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Garden club seeks new members as lecture series kicks off | PAGE 6
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Garden club seeks new members as lecture series kicks off

BY RICK KAMBIC
rkambic@pioneerlocal.com | @rckambic

Roberta Koch spends 45 minutes every morning pulling weeds and burying potato peels, apple cores, coffee grounds and banana peels in her garden.

Though retired now, Koch has turned dirt almost every morning since she was a young girl. Growing up with a debilitating health condition limited what she could do outside, but gardening was just right.

"It was therapeutic and taught me patience," Koch said. "I first used it to keep myself moving and to get fresh air, but once I started to see results I became hooked on the rewarding feeling I'd get when I saw how beautiful they looked."

She grew most of the plants she maintains at her present day house in Niles, but quite a few were given to her by colleagues in the Garden Club of Morton Grove, which meets once a month September through March to learn from guest speakers and share plants.

"Our mission is to promote interest in the development of gardening and protection of our environment, and share our knowledge and love of gardening," said Koch, who is the club's new president. "We're in the process of revitalizing the club and putting the members more in charge."

The club would previously elect officers and those officers set that year's agenda, but this summer the club surveyed its members' interests and built a schedule of activities that reflects the whole group.

"This way we can share our interests faster and possibly attract more people to this club that's been alive since the 1950s," Koch said.

Koch's house has its fair share of hanging baskets with flowers, but her small back and side yards are mostly filled with vegetables like tomatoes and peppers.

In contrast, Gail Szulc of Glenview has an acre of land with bushes and perennials like phlox, black-eyed Susans and hostas.

Fellow member Sharon Peterson of Morton Grove has an all-green garden with blue spruce trees, birch trees and bridal spirea bushes with white flowers — all of which attract birds to her six birdhouses.

"I love being in the yard when they're nesting and feeding their babies," Peterson said. "I feed them jelly every morning, usually grape-flavored but sometimes raspberry. Being surrounded by and responsible for life is incredible."

Pat Zmolek of Morton Grove, known for her 15-foot tall peach tree that drops 350 peaches per year and a 40-year-old grape vine.

"My son gave me the peach tree five years ago because he got it free with the pear tree he bought," Zmolek said. "My late husband

**UPCOMING SPEAKERS**

Sept. 24: CAROLYN ULRICH — "GREAT GARDENS OF CHICAGO-LAND"

Carolyn is the Editor of the Chicago Gardening magazine. She was the Garden columnist and feature writer for the Chicago Sun Times for 7 years. She received the Quill & Trowel award for magazine writing from the Garden Writers of America three times.

Oct. 22: DOLLY S. FOSTER — "THE LONG BLOOMING PERENNIAL GARDEN"

Dolly is the Landscape Horticulturist for the Oak Lawn Park District and has been a Master Gardener for 13 years, an Indiana Accredited Horticulturist for 11 years and a Certified Arborist since 2008. She is currently adjunct faculty at Moraine Valley Community College. She is an avid butterfly gardener and her garden at home is now a Monarch Way station.
Sharon Peterson of Morton Grove has an all-green garden with blue spruce trees, birch trees, blue green flowers and bridal spirea bushes with white flowers. (PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF MORTON GROVE)

Gail Szulc of Glenview has an acre of land with bushes and perennials like phlox, black-eyed Susans and hostas. (PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF MORTON GROVE)

John brought the grape vine from his childhood farm in Iowa. It used to grow outside their front door. Those things are beautiful in their own way, and I will do anything to nourish and protect them."

Zmolek also started working with handmade rain barrels last year and is eager to learn more and share what she already knows.

"Using actual rainwater seems better, because it doesn't have all the chemicals we put in our drinking water," Zmolek said. "What might be good for humans is not good for everything. Plus, rain barrels help with the runoff and certain flooding."

The club has approximately 30 members, of which about 10 are area residents who recently paid the $20 fee to join the group, Koch said.

Aside from their monthly seminars, the club also donates plants and money for the "therapy garden" at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago, as well as floral arrangements to the Bethany Terrace Alzheimer's nursing home in Morton Grove and wreaths for the Morton Grove Library.

Residents of Morton Grove, or any neighboring town, who are interested in joining the club can call Zmolek at (847) 966-0822.
Morton Grove's proposal to allow chickens in the village got resistance during a recent committee meeting, but officials are still pushing forward with a draft ordinance in case Mayor Dan DiMaria decides to take up the idea.

Village Trustee Maria Toth sits on the Board of Environmental Health, which is working on the draft, and she voiced her opposition after being contacted by unhappy residents who read a recent news article. "Things like this belong in a rural area, and we live in a suburban area," Toth said. "I don't think it belongs in our community. I'm worried about droppings, rodents and the aesthetics. I have an obligation to the residents who called me."

DiMaria asked the committee to investigate the pros and cons of backyard chickens and then give a suggestion. Regardless of the committee's opinion, DiMaria can bring the draft ordinance before the Village Board or ignore the topic completely.

The committee has not taken a stance, but it's working on a draft ordinance that could address all potential concerns just in case the idea goes before the board.

So far, the proposal would allow between two and five chickens per home, require licensed coops to be at least 30 feet from neighboring buildings and have four square feet of space per chicken, prohibit the butchering of chickens and require annual or biannual coop inspections at $50 per visit.

At its Sept. 3 meeting, the group decided that two inspections might be a time strain for village staff and instead agreed upon just one inspection.

Requiring applicants to get a special use permit was previously considered, so neighbors would be warned and applications could be reviewed more thoroughly, but a written report from Village Attorney Terry Liston disagreed with that idea. Liston did say, however, that an ordinance could require neighbors to be informed.

Georgianne Brunner, the committee's chairwoman, also said that she did not want a potential ordinance to regulate chickens more than any other legally allowed animal. After making that statement, Brunner said she will ask Liston how to fairly regulate chicken noise.

Some members of the committee worried about chicken feces and stray food attracting rats, so Brunner plans to ask Liston if and how an ordinance could regulate waste removal and also require licensed chicken owners to pay for rodent extermination.

To make sure all coops are sturdy and sanitary, the committee might create a list of five to 10 preapproved structures that residents must pick from.

Toth's objection came after resident Bill Chioros told the committee that he thinks backyard chickens would feed the coyote population and make neighborhoods less safe for children.

"You're containing a food source in one spot and leaving it for predators to take whenever they want," Chioros said. "Not to mention, I don't want to sit in my backyard and struggle to enjoy myself because I have to look at and hear noise from a chicken coop. That's not why I moved to Morton Grove."

Brunner told Chioros that cats and small dogs are already targets for coyotes, and Morton Grove probably wouldn't have as many chickens if the ordinance were passed. She did thank Chioros for attending the meeting and suggested he also lobby DiMaria.

"If I had a chicken coop, I think my dog would probably be the biggest threat to my chickens, because he has the time to walk around and learn how the gate opens, plus he knows when I'm normally not home," said resident Brad Moldofsky.

While disagreeing with the worries about predators, Moldofsky said he wouldn't build a coop if neighbors objected.

"I'm not sure I see backyard chickens in my future, but I'm interested in learning and would love to get free eggs from a neighbor who had chickens," said Moldofsky, who volunteers at the farmer's market. "However, everyone in my neighborhood wants to get along and we talk often. I don't know if other people exercise that courtesy."

Moldofsky asked if the village could require applicants to show proof of passing a chicken-related educational program, but Brunner said that would be an unfair requirement that dog and cat owners do not have to meet.

Mike Yousef, the resident who originally asked the mayor to allow chickens, reminded the committee that their draft ordinance was based off Evanston's ordinance.

"Your (proposal) is getting more detailed than Evanston's, and they haven't had any problems in two years," Yousef said. "I don't think every house in Morton Grove will have chickens. A select few want this freedom. I don't think that will cause a rodent or coyote problem."

Bonnie Burnett, the village's health inspector, said she's received many calls over the years from residents curious about backyard chickens and believes more people would apply than Yousef thinks but agrees the total would still be small in comparison to dog and cat owners.

Aside from Toth, other members of the committee have not yet taken a stance on the proposal.

The group will reconvene on Oct. 1 to review Liston's feedback on the latest batch of legal questions, revise the proposal accordingly, and potentially make a recommendation to DiMaria on whether he should or should not pursue the topic.
River report recommends dam removals

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
johnson@pioneerlocal.com | @Jen_Pioneer

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants to remove dams on the Des Plaines River near Park Ridge, one of a number of new projects identified for an 80-mile stretch of the river.

The Upper Des Plaines River Feasibility Study, which examined the Des Plaines River watershed from Racine and Kenosha Counties in Wisconsin to the river's convergence with Salt Creek near River- side, resulted in the recommendation of 28 projects, largely involving the restoration of wetlands and woodlands, but also including the construction of levees and flood walls, dam removals, and new pumping stations.

The projects, included in a report that was released Sept. 3, are estimated to cost over $400 million. Plans call for 65 percent of funding to come from the federal government and the remaining 35 percent to come from other sources.

The projects are aimed at flood-control, ecosystem restoration, improvements in water quality and recreational opportunities.

Near Park Ridge, the report calls for the removal of man-made dams near Touhy Avenue and Devon Avenue, as well as near Dempster Street in Des Plaines.

Jeff Zuercher, project manager for the Army Corps of Engineers, said the removals alone will likely not lead to flooding reductions in the surrounding communities.

"Because these are low head dams, they have no net affect on flooding whatsoever," he said.

But the elimination of the three dams, plus two others in Wheeling and at the Mount Prospect/Des Plaines border, will improve the overall flow of the river across a larger area, Zuercher indicated.

"If all five dams were removed we would have the Des Plaines River opened up throughout Cook County, so we'd have one continuous stream without interruptions," Zuercher said.

That would be beneficial from a recreational and ecological standpoint, he explained.

The Des Plaines River dams were largely constructed around the turn of the 20th Century when, unlike today, the water level would become too low or the river would dry up completely in some areas, Zuercher said. The dams created pools of water which benefited recreational activities, including swimming. Dams would also provide locations for farmers to easily cross the river to get their fields on the other side, Zuercher said.

North of Park Ridge, in unincorporated Maine Township, the report recommends the installation of a pumping station at Lake Mary Anne, located north of Golf Road and east of I-394. The pumps would take water from Lake Mary Anne and send them under Golf Road and into an existing pond on the site of the former Fisherman's Dude Ranch, Zuercher said. The pumping station would help reduce flooding in homes surrounding Lake Mary Ann.

The study does not show recommendations that could potentially benefit the unincorporated Maine Township neighborhood surrounding Prairie Creek, a Des Plaines River tributary, which has been hit by repeated floods over the last several years.

Maine Township Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano said Friday that he had not yet reviewed the report, but expressed a need for increased Des Plaines River water capacity.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District is said to be evaluating floodwater storage and improvements along Prairie Creek.

Zuercher said the study upon which the report was based was authorized in 1999 and has cost $13 million. The next step involves seeking public comment on the recommendations, with a final report likely sent to Congress next summer, he added. Congress will then decide whether to budget for the projects, which could span over 20 years.

To help fund the dam removals, the Army Corps of Engineers would look to partner with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Cook County Forest Preserve, Zuercher said.

Other recommended projects along the river in Cook County include restoration of the Northbrook Marsh near Wheeling and the Beck Lake meadow north of Central Road and west of I-394 in Glenview; and a levee, flood wall and bridge modification in River Grove.

PUBLIC FEEDBACK
Sought

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is accepting public comment on its "Upper Des Plaines River and Tributaries, Illinois and Wisconsin Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment," which was released Sept. 3.

To review the report, click here http://tiny.cc/ho9z2w
To offer comment, e-mail UDRPR&T@usace.army.mil

To offer comment, e-mail Johnson@pioneerlocal.com

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**POLICE BLOTTER**

The following incidents were listed in the official bulletin of the Niles Police Department. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

**NILES**

**BATTERY**

Yasmine Andrade, 29, and Ariana Andrade, 19, both of 5029 Roscoe Ave., Chicago, and Angel Rivera, 24, of 8811 S. Riverchase Drive, Tampa, Fla., were each charged with battery on Sept. 1 after they were allegedly involved in a physical altercation at Brunswick Zone, 7333 N. Milwaukee Ave. Two women told police that an argument began over a bowling ball that Ariana Andrade wanted to use. One of the women, a 24-year-old from Chicago, reported that after words were exchanged, she was punched several times and fell to the ground.

William Fitzgerald, 30, of 2911 N. Newland Ave., Chicago, was charged with battery on Sept. 2 after a coworker accused Fitzgerald of spitting in his face on Aug. 31 outside a business on the 7500 block of Oak Park Avenue. He has a Sept. 27 court date.

**DUI**

Chimoun Chlimon, 34, of 6328 N. Whipple St., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, speeding and improper lane usage on Sept. 1 following a traffic stop on the 7800 block of Milwaukee Avenue at 2:26 a.m.

Russell Alexander, 22, of 7100 N. Sioux Ave., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence, speeding and improper lane usage on Sept. 4 following a traffic stop on the 7500 block of Harlem Avenue. He has an Oct. 2 court date.

**LEAVING THE SCENE**

Hugo Arias, 36, of 2941 Narragansett Ave., Chicago, was charged with leaving the scene of an accident and driving without a valid license on Aug. 31. He was accused of striking a vehicle on the 8000 block of Milwaukee Avenue and fleeing east on Main Street as a tire on his car fell off, police said. He was located on the 7700 block of Oconto Avenue trying to change the tire, according to police. He has a Sept. 27 court date.

**CRIME BRIEFS**

**DISPUTE**

A couple called police on Sept. 4 after they were involved in a verbal altercation over how to discipline their 12-year-old son who was reportedly swearing in the home and not wearing proper clothing around his mother and sister. Officers spoke to the boy who agreed to behave and wear clothes when other people are present, police said.

**BATTERY**

A business owner told police he entered his store on the 8100 block of Milwaukee Avenue on the morning of Sept. 3 and discovered a cash register open and approximately $200 stolen.

A television was stolen from a shelf inside a garage on the 7600 block of Osceola Avenue between Sept. 4 and Sept. 5. An iPod and sunglasses were also reportedly taken from a car parked inside.

She told police that when her friend, a 31-year-old woman from Carol Stream tried to help, she was also punched. Police said a witness obtained license plate information on the vehicle the group left the bowling alley in, leading to the arrests of the three suspects. They have an Oct. 11 court date.

**THEFT**

A Samsung Galaxy Note phone was stolen Sept. 2 from a display inside a store on the 9400 block of Milwaukee Ave.

The manager of a store on the 7300 block of Melvina Avenue told police on Sept. 3 that two men wrote bad checks to the business totaling $27,456 between July 8 and July 15.

**BURGLARY**

Russell Alexander, 22, of 7100 N. Sioux Ave., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence, speeding and improper lane usage on Sept. 4 following a traffic stop on the 7500 block of Harlem Avenue. He has an Oct. 2 court date.

A business owner told police he entered his store on the 8100 block of Milwaukee Avenue on the morning of Sept. 3 and discovered a cash register open and approximately $200 stolen.

A number of tools, valued at $3,000, were stolen overnight between Aug. 30 and Aug. 31 from a van parked in a driveway on the 8400 block of Maynard Road. A window was shattered to gain entry.

**BURGLARY TO VEHICLE**

The manager of a store on the 7300 block of Melvina Avenue told police on Sept. 3 that two men wrote a bad check to the business totaling $27,456 between July 8 and July 15.

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Robert Marciante has worked in education long enough to know when strategies for teaching and learning just don't work.

For starters, using test scores as the sole rubric for measuring student success doesn't do some children justice.

"Achievement is always a byproduct of effort," Marciante explained. "We want youngsters to understand what progress means and what success means."

Academic growth, he noted, "is a building block to self esteem."

Marciante is the chief executive officer of the FranCenter, a nonprofit headquartered in Darien that operates to assist parents and professionals improve students' learning skills and self-esteem.

Last month, the FranCenter debuted a satellite office in Niles in order to be closer to clientele in the Chicago Archdiocese and Cook County school systems.

The new site, known as FranCenter North, is located within St. John Brebeuf School as 8301 N. Harlem Ave.

Founded by the Sisters of St. Francis in Joliet, the FranCenter today oversees over 100 contractual programs a year to place teachers, counselors, social workers and therapists on-site to individual schools and school districts.

Marciante, a Glenview resident, has been at the helm of the educational-services organization for nearly three decades.

He said most staff supplied to schools serve as specialists under the federal Title I program, which provides lower-income and at-risk children with supplemental instructional services and activities.

Schools with tight budgets and low enrollments can't always afford to hire full-time workers in this capacity. So, the FranCenter keeps a group of roving specialists on its payroll and matches them primarily with nonpublic institutions.

The organization also heavily promotes the arts, often the first victim of budget cutting despite the impact on child development.

"Schools are making a big mistake by curtailing those programs by considering them extra, when they should be considered as basic," Marciante said.

A class in visual arts and dance, he said, "is motivation to children. It helps their brain."

The FranCenter also offers a wide range of private clinical services, including educational and psychological testing, individual and family counseling, one-on-one tutoring and test preparation, and support for special-needs students.

Parochial schools, in particular, don't always have diagnostic personnel on staff to address developmental learning problems. Public school districts, on the other hand, use a method called response to intervention that focuses on maximizing achievement and reducing behavior problems.

As a result, the actual learning disability of a child may go undetected or remain unaddressed, causing him to "develop a pattern of failure that influences him throughout his lifetime in school," Marciante explained.

He said, for example, a student consistently struggling with math eventually assigns negative thoughts to the subject, thus impeding the likelihood of him learning new material.

"Hearing math, even before those words get processed (in the brain), he's already determined he hates it because of his history of failure," Marciante said.

The sooner the developmental needs of students are tested, the sooner they can receive help and improve their chances of success later in their academic careers.

Thus, the first priority of FranCenter North is to address local students' needs. To that end, the organization is waiving the initial consultation fee for families in September.

Marciane believes working in partnership with families and teachers to reinforce the value of effort over achievement may assist students in overcoming challenges later in life.

"Some kids can do it on their own with their own willpower; other students learn helplessness," he said. "That's why our academic work is so important with kids."
Dan Horyn, an English teacher and a popular cross country coach at Niles North High School, died Sunday night after a year-long battle with cancer.

