floral arrangements to total event production, Taylor & Co. crafts a wedding, fundraiser or corporate event that suits any style. Visit Taylorandcompanychicago.com.

Since opening in 1965, Geja’s Café (340 W. Armitage) has hosted 16,214 on-site engagements and is regularly regarded as one of Chicago’s most romantic restaurants. To honor its 48th anniversary, the intimate fondue spot is offering 48 percent off the food bill through July 4. 340 W. Armitage, 773-281-9101; Gejascafe.com

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FROM BEACHES TO BALLROOMS, STYLIST JENNA DEBBORD DETAILS HOW TO LOOK CHIC AT ANY WEDDING | 16

KEEP THE DANCE FLOOR PACKED WITH TUNES FROM 10 LOCAL MUSIC MAKERS | 22

Splash is distributed weekly inside Sun-Times Media publications.
Ready for your pre-wedding cleanse?
We’ve got you covered!

Juice cleanses
Raw foods
Fresh smoothies
Get Peeled.

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
• WINDY CITY RIB FEST
Uptown gets saucy at this annual lip-smacking event. Sample barbecue from purveyors such as Aussom Aussie Australian BBQ, Famous Dave's and Texas Thunder BBQ, accompanied by music from country alt-rockers Cracker, Chicago Afrobeat Project and jazz/hip-hop/funk ensemble Liquid Soul.

Time: Friday 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday noon to 10 p.m., Sunday noon to 9 p.m.
Place: W. Lawrence and N. Broadway
Cost: $5 suggested donation. For more information, call (773) 584-6683 or visit Chicagoevents.com.

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, Montrose and the lake
Cost: $69.99 per day, or $189.99 for a three-day pass. Learn more at Wavefrontmusicfestival.com.
34th Annual Fountain Square Art Festival

July 6

**BILL KIM COOKING DEMO**

Chef Bill Kim, the brains behind UrbanBelly, Belly Shack and bellyQ, showcases his Asian barbecue skills in a live demonstration on bellyQ's patio. He'll whip up roast chicken with sambal chimichurri, spiced shrimp with tomato salsa and avocado and corn on the cob with curry mayonnaise.

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Place:** 1400 W. Randolph

**Cost:** $50. Call (312) 563-1010 or visit Brownpapertickets.com/event/402834.

**next week**

July 8

**35TH ANNUAL CAROL COHN AND MARGIE WEIL MEMORIAL MS OUTING**

Work on your follow through and give back to the Greater Illinois Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society at this 18-hole tournament. The day includes a buffet lunch, silent and live auctions and dinner.

**Time:** Morning golf registration 6:45 a.m.; afternoon registration 10:30 a.m.

**Place:** Northmoor Country Club, 820 Edgewood, Highland Park

**Cost:** $335-$775. Call (312) 423-1174 or visit Cohnweil.org.

July 11

**LYNN SAGE CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION'S SUMMER COCKTAIL PARTY**

A leading organization in the war on breast cancer, having raised more than $27 million to combat the disease, Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation welcomes supporters old and new to Studio Paris for its fourth annual summer soiree.

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** 59 W. Hubbard

**Cost:** $75 in advance, $80 at the door. Call (312) 926-7133 or visit Lynnsage.org/summer-cocktail-party.

July 14

**BARRINGTON CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE**

Automotive aficionados, don't miss this panoply of exquisite vehicles, benefiting the Barrington Area Conservation Trust. The seventh annual event includes the first Midwest display of classic French Avions Voisins from California's Mullin Automotive Museum.

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Place:** Makray Memorial Golf Club, 1010 S. Northwest Hwy., Barrington

**Cost:** $25-$85. Learn more
For the past 15 years, Gilda’s Club Chicago (537 N. Wells) has provided essential support to thousands of people impacted by cancer. On June 18, 450 guests came together to give back to the club at the Agents of Hope dinner, hosted by Bondurant French, Adams Street Partners CEO, and Robert Sullivan, Fifth Third Bank Chicago President and CEO, at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago (120 E. Delaware). Guests included Justine Fedak (BMO Harris Bank), Monsignor Kenneth Velo (Archdiocese Chicago), Richard Price (Mesirow Financial), Francee Harrington (JP Morgan Chase) and Lori Healey (Tur Partners), who helped make the evening an unqualified success: More than $670,000 was raised for the Club’s free monthly activities like workshops, lectures and support groups.

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 Gilda’s Club Chicago, up to a total of $10,000. Up to $1,000 can be matched per individual donation.
Cutting edge interiors and state-of-the-art audio visuals make Chicago's Venue One the premier location for customized weddings. Found in Chicago's vibrant West Loop neighborhood, Venue One's 33,000 square-foot space delivers an unforgettable wedding experience driven by all-inclusive, one-stop-shop capabilities.

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1044 West Randolph Street  312.327.0111 x116  venueonechicago.com
This summer’s hot spots aren’t found on the city’s streets — they’re printed on the dresses and flowing tops of Chicago’s stylish women. The fun, flirty and feminine polka dot is summer’s jack-of-all-trades: Small dots (like those seen in Diane Von Furstenberg’s spring collection) radiate coquettish vibes, while larger ones (like Nina Ricci’s sexy dots on sheer fabric) grab attention. To stay balanced, pair spotted separates with simple prints or solids, and trade in geometric jewelry in favor of beads or long strings of pearls that echo the round shape. Take our pointers and you’ll be spot on wherever you go.
Smile away your wedding jitters. Make sure your smile is picture perfect for the big day!

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Ear Jenny: I have a friend who once meant the world to me. He was the first person to show me it's OK to trust because there really are good people in this world. He was the first person I called my best friend. But lately, I've seen him head down a really bad road. I'm trying my best to be there and help him with what he's going through, but I just feel like I can't reach him sometimes. And when I do, the next day, he goes right back to being that same lost person. It hurts to see him hurt. I want to help, but I don't know what to do.

Zach from Southern Calif

Jenny says: First of all, you're a great friend for reaching out and asking how to help your friend. The best thing you can do is just be there for him. Instead, enlighten him with positive reinforcement, emphasizing his good qualities and reminding him why you think he's an amazing friend.

When we feel bad about ourselves it's easy to slip down the rabbit hole. Unfortunately, some people actually have to hit the bottom in order to find their way out. Sometimes the only way to help a friend is to still be there when they get out. There is nothing wrong with loving someone from a distance while they are working on their journey. Keep doing what you are doing and be sure to keep shining the light on his dark path.

Right now, try not to judge him for his choices. Instead, enlighten him with positive reinforcement, emphasizing his good qualities and reminding him why you think he's an amazing friend.

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JENNY McCARTHY OFFERS UNCONVENTIONAL WISDOM

Best friends forever?

Jenny counsels a reader on what to do when a loved one is headed down the wrong road

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Dear Jenny: I have a friend who once meant the world to me. He was the first person to show me it's OK to trust because there really are good people in this world. He was the first person I called my best friend. But lately, I've seen him head down a really bad road. I'm trying my best to be there and help him with what he's going through, but I just feel like I can't reach him sometimes. And when I do, the next day, he goes right back to being that same lost person. It hurts to see him hurt. I want to help, but I don't know what to do.

Dear Jenny: I have a friend who once meant the world to me. He was the first person to show me it's OK to trust because there really are good people in this world. He was the first person I called my best friend. But lately, I've seen him head down a really bad road. I'm trying my best to be there and help him with what he's going through, but I just feel like I can't reach him sometimes. And when I do, the next day, he goes right back to being that same lost person. It hurts to see him hurt. I want to help, but I don't know what to do.

—Zach from Southern Calif.

Jenny says: First of all, you're a great friend for reaching out and asking how to help your friend. The best thing you can do is just be there for him. As long as your friend does not drag you down that dark road along with him, you can stay present enough to be there when he needs you. I think we can all relate to going through periods of feeling lost and hopeless, but time is an amazing healer. His road to the good path might just be on a slower time frame than others.

Right now, try not to judge him for his choices. Instead, enlighten him with positive reinforcement, emphasizing his good qualities and reminding him why you think he's an amazing friend.

When we feel bad about ourselves it's easy to slip down the rabbit hole. Unfortunately, some people actually have to hit the bottom in order to find their way out. Sometimes the only way to help a friend is to still be there when they get out. There is nothing wrong with loving someone from a distance while they are working on their journey. Keep doing what you are doing and be sure to keep shining the light on his dark path.

Send questions to Askjenny@suntimes.com

READ JENNY'S DAILY BLOG AT CHICAGOSPLASH.COM
Jaime Laurita is something of a lifestyle alchemist. The Chicago resident — and brother of “Real Housewives of New Jersey” star Caroline Manzo — has spent the past several years combining his passions for cooking and design to create his own gold standard: a fashionable food line. Launched this year, the Chef Jaime Laurita brand (Chefiaimelaurita.com) has already grown to include everything from pasta to Prosecco to olive oil. “I want to be the Tiffany of the food business,” says Laurita. “Everything should be really good-looking and high quality.”

Laurita certainly isn’t short on inspiration. He has trotted the globe as chef to A-listers like Sarah McLachlan — even co-authoring her cookbook, “Plenty” — and designed backstage environments for Madonna, Sting and The Police. But Italy is a constant muse for the global chef. “I’m finding mom-and-pop vineyards and pasta producers in Italy, and making deals to bring their products over here so people can enjoy their passion and their work,” he says.

His two pillar products, Bello Boy Rose Petals Moscato and The Perfect Prosecco, have developed a loyal following. “They’ve become available in the last six months, and they’re becoming so popular that it’s hard to keep up,” Laurita says. “It’s a great problem to have.” The bottles, carried at Binny’s and in grocers like Mariano’s and Sunset Foods, aren’t just about the taste — they’re about the story. “The Bello Boy is the Italian guy you can depend on. He’s Mr. Right,” says Laurita. “On every bottle it says ‘Feel love and gratitude.’ Those are the two ingredients I never forget to put inside.”

For Laurita, it’s essential that every product stamped with his name exudes his personality. “Everything in my world has that little bit of extra glamour,” he explains. “Steven Tyler told me that all you need to do is let your freak flag fly, and that really stuck in my head. I dream big. I put myself in it 100 percent.”

