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St. Andrews School got a donation from an unlikely source | PAGE 8
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Burt’s Place is back in action

After being sidelined for four months with an illness, Burt Katz returned to his comfortable spot behind the oven making pizzas again last week.

Page 23
Wright-Way animal shelter looks to rescue Morton Grove warehouse

BY RICK KAMBC
rkambic@pioneerlocal.com | @rick_kambic

Wright-Way Rescue appears to have found a new home less than two months after a school bus crashed into its Niles facility, leaving the complex uninhabitable.

Morton Grove's Plan Commission voted 4-2 on Nov. 18 to recommend approval for a new adoption center for Wright-Way at 5919 Lincoln Ave., a 10,000-square-foot warehouse near Mason Avenue.

The Village Board will hear the case and the Plan Commission's notes at its Dec. 9 meeting.

"We're really excited to get started on our new home," said Christy Anderson, the director and founder of Wright-Way. "We look forward to answering what questions remain and putting the neighborhood's fears to rest."

Wright-Way would not say the property's asking price, but Anderson said they've raised $150,000 of their $1.1 million goal — enough for a down payment on the property and the cost of renovations.

Before hearing Wright-Way's case, the Plan Commission first had to create a definition for the term "animal shelter," which is now any place of business where animals are kept temporarily with the intention of finding new homes.

Animal shelters are allowed in commercial one zones (light retail like shopping centers) and commercial-residential mix, but ranged between the major road and a neighborhood.

Nearby residents Alice Duttenkauf and Robert Kestler were among those who opposed Wright-Way for fear of bad odors from the building's ventilation system, potential noise issues and parking congestion.

"That's a tight space for animals to be comfortable in, and if they throw the droppings in the dumpster then we'll have rodent problems," Kestler said. "Rats live on fecal matter."

Anderson said Wright-Way averages 5,000 animal adoptions per year, and brings 50 to 70 animals to Chicago every Friday from its downstate intake center.

"About 50 percent of our adoptions are preordered ahead of time," Anderson said. "People browse our website and talk with us on the phone, and pretty much know which dog they want when they get here."

After making that statement, Anderson said the adoptions are done in tiered appointments so to not overwhelm the building or parking situation.

"Most of the animals are gone by Tuesday," Anderson said. "Of the few that do remain, we walk to adults outside on our own property and clean up after the puppies very regularly."

When the animals arrive, Anderson said the truck backs into the loading dock and the garage doors are closed before anything is unloaded.

"Each kennel is individually ventilated to remove odor and airborne bacteria," Anderson said. "We are very concerned about the appearance of our kennels because the adoptions depend on cleanliness. As for feces in the dumpster, our employees who smoke out back have never complained about odor or rats."

Upon making a motion to approve Wright-Way's proposal, Commissioner Ed Gabriel added an amendment to require the organization to ventilate its fumes out through the roof instead of a sidewalk near residents. He then voted yes, in favor of getting the vacant property back into use and bringing more visitors into town.

Commissioner Steve Blonz also supported the proposal, saying the building will self-police the number of dogs kept on-site and the traffic study indicated no parking problems.

Chairman Ron Parkas, however, voted against Wright-Way because he felt the neighborhood was still facing unjust disturbances. Commissioner Saba Kahn also opposed the sale because the building lacks green space for the dogs and she believes odor would still be a problem to neighbors.

If the village approves Wright-Way's proposal, construction could begin as early as Jan. 1. Anderson said she expects a two-month overhaul before opening in late February.

A bus crashed into the Wright-Way Rescue in Niles on Oct. 2. | JENNIFER JOHNSON/SUN-TIMES MEDIA
Birthday party at Classic Bowl turns violent

BY RICK KAMEIC
rkameic@pioneerlocal.com | @rck_kameic

A Des Plaines teenager was charged with three counts of battery after a fight on Nov. 10 at Morton Grove’s Classic Bowl led to a chunk of hair being pulled from a woman’s head.

Grizic Esad, 19, reportedly entered the bowling alley at 8500 Waukegan Road to attend a birthday party. Police say Esad was accompanied by three male friends.

A woman Esad knew, and who filed theft charges against him not long ago, was also at the party. The police report says a number of witnesses saw the two begin to argue and heard Esad yell threats and raise a hand to the woman.

One of Esad’s male friends, however, grabbed the angry teen and towed him to the parking lot, police say. But when not all of his male counterparts joined them, Esad reportedly reentered the bowling alley to find them.

Another woman from the party reportedly approached Esad and demanded he leave. According to the police report, Esad grabbed that woman by the hair, slapped her and then used his grip on her hair to throw her to the side.

The woman who first argued with Esad reportedly rushed to the scene and he allegedly slapped her too, police said. Police said the bowling alley manager ran towards the fight, but Esad punched the man in the stomach. Esad then ran out of the building, got into a car and sped out of the parking lot.

Niles police found the tan sedan and cornered it on a side street, and one of the car’s passengers tried to get out and run away. Esad and his three friends were all handcuffed by the time Morton Grove police arrived.

A half-empty bottle of Jagermeister was found in the car’s center console, police said.

Esad was charged with three counts of battery and one count of illegal transportation of alcohol. He is scheduled in court Dec. 9. Two of Esad’s three friends were also charged with underage drinking.

The manager of Classic Bowl reportedly had a significant cut, and one of the women lost hair during the incident. Both declined immediate medical attention.

Classic Bowl told police that Esad is permanently banned from the property and should be charged with trespassing if ever found on site.

Resurrection rallies to rescue alumna’s business

BY PIONEER PRESS STAFF

Resurrection College Prep High School students rallied to raise funds for Wright-Way Rescue, a local non-profit animal rescue and pet adoption organization.

On Oct. 2, a school bus crashed into the front entrance of the Wright-Way Adoption Center on Touhy Avenue in Niles, causing the organization to scramble to find foster care or permanent homes for the animals that were on-site. Although all of the people and animals in the facility were safe, Wright-Way Adoption Center now needs a new home.

Resurrection students organized a one-day fundraising event on Wednesday, Oct. 30, at Resurrection. Students who made a donation to Wright-Way Rescue had the option to wear Res Spirit Apparel on that Wednesday and the students quickly collected over $1,100.

"Students were so generous," said Resurrection Development and Alumnae Coordinator Alisa Martorano. "There were so many students who were eager to help because Wright-Way is where they adopted their family pet."

Wright-Way Rescue Executive Director Christy Anderson is a Resurrection alumna from the Class of 2000. Anderson studied animal science and pre-law at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and officially founded Wright-Way Rescue in 2003. Her love of animals started at an early age and during high school she was the youngest dog trainer for Petco.

During her sophomore year of college, Christy began finding homes for adoptable dogs and cats at the local animal control center that were scheduled to be euthanized. By her senior year in college, Christy knew that animal rescue work was her full-time calling. Wright-Way Rescue has grown the organization to be the largest animal adoption facility in the Midwest, and they are on-track to find homes for about 5,000 animals in 2013.

"People have come out of the wood work to support Wright-Way," said Anderson, "and we appreciate the support of the students at Resurrection."
Ruth and Eugene Coan were never members of St. Andrews Lutheran Church. They never had children or grandchildren who attended the Park Ridge parish's school. Gene wasn't even Lutheran.

But after the couple passed away — Ruth in 2009, Gene in 2011 — they left St. Andrews School a gift that they hoped would improve and contribute to a modern, school library for years to come.

Their estate was used to purchase various materials for the library, including new books and computer systems. The Coans' bequest, said Principal Laura Boggs, was the perfect way to bring those dormant plans to fruition.

The library also features new computer systems, instructional areas and separate sections for younger readers and for junior high-age students, complete with tables and soft reading chairs. There is also a saltwater fish tank along one wall that was donated by Living Sea Aquarium.

Kiepura believes Ruth Coan, whom she described as a "voracious reader" who was never without a book, would be especially excited.

"She used to watch my boys when they were little and she always cuddled up with them and read," Kiepura shared. "For her, reading was just part of her life. I don't think we could have utilized this money to make her happier than by putting a book in the hand of a child."
Parents filled the gym at Golf Middle School this weekend to watch the eighth-grade play “Rainbow,” in which four friends lose their beloved frog and journey to a strange world trying to find it.

Each scene is a comical reference to various books, movies or celebrities. The play was written by students with help from parent volunteers like producer Jeanne Austria and codirectors Renate Toth and Ana Valenzuela.

“We wanted to incorporate the hobbies of students who are involved,” Austria said. “Glee Club is a popular theme and so we used some of their songs and choreographed a few of our own dances.”

The Parent Teacher Association sponsored and produced the low-budget play that involved mutated versions of the Muppets, Three Little Pigs, Hunger Games and Christina Aguilera bloopers — all with accompanying costumes.

“I have an extremely creative group of parents that support me,” Austria said.

Bomb squad finds battery at base of Niles light pole

The Cook County Bomb Squad was called when a suspicious-looking device was discovered at the base of a Niles streetlight recently. It turned out to be an old battery, police said.

According to Niles police, an electrical contractor hired to inspect the village’s utility poles found a set of wires attached to a light post near the intersection of Milwaukee and Neva avenues on the afternoon of Nov. 7. A Niles Public Works employee told police that all electrical wiring for the light posts is above ground, so no wires should be visible coming from the ground.

Police said a closer look at the post revealed the wires were attached to an aluminum object that was wrapped with electrical tape.

Investigators from the county’s Bomb Squad responded an hour later and determined the object was a battery, the type used in remote control cars, said Niles Police Sgt. Robert Tornabene.
POLICE BLOTTER

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

NILES

RETAIL THEFT

Andrew Pilolla, 26, of 2520 Central Road, Glenview, was charged with retail theft on Nov. 7 after he allegedly entered a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center, selected a $122 coffeemaker from a shelf and returned it for store credit without paying for the item. Police said Pilolla ran from store security before he was taken into custody in a parking lot on the 9400 block of Milwaukee Avenue. He has a Nov. 20 court date.

Two 16-year-old boys and one 17-year-old boy, all of Skokie, were each charged with petty retail theft on Nov. 9 after they allegedly stole clothing from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. Value of the clothing was $300. All three were released to their parents.

Anamaria Delgado-Mendez, 64, of 7333 N. Ridge Boulevard, Chicago, was charged with retail theft on Nov. 9 after she allegedly stole an item valued at $2.89 from a store on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue. She has a Dec. 18 court date.

Joseph Motroni, 19, of 1830 Birch Lane, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue. He has a Dec. 20 court date.

Bassam Constantin, 37, of 10120 Holly Lane, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with driving under the influence on Nov. 7 following a traffic stop at Milwaukee Avenue and Courtland Drive at 2:45 a.m. Police said another adult and two children were inside the vehicle at the time it was stopped. Constantin has a Dec. 20 court date.

DUI

Mary C. Glabowicz, 55, of Libertyville, was charged Nov. 10 with driving under the influence of alcohol. Police say she was pulled over for driving 55 mph in a 25 mph zone. Upon yielding for the squad car, police say she drove her car off the road and into the park right of way, within inches of hitting a tree. After allegedly failing a field sobriety test, Glabowicz was taken to the police station, where she was unable to provide a breath sample until two hours later when she blew a .165. She is scheduled in court Dec. 12.

MARIJUANA

Duran D. Alex, 25, of Chicago, was charged Nov. 12 with possession of marijuana and intent to deliver marijuana. Police say Alex was a passenger in a car stopped for traffic violations, when the officer found 161 grams of marijuana. No other details are available because the case is still under further investigation. Alex is scheduled in court Dec. 23.

CRIME BRIEFS

THEFT OF MISLAIRED PROPERTY

A purse went missing after a woman left the Illinois Bone and Joint Institute, 9000 Waukegan Road, without it by mistake. Business officials say no one but the cleaning crew was in that patient room between the time she left and returned.

THEFT ON NOV. 7 AFTER HE ALLEGEDLY ENTERED

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Trashy Fashion Show celebrates resourcefulness

By Todd Shields

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, headquartered in Glenview, hosted the seventh annual Trashy Fashion Show Nov. 15 at the Marriott Chicago Northwest in Hoffman Estates.

Known as a “celebration of creative resourcefulness,” the fun, free pageant observes America Recycles Day by educating people on how reusable materials can be, instead of simply trashing them.

One by one, models stepped up to the center catwalk in attire accessories fashioned from aluminum cans, landscaping screen, car seatbelts, wine bottle nets and truck tires, among other recyclables rescued from landfills.

At nearly 200, the hotel ballroom audience loudly applauded the 40 models of all ages.