The 34-year-old Chicago resident taught English and coached boys' cross country and track teams for the past 12 years at the high school, where he was known for his optimistic, warm personality and his passion for teaching.

The District 219 community mourned the loss of Horyn Monday, and Niles North principal Ryan McTague encouraged students to reach out to school social workers to express feelings of grief.

"Dan had an amazing presence throughout our building that transcended the (English) department," McTague said. "He was the most selfless man I ever met even when he was sick towards the end, he always wanted to make sure everyone else was OK, and that Niles North was OK."

Horyn was diagnosed with terminal cancer last August, but kept up his teaching and coaching responsibilities while he underwent treatment for his condition, said Karl Costello, athletic director at Niles North.

He ran the camps for both cross country and track this summer, but took a leave of absence at the beginning of this school year to focus on his treatment, Costello said.

"Some days (over the summer) he had to step aside because of the debilitating effects of his treatment, but his spirit never wavered and his commitment to his teams was always consistent," Costello said. "He was such a phenomenal, approachable human being — I think they threw away the rules when they made Dan Horyn."

Horyn ran the Chicago marathon every year until last year, Costello said, describing him as one of the most physical fit people he's met.

"He was also comfortable in his own skin, which was another great way to be a role model to his students," Costello said. "He was cool, quirky, hip and sometimes nerdy — but he was always so comfortable being who he was."

Horyn’s colleagues visited him "in droves" when he was in the hospital last week, said Tony Bradburn, director of humanities.

Even as his physical condition deteriorated, he continued to display his selfless character, McTague said.

"Even in moments of difficulty he was selfless," McTague said. "He made everyone a better person — he was just a very special guy."

Horyn spent Sunday watching the Bears game, and was happy to see them beat the Bengals, Costello said. He passed away later that night near his wife Andrea at their home.

Niles North student and track/cross country runner Clara Williamson remembered Horyn going out of his way to give her tips on how to be the best runner possible, she said, even though he taught the boys teams.

"I always looked forward to talking to him about running because I knew he truly cared and wanted me to succeed," Williamson said in a tribute she wrote to Coach Horyn. "I have never seen a coach so dedicated to the Niles North running program and he inspired me to want to be as enthusiastic as a coach as he was someday."

Plans for memorial services honoring Horyn have not yet been announced.
MORTON GROVE

Dozens of golf carts torched

Forty-five golf carts were destroyed Monday when a fire spread through an area of a Cook County Forest Preserve golf course near Morton Grove.

Cook County Sheriff's Department Spokeswoman Sophia Ansari said the fire was reported around 8:50 p.m. by an employee of the Chick Evans Golf Course, 6145 Golf Rd.

Ansari said it appeared that a "tiki torch" may have been used to start the fire, which spread across the south side of the clubhouse area, damaging nearly four dozen of them.

"It's not an accidental fire," Ansari said. "At this point, the cause and the motive are under investigation."

Morton Grove Fire Chief Tom Friel added that the fire was "definitely suspicious and most likely intentional." He would not say if it appeared that an accelerant had been used, though he noted that each cart is powered by gasoline which likely contributed to it spreading rapidly.

The golf carts had a value of about $3,000 each, Ansari said, resulting in estimated loss of $135,000.

According to Friel, roughly two dozen carts were left untouched by the flames. A nearby oak tree was charred, but no injuries were reported.

Morton Grove and Glenview Fire Departments responded to the fire, which Friel said was extinguished in minutes.

NILES

Gang slogan shouted outside restaurant

Niles police have arrested one of two men who allegedly attacked two people outside a Milwaukee Avenue restaurant while yelling a gang slogan -- the second such incident to occur in the area within the same week.

Adrian Velasquez, 19, of 9482 N. Terrace Place, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with mob action, two counts of battery and illegal consumption of alcohol by a minor in connection with the attack that occurred just before 10 a.m. on Aug. 31.

According to police, the two victims, both residents of Niles in their 30s, said they were standing outside a restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue near Ballard Road when they were jumped by two men. As the suspects punched the Niles men in their heads and faces, they shouted a pro-gang slogan as several bystanders attempted to stop the attack, police said. The suspects then reportedly fled on foot in different directions.

According to police, both victims identified Velasquez as one of the men who had attacked him. The men sustained cuts to their faces, but refused medical attention, police said.

Velasquez reportedly told police he was "play fighting" with another individual in the parking lot and denied beating the victims.

The other suspect in the attack was last seen running west on Ballard Road toward Cumberland Avenue, police said.

NILES

Hit-and-run masturbator arrested

A Chicago man, charged with hitting a shopper with his car last April after being caught masturbating in a Niles parking lot, was scheduled to appear in court this week.

Pioneer Press has learned that Justin Wentz, 30, of 6220 S. Kostner Ave., was charged with battery and public indecency on June 5 in connection with the April 19 incident reported in a Niles parking lot on the 7200 block of Dempster Street.

After learning from Bridgeview Police that Wentz drove a vehicle similar to the one described by the victim in the April 19 hit and run in Niles, police met with the victim and both he and his wife identified Wentz in a photo lineup as the driver of the car, Niles police said.
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**HERE'S A TIP**

Not too long ago, I was out for lunch with a large group of women. When the check arrived, a 20 percent tip had been added onto the bill, and everyone started talking if we should leave an additional tip.

One of the women turned to me and said, “You should write an article on tipping, and what’s acceptable. I’m always so confused.”

Well, I talked to several North Shore business owners and employees, all of whom receive tips in their businesses, and here is what they had to say:

- **Neel Sharma**, owner and dog walker at North Shore Dog Walk, in Glenview: “Tipping is probably done 30 percent of the time. Usually, the tip is about $5 or less and clients tip if they think you are going above and beyond what they are requesting.”
- **Danette Mark**, server at Hemingway’s Bistro, in Oak Park: “Typically at the restaurant it’s 20 percent, but I usually see 25 and 30 percent because I’ve been here awhile and I have a lot of regular customers. I’m very grateful for that.”
- **Eiko Klam**, co-owner of UB Spa Nails, in Glenview and Lake Forest: “We usually get 15-20 percent of the service, but if we’ve been coming here awhile and they know us well, we have created these bonds and so they tip us more.”
- **John Christensen**, manager of Lake Car Wash, in Highland Park: “I’d say 95 percent of our customers give us guys a tip, and they usually give $2 or $3.”
- **Teddy Spears**, owner of TeddyFabz, in Deerfield: “Our restaurant is fast, and tips range from $2 to $3, depending on the situation.”
- **Brittany Shorette**, receptionist at Zazu Salon and Day Spa, in Hinsdale: “We usually get around 20 percent, sometimes with color they might tip more because it takes more time. Nails are around 18-20 percent. The assistants usually get $3 to $5, sometimes even $10.”
- **Andreas Hogue**, owner of Andreas Hogue Salon, in Northbrook: “Most stylists usually receive 20 percent of the bill as a tip. Sometimes, it’s more if they think you’ve gone above and beyond.”

**BY JACKIE PHILOSOFF**

**HELP SQUAD**

Help is on the way

There’s nothing I despise more than sitting on hold for a customer service representative, trying to correct a mistake on a bill, get a refund or cancel an account.

I’m one of those people who scream at the top of my lungs at the automated directory assistance voice that can never seem to give me the correct phone number.

That’s why I am really excited to launch the Help Squad consumer advocacy column.

For the past year, I have been a “Business Spotlight” reporter for Sun-Times Media Local. I visit all kinds of businesses, interviewing owners and managers, talking to their customers, and then writing an article that aims to accurately portray what the business does and why.

Not only has it been fun and interesting, but business features reporting has given me a solid foundation in the business world. I’ve learned a lot about what it takes to run a business, unexpected problems that can arise, the necessary drive and passion needed to make a company successful. Most important, I know the value of keeping customers happy and coming back.

So, I’ll be your mediator, your advocate.

Did a utilities company overcharge you? Did a boutique deny your request for a return? Are you the victim of fraudulent business practices? Is someone just exhibiting bad business behavior?

I will make the call for you. I will sit on hold, and I will help you get a fair result.

Additionally, I might offer help in other ways, such as saving strategies, smart consumer practices, and consumer tips.

So send your letters, your complaints, your injustices and your story ideas to HelpSquad@pioneerlocal.com and we will be happy to help you.
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The Postal Service and the sequester

Remember the cat-drawing guy Steve from the ABC-TV show “Shark Tank”? Since his appearance, he’s drawn more than 18,000 stick-figure cats—maybe even one for you. You can find out more at twanttodrawacatforyou.com. But that’s not the point.

I know more than most about the cat-drawing business because I’m Steve’s dad, Steve’s mom and I have been his fulfillment department since February 2012. About once a week, we trekked to the Skokie post office substation to buy stamps and mail cat drawings. All three postal agents there knew us well. That’s right: three agents. Remember that?

“The Sequester” has reduced the counter staff down to one or two hours, resulting in a waiting line that can take up to a 30-minute bite out of your day. But as you wait to be served, you can’t help but notice the patience and attentiveness of the current postal clerk as she manages everyone’s varied parcel and postage needs. It’s customer service of the first order, and even from 60 feet away, it draws you in.

Due to a series of careless agent errors, we were overcharged at least $2,500 in 2012, but that’s another story (and I will tell it!). Even while I’m still angry at those agents, I marvel at the professionalism of the woman who replaced them. May she remain strong and unbending under the glare of those in line who replaced them. May she remain strong and unbending under the glare of those in line who replaced them. May she remain strong and unbending under the glare of those in line who replaced them. May she remain strong and unbending under the glare of those in line who replaced them.

The debate about private schools vs. public schools got a bit heated last week with an article in Slate, the online magazine, authored by Allison Benedikt, editor of Slate’s Double X feature.

Talk about a shot across the bow: “You are a bad person if you send your children to private schools,” she began the manifesto, that was picked up last week by the Chicago Tribune, her former employer.

That’s right, a bad person. Not a murderer bad, as she put it. But sort of an enemy of the state, I guess.

(Disclaimer: I attended private and public schools and sent my children to private and public schools. I guess there’s good and bad in everyone.)

Her basic argument is that by opting out of public education, private school parents contribute to the bad schools being bad. How? They rob public schools of quality students and leave parental school commitment to the disinterested who choose public schools. She assumes without evidence that private school parents would go above and beyond to fix a bad public school if their kids were attending one.

Benedikt never mentions how many social deadbeats send their kids to private schools compared to the altruistic but dumb parents who opt for public schools. By the way, private school kids make up 10 percent of the nation’s school-age population and 80 percent of those go to a religious school. Does she honestly think those 10 out of 100 parents can turn around a school?

And for those couple of generations of children sacrificed to a sub-par education, hey, it won’t be that bad, she says. After all, she did it. They can all live like her, struggling to afford day care and living out of a tiny, big-city apartment writing incoherent nonsense about sending their kids to a lousy school and blaming private school parents for their plight.

Of course, there’s no statistics to back up her judgments. Just assumptions that kids who go to private schools are better students than public school kids, and their parents are more dedicated, more involved and more committed than public school parents.

And having those parents who are more committed would eventually make public schools better. Therefore, parents who refuse to send their children to public schools and fulfill the social compact public schools represent, are bad and morally bankrupt, as she says.

The article never recognizes or acknowledges that some of the nation’s best schools are public schools. We have them right here in the suburbs. New Trier, Stevenson, Lake Forest, Evanston, Oak Park-River Forest.

Benedikt never mentions how many social deadbeats send their kids to private schools compared to the altruistic but dumb parents who opt for public schools. By the way, private school kids make 10 percent of the nation’s school-age population and 80 percent of those go to a religious school.

Does she honestly think these 10 out of 100 parents can turn around a school? If only it were that easy. Over at St. Giles in Oak Park, back in the 1900s, about a dozen of us fantastic parents couldn’t get the fourth-grade teacher to ease up on the homework.

The issues facing our nation’s struggling public schools are a little more complex than the small percentage of Americans who choose a private school. We need to face those issues honestly. Hurling guilt at people who pay twice for education, taxes and tuition is just not honest.

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.
Goodbye Labor Day, hello low minimum wage

When Labor Day is gone, it's gone. There's not the same wistfulness as for other holidays, such as Christmas. This, I think, is because there are no presents given for the Labor Day holiday.

But what kind of presents would be appropriate for Labor Day?

Well, the government and corporate America could get together and provide more jobs so that people unable to work can do so.

And, for many of those Americans who do have jobs, the government and corporate America could get together and see these workers are more justly compensated.

For a long time, the economy has not been kind to those who labor. From 1979 to 2012, pay for the average worker has only risen by 6 percent. Increases for low-wage workers have been flat, or the wages actually have declined.

And the minimum wage? That is $7.25 an hour.

When adjusted for inflation, the minimum wage is lower than it was 50 years ago.

A recent report from the Cato Institute contends people can make more money in 35 states by being on welfare than by working at minimum-wage jobs.

Now, the Cato Institute is a right-wing think tank that spends its time thinking about how to make rich people richer. Its answer is, of course, to reduce welfare benefits.

Another answer would be to increase the minimum wage.

But raising the minimum wage is actually bad for workers, corporate America says. Because when the minimum wage goes up, employers don't hire people and may actually lay off some workers.

I'm not sure why employers would not hire people they need or lay off workers they need. People who run businesses are smart. They hire people to perform tasks that make money for the people who run businesses. So, if they don't hire people because the minimum wage has risen, then they didn't really need those workers in the first place. What savvy business owner would deliberately reject an opportunity to make more money?

But, that's the argument. And I guess we have to believe employers because they wouldn't be running businesses if they weren't smarter than the rest of us.

Therefore, the answer to how to help workers is obvious.

If increasing the minimum wage reduces the number of jobs, it makes sense then that paying workers nothing would increase the number of jobs.

Then there would be jobs for everyone.

Simple.

And that would really make Labor Day more memorable.
8212 Osceola Ave., Niles

House size: 1,260 square feet
Lot size: 6,300 square feet
Year built: 1943
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2
Garage: 2.5-car detached
Property tax: $5,653.41 (2012)
Exterior: Brick
School districts: East Maine School District 63 and Maine Township High School District 207

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

Niles
7450 N Waukegan Road, #305: Leah M Giacco and Lorraine M Giovannetti Trust to Carol A McManus for $150,000 on July 25

7120 N Milwaukee Ave, #206: Jeffrey Triptow for $252,000 on July 24

7222 W Greenleaf Ave: David I Bella and Dimitra Dimitropoulos for $360,000 on July 26

7071 W Touhy Ave, #605: Timothy Triptow for $170,000 on July 25

7120 N Milwaukee Ave, #506: Lawrence Morton Grove for $215,000 on July 25

7450 N Waukegan Road, #305: Madolyn Mishkin to Kim Gisborne and Patricia Golding for $173,000 on July 25

8946 Marmora Ave: Stanislaw Radon for $216,000 on July 25

8630 Waukegan Road, #519: Marjorie Morton Grove for $173,000 on July 25

Elvira T Burro to Daniel Schmidt and Boersema for $360,000 on July 26

Midori Par and Midori Takeyasu Par to Drasnopolskiy for $238,000 on July 23

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SATURDAY, SEPT. 28
Practice ACT
Neen College Nannies & Tutors of Glenview will proctor a free practice test that includes science, math, reading comprehension and English. Bring a pencil and calculator. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 29
Golf Outing
8 a.m.: Resurrection College High School Men’s Club sponsors this ball scramble golf outing. Check-in starts at 7 a.m. Stay after golf to watch the Detroit Lions play the Chicago Bears. Prizes will be awarded for the longest drive, closest to the pin and other contests. Register online, www.reshs.org. Tam O’Shanter Golf Course, 6700 Howard St., Niles. Call 773-775-6866, ext. 156. $50 for 9 holes.

HAPPENING NEARBY
THURSDAY, SEPT. 12
Storytime for 2s
9:30 a.m.: Stories and songs for 2 year olds and an adult. A second session is held at 10 a.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Travel Film: Journey to the North Pole
2 p.m.: "Into the Cold" explores the stark reality of a North Pole expedition. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Concert: The Convertibles
7 p.m.: With roots in four-part barbershop harmony, the group will perform a mixture of doo-wop music from the ‘50s and pop music from the ‘60s. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Much Ado About Mysteries
7 p.m.: Fans of mystery novels and those interested in exploring new authors are invited to join this book group. Register online or by phone. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Call 847-729-5700, ext. 7600.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 13
Job Seeker Workshop
8:30 a.m.: Workshop includes resume and cover letter guidance, job search techniques and interviewing skills. Breaks will be provided. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-729-3245.

Eye Health and Nutrition
1 p.m.: Maribel Alchin, a nutritionist, discusses the importance of eye health and how it fits into your daily eating habits. Registration is required. The program is co-sponsored by the Niles Public Library, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. For more information, call 847-729-7500, ext. 7600.

Introduction to Microsoft Word 2010
2 p.m.: Learn the basics of the world’s most popular word processing program. Registration is required and limited to 22 people. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. For more information, call 847-729-7500.

September Computer Literacy Series
3:30 p.m.: A three-part series. The course is highly recommended for all beginners. Eisenhower Public Library, 463 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 708-567-7828.

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. Call 847-965-4200. Free.
sponsoring a Jane Austen Festival with programs throughout September and October. In "Sense & Sensibility," the Dashwood family's sudden loss of fortune dooms the chances for marriage of two sisters, sensible Elinor and passionate Marianne. Stars Emma Thompson, Hugh Grant, Kate Winslet and Alan Rickman. 136 minutes. Morton Grove Public Library, 8440 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. For more information, call 847-965-4220. Free.

**Chicago Rocks and Mineral Society**
7:30 p.m.: The group meets again following a summer recess. For more information on joining, visit www.chicagorocks.org. St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 8013 Laramie Ave., Skokie.

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 15**

**Skokie Farmers Market**
7:30 a.m.: Vendors from Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan converge upon Skokie for this weekly market, held through October. Open around 12-45 p.m. Village Green Park, 5201 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-732-9223.

**The Tea Party: Lessons from History**
10:30 a.m.: Historian and writer Rick Perlstein will trace the roots of today's Tea Party back over sixty years. Ethical Humanist Society, 7574 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. For more information, call 847-677-3334.

