Niles resident Theresa Sokolowski, 82, is the subject of a new documentary detailing nearly 1,500 Polish refugees' journey to Mexico during World War II. | NATASHA WASINSKI-For Sun-Times Media

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Once a Polish exile in Mexico, Niles woman now featured in documentary

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

Longtime Niles resident Theresa Sokolowski says her story of coming to America often catches people off guard.

After the former Soviet Union invaded and annexed much of Poland from the east in 1939, Sokolowski (nee Niedzinski) and her family were uprooted permanently and flung across Asia from one refugee camp to the next.

Four years later, she and a group of displaced Poles arrived in an abandoned ranch in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico. Santa Rosa would become Sokolowski's first home outside of her native homeland.

Now 82, Sokolowski is featured in the recently-premiered documentary, "Santa Rosa: Odyssey in the Rhythm of Mariachi," which details the journey to Mexico for nearly 1,500 Polish refugees of World War II.

Sokolowski continues to hold the Latin American country close to her heart.

"I loved everything about Mexico and I still do," she said. "Whenever I go back, I feel at home."

Q: How was your family personally impacted by World War II?
A: The (Polish city) where I was born doesn't exist anymore. It's now Ukraine. I was 9 years old and I was living on this small farm close to Beresteczko. In 1940 on February 10, the Russians came to our house at four in the morning, knocked on the door, and told us they were taking us away from our home. There were six of us. Of course we were crying, and the kids were scared.

The soldiers gave a blank piece of paper to my mother and said, "Sign here." She spoke very beautiful Russian and asked why. They told her not to worry. What they wanted to do was, after she signed it, fill it up saying she was rejecting Polish nationality and accepting Russian: They were afraid we were going to organize against them. We were called "bourgeois" because we had land. My mother had to sign it because they were there with the guns.

We had half an hour to pack our belongings, and then they put us on this sled and took us to a train station.
We traveled in a boxcar with 20 or 30 families. We didn't know anybody. There was a hole in the floor for a toilet. There was no water; there was nothing except three-tiered bunks. That was our way to travel for a week from Poland to Siberia, where they then took us to a camp, a former prisoner's camp.

My mother, stepfather, and brother had to work in the forest and chop logs throughout winter. I had to go to school. I had a part in a play and performed on stage. Afterwards the man who was running the camp came to my mother and he says, "You have a very talented daughter. She's going to make a terrific career here in Russia." My mother says, "What kind of career are you preparing her for?" And he says, "She's going to be a fantastic tractorist." That's the best they could have done for me."

Niles resident Theresa Sokolowski, 82, is the subject of a new documentary, "Santa Rosa: Odyssey in the Rhythm of Mariachi," which details the journey to Mexico for nearly 1,500 Polish refugees of World War II. | NATASHA WASINSKI | For Sun-Times Media

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Q: How did your family make it overseas?
A: The Polish army began organizing in Uzbekistan and, later, they were moving refugees real quick and as far away from Russia as they could. It's like school - you don't have much of a say because other people are paying and doing things for you to save your life.

No country wanted to accept us except those under British command in Africa, India, New Zealand and Australia, and that's where people were going. The United States wasn't interested at all.

The president of Mexico agreed to accept a certain number of Polish refugees under the condition that somebody else was going to pay for it. The Polish government in exile in England had some money and was supporting us, and so, too, was a Polish organization in the United States.

My mother registered for Mexico because it's close to the United States. She thought maybe one day we would get there.

Q: Do you harbor any negative feelings about what happened to your homeland?
A: The negative feeling is always there but it's the hatred of government, never the people. On a whole, the Russian soldiers were very nice to us. The people were charitable and they were very good to us because they suffered like we did, but in a different way. It was never their fault. We would never blame the Russians.

Q: What languages do you speak?
A: In the camp everything was in Polish, but you had to learn Spanish. When I came to the United States I didn't know any English but I learned. I forgot the little Russian I knew. Now, when I go to Jerry's (Fruit and Garden Center in Niles), I talk to everyone in Spanish.
A 16-year-old girl was removed from the Baxter Auditorium minutes before an R-rated movie was scheduled to play on July 23 as part of the Morton Grove Library's weekly matinee series.

But the teenager wasn't trying to sneak in; she was hired by the library specifically to work the movie series.

Library Trustee Cathy Peters witnessed the teenager showing "Pricilla, Queen of the Desert" on June 25, an R-rated movie about two drag queens and a transvestite touring the Australian outback. Peters said she often takes her elderly mother to the matinee, and she promptly sent Library Director Pam Leffler an email asking for a different employee to show future movies.

After no resolution was found, Peters began talking to other trustees about the teenager and the types of movies being shown.

"If they (library administrators) lack the judgment and common sense to know that the majority of our taxpayers would be offended by this hiring, then my intervening really was an emergency situation," Peters said.

Peters visited the library on July 23 to see if the girl was working because the scheduled film was "Safety Not Guaranteed," an R-rated movie about a person who wants a time travel companion.

"We all hoped it would be a non-issue but it was never resolved like we asked," Peters said afterward. "I don't think this is micromanaging, because we asked for a change and we asked in a polite, non-public manner and that request went on deaf ears. This was an emergency situation because we don't want our patrons to think we condone underage children seeing inappropriate materials."

Peters said she privately spoke with four other board members who agree that underage employees should not be showing R-rated films in the library.

"This girl has done nothing wrong," Peters said. "She is simply too young and lacks the maturity needed for this position."

The film "Koran by Heart" is scheduled for Aug. 6, and Peters expects those men will return to again leaflet patrons, which is prohibited by library rules.

The library declined to release the teenage employee's name for privacy reasons. Peters said she hasn't been told if the girl will continue screening the films or not, but Peters plans to attend all future Tuesday matinees until a solution is agreed upon.
Niles sets aside more cash for flood prevention program

BY RICK KAMBIC | rkambic@pioneerlocal.com

After two major bumps in funding, Niles is now prepared to spend $1.2 million to help residents pay for anti-flooding devices in their homes.

Niles began a cost-sharing program last year that would cover half of a resident's approved project up to $4,000, if the house was a single-family home and was not violating any village codes.

Approximately $150,000 was set aside for helping residents in 2013. An additional $300,000 in leftover stormwater funding, from various projects, was also available if needed.

Village Manager Steve Vinezeano said only a handful of people took advantage of the program by April 1.

An estimated 600 Niles homes experienced water damages during the April 8 and June 26 storms, Vinezeano said, and suddenly village hall was overrun by residents wanting to prevent future damages.

Because of the drastically higher need, trustees approved adding $750,000 into the program during their July 23 board meeting.

"We're making this a top priority," Vinezeano said. "We even have employees going to houses to help people install their new equipment. Other things are not getting done around here, but we'll manage."

Shutoff valves, which block rising waters from the combined sewer system, are the most commonly installed item and the average approved rebate is $3,800, Vinezeano said. The $1.2 million would then help about 315 homes.

Not all claims have been reviewed, however, and Vinezeano said he doesn't anticipate everyone being granted money. Furthermore, about 70 applications arrived after the July deadline — which could have cost more than $260,000 if they were accepted and approved.

Before the extra $750,000 was approved, Trustee Chris Hanusiak asked his colleagues to extend the deadline for those 70 applicants.

Trustee Rosemary Rioridan Palicki also asked for an amendment, saying applicants should be screened based on their income. She proposed a scale in which 50 percent rebates would only be given to applicants who earn under $50,825 annually, while those who earn between $50,825 and $75,000 could only receive up to $1,000 and no one over that threshold could get public money.

"Part of being good government is being responsible government and paying our bills," Palicki said. "I support the infrastructure upgrades that will help a larger population. In this case, I do not support using reserve money or taking money away from pension payments. Scot has told us in the past that using too much reserve money could hurt our bond rating."

The flood control money is coming from a 0.25 percent sales tax hike, which was approved last year to fund the flood program and upcoming multi-million dollar infrastructure upgrades. But a portion of that revenue was also earmarked to cover police and fire pension contributions.

Paperwork from Finance Director Scot Neukirch advised trustees to still pay the planned pension amount and to pull $750,000 from the reserve account instead.

Both Hanusiak's extension and Palicki's income scale were rejected before the $750,000 transfer was approved.

"Responsible government is helping to protect the health, welfare and property value of its residents," Trustee Joe LoVerde said before voting.
Jennifer Hirsch will replace Jeffrey Gwozdz on the Golf School District 67 Board of Education when it reconvenes on Aug. 15.

Hirsch is a self-employed anthropologist who works with local governments and schools on sustainability and diversity projects. She was previously a faculty member at Northwestern University and before that spent five years as an anthropologist for the Chicago Field Museum.

District 67 board members chose Hirsch over Howard Kirschner during a July 24 special meeting.

Gwozdz was elected to his first term in April but was offered a California-based job soon after the election. Kirschner, a retired food distributor, also filed for the election, but his petitions were challenged and he was disqualified for being short two signatures.

Hirsch has lived in Morton Grove since 2001 and said she has no experience running for or holding office.

Q: Why did you apply for this vacancy?
A: I've been looking for a way to get more involved in Morton Grove. I do a lot of community work outside Morton Grove for my job, and now that I work for myself I do have some flexibility to do rewarding work in my own community.

Q: Do you have children in the district?
A: I have a 10-year-old son at Hynes School, which has been rated a top 50 school in Cook County many times in the last 10 years. We definitely have a good base in this district but it needs a better financial footing.

Q: Did you support or oppose any of the recent referendums posed to taxpayers?
A: Yes, I supported them. I had meetings in my house to organize people, I worked the polls and I made calls to voters. I also was one of a large group of people on a finance committee that looked at how to revise and approach another referendum.

Q: Do you know anyone on the current board?
A: Yes. Some of these people were also involved in the referendum process and one of the board members has a son in my son's grade level.

Q: Do you feel you specialize in anything the board can benefit from?
A: I am a cultural anthropologist and I think of things in a more broad perspective. I want to help strengthen the school's bond with the rest of the community. I think the schools would benefit from bringing outside resources into the classroom. That's called experiential learning. It connects learning with the outside world. Likewise, I want to find out how we can make the schools a valuable asset to those who do not have children in the district.

Q: Are there any school-related topics that you feel strongly about?
A: It's my opinion that we should teach languages in the elementary schools. I would have to consult a specialist on when it's appropriate to start, but I think you could start in preschool or kindergarten. Time Magazine recently published an article about Utah having bicultural school days where students spend half the day learning typical material in English and learn cultural material in another language during the second half of the day. Morton Grove, and this area in general, is far more diverse than Utah and could benefit from sharing languages.

Q: Do you have any interesting hobbies?
A: My family participates in programs at the historical society, we visit the farmer's market regularly and we're very active in park district organizations.
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.

**ORDER OF PROTECTION**

Valentin Villarreal, 28, of 8286 Elizabeth Ave., Niles, was charged with violating an order of protection on July 19 after police responded to a report of a woman being followed by her ex-boyfriend. Police said the 28-year-old woman reported she was walking to a bus stop when Villarreal began following her on his bicycle and harassing her. He has an Aug. 23 court date.

**DRUG POSSESSION**

Demetrios Giannakopoulos, 29, of 9012 Keating, Skokie, was charged with felony possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia on July 19. Police said 120 grams of suspected marijuana were discovered inside Giannakopoulos' vehicle which was parked outside the Golf Mill Shopping Center. He has an Aug. 23 court date.

**RETAIL THEFT**

Maisun Badawi, 36, of 2805 Garrison, Evanston, was charged with retail theft on July 21 after she allegedly stole $1,796 worth of merchandise from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. She has an Aug. 3 court date.

**THEFT**

A custom-made car cover was stolen overnight between July 18 and July 19 from a vehicle parked on the 8600 block of Osceola Avenue. The cover had been secured with a cable and lock, the owner told police.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**

A 13-year-old boy's bicycle was stolen on the evening of July 22 from a rack outside the Feldman Recreation Center, 8800 W. Kathy Lane.

**FORGERY**

A Niles man on July 19 told police he leased a home he owns to a couple who has failed to pay any rent since they moved in during August 2012. Police said the man, who is pursuing the matter in court, accused one of the tenants of forging receipts indicating rent was paid.

**THREATS**

A Niles woman told police that on July 20 she was threatened by the father of her child who later sent her a video showing him firing a rifle at an indoor gun range. The suspect, a 30-year-old Park Ridge man, accused the woman of changing when and where he can visit his child, but denied he would ever act on the alleged threats, police said. No charges were filed.

A Niles woman on July 22 told police that a former boyfriend, an alleged drug dealer, has been making threats against her since September of 2012 and came to her home in February swinging a metal pipe.

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New mayor gets more control over Ethics

BY RICK KAMBIC | rkambic@pioneerlocal.com

Niles trustees approved substantial changes to their Board of Ethics last week, just over a year after the committee was used to oust then-Village Manager George Van Geem.

Changes include a new inspector general position to act as a prosecutor, a new first-review subcommittee that screens ethics complaints and the replacement of the board's outside attorney Mike Siegel with another resident at large.

The new rules give Mayor Andrew Przybylo, and future mayors, more control over the Ethics Board by creating a new layer consisting mostly of long-term, paid appointees—something that worried past and present trustees prior to the July 23 vote.

In Przybylo's approved revision, Village Attorney Joe Annunzio collects all submitted complaints and takes them to an advisory panel consisting of himself, the new inspector general and the chairman of the Ethics Board. If the group decides a complaint is legitimate, the inspector general investigates and presents findings to the Ethics Board for a decision.

"I don't see any independence here," former trustee Louella Preston said during the July 23 board meeting. "The last page of the ordinance says the inspector general is administered by the office of the village attorney. Mike Siegel had no accountability to Joe Annunzio."

Current Trustee Rosemary Riorian Palicki echoed those concerns and also pointed out a revision that allows Przybylo to appoint the Ethics Board chairman, instead of allowing the board to elect its own leader.

Siegel was a paid, voting member of the Board of Ethics since its inception in 2009. He is a former assistant U.S. attorney who is now a partner in a private law office. Siegel was also contracted from 2008 to 2010 to help the village respond to subpoenas by federal prosecutors who were investigating former mayor Nick Blase.

All members of the Ethics Board are appointed by the mayor and approved by trustees.

Resident Steve Ostrega was appointed to replace Siegel on the Ethics Board. Ostrega was a senior purchasing agent for Aerospace contractor MPC International before the company was bought two years ago and its staff was cut. While looking for another finance job, Ostrega has recently published two books.

Palicki was the lone dissenting vote against the ethics board revisions, and Ostrega's appointment.

"I have nothing against Mr. Ostrega," Palicki said. "My concerns pertain to the restructuring of the whole process."

Annunzio said the group will now determine how to find qualified candidates for the new inspector general position, which will most likely be filled by someone with a law degree.

The Board of Ethics was created in 2009 after then-mayor Blase stepped down in light of federal corruption charges. Three of the Ethics Board's main objectives were to review the duties of the mayor, village manager and village attorney.

All three objectives were completed in late 2011, and the findings were used in 2012 during a yearlong political struggle against then-Mayor Robert Callero.

At the time, Annunzio was appointed by Callero to be the compliance officer who reviewed complaints and enforced rules. The Ethics Board found that to be a conflict of interest because Annunzio's job is to defend village employees and trustees.

Findings also said the office of mayor can hire a personal attorney. The trustee faction then voted to hire their own lawyer to file legal charges that would change the mayor's ability to hire department heads.

An ethics complaint then surfaced and was debated in executive session for several months before Van Geem publicly acknowledged that a majority of the Village Board offered him a voluntary separation agreement.

After refusing to leave, trustees voted down Callero's annual appointment of Van Geem. Callero appointed Van Geem to repeated 30-day terms until he eventually resigned and took a job as Skokie's finance director.

The trustee faction was later broken when Przybylo's slate swept the April 2013 election.
Debris from Touhy bridge hits cop car

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

Union Pacific Railroad detected no problems with an overpass in Park Ridge where a pebble plunked a city police car Wednesday, a representative of the rail company stated.

A police detective reported a rock fell on the city vehicle July 19 while he drove under the bridge on Touhy Avenue near Busse Highway, according to Park Ridge Police Cmdr. Lou Jogmen.

Union Pacific learned of the incident the same day at 10:14 a.m., and had personnel on scene in two hours, said the rail company's spokesman Mark Davis.

He said inspectors "found nothing wrong with the bridge." Traffic flow resumed by 2:05 p.m.

This wasn't the first time Park Ridge observed potential issues with the 25-year-old bridge, which supports rail tracks cutting through the downtown area.

Several years ago, the city lodged a formal complaint with Union Pacific when debris and stones fell from the bridge onto the streets below. In one case, a slab of concrete broke off the viaduct and damaged two cars.

Since railroads, not local governments, maintain their own rail tracks and bridges, Park Ridge Public Works staff notified Union Pacific.

The rail company dispatched workers to board up the underpass with wood paneling and repair cracks found along other areas of the Main Street wall.

The wooden boards are intended to catch bits of rubble from spilling onto the street and sidewalks below.

"Generally speaking, it's done its job," Jogmen noted.

However, vibrations created by trains passing over the tracks can cause stones to roll.

While the boards successfully capture concrete falling from the center of the viaduct, pieces that break off near the outer edges are more likely to bounce off the wood paneling when there's movement overhead.

"What we are experiencing now depends on where the concrete falls (onto the boards)," Jogmen said. "It appears, from our perception, that enough of (the debris) is now falling on the boards to preclude it from falling further."

Jogmen said he expected Union Pacific to eventually replace the wooden beams yet, at this juncture, "it's an ongoing maintenance issue."

He said the police car involved in the recent incident had only minor damage from the falling rock, and that the department had no related reports involving citizens' cars or injuries.

Bridge safety became a major concern locally last summer following a fatal train wreck and bridge collapse on the Glenview/Northbrook border.

July 4 marked one year since the steel overpass on Shermer Road buckled and killed motorists Burton and Zorine Lindner.

A report by the Federal Railroad Administration stated hot weather caused a compressed track to buckle and derail the 32 freight cars of a Union Pacific coal train en route from Wyoming to Wisconsin.

The report also said a track inspector noticed a "bent weld" on the rail five hours before the accident and notified a qualified track supervisor.

A lawsuit filed by Lindner family members against Union Pacific is still pending.

Union Pacific encourages the public to report environmental hazards, as well as unusual or suspicious occurrences, on any of its property by calling the rail company's hotline 1-888-877-7267. To report damaged, blocked or obscured grade crossing emergencies, call 1-800-848-8715.
National Night Out returns to Maine Township

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

The communities of Park Ridge and unincorporated Maine Township will again hold festivities to mark National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 6.

The yearly event, which encourages citizens across the country to come together and take a stand against crime in their communities, will take place in Park Ridge from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Hodges Park, Courtland and Vine Avenues. In Maine Township it will be held at Dee Park, Emerson Street and Dee Road, also from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Park Ridge festivities will include a petting zoo, games, dunk-a-cop, a donut eating contest, train rides for kids, and music provided by a deejay. There will also be informational booths on crime prevention and local organizations, as well as a tour of the Park Ridge Police Station and a chance to enter a free raffle and win a new bike, gift certificates to local merchants and other prizes.

Park Ridge residents are also encouraged to turn on their porch lights in support of National Night Out.

In Maine Township, local talent will perform on a makeshift stage in the park, while representatives from the Maine Township Neighborhood Watch, Cook County Sheriff’s Office, the Golf Maine Park District, the North Maine Fire Department and the Maine Township Office of Emergency Management are on hand with demonstrations and giveaways. The night will conclude with the distribution of glow necklaces to participants.

In Niles, residents can take an interactive course simulating the vision of impaired drivers and view K-9 and self-defense demonstrations at the corner of Main Street and Ottawa Avenue, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6. Kids can visit with the Chicago Blackhawks mascot, make balloons, compete in a poster contest (participants must pre-register by midnight Monday, July 29, at vnils.com) and land an officer in a dunk tank.
Keeping Tabs
How Illinois lawmakers voted in Congress for the week ending July 26, 2013

Major roll call votes in the Senate

THOMAS PEREZ CONFIRMATION
Senators voted, 54-46, to confirm Thomas E. Perez to become the 26th U.S. secretary of labor.

GINA MCCARTHY CONFIRMATION
Senators voted, 59-40, to confirm Gina McCarthy as the 13th administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Major roll call votes in the House

1. GOP EDUCATION BILL
Members voted, 221-207, to pass a Republican bill to greatly diminish the federal role in K-12 education, increase state and local authority over schools and freeze federal education spending at sequestration levels for several years. A "yes" vote was to send HR 5 to the Senate.

2. DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION PLAN
Members voted, 193-233, to defeat a Democratic version of HR 5 that would have retained the strong federal role in U.S. schools that began with the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act. A "yes" vote was to keep but improve the No Child Left Behind education law, among other differences with the GOP bill.