Here, the chef/designer pops open his perfect Chicago Sunday.
After making his name as a supporting actor, South Side native Daniel Sunjata steps into a starring role on a new USA drama.
Daniel Sunjata fell in love with the movies the first time he saw "Star Wars" at the age of 7. The film inspired him so much that, from his home on Chicago's South Side, he drafted a letter to director George Lucas. "Dear Mr. Lucas," he wrote, "I love your movies, and I'd like to make my own 'Star Wars' movie. Can I borrow your actors and camera equipment? I'm willing to give you my entire life savings: $123.23." Sunjata, now 41, never did make that film. But the letter resurfaced at a crucial juncture later in his life. "I was in college, deciding whether or not it was a good idea to change my major from business administration to theater, and I found that letter," he recalls. "I think the universe was dropping bread crumbs in front of me. That letter came back to me at a time when I really needed guidance as to what to do with my life."

It's safe to say that Sunjata chose wisely. Guided by that irrepressible ambition and assisted by chiseled good looks and impressive range, the actor has lined up roles after high-profile role over the course of his 15-year career. He spent seven years playing opposite Denis Leary as heartthrob firefighter Franco Rivera in the FX series "Rescue Me," starred in Meryl Streep in "The Devil Wears Prada" and battled evil with Morgan Freeman in "The Dark Knight Rises." He's also had guest stints on hits like "Sex and the City," "30 Rock" and "Grey's Anatomy.

Now, Sunjata is finally taking his own place in the spotlight: He's starring as brooding, undercover narcotics agent Paul Briggs on USA's newest series, "Graceland," which debuted earlier this month.

"It's interesting how many people think you to be an overnight success when they see you on TV doing something substantive, as opposed to a guest role," Sunjata says of landing the lead. "But I've been in the game for quite some time. And while I'm proud of the fact that I've always been able to pay my bills with my passion, I have wanted more. So it's a wonderful gift." Sunjata says he was attracted to "Graceland" immediately, both because of its creator (Jeff Eastin of "White Collar") and the unique premise. The series follows a group of undercover DEA, Customs and FBI agents living together in a Malibu beach house — and because it's based on actual events that took place in the '90s, the cast was able to gather intel from the agents who had overseen the real Graceland years before. "They indulged our actor-y questions," jokes Sunjata.

Sunjata had to do some convincing in order to land the role of Briggs in the first place. "At first, they were imagining more of a Matthew McConaughey, longhaired beach bum type [for the role]," says Sunjata. "And listening to that description, the name 'Daniel Sunjata' isn't the first person that pops to mind.' Luckily, he aced the audition — and Eastin deleted the references to Briggs' beachy mane. "That long hair just wouldn't look right on me, man," he laughs.

Much to his dismay, Sunjata couldn't get Eastin to shed the veteran FBI agent's passion for watersports. "What I learned from shooting the show is, not only can I not surf, but I will never be able to surf," he says. While filming the pilot episode just off of Santa Monica Pier, "I started feeling sick at the beginning of the very first take," he says. "We were out there for about 45 minutes, and I definitely churned the water with my lunch. Thankfully not on camera." Despite his surfing struggles, Sunjata has an athletic background. During his stint as a star linebacker at Mount Carmel High School, he imagined being recruited by a Big Ten college. When it didn't happen, Sunjata says, "I started entertaining the possibility of doing something else with my life."

At first, that meant a business degree, something he says he "chose arbi-

trarily because it sounded dependable." But after a semester spent struggling through calculus at Florida A&M, Sunjata started to question his decision. "I imagined my life 10 years down the road, working 70 hours a week on Wall Street, making six figures, having a house in the Hamptons and being absolutely miserable," he says. "So I thought, 'OK, I'm young, what's my dream?'"

While considering that question, Sunjata spotted an audition notice for a student-directed play, and despite being "nervous as all get-out," tried out and got the part. Though he only performed the play a handful of times in front of a sparse audience, "I had the time of my life," he says. That's when he stumbled upon the letter he'd penned to Lucas in a box of his childhood belongings.

Sunjata promptly transferred to the theater department, and after graduation trained at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. After a brief period of unemployment in the late 1990s, he began picking up parts in plays like Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" and the Tony-Award-winning "Take Me Out," plus guest spots on "Law and Order: SVU" and "Sex and the City."

The actor says he's still recognized more for his role as Carrie Bradshaw's would-be suitor than for any other character he's played. "On the street, I still get, 'Weren't you that sailor?'" he says. He credits his current success in part to the series. "I'm not a big believer in 'the big break.' It happens to so few people, probably as many that win the lottery. I got lucky enough to book a few relatively high-profile jobs close together."

The most memorable? The role of fashion designer James Holt in "The Devil Wears Prada." "That was the most surreal moment of my career," he says. "I could not stop thinking, 'You're acting in front of Meryl Streep. You're acting in front of Meryl Streep. What's your next line?'" he says. "That was the only time I was starstruck out of my game to the point where I had to collect myself in order to do my job."

Now that he's reached a high point in his career, Sunjata says he relies on his Chicago roots to stay grounded. He comes home as often as he can to reconnect with his family, which is scattered in cities like Aurora and Oswego. "We're very traditional in the sense that we just spend a lot of time at home together. It's so great to chill on the couch with my dad and watch a Bears game, because I'm away for so much of the time," he says.

He's also kept his strong emotional ties to the city. "I truly do love Chicago; my roots are there. But in particular, what I love and miss the most are the people," he says. "Which is why the exponential rise in violence — particularly among the city's poor and working classes — has got to cease. I'd like to see Chicago's leadership be proactive about getting tough on the circumstances which give rise to crime in the first place. Fighting fire with fire usually just results in more fire. We need water instead."

Though his heart lies in Chicago, Sunjata spends most of his time in LA, where he's fueled by the same burning ambition he has had since childhood. Even with "Graceland" on summer hiatus, he's not looking to take a break.

"When actors aren't working, they're looking for work," he says. "Maybe I can squeeze something between now and what will hopefully be the second season of 'Graceland.' It depends on what the universe sends my way."

WHERE YOU'VE SEEN DANIEL

Sunjata has graced screens big and small for more than a decade. You might recognize him from:

- "Sex and The City" as sailor-on-leave Louis Leroy
- "The Devil Wears Prada" as fashion designer James Holt
- "Grey's Anatomy" as the flirtatious nurse Eli
- "Ghosts of Girlfriends Past" as Jennifer Garner's would-be husband, Brad
- "Smash" as script doctor Peter Gilman
No pressure, brides-to-be, but all eyes are about to be on you — and the photos will last a lifetime. But an upcoming wedding is the best inspiration to look and feel your best. To help, we’ve rounded up a few Splash-approved beauty experts to get you in top form for the big day. Cue the wedding belles.

**SHAPE UP**

There are endless ways to slim down for your wedding, thanks to the multitude of gyms and fitness studios that have taken hold across the city. Burn maximum calories at stadium cycling studio Flywheel (Chicago. flywheelsports.com) — check out the puddle of sweat under your bike after 45 minutes of hyper-intense riding — or at a Shred415 session, where great soundtracks and cheerleader-esque instructors make the treadmill and weight-pumping intervals much less intimidating (Shred415.com). If high decibels and boot-camp-style encouragement aren’t your thing, we love the serene workouts at barre studios like The Dailey Method (TheDaileyMethod.com), which helps achieve a willowy physique with light weights and conditioning techniques that refine muscles without adding bulk. (TDM offers a bridal package that costs $450 for three months of unlimited classes.) For fast, tailored-to-you results, a personal trainer can keep tabs on progress and help you avoid injury by >>

>> monitoring your form every step of the way. Equinox coach Nicole Kupish recommends starting approximately 18 weeks ahead of your wedding if you want to lose 15 to 20 pounds. With a trainer, “hitting a plateau is not an option,” says Kupish, who advises at least two sessions per week combined with a cardio component you do on your own. (High-level trainers at Equinox cost $130 per hour; Equinox.com.) Separate consultations are scheduled to address nutrition — the most important component in weight loss. “You can’t out-exercise a bad diet, no matter how hard you try,” Kupish says.

**SLIM DOWN**

You’re working out and eating right, but you don’t want to take any chances on that Oscar de la Renta confection fitting like a dream. “Yes, you can go down a full dress size,” with liposuction, says Chicago plastic surgeon Dr. Julius Few (875 N. Michigan, Fewinstitute.com). According to Few, brides who are candidates for the fat-removal surgery should schedule it at least six months ahead of the wedding. (If you’re already thin, the results will be subtle.) Worried your arms might jiggle in that strapless dress? Try laser-assisted liposuction to the upper arms — a newer technology with a shorter, two-day recovery time — followed by several post-op radio frequency treatments to speed healing and help reduce swelling ($5,000-$6,000).
FACE FORWARD

If your skin is in good shape — no serious breakouts, redness or dryness — Dr. Amy Forman Taub of Advanced Dermatology (275 Parkway, suite 521, Lincolnshire, Advdermatology.com) suggests starting on wedding-ready skincare two to three months before the event. For a healthy glow, adopt a regimen that includes what Dr. Taub calls the "Core 4": sunscreen, an antioxidant formula, an exfoliant and a product that promotes the growth of new skin cells. If skin needs a more extensive overhaul, Taub recommends five to seven months of treatments like Photorejuvenation ($350-$500 per session) to reduce redness, pore size or pigmentation, or Sublative Rejuvenation ($750 per session) to diminish scarring. Or, address all issues in one fell swoop with a laser resurfacing treatment that helps with scarring, fine lines and wrinkles and starts at $2,500 — though it'll necessitate up to two weeks of post-procedure downtime. Whatever your skin strategy, don't underestimate the positive effects of de-stressing activities — like exercise — on your skin. "Try to relax," says Taub. "Don't worry over every last detail."

SAY CHEESE

Wedding photos last forever — so your smile should radiate more than any centerpiece or chandelier. Try Zoom White Speed treatments, available at Weller Dental and Whitening Center (1050 N. State, Wellerdental.com). Treatments run about $400, but check for seasonal specials, which can sometimes lower the price to as little as $250. Dr. Jeffrey Weller recommends brides have the 90-minute procedure done about two weeks before the wedding so any "balancing of color" has time to occur. Porcelain veneers are another option, but they can be costly (up to $1,700 per tooth); for a less-expensive approach, Dr. Weller can perform simple tooth and soft tissue re-contouring treatments ($150 to $1,200) to give your smile better symmetry.