**Book Launch Party: 'Believe,' by Sarah Aronson**
11 a.m.: Evanston author Sarah Aronson celebrates the launch of her latest young adult novel, "Believe," about a 16-year-old girl who survives a suicide bombing. Curt's Cafe, 2922 Central St., Evanston.

**2013 Hispanic Heritage Month Kick-Off Celebration**
Noon: Experience Hispanic art, music, food, and dancing in observance of the 2013 Hispanic Heritage Month national theme, Savoring and Sharing Our Nation with Pride and Honor. Highlights include keynote speaker Henry Godinez, Ballet Folklorico, Mariachi singer Hermelmo Salgado, a salsa dance contest with cash prizes and much more. Robert Crown Community Center, 1701 Main St., Evanston.

**Concert: Pots and Pans Steel Band**
2 p.m.: Matt Potter 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, 8440 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. For more information, call 847-965-4220. Free.

**Early Literacy Fair with Pete the Cat**
2 p.m.: Kids ages 0 to 8 can use hands-on literacy stations to build the skills they need. Parents will also learn the five fundamental skills each child needs in order to read. Registration is required.

**Carlos Cardenas**

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A Morton Grove woman has been fined $57,150 for violating building code and operating a meditation center out of her newly-remodeled house last year.

The village can issue fines ranging from $75 to $750 for every day a person violates local ordinances. Soon Yoon, who owns the house at 8701 Austin Ave., was fined $75 starting Oct. 11, 2012, when she was first notified of her infraction until July 10, when she filed paperwork to resolve the conflict.

Each of her three tickets individually total $19,050, but Morton Grove said it would reduce the overall $57,150 fine to no less than $5,000 if Yoon meets a strict set of deadlines and inspections on her newly-ordered renovation.

Jeffry Greenspan, an outside attorney hired to be Morton Grove’s adjudication officer, found Yoon guilty in July and delayed ruling on her punishment until the village’s Zoning Board of Appeals voted on her pending applications.

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 up and running 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.

Yoon said she fired her architect shortly before getting her building permit and didn’t realize her newly-redrawn plans needed to be reviewed. Lee was also disassociated with the project by that point.

Key staff changeover and an ensuing miscommunication reportedly led to Yoon’s error going unnoticed until the building inspector called Yoon for a final inspection.

A village investigation revealed that police had been called a number of times for parking and noise complaints stemming from meditation activities — for which Yoon was also cited for operating a business in a residential neighborhood and without a business permit.

Yoon said she will not use the house for meditation anymore, and has no plans to legally convert it into a church, like friend Erik Sung did in Lake Forest.

Yoon went before the zoning board on Aug. 19 asking for an “as built” permit to resolve the conflict, but commissioners decided the new garage was 10 feet too long and encroached on neighbors. Yoon was, however, allowed to renovate the house again to meet the first set of designs.

That decision prompted Greenspan to issue fines instead of being lenient. The $57,150 fine was actually the smallest fine possible under village rules. If Greenspan chose to fine Yoon $750 for each of those 254 days, the fine would have been $190,500 per ticket, $571,500 in total.

Greenspan said he believes the changes were substantially different and Yoon’s architect should have known better, and he couldn’t understand why they waited so long to file new paperwork with the zoning board.

Dan Shapiro, Yoon’s attorney, said they’re not sure if the garage and foyer could be shrunk by 10 feet in length without demolishing the building entirely and restarting. Greenspan gave Yoon and Shapiro until Oct. 9 to research their options and present a construction timeline that Morton Grove officials agree with.

Because Morton Grove’s offer only addresses a renovation, Shapiro said he doesn’t know if the $57,150 fine would stand if Yoon demolishes the garage and does not rebuild. He said the option might be negotiated on Oct. 9.

Yoon said her original renovation cost $38,000, and she’s nearly bankrupt after completing that project and paying for her lawyer to work with Morton Grove on the mix up.

Though she has a sister also living in the house, Yoon is unemployed and divorced from her husband, who is an oncologist at the Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.
Mostly, women understand how important gynecological exams — and especially Pap tests — are. But they may be surprised to learn that their exams don't screen for ovarian cancer.

While several tests can be used for those who have a strong family history of the cancer, certain symptoms or a genetic predisposition like the BRCA mutation, the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance says that no screening tests all women for ovarian cancer.

Creating awareness and funding research are the most effective impetuses for change, so WeRoc (Women Encouraging Research of Ovarian Cancer) is doing exactly that at its Annual Race for Awareness at the Arlington Park Racecourse on Sept. 22.

Morton Grove’s Barbara Feldman, Northbrook’s Joyce Hogan, Skokie’s Liane Troy and Chicago’s Sandra Gold are the last of the original group of more than 30 ovarian cancer survivors from the Cancer Wellness Center in Northbrook who came together in 2008 hoping to stop this cancer, once called the “silent killer.”

“Over the years, over 30 fabulous women from the group succumbed to the disease. Two years ago, we finally gave a name to our group — WeRoc,” Hogan said of the group, whose sole purpose is to encourage research and awareness for ovarian cancer.

WeRoc is once again partnering with The Foundation for Women’s Cancer this year to host their 6th Annual Race for Awareness at the Arlington Park Racecourse’s Governor’s Room from noon to 5 p.m. The Foundation has provided more than $5 million in research funding since 1995. WeRoc and the Foundation together raised $23,000 at last year’s race.

The event will feature a chef’s table buffet, open bar, silent auction and private betting, as well as speaker Dr. Gustavo Rodriguez, of the North Shore University Health System, whose current research focuses on cancer prevention and developing an effective pharmacological strategy for cancer prevention.

“A big part of it is raising money for the research, but we also want to raise awareness so our friends, families and daughters ... if they start feeling something, they will go to the doctor to hopefully catch it at an early stage,” said Feldman, event co-chair.

For women living with the cancer, Feldman founded “Teal Time,” a support group that meets on the fourth Monday of every month from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Highland Park Hospital. Teal Time offers women at varying stages of ovarian cancer a place to fully express themselves and talk about their problems and fears with others who have had the same experiences.

Tickets for the race are $130 per person and $1,085 for a table of eight. Tickets are limited and must be ordered in advance. Tickets can also be purchased at signmeup.com/site/online-event-registration/94174.

For more information about the 6th Annual Race for Awareness, Teal Time, or both, contact Feldman at Barbara@capitalrubbercorp.com.
Pilgrim Chamber Players celebrate music with music

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES
For Sun-Times Media

James H. Stone once again opened his Winnetka home for a party to benefit the Pilgrim Chamber Players of Highland Park on Aug. 10. Stone is chairman of the Pilgrim board and at one point quipped that his fellow board members whole-heartedly supported the benefit, “as long as it wasn’t held at their house.”

As the 130 guests arrived, they were greeted by music played on an electric violin by Katarina Vanevksa.

The party stands out from other fundraisers due to its high-quality musical component and this year entertainment was provided by the Gray Duo. Erika Gray, 17, who plays violin and viola, and her brother Johannes, 15, who plays the cello, are both students at New Trier High School. Their crowd-pleasing program, held in Stone’s library and adjoining spaces, included solo and duo numbers. Piano accompanist was Shirley Trissel.

An extensive silent auction, chaired by Madeleine Plonsker, was held poolside.

Among those attending the event were Dufel Adelson, executive director of the Merit School of Music in Chicago, Abby Block and her husband Larry Block, founder and co-principal cello of the Highland Park Strings, Gail Guggenheim, and Dan Pierce and his wife co-chair Rhoda Piece, retired vice chairman of the Illinois Arts Council, all residents of Highland Park, as well as Lynn and Jim Baer and Linda and Robert Shakno, all of Deerfield.

The event raised $25,000 for Pilgrim, which was founded 16 years ago by pianist Carol Honigberg of Highland Park and features a variety of outstanding professional musicians in its four-concert season. Pilgrim also sponsors one free concert spotlighting talented young musicians from the Chicago area.

The 2013-14 programs will be Oct. 27, Jan. 26, March 16, April 27 (free) and June 1. Concerts are at 3 p.m. Sundays in the Highland Park Community Center, 1991 Sheridan Road. For information call (847) 433-0972.
A 'fairytale-dream wedding' comes true

Stephanie Weiss and Anthony Radek

BY RENEE LEE
rlee@bouquetcatcher.com

On their fourth anniversary of dating, Lake Zurich native Stephanie Weiss and Anthony Radek, formerly of Park Ridge, had dinner at their favorite restaurant in Edison Park, Cafe Touche. Although Anthony knew Stephanie hated dessert, he was stern on ordering something sweet on the occasion. "It was the classic 'put the ring in the dessert' proposal," Stephanie said. "We both had our own desserts. And when I pulled off the lid covering mine, there was a ring in a box."

After she said yes, Stephanie remembered she almost felt as if she had "blacked out" from the excitement.

Stephanie and Anthony met while working at Life Fitness in Schiller Park. They dated secretly for three years before she became a public relations manager at Rust-Oleum in Vernon Hills. "I'll never forget it," Stephanie said. "After I got engaged, my boss at work told me I just had to get married at Cuneo (Mansion & Gardens). I was like, 'what is that?'"

She learned Cuneo in Vernon Hills was about a mile from her office and that "My Best Friend's Wedding" was filmed there. She visited it one day during lunch. It was perfect, she and Anthony wished to have a ceremony outdoors and a reception at a memorable, unique venue.

Family is important to them both, especially for Stephanie who wanted to have her late parents, Roxanne and John Weiss, play some part in the big day. During the ceremony, the couple released a pair of doves dedicated solely to her parents.

Stephanie also placed framed photos of both sets of their parents on their wedding days alongside a bed of flowers on the place-card table that greeted guests into the reception space.

Looking back, Stephanie said the June 30, 2012, celebration was truly a fairytale-dream wedding come true.

They live in Edison Park, on Chicago's northwest side, where Anthony proposed.

Every wedding tells a story. Contact Renee Lee at rlee@bouquetcatcher.com or 312-651-6613 to share yours.
Carly Malinowski & Matthew Weiss

Carly Malinowski, originally from Oakville, Ontario, and Matt Weiss, a Buffalo Grove native, met while teaching English in Taiwan. Then, they moved to Australia together so Carly could complete her graduate teaching degree. Most of her family lives in Canada or Australia and she had not seen much of Chicago nor the United States before the wedding. The couple planned their July 13 wedding at Ravinia Green Country Club in Riverwoods, in six months.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY NORTH SHORE PHOTOGRAPHY

Bouquet Catcher cordially invites you to feature your wedding and engagements in print and online, free of charge.

Happy couples and photographers contact Renee Lee at 312-651-6613 or rlee@bouquetcatcher.com

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By Matthew Villanueva

Whether you are passing through on your way to or from Chicago or enjoying a short overnight vacation here, you can find world-class dining at the many fine restaurants in Northwest Indiana. These eateries serve world-class cuisine, and many highlight ingredients produced on local farms.

Sage Restaurant, Chesterton

Serving contemporary Italian-American cuisine, this restaurant highlights locally sourced foods and features a hand-selected list of fine wines from around the world. Signature dishes include homemade sausage served with homemade tagliatelle and the house roasted chicken with seasonal vegetable risotto.

Bistro 157, Valparaiso

Located in this town's charming historic downtown, Bistro 157 produces excellent gourmet dishes under the direction of Cordon Bleu-trained chef Nicole Bissonnette. Small plates include classics such as calamari, crab cakes and foie gras, each with a unique twist, and entrees range from scallop linguine to grilled veal chops to spicy Indian tikka masala shrimp.

Miller Bakery Cafe, Miller Beach

This eatery offers haute cuisine in a casual yet elegant atmosphere. Start off with pork rillette or chili-spiced tiger shrimp, scallops with soft polenta or bison sliders. For the main course, you can dine on pasta with house-made sausage or enjoy a perfectly cooked steak fresh from the grill with your choice of homemade sauces.

Lighthouse Restaurant, Cedar Lake

Nestled on the shores of Cedar Lake, this restaurant offers savory cuisine with exceptional scenery. Surrounded by windows, diners enjoy views of the woods and water. The Lighthouse specializes in signature steaks and fresh seafood, including sea bass, salmon, yellow lake perch and a weekly market special.

These fine restaurants represent only a small sample of the culinary delights that northwest Indiana has to offer. For more information on restaurants in the area, call 219-989-7770 to speak with the South Shore CVA.
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Philip W., CO

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The times appear to be a'changing. And if paychecks are the indicator, the forecast for employee compensation is improving. 2011 saw wages rise, according to the most recent results from The PayScale Index, which follows employee compensation trends for full-time, private industry workers. Only one industry, three cities and a handful of job categories experienced a decrease in pay over the last year, while the rest grew. This was the best performance of employee wages since the Great Recession began in late 2007.

Read on to find out if your business is keeping pace with an increasingly competitive recruiting landscape and employee compensation.

How to Track Employee Compensation
Katie Bardaro, PayScale's lead analyst, says the key is knowing whether you're in step with what other employers are offering. "The PayScale Index is following jobs, not employees," who may have gotten raises as they developed new skills or added responsibilities, Bardaro explains. "This is a more efficient way to measure how the trend in pay has changed for any given job this year. The PayScale Index really focuses on the market price of labor," she says.

Bardaro says that wage trends seen in the Index often correspond with unemployment figures. "Unemployment goes down at a similar rate as the demand for labor goes up. The demand for jobs means the price of wages goes up, too," she says.

While the Index is not a crystal ball says Bardaro, employers should take note of which salaries are trending up so they won't fall behind and potentially lose out on attracting and retaining top employees.

Cities that Lead Salary Trends
Houston, Miami, and Chicago topped the Index in 2011 for cities with biggest improvement in wages. Bardaro says the findings indicate a cross relationship between the metro areas and the presence of industries that also experienced pay increases.

Earnings in Texas' largest city finished up about 2.2 percent to beat the national average. That's partly because Houston plays host to a diverse economic base. Industries such as aeronautics, healthcare and energy have had a positive impact on wages. The high price of gas may pinch at the pump but Bardaro says, "Strong market prices in the oil and gas industry are the reason pay trends are increasing. As companies' revenues go up so they have more money to hire and pay their staff more."

Coming in at number two, Miami is a new leader with a 1.8 percent increase in wages due to position as an established transportation and tourism hub, two industries that rebounded towards the end of 2011. Arts, entertainment and recreation experienced a serious slowdown during the recession and another drop early in 2011. Now, Bardaro says they appear more robust than ever. "Consumers are opening their wallets and traveling again," she says.

Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Seattle each experienced pay increases particularly in the areas of IT, engineering and biotech, all industries that are concentrated in these metro areas.

Industries that Lead in Employee Compensation
Oil, gas and utilities experienced the biggest upward salary trends as market prices continued to rise on fuel for autos and homes. However, Bardaro notes that manufacturing was the real winner in 2011, despite posting just a 1.3 percent increase.

She notes that the industry was in freefall during the recession and laid off thousands of workers. 2011 showed steady upward trend; Bardaro says manufacturing had its largest quarter-to-quarter growth since 2008.

Information, media and telecommunications also showed significant signs of life at the end of 2011. This indicates that pay models for online publishing have begun to generate revenues that could signal a return to pre-2008 pay levels sometime in the coming year.

Jobs at the Top
Those working in science and biotech jobs tied with workers in transportation for first place in The PayScale Index among job categories. Though it's a smaller category, it encompasses a variety of positions from physicists and biochemists to crime scene technicians and urban planners. As the economy eased, major corporations, think tanks, and research-institutes were more willing to increase their spending to add staff.

Social service workers are among the top three segments of employees that saw pay increases. Bardaro explains that the social services industry has been doing pretty well over the last year. "There's been a tremendous increase in demand which is common in tough economic times when people need support."

Thanks to our aging population, the demand for healthcare practitioners at every level has been consistent. During the economic crisis, these workers only experienced a slight dip of 1 percent in earnings. Now wages are trending up again.

All of this is encouraging, says Bardaro, however the increases are still below that 3 percent standard that indicates a full recovery. "It will be exciting to see what happens in the next quarter, if these jobs break the barrier."
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On April 19, 2013, an agent of the Judicial Sales Corporation at 24th Floor, 150 North Dearborn, Chicago, IL 60601-5060, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate described below, which is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special liens, is as follows:

**Residential Real Estate**

- **Address:** 1506 S. Wabash Ave., Unit 7, Chicago, IL 60605
- **Description:** Fourteen (14) condominium units, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, will receive a Certificate of Title and Bill of Sale, and the property is subject to any liens or encumbrances of record.
- **Assessed Value:** 
  - **Taxes:** 
  - **Liens:** 

**Terms of Sale**

- **Sale Date:** September 12, 2013
- **Bid Representative:** The Judicial Sales Corporation
- **Bidder:** A person licensed by the State of Illinois to conduct real estate auctions
- **Bid Amount:** A minimum bid of $200,000
- **Bid Payment:** In certified funds

**Bid Requirements**

- **Bidder Requirements:** A person licensed by the State of Illinois to conduct real estate auctions
- **Bid Amount:** A minimum bid of $200,000
- **Bid Payment:** In certified funds

**Sale Description**

- **Property:** The foreclosed property is located at 1506 S. Wabash Ave., Unit 7, Chicago, IL 60605
- **Description:** Fourteen (14) condominium units
- **Assessed Value:** 
  - **Taxes:** 
  - **Liens:** 

**Notice of Foreclosure Sale**

- **Date:** September 12, 2013
- **Time:** 10:30 AM
- **Location:** The Judicial Sales Corporation at 24th Floor, 150 North Dearborn, Chicago, IL 60601-5060

**Disclaimer**

- **Notice:** The PLAINTIFF, CITIBANK, N.A., and the MORTGAGOR, JOSEPH T. WILLIAMS, have no knowledge as to the condition of the property.

**Contact Information**

- **Judicial Sales Corporation:** 24th Floor, 150 North Dearborn, Chicago, IL 60601-5060
- **Phone:** (312) 236-SALE

**Additional Information**

- **DVR:** The MORTGAGOR, JOSEPH T. WILLIAMS, has not been served with a copy of the Complaint or a Copy of the Summons and Complaint
- **Notice:** The MORTGAGOR, JOSEPH T. WILLIAMS, has not been served with a copy of the Complaint or a Copy of the Summons and Complaint

**Real Estate Information**

- **Address:** 1506 S. Wabash Ave., Unit 7, Chicago, IL 60605
- **Description:** Fourteen (14) condominium units
- **Assessed Value:** 
  - **Taxes:** 
  - **Liens:**
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High School Cube News, Sun-Times Media’s new high school sports website, launched this week. It’s the latest evolution in Chicago area prep sports coverage. High School Cube News integrates all the highlights and live games from HighSchoolCube.com with the comprehensive coverage formerly provided by Season Pass.