3. AUTISM, CONCUSSIONS, BACKGROUND CHECKS
Members voted, 196-231, to defeat a bid by Democrats to require state plans developed under HR 5 to set high standards for educating children with autism or other disabilities, recommend steps to prevent concussions in athletics and mandate background checks to prevent the hiring of individuals convicted of sex crimes. A "yes" vote was to adopt the motion.

4. 2014 MILITARY APPROPRIATIONS
Members voted, 315-109, to approve $595 billion in military appropriations for fiscal 2014, including nearly $82 billion for combat in Afghanistan and other overseas hot spots. A "yes" vote was to pass a bill raising uniformed pay by 1.8 percent and authorizing 1.36 million active-duty troops. (HR 2397).

Key votes ahead
In the week of July 29, the House will debate student-loan interest rates and fiscal 2014 appropriations. The Senate will resume debate on a spending bill for transportation and housing programs.

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What it means to you

TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

Madigan crony took city pension while he sought a Metra raise

Nearly $110,000 a year wasn’t enough for Patrick Ward - the Mike Madigan campaign worker at the center of Metra’s patronage scandal.

When Ward complained to the powerful state House speaker last year that he wanted a raise on top of his annual Metra salary of $57,000, Ward was already drawing at least $52,700 a year from a taxpayer-subsidized city pension, a Chicago Sun-Times investigation has found.

Pension and payroll records show Ward, now 57, began collecting retirement benefits in 2009 after 30 years of government service. He made $84,000 his final year of employment with the city and got an initial pension of $52,700. As he began collecting his pension, he also started working for Metra.

The Sun-Times has also learned that when Ward took a state job last May after leaving Metra he earned a “special salary adjustment” guaranteeing him a double-digit pay hike to work in Gov. Pat Quinn’s administration.

The new revelations come as Madigan has faced increasing scrutiny over patronage requests at the rail agency. His daughter, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, pulled out of contention for the race for governor in the days following the Metra scandal blow-up. She cited her father’s refusal to step down from his position as Speaker.

— Chicago Sun-Times

Judy Baar Topinka says she can’t pay Illinois lawmakers

Illinois Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka said July 25 that she has no choice but to withhold lawmakers’ paychecks, citing a precedent-setting court case that bars her from paying state employees without a budget appropriation or court order.

Gov. Pat Quinn cut $13.8 million for legislators’ paychecks from a budget bill earlier this month, saying it wouldn’t be restored until lawmakers addressed the state’s $97 billion pension shortfall. He also suspended his own pay.

"It is my deep hope that this matter is resolved expeditiously," either by a court or by lawmakers agreeing on a solution to the pension crisis, said Topinka, who undertook a legal review to determine if Quinn’s actions were constitutional. The Riverside Republican said July 25 that Attorney General Lisa Madigan’s office advised her of the case that appears to bar her from acting.

She called Quinn’s actions a “serious precedent that is being created,” and said the stalemate was “no way to run government.”

"Threats, blackmail and inertia may be good theater, but it makes us look ridiculous and takes away from our ability to get things done," she said. "It is time for leaders to lead."

Lawmakers were scheduled to receive their next paychecks today.

— The Associated Press

Tricky obstacles ahead on the road to averting shutdown

There hasn’t been a government shutdown in nearly two decades, but top lawmakers on Capitol Hill are finding trickier-than-usual obstacles in their path as they try to come up with must-do legislation to keep federal agencies running after Sept. 30.

Conservatives making a last stand against President Barack Obama’s new health care law and Senate Democrats’ resistance to a $20 billion spending cut wanted by many, if not most, Republicans are two of the major problems confronting House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and other GOP leaders.

The combustible mix raises the possibility of the first government shutdown since the 1995-96 battle between President Bill Clinton and GOP insurgents led by Speaker Newt Gingrich. Republicans got the worst of that battle and have avoided shutdowns ever since.

The prevailing thinking is that it will all get worked out since leaders in both parties want to avoid a shutdown. But unlike last year, when Congress opted to delay debate over the so-called fiscal cliff until past the election and the December holidays, there has been little negotiation this time. The differences on spending levels also are more troublesome than last year.
Fix Metra, but do it right
Regional transit has a big mess at the top.

Transit now is run by three separate service boards — the CTA, Metra and Pace — whose warring priorities are refereed by the Regional Transportation Authority.

There are calls to get rid of the RTA, but simply abolishing the RTA would encourage the three service boards to go their own way even more than they do now. RTA Chairman John Gates thinks the answer is to give the RTA more authority. For example, the RTA didn't get advance notice of Metra's costly severance agreement with former CEO Alex Clifford, and didn't have the right to cancel it.

The jerry-rigged system has evolved to ensure no single area gets an unfair share of the tax money raised in the six-county RTA region. It's not ideal, but it at least guarantees funding equity between the city and suburbs while allowing the CTA, Metra and Pace to serve their constituencies.

The biggest problem is a $30 billion backlog of deferred maintenance. If the Legislature helps fix that with a new capital bill, it would ease the fighting for dollars among the service boards more than any restructuring of governance would.

Must crack the code to talk about race
Just too much baggage.

I've tried to avoid talking about or commenting on the verdict in the George Zimmerman case, who shot black teenager Trayvon Martin in what a jury has ruled was an act of self-defense, because of all the stuff piled onto the case.

The courtroom, where the facts of an alleged crime are debated and weighed, is not the appropriate place to discuss the state of race relations in America in 2013. In reviewing the case with a cold eye of a reporter, it is clear that the jury got the verdict right.

But as a person who has lived with the racial tensions inherent in one of America's most segregated communities, I also know the trial did not result in justice for Martin's death. I'm afraid none will be available.

However, if we are to have a national dialogue in the aftermath of the trial, there are two issues white people need to acknowledge and talk about.

One is the irrational fear many whites have of black people. It exists on many levels and is played out daily. Look at where we live now, where we used to live, and the racial make-up of Chicago's neighborhoods and suburbs.

Another phrase I hate, and even banned from the pages of Pioneer Press when I edited those papers, is "inner city." That's white code for poor, high-crime black neighborhood. But it quickly becomes a catch-all phrase for just black neighborhood. Chicago's neighborhoods have names, and as an editor I always demanded my reporters use those neighborhood names and not use "inner city."

The second issue is profiling. President Obama touched on it in his speech in the aftermath of the trial. It can be as simple as locking your car door when a black man walks by, or as overt as calling the cops because a black man is in the neighborhood.

As a young reporter covering the police beat in Chicago's suburbs, I jokingly called those reports, which were more numerous than I care to remember, black man walking.

Easy for me to joke about and sneer at the obviously racist whites, but enraged to live with, don't you think?

When does irrational fear turn into profiling turn into calling police that leads to a confrontation that ends in tragedy for everyone involved?
Royal name could be big hairy deal

You probably know the answer to the most important question on earth.

But I don't, because this is being written before that most important question is answered.

Yes, you probably know the name of England's new prince.

But, as I write this, I don't know the name.

Let's see if I can figure it out.

What would be a good name for a prince?

Valiant?

Prince Valiant.

Am I right? Is the royal kid's name Prince Valiant?

Probably not. Been done before.

Besides, what happens when he becomes king? You can't have a king named King Prince Valiant.

How about just naming the kid Prince? Just plain Prince?

No, we already have one of those. It's an all-purpose name that is needed.

I like the name Richard. What do you think?

And England already has had three King Richards.

There was Richard the First, known as Lionheart. But he died a violent death in battle. Bad omen.

And Richard the Second. Ah, he was deposed and murdered. Very bad omen.

Then there was Richard the Third. He usurped the crown and died violently in battle. Hmm. Bad omen number three.

Richard is not a lucky name for the new prince.

Besides, a king needs a mighty name, a name that is respected, even feared.

And just such a name has come to me.

Name the kid — Kong.

Then he would one day be King Kong.

Now there's a name to conjure with, a name to make mere presidents and prime ministers step aside: Make way for King Kong, the Ninth Wonder of the World!

Yep, that's what they should name the kid.

But they won't.

They didn't.

As you probably know.

Is it George, or Edward, or James?

Something like that, right?

How small.

We are not amused.

Am I right? Is the royal kid's name Prince Valiant?

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.
Exercise pill could create local superhumans

If vigorous exercise is not your thing (it turns out most Park Ridgeans shun it) you like me will wonder what's going on lately in the Scripps Research Institute in Jupiter, Fla. They've come up with a compound they say may someday replace physical exercise. You know — pop a pill and grow a muscle! I hate exercise, so I would be a likely customer. However because there's a price to everything, you have to wonder about the inevitable side effects. Not simply physical or chemical, but psychological and social. Whenever something cal or chemical, but psychological and social. Whenever something doesn't belong in the picture, you will be interested in figuring out how this could help them win the next war.

Say, a new workout pill just might become the next wheel or fire in the history humanity! OK, maybe that's pushing the point. And yet isn't this idea simply one more step in our species' long march toward what the Enlightenment Philosophers of the 18th Century called 'the perfectibility of man'? The march continues daily in all our new how-to books. PBS health lectures, TV infomercials, chirpy morning network shows, chatty afternoon interview shows and then there's next Sunday's televangelist pitching the dogma god wants everyone to get healthy. It's a new day! A new dawn! Long gone is that outdated no-sweat-no-gain stuff they taught us in our PE classes! But wait a minute. If evolution works, does this mean in another several generations our Park Ridge kids will be growing bigger heads and brains with smaller hands and arms? Lounging on their 1000-channel digital thrones pilling and twittering their way through this and other worlds?

If so, if we actually so begin realizing this promised perfectibility, do we then become as gods? Does the City Council grant us new tax-free status?

Jack Spatafora
Park Ridge

Headline offensive to former mayor

We were totally offended by the headline of the Morton Grove Champion's article in the July 18th edition [Ousted Morton Grove mayor seeks return to park board]. Dan Staackmann is our former mayor, not our ousted mayor. He may have lost the last election, but he definitely deserves more respect when one makes reference to him. Dan has always cared, and continues to care about Morton Grove and its inhabitants.

In our thinking, editor Ben Meyerson owes Dan a public apology. And if the Champion is going to continue to write about local politics, then the paper needs to get all the facts first. Mr. Meyerson's headline was not creative nor clever, it was just plain mean.

Nick G. Demas
Marie C. Demas
Morton Grove
Morton Grove Champion

CAPTURE LOCAL.

KIDS PLAY AT THE MORTON GROVE ANNUAL FESTIVAL.
Library reopens second floor, unveils renovations

BY IGOR STUDENKOV | Contributor

Three days after the second floor of the Niles Public Library officially reopened, there was still work to be done.

Library staff checked their inventory lists carefully as they arranged two floors worth of books, audiobooks, CDs and DVDs along the shelves. But even as they tried to finish moving the materials, they didn’t forget about patrons - there was always at least one librarian on hand to help them find what they were looking for.

The reopening of the second floor marked the beginning of the second phase of the library’s ongoing renovation project. Even as the staff finished moving materials from the floors below, the library was getting ready to close off its main staircase so that the next round of construction could begin. Sasha Vasillic, the library’s digital marketing coordinator, acknowledged that this may cause some inconvenience, but he believed that the renovated spaces will be well worth it.

Before the second floor reopened, the audio-visual section was located on the first floor, between the circulation desk and the main staircase. The “Teen Alley” young adult section was located off to the side, between the staircase to the lower level and the southern wall. The lower floor was home to fiction and large-print book collections.

On Friday, July 19, the library began moving the AV collection and lower-level books to the second floor. The young adult section was temporarily moved to the former board room on the first floor until the renovations are finished.

Vasillic said the second floor opened to the public on Saturday, even as much of the material was still on the moving carts. The library, he explained, wanted the patrons to be able to use the reopened space as soon as possible.

The reopened space has new carpets, chairs, tables and power outlets. And, as Vasillic proudly noted, the new lamps and large window made the second floor better lit than an old AV section.

“The old AV section didn’t have natural light,” said Vasillic. “This space is much more inviting.”

He said that the response to the patrons’ response to the revamped second floor has been positive. And it is already having an effect on library usage.

“Our circulation manager said that [the number of checkouts] did go up last weekend,” said Vasillic.

But even as the new space is opened, the lower level has already been closed off. The former AV and teen sections are currently open, but they are expected to close sometime this week.

The former AV section will be converted into a “Community Commons area.” It will feature vending machines currently located to the right of the library’s entrance, the new “Popular Materials” section, a Friends of the Library sales area, some artwork and lounge space where patrons can relax.

The construction will block off the main staircase, so the library will temporarily open a staff-only staircase to the public. Located at the end of the hallway behind the circulation desk, it isn’t easy to find, but Vasillic assured Niles Herald-Spectator that there will be clear, detailed signage to help patrons find the way.

Meanwhile, the lower level will be renovated to include study rooms, a computer training room, a meeting room, a computer area and a larger young adult section.

The common area is expected to be finished by the middle of September. The lower level renovations should be completed in November.

While the closings are bound to cause some inconvenience, Vasillic said that the end results will be worth it.

“It’s going to take a bit of time,” he said. “But the outcome will make the library more comfortable and convenient. I think [the patrons] are really going to enjoy it.”
The Niles Township District 219 school board launched a search this week to fill a board vacancy left by 12-year board member Lynda Gault-Smith, who passed away July 18.

District 219 is required to appoint someone to fill the vacancy by Aug. 26 under laws enforced by the Illinois State Board of Education, said Jim Szczepaniak, communications director for District 219.

The newly-appointed school board member will serve in the position until the next election in April 2015.

District 219 announced that applications were being accepted on July 26, and in just two business days a "good number of calls" have come in from people expressing interest in the position, Szczepaniak said.

Applicants must meet a set of basic criteria including being a resident of District 219 for at least a year, be at least 18 years old, a registered voter and a U.S. citizen.

Interested candidates should complete an application by Aug. 5 at 12 p.m., which gives the existing six board members three weeks to review applications and conduct interviews before making a selection.

The application asks for a letter of intent directed to board secretary Carlton Evans, a resume and the completion of a questionnaire.

The nine-question interview portion of the application asks prospective candidates to list some of the most important issues facing District 219 and explain how they would address those issues. It also asks applicants to list their reasons for becoming a school board member.

The school board requires trustees to devote at least 15-20 hours of time each month to board meetings, preparation and reading, according to the application document.

Colleagues and friends of

Longtime Niles Township School District 219 board member Lynda Gault-Smith died July 18 after a battle with cancer. | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gault-Smith say she was dedicated to her duties on the school board up until her death this month, remaining active as a trustee up until the last few meetings.

The 30-year Skokie resident was a longtime supporter of special needs programs and was known to stay engaged in the school community outside of her duties as a trustee — a constant presence at football games and other sporting events, school musicals and fine arts programs.

"She was highly respected because she made a point to immerse herself in the schools and she was always a part of what was going on," said board member Ruth Klint.

Anyone interested in applying for the board opening should contact Marie Walton in the superintendent's office for an application package by calling at 847-626-3962 or emailing her at marwal@d219.org. The filing deadline is Aug. 5 at 12 p.m.
Culver School pinching pennies

BY NATASHA WASINSKI
Contributor

Estimated expenses at School District 71 last year topped out at $9.68 million.

Though expenditures in the 2013-14 school year are expected to drop to $9.26 million, "that doesn't mean we're saving a lot of money from last year, because we're not," Superintendent Amy Kruppe stated.

She explained last year's budget included a capital improvement project to revamp the school's parking lot.

Either way, the one-school district is continuing to pinch pennies "as far away from the classroom as possible," Kruppe said.

She presented the Board of Education with a tentative spending plan for the upcoming academic year last week.

As in most public school systems, staff salaries and benefits are District 71's largest expense, and are expected to total approximately $6.91 million.

That's $236,000 over last year's personnel costs, though the actual amount could change based on student enrollment, Kruppe said.

District 71 conservatively projects to pull in $8.51 million. Local taxes fund more than 90 percent of Culver School's operations.

Kruppe expressed reluctantly in budgeting higher revenues from the state and federal government given lawmakers' cutbacks in recent years. Reimbursement for special education and transportation would be determined later in the summer.

"This is really just a sample budget," Kruppe said of the document.

School board members are expected to finalize the 2013-14 budget following a public hearing August 20.

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**SUPER CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**
1. Hire new employees for
8. Judge the value of
14. Percentage on an S&L
20. Broadcast medium for
21. Ontario metropolis
22. One in a violent mob
23. Singer
25. 1944-59 song of
26. Appearance
27. Lemon-hued log house?
28. Anthropods
33. Another time
36. Swann of the NFL
37. Actress
38. Ellen's commands?
41. Moral
42. Appearance
43. Bit of a song
48. Datum in a used-car ad
51. Virgin hero
52. Letter #19
53. LAX monitor osta

**DOWN**
1. Strip of vertical shiny fabric?
2. City south of
3. Moscow
4. Longitude's sign
5. Almost like
6. Punk rocker
7. Year Bush Jr.
8. Sending to hold on just a second
9. Singer
10. Actor
11. Hoffmann
12. Floor?
13. 110th Stateabbrev.
14. In the canvas?
15. Off-white cleans the seabird?
16.صدأ
17. Run (defer)
18. Mr. Mom?
19. Another time
20. Morgan of countries
21. Music
22. Article in
23. Actress
24. Tarzan?
25. First
26. Top dogs
27. Secretary, Abbr.
28. One in
29. Ender
30. Shells up
31. Has it wrong
32. Swann, say
33. Meanie
34. Eddy and
35. Mojo
36. Judge the reservation commands?
37. Fear of
38. Sailor suits?
39. Similar to a wooden pin
40. Fr. nun, e.g.
41. --Clown
42. Gather
43. Log house?
44. Gift trip
45. --dah
46. N.Y. hours
47. --Girls
48. Datum in a
49. Don't leave
50. Get bloated
51. --Cost (for)
52. Early feedback on your project might be disappointing. But don't be discouraged.
53. --King Features Synd.. inc
54. --NFL
55. Shaded walk
56. In demand
57. --Singer
58. Almost like
59. Whale group
60. --Estate
61. --Dr.
62. Lemon drink
63. Stand in
64. Distributors
65. Famous
66. --Ford
67. Almost like
68. --sent
69. Surname
70. --Lion's victim?
71. Actor
72. More
73. Ivy League
74. --House, e.g.
75. --Carner
76. --Cail
77. High
78. Diner's card
79. --Cafe
80. The First
81. --Queen
82. British
83. --Bread
84. Old Egyptian
85. --So
86. --Pitt
87. --River
88. --Whine
89. 24-hr.
90. --Pitt
91. --Pitt
92. --Hoffman
93. Used-car-lot group
94. --Hoffman
95. --Hoffman
96. --Hoffman
97. --Hoffman
98. Musica
99. --Film critic
100. --See
101. --Singer
102. --Singer
103. --Singer
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**SUDOKU**

**HOROSCOPES**

**For the week of August 7 to August 13**

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)**
There might still be some uncertainty about the decision you made. But a quick check of the facts should reassure you that you're doing the right thing.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)**
The tidy Tauran needs to be a little more flexible about accepting some changes to those carefully made plans. You might be pleasantly surprised by what follows.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)**
Consider stepping away from your concentration focus on your new project for a bit so you can get some perspective on what you've done and where you plan to take it.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)**
The understandably angry Crab might not want to accept the reason why someone might have tried to hurt you. But at least you'll have an insight into why it happened.

**LEO (July 23 to August 22)**
There might be some facts you still need to know before leaping onto center stage. Best to move carefully at this time so that you can observe what's happening around you.

**VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)**
It's a good time to expand your outlook by doing the right thing.

**LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)**
Your wise counsel continues to be needed to that family situation works itself out. Meanwhile, the decisions you made on your job begin to pay off quite nicely.

**SCORPIO (October 23 to November 22)**
Early feedback on your project might be disappointing. But don't be discouraged. Use it to make needed adjustments; then submit it to your superiors again.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)**
Aspects favor action in the workplace. Line up your facts and show your superiors why you're the one they're looking for.

**CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)**
Your hard work pays off on the job. Personal relationships also can benefit from more of your time and attention. Spend the weekend with loved ones.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)**
Your wise counsel continues to be needed to that family situation works itself out. Meanwhile, the decisions you made on your job begin to pay off quite nicely.

**PISCES (February 19 to March 20)**
Flattery could lure the otherwise sensible Fish into making an unwise decision. Be careful. All that praise might be an attempt to reel you in before you can learn the facts.