Cameras flashed, music played, the women waved and parents beamed.

Park Ridge resident Mary Allen, recycling and education director for the Solid Waste Agency, said the show attracted 54 clothes designers featuring 45 outfits.

“Each design makes a statement about being respectful because resources are being used again through a creative medium,” said Allen, also the show’s running commentator.

The nonprofit Solid Waste Agency provides 28 north and northwest suburbs with waste removal services and recycling programs.

Clothes design students and models from Niles North and Niles West high schools in Skokie participated in the event.

The outfits represented a nonprofit group, charity, public health program, conservation movement or civil rights.

Glenview resident Bertha Novaczek designed a pink and purple dress from a tablecloth and blanket to create awareness for no kill Heartland Animal Shelter in Northbrook.

From the dress hung 75 cut-outs of puppies and kittens from wrapping paper.

“It was out of my own imagination and things I’ve acquired through the year that may have ended up in the trash,” she said before the show as models stood for professionally shot photographs.

A senior at Niles West, Mkhirish Ali titled her dress “Black Sea,” that featured strips of black video taped folded into flower heads, mixed with orange and pink hibiscus flowers symbolizing hope.

“It’s a water pollution statement against oil spills and ocean litter. This is my third year here at the show,” she said.

“When fish or other wildlife eat plastic or non-food littered items and we eat them, we end up ingesting plastic, too,” Allen narrated.

“Unfortunately, animals and aquatic life cannot differentiate between plastic and foods.”

An Amtrak employee, Sue McFaul’s dress consisted of a blue Amtrak blanket and torn curtains from a sleeper car, paper jewelry from dining car menus and shoes of cross-country train route maps.

“This shows people’s passion for riding the rail because using Amtrak is eco-friendly,” said McFaul of Northbrook.

“A vacation favorite of mine is riding the City of New Orleans train to Memphis with my husband, and eating sweet potato pancakes when we get there around 7 a.m.”

Carol McLuckie’s “Rain Garden” design portrayed the need to divert rainwater back into natural, filtering watersheds.

Her model, Lauren Polito, is a senior at Barrington High School, and she spent a summer living in France.

“I learned how wasteful Americans are. The French collect about a shoebox of garbage each week, that’s all, and compost the rest in gardens,” Polito explained.

Alyssa Heath’s outfit included Coke cans, bubble wrap and woven magazines to make her purse.

A student at New Trier High School in Winnetka, she wanted to create more awareness about PAWS Chicago, the city’s largest no kill humane organization.

Student designer Diana Mikhail used left over ribbon from her cousin’s wedding, bedroom curtains, a bed sheet and Post It Notes.

The gown was inspired by Lady Gaga’s Born This Way Foundation that promotes youth empowerment through learning, tolerance, community and anti-bullying, she said.

“I have gay and transgender friends who were brave enough to come out. I support them, as does Lady Gaga in her foundation,” said Mikhail, a Niles West senior.

The designs also showed support for other organizations and causes, such as juvenile diabetes, underage drinking, global warming, breast cancer, women’s rights and the fine arts.

Quoting Norman Cousins, an American political journalist and world peace advocate, Allen said, “Nothing is more powerful than an individual acting out of his conscience, thus helping to bring the collective conscience to life.”
Golf 67’s 2013 levy to increase marginally, financial mishaps being corrected

BY RICK KAMBIC
rkambic@pioneerlocal.com | @rick_kambic

After three failed referendums, the financial woes at Golf School District 67 continue, but the newest set of administrators hope they’re close to turning a corner.

At the district’s Nov. 14 levy hearing, independent auditors and interim business manager Don Goers uncovered numerous errors left behind by past gatekeepers, most notably Jim Fitt.

Fitt was the business manager for two years before he abruptly resigned in December to take a similar job at Mannheim School District 83, before leaving that district a few months later to work at the Northern Suburban Special Education District in Highland Park.

Each year’s budget is designed around taxes that get levied a year earlier. The Nov. 14 hearing addressed preliminary budget needs for the 2014-15 academic year.

The 2013 levy, which funded this academic year, brought in $7.2 million.

The Board of Education approved a 2013 levy that will increase taxes by 17 percent, from rising from roughly $254 to $258 for every $10,000 of a home’s equalized assessed value.

The district said that could generate $7.5 million if new properties built in the district are valued at $6 million total, but Goers expects those new assets will only be worth about $250,000. With less value to tax, Goers predicted the levy would bring in about $7.5 million.

The 2012-13 audit indicated the district’s transportation fund and Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) were significantly shortchanged. The district levies money for seven standard uses, including for those two expenses and for the educational fund and building operations.

Goers told the Board of Education that transferring money between the separately-levied accounts is complicated and not often attempted. After making that disclaimer, he told the group that last year’s levy only put $32 into the retirement fund—an account that typically makes $100,000 in pension contributions per year.

“It was a bad budget, there’s no question about it,” Goers said.

Board members acknowledged that limited tax money might have temporarily been needed elsewhere, but agreed that pensions should not have been neglected to that extent.

A special revenue fund was also mishandled, according to Goers and the audit. The account receives payments from parents for school lunches and extracurricular activities, and then the money has to be manually transferred into the district’s main accounts to be used for intended expenses.

Approximately $350,000 was found in the account, having not been transferred and spent appropriately.

Goers said the missed money was not a huge problem, so long as someone found the account, because that money could be freely used to refill whatever fund those expenses were paid from. However, the account is not included on standard budget reports because it’s not technically taxpayer money, and its existence could have gone unnoticed for a while.

“There has been some incompetence and poor hiring choices, but it seems like everything is accounted for after a lengthy review," said Jennifer Hirsch, a recently-appointed board member. “It sounds to me like these mistakes shouldn’t have been made. We need to build some sort of a system that would prevent even if there is a transition.”

Necessary changes were made to the proposed 2014 levy before the board approved it 7-0. The IMRF levy will draw $93,800 and both the building operation and transportation expenses were cut so more money could go into the education fund.

Both administrators and board members said they’re committed to not putting any more referendums up for taxpayer approval.

“I want to put together a long-range financial plan,” Goers said. “There needs to be an ongoing roadmap for whoever takes this job permanently, and for their successors.”
MORTON GROVE
Village expects to end year with extra cash

After earlier predictions of a six-figure deficit, the Village of Morton Grove expects to wrap up the 2013 fiscal year with a $63,289 surplus.

Next year appears even more promising, as the village expects to collect $107,047 more than it spends.

Finance Director Remy Navarrete shared the figures during a Nov. 6 meeting on the village's proposed $25.8 million budget for 2014.

"We all know the economy is turning around slowly," she said. "People are trying to spend more."

The village hosted three public workshops to review the draft spending plan and hear presentations from department heads.

A first reading on the budget was scheduled for Nov. 11. The matter is expected to go before officials for further discussion Nov. 25 and Dec. 9, at which point they'll also consider property-tax abatements and the annual tax levy.

Village Administrator Ryan Horne said he hoped the village adopted a budget by mid-December in order to end the calendar year on a positive note.

He explained that the budget objectives for the next year are to maintain an appropriate fund balance, be mindful of the village's long-term vision, meet the expectations of municipal staff and residents, and deliver quality services.

Horne also noted that the outcomes of the village's strategic planning process would be reflected in financials for 2015.

The 143-page draft budget for the next fiscal year shows Morton Grove collecting $25.95 million and spending $25.83 million.

Telecommunication taxes and building permit fees are projected to come in lower than usual. However, revenues are expected to get a large boost from food, beverage and sales taxes, as well as real estate transfers.

Though the village is banking on receiving $881,509 more in taxes, a tax hike is not being considered. Morton Grove adopted only one budget in the past five years with an increased levy.

In her presentation, Navarrete described how property taxes are distributed among the area's taxing bodies at varying rates depending on from where dollars flow in Morton Grove.

For example, the village received 14.2 percent of all property taxes levied in western Morton Grove in 2012. The tax rate on the eastern side of the village, however, was 10.3 percent.

In addition to supporting the Village of Morton Grove, local taxes help fund Cook County, Maine and Niles townships, Oakton Community College, the public library, the park district, high school districts 207 and 219, and elementary districts 63, 67, 69 and 70.

DISTRICT 64
Schools seek input on website

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 is asking residents and parents to weigh in on what they think about the district's website.

An online survey is currently available on the site, www.d64.org. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate how the website meets the public's information needs, according to the district.

The survey will be available through Nov. 26.

District 64 is also using a consultant to analyze traffic to the district's website and its individual school websites. The consultant will conduct focus groups next month with parents, staff and residents of the community "to further explore their experiences using the website, including why they visit and whether the information they are seeking is easy to find and current," the district said.

A report on the survey's findings and the focus group input is expected to be presented to the board of education in January.
Shocking increase in gas bill has Skokie business fuming

Dear Help Squad:

I am with Global Equipment. We received our Nicor Gas bill for September in the amount of $9,444.21, which actually turned out to be a bill for the whole year (September 2012-September 2013) that they had to "rebill" because they had "estimated" it incorrectly.

I called them to see if they could explain why our bill was so high and they basically said that they "estimated" it incorrectly. We were told the billing was correct and that we can start a payment plan. Can you please help?

Stacey Martin & Jim Schiffman, Skokie

Help Squad did a little more investigating before we called Nicor, and here's what we found out. Based on a spreadsheet we received from Stacey, Global Equipment paid their bill every month from September 2012 through September 2013, totaling $3,116.08. So, the $9,444.21 is the difference between what Nicor estimated for the year (which was $2,267.08), and the amount Global Equipment paid.

The year before (from December of 2011 through September of 2012), Global Equipment owed and paid $1,535.91. There is no way the annual bills would total more than $3,000.

Dear Stacey and Jim,

After several attempts to speak with various representatives at Nicor, one of whom told us adamantly they "do not speak to the press," we decided to try to help you by calling the Citizens Utility Board, a nonprofit organization that represents the interests of residential utility customers across the state.

We spoke with Consumer Rights Counselor, Ivonne Hernandez, who suggested you do the following:

- First, call Nicor and have the meter read. Nicor is required to give you a paper or electronic bill by 10 days after the meter is read.
- Next, ask for a breakdown of the charges on your bill. Then you need to compare that with what you think you should pay. The Citizens Utility Board can help you do this.
- If you think you have been overcharged, call the Citizens Utility Board to file a complaint. The board can help you file a complaint and give you tips on how to proceed.
- If you are still having trouble, you can file a complaint with the Illinois Commerce Commission.

Hernandez said that in cases like this, she has seen the decision of the commission vote in favor of the gas company in some cases, and in favor of the customer in others.

Sorry we couldn't solve this one for you, but we truly hope that the commission rules in your favor.

Pearle Vision customer sees the truth

Literally

Natalia Glushchempo of Chicago called the Help Squad, explained her situation and told us why she needed help:

Last December, Glushchempo had an eye exam and ordered a pair of progressive lenses from Pearle Vision in Norridge. A couple weeks later, she received the glasses (for which she paid $819), and was not able to see clearly out of them. The optometrist, Dr. Alisa Hart, told her she would get used to them, and that she should take them home.

Two weeks later, with no better results, Glushchempo returned to Pearle Vision, where she was given another eye exam, revealing that the prescription on the glasses should be changed from 2.5 to 2.0. Dr. Hart told her to leave the glasses and that they would be ready in a few days.

When she hadn't heard back from Pearle Vision after a few weeks and several phone calls, Glushchempo went into the store, where she was told that her glasses were "ready." However, when she gave them the glasses, she noticed the tiny numbers on them, indicating they were 2.5. So, basically, they gave her back the same glasses.

Furious that in her opinion, Pearle Vision tried to deceive her, Glushchempo has no interest in doing business with Pearle Vision, and wants a refund of $819. Pearle Vision is saying that it is their policy to not offer refunds for custom-made lenses, only exchanges within 30 days.

Dear Natalia,

Help Squad called Pearle Vision and spoke with Dr. Hart, who recalled the situation. When we asked why you were given back the EXACT SAME PAIR of lenses you purchased (the ones with the 2.5 prescription), and why Pearle didn't follow through and remake yours to fit the 2.0 prescription, Dr. Hart didn't have an answer.

Help Squad simply asked Kart for a refund. She denied our request, but stated that even though it's been almost a year, you may bring in your lenses and she will make sure to replace them with the 2.0 prescription. We hope Pearle will realize that their customers can "see" the prescription numbers on their glasses!
What kind of president was JFK?

By Randy Blaser

What kind of president was John F. Kennedy? That's a question that sorely needs to be answered as we mark the 50th anniversary of his assassination on Friday.