High School Cube News features school and team pages for every area high school, with live game coverage and highlights from participating schools. Now, all 32 Pioneer Press weekly publications have their very own High School Cube News sites with a hyper-local focus on your favorite teams.

Go to highschoolcubenews.com or click "SPORTS" on your local newspaper site.
PARTIES
MAGNIFICENT MILE SHOPPING FESTIVAL'S A MAGNIFICENT TASTE
SPASH ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY & MORE

Giuliana & Bill Rancic on dressing up, dining out and baby Duke
Things We Love

This Week

Lighten up with Hourglass Cosmetics' Femme Nude Lip Stylo Notorious Nudes collection, featuring six lipstick shades ranging from pale pink to moody mauve, all with a rich satin finish. $30, Space NK, 900 N. Michigan; us.spacekn.com

The Peninsula Hotel brings the traditional Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival to Chicago with a week of events, including a special menu in Shanghai Terrace and dim sum cooking classes. To celebrate on the go, drop by the hotel's gift shop for a package of mooncakes, a sweet treat traditionally served during the fest. $32 for a box of four, Sept. 16-22, 108 E. Superior; Peninsula.com/chicago

Maria Pinto, who made her name designing for the likes of Michelle Obama and Oprah, is pushing the fashion industry into the digital age, launching her new M2057 collection via crowd-funding site Kickstarter. Contribute to her campaign and receive perks such as garments, accessories and special pricing on pieces, to be delivered in 2014. Through Oct. 14. Visit Kickstarter.com/projects/m2057/m2057-by-maria-pinto-urban-chic-fashion-collection.

Sip in style with the new Hennessy VS. Limited Edition bottle, designed by Brazilian contemporary art twins Os Gêmeos. The flagon bears a vibrant mural of a rural village, and each bottle is individually numbered, with only 256,000 bottles available globally. $32 at Binny's locations.

AT THE PHOTO SHOOT

Immediately after taping an episode of "El News," Giuliana Rancic joined our team at Santa Monica's Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows, where her husband Bill was already in hair and makeup. The couple slipped into our team at Santa Monica's Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows, where immediately after taping an episode of "El News," Giuliana Rancic joined our team at Santa Monica's Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows, where her husband Bill was already in hair and makeup. The couple slipped into our team at Santa Monica's Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows, where immediately after taping an episode of "El News," Giuliana Rancic joined our team at Santa Monica's Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows, where her husband Bill was already in hair and makeup. The couple slipped into our team at Santa Monica's Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows, where immediately after taping an episode of "El News," Giuliana Rancic joined our team at Santa Monica's Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows, where her husband Bill was already in hair and makeup. The couple slipped into our team at Santa Monica's Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows, where immediately after taping an episode of "El News," Giuliana Rancic joined our team at Santa Monica's Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows, where her husband Bill was already in hair and makeup. The couple slipped into our team at Santa Monica's Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows, where immediately after taping an episode of "El News," Giuliana Rancic joined our team at Santa Monica's Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows, where her husband Bill was already in hair and makeup. The couple slipped into our team at Santa Monica's Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows, where immediately after taping an episode of "El News," Giuliana Rancic joined our team at Santa Monica's Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows, where her husband Bill was already in hair and makeup. The couple slipped into

Cover Credits
Photographer: Mark Sacro
Photo Assistants: Alanna Yu, Efren Beltran and Jun Mapue
Makeup: Catalina Su
Stylist: Rebecca Jefferson
Hair: Eli Thomas
Shoot Coordinator: Katerina Bizios

ON THE COVER:
ON BILL
Dolce & Gabbana: slim fit dress shirt, $660, 645 N. Michigan, Dolcegabbanacom
Dolce & Gabbana: bow tie, $130, Saks Fifth Avenue Men's Store, 717 N. Michigan, Dolcegabbanacom
Rolex: Stainless Steel Daytona, $12,000, 636 N. Michigan, Rolex.com

ON GIULIANA
Memeka by Gustavo Cadile: gown, $3,600, Memekastudio.com
Kara Ackerman: Alice rose diamond and green beryl tear drop earrings, $800, Karackerman.com

WHAT HAD YOU TWEETING

Valerie Warner @val_warner:
@WindyCityLive
@Suntimes_Splash Thank you ssssssooooo much for the love! So sweet of you to cover little ol' me!

Mel Muio @MelMuio: Very honored to have been to on your stylish arm :) @bdakerschein @Suntimes_Splash

GlossedandFound.com @glossedandfound: Thanks @Suntimes_Splash for toasting to G&F creative dir @grahamkostic + his new hubby

Plate magazine @plate magazine: Featured in this wknd's @Suntimes_Splash: Editor @ChandrasPlate's @littlemarketkchi grilled cheese for @MOWChicago

Lémonesse @Lémonesse: Thank you again @SusannaNegovan @DawnnHasbrouck & @Suntimes_Splash! So flattered! #Chicago #Luxury

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September 9-15
● 2013 BMW CHAMPIONSHIP
The first PGA Tour golf championship contested on the North Shore since 1972, the BMW Championship is the third of four FedEx Cup Playoff events, and features a field of 70 players. Proceeds benefit the Evans Scholars Foundation, which funds college scholarships for deserving caddies.
Place: Conway Farms Golf Club, 425 Conway Farms, Lake Forest
Cost: Daily tournament $40; weekly badges $100. For tickets, call (847) 724-4600 or visit Bmwchampionshipusa.com.

September 12-22
● WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL CHICAGO
Talk about diverse — with more than 70 performances by artists from 34 countries, all taking place in more than 20 venues across the city, this mammoth event offers something for almost everyone. The lineup includes African Showboyz (Ghana), Chéjere (Mexico), Brock McGuire Band (Ireland), and Pejman Hadadi & Imamyar Hasanov (India and Pakistan).
Place: Venues across the city.
Cost: Free. For the full schedule of events, visit Worldmusicfestivalchicago.org.

September 14-15
● LAKEVIEW EAST FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS
Featuring more than 175 artists, this juried event boasts paintings, sculpture, photography, ceramics, furniture and jewelry, plus two stages of non-stop live music, food, cooking demos from local chefs and family activities.
Time: Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Place: Broadway between Belmont and Hawthorne.
Cost: $5 suggested donation. For more information, visit Lakevieweastfestivalofthearts.com.

Elyse Alfano always rounds up an intriguing group for her monthly live talk show. For the first installment of the season, she'll dialogue with actor David Eigenberg of NBC's "Chicago Fire," Goodman Theatre Artistic Director Robert Falls, Second City performer Katie Rich and chef Jason Vincent of Nightwood. Guests will dig into food crafted by Vincent, plus wine pairings from City Winery and sweets from Vosges Haut-Chocolate.
Time: Doors open 6 p.m., show at 7 p.m.
Place: City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph
Cost: $40. For tickets, visit Fearnoartchicago.com/about-dinner-party. View the show for free at ChicagoSplash.com/Dinnerparty.
next week

“Butterflies & Buffalo: Tales of American Culture” features portraits of more than 50 cultures taken with a 35-foot film camera by photographer Dennis Manarchy.

September 17

**ADVOCATE FOR THE ARTS AWARDS**
The Grant Park Music Festival salutes former Mayor Richard M. Daley and BMO Harris Bank for their commitment to Chicago’s cultural scene with its Advocate for the Arts Awards. The event, hosted by Bill Kurtis, supports the festival’s free, 10-week classical music series at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park.

**Place:** Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park, 200 N. Columbus

**Cost:** $500. For tickets, call (312) 553-2000 or visit Pjhchicago.com/gpmf.

September 18

**CHICAGO HOUSE SPEAKER SERIES LUNCHEON WITH HILLARY CLINTON**
Chicago House, the first organization in the Midwest to provide housing for people with HIV and AIDS, welcomes former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at its annual Speaker Series Luncheon. Now in its fifth year, the event always has a big name deliver an inspiring address, and past speakers have included Bill Clinton and Madeleine Albright.

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.

**Place:** Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe

**Cost:** $500. For tickets, call (312) 422-6208 or visit Witschicago.org/school-luncheon.

September 19

**SKYLINE SOIREE**
Kate Pankoke of “Project Runway,” Ed Swiderski of “The Bachelorette,” WBBM-FM’s Showbiz Shelly and ESPN-1000 anchor Sarah Spain will be on hand at this American Cancer Society benefit, which includes cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, a raffle, an auction and live entertainment from Final Say.

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph

**Cost:** $105 online, $120 at the door. For tickets, call (312) 960-2328 or visit Skylinesoiree.org.

September 19-21

**SUSAN MARSHALL & COMPANY**
The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago opens its 40th season with “Play/Pause,” choreographer Susan Marshall’s dynamic piece inspired and shaped by our media-driven culture. The work is set to a commissioned score by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Lang and performed live by the electric guitar group Dither.

**Time:** 8 p.m.

**Place:** 1306 S. Michigan

**Cost:** $26-$30. For tickets, call (312) 369-8330 or visit COLUM.edu/dancecenter.

September 20

**BACK TO SCHOOL LUNCHEON**
Working in the Schools (WITS), the nonprofit that partners with Chicago public schools to help empower students, expand their horizons and provide transformative experiences, hosts this annual daytime fundraiser, which highlights the impact of its volunteer-powered programs.

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.

**Place:** Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe

**Cost:** $500. For tickets, call (312) 422-6208 or visit Witschicago.org/school-luncheon.

September 18-October 31

**BUTTERFLIES & BUFFALO: TALES OF AMERICAN CULTURE**
This is one big country, and photographer Dennis Manarchy is chronicling it in a massive way — with a camera the size of a semi-truck that produces 24-foot prints of stunning clarity. Both make their debut outside the old Daily News Building along the Chicago River.

**Time:** 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Place:** Two North Riverside Plaza, the river between Madison and Washington

**Cost:** Free. For more information, visit Butterfliesandbuffalo.com.
Splash celebrated one year of style Aug. 29, surrounded by 300 friends at the Underground (56 W Illinois). Guests such as Splash columnist and “America’s Next Top Model” winner Jaslene Gonzalez, Macy’s Andrea Schwartz and Rockit Ranch Production’s Arturo Gomez, plus friends Amy Olson, Chris Dester, Charles Hocoevar and Cathie Haley, sipped Peroni and Santa Margherita prosecco and wine while jamming to tunes from DJ Megan Taylor. The party was a fashionable fete, as Macy’s Chicago Fashion Incubator designers Agnes Hamerlik, Olivia Hwang, Lagi Nadeau, Katelyn Pankoke, Shelby Steiner and Takako Yamanaka sent their Spring 2014 collections down the catwalk on Ford models, who got runway-ready with the help of Mario Tricoci stylists. Platinum Events created a high-energy ambiance and Terlato Wines International kept the drinks flowing. At the end of the night, guests walked away with goody bags provided by H2O Plus.
Six looks captured during the Mag Mile's Shopping Festival ease the transition from summer to fall

STARK REALITY
The frugal fashion gods have smiled upon us this season. Black and white was one of the spring's hottest trends and it's carrying over to fall. Check out the latest pieces from Comme Des Garçons for avant-garde, high contrast looks.

ROLL UP
Just like you can take spring pieces and fall-ify them, fall's trends can be tweaked for the warmer weather. On sunnier days, roll up the sleeves on jewel-toned tops and dare to show a little midriff. Add a simple pump for snap-worthy street style.

COLOR POPPING
You've cracked open your drawer of fall colors like blacks, browns and beiges, but you're not ready to pack away your bright hues. The solution is simple: Wear them together. Balmain's fall collection was chock-full of black tops and bold skirts.

LIFTING HIS LOOK
It's not a man's world anymore, thanks to the array of menswear-inspired looks for ladies. Pair a button-down shirt in a feminine hue with a clean-cut trouser and flats for a look that shows the world who really wears the pants.

SHEER MADNESS
It's hard to say black is back when it never goes away, but this season's blend of sheer black fabrics with all-black accessories gives a new meaning to gothic glam. Adidas' chic Y-3 line nailed the look with sporty-yet-elegant dresses.

REBEL ROCKER
Channel your inner rock goddess with combat boots, a miniskirt and some punk-inspired metallic jewelry. Our runway faves? Diesel Black Gold, with their sexy mix of mesh, leather and fringe, and Alex Perry, with minis and shorts paired with thigh-high boots.

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Above: Steven Hartenstein, Kristin Barnette and Garry McCarthy. Right: Mary Ann Rose and John Chikow
PHOTOS BY TIMMY SAMUEL

MEAL TICKET

STORIES BY KATERINA BIZIOS

More than 300 guests brought their appetites to Pioneer Court (401 N. Michigan) Aug. 27 for A Magnificent Taste. Chefs, including Table 52's Art Smith, Frontera Grill and Topolobampo's Rick Bayless and Little Market's Ryan Poli, served up seasonal treats at the food-centric event, which was part of the second week of the Magnificent Mile Shopping Festival, presented by MasterCard. Proceeds from the bash benefited Common Threads, a Chicago-based organization dedicated to educating children from low-income families on the importance of nutrition.

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

SPANX EVENT AT MACY'S

Spanx shapewear got an upgrade with the introduction of Star Power, a new collection of hosiery, shapers, bras and apparel that debuted Aug. 23 at Macy's (111 N. State) with a Splash-sponsored bash. Guests snacked on sweets such as gummy bears, cookies and gum balls and enjoyed makeovers from the Star Power style team and Nars Cosmetics — and one lucky lady walked away with a $500 Spanx shopping spree.
Classic cocktails get a modern twist at River North's The Berkshire Room

We wanted to give people an alternative, a place to wear what you want, drink what you want,” says Benjamin Schiller, lauded cocktail connoisseur and beverage director at the recently opened Berkshire Room. The classic cocktail bar, named for the Berkshire Hotel (which occupied the spot’s current Acme Hotel digs, just off Michigan Avenue, during the 1920s), is the brainchild of Greg Mohr and Scott Weiner of Fifty/50 restaurant group.

The duo joined forces with Schiller and executive chef Chris Curren to create the elegant yet approachable space, where you’ll find quirky craft cocktails alongside more traditional drinks — and some substantial snacks. “There’s not a lot of places in the city

Vibe: If it weren't for the modern touches, the lounge could have been plucked from the original hotel. White, curved ceilings complement an expansive bar and terrazzo composite flooring, an authentic piece of history uncovered during renovations. Plush banquettes are scattered throughout the intimate space and surrounded by dark wood whiskey crates and overhead copper Edison bulb lighting. “We wanted a chill, come-as-you-are kind of spot focused on great cocktails,” Schiller says.

Must-try drink: Schiller has created a handful of barrel-finished drinks, like the continuous Negroni ($15), a mix of gin, Campari and carpano antica finished in a Pappy Van Winkle barrel. For something a little edgier, take a sip of the weston ($12), a mix of wheated bourbon, Dark Matter coffee essence and pipe tobacco.

Learn something new: The wildly popular dealer’s choice ($13) allows patrons to choose their base spirit, profile flavor and glass type — and the bartenders take it from there. “It’s our opportunity to engage customers and educate them on various types of liquor and glassware,” says Schiller.

Something to nosh on: Although drinks take center stage, Curren’s snacks are no understudy. “The menu complements what’s going on behind the bar,” he says. Try the bison tartare with egg “jam” that oozes onto crisp crostini ($12). The caviar, a favorite of Curren’s, comes with accoutrements like horseradish-potato espuma, buckwheat blinis and Champagne granita.


15 E. Ohio, (312) 894-0800; Theberkshireroom.com

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JANELLE'S DAILY BEAUTY REGIMEN

Monáe is constantly on the go, juggling photo shoots, concerts and recording sessions. Here, she shares the everyday items that keep her glam. All available at Walgreens locations citywide; Walgreens.com.

9 A.M.

Monáe wakes up at Hotel Sax (333 N. Dearborn) and starts her day with peaceful meditation.

11 A.M.

Monáe, a painter, heads to the Art Institute (111 S. Michigan). Her favorites? The pointillism paintings and, of course, Monet.

1 P.M.

The songbird takes a trip to the South Side to visit relatives. “One of the biggest sacrifices I’ve made so far is leaving my family and having to go on tour. So I love to spend time with them,” she says.

6 P.M.

The sci-fi aficionado takes in the latest futuristic flick at AMC River East (322 E. Illinois).

9 P.M.

The night ends with Monáe’s favorite sweet treat: an Oreo milkshake from Hotel Sax room service. “I stay at the hotel just to get that milkshake,” she laughs.

The newly anointed CoverGirl never leaves the house without her signature lipstick: CoverGirl's LipPerfection in Hot 305 ($8.29)

When Monáe’s on stage, she becomes the Electric Lady, dancing and belting out tunes. To stay hydrated, she never goes anywhere without her Fiji water ($3.19).

Nothing clogs pores faster than leaving makeup on overnight. To give her skin a fresh start every day, the songbird uses Olay’s cleansing wipes ($5.99).

The secret to Monáe’s lit-from-within skin? She uses Palmer's Shea Butter Formula Lotion ($6.99).

**JANELLE’S FUTURE IS NOW**

Singer and fashion darling Janelle Monáe presses play on her perfect Sunday

BY ZAK STEMER

It’s probably safe to assume that most people are not intimately familiar with German expressionist films from the 1920s, much less a particular sci-fi film by Fritz Lang called “Metropolis.” But that obscure roll of celluloid, which depicts a futuristic world divided between the elite and the working class, has famously inspired artists like Madonna and Lady Gaga, and none more so than Janelle Monáe.

Lang’s film spoke so deeply to Monáe that the songstress split herself in two: There’s the beautiful, petite (5 feet tall, if you include her signature hands), Kansas-born Janelle, and then there’s Cindi Mayweather, her android alter-ego from the distant future. “The android is symbolic of The Other, the majority and the minority, the have and the have-nots,” explains Monáe. “It’s parallel to the way we live, from the immigrants to the gay community, even written and the black community—those that are often marginalized.”

