He's still at home

Former Park Board member's family has deep roots in area | PAGE 6
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Kevin Lochner's roots in Morton Grove date back to 1844. Of late, most people remember the long-standing Lochner Greenhouse on Dempster Street near Waukegan Road.

Representing the fifth generation of his family, Lochner served eight years on the Park District Board of Commissioners and worked among other long-term “Grovers” or founding families also in positions of authority.

However, Lochner stepped down from the Park Board on Aug. 15 because a promotion at work caused a conflict of interest. Lochner is now head of the water and sewer division for the village.

Known for always putting his family first, nearly two dozen siblings, parents, children, nieces and nephews attended the Aug. 15 meeting to celebrate eight years of work, rather than dwell on the departure.

Prior to stepping down, Lochner sat down with the Champion and reflected on his experiences and his family’s legacy.

Q: Do people commonly recognize you as a “legacy family” or a “founding family?”
A: Then-trustee Dan DiMaria proposed naming a street after us a couple of years ago and that did go through. Otherwise, I love how I could be sitting on my front porch and every five minutes someone will stop by and say “hi,” and whenever I go out I end up seeing someone I know. In those instances, people say, “the Lochners have been around forever.” It’s a small-town feel that will never get old.

Q: Have past family members also been involved in community service?
A: My great grandfather was village clerk for one term and my father was on the Park View School District 70 school board for a term. I have so far contributed the most to an elected office. We do have strong volunteering ties to St. Martha over the years.

Q: What's your earliest form of community service that you can remember?
A: Running a family business is tough work, so when us kids had free time we were working at the greenhouse. But in 1989, I started coaching my brothers in baseball. There was a need and I didn't want to let my brothers down, so I volunteered. I played all through Morton Grove Baseball and stopped when I got to high school; then I did gymnastics. Sometimes I wish I had stuck with baseball longer.

Q: Why did you first decide to run for the Park Board? Was there a certain issue at the time?
A: With my kids having gone through all the park programs from preschool to baseball, to classes and pool passes, I got to know a lot of the people who run this place — especially then-director Jeff Fougerousse. With a lot of neat ideas floating around, I wanted a voice in making some of them happen.

Q: What's your most memorable accomplishment as a commissioner?
A: My colleagues voted me president in my second year on the board, and I didn't even vote for myself, and we ended up helping Golf School redevelop their land. Myself, then-director Jeff Fougerousse and commissioner Betty Fergus went to Springfield to do a presentation for an open space land acquisition grant. It was difficult for...
us to do soccer on our baseball field, because the overuse tore up the sod. Once we got the grant, the school and park districts built four soccer fields, a track with workout stations and a storage shelter on the two acres. I don’t think we would have received the money if we went by ourselves. I think the state liked that we were splitting the remaining cost, use and field maintenance. AYSO also uses those fields now as well. That teamwork was exhilarating.

Q: What was your biggest challenge or struggle that you’re going to remember?
A: The disagreement over staffing at the Morton Grove Days a few years ago could have settled a little differently, but our board members at the time would not go for it. After you vote, even if you opposed something you still stand united. Also, when Betty Fergus was up for election, I was pulling for another candidate. She still won, as she should have — she’s hands down the most qualified person to be a commissioner. There was some friction between us for a while, but we’ve thankfully cleared everything up.

Q: Your conflict of interest lies with your job working for the village. How did you start looking back since then.
A: After I graduated from high school in 1988, I worked for my dad in the greenhouse from 3 to 9 p.m. un-til it was sold in 2005. That would have been a job working for the village. How did you start looking back since then.

Q: You say you’ll return to the Park Board. Can you give a teaser on that?
A: I don’t have a set plan. A lot depends on my job, obviously. Joe Dahm is in line to be the next director of public works and I’m eyeing the assistant director job. I’d eventually like to become the director when Joe retires. If all that happens, my return will be delayed because there is a much stronger conflict with those jobs and decisions made on the Park Board. If they find someone better qualified and I stay in the supervisor role I have now, I plan to eventually convince everyone that it doesn’t pose a conflict.

Q: Have you ever considered moving out of Morton Grove?
A: When I was engaged in 1993 we looked at homes up north, but we thought, “why are we leaving when I have a great five-minute commute and all of our family is here?” I actually married my eighth-grade girlfriend and we went to school together since first grade, so both her parents and mine live in town. This way our parents can see the grandkids anytime and we have easy access to plenty of babysitters. Plus, every day after I finished working at the village, I’d still go and help my parents in the greenhouse from 3 to 9 p.m. until it was sold in 2005. That would have been a tiring commute if we moved. Also, I am one of 10 and quite a few of my siblings moved out of town, so it’s not unheard of.

Q: Do you expect one or all of your kids to live their adult life in Morton Grove?
A: I don’t know if I’ll be here in 30 years, let alone if they will. My goal is to get them to college and help them make their own goals in life. That’s all I’m thinking about now. I’ll support whatever decision they make.
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Burt's Place owner hospitalized: Morton Grove pizza giant hopes to reopen soon

BY RICK KAMBI

Burt Katz has always been a one-man operation, mostly because he wants customers to get high-quality pizza each and every time they visit his Morton Grove-based pizzeria. Customers of Burt's Place, however, have been missing out ever since Katz was taken to the hospital about six weeks ago.

"I'm going to rush back because I want to offer the same quality of service as before, but I promise we will be back in business within a few weeks," Katz said from his hospital bed in Evanston.

Katz, 76, declined to elaborate on his injury, but did say he underwent surgery and is now in physical therapy.

The well-traveled pizza maker first gained fame when he opened The Inferno in Evanston and later opened Gulliver's in Chicago's Rogers Park.

Katz took a "hiatus" to experiment in corporate oil rigs, but said the higher pay wasn't worth the restrictive working conditions. He hasn't shaved his beard since he quit his corporate job on March 12, 1971 and decided to open Pequod's in Morton Grove.

"I figured I would take a chance, and if I failed it would be by my own hand, and if I succeeded it would be by my own hand," Katz said.

After growing bored of Pequod's, Katz sold it and opened Burt's Place down the street in 1989. Traditionally, the only person who helps in his restaurants has been his wife Sharon, who takes orders and serves tables.

Likewise, investors have approached Katz about franchising Burt's Place, to which Katz has declined.

"I've run my own store for 40 years," Katz said. "I do all the buying, all the organizing, pay all the bills and do all the cooking. Nobody has ever cooked for me. I make sure every pizza is acceptable to sell. When you start substituting people, the standards vary and your quality promise loses value."

A typical day for Katz starts at 5 a.m., when he buys his fresh produce and starts his dough. After that, he works out at the Morton Grove Park District for an hour, before working until Burt's Place closes at 9 or 10 p.m.

"I am going to keep working until I'm not healthy enough to work," Katz said. "I miss my customers and I want to keep up with their lives. I've been fortunate to have such loyal customers. I don't ever take them for granted."

Katz said he still has customers who first visited Pequod's in the 1970s.

Debbie Juris of the Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce said she's received a considerable number of calls in recent weeks asking why Burt's Place is closed.

"He obviously has a big following and is a prime example of small business building strong relationships in the community," Juris said. "We hope he returns soon."

A considerable amount of personal letters have also reportedly been stuffed under the restaurant's front door, though Sharon Katz said she hasn't been able to make her weekly visits lately.

Carol Anzelone was a long-time patron of Burt's Place and does part-time waitressing when Sharon Katz is unavailable.

"I live near the restaurant and people walking by will recognize me and stop to ask questions."

Anzelone said college students and young professionals who live in Chicago often call Burt's Place with plans of visiting and Katz always tells them to take the train because it's cheaper.

"His heart is in his work," Anzelone said. "He loves what he does and he loves the people who come into his little shop, and that shows."

For those who are awaiting his return, Katz said he plans to post an informational flier on his shop window a week before he returns.
Homeless couple shot in Miami Woods between Morton Grove, Niles

BY RICK KAMBI
rkambic@pioneerlocal.com | @rick_kambic

A homeless man and woman staying in a tent were shot during an argument with three men late Wednesday, Aug. 21, in the Miami Woods Forest Preserve between Niles and Morton Grove.

Though it's not known how many shots were fired in total, the Cook County Sheriff's Office said each victim suffered at least one non-life threatening shot to a hand.

The homeless man is 27 years old and the woman is 24 years old, according to Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Sophia Ansari, and both have a previous address in Niles but admit to now being homeless.

The victims are reportedly involved in a committed relationship, but their names were withheld for privacy.

The couple was eating food and drinking alcohol near their tent when three men entered the area, Ansari said. A conversation was somehow initiated and an argument quickly ensued between the male victim and one of the unknown men, Ansari said.

Police do not know how long the altercation lasted, but at some point one of the men pulled a handgun from his pants and opened fire, Ansari said.

The three men quickly fled the scene, Ansari said, and no gun was found in the area.

After the men were gone, Ansari said the male victim ran to his car in the parking lot and drove through a wired gate to retrieve his girlfriend from inside the forest preserve.

The couple then checked into a local hospital, where medical professionals called the Niles police department. Niles police immediately called the Cook County Sheriff's Office and the Forest Preserve was closed off just after midnight Thursday morning.

Ansari said the victims did not provide a good description of the three unknown men, and the cause of the argument also remains unclear to investigators.

The incident reportedly occurred around 10 p.m. Wednesday.

No charges have been filed against the victims. Ansari said the investigation is still ongoing.

District 63

Mobile classroom set on fire at District 63 school in Niles

BY JENNIFER JOHNSTON
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A fire that damaged a small portion of a mobile classroom at a Niles elementary school is being investigated as malicious in nature.

The fire was reported just after midnight, Aug. 21 at Mark Twain School, 9401 Hamlin Ave., hours before the new school year began.

Niles Fire Chief Steve Borkowski said the flames caused damage to the exterior wood siding on the classroom trailer and a wooden step, but the fire did not extend into the trailer's interior. He estimated damage at approximately $1,100.

Borkowski said the cause of the fire is under investigation and appears to have been maliciously set.

"From what I could observe, it looked like somebody was burning something in a plastic bottle and it burned through to the wooden step it was sitting on and the flames caught the siding on fire," said East Maine School District 63 Superintendent Scott Clay.

Clay said a section of siding of the trailer had to be removed. District maintenance staff were able to clean up the area and repair the damage, Principal Nichole Gross wrote in an e-mail to parents.

Clay explained that the mobile classroom unit is not used during the school day, but after-school activities provided through the district's Total Learning Community (TLC) program are housed there.

The fire did not impact the ability for the mobile classroom to be used by TLC, he added.

The structure has, in the past, attracted graffiti and within the last month people have been congregating behind the classroom and leaving bottles behind, Clay said. "Probably the most likely solution will be to put some cameras back there and a notification that there are cameras," he said, expressing hope this will discourage littering and property damage.

Niles police have also been asked to increase patrols around the school when classes are not in session.

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He has an Aug. 28 court date.

Victor Marchan, 30, of 6031 N. Austin Ave., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence and driving with a suspended license on Aug. 18. Police said Marchan was stopped on the 7900 block of Milwaukee Avenue at 12:00 a.m. after he almost struck a bicyclist while traveling at a high rate of speed. He reportedly told police he was coming back from a party in Prospect Heights. He has an Aug. 28 court date.

Cesar Alvarez, 35, of 2514 W. Palmer, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence, disobeying a traffic control device, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, no proof of insurance and driving without a license present on Aug. 18 after he reportedly struck another vehicle at the intersection of Touhy and Harlem Avenues. A witness told police that Alvarez moved from the driver's seat to the passenger's seat following the crash. He was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge where he allegedly admitted to police that he had been drinking alcohol from 2 to 11p.m. the day before. He has an Aug. 28 court date.

Thong Nguyen, 23, of 9240 Dee Road, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with driving under the influence, improper lane usage and failure to signal on the morning of Aug. 18. He was taken into custody on the 8600 block of Dempster Street at 6 a.m. after police responded to a report of a person driving recklessly. He has a Sept. 10 court date.

DELIVERY OF MARIJUANA
Nicholas P. Goodwin, 19, of Morton Grove, was charged Aug. 17 with delivery of marijuana after allegedly selling 3.6 grams of the drug. He is scheduled in court Sept. 30.

POSSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
James R. Lane, 19, of Morton Grove, was charged Aug. 15 with possession of marijuana with intent to deliver. Lane allegedly had 14 grams of marijuana in his possession when police arrested him. He is scheduled in court Sept. 30.

Tammy L. Young, 51, of Park Ridge, was charged Aug. 17 with retail theft after allegedly taking items from a store at 6931 Dempster Street without paying for them. She is scheduled in court Sept. 10.

Cheryl Seymour, 47, of Chicago, Kristen Robinson, 29, of Chicago, and Terrell Jones, 49, of Chicago, were charged Aug. 14 with felony theft after allegedly taking items from a store at 6931 Dempster Street without paying for them. They are scheduled in court Sept. 3.
New lessons, technology hit elementary classrooms this fall

BY NATASHA WASINSKI
For Sun-Times Media | @natwaz

Revised curricula and upgraded technology tools awaited local youngsters heading back to school this month.

Districts 63 and 64 rolled out new lesson plans in math for kindergarten through eighth grade classes to meet Common Core State Standards.

It's a transition schools had been preparing for since Illinois adopted the new learning standards in 2010.

According to the Illinois State Board of Education, Common Core identifies the key concepts educators should teach in English and math. Teachers and administrators retain the freedom to determine how the information gets taught.

"In order to provide instruction that is more rigorous and relevant, we're providing teachers with additional professional development and ensuring they have appropriate instruction materials," explained Charlene Cobb, assistant superintendent of teaching and learning for East Maine School District 63.

Districts are expected to fully implement revamped curricula in the 2013-14 school year in order to align with the assessment system Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, or PARCC.

Illinois is scheduled to begin administering the new standardized exam online in 2015.

To prepare for the move from paper to computer testing, Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 and Niles School District 71 are incorporating more technology into everyday instruction.

In the upcoming year, all kindergarten through fifth-grade classrooms in District 64 will be equipped with Smart Boards.

Sixth, seventh and eighth-graders will also use the interactive dry-erase boards to explore their new math resources.

The district is also purchasing more Samsung Chromebooks computers, and increasing its stockpile of iPads to reach a 1-to-4 device to student ratio in kindergarten through second grade.

A new technology program at Culver School in Niles is also putting laptops in the hands of students.

District 71 purchased Chromebooks for every sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grader, equal to about 160 devices at $250 apiece.

Culver's fifth-grade classes are getting iPads used last year by sixth-graders.

Students are expected to use their school-issued laptops at home and in class to take online quizzes, read electronic textbooks and share documents.

Culver teacher Oscar Suarez said instant feedback on student progress and interactive learning opportunities are some of the advantages to digital tools.

"There are so many great things out there for the kids that I wish were there when I was in school," he added.

Utilizing the Internet and touch-screen technology in classrooms "provides an opportunity to learn like we've never seen before," District 64 Superintendent Philip Bender said. "It really brings more excitement to teaching and learning."

Bender pointed out that Smart Boards, in particular, support students' different styles of learning, whether it's visually, verbally or socially.

"It enables us to capture a way of investing in all of our children without basically recreating the wheel," he said.

District 64 is also continuing to utilize hand-held devices in its classrooms, though the administration is weighing all options before expanding their use.

"We had been waiting to explore whether use iPads versus Chromebooks versus other tablets," Cobb noted.

Another way in which District 63 is better complying with state expectations for instruction is by further modifying its special education program.

This year, more special-needs students will be enrolled in district schools closest to their families' place of residency.

Under federal law school districts must, where appropriate, educate children with disabilities with non-disabled peers.

The East Maine schools have been gradually placing more kids in general education classes with extra instructional support over the last few years. Staff, students and parents were told about the moves.

While District 63 had previously met the state target by having half its special-needs population spend most of their time in a general classroom, a quarter of students were not being educated with their peers.

The administration now seeks to exceed state targets for educational environments by integrating students when possible.

"I'm looking forward to getting that process underway in its final phase, and working with parents to make it successful," Superintendent Scott Clay said.

"We have probably no more than 30 (special-needs students) who are going back to their 'home schools.' Our goal is to get them into the general population as much as possible."

The first full day of school for District 64 was Aug. 27, while District 63 and 71 students returned to class Aug. 21.
District 64 considering new air conditioning, soundproofing

BY NATASHA WASINSKI
For Sun-Times Media / @natwaz

It was business as usual at a special meeting of the Park Ridge-Niles District 64 school board Aug. 12, except that leaders met in a newly air-conditioned gym.

The recent installation of a cooling unit at Field Elementary School was part of a series of capital projects totaling $47 million at four of the district's seven schools this summer.

Officials are now seeking to equip Field classrooms with AC as part of a two-year, $7.4 million construction project. Design fees would be an additional $282,672, bringing the total estimated cost of the work to nearly $8.2 million.

The board of education took the first step in upgrading the school's ventilation system by narrowly approving a proposal for architectural and engineering services with Fanning Howey.

The locally based firm will craft a plan for HVAC work and state-mandated improvements to comply with health and life safety codes. Facility design work is expected to be completed by early November, in order to put the project to bid in January, a move that requires separate board approval.

Board Vice President Scott Zimmerman inquired about the lifespan of the design plan, as well as whether time restraints existed for issuing bonds in the event that the district looks to finance the project through borrowing.

Keri VanSant, a project manager for Fanning Howey, anticipated the conceptual design would remain viable until safety regulations changed.

Bonds may be used at any point in the process in accordance with arbitrage rules, Business Manager Becky Allard explained, however, payments issued prior to a debt extension would not be reimbursable.

Initial design fees, which amount to nearly $289,000, would be paid for with general operating funds.

Field is the last school targeted by the district for air conditioning.

Government grants for sound insulation were used to install improved HVAC systems at the district's aging Park Ridge schools: Roosevelt, Washington, Lincoln and Franklin.

Yet Carpenter and Field failed to meet the required aircraft noise level to qualify for consideration under the School Sound Insulation Program for communities surrounding O'Hare Airport, prompting District 64 to pay out of pocket for the projects.

Emerson Middle School, built in the late 90s, hasn't required similar upgrades.

Heating, ventilation and air-conditioning work was completed at Carpenter this summer.

Board member Dan Collins has been a staunch opponent to the air conditioning projects, saying he doesn't believe spending millions of dollars on new HVAC systems is a spending priority of the community.

"It's just too much money to spend at this time, and even to do investigative work you're looking at $200,000," he said.

Collins and Secretary Terry Cameron voted against entering into the design services agreement, yet the motion ultimately passed 3-2.