**NEED A HINT? FIND THE PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 25**

Aug. 2: The Center of Concern's 35th Anniversary Celebration prior to the Park Ridge Concert in the Park, between 6 and 8 p.m. Meet at Hodges Park on the Vine Street side across from Bob's Bike Shop, Park Ridge, prior to the concert. Dessert provided by On the Road Catering and Bakery. Concert featuring The Brian Patti Big Band begins at 8:00 p.m.

Aug. 6 and 20: Medicare counseling, by appointment (sponsored by the federally-funded Senior Health Insurance Program)

Aug. 10 and 24: Legal counseling, by appointment

Aug. 12: Alzheimer's caregivers support group, 10 a.m.

Aug. 14 and 28: Grief and loss support group (please call first)

Preparation of simple wills and durable powers of attorney for health care and property also is available by appointment. Homeowners desiring additional income, companionship, or the ability to remain in their homes may wish to consider The Center of Concern's shared housing program. Residents are matched with screened applicants who possess a temperament suitable to shared accommodations. Unless otherwise noted, all services are offered at The Center of Concern offices at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, in Park Ridge. For services that require an appointment, call (847) 823-0453, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. The Center of Concern also offers friendly visitors for the homebound, programs designed to prevent homelessness, and volunteer opportunities in the office and in the field. The Center's website is www.centerofconcern.org.

PARKS

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

Summer Concerts at Oak Park

Free family concerts at Oak Park, Main and Ottawa, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., on Friday evenings this summer. Run through August 16. Full concert schedule can be found online at www.niles-parks.org.

Niles Park District Preschool Openings

Still taking Resident and Non-Resident registration for Niles Park District Bright Beginnings Preschool for 2013-2014 and will be accepted at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard Street, until classes are filled. Classes begin August 26. Non-resident registration is still open. For more information, call (847) 967-6633 or visit www.niles-parks.org.

Summer Jr. Golf Programs

Still spots available for both mornings (Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.) and afternoons (Monday-Thursday 12:30-3 p.m.) Must have turned 4 by Sept. 1, 2013, taking place at Dee Park.

Youth Fall Soccer League

Sign up now. Divisions range from 4 years old through 8th grade. Practices at Dee Park but games are played at Prairie Lakes in Des Plaines for Aug. 26-Oct. 19.

RELIGION

Messiah Lutheran Child Care Center

Is accepting registrations for its 2013-14 programs at 1605 Vernon Ave., Park Ridge. Classes for 3- and 4-year-olds are available from 9-11:30 a.m., for two, three, four or five days per week, or 9 to noon half or full days. Junior kindergarten and kindergarten classes are five days a week from 9 to noon, with extended hours available, as well. Classes begin Aug. 26. An open house will be held from 6-8 p.m. Aug. 23. Visit www.messiahchildcare.com or call (847) 825-3767.

Messiah Lutheran Child Care Center
Classes are held for 10 consecutive weeks for one-hour sessions. Choose either a 9 a.m. Monday or Tuesday or 10:30 a.m. Monday. Children will enjoy stories, finger plays, music, social play, snack and creative art activities. Child must be accompanied by an adult. Visit www.messiahchildcare.com or call (847) 825-3767.

Community Bible Study
The mission of Community Bible Study (CBS) is an interdenominational non-profit Bible Study for anyone interested in learning more about God’s Word. They offer adult classes for women, men, couples and teens (boys and girls ages 13-18); as well as children: infants through age 12. The mission of Community Bible Study is “to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in our communities through caring, in-depth Bible study available to all.” This year they will add a Spanish-speaking women’s core. If you have any questions about this or need additional information, visit www.communitybiblestudy.org.

NILES SENIOR CENTER
The center offers membership to Niles residents age 55 and older and their spouses. Drop by the Niles Senior Center, 99 Civic Center Drive, Niles, or call (847) 588-8420 for an application. Visit www.vniles.com, click on Departments and then Senior. Registration required for most programs.

Enjoy Lunch
A lunch to benefit the Niles Food Pantry will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 5. Lunch is a hot dog, chips, and a cookie while supplies last. Cost is $2, paid at the door. Everyone is welcome. All proceeds will go to the Niles Food Pantry.

Bridge Players Needed – All Levels
Social bridge group meets every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. Contact Jaymi Blickhahn at (847) 599-4220.

Issues in the News
Is held from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Thursdays with Arlene Golub. Issues for discussion are brought up by class participants, and everyone’s opinion is valued. Call the NSC at (847) 588-8420.

PARK RIDGE SENIOR CENTER
From 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Aug. 1, at the Park Ridge Senior Center on “Ergonomics and Smart Spine.” Open to all ages. Free.

New membership sales
New members are invited to join their programs. All Active Adults, age 55 and older are welcome to register for classes and events. The 2013-14 membership sales are going on now. Single membership rates are $46 for resident, and $65, non resident. Couple rates are $70, resident and $99, non-resident. Call (847) 692-3597 for more information.

Health Care Forum
Find at least six differences in details between panels

PUZZLE ANSWERS
See page 23 for this week’s Super Crossword and Sudoku puzzles.
Fresh Farms gets tax incentives to replace shuttered Jewel

BY IGOR STUDENKOV | Contributor

The Jewel-Osco location at 8203 W. Golf Road in Niles shut down just three months ago, but it appears the space is already poised to be filled.

Fresh Farms International Market, a Wheeling-based grocery store chain, is planning to move in and open at the site in April 2014. To facilitate the move, the Village of Niles Board of Trustees approved a tax incentive package that will give Fresh Farms a share of the store's sales tax revenues.

While trustees expressed reservations about certain aspects of the deal, the board ultimately approved it unanimously.

Andrew Przybylo sought to reassure everybody present that the deal would benefit everyone, arguing that Fresh Farms already had a good track record in Niles, and leaving the property empty wasn't going to help anybody.

But there were some concerns. Trustee Rosemary Palicki worried that Fresh Farms could use the money to buy equipment and walk away with it if the store fails. Trustee Chris Hanusiak wondered why the agreement didn't have a built-in cap on how much money the store would receive, the way a similar 2010 deal with Tony's Finer Foods did. Ross Klicker, the Niles Economic Development Director, explained that unlike the other deal, this agreement had built in time limits that serve a similar purpose.

During the meeting, the board discovered that the store's long-term prospects weren't quite as assured as they thought. Klicker explained that Fresh Farms will be taking over the Jewel's lease. The store and the landlord haven't agreed how long it would stay beyond that.

But in the end, those concerns weren't enough to effect the votes, and the board approved the deal unanimously.

In his remarks, Trustee George Alpogianis summed up the feelings of the majority of the board.

"I personally want to say thank [the Finance Committee] very much for job well done for get us to this point," Alpogianis said. "I think a lot of research, a lot of hard work was done here. The numbers are looking sharp. I think its win-win for village."
Holy Family names new medical director

Presence Holy Family Medical Center named Jordan Frishman, M.D., infectious disease physician, medical director of the Wound Healing Center at Presence Holy Family Medical Center.

Dr. Frishman received his medical degree from Rush Medical College, completed his residency in internal medicine at Northwestern University and finished a fellowship in infectious disease at the University of Colorado. Dr. Frishman is a member of the Infectious Disease Society of America.

The Wound Healing Center is staffed with a team of specialists all dedicated to healing chronic wounds. Under the leadership of Dr. Frishman, the multidisciplinary team helps heal wounds that have not responded to traditional treatment. Founded in 1961, Presence Holy Family Medical Center is a faith-based long-term acute care hospital and the only such hospital in the northwest Chicago area. Holy Family specializes in providing care for patients who are critically ill with complex conditions and must be hospitalized for an extended period of time.

The Wound Healing Center is located on the main hospital campus, 100 North River Road in Des Plaines.

SERVPRO franchise goes to convention

Michael Grace of SERVPRO of Park Ridge, was one the SERVPRO® franchise owners who recently returned from SERVPRO's 44th Annual National Convention, held recently.

SERVPRO®, an industry leader in disaster cleanup, restoration and remediation services, again welcomed a record number of franchisees to their annual event, offering attendees the most extensive program ever offered at a SERVPRO® Convention—more than 60 workshops sessions covering more than 30 different topics.

In addition to providing a networking and educational forum for the more than 1,600 Franchise Owners in the SERVPRO® Franchise System, the annual event provides a platform for SERVPRO to recognize and reward Franchisees for outstanding success in their businesses.

Michael Grace can be reached at (847)795-9200 or servpro10017@yahoo.com.
FEATURED HOME
BY WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE

8503 N. Oleander Ave., Niles

House size: 1,188 square feet
Lot size: 6,881 square feet
Year built: 1957
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 2
Garage: Two-car detached
Property tax: $5,145.65 (2012)
Exterior: Brick
School districts: East Maine School District 63 and Maine Township High School District 207

AGENT Helen Popp and Marisa Sattley, Baird & Warner, 847-284-9779 and 847-309-0049

$329,000

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GAME ON. SEASONPASS.SUNTIMES.COM
PROPERTY TRANSFERS
BY WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR'S NOTE: Content appears as it is provided in public records.

Niles
7010 W Jarvis Ave: Judith Sales Corp and Martin Bekan to V&T Investments Corp for $159,500 on June 14
7405 W Monroe St: Right Residential LLC to Linda M Schar for $220,000 on June 13
849 N Root Court: Joni Sharkey to Martin Hekan
7405 W Monroe St: Right Residential LLC to V&T Investments Corp for $159,500 on June 14
8320 W Monroe St: Judicial Sales Corp and Dobrivoj Peric to Real Equities Inc for $250,000 on June 13
8523 W Madison Drive: Grandview Capital LLC to Donna L Warner for $255,000 on June 13
9500 Washington Road, #401: Kelly A Rosenberg
8714 Fernald Ave: Brian R Saunders and Morton Grove

Morton Grove
5551 Lincoln Ave, #136: Joelle D Polo and Dina C Polo for $136,000 on June 11
8714 Fernald Ave: Eddy Borowsky and Dariusz A Metelanski
9500 Washington Road, #401: Kelly A Rosenberg
8714 Fernald Ave: Brian R Saunders and Morton Grove

Coy
27 Overlook Drive: Robert M Mueller and Gloria J Mueller to Todd B Price and Laura S Price for $460,000 on June 10
9023 W Heathwood Circle: Michael Hannigan and Susan Hannigan to Eliza Maslowska for $214,000 on June 13

Park Ridge
255 Vine Ave: Alfred L Shayanik and Elizabeth M Shayanik to Community Cu Northwest for $214,000 on June 12
916 N Greenwood Ave: Nancy S Candice and Nancy Candice Jordan to North Shore Residential Fund I LLC for $230,000 on June 14
612 Courtland Ave: 916 N ILL Holdings 7 to Michael Distefano and Karen Distefano for $399,000 on June 10
1900 S Ashland Ave: Celia S Hilliard and Colleen S Russell to Anna Tokarska for $192,000 on June 13
2200 Buttero St, #2200: Martha M Hardt to Sally C McCarthy and Daniel J McCarthy for $136,000 on June 10

Shook
5251 Gaitz St, #408: Sandra Foreman and Deborah Serota and Elizabeth Kimberly
5251 Gaitz St, #408: Sandra Foreman and Deborah Serota and Elizabeth Kimberly

Shania
1900 S Ashland Ave: Celia S Hilliard and Colleen S Russell to Anna Tokarska for $192,000 on June 13
5455 Grove St: Meena S Shah to Thony Arem

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0.000
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20% 3.321

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0.000
$810
20% 3.093

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Real Estate
pioneerlocal.com
By Matthew Villanueva

When summer temperatures start to climb above 80 degrees, many people from around the Midwest come to Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, to cool off by taking a swim in the lake's clear blue waters. But swimming isn't the only aquatic activity you can engage in here. Elkhart Lake is the one of the only places in the region where you can enjoy certain water sports, such as:

**WATER SKIING**
Water skiing was actually invented in the Midwest, by Minnesota native Ralph W. Samuelson. This thrilling activity allows you to skim across the surface of the water at high speeds, towed behind a fast motorboat.

**WAKEBOARDING**
As snowboarding is to skiing, so wakeboarding is to water skiing. Rather than riding on two separate skis, wakeboarders ride on a single board. Using techniques borrowed from skateboarding and surfing, you can learn to execute small jumps over your towing boat's wake.

**HYDROCYCLING**
If you want more of an aerobic workout than water skiing and wakeboarding provide, you can rent a hydrocycle. These fun watercraft are powered by pedals, much like bicycles. You can take a long, leisurely ride around the lake or even conduct your own hydrocycle races with friends and family!

**KAYAKING**
This classic water activity will give you a great upper-body workout. Available in one- or two-seat models, kayaks are the perfect watercraft for intrepid vacationers who don't mind breaking a little sweat.

If you don't feel like engaging in one of the more vigorous water sports, you also can enjoy a leisurely day of fishing or take a relaxing cruise around the lake. For more information on summer recreational opportunities, call Elkhart Lake Tourism at 877-355-4278.
More to explore in Elkhart Lake

Check out these and other businesses on WeekAway.com, where you can browse photo galleries, read reviews, and mark your favorite places!

Aspira Spa at the Osthoff Resort
*A new level in spa treatments*

Aspira Spa provides a holistic, organic approach to the spa experience, offering personalized services that reflect the ancient healing wisdom of indigenous peoples from around the world. Aspira Spa's extensive menu of services includes massages, facials, color therapy, hydrotherapy, salon services, spa manicures and pedicures.

Guests can enjoy experiencing a variety of innovative treatments from the slow, deep strokes of a Moroccan hot oil massage to the unique Four-Palm Massage created by two therapists working in perfect harmony to create the synchronized motion of four hands. Guests can relax with a Japanese reflexology massage or receive a Yin/Yang Massage, a marriage of Western and Asian philosophies designed to ease mind and spirit.

Paddock Club
*Freshly made and locally sourced*

Summer at the Paddock Club is all about fresh, local produce. Whether it's organic eggs from Hunter's Happy Henhouse, asparagus and beets from Partridge Organics or fresh chard from Rhine Center Vegetables, all of the Paddock Club's produce is sourced within 20 miles of the restaurant.

This summer menu comes just in time for Elkhart Lake's Road America, which attracts many thousands of people around the country and the world to this unique part of the Midwest. The casual elegance of the Paddock Club attracts many of the tens of thousands of guests that visit Elkhart Lake during the summer race season. Both local and international travelers descend on the small town every year and find the Paddock Club an ideal gathering place for a relaxing bite to eat in-between races.

Siebkens Resort
*A landmark lodging experience*

Siebkens is a landmark, turn-of-the-century resort and currently owned and operated by the fourth generation of the Siebken family. Guests will find relaxed surroundings abundant with antiques, interesting people, great conversation, innovative cuisine and exciting nightlife.

Siebkens features two dining options: the historic Stop-Inn Tavern and the Main Dining Room. The Stop-Inn Tavern, touted as the "best bar on the racing circuit," serves lunch and dinner daily. Known for its inviting setting and live entertainment, the Stop-Inn Tavern is Elkhart Lake's most popular evening gathering spot. The Main Dining Room, with its old world atmosphere, is often described as Elkhart Lake's most beautiful venue and the perfect setting for weddings, banquets, reunions or any special event.

Looking for a little road trip on the weekends? Check out one of these events within driving distance from Chicago.

**Traverse City, Mich.**
Traverse City Film Festival
Jul 30 - Aug 4
traversecityfilmfestival.org

**Warren, Ill.**
Jo Daviess County Fair
Aug 1-4
jodaviesscountyfair.org

**Traverse City, Mich.**
Northwestern Michigan Fair
Aug 3-10
northwesternmichiganfair.net

**South Haven, Mich.**
National Blueberry Festival
Aug 8-11
blueberryfestival.com

**New Buffalo, Mich.**
Ship and Shore Festival
Aug 9-11
newbuffalo.org/events

**Lake Geneva, Wis.**
Art in the Park
Flat Iron Park in Lake Geneva
Aug 10-11
genevalakeart.org

Sponsored content by WeekAway. For more information on these or other destinations, visit WeekAway.com
Tall Ships Chicago returns to Navy Pier Aug. 7-11, and to celebrate, we have sailing-themed activities the whole family can enjoy.

**Nautical Flag Name Banners**

Sure, they look pretty, but did you know that each one of the 26 international maritime signal flags corresponds with a letter of the alphabet? In the boating world, these flags are often used to spell out messages to other vessels, which is the inspiration behind this craft that turns your child's name into a series of flags.

**You need:**
- Colored construction paper (or fun foam)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Hole punch
- Twine or rope

**Directions:**
Start with the letters in your child's name. Visit www.anbg.gov.au/flags/signal-meaning.html to identify the flags that correspond with each letter.

Use colored construction paper (or fun foam), scissors and glue to create the flags.

Punch two holes at the top of each flag. Thread rope through the holes and hang the banner on your child's bedroom door or at the foot of the bed.

Tip: For a fun educational twist, create secret messages for your kids to decode, such as using the flags to spell out sight words or spelling words.

**Mandarin orange "boats" sail on a sea of blue raspberry gelatin. PHOTO COURTESY OF KARASPARTYIDEAS.COM**

**Pepper Boats**

Your little sailors will love these cute boats filled with tasty salads.

**You need:**
- Sweet baby bell peppers
- Boat fillings (such as chicken, potato or tuna salad)
- Colored construction paper (or fun foam)
- Toothpicks
- Tape

**Directions:**
Slice peppers in half (lengthwise) and remove seeds and veins.

Spoon filling into each pepper half.

Create sails by cutting construction paper or foam into large, right angle triangles.

Tape sails to toothpicks and insert into boats.

**Join the fun at Tall Ships Chicago!**

Aug. 7-11 is Tall Ships Chicago 2013 at Navy Pier, which means there will be a number of nautical-themed events and activities. Events include the Chicago Match Cup, a race in which 12 of the world's best teams will sail against each other in head-to-head competition similar to the America's Cup races. There will also be fun activities for kids, such as boat tours where the kids can walk the plank, a tall ships parade, and more. For more information, visit www.navypier.com/tallshipschicago.

**Gelatin Sailboat Cups**

This cute recipe comes courtesy of Kara from www.karaspartyideas.com, who served it at a nautical-themed baby shower.

**You need:**
- 1 box blue raspberry gelatin
- Mandarin oranges or clementines
- Clear plastic cups
- Long toothpicks
- White card stock

**Directions:**
Prepare gelatin as directed and pour into clear plastic cups before setting. Be sure to fill each cup to the top.

Cut card stock into small triangle sails (about 1½" high).

Attach sails to toothpicks and insert toothpicks into oranges (or clementine segments).

Once gelatin has set, place "sailboats" on top and serve.

**Sailor Knot Bracelet**

Any good sailor will tell you that sailing a ship requires knowing how to tie knots. In honor of this important task, make macramé bracelets.

There are different types of macramé knots, but for this bracelet, all you need to know is the square knot.

**You need:**
- 18" heavy rope (such as hemp, jute or twine)
- Scissors

**Directions:**
To begin, fold the rope in half and anchor it by tying it around a post, chair leg or dowel.

Create a loop by placing the left-hanging rope over the right-hanging rope. Be sure to pull evenly to ensure knot is centered.

Create another loop by placing the right-hanging rope over the left-hanging rope. Feed right rope through loop and pull. Be sure to pull evenly to ensure knot is centered.

Repeat process until desired length is achieved.

Remove knotted rope from anchor and tie two ends together to make a bracelet. Be sure to trim excess rope.

Mandarin orange "boats" sail on a sea of blue raspberry gelatin.
Is Perfectionism Hijacking your Hiring Process?

By: Jeff Szymanski, author of The Perfectionist’s Handbook (Wiley, 2011)

When I went house shopping a few years ago I experienced a recurring process in my head. On the way to each open house I would start evaluating the neighborhood. As soon as I walked into the front door I would see things I liked and didn’t like. As I left each house I would have a list in my head of the advantages and disadvantages of each property.

Soon I began constructing the “perfect” house in my head: “I want the layout of the house from the second one, the backyard of the fourth one, the price of the first one.....and so on.

The Problem with Perfectionism

Sound familiar? Looking for the characteristics of a good employee can be very similar. “Can we get Bob’s enthusiasm, with Kate’s skill level, and John’s starting salary?” The answer is no. It is seductive to imagine the perfect solution (i.e., the perfect job candidate): someone who will eliminate all possible risks and hiring mistakes. And, in fact, your perfectionism can result in procrastination and an inability to make a final choice in your hiring.

While I’m not suggesting you rush the hiring process, there are times when action is far more effective than inaction. Beware of the unhealthy perfectionist trap of believing that thinking about a problem and doing something about it are one and the same. My rule of thumb: Effective problem solving involves reflection and consideration, followed up with action.