Monáe addresses this issue directly on her appropriately titled sophomore album, “The Electric Lady.” Our Sept. 10, the record is a collection of upbeat songs written by Monáe and features Solange Knowles, Erykah Badu and Prince. “My job as an artist is to continue to uplift and empower the community,” she says. With inspirational tunes such as, “Even if it makes others uncomfortable, I will love who I am.” (from her single “QUEEN.”), which recently won an MTV Video Music Award, Monáe is out to make music that leaves listeners—and herself—feeling better. “What encourages me is writing songs that inspire me when I’m having a down moment,” she explains.

A big part of Monáe’s appeal is her androgynous, meticulously cultivated sense of style. “I look at it as walking art with a message from how I wear these clothes to this Tiffany bracelet,” she says, pointing to her space-age silver cuff. “Everything is minimalism. It’s uniform and it pays homage to the working class.” She’s recently been added to the exclusive roster of CoverGirl campaign faces, alongside beauties like Sofia Vergara, Ellen DeGeneres and Pink. “I feel so honored to have a big platform to inspire young girls—and [adults]—to love themselves for who they are and embrace their uniqueness,” she says.

Though Monáe embodies the self-confidence she wants to inspire in others, the singer admits to having doubts of her own. “I’m part human,” she says. “And the human side of me definitely comes out. But I then realize that the people who love me love me for who I am, and not what I look like. They see my spirit—and I see their spirit.”

While in town recently for an exclusive listening party for “The Electric Lady,” Monáe took a minute to chat about her ideal day in Chicago.

Catch Monáe when she’s back in town Oct. 21 at The Vic (3145 N. Sheffield). Tickets available at Javier.usa.
Multi-family homes help increase budgets with rental income

BY LISA SKOLNIK

Here’s a common real estate scenario: You want to buy a home but can’t quite swing it, especially since mortgage rates spiked to 4.46 percent from 3.4 percent in late June, their biggest jump in 26 years — and haven’t fallen since.

But there is a solution: Boost your budget with a multi-unit building, which can bring in income with a rental unit or two (or even three or four, if your budget allows), providing additional funds that can help defray mortgage and living expenses.

The only problem? Everyone wants one. “Good properties are very hard to find, especially now, given the already low market inventory and still-decent interest rates,” says Baird & Warner broker Gabrielle Weisberg (right, call 312-420-1762). Plus, those rising interest rates are creating a sense of urgency and expediting sales, notes Robin Kane, senior vice president of Hendricks & Partners, a national multi-family investment banking firm.

But multi-unit buildings can still be found. “There’s an astonishing range of options,” says Weisberg, from quintessential Chicago three- or six-flats to single family residences with garden apartments or coach houses. On the luxe end of the spectrum is Weisberg’s current listing for a Gold Coast three-flat at 11 E. Division. Marketed for $2.43 million, it’s a beautifully updated 1887 brownstone in a tony area with great public schools and services and brings in the proverbial bacon to subsidize the set-up. Its unique and varied units include an ultra-plush, 3,500-square-foot, three-bed, two-full and two-half bath duplex with a roof deck; a two-bed, 2.5-bath, 2,000-square-foot unit right below that rents for $3,500 per month; and an 800-square-foot lower level one-bed, one-bath that rents for $1,500 per month. All units have fireplaces and independent hot water and HVAC systems, and there is an attached two-car garage. Another luxury option is 1930 N. Honore in Bucktown, a charming, fully renovated 1910 four-bed, 2.5 bath single-family home marketed for $1.15 million with a one-bed, one-bath duplex coach house that rents for $1,635 per month (above, contact Baird & Warner broker Robert John Anderson, 312-909-9647).

Lowering the scale

“Many people can’t get their own homes without rental income,” notes @properties broker Maureen Murnane, who is marketing a superbly maintained vintage Andersonville three-flat at 1436 W. Olive, complete with a two-car garage, for $799,000. The top two floors sport three-bed, one-bath units that average 1,650 square feet and rent for about $1,650, while the first floor is a 2,200-square-foot, three-bed two-bath with a lower-level duplex that can rent for $2,150.
Dear Jenny,

I was wondering if you had any suggestions on how to bounce back in the weight department. I have 2-year-old twin boys. When they were 4 months old, my husband and I separated. I restarted everything. I went back to school and am now starting a business and a new job. I'm still at the same weight I was after I had my kids — and then some. Turns out that divorce ice-cream-eating packs on pounds. I'm not interested in a relationship, but I don't want to be fat anymore. I need to get myself back, but can't get motivated. Any suggestions?

What did you say to yourself to get your butt off the couch after a day of caring for your son and working? Help!

Anonymous

Jenny says: After I had my son, Evan, I had a lot of weight to lose and, like you, I worked and cared for him during the day. I understand how it feels to be exhausted and want to collapse on the couch after logging hours and hours of work. Many times, exercise was the last thing on my mind at the end of a crazy day, but I also wanted to feel good. I realized I had to take it one step at a time, because it was overwhelming to think about how and when I was going to get to the gym when I had a little one at home.

My first step in losing weight was to cut back on my calorie intake. I knew eating healthy was something I could do without requiring a lot of time, so I started with Weight Watchers (you may remember that I was their spokesperson in 2006). Once the pounds started coming off, I had more energy and my self-esteem rose. Exercise no longer seemed like a chore. Instead, it was actually something I wanted to do for myself. I stopped making excuses as to why I couldn't exercise and used every spare moment to do something active. I did jump squats in my family room, walked whenever I could, used the stairs instead of the elevator, played outside with Evan. Day by day, I grew stronger and felt better about myself.

Losing weight and getting fit takes effort and determination. You can lose weight IF you really want to. Take it one day at a time and, if you feel like quitting, remind yourself why you started in the first place. As Robert Collier says, "Success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in and day out." Today is the day! You can do it!

Send questions to Askjenny@suntimes.com

Jenny McCarthy offers unconventional wisdom

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The Rancics talk fashion, fighting over flip-flops and finding happiness in the city

FAMILY STYLE

STORY BY RACHEL HANDLER | PHOTOS BY MARK SACRO
Neither Bill nor Giuliana Rancic can recall what the other wore on their first date. "I guess we only cared about what was inside," jokes Giuliana. But the fashion fiend does remember being horrified by her future husband's shoe selections on almost every subsequent occasion. "No matter how dressy his outfit was, Bill always felt flip-flops were completely appropriate," she says.

The host of "E! News" and co-host of E!'s "Fashion Police" says she fought Bill on the footwear until one memorable Sunday morning. "We were going to church, and he comes out wearing flip-flops," she says. "And I go, 'OK, that's it, I'm drawing the line.' And he said, 'Jesus wore sandals, honey.' I kind of couldn't argue with him after that."

Though the flip-flops are still in Bill's rotation ("I just put them away a few minutes ago, actually," Giuliana says), the two have agreed that he can only wear them "during the day, when it's 90 degrees outside." It's these kinds of playful compromises that make the Chicago power couple's six-year-union so indestructible. But it probably also helps that Giuliana has dressed Bill — and now their son, Duke, 1 — ever since their 2007 wedding. "That's why I got married," laughs Bill, a self-proclaimed "jeans and T-shirt guy. "My fashion sense has stepped up significantly, but I have nothing to do with it."

Giuliana is certainly qualified to step in as her family's sartorial consultant. Aside from critiquing and complimenting celebrity style on E!, she's deeply entrenched in the day-to-day development of her line, G by Giuliana Rancic. Sold exclusively on HSN, the fall collection is already a runaway success; some of the items sold out almost immediately. "Everything is very luxe looking — a lot of leather and great fabrics — but really easy to wear and effortless," she says of the designs, which include a leopard-print blazer ($139.90), distressed-print leggings ($69.90) and several cocktail dresses ($69.90-$149.90).

The Italian-born Giuliana claims she culled inspiration for the line everywhere from the streets of Chicago to boutiques in Florence. And despite the fact that Bill openly admits to his "zero interest" in fashion, he says he admires the European-chic style that comes so naturally to his wife. "Her dad is a master tailor from Naples, so I think it's in her DNA. It's the blood that runs through her veins," he says. "I love that about her."

Giuliana is just as enthralled by her husband's passions — though she's got reservations about his latest venture. "Training Day," a reality series that Bill co-developed with Ridley Scott, will follow the entrepreneur (who currently co-hosts news-magazine show "America Now" alongside Leeza Gibbons) as he tests himself in training sessions for some of America's most dangerous jobs, from ice-road trucking to embedding with a SWAT team. "It's gonna be a lot of fun," says Bill. "But my wife was not thrilled with the idea of me doing some of these things."

"When he's jumping out of helicopters, I don't know if I'll be able to watch," echoes Giuliana. She does admit that the project makes perfect sense for Bill. "It's so up his alley," she says. "We'll take a walk around our neighborhood in Chicago and stop at the firehouse and talk to the guys, and he'll always say, I could've been a firefighter; I love that [sense of] brotherhood. So I wasn't surprised at all."

What's most surprising about the series is that Bill was able to find the time to take on a new role. In addition to their separate projects, the Rancics are promoting the sixth-season finale of their Style Network show, "Giuliana & Bill," (airing Sept. 24) and co-running RPM — their always-packed Italian restaurant on Dearborn and Illinois — with R.J., Molly and Jerrod Melman. Later this fall, they'll open up a sister restaurant, RPM Steak, at 60 W. Kinzie. "It's not your grandfather's steakhouse," says Bill of the spot, which will serve dry-aged steaks and chilled shellfish in a high-energy setting. "Doug Psaltis, the chef, couldn't stop smiling when he was talking about [creating] the menu. He was like, 'This is gonna blow people away.'"

The pair practice what they preach, dining at RPM every single night they're in town — a tradition that their legions of fans have caught onto. "A lot of people do come up and want to take a picture, say hello," says Giuliana. "We love it. We embrace it. It helps that the Rancics are as enamored of Chicago as Chicagoans are of them. There's no better feeling than walking down the street here and having people say to us, 'Guys, we watch your show, we love your restaurant, we love that you love Chicago,'" says Giuliana. "Whenever I'm walking by myself with Duke, I always call Bill and say, 'This is the best city in the world.'"

Because their professional lives are so jam-packed, the Rancics make sure their relationship stays low-key. "We don't put pressure on ourselves to keep things exciting," says Giuliana. "We define date night not by getting my hair done, getting dressed up and going to a fancy restaurant and spending a lot of money. Our date night is, 'Let's get in bed early, watch TV, get a bottle of wine. That's how we connect.'"

Bill chirps in, "We had dinner last night at RPM at 5:30," and Giuliana laughs. "Early bird special," she says. "We just have a good time together doing whatever. We really do."
ON GIULIANA
Brian Rennie for Basler: gown, $8,500; 
Basler-fashion.com
Le Vian: diamond ring, price upon request; 
Levian.com
ON BILL
Dolce & Gabbana: slim fit dress shirt, $345, 
Barneys New York, 15 E. Oak; Barneys.com
Tom Ford: pants, $550, 58 E. Oak; 
Tomford.com
Rolex: stainless steel Daytona, $12,000, 636 
N. Michigan, Rolex.com

Giuliana and Bill were photographed at the 
Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows, which 
offers a quintessential California experience. 
The hotel's luxurious Lynda Murray suites offer 
a distinct residential atmosphere unique to 
Santa Monica's culture and lifestyle. For more 
information, visit Fairmont.com/santa-monic
For a behind-the-scenes video of our photo shoot with Giuliana and Bill, go to Chicagosplash.com. (You may even catch a glimpse of little Duke.)
GIULIANA'S FALL TREND FORECAST

The fashion expert shares her must-haves for the season

MENSWEAR
"I think that the menswear look is really in for women this fall. I love patent. I'm going to get some patent oxford shoes that kind of look like men's shoes."

STATEMENT COATS
"Usually outerwear is more of a basic, but I think this year, coats are more of a statement."

Zara: Brogue Blucher, $79.90, 700 N. Michigan, Zara.com

G by Giuliana Rancic: Ultra Luxe blazer and Ponte slim straight pants, $139.90 and $59.90, Hsn.com

Saint Laurent: metallic tux jacket, $2,950, Neiman Marcus, 737 N. Michigan, Neimanmarcus.com

Shades of Grey by Attalie Dexter: Papillon necklace, $28, Milk Handmade, 5137 N. Clark, Milkhandmade.com

Michael Kors: pea coat cape, $295, 900 N. Michigan; Michaelkors.com

H&M: coat with quilted sleeves, $59.95, 840 N. Michigan; Hm.com/us

Burberry: Hartington military coat, $1,595, Bloomingdales, 900 N. Michigan; Bloomingdales.com

Weekend Max Mara: Gatto belted floral coat, $795, Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan; Saksfifthavenue.com

G by Giuliana Rancic: mixed media cropped jacket, $119; Hsn.com
TURTLE-NECKS
"The turtleneck is back. Not a thick one — more of a fitted, less-bulky version. A streamlined, simple turtleneck under a big coat is so chic."

Club Monaco: Colleen turtleneck, $198.50, 2206 N. Halsted; Clubmonaco.com
Donna Karan: cutout top, $795, Neiman Marcus, 737 N. Michigan; Neimanmarcus.com
H&M: short coat, $49.95, 840 N. Michigan; Hm.com/us
Marc by Marc Jacobs: Mareika Tulip belted sweater dress, $458, Nordstrom, 55 E. Grand; Nordstrom.com

ANKLE BOOTS
"A great, strong ankle boot is a must."

Sole Society: Helena bootie, $79.95, Nordstrom, 55 E. Grand; Nordstrom.com
Giuseppe Zanotti: metallic reptile leather bootie, $399.95, DSW, 3131 N. Clark; Dsw.com
Chanel: two-tone calfskin short boot, $1,350, 935 N. Michigan; Chanel.com
B Brian Atwood: Foggia boot, $550, Neiman Marcus, 737 N. Michigan; Brianatwood.com

FALL FASHION PREVIEW | feature

Coach: Hamme bootie, $225, Macy’s, 111 N. State; Coach.com

ANKLE BOOTS
"A great, strong ankle boot is a must."

Sole Society: Helena bootie, $79.95, Nordstrom, 55 E. Grand; Nordstrom.com
Giuseppe Zanotti: metallic reptile leather bootie, $399.95, DSW, 3131 N. Clark; Dsw.com
Chanel: two-tone calfskin short boot, $1,350, 935 N. Michigan; Chanel.com
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Past tracks

The Goodman’s new play captures history, culture and family conflicts and infuses it with the blues

BY MOLLY EACH

It’s June 1937. Joe Louis is facing off against Irishman Joe Braddock, and he’s about to become the second African-American world heavyweight champion in history. Meanwhile, the Pullman porters are entrenched in the fight to unionize. And on a train traveling from Chicago to New Orleans, the Sykes men—three generations of porters—eagerly await news from the boxing ring. That’s the premise of “Pullman Porter Blues,” the Goodman Theatre’s new play, which layers multiple historical events with complex family dynamics and backs it all with blues music.

“It’s a portrait of not only African-American life in the 1930s, but also train culture in the 1930s,” says Tosin Morohunfola, who plays Cephas Sykes, a young man eager to become a Pullman porter, a job that commanded an almost military-like level of respect in the black community. “But despite the status, you were still under the foot of the man, underpaid and mistreated,” says Morohunfola. “So there was this strange juxtaposition of being in a prized role, but still being denigrated.”

This contradiction provides the foundation for much of the play’s drama. While Cephas wants to be a porter, his father, Sylvester, who’s leading the charge to form the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (which would become the first black-led labor organization chartered by the American Federation of Labor), doesn’t want him to. “He wants him to go to school, be a doctor and elevate the race by his own personal achievements,” says Morohunfola. “And his grandfather [Monroe, also a porter] just wants there to be peace.”

The show isn’t technically a musical, but the blues plays a significant role; a dozen songs are performed by the cast and an on-stage band. “The blues is a language of an oppressed person, and in this case, an oppressed people,” says Morohunfola. “The music reinforces what’s going on in their lives, but it’s the blues in particular because each of these characters is suffering from their own piece of depression.”

This show isn’t technically a musical, but the blues play an important role in the story. A dozen songs are performed by the cast and an on-stage band. “The blues is a language of an oppressed person, and in this case, an oppressed people,” says Morohunfola. “The music reinforces what’s going on in their lives, but it’s the blues in particular because each of these characters is suffering from their own piece of depression.”

Penned by Cheryl L. West and helmed by resident director Chuck Smith (who celebrates his 20th anniversary and 20th production with the Goodman this season), the play is firmly intertwined with Chicago. The Louis/Braddock fight—a seminal moment in African-American history—occurred here, while the Pullman neighborhood on the South Side housed the porters and other railroad employees. In fact, while putting the play together, the cast spent a lot of time delving into that history by watching documentaries, discussing the porters, the blues and Joe Louis, and visiting the Pullman Porter Museum (10406 S. Maryland).

“It’s very much a Chicago story, and very much an American story,” says Morohunfola. “And it’s an education as well as it is entertainment, which I really value.”

Female fête

Dress for success at the eighth annual BizOver makeover and networking event, founded by business attorney and entrepreneur Lema Khorshid. Stop by Neiman Marcus Sept. 11 for cocktails, food, makeovers and prizes. 737 N. Michigan, $50 per ticket, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; BizOver2013.eventbrite.com

Fall focus

Stylist Mark Gill brings the best in Italian luxury to his appointment-only showroom, VMR, Sept. 12-14. Shop Fendi’s Fall/Winter 2013 collection with help from the expert stylist, who’s previously dressed celebs like Oprah. Thursday from noon-7 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m.-7 p.m., 34 E. Oak. RSVP by emailing Store_costa_mesa@us.fendi.com

Pump it up

Brazilian-based shoe designer Melissa + Lagerfeld for a new collection, on display at space519’s shop-in-shop Sept. 12. Join Annie Barlow, Kimberly Burt, Toni Canada, Eva Dalberl and Amanda Puck for the launch party, and sip Moët, snack on macarons and peruse the new shoes. 6-8 p.m. 900 N. Michigan, 5th floor. RSVP by emailing Whitney@space519.com
The Northbrook native on filming ‘Chicago Fire’ and ‘finding the good’

BY LIZ CROKIN

Yuri Sardarov says that it was “pure serendipity” when he landed the role of underdog Otis on NBC’s “Chicago Fire.” “I got a call to audition in January of 2012.” They needed Chicago actors, he says simply. “I fit the bill.”