There are many remembrances of that day, 50 years ago. It was so awful, so jarring that it is easy to get caught up in the how and why of the assassination. But once you come to terms with the fact that Oswald, acting alone, killed Kennedy, it is a bit easier to move on to the search for the real Kennedy.

I least that's how it was for me. After delving into the conspiracy traps on who killed Kennedy for years, I settled on Oswald. That freed me to learn about Kennedy and what he actually did as president. Hence, my question: What kind of president was Kennedy?

The answer, to my surprise, was not the liberal icon I thought he was. I've learned over time that believing in JFK conspiracies goes hand-in-hand with believing he was more liberal than he actually was and that's why he was killed.

I'm afraid that is a fantasy, because the facts just aren't so.

When the potential presidential candidate was asked if he were liberal or conservative, he responded, "I'm a realist.

We should take Kennedy at his word, because here is what he did as president:
- He authorized the invasion of Cuba by U.S.-trained partisans, hardly a liberal act. But he refused to allow the U.S. to get dragged into it. He was a realist.
- He was fiercely anti-communist. The Castro assassination plots were stepped up on his watch, and he brought us to the brink of nuclear war, first by sending the Soviets signals he was weak and could be pushed around, then by staying tough during the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- He cut taxes to spur the economy in such a way that President Reagan used the formula as a model 20 years later. It is not an idea popular in the current White House.
- He was what we now call a supply-sider. Oh, he also tried to rein in government spending. He was cheap, even admonishing Jackie for her spending on clothes.
- On Civil Rights, he may have been the last person to get on board. He tried to stop the Freedom Riders, and his hand had to be forced by Martin Luther King Jr. at every turn.

He didn't give his famous Civil Rights speech until June of 1963 and was so unprepared to talk about the issue that he winged a good portion of it right up to the last minute and even during the speech. He led from behind on this one, but sure did articulate the main idea.

He didn't give his famous Civil Rights speech until June of 1963 and was so unprepared to talk about the issue that he winged a good portion of it right up to the last minute and even during the speech. He led from behind on this one, but sure did articulate the main idea.

But he is correct about one thing: Since this is America, he is not compelled to stand. He will not be arrested. Instead, other citizens will in turn simulation that exercise their right not to volunteer and donate to the park district, as is already happening, with the ultimate losers being kids in the village.

In making his protest, Ashta forgets something very basic: Just because you can do something, does not mean you should do something. Applied here, he can sit during the pledge but shouldn't.

I imagine he will learn another, more valuable, constitutional lesson when he is up for re-election: the rights of other citizens to boot him from office.

William Choslovsky
Lincoln Park
Erie Evanston/Skokie Health Center
Your Medical Home

On November 4th Erie Evanston/Skokie Health Center opened a much anticipated new option for high quality health care on the North Shore at its permanent location at 1285 Hartrey Avenue, Evanston (corner of Dempster).

The brand new, beautiful center brings together all that Erie has learned in 57 years of providing nationally recognized, community health care.

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- You can enroll in Obamacare.

Join over 50,000 patients just like you and make Erie your medical home.

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November 23, 2013, and December 14, 2013 • 8:30 AM-1:00 PM
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Hear presentations on what Obamacare means for you.
Enroll in Obamacare.
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Call 847.666.3494 to make an appointment.
Visit www.eriefamilyhealth.org to learn more.

Memories of Thanksgivings past

On Thanksgiving morning it was important to get rid of me. My mother just had too much to do without me underfoot. It was my father's job to disappear me. One way he accomplished this was to drop me off at the local movie theater for the special Thanksgiving morning cartoon extravaganza — 25 of them, enough animated mayhem so that I would never run out of ways to clobber my younger brother. But I liked another way to spend Thanksgiving morning even better than watching Wile E. Coyote being demolished by his own Acme anvils and exploding mail-order devices.

It wasn't quite snowsuit weather on Thanksgiving. Gray and sharp, but not snowsuit weather.
Thus I didn't have to be carried, but could walk the two blocks from our house to the railroad tracks.

I would take my father's hand and we would walk past the tree with the woodpecker. Sometimes we would see the woodpecker. And if we were real lucky we would see the woodpecker pecking wood.

From the woodpecker's house it was a half-block to the train tracks. Since we did this often, dad knew when trains were scheduled.

Soon the long, slow freight would lumber into view. As it pulled closer, dad would lift me up and we would both wave at the engineer. I could see the engineer plainly. I glared at him. I paid no attention to the trees that flanked the railroad crossing.

It didn't occur to me that one of those trees might be a woodpecker house. Then it did occur to me. And though I was alone in the car, I felt ashamed. Instead, I remembered my father effortlessly lifting me up to wave at the engineer on that gray and sharp Thanksgiving morning so many years ago.

I no longer was in any hurry for the train to pass.
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- (4) CNC Chuckers: Mazak QT Nexus 450 II & IIIM (2008), (2)
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- (16) CNC Turning Centers: (10) Okuma (To 2003); (6) LU45 (2)
  LU80, (2) L-470M
- (4) CNC Vertical Machining Centers: Okuma MC-V5016
  (2006); (2) Chiron FZ15W (2003); Mazak AJV-32/3404
- (8) CNC Vertical Turning Lathes: Motch 2350-VNC & 2190-VNC
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FEATURED HOME

BY WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE

8536 North Oriole Ave.,
Niles

Agent says ...

What is the most unique feature about this house? The expanded lower living area and laundry room.

What is your favorite feature to show potential buyers? The house is situated on a very large, fenced lot in a terrific location — an easy walk to parks and schools.

If this home were a celebrity, who would it be? I'd have to pick a TV star from the '60s because the house has many of those vintage characteristics, is a popular style and is lovingly maintained. It's a classic!

If this home were a style of music, what style would it be? Sticking with the '60s theme, I'd say the rock 'n' roll side of Elvis Presley's early days.

$257,500

Home size: 1,160 square feet
Year built: 1961
Bedrooms: 5  Bathrooms: 2
Garage: Two-car detached
Tax: $6,617.59 (2012)

AGENT  Colette Adams, Prudential Rubloff, 773-450-7246

HOUSE FOR SALE? For details on how to get a home listed on the Featured Home page, email homes@wrapports.com or call 312-300-7974

Holiday Worship Guide

Come... Give Thanks
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Thanksgiving Worship Service
Wed Nov 27th 7:00pm
Please join us for our Annual Thanksgiving Pie Social following the 7:00pm service. Join us for an evening of fellowship.
Edison Park Lutheran Church
6626 N. Oliphant Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60631
Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby - Pastor
773-631-9131 • www.edisonparkchurch.com
Handicap accessible from South Parking Lot

Thanksgiving Day Worship Service
Nov. 28th
10:00 am
At
Norwood Park Lutheran Church
5917 N. Nina Ave Chicago, Il.
Call 773.631.2860
For More Information

St. Andrews Lutheran Church & School
The Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
260 N. Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge IL
847-823-6656

Come Worship with us this Thanksgiving
Thanksgiving Eve Service
November 27 • 7:00PM
Thanksgiving Day Service
November 28 • 8:30AM

To advertise in this section, call Penny at 630-978-8277
PROPERTY TRANSFERS

BY WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE

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

Niles
7927 Nordica Ave: Jeffrey J Sun and Saher Noor to Dawid W Luberda for $525,000 on Oct. 2
7642 Kedzie St: Kleomenis Souflakis and Athanasia Souflakis to David D Waterhouse for $300,000 on Oct. 2

Park Ridge
8455 Callie Ave, #8: Edward S Chao and Chih-Yu Chao to Patrick J Fishery and Sandra D Wang for $121,500 on Sept. 30
8950 Ferris Ave, #406: Bob Bumsuk Kang to Stephen Urbanski and Darrell Demos for $240,000 on Sept. 30
8301 Menard Ave: John B Gotta and Deanna S Gotta to Joseph Evangelista and Linda Evangelista for $215,000 on Sept. 30
6619 Foster St: Nancy Wynn to Adrian Hulda and Linda Hulda for $160,000 on Sept. 30
9106 Central Ave: Roberto Jaimes and Arminda Jaimes to Sado Sabovic and Mejrima Sabovic for $405,000 on Sept. 30

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NILES

THURSDAY, NOV. 21

Niles Songwriters Group
7 p.m.: Join other singer/songwriters for a friendly meeting. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4

Women's Club Holiday Party
12:30 p.m.: The Park Ridge Senior Center women's club will enjoy a delicious meal followed by Jean-marie Dwyer-Wrigley telling the story of Mrs. Claus. Chambers Seafood and Grill, 6881 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Call 847-592-3597. $25-$30.

HAPPENING NEARBY

THURSDAY, NOV. 21

Genealogy Help
9 a.m.: A representative from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution will be at the library to answer any genealogy questions. This service will be available on the third Thursday of each month, September through May. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-925-3123.

Meet with Rep. to State Senator Kotowski's Office
9:30 a.m.: A representative from Illinois State Senator Dan Kotowski's office will meet with residents to answer questions. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. For more information, call 847-925-3123.

Story Time for 2s
9:30 a.m.: Stories and songs for 2-year-olds with an adult. A second session is held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. For more information, call 847-925-3123.

Between the Lines Book Discussion
10 a.m.: Join in for a book discussion of "Secret Daughter" by Shipil Somaya Gowda. Interweaving the stories of Kavita, Somer and the child that binds both of their destinies, "Secret Daughter" poignantly explores the emotional terrain of motherhood, loss, identity and love as witnessed through the lives of two families. For more information, visit www.mgpl.org or call 847-929-5101. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

Story Time for 3s

FRIDAY, NOV. 22

Low Vision Support Group
10:30 a.m.: Join others who face the challenges of living with low vision. The meeting will include speakers, assistive products, new research and open discussion. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-720-3382.

Women in Business Networking Breakfast
11:30 a.m.: The event's speaker will be Staci Boyer, Cafe Zaule, 9501 Devon Ave., Rosemont. Call 847-825-3121. $25-$30.

Build Your Resume Online
2 p.m.: Learn how to create your resume online with a free web app: cvmk.com. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 708-867-7828.

After-School Chess Club
2:35 p.m.: The PTA-sponsored group for students meets each week on Wednesday and Friday through Nov. 22. Glen Grove School, 3900 Glenview Road, Glenview.

Chicago Sun-Times Sports Collectibles Convention
4:30 p.m.: Meet participants and buy rights for a photo-op or autograph. VIP packages available, Check schedule for the line-up. Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont. Call 708-874-8067. $5-$10.

Craft Studio: Leaf Bowl
4:30 p.m.: Make a festive, lovely bowl out of leaves for the holiday season. Skokie Public Library, 5216 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-924-3418.

MGPL Teens: DIY Craft
5 p.m.: Create button bracelets to wear with any outfit. Instructions and supplies will be provided. Registration required. To register or for more information, call 847-929-5101 or visit www.mgpl.org/teens. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

Park Ridge Toastmasters Club Meeting
7:30 p.m.: First United Methodist Church, 418 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge. For more information, call 312-237-3717.

Skokie Photographic Society
7:30 p.m.: The group meets on the third Thursday of each month. All levels of photographic skill are welcome. Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-677-8324.

OSHA Seminar
7:30 p.m.: The United States Department of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Administration, in conjunction with the Polish American Contractors Builders Association, present seminars on various professional contractor topics. Open to the public. Copernicus Center, 5216 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. For more information, call 773-789-7950. $10-$25.

SATURDAY, NOV. 23

Let's Learn About Candy
9 a.m.: Children ages 3 to 12 will read stories about candy, count candies, create a candy themed craft and make a candy treat. Norridge Park, 4631 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge. For more information, call 708-457-1244. $15-$20.

Indoor Farmers Market
9 a.m.: Buy the freshest ingredients for your Thanksgiving celebration and support local farmers and food vendors. Fruit and vegetables, meat, baked goods, eggs, honey, cheese, jams, soups, sauces, candles, soap and much more will be available. Children's activities provided. Glenview New Church, 74 Park Drive, Glenview. Call 847-862-4073.

Microsoft Excel 2007 Basics
10 a.m.: Learn how to make lists, enter data and keep records with the spreadsheet program. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-925-3123.

Christmas Bazaar
9 a.m.: Jewelry, purses, baby gifts, home accessories, items from Tastefully Simple and Pampered Chef and more will be available for purchase. Runs 9 a.m.-2 p.m. St. Charles Labeour Church, 3535 Thornwood Ave., Glenview.