LASH OUT

If you don't have patience for nightly prescription treatments (with no guarantee of results), there are more immediate ways to get lush lashes before you bat them at the altar. At Johnathan Breitung salon and spa (3226 N. Lincoln, Johnathanbreitungsalon.com), the Butterfly Kisses Lash Lift ($100) perms your lashes into a pretty curl and tints them darker for added drama. Results last about four to six weeks — schedule your appointment two weeks before your wedding so the curl has time to settle in. And though lying on a table as someone fiddles with your eyes for an hour isn't exactly glamorous, the fact that you can skip the eyelash curler — and maybe even the mascara — for the wedding and honeymoon is well worth it.
When you’re packing for a destination wedding, you want pieces that serve multiple purposes. This handbag can be worn with the shoulder strap for daytime excursions or used as a clutch for an evening event.

If you’re not standing barefoot on the beach, a seaside or otherwise destination wedding can mean you’re celebrating on uneven ground. A sturdy heel that won’t be aerating the lawn is a must.

A sheer lip balm that enhances your natural color, with SPF 10 to protect your lips from the sun.

A fun, on-trend update this summer is a Lucite pair of sunglasses with reflective lenses.

If you’re not standing barefoot on the beach, a seaside or otherwise destination wedding can mean you’re celebrating on uneven ground. A sturdy heel that won’t be aerating the lawn is a must.

A chic fresh scent with notes of pink peony, rose, lychee, cedarwood, amber and honey.

Dressing as a wedding guest means finding the balance between looking your best and being mindful that it’s not your day. These angular hoops have a timeless-yet-edgy quality that balances an otherwise simple look with a little glamour.

A chic fresh scent with notes of pink peony, rose, lychee, cedarwood, amber and honey.

A dress with a simple silhouette in a flattering color — that can be accessorized in different ways — is a staple for formal receptions during wedding season.
Feng-shui your space for a bargain at Jayson Home's twice-yearly sale, beginning June 28. The popular home and garden store is offering discounts as high as 50 percent on its mix of modern and unique vintage merchandise — such as seating and bedroom sets — through June 29. 1885 N. Clybourn; Jaysonhome.com

As of July 1, Neapolitan Collection will be stocking Parisian jewelry designer Aurelie Bidermann's Fall 2013 collection. Stop by the boutique to snag Bidermann's elegant, metallic pieces and her intricate statement jewelry, both perfect for taking a look from day to night. Pieces start at $170, 715 Elm, Winnetka; Neapolitan online.com

Spring in your step Celebrate the onset of beach season with Penelope's spring merchandise sale, running through the summer. Score up to 50 percent off the Wicker Park boutique's men's, women's and children's apparel from designers like Dolce Vita, Baggu and Shades of Grey — and stand by for additional markdowns coming up later this month. 1913 W. Division; Shoppenelopes.com

For Love and Lemons designers Laura Hall and Gillian Mahlin — favorites of Splash pal Giuliana Rancic — debuted their newest pieces at Sofia June 22. The Wyoming natives' American Dream collection includes cocktail dresses, tanks and edgy leggings. Pieces start at $96, 100 E. Walton; Sofiaatlove.com

American dreamers For Love and Lemons designers Laura Hall and Gillian Mahlin favorites of Splash pal Giuliana Rancic — debuted their newest pieces at Sofia June 22. The Wyoming natives' American Dream collection includes cocktail dresses, tanks and edgy leggings. Pieces start at $96, 100 E. Walton; Sofiaatlove.com

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American dreamers

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Kyla McCarthy & Tim Smithe Jr.

For any would-be groom, meeting future in-laws is a nerve-racking experience. But for Tim Smithe Jr., getting on the good side of Chicago’s Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy was an added challenge — one he welcomed when it came to winning the heart of the top cop’s daughter, Kyla. Luckily, Dad approved. “He was happy I wound up with a good Midwestern boy,” says McCarthy. With his blessing, McCarthy and Smithe planned three wedding celebrations in three different cities, kicking off the festivities in Chicago March 29 at Harry Caray’s (33 W. Kinzie). Five generations of Smithes showed up for the bash, including grandfather Walter E. Sr., who began the Smith family furniture business in 1945. The following month, Smithe and McCarthy flew to the bride’s native New York to celebrate in Rockland County, then dashed back to Chicago June 1 — the same day as McCarthy’s grandparents’ 61st anniversary — to exchange vows at the courthouse. After signing their marriage license, they immediately joined family for brunch at the Ritz-Carlton Chicago (160 E. Pearson) before jetting off to Paris for an eight-day honeymoon. The pair concluded the revelry by reciting their vows under the Eiffel Tower and visiting the Pont des Arts bridge. “I came to Chicago wanting to try out a new city, but now it’s changed my life,” says McCarthy. “I can’t believe it happened like this.”

— Katerina Bizios

MIDDAY IN PARIS

Kyla and Tim pause for a post-ceremony kiss.
Inset photo top: The couple (center) poses with their fathers, Garry McCarthy (left) and Tim Smithe Sr. at their Chicago celebration.
Inset photo bottom: The couple walks through Paris.

CHEERS

— Congrats to Columbia College student Joseph “SentRock” Perez, who won BucketFeet shoes’ design contest. Perez scored a contract and a cash prize, and BucketFeet will release his shoe later this year.

— Cheers to Mary Dillon, who was recently appointed CEO of Ulta Beauty. Previously, she served as president and CEO of U.S. Cellular.

— We can’t wait to stop by the newly renovated Hyatt Regency McCormick Place (2233 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.). The fourth largest hotel in the world completed its $110 million makeover and celebrated with a ribbon cutting June 4.

SEND US YOUR CHEERS!
If you have good news to share — or if you’d like your wedding featured — send a note to Splash@sun-times.com.
The Signature Room at the 95th celebrates its 20th birthday with a fresh chef and a throwback menu

BY SAMANTHA LANDE

When a restaurant is perched 1,000 feet above downtown Chicago, it’s bound to become a dining destination. But The Signature Room at the 95th has become much more than that — after 20 years, it’s become a landmark. That’s not to say the restaurant has relied solely on its prime location. The spot is known for timeless takes on classics like French onion soup, Waldorf salad and beef Wellington. And in October, owners Nick Pyknis and Rick Roman hired a new chef, Rosalia Barron, who has revamped the menus to reflect her “straightforward cooking style” and a keen focus on seasonal ingredients.

To celebrate its 20th anniversary, Barron has been studying original Signature Room menus, and plans to offer some “throwback” menu items in July (along with throwback pricing of $6.95 for the Thursday lunch buffet). “I want to bring back classics like clams casino and cherries jubilee,” Barron says. “I’ll stick to the same ingredients and cooking methods, but with more modern techniques and plating.”

Chef stats: Barron, a native of Mexico City, most recently served as a corporate chef for the Levy Restaurant Group. She came to the Signature Room in October as the first female executive chef of the restaurant. Prior to that, she worked with culinary rock stars Rick Bayless and Carrie Nahabedian.

Vibe: The dining room may be formal — white tablecloths abound — but the atmosphere isn’t stuffy. Above the floor-to-ceiling windows sit bright, animated murals celebrating local attractions. And the open staircase, connecting the Signature Lounge on the 96th floor to the dining room, is a prime spot for soaking in the impeccable views.

Cuisine: “We use local ingredients whenever possible, and I have a very close relationship with our farmers,” Barron says. “I focus on simple, fresh ingredients.” Case in point: Tomato Mountain Farm in Brooklyn, Wis., is growing a special Sun Gold tomato for Barron to use in her upcoming dish at the Green City Market BBQ, helping her achieve the perfect bright yellow color and flavor she desires.

Best seat in the house: Choosing a seat closest to one of the windows is a no-brainer when you have a breathtaking view of the city. Luckily, there are several of those prime tables.

Must-try dish: The menu is full of succulent entrees, but the tender, flavorful short ribs ($15) are hard to pass up. Barron seasons the ribs with salt and pepper, then marinates them overnight. In the morning, she sears them before braising for six hours. The short ribs are finished off with a polenta made of chicken stock, garlic, thyme and Parmesan, sautéed wild mushrooms and crispy leeks.

Giving back: The Signature Room team has always believed in philanthropy. In 1993, members launched their charity-of-the-month program, which to date has donated more than $1 million total to 200 Chicago-area organizations. In July, proceeds will go to EdgeAlliance Homeless Veterans’ Housing.

To view menus and order tickets visit StefaniRestaurants.com/beer/
Millennials want to settle down in homes different from their parents' pads

BY LISA SKOLNIK

When looking for residences, those from the millennial generation prefer value to pizzazz, says a new survey by Wakefield Research for Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate. In contrast to what their boomer parents sought, they're looking for places that are packed with essentials instead of luxuries, such as transmutable spaces that can be customized, tech-friendly systems and high-efficiency mechanics and appliances — all on top of sustainable design and details. Plus, they want those places to be in pedestrian-friendly downtown neighborhoods with nearby public transportation, restaurants, shops, offices and services.

These findings are “totally on target,” says Amanda Bell (inset, call 773-706-7442), Baird & Warner broker and, at 32 years old, a member of the millennial generation. “We’ve witnessed the housing slump, and seeing the market come back so fast, we’re wary and really careful about how we spend our money. We’re looking for value and resale potential, and rather than the best home on the block, we’re interested in the neighborhood and the quality of the space so we can make a place our own.” She notes that second bedrooms and parking spaces are prized features for resale down the line, even if they aren’t a necessity at purchase time. All these qualities make 1000 W. Washington unit 331, a fully renovated, 1,000-square-foot timber loft with a 20-foot-wide open-plan living area, hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances, a private deck and a spacious, spa-like bathroom — right in the thick of the West Loop — a good and affordable option at $250,000. A parking space is extra for $19,900 (call Baird & Warner broker Nicholas Colagiovanni, 312-501-5151).

WHY BUY?

With housing prices and interest rates now at incredibly low levels (compared to highs just five years ago), “mortgage payments can be cheaper than rent,” notes Prudential Rubloff broker Brad Lippitz. “And that means good apartments go fast.” New to market — and sure to go soon — is this two-bedroom, one-bath, fully renovated 1920 apartment with an open living and dining area and a parking space at 6307 N. Glenwood (unit 3N) in Edgewater for $229,000 (call Lippitz at 773-404-1144).