Cameron, who joined the board the past spring, said he wanted to see more advanced financial planning before moving ahead.

"If we're going to spend money to look at a $7 million project, we need to know how to finance it," he said.

"I think right now when money is cheap we should be considering all options, rather than cash."

Though Director of Facility Management Scott Mackall said the project costs were "very preliminary and conservative," the board of education acknowledged his ability to budget appropriately in the past.

Mackall said he also considered the HVAC upgrades to be "more of an investment than an expense."

Park Ridge resident Angela Tuebo thanked the board Aug. 12 for keeping the Field gym cool, but urged members not to delay plans to put air conditioning in other parts of the school.

"This is a very great first step in improving the facilities here at this school," she said. "This air quality, comfort and security that this room now has now need to be in the classrooms."

Tuebo serves as chair of the Parent Teacher Organization's facility improvements committee. She and other parents have been calling on officials to address the lack of air conditioning at Field and Carpenter for the last several years.

"I know it's a big ticket item," Tuebo said, "and we're counting on you to make it happen."

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Niles Ethics Board ponders new role in village

BY NATASHA WASINSKI
For Sun-Times Media / @nwaz

Niles' newly convened Board of Ethics raised no initial objections to the committee's restructuring as pitched by Mayor Andrew Przybylo and approved by village trustees last month.

The five-member board talked through the changes, which include hiring an inspector general to participate on a new three-person advisory panel, on Aug. 22. They also voted to elect Matthew Logodienski as vice chairman and Randy Greco as secretary following a coin toss.

In the approved revision, Przybylo, and future village leaders, receive more control over the Ethics Board.

The new rules direct that the mayor appoint both the board chair (as opposed to an election by members) and a paid inspector general with trustees' consent.

"The mayor wants everyone here to be comfortable with all these ordinances, and support these ordinances," Chairman Anthony Gaudio told committee members. He later noted: "I have no insight as to what motivated the changes." Gaudio also raised the question of whether it was the mayor or board members who are most qualified to nominate officers, and suggested that some people would argue board elections resemble "personality contests" instead of being based on credentials.

"I don't feel that I'm any more qualified than anyone else in this room, or on this board," he stated. As was done in the past, all members of the Ethics Board are appointed by the mayor and approved by trustees.

However, the board now consists of five, instead of four, voting members who are Niles residents not employed by the village.

Przybylo reshuffled the makeup earlier this summer when he appointed newcomers Denise McCreery and Steve Ostrega, and removed Mike Siegel, an outside attorney paid by the village.

The board could regain the presence and expertise of a lawyer with the creation of the inspector general post. A consultant in this capacity sits on an advisory panel consisting of himself, the village attorney and the Ethics Board chairman to determine if a complaint is legitimate. If so, the inspector general investigates and presents his findings to the Ethics Board for a decision.

As the chief investigative officer, he would have the power to issue subpoenas and require testimonies under oath. The inspector general would also participate in all board meetings.

The Ethics Board tabled its discussion on required job qualifications in order to mull over suggestions provided by Village Attorney Joe Annunzio.

Annunzio said someone with a law degree or a background in law enforcement could adequately assume the role. He strongly recommended the work be done by contractor, and not a village employee, in order to maintain independence.

Annunzio formerly handled preliminary determinations on complaints and communication with complainants as the compliance officer; but stated he "didn't want to be put in the position of being the filter".

With the new structure, complaints are always handled by at least three people, he said.

"The panel's duty would be give reports alleging an ethics violation a look-over as a means of saving time. All Ethics Board members would still receive notification of a filing along with the panel's determination.

Annunzio said some complaints in the past didn't warrant an investigation or full review by the board because they didn't contain enough information to support their case.

He also made a point of noting that, since Steven Vinezeano took over as village manager last December, the ethics committee hasn't had such a complaint.

He attributed the drop-off to Vinezeano's consistency in responding to work-related issues.

"He reacts to everything brought before him and follows through," Vinezeano said.

Gaudio agreed, saying: "He's really going to become an important part of us being more effective."
**PARK RIDGE**

New Uptown street signs recently installed in Uptown Park Ridge have raised concerns.

The new signs are attached to traffic signals at the busy six-corners intersection of Prospect Avenue, Touhy Avenue and Northwest Highway. According to the city's traffic signals are not clear, which is causing confusion among drivers. The signs are designed to help drivers navigate the intersection, which is a common point of confusion.

The city has received numerous complaints about the new signs, and some drivers have expressed concern that the signs are too confusing.

The city has plans to install additional signs to improve visibility and clarity at the intersection, and they are working to address the concerns of drivers and residents.

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New Uptown street signs recently installed in Uptown Park Ridge are confusing drivers.

The new signs are attached to traffic signals at the busy six-corners intersection of Prospect Avenue, Touhy Avenue and Northwest Highway. According to the city, the signs are not clear, which is causing confusion among drivers. The signs are designed to help drivers navigate the intersection, which is a common point of confusion.

The city has received numerous complaints about the new signs, and some drivers have expressed concern that the signs are too confusing.

The city has plans to install additional signs to improve visibility and clarity at the intersection, and they are working to address the concerns of drivers and residents.
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Speed limit of 70 mph should apply to suburbs

The 70 mph speed limit bill recently signed by the governor starts to undo some of the damage done by the national 55 mph limit which was established in 1973.

Illinois had a 70 mph speed limit 40 years ago and it was not just for rural interstates. Most state highways, even two-lane highways, had limits higher than the 55 mph that is still in place on metro Chicago's toll roads and other interstates.

After reading the recent Illinois speed limit bill and discussing it with sponsor Jim Oberweis, R-25th of Sugar Grove, it is clear to me the bill was intended to cover, and should apply to, metro Chicago for many of the same reasons that it makes sense for rural areas.

The speed limit for all metro Chicago interstates will revert to 70 mph unless IDOT produces an engineering study showing the new limit to be unsafe. County boards may also have the ability to block the new limit.

If IDOT abides by the sound traffic engineering principles espoused by transportation and police departments across the country and around the world, it is nearly certain the findings would dictate a speed limit of 70 mph (or higher) for metro Chicago expressways, with the possible exception of those within the city limits. Certainly the 70 mph limit should apply to Interstate 294 and all routes west, north and south of I-294.

Steve Doner
Former Illinois Chapter Coordinator
National Motorists Association

Teachers and children both have a lot to learn

My daughter started her first day at school last week.
No, she is not entering first grade. She's a first-year teacher and I am very excited for this big step in her career.

Being a dutiful father and having strong opinions about learning, which I love, and school, which I hate, I was ready with some advice.

Make it fun and interesting and exciting. I told her over the phone a few nights before the first day.

They told me not to smile, she replied.

Dismayed, I told my wife, whose cousin is a retired teacher. The cousin says don't smile until Christmas, my wife told me.

That about sums it all up, doesn't it? I love learning and think it can be exciting and fun and interesting. But school thinks it's all about discipline and control. And, I guess, that's the whole debate about school in a nutshell.

Last week I wrote about how college students are unprepared by high school for the more practical aspects of living on your own on a college campus.

Then I read an article in Time magazine by Christina Hoff Sommers, best-selling author, advising parents to ask if their boys are welcome at school. I've been asking that same question for years, ever since my son followed his sister to pre-kindergarten.

"I love learning and think it can be exciting and fun and interesting. But school thinks it's all about discipline and control. And, I guess, that's the whole debate about school in a nutshell."

Of course we loved them both and found them both smart and engaging, if in different ways. However, their pre-kindergarten teacher did not feel the same, obviously preferring our daughter in manner, temperament and treatment to her brother.

Alas, as they progressed through school, we found this to be the case more often than not. It wasn't just one teacher. Although both children performed equally well on tests, the classroom results were quite different. It was as if school was a culture of favoritism and reward for girl behavior over boy behavior.

Dig deep and you'll find statistics that show boys do not perform as well as girls in school. They are disciplined more and take more "medication."

So how is all of this — my daughter's first day as a teacher, my love-hate relationship with education and school, the disparity of the school experience between my daughter and her brothers and the overall troubling experience of boys in the classroom — related?

As I once hoped for my daughter to perform well in school, I now hope she will perform well for school. I think the opening lines of a poem by Walt Whitman sum it up best:

"I am the teacher of athletes, He that by me spreads a wider breast than my own proves the width of my own, He most honors my style who learns under it to destroy the teacher."

Discuss.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

Send your letters to the editor to News Producer Ben Meyerson at bmeyerson@pioneerlocal.com or mail to Niles Herald-Spectator, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago, IL 60654.

Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. Niles Herald-Spectator reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and content. All letters must be signed to be published.
Every school year a chance to wipe the slate clean

I'm jealous.

Happens every year at this time.

Kids are going back to school. Oh sure, this brings many advantages to adults. All places are less crowded. And in general, the earth is a more quiet, tranquil place.

But the real winners at back-to-school time are the kids themselves.

Perhaps they don't realize it. But then, kids don't realize a lot of things, which is one of the reasons they are kids. Height is another.

But the start of school is not just an actual, physical event. It is fraught with symbolic meaning.

A new school year is a new beginning, another chance.

Classes are new. Teachers are new. Clothes are new. Books are new. Pencils are new, with erasers uncontaminated by mistakes.

Notebooks are new, white and blank, unquestioningly receptive to notes, doodles or perhaps a new theory of relativity (you never know).

A student may have been a disruptive influence last year, may not have lived up to his potential -- could you run that algebra stuff by me again?

Doesn't matter.

This is a new school year. Start from scratch.

This year is going to be better.

A new beginning. A second chance.

New beginnings and second chances aren't that easy to come by for adults. And they usually come with a high cost.

What would we give to be able to wake up tomorrow morning and start fresh? Mistakes wiped out. Not having to pay for today what we did yesterday?

Not likely. Only happens in the movies and on TV.

But for kids this opportunity comes once a year, every year.

It's great to be a kid. But then, we knew that.

So, yes, I'm jealous.

But not too jealous. I, we, had a crack at being a kid.

Nice, wasn't it?

Now it's time for today's kids to have their turn.

Hope they keep in mind:

Fresh start. Enjoy it.

And use it.
FEATURED HOME
BY WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE

AGENT  Barbara Augustyn-Rago, RE/MAX City, 773-557-1500

8273 WISNER ST., NILES

HOUSE SIZE: 1,938 SQUARE FEET
LOT SIZE: 6,700 SQUARE FEET
YEAR BUILT: 2006
BEDROOMS: 4
BATHROOMS: 4
GARAGE: TWO-CAR DETACHED
PROPERTY TAX: $7,016 (2012)
EXTERIOR: BRICK, STUCCO AND STONE
SCHOOL DISTRICTS: EAST MAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT 63 AND MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207

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ILLINOIS
MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE
PROPERTY TRANSFERS
BY WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE

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

Niles
8650 N Shermer Road, #301: Valentin Strumbberger to Matthew S Malarchic and Erin M Malarchic for $162,000 on July 12
8307 N Wisner St: 8307 N Wisner LLC to Concorp Remodeling Inc for $152,500 on July 9
8521 W Roseview Drive: Thomas L Rosson to Mathai John and Mary P John for $102,000 on July 12
8307 N Wisner St: 8307 N Wisner LLC to Sargon Youkhanna and Carol Hiles for $232,000 on July 11

Morton Grove
8620 Waukegan Road, #207: Mohammad Youssuf to Young J Jong and Ella N Brown for $220,000 on July 12
9905 Wendy Way: Harry Pestine and Susan C Pestine to Jusien Yong for $220,000 on July 11
9905 Wendy Way: Harry Pestine and Susan C Pestine to Jusien Yong for $220,000 on July 11

Park Ridge
711 N Washington Ave: Theresa C Arana and Theresa Arana to Scott Larson and Hillary Larson for $71,000 on July 12
829 Austin Ave: John M Sisto to Giacomo Ophilip Lamonica and Regina L Lamonica for $656,000 on July 12
816 S Western Ave: William L Trubeck to Anthony Rod and Rebecca Rod for $172,000 on July 9

Des Plaines
7944 Kildare Ave: Yolanda Mendoza to Sheryl Greiner for $242,000 on July 12
315 Lincoln St: Craig McGowan, Cammie Noelle McGowan and Cammie McGowan to Cheryl Mason for $440,000 on July 10
2650 N Kenmore Ave: Ellyne Ruth Trust and Ruth Elyne Trust to Leticia Vazquez for $235,000 on July 10

Norridge
7656 W Gunnison St: Rocky Saadeh Trust and Hecilia Saadeh Trust to In2 Property II LP for $166,500 on July 10

Ilinois
8504 Laramie Ave: Nicola Nitti to Vito Salamone for $380,000 on July 10
8504 Laramie Ave: Ronald R Cone and Michael G Kogler Trust, William G Kogler Trust and G Kogler William Trust to Rizwan Merchant and Noorjahan Mohani for $235,000 on July 11
521 N Western Ave: bin Zhou and Dennis Joseph Stebner for $540,000 on July 10
6851 N Knox Ave: Thomas Admn Gramatis and Annette Gramatis Trust to Samira A Marr for $500,000 on July 12

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SUBMIT YOUR EVENT
To submit an event for consideration in print, visit www.pioneerlocal.com/submit-content and click the "Events" tab on the left side of the screen. Please submit the event no later than 10 days prior to the desired publication date.

FRIDAY, AUG. 30
Duplicate Bridge
9 a.m.: The senior center offers a friendly bridge game every Friday morning. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge.
Devonshire Preschool Open House
10 a.m.: Meet the teachers and enjoy the company of other parents at this open house. Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie.
Build a Computer with Raspberry Pi
2 p.m.: Raspberry Pi is a credit-card sized computer that plugs into your television. It can be used for many things that a regular PC is capable of, including spreadsheets, word-processing and games. The $35 fee covers the cost of materials and the learning session. Limited to 12 participants, so register online at eisenhowerlibrary.org. Eisenhower Public Library, 4615 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights.

SATURDAY, AUG. 31
Northfield Farmers Market
7:30 a.m.: The Northfield Farmers Market, operated by the Winnetka-Northfield Chamber of Commerce, has served the North Shore for more than 30 years. Shoppers enjoy a relaxing Saturday morning, visit with friends and neighbors and bring home fresh-picked fruits and vegetables. Blooming plants, shrubs, cut flowers, cheeses, a variety of baked goods and specialty foods will also be available for purchase. The market runs every Saturday morning from May 25 through Oct. 18. Northfield Farmers Market, 6 Happ Road, Northfield. For more information, call 847-446-4451.

Morton Grove Farmers Market
8 a.m.: All items are home-grown, handmade or vendor-created from locally-owned operations. Market Grounds, 5210 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-750-6436.

Gloneview Farmers Market
8 a.m.: Find fresh produce, snacks, art and more. Live music is typically played at this market, held each Saturday. Wagner Farm, 1510 Wagner Road, Glenview. Call 847-657-1608.

Skokie Art Guild
9:30 a.m.: The group offers figure drawing workshops every Saturday. There are live models but no instructor. Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie. Call 847-673-4450. $20 per session; $5 for guest members.

MONDAY, SEPT. 2
Money Matters Discussion
10 a.m.: The group meets on the first and third Monday of each month. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge.
MGFL Kids: Monday Morning Playgroup
10:30 a.m.: Drop-in play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver to introduce young children to the library in a low-key, unstructured session. Call 847-929-5102 or visit www.mgfl.org for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Free.

Knitting Roundtable
CALCULATION


2p.m.: Learn how to use the Internet, do a basic or contemporary titles that at one time have been
your mood or disposition by checking out classic
Challenged
Senior Center Book Talk: Banned and
A door prize raffle will also be held. RSVP by calling
5:30 p.m.: A community outreach representative
State Rep. Lou Lang
Office of U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky and
earned. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln
11a.m.: Featuring Guardian Home Health and
Health Care Forum
4p.m.: Learn what it's like to be a firefighter and
and joint care. We work with you to identify the source of
your pain and pursue every option, including the latest
breakthroughs in non-surgical treatment. Most important,
we create a coordinated treatment plan for your
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Orthopaedic Services
Limited street parking near Nordica Apartments hasn't been a problem just for Niles residents, but for Culver School, too.

At the request of the Village of Niles, the elementary school has allowed nearby neighbors to leave their vehicles in a lot on the campus, but with restrictions.

Parking is limited to the hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., and prohibited from December to April.

Those who don't follow the rules are subject to towing, which has put some motorists on edge.

Niles officials sought to ease tensions earlier in the summer by issuing a letter to residents explaining parking regulations in the area, and requesting their patience until a new parking lot project is complete.

The construction of 56 new parking spaces alongside the apartment complex is expected to free up street parking on Nordica Avenue, Jonquil Terrace, Dobson Street, and Nottingham Avenue as early as this fall.

Until then, the village wants leniency on Culver's behalf.

District 71 Superintendent Amy Kruppe reported she received a call from freshman Niles trustee George Alpogianis asking that the school consider allowing public parking year-round, and to push back the time motorists must move their cars to 7 a.m.

He also inquired whether up to eight spaces could be reserved for handicapped parking only, Kruppe said.

After the administration vetted the matter with the district's Building and Grounds Committee and Board of Education, however, school officials found each request to be unfeasible.

For starters, parking is prohibited in the winter to allow for overnight snowplowing services, Kruppe said.

Extending the time the ban goes into effect in the morning by an hour still does not guarantee compliance.

“If really became quite difficult to speak to residents. I know they’re really struggling.”

Amy Kruppe, District 71 superintendent

“Even when you have (parking restrictions) at 6 a.m., people don’t move out of the parking lot near the cages and teachers don’t get their parking spots,” Kruppe said.

“What will make (Niles’) neighbors happy will make my teachers very unhappy that they can’t park.”

She also reported having received a letter from the village asking that the school double-check its signage and to suspend the practice of towing cars parked illegally.

Niles cops previously ticketed motorists who didn’t observe school parking code, but police no longer intervene because the parking violations occur on “private property,” Kruppe said.

Consequently, Culver now resorts to using a private towing company to remove vehicles.

The result has been backlash by a small number of residents, some of whom have accosted police and school leaders, claimed Kruppe.

“It really became quite difficult to speak to residents,” she said. “I know they’re really struggling.”

Yet, for now, the school board stands by the decision to allow for limited public parking.

District 71 board newcomer Jill Brocag, who sits on the Building and Grounds Committee, noted that “giving an inch” to ease the restrictions would lead to further concessions.

Vice President Matthew Holbrook agreed, and pointed out how the frustration caused by parking enforcement is understandable, if not universal.