SEE CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE »
'Against Fairness: In Favor of Favoritism'
10:30 a.m.: Stephen Asma, a Buddhist scholar and professor of philosophy at Columbia College, will speak about the idea of fairness. Ethical Humanist Society, 7574 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call 847-677-3334.

14th Annual Northwestern Settlement Cherub Brunch Benefit
11 a.m.: The event features a gourmet breakfast buffet, games, live and silent auctions and more. The Settlement helps low-income families and individuals take personal responsibility and become self-sufficient. Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-925-4579. $60.

Sunday Craft Series: Corn Husk Dolls
Noon: Children all ages are invited to make a corn husk doll and play with pioneer toys. Skokie Heritage Museum, 8031 Floral Ave., Skokie. Call 847-674-1500. $2-$3.

'West Side Jews vs. South Side Jews'
2 p.m.: Mark Mandle will discuss the history of Jewish people in Chicago neighborhoods and suburbs. Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-7526.

Music and Movement Story Time
1:30 p.m.: Stories, songs and finger plays for children ages 12 to 24 months with an adult. Siblings welcome. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. For more information, call 847-825-3122.

A Fireside Christmas
8:30 a.m.: Guests will take a day trip to the Fireside for a Christmas musical and lunch. Costs include transportation, lunch and a ticket. Registration required. For adults ages 55 and up. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-3597. $96-$105.

Camera Club
10 a.m.: The club meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge.

Park Ridge Kiwanis Meeting
Noon: Club meetings are held every Tuesday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Summit of Uptown. Meetings start with lunch and fellowship followed by a brief business meeting, announcements and a few songs. Each week, guest speakers will lead presentations on a variety of topics. Summit of Uptown, 10 N. Summit Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-812-7447.

Between the Lines Book Discussion

Life Transitions Group
7 p.m.: A support group for men and women who have been widowed for one to four years. The group is volunteer-facilitated and held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Park Ridge Nonprofit Center, 720 Garden St., Park Ridge. Call 847-925-3122.

Adopt a Sailor Navy Day
8 a.m.: On Thanksgiving Day, the Morton Grove American Legion Post 134 will be celebrating its seventh annual Adopt a Sailor Navy Day, hosting 50 recruits from the Great Lakes. They will arrive at 8 a.m. by bus, donated by the Golf School District 67, who will also return them by 5 p.m. American Legion Memorial Civic Center, 640 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove.

PowerPoint 2007 Basics
10 a.m.: Learn the basics of the program. Attendees must have a firm understanding of mouse usage and basic computer commands. Registration is required. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-720-3234.

Wintertide
5:25 p.m.: Shoppers can travel by trolley between uptown and downtown Park Ridge for festivities. Santa will arrive by firetruck in uptown at 6 p.m. Downtown Park Ridge, Touhy Avenue and Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3122.
New at Peachtree Place
Nest Book Art

A new range of exquisite hand-folded books from England. Each unique book is meticulously hand-folded within half a millimeter to create the necessary effect on the most beautiful vintage hardback books. Very special, one-of-a-kind presents that will bring joy for generations to come.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Content appears as it is provided in public records. To see all Niles building permits, visit niles.suntimes.com.

1. Flood control
Address: 7013 W. Birchwood Ave., Niles
Issue date: Aug. 8
Permit cost: $20
Construction cost: $8,200

2. Sign - electrical/non-electric
Address: 7507 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles
Issue date: Aug. 5
Permit cost: $175
Construction cost: $3,000

3. Shed
Address: 6839 W. Jonquil Terrace, Niles
Issue date: Aug. 5
Permit cost: $27
Construction cost: $3,000

4. Water heater
Address: 7313 N. Waukegan Road, Niles
Issue date: Aug. 5
Permit cost: $40
Construction cost: $579

5. Roof (commercial and residential)
Address: 7649 N. Osceola Ave., Niles
Issue date: Aug. 9
Permit cost: $80
Construction cost: $8,096
Burt's Place in Morton Grove attracts pizza-seeking patrons from California to New York, Sweden to Singapore.

But for the last four months, the small pub on a residential street next to Morton Grove's Metra station sat empty. Famed pizza-maker, and sole employee, Burt Katz was in the hospital fighting for his life.

"It was close at times," Katz said, having survived a mysterious illness that involved toxins in his blood and caused multiple organs to fail.

"That's how life goes. I could have been dead months ago, I could have never been sick, I could have survived," Katz said. "What's important now is that I have more time with my customers."

Burt's Place reopened to the public on Nov. 14, a day after hosting exclusive guests for a "trial run" and "reunion." Among the guests were his surgeon and primary doctor.

"The guy who cut me open and saved my life stopped by for a pizza," Katz said. "He shot the breeze with me but I knew what he was up to. He was checking me out to make sure I'm OK. Most doctors want you in their office so they can charge you $60. My doctors truly care and those are the type of people I want my life dependent on."

Dr. Jack Morgan of Skokie Hospital, Katz's primary physician, brought his whole family and stayed for two hours talking to Katz, his wife Sharon and other family who joined the VIP outing.

"Seeing him standing here before me, working the crowd and serving slices is the most gratifying moment in my whole career," Morgan said. Morgan declined to share any medical details, due to federal privacy laws.

When Helen and Raymond Chou arrived at Burt's Place, they were equipped with balloons. The two of them went on their first few dates in Katz's former restaurant Pequod's, which is located three blocks away but under new management.

"I called here every 10 days just so I could hear his voice on the answering machine," Helen Chou said. "I later slipped a card under the door to let them know I care."

The Chous made it a routine to visit Pequod's and then followed Katz when he opened Burt's Place in 1989.

"We didn't cheat on you, Burt. We were faithful and held out these four months," Helen Chou said.

As the couple built a family in Glenview, Katz followed their kids' progress. Their daughter Janice's modeling career took off a few years ago and she was used for a Bobbi Brown billboard in New York City. Katz asked for a picture of the billboard and framed it on the wall in Burt's Place.

"He's more than just a great small business owner," Raymond Chou said. "He's almost like family to us."

Even people who don't know Katz stopped in. Dave Holly lived in Morton Grove and takes his dog for a run every morning at 5 a.m. Katz is renowned for buying his ingredients fresh every morning.

"Not that many people are up at 5 a.m. but I always saw him haul- ing in fresh food," Holly said. "It became a habit to say hi every day, and when he was gone for more than a week I became worried."

Holly was taking his dog for an evening walk during the Nov. 13 special opening and decided to stop in to say welcome back.

On his first day cooking pizzas again, Burt Katz shows off the first-place trophy a Canadian TV show awarded to Burt's Place this April after sampling dozens of other restaurants in Chicago.

"I love my customers and I love knowing about their families," Katz said. "How many stores can say they've had the same customers for 40 years? Twenty years ago, people stayed with certain stores, but it's not like that today and I owe it to my customers to keep giving them quality food at an affordable price."

Burt's Place will only be open for dinner during the next month so Katz can rebuild his stamina and keep recovering. The restaurant will open at 4:30 each day; customers should call in advance to make a reservation and place their order.

"I'm going to keep working as long as my body will let me," Katz said. "Other people look forward to retirement and quitting work, but I look forward to going to work and I always will."
Oktoberfest hoists a stein for Center of Concern

CENTER OF CONCERN OKTOBERFEST
Benefiting: Center of Concern programs
Date: Sept. 28
Location: Ridgemoor Country Club, Harwood Heights
Attended: 200
Raised: $15,000

Nancy Stuerke (from left), Mary Schurder and Maureen Strauts, all of Park Ridge.

Ryan Socwell of Tampa, Florida (from left), Paul Hunsader of Park Ridge (holding beer) and Jennifer Socwell of Park Ridge, cheering on her brother Paul. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERIC STRAUTS

Barb Simmons (holding beer stein) (from left), Nancy Stuerke, and Kim DiFranco, all of Park Ridge.

Left, Maureen Strauts (from left) with John and Kate Kerin, all of Park Ridge. Above, Music provided by Frank "K" Trio German Band.
CAUSE & EVENT

NORTHWEST SIDE HUNGER WALK
Benefitting: New Hope Community Food Pantry, Catholic Charities of Chicago and Heifer International
Date: Sept. 29
Location: Resurrection College Prep High School, Chicago
Attended: 250
Raised: $5,301
Website: reshs.org

ABOVE: The annual Northwest Side Hunger Walk took place on Sept. 29 beginning and ending at Resurrection College Prep High School on Talcott in Chicago.

TOP LEFT: Kelly Kohl (from left) and Kelsey O'Brien, both of Mt. Prospect, Sarah Johnson of Norridge and Hannah Witczak of Chicago.

LEFT: Maeve Swan (from left), Courtney Zakrzewski, Alyssa Theme and Carly Parker, all of Chicago; Katherine Spinolla of Norridge, a student at Ridgewood High School, Norridge.

WYSE EYECARE Welcomes Dr Philip Dray
Dr Dray brings extensive experience in ophthalmology, with a compassionate approach to patient concerns

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900 Skokie Blvd. Suite 150, Northbrook, IL 60062
Tel: 847.497.2020
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Philip Dray, MD
Board certified ophthalmologist
Chairman Department of Ophthalmology, John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, 2000-2013, Past President, Chicago Ophthalmologic Society
Board of the Chicago Medical Society
Comprehensive ophthalmology

Christine Zeifert, OD
Board certified optometrist
Contact lenses and comprehensive optometry, preschool exams
Lovers reunite after 15 years
Amy Sorce and Tony Masini

By Jill Failla
Contributing writer

Park Ridge natives and residents Tony Masini and Amy Sorce dated in 1995 when they were 21 years old. A pair of mutual friends originally set them up. After about a year, they went their separate ways. Fifteen years later, in 2010, the same two friends arranged dinner and drinks for the four of them, and, as Tony said, “The rest is history.”
The group went to Zia’s Trattoria in the Edison Park neighborhood of Chicago for dinner. Tony said, “As soon as I saw her, I just knew.”
Tony and Amy dated for three years before he proposed.
“I knew I was going to do it. I was just waiting for the right time,” Tony said. “Gene’s and Jude’s is a place that both of us just die for; we love the place.
“We went there one night, and I had the ring with me. Right in the middle of opening up two hot dogs, I asked her to marry me.”
Tony and Amy planned a Labor Day weekend wedding for Sept. 1 at Park Ridge Presbyterian Church. Mutual friend and retired judge Joan Puclilo married them. They had the reception at the sprawling Cuneo Mansion & Gardens in Vernon Hills.
A full wedding party consisted of nine bridesmaids, one junior bridesmaid, three flower girls, nine groomsmen, two junior groomsmen and three ring bearers. Tony’s three children from his previous marriage stood up as the junior wedding party members: Isabella, 12, Jack, 11, and Joe, 9.
The groom’s favorite part of the night had to do with seating arrangements.
“We sat at a sweetheart party up front. To me that was the best part of the night for us,” Tony said. “We could eat, we could see everybody enjoying themselves and they could see us ... and we actually got to talk to each other.”
Tony is an electrician, and Amy works in Glenview as a cosmetologist.
“We’ve been married for a month, and things are great,” Tony said.

Every wedding tells a story. Contact Renee Lee at rlee@bouquetcatcher.com or 312-651-6613 to share yours.
Facebook.com/BouquetCatcher & Twitter @BouquetCatcher & Pinterest.com/BouquetCatcher
Sally Elizabeth Spector & Daniel Brett Ginsburg

Daniel, son of Rhonda and Scott Ginsburg of Northbrook, and Sally, daughter of Lynn and Michael Spector of Chesterfield, Mo., are engaged. Daniel, a Glenbrook South High School graduate, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the University of Kansas. He is a mortgage loan officer at J.P. Morgan Chase Bank in Chicago. Sally earned a Bachelor of Science degree in speech-language pathology from the University of Kansas and a master’s in speech from Rockhurst University in Kansas City. She is a speech-language pathologist at Advocate Health in Chicago. They plan to marry in May 2014 in St. Louis.

PHOTO PROVIDED

ANOTHER LATE NIGHT LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO HIRE MEANS ANOTHER LONG DAY UNTIL YOU DO.

Finding the right person for the job can mean long hours and late nights. Through our partnership with Monster, Pioneer Press can help you find the right candidates faster and more efficiently. It’s only part of the comprehensive recruiting solution you’ll find with Pioneer Press and Monster. And it’s just one way we help make those long days just a little shorter.

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Find the right fit for your next job at pioneerlocal.com/monster, or call 847.998.3400.
SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

Bloomington, Minn., gears up for holiday transformation

By Anne Thompson

When the holidays arrive in Bloomington, Minn., the city transforms to help everyone get in the mood to share in celebration. People of all ages can delight in the spectacles the city has to offer throughout the holiday season — including the best shopping destination in the nation.