Steps to a Healthier Hiring Process

These steps will help you balance your perfectionism tendencies in how to hire an employee:

1. Perfectionism encourages you to look for the candidate with only positives and no drawbacks. Since you won’t be able to find that candidate, instead prioritize attributes you think are the most important to focus your hiring decision. For example, what are your top five “must haves” in a candidate? What are five qualities or job skills you would prefer to see, but could live without? Then score each candidate on these dimensions.

2. Perfectionism can sometimes encourage a “if you want it done right do it yourself” mentality. However, only one set of eyes on a candidate might miss something important. Assemble a team to help you with the interview process. Include those who will be working closely with the new employee as well as individuals who can accurately assess their skill level. If you are in charge of the final hiring, don’t abdicate your role as final decision maker, but be open to perspectives from your hiring team.

3. If you have hired candidates for similar positions in the past, have you gone back and looked at your good hires and not so good? There may be information to be had in learning from your own hiring mistakes. Unhealthy perfectionism has us criticizing ourselves for mistakes that we make and can inhibit this very important process. However, if we understand the important information to be had in our previous mistakes, then we can learn from them and implement this knowledge the next time around.

4. Be on the lookout for unhealthy perfectionistic job applicants in the interview process. Qualities in particular to look out for? Excessive self-promotion, a track-record of not wanting to take risks and typically taking a conservative route, and an unwillingness to discuss or talk about mistakes made.

While every applicant is going to try to put their best foot forward, an unhealthy perfectionist will appear a little too slick, somewhat brittle and too eager to please. Healthy perfectionists, in contrast, will appear confident, collaborative and have a sense of humor about or something they learned from mistakes they have made. As a result, they will not avoid talking about mistakes.

A new employee is a big investment. In many cases there is a lot riding on picking the right person. However, don’t let unhealthy perfectionism leave you paralyzed in trying to find the ideal candidate.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Items Offered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addison, IL</td>
<td>Aug 4th</td>
<td>9am-3pm</td>
<td>Furniture, clothing, toys, books, games, electronics and more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antioch, IL</td>
<td>Aug 3rd</td>
<td>9am-3pm</td>
<td>Household goods, clothing, jewelry and much more!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aurora, IL</td>
<td>Aug 3rd</td>
<td>9am-4pm</td>
<td>Books, games, toys, baby items, and much more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batavia, IL</td>
<td>Aug 3rd</td>
<td>9am-4pm</td>
<td>Furniture, bar stools, bookshelves, tools, and more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plainfield, IL</td>
<td>Aug 3rd</td>
<td>9am-4pm</td>
<td>Books, games, toys, baby items, and much more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Ridge, IL</td>
<td>Aug 3rd</td>
<td>9am-4pm</td>
<td>Furniture, bar stools, bookshelves, tools, and more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palatine, IL</td>
<td>Aug 3rd</td>
<td>9am-4pm</td>
<td>Books, games, toys, baby items, and much more</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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SPOKE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PRESIDING JUDGE: CHASE BANK, NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
Plaintiff
vs.
EILE BATO AKA ELLE B BATIO
EILEN Y BATO
AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
BY MERGER TO SUCCESS
NATIONAL OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIM
12 CH 17358
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE
This is a mortgage foreclosure case. The first purchase agreement and
bankruptcy proceedings have been filed. The Judgment of Foreclosure shall
be granted on August 2, 2006, at the hour of 11 a.m. in the foreclosures
sitting on the 24th Floor, Skokie, IL 60076.

The Judgment of Foreclosure shall be granted on August 2, 2006, at the hour of 11 a.m. in the foreclosures sitting on the 24th Floor, Skokie, IL 60076.

For information, visit issue.integratedillinois.com or call CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, 1500 N. 8TH STREET, SUITE 100, BURG RIDGE, IL 60080, (708) 660-5000.

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
ATTEST:
ABSENT: Sticha, Kurzatkowski
Magnelli, Magnuson, Rothbart.

Any individual requesting one shall provide a petition for
Immediately after the public hearing,
the Library District, asks for

WHEREAS, the Board of Library Trustees, Cook
County, Illinois, enacted Ordinance No. 2013-3
on March 8, 2013, which creates a special
library fund for the purpose of raising a share of
the library tax of .02% of the value of all
the property within the library district, and

WHEREAS, Section 35-5 of the
Code, A copy of these rights is available by calling or writing:

Legal Notice

The Lyons Area Special Education Cooperative consists of the following school districts:

Rossmoor #78
Parson #79
Norridge #80
Ridgewood #83
Elmwood Park #84

Each district independently or in conjunction with other member
districts offers a full continuum of services to address the specific needs of students with disabilities.

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The rocker and Lollapalooza founder reflects on the festival's rise to the top

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PLUS: OUR GUIDE TO THE NEW FASHION OUTLETS OF CHICAGO

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...
DINING & LIBATIONS
The refreshing taste of sorbet now comes in a bottle:
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**Things We Love This Week**

Spruce up your space with the new Mrs. Meyer's Clean Day Sunflower collection. The soaps, sprays, cleaners and detergents are eco-friendly and made with plant-derived ingredients and essential oils, like orange peel, clove leaf and rosewood. Starting at $3.99; Mariano's locations citywide. Mrsmeyers.com

Before the gates even open, Lollapalooza lovers can get fest-ready with help from LollaShop and LollaCart. Stop by to shop official Lolla gear and fest-friendly goods from local stores including Edith Hart, Heritage Bicycles General Store, July 26-Aug. 5, LollaShop, 332 S. Michigan; LollaCart, first level of The Shops at North Bridge, 520 N. Michigan; Lollapalooza.com

Sprinkles is whipping up Lemon Meringue cupcakes through Aug. 11. With a graham cracker crust, lemon curd filling and fluffy marshmallow topping, the new flavor is a dead ringer for the classic dessert. Try one for free Friday, Aug. 2 until 3 p.m. by mentioning “SPLASH” in store. 50 E. Walton; Sprinkles.com

**What Had You Tweeting**

- **OON Restaurant @oonchicago**: Hmm, where to eat tonight? Maybe something in Sunday’s @Suntimes_Splash early print edition. Yep, there is!
- **Brenda @bbestylsh22**: @Suntimes_Splash thanks for all the great shops in today’s issue. I know what I’ll be doing next weekend.
- **DanaDynamite @DanaDynamite**: Awe-Gee thanks @Suntimes_Splash for including me in the best-dressed Pitchfork Sunday! Iuv me some @UrbanOutfitters
- **Rachel Brosnahan @RachieBros**: Thanks @rachel_handler and @Suntimes_Splash for letting me play dress up! Had such fun.

Send us your tweets: @Suntimes_Splash

**Splash**

**What Is Your Favorite Burger In Chicago?**

-Sorry, Chicagoans. The best burger in the world is at Matt's in Minneapol.... They invented the Juicy Lucy, a burger that has the cheese cooked inside the patty. It's heavenly.

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**Founder** Michael Ferro

Splash is distributed weekly inside Sun-Times Media publications.

**AT THE PHOTO SHOOT**

Perry greeted our photographer at his home in Santa Monica sporting a plaid vest and pantsuit and sipping an acai berry drink whipped up by his wife, Etty. He switched into a more laid-back look for our cover shoot, which was taken on his roof.

“I’ve been a huge Jane’s Addiction fan since I saw them at The Scream in Hollywood in 1988 – I think I listened to ‘Nothing’s Shocking’ for a year straight. Being able to work with Perry was a career highlight.”

- Melissa Rodwell, photographer

**Cover Credits**

Photographer Melissa Rodwell for ABTP
Groomer: Jonathan Mason for ABTP
Shoot coordinator: Katerina Bizios

Perry wears Ray-Ban aviator sunglasses, $145, available at Spex locations citywide. Spexchicago.com

“Chut’s Chut Chur Cheddar Bodacious Bacon Burger: It’s as good as it sounds.”

Editorial Assistants Katerina Bizios, kbizios@suntimes.com
Zak Stemer, zstemer@suntimes.com

“Sorry, Chicagoans. The best burger in the world is at Matt’s in Minneapolis. They invented the Juicy Lucy, a burger that has the cheese cooked inside the patty. It’s heavenly.”

**The Southport Grocery & Cafe brunch burger, topped with bacon, caramelized onions, whatever cheese you fancy and the magic ingredient — sour cream! Swoon.”

“Au Cheval is the best burger in the city hands down. Anyone who says it isn’t just hasn’t tried it yet…”

Founder Michael Ferro

Splash is distributed weekly inside Sun-Times Media publications.

CHICAGOSPASH.COM | JULY 28-AUGUST 3, 2013
Dine in the comfort of the chic-Chanel inspired Balsan restaurant in the award-winning Waldorf Astoria Chicago and savor the NEW summer dining menus.

July 29

**2ND STORY AT CITY WINERY**
Grab your favorite vino varietal, then sit back and listen as 2nd Story — the much-admired local storytelling collective — brings its signature Stories & Live Music series to City Winery for a one-night-only show spun of words, performance and music from a live band.

*Time: 8 p.m.*
*Place: City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph*
*Cost: $15. Visit 2ndstory.com for tickets and more information.*

July 29-August 25

**FIRST LOOK REPERTORY OF NEW WORK**
Steppenwolf Theatre is always on the lookout for fresh and exciting voices, and in that vein, the company is showcasing three productions of new plays, script readings and a behind-the-scenes look at the development process. Since First Look’s inception eight years ago, a number of its selections have been featured across the country.

*Time: Varies by performance*
*Place: 1624 N. Halsted*
*Cost: $20, $15 students or $45 for a three-show pass; readings are free with RSVP. Call (312) 335-1650 or visit Steppenwolf.org/firstlook*

August 1

**COUNTRY CHEF CHALLENGE**
Jared Van Camp of Nellcôte, former “Top Chef” contestant Beverly Kim Clark and Thai Dang of Embeya go head-to-head in this “Iron Chef”-style competition: They’ll have one hour to shop the Daley Plaza farmers’ market and prepare a dish on-site. Catherine De Orio, host of WTTW’s “Check, Please!”, Rockit Ranch Productions’ Billy Dec and Daniel Gerzina, editor of Eater Chicago, will help determine this year’s “Master of the Market.”

*Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.*
*Place: Daley Plaza Farmer’s Market, Washington between Dearborn and Clark*
*Cost: Free. Visit Countrychefchallenge.com*
August 3

**SHAPE DIVA DASH**

This ladies-only event, taking place at the Sandwich Fairgrounds, combines a 5K run with a dozen obstacles designed to challenge overall fitness. Suitable for all ages and abilities, this empowering experience supports the Yorkville Junior Women's Club and the Chicago Spartans.

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Place:** 1401 Suydam, Sandwich

**Cost:** $65. For tickets and information, visit Divadash.com.

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August 3-4

**EDGE FEST**

Celebrate the North Side neighborhood of Edgewater with food and beverages from local restaurants, a vendor market, plenty of activities to entertain the kids and two stages of music, including local Talking Heads cover group, This Must Be the Band.

**Time:** Saturday noon to 10 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Place:** Broadway from Thorndale to Ardmore

**Cost:** $5 suggested donation. For more information, visit Edgewater.org/edgefest.

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August 7-11

**CHICAGO MATCH CUP**

Can't make it to San Francisco for the America's Cup? Not to worry, there's plenty of sailing excitement right here, as the Chicago Match Cup brings 12 of the world's best teams to town to vie for supremacy in this $100,000 competition.

Chicago is the only U.S. stop on the Alpari World Match Racing Tour.

**Time:** Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**Place:** Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand

**Cost:** $5. For schedule and more information, visit ChicagoCup.org

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August 9

**MACY'S PASSPORT PRESENTS GLAMORAMA 2013**

Grammy-winner Sheryl Crow and the always-inventive Cirque du Soleil shine at this favorite fashion event. Benefiting the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana, the stylish soiree also features a runway show that includes the debut of Macy's newest Impulse collection, Maison Jules.

**Time:** 8 p.m.

**Place:** Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph

**Cost:** $75 for show only, $175 and $285 for show and afterparty, $1,000 VIP show and afterparty. For tickets and more information, visit Macys.com/glamorama.

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**next week**

August 5

**SERVICE CLUB OF CHICAGO'S DAY ON THE TERRACE >>**

The Service Club of Chicago has been serving the civic, educational and cultural needs of Chicago and surrounding communities since 1890. And for almost 40 years, supporters have reveled in this fun fashion event featuring styles from established designers such as Escada and Ralph Lauren as well as emerging local talent.

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Place:** The Peninsula Hotel Chicago, 108 E. Superior

**Cost:** $180. For tickets, call (312) 541-8600 or visit info@serviceclubofchicago.org.

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August 5

**BROADWAY IN CHICAGO SUMMER CONCERT**

This music sampler features performances of favorite show tunes from "Motown: The Musical," "Wicked," "Ghost," "Million Dollar Quartet" and "We Will Rock You." Hosted by WLS Channel-7's Janet Davies and "Windy City Live" co-hosts Val Warner and Ryan Chiaverini, the outdoor concert also features performances by the 2013 Illinois High School Musical Theater Award recipients.

**Time:** 6:15 p.m.

**Place:** Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, 201 E. Randolph

**Cost:** Free. Visit Broadwayinchicago.com/summerconcert.php.

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August 6-18

**FLASHDANCE**

Oh, what a feeling! The story of a blue-collar woman who dreams of becoming a serious dancer first hit the big screen 30 years ago, but its appeal has never waned, thanks in part to the iconic soundtrack and this large-scale theatrical adaptation.

**Place:** Cadillac Palace, 151 W. Randolph

**Cost:** $18-$35. For tickets, call (800) 775-2000 or visit Broadwayinchicago.com.

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Next Week
STORIES BY KATERINA BIZIOS

Popular nightclub Studio Paris (59 W. Hubbard) always draws a crowd, and the evening of July 11 was no exception. More than 350 young professionals turned up to support the fourth annual Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation’s Summer Cocktail Party. Event chairs Allison Zisook Goldstein, Brad Jarol, Bari Anixter Mlodinoff and Splash’s own Liza Sweitzer welcomed guests like LSCRF chair Stephanie Lieber and Northwestern Memorial Hospital’s Dr. Steven Rosen, who sipped cocktails provided by Anew, Tequila Avión, Macallan, Peroni Italy, Real Russian Premium Vodka and Terlato Wines International and snacked on roasted scallops, fried brie and beet-chip bites. The bash raised $35,000 to benefit breast cancer research programs at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University.


PHOTOS BY SHERI WHITKO PHOTOGRAPHY
Over the past 35 years, the Carol Cohn and Margie Weil Memorial MS Outing has raised more than $11 million for MS research and programs. Thanks to this year’s event, held at the Northmoor Country Club (820 Edgewood, Highland Park) July 8, the organization can add another $1 million to its tally. More than 500 guests turned up to watch an 18-hole tournament sponsored by BMO Harris Bank, participate in live and silent auctions and enjoy cocktails donated by Wirtz Beverage. Philanthropic heavyweights Renée and Lester Crown were honored during the dinner program for their long-standing commitment to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

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

PHOTOS BY TIM HARA
Save some effort on ironing by embracing flowing knife pleats. With light fabrics and an easy-breezy attitude, it’s the perfect trend for beating summer’s searing heat — plus, with designers pleating everything from elegant gowns to cute minis, there’s an option for every occasion. On the runway, Alice + Olivia channeled flirty fun with their take on the tiny folds (think bold colors perfect for a beach party), while Blumarine went futuristic with sheer white micro-creases. Whatever style you rock, you can’t stop the pleat.
ever after

Heather Korpella & Ben Wollitz

BY KATERINA BIZIOS

Eight years ago, Heather Korpella was ready for a change. She gave up her career as a broker's assistant at the Chicago Board of Trade and started waiting tables at Merkel's Bar & Grill (3516 N. Clark) in anticipation of moving to California. But Korpella's plans went out the door when AAR Corp. Sales Director Ben Wollitz walked into the bar. The two felt an instant spark, exchanging numbers and going on their first date a week later. They moved in together after only six months, and June 21 — nearly a decade later — they tied the knot at Salvage One (1844 W. Hubbard) in front of 190 friends and family members.

In an effort to preserve the space's vintage vibe, the bride focused primarily on floral decor, employing her experience as Chicago Gateway Green's executive director to fill the reception with wild flowers, peonies and succulents. Pat McKillen doubled as a singer and DJ; he belted out tunes as the bride walked down the aisle and during the cocktail hour, then switched over to play hits that kept the reception rocking. For dessert, guests noshed on three different cakes from Bittersweet (1114 W. Belmont) — crème brûlée, banana and hazelnut — and enjoyed Swirlz (705 W. Beiden) bourbon-infused cupcakes, per the groom's request. Late-night burgers and curly fries accompanied the afterparty at Vertigo Sky Lounge (2 W. Erie). "The day was very, very emotional and so wonderful," says Korpella. "We've been together for eight years and I still have butterflies."

Wedding Planner: Allure Events and Meeting Productions, Allureanddm.com
Dress: Liancarlo gown, Ultimate Bride, 106 E. Oak, Ultimatebride.com
Caterer: Maison Cuisine, 2651 N. Wayne, Maisoncuisine.com
Florist: Brian Crummy, 200 S. Wacker, Flowerpetal.com
Photographer: Anna Guziak, Annapuziak.com
Hair/Makeup: Griffith Parc Salon, 1913 W. Diversey, Griffithparcsalon.com and Rebellious Beauty, 1917 W. Diversey, Rebelliousbeautysalon.com

CHEERS!

- It'll be wedding bells for friends-of-Splash Alexi Giannoulias and Jo Terlato. The Bank of New York Mellon VP and former Illinois state treasurer recently proposed to the daughter of Bill Terlato (see page 11 for how Bill spends his Sundays in Chicago).
- We're thrilled for Doug Hart (right), Lora Peloquin, Tim Houghton and Russ Goldenberg and their team at Cortland Capital Market Services. The investment servicing company recently acquired Gleacher Products Corp., making it one of the largest independent bank loan agents in the market.
- Cheers to the Chicago Area Mensa Organization on appointing new members Beth Ann Demeter, Heath Booton, Jeudi Jeutten, Megan Hartman and Lacee Heduc to their 2013-2014 board of directors.

SEND US YOUR CHEERS!

If you have good news to share — or if you'd like your wedding featured — send a note to Splash@suntimes.com.
One VINE day

President and CEO of Terlato Wine Group Bill Terlato uncorks a family-filled Sunday in Lake Forest

By Zak Stemer

Bill Terlato bought his turn-of-the-century, English-style manor almost 20 years ago. But standing on the Lake Bluff manse's lush green lawn, he notices a set of stone stairs leading to a grove of trees for the first time. "I literally did not know that was there," he says. That's because when Terlato is at the Tangley Oaks estate, he's not there to relax — he's there to work. The sprawling property serves as the headquarters for Terlato Wines International and as home base for Terlato, who oversees all aspects of his nearly 70 brands.

That razor-sharp focus has led Terlato Wines to the top of the industry, controlling 20 percent of the market for wines above $20 with 21 million bottles per year. They also boast more 90+ rated wines — ranked by magazines like Wine Enthusiast — than any other company in the world (800 in the last two years alone). But Terlato, who describes himself as a "very competitive person," isn't content to let the brand rest on its laurels.

This year, the company is rolling out a slew of new wines from locations like New Zealand (Loveblock) and South Africa (Protea). And while Terlato's father, Tony, made his name as America's first major importer of pinot grigio, Bill is out to up the ante. "We're doing an artisan spirits division with high-end vodka, tequila, rum and single-malt scotch," he reveals.

Born and raised as part of global wine dynasty (the company was founded in Chicago by his grandparents in 1955), Terlato has developed an expert palate. But for those less experienced, he's quick to dole out some simple advice. "You don't need to be a textile expert to know that cashmere is better than wool. It's the same thing with wine," he explains. "Trust your palate."

But when it comes to his own favorite varietal, the answer is a little more complicated. "Today I had a great Terlato pinot noir, but tonight when I go home and grill, I'm going to want something else. Every wine has its moment to shine, a chance to be the perfect wine for that occasion. My favorite wine is the one I'm drinking at that moment."

Here, the wine connoisseur details a day away from the office.

6 A.M. Terlato wakes up at his Lake Forest house and heads down to his home gym to lift weights.


11 A.M. The game's loser buys lunch at the clubhouse ("Michael never remembers when he loses," jokes Terlato). The group pops open a bottle of Luke Donald viognier before going back to the links for a rematch.

3 P.M. Back home with his family, including wife Debbie and children Jo, Tony and Elyse, he unwinds with his favorite Partagas cigar.

4 P.M. Terlato takes Tiramisu, his adorable Havanese pup, for a walk around the neighborhood.

6:30 P.M. The family cooks dinner, each person handling a dish. Terlato's specialty? Perfectly cooked pasta. "Nobody is allowed to do the pasta but me. As an Italian, you never want overcooked pasta. Ten seconds can make a difference!"