“I think we should have a reality show about it, ‘Parking Wars,’” he quipped.
Gift shop rides tide in Niles with collectibles, nostalgia

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
For Sun-Times Media | @studenkov

European Imports and Gifts is a store overflowing with products. Figurines, plushies, handbags, model buildings and other collectibles fill shelf after shelf on the first floor, and much of the second floor office space is reserved for storage. And right outside the sales floor, discounted products are displayed along the tables that stretch along the entire wall. That's just the way owner Edward Delgau likes it.

For the past 45 years, European Imports and Gifts have been selling collectible items from European and American suppliers. Delgau tries to bring as many items as possible under one roof, so that any potential customer would be able to find what they are looking for.

This, along with the attentive customer service, has attracted shoppers from all across United States, he says. And while the economic downturn has dented European Imports' customer base, Delgau's passion for gifts is strong enough to keep him going through the tough times.

When he was a young man, Delgau became fascinated with collectible figurines made in Europe. He toured the factories to see how they were made and inquired about their history. And, most importantly, he liked how they could give any room character, make it cheerful and more interesting.

So when he left the army, Delgau decided to turn his interest into business. He started out with European brands such as Anry wood carvings and Hummel glass figurines. But it wasn't long before added American brands such as Precious Moments porcelain figurines.

Ten years later, European Imports and Gifts grew to the point where it had to move from its original Chicago location to a bigger space in Oak Mill Mall that had the space he needed. The store has been in Niles ever since.

Yet, according to Delgau, the store always had trouble attracting local customers. He estimates that they account for only about 10 percent of his customer base. Even though the store's name is displayed prominently above the entrance, many locals don't seem to know it exists.

"We had people come from the neighborhood and they say 'we didn't know you were here,'" said Delgau.

Most of the customers come from other parts of Chicagoland and United States in general. They find European Imports through word of month and Internet searches.

"A lot of times, people look up an item they can't find anywhere else on Google, and they find out that we have it," said Delgau.

He credits the large inventory as one of the keys to the store's success. The other is the customer service.

The Niles Herald-Spectator got to see the customer service in action. When he saw a customer looking through the shelves, Delgau paused the interview to ask her if she needed help. And after the interview wrapped up, he went over to help another customer.

But even the best customer service doesn't compensate for economic conditions. In the current economic climate, shoppers don't have as much money to spend on gifts as they're used to.

Delgau also worries about the future. Most of his customers are 30 and older, Younger people tend to visit the store to buy Vera Bradley bags and jewelry, but their overall numbers are discouraging.

"We are trying to get young people [to shop here], but young people have different priorities," said Delgau. "They are not so much into collecting."

Still, he believes that collectibles are very much worth the customers' time - even if they don't realize it yet.

"You got to have something [in your life] that makes you happy," said Delgau. "Gifts and collectibles will make you happy. They'll keep you happy for the rest of your life."
Shedd's BLU goes green to promote conservation

The Event: Ten years of showcasing the Philippines' diverse offshore ecosystem in its Wild Reef exhibit is no drop in the ocean. That's why Shedd Aquarium's 60-member auxiliary board, made up of young philanthropists and helmed by gala co-chairmen, Susan Patience of Wilmette and G.P. Searle of Winnetka, was so excited to celebrate the occasion with 900 guests at their premier summer fundraising fête, BLU.

Cause célèbre: "Our main focus was animal care and conservation," explained Patience, stressing that it was for this reason that she and Searle sought to make the event smaller and more personal.

Although there were 200 fewer attendees than last year, the support for the event was at a higher level due to a 30 percent increase in the ticket price. The $370,000 this generated will go to support the Shedd's conservation and educational initiatives, explained Katie Clark, director of donor relations and special events.

To further its conservation theme, BLU eschewed traditional event waste by employing LED lights, compostable cutlery, plates and napkins; post-consumer or recyclable signage; and by serving only sustainable seafood.

"The auxiliary board as a whole is really passionate about Shedd's conservation, education, community outreach and animal care," added Searle. He noted that through recycling and conservation of refuse materials programs in inner-city schools, the Shedd has the opportunity to educate not just children but also parents about sustainability. "So we get to educate several generations and have a huge impact."

President and CEO Ted A. Beattie, said he was thrilled that Shedd's auxiliary board "continues to successfully inspire young philanthropists of Chicago to support Shedd Aquarium. The critical funds raised through events like BLU allow Shedd to share the wonders of the aquarium with thousands of school children throughout the year, provide exceptional care to its 32,500 animals, and support conservation efforts around the world."
Fashion myths are made to be ignored

BY LYNN TAYLOR SCHWAAB
For Sun-Times Media

Fashion is defined as “a prevailing custom or style of dress.” And myth is “a traditional or legendary story with or without a determinable basis of fact.” Combine the two and you get fashion myths, that is, a whole lot of unexplained “rules” that govern the way we dress.

But those rules evaporate when you simply ask yourself, “Who says?”

Like, can tall women wear high heels — a traditional no-no. But take a look at Charlize Theron. At 5’10” she always wears high heels and looks fabulous. Most models always wear heels to, from and at work because they know what looks good. As the great designer, Giorgio Armani stated to Marie Claire Magazine, “Extremely high heels are mostly advised for tall women.”

Black leather dressing is for biker chicks. Absolutely not! Top designers are very much enamored of that sleek, dark glow. Check out Jennifer Aniston in Christian D’ior and Valentino at the MTV awards last year. Not a bike in sight — just cool good looks.

Never wear black and blue together. Designers Michael Kors, Marc Jacobs, Rebecca Taylor and Victoria Beckham missed that memo. Cobalt blue is one of the hottest color trends and they’ve all paired it with black in their fall lines. Bradley Cooper wasn’t told that either. He arrived at January’s Screen Actors Guild awards in a tux of deep blue, with black trim.

You can’t wear gold and silver together. Seriously? Another hot trend for this fall in mix jewelry. Gold, silver, brass, rose and pewter hang together quite stylishly. Once again, matching is out. Alixandra Collections in Lake Forest (shopalix.com or 847/234-1661) has a alchemist’s treasure trove of necklaces and bracelets that look fabulous together and explode that myth. So go right ahead and mix your metals.

There are plenty more, but the only fashion rule you’ll ever need is simple: Ignore the rules and have fun.
Soon Yoon originally got a special use permit to renovate her unusual house to accommodate family moving in. However, Morton Grove found a meditation group using the house.

RICK KAMBIC/SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Morton Grove officials decided that Soon Yoon has to reconstruct her newly renovated house to fit into a footprint that's 10 feet smaller.

RICK KAMBIC/SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Village tells meditation group to shrink house by 10 feet

BY RICK KAMBIC
rkambic@pioneerlocal.com | @rick_kambic

The Morton Grove woman who ran a Maum Meditation center out of her home has been ordered to reconstruct her newly renovated house to fit into a footprint that's 10 feet smaller, because her construction plans caused a legal mix-up with the village.

Members of Morton Grove's Zoning Board of Appeals set aside confusion over what was happening within Soon Yoon's house, 8701 Austin Ave., and on Aug. 19 denied her request for an "as built" permit because those extra 10 feet negatively impact her neighbors.

"It bothers me that what was built isn't what we approved, but it also bothers me that village staff made a mistake," zoning board chairman Ron Parkas said before voting against Yoon's permit. "It's a matter of what bothers me more, and what bothers me more is that this is an egregiously different building."

Everything began when Yoon and friend Cliff Lee bought the nearly 100-year-old cottage in January 2011, after separately living in nearby apartments for several years.

The two were vague about their relationship but immediately filed paperwork for a renovation, citing a need to move some of Yoon's family into the house.

Their application with the village mentioned building a garage and a new master bedroom that would span across the second story of her house and onto part of that new garage.

The zoning board approved Yoon's unconventional building plans in February 2011, a building permit was issued that September and the house was fully renovated by fall 2012 — when a final inspection found a significantly different building than originally approved.

The new garage was instead surrounded by an office and foyer, with three small rooms and a bathroom on a second floor, and the attic of the original house was not converted into a master bedroom.

In October 2011, some time after gaining approval from the zoning board, Yoon fired her architect and gave new plans to the building department, instead of the approved design.

Shortly after those plans were filed with Morton Grove, then-director of economic development John Said took a job with the Village of West Chicago and Building Commissioner Ed Hildebrandt retired, leaving no one to follow up with Yoon.

After finding the problem, the building inspector in 2012 connected when the police and realized that a Mama Meditation group was operating in the house, creating parking and noise problems. Yoon was ordered to stop and, according to village officials, no functions have occurred since November.

Village Attorney Terry Liston told Yoon to apply for an "as built" permit and try to persuade com-
Soon Yoon didn’t get renovations of her Morton Grove home properly approved by the village and now must reconstruct her new garage. The home also served as a meditation center.

Commissioners that the house is worthy of being exempt from certain boundary-related rules; otherwise, Liston suggested renovating the house so it looks like the original plans or demolish the new garage and rooms.

While reviewing the “as built” application, commissioners briefly touched on those details and an Oct. 16, 2012 letter from Yoon that said she was donating her house to the religious institution, a letter submitted more than six months after Yoon told the village she was moving family into the house.

Yoon’s lawyer Dan Shapiro quickly dismissed the religious notion. “That is no longer her intention,” Shapiro said. “She has been through enough on this and just wants to live on the land indefinitely.”

Shapiro tried to argue that village staff was responsible for catching the error, and nine months of construction is a long time to “sneak something by.”

“‘It’s disingenuous to say ‘It’s not illegal if you didn’t catch us,’” Liston refuted.

Two neighbors favored Yoon’s proposal, saying the house was vacant and decrepit for so long that discouraging a new owner could result in the corner lot being abandoned yet again.

Yoon’s house must now be compacted by 10 feet, have only one bedroom above the garage and the space surrounding the garage must be smaller and used for storage — as originally proposed.

At this point, it’s unclear if the garage can be renovated without demolishing and completely rebuilding it.

An adjudication officer was waiting to see what the zoning board decided before assigning fees to Yoon’s several violations for constructing an illegal building and operating a business without a license. Those fees will be assigned in mid-September.

“‘Our job is to decide if plans for land meet the designed zoning regulations,” Shimanski said. “It’s someone else’s job to make sure a business is not being run out of the residential structure.”

Shimanski was one of two who reluctantly voted in favor of Yoon’s “as built” permit. The other five commissioners opposed the structure, because it blocks neighbors and because Yoon’s family-based hardship is no longer a factor in the house’s unconventional change.

Yoon’s house must now be compacted by 10 feet, have only one bedroom above the garage and the space surrounding the garage must be smaller and used for storage — as originally proposed.

Two different neighbors argued that Yoon’s extended garage blocks the street-long view of front yards along the east side of Austin Avenue, while also protesting the mysterious activities inside the house.

Commissioner Andy Shimanski, however, said the case should be reviewed without the background information and decisions should be based only on the plot of land and proposed designs.
Popular American baseball traditions

By Matthew Villanueva

Though other sports enjoy a high level of popularity, baseball is still known as "America's favorite pastime." Since the late 1800s, professional teams have played the game in front of excited fans in locations around the country. In the century and a half since baseball took root here, many different baseball traditions have developed in America, and the Gary SouthShore RailCats proudly carry them on at U. S. Steel Yard. Some of the most iconic are:

The Seventh-inning stretch
In between the halves of the seventh inning, baseball stadiums all over the country give fans a chance to stand up, stretch out and get a final snack, and U. S. Steel Yard is no exception. Since at least 1920, the "seventh-inning stretch" has been a key baseball tradition. Fans sometimes also sing the classic song "Take Me Out to the Ballgame."

Peanuts and Cracker Jack
As the popular song says, peanuts and Cracker Jack are perennially popular snacks at baseball games. Vendors will often toss bags of snacks across long distances to hungry fans to avoid stepping on toes or tripping over fans' legs, and this has become part of the unique ambience of the game.

Hot dogs
America's national food is the staple food most associated with America's favorite pastime. Dating back to the late 1800s, just like the game, this classic snack has changed little in 100 years. If you need something heartier than peanuts, hot dogs are available at any RailCats home game. Pair it with a frosty beer or an ice-cold pop for the perfect ballgame meal.

Fans from all around Chicago and northwest Indiana enjoy affordable family outings to RailCats baseball games at U. S. Steel Yard. To buy tickets or reserve the party deck for a group outing, call 219-882-2255.

Follow @WeekAway on Twitter to get the latest on Midwest travel.
Jensen: As cited in a AANP compensation study report nearly all (80% or more) NP's receive vacation, sick leave, disability insurance, life insurance, and retirement plan. So the benefits should be robust and allowing NP's to practice to the full extent of their education and training, more and more people will receive the expert patient-centered care that NP's bring to those they treat. This is just one way that NP's contribute to the health care needs of the US population.

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As rules and regulations governing NP practice change, allowing greater access to NP-delivered care and allowing NPs to practice to the full extent of their education and training, more and more people will receive the expert patient-centered care that NPs bring to those they treat. This is just one way that NPs impact the way health care is practiced in the future.

As well, we see that twice the percentage (18%) of nurse practitioners practice in rural areas compared to physicians (9%) who are practicing in rural areas. While one in five US residents live in rural areas, only one ten physicians practice in those areas (Bodenheimer and Pham, 2010).

Jensen: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Nursing Research Network commissioned Kevin Stange, University of Michigan, and Deborah Sampson, Boston College, to plot the provider-to-primary care physician ratio for NPs and physician assistants by county, calculated as the population-weighted average for states with available data. Between 1995 and 2009, the number of NPs per primary care MD more than doubled, as did the number of physician assistants per primary care MD (RWJF, 2010). These figures suggest that it is possible to increase the supply of both NPs and PAs in a relatively short amount of time, helping to meet the increased demand for care.

Jensen: Last year, we surveyed all FNP programs and medical (DO/MD) preparation. We reported that the total NP program cost is less than two-thirds of the cost of one year of medical school. Our findings are consistent with the older information reported in the Institute of Medicine (IOM.)

Assessing the costs of education is a multidimensional problem, due primarily to the complexities of deriving the production cost to the institution. One study, sponsored by the Association of Academic Health Centers (Gonyea, 1998) attempted to compare the educational cost for various health professions. It concluded that for every 1 physician (4 years), 14 advanced nurse practitioners or 12 physician assistants could be produced (Starck, 2006).
The successful bidder for the residential property shall receive a Certificate of Sale and the assessments on the property shall be paid in full by the purchase of the property at the sale. Upon payment of the entire purchase price at the sale, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale which must be presented to the Village of Skokie and the Cook County Treasurer at the time of possession. The successful bidder for the commercial property shall receive a Certificate of Sale and the assessments on the property shall be paid in full by the purchase of the property at the sale. Upon payment of the entire purchase price at the sale, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale which must be presented to the Village of Skokie and the Cook County Treasurer at the time of possession.

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NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NO. 15-1701(C)

COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In the circuit court of Cook County, Illinois, plaintiff

PARK, ANTONIO, Plaintiff,

et al., v.

CHICAGO INDEPENDENT REALTY, INC., et al., Defendants.

Case No. 14-10-30363

For information, examine the file, order copies of the pleadings, and any information obtained will be at

ATTORNEY-PRERECE.COM.

A MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACTION, to wit:

For information call sales department at

888-645-1839.

Judge for the circuit court of Cook County, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, the following described real estate: coral property, known as 3223 North Dearborn Street, Unit 1305, Chicago, Illinois, 60610, also 704-13-330-11, which is calculated on residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the Judgment of Foreclosure entered in above cause on November 21, 2013, an order of possession, in accordance with Section 7B5 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). If you have any questions regarding this auction, you must refer to file number 14-10-30363. The sale is further subject to confirmation of the sale, the assessments and the legal fees of the property. For information, examine the file, order copies of the pleadings, and any information obtained will be at

ATTORNEY-PRERECE.COM.

The sale will be by public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, the following described real estate: Coral property, known as 3223 North Dearborn Street, Unit 1305, Chicago, Illinois, 60610, also 704-13-330-11, which is calculated on residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the Judgment of Foreclosure entered in above cause on November 21, 2013, an order of possession, in accordance with Section 7B5 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). If you have any questions regarding this auction, you must refer to file number 14-10-30363. The sale is further subject to confirmation of the sale, the assessments and the legal fees of the property. For information, examine the file, order copies of the pleadings, and any information obtained will be at

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NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NO. 15-0045

ATTENTION: YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFF'S APPEAL OF THE COURT ORDER DATED JUNE 28, 2013, WHICH DENIES PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO STAY THE SALE, IS PENDING IN THE JUDICIAL銷售 DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION.

Plaintiff, NORTHERN MORTGAGE, INC., and Defendant, ROOSEVELT CONDOMINIUMS CORPORATION, are advised that Plaintiff's motion to stay the sale is pending in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Law Division.

Plaintiff, NORTHERN MORTGAGE, INC., and Defendant, ROOSEVELT CONDOMINIUMS CORPORATION, are advised that Plaintiff's motion to stay the sale is pending in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Law Division.

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Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Illinois Self-Storage Facilities Act, a sale will be held on September 11th, 2013, at LifeStorage of Morton Grove, 3030 Waukegan Road, Morton Grove, Illinois. The contents of the building will be sold in increments of currency of a public sale for cash, credit card or certified funds. If there is no market value or no bids received, the goods will be otherwise disposed of.

Christopher Bullen
8/22, 8/29/13
#628288
Auctioneer; older to attend our auctions.

WHEREAS, a public hearing will be held as to such Budget as the 21st day of August, 2013, and notice of said hearing will be given at least 30 days prior thereto as required by law, and all other legal requirements have been complied with.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Trustees of the NILES PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT, Cook County, Illinois, for the fiscal year hereby adapted as beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014.

SECTION 1: That the following sums of money or, if more than one is authorized by law, the same are hereby budgeted and appropriated for general corporate purposes and for the payment of expenses and liabilities of the NILES PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT for the fiscal year hereby adopted as beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014.

SECTION 2: That the items budgeted as appropriated and the objects and purposes of the same are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>$144,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$19,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mileage Reimbursement</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Fees</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotional Expense</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage &amp; Freight</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication of Notices - Legal</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions &amp; Dues</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Services</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone Expense</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee Expense</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment Rental</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll Service</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Fees</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Lease Agreement</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSE</td>
<td>$248,574</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VEHICLE EXPENSE</td>
<td>$98,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIRED FRINGE BENEFITS</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENSION PLAN</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SECTION 3: That all ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting with any of the provisions of this Ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4: That the cash on hand deemed by law as current assets available for library purposes at the end of such year is $5,683,849.