TABLE IT

Legendary British designer Sir Terence Conran’s new collection for JCPenney is loaded with well-priced, practical pieces that are high on utility and style, like these wooden Tullia nesting tables. $295 for two, 7601 S. Cicero, (773) 581-6600, Jcpenney.com.
Ryan Gosling's premiere no-show

Ryan Gosling skipped the LA Film Festival's premiere of his new movie, "God Forgives," and a source tells me he regrets taking on the project.

The only thing more disappointing than not meeting Ryan was watching a movie that I naively anticipated to be like "The Notebook," but instead was an extremely violent and dark movie about a drug smuggler in Thailand. A source tells me Ryan did not show up because the film was panned at the Sundance Film Festival. "He was embarrassed to show up to the premiere because his film got booed at Sundance," the source said. "He didn't want to deal with another unhappy audience."

It was a dark film, but the hunky actor still did a fine job in it. I think his fans will forgive him.

Battle over the baby name

The public anxiously waited for days to find out the name of Kim Kardashian and Kanye West's baby girl. It turns out, the delay was due to a secret battle over the name.

An insider tells this column that the new parents feuded over potential names for their baby girl and ultimately, Kanye won with his first choice, North.

"Kim wanted to name her baby girl with a K-letter name," the source revealed. "Kanye did not. They butted heads for days. There was no way he was going to agree to a 'K' name."

It took Kanye some time to sell Kim on the name North.

"North was not Kim's first choice," the insider continued. "Kim and her mom, Kris Jenner, fought for a different name, but Kanye wouldn't budge."

The source said that the name has a lot of symbolic meaning, including the direction the slaves migrated during the Civil War. The source notes that it's no coincidence that Kanye addresses slavery in his new album.

"There was lots of inspiration there for the name North," said the source.

George & Stacy's secret date!

George Clooney and Stacy Keibler have faced breakup reports and have not been spotted out together for a while — until now.

My spy saw the two reunite at a taco dive called Plancha in Los Angeles.

"They both looked happy and they were eating tacos," an insider revealed.

Both George and Stacy have been accused in the press of cheating, but their relationship is still hanging on.

"It's not completely over yet," the source said.

"There are still feelings there."

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David Rothstein Music
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Gold Coast All Stars
Founded by Danny Chalmson, Gold Coast Events has a roster of DJs, but opt for the live band, All Stars. The diverse group can perform virtually any genre with pure authenticity. (312) 898-4073; Goldcoasteventschicago.com/thegoldcoastallstars

Fig Weddings
Fig has seven resident DJs (the company also offers photo and video for weddings), each with a different sound, from Megan Taylor's electronic pop beats to Brent Rolland's smooth jazz. (773) 466-8800; Figweddings.net/deejay

Katarina Visnevska
For a completely different, electronic-meets-classical sound, book Katarina Visnevska. She's trained on the violin since the age of six, and now plays the instrument alongside a live DJ. Vipviolin.com

Keith Christopher Entertainment Group
Keith Christopher Entertainment Group has everything a unique wedding could need, from DJs and traditional live bands to harpists, Mariachi and bagpipers. Plus, they provide event lighting services. 2777 Finley, Downers Grove, (847) 278-1050; Keithchristopher.com

Music by Design
Despite its name, this company offers more than just music: video montages and lighting services are available, and they'll even put your name in lights as a logo on the dance floor. 1325 Wiley, Schaumburg, (866) 698-8637; Mymusicbydesign.com

Okyne Medialab
When he founded his namesake company, Al Okyne aimed to break away from the cliché and cheesy - hence, not one of his nine resident and specialty DJs has the "Macarena" or "Hokey Pokey" on their playlists. 1341 W. Fullerton, (800) 996-5963; Okynemedialab.com

Toast & Jam
Toast & Jam promises to be always fresh, never stale. The group of primarily female disc jockeys is led by founder and president DJ Mary Nisi. 2043 W. Wabansia, (773) 687-8833; Toastandjamdjs.com

UpBeat Orchestra
UpBeat brings a classic vibe to your wedding without skimping on the party beats. The main orchestra features 10 pieces - or go bigger with the affiliated 14-piece Michael Cascio Orchestra. 3615 N. Ashland, (773) 296-9296; Upbeatmusicproductions.com
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Reserved Beauty

Nissan Maxima creates synergy between balanced and bold

BY JOHN STEIN
For Sun-Times Media

The 2013 Nissan Maxima provides a very interesting and attractive exterior, which manages to say bold without saying it too loudly. It's a fine line between boring and bold, and the Maxima makes it happen with just the right mix of upscale quality and stylish fun.

The low-slung front grille is somewhat understated, but movement from the front fascia over the sloping roofline and the slick 18-inch standard alloy wheels to the bulging rear fenders, definitely changes from a calm tone to a much more aggressive look.

Traditionally, those who prefer a large sedan with a sportier drive chose the Maxima over its slimmed-down cousin, Altima. The new Maxima provides a Sport Package ($3,250), which includes a sport-tuned suspension and 18-inch aluminum-alloy wheels, which more than suffice to fill the need for speed.

With its 3.5-liter V6 engine and continuously variable automatic transmission, the Maxima's drive is good, but not necessarily thrilling. The CVT configuration is definitely quieter than others I have tested, but it does toss a bit of cold water on the overall driving experience.

Longtime Menina fans may be a bit disappointed with the CVT transmission, but many drivers, in fact, most drivers, will not mind it at all. I found it easily handled routine driving around town and was usually pretty responsive to immediate calls for acceleration at highway speeds. The Environmental Protection Agency-estimated 19/26 miles per gallon city/highway is achieved while using premium gas.

My Maxima tester offered many features, such as a $700 Monitor Package that added the RearView Monitor and a seven-inch color screen; an SV Value Package ($1,000) provides heated front seats, heated steering wheel and heated side mirrors. A Technology Package ($1,850) featured a navigation system and Bluetooth streaming audio. With a starting price of $33,570, including a $790 destination charge, my Maxima SV had a starting price of $35,870, and ultimately it landed at $40,005.

The Maxima is a large sedan and it provides a roomy cabin that is comfortable and accommodating. Front seats provided power adjustments, supple leather surfaces and a seat cushion extender for additional thigh support. The steering wheel had a comfortable leather grip and, as part of the SV Value Package, a heated steering wheel. Rear seating was roomy for tall occupants, and it easily accommodated three adults.

The center stack provides the perfect blend of technology and intuitive balance. I found the buttons were well marked and easy-to-use. The brushed-metal trim around the controls was attractive and a bit bolder than most of the other interior accents.

This is a relatively upscale interior and the fit and finish, including soft-touch surfaces, was outstanding. The huge standard moonroof creates a bright and roomy feel for the cabin.

The Maxima has standard front-wheel drive, four-wheel-disc antilock brakes with brake assist, an electronic stability system with traction control, active front head restraints and six airbags, including side curtains for both rows. Optional features are xenon high-intensity-discharge headlights and a backup camera, which is part of the Monitor Package ($700).

Overall, the Maxima is an exceptional vehicle that provides competitive value compared to others in the segment and it delivers a semi-luxury feel with an exterior look that is quietly bold and performance-inspired.
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Contemporary Service 11:15 AM

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Sundays
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10:00 AM The Holy Eucharist, Rite II
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General Information Concerning The Death Notice Page

- A paid death notice may be ordered to appear in the Pioneer Press when funeral arrangements are made, and must be submitted in writing. Information about charges for death notices may be obtained from area funeral directors or by calling (847) 998-3400. A 24-hour fax service is offered at (847) 486-6836 or death notices may be e-mailed to deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com.
- An in memoriam or card of thanks may be placed using the same information above.
- The deadline for placing a death notice, in memoriam or card of thanks, is Monday at 5:00 pm. Photos must be submitted by Monday at 2:00 pm.
- The death notice department is staffed from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday.
- Family and friends may visit our website and sign a guest book at Pioneerlocal.com.

Hadley, Howard S.
89, of Terre Haute and formerly of Park Ridge, IL died Thursday, June 27, 2013 in Cobblestone Crossing. He was born November 22, 1923 in Elgin, IL to Richard S. Hadley and Ethel Dawson Hadley. He was a retired Vice President of Citizens Bank in Park Ridge where he worked from 1965-1989.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret Yarwood Hadley whom he married on July 15, 1960 in Sutton Coldfield, England. Other survivors include a son, Andrew S. Hadley and his wife Jane of Terre Haute; a daughter, Sarah Aikman and her husband Brian of Independence, KY; a sister, Myrle Mason of Atlanta, GA; and two grandchildren, Lauren Hadley, Terre Haute and Alex Aikman of Independence, KY. He was preceded in death by his parents; and two sisters, Helen Miller and Mildred Anderson.

Howard served his country in WWII in the U.S. Army in the European Theater. He graduated from Beloit College in Wisconsin and received his Masters from Rutgers University. He was a member of Park Ridge Community Church and he volunteered with the United Way in Park Ridge.

Funeral services are scheduled for 3:00 P.M. Monday, July 1, 2013 in Callahan & Hughes Funeral Home, 605 S. 25th Street with the Reverend Douglas Hazelwood officiating. Burial will be at a later date. Visitation is scheduled from 1:00-3:00 P.M. Monday, July 1, 2013 in the funeral home. The family kindly request that memorial contributions be made to The United Way of the Wabash Valley, 2901 Ohio Blvd. Suite 215, Terre Haute, IN 47803, or to Beloit College at www.beloit.edu/giving/givenow. Funeral information is also available at, www.callahanandhughes.com.

SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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Guide to Fourth of July fireworks, festivities

BY HEATHER LESZCZEWICZ | hleszczewicz@pioneerlocal.com, @HeatherLesz

Get ready to enjoy parades and be dazzled by fireworks.

Celebrate Independence Day at a variety of events in your town or see what a neighboring town's festivities entail.

EVANSTON

The city's annual 4th of July Celebration start off July 4 with playground games at 9 a.m., and go through the gala Fireworks show at 9:15 p.m., along the lakefront. The parade kicks off at 2 p.m. at Central Street and Central Park Avenue, and travels east to Ryan Field. For more information, go to www.evanston4th.org.

GLENVIEW

The 48th annual Glenview Independence Day Celebration will take place July 4 and activities include a parade, concert and fireworks display. The parade begins at 11:20 a.m. at Harlem Avenue and Glenview Road. It will travel south on Harlem before heading west on Central Road to Johns Park. The children's bike parade begins at 11:15 a.m. The Twilight Show begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Glenview Park Golf Club, 800 Shermer Road, featuring the North Shore Concert Band and a fireworks show. For more information, go to www.glenview4th.org.