8 P.M. Before bed Terlato tunes into the news or the Golf Channel to see how his friends fared.

Luke Donald
TASTE MAKERS
PEOPLE WHO GET FOOD
GET IT HERE.

MARIANO'S

SHOP WELL. EAT WELL. LIVE WELL.
Chicago Cut sharpens its focus with a new chef and an updated menu  

BY SAMANTHA LANDE

There's no shortage of steakhouses in Chicago, which meant that Matt Moore and David Flom had an added challenge when opening Chicago Cut in 2010. So the steakhouse vets immediately set themselves apart, serving steaks dry-aged and butchered in-house in an upscale yet unpretentious setting. Three years later, they're differentiating themselves once again with a new executive chef; Travis Strickland, and a menu focus that goes beyond the beef to highlight seafood and local products.

Haven't been to Chicago Cut in awhile? Here's what you can expect from Strickland and co.:

Chef stats: A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Strickland started his career at Tennessee's acclaimed Blackberry Farm at the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. He came to Chicago to help create the menu for Flom and Moore's most recent venture, Streeterville comfort-food hub The Local. He took the wheel at Chicago Cut in June, working to refine the breakfast, lunch and dinner menus.

Vibe: The decor is classic steakhouse: white-clothed tables, walnut accents and dim lighting. Floor-to-ceiling glass windows deliver a picturesque view of the Chicago River and the surrounding architecture. For a front-row seat, head outdoors to the expansive riverfront patio — the bustling crowd is chock full of business professionals, and you might spot the occasional celebrity.

Cuisine: Strickland brings a rustic approach to typical steakhouse dining. His menu additions include a summery honey-drizzled peach and Burrata salad ($17); a chunky, flavor-packed gazpacho ($6 cup/$9 bowl); and a lemon caper and beurre blanc-dressed Alaskan halibut atop an heirloom tomato panzanella ($37). That's not to bypass some of the more carnivorous options: "We have an outrageously good burger made from our dry-aged steak," Strickland says. "That alone is worth the trip."

Must-try dish: The thick-cut Nueske bacon ($14) is a solid starter. "I wanted to treat this like a pork belly dish and play off the smoke that comes from the Nueske product," Strickland says. He skins and seasons the slab, then braises it to render out some of the fat. From there, the meat is cooled, pressed and sliced into smaller slabs, then pan-fried and glazed with a Michigan-made Blis Maple Syrup gastrique and served with a lightly tossed Upland's cress salad. Strickland scatters toasted pecans on top to add texture to the dish.

Tech-savvy drinks: Out with the hefty, leather-bound wine list and in with the iPad. Chicago Cut has its wine, liquor and beer selections electronically categorized so diners can sort the list by region, price or varietal — all with the swipe of a finger. Tasting notes and prices are available for each selection as well.

Cup runneth over: "The most exciting people I've cooked for would have to be the Blackhawks," Strickland says. "They came in after most of the Stanley Cup home games. Patrick Kane, after his hat trick game, was pretty awesome. Everyone in the restaurant gave him a standing ovation!"

JELLYFISH WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE CHEF JASON IM

Jellyfish, an intimate pan-Asian restaurant and lounge if perfect for guests who are looking for a special and at times exclusive downtown dining and drinking experience. Nestled on the second floor on legendary Rush Street, the 95 seat restaurant is an escape from the crowded sidewalks below into a space that is exotic and distinctly Chicago. Upon entering the world of Jellyfish, patrons being a journey of the senses as utmost attention is paid to stylish interior, global music, delectable fare, enthralling scents and highest level of service. Dive in and immerse yourself in the mesmerizing world of Jellyfish.

Jellyfish | 1009 N. Rush Street | Chicago, IL 60611 | (312)660-3111 | jellyfishchicago.com  FOLLOW US ON:
Dear Jenny,

Have you ever been dumped by someone you really loved? How did you handle the heartbreak?

— Anonymous

Jenny says: Yes. I have been dumped by someone I really loved, and I cried for three months straight. I felt like an empty shell and I was turning into one because I couldn't eat. I was very young at the time, so this was very scary territory for me.

My mother told me that the only thing you can really trust to help heal a broken heart is time. I couldn't imagine surviving in that much pain for much longer, but I took my mother's advice. I watched the minutes turn into days and then months. Time not only helped mend my broken heart, but it also brought me some clarity as to why he wasn't meant for me.

Usually when we get dumped we fall into a pit of despair, thinking “I'm worthless.” Feelings of not being good enough can overtake us. If you are not doing work on yourself during the healing process, you could easily attract the same relationship over and over, so it's important to realize that your partner took nothing away from you when he left you.

You are not broken. You came into the relationship whole and are leaving whole. The faster you can learn that concept, the faster you'll heal.

The question now is: How do you get there? First, look at what you needed from your partner and start giving it to yourself. That way you won't feel that need to have the next person fill it. You filled it already. In my own adventures of dating, I have learned that whenever I need anything from my partner, I'm entering into dangerous territory. I need to give it to myself first. Not only does it make me feel better, but it also frees up my partner from having to do a job that is meant for me.

Need love? Give it to yourself. Need inspiration? Read a book. Need to laugh? Watch a comedy. My favorite guru, Byron Katie, says, “If I had a prayer, it would be this: 'God spare me from the desire for love, approval or appreciation. Amen.'”

Move forward with an open heart in your next relationship. Good luck.

Send questions to Askjenny@suntimes.com

READ JENNY'S DAILY BLOG AT CHICAGOSPLASH.COM
When the temperature soars, Chicagoans have long headed to the accessible waters of Lake Geneva, Wis., a mere 70 miles away. Though just 8.6 square miles in size, it boasts major assets that have made it an all-star draw since the late 19th century, when a "who's who" of Chicago's elite (think Wrigley, Schwinn, Maytag, Allerton and more) built lakefront estates, helping the charming town earn the moniker the "Newport of the West.”

Today, Lake Geneva sports nearly 26 miles of gorgeous shoreline (the length of the path around the lake), three charming towns (Lake Geneva, Williams Bay and Fontana), well-stocked fishing waters, challenging sailing conditions and a selection of housing that offers something for every buyer.

"There are 45 listings on the lake right now,” says Keefe Real Estate broker Barbara J. Philips (call 262-215-9806). Needless to say, waterfront footage costs, and current on-the-water listings range from $1.3 million to $8 million. The good news is that "properties on the water hold their value, even in down real estate markets,” says Philips. But there's no shortage of homes within a stone's throw of the water for less. A great option is 1591 Orchard (above) in Lake Geneva Manor, an association of homes founded in 1932 that shares lakefront rights and boat piers. This handsome 2,848-square-foot, four-bedroom, three-bathroom English Tudor for $689,000 is on an 80' by 100' lot and situated a block and a half from the lake, right off a renowned public path that circles the water and leads just three blocks into downtown Lake Geneva. It was one of six original homes on the property (there are about 70 now) and can be lived in year-round (contact Keefe Real Estate broker Dale Hibbard, 262-745-4847).
Lake Geneva is rife with bona fide charmers, such as this 1881 three-bed, two-bath 2,000-square-foot English bungalow at 428 Warren, aptly named “Keepsake Cottage,” in the historic Maple Park District of downtown. It is believed to be the first bungalow ever built in the town, says Philips, who is marketing it for $329,000. Equally charming is Philips’ newest listing, a 1932 four-bed, two-bath 2,000-square-foot brick Federal at 145 Lakeview for $616,000. For the budget-conscious, consider the four-bedroom, two-bathroom historic clapboard bungalow at 1129 Pleasant for $199,900 (contact Keefe Real Estate broker Debbie Cobain, 262-949-9818). Or, for the space and convenience of new construction (plus vintage personality, thanks to a charming Victorian-style façade), consider 34 Lower Loch Vista in Williams Bay, a 5,491-square-foot, three-bed, three-bath home right off the lake for $799,000.

The Interior of 145 Lakeview Drive in Lake Geneva, Wis.

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Unlike the rest of the working world, Perry Farrell very rarely comes down with a case of the Mondays. Instead, the rock 'n' roll icon and founder of Lollapalooza charges into each new week armed with an arsenal of ideas for brainstorming sessions, dubbed "Monday Morning Meetings." The Lolla staff, outside promoters and other collaborators gather to pitch future lineup ideas for the mammoth three-day music festival that descends upon Grant Park each summer (landing this year Aug. 2-4). "We discuss groups that are touring or have new records out, groups that are coming up that agents or managers want to get on the bill, personal favorites and people that we'd like to see on the bill," Farrell explains from his home in Los Angeles.

His days are now entrenched in Lolla logistics, but it wasn't long ago that Farrell, 54, was headlining festival stages himself. Best known as the singer and co-founder of the band Jane's Addiction, he's considered a figurehead of the American alternative-rock movement that sprouted in the 1980s and dominated airwaves with aplomb in
Lollapalooza, upstart to global

EliSSA ROdwell

the 1990s. While they were pioneers of the sound, Jane's Addiction dissolved in 1991 amid struggles with drug addiction and interpersonal squabbling.

It was from the demise of Jane's Addiction that Lollapalooza was born, conceived as a sort of farewell tour for the group. It was so successful that Farrell stuck to it, and in the early '90s, the festival was the premier destination for the biggest punk and alternative acts of the day. But by 1998, alt-rock's reign was overthrown by a shifting musical landscape and the fest was canceled. Farrell attempted to revive Jane's Addiction and Lolla in 2003, but the fest was canceled again in 2004 due to poor ticket sales. Farrell was uninterested. Along with friends and collaborators, he scrambled to re-imagine Lolla's format. The third attempt needed a permanent home and a more diverse lineup.

In 2005, Lollapalooza debuted as a two-day stand-alone affair in Grant Park. Farrell was unsure that it would succeed. The bill had been locked down just four months prior to opening day, a scary timeline given that a lot of agents won't even consider booking an artist that close to a fest's launch, not to mention a reworked one that had been previously canceled. Add to that the fact that Farrell had spent months hustling to secure permits and get everything up and running in Chicago. "We were only using half of the field [at Grant Park]," he recalls. "We were able to get, like, three baseball diamonds from the city of Chicago — that amount of land."

The relief Farrell felt once the gates flung open was palpable, but he was still a bit unsettled. "It felt good, but it was new. You know how sometimes you're just not sure about things?" He recalls a poignant moment that turned the tables. "By the time Arcade Fire went on, there was a moment when I looked over my shoulder at the rest of the crowd behind me," he remembers. "The feeling Arcade Fire puts out is very grand and very... I want to use the word 'communal.' I noticed that everyone was just kind of in the same place I was, musically and spiritually, and I thought to myself, 'Wow, it worked! We've arrived.'"

Eight years later, Lollapalooza spans the length of Grant Park for three days, with eight stages showcasing 150 acts — and ticket sales are no longer a concern. In fact, this year the festival's three-day pass sold out before the lineup was even announced, confirming its spot as an indie and alternative juggernaut.

For Farrell, the fest is full of memorable moments. For instance, four years ago, before Farrell was set to take the stage with a reunited Jane's Addiction, a mutual friend introduced him to Aerosmith guitarist Joe Perry. "He offered to go out and do a set with us," Farrell recalls excitedly. "So we quickly practiced Jane Says before we went out there. That was a rush!"

In that same period of time, electronic dance music, or EDM, has become a force of its own. Each year, young fans swathed in neon and glitter flock to Perry's Stage, Lolla's hub for dance-music kids. "It was something I enjoyed and appreciated, and I just wanted to have a place for DJs on the grounds," says Farrell, also a longtime DJ, performing under the name DJ Perez (he's been known to spin a set or two over the weekend). Baauer, the young producer responsible for 2012 Internet earworm "Harlem Shake," performs in the tent this year, and Farrell is particularly excited for a set by young Los Angeles DJ Cole Plante. "He's 16 years old and he already has a record deal," he says.

Despite booking some of the EDM's hottest names — Skrillex, for example — Farrell insists that he remains of the old electronic guard. "I'm not particularly crazy about EDM; it's more like pop music to me. [Perry's Stage] wasn't born from a place of like 'EDM is going to explode in five years.' I just wanted to throw a good party."

As Lollapalooza has thrived — it now hosts concerts in Chile and Brazil — Farrell has continued to make music. After the breakup of Jane's Addiction, Farrell went on to form the bands Porno for Pyros, the Satellite Party and PerryEtty, alongside his wife of 11 years, Etty Lau Farrell. "My wife and I, we're topliners. We get a dance track and sing over it. So you bring melody, voice and song, and somebody else brings the beats and the synths melodies."

Each year after the festivities wind down, Farrell makes a point to explore Chicago with Etty and sons Harmon and Izzadore. "We like going to all of the art exhibits at the museums and to the Pier. At night we like to take in the different restaurants." He also has a thing for Chicago's hotels. "They give me ideas for interior decoration."

Though the city's central location and big airport were what initially caught his eye, Farrell is a firm believer that Grant Park's beautifully kept grounds and proximity to the lake, hotels and public transportation make it the best spot in the entire country for a music festival. "We scoured the country for where we wanted to go, and I wouldn't say we settled on Chicago," he says. "We chose Chicago. And in return, I guess Chicago chose us."
Ranking high on the list of things that characterize Chicago summers are the seemingly endless musical offerings we enjoy, from Lollapalooza to the Chicago Jazz Festival. But there are other sounds to be heard, other instruments at play. We’re talking tap. And if “42nd Street” and Fred Astaire are your reference points for this great American art form, you’re in for a sweet surprise.

Enter “Rhythm World,” Chicago Human Rhythm Project’s two-week long American tap and percussive arts festival that’s working to revolutionize our city’s perception of tap. Since July 22, CIIRP has offered an array of classes, panel discussions and community outreach events, and it all concludes this week with “JUBA! Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance,” a series of public performances ranging from Brazilian stylists to

'TJUBA! MASTERS OF TAP AND PERCUSSIVE DANCE'
July 31, Aug. 1 and 3, Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago, $25-$32; (312) 397-4010; mcachicago.org

Ted Louis Levy’s “Sammy—The Life and Times of Sammy Davis, Jr.”

Since its inception in 1990, CIIRP has cast a wide net in showcasing percussive-driven performance. In its first year, it featured a global range of master tap artists such as Jimmy Payne, Sr., Dianne “Lady Lj” Walker and Sam Weber, as well as Trinity Irish Dance Company, Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theatre and Najwa Dance Corps. "Even then," says CIIRP co-founder, Lane Alexander, "the kind of tap dance we were presenting had already moved beyond the gorgeous iconic image of Bill Robinson and had become something recognizable different.

Propelled by innovative practitioners, informed by other art forms and reshaped by various cultures, tap has evolved to become a wildly varied method of expression. "Many people think 'tap' is an adjective describing a noun, 'dance.' But for a growing number of artists, the orientation is the other way around. We compose in time first and space second," says Lane. "Theatricality takes a back seat to musicality and the stereotypical method of using tap to tell a narrative is abstracted into the world of music. For people who walk into the theater expecting to see a restatement of mid-twentieth century masterpieces, they are in for a pleasant awakening to the limitless possibilities inherent in this multi-faceted form."
Rising star Michael Peña began his acting career right here in Chicago. "My mom's best friend said, 'You should be an actor!'" he says. "So I went to a casting call at Lane Tech High School in 1995." Peña — who's still never taken an acting class — snagged a spot as an extra in "To Sir, With Love II," but he wouldn't make it big until years later, when he starred in "The Shield" and landed roles in films like "World Trade Center" and "Crash."

Currently, Peña, 37, is co-starring alongside Ryan Reynolds, Samuel L. Jackson and Paul Giamatti in the animated flick "Turbo," playing nationwide. He says he took on the voice of ambitious cartoon character Tito for his five-year-old son, who "loves" the family film. "He was on the edge of his seat the entire time," says Peña.

Humble beginnings: "I went to LA a week or two after I finished my first movie as an extra. I said, 'I'm going to give myself three months. If I don't make it, I'll split.' It's the beauty of being naïve. There was a time I was living in a van for a couple of weeks."

In studio: "It was me and a couple of microphones. No voice coach. I didn't have any training. You're trying to find the right pitch and the right voice, and it has to be a very specific voice, because the character is already animated. It was a lot of fun."
Forget salt! Try a little hoja santa around the rim.

### The ingredient: Hoja santa

At Mercadito, Tad Carducci of the Tippling Bros. — which creates the drink list for the Latino eatery — uses hoja santa, a Mexican-grown herb, in his tequila-based Pepino el Puy ($11.50). "Hoja santa adds an intense and unique freshness, both aromatically and on the palate." Also used in Mexican cuisine, hoja santa hints of mint, arugula and anise. "It was used in ancient times to freshen diapers," says Carducci. "It's said Mary dried Jesus' diapers using the herb, hence the name 'sainted leaf.'"

108 W. Kinzie, (312) 329-9555; Mercaditorestaurants.com

### The ingredient: Cotton candy

Not to be outdone by hipster cocktailians: The Terrace at Trump serves the Evaperol ($22), a mix of vodka, lime juice and cotton candy made behind the bar. "We discovered it holds liquid nitrogen unusually well," says Christopher Roberts, food and beverage director. Liquid nitrogen, vodka and lime juice are poured on top of the cotton candy to create "smoke" that dissipates before the first sip. The drink encapsulates summer — and puts on a good show, which is part of what The Terrace is about. 401 N. Wabash, (312) 588-8600; Trumphotelscollection.com/Chicago/rooftop-restaurants-chicago.com

### The ingredient: Ambergris

Though the generically named Cocktail ($10) boasts a standard moniker, the addition of ambergris to the drink is anything but ordinary. At Billy Sunday in Logan Square, the team is using the waxy substance — which is produced in a whale's digestive tract — to add a slight saltiness to the blend of rye, brandy, sugar and bitters. This sea-harvested seasoning also adds a dose of depth and mystery to the drink. 3143 W. Logan, (773) 661-2485; Billy-sunday.com

### The ingredient: Vinegar

For his Venetian 75 ($12.75), Chad Pozmantir, manager of The Florentine, starts by making black cherry shrub, a Colonial-era mixer of black cherry juice, sugar, botanicals, balsamic and wine vinegars. "I hold the liquids in an airtight jar for a week, then strain through a cheesecloth," says Pozmantir. "We combine it all with Hendricks gin in a Champagne flute, top it with Prosecco and garnish with lemon twist. The shrub adds acidity and depth." 151 W. Adams, (312) 660-8866; E2hospitality.com/florentine-chicago/

### The ingredient: Xtabentun

Jason Lerner, owner of Logan Square's Masa Azul, tells us he confers sweetness upon cocktails with Xtabentun, a bright yellow liqueur made with anise and honey and originally crafted on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. "I use it in the Reviver ($8) along with joven mezcal, orange liqueur, Salers and lemon juice," he says. Lerner even rinses coupe glasses with Xtabentun so that "the viscous liqueur sticks to the glass to create a beautiful anise bouquet." 2901 W. Diversey, (773) 687-0300; Masaazul.com

### The ingredient: Rhubarb

Spirits Director Matt Poli of The Publican (837 W. Fulton Market) dreamed up the It Gets the Hose Again cocktail ($10, named after the famous line from "Silence of the Lambs"). The drink uses a house-made tonic of rhubarb, orange zest, wild cherry bark, gentian root and club soda, which is combined with Buffalo Trace bourbon — Poli calls it "Buffalo Bill bourbon" (get it?). The tart, slightly bitter rhubarb balances the sweetness of the bourbon. 837 W. Fulton Market, (312) 733-9555; Thepublicanrestaurant.com

### The ingredient: Cinchona bark

At Amy Morton's new-ish Evanston restaurant Found, the G&T Rethunk cocktail ($12) blends gin, grapefruit, ginger, lime and cinchona bark, which is native to South America and has been used for medicinal purposes since the 16th century. "The tree bark is finely ground to add bitterness to tonic water," says Found's lady of libations, Jan Henrichsen. "But cinchona also has slight sweetness that makes the flavor round and complex." Henrichsen sources the cinchona from Merz Apothecary in Lincoln Square. 1531 Chicago, Evanston, (847) 868-8945; Foundkitchen.com
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**Tails & Tables**

Enjoy the dog days of summer at these 10 pooch-friendly dining spots

**Bad Dog Tavern and Grill**

Not only can your dog dine with you on this Lincoln Square patio, he can also become part of the Dog Hall of Fame — just bring in a framed picture for the wall. 4535 N. Lincoln. (773) 334-4040. Baddogtavern.com

**312 Chicago**

Enjoy outdoor Italian with your pet at this Loop restaurant, then head over to the grassy knoll on the river (301 N. Franklin) to enjoy the sunshine and a game of fetch. 136 N. LaSalle. (312) 696-2420. 312chicago.com

**Big Star**

After its delicious tacos, Bucktown's Big Star is best known for its lantern-lit outdoor area. Though the dog-friendly patio is spacious, the restaurant doesn’t accept reservations, so arrive early. 1531 N. Damen. (773) 235-4039. Bigstarchicago.com

**Chef's Station**

The North Shore gourmet getaway has a pet-friendly patio and is less than a mile from Evanston's application-only dog beach. Register
Harry Caray's Navy Pier
Ample outdoor space means your pooch can get social with others. After lunch, take a stroll up the pier or play in the grassy areas just west of it. 700 E. Grand, (312) 927-9700; harrycaraystavern.com/navy-pier

Hot Doug's
What better place to bring your pup than Hot Doug's, the Avondale emporium of gourmet hot dogs? Opt for the usual Chicago style, or something more unique, like the beer-soaked bratwurst. 3324 N. California, (773) 279-9550; hotdoug's.com

Perennial
After a long day near the lakefront, head to the Lincoln Park-adjacent Perennial for gourmet dinner with the dog. 1800 N. Lincoln, (312) 981-7070; perennialchicago.com

Trattoria 225
This suburban restaurant serves up delicious Italian fare to leash-wielding guests on an intimate, 30-seat outdoor patio. Nearby Columbus Park and the Oak Park Conservatory make relaxing after-dinner hangout spots. 225 Harrison, Oak Park, (708) 358-8555; trattoria225.com
style | TRENDING NOW

Parson's Chicken and Fish: menu starts at $5, 2952 W. Armitage; Parsonschickenandfish.com
“Hunter [Moore] is turning a ‘chicken shack’ into something for everyone. The chicken speaks for itself.”