SECTION 5: That the invalidity of any portion of this Ordinance or any of the items thereof shall not render invalid any other portion or items thereof which can be given effect with such invalid portion or items eliminated.

SECTION 6: That all ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting with any of the provisions of this Ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 7: That the Board of Trustees of the NILES PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT has established a special reserve fund to be accumulated from the unexpended balance of the proceeds received from the levy levied for the year 1977 and subsequent years, said fund to be accumulated and set aside as a special reserve fund for the purpose in accordance with 75 L.S.C. 16/4(a) and that said Board of Trustees shall adopt a plan or plans pursuant to the provisions of 75 L.S.C. 16/4(b) of the Public Library Act of 1981.

SECTION 8: That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

ADOPTED this 21st day of August, 2013, pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

YAY: 10
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0
PARTIES
WOMEN ON THE MOVE LUNCHEON
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THURSDAY, AUG 22:
FALL TRENDS FASHION SHOW & CONCERT

TUESDAY, AUG 27:
A MAGNIFICENT TASTE

LABOR DAY WEEKEND:
DISNEY STAR COCO JONES LIVE IN CONCERT

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THINGS WE LOVE

Kohl's and Vera Wang are making it easy to be on-trend this fall with Princess Vera Wang, a line of separates, shoes and perfumes created by the famed designer. Eifronte shoes, $54.99; French Terry jeans, $44; drawstring blouse, $38, 2140 N. Elston; Kohls.com

INSIDE THIS WEEK’S BACK TO FALL ISSUE

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WHAT IS THE BEST CLASS YOU’VE EVER TAKEN?

“Eleventh grade English class stood out because we read ‘A Rose for Emily’ by William Faulkner. It’s the short story that made me want to be a writer.”

“Advertising 301 my senior year of college. At the end of the class we spent almost three weeks exploring the UK.”

“‘My Ontogeny and Development class was fascinating. We learned how a single cell develops into a full adult. It was also the hardest class of my life.”

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WHAT HAD YOU TWEETING

Gino Rocco
@GinoJRocco: There is nothing sexier on a woman than a pencil skirt!
@Suntimes_Splash #WhoWoreWhatWhere

GlossedandFound.com
@glossedandfound:
@Suntimes_Splash & I work it with @targetbeauty #philliplimfortarget #style #style #partner

Alison R
@SassyMomChicago: Love seeing Coco from @_PrettyQuick_ in this week’s @Suntimes_Splash! #trendingnow #beauty #style

Tweet us: @Suntimes_Splash
August 27
A MAGNIFICENT TASTE >>
The Magnificent Mile Shopping Festival continues through Sept. 2 with fashion-able events along Michigan Avenue. But one of the most star-studded happenings is the culinary extravaganza A Magnificent Taste, benefiting Common Threads. Some of Chicago's most prominent chefs will be serving up food, including Rick Bayless (Frontera Grill, Topolobampo), Art Smith (Table 52), Ryan Poll (Little Market), Lee Wolen (The Lobby at the Peninsula), David Blansky (Siena Tavern) and Heather Terhune (Sable Kitchen & Bar).
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Place: Pioneer Court, 401 N. Michigan
Cost: VIP $200, general admission $125. For tickets, visit Themagnificentmile.com/events/shopping-festival/culinary.

August 28
COCKTAILS + CUISINE AT HUBBARD INN
The River North restaurant kicks off its new monthly dinner series, which will feature a four-course menu created around a spirits brand. First up? Tequila Avion, which will be served in everything from a blood orange margarita to a French martini then paired with dishes created by chef Bob Zrenner.
Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Place: Hubbard Inn, 110 W. Hubbard
Cost: $37.50 per person. For tickets, call (312) 222-1331.

August 29
ROOF RUNWAY
Find style inspiration at this sky-high fashion show, featuring retailers from the Shops at North Bridge. With sweeping skyline views providing the backdrop and DJ Dela Chapelle serving the soundtrack.

shop such as Nordstrom, United Colors of Benetton, NARS and Tommy Bahama will showcase top looks for fall.
Time: 8 p.m.
Place: ROOF on theWit, 201 N. State, 27th floor
Cost: Free. Reserve a table by calling (312) 239-9502 and for more information, visit Roofonthewit.com/runway.

August 29-September 1
35TH ANNUAL CHICAGO JAZZ FESTIVAL
A staple of summer in Chicago, Jazz Fest kicks off Thursday at noon with performances at the Chicago Cultural Center and Roosevelt University's Ganz Hall, followed by three-day weekend of concerts in Millennium Park from masters such as Jack DeJohnette, Charles Lloyd and Jason Moran to top high school and college musicians.
Time: Gates open at 2 p.m. on Friday, noon on Saturday and Sunday
Place: Millennium Park, 201 E. Randolph
Cost: Free. For the full schedule of events, visit Chicagojazzfestival.us.
NORTH COAST MUSIC FESTIVAL
It's wall-to-wall sound at this ever-growing annual outdoor music festival. The lineup runs the genre gamut from electronic to alternative rock, and includes Afrojack, the Disco Biscuits, Big Gigantic, Lotus, Passion Pit and a reunited Wu-Tang Clan.
Time: Friday 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday-Sunday 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Place: Union Park, 1501 W. Randolph
Cost: $55 per day. For tickets and a full schedule, visit Northcoastfestival.com.

September 7
GREEN TIE BALL
The annual event is extra-sweet this year, as it's themed "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory." Benefiting Gateway Green, the organization that works to enhance our city's urban environment, the night is emceed by "Windy City Live" co-hosts Val Warner and Ryan Chiaverini and includes tastings from more than 50 top restaurants, music, casino gaming and a raffle.
Time: VIP reception 6:30 p.m., gala 8:30 p.m.
Place: A. Finkl & Sons, 2011 N. Southport
Cost: VIP reception $250, or $275 at the door; gala $150, or $175 at the door. For tickets, please visit Gatewaygreen.org.

September 7
THE ADLER PLANETARIUM CELESTIAL BALL
The annual black-tie gala, presented by the Planetarium's Women's Board, is out of this world. Besides dinner and dancing, it includes an auction with prizes ranging from business class flights to Europe and Asia to a reservation at the family space camp at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: 1300 S. Lake Shore
Cost: $600. For tickets, visit Pjhchicago.com/adler.

next week

September 6
12TH ANNUAL GALA OF THE ARTS
Supporting Catholic Charities' Emergency Assistance Programs for individuals and families in crisis, the evening — featuring emcee Allison Rosati of WMAQ-Channel 5 News — begins with an art show and sale, followed by dinner and a performance by '60s pop band The Buckinghams.
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand
Cost: $250. For tickets, call (312) 655-7525 or visit Galaofthearts.com.

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Time: 6 p.m.
Place: 1300 S. Lake Shore
Cost: $600. For tickets, visit Pjhchicago.com/adler.

To too many kids are dropping out of high school, but together we can change that. We are preparing thousands of at-risk middle school kids to enter high school ready to succeed through after-school mentoring, tutoring and enrichment programs. This is part of our commitment to the Chicagoland community to provide kids and families in need with EDUCATION, INCOME and HEALTH resources, the building blocks of self-sufficiency, so they can reach their fullest potential. Real change can't happen without you.

LIVEUNITEDchicago.org

TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE THE STORY.
WOMEN ON THE MOVE LUNCHEON

MAKING MOVES

STORIES BY
KATERINA BIZIOS

Sporting her signature bold-framed glasses and surrounded by 400 of her most devoted supporters, BMO Harris Bank executive Justine Fedak was hard to miss Aug. 19 at the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Greater Illinois Chapter’s Women on the Move luncheon, held at the Ritz Carlton Chicago (160 E. Pearson). The organization named Fedak the 2013 Woman on the Move, recognizing the work she’s done to raise awareness about multiple sclerosis after being diagnosed with the disease more than a decade ago. WGN-Channel 9’s Tom Negovan (who is married to Splash editor/publisher Susanna Negovan) kicked off the luncheon by introducing a video montage filled with well-wishes and congratulations for Fedak from friends including Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Michael Reinsdorf, Jonathan Toews and Joakim Noah, whose mother, Cécelia Rodhe, served as honorary chair. Later, Benny the Bull presented Fedak with a bouquet of flowers, and Spex Optical gifted her a pair of bright orange Tom Ford sunglasses (right) to add to her 48-pair collection. The luncheon raised more than $100,000 to fight for a cure for MS.

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

STEP UP WOMEN’S NETWORK’S SHINE & DINE

IN STEP

Clockwise from top left: Jenni Luke, Laura Schwartz and Andrea Metcalfe; Amy Laughlin and Chris Johnson; The scene at River East Art Center | PHOTOS BY ADRIAN CHICECO AND ROXANNA DE LA TORRE

It was a packed house at the River East Art Center (435 E. Illinois) Aug. 15, as 700 guests gathered to celebrate Step Up Women's Network's third annual Shine & Dine. Co-chairs Christina Manuel and Marcy Tetreau joined guests like ABC’s “Betrayal” star Chris Johnson to sample dishes from local restaurants Carnival, RL and Quay. Step Up alumna Felicia Hernandez took the stage to speak about her positive experience with the organization, which helped her graduate high school and college. The evening raised $180,000 for Step Up's after school and weekend programs, which empower teen girls in underserved communities.

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

AMLI EVANSTON GRAND OPENING

HOME FREE

The city of Evanston warmly welcomed a new addition to its community Aug. 15 at the grand opening of the Amlı Evanston apartment homes. Guests kicked off the bash with a Champagne toast on the building's rooftop terrace, then sipped drinks and snacked on appetizers courtesy of Koi and Oceanique while listening to the smooth sounds of the Jerry Tiberi Jazz Trio. Donations at the event benefited SAGE, a local group dedicated to teaching kids how to grow and harvest food.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event.
Fashion trends cycle through ups and downs, but our latest obsession does both simultaneously. The asymmetrically cut — and aptly named — high-low dress manages to give a sexy glimpse of leg while maintaining an elegant silhouette. With its "cocktails in the front, gala in the back" split personality, it’s the ideal dress for any occasion. While the style won’t offer much protection in brutal Chicago winter, designers like BCBG Max Azria and Marchesa have embraced it in their resort 2014 collections. Take a page from these ladies’ books and rock the dress. It’s guaranteed to make you look great from top to bottom.
FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Charitable events put a focus on local fare

STORY BY KATERINA BIZIOS

Chicago Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo stepped off the field and onto the philanthropic scene Aug. 14 for his inaugural Cook-Off for Cancer event at Café Brauer (2021 N. Stockton). Chefs, including Tony Priolo, Nate Henssler, Cosmo Goss, Jimmy Bannos Sr., Mark Sparacino, David Burns and Doug Tomek, served up variations of ballpark food and helped cook up more than $150,000 to benefit cancer research. Meanwhile, at Navy Pier’s Grand Ballroom (600 E. Grand), 60 chefs and 25 mixologists catered to more than 1,500 guests, who rubbed shoulders with co-chairs RJ Melman of Lettuce Entertain You and Ben Smock of Toque and Bottle Advisory at Share Our Strength’s Taste of the Nation. The bash served up nearly $300,000 for the fight to end childhood hunger.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of these events.
THE LANGHAM HOTEL'S TRAVELLE RESTAURANT OPENING

Nicole Banks, Megan Carroll, Talla Pines and Brooke Hubbuch

Above: Fabrice Calmels, Amber Holst and Sean Wagner
Right: Heather Ingram, David Manilow and Toni Canada

WORLD TRAVELLE

BY KATERINA BIZIOS

The Langham Hotel Chicago recently swung open the doors, making it the brand's third U.S. location (330 N. Wabash), and Aug. 12, the luxury hotel welcomed 200 guests to celebrate the opening of its second-floor restaurant, Travelle. Attendees joined the hotel's architect and grandson of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Dirk Lohan, Managing Director Bob Schofield and General Manager Joe Aguila and snacked on savory Mediterranean-inspired bites by chef Tim Graham, including chickpea panisse with harissa aioli and smoked whitefish rillettes. Later, they enjoyed pastry chef Scott Green's lime tamarind panna cotta with sour cherries and ginger tuile. Local band Lake Effect topped off the night by performing in Travelle's lounge, which overlooks the Chicago River.

CAUSE & EVENT | parties

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County fare

Burnt ends and bacon take center stage

at County Barbeque

BY DAVID HAMMOND

B ack when University Village was called Little Italy, the space County Barbeque now occupies was home to Gennaro's, a buzz-you-in, Italian red-sauce joint popular since the 1950s. "I definitely couldn't even get into that place," says Erick Williams, now partner, chef and pitmaster at County Barbeque.

The spot is the newest project from restaurateur David Morton and chef Michael Kornick, the team behind DMK Burger Bar, Fish Bar and Ada Street. (Kornick also helms River North's MK, which celebrates its 15th anniversary this year.)

At the new restaurant, housed in an impossible-to-miss building painted entirely in plaid, Williams is focusing on pan-regional barbecue. "I learned how to make barbecue from my uncle, who was from the South," says Williams. "But this is American heritage barbecue. I'm specifically not identifying with a region." Proving his point, Williams smokes up St. Louis spare ribs ($13), Texas brisket ($10) and Chicago tips ($10).

Perhaps because County Barbeque is in a student neighborhood — UIC is just a few blocks away — pricing seems tuned to tighter budgets: generous sides, like collard greens and cheddar grits, are as low as $3, as are some shots of whiskey, while average entree prices float around $10. Ready to dig in? Here's what else to expect at County Barbeque:

FINESSE: Despite student pricing on the menu, Williams brings a fine-dining approach to barbecue. Delicately breaded fried green tomatoes ($6) are served with goat cheese, while vinegar is prominent in his slaw (which accompanies most entrees) because, Williams says, "barbecue sauce is sweet, so we balance that with sourness for depth and intensity of flavor."

Say yes to whiskey: Dark liquors pair well with barbecue, and many of the spot's specialty cocktails, like the rye smile ($9), feature whiskey. Beer is also a no-brainer for smoked meat — there are 10 on tap, all available by the pint and pitcher.

Burn 'em!: Burnt ends ($11) are brisket points, rubbed and slow-cooked to render out fat and build crusty outer "bark." The result: small, crisp packages of lushly smoked deliciousness.

But my date is a vegetarian: There's hope in sides like blackened cauliflower ($4) and seared kale ($4), as well as a few salads. For those interested in introducing meat to their diet, the veal brisket ($12) is a "good entry point," says Williams. "It's like a lighter version of beef brisket without as much fat."

Better with bacon: County Barbeque's Bacon Bar seems like an idea that's long overdue. A whole section of the menu is devoted to bacon, including bacon deviled eggs (3 for $3) and the humorously conceived bacon and barbecue parfait ($3).

Soundtrack: Barbecue is urban-country crossover food, and our server described the playlist as "gritty, with Hendrix, Chuck Berry, you know, awesome guitars — but definitely not country."

1352 W. Taylor, (312) 929-2528; dmkcountybarbeque.com

CHICAGOSPASH.COM | AUGUST 25-31, 2013

9
Single minded

Should you worry about a perpetually single son?

Dear Jenny,

I am the mother of a 29-year-old son. He is well-educated, athletic, good-looking and has a good job and an active social life. My concern is that he seems to have anxiety when it comes to dating. He’s never had a long-term relationship and will go on a date here and there, but nothing more. He doesn’t seem interested in the dating websites. I try not to say anything, because I don’t want to cause stress in our relationship, and my husband says that we should let it play out, and my son will settle down when he is ready.

I think that my husband and I have provided good role models as far as relationships go, but I can’t help but wonder what we could have done wrong to make him feel this way. I need to know what I can do to encourage him, or if I need to stay silent. I have a brother who is 46 and never settled down, and I guess I worry that my son will be the same way. Thanks for any advice!

-K in Illinois

Jenny says: I understand you’re worried about your son, because as parents, we want only the best for our children. However, in this day and age, 29 years old and single really isn’t reason to be overly concerned. In fact, 29 is the average age for a first marriage for a man. He still has plenty of time to meet someone special and settle down. Single life in the city is so much fun! He may just enjoy going out with his friends and not being committed to one person.

There are plenty of reasons why men his age aren’t rushing into marriage. Many want to be financially stable before they marry. Some are romantics at heart and are waiting for their soulmates. Others just don’t feel the pressure — after all, they don’t have to worry about their biological clocks. Why wouldn’t they want to enjoy single life as long as possible, especially when they have their own spaces and routines? So, instead of feeling worried, accept him for who he is — an athletic, good-looking guy who simply hasn’t found the right girl yet. I tend to agree with your husband: Your son will settle down when he is ready.

Send questions to Askjenny@suntimes.com

READ JENNY’S DAILY BLOG AT CHICAGOSPLASH.COM
There are very few people whom Finesse Mitchell hasn't lampooned. The actor and SNL alum has impersonated everyone from O.J. Simpson to R. Kelly, even famously sending up Venus Williams and Gayle King. Now, he's returning to his roots as a standup comic, touring the country to crack jokes about Anthony Weiner, divorce, remarriage (he's set to wed El DeBarge's daughter, Adris, in September) and even life post-SNL. "It's fun because I'm all over the place with politics and local stuff," says the funnyman. "The shows have been packed. I love getting back to standup and doing what I do best."

When he's not on stage, Mitchell can be found on the small screen. He's a regular on the hit Disney Channel show "A.N.T. Farm," which follows a group of tween prodigies enrolled in their school's Advanced Natural Talent program. Mitchell plays Darryl Parks, father of the show's main character, Chyna. "It's a really fun show, and the kids are super talented," Mitchell says. "It reaches so many people and crosses so many racial lines."

Mitchell's role has carried over into real life — he often gives his younger castmates some hard-won advice. "I tell them about fame and the responsibility that comes with it," he says. "You have to be aware of that. We've had a trend of Miley Cyrus-es and people on the Disney Channel that then go buck wild." But it's not heavy-handed mentorship on set. "I'm acting silly all day," laughs Mitchell. "[My character is] a really silly police officer with the San Francisco Police Department."

Despite being raised in Atlanta, Mitchell has strong ties to Chicago. "I'm a good friend of Kerry Wood, and he just had his Woody's Wiffle Ball Classic [in Chicago], so I participated in that along with Bill Murray, Matthew Perry and old and current Cubs," he explains. Though from the sound of things, Wood might need to give Mitchell a quick lesson. "I was horrible," he laughs. "You'd think I could hit a wiffle ball, and I couldn't! But I had a great time."

Here, the comedian takes a swing at his perfect Chicago day.
Olivia Wilde raises a glass to Chicago in her new film "Drinking Buddies". 