The Northbrook native, 25, was destined for the silver screen as a student at Glenbrook North High School. “If I wasn’t acting back then, I was definitely acting out,” he jokes. “I was a shy kid, but my big foible in class was, ‘He goes around too much.’”

Now back in his hometown, Sardarov is thrilled to be a part of “Chicago Fire,” which follows a group of the city’s firefighters and starts its second season Sept. 24. But he does admit that filming the show can occasionally be “too dangerous.” “The other day, we had Jesse [Spencer] dangling off a ladder, suspended in mid-air,” he says.

Finding fire: “We did prep work with the Chicago Fire Department, live-alarms and a day at the academy. Having lunch with these guys is like going to war with your dignity, so you constantly have to be on your toes. They made sure we were prepared for the fires as well as the firehouse.”

Dreaming big: “When I got to college, I joined a fraternity, partyed entirely too much, lost my scholarships and didn’t get cast. It took me two years to figure out I was screwing up. And that’s the concept that fascinates me about any art, really; growing and changing parallel to one another. One of my professor’s mantras was, ‘Find the good.’ I still have no idea what it means, but I’m searching.”

In shape: “There’s this area in LA where I’m 13, and he’s so much more fun in my life, and at the same time, feared for it as much as I do on set. Charlie Barnett, Joe Minoso and I lived together throughout season one. All of us get together regularly for a poker night or some Whirly-ball.”

Chicago connection: “I went to high school in Northbrook. My parents are still up there, and having that link is very important to me. I have a younger brother who’s 13, and he’s so much more grown up than I was at that age. I think I live vicariously through him sometimes.”
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Jennifer Lane & Brandon Pearlman
Jennifer Lane says that all it took was one date with Brandon Pearlman to know he was the one. “Things just clicked,” she recalls of their first conversation over drinks in 2007. Five years later, Pearlman proposed while vacationing in Florida, and the pair began planning their July 20 nuptials at the Peninsula Chicago (108 E. Superior).

Old-Hollywood glamour served as Lane’s inspiration for the bash. She incorporated everything from vintage chandeliers — one hung from the couple’s Chuppah — to mercury glass centerpieces with ivory roses. Clad in a sequined Monique Lhuillier gown and crystal-embellished heels, Lane wed Pearlman in front of 160 guests, all of whom partied past midnight, including the couple’s grandmothers, Evelyn Lane, 94, and Lucy Konsh, 84. “It was a magical evening, to say the least,” says Lane. — Katrina Bizios

CHEERS!

Congrats to The Health Insurance Shoppe owner Jordan Wishner and his wife January on welcoming their first child, Winter Lynn, Aug. 26.

Jim and Mike Stolfe

We’re wishing Mike Stolfe and his team well with the Aug. 30 opening of the newest location of Connie’s Pizza (1030 N. State) in the Gold Coast. This year, the company celebrates 50 years in business.

Round of applause for the students of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, who’ve just partnered with Elle magazine. They displayed their designs in a live runway show Sept. 6 at the David H. Koch Theater in New York City and their work will grace the pages of Elle’s October and December issues.

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style | TRENDING NOW

THE WAY OF THE WES

Chicago-born designer Wes Gordon makes fall more fashionable

"Modern, sleek statement jewelry is right on trend for fall. Few people do it better than Eddie Borgo."

1. Essie: nail polish. $8, Ulta, 16 S. Halsted; Essie.com
2. Eddie Borgo: malachite cone bracelet. $175, Neapolitan, 715 Elm, Winnetka; Neapolitanonline.com
3. Morgenthal Frederics: Webster sunglasses, $395, 129 E. Oak; Morgenthalfrederics.com
5. Stephen Sills: Decoration, $417.3, Barnes & Noble, 1130 N. State; Stephensills.com
6. Diptyque: Feu de Bois/ Wood Fire candle, $60, 1645 N. Damen; Diptyqueparis.com
7. Shinola: Bixby bike, $1,950. Turin Bicycle Chicago, 4710 N. Damen; Shinola.com
8. Noble, 1130 N. State; Stephensills.com

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"Keep your home smelling like you have a roaring fire going with Diptyque's Feu de Bois candle. It's my personal favorite, and is almost always found burning on my desk."

"Greg Chait did a one-time collaboration with J. Crew. This sweater is a piece that you'll love for years to come."

"A friend of mine started this amazing company, selling timeless well-made men's shoes for under $200."

"I recently discovered Raleigh denim and now wear it constantly. These selvage-denim jeans will only look better the more you wear them."

"For fall and winter, a guy can't have enough great chunky knits. I'm always drawn to classic styles, and this one by A.P.C. is close to perfect."

"Shinola is an amazing company dedicated to promoting American-made products."

1. Jack Erwin: shoes, $195, Jackerwin.com
2. Raleigh Denim: starts at $225, Barneys New York, 15 E. Oak; Raleighworkshop.com
3. A.P.C.: patterned ribbed merino wool sweater, $280, Mr. Porter; Mrporter.com
4. Shinola: Bixby bike, $1,950, Turin Bicycle Chicago, 4710 N. Damen; Shinola.com
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Honda redesigned the Odyssey for 2014 with refreshed styling, additional standard amenities and enhanced safety features. Curb appeal has been enhanced with a sleeker, more refined and hunkered-down profile. There's a new more sculpted aluminum hood, new aluminum front fenders, new twin-bar grille, darker-finish projector-beam headlamp housings, and LED taillight assemblies.

Powering all 2014 Honda Odysseys is a 3.5-liter V6 engine that produces 248 horsepower. The sophisticated engine features Honda's Variable Cylinder Management (VCM) to help maximize fuel efficiency and reduce emissions. Mated to the V6 is a six-speed automatic transmission. The six-speed was previously featured in Touring and Touring Elite trims only, but is now standard across the line, and helps achieve an impressive 19/28 city/highway mpg.

Power goes to Odyssey's front wheels. All-wheel drive is not available but Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA) with traction control and antilock brakes are standard.

Odyssey's cabin is very spacious and versatile. With seating for seven or eight passengers, the Odyssey features an extra-wide second-row seat that can accommodate three car seats side-by-side. Parents will also appreciate the available multi-function second-row center seat (standard in all trims except LX) that can be slid forward almost six inches to allow mom or dad to easily reach their child from the front seats.

Odyssey's second-row seats do not fold flat into the floor, but a one-motion 60/40 split third-row "Magic Seat" that folds flat into the floor is standard on all trim levels.

The 2014 Honda Odyssey is available in five trim levels; LX ($28,825), EX ($32,125), EX-L ($35,625), Touring ($41,880), and Touring Elite ($44,450). LX comes very well equipped including a 240-watt audio system and rear-view camera with guidelines. Plus, all 2014 Odyssey models will include standard Bluetooth connectivity, a 4-way power passenger seat, expanded-view driver's mirror, Pandora interface and an SMS text messaging function. New available features include the Honda Lane Watch blind spot display, Forward Collision Warning (FCW) and Lane Departure Warning (LDW).

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Mauro Family Legacy
Beginning in 1960 with Frank Mauro, the Mauro family has been proud members of the Illinois and Wisconsin automotive communities. Over the years their dealerships now totaling 18 have been recognized by the manufacturers for award winning service departments while consistently ranking at the top of sales as volume dealerships in the Midwest. Pictured here with their mother, Rita, Greg, (on the left) his brother Ralph and sister Gina now represent the Audi, BMW, Hyundai, Infiniti, Jaguar, Land Rover, Maserati, Mazda, Mercedes, Mini Cooper, Porsche, Subaru, VW, Volvo lines.

Greg Mauro Says, "I've been in the car business for over 30 years," said Greg Mauro. "There is no greater excitement than opening a new dealership (Pictured here). Meeting new people, making new friends...helping customers drive home in the car of their dreams, that always makes me smile. I'm honored to be a part of the Libertyville business community" noted Mauro.

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Stunning designs
North Shore Builders opens showroom

North Shore Builders announces its move to a new design showroom at 911 Green Bay Road in Winnetka.

Featuring bathroom and kitchen layouts, flooring selections, finishes and cabinetry options, the stunning design showroom in the heart of Downtown Hubbard Woods offers homeowners the opportunity to peruse and pick home details personalized to their tastes.

North Shore Builders homes are built with the lifestyles of today’s busy families in mind. While square footage and number of bedrooms make a “space,” it is the details that make a “home.” With options such as mudroom built-ins and bookcases surrounding the fireplace, North Shore Builders has developed both functional and aesthetic ways to make clients’ spaces that much more enjoyable.

“We are delighted to open our new design showroom to our current clients and future homeowners on the North Shore,” said Therese Schaefer, sales manager of North Shore Builders. “Having a true showroom exemplifies our mission of making the home building process both accessible and enjoyable for clients.”

With an abundance of state-of-the-art choices, the new design showroom space gives customers the opportunity to envision their own home as they explore multiple room layouts, finishes, appliances and home features that fit their lifestyle. Potential homeowners will appreciate the opportunity to have a hands-on experience and customize every detail for their new home.

Six new residences slated for delivery and available for purchase on the North Shore, including 515 Cumnor, Kenilworth, priced at $2,089,000; 556 Hawthorn, Winnetka, $1,599,000; 820 Oakwood, Wilmette, $1,699,000; 935 Yale, Wilmette, $999,900; 170 Woodland, Winnetka, $1,399,000; and 797 Pine, Winnetka, $1,499,000.

North Shore Builders prides itself on the use of modern materials to enhance the home’s energy efficiency and meet “green” standards. With environmental aspects becoming more important to homeowners, the “green” factor not only makes the home feel good, but also improves the value.

Winnetka-based North Shore Builders’ energy-efficient homes meet “green” standards to ensure homebuyers years of low cost ownership. North Shore Builders has an inventory of additional lots and homes available for custom building, and the ability to build a custom home in Winnetka, Wilmette, Glencoe and Kenilworth.

To schedule an appointment to visit the new showroom, customers can call (847) 878-0963. Visit www.nsbgreen.com for more information.

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URBAN EXTENSION

Lake Chapin Shores second home an option to the city

In the last four years, an increasing number of Illinois residents have downsized from their suburban homes to condos and townhomes in the more action-packed urban setting of downtown Chicago.

Many of those who miss their space have looked to southwest Michigan for a second home investment that will give their families the advantage of a permanent getaway year-round without the hassle, time and travel expense of a long drive.

It's a sort of extension of the urban lifestyle, a country connection to town.

With the economic recovery continuing to move forward and interest rates at record lows, dreams of a nearby second home are becoming a reality. There are many important considerations when buying a second home and it is an important financial and family decision (check out the Second Home Buyers Guide at lakechapinshores.com).

The ultimate decision factor in any real estate purchase, however, will always be location, location, location. According to most experts, regular use of vacation homes over three hours away drops off dramatically from those second homes which are closer to the owner’s primary residence. Simply put, you can’t enjoy a second home if you can’t get to easily and regularly.

About a 90-minute drive from Chicago, for example, delivers Michigan’s promise of feeling like you’re a million miles from schedules, chores and the daily grind, immersed instead in the middle of country fresh air, water, woods... enjoying “a different state of mind.”

One of the most scenic and desirable spots for that second home/vacation retreat has proven to be Lake Chapin Shores, a combination lake and woods property located on Lake Chapin in nearby Berrien Springs, Michigan.

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

The model home offers a glimpse into unlimited possibilities for vacation convenience, amenities and four-season fun, while the Website at www.LakeChapinShores.com illustrates the unique features of 12 separate home designs.

Each home option emphasizes convenience and low maintenance, an open floor plan, outdoor views from each level and access to screened porches and expansive decks. Homes are designed to meet the needs of any size family, from 1,300 to 3,400 square feet of comfortable living space (not including decks and porches) with cozy fireplaces, cherry or maple cabinetry, natural granite countertops and energy efficient appliances. Heated pool, lake-front dock and sports equipment storage options, children's playground and available concierge services are part of the package.

Boating, fishing or strolling the shoreline, a day at the pool, an afternoon wine-tasting at one of the area's many wineries, an evening at the fire pit roasting marshmallows or spending some time on the deck with friends... just some of the images of life at Lake Chapin Shores, 76 miles from Chicago.

Visit the Web site at www.LakeChapinShores.com for a look at each of 12 model home options, photos and video of Lake Chapin Shores living and a complete list of materials and specifications. Call 888-TO-MICHIGAN (888-866-4244) for an appointment to tour the Lake Chapin Shores community, see the beautiful woodland model, and explore the wonderful surrounding countryside.
More recommended Northwest Indiana restaurants

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

Ciao Bella
Schererville, Ind.
219-322-6800
ciaobellaonline.com

For a true taste of Italy, visit Ciao Bella Ristorante in Northwest Indiana. Owned by Italian-born Guiseppe "Joe" Scalzo, the restaurant offers a blend of traditional Italian dishes with original plates such as Rigatoni Boscato or Pesce Bianco. In addition to these dishes, the restaurant offers a variety of heavier fare like skirt steak and light appetizers like thin crust pizzas.

After working within the restaurant business in Italy, Scalzo brought his love of cooking to the United States where he opened and previously owned two Chicago restaurants, Piazza Bella and Via Carducci.

Gamba Ristorante
Merrillville, Ind.
219-736-5000
gambaristorante.com

Modeled after upscale European restaurants in its architectural and culinary fashion, Gamba Ristorante offers a number of classic and modernized Italian dishes. Its warm interior can host small parties or larger celebrations, as their banquet hall holds up to 175 people and their wine room boasts storage for 1,000 bottles.

With a winning combination of food and ambiance, Gamba Ristorante is the premier spot for Italian dining.

The Patio
Merrillville, Ind.
219-769-7990
thepatiorestaurantin.com

The Patio offers fine dining, banquets and catering services to the northwest Indiana area. When you choose The Patio for your catering needs, you will have an excellent selection of wines to pair with a delightful dinner menu of American fusion cuisine.

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

Traverse City, Mich.
Taste of Traverse City
Sept. 13-15
tasteoftraversecity.com

Lake Geneva, Wis.
Taste of Lake Geneva
Sept. 14
lakegenevawi.com/events

Shakopee, Minn.
Minnesota Renaissance Festival
Sept. 14-15
renaissancefest.com

St. Joseph County Grange Fair
Sept. 15-21
centrevillefair.info

Benton Harbor, Mich.
Artsbeefest
Sept. 21
newterritoryarts.org/calendar

Bloomington, Minn.
Bloomington Heritage Days
Sept. 21
bloomingtonheritagedays.com

Cedarburg, Wis.
Wine and Harvest Festival
Sept. 21-22
cedarbargfestivals.org
Ten top films to check out this fall

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

It's been a fairly lackluster year for movies so far in 2013, but there appears to be hope as we head into fall.

With the kids back in school, Hollywood is counting on grownups to start forking over their dough at the multiplex. And that means an emphasis on fare that's more serious, substantial and challenging and less spectacular, loud and explosive. With nary a superhero in sight. Well, except for that big, blonde Nordic guy with the hammer.

Here are 10 to look forward to between now and Thanksgiving.

"Don Jon" (Sept. 27) — After a big year in front of the camera in 2012 ("Dark Knight Rises," "Premium Rush," "Looper"), actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt is also stepping behind it this year for his starring/writing/directing debut such event in 200 years - is the setting for this drama by director Paul Greengrass ("The Bourne Ultimatum," "United 93"). With Tom Hanks occupying the wheelhouse.

"Captain Phillips" (Oct. 11) — The 2009 hijacking of a U.S. cargo ship by Somali pirates — the first such event in 200 years — is the subject of this drama by director Paul Greengrass ("The Bourne Ultimatum," "United 93"). With Tom Hanks occupying the wheelhouse.

"12 Years a Slave" (Sept. 27) — Director Steve McQueen ("Hunger," "Shame") directed. Co-producer Brad Pitt briefly provides abolitionist sympathy.

"Gravity" (Oct. 4) — Mexican writer/director Alfonso Cuaron ("Y Tu Mama, También") reportedly wanted to be an astronaut when he grew up, so perhaps he's working out his frustrations with this outer-space thriller about adrift astronauts (George Clooney and Sandra Bullock) struggling to survive.

"All Is Lost" (Oct. 18) — Robert Redford is a cast of one in this almost dialogue-free drama about a yachtsman on a solo ocean voyage forced to navigate his slowly sinking ship with minimal instruments and meager supplies after a collision and a major storm. Fortunately there are no sharks. Oh, wait — there are.

"Thor: The Dark World" (Nov. 8) — The Norse God of Thunder (Chris Hemsworth) will no doubt be hot stuff when he faces off against menacing Malekith (Christopher Eccleston) — but his timing seems a tad off. Should this really be happening during sweater weather?

"The Wolf of Wall Street" (Nov. 15) — Still in a super-rich groove, apparently, after "The Great Gatsby," Leonardo DiCaprio wallows in filthy lucre as '90s brokerage firm founder Jordan Belfort — with Martin Scorsese presiding over his rise and fall.

"The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" (Nov. 22) — Jennifer Lawrence returns as the bow-dacious archer heroine of Suzanne Collins' young-adult romance and revolution novels — after the original movie scored nearly $700 million worldwide. Bulls-eye.
Director-set designer couple shape Northlight drama

By Catey Sullivan
For Sun-Times Media

Jeff Award-winning director Kimberly Senior and her equally lauded spouse, scenic designer Jack Magaw, have been married just over a year, but their collaborative work in Chicago’s theatrosphere dates back some 20 shows.

This month Senior and Magaw are taking their talents to Skokie for Amy Herzog’s “4,000 Miles.” The production, which tells the story of a disaffected 20-something drifter finding an unlikely connection with his 91-year-old grandmother, opens Sept. 14 at Northlight Theatre.

Herzog’s play marks the 21st time Magaw has crafted a stage set that accommodates Senior’s vision for theatrical storytelling, evidence of a flourishing creative partnership. Still, when the two first crossed paths in 2007 when Senior was directing “The Busy World is Hushed” at Evanston’s Next Theatre, the director was far from inclined to hire the designer.

“We had a little meeting before ‘The Busy World is Hushed’ went into production,” Magaw, 50, recalls. “She was not very in favor of hiring me. I had to convince her otherwise. To this day, I’m not sure how I did it. I was just myself.”