Janod: Be-A-Cook grill set, $35, Play, 3109 W. Logan; Playlogansquare.com
“A playset for my daughter Sydney.”

L’patron: tacos start at $2, 2815 W. Diversey; Facebook.com/Lpatrontacos
“Not recreating the wheel, just polishing the hell out of it.”

Kai Zan: salmon nigiri, $5 for two, 2557 W. Chicago; Eatatkaiuzan.com
“Get super creative with your sushi.”

King of the Kitchen

How Jason Vincent, Nightwood’s executive chef and Food and Wine Magazine’s Best New Chef, keeps his days delicious

Scofflaw: drinks start at $8, 3201 W. Armitage; Scofflawchicago.com
“Besides amazing cocktails, Mickey Neely is turning out some really tasty food. Enjoy complimentary warm chocolate chip cookies at midnight.”

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Nightwood: menu changes daily, 2119 S. Halsted; Nightwoodrestaurant.com
“Sorry to toot my own horn, but the place is awesome.”

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U.S. Cellular Field: tickets start at $7, 333 W. 35th, Chicago; white sox.mlb.com
“I can watch the Indians beat the White Sox.”

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The Fashion Outlets of Chicago will change the way you shop for designer duds. Here's everything you need to know about the new retail mecca. **BY KEVIN AEH**

Retailers move into their storefronts at the Fashion Outlets of Chicago.

You know how you’re supposed to be at the airport a couple of hours before your flight? If you’re flying out of O’Hare, you might want to plan on heading in that direction even earlier — so you’ll have time to shop.

On August 1, the Fashion Outlets of Chicago will open in Rosemont, featuring two levels of designer and name-brand shopping in a 530,000-square-foot enclosed building. The center, just five minutes from O’Hare and not far from the Rosemont stop on the Blue Line, will be the closest outlet shopping center to the city. But it’s shaping up to offer much more than just retail therapy.

Change of art: The Arts Initiative, a newly formed collective, is dedicated to placing contemporary art in public venues. The first stop? The Fashion Outlets of Chicago. The installations (designed by 11 artists, including Jen Stark, Daniel Arsham and Cody Hudson) feature enormous pieces that are highly interactive and sprawled across 150-foot-walls, grand staircases, entire ceilings and entryways and even along the sides of escalators. The pieces are curated by Miami-based gallery Primary Projects.

New in Store

This store has one of the best assortments of merchandise that we’ve ever had. I think customers will be blown away when they walk through our doors.

— Arnie Orlick,
SVP of outlets for Bloomingdale’s
Talking shop: Of course, the real reason to visit the Fashion Outlets of Chicago is for the major shopping. Big-time designers and lines include Prada, Gucci, Hervé Léger, Theory, Michael Kors, Tory Burch and more. But it's not all high-end — you'll also find budget-friendly stores such as American Eagle Outfitters, Banana Republic and Splendid.

Outlets new to the city include Vince Camuto — stocked with a full range of footwear that even includes selections from the VC-owned Jessica Simpson line — Barney's Outlet, Brunello Cucinelli, Joe's Jeans and Ports 1961. And look for a large selection of deals at the center's anchor stores: Bloomingdale's The Outlet, Neiman Marcus Last Call, Forever 21 and Saks Fifth Avenue Off Fifth. “We have great statement necklaces and bracelets from our fine jewelry collection,” says Amber Cacali, VP of marketing for Off Fifth. “We carry some of the best jewelry designers at prices that are 30 to 60 percent off original retail prices. I always discover a great gem to add to my collection.”

Jet-setting: The Fashion Outlets of Chicago are working with BAGS Inc. to make it easier to catch your flight. An on-site concierge can help print your boarding pass, check your luggage directly from the shopping center and catch a shuttle straight to O'Hare. It's just like a curbside check-in — only a little more stylish.
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Nissan Pathfinder S debuts new look, roomier interior

The right recipe: A kitchen remodel with improvements like more counter space, adjusted appliance heights, and rollout and sliding shelves (pictured) makes this key space in the home more comfortable, accessible and convenient. This is one of the home remodeling projects an Aging In Place Specialist (CAPS) builder like Aip Custom Builders can design to help homeowners stay in their homes, as needs and abilities change. According to the American Association of Retired Persons, more than 80 percent of adults now intend to “Age in Place,” a term that refers to staying in your home in your later years.

SEE THE FULL STORY IN TODAY'S HOMES ON PAGE 8

BY SUE MEAD
Motor Matters

Nissan’s all-new 2013 Pathfinder is lighter, roomier and more fuel-efficient than its predecessor, with some clever cargo features and technology capabilities that you can’t find anywhere else in the mid-sized SUV segment.

The 2013 Nissan Pathfinder comes in S, SV, SL and Platinum trims in two-wheel drive and four-wheel-drive versions and starts at $28,270. Like many modern SUVs, the Pathfinder’s look has evolved to give it more of a car-like, crossover look. The updated vehicle is lighter by about 500 pounds, more aerodynamic than in years past, and has moved from body-on-frame architecture to a unibody build, making it ride less like a truck and more like a minivan.

Pathfinder’s grille, dominated by a large Nissan badge backed by a black honeycomb design, stretches like a pair of wings across the entire front end. Large halogen headlamps wrap around to the sides; optional fog lamps are mounted in the lower part of the grille.

The roofline slants sharply down from the shoulders to the tail end, lending the vehicle a more coupe-like stance despite its longer, three-row size. Character lines scoop out the midsection, and the lift back is topped by an integrated spoiler. Standard wheels are 18-inch alloys with 20-inch wheels available on the highest-end models.

We drove the new Pathfinder on a road course of approximately 150 miles, traveling on a collection of two lanes from the Calistoga Trail of Napa Valley to a section of northern California’s coastal routes.

Our tester was the base Pathfinder S two-wheel-drive model and enjoyed the all-new brightened and upgraded interior, with comfortable ergonomics for driver and front-seat passenger, as well as good second- and third-row seat roominess; notable is the ease-of-access to the back row.

Nissan claims best-in-class passenger volume, front head and legroom and class-exclusive third-row reclining seats, a latch and Glide System for second-row seats and the EZ Flex seating system. What all this means is a more luxurious ride and some innovations to have elbowroom, plus a straightforwardness to get smaller riders situated in all rows.

Now a unibody, the ride quality is more car-like and Nissan’s engineers have worked their magic.

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<th>Model</th>
<th>MSRP</th>
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*Add tax, title license and $164.30 doc fee. **Finance on approved credit score Subject to vehicle insurance and availability. *Lease on approved credit score. Lease, 10k miles per year, 15 cents after. Lessee responsible for excess wear and early termination of lease. Option to purchase: Imp.$11,395. For $14,995. Legacy $12,090, Outback $13,395. * Gas mileage is EPA estimates. All offers end in 3 days, unless noted.
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Staying power
CAPS builders make key aging decision easier

There are now more than 60 million Americans aged 55 and older, and the U.S. Census Bureau says that number will reach 100 million once the youngest of the Baby Boomers reaches full retirement age.

An equally astounding statistic is that 45 percent of all homeowners will be over age 55 by the year 2020.

According to the American Association of Retired Persons, more than 80 percent of adults now intend to “Age in Place,” a term that refers to staying in your home in your later years.

Factors that impact this decision include your current physical condition, your anticipated future needs, and can your home be adapted to meet your needs as you age. When possible, aging adults are now choosing to modify their homes instead of selling.

There are several key points to consider.

Plan ahead. There will be a time that you or a loved one’s mobility will become limited, which can occur suddenly. When remodeling your home, always think about your current and future needs, sometimes referred to as “age-proofing” your home.

Consult an expert. Aging-in-Place home improvements should not look or feel “institutional” in any form or fashion, and finding the right remodeler can be difficult. Consult with a reputable CAPS Builder, one which has been certified as an Aging In Place Specialist and trained in Universal Design elements by the National Association of Home Builders. Adding Universal Design improvements refers to creating environments that are barrier-free, adaptive, desirable and value-enhancing.

Adding Universal Design features to a home increases its functionality and livability. Widening hallways, adding lighting, and removing sunken rooms will add to a home’s appeal”, said Michael Avis, an AIP (Age in Place) Custom Builder, and owner of Avis Homes, which has been servicing homeowners since 1960. AIP Custom Builders specializes in creating aesthetically pleasing Aging-in-Place home improvements.

Accessible is desirable. By fusing innovative design techniques with the highest craftsmanship, customized Aging-in-Place renovations will incorporate your signature tastes and style and safety: This bathroom remodel in a Glenview home shows how items like handrails can provide an additional measure of safety and add style to the home. I PHOTO COURTESY SHAUN SARTIN PHOTOGRAPHY

For example, revamp your bathroom to make it more open or to add a no-threshold, spa-like shower. Kitchen renovations might include increasing counter space, adjusting appliance heights, and installing rollout and sliding shelves.

Research your options. If you live in a multi-story home, can a master bedroom be added on the first floor, or can the home be retrofitted with an elevator? Adding a first-floor master bedroom, an elevator or even a convenient dumbwaiter is not as expensive as one might think, and studies show that they enhance home resale value.

The right recipe: A kitchen remodel with improvements like more counter space, adjusted appliance heights, and rollout and sliding shelves (pictured) makes this key space in the home more comfortable, accessible and convenient. SUPPLIED PHOTO

The decision to age in place has many advantages, provided your home is designed or renovated to accommodate your changing needs as you age. Such improvements, Avis said, give you an attractive and more functional home for your later years, while increasing the value of your investment.

Assisted living facilities can cost $40,000 per year and up. Investing in Aging-in-Place home improvements makes financial sense, and more importantly allows you to stay in the home you love.

Have a question? For more information or a consultation on home remodeling and Aging-in-Place home improvements, visit the Website at www.AipCustomBuilders.com, email to info@aipcustombuilders.com, or call (847) 830-0570.

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Once upon a time, turning 55 or 60 meant you were "old," and might spend your remaining years sitting on the porch watching the world go by.

Times have changed. The first wave of retiring Baby Boomers is insisting on living healthier, more active and longer lives. There isn't much they can't do or won't try. Whether it's walking, running, biking, tennis, golf or touring the quiet back roads, visiting vineyards and wineries, testing fine new restaurants, spending a day at an art show or in quaint antique galleries...they want life at its fullest.

To fully enjoy the prime years, many of the "55+'s" are exchanging their homes in the suburbs or city for a dream house in the country. And they know what they want: flexible, open floor plans, maintenance-free living in a secure community, plenty of options for activities they enjoy, scenic views and an all-sports lake.

In the last four years, an increasing number of Illinois residents has invested in second/retirement homes in Southwest Michigan, taking advantage of the lifestyle opportunities and beautiful surroundings while staying close to family and friends.

One of the most scenic and desirable spots for that second home or retirement haven is Lake Chapin Shores, a combination lake and woods property located on Lake Chapin in Southwest Michigan, just a 90-minute drive from Chicago.

Lake Chapin Shores is a quiet country paradise, easy to get to through gently rolling countryside and two-lane roads shared with the occasional farm vehicle, cyclist or horseback rider. The backdrop of 600-acre all-sports Lake Chapin offers incomparable sights lines from 10 lakefront properties plus five hilltop sites and six more locations tucked privately into the woods.

Each of 12 separate home designs emphasizes convenience and low maintenance, an open floor plan, outdoor views from each level and easy access to screened porches and expansive decks. Homes are designed to meet the needs of any lifestyle, and range from 1,300 to 3,200 square feet of comfortable living space (not including decks and porches) with cozy fireplaces, cherry or maple cabinetry, natural granite countertops and energy-efficient appliances.

Owners at Lake Chapin Shores are finding a safe haven for quality time together and are creating new memories for themselves and their families. Dinner for two at local fine dining spots, a cruise on the lake or a walk along its shore, a dip in the pool, dockside fishing and plenty to do in the surrounding area, including beaches, ice cream parlors, sandwich shops, kayaking, bike-riding and every type of vacation-time sport, year-round. A concierge service is available to help homeowners prepare for special events such as family reunions and holiday parties.

Materials and equipment are high quality, and are selected for quiet efficiency, durability and the need for little or no maintenance. Low-maintenance decking, for example, never needs staining like wooden decks.

Lake Chapin Shores has a playground, heated pool, dockside fishing and plenty to do in the surrounding area, including beaches, ice cream parlors, sandwich shops, kayaking, bike-riding and every type of vacation-time sport, year-round. A concierge service is available to help homeowners prepare for special events such as family reunions and holiday parties.

Materials and equipment are high quality, and are selected for quiet efficiency, durability and the need for little or no maintenance. Low-maintenance decking, for example, never needs staining like wooden decks.

Landmark Architectural roofing shingles deliver the cottage-style weathered wood look, yet carry a 30-year warranty. Pella windows are energy efficient. Natural cedar, pre-stained siding in the owner's choice of colors and finishes requires little maintenance. Nature-inspired landscaping around each cottage perimeter and natural stone driveways and pathways complement the relaxed surroundings.

"I think the best feature about Lake Chapin Shores is that the homes are beautifully built with super high quality. The back of our home facing the lake and up on the bluff give us a stunning view with a 'wow factor,'" said one homeowner.

Prospective buyers can take the short 90-minute day trip to southwest Michigan to see for themselves. Call 888-TO-MICHIGAN (888-866-4244) for an appointment to tour the community, discuss building and financing options. Visit the Website at www.LakeChapinShores.com for a look at each of 12 model homes, photos and video of Lake Chapin Shores living, and a complete list of materials and specifications.
Create an outdoor sanctuary

Coming home from a long work day to a place of peace, quiet, relaxation and even harmony is a dream for many homeowners. And by creating an outdoor sanctuary in the back yard, this private place of solace will become the first destination for all members of the family when they need a break.

Backyard sanctuaries incorporate peace of mind with a spa-like atmosphere. Some do this with plant features, others with water. Here are some tips to build an outdoor sanctuary in your own back yard.

1. Create a walkway. A beautiful walkway around your back yard, through different scenic "zones," can be a paved path, or composed of stepping stones or gravel and woodchips. Consider planting different gardens close to the walkway, inviting walkers to immerse themselves in the blooms and scents wafting from the flowers.

2. Incorporate a seating area. This space doesn't have to be large, but give it a sense of ambiance with an arbor made of cedar to allow plants to grow taller, or a pergola to provide shade and that wonderful natural aroma that cedar gives off.

"Using western red cedar for backyard sanctuary seating areas gives homeowners a variety of design options to work around," says Mark Clement, a building expert and co-host of "My Fix It Up Life" which airs nationally on iThnes, Blog Talk Radio and myfixituplife.com. "This wood is sustainable, environmentally friendly, easy to work with, ages beautifully, and, when incorporated into an arbor or pergola design, makes a stunning visual element to the space."

In this seating space, place a bench, outdoor patio furniture or even comfortable lawn chairs to encourage family members to stop for a rest and settle their thoughts for the day. If the family is into yoga or meditation, consider keeping mats in a nearby storage container for quick and easy access.

3. Design for both night and day. Sometimes a sanctuary space is most needed when the moon is shining brightly. Plan for this with a lighting design in the back yard. Provide illumination to pathways, the deck area, and in garden clusters to give a new sense of beauty to the plants. When designing your lighting scheme, be careful to avoid creating any scary shadows. If you notice this occurring, adjust the lighting to come from a different direction, or try using a different light. Also consider what form of light you would like. Would you prefer low watt electric lights, or candlelight, which would require a person to spend time preparing?

Once your backyard sanctuary is built, your family will have a place handy where they can escape for some peace of mind.

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Aw shucks: Learning to love oysters

MELISSA ELSMO
OUT OF MEL’S KITCHEN

Oysters — the slippery suckers were once the stuff of my childhood nightmares.

Why would I eat one of those slimy bites when I could have a tater tot instead? But oysters are tricky little buggers; they sneak up on you. Thanks in part to movies, I realized that oysters were seemingly a part of any really good date and my curiosity was piqued. After all, Aphrodite emerged from the ocean on an oyster shell and ever since then the briny mollusks have been associated with love and romance. So okay, I didn't go on a lot of those kinds of date in my youth, but over time, I mustered a little culinary courage and shoved aside those tots in favor of oysters.

Somewhere between my dad opening a tin of smoked oysters on Thanksgiving and slurping down an impeccable raw kumomoto at Publican nearly 20 years later, I fell in love with oysters. Honestly, I can’t pinpoint the moment my openness turned into an infatuation, but I’m certain it was a gradual love affair. And I’ve been slugging them down ever since. It may have taken me a long time to fall in love with oysters, but history has given folks plenty of time to fall under their spell. Oysters have actually been hanging around since dinosaurs roamed the Earth and they once sustained our forefathers on the East Coast for pennies a day.

National Oyster Day falls on Aug. 5 and everyone should be prepared to enjoy them in a way that matches up with their culinary comfort zone. For oyster novices, my Italian-inspired roasted mollusks offer all of the flavors of pizza on the half shell. Cooking oysters eliminates all the slippery and slimy elements that put folks off, while serving them up raw with a robust array of Japanese flavors will entice longtime oyster lovers to indulge again and again.

Falling in love with oysters has never been easier or more delicious!
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www.holynativity.church.org
275 S. Richmond Ave., (630) 323-6820
Sunday Services: 7:30 AM; 9:30 AM
Wednesday Prayer: 9:00 AM
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Notre Dame Catholic Church
64 Norfolk Ave, (630) 654-3365
www.notredameparish.org
Sat: 8AM & 5PM - Sun: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:00AM
Daily Mass: M-F: 7 & 8:45 AM
Babysitting: Sun. 9:30 AM
Children's Liturgy: Sat. 5:00 PM & Sun. 9:30 AM

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

Evangelical Covenant Church of Hinsdale
412 S. Garfield St.
630-323-2318
www.hinsdalecovenant.org
Traditional Service: 9:00 AM,
Worship and Education 10:15
Contemporary Service 11:15 AM

Hinsdale United Methodist Church
Garfield at 55th Street
Sunday Worship
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www.hinsdaleumc.com

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic
8404 Cass Avenue, 630-852-3303
www.mountcarmelcc.org
Sunday Mass: Sat. 9:00 AM,
Sun. 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM
Daily Mass Mon-Sat. 9:00 AM

First Church of Christ, Scientist
Sun. Service & School 10 AM
Wed. Meeting 7:30 PM
405 E. First Street
(630) 323-0781

The Union Church of Hinsdale, UCC
137 S. Garfield Ave.,
(630) 323-4303
www.bchinsdale.org
Sunday Worship:
Traditional Worship: 9:00 AM,
Sunday School: 9:00 AM,
Nursery: 8:45 AM
Contemporary Worship: 10:30 AM

Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church
201 N. Oak St. (630) 323-0182
www.hinsdaleadventist.org
Saturdays
Study Hour: 9:30 AM
Worship: 10:50 AM
Contemporary Worship: 5:00 pm
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Jennifer Ogden, Associate Pastor
Kenneth Parker, Youth Pastor

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**Edison Park Lutheran Church**
6626 N. Oliphant Ave., Chicago, IL
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773-631-9131, www.edisonparkchurch.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
Michael Lyda, Children/Youth/Family

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Sunday School & Adult Bible: 9:30 AM
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(ELCA)
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Chicago, IL (773) 631-0715
Saturday Worship: 5:30 PM
Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM
Holy Communion Weekly
Pastors: Barbara Berry-Bailey and Jeffery King

**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 Jeffery King

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(Lake and Austin)
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Roka Akor’s grill enhances local specialties

“Food is my passion,” enthused John Kapoor.