Santa at Mall of America
As you begin your early holiday shopping, you can stop off to see Santa Claus appear at Nickelodeon Universe at Mall of America. Santa will bring his nine live reindeer, which will be quite a sight for the kids (and excellent photo opportunity for parents).

'A Christmas Carol'
The classic Charles Dickens tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, "A Christmas Carol," is at the Guthrie Theater through Dec. 29. This wonderful story can brighten your holiday season and encourage the spirit of giving.

Holiday Music Festival
If you can't get enough holiday music, you won't want to miss Sounds of the Season at the Holiday Music Festival at the Mall of America throughout the month of December. An array of holiday-themed performances will be featured on stage. You can even bring your own musical ensemble to play on the Rotunda and share your favorite songs of the season.

Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker
This Russian ballet features 40 talented dancers performing incredible feats on stage to the iconic music of "The Nutcracker." Shows will take place at Orpheum Theatre in early December, and tickets are selling fast.

For a closer look at what Bloomington has to offer to your holiday festivities, go to BloomingtonMN.org. Don't forget to visit the Mall of America for your holiday shopping with some of the best Black Friday deals.

Sponsored content by WeekAway. For more information on these or other destinations, visit WeekAway.com and follow @WeekAway on Twitter.
HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE
EAT LIKE A CHAMPION
KENTUCKY BASKETBALL’S LATEST HAUL
HAYDEN PANETTIERE AND VLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
In retrospect, were the Colts correct to release Peyton Manning?

- David Washington, Orlando, Fl.

It's easy for the Monday morning quarterbacks to look at Peyton Manning's staggering numbers in Denver and say that the Colts made a mistake in allowing him to leave. But it's important to remember: The Manning we're seeing today is a far cry from the Manning who left Indy two years ago. As you remember, Manning missed the entire '11 season, a 2-14 disaster, with a career-endangering neck condition that required multiple surgeries. The prior season, his final campaign in Colts blue, was a 10-6 disappointment with a one-game playoff flameout. Manning's 2010 passer rating of 91.9 was his lowest in almost a decade; his interception total of 17 was his highest since 2002. The Manning era in Indy had clearly reached a point of diminishing returns. And the fact that a clear successor was available made the decision a no-brainer. Andrew Luck is Manning 2.0 — a young, healthy version of the talented and cerebral quarterback who directed the Colts offense for 13 mostly glorious seasons.

Why do we call futbol "soccer" in this country, when the rest of the world calls it "futbol"? Is it because "football" (which is not played with the feet) was already taken?

- C. Rabì, Albuquerque, N.M.

The word "soccer" has an interesting origin. Surprisingly, it actually comes from Great Britain, where the sport is more commonly called "football" today. In the 1800s, when various sports involving balls and feet -- including rugby -- were gaining a foothold (no pun intended), the sport we call "soccer" came to be known as "association football" thanks to a group of teams that gathered to create a standardized set of rules. The Brits liked to abbreviate many of their words, and much in the way that rugby was sometimes referred to as "ruggers," association football became "soccer" -- a derivation of the word "association." Some sources credit a specific individual, Oxford student Charles Wreford-Brown, with coining the word. Naturally, the word "soccer" has kept its foothold in the United States, where we do indeed have our own rather popular version of football.
Introducing Campbell’s Chunky Cheeseburger Soup. For cheeseburger lovers like Clay Matthews.
RESTAURANT: TRESCA
Famous Name: Ray Bourque, NHL Hall of Famer and Boston Bruins legend
City: Boston, Mass.
Info: www.trescanorthend.com

Who better to open an Italian place on Boston's North End than the city's most favorite French Canadian import? If that doesn't make sense to you, you don't know Boston's love for its pro athletes. After 21 seasons with the Bruins and one Stanley Cup run in Colorado, Bourque returned to Beantown to work in the Bruins' front office and open this traditional Italian dining experience.

WHAT TO ORDER: Tresca's house favorite is a tasting menu broken up by courses, with each dish representing a different region of Italy.

BEST-NAMEd MENU ITEM: The "North End Classic," which pays inadvertent homage to the delicate, light palate of the local Boston sports fan (yeah, right) by taking a traditional cannoli and filling it with chocolate, pistachio and ricotta cheese.

RESTAURANT: YAO
Famous Name: Yao Ming, former All-Star center for the Houston Rockets
City: Houston, Texas
Info: www.yaoestaurant.com

There's long been a disconnect between what Americans and Chinese think real Chinese food actually is (hint: no fortune cookies). Enter the world's tallest ambassador for Asian relations, Yao Ming. His Houston restaurant features well-known staples of the U.S. palate (General Tso's Chicken, Mu Shu Pork) prepared using traditional Chinese methods and ingredients.

WHAT TO ORDER: The Peking Duck Dinner. It's prepared tableside in an elaborate presentation that features a large, open flame.

BEST-NAMEd MENU ITEM: A glass of Yao Ming Napa Valley Cabernet, the latest addition to the YAO menu as of September. Ming became interested in wine after many steakhouse pairings with teammates, and the explosion of fine wine's popularity in China.

RESTAURANT: CHELI'S CHILI BAR
Famous Name: Chris Chelios, former Detroit Red Wings and Chicago Blackhawks defenseman and NHL Hall of Famer
City: Detroit, Mich. (formerly Chicago, Ill.)
Info: www.chelischilibar.com

No ex-athlete is better suited to get into the restaurant business than Chelios, whose father owned and operated a chain of Greek restaurants in Chicago, where the future All-Star grew up. And his name sort of sounds like a food! Chelis's Chili first opened in Chicago in '03, but when the lifelong Windy City native signed with the rival Red Wings, the chili business headed East, too.

WHAT TO ORDER: Don't look for a Michelin star — just order Cheli's Chili. This is a bar-grub menu at its finest, specializing in chili first, with bar food staples like wings, nachos and burgers rounding out the menu.

BEST-NAMEd MENU ITEM: Not too hard to guess this one. You can order Cheli's Chili on its own or on a Cheli's Chili Coney Dog, on nachos, or on a plate of fries. And we're guessing that if you ask, they'll throw some on your salad, too. And for discerning dieters and meat-free sports fans (if they in fact exist), Cheli's offers chicken and vegetarian chili, too.

Right now, somewhere in the American sports landscape, a retired athlete is opening a steakhouse.

When it comes to famous pro athletes and restaurants bearing their names, there's nothing more common than a tried and true American steakhouse. Depending on what city you're in, chances are good that the local icon is offering you the choicest cut of porterhouse available.

It's Elway's in Denver, Vieau Young's in Austin, Shula's all around the country, and loads more. Some are great, some are easy cash grabs for famous jocks, but for the sports fan with a discerning palate, there's more than just red meat when it comes to athlete-owned restaurant experiences.

We've assembled a few of our first-hand picks below, each offering a unique menu and a quality dining experience while still giving fans a chance to eat like their favorite athletes — sort of.
For people with a higher risk of stroke due to Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) not caused by a heart valve problem

I was taking warfarin. But I wondered, could I shoot for something better?

NOW I TAKE ELIQUIS® (apixaban) FOR 3 GOOD REASONS:

1. ELIQUIS reduced the risk of stroke better than warfarin.
2. ELIQUIS had less major bleeding than warfarin.
3. Unlike warfarin, there's no routine blood testing.

ELIQUIS is a prescription medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation, a type of irregular heartbeat, not caused by a heart valve problem.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

Do not stop taking ELIQUIS without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke. ELIQUIS may need to be stopped, prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.

ELIQUIS can cause bleeding which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death.

You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, NSAIDs, warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, SSRIs or SNRIs, and other blood thinners. Tell your doctor about all medicines, vitamins and supplements you take. While taking ELIQUIS, you may bruise more easily and it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop.

Get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding:

- unexpected bleeding, or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as unusual bleeding from the gums; nosebleeds that happen often, or menstrual or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
- bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
- red, pink, or brown urine; red or black stools (looks like tar)
- coughing up or vomiting blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
- unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain; headaches, feeling dizzy or weak

ELIQUIS is not for patients with artificial heart valves.

Before you take ELIQUIS, tell your doctor if you have: kidney or liver problems, any other medical condition, or ever had bleeding problems. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or plan to become pregnant or breastfeed.

Do not take ELIQUIS if you currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding or have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. A reaction to ELIQUIS can cause hives, rash, itching, and possibly trouble breathing. Get medical help right away if you have sudden chest pain or chest tightness, have sudden swelling of your face or tongue, have trouble breathing, wheezing, or feeling dizzy or faint.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see additional Important Product Information on the adjacent page.

Individual results may vary.

Visit ELIQUIS.COM or call 1-855-ELIQUIS

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What is the most important information I should know about ELIQUIS (apixaban)?

Do not stop taking ELIQUIS without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke. ELIQUIS may need to be stopped, prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.

ELIQUIS can cause bleeding which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death. This is because ELIQUIS is a blood thinner medicine that reduces blood clotting.

You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (called NSAIDs), warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), and other medicines to help prevent or treat blood clots.

Tell your doctor if you take any of these medicines. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one listed above.

While taking ELIQUIS:
- you may bruise more easily
- it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop

Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding when taking ELIQUIS:
- unexpected bleeding, or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as:
  - unusual bleeding from the gums
  - nosebleeds that happen often
  - menstrual bleeding or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
  - bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
  - red, pink, or brown urine
  - red or black stools (looks like tar)
  - cough up blood or blood clots
  - vomit blood or your vomit looks like coffee grounds
- headaches, feeling dizzy or weak
- ELIQUIS (apixaban) is not for patients with artificial heart valves.

What is ELIQUIS?
ELIQUIS is a prescription medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation.

It is not known if ELIQUIS is safe and effective in children.

Who should not take ELIQUIS?

Do not take ELIQUIS if you:
- currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding
- have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS.

Ask your doctor if you are not sure.

What should I tell my doctor before taking ELIQUIS?

Before you take ELIQUIS, tell your doctor if you:
- have kidney or liver problems
- have any other medical condition
- have ever had bleeding problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if ELIQUIS will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if ELIQUIS passes into your breast milk. You and your doctor should decide if you will take ELIQUIS or breastfeed. You should not do both.

Tell all of your doctors and dentists that you are taking ELIQUIS. They should talk to the doctor who prescribed ELIQUIS for you, before you have any surgery, medical or dental procedure.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some of your other medicines may affect the way ELIQUIS works. Certain medicines may increase your risk of bleeding or stroke when taken with ELIQUIS.

How should I take ELIQUIS (apixaban)?

Take ELIQUIS exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Take ELIQUIS twice every day with or without food, and do not change your dose or stop taking it unless your doctor tells you to. If you miss a dose of ELIQUIS, take it as soon as you remember, and do not take more than one dose at the same time.

Do not run out of ELIQUIS.

Refill your prescription before you run out.

Stopping ELIQUIS may increase your risk of having a stroke.

What are the possible side effects of ELIQUIS?

- See “What is the most important information I should know about ELIQUIS?”
- ELIQUIS can cause a skin rash or severe allergic reaction. Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following symptoms:
  - chest pain or tightness
  - swelling of your face or tongue
  - trouble breathing or wheezing
  - feeling dizzy or faint

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all of the possible side effects of ELIQUIS. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

This is a brief summary of the most important information about ELIQUIS. For more information, talk with your doctor or pharmacist, call 1-855-ELIQUIS (1-855-354-7847), or go to www.ELIQUIS.com.

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December 2012
432US13CB503605
RESTAURANT: ANNIE LAURA'S KITCHEN
Famous Name: Five-time heavyweight champion boxer Evander Holyfield
City: Riverdale, Ga.
Info: No website available

Not every athlete dining experience is about onion rings and big-screen TVs. Sometimes you just need momma's cooking, which you're gonna get at this soul food establishment named in honor of Holyfield's mother, Annie Laura. There's no flashy big-city address, but if you head south on Highway 85 out of Atlanta, you'll catch it on the side of the road. Just look for a line out the door.

WHAT TO ORDER: All of it. Go in for a daily lunch special, and hopefully you'll get some of the fried chicken with sides of yams, collard greens and the house-made mac 'n' cheese. Also, prepare to stand in line for a while, but it's worth it.

BEST-NAMED MENU ITEM: There's nothing specific to Holyfield's long and successful boxing career (not even a pig's ear to commemorate his work against Mike Tyson), but any menu that has more than one kind of greens — designated by what kind of fat they were cooked in — is fine by us.