That was then. Now, “we’re each other’s first choice,” says Senior. “We’ve got a shorthand for working together, which is great. Although I always tell our stage managers, ‘don’t count on Jack and I speaking to each other.’ Count on me forgetting to mention that I, for example, moved the chairs three feet downstage and asking Jack how that would impact the stage traffic.”

Forgetful scenic shifts aside, neither Magaw nor Senior much minds bringing work home with them. “Usually, designers are under a lot of pressure to come up with their ideas and plans in the time they’ve got slated to work with the director,” Senior says. “With Jack, I can tell him what I think we need and he can think about it and then we can talk about it at dinner or whenever.”

“4,000 Miles,” the story of Leo (Josh Salt), a troubled youth, and Vera (Mary Ann Thebus), his prickly widowed grandmother, requires Senior and Magaw to come up with a very specific, representational environment.

“I don’t like to use the word realism to describe scenery because nothing on stage is real,” says Magaw. “But this set needs to evoke the apartment of someone who is well-travelled and well-read, living in New York City.”

Magaw’s evocation is hyper-realistic, Senior says. “He’s built an apartment on stage. You could move into it.”

And like true designers, Senior and Magaw regularly rearrange all the furniture in their 113-year-old Evanston home.

“Yes, I sometimes rearrange the furniture in the middle of the night. It’s a dorky director thing I guess,” Senior says.
At 25, Oceanique still puts flavor first

BY LEE A. LITAS
Dining Columnist

The more things change, the more they stay the same, or so it seems at Evanston's Oceanique, now celebrating its 25th year. That's good news for diners.

Yes, the décor has been revamped to create a new space that speaks to the serenity of a satisfying meal and long, languid evenings in 3-hour chairs.

But while some things become trends, like deconstructing food down to its molecules, flavors remain supreme for executive chef/owner Mark Grosz. "If the flavors aren't right, then it's just boring even if it looks nice, deconstructed or whatever."

Trained in the French kitchens but employing a healthy dose of Asian influences in his cuisine, Grosz likes to create dishes with produce at the height of its season and flavor.

Aiding in this endeavor is wine director, Grosz's son Philippe André. André, the driving force behind Oceanique's winning “Best of Award of Excellence” every year since 1993, admits to being texture-obsessed and has added crushed velvet banquettes, cloth and leather armchairs. New LED lighting creates the illusion of privacy while an ambient glow from decorative sconces showcases the scrumptious presentations.

"Food — that's really what it's all about," said André.

However, reservations are important, too, if you really want Oceanique's red carpet treatment. Their detailed system makes notes, from allergies to wine preference, on every single diner.

"If I know someone likes one olive instead of three in their cocktail," said André, "that's going to be in his reservation and I'm going to make sure he only gets one olive."

Try the chef's tender little care packages of zucchini blossoms stuffed with Manchego. Tempura-fried until golden, they're mixed with grilled shrimp, heirloom carrots and beet greens in a splash of spicy tomatillo essence ($16).

The wild Maine lobster is served chilled in deep purple opal basil vinaigrette with bufala mozzarella which matches it point-for-point in flavor and texture. The dish is heightened with red caviar that pops in your mouth while delicate avocado slices slink down your throat piquing your senses ($22).

Good food has been Oceanique's staple for 25 years, and looks to remain so. With good reason, says Grosz. "The proof is in the pudding."

Oceanique
505 Main St., Evanston
5:30-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 5:30-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Closed Sunday.
(847) 864-3435 or oceanique.com
**FAMILY FRIENDLY**

High energy Wiggles ‘Taking Off’ at Rosemont

**BY MYRNA PETTICIC**
For Sun-Times Media

Spread the word to your preschoolers — The Wiggles are on their way!

The Australian band that has enchanted kids for 21 years will perform two live concerts, “Taking Off!” at 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21 at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road.

They will be accompanied by their sidekicks, Dorothy the Dinosaur, Captain Feathersword, Wags the Dog and Henry the Octopus. But the band has a new look. Founder Anthony Field (Blue) is still helming the group but the other three original Wiggles have retired. Fans will meet the new crew: Simon (Red), Emma (Yellow) and Lachy (Purple).

Field reported that fans have enthusiastically embraced the new band members. As for Field, he plans to be a Wiggle for a very long time. “I’ve loved every minute of it,” he declared. “I love doing the shows, visiting hospitals. I’ve traveled the world, you know. The only downside is missing the family at home.”

Tickets are $23.70-$49.80.

For details, call (847) 671-5100 or go to www.rosemonttheatre.com.

**OVERNIGHT ADVENTURE**

Families can have the thrill of sleeping outdoors without traveling far by registering for the Campout at Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummell St., Skokie, 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20-10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 21. There will be a campfire for roasting marshmallows and singing songs, and a breakfast cooked outdoors. Cost is $26 per person for residents, $33 for nonresidents.

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

**IT'S NICE TO HARMONIZE**

There will be singing, dancing and instrument playing at Harmonious Horizons, 10:20-11:30 a.m. and 11:30-11:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 16 at the Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave. Registration is required for either session of this family music class for ages 1 month-5 years with an adult.

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

**THE WIGGLES**

**RIDE SIDE BY SIDE**

Families are invited to Bike Niles, 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Sept. 14. The event begins at Culver School, 6901 W. Oakton St., with participants riding to Miami Woods. There you will see a performance by X-Games medalist Matt Wilhelm, have bike safety checks and participate in other activities.

For details, go to www.vniles.com.

**IT'S A STEEL**

... band, that is. Your family will hear everything from classical music to calypso, jazz and pop when Matt Potts brings his Potts and Pans Steel Band to the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. 2-3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15.

For details, call (847) 965-4220 or go to www.mgpl.org.
Pizza in the Hut popular for Sukkot

BY VERONICA HINKE
For Sun-Times Media

Beef brisket slathered in thick gravy with a side of carrot tzimmis and a fluffy chunk of challah bread typically come to mind as foods for the Jewish holiday table. But if your idea of kosher foods only goes as far as matzah balls and kishkes, consider the latest trend for Sukkot — kosher pizza.

Many of these celebrations have become known as “kosher pizza in the hut,” a riff on the well-known pizza chain. And the idea is a perfect fit — kosher pizza is more popular than ever, and so is the tradition of eating meals in the sukkah, or hut, with groups of family or friends during Sukkot.

This year Sukkot takes place Sept. 18-25. To commemorate Sukkot, sukkahs are often erected in back yards of homes and synagogues. Many people eat all of their meals in the sukkah in honor of Biblical ancestors who traveled for centuries transporting collapsible, hut-like structures. Those who observe Sukkot are encouraged to spend as much time as possible in the sukkah during the week-long holiday — including sleeping in the hut.

The one major requirement for the construction of a sukkah is that it must have at least two and a half walls that will not blow away in the wind. Many modern sukkahs are elaborate structures — some even feature panels that open automatically by air power rather than electricity.

But one thing has remained the same since Biblical times — the sukkah is a gathering place for groups of family and friends. And crowd-pleasing favorites like pizza are the perfect foods for such occasions. “Sukkot is the holiday of unity,” explained Rabbi Meir Moscowitz, director of Lubavitch Chabad of Northbrook. “What could be better than sharing a pie together as we unite under one roof?”

Like many synagogues across the United States, Lubavitch Chabad has been hosting Kosher Pizza in the Hut as an annual event for Sukkot.

“Eating pizza in the sukkah fulfills the mitzvah — or obligation — of eating in the sukkah and is a fun way to teach the youth about the holiday,” Moscowitz said.

After all, what kid can resist pizza? Like they did last year, EJ’s Pizzeria in Skokie will cater the Lubavitch Chabad Pizza in the Hut event.

Sushi in the Sukkah is another popular food custom. It’s a riff on the name Sushi Hut. As long as the food is kosher, which means it conforms to the regulations of “kashrut,” or Jewish dietary law, just about anything goes.

And that other Italian favorite for big groups, pasta, is also popular for Sukkot. “Penne Pasta alla Vodka is one of our preferred pastas,” said EJ’s Pizzeria owner Ronald Slovin. The base of his recipe for Penne Pasta alla Vodka is heavy cream, marinara sauce and the vodka that provides that wonderful flavor accent. The alcohol is cooked out during preparation. “It’s a party-size recipe,” Slovin said.

Guests during last year’s “Pizza in the Hut,” at Lubavitch Chabad in Northbrook for Sukkot. This year’s event is Sept. 22.

For details about Kosher Pizza in the Hut at Lubavitch Chabad of Northbrook or Sukkot, see ChabadNorthbrook.com/sukkot.
THURSDAY, SEPT. 12

Morning Matinee: ‘The Sapphires’
10:30 a.m.: This 2012 film tells the story of four Australian Aboriginal girls who form a music group and are sent to Vietnam in 1968 to entertain the troops during the war. Starring Chris O’Dowd, Deborah Mailman and Jessica Mauboy. 104 minutes. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood. Call 847-677-5277.

Cinematic Classics: ‘Dark Victory’
1 p.m.: This 1939 film tells the story of a young sociopath who faces a difficult decision after she is diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. Starring Bette Davis, George Brent and Humphrey Bogart. 104 minutes. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood. For more information, call 847-677-5277.

Travel Film: Journey to the North Pole
2 p.m.: “Into the Cold” explores the stark reality of a North Pole expedition. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. For more information, call 847-625-3123.

Drop-In Big Kids Storytime
5:30 p.m.: Children should be between kindergartener and second grade. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 708-867-2298.

Concert: The Convertibles
7 p.m.: With roots in four-part barber shop harmony, the group will perform a mixture of doo-wop music from the ’50s and pop music from the ’60s. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-625-3123.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 13

Drop-In Junior Storytime
10 a.m.: Children should be between 3 and 5 years old. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 708-867-2298.

Film: ‘Killing Them Softly’
1 p.m.: This 2012 film tells the story of Jackie Cogan, a mob enforcer who must track down criminals who robbed a high-stakes card game. Starring Brad Pitt, Ray Liotta and Richard Jenkins. 97 minutes. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood. Call 847-677-5277.

Kids Flicks: ‘Teen Beach Movie’
4 p.m.: Teen surfing sweethearts are transported from the present day into a 1960s beach party movie. 100 minutes. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 20

Film: ‘Oblivion’
1 p.m.: In this 2013 sci-fi thriller, a man assigned to look after Earth’s remaining resources begins to question his mission. Starring Tom Cruise, Morgan Freeman and Olga Kurylenko. 124 minutes. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. For more information, call 708-867-8281.
Autumn Fest
Noon: Celebrate the autumnal equinox with the Morton Grove Park District at this event, which features hay rides, games, live music, a petting zoo and other fun activities for families. Giordano's will be on hand to sell pizza and Culver's will offer frozen custard. Harrer Park, 6250 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove.

Paul Taylor
7 p.m.: For VIP tickets, call 312-725-0740. Regular ticket information available at www.smoothchicago.com. InterContinental O'Hare Hotel and Gallery, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. $49-$69.

Family Star Gazing
7:30 p.m.: The event is organized by the Chicago Astronomical Society and the Cernan Space Center. North Park, 10040 W. Addison Ave., Franklin Park.

Fire Department Open House
Noon: Meet the members of the local fire department. Live demonstrations will be on hand armed with educational information, kids activities and refreshments. Schiller Park Fire Department, 9526 W. Irving Park Road, Schiller Park. Call 847-678-5136.

Fifth Annual International Celebration
2 p.m.: Enjoy an international extravaganza featuring dance performances and a food tasting. Feldman Recreation Center, 8900 W. Kathy Lane, Niles.

WWE Raw TV

TUESDAY, SEPT. 24
Film: ‘Becoming Jane’
11:30 a.m.: The young Jane Austen (Anne Hathaway) attempts to begin her literary career as she meets the mischievous Thomas Lefroy, who shows up and turns her world around. 120 minutes. Morton Grove Public Library, 6410 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25
Northwest Chicago Film Society
‘Casque D’or’
7:30 p.m.: A 1952 French film with English subtitles directed by Jacques Becker. 94 minutes. Patio Theater, 6008 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Call 773-665-4291.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28
Film: ‘Three Worlds’
2 p.m.: A hit-and-run accident results in the death of an illegal foreigner. Three men, including a young executive, are aboard the vehicle and decide to keep silence about the whole thing, but a young woman is witness to it and succeeds in finding the driver. French, Moldovan with English subtitles; 100 minutes. Morton Grove Public Library, 6410 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

Sarah Brightman

SUNDAY, SEPT. 29
Film: ‘Three Worlds’
2 p.m.: A hit-and-run accident results in the death of an illegal foreigner. Three men, including a young executive, are aboard the vehicle and decide to keep silence about the whole thing, but a young woman is witness to it and succeeds in finding the driver. French, Moldovan with English subtitles; 100 minutes. Morton Grove Public Library, 6410 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.
**FILM CLIPS**

**BY BRUCE INGRAM**
Film Critic

**OPENING FRIDAY**

**THE FAMILY**

Rated R for violence, language and brief sexuality

*Stars: Robert De Niro, Tommy Lee Jones, Michelle Pfeiffer*

A mafia boss (De Niro) who has testified against the mob is relocated with his family to a sleepy town in France under the protection of a CIA agent (Jones). Luc Besson (“The Fifth Element,” “The Professional”) directed the crime comedy.

**INSIDIOUS: CHAPTER 2**

Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of terror and violence

*Stars: Patrick Wilson, Rose Byrne, Barbara Hershey*

The evil spirits who attempted to possess a comatose young boy in the 2010 original continue to plague the Lambert family. James Wan (“The Conjuring,” “Saw”) directed the horror.

**EMPIRE STATE**

Rated: R for violence and pervasive language

*Stars: Liam Hemsworth, Emma Roberts, Dwayne Johnson*

Two childhood friends (Hemsworth and Roberts) planning to rob an armored car depository must first deal with a New York City police officer who stands in their way. Dito Montiel (“A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints”) directed the crime drama.

**RIDDICK**

Rated: R for strong violence, language and some sexual content/nudity

*Stars: Vin Diesel, Jordi Molla, Katee Sackhoff, Bokeem Woodbine*

A fugitive (Diesel) left to die on an arid planet is forced to contend with an alien race of predators. David Twohy (“Pitch Black”) directed the sci-fi thriller.

**SALINGER**

Rated: PG-13 for disturbing war images, thematic elements and smoking

*Stars: Philip Seymour Hoffman, Edward Norton, John Cusack, Tom Wolfe, Gore Vidal*

The private world of the reclusive author of *Catcher in the Rye* is explored in this documentary. Directed by Shane Salerno (“Sundown: The Future of Children and Drugs”).

**CLOSED CIRCUIT**

★★★ 1/2

Rated: R for language and brief violence

*Stars: Eric Bana, Rebecca Hall, Jim Broadbent*

We don't get to see or hear the massive explosion that opens this complex courtroom/political thriller — only the tense moments leading up to it. Mainly because "Closed Circuit” isn't a movie about stuff getting blown up. It's a movie about the dramatic complications that follow. After a terrorist bombing that kills 120 people in London, two embittered hostile former lovers (Bana and Hall) on the defense team are forced into a dangerous situation after uncovering evidence of a government cover-up. Intelligent, increasingly suspenseful and full of bitter plot twists, this is one of those films where few of the characters are likable, but just about everyone is interesting enough to make that irrelevant. Especially since about half of them stand an equal chance of being killed at any given moment.

**GETAWAY**

★★

Rated: PG-13 for intense action, violence and mayhem throughout, some rude gestures, and language

*Stars: Ethan Hawke, Selena Gomez, Jon Voight, Rebecca Budig*

Even if car-crash movies are your cotton candy and you're about to blow a gasket waiting for the next installment of “Fast and Furious,” don't be tempted by this pointless exercise in high-speed ridiculousness. Failed race-car driver Brent Magna (Hawke, who should have been scarred away as soon as he read that name in the script) is trying to start a new life in Bulgaria (yes, Bulgaria) when he's given an ultimatum by a mysterious villain (Voight): Do as he's told or his kidnapped wife will die. Soon, Magna's racing through the streets of Sofia in a souped-up Mustang with a million police in pursuit and the car's tough-talking, computer-genius, nefarious-scheme-foiling teenage owner (former Disney star Gomez) bickering with him in the front seat. That might have been fun if "Getaway" had been made with style and a tongue-in-cheek sensibility — or if it delivered the thrills it appears to promise. Unfortunately, it's 80 minutes of drive, bicker, crash and crash, bicker, drive, with a handful of explosions to break the monotony.
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Eric Bana (left) and Ciaran Hinds star in "Closed Circuit." AP PHOTO/FOCUS FEATURES, JAY MAIDMENT

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www.ChabadofGlenview.com

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NO membership required
For all your Jewish needs call
847-910-1738
www.ChabadofGlenview.com