Kapoor is founder of JNK Concepts, parent company of Roka Akor, one of a chain of Japanese restaurants that recently opened in Skokie’s Westfield Old Orchard shopping center. Originally a pharmacist, Kapoor had the prescience to introduce robata-style cooking to a mass Western market some five years ago.

A Japanese word for “fireside-cooking,” robatayaki grilling was first used by Japanese fishermen centuries ago to cook their catch and keep warm. The method grills foods slowly over charcoal, which infuses them with barbecue flavor without frying away any original taste or adding extra fat.

“Robata grilling was something very unique but not available here in the States (and) I thought people in this country would love it,” said Kapoor.

He opened his flagship eatery, Roka Akor, in Scottsdale, Ariz., and has expanded the concept to San Francisco and Chicago’s River North. The plan is to open one in every U.S. metropolitan center.

“Every restaurant is going to showcase the best of local cuisine,” added Jason Alford, executive chef at the Westfield Old Orchard restaurant.

“So if in Scottsdale you have amazing citrus you can make local yuzu sauce, in the Midwest we have mushrooms, beets and root vegetables that are indigenous and beautiful here,” noted Alford. Alford likes to change people’s minds about vegetables. One of the tastiest and simplest dishes on Roka’s menu is the fried Brussels sprouts. Made crispy with rice oil, they’re seasoned with tangy Japanese mustard and topped with salty bonito — shavings of dried skipjack tuna ($4.50). Completely addictive and available in vegan, and even gluten-free options (sans bonito).

People think Asian cuisine is unhealthy, salty and full of MSG,” said Alford. Instead of using the shortcut of adding MSG for added umami (an extra taste element), Alford insists on having all Roka’s sauces made in-house. Being allowed to steep and thicken naturally without additives makes all the difference.

“It’s in the details,” said Alford. “The restaurant is beautiful, the food has got to have that same kind of aura.” Tipping its hat to the best of the Midwest, Roka features thick Abalone mushrooms from Wisconsin as a small plate. Dipped into citrusy ponzu before heading to the robata grill for a quick sear, they are then topped with house-cured, large Ikura salmon roe (caviar which pops in your mouth), fresh spring onions and a spritz of lemon to complete the dish ($6.50). Sliced thin, the thick fungi have the consistency of scallops.

There’s a dazzling array of chef’s selections, including Ora King salmon — which Alford has dubbed “the Wagyu of salmon” — from a sustainable farm in New Zealand that are standard on Roka’s sashimi chef selection platter (3- types $19/ 5- types $31).

“I consider all the chefs in our group to be artists. I encourage that and never ask them to compromise on the quality,” said Kapoor. “I think that differentiates our restaurant.”

### Roka Akor

4999 Old Orchard Center, Skokie
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursdays; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturdays; 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Sunday
(847) 329-7650 or see rokaakor.com

### Jason Alford, executive chef at Roka Akor in Westfield Old Orchard Mall in Skokie. | LEE A. LITAS for Sun-Times Media

### AUGUST 3

JAMES CONLON, CONDUCTOR
CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS

RAVINIA.ORG
WWE's Mick Foley tells tales from the ring

By Annie Alleman | Contributor

Mick Foley realized that sometimes you gotta give the people what they want.

And what they want from him is the dish on his glory days as one of the top superstars in the WWE.

Foley brings his one-man show, "Mick Foley: Tales of Wrestling Past," to Zanies Comedy Club in Rosemont Aug. 8.

Foley, a three-time WWE champion, was a key member of the WWE's glory days of the late 1990s, and is known as "The Hardcore Legend" for the lengthy list of injuries and punishments he's put his body through in nearly three decades of wrestling.

"I realized after my first few years that no matter what I thought the show was supposed to be, that 95 percent of the people who were taking a chance on it were wrestling fans," he said. "And it wasn't until I went to the Montreal Just for Laughs Festival, that I finally realized that if people wanted humorous stories outside of wrestling, that there were plenty."

It's both flattering and frustrating to hear from audience members that they enjoy the show so much more than they were counting on, he said.

"It's hard work. It's been an uphill struggle ever since I did a show in upstate New York where I realized people were actually leaving after the meet and greet because they had already got what it was they wanted," he said. "So I've worked really hard the last few years to make people realize an evening spent with me is an evening they will really enjoy."

Foley entered the literary world by writing his own memoir, Have a Nice Day! in 1999. It topped the New York Times Bestseller list as did his follow-up, Foley is Good, in 2001. He's also written two other memoirs, four children's books and two novels.

He promises that his show isn't simply a live version of his autobiographies.

"I'll tell a few classics that you may remember from the books, but some of the stories are from the very recent past that wrestling fans may not know," he said. "Fans will get to know me better and get a real good sense of who I am and what I find funny. And almost always the women in the crowd leave thinking I'm a pretty good guy who's worth spending some time with."

That's true — Foley has been honored for his work with RAINN, the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization. He's got such a good-guy reputation amongst his fellow wrestlers, in fact, that they don't mind him telling tales on them.

Foley is still involved in the WWE as an ambassador for the company, and later this month will resume his role as general manager on "Saturday Morning Slam," which is a show geared towards a younger audience.

Additionally, he has a documentary, "I Am Santa Claus," in the works funded through a successful Kickstarter campaign. It's a look at six men who — spoiler alert — don the red suit, including himself.

"I liken it to 'Beyond the Mat' without the bloodshed," he joked.
Lincolnwood Fest (above) runs Aug. 1-4 at Proesel Park, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., with carnival rides, food, beer tent and children's activities. See Lincolnwoodfest.com.

'Through the Lens: A Fine Art Photography Exhibition' is on display through Aug. 2 at the Brickton Art Center, 306 Busse Highway, Park Ridge. Visit BricktonArtCenter.org.

Lakeshore Arts Festival takes place 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Aug. 3-4 at Dawes Park, Sheridan Road at Church Street, Evanston. CityofEvanston.org/lakeshore

'Twelfth Night' will be performed by The Arc Theatre Company at 7 p.m. Aug. 3 and 4 at Ridgeville Park, 908 Seward St., Evanston. Free. Ridgeville.org/shakespeare.

Line dancing for all ages takes place 7-10 p.m. every Tuesday at the White Eagle Banquet Hall, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Call (847) 965-6353.
Art nurtured at Hull House gets a new showing

Hull House, Chicago's first social settlement, opened in 1889.

Its founders, Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr, envisioned a place for immigrants to "acquire the tools necessary to put down roots in their new country," according to the Hull-House Museum. The settlement took off, expanding to include a 13-building complex alive with arts, social and political dialogue, and skills-training.

Chicago painters Leon and Sadie Garland were part of the mix. They are also the focus of a new exhibit on display at the Koehnline Museum of Art at Oakton Community College, "The Art of Leon and Sadie Garland," running Aug. 1 through Sept. 20. Curator is Oak Park resident David Sokol, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Art History at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Leon and Sadie Garland met at Hull House, where Sadie was one of Leon's adult students. Both remained as teachers and residents for many years, until Leon's early death in 1941. The Garlands worked and played within the Hull House community, which, in the 1920s, encompassed fellow residents and people from the surrounding, densely populated urban area, Italian, Irish, German, Greek, Bohemian, Russian, Polish, Mexican and Jewish immigrants, as well as African Americans.

The Koehnline exhibit, which contains about 50 paintings, reflects the Garlands' work in Chicago and in Europe. It's the first time their art has been shown together since 1932, Sokol said.

"Here are good artists of a particular period of time who had short careers. It was the Depression and their works never really got out into the public," Sokol said, explaining his interest in the Garlands. "They lived at Hull House and created many paintings of daily life there."

Leon Garland, Russian-born in 1896, arrived in Chicago in 1913. A student at the Art Institute of Chicago and Hull House, his extensive body of work encompassed paintings, prints, and drawings of both modern urban landscapes and his early life in Russia. Garland created many works for the WPA (Works Progress Administration), and worked in textile design, including batik, and in stained glass.

Sadie Ellis Garland Dreikurs was born in 1900, grew up on Chicago's Near West Side, took art classes at Hull House and attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Both Garlands exhibited in Chicago and internationally, and experimented with a variety of subjects and styles, including cubism.

After Leon's death, Sadie married Rudolph Dreikurs, an Adlerian psychologist, and developed art therapy methods based on Adlerian principles. She never painted again, and died in 1996.

"Her work tended to be more of architecture and the landscape," Sokol said. "His work was of people and neighborhoods."

For the exhibit, Sokol culled about 50 works from hundreds, based on their accessibility to him in the Chicago region and their artistic impact.

"I picked and chose things they had that were distinctive," he said, from a variety of public and private sources, and including some works sent from afar at their owners' expense for the honor of contributing to the exhibit.

Sokol hopes viewers will leave with an increased appreciation for both the Garlands and life at Hull House. The settlement, he said, was a hotbed for promoting "all the liberal causes of the Progressive Era." Hull House was likely the first place at which art by African-American and white artists was shown together, for instance.

"I found it fascinating, said Sokol. "Jane Addams really reached out, and reached out to other ethnicities. She thought it would be helpful for people to assimilate but also hold on to their own traditions."
Family Friendly

Vocal Gymnasium is a workout for voice and body

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Your child’s voice will get a workout at Vocal Gymnasium with Singer Wendy Morgan, 10:30-11:20 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 14, at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave.

“I love to get the kids singing because I’ve seen so many adults that are very timid about singing,” Morgan said. “If you start them young, they get a good feeling about their voice.”

The rest of the kids’ bodies will have a workout, too. “I do body awareness,” Morgan added. Kids will also play musical instruments — which may be collected by a frog puppet.

Morgan plans to sing several selections from her new CD, “Pockets Seasons Rhymes & Reasons.” She will definitely perform “People are People” from the album, because it is already an audience favorite.

“The message is, ‘People are people no matter what color, size, shape or anything you can imagine,’” Morgan said.

The program is for ages 2-6. Registration is required.

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

HOPPY TALK

A youth ensemble of writers/actors intertwines classic fairy tales in "The White Rabbit Goes to Neverland," 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Aug. 10-18, at Gorilla Tango’s Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave. Tickets are $12.

For details, call (847) 677-7761 or go to www.gorillatango.com.

TEE FOR TWO

You and your child can have some friendly competition at the Parent Child Golf Outing, Sunday, Aug. 4, at Tam O’ Shanter Golf Course, 6700 W. Howard St., Niles. For $55 per resident couple, $69 for nonresidents, you’ll get golf, lunch, riding carts and a golf goodie bag for your child, ages 7 or older. Tee times begin at 11 a.m. Reservations are required.

For details, call (847) 965-2344 or go to www.niles-parks.org.

NOTE-WORTHY

Live music will fill the Youth Program Room at the Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., during Music ‘n’ Me with Top Note Music Academy, 9:30-10 a.m. and 10:30-11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 2. Drop in at either session with your child, newborn to age 6, for sing-alongs, bodywork, movement activities and more.

For details, call (847) 256-5025 or go to www.wilmette.lib.il.us.
Get into the swing for last ‘Let’s Dance’

BY TERRY LONCARIC | Contributor

In its 14th year, “It’s Thursday — Let’s Dance” has become Evanston’s hottest summer dance party.

The weekly downtown Evanston event features a professional instructors teaching an hour of dance lessons, after which a live band performs music from Latin to swing to jazz, and the dancers demonstrate their moves.

The Flat Cats present the final “Let’s Dance” concert Aug. 1 at Maple Avenue and Church Street. The Flat Cats, a swing jazz and blues band, perform classics like Benny Goodman’s “Sing, Sing, Sing” to romantic ballads like Bobby Darin’s “Beyond the Sea.” Singer Amanda Wolff delivers the swing tunes with old-school charm.

Dawn Nocentelli and her partner, Roman Antonov, who operate a dance studio, Blaze the Floor, teach the dance lessons. Antonov, a classical-trained ballet dancer, has taught ballroom dance and worked as a choreographer. Nocentelli took dance lessons with Antonov.

Typically, 150 participants, as young as 5, as old as 70, dance under the stars in downtown Evanston. Some people arrive alone and dance with strangers. Other couples are experienced ballroom dancers seeking a recreational outlet. Each year, Nocentelli said, she sees more familiar faces.

“It’s the entire setup that makes this event such a success,” Nocentelli said. “It’s free, the music is live, and it is a very magical and special environment.”

The Flat Cats are known as an energetic dance band. During “swing night,” dancers will learn basic swing steps, with some mastering the flashier jitterbug and Lindy Hop.

“I think swing dancing is popular because it takes people back to a time when things were simple or carefree,” Nocentelli said. “When people dance, they use a part of their brain they don’t normally use. They release endorphins. I think dance is an activity that transcends generational boundaries.”

Nocentelli and Antonov approach dance a bit differently.

“Roman is very technical so he knows how to break down the dance steps so people understand them,” Nocentelli said. “He knows how to speed it up or slow it down.

“I really connect to the beginning level dancer and social dancer because I am not classically trained,” she emphasized. “I have always had good rhythm, but I wasn’t always good with my muscle memory and coordination.”

Nocentelli encourages people to groove with the rhythms and enjoy themselves.

“People start with really basic movements like a shift, or sway,” she said. “Then we add more complicated movements as they progress. I love watching people respond to the music and develop as dancers.”

Barry Rose, the Flat Cats’ drummer and the band’s manager, said a swing concert is driven by the songs’ fiery rhythms and the steady “jungle drum beats.”

“You see high school kids for the first time learning dance steps,” Rose said. “You see men tossing women up and down. As people watch other dancers, they build on the steps. They don’t have to be bystanders any more. It’s all about the swing.”
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Stage

Play captures energy and excitement of acting

BY TOM WITOM | Contributor

A passion for acting can unleash a life-changing power in stage hopefuls.


Keith Gareth, Oil Lamp's founder who directs the play, said Baker expertly communicates the struggles and challenges facing the four adults who have signed up for a six-week acting workshop at a Vermont community center.

"Each of the play's characters enrolled in the classes has a yearning. They want to solve or fix something—even if they don't know exactly what it is," he continued.

Marty, a middle-aged instructor played by Oil Lamp veteran June Miller, leads the group through a series of self-discovery exercises.

Her steady hand guides Theresa (Hallie Peterson), a 30-something former New York actress reeling from a painful breakup; Schultz (Bill Chamberlain), a divorced, emotionally needy carpenter in his late 40s; Lauren (Anna Schulz), a shy teen with dreams of one day playing Maria in "West Side Story"; and James (Stephen Smith), Marty's supportive ex-hippie husband with emotional issues of his own.

At the start, the exercises and games involving blind trust and improvisational storytelling seem banal. But it dawns on the participants how much courage they must summon as they expose their vulnerabilities to perfect strangers. "It's inspiring to witness. It speaks to what we all hope to achieve as humans: to go to an authentic, higher place," Gareth said.

"The cast has wrapped themselves around these characters in a beautiful way," the director added.

Speaking from personal experience,
Taking the shrill out of the 'Shrew'

BY CATEY SULLIVAN | Contributor

It takes Muse of Fire Theatre Artistic Director Jemma Alix Levy exactly nine words to upend the conventional wisdom generally surrounding Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew."

"We have no interest in pursuing a compliant Kate," says Levy, a Shakespearean scholar and Evanston resident whose staging of "Shrew" opens Aug. 3 for a series of free performances in Evanston's Ingraham Park.

The piece isn't classified as a "problem play" for nothing. In Kate — the shrew of the title — Shakespeare created a character who morphs from a strong-willed, violently outspoken, anti-marriage alpha-female into a completely subservient spouse who literally bows before her domineering husband's feet while pledging that he is her "lord, life and keeper." In short, Kate's character arc isn't one that will sit easily with any woman (or man) unwilling to get behind the idea that women are, in Kate's words, "bound to serve, love and obey."

But there's more to "The Taming of the Shrew" than initially meets the 21st-century eye, says Levy, and those who dismiss the play as egregiously sexist tripe are selling Shakespeare short.

"I am often drawn to plays that I think get a bad rap or are misinterpreted," says Levy, "And I think this one is often misinterpreted. People mistakenly perceive it as a misogynistic play. It's not."

Such misinterpretations are honestly arrived at. Scan Shakespeare's text, and you'll read the story of Petruchio, a boorish fellow who admits at the get-go that he's only interested in marrying for money, who humiliates his betrothed at the altar and who spends much of the "honeymoon" trying to starve his newly acquired wife into submission.

But scratch the surface of "The Taming of the Shrew" and you'll discover that perceptions can be misleading. The story of Kate and Petruchio, says Levy, is a love story.

"I think Petruchio is actually trying as hard as he can to make this marriage work. There's no question in my mind that he understands completely what makes a good marriage. One of the things we love about Katherine is her chutzpah — I think that's definitely what Petruchio loves about her. He meets her and he's like, 'Finally. Someone who is as smart as I am,'" Levy says.

"But when we first meet Katherine, she is a woman completely out of control," the director adds, "You don't necessarily want her to conform to society, but you do want her to be able to get along in it and she's unable to do that. Petruchio makes it his job to teach her how to get along in society without losing any of her wit and spark and gumption."

As Kate, actor Christina Hall has no intention of making the character into a meekly adoring wife. "I don't want to play a broken Kate. I want to play a happy, successful Kate," says Hall, "But I think it's important to remember that being strong-willed isn't always the same thing as being strong."

As Petruchio, Alex Fthenakis is putting his trust in the playwright.

"I know there are things about this piece that seem not feminist in the least," he says, "But Shakespeare would never write a character who was just a two-dimensional Neanderthal. There are many things in Petruchio that make him a complicated man. As an actor, I have to work to find them, but they're all right there in the text."
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OPENING FRIDAY

2 GUNS

Rated
R for violence throughout, language and brief nudity
Stars Mark Wahlberg, Paula Patton, Denzel Washington
A DEA agent and an undercover Naval Intelligence officer (Wahlberg and Washington) who have been investigating each other learn they've been set up by the mob. Baltasar Kormakur ("Contraband") directed the action comedy.

BLUE JASMINE

Rated
PG-13 for mature thematic material, language and sexual content
Stars Cate Blanchett, Alec Baldwin, Sally Hawkins
After her marriage breaks up, an elegant New York City socialite (Blanchett) moves into the modest San Francisco apartment of her sister (Sally Hawkins) in an attempt to pull her life together. Woody Allen wrote and directed the drama.

STILL PLAYING

THE TO DO LIST

Rated
R for pervasive strong crude and sexual content including graphic dialogue, drug and alcohol use, and language—all involving teens
Stars Maggie Carey
A couple of real pistols: Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg in "2 Guns."

TO THE WOLVERINE

Rated
PG-13 for sequences of intense sci-fi action and violence, some sexuality and language
Stars Hugh Jackman, Famke Janssen, Will Yun Lee
Hugh Jackman (making her feature debut after assorted sitcoms and Web comedies) goes to impressive lengths to make sure "The To Do List" is at least as raunchy as your average male-oriented teen horndog comedy. For the most part, though, this is a smart, witty, frequently funny film that has a surprisingly sweet quality despite its salaciousness. It even has a moral emphasizing the value of friendship and the comparative insignificance of sex for the sake of sex that could almost be described as wholesome. Almost.

THE WOLVERINE

Rated
R for strong bloody violence including grisly images, sexual content and language
Stars Ryan Gosling, Kristin Scott Thomas, Vithaya Pansringarm
As intensely strange as it is intensely cinematic, "Only God Forgives" combines the sort of twisted sex and violence you'd find in only the most exploitative of crime thrillers, one with a hyper-stylized art-film sensibility that makes it all seem like a dream. A particularly nasty dream, of course, and one that ultimately signifies very little, but arrestinglly lurid while it has you in its grip. This sketchily outlined, visually ravishing tale of family, revenge and justice features Gosling as a tormented drug dealer leading an existentially hellish existence in Bangkok. It isn't improved when an all-powerful detective (Pansringarm) sanctions the killing of his brother, and his incestuously manipulative mob-boss mother (Thomas) flies in for vengeance. That might sound like a fairly straightforward setup for a gangster-movie blood feud, and there's certainly enough on-screen carnage to qualify. But writer/director Nicolas Winding Refn ("Drive") is more concerned with conveying mood in the dark, bleak, emotionally nullified and determinedly weird "Only God Forgives" than delivering thrills — or even telling a traditional story.