MORTON GROVE

Morton Grove Days will be July 3-6 at the American Legion Memorial Civic Center, 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Hours are 5 to 11 p.m. on Wednesday-Friday; 2 to 11 p.m. Saturday. The festival includes carnival rides and games, a food court, beer garden and entertainment, with a fireworks show at 9:45 p.m. July 4. For more information, go to www.mortongrovedays.org.

NILES

The Fourth of July parade will be at 9 a.m. July 4, beginning at Notre Dame College Prep, off of Ozark Avenue, and ending at Grennan Heights Park. The Niles Park District will have activities at Grennan Heights Park, 8255 Oketo Ave., until 2:30 p.m.

PARK RIDGE

A deejay will play music from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and the Park Ridge Fine Arts Symphony will perform "Patriotic Salute" with the Brian Patti Big Band at 8 p.m. July 3 at Maine East High School's athletic field, Dempster Road and Potter. Fireworks follow the concert. Free admission. For more information, go to www.prfas.org.

SKOKIE

The Fourth of July parade kicks off at noon July 4 in downtown Skokie. At 5 p.m., the celebration moves to Niles West High School, Oakton Street just west of the Edens Expressway. At dusk, the 3-D Fireworks Fest begins. The first 10,000 patrons will receive a free pair of 3-D glasses. For more information, go to www.skokieparks.org.

DAVID BYRNE
& ST. VINCENT
RAVINIA.ORG JULY 6
‘Comedy of Errors’ tours outdoors

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Performing in a park can have its hazards, from airplane noise to stray soccer balls to people inadvertently wandering onto the “set.”

That doesn’t faze Northerbrook native Julie Johnson, Buffalo Grove native Sammi Grant or Skokie resident Steven Yandell — outdoor performing veterans. They are all enjoying being part of Spectralia Theatre’s Bard in the Parks production of “The Comedy of Errors,” which is touring Chicago parks in cooperation with Friends of the Parks and the Chicago Park District.

Johnson and her husband Don are managing artistic directors of Spectralia. He created the 90-minute adaptation of Shakespeare’s shortest play. She plays Adriana, the wife of Antipholus, a twin in this tale of confused identities.

Johnson has a history with the role of Adriana. “Back in 2005, I auditioned for a production of ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ which was the first Bard in the Parks production,” she related.

Don Johnson, who was then a friend, was one of three people casting the show. “It was the first time I was auditioning for him,” Johnson said. She chose one of Adriana’s monologues from “The Comedy of Errors.”

“I went to do my monologue — which I worked very hard on — and I completely forgot the whole thing,” she said. “It was horrifying. I had never been in that situation before.” She checked her script, finally remembered her lines and was cast as Titania.

Johnson and her husband decided to stage “The Comedy of Errors” with Julie as Adriana because they are celebrating their fifth anniversary this year. “We thought, why not go back to that moment in time that really brought us together?” she said.

Sammi Grant plays Adriana’s servant Luce, and she also serves as tech coach. Grant earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in acting from Illinois Wesleyan University in 2012. After graduating, she performed in “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” at a theater in Maryland, and then returned to Chicago where she did dialect coaching for Circle Theatre and Metropolis Performing Arts Center, among other venues. “This is my Chicago premiere,” Grant said.

Although Grant is legally blind, it doesn’t hinder her performing career. She either scans a script into her computer and has the computer read the script to her or, because she has a little vision in her left eye, uses a specialized machine which allows her to read. It helps that Grant has an outstanding memory. “I have to be memorized better for the rehearsal because I can’t read a script while I’m rehearsing,” she explained.

Steve Yandell, a junior at Loyola University, has been doing theater since he was around 9 when he performed the role of the title character in “Amahl and the Night Visitors.” Yandell also plays the Second Merchant and the Town Jailer. Even though outdoor theater has its hazards, all three actors are enthusiastic about that setting.

“I love performing outdoors because you can see the audience,” Johnson said. “It makes me think of what theater probably was like in the very early days before artificial lighting.”

Julie Johnson, Stephen Yandell and Sammi Grant are part of the cast of Spectralia Theatre’s “The Comedy of Errors.”

Spectralia Theatre’s Bard in the Parks program presents ‘The Comedy of Errors’

5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays in Chicago
July 6, Hermosa Park (2240 N. Kilbourn)
July 7, Nichols Park (1355 E. 53rd St.)
July 13-14, Touhy Park (7348 N. Paulina)
July 20, Broncho Billy Playlot (4437 N. Magnolia)
July 21, Peterson Park (5801 N. Puleski)
July 27-28, Skinner Park (1331 W. Adams)
Aug. 3-4, Chase Park (4701 N. Ashland)
Free
(773) 654-3097; www.spectralia.org
Chicago Botanic Garden Art Festival with 85 artists is 10 a.m.-5 p.m. July 6-7 at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe. ChicagoBotanicGardenArtFestival.com.

Fountain Square Art Festival takes place 10 a.m.-6 p.m. July 6-7 at Sherman Avenue and Church Street, downtown Evanston. Visit www.evchamber.com.

'Wreck-It Ralph' will be shown around 9 p.m. July 10 on the east lawn of Northwestern University's Norris University Center, 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston.

Island in the City Festival with music, food and carnival rides is July 11-14 at Norridge Community Park, 4631 N. Overhill. Visit www.islandinthecity.com.

Taste of Park Ridge (above) with food vendors, live music and children's activities is July 11-14 in downtown Park Ridge. Tasteofparkridge.com.
Get a ‘Taste’ of cupcakes, crepes, and goat

BY ANNIE ALLEMAN | Contributor

If you’ve got goat meat and bananas foster cupcakes on your culinary bucket list, there’s no time like the present to cross those out.

You’ll find both at the 33rd annual Taste of Chicago, which returns July 10-14 in Grant Park.

In addition to the 35 food vendors seven pop-up restaurants will be located on Columbus Drive.

New to the festival this year are 14 food trucks, with up to seven trucks a night selling entrees and desserts. They will park on the easternmost concrete path (parallel to Lake Shore Drive) and begin selling one hour before the evening concerts at the Petrillo Band Shell.

Other amenities at the Taste include the Dominick’s Cooking Corner, Bud Light Stage of local music, the Family Village for children and the Petrillo Music Shell main stage entertainment, which has free lawn seating. Concert headliners are: fun, July 10; Robin Thicke, July 13; and Neon Trees, July 14.

Here are a sampling of restaurants that represent the old (El’is) and new (Filip Crepe) at the 2013 Taste of Chicago. In addition to the main items, each restaurant will do two or three smaller, cheaper “taste” portions.

**Bobak Sausage Co.**, 5725 S. Archer Ave.; (773) 735-5334; www.bobak.com.

What to expect: Maxwell Street Polish sausage with grilled onions, steak sausage, summer seasoned grilled drumsticks and breaded pizza balls.

Cost/booth: Between 5-8 tickets; booth 1

Bobak’s Sausage, founded in 1967, is a USDA meat processor of old world sausages and deli meats.

“Our Maxwell Polish is what we’re known for. We’ve done that every year we’ve been in the Taste,” said Amanda Pawlak, marketing assistant. “Our steak sausage is our new line of all-beef sausage; we make it all-natural. Our drumstick is something that is very popular in the hot food eatery, so it makes sense to bring it to the Taste of Chicago.”


What to expect: Steak taco, tilapia taco, chicken taco, tamales wrapped in corn husks.

Cost/booth: 4 tickets/booth 11

Carbon is hoping to make a splash with their tacos, said owner John Falduto.

“We’re bringing our steak taco, which is very tender and juicy; then we have our tequila and lime-marinated chicken and our tilapia taco, which is hand-breaded with corn chips,” he said.

Falduto is expecting to sell anywhere from 800 to 1,000 tacos an hour.

“We’re also pricing everything at a very competitive price this year,” he said. “We’re trying to take the Taste back to its roots where it was years ago when it was just tastes instead of whole entrée items.”

**Chicago Cupcake**, food truck; (312) 300-4797; www.chicagocupcake.com.

What to expect: Red velvet, turtle, bananas foster, cookies and cream.

Cost/booth: 9 tickets/food truck

Chicago Cupcake will be one of the new food trucks participating in this year’s Taste. You can find them selling their delicacies from 4-9 p.m. July 12, 13 and 14 by the Petrillo Band Shell.

Flavors will include the turtle cupcake (chocolate cake, caramel filling and white chocolate Italian buttercream on a graham cracker crust); the red velvet (red velvet cake on a chocolate wafer crust and covered with cream cheese frosting) and the bananas foster (banana cake infused with brown sugar and rum on a graham cracker crust topped with brown sugar Italian buttercream).


What to expect: Turtle cheesecake Smoosh with vanilla ice cream and chocolate sauce; cookie cheesecake made with Oreo, chocolate chip crunch dipper.

Cost/booth: Between 3-9 tickets, booth 16

Ell’s Cheesecake has the honor of being the only participant at the Taste that has been with the festival every year since its beginnings in 1980.

“We’ve developed a lot of products in relation to Taste since we started,” said owner Marc Schulman. For example, the frozen cheesecake on a stick and the cheesecake Smoosh (cheesecake and ice cream topped with chocolate sauce) are perfect summertime additions to their Taste menu.

“For us, Taste is very special because it was at that first Taste on July 4, 1980 that my dad’s cheesecake had ever been sold outside the restaurant,” Schulman said.
What to expect: Ham and cheese crepe, Nutella crepe, Nutella with bananas and whipped cream crepe.
Cost/booth: Between 5-12 tickets, booth 32
Flip Crepes is new to this year's Taste of Chicago. It's something owner Antoine Elle has been thinking about doing for a couple of years. “We are very excited to be a part of it,” he said. “The crepes will be made fresh in front of our customers, so we’re bringing in a lot batter and a filling.”

What to expect: Rigatoni with vodka sauce, eggplant parmigiana sandwich, Italian sausage sandwich, caprese salad.
Cost/booth: 11 tickets, booth 23
Not only is this Punky's Pizza and Pasta's first year at the Taste, it's their first-ever festival appearance, said co-owner Vincent A. Scarlata. Punky's will be one of the pop-up restaurants appearing July 11 and 12.
They're bringing a smattering of the most popular items to the Taste, including the rigatoni with vodka sauce. "It's one of our more popular items and we know we're going to get a good response from it," Scarlata said.