Your Local Worship Guide

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call 630-978-8277 or Worship@Pioneerlocal.com
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<th>Devar Emet Messianic Synagogue</th>
<th>KOL EMETH</th>
<th>WILMETTE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central United Methodist Church</td>
<td>7800 Niles Ave., Skokie</td>
<td>Conservative Congregation</td>
<td>Beth Hillel Congregation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8237 Kenton, Ave., Skokie (847) 673-1311</td>
<td>847-674-9146</td>
<td>Rabbi Barry Schechter</td>
<td>Bnai Eimanah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.skokiecentralumc.org">www.skokiecentralumc.org</a></td>
<td>Join us for Shabbat Services at 10am</td>
<td>5130 Toothy, Skokie</td>
<td>3220 Big Tree Lane, 847-256-1213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship: Sundays at 10:30 AM</td>
<td>&quot;A Community of Jews who believe and teach that Yeshua (Jesus) is the Promised Jewish Messiah&quot;</td>
<td>(1 block west of Eden’s)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bhcbe.org">www.bhcbe.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Timothy Campus</td>
<td>Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church</td>
<td>St. Peter's United Church</td>
<td>Kabbalat Shabbos-Sat, to June:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9000 Kildare Ave., Skokie</td>
<td>4950 W. Pratt Ave., Skokie</td>
<td>4040 Main Street, Skokie</td>
<td>candle lighting time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Worship</td>
<td>WE RE GROWING &amp; MAKING CHANGES!!</td>
<td>847-673-3370</td>
<td>Saturday 9:00 AM Followed by Kiddush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 am: St. Timothy’s Lutheran</td>
<td>9:30 am. Praise and Celebration Service with Praise Band</td>
<td>Rabbi Michael Cohen, Ed. Dir.</td>
<td>Sunday 8:30 AM Followed by breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30am: 시카고 성공교회</td>
<td>Adult Sunday School</td>
<td>Sanctuary handicapped accessible!</td>
<td>Sanctuary handicapped accessible!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pm: 시카고 나무교회 (PCUSA)</td>
<td>10:45 am Traditional Service with Choir</td>
<td></td>
<td>4040 Main Street, Skokie, Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.StTimothySkokie.org">www.StTimothySkokie.org</a></td>
<td>(Adult Classes in English &amp; Assyrian)</td>
<td>847-674-9146</td>
<td>847-679-6513</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SKOKIE</th>
<th>Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation</th>
<th>SKOKIE CENTRAL TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION</th>
<th>Kehillat Shalom</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To showcase your House of Worship here call</td>
<td>Your home for Jewish, Learning, Living and Loving</td>
<td>Traditional Service – Mixed Seating Services led by:</td>
<td>Call 630-978-8277 or</td>
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<td>3601 W. Dempter St.</td>
<td>4500 Dempster St., Skokie</td>
<td>Rabbi Dr. Michael Gottesman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:worship@Pioneerlocal.com">worship@Pioneerlocal.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temple Beth Israel</td>
<td>847-675-4117</td>
<td>Minyons: Mon. &amp; Thurs. 8:00 AM</td>
<td>Ezra-Habonim, the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3601 W. Dempter St., Skokie, IL 60076</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tbiskokie.org">www.tbiskokie.org</a></td>
<td>Kabbalat Shabbos-Sat, to June:</td>
<td>Niles Township Jewish Congregation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>847-675-0951</td>
<td></td>
<td>candle lighting time</td>
<td>Lay Led Shabbat Service, 9:45AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.tbiskokie.org">www.tbiskokie.org</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday 9:00 AM Followed by Kiddush</td>
<td>8610 Niles Center Rd, Skokie</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SKOKIE</th>
<th>Temple Beth Israel</th>
<th>Beth Hillel Congregation</th>
<th>W.M. Temple Church of God in Christ, Inc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interfaith Families Welcome</td>
<td>3220 Big Tree Lane, 847-256-1213</td>
<td>Beth Hillel Congregation</td>
<td>5151 Church St., Skokie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbi Dr. Douglas Goldhammer</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bhcbe.org">www.bhcbe.org</a></td>
<td>Bnai Eimanah</td>
<td>847-966-1095</td>
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<tr>
<td>All services voice and sign language</td>
<td>candle lighting time</td>
<td>Interfaith Families Welcome</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pastorcranford@gmail.com">pastorcranford@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check our website for service times</td>
<td>Saturday 9:00 AM Followed by Kiddush</td>
<td>Temple Beth Israel</td>
<td>Sunday Service: 11:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday 8:30 AM Followed by breakfast</td>
<td>3601 W. Dempter St., Skokie</td>
<td>Sunday School: 10 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sanctuary handicapped accessible!</td>
<td>847-679-6513</td>
<td>Bible Study: Wednesday, 7 PM</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.tbiskokie.org">www.tbiskokie.org</a></td>
<td>Intercessory Prayer:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Friday, 12 PM</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. Clarence Cranford, Jr., Pastor</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth W. Cranford, 1st Lady</td>
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Kenneth Parker, Youth Pastor

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III

HOROSCOPES: SEPTEMBER 18 — SEPTEMBER 24

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The changing season brings new experiences as well as challenges for the ever-adventurous Aries. Your social life expands, as do the opportunities at work.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) That recent period of uncertainty has passed. Feel more confident about making decisions, especially those that relate to an important personal relationship.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Although you might be faced with a number of tasks on your to-do list, try to take time out to enjoy the arts. Music, especially, can be soothing to the soul.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A disagreement with a colleague or friend is best resolved with open and frank discussion. Trying to force the other party to see things your way is bound to backfire.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) That Leo pride might be ruffled by a colleague's challenge to one of your pet ideas. But stop growling and listen. You could learn something that will work to your advantage.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Someone in authority might decide to take counsel. But it's a good idea to have your facts ready to present. Remember to ask for help when you need it.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) That new workplace problem should be dealt with as soon as possible. Leaving it unresolved for too long could lead to an even more unsatisfactory situation.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might have to do some fancy footwork to keep both your work responsibilities and personal obligations in balance. But ultimately, you'll work it all out.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You might hear some upsetting things about a situation in your life. But don't be swayed by talk. Demand proof before making any decisions.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Don't risk depleting those precious energy levels by taking on more tasks than you can realistically handle. Remember to ask for help when you need it.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) It might be difficult for the Aquarian who is used to giving advice to take counsel. But it's a good idea to listen to what trusted friends feel you should know.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Things might be a little unsettled as you move through a period of reassessment. Once you get your priorities sorted out, you should be ready to tackle a decision.
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CAR STORY
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Peter Johnson's 1922 Chevrolet Touring Car
By Joshua Beckman - joshua.beckman@wrappports.com

Peter Johnson's newest car is usually the oldest one at the auto shows.

The La Grange Heights native purchased his 1922 Chevrolet Touring Car about six months ago but hasn't been able to take it outside of town often. The primitive convertible maxes out at around 35 mph, which keeps him off the more direct roads, but that doesn't stop Johnson from driving his favorite project around the side streets.

Johnson enjoys the more primitive cars of the '20s and '30s, and plans on keeping all the parts and pieces on Daisy, his name for the '22 Chevy, original and stock. "My wife would probably divorce me if I bought another one, but I always tell her that this car will be in my funeral procession. I'm never getting rid of it," says Johnson.

Though it ran when he got the car, Johnson has been tweaking and fixing minor problems on Daisy continuously. "Sometimes I've had the money to restore it completely, sometimes the time, but never both. I don't expect to win the most luxurious car award with it, but I love this car."

Scott Brown's 1969 Plymouth Roadrunner
By Kevin Griffin - kevin.griffin@wrappports.com

Algonquin resident Scott Brown doesn't have much to say about his 1969 Plymouth Roadrunner, other than it's a really fun car to drive. To accompany the Roadrunner in his garage, Brown also has a Plymouth Duster, a Dodge Challenger and an AMC Gremlin.

On the Roadrunner, Brown has done all the work, including the paint, interior and driveline. He purchased the car seven years ago. Plymouth's initial assembly of the Roadrunners was in 1969. The 1969 model only has small modifications from the first generation original. Brown has done all the repairs and customizations himself, even though as he admits, he is not very good with the painting.

And as for which car he chooses to bring out to car shows, Brown replies, "The one that has the most gas in it."
Toyota ranks first in sales

In June, Niles residents opted to purchase Toyota vehicles more often than any other auto brand. Toyota topped the sales charts with 36 of the 229 total sales (all car brands) to Niles residents. The breakdown of the 36 total Toyota sales was 12 new and 24 used over the course of the month.

Chevrolet, which accounted for a total of 27 sales, was the second most popular car brand sold to Niles residents in June. A total of 18 pre-owned vehicles and nine new vehicles comprised the overall total of 27 Chevrolet purchases in June. Nissan took third place on the list of most popular auto brands, totaling 25 sales—12 used and 13 new.

Overall, Niles residents purchased a total of 229 cars and trucks in the month of June (all brands) —147 used vehicles and 82 new vehicles. Nissan was the most popular brand bought new (13 purchases) by residents. Toyota and Chevrolet also made a good showing in the new car sales category, with 12 and nine sales, respectively.

Toyota led the way in the used sales category with 24 total sales in the month. Chevrolet and Ford also made a good showing in pre-owned sales, with 18 and 15 sales, respectively.

Over the course of the month, local dealers accounted for 62 percent of overall car sales to Niles residents, while private parties accounted for 38 percent of auto sales. The top dealership selling to Niles residents in June was Golf Mill Ford with 16 total sales, followed by Bredemann Toyota, Star Nissan and Carmax Auto Superstores.
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I NIL

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MAINE EAST

Blue Demons playing for their injured QB

With Corey out, Maine East relies on running game

By Kate Heddlin
For Sun-Times Media, @sportschi

PARK RIDGE — Moments after their 56-14 drubbing of Amundsen, Maine East players circled around senior quarterback Alex Corey, embracing their injured leader.

"This is for Alex," one shouted.

With Corey's return from a knee injury suffered in the season opener uncertain, Maine East has found its rallying cry as it moves forward in the season.

"He's our captain. We were heartbroken (when he went down)," senior Javed Lukovic said. "We usually do a chant after the game and (Friday) we basically incorporated a chant for Alex. We want to win for him."

Javed Lukovic
Maine East senior

"He's our quarterback and he had dreams like so many of us to play college ball. To see him go out for possibly the season in the first game, it was heartbreaking for all of us."

Corey's injury isn't the only one the Blue Demons are dealing with — they were without 10 starters Friday against Amundsen, including senior running back Christian Lopez — but it is one of the most significant.

"We all hurt when he (Corey) went down," Lukovic said. "But we're all going to get through this together. We know our roles as starters and backups and we have a lot of heart."

Gabe Corey, Maine East's coach and Alex Corey's dad, said that as well as the short-handed team has played the last two weeks, a greater challenge awaits as the schedule gets tougher, beginning at home tonight against 2-0 Niles West.

The Blue Demons (2-0) were once again down to junior third-string quarterback Justin Ethakattu against

NILES NORTH

Torres looks to have bright future

Sophomore set up all three goals against Spartans

By Dan Shalin
For Sun-Times Media, @danshalin

SKOKIE — In the Niles North boys soccer team's 3-1 win over Glenbrook North, Vikings midfielder Ricky Torres was one of the smallest players on the field and arguably the most influential.

Trailing 1-0 late in the first half, Torres lofted a pass over the Glenbrook North defense and into the path of forward Adrian Coardos. The Niles North junior attacker beat the onrushing Spartans goalkeeper to the ball, chipping it over the keeper's outstretched hand and into the net.

Eight minutes into the second half, Torres played a ball down the right flank to Allen Hataric. The junior midfielder sent a cross in front of the net to sophomore winger Samuel Teclai, who knocked it in for the game-tying goal.

Finally, with just under 30 minutes remaining in the contest, Torres sent a pinpoint pass into the box.
Rodriguez leads by example on defense

Senior linebacker forced critical fumble against Niles West

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
For Sun-Times Media, @VanDrilSports

SKOKIE — Niles West led Niles North by 27 points as the teams entered the fourth quarter of this year's Skokie Skirmish, and the Wolves had seemingly put the game out of reach. Vikings coach Mark Egofske said he was preparing to put in his team's second string when, suddenly, Saturday's game turned and Niles North came roaring back.

The comeback began with the Vikings driving down and scoring a touchdown on junior Julian Garrett's 10-yard run with 7:55 remaining in the fourth quarter.

The touchdown, at the time, seemed like it would be an insignificant footnote to a game otherwise controlled by the Wolves, but then Vincent Rodriguez made a play. The 5-foot-6 senior outside linebacker forced Niles West junior running back Brandon Costantino to fumble. Isaiah Tate, a junior defensive end at Niles North, recovered the ball and the Vikings' offense drove down the field and scored on the ensuing possession to close the team's deficit to 13 points.

Rodriguez's forced fumble helped turn the momentum. It injected life into the Vikings' sideline and Rodriguez, a three-year starter and a captain on defense, expected nothing less of himself in that situation.

"I think interceptions and forced fumbles, those are something I have to put on myself (to do)," said Rodriguez, who had an interception against Amundsen on Aug. 30. "It's a mind-set you have to approach the game with, and you have to be prepared."

Niles North quarterback Tony Granato (4) slips past Niles West's Denis Gargovic to pick up a first down during the first quarter of Saturday's game. Niles North is scheduled to play host to New Trier at 7 tonight. | BRIAN CUMMINS/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Niles North coach Yoon Lee. However, Lee said Torres had some trouble with the physical demands of the varsity game a year ago. That does not appear to be the case in 2013.

"Because of his size, his age and his maturity, he was getting knocked around a bit (last year)," Lee said. "This year, he has surprised me the most as a player, from what I remember last year to what he's executing now. I'm so happy to have him on my squad."

Lee continued: "As he becomes a junior and senior, I'm sure he's going to become stronger, faster, wiser in the game and more of a vocal leader. But his progress from last year to this year has been exponential. I can only imagine what it's going to be for next year."

Torres admitted some of his soccer instincts may come naturally, but he was quick to credit his father and older brother, both named Javier, with helping him develop as a player.

"I've been playing since I was little with my dad. He's a key, he taught me everything I know," said Ricky Torres, who plays club soccer for FC Chicago. "He and my brother have always been there for me, always helping me with everything, always giving me tips. Without them, I wouldn't be the player I am."

Javier Torres was a key performer for the 2008 and 2009 Niles North squads that captured back-to-back regional titles.

Niles North teams mostly have struggled since those days, but Ricky Torres believes the current group is capable of bringing Vikings soccer back to prominence.

"I think we have a really good team this year. We have talented midfielders and we all work well together," Ricky Torres said. "We've been playing together for a couple years and I think we have some good chemistry going."

"I feel like we can go somewhere really far, maybe past regionals. We're capable of it and our coaches tell us. We have a lot of skill and I think we can go far."
NILES WEST
Broken knuckle can't keep Pignato off field

Junior played both ways in spite of bulky cast

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
For Sun-Times Media, @VanDriISports

SKOKIE — Some of Niles West's best players stood out with both their play and their accessories in the Wolves' 41-35 victory over Niles North.

Niles West senior wide receiver Andrew Mihulet, for example, hauled in a pair of touchdowns Saturday while wearing low-cut Nike cleats with a flamboyant yellow, pink and blue color scheme.

Niles West junior Adam Pignato also had a vital role against the Vikings, playing middle linebacker and filling in at left guard on Niles West's banged-up offensive line. Pignato's accessory — a cast wrapped in bulky padding, which protected a broken knuckle on his right hand — wasn't as bright as Mihulet's colorful shoes, but it stood out just the same.

The Wolves' win over Niles North marked the first game in which Pignato was wearing a cast. It was a hindrance at times, he said, yet it only slightly affected him on the field.

"The main thing, for defense, is I can't catch the ball," Pignato said. "Offense is kind of hard to have a hand on a person with this (wrapped-up cast). It's kind of hard to grip someone, but otherwise nothing really (changed)."

Pignato said he initially hurt his knuckle on his right pointer finger in Niles West's Red and White Scrimmage on Aug. 23. He played through the pain, and he didn't get an X-ray on his hand until Niles West's training staff urged him to see a doctor after the Wolves beat Ridgewood on Aug. 31.

Although broken bones can lead to players missing time, Pignato said he remained confident he would play in the Skokie Skirmish immediately after learning that his knuckle was broken. Niles West coach Scott Baum, knowing the middle linebacker's toughness, shared Pignato's confidence.

"Him, no. Someone else, maybe. But him, no," said Baum, when asked if he thought Pignato would miss time after he learned of the injury. "Adam's a tough kid. He's got a twin brother, Jeremy, and both of those kids are throwback kids. They're tough kids. They're no frills, they want to go play football."

Niles West is back in action today when it plays at Maine East in a battle of undefeated teams.

GAME RECAP
Niles West 41
Niles North 35

THE SKINNY
Niles West's football team took a 41-14 lead on a 32-yard run by junior running back Brandon Costantino with 32 seconds remaining in the third quarter on Saturday. The Wolves didn't score after that, and Niles North nearly came back to win. The Vikings, the host of this year's Skokie Skirmish, scored three touchdowns in the fourth quarter.

TURNING POINT
The high-scoring game had several turning points. Junior Quran Spillman returned the second half's opening kickoff 92 yards for a touchdown, which gave the Wolves (2-0) a 35-14 advantage and seemed to dishearten the Vikings (1-1).

THE STAR
Tommy Galanopoulos, Niles West's junior quarterback, completed 17 of his 22 pass attempts, throwing for 176 yards and four touchdowns. Senior Andrew Mihulet caught two touchdowns, and juniors Jeremy Pignato and Quran Spillman hauled in one apiece.

BY THE NUMBERS
Niles North quarterback Tony Granato, a 5-foot-9 junior, ran for 81 yards on 11 carries, and he finished 21-for-29 with 197 yards and a touchdown. Senior J.J. Myles was Granato's favorite target. Myles caught 11 passes for 79 yards.

QUOTABLE
"The game turned, but unfortunately the numbers don't lie," Niles North senior linebacker Vincent Rodriguez said.
Streamwood — Notre Dame senior Chris James can't beat teams by himself — especially when their whole defensive game plan is designed to stop him.

That's the route Bartlett took Saturday night and it worked to a point. James finished with a pair of touchdowns and 81 hard-earned yards on 19 carries, just two of which went longer than nine yards.

But the game wasn't close because Notre Dame quarterback Ryan Greene had a career night in the Dons' 47-6 victory. Greene completed 17 of 20 passes for 315 yards and five touchdowns. He also ran eight times for 57 yards.

The Dons play Friday at Bloomington Normal Community.

Photos by Joe Cyganowski
For Sun-Times Media

Top Right: Ryan Greene, Notre Dame's quarterback, tries to elude Bartlett's Luke Rosenquist. Greene ran eight times for 57 yards.

FAIR RIGHT: Notre Dame's Pat Gravens makes the grab and then scampers to score a touchdown during Saturday's game against Bartlett in Streamwood.

Right: Notre Dame's Chris Bargione pressures the Bartlett punter Saturday.
On the Chin

Niles West builds big lead, holds off Niles North

PAGE 51-52

Tiger in the Area

For coverage of this weekend's PGA stop at Conway Farms, head to lakeforest suntimes.com. Share your experiences at the tournament with us by using the hashtag #PioneerGolf on Twitter and Instagram.

Niles West's Louis Reinemann (65, right) blocks Niles North's Mohamed Khan (47) during the first quarter of Saturday's game. | BRIAN O'OMAHONEY FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA.
High School Cube News, Sun-Times Media’s new high school sports website, launched this week. It’s the latest evolution in Chicago area prep sports coverage. High School Cube News will integrate all the highlights and live games from HighSchoolCube.com with the comprehensive coverage formerly provided by Season Pass.

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