For some actors, shooting on location in a different city means holing up in a hotel, subsisting on room service and relying on black cars to get from place to place. But not Olivia Wilde. While in town last summer to film the newly-released movie "Drinking Buddies," Wilde became a bona fide Chicago resident. "I lived in a house in Wicker Park, I had a little veggie garden and I rode my bike around everywhere," she says. "And I loved learning about the craft beer community."

Developing a passion for Chicago’s craft beer scene is rare for a visitor to a city bursting with award-winning architecture, a burgeoning arts scene and world-famous restaurants. But knowing the difference between local breweries Half Acre Beer Company and Revolution Brewing was an essential part of Wilde’s role in "Drinking Buddies," an indie drama-comedy about two friends who work in a Chicago craft brewery. In the movie, which was shot inside Revolution’s facility on Kedzie, Wilde plays carefree, tough-as-nails Kate, the brewery’s event planner and only female employee, who engages in a will-they-or-won’t-they flirtation with co-worker Luke, played by "New Girl" star (and Evanston native) Jake Johnson. Though both characters are in relationships (with Ron Livingston and Anna Kendrick, respectively), their mutual attraction is exacerbated by the duo’s near-constant consumption of beer.

Wilde says she was drawn to the movie — which has received positive reviews — because of director Joe Swanberg, a Chicago resident. "I liked how he liked to tell stories about complex women," says Wilde, 29. "I wanted to work with this cast, and I wanted the opportunity to experiment with his process."

Swanberg’s approach is improv-based, resulting in dialogue-driven scenes that focus on authentic, realistic characters and conversation. In fact, the cast was never formally given a script, just a story outline. "Joe told us over
A REVOLUTIONARY TALE

Clockwise from top: Wilde and Jake Johnson bond in "Drinking Buddies"; Wilde and Jason Sudeikis at the Hollywood premiere of "Drinking Buddies."); the Revolution Brewing facility; Wilde favored the Eugene porter.

Local craft beers, including Half Acre Beer Company and Three Floyds Brewing, get screen time in "Drinking Buddies." But top billing goes to Revolution — its brewing facility (3340 N. Kedzie) doubles as the "Drinking Buddies" set, and the characters are fictional employees at the brewery. (Revolution also has a brewpub/restaurant at 2323 N. Milwaukee.)

"I get a lot of requests, but when brewpub regular and Revolution fan Joe Swanson requested he shoot a movie on location, we were happy to work with him," says Revolution's marketing manager, Aimee Quinkert.

Olivia Wilde, Anna Kendrick, Jake Johnson, Ron Livingston and the rest of the cast and crew took over the space for a few weeks, and the Revolution team not only shared beers with the group, but also offered the actors insight into the culture of craft brewers. "We helped them learn the ins and outs of brewery life," says Quinkert.

As for the "Drinking Buddies" beer of choice? "The guys were drinking the Anti-Hero IPA, while Olivia preferred the darker beers like the Eugene porter."

Olivia Wilde

FOUR THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW:

• Wilde's father, Andrew Cockburn, was born in England but raised in Ireland, and Wilde spent childhood summers there. She has dual U.S. and Irish citizenship.
• She hails from a family of journalists: Her father has written for magazines such as Vanity Fair and Harper's, while her mother, Leslie, was a "60 Minutes" producer. "I love that world. It's a thankless job and one of the most important parts of our society."
• She met Sudeikis backstage at "Saturday Night Live" in 2011. She split from first husband Tao Ruspoli earlier that year.
• Wilde says she has noticed distinct reaction to her "Drinking Buddies" character. "Men who are married or in a serious relationship think that she's disastrous and hectic. They don't lust after her. Single men are the opposite. I think it's a funny psychological thing."

and James Franco. She's also become a style icon, appearing on the covers of such fashion magazines as Glamour and Marie Claire.

Between filming, press junkets, fashion shoots and fielding new offers, Wilde hardly has time to sit still, but she wouldn't have it any other way. "We've had a chance to have some vacation time and some down time, but Jason and I are both very busy," she says. "As an actor, you wait your whole life to be busy. I feel very, very lucky.

Wilde is grateful to be at a point in her career where she can be selective with her roles, and she points to "Drinking Buddies" as a new source of inspiration. "I love that this movie is about the drama that's happening every single day," she says. "We live in New York and I ride the subway every day and I see every single person as a fascinating character. Joe Swanberg made me want to make films about the simple dramas of life."

In Hollywood, having a successful career often goes hand in hand with tabloid exposure, something Wilde doubts she'll ever get used to. "When people look pissed off in paparazzi pictures, they're not feeling glum that day. They're being stalked," she says. "It's like, if you were in your friend's backyard at a barbecue and there was a lens peering through the fence, you'd look pissed off too."

And while she's eagerly awaiting the time when celebrity obsession dies down, she's willing to put up with it. "I really am grateful that I get to do this for a living, and that's what gets me through the fact that I'm followed every day by really creepy dudes with big lenses."
So many skills are needed in today's demanding workplace. But between jobs, social engagements and weekend to-do lists, it's hard enough to find time to take a semester-long class, much less get an MBA. To help, we've rounded up a few commitment-free boot camp-style classes that can amp up your skill sets in a hurry — and you'll be surprised what you can learn in one day. Your resume will thank you later.

Learn to:
Beef up your blog
Whether you've never done one of those weblogs or your online writing forays are feeling a little unfocused, you'll get something out of Blogging 101 (Sept. 18, 6:30-9 p.m.; $50, members $45) offered by literary organization StoryStudio. Teacher and veteran blogger Luvvie Ajayi covers 10 things every blogger ought to know, including simple marketing strategies, writing in an authentic voice and dismissing the notion that you must frantically create entries at a breakneck pace. Bonus: Keeping the class small allows Ajayi to customize it to student needs. "Blogging is a great way to show you're an expert in your field," Ajayi adds. "It serves as a portfolio online and allows you to be an industry leader."
Sign up now: Storystudiochicago.com

Learn to: Make the most out of overseas business meetings
An ability to communicate with the massive global workforce might require a second college degree. Au contraire, says Multilingual Chicago. The intimate Northwest Side language school holds an intense, quick-hitting Bilingual Boot Camp (monthly Sundays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; one person $150, two $225). The class covers need-to-know basics of a culture and its language, such as Mandarin, Arabic, Russian and Spanish. Learn pronunciation along with vocabulary concerning politeness, time, food, direction, numbers and money. "Using foreign languages is like performing on stage to people," says Multilingual Chicago founder, Director and linguistic anthropologist Dr. Jill Bishop. "If they can't do it right, they don't want to do it at all, so we give them confidence." Forget a word or two? No worries. You'll go home with a packet to rehearse with and use on the spot.
Sign up now: Mlconnections.com

Learn to: Perfect your personal spiel
If you know yourself better than anyone else, why does it feel so tough — and occasionally icky — to talk about yourself? Brand strategist Martin McGovern sums it up: "Everyone has these things they do — jobs, hobbies, weekend activities, DIY projects. It's hard to speak about all those things when you're caught up in what you do, not why you're doing it." With that thought as a driving force, McGovern and Rajiv Nathan, two DePaul University marketing grads, make it their mission to allay the onerous task of blabbing about oneself. The cofounders of networking startup Idea Lemon helm the semiweekly class, Nailing the Elevator Pitch: Discover Your Inner Awesome (Aug. 29, Sept. 4, Sept. 12, Sept. 26, 6:30-9:30 p.m.; $50). Offering a healthy amount of one-on-one time, they'll parse your history and motivation using marketing tools and help you craft a concise elevator speech tailored for a particular audience. Past attendees have ranged from corporate fortysomethings stuck in a rut to entrepreneurs and artists looking to better express their passions.
Sign up now: Idealemon.com
Learn to: Settle office conflicts

Ever find yourself quietly seething in your cubicle after a meeting didn't go as planned? (If the answer's no, quick, check and make sure you're not a robot.) For us naturally emotional, occasionally heated humans, there's good news: The Center for Conflict Resolution's Conflict Management Workshop (Oct. 8, 1-4 p.m.; $95) helps you turn conflict from obstacle into opportunity. Over the course of an afternoon, you'll analyze your basic interpersonal skills, understand what causes conflict and learn effective strategies to deal with it. Sound too easy to be true? Consider CCR's long history: In 1979, a group of young attorneys founded the nonprofit to help clear courts of small-claims cases by holding mediation sessions. They've since taught mediation and conflict management courses to everyone from lawyers to nurses. Training Director Pari Karim says the workshops will "change your view of what you can get out of conflict." No more seething? We're sold.

Sign up now: Cccchicago.org

Learn to: Optimize your website

Did your face contort at the sight of the word optimize? Does a question mark hover above your head at the term "SEO"? Online marketing firm Loud Interactive's CEO Brent Payne, an SEO guru, comes to the rescue with basic seminars, such as Small Business SEO for Localized Results (Oct. 9, 6-8 p.m.; early bird $35, students $25, general $50, at door $75). "Taking one of these classes can help small businesses get 60 to 70 percent of the traffic they need," Payne says. Attendees will learn search engine basics, SEO best practices and e-commerce rich data formatting. Still confused? Relax with a complimentary drink ticket at the half-hour networking session following the seminar.

Sign up now: Loudinteractive.com
Gina Lombardo and Ben Firestone met at a local real estate networking event in 2006. Five years after their first date, the duo got engaged and began planning their dream wedding — a task made easier because the couple had attended more than 60 weddings together, giving Lombardo a clear picture of how she wanted her own big day to unfold. With a guest list that quickly grew to 275, Lombardo and Firestone enlisted the help of wedding planner Reva Nathan and tied the knot June 29 at the Chicago Illuminating Company (19 E. 21st). Here are the highlights of their day:

**< Bust a move**

“IT wasn’t a Jewish wedding, but we took part in fun Jewish traditions. [Ben’s] mom fell off the chair during the Hora, but then it turned into a crowd surf. That was one of the most memorable moments.”

**^ It’s in the bag**

“I gave the bridesmaids beaded clutches to coordinate with their gold and silver sparkly dresses.”

Available at Anthropologie, 108 N. State; Anthropologie.com

**^ ‘Sweet’ treats**

“We wanted to give our guests — specifically our out-of-towners — a taste of local Chicago flavor. We knew that Sweet Mandy B’s would be perfect for that. We did a throwback to our younger years by serving a childhood favorite: confetti cake with vanilla frosting.”

**Gown:** Nicole Miller; Nicole Miller Bridal - Jenny Yoo Chicago, 300 W. Superior; Nicolemiller.com

**Jewelry:** Earrings by Roni Blanshay, Lulu’s on the Avenue; Lulusvintages tore.com

**Florist:** Burt Rubenstein, HMR Designs, 1200 N. Branch; Hmrdesigns.com

**Photographer:** Thomas Slack Photography, 2650 W. Belden; Slackphotography.com

**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.
The neighborhood is a burgeoning hot spot for arts, culture and entrepreneurs

BY LISA SKOLNIK

Once known as the birthplace of politicians (including five Chicago mayors), the formerly Irish enclave of Bridgeport now boasts one of the most diverse communities in the city. It’s also home to a thriving arts scene anchored by the Zhou B Art Center and Bridgeport Art Center, which sit a block apart from each other on 35th Street, and to impresario Ed Marszewski, who owns the popular Maria's Packaged Goods & Community Bar (960 W. 31st) and is working to turn the neighborhood into an entrepreneurial and cultural hub. So far, Marszewski has founded experimental arts center Co-Prospersity Sphere (3219 S. Morgan), co-organized the annual alternative-culture showcase Version Fest and started the Small Manufacturing Alliance, which promotes local companies.

Bridgeport's recent renaissance means that it's also an ideal place to live. “It's so unbelievably affordable and has such a strong sense of neighborhood and family — all of the people that grew up here and moved to the suburbs are moving back. They realized that Bridgeport is so much more convenient and has it all, from great school options to fantastic public transportation,” says Prudential Rubloff broker Kevin Green (left, call 312-520-8485). In truth, the only thing in short supply in the community — which is bordered by the South Branch and jutting South Fork (aka Bubbly Creek) of the Chicago River, Pershing Road and the Union Pacific railroad tracks — is good real estate. “You rarely see 'for sale' signs, because existing housing passes from generation to generation,” says Green.

This makes Lexington Homes’ new development on Sangamon Street a welcome addition. Its first developments, 39 row houses called Lexington Square and nine single-family homes called Lexington Place, "sold really well, even in an iffy market," says Green. Now, Lexington Square 2 at Sangamon and 37th is going up, featuring 21 row homes and 20 single-family abodes. Three-bed, 2.5-bath row homes with roof decks include the 2,200-square-foot Grant for $379,900 or the 2,500-square-foot Buckingham for $409,900. If you're looking for a three-bed, 2.5-bath single-family space with a sprawling front porch, two-car garage and heavy-duty curb appeal, Lexington Place 2’s options include the 3,030-square-foot Donovan for $462,500 or the 3,639-square-foot Bridgeport for $509,500 (add an extra car space, bedroom or bathroom for an upcharge).

Another hotspot to consider is the 15-home Morgan Street Development, also at Sangamon and 37th, featuring three-bed, 2.5-bath homes. The spaces — which come in at 3,000 or 3,300 square feet — start at $459,000 and boast two-car garages and optional finished basements that add an extra bed and bath to the equation. Seven out of 15 are already gone; call Jameson Sotheby’s broker Jennifer Liu at (312) 320-3505 to check out the remaining homes.

OPTIMIZING OUTSIDE

In her new book, From the Ground Up, nationally renowned organic gardener Jeanne Nolan explains why it's never been easier to grow edibles in a yard, on a rooftop or even on a tiny balcony. Nolan would know — she designed, installed and maintains the Edible Gardens at Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo. $17.82; Amazon.com
Once upon a time

The Writers Theatre presents the wildly inventive PigPen Theatre

BY THOMAS CONNORS

The phrase, "Hey kids, let's put on a show!" has long been shorthand for creative naiveté. But truth be told, the innocence and drive that the exclamation conveys can be the motor for many theatrical undertakings.

Take PigPen Theatre Company, for example. This ensemble of seven came together as students at Carnegie Mellon School of Drama in 2008. And while these professionally trained fellows are far from clueless kids just playacting, they display a refreshing willingness to embrace the essence of simple make-believe.

Beginning Sept. 3, Chicago audiences can see what they're all about, as Writers' Theatre presents PigPen's fancifully engaging "The Old Man and The Old Moon."

"There was clearly something special about these guys from the first time I met them," says Writers' Associate Artistic Director Stuart Carden, who taught the crew at Carnegie Mellon and now directs "Old Man." "Even at that very formative stage, they were creating some very sophisticated and powerful work. I would always approach the days where they were presenting their projects with great anticipation, because invariably, there would be something completely surprising and inventive."

Incorporating folk-inflected music (this fall, the group performs at Schubas on their nights off to promote the release of their upcoming EP), wittily basic effects (a dog crafted from a bleach bottle and mop) and a delight in the hypnotic possibilities of language, PigPen reveals in the kind of theater that makes innocents of us all. A group so tight that they speak as one, PigPen explain, "In our plays, the narrator, or narrators, speak directly to the audience, inviting them into the world of the play. There's also a sense that the storyteller may be inventing the story out of thin air. It's not that there is no structure, it's just that there's always the possibility of taking a left turn and ending up somewhere completely unexpected."

"The Old Man and The Old Moon" is a beguiling tale about a man keeps it filled with liquid light, until he goes in search of his missing wife. Mythical in its sense of action and mystery, the show "is fueled by language that elevates that narrative into poetry," says Carden.

"We all grew up watching Pixar cartoons, Terry Gilliam movies and 'The Lord of the Rings,' and those are certainly all points of reference," say the show's creators. "But we are constantly sharing new sources of inspiration that help to refine our collective tastes and guide our future work."

The cast (clockwise from top left): Arya Shahi, Alex Faber, Ben Ferguson, Matt Nuernberger, Ryan Mela, Dan Weschler and Curtis Gillen.
When Rebecca Budig traveled overseas to Bulgaria to film the thriller "Getaway" alongside Ethan Hawke and Selena Gomez, she found some unexpected action off set. "We had an earthquake one night!" the Midwest native says. "I was in my hotel room by myself, freaking out. The crew was distraught. They hadn't had an earthquake like that in 100 years." Luckily, no one was hurt, and shooting continued on the film, in theaters nationwide Aug. 30.

Budig — who's best known for playing Greenlee Smythe Lavery on "All My Children" and also as the wife of "Bachelor" alum Bob Guiney, whom she divorced in 2010 — says she jumped at the chance to play Leanne, the wife of Hawke's character and eventual kidnap victim. "It's a fun action film. I read the script and immediately wanted to be part of it," she says. "Ethan was amazing to work with. He's a really great guy. And he's very hot."

Double trouble: "The film is crazy, with a lot of car chases. My character is kidnapped, so I got roughed up a little bit — I did some stunts. I had a body double, too. I didn't want to get thrown around too much."

Sea change: "Bulgaria was very different. I love to see the world. It was interesting, because the [national] languages are Bulgarian and Macedonian. It was kind of hard to understand, however, the crew all knew English."

Early start: "I started acting very young, and I went to a famed art school in Cincinnati. That's where I got the bug to act professionally. I dropped out of college, and I went out to LA with my mom, where I took a lot of classes; did a lot of commercials. I did the Marky Mark workout video. We showed everyone that video!"

Chicago connection: "[My family] went up there quite a bit, every other week. I love the city and the lake — it's beautiful. A few years ago, I went to Chicago just to see Bruce Springsteen."
Sartorially savvy >>

Trunk Club's Esquire Collection is helping Chicago guys stay sharp this season. The limited-edition trunk, curated by Esquire's editors and Trunk Club's team, arrives at doorssteps piled high with pieces from AG Jeans, Billy Reid, Bespoke, Garb, Gant Rugger, L.B.M 1911 and Vince. $125-$695, 325 W. Ohio, Trunkclub.com/esquire

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Hair raising
To celebrate Kala Salon's one-year anniversary, take home free travel size Davines products with any coloring service Aug 25-31. Services start at $85, 689 N. Milwaukee, kalasalon.com

Press refresh
Pick up your fall essentials and discover new designers at online-based boutique Clever Alice's pop-up shop Aug 28-Sept 1, and take up to 75 percent off looks from more than 40 labels, including Muuba, Anna Hovet and SNOA. 17 E. Pearson; Cleveralice.com

Leather jackets by Muuba will start at $595 and be on sale as low as $250 at Clever Alice's pop-up shop.