Cost/booth: Between 5-12, booth “Those dishes are ethnic food, and they are very, very delicious; especially the red beans and rice and the plantains,” said owner Chief Ezeji. “The goat meat has been popular for the past 20 years at the Taste of Chicago.”

Cost/booth: Between 1-7 tickets/booth
Since appearing at the Taste in 2001, costumers have been asking for Wishbone Restaurant to return, said owner Joel Nickson. “We're a first-timer as far as the Taste organizers are concerned,” he said.
They are bringing a hoppin' John salad which is black eyed peas, brown rice, scallions and tomatoes. "It's a good summertime dish," Nickson said, "Especially with the onion vinaigrette we make. Then we're doing our North Carolina-style pork sandwich, which is a little different because it is more vinegar-y and not a sweet barbecue sauce.”
Mary Macaroni makes music, magic at Family Festival

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Kids love Macaroni — Mary Macaroni, that is. The lively children's entertainer will keep kids involved during a Tuesday Family Festival, 7 p.m. July 9 at Lorel Park, 8135 Lorel Ave., Skokie.

"I do a music and magic show," said Karen Burns, who performs as Mary Macaroni. "It's geared toward all children. The little kids are more interested in the music. I'll play guitar and sing. I do a bunch of interactive songs, where they're jumping and skipping and hopping. I've got instruments for them — shakers and bells and scarves."

Burns primarily performs covers although she sometimes adds her own lyrics to familiar melodies. After the music, the magic begins, which is geared toward kids age 5 and older.

"I use a lot of volunteers," Burns said. "It's fun magic where things fall apart or it fools me — they see what's going on and I don't."

She described the magic stunts as "very visual with things that they know."

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

NOTHING TO FEAR HERE EITHER

As a follow-up to the Fourth of July, the Village Crossing Shopping Center Barnes & Noble, 5405 Touhy Ave., Skokie, is featuring "Boom! Boom! Boom!" by Jamie A. Swenson for its storytime at 7 p.m. July 5. Kids will hear how to sleep despite nighttime noises, and then complete a fireworks craft.

For details, call (847) 674-1500 or go to www.barnesandnoble.com.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Your kids might not be into the sound of Bopology, a swing, jazz and blues band, but they will love mini-golfing for free, July 11 at Proesel Park, 7055 Kostner Ave., Lincolnwood. The concert is 7 to 8:30 p.m., mini-golfing is 6 to 8:30 p.m. and free bingo begins at 6 p.m.

For details, call (847) 673-1540 or go to www.recreation.lwd.org.

DON'T BE FRIGHTENED

Sure, "Monsters, Inc." is about the largest scare factory in the monster world, but it's a G-rated animated film so it won't scare younger viewers. The 93-minute movie will be shown at 2 p.m. July 12 at Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave.

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

HOP TO IT

Wildlife educator and author Randy Korb will tell children in kindergarten through fifth grade all about Fabulous Frogs, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. July 15 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Participants will have a hands-on experience with frogs. Registration is required.

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

To advertise, call Laura Huston at (312) 321-2448 or lhuston@suntimes.com
Spotlight: People on the go

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Playing it casual: Deerfield native Ellie Reed and Highland Park native Bradley Grant Smith travel back in time to 1955 for Jackalope Theatre Company's production of "The Casuals," July 7-28 at the Storefront Theatre. The world premiere addresses military secrets, paranoia, curiosity and truth. Reed is a founding member of the Buzz22 Chicago theater company. Smith, who has performed with a number of Chicago-area theater companies, including Steppenwolf, Goodman and Apple Tree, wrote and performed "Help Yourself," for the Oscar-nominated film, "Up in the Air." For tickets, call (773) 340-2543.

Maternal instinct: A new mom is convinced that there's something strange about her newborn daughter in the Gift Theatre Company production of Laura Marks' "Mine." Former longtime Libertyville resident Marti Lyons directs the production, which runs through Aug. 11. Glenview resident Alexandra Main plays a midwife who tries to reassure the mom that all is well. For tickets, call (773) 283-7071.

In good spirits: Sarah Granahan wants to share positive messages with the world. That's why the Northbrook native started Color My Spirit, LLC last year. She recently released two of her positive projects, a comic book, "Chakrula Series 8: Bringing Riley Back," and a novel, "Koko's Gift." Both are available at amazon.com.

He went to Indy for a spell: Word has it that Oak Park resident David Perkovich is directing "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" for Theatre at the Center in Munster, Indiana. The Tony Award-winning musical comedy runs July 11-Aug. 18. For tickets, call (219) 836-3255 or (800) 511-1552.

Big wheel keeps on turnin': You've seen people doing stunts inside huge wheels at circuses and such but it's also a competitive sport. The 10th Wheel Gymnastics World Championship is coming to Chicago July 8-14. That's good news for Wilmette resident Justin Durham, who will compete as part of Team USA. Durham is a representative of the Actors Gymnasium in Evanston where he received his training.

Beautification plans: Barrington artist Clare Vogt Wally is displaying her pastels and oil paintings through Oct. 7 at the Northwest Community Hospital Wellness Center in Arlington Heights. Fiber art by Inverness resident Valerie Rodell will be on display at the Rolling Meadows Library through Oct. 7. Both exhibitions were arranged by the Palatine-based Northwest Cultural Council.
Steans Institute marks 25th year

CONCERTS, COMMISSIONED WORKS AND MASTER CLASSES MARK THE CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF RAVINIA'S STEANS MUSIC INSTITUTE.

Students in the festival's summer conservatory for young professionals will present numerous concerts in Bennett Gordon Hall throughout the season and faculty members will give a concert Friday, July 5 in the Martin Theatre.

The institute, located year-round in the John D. Harza Building since 1988, began as a dream of the late Edward Gordon, who was the festival's executive director from 1968 to 1989. A combination of a rigorous admissions policy and internationally known faculty members proved to be a winning combination, said Miriam Fried, who joined the institute in 1991 and has been director of the piano and strings program for 20 years.

PSMI, as it is now called, began with programs for piano and strings, which the first year drew 24 young professionals. Voice was added in 1992 and in 2000 a jazz program started, something unique for classical venues. The total of participants now comes to between 60 to 70.

"The students were and still are attracted by our faculty," Fried said one sunny afternoon at the festival the week the institute began. "And the faculty comes because of the high level of our students."

Faculty members commit to one week of coaching and teaching, while students, now called Ravinia Fellows, stay for five weeks. "So the young musician gets the experience of five different professionals," the program director continued.

The season will present many new pieces commissioned for the celebration of this sterling anniversary. David Ludwig, whose musical pedigree includes grandfather Rudolf Serkin, will come to the festival and coach players in his new string quartet. "There is much more give and take among composers and players than you might think," said Fried.

Ludwig, who is not yet 40, is on the composition faculty at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. His piano quartet will get its world premiere on July 8 by Steans Fellows. "It is an extraordinary opportunity for our students to work directly with the person who wrote the music," Fried declared.

In addition to his string quartet, Ludwig has been commissioned along with Jake Heggie, Aaron Jay Kernis, Ramsey Lewis, Stephen Paulus, Roberto Sierra and Augusta Read Thomas to create new works for the program for singers. Those songs will be given their world premieres on Aug. 12 in Bennett Gordon Hall.

It's no surprise that as the reputation of RSMI grew, hundreds of talented young musicians in the early stages of their careers would want to be part of this special kind of Ravinia summer. "I don't envy Miriam the job of narrowing down the number in the piano and strings program to 30 participants," said Anthony Roberts, now in his fourth season as director of the institute.

Fried recalls that before everything was done on line she had tapes in big black garbage bags. "They were in piles all over our place," she said, shaking her head, "one for 'no,' one for 'yes' and one for 'maybe.' Now it is much easier."

The jazz program is by invitation only, but the young musicians and singers are auditioned into the institute for one year. They may also be selected for a second summer of study. "It is very important to have a mix of the new and the veterans," said Fried.

The creation and idea of RSMI evolved from Ravinia's summer series of master classes beginning in 1972 with Alexis Weissenberg and Rudolf Firkusny, in collaboration with the Northwestern University School of Music. While the affiliation between Ravinia and NU did not become permanent, the seeds for a program for young musicians were planted.

When asked what she thought Ed Gordon would say about Ravinia's Steans Music Institute on its 25th anniversary, Miriam Fried replied, "He would be very pleased."
Duo Piano Fest draws international talent

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES | Contributor

The Music Institute of Chicago has been sponsoring the Chicago Duo Piano Festival for a quarter of a century.

When Nichols Concert Hall opened in Evanston a decade ago, MIC faculty members joined festival founders Ralph Neiweem and his wife Claire Aebersold and prepared two-piano pieces for an additional recital.

This year's festival opens July 12 with Aebersold and Neiweem playing a two-piano arrangement of Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring," as well as pieces by Schubert and Ravel.

"The festival started in Winnetka," said Aebersold, "and it was small until 10 years ago when Nichols Concert Hall opened." The Liszt 200 celebration in 2011 also sparked interest in piano repertoire, she added, observing that in addition to numerous teaching pianos, Nichols boasts two nine-foot concert grands.

Aebersold is particularly pleased that there will be two faculty recitals in celebration of the event's 25th anniversary, one Sunday afternoon, July 14 and another Tuesday evening, July 16.

Among Neiweem and Aebersold's MIC colleagues playing July 14 is Xiao-min Liang and her piano partner and guest artist Jue He, presenting an arrangement of Prokofiev's Classical Symphony.

"It is a great transcription by Rikuya Terashima, not often played," Liang declared. "We heard Martha Argerich and Yefim Bronfman play it on YouTube and we decided to do it."

Also performing are Mio Isoda and her husband Matthew Hagle, who has been on the MIC faculty for 14 years. Their number is Debussy's "En blanc et noir."

"It was written toward the end of the composer's life and it is elusive," Hagle said. Hagle said that he and his wife find duo-piano playing especially easy. "We were trained by the same teacher," he explained. "We know what each other is supposed to do. It is the most fun, playing piano with my wife."

Elaine Felder of Highland Park and her piano partner Milana Pavchinskaya of Glenview will play Concertino for Two Pianos by Shostakovich, in a transcription made by the composer himself.