RESTAURANT: MANNING'S EAT-DRINK-CHEER
Famous Name: The Manning Football Family
City: New Orleans, La.
Info: www.harrahsneworleans.com

If you've ever experienced top-flight New Orleans cuisine but pined for the luxury of a big sports bar experience — and a recliner — Manning's has you covered. Its menu is a hybrid of NOLA and Mississippi favorites in a traditional sports bar atmosphere that even features lounge chairs arranged in stadium seating. Lie down, enjoy the game, and eat gumbo. Trust us, it works. Plus, Manning's operates as part of the Harrah's Casino in downtown New Orleans, so gambling's on the menu, too! (Not technically, but you can walk next door.)

WHAT TO ORDER: Alligator is a seasonal special (when fresh, of course), as is a variety of traditional NOLA cuisine, but Manning's menu is strongest in the bar food category. Try a tasting plate of meat pies and fried eggplant.

BEST-NAMED MENU ITEM: "Archie's Burger," coined after the paterfamilias, and featuring a tomato jam with caramelized onions.
Much like tattoos or passwords, jersey numbers can be a highly personal affair for their owners. The significance behind a jersey number can sometimes offer a little glimpse into an athlete’s psyche, his past, or his hopes for the future. Other times, the number reflects a team’s plans for the player wearing it. Here’s a sampling from the surprisingly rich world of jersey numbers.

Former major league outfielder Larry Walker wasn’t the greatest 33 ever — good morning, Kareem and Larry — but Walker was, without a doubt, the most superstitious athlete ever to wear the number. Walker had a thing about 3s. To wit: He routinely set his alarm for 8:03 in the morning. His parking stall in the players’ lot was 3. He routinely would take three practice swings and dig his foot into the ground three times in the on-deck circle, then take three check swings before heading to the plate. Walker wore 33 in an attempt to derive twice as much luck out of his favorite number. He also got married on Nov. 3 at 3:33 p.m. Said Walker, when asked back in the day about his thing for threes: “I’d wear 333 if they’d let me.”

Rockies manager Walt Weiss wears 22 in honor of boyhood hero Mercury Morris, who, incidentally, wore No. 088586 during his stretch in a Florida prison for drug trafficking.

What, you thought 76 was a football number? Think again. Shawn Bradley was 7-foot-6 and was drafted by the 76ers. Any guesses as to which number he was issued?
YOU PROTECT YOUR TURF.
WE PROTECT YOUR COLORS.

#CLEANWINS
MORE THAN JUST A NUMBER

TWENTY EIGHT
Today’s players pay thousands for numbers, but it wasn’t always that way. Former Phillies lefty MITCH WILLIAMS received 28 from JOHN KRUUK for the princely sum of two cases of beer.

$50K
Former Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis anted up $50,000 to new Bucs teammate Mark Barron for No. 24, believed to be the highest price ever paid for a number.

THIRTY EIGHT
Ole Miss football jersey given annually to the player who receives the Chucky Mullins Memorial Courage Award, named after the former player who was paralyzed during the Rebels’ Homecoming game in 1989.

10
Former Giants punter JEFF FEAGLES sold 10 to ELI MANNING for a week-long Florida vacation, then sold his new number, 17, to PLAXICO BURRESS for an outdoor kitchen in his Phoenix home.

17
Syracuse football jersey number worn by Jim Brown, Ernie Davis and Floyd Little, among others. The university zip code was changed from 13210 to 13244 in honor of the number, which was retired on Nov. 12, 2005.

For whatever reason, 72 inspires nicknames. It was worn by Carlton “Pudge” Fisk, WILLIAM “THE REFRIGERATOR” PERRY, Ed “Too Tall” Jones and John “Tooz” Matuszak.

Nine consecutive Super Bowls (VI through XIV) were won by quarterbacks wearing No. 12.
**NOTABLE RETIRED NUMBERS**

40
Fallen soldier and former safety Pat Tillman's number, which was retired by the Arizona Cardinals in 2004.

12
The Seattle Seahawks have retired the number of the "12th Man" - their fans.

99
Wayne Gretzky's number, which was retired across the NHL, fittingly, in 1999.

48
Former President Gerald Ford had his No. 48 retired by the University of Michigan.

42
Jackie Robinson's number, which was retired across MLB in 1997. Yankees closer Mariano Rivera was the last player to wear No. 42.
A BIG GIFT:  
A MINI STADIUM

Bring the house in the house! These mini stadiums (approx. 7” x 6”) from the Danbury Mint are expertly crafted down to the very last detail. Available for a host of pro and college stadiums, they're a wonderful collectible for the fan who wants a game-day stadium experience, everyday. Talk about a home-field advantage.

Price: $75-$199  
Found at: www.danburymint.com  
[Search: “Stadium replica”]

THE WORLD’S SMARTEST DEADBOLT

Your smartphone may or may not open doors for you, but now, thanks to Kwikset Kevo, it can unlock them, at the touch of a finger. The Kevo mobile app turns a smartphone into an electronic key (eKey), allowing your deadbolt to recognize and respond quickly to a simple touch. Your smartphone’s already a digital extension of your body — take the next step with this unique touch-to-open technology and make your smartphone your virtual key.

Price: $219  
Found at: www.kwiksetpresskit.com

EARS ARE MADE FOR LISTENING, NOT SWEATING

Here’s a great gift for someone who loves sweatin’ to the oldies (newies, too). The UltraFit 3000 earbuds are not only designed for greater stability, but the unique moisture shield technology also ensures that the sound remains at its very best. After all, Bohemian Rhapsody is not meant to be heard wet.

Price: $79.96; Found at: www.polkaudio.com  
[Search: “ultrafit 3000”]

LOOK GREAT, FEEL GREAT

Outfit yourself with Reebok CrossFit gear to make the most of your training. These products are specifically built for function and are perfect for any CrossFit workout. CrossFit is a precise blend of aerobics, strength training, endurance and power. Take control of your fitness with CrossFit, and prep yourself with performance-ready Reebok CrossFit apparel, shoes and gear.

Found at: www.reebok.com

CHILDHOOD HEROES

Remember collecting baseball cards as a kid? Now, many favorites from your childhood shoebox card collection can be made into adult wall art. Topps’ Archive Prints are modeled after the actual baseball card from the Topps archives from the 1970s, ’80s and ’90s. The collection currently features more than 1,000 prints, including classic cards from Reggie Jackson, Tony Gwynn, Nolan Ryan, Cal Ripken Jr. and Ozzie Smith.

Price: Large 23” x 31” prints, $99.99-$249.99  
Medium 17” x 21” prints, $64.99-$149.99  
Found at: www.topps.com
WOMEN'S

MEN'S

EVERY SEASON STARTS AT

DICK'S
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For Your Favorite Sports Fan!

PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

The Reebok ZigKick running shoe is designed with unique energy return along the outsole for enhanced vertical and horizontal cushioning. The synthetic mesh upper offers great comfort, fit and durability with every step of your run.

Price: $54.99-$84.99
Found at: www.reebok.com (Search "ZigKick")

A SLICE OF GOLF HEAVEN, MINUS THE SLICE

Custom-built irons from SCOR are uniquely designed from shaft to head guaranteeing a better short game. In fact, SCOR is so sure they'll help, they promise that if you're not happy, they'll buy you a wedge you think you like better. Need more accuracy from fairway to green? Think SCOR. Need more accuracy from tee to fairway? Maybe you should consider tennis.

Price: Approx. $135 each. Set of 5 for $675
Found at: www.scorf.com

FOUR HOCKEY FANS - OR JASON

At Masks from the Past, you'll find exact fiberglass recreations of famous NHL goalie masks. From a replica of Jacques Plante's first ever mask (above left), to Gerry Cheevers' scarred beauty from the '70s (above right), the hockey fan in your life will love having a remembrance of days gone by.

Price: $200-$500
Found at: www.hockeymasks.com

PAIN AND SUFFERING, WRAPPED WITH A BOW!

Want to give someone the gift of an incredible workout? Try a Jacobs Ladder. Imagine climbing a never-ending ladder, completely controlled by your own effort and speed. The unit was designed as an alternative to running, and built to work the upper body, too. Whoever Jacob was, the man knew how to exercise.

Price: $3,995; Found at: www.uniquefit1.com
(Search "Jacobs Ladder")

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Aaron Gordon, Forward, Arizona
A combo forward from San Jose, Calif., Gordon plays with incredible energy and a high basketball IQ. His jump shot still needs work, but he will score a bunch of points around the basket on tip-ins and dunks.

Jabari Parker, Forward, Duke
Parker is a versatile 6'8" forward from Chicago who will be difficult to stop in the college game. He can score with ease from the perimeter or post up smaller defenders.

Wayne Selden, Guard, Kansas
Selden is a powerful wing player who shines in the open floor. The Roxbury, Mass., native will team with Andrew Wiggins and big man Joel Embiid to give Kansas the best corps of freshmen outside of Lexington, Ky.

Andrew Wiggins, Forward, Kansas
Wiggins is a bit raw on the offensive end of the floor, but he is an elite defensive player and a tremendous athlete. He likely will see most of his minutes at Kansas at small forward, but he can also play shooting guard and power forward. Wiggins is from Canada but played high school ball in West Virginia.

Noah Vonleh, Forward, Indiana
At 6'9", Vonleh is a natural power forward with impressive length. He can finish at the rim or step out and knock down a shot from the perimeter.

Kentucky's Class
Headlined by six McDonald’s All-Americans, Kentucky’s 2013 recruiting haul may be the greatest in history. An intimidating power forward at 6'9", 225 pounds, Julius Randle (right) will be a high-effort cog in the frontcourt. Point guard won’t be an issue with Andrew Harrison on board. He can score in transition, and at 6'5", 210, he also has great size. Twin Aaron Harrison is, naturally, an ideal backcourt mate at shooting guard with his ability to hit jumpers. James Young is a versatile wing who has shined during preseason practices. Marcus Lee and Dakari Johnson would headline most classes, but they’re the fifth- and sixth-highest ranked signees in John Calipari’s crew.
FAREWELL TOUR?
The Miami Heat's Big Three are all staring down potential free agency after the season. This could be a farewell run for LeBron James/Dwyane Wade/Chris Bosh. or it could be the year their bonds become critically frayed. Or it could be something like last year, when a great team figured out how to be greater still. Either way, this is still the NBA's truest must-watch team.

UNLIMITED TANK WARFARE
As interesting as it will be to chart the Heat's greatness, it promises to be equally, morbidly fascinating to see how intentionally, strategically bad the NBA's tank squad will be. The loaded 2014 NBA Draft could deliver a handful of franchise-changing players to Draft Lottery winners, and teams such as the 76ers, Magic, Suns and Celtics appear to have approached this season with lottery position firmly in mind. This is reasonable enough, considering how good Andrew Wiggins, Julius Randle and the rest of the rising draft class could be.

BROOKLYN'S FINEST
There are better teams in the NBA — and at least a few in the Eastern Conference — than the new and very expensively retooled Brooklyn Nets. But it's hard to see any team being more consistently fascinating than this collision of graying greats like Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce, strong-willed first-year coach Jason Kidd, and All-Star holdovers Deron Williams, Joe Johnson and Brook Lopez. These Nets are top-heavy, wildly overpaid and stocked with world-historic egos. That doesn't sound like a championship team, but it does sound fun to watch.

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NARROWING THE FIELD

NASCAR's Chase for the Championship celebrated its 10-year anniversary this season. There are drivers and teams who have an obvious knack for the 10-race format, but how successful are Cup Series competitors at "simply making the show?" As this graphic shows, 11 drivers have made the Chase six or more times:

10 JIMMIE JOHNSON, 9 JEFF MATT GORDON THOM KENNETH
8 TONY STEWART
7 GREG BIFFLE, 6 KYLE BUSCH, CARL EDWARDS, DENNY HAMLIN, KEVIN HARVICK

NASCAR FLASHBACK

NOV. 22, 1981

Before his days as a NASCAR television analyst, Darrell Waltrip (below right) was a pretty decent race car driver. From Sept. 27-Nov. 1, 1981, Waltrip won four consecutive races on the circuit — a feat accomplished by only seven other drivers in NASCAR's modern era. The Owensboro, Ky., native finished second in the following event at Atlanta and capped off his 12-win season on Nov. 22 with a sixth-place run in Riverside, Calif., to earn his first of three Winston Cup championships with legendary car owner Junior Johnson (left).

RETURN OF THE 3?