Retail revamp
Starting Aug. 30, step into Bloomingdale's newly renovated space at The 900 N. Michigan Shops. The store's first floor is packed with cosmetics, accessories, fine jewelry and handbags, and on levels two and three, you'll find men's and women's fashion — and a totally new shoe department, sprawled across 14,000 square feet. Bloomingsdales.com

Giuseppe Zanotti, $725 at Bloomingdale's.
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amazing factory, showing you everything there is to
see. Now, here are your instructions: on the seventh
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concoctions and the magnificent entertainment that
awaits...Until then, Willy Wonka.

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Prada: skirt
See by Chloé: sandal heels
Wildfox: Juliet-framed sunglasses
Chanel: flip bag
Kenneth Jay Lane: earrings

On Corri:
Opening Ceremony: mesh top
Prada: skirt
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Wildfox: Juliet-framed sunglasses
Chanel: flip bag
Kenneth Jay Lane: earrings

Coach: Bleecker pebbled leather A5 notebook, $168, 625 N. Michigan; Coach.com
“I still prefer putting pen to paper, and this notebook is the perfect size to toss in any bag. You never know when you’re going to come up with your next business idea.”

Bloom Theory: Washed Ashore camera strap, $130; Bloomtheorystraps.com
“Wearing this vintage strap not only looks pretty, but is much more convenient than a bulky strap when snapping pictures of my friends, family and my beloved Yorkies.”

Triple C Designs: portable iPhone battery, $32, Sofia, 100 E. Walton; Sofiaivelovely.com

Jeffrey Campbell: Everly boot, $195, Urban Outfitters, 20 S. State; Jeffreycampbellshoes.com
“Although I will miss the sunshine, fall is one of my favorite seasons because it means boots, boots and more boots. I love a black ankle boot because it goes with pants and dresses, short or long, day or night.”

Oscar de la Renta: embellished tunic, on auction Sept. 5-15 during eDrop-Off’s fashion vault sale, eDrop-Off, 2117 N. Halsted; Shopedropoff.com

Bloom Theory: Washed Ashore camera strap, $130; Bloomtheorystraps.com
“Wearing this vintage strap not only looks pretty, but is much more convenient than a bulky strap when snapping pictures of my friends, family and my beloved Yorkies.”

Brian Atwood: Juliet Party chain strap, $350, Bloomingdale’s, 900 N. Michigan; Brianatwood.com
“I always love having a backpack instead of a handled handbag, and I don’t think you can get any more chic than this one. It makes me want to run back to school.”

Oscar de la Renta: embellished tunic, on auction Sept. 5-15 during eDrop-Off’s fashion vault sale, eDrop-Off, 2117 N. Halsted; Shopedropoff.com

“Wearing this vintage strap not only looks pretty, but is much more convenient than a bulky strap when snapping pictures of my friends, family and my beloved Yorkies.”

Christian Louboutin: metallic python peep toe Lady Claude, currently on auction, eDrop-Off, 2117 N. Halsted; Shopedropoff.com
“This is ideal shoe to have in your closet this fall. You can never go wrong with a pair of Louboutins.”

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“This is ideal shoe to have in your closet this fall. You can never go wrong with a pair of Louboutins.”
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Lancer ‘Evo’ MR
a hot ride

BY ANDY MIKONIS
FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

While you can buy a Mitsubishi Lancer for half the price of the subject of this review, the Lancer Evolution MR is a purpose-built performance car. At its heart a 291-horsepower turbocharged four-cylinder and all-wheel drive, it comes from a line of World Rally Championship winners that only made it to U.S. showrooms by popular demand a few years ago. With the Evolution GSR, you get a five-speed manual transmission, while the Evolution MR comes with a six-speed dual-clutch transmission. This is an automatically operating transmission with internals similar to a manual. The two clutches are attached to two shafts driving every other gear. The next gear change is pre-staged for a very efficient shift. This type of transmission is becoming more prevalent for use in fuel-saving cars since there is less wasted engine motion, or in the case of the Lancer Evolution MR, for a fast-shifting high performance application.

The car has a relatively subtle appearance considering its performance potential. Some “Eves” have had rather large rear wings, but this one is small and tasteful. Meaty dual exhaust pipes sticking through a special rear diffuser are the other clues out back. BBS wheels carry Yokohama summer performance tires over Brembo brakes.

The interior has econobox roots, the very notable exception being Recaro sport seats. I got used to them quickly and appreciated the extra support in spirited driving. Instruments are easy to read, and the center display can be switched to indicate all-wheel drive function.

This car has a specific audience, one that will cheerfully accept some of the harsh qualities that are commensurate with its performance capabilities. For instance, it has the roughest ride of just about any car I have driven lately. However, I don’t think that’s going to bother anybody who buys the Evolution MR for its exceptional handling. Anti-lock braking and stability control systems work in concert with the all-wheel drive. It’s difficult to even get the tires to squeak at all. The system has three settings to optimize for conditions: tarmac, gravel, and snow. You will still need to acquire a set of dedicated winter tires for the latter, but when you do, the Evo will be able to go just about anywhere.

Manual gear selection is offered via the shifter on the console or metal paddles on the steering wheel. There seems to be little, if any, performance advantage to shifting yourself, as its sport mode felt sophisticated, holding upshifts while cornering, and downshifting when slowing down. The Brembo brakes were a welcome upgrade.
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MID CITY SUBARU USED CARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Dodge Stratus</td>
<td>$2,995</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Ford Explorer</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Honda Passport</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Ford Taurus</td>
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<td>Chrysler PT Cruiser</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Chrysler Town &amp; Country</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Nissan Sentra</td>
<td>$8,995</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Jeep Liberty Sport</td>
<td>$8,995</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Nissan Frontier</td>
<td>$8,995</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Infiniti Q</td>
<td>$8,995</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Nissan Altima</td>
<td>$9,995</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Dodge Avenger</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Honda Fit</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Infiniti Q</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Nissan Versa</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Mitsubishi Eclipse GS Spyder Convertible</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Chevrolet Tahoe LT</td>
<td>$10,995</td>
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<td>Toyota Corolla</td>
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<td>Nissan Altima</td>
<td>$12,995</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Honda Fit</td>
<td>$12,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Mitsubishi Eclipse GS Spyder Convertible</td>
<td>$13,995</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Offers to qualified buyers. Offers cannot be combined. *Plus tax, title, lic. & doc fee. ^$60 sec. dep. 10k mlyr, 15k mlyr over. You must qualify. 3) Up to 2 years of 24k mlyr whichever occurs first, from the original installation of the failed part due to normal use at no charge to the original customer. See dealer for details. 4) See dealer for details. 5) Must take delivery on new Subaru. Valid 6 years from original warranty start date. See dealer for details. Dealer will not honor errors in this ad. No prior sales. Pictures for illustration only. Offers end 09/02/13.
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2004 Dodge Neon automatic selling price $160

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2008 Ford E-150 Cargo van automatic selling price $570

2002 Mitsubishi Lancer automatic selling price $160

2004 Dodge Neon automatic selling price $160

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$99 per month for 36 mos.

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2013 **Honda CIVIC LX 4 DOOR**

Automatic, Model # FB2F5DEW, Stk # H29492

$119 per month for 36 mos.

Total due at lease inception $2,550. Plus 1st payment, tax, title, license and doc fee.

2013 **Honda ACCORD LX 4 DOOR**

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$158 per month for 36 mos.

Total due at lease inception $3,595. Plus 1st payment, tax, title, license and doc fee.

2013 **Honda CR-V LX**

All-Wheel Drive, Model # RM4H3DEW, Stk # H30321

$189 per month for 36 mos.

Total due at lease inception $3,298. Plus 1st payment, tax, title, license and doc fee.

+ Plus tax, title, license and doc fee. All rebates and incentives applied. Based on closed end leases. To qualified buyers with approved credit. 12,000 allowable miles per year, 15 cents per mile for each additional mile. ’13 Civic: Residual $12,050, ’13 Accord: Residual $13,729, ’13 CR-V: Residual $12,050, ’13 Pilot: Residual $17,892. Additional options extra. Lessee is responsible for excess wear/tear, maintenance and insurance. Subject to early termination penalty. Valid three days from publication.

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Female botanical artists broke barriers

BY DONALD LIBENSON
For Sun-Times Media

Visitors to "The Feminine Perspective: Women Artists and Illustrators," running through Nov. 10 at the Chicago Botanic Garden, may be enthralled by the exquisite, intimately-observed botanical illustrations, but in 2013, might not consider it a big deal that were all drawn by women.

But this rare book exhibit on view at the garden's Lenhardt Library in the Regenstein Center puts into historical perspective that in the 19th century, when these drawings were created, it was a huge deal.

"This exhibit shows how women came into their own as professional artists and illustrators," said library director Leora Siegel. "(At that time), women were encouraged to draw as a hobby, but not to pursue it professionally."

Some of the artists in the exhibition, Siegel added, paved the way for others to publish their works under their own names and not under a male pseudonym.

"The feature artist of the exhibition is Lady Harriet Ann Thistleton-Dyer, who in 1878 took over as the illustrator for the prestigious Curtis's Botanical Magazine, published by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (the periodical is still being published). "Her grandfather (developed) Kew Gardens, Kew (the periodical is still being published). "Her father took over, and then her husband served as the third director." But despite the connections, a woman as professional illustrator? "A bit of serendipity, combined with her skill and talent, positioned Lady Thistleton-Dyer to become one of the first widely-recognized women botanical illus-

in Illinois, and is being mounted to give these once unheralded artists their due.

The feature artist of the exhibition is Lady Harriet Ann Thistleton-Dyer, who in 1878 took over as the illustrator for the prestigious Curtis's Botanical Magazine, published by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (the periodical is still being published). "Her grandfather (developed) Kew Gardens from a royal garden into a botanic garden," Siegel said. "Her father took over, and then her husband served as the third director."

But despite the connections, a woman as professional illustrator? "A bit of serendipity, combined with her skill and talent, positioned Lady Thistleton-Dyer to become one of the first widely-recognized women botanical illustrators," Siegel said.

Also featured in the exhibition are works by an earlier British artist, Henrietta Maria Moriarty, a Frenchwoman Henriette Antoinette Vincent. Also on display will be samples of sketchbooks by American Helen Sharp as well as drawings by fellow countrywoman Ellen Robbins, whose watercolors of spring wildflowers, one contemporary is said to have noted, were "so natural that bees might light" on them.

"These illustrations are so life-like and delicate," Siegel agrees. "They are beautiful representations, but there is a science to them as well."

"The illustrations are so life-like and delicate," Siegel agrees. "They are beautiful representations, but there is a science to them as well."

Viewing the drawings, Siegel said, is not so much a question that one can tell whether a man or a woman created them. At the heart of the exhibit, she said, is the fact that "for so long women were not professionally accepted."

As a complement to the exhibition, Siegel will present a talk on these pioneering artists at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29. The talk will give visitors the opportunity to page through other of the library's treasures accessible on a table in the library's rare book reading room. "It's a different experience when you get to turn the pages and look at the details," Siegel said.

Another format in which these illustrations can be accessed is the Illinois Digital Archives (www.idaillinois.org) as part of the library's ongoing effort to digitize and preserve its centuries-old holdings, made possible by a $172,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

MIDWEST PREMIERE OF THE "MASTERPIECE" (N.Y. TIMES)
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE OTHER MARY
WITH ITS ORIGINAL STARS
THE NEW PASSION BY JOHN ADAMS
RAVINIA.ORG

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2013 | NIL
Forget the science of why the moon waxes and wanes. There's a far more appealing answer in "The Old Man and The Old Moon" by PigPen Theatre Co. Writers' Theatre is presenting the Midwest premiere of the play with music under the direction of Associate Artistic Director Stuart Carden.

"The Old Man and The Old Moon" is a totally original tale about a man whose job is collecting spilled light to refill the leaking moon. When his wife sets off on an adventure, he decides to follow her, abandoning his post. Folk music and puppetry are used to help tell the story.

The work was created by seven former classmates at Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama who bring a new meaning to the word "collaboration." They jointly wrote the story, music and lyrics. And all seven of them perform, sing and play instruments in the show.

Carden, who taught a class attended by the guys five years ago, during their sophomore year at Carnegie Mellon, brought the work to Writers. "It ended up being a very important class to us," PigPen ensemble member Dan Weschler said of that class with Carden. "It was at a time when we were just starting out as a company. He really gave us encouragement and drove home some of the lessons that are essential to our work now. His whole attitude toward life was very inspiring to us."

"I had been following their career — kind of from afar — until they were presenting this project, 'The Old Man and The Old Moon,' in New York and they said, 'We would love for you to come see it,' " Carden recalled. "I could tell they were hungry for an outside eye."

Carden and Writers' Artistic Director Michael Halberstam saw the show. "We both were blown away by it," Carden recalled. "They've created so many intricate, fascinating moments as they tell this story."

The PigPen Theatre Co. ensemble includes Alex Falberg, Ben Ferguson, Curtis Gillen, Ryan Melia, Matt Nuernberger, Arya Shahi and Dan Weschler.

Nuernberger, a Vernon Hills native whose parents now live in Mundelein, noted that "The Old Man and The Old Moon" evolved from a 20-minute piece they did their sophomore year of college. "It wasn't really a story," he said. "It was more exploring the themes that are still in the show. This is the fourth time we've done the show and every time it's gotten a little bit bigger and the text has gotten a little bit longer."

Nuernberger plays the narrator. "He is the first mate on the ship that the Old Man boards," Nuernberger said. "He's this great storyteller and all the other characters in the show are always egging him on to tell another story."

During the show, Nuernberger plays guitar and piano. "I think we use the music in a different way than traditional musical theater," he posited. "We try to use the music as a soundtrack in the way that a movie would."

Likewise, Nuernberger added, "We use shadow puppetry to create a cinematic experience in some ways." That includes having a puppet climb a mountain.

Director Carden is convinced that "The Old Man and The Old Moon" is the right show for Writers' Theatre. "It fits interestingly in our season," he explained. "We have some hefty, meaty classics. To have a piece that is new and driven by music, and has a visual dimension that is quite fresh, is going to be a nice mix for our season."
Classes that go for a song

BY MYRNA PETLICK
For Sun-Times Media

Bookwriters, lyricists and composers will find individual workshops tailored just for them in Midwest New Musicals’ fall term. Three new course offerings complement the Core Curriculum program that focuses on musical theater collaboration.

“These are focused, intensive experiences for people who either want to brush up their skills or for people who are new to the form and don’t have the time to put into the Core Curriculum,” said John Sparks, workshop director.


The Writing Theater Lyrics Tutorial will also be 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays, but from Sept. 9-Oct. 22. Leader Larry Todd Johnson is an associate artist with Midwest New Musicals. He wrote book and lyrics for the award-winning musical, “40 is the New 15.” His other musical theater projects include “Larry and Cindy,” “All That He Was,” “Beautiful,” “Now and Then a Hero” and “The Last Princess.”

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John Sparks, workshop director of Midwest New Musicals, with pianist Alex Newkirk.

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Light Opera Works Rehearsal Center, 516 4th St., Wilmette
Beginning in September
(847) 920-5360 or jsparks@lightopera-works.org; light-opera-works.org

Date a Coloratura” was a finalist in the 2013 National Opera Association Chamber Opera competition. He has also written operas for young audiences, including “Stone Soup,” “A Noteworthy Tale” and African Stories,” plus musicals and concert works.

The class is designed for “any composers who are coming to writing for music theater for the first time — or relatively new,” Seward said. “Music theater is its own kind of composition.” Writing for voices is different than writing orchestral works, he added.

Workshop participants will learn about different aspects of writing for musical theater, how voices are used in theater, how to set lyrics to music, how to develop musical accompaniments and how to prepare a score for rehearsal.

“There’s a lot going on in the course,” Seward admitted.

The Core Curriculum course meets one weekend each month, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Sept. 7-June 22. John Sparks leads this program. “Some of these people might simultaneously be taking some of these focused workshops,” he said. The Core Curriculum workshop includes scene and songwriting assignments, and culminates in a public performance of a Mini-Musicals Project.

Sparks said that the No. 1 goal of Midwest New Musicals is “to keep the craft alive.”
Families will cook dinner and breakfast over a fire during the Wíldwood Nature Center's Backyard Campout.

Set up camp at Wildwood Nature Center

MYRNA PETLICKI
For Sun-Times Media

Your family can enjoy an overnight outdoor adventure close to home at the Backyard Campout, 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13, through 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at the Wildwood Nature Center, 529 Forestview Ave., Park Ridge.

"They bring their own tents and bedding and we provide a campfire dinner," said nature center supervisor Jennifer Clauson. "It's usually something easy to cook, like hot dogs and brats. We also do some things that people might not have done before, like using the hobo pie-makers to make grilled cheese or pizza pockets."

After dinner, families can explore on their own or borrow fishing poles and go fishing.

"As it gets dark, we show a kid-friendly movie," Clauson said. "In the morning we wake up with coffee for the grownups and some simple things to cook for breakfast over the campfire."

The resident cost is $10 for ages 2-10 and $14 for ages 11 and up; $18 and $24 for nonresidents.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2500, or go to www.skokieparks.org/emily-oaks-nature-center.

EASY BEING GREEN — FOR HALLOWEEN

Kids and adults are invited to bring their old Halloween costumes to the Green Halloween Costume Drop Off, all day Tuesday, Sept. 3, at Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. That way somebody else can use them.

For details, call (708) 867-7828 or go to www.eisenhowerlibrary.org.

CALMING INFLUENCE

Kids will learn how to avoid temper tantrums during the Friday Storytime at 7 p.m. Aug. 30 at the Village Crossing Shopping Center Barnes & Noble, 5405 Touhy Ave., Skokie. They will hear No Fits, Nilson! by Zachariah Ohora, and learn how Nilson and his friend Amelia help each other when they are having a bad day.

For details, call (847) 329-8460 or go to www.barnesandnoble.com.

CAR-FREE TRAVEL

Whether you and your kids walk, bike or skateboard, you'll have a great time at Shared Streets Evanston, noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 1, at Dempster Street between Elmwood Street and Chicago Avenue. No motorized traffic will be allowed on these streets, and there will be more than a dozen activities and performances.

For details, go to www.sharedstreetsevanston.com.

For details, call (847) 692-3570 or go to www.prparks.org.

PEACE OUT

Spend a peaceful hour with your kids at Outdoor Family Yoga, 1-2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7 or Sept. 21, at the Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. You will move, stretch and have fun in the beautiful natural setting. Bring mats or blankets. The cost is $6 per person for residents, $8 for nonresidents.