In honor of Wagner's birthday year, the second faculty recital on July 16 is called an Extravaganza Concert. Among its usual features will be a quartet of women playing a piano version of the composer's "Ride of the Valkyries" on two pianos, followed by four men playing the Prelude to "Die Meistersinger."

Concluding the festivities will be the guest duo Olga and Yuiri Sherbakov of the Ukraine, playing works by Ukrainian and Russian composers.

Holding this all together is Fiona Queen, who joined MIC in 2004 and is director of performance activity at MIC. She is herself a pianist, but said, "I decided to concentrate on the front of the house. People really look forward to this event, and there are so many connections this year, we want everything to be just right."
OPENING THIS WEEK

DESPICABLE ME 2

★★½
Rated
PG for rude humor and mild action
Stars
Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Russell Brand, Ken Jeong

The formerly despicable Dr. Gru (Carell) returns as a good guy in this tepid sequel to the surprise 2010 mega-hit. Not that it really matters, since he's been completely upstaged by his cheekily demented little yellow minions. After stealing the moon (and putting it back) in the original and renouncing his nefarious business — until he's recruited by the M16-like Anti-Villain League to help track down another super-baddie who's stolen a monster-making serum. There's also a little on-the-job romance as Gru falls for his over-eager partner Agent Lucy Wilde (Wiig), but most of the giggles come courtesy of the minions.

THE LONE RANGER

★★★
Rated
PG-13 for sequences of intense action and violence, and some suggestive material
Stars
Johnny Depp, Armie Hammer, Helena Bonham Carter, Tom Wilkinson

The masked avenger and his faithful sidekick Tonto (Hammer and Depp) ride again in this blockbuster action comedy. Directed by Gore Verbinski ("Pirates of the Caribbean").

THE WAY, WAY BACK

★★½
Rated
PG-13 for thematic elements, language, some sexual content and brief drug material
Stars
Steve Carell, Sam Rockwell, Toni Collette, Allison Janney

Though there's little that's new about "The Way, Way Back," this generally satisfying coming-of-age comedy is familiar in a good way. Think of it as a cross between 2009's summer-job-in-a-cheesy-amusement-park comedy "Adventureland" and a "Meatballs"-era Bill Murray comedy with a fair amount of teen angst and family drama mixed in. The writing/directing debut of Oscar-winning screenwriters Nat Faxon and Jim Rash opens with 14-year-old Duncan (Liam James) grudgingly tagging along with his divorced mom (Janney) for a summer vacation with her new boyfriend Trent (Carell). Some of the dramatic scenes, as Liam suffers through his mother's carousing with Trent's tawdry friends, feel a bit forced. Fortunately, the same isn't true of the lighter moments, when he's taken under the wing of the scruffy manager (Rockwell) of an antiquated water park and drawn into an awkward romance with the girl next door (AnnaSophia Robb).

STILL PLAYING

THE HEAT

★★★½
Rated
R for pervasive language, strong crude content and some violence
Stars
Melissa McCarthy, Sandra Bullock, Marion Wayons, Michael Rapaport

An uptight FBI agent (Bullock) and a loose-cannon cop (McCarthy) are forced to work together to take down a rock-Out carousing with Trent's tawdry friends, feel a bit forced. Fortunately, the same isn't true of the lighter moments, when he's taken under the wing of the scruffy manager (Rockwell) of an antiquated water park and drawn into an awkward romance with the girl next door (AnnaSophia Robb).

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

It's déjà vu all over again (with diminishing returns) as this big-budget, White House-under-attack thriller goes over pretty much the same ground the scruffier "Olympus Has Fallen" covered just three months ago — considerably more effectively. Tatum is the one-man army in this one and Foxx is the president he has to save when paramilitary bad guys take over 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Director Roland Emmerich provides bigger explosions and inserts humor into the equation wherever possible, but giving the president buddy-movie co-star status and rescuing him very early in the game splits the focus and neuters the suspense compared to the comparatively serious "Olympus." There are nice bits here and there, though, including an insane car chase on the White House lawn involving the armored presidential limo, a tank and some rocket launchers.

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.
Tonto steals the show in ‘Lone Ranger’

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

“The Lone Ranger”

No doubt Clayton Moore, who played the Lone Ranger on TV from 1949-1957, could not have foreseen a time when the masked avenger would be the sidekick and Tonto would be the star.

That’s exactly what’s happened in the new “Lone Ranger,” though, and it’s kind of a welcome change. It feels like good karma, too, despite the fact that TV Tonto Jay Silverheels, a real-life Canadian Mohawk, has been replaced by Johnny Depp wearing a dead bird for a hat.

Another team effort by mega-producer Jerry Bruckheimer and director Gore Verbinski, who scored spectacularly with the “Pirates of the Caribbean” trilogy (largely thanks to Depp, of course), this big, bombastic, but oddly mixed 21st-century “Ranger” is basically an origin story setting the stage for sequels. Though, somehow, it’s hard to imagine this turning into a franchise no matter how well it does at the box office. Constructed as a lengthy (and not entirely credible) story being told by the aged Tonto to a little boy at a Wild West Exhibition in 1933, it gets under way on the train bringing him and future masked-man John Reid (Armie Hammer of “The Social Network”) to the dusty town of Colby, Texas in the 1860s. Reid is an earnest law-and-order idealist coming home after law school to be the county prosecutor. Tonto is in chains, riding in the back with outlaw Butch Cavendish (William Fichtner), who’s scheduled to be hanged.

Things don’t go according to plan, of course, and Butch is rescued by his gang and subsequently tracked by Texas Ranger Dan Reid (James Badge Dale) and his posse, with brother John in tow, declaring that Cavendish must be brought back alive for due process. Treachery occurs, the Rangers are ambushed and left for dead until Tonto arrives with a mystical white stallion to bring John back to the living.

After that, and Tonto’s explanation that John has become a spirit walker, they reluctantly team up to bring Butch to justice. And that process uncovers a remarkably complicated tale of white man’s greed, a secret silver mine, an army massacre of Native Americans and a one-legged redheaded prostitute (Helena Bonham Carter). All of which calls for a complex mixture of mind-boggling action, heart-rending drama and oddball comedy that never quite settles into just the right formula.

Not that it really matters because Verbinski doesn’t let things sit still enough for the general off-ness to sink in. Also Depp is great, throughout, and the appropriately bumbling Hammer have a nice chemistry, and the whole business builds to a whopping finale.

It helps, also, that the funniest line in the film is saved for the last and that it’s uttered by Tonto.

So who was that strange masked man? Just a second-banana, it turns out.
Melissa McCarthy and Sandra Bullock star in "The Heat."

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Park Ridge Fine Arts Symphony


Vacant Lot - Racine and Madison" is among works collected in "Site Specific," an exhibit of small mixed media collages by Lincolnwood native Betsy van Die, on display through July 19 at the Boocoo Cultural Center and Café, 1823 Church St., Evanston. The collages are composed of van Die's urban photographic images combined with found objects, acrylic paint, charcoal, pastels and colored pencil. Among the sites van Die documents are condemned buildings slated for the wrecking ball, decaying facades, abandoned factories and graffiti-strewn walls. Call (847) 864-8164.

What to Do [Page 52]
What to Do
Continued from page 51

"Rockin' in the Park"


Sunday Sundown Concerts


STAGE

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre


"Mine"


Shakespeare on the Ridge


CLASSICAL

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: Claire Aebersold and Ralph Neiweem perform Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring" and works by Schubert and Ravel. July 14: Music Institute faculty and guest artists play 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 Sheperd perform works by Ukrainian and Russian composers, including Rachmaninoff's Suite No. 1 and Two Pianos. Tickets for each concert are $30; $20 seniors; $10 students.

Pick-Staiger Concert Hall

At Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. www.pickstaiger.org. July 12, 7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Summer Orchestra works performs works by Chaminade and Mahler. $5; $4 students. July 17, 7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Summer Choral Ensemble presents "Six String Sorcery." Free.

Allstate Arena

6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000. July 13: Americana with The Lost Highway Band, following 8 p.m. open mic. $8 includes refreshments.

InterContinental Chicago O'Hare Hotel

Montrose Room, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. www.montrose-room.com. July 26, 9 p.m.: Sean Kelly & the Samples. $20 general admission; $75 VIP.

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S.P.A.C.E.

BOOKS & POETRY
Lincolnwood Public Library

July 8, 11 a.m.: Discussion of The Expats by Chris Pavone.

CHILD’S PLAY
Imagine U Family Series

Lincolnwood Public Library

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.

COMEDY
Gorilla Tango’s Skokie Theatre

Perla Cafe
1813 Dempster St., Evanston. (847) 424-1382. July 12, 7:30-9 p.m.: Comedy performance by Skokie resident Debbie Sue Goodman, author of My Husband the Stranger, Still Single and Still Dating. No cover.

Zanies Comedy Club
What to Do
Continued from page 53

**FAIRS & FESTIVALS**

**Morton Grove Days**
**Jul 1-11 p.m. Friday; 1-11 p.m. Saturday; and 1-10 p.m. Sunday.** Visit www.islandinthecity.com.

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

**Mount Prospect Downtown Block Party**
**Jul 26-28 at Emerson Street and Busse Avenue, downtown Mount Prospect.** Includes live music, family activities and food vendors. Visit www.chicagoevents.com.

**Miami Festival of Music, Art and Food**
**Jun 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**

**Polish Festival of Music, Art and Food**
**Jul 11-14 at Norridge Community Park, 4631 N. Overhill. Free admission. The event features live entertainment, food vendors and carnival rides. Hours are 5-11 p.m. Thursday; 5-11 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.chicagoevents.com.

**Tours & Outings**

**Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park**
**6960 Oakton St., Niles.** Free admission. Located along the east side of McCormick Boulevard, between Dempster on the north and Touhy on the south. Free, docent-led tours featuring a different section of the two-mile long park are offered each month. The park is handicapped accessible but the tours require walking between the sculptures, so people who have difficulty are encouraged to bring a wheelchair. All tours begin promptly at 1 p.m. No reservations needed. Visit www.sculpturepark.org. **July 11:** Section IV; park in the lot in the Park, between Howard and Touhy.

**Workshops & Classes**

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

Meeting at 7 p.m. July 15 at the Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. The topic will be creating realistic dialogue. Call (847) 663-1234.