Though dismissed as a conceptual design by Richard Childress Racing in October, the leaked photo on the right shows a Cheerios-sponsored Chevrolet with the iconic "No. 3" design made famous by the late Dale Earnhardt and his No. 3 Goodwrench Chevy (left). Team owner Richard Childress' grandson, Austin Dillon, will drive the car in the Sprint Cup Series in 2014. He has campaigned the "slanted 3" look in the Camping World Truck Series and Nationwide Series since 2009.

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The actress and activist touches down in Chicago to talk about her new documentary.
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Saphire cocktail series
Standard sparkling wines can't hold a candle to this collaboration between the fine jewelry line and the Peninsula Hotel, which features Krug Champagne served with a sapphire ring ($850) or a three-carat sapphire ring ($3,500). All proceeds benefit the 100 Club of Chicago, 108 E. Superior; Peninsula.com/Chicago; Marshallpierce.com

Eli’s pumpkin pie cheesecake
Pumpkin pie gets a makeover thanks to the locally-based baking giant, its lightly spiced pumpkin cheesecake can be shipped anywhere in the US by Thanksgiving, helping you give your family a little taste of Chicago this holiday season. $40, 6701 Forest Preserve; Elicheesecake.com

Chicago Loop Alliance’s Holiday Hub
Rest shopped-out soles at this festive cottage, located in Block 37, which offers family-friendly programs, hot beverages and appearances from characters such as Ebenezer Scrooge from The Goodman Theatre’s “A Christmas Carol,” Nov 18-Dec. 24, 108 N. State; Chicagoloop.com

WHAT HAD YOU TWEETING

PAWSchicago
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Thank you for the AMAZING cover shoot & article @Suntimes_Splash @SusannaNegovan! Can’t wait to grab a copy Sunday!

AmazingCosmetics
@amazingcosmetic:
Walking 5 pups at once? Check out the BTS of the @Suntimes_Splash shoot w/ @PAWSchicago founder to see how it’s done.

Fear No Art Chicago @FearNoArtChgo:
Here is my take on things: you want entertainment news?
Sunday @Suntimes_Splash End of story. That’s what I do!

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WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION?

“Every Hannukah, my grandma who loves to read - gives each grandkid a book she’s read and thinks we’d like. She’s given me some of the best novels I’ve ever read.”

“On Christmas Eve my mom gives each of us a present to open: a matching pair of floral pajamas. And they MUST be worn on Christmas morning!”

“My mom sets out goodies to make in our house with silver and blue for the holidays. She covers the mirrors and chandeliers with ornaments and lights. It puts Martha Stewart to shame.”

Taylor Odoherty
@wrapports.com

Zak Sterner.
Zsterner©

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CHICAGOSPLASH.COM | NOVEMBER 17-23, 2013

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November 21

**OLD TOWN HOLIDAY DRIVE KICK-OFF FÊTE**

Running through Dec. 20, this month-long effort to collect much-needed items in support of local nonprofits Mercy Home, Chicago House and Deborah’s Place kicks off at newly-opened boutique Roam with a night of sweets and bubbly. Bring along non-perishable food items, new and unwrapped toys, cleaning supplies and toiletries or a monetary donation.

*Time:* 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

*Place:* 1419 N. Wells

*Cost:* Free.

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November 21-23

**LONI LOVE AT UP COMEDY CLUB**

Not quite ready to deal with the complicated dynamics of the Thanksgiving dinner table? Take a pre-holiday break and enjoy a laugh as TV host, actress and all-around funny girl Loni Love sets up at Up Comedy Club for a three-night stint.

*Time:* Thursday 8 p.m.; Friday-Saturday 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

*Place:* 230 W. North

*Cost:* $20. For tickets, call (312) 662-4562 or visit Upcomedyclub.com.

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November 22-24

**THE INSIDE ART & WINE SHOW**

Holiday shopping is even more delightful, as 40 artists showcase their work while Vinic Wine Company pours select labels. Find artwork in all media at a wide range of prices, making this the ideal spot to snag something special.

*Time:* Friday 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Place:* Highland Park Country Club, 1201 Park Avenue West, Highland Park

*Cost:* $10 for wine tasting, art festival admission free.
November 23
- **REINDEER ON THE RIVER**
Santa and two of his four-legged friends make their annual appearance on the Riverwalk at Trump Chicago. Enjoy a performance by the award-winning Saint Luke’s Choir, toasty refreshments and sweet treats for purchase, created by Sixteen restaurant’s executive pastry chef Patrick Fahy. All proceeds benefit the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

**Time:** 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
**Place:** Trump Chicago, 410 N. Wabash. Riverwalk is accessible via both the Wrigley Building breezeway and Wabash Street.
**Cost:** Free. For more information, visit Trumpchicago-hotels.com.

November 24
- **AIDA CUEVAS AND MARIACHI SOL DE MÉXICO DE JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ**

Two of the leading lights of traditional Mexican music, Grammy-winner Aída Cuevas and the Mariachi Sol de Mexico, led by José Hernández, come together for a world-class concert to help support mariachi music education through Chicago’s Mariachi Heritage Foundation.

**Time:** 3 p.m.
**Place:** Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph
**Cost:** $40-$70. For tickets, call (312) 334-7777 or visit HarrisTheaterchicago.org.

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**next week**

November 24-January 6
- **WINTER FLOWER & TRAIN SHOW AT LINCOLN PARK CONSERVATORY**
Take a break from the holiday madness and check out this cheerful display, in which an old-fashioned steam engine winds its way through a charming village spun from spruce, willow and birch, and set amid an array of poinsettias.

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
**Place:** 2391 N. Stockton
**Cost:** Free. For more information, visit Chicago-park-district.com/parks/lincollpark-conservatory.

November 26
- **LUPE FIASCO AT HOUSE OF BLUES >**
In the midst of a cross-country tour that has him playing everywhere from New York to San Diego, the Chicago rapper comes home to House of Blues, where he’ll perform fan favorites and tracks from his upcoming album, “Tetsuo and Youth.”

**Time:** 8 p.m.
**Place:** 329 N. Dearborn
**Cost:** $39.50-$52. For tickets, call (312) 923-2000 or visit Houseofblues.com.

November 26-December 15
- **ELF: THE MUSICAL**
Based on the Will Ferrell comedy, this family-friendly show follows the adventures of Buddy, the boy who was raised in the North Pole among the elves and finds himself in the thick of New York City as he tries to discover his true identity.

**Place:** Cadillac Palace Theater, 151 W. Randolph
**Cost:** $18-$90. For tickets, call (800) 775-2000 or visit Broadwayinchicago.com.
CATCHING FIRE

Fight the impending snow with fire — or at least with fiery reds. No color is a better antidote to seasonal gloom quite like crimson, and with the holidays rapidly approaching, donning a rich red is the perfect way to outshine even the brightest lights. Match your dress with a ruby pout, soft, neutral eyes and a dark brow for a high-impact look, or sport a soft pink lip for a more demure style. Nearly every fall/winter collection contained red statement pieces, whether it was Bottega Veneta’s ultra-vibrant carmine gown or Dior’s red satin capes and pumps, making it easy to amp up your party style with fashion’s cardinal color. Just be prepared to bring the heat.
Columbia College Chicago's Nov. 9 Open Doors gala broke barriers for Chicago Public School students, raising money for more than 70 scholarships. Nearly 250 guests flocked to the Columbia College Media Production Center (1600 S. State) alongside co-chairs Richard Kiphart, Sylvia Neil and Robert Wislow, where they showed support by watching students dance, read poetry and display their fashion designs. The evening also celebrated the start of Columbia College Chicago president Dr. Kwang-Wu Kim's term and honored Allen M. Turner with the Chicago Legacy Award for his impact on the Chicago community.

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

Columbia College Chicago's Gospel Repertory performs with 13-foot puppets designed and operated by students.
Supporters of the Brain Research Foundation put their heads together to celebrate 60 years of successful research Nov. 5 at the Ritz Carlton Chicago (160 E. Pearson). More than 270 guests kicked off the evening by mingling with co-chairs Suzanne Kopp-Moskow, Michael Moskow and Alicia and Peter Pond during a cocktail reception. Later, former Chicago Bear Gary Fencik took the stage and spoke about his 1985 Super Bowl teammates who are living with physical and cognitive challenges before presenting the Frederic A. Gibbs award to Paragon Pharmaceuticals Chairman and CEO Jeff Aronin and Discover Financial Services’ Chairman and CEO David Nelms. Fencik encouraged the crowd to donate, and more than $1 million was raised to support the Foundation’s research grants.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event. The Sun-Times Foundation and the Chicago Community Trust will match every dollar donated to the Brain Research Foundation up to a total of $50,000. Up to $1,000 can be matched per individual donation.
Rick Springfield is the kind of person who gets bored easily. But that could easily be the reason he’s had a nearly 45-year career. The Australia native, 64, rose to stardom with his 1981 hit “Jessie Girl,” but there’s more to Springfield than pop hits. He’s a singer-turned-actor, who then became a singer and actor — starring on “General Hospital” from ’81 through ’83, while simultaneously touring with his band and riding the “Jessie’s Girl” wave. Since then, he’s authored a best-selling memoir, Late, Late at Night, starred on Broadway and appeared on TV shows such as “Californication” and “Hawaii 5-0” — all while continuing to record music and perform in concert. On Nov. 24 and Dec. 2, Springfield will play two shows at City Winery, and according to the musician, they’re unlike anything he’s done before.

“I’m doing some of the hits, of course,” he says. “I can’t leave the stage without doing them. But it’s more storytelling. It’s songs with stories, I talk about what they mean.” To give audiences a complete view of his musical catalog, Springfield is digging deep into the archives. “There’s one song called ‘Honeymoon in Beirut,’ and I’ve got a pretty funny story about that. Then I play what I think is my worst song, which I wrote when I was 15.” The comedy is punctuated by deeply personal moments, including an amalgamation of two songs that Springfield penned in honor of his father: “April 24, 1981” and “My Father’s Chair.” “My dad died as ‘Jessie’s Girl’ was going up the charts,” he says. “That was a moment of yin and yang. My career took off and my dad was my champion. I had my first real big hit and my dad dies. There’s no all good or all bad. There’s only everything.”

The performance will also incorporate pieces of Springfield’s memoir, which delves into his romantic entanglements with Demi Moore, Linda Blair and other stars, as well as a laid-back audience Q&A session. From there, Springfield will keep on pushing his limits: Between stops on this tour, he’s wrapping up his next project: a darkly comic novel titled Magnificent Vibrations. “Some fans think, ‘Oh, he’s some actor who just got lucky with a song or two,’” says Springfield. “[But] my strength is in storytelling. I never considered myself a fabulous singer. I just did it because no one else would sing my songs.”

For a man that has accomplished so much over such an extensive career, it’s hard to concisely sum it all up. Yet Springfield manages to do just that. “I’m a very driven guy and there’s a lot of stuff I want,” he says. “You do all you can.”

Here, the jack of all trades spends a day offstage in Chicago.

See Rick perform Nov. 24 and Dec. 2 at 8 p.m. at City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph. Tickets start at $75; Citywinery.com
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“Frying is looked down on, but there’s an art to it.” The pork shank dish epitomizes Wentworth’s product-first approach. “We braise it in straight maple syrup, leave the skin on and throw it in the fryer basket and glaze it,” he says. Nearly half of Chicago’s population is living in or near poverty, but together we can change that. We are building economic stability for families through job training and placement, financial education and money management programs. This is part of our commitment to the Chicagoland community to provide kids and families in need with EDUCATION, INCOME and HEALTH resources, the building blocks of self-sufficiency, so they can reach their fullest potential. Real change can’t happen without you.

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RUTHERFORD HILL, CABERNET SAUVIGNON: Estate grown grapes from our Mee Lane vineyard provide the center post around which this wine is blended. Our excitement with the new blend was validated when our 2007 vintage received a Double Gold at the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition. Full bodied with smooth rich tannins, and bright spirited tones of black fruit, produce a refined, complex wine.

RUTHERFORD HILL, CHARDONNAY: A lengthy heritage of producing exceptional Napa Valley Chardonnay has been exemplified and reinforced during the past five vintages. Vineyards in Napa Valley's cooler southern end are the key to this wine's Chablis style. Whole cluster pressing, barrel fermentation and sur lie aging are critical to the style we envision for our lush Chardonnay.

RUTHERFORD HILL, BARREL SELECT: The latest addition to this luxury brand is a reflection of the Terlatos’ fondness for Bordeaux. During the selection of the barrels for blending, a particular taste profile is considered, reflecting complexity, elegance and power, and the result is our Barrel Select. The blend consists of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah.