For details, call (847) 692-3570 or go to www.prparks.org.
Canning a great way to enjoy local bounty year-round

As our long, warm days wind toward an autumn respite, the chattering of school-bound children marks the transition from summer. They’ve begun a new year and I a new season.

In these early hours, the morning heat has dissipated and I find myself meandering slowly to our garden, waving to families as they pass, savoring these in-between days. Homemade iced coffee is a welcome companion as I survey the bounty to be collected. It’s a joyous occasion, really, as the harvest bears more than I can carry in the makeshift basket of my skirt: zucchini and kale, tomatoes and broccoli, bouquets of herbs to be tied, hung and dried for tea to sip during the bleak winter months.

Our chickens peck around beside me, nibbling enthusiastically on any imperfect produce I toss to them from the garden. As a city dweller, I grow a modest amount of vegetables in the raised beds fashioned on our lot and edibles around the perimeter. The bounty is rarely enough to preserve in any great quantity so I rely on the overabundance of my mom’s prolific crops a few hours away, a friend’s farm when they’ve filled their larder, and an annual visit to our neighborhood farmers market for flats of berries that will line our shelves as jam.

Canning has become my meditation as well as my means to preserve local, organic food for consumption year-round while retaining as much of the nutritional value as possible. In my experience, canning jam is the perfect activity for beginning food preservationists as it is simple, straightforward and delicious.

Today, I would like to share my go-to recipe for jam sans pectin from Ball Blue Book: Guide to Preserving. I recommend that anyone interested in canning pick up a copy of this book and educate yourself on the process of canning prior to getting started in order to do so correctly and safely.

**Materials Needed:**
- Canning jars, half-pint-sized (must be tempered glass to withstand heat)
- Metal lids (do not reuse lids)
- Metal rings
- Stock pots
- Large spoon
- Small rubber spatula
- Damp, clean washcloth

Optional:
- Jar lifter
- Canning funnel
- Metal canning rack
- Ladle

**Berry Jam (yields about 3 pints)**
- 9 cups crushed berries
- 6 cups sugar

Combine berries and sugar in a large sauce pot. Stir frequently over medium heat until sugar dissolves and jam reaches boiling. Continue to stir frequently to prevent sticking. (I put my berries in whole and allow them to cook down, using an immersion blender halfway through the process.) Jam will thicken to gelling point. Test readiness by dipping a metal spoon into jam and allowing it to drop off onto a dish. The jam is ready when it is thick enough to drop off the spoon in a sheet rather than as a liquid or in droplets.

Set up stock pot for water bath canning by placing canning jars in pot and bringing the water to boil. Maintain boil. It is imperative to can jam in hot, sanitized jars to avoid breakage or bacteria. When jam is ready to can, ladle hot jam into hot jars, leaving 1/4-inch space at the top. Wipe glass rim with a clean washcloth, add metal lid, and screw on metal ring. Submerge the jars in boiling water for 15 minutes. Remove jars, allow to cool completely, and then store in a cool, dry place out of direct sunlight.
GO CALENDAR
BY WHAPPERS.COM NEWS SERVICE

THURSDAY, AUG. 29
The Second City: Happily Ever Laughter
7:30 p.m.: The legendary troupe tackles current events and the modern American condition in this send-up. Visit www.metropolisarts.com for a complete schedule, but shows run most Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights through Sept. 14. Metropolitan Performing Arts Centre, III W. Campbell St., Arlington Heights. Call 847-577-5982. $25.50.

John Roy
8 p.m.: Roy has been on The Tonight Show, Conan and the Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson. Shows at 8 p.m. Aug. 29-31 and 10:30 p.m. Aug. 30-31. Two drink minimum. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont. $20.

FRIDAY, AUG. 30
Jazz Meets Blues Summertime Set
7 p.m.: Back by popular demand, Fleetwood-Jourdan Theatre is holding a smokin' blues concert in which Marlene Rosenbaum and Chasian Dupont will perform. Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Call 847-448-2722. $20; $15 members.

Alabama
8 p.m.: This group is on its 40th anniversary tour, "Back to the Bowery." Gates open at 5 p.m. Pavilion at Ravinia Festival Grounds, 400 Iris Lane, Highland Park. $33-$100.

Young at Heart
8 p.m.: Ballroom dancing for all ages every Friday. For more information, visit www.ballroomchicago.com/youngatheartclub.htm. American Legion Post 974, 9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park. $10; $6 members.

The Bad Sneakers Orchestra
8:30 p.m.: A rock performance. Fitzgerald's Nightclub, 6615 Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn. For more information, call 708-788-2188. $15.

30th Annual Dog Show
11 a.m.: All amateur Buffalo Grove dog shows can enter events such as best-groomed, celebrity look-alikes, best couple (dog and owner), best trick, best behaved and best costume. Prices and raffles are included. Willow Stream Park South, 651 Old Chester Road, Buffalo Grove.

Dave Rudolf's Beach Party
1 p.m.: Take a musical cruise through Reggae, Soca, Caribbean, Latin and Calypso music styles from Grammy-nominated and Gold Record artist Dave Rudolf. Aquatic Center, 2 Conti Parkway, Elmwood Park.

Garden Chef Series
1:30 p.m.: Noted chefs prepare recipes in the Regenstein Fruit & Vegetable Garden's open-air amphitheater at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Cien Cid of Sullivan's Steakhouse will give a free demonstration in this installment. Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. Call 847-835-5440.

Submit Your Event
To submit an event for consideration in print, visit www.pioneerlocal.com/submit-content and click the "Events" tab on the left side of the screen. Please submit the event no later than 10 days prior to the desired publication date.

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 4
Flower Arranging
2 p.m.: Create beauty with this stress-relieving activity. All supplies included. Mather's, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. For more information, please call 773-774-4804. $15 suggested donation.

Northwest Chicago Film Society: 'One Hour With You'
7:30 p.m.: A 1932 musical film about a married couple who finds themselves attracted to other people. 80 minutes. Patio Theatre, 6008 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. $5.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 5
Morning Matinee: 'What Maisie Knew'
10:30 a.m.: A young girl is caught in the middle of her parents' bitter custody battle in this 2012 drama. Stars Julianne Moore and Steve Coogan. The film's runtime is 99 minutes. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood. For more information, call 847-677-5277.

Classic Film Series: 'The Killing Fields'
I p.m.: A 1984 British drama about the Khmer Rouge area of Cambodia. 114 minutes. Film scholar Ralph Amelia leads a discussion following the film. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. For more information, call the library at 708-867-7828.

CINEMATIC CLASSICS: 'His Girl Friday'
I p.m.: A newspaper editor (Grant) uses every trick in the book to keep his ace reporter ex-wife (Rosalind Russell) from remarrying. 92 minutes. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood. Call 847-677-5277.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 6
Film: 'Olympus Has Fallen'
I p.m.: A disgraced former presidential guard (Gerard Butler) finds himself trapped inside the White House in the wake of a terrorist attack. Using his inside knowledge, he works with national security to rescue the President from his kidnappers. 120 minutes. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood. For more information, call 847-677-5277.

GlenVIEWings: 'Quarter'
4 p.m.: This 2012 film is based on a 1999 British play and it's Dustin Hoffman's directorial debut. 96 minutes. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview.

Movie in the Park: 'Hotel Transylvania'
7 p.m.: A 2012 animated film about a five-star hotel built by Dracula in his native Transylvania. 92 minutes. Please bring a blanket, pillow or lawn chair for seating. Harrer Park, 6250 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove.

Swing 'n Country Social Dance
7:30 p.m.: Social dancing; no partner required. Arrive at 7:30 p.m. for a dance lesson. Centre at North Park, 10040 W. Addison Ave., Franklin Park. For more information, call 630-841-8654. First time free; nonmember $10.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 7
Moovin' and Groovin'
10 a.m.: An active class for ages 2-4 with a parent or caregiver, featuring music, dancing and more. Registration required. Morton Grove Public Library, 6410 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

Antiques Appraisal Fair
10 a.m.: Appraisers Daniel Buck Souls and Alison Neumann will be on hand to give advice on the market value of your valued family heirlooms. There is a limit of five items. The plaza recommends making a $10 donation to Les Turner ALS Foundation for each item you have appraised. Plaza Del Lago, 1615 Sheridan Road, Wilmette.

Lincoln Park and Recreation Touch-A-Truck
11 a.m.: Sit in the driver's seat of fire trucks, police cars and other equipment. Children and parents are encouraged to explore and learn how these big rigs play.

SEE CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE »
Silver Screen Series: ‘Meet Me in St. Louis’
2 p.m.: A 1944 film that tells the story of the year before the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair, in which the four Smith daughters learn lessons of life and love, even as they prepare for a reluctant move to New York. The film stars Judy Garland and Margaret O’Brien. 110 minutes; not rated. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Free.

Jonathan Butler
6:30 p.m.: A contemporary jazz vocalist with live entertainment, food and drinks and more. A parade will be held at 2 p.m. Sept. 7. The opening ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. Sept. 6. The festival will take place at Patio Theatre, 6008 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. $5.

Friday, Sept. 13
Kids Flicks: ‘Teen Beach Movie’
4 p.m.: Teen surfing sweethearts are transported from the present day into a 1960s beach party movie. 110 minutes. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. For more information, call 847-965-4220. Free.

Saturday, Sept. 14
Film: ‘Sense & Sensibility’
1 p.m.: In celebration of the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice, MGPL is sponsoring a Jane Austen Festival with programs throughout September and October. 136 minutes. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220. Free.

Jon Reep
7 p.m.: Reep is a winner of the NBC show “Last Comic Standing” and is also known for his appearances in the “That Thing Got a Hemi?” Dodge commercials. Another show is scheduled for 9:30 p.m. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont. For more information, call 847-813-0484. $25. There is a two-drink or two-food item minimum.

Movie in the Park: ‘Wreck-It Ralph’
8:30 p.m.: This 2012 animated film tells the story of a video game villain who wants to become a hero. John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman, Jane Lynch and Jack McBrayer star. 108 minutes. Kennedy Park, 4001 Scott St., Schiller Park.

Sunday, Sept. 15
Concert: Potts and Pans Steel Band
2 p.m.: Matt Potts and his band of drummers showcase the many facets of the steel pan (steel drum) in this entertaining and educational musical event. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. For more information, call the library at 847-965-4220. Free.

Tuesday, Sept. 17
Film: ‘A Late Quartet’
11:30 a.m.: After 25 years together, the members of a world-renowned string quartet learn that their beloved cellist may soon be forced to retire. 105 minutes. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. For more information, call the library at 847-965-4220. Free.
MOVIE REVIEW

Eric Bana and Rebecca Hall in "Closed Circuit."

‘Closed Circuit’ signals fall movie season is here

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

After a summer's worth of superhero epics, apocalyptic comedies and other sorts of bombastic action extravaganzas, it's easy to forget that smart, subtle films like "Closed Circuit" are still a possibility.

We don't get to see or hear the massive explosion that opens the movie — only the tense moments leading up to it. Mainly because this isn't a movie about stuff getting blown up. It's a movie about the dramatic complications that follow.

Written by Steven Knight, who also wrote Stephen Frears' 2002 "Dirty Pretty Things" as well as David Cronenberg's 2007 "Eastern Promises," "Closed Circuit" is a complex courtroom/political thriller involving a little-known feature of the British judicial system that occurs in trials where national security is at stake. In such cases, the government has the right to withhold prosecution evidence from defendants and defense attorneys, after appointing a special advocate who has the right to hear the evidence and argue whether or not it should be presented in open court.

Martin Rose and Claudia Simmons-Howe (Eric Bana and Rebecca Hall, both quite good) have been appointed to serve as defense attorney and special advocate, respectively, in the trial of accused terrorist Faroukh Erdogan (Deniz Moschito) after a truck bombing that kills 120 people in a London marketplace. The trouble is that Martin and Claudia are former lovers, a fact that should have disqualified them — as part of the rule forbidding communication between the special guardian and the defense team after the secret evidence is revealed. Despite the fact that their current relationship is hostile, at least on the surface.

Neither is willing to give up the chance to be part of the high-profile murder case in British history, however, so they lie under oath, a fact that will end their careers if it's discovered.

So, the situation is tense from the beginning and it quickly becomes more so when the cynical, doggedly determined Martin uncovers evidence in the case suggesting a major government cover-up. Evidence that could end not just their careers but their lives if they don't allow it to be suppressed.

Intelligent, increasingly suspenseful and full of bitter plot twists (as well as intriguing secondary characters), this is one of those films where few of the characters are likable, but just about everyone is interesting enough to make that irrelevant. And just about everyone stands an equal chance of being killed at any given moment.

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Forest Whitaker stars in "The Butler."

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Aries (March 21 to April 19) With your Arian charm quotient at an almost all-time high this week, plus all the facts to back you up, you just might win over the last doubters to your proposal.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) You might be in line for that job change you applied for. But be advised that you could be called on to defend your qualifications against other applicants.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) Creating a new approach to an old idea is one way to get beyond that workplace impasse. No such problems in your personal life, where things flow smoothly.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22) Be more forthcoming about your feelings concerning a proposed change either in your workplace or in your personal life. Your opinions are valuable.

Leo (July 23 to August 22) A changing situation in your life needs more patience than you appear to be willing to offer. Allowing it to develop at its own pace is the wisest course you can take.

Virgo (August 23 to September 22) With more stability in your life — on both personal and professional levels — it could be a good time to strengthen relationships.

Libra (September 23 to October 22) People have always relied on your integrity not only to get the job done, but to get it done right. So don’t be pressured by anyone into cutting corners.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 21) While others might get rattled over unexpected changes, your ability to adapt calmly and competently helps you make a positive impression.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21) A changing environment might be daunting for some, but the Sagittarian takes it in stride. A friend from the past could awaken some memories.

Capricorn (December 22 to January 19) With your self-assurance rising to full strength, the bold Goat should feel confident about opening up to new ventures as well as new relationships.

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18) Reaching out to someone who has been unkind to you might not be easy. But in the long run it will prove to have been the right thing to do.

Pisces (February 19 to March 20) Your keen insight once again helps you work through a seemingly insoluble problem in your workplace. The weekend offers a chance to develop new relationships.
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Roger Basrak's 1966 Ford Mustang
By Kevin Griffin - kevin.griffin@wrapports.com

The biggest thrill that Roger Basrak ever had with his 1966 Ford Mustang came about a year ago when he got to see whether or not his hard work on the car had paid off. During a Chicago Vintage Mustang Club party, at the Autobahn Country Club in Joliet, Basrak was able to take his car for a few laps around the racetrack where the engine hummed and pushed top speed.

"It was really fun to see it go," Basrak recalls.

It has been 6 years of hard work for Basrak since purchasing the Mustang. All the improvements he has made to it have been in the spirit of making the car safer and more reliable. Those changes have included installing disc brakes, a 4-piston caliber, power brakes and steering, as well as changing the brake and fuel lines to stainless steel. The Autobahn in Joliet is the furthest trip Basrak has made with the car but he hopes to soon take it a bit further.

Nathan Buckler's 1975 Triumph TR6
By Joshua Beckman - joshua.beckman@wrapports.com

Nathan Buckler, a junior at Lyons Township and La Grange native, inherited his 1975 Triumph TR6 when his father died 10 years ago. He loves the car as much as his father did, when he bought it during college.

"As much as I can, I'm keeping it stock," says Buckler. "I've replaced quite a few of the old parts that required it, but they don't make the parts for this car anymore, so I have a hard time finding other parts that are cheaper and that I can retrofit to this car. I don't want to spend $500 on something that would be cheap on today's cars."

"I drive it everywhere I can. I would drive it to school if I had a parking spot! I once drove it to Long Beach in Indiana - over an hour - which was a little tricky. I had to pull over a couple times to let it cool off, but I hope to fix that this summer with new carburetors."

Buckler named the car 'Zarah,' after hearing a British friend of his repeatedly mispronounce the name Sarah. "This car is British, so I thought I would give it a British accent in the name," said Buckler.

"When I'm older, I might have to sell it, depending on how big my garage is!"
Used cars make up 60 percent of sales

In May, Niles residents chose Toyota more often than any other make when purchasing new vehicles and opted for Honda over all other makes when buying used.

All told, new car sales accounted for 40 percent of overall auto sales to residents of Niles, totaling 118 of the 296 overall auto sales in the month. Following Toyota as the most popular brands bought new by residents in May were Honda and Chevrolet. Residents of Niles bought 27 new Toyota vehicles in the month as well as 18 new Honda cars and 10 new Chevrolet vehicles.

Used car sales brought in 60 percent of overall auto sales, bringing in 178 of the 296 overall car sales. Honda was the most popular used auto brand, totaling 23 sales. Ford and Toyota came in second and third, respectively, in the used car sales category, with 22 and 21 sales.

Over the course of May, 64 percent of purchases by Niles residents came through a local dealer, while 36 percent were private party transactions. The 64 percent originating from auto dealerships translated to 190 total dealer sales in the month.

Star Nissan led the way with six sales of used cars to Niles residents in May, trailed by Carmax Auto Superstores (four sales) and Bredemann Toyota (three). The three most popular dealers of new cars to Niles residents in the month were Bredemann Toyota with 11 sales, O'Hare Hyundai (nine sales) and Star Nissan (eight).
Sports fans in the United States can get pretty worked up, but soccer fans overseas can be downright crazy. In the spring of 2013, furious supporters of the Austrian team Rapid Wien blocked off the franchise offices and hung a photo of the general manager with the caption, "I'm not allowed in." In Greece, a game between Panathinaikos and AEK Athens was stopped early when AEK backers came out of the stands and chased their team's players off the field after they surrendered a late-game goal.

San Diego Padres rookie catcher Yasmani Grandal made major league history in his very first game after being called up in June of 2013. He flew out his first time at bat, but blasted a home run his second time up. Grandal, a switch-hitter, cracked his first homer hitting righty. In his next at bat, he homered again, this time from the left side. Grandal thus became the sixth player in the last 40 years to hit two home runs in his first game, but the first ever whose initial two hits were homers from opposite sides of the plate.

Greatest college football coach of all time? How about Larry Keehes? Who? Keehes coached at Division III Mount Union in Ohio for 27 years. Along the way, he compiled an astounding 332-24-3 record, with 21 undefeated regular seasons and 11 Division III national titles — in 1993, '96, '97, '98, 2000, '01, '02, '05, '06, '08 and '12. Keehes stepped down after the 2012 season and his son, Yincas, took over as coach of the Purple Raiders, following in his father's footsteps but with some mighty big shoes to fill.
SPLASH

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2012 record: 4-5 overall, 2-3 CSL North
2012 playoffs: Lost in first round of Class 4A to Palatine
Last playoff appearance: 1992
Head coach: Mark Egofske, entering his second year
Game to watch: Niles West at Niles North, 1 p.m. Sept. 7.