Anime Midwest Convention

Held July 5-7 at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont. The celebration of Japanese animation, video games and music includes costume contests, role-playing competitions, concerts and fashion shows. One-day pass $30; $45 for the whole weekend. Visit www.anime-midwest.com.

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. Visit www.mondaynightcarshows.com.

Summer Circus Intensive Showcase Performance

Presented at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. July 27 at The Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. $15 general admission. Visit www.actors-gymnasium.com.

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center

6503 Woods Drive, Skokie. www.ihuholocaustmuseum.org. Admission: $12; $8 for students and senior citizens; $6 for children ages 5-11. Through Sept. 1: “A Yiddish Maydel Sings in Chicago.” Eleanor Reissa, daughter of Holocaust survivors, sings Yiddish music for the third annual Sarah Lazarus Memorial Concert, accompanied by pianist Grant Sturiale. $10. Advance reservations and payment required. July 21, 1 p.m.: Screening of the film “Six Million and One,” an award-winning documentary about the Second Generation. Free with museum admission; reservations required. July 28, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.: Family Day. Children ages 3-11, along with an adult, can participate in a special program presented by the Anti-Defamation League exploring ways to help foster respect, celebrate differences, and stand up against bullying. Special tours of the museum’s highlights will be available for older children and parents not participating in the workshops. Free with museum admission; reservations required.

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian


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Most people who watched Jewell Loyd's All-American high school basketball career at Niles West knew the Lincolnwood native would become a college star.

Perhaps no one expected Loyd to be so good so soon at Notre Dame.

Loyd seemed to be the rare player who needed no adjustment period when going from high school to college hoops. The 5-foot-10 guard made an immediate impact as a freshman for the Fighting Irish this past season. She had a breakout game early against powerhouse Baylor and later helped Notre Dame to three wins over eventual national champion Connecticut, a victory on the road against Tennessee and a trip to the Final Four.

Although Notre Dame ultimately lost 73-61 in a rematch of the previous year's national championship game, ESPN commentators spent the broadcast raving about Loyd. "I went back and checked my phone (after the game) and there were a ton of text messages, and Twitter was blowing up," Loyd said recently from South Bend, Ind., where she is training, taking summer classes and working the program's summer camp. "I try not to get too caught up in the media that comes with success. But (the attention) makes you feel you are doing something well."

All the early success could have gone to a player's head, but McGraw said Loyd stayed grounded; Loyd said McGraw and the coaching staff played a pivotal role in her swift development by showing belief in her so early. The player also said teammate Skylar Diggins, the All-American point guard, was an incredible mentor.
Jewell Loyd pictured playing for USA Basketball against France in the FIBA U-17 World Championship final in Toulouse, France. [PHOTO COURTESY OF USA BASKETBALL]

"Playing with Skylar is like playing with Michael Jordan. It humbles you as a player and a person," said Loyd about the player who is now a member of the WNBA's Tulsa Shock. "She was a great player and took me under her wing from the moment I got onto campus. She's really a big sister and helped me develop, answered any questions."

Loyd and the Fighting Irish had hoped to send Diggins out with a national title. But that dream came to an end when UConn finally solved Notre Dame and posted an 83-65 win in the national semifinal in New Orleans.

Although disappointed, Loyd said the Final Four experience was a memorable one. She said there is a sense of unfinished business heading into the 2013-14 season.

"The Final Four was a learning experience for basketball, and it was great just going to the banquet and seeing New Orleans, just getting out of your comfort zone, and (dealing with) all the media," Loyd said. "It was a great experience and you want to go back there. It's like Disney, you want to go back, and when you become a teenager, go back again. You want to go back until you can't anymore. I felt that the moment I got back into the gym (after the season), I felt motivation to get back to the Final Four. I'm pretty sure that's everyone's mindset."

An early preseason poll by ESPNW, ranked Notre Dame at No. 10 in the country ahead of next season. The team obviously will miss Diggins, but still has a solid nucleus in Loyd, senior guard Kayla McBride and senior forward Natalie Achonwa.

McGraw said the team will be depending on an even greater contribution from Loyd during her sophomore year. Though she's not expected to replace Diggins at point guard, Loyd likely will have more ballhandling responsibilities.

"We're excited about the possibilities," the coach said. "Jewell has a tremendous work ethic and she'll continue to get better. We're excited about her playing a bigger role and stepping in and just knowing (we'll depend on her) every night."

I'LL BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...
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Plenty of brothers have played in the same league at the same time. In fact, it's so common that brothers had actually hammered home runs in the same game a surprising 27 times. The 27th occurrence happened when B.J. and Justin Upton did it for Atlanta against Colorado early in the 2013 campaign. But the Upton blasts came back-to-back, just the second time in major league history that brothers hit dingers on consecutive at-bats. The others: Lloyd and Paul Waner for the Pittsburgh Pirates in September of 1938.

Which is the most valuable team in all of sports? The New York Yankees? The Dallas Cowboys? The Los Angeles Lakers? No, no and no. According to the 2013 rankings by Forbes Magazine, on top is the Real Madrid soccer club at a whopping $3.3 billion - that billion, with a "b." Real Madrid supplanted the Manchester United soccer franchise, valued at $3.17 billion. Until 2013, Man U had claimed the top spot every year since Forbes began publishing the list in 2004.

Every baseball fan has hoped to catch a ball at a game - a home run, a foul pop, whatever. For Zack Hample, it's more than a hope... it's a science. Hample claims he's been able to get at least one ball at 880 consecutive games, a streak dating back to 1993. For the right price, he'll take "clients" to games and guarantee that each person will get a ball. He's been to all 30 stadiums, and he says his trick is that he is constantly on the move throughout the game. If you don't believe him, he's got a web site tracking his relentless pursuit.
Niles North's Nix gets his shot at Division I

BY MIKE ECKERT | Contributor | @Pioneer_Press

Good things come to those who wait.

Malachi Nix already had graduated from Niles North when he finally got what he was looking for — a scholarship to play Division I basketball. The 5-foot-8 Nix recently accepted an offer from Fairleigh Dickinson, and he said he will head to the New Jersey school in early July.

"I liked their whole coaching staff," Nix said. "They like to play the same way that I do."

Nix's aspirations at the Division I level came true, even if it was at the 11th hour. Things also worked out for first-year Fairleigh Dickinson coach Greg Herenda with the signing.

"It's a great addition to add this late in the process," said Herenda, who was hired by the Knights in late April. "I had some tentacles out there. An alum at UMass Lowell (Herenda's former team) alerted me to him, and the more research I did, the more I liked him. At the end of the day, it was like it was meant to be."

Despite the late start, Herenda pieced together a class that includes Nix and fellow Chicago standout Scott Kingsley from St. Rita. It's possible Herenda said he still could add another player or two before the fall.

Nix said that he sees a lot of similarities between Herenda and Glenn Olson, the coach at Niles North. There also are some similarities in the two programs.

Fairleigh Dickinson has four NCAA tournament appearances since 1985 — including a 2005 first-round loss to Illinois — but the Knights were 15-74 over the last three seasons.

"(Nix is) a winner," Olson said. "Fairleigh Dickinson is struggling a little bit right now, but they've got a new coach coming in. That's the exact same situation he came into high school with. It was a struggling program with a new coach, but he was able to see it through."

Olson and Nix led the Vikings to three regional titles, two CSL North championships and one sectional title. Herenda hopes that Nix can repeat that success at Fairleigh Dickinson.

"He's not afraid," Herenda said. "He's 5-foot-8, not 6-foot-8. But he's out to prove people wrong. That's what I love about him."

If Fairleigh Dickinson hadn't worked out, Nix said he was considering going to Ohio Dominican or attending a prep school for a year. Now that he's landed at a Division I program, he'll be competing for playing time right away.

"I tell all freshmen, 'Don't wait to be great,' but that's especially true this year," Herenda said. "We need our freshmen to come in and help us. I know that's (Nix's) intent."
Lyons alumnus Spencer Mahoney, a sophomore infielder for the Valparaiso baseball team, was recently named to the Horizon League's Spring Academic All-American Team.

Earlier this year, the LaGrange Park native was picked for the Horizon League First Team and the All-Tournament Team. He tied for second on the team in runs scored with 38, in walks with 31 and in triples with three. Mahoney finished the season with a .271 batting average, a .381 on-base percentage and was 7-for-7 on stolen-base attempts.

Also on the Valpo baseball team are Evanston alumnus Mark Johnson and Mundelein alumnus Ben Mahar.

Johnson, a sophomore outfielder, played in 40 games, starting 19.

Mahar, a sophomore pitcher from Mundelein, made 26 relief appearances for Crusaders, pitching 37 2/3 innings and finishing with a 3.11 ERA.

The three area athletes helped Valparaiso reach the NCAA Tournament for the second straight season. Last year the Crusaders snapped a 44-year NCAA Tournament drought.

With the help of several area athletes, the Augustana College women's lacrosse team won the Midwest Women's Lacrosse Conference title in its first season with the league.

Members of the team included New Trier alumna Meredith Goodale, Libertyville alumna Gina Filippo, Lake Zurich alumna Emily Handrahan, Oak Park-River Forest alumna Ryen Merhar and Lyons alumna Emily Pavlik.

The Vikings finished the season with a 17-4 record, including 8-0 in the MWLC and 10-1 at home. The team also won the MWLC Tournament, earning an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Tournament. Augustana to the Sweet 16 before losing to top-ranked Trinity.

Handrahan, a freshman from Hawthorn Woods, scored the game-winning goal in the opening round against Redlands, giving the program its first NCAA Tournament victory.

Handrahan finished the season ranked second on the team with 68 points and was named to the All-MWLC Second Team.

Pavlik, a sophomore from La Grange, was named to the All-MWLC First Team. She played in all 21 of the team's games, starting 17.

Merhar, a freshman from River Forest, registered nine goals in just 13 games. She attempted 13 shots for a remarkable 69.2 shot percentage.

Filippo started seven games, played in 13 and finished with five points. Goodale played in 12 games as a freshman.

Have a suggestion for the College Roundup? Email Nick Bullock at bullock@pioneerpress.com.
Worth the wait

Niles North's Malachi Nix finally lands Division I spot

After helping turn Niles North into a winner, Malachi Nix looks to do the same at Farleigh Dickinson. | DAN LUEDERT - Sun-Times Media