THE CONJURING

Rated
R for sequences of disturbing violence and terror
Stars Vera Farmiga, Patrick Wilson, Lili Taylor
Hard-core horror fans will no doubt find it ho-hum, but "The Conjuring" scores points for just saying no to gore (for the most part) and relying instead on old-fashioned chills and suspense. Wilson and Farmiga star as real-life paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren (whose cases included the Amityville Horror haunting), trying to save a family from demon trouble. (Glencoe native Taylor is the mom.) The dialogue is a little clunky at times and the performances are sometimes a bit awkward, but it all builds to an effectively freaky climax despite its surprisingly wholesome vibe and explicitly religious moral.
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'A To Do List' girl's side of 'Superbad'

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

'The To Do List'

⭐⭐⭐

It's nice to see a movie acknowledge that girls can have the same questing spirit as boys when it comes to seeking carnal knowledge and that their misadventures can be every bit as comically mortifying.

Even if the quest is being undertaken strictly for educational purposes.

After countless raunchy comedies — from "Porky's" to "Superbad" — about teenage boys in a sweat to jettison their virginity, "The To Do List" scores with a fresh, female-centric take on the genre. Brandy Klark (Aubrey Plaza of NBC's "Parks and Recreation" in a hilariously gung-ho performance) is the brainy, uptight valedictorian of her Idaho high-school graduating class in 1993 and she has the record GPA to prove it. There's one aspect of her education that's been entirely overlooked, though, as Brandy realizes after reluctantly attending her first kegger, where she has a drunken, mistaken-identity make-out session with a hunky college dreamboat named Rusty Waters (Scott Porter) — and has absolutely no idea what she's doing.

That's enough to convince Brandy to replace her previous pre-college to-do list, which featured sensible stuff like buying shower shoes, with a checklist of amorous activities that begins with necking and ends with losing her virginity.

It's an exhaustive list that's exhausting to contemplate, including several arcane items that sent a chagrined yours truly to urbandictionary.com for definitions. But Brandy works her way through it bit by bit, undeterred by occasionally humiliating mishaps, thanks to advice from her sexually hyperactive big sister (Rachel Bilson) and her slightly more experienced BFFs (Alia Shawkat and Sarah Steele).

Mostly with the unwitting assistance of her geeky longtime pal Cameron (Johnny Simmons), who's been crushing on her for years and can't believe his luck. Until he finally figures out what's going on.

"The To Do List" is the feature debut of Maggie Carey, who's previously written and directed sitcoms and Web comedies, and she goes to impressive lengths to make sure it's at least as lewd as your average teen horndog comedy. It's arguable that she even goes too far on a couple of occasions, going for unnecessarily gratuitous gross-outs. For the most part, though, this is a smart, witty, frequently funny film that feels surprisingly genuine, probably because it's semi-autobiographical.

As a result, Brandy comes across as a sympathetic and reasonably believable character, despite the outrageousness of what she's up to. And "The To Do List," for all its salaciousness, has a sweet quality that could almost pass for wholesomeness.

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

Just one more reason to get up & go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond
Every Thursday
What to Do

This Weekend and Beyond | Get out and enjoy your community

**This Weekend & Beyond**

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

### SUMMER CONCERTS

#### Summer Concert Series

**Norridge Park District**

Presenting concerts at Norridge Community Park, 4631 N. Overhill Ave., on select Fridays. In the event of inclement weather, concerts will be held in the Norridge Recreation Center. Visit [www.norridgepark.com](http://www.norridgepark.com).

**Fridays on the Green**

Concert series at 6 p.m. the first and third Fridays of each month, through Aug. 30, on the Village Green in front of Village Hall, 50 S. Emerson St., Mount Prospect. For information, visit [www.experiencemountprospect.org](http://www.experiencemountprospect.org).

**Park Ridge Fine Arts Symphony**


**Niles Park District**

Hosting free family concerts at Oak Park, Lee and Ottawa streets, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Fridays, through Aug. 16. Food will be available for a nominal fee. Visit [www.niles-parks.org](http://www.niles-parks.org).

**Sunday Sundown Concerts**

Dramatists Guild Award-winner "The Colored Museum," by George C. Wolfe, will be presented at 3 p.m. Aug. 3 at the Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave. Admission is free. Visit [www.cityofevanston.org/fjtheatre](http://www.cityofevanston.org/fjtheatre).

**Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre Dramatic Reading Series**


**National Theatre Live**

A broadcast of "The Audience," starring Helen Mirren, 7 p.m. Aug. 6 at Northwestern University's Ethel M. Barber Theater, 30 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. $20; $10 students. Visit [www.tic.northwestern.edu](http://www.tic.northwestern.edu).

**What to Do**

### STAGE

#### "All Shook Up"

Presented at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 1, 7 p.m. Aug. 2-3 and 2 p.m. Aug. 4 at Northwestern University's Ethel M. Barber Theater, 30 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. $10-$30. Visit [www.tic.northwestern.edu](http://www.tic.northwestern.edu).

#### "Cabaret"

Presented Aug. 10-25 by Light Opera Works at Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston. Performances at 8 p.m. Aug. 10, 16, 17 and 24; and 2 p.m. Aug. 11, 14, 18, 21, 25. Main floor $48, $68, $77, $92; balcony $32, $48, $68, $77; half-price for ages 21 and younger. Call (847) 920-5360 or visit [www.LightOperaWorks.com](http://www.LightOperaWorks.com).

#### "Dueling Pianos"


#### "Going to St. Ives"

Presented by Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre at 7 p.m. Aug. 3 and 3 p.m. Aug. 4 at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. $10 in advance; $12 at the door. Call (847) 448-8260 or visit [www.skokie.org/fjtheatre](http://www.skokie.org/fjtheatre).

#### "The Music Man"


#### "Gorilla Tango's" Musings and Poems

Readings of poetry and fiction by well-known poet and author. $12.

### Submissions

**You Want In? Here's How:**

Submit GO events on a week prior to the date of publication. Entries must be typed. GO listings are free. Include brief descriptions of the event, date, address, price and phone number. Email: [send submissions to sparker@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:send submissions to sparker@pioneerlocal.com)
of rain, performances will be canceled. Call (847) 707-8632 or visit www.museoffire.org.

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"
Presented by the Youth Company Chicago Teen Ensemble at 7 p.m. Aug. 9; 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Aug. 10; and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Aug. 11 at the Youth Company Chicago Studios, 5342 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. $15; $12.50 ages 17 and under. For tickets or information, visit www.youthcompanychicago.org.

Organ recital
Organist Colleen Ortega plays works by Pachelbel, Alain, Malotte and others at 3 p.m. Aug. 4 at Our Lady, Mother of the Church, 8747 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. Free-will offering. Call (773) 625-3369.

Allstate Arena

Morton Grove Public Library
6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. www.mgpl.org. Aug. 23, 7 p.m.: MGPL After Dark presents Main Street Cabaret performing a variety of show tunes.

Smooth Jazz Chicago
Hosting events at the InterContinental Chicago O'Hare Hotel, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets at www.smoothchicago.com. Aug. 10, 7 p.m.: Saxophonist Steve Cole. $39; $49.95 VIP.

S.P.A.C.E.
What to Do
Continued from page 55

Miles Nielson, Steve Frisbie, Ed Anderson, Emily Hurd. $10-$18.
Aug. 7, 8 p.m.: Chris Pureka (folk). $12-$22.
Aug. 8, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.: Chick Corea & The Vigil (jazz). $42-$108.

AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

Women artists sought
Professional women artists are invited to submit entries in all media to Oakton Community College for "Bodies by Design: Modification, Coercion, and Resistance." The juried art exhibition, co-sponsored by the Koehnline Museum of Art and Women's and Gender Studies at Oakton, will run Oct. 3-25. Entry deadline is Aug. 8. For rules, visit www.oakton.edu/news/events/wom_art_call.pdf. For more information, contact Nathan Harpaz at (847) 635-2633 or nharpaz@oakton.edu.

James Downing Theatre
Holding auditions for Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple" (female version), 7-9:30 p.m. Aug. 12-13 at Edison Park United Methodist Church, 6740 N. Oliphant, Chicago. Auditions consist of cold readings from the script; prepared monologues not required, but heard if time allows. Bring a resume and a current headshot. Email eflmng1125@gmail.com.

"White Christmas" auditions
The Rising Stars Theatre Co. will hold open auditions for the Irving Berlin musical "White Christmas," 6:30-9:30 p.m. Aug. 15 and 1-6 p.m. Aug. 18 at 2559 N. Sayre, Chicago. Seeking a large cast of men and women ages 16 and up and one girl age 10-15. Prepare 32 bars of an up-tempo song and bring sheet music in proper key. Be prepared to dance and possibly read from the script. Visit www.risingstarschicago.com or call (773) 736-2490.

Northwest Choral Society
Hosting "Meet & Greet," 8 p.m. Aug. 20 at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 1095 Thacker St., Des Plaines. Seeking singers who are at least 17 years of age with previous four-part choral experience. The repertoire includes sacred and secular classical and popular music. For information, visit www.nwchoralsociety.org.

Artists sought
Seeking artists and crafters to be among the exhibitors in the 23rd annual Fall Arts & Crafts Adventure, to be presented by American Society of Artists 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 21 in Hodges Park, Park Ridge. Visit www.americansocietyofartists.org.

CHILD'S PLAY

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre

COMEDY

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre

Zanies Comedy Club
5437 Park Place, Rosemont. http://rosemont.zanies.com. Showtimes at 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays; 8 p.m. and 10:15 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

**FAIRS & FESTIVALS**

**Lincolnwood Fest**

Aug. 1-4 at Proesel Park, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood. Hours are 5-10 p.m. Thursday; 5-11 p.m. Friday; noon-11 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday. Visit www.lincolnwoodfest.com.

**Edison Park Fest**

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

**Skokie's Backlot Bash**

Aug. 23-25 in a closed-off, two-block portion of Oakton Street, between Lincoln and Laramie avenues adjacent to Village Hall. Hours are 6-10 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday. The event features free live music, an amusement park/carnival, 5K run, silent movies at the Skokie Theatre, a classic auto show, teen activities, bingo, food and beer. Visit www.backlotbash.com.

**Lincolnwood Public Library**


**Northwest Chicago Film Society**

Aug. 2, 1 p.m.: "The Call." Aug. 8, 10:30 a.m.: "Trance." Aug. 8, 1 p.m.: Cinematic Classics features "Pillow Talk."

**Silent Summer Film Festival**


**Summer Cinema Series**

Films will be shown at dusk (around 9 p.m.) Wednesdays, through Aug. 14, on the east lawn of Northwestern University's Norris University Center, 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston. If it rains, the film will be shown indoors at Norris Center's McCormick Auditorium. Free admission. Call (847) 491-2350. Aug. 7: "Oz"
FREE SHAKESPEARE across Chicago continues through August 25

What to Do
Continued from page 57


LECTURES

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre


Aug. 14, 1:30 p.m.: Theater historian Charles Troy presents "The Cre-
ation of Chicago," the story behind the Kander & Ebb hit show from 1975. $12 in advance; $14 at the door.

TOURS & OUTINGS

Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park

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

Aug. 25: Section I.

MUSEUMS

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center

9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. (847) 967-4800. www.iholocaustmuseum.org. Admission: $12; $8 for students and senior citizens; $6 for children ages 5-11. Through Sept. 8: "Fire in My Heart: The Story of Hannah Senesh." Hannah Senesh died by firing squad in 1944, but has endured as one of Israel's most iconic heroes after volunteering for a mission to rescue downed Allied fliers and Jews from Nazi-occu-
pied Hungary.

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

3001 Central St., Evanston. (847) 475-1030. www.mitchellmuseum.org. Admission is $5; $3 for seniors, students and children. Aug. 4, 1:30-4:30 p.m.: Guided trolley tour of Native American landmarks along Chicago's lakefront. The excursion will depart from the Mitchell Museum. $45; $40 for members.
SKOKIE'S BACKLOT BASH
AUGUST 23-25

Carnival
Backlot Dash 5K Run
Classic Film Fest
at The Skokie Theatre
Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Food & Beer
Bingo
Classic Car Show
Business Expo
FREE ADMISSION

visit BacklotBash.com for the complete Backlot Bash schedule

Carnival Mega passes
$50 unlimited rides all three days. Purchase at backlotbash.com by 8/21.

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A small fee includes everything from t-shirts to special access and free food.
For details on becoming a SuperFan, go to BacklotBash.com and click on the SuperFan banner.

The English Beat

Friday, August 23
8:30 p.m. The Steepwater Band
6:30 p.m. Rivals of the Peacemaker

Saturday, August 24
8:30 p.m. The English Beat
6:30 p.m. Deal's Gone Bad
4:30 p.m. The Wanton Looks
2 p.m. The Blue Coast Band
12 p.m. Filisko & Noden Roots Duo
Saturday in the Beer Tent
3 p.m. Joe Sound Steel Drum Calypso
1 p.m. Brown-Reish 'Old Time'

Sunday, August 25
6:15 p.m. Tributosaurus becomes 'Kool & The Gang'
4:30 p.m. Simple Simon
3 p.m. The Artist Formally Known as Vince Band
1:30 p.m. The Intimate Machines
12 p.m. Kitty Devine and the Big Whoop

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Cameron's baseball book ranked among the best

A book written by Niles resident Mike Cameron about Fred Merkle was included in Ron Kaplan's tome "501 Baseball Books Fans Must Read before They Die."

Cameron, a former Pioneer Press employee and freelance writer, authored "Public Bonehead, Private Hero: The Real Legacy of Baseball’s Fred Merkle." The book was published in February 2010 and sheds light on the longtime New York Giant who made an infamous base-running gaffe during the 1908 National League pennant race. “Cameron goes a long way in presenting him as a good athlete who enjoyed an otherwise solid sixteen-year career,” Kaplan wrote. "More important, he was a fine human being, well-loved and respected long after his playing days were over."

In addition to writing Ron Kaplan's Baseball Bookshelf blog, Kaplan has authored work for Baseball America. 

Slammers 14U team wins tourney

In a memorable finish to its 2013 season, the Slammers 14U travel softball team won the championship at the Warren Wave Wipeout Tournament in Gurnee. Stellar pitching, steady team defense and timely hitting all contributed to the team's 6-0 record at the tournament, which was held July 19-21.

The Slammers competed in a 16-team field and defeated teams from Park Ridge, Belvidere, Northbrook and Franklin, Wis., among others. They surrendered only one run during elimination play while scoring 18 runs.

The team competed in the North Shore Fast-pitch League and several USSSA-sanctioned tournaments during the season.

The Slammers are the official youth feeder softball organization for Niles Township High School District 219. All players on the team are residents of Niles Township.

The Slammers will hold tryouts on Aug. 12, 14 and 17 at Niles West for their 2014 teams. Email John Frake at frakehse6@sbcglobal.net for more information.

The Slammers 14U travel softball team consists of (front row, from left to right) assistant coach Alicia Perez-Follman and coach Katie O'Dell; (middle row, from left to right) Jaimie Frake, Callieh Mohr, Gina Loy, Juliana Livieri, Gianna Mahoney and Alyssa Aragon; (back row, from left to right) Hope Cherian, Hailey Fishman, Eryriri Modena, Nicole Wheeler, Krysten Ismael and Shannon McHugh. Stephanie Donado is not pictured.
Ljubic comes back strong from injury

BY DAN SHALIN | For Sun-Times Media | @danshalin

Nearly a year after tearing his MCL, Niles West midfielder Robert Ljubic was back playing with the Wolves in multiple boys soccer leagues and tournaments this summer.

According to Niles West coach Scott Ackman, Ljubic has not just returned to the form he was in before the injury, he has taken his game to a new level as he prepares for his senior season.

"(Ljubic) is way better than he's ever been physically," Ackman said. "Every game we had (this summer), he just controlled the game. He's in his best shape ever."

Ackman added: "For sure he's a Division I player. He's playing that well."

Ljubic hurt the knee against Evanston in the second game of the 2012 campaign. Before long, injuries had robbed the Wolves of another eight regulars, as the team struggled in a three-win campaign.

Ljubic's injury did not require surgery, but he missed seven weeks before returning to the field for the Wolves' playoff game, a 2-0 loss to Lane in the Class 3A New Trier Regional semifinal. He admitted was rusty.

After more rest, Ljubic began to test the knee while playing for his club team, FC Chicago, in April. The 6-foot, 180-pounder said it took him about five games before he could stop thinking about the injury and simply focus on the task at hand.

Around that time, FC Chicago coach Craig Blazer, who also is the men's coach at DePaul, told Ljubic he thought the dynamic midfielder had Division I talent. Those words left an impression.

"I always wanted to play college soccer, but I honestly didn't know I could be as good as I am right now," said Ljubic, who will play alongside his younger brother Mario, a junior, at Niles West this season. "I realized it when coach Blazer would talk to me. He said I was big and strong and actually could be a college player if I focused."

Ljubic has since been in touch with several in-state Division I programs, and he'll be looking to boost his college credentials this coming season. He appears to have the physical tools to play at the next level.

"He was in our weight room and bulked up and gained a lot of muscle," Ackman said. "I think (Ljubic) matured and realized he could get a college scholarship and it just clicked. Before, he was doing other (soccer-related activities), but was not in the weight room. Now, he never misses it."
Brawner-Henley’s versatility an asset

BY DAN SHALIN | Contributor | @danshalin

Mariyah Brawner-Henley’s freshman year was a resounding success.

The Niles North product came off the bench for a Lewis University women’s basketball team that went 24-6, captured the Great Lakes Valley Conference title and advanced to the NCAA Division II Tournament.

Brawner-Henley, a 6-foot power forward, was a key contributor for the club, averaging 7.6 points and 5.2 rebounds in 16 minutes of action.

“Mariyah had a great freshman year,” said Lewis coach Lisa Carlsen, whose team fell to Wisconsin-Parkside in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. “... Look for her to help our team continue the success we enjoyed last season and take the next step on the national level. She has the potential to be a difference maker.”

The Flyers favor a fast-paced game, and Carlsen said Brawner-Henley’s continued attention to improving her athletic ability will help the player get more points in transition.

Brawner-Henley, who is considering majoring in sports management with a minor in social media, said she is focusing on her fitness this summer. In addition to playing in a college summer league in Elmhurst, she is running often and working with a trainer.

“We’re one of the most conditioned teams (around), and we run on teams slower than us. That has led us to success, led us to a (conference) championship,” Brawner-Henley said.

Brawner-Henley can do much more than score in transition and that versatility proved to be an asset for the Flyers.

“She plays the power forward position for us, and in our offense that means some on the block, some at the high post and some outside the 3-point line. Her skill set is perfect for this,” the coach said. “We took advantage of her low-block strength against someone a little smaller, and took advantage of her ball handling and range against someone a little bigger.”

The immediate team success Brawner-Henley enjoyed in college came in contrast to her high school career.

Brawner-Henley, a two time All-CSL North selection, overcame shoulder problems early in her high school career and helped elevate the Niles North program.

After winning 12, eight and 13 games during her first three seasons, the Vikings went 17-13 overall and 8-2 in conference during her senior campaign in 2011-12. It was the program’s best record since 2004.

Though she had some initial interest from Division I schools, Brawner-Henley accepted a full scholarship to Lewis in Romeoville, which

All in the family

When Mariyah Brawner-Henley attends family gatherings, there is plenty of basketball playing and plenty of athletic success stories being shared.

Her twin brother Mychael was an All-CSL performer on the 2011-12 Niles North squad that went 21-1 and won the CSL North title. After taking a year off, Mychael is planning to play basketball at Victory Rock Academy, a prep school in Bradenton, Fla., during the upcoming academic year.

Meanwhile, first cousins Breannah and Sorriyah Ranger are in the midst of successful college basketball careers of their own. Their brother Daniio will be a junior on the Niles North boys basketball team this winter.

Breannah Ranger, who played with Brawner-Henley at Niles North during the 2008-09 season, will be a redshirt senior at Wisconsin-Green Bay this winter. Last season, the 6-foot-2 forward played in 30 games off the bench for the Phoenix, averaging 7.3 points and 5.1 rebounds for a team that went 29-3 overall (16-0 Horizon League) and reached the NCAA Tournament.

Last season, the 6-2 Sorriyah Ranger came off the bench at Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville. Sorriyah Ranger was part of a team that went 25-6 and reached the National Junior College Athletics Association Division I Tournament.

“We expect big things from her this year,” SWIC coach Mike Juenger said. “She has the body and skills of a Division I player. She just needs to put it all together.”
Offseason conditioning

Lewis likes to run so Brawner-Henley working on her fitness

Niles North alumna Mariyah Brawner-Henley averaged 7.6 points and 5.2 rebounds during her freshman season at Lewis.

COURTESY LEWIS UNIVERSITY

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