The schools call this the Skokie Skirmish as the neighborhood rivals vie for supremacy and Niles North tries to avenge last year's 30-21 loss.

Who made the most of the offseason?
"(Julian Garrett) increased his strength and speed over the offseason," Vikings coach Mark Egofske said of the junior running back and defensive back. "He worked hard and really picked up his football speed." Niles North is aiming to have an improved passing game and a big season by Garrett could allow the aerial attack to flourish.

Who will be a difference maker this season?
"Nick is a tremendous student-athlete. He's not fast, but he's very agile. He was an all-conference player last year." Johnson is in line to be one of the top running backs in the CSL South, but he might be even better on the defensive side of the ball.

What adjustments did the program make during the offseason?
"Our spread offense is tailored to the kids. Every year we fine tune to get better," Egofske said. The hope is that the deeper playbook will keep defenses guessing, allowing for big plays.

Mark Perlman

What I did over my summer vacation...
VINCENT RODRIGUEZ
My mother got a promotion for her job and the ceremony was in Baltimore, so I went out with my sister to support her. We went to the Orioles and Red Sox game. We went to the aquarium and they had a wide selection of species.

Rodriguez is a senior linebacker and running back

MARK PERLMAN

Who will be the difference maker this season?
"JJ has the speed, ability and great football instincts. He's got ability on both sides of the ball," Egofske said. Myles also knows how to make clutch plays in big games: He helped lead the Vikings to the Class 4A boys basketball sectional finals in the winter.

2013 SCHEDULE
Aug. 30 Amundsen 7 p.m.
Sept. 7 Niles West 1 p.m.
Sept. 12 New Trier 7 p.m.
Sept. 19 at Glenbrook South 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 27 at Maine West 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 4 at Maine East 11 a.m.
Oct. 11 Glenbrook North 7 p.m.
Oct. 18 at Highland Park 7 p.m.
Oct. 25 at Deerfield 730 p.m.

2013 FOOTBALL PREVIEW
NILES WEST WOLVES

2012 record: 5-5 overall, 1-4 CSL South
2012 playoffs: Lost in first round of Class 8A to Palatine
Head coach: Scott Baum, entering his fourth year
Game to watch: Niles West at Niles North, 1 p.m. Sept. 7.
This contest between the Skokie rivals, which Niles West won 30-21 last year, is always marked on the calendar for bragging rights.

Who made the most of the offseason?
"Tommy (Galanopoulos) spent a lot of quality time in the weight room," Wolves coach Scott Baum said of his junior quarterback. "He's grown a little and he's stronger." For Galanopoulos to have a big season, he'll likely need an assist from senior center Louis Reinemann. He was a guard last year, but Reinemann "stepped up" because Niles West didn't have anyone in line to play center, senior offensive and defensive tackle Dennis Gargovic said.

What adjustments did the program make during the offseason?
"The kids are grasping more of what we put in last year for our offense," Baum said. "We've expanded the plays and are polishing things up."

The Wolves were an explosive team last year and had several big plays. Opening up the playbook could continue that trend. "We have a couple of new things that we're doing to keep the defenses off balance," senior running back and defensive back Nick Johnson said. "We don't want to give them the same looks that we did last year."

Who will be a difference maker this season?
"We're going to go as (Johnson) goes," Baum said. "Nick is a tremendous student-athlete. He's not fast, but he's very agile. He was an all-conference player last year." Johnson is in line to be one of the top running backs in the CSL South, but he might be even better on the defensive side of the ball.

Mark Perlman

What I did over my summer vacation...
ANDY LOATHAVEERUNGSAWAD
I went to Thailand because my uncle was sick. He was diagnosed with liver cancer a couple of months ago. I was mostly in the hospital with him. I didn't do very much, but I managed to go fishing. I didn't get to lift at all, so when I got back I was really out of shape. — Loathaveerungsawad is junior lineman on both sides of the ball whose parents are from Bangkok, Thailand
Who will be a difference maker this season?

Red to make big changes.

Game to watch: Prairie Ridge at Notre Dame.

Coach Mike Hennessey

2013 FOOTBALL PREVIEW

MAINE EAST BLUE DEMONS

2012 record: 3-6 overall, 1-4 CSL North
2012 playoffs: Did not qualify
Last playoff appearance: 1978
Head coach: Gabe Corey, entering fifth season in second stint with the team
Game to watch: Maine East at Maine South, 7 p.m. Sept. 20.
The Blue Demons are confident they can make a run this season, and what better way to prove it than against one of the area's top programs.

Who made the most of the offseason?

Senior quarterback Alex Corey is excited about the progress of senior fullback Javed Lukovic and the possibilities for the offense this season. "He's changed his body a lot since last year," Corey said.

Last year he wasn't so much a running back. He really slimmed down and put on muscle. There's a huge difference seeing him run the ball now.

Last year, defenders would get down low and pull him down by his ankles, but he's just running over people now."

What adjustments did the program make during the offseason?

The Blue Demons have added two new coaches to its staff in Scott Smith and Dante Warren. Smith is working with the offensive line and defensive coordinator, while Warren is coaching receivers and defensive backs.

Who took the best trip during summer vacation?

Alex Corey went to several college camps as he tries to improve his recruiting potential. Alex Corey said he's trying to catch a team's eye after not getting much attention from recruiters as a junior.

Who will be a difference maker this season?

Senior tailback Christian Lopez said it always comes down to the quarterback at Maine East, and he believes the Blue Demons have a good one in Alex Corey, who will be starting his second season under center. "He likes to give it everything he's got, and he expects everyone else to do the same," Lopez said. "He's got high expectations for us, and I think we all want to meet them."

"He just is able to change games," senior defensive back Tom Simon said. "He's an all-state player and obviously great to have around."

What I did over my summer vacation... Dan Proano

I lifted and got in shape for the season. I was just trying to get prepared mentally and physically.

What I did over my summer vacation... Javed Lukovic

There was no vacation whatsoever. Strictly football and getting ready for the season. A couple of us went to college camps. There were six or seven that went to college camps and tried to up our games.

2012 SCHEDULE

Aug. 30 at Bartlett 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 7 Prairie Ridge 6 p.m.
Sept. 13 at Normal Community 7 p.m.
Sept. 20 Marian Catholic 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 27 at St. Viator 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 5 Nazareth 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 11 Marist 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 18 at Joliet Catholic 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 25 Carmel 7:30 p.m.
The hunt for a college scholarship

Players traverse the country to attend showcase camps over the summer

BY MATT HARNESS

In June, Matt Mrazek was at the Chicagoland Showcase at Northwestern, one of eight college showcase camps the Lyons football player attended this summer.

At the time, Mrazek didn't have a single college offer. Mrazek's measurements — he stands 6-foot-4, weighs 198 pounds and ran the 40-yard dash in 4.65 seconds — were good, but they weren't enough to separate him from the hundreds of other prospects in Evanston.

It wasn't until the one-on-one drills that the Lions wide receiver finally believed he could show off his skills to some of the college coaches in attendance. All he wanted was to play football in front of them.

"That was my chance," said Mrazek, who recently gave his verbal commitment to Lafayette.

The isolation exercises were a way to determine if a receiver could beat his opponent with good technique at the line, crisp routes and good hands.

Working with the tight ends in the middle of the field, Mrazek primarily ran seam routes, quick slants, outs and posts. He got open against the linebackers and caught passes on a regular basis. Even though Mrazek didn't get a chance to show his vertical leap of more than 30 inches on a jump ball, coaches were still impressed.

On a recommendation from Northwestern assistant coach Bob Heffner, Lafayette assistant coach Ian Dell was paying close attention to Mrazek. Dell wasted no time and offered Mrazek a scholarship to suit up for the Leopards later that day. Lafayette, located in Easton, Pa., is an FCS program that plays in the Patriot League.

Mrazek also received an offer from Eastern Illinois and a lot of interest from Colgate thanks to the Chicagoland Showcase.

"I was flying under the radar," said Mrazek, who recently gave his verbal commitment to Lafayette.

"I got some playing time my first two years, but I didn't light it up or anything. I didn't have as much exposure as I would have liked. I came in to this offseason still as an unknown.

"So, these camps were absolutely huge for me."

Highland Park senior Jason Goldsmith attended multiple college camps, but he is still looking for that elusive college scholarship following the summer circuit.

"For me, it was good for the colleges to see me in person," said Goldsmith, a 6-2, 215-pound linebacker. "It was good to meet the coaches face to face. Now, when I send them some highlight film, they know who I am."

Goldsmith logged thousands of miles in his journey to 10 camps across the country, including stops at Illinois State and Eastern Illinois, two programs that Highland Park coach Hal Chiodo said he believes are good fits for the three-year starter.

"I went everywhere I could," said Goldsmith, who also went to camps at Northwestern, Northern Illinois, Illinois and Purdue.

If nothing else, Loyola's Jack Gleason, a 5-10, 185-pound defensive back with 4.5 speed, said the camps provided him with some new tricks. He said he plans to employ at least one new technique he picked up at Illinois.

Gleason used to keep his feet on the ground and then react once the receiver left the line. It sometimes allowed the receiver to beat him down field. At Illinois he learned to hop back immediately when the ball is snapped. Gleason said it puts him in a better position to react to the receiver.

"It's something so simple, but it makes a big difference," said Gleason, a two-year starter who expects to see time at both cornerback and strong safety for the Ramblers.

Gleason said his best camp was at Western Michigan. There, he displayed his skills as a lockdown corner.

"I was feeling things out at all of the other camps," said Gleason, who performed at five, including one at Air Force. "But at Western Michigan, no one caught a ball against me. It was much better than all of the other ones."

In spite of his standout coverage, Gleason concluded the summer showcase season without a scholarship offer.

Meanwhile, Goldsmith also was absorbing as much information as he could in an effort to be a better player this fall. One area he said he was happy to receive instruction in was the pass rush.

"I learned some different techniques," he said. "Some of them I had never heard of before."

Goldsmith learned the bull rush — after a low, quick bull rush, the pass rusher pulls, or jerks, the offensive lineman down and moves around him — and the rip — often employed when rushing off the edge, the defensive player swings his inside arm up and underneath the offensive lineman's arm pit in an up-perc motion — among others.

Goldsmith said he plans on compiling some tape from the first few games this season to send out to the college coaches he met this summer.

Although Gleason and Goldsmith didn't come away with any offers like Mrazek, the showcase camps could still prove to be the launching pads for their college careers.

"These camps are just a great way to network," Mrazek said.
BY MATT HARNESS
mharness@pioneerlocal.com, @hamesspreps

A few of Ryan Chancellor's friends on the Oak Park-River Forest football team tried to persuade him to go to Core 6, a Deerfield training facility for football players, during the offseason.

Chancellor declined the invitation because of the cost and his desire to work out with as many of his high school teammates as possible.

But Chancellor, a 6-foot-3, 180-pound senior wide receiver who aspires to play in college, said he believes he can complete all of the necessary strength training and conditioning on the high school's campus.

During the break between the summer contact days that ended in late July and the start of preseason practice on Aug. 14, Chancellor and the other four team captains — seniors Andre Lee, Emonte Logan, Michael Hayden and Josh Hale — organized workouts three days a week at the school's football field.

Chancellor said as many as 15 players showed up any given day for the voluntary sessions.

"You have to be self-motivated if you do it this way," Chancellor said. "I just don't think it's worth extra money to have someone push you."

Oak Park-River Forest coach John Hoerster also downplayed the need for private training and instruction.

"Places like Core 6 do a brilliant job of marketing and selling you on what you do at your high school isn't enough," Hoerster said.

One of the drills the OPRF coaches prescribed for their players involved use of the Prowler, a weight sled that has a pair of vertical bars resembling field goal posts. The Prowler can be pushed or pulled.

The Prowler often was loaded with two 45-pound plates and pushed by one player a total of 40 yards. Chancellor said the workouts also included flipping tractor-size tires up and down the field a total of 20 times.

Stevenson senior Corey Edidin also subscribes to the idea of staying on school grounds.

"I honestly believe I get a lot done with my teammates there," said Edidin, who doesn't plan on playing football in college. "We always were texting each other and hounding each other to make sure we got our workouts in at the school. It was a great place to meet and a great way to keep each other active during the downtime."

Edidin said he and the other linemen would usually concentrate on improving and refining techniques, especially their footwork.

"We would set up a progression and go through our steps," he said. "We would get into a right stance and work on making that first right step. We then would move on to pass steps. It was all about footwork."

"Once we (were) able to start hitting each other, the last thing I want to worry about is my footwork, "

Edidin said some of his strength training took place at Lifetime Fitness, but he also said players would do conditioning work, such as sprints, at the baseball field.

"We didn't have access to equipment at the school, so we had to be as creative as possible and make sure we stayed motivated," he said. "I liked that challenge."

Shortly after Maine South's season ended last year, Greg Ebacher said he attended two sessions at EFT Sports Performance in Highland Park during the week of Thanksgiving. He then returned to the school and its facilities because of the expense.

"I think our coaches come up with great programs for us," said the 6-2, 230-pound senior defensive lineman.

Like Chancellor, Ebacher said he likes using the Prowler because it allows the football players to work on both strength and conditioning. If he's feeling good, he said he piles 270 pounds on the sled and pushes it 40 yards. He also takes advantage of the equipment's versatility. He can push against the sled's bars while remaining relatively upright or he can get low, lean forward and propel the sled forward.

"I learned some stuff when I was at EFT. But it's a long drive, and it's not all that necessary. There's always something you can do on your own, and I like to do something every day."
Some of area's top talent training at Core 6

Former Division I players head up Deerfield program

BY GEORGE M. WILCOX

Lake Forest linebacker Trent Williams, one of the first members of Core 6 Athletes, is taking partial credit for the success of the year-round training program for high school football players.

The brainchild of former Indiana University linebacker Paul Szczesny, Core 6 has grown in three years to include nearly 350 football players from not only Illinois, but also Indiana, Michigan, Missouri and Wisconsin.

In the last year, membership has exploded, more than doubling from around 150 athletes.

"At the beginning, there was not many people. There were probably six of us," Williams said. "Everyone saw the hard work we put in and how Paul trained us. I knew Paul wanted something bigger. I knew what he wanted to do. I feel like I've helped put his name out there."

Szczesny operates out of a small first-floor office at the Joy of the Game basketball center in Deerfield. His physical training sessions are held at one of the facility's workout centers.

Core 6 features four different programs: a January showcase; a 7-on-7 one-day showcase in April; speed and agility training; and recruiting assistance. Locally, athletes see Szczesny once a week for one-hour workouts. It costs $900 for 20 speed and agility training sessions. Out-of-state players participate in his showcase and 7-on-7 showcase.

Szczesny is a Niles native who graduated from Notre Dame High School in 2002 and played two years at Pima Junior College in Arizona before heading to Indiana. His four instructors also all played Division I football. Offensive lineman director Mike Jones (Iowa) and wide receiver director Chris James (Illinois) come from the Big Ten. Grant Gregory (Kansas State) works with quarterbacks and Kethan Hedrick (Eastern Illinois) concentrates on defensive backs.

Szczesny has taken groups of athletes on unofficial recruiting trips to SEC powerhouses Florida and LSU. That's how Plainfield South 4-star middle linebacker Clifton Garrett, ranked No. 2 in the nation at his position by Scout.com, said he became interested in LSU, one of nearly two dozen schools that have already extended him offers.

Players often hear about Core 6 through word of mouth. Lyons junior quarterback Tom Fiedler attended the 7-on-7 showcase when one of his Lions position coaches told him that Core 6 needed a quarterback.

"You play with faster, quicker and more athletic guys," Fiedler said.

That is one of the reasons behind Core 6's impressive results. Talented athletes join because they want to train against the best, according to Fenwick running back/linebacker Robert Spillane. The senior has verbally committed to play for Western Michigan.

Lake Forest's Williams has a scholarship offer from Colgate.

"Paul's workouts are intense," Spillane said. "I appreciate what (Szczesny) has done for me."

Bunting, who had missed most of the 2012 high school season with an ankle injury, attended the Core 6 7-on-7 event in April. Szczesny sent out video of Bunting's performance, which captured the attention of Michigan recruiters.

"You face all the other top guys and Core 6 knows all the coaches. Paul puts in a good word with the coaches and they said what I can do," Bunting said. "We get to compete and work out with the best athletes in the Chicagoland area. It's good competition. It definitely pushes you and tests you."

When former Oak Park-River Forest defensive end Nile Sykes, now at Montini, joined Core 6, he told three of his former teammates from Little Huskies youth football, including Simmie Cobbs, who transferred from Montini to OPRF before this season.

"I appreciate what (Szczesny) has done for me."

For some players, Szczesny is looking to expand Core 6 into Arizona and Florida and hopes to add 10 more states for his training program.

"This year has been crazy," Szczesny said. "It's one of those things; I have to find the time to put stuff together. Now I'm working on guys on Sundays and junior college guys are coming in."

But he's not complaining.

"If this wasn't my career, I would do it for free," he said.
Taking the plunge

After a summer of practices, weightlifting and lounging on the beach, football players will light up area stadiums Friday

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FRIDAY AUGUST 30TH
6:45p Lemont Township vs Plainfield South
7:00p St. Laurence vs Reavis
7:00p Oswego vs Geneva Community
7:00p Elk Grove vs St Charles North
7:00p Thornton Fractional South vs Crete-Monee
7:00p Niles North vs Amundsen
7:30p Marian Catholic vs Hyde Park
7:30p Montini Catholic vs Maine South
7:30p Neuqua Valley vs Naperville North
7:30p Bishop McNamara vs Hales Franciscan
7:30p Lyons Township vs Warren Township
7:30p Homewood-Flossmoor vs Simeon Career
7:30p Downers Grove South vs Benet
7:30p Oak Lawn Comm vs Kenwood
7:30p Plainfield East vs Metea Valley
7:30p York Community vs Clark Prep Magnet
7:30p Morris Community vs Minooka Community
7:30p Coal City vs Wilmington
7:30p Notre Dame College Prep vs Prairie Ridge
7:30p William Fremd vs Lake Zurich

SATURDAY AUGUST 31ST
2:00p North Chicago vs Waukegan
2:00p Highland Park vs Lake Forest
4:30p John Hope vs Manley
7:25p Fenwick vs St. Joseph

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