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3. Camp Wandawega provisions limited-edition gift box: $189; Wandawegaproductions.com

“David Hernandez and Teresa Surratt, proprietors of the charming Camp Wandawega in Elkhorn, Wis., have curated a collection of locally crafted foodstuffs, including apple jam and spicy Landjager sausage. There’s no better gift for a food lover.”

4. FEED wine bag: $22, Bloomingdales, 900 N. Michigan, Bloomingdales.com

“The perfect way to get in the true spirit of the season. Your purchase provides five school meals to children in need.”

5. Chiappetti’s Edible World spice blends: $6 each, $15 for set of three, J. Rocco’s Italian Table & Bar, 749 N. Clark; Jrocconiil.it

“Make your dishes pop off the plate—just like chef Steve Chiappetti of J. Rocco—with his line of Edible World spice blends.”

6. Dom Pérignon by Jeff Koons: $275-$300, Knightsbridge Wine Shoppe, 824 Sunset Ridge, Northbrook; Knightsbridgewine.com

“A bottle of Dom, with a label and box designed by acclaimed artist Jeff Koons, is sure to dazzle any art-loving host or hostess.”

7. (Belvedere)RED magnum: $59-$64, Binny’s Beverage Depot, locations citywide; Binny’s.com

“Belvedere has made its spirit brighter by partnering with (RED) and donating 50 percent of profits to help fight HIV and AIDS.”

8. The Flavor by Stephanie Izard: $9.95; Theflavorbystephanieizard.com

“It can take months to get a table at chef Stephanie Izard’s restaurant, Girl & the Goat. While you’re waiting, channel your inner Izard with The Flavor, her line of sauces and marinades.”

9. GT hot sauces: $7, available at GT Fish & Oyster, 531 N. Wells; Gtoyster.com

“Chef Giuseppe Tentori, the brains behind GT Fish & Oyster, knows seafood. His hot sauces—which come in Burn and the more mild Smoulder—complement everything from clam chowder to a beautiful fillet of grilled fish.”

10. Nourishing Notes

“Preserve Fruits and Family Recipes” print: $15; Nourishingnotes.com

Reclaimed wood frame: $24-$48, FoundRe; Foundrefurnishings.com

“Topping my wish list is anything from local stationery line Nourishing Notes. The witty and sentimental letterpress cards, prints, tea towels and totes are stunning, and the prints are even sweeter when paired with a reclaimed wood frame from local frame FoundRe.”
Downtown girls

Splash Publisher/Editor Susanna Negovan shares festive gifts with a stylish flair

Loft faux fur neck-warmer: $49.50, 150 W Roosevelt; Loft.com
“A close friend gave me a furry funnel years ago and it is still my favorite wintertime accessory.”

Michael Kors tortoise-print watch: $295; gold tone watch $325, Macy’s 835 N. Michigan; Shopwatertower.com
“Nothing makes a woman’s wrist look more delicate than a man-size watch.”

Aquiesse Cambria pine candle: $32, Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan; Saksfifthavenue.com
“Buy a bunch. They make great hostess gifts, and who doesn’t need a stash of those during party season?”

Karen Millen leopard pony gloves: $99, 900 North Michigan Shops; Shop900.com
“Because leopard print never goes out of style, it’s perennially chic.”

Seraphin Ravoux sun: $285, Spex locations citywide; Spexoptical.com
“I’m a big fan of sizeless gifts, and I can’t think of a woman who wouldn’t love these retro-glam sunglasses.”

Kate Spade All That Glitters bow belt: $98, 56 E. Oak; Katespade.com
“Take any dress you own, add this, and voila! Ready for a party.”

Tiffany & Co. Tatiana clutch in metallic gold: $950, 730 N. Michigan; Tiffany.com
“You can never have too many clutches, and Tiffany has the most glamorous assortment.”

Lana ‘Boss’ gold pendant signature necklace: $720, Neiman Marcus, 737 N. Michigan; Neimanmarcus.com
“The perfect gift for every take-charge woman I know— and that includes everyone on the masthead at Splash.”

CH Carolina Herrera black and gold jacquard cocktail dress: $1,045, 70 E. Oak; Carolinherrera.com
“This is my version of Christmas cheer: A glamorous fit-and-flare cocktail dress.”

Cherry 5Vineyard Vines Whale Isle Yoke sweater: $145, 540 N. Michigan; Vineyardvines.com
“A cheeky take on the traditional holiday sweater—how fun would it be to open a box and find this inside?”
Dashing dudes
From cocktails to cologne, Assistant Editor Zak Steiner picks 10 gifts for the stylish men in your life

Harry's Truman Set: $15, J. Crew, 929 W. North, Harrys.com
"Shaving is surprisingly expensive, which is why Harry's introduced super-affordable and chic kits. This one comes in fall colors and with three blades, which will last about a month."

"A great cologne if the guy on your list wants to pack a punch with his scent. It's a mix of bergamot, cinnamon, leather and tobacco. Basically as manly as Burt Reynolds in 'Gator.'"

Austen Heller suede loafers: $195, ZipFit Denim, 520 N. Michigan, Austenheller.com
"The best part about Austen Heller is the complimentary delivery. Tell them which styles you want and they come to your home or office with a slew of choices."

The Tie Bar clips: $15, Thetiebar.com
"The perfect way to make a suit more stylish, The Tie Bar has clips in every shape, size and color. It's my biggest vice."

Bond No. 9 Scent of Peace for Him: $250, Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan, Saksfifthavenue.com
"Bond No. 9 has been a favorite for women, but this year, it's released a scent just for men: a soothing blend of grapefruit, lily and cedar."

Coach + Billy Reid Kentucky cocktail set: $600, 625 N. Michigan, Coach.com
"You don't always have to travel with your drink set, but when you do, there's no better way than this amazing collab. Even if you're stuck at home, it looks cool to have it sitting on your bar."

Paul Stuart wool knit duffle coat: $787, 107 E. Oak, Paulstuart.com
"Wrap your man in wool and leather, keeping him warm and stylish, but not ostentatious."

Death's Door Gin: $24.99, Mariano's Fresh Market, 40 S. Halsted, Maranos.com
"The Wisconsin-based gin sits on that fine line between obscure and super cool. If he's unfamiliar, you look knowledgeable, and if he knows it, you look hip. Win-win."

Death's Door Gin: $24.99, Mariano's Fresh Market, 40 S. Halsted, Maranos.com
"The Wisconsin-based gin sits on that fine line between obscure and super cool. If he's unfamiliar, you look knowledgeable, and if he knows it, you look hip. Win-win."

Wreck-Creation Tribal Revival: $1,500, 1659 N. Halsted, Wreck-creation.com
"Local artist Neil Galati upcycles discarded materials and turns them into ultra-masculine works of art. They're perfect for a swank bachelor pad — and if she does move in, she'll probably love it enough to let you keep it."

Coach + Billy Reid Kentucky cocktail set: $600, 625 N. Michigan, Coach.com
"You don't always have to travel with your drink set, but when you do, there's no better way than this amazing collab. Even if you're stuck at home, it looks cool to have it sitting on your bar."

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Mariel Hemingway takes issue with what she calls the "hard-drinking, machismo" legend surrounding her grandfather, Ernest Hemingway. "I think there's a delicacy to him that people underrate," she says. "When you reread his books, you see the depth of his understanding of human nature. He wanted people to live authentically, he wanted to feel fully — he wanted to face himself."

Mariel believes it was the celebrated author's inability to achieve those desires that ultimately led to his suicide in 1961, four months before she was born. His death was one in a long string of mental health-related tragedies in the Hemingway family: Ernest's father, brother, sister and father-in-law all took their own lives; Mariel's older sister, Margaux, did the same in 1996; and her oldest sister, Muffet, has battled bipolar disorder and schizophrenia for much of her life.

Mariel herself spent years plagued by the "Hemingway curse," attempting to escape it through acting, extreme diet and exercise tactics and a litany of lifestyle changes. "I made some crazy choices," she admits. Now, at 51, she believes she's found a way to move past it: by striving for what eluded her grandfather.

Part of that meant pulling back the curtain on her family's dark past through "Running From Crazy," a documentary directed by Academy Award-winner Barbara Kopple and produced by Oprah Winfrey. The film — which premiered at Sundance and will run through Thursday at Chicago's AMC River East before making its way to the Oprah Winfrey Network in 2014 — is composed of footage from Margaux's 1983 documentary about Ernest's life, found footage from the girls' childhoods and Mariel's own exploration into the Hemingways' decades of hardship.

"We've kept this in the shadows for long enough," Mariel says of her decision to display her family's struggles onscreen. "People live in such fear of mental illness, and they don't talk about it. By expos-
I think by healing the depression in myself, 
I’ve broken the cycle.
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**Rooms with a view**

Homes with prime outdoor areas and spectacular views are tops in today's luxury market. By Madeline Nusser

Windows are trending. According to a new Trulia study, windows and outdoor spaces such as patios and rooftop decks are some of this year's most sought-out amenities. The study, which looked at luxury listings between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2013, compared phrases that trended strongest in the current year when compared to the previous year. Terms such as "roof deck" and "oversized windows" more than doubled in use. What's out? Mentions of kitchen items such as custom cabinets and granite countertops. Given that luxury listings increased in the past year in urban areas like Chicago, perhaps buyers are looking for skyline-view patios from which to enjoy great restaurant take-out.

Regardless of the reason, now's the time to buy. Come summer, these listings — with amenity-rich rooftop decks, sky-high terraces and wooden verandas — will look positively irresistible.

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**ROSCOE ROOFTOP**

Recent additions on the 100-year-old building at 507 W. Roscoe gave unit three a new 600-square-foot rooftop deck — part of the $1,395,000 price tag. "It was built so no one in the surrounding high-rises would be able to look in," says @properties broker Natalie Weiland (left, 312-912-3781). The urban enclave boasts a hot tub, dining area, grill, bar, lounge and a sheltered space for a TV and stereo. For those with a somewhat different definition of urban oasis, the other side of the 3,500-square-foot condo's private roof holds an organic vegetable garden.

---

**LINCOLN PARK LUXE**

Oversized windows and tranquil leafy views give this single-family home at 2427 N. Burling, asking $2,395,000, a rare woodsy feel in the city (call Baird & Warner broker Clare Zaro, left, at 312-981-2354). Each of the four levels, with a total of 5,400 square feet, has access to the outdoors, courtesy of noted architect Dirk Denison. The crowning outdoor spot is a rooftop deck with a grilling area and recessed lighting. If that's not enough nature, Lincoln Park restaurant North Pond, noted for its innovative use of organic and sustainable ingredients, is a few blocks away.

---

**SOUTH LOOP STUNNER**

This 4,000-square-foot Museum Park penthouse at 1600 S. Prairie, going for $4,300,000, has floor-to-ceiling windows in nearly every room, while the 750-square-foot balcony and a soon-to-be-completed private rooftop deck in unit 2404 provide spectacular views of the city. "Oh, the sunsets! They're unbelievable — we started calling them 'blood orange,'" says Sotheby's International Realty broker David Porter (left, 312-791-0300). In fact, state-of-the-art blackout switches were installed in the bedrooms to provide the occasional respite.

---

< Gold standard

Add a little luxury to your outdoor space with Jayson Home's Geo gold stool. It serves double-duty as a seat for outdoors or indoors — ideal for Chicago's dual climates. $695, 1885 N. Clybourn; Jaysonhome.com.
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Welcome to Bedford Falls!

American Blues Theater captures the charm of that holiday classic 'It's a Wonderful Life'

BY THOMAS CONNORS

It may be hard to believe, but when Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life" first premiered in 1946, war-weary movie-goers, eager for more upbeat entertainment, didn't fall for it — even though the film received five Oscar nominations. It wasn't until the 1970s, when television revived the old black-and-white flick, that countless folks embraced George Bailey.

The film, of course, stars Jimmy Stewart as an eager young man from the small town of Bedford Falls who never had the chance to see the world, but, thanks to the misadventures of his bumbling guardian angel, realizes there's a world of love and respect right at home. For 12 years, a cleverly-rendered stage version from American Blues Theater has offered fans a whole new way to enjoy the shamelessly sentimental tale. Running Nov. 22 through Dec. 29 at the Greenhouse Theater Center, the stage production — "It's a Wonderful Life: Live in Chicago!" — is structured as a radio broadcast in which an ensemble of eight stand before microphones and play multiple characters.

"That's the way it was done in the golden age of radio," says the show's longtime director Marty Higginbotham. "But it also adds a layer to the evening. The audience gets to watch both George Bailey and the actor playing him. The actress who plays Violet and Zuzu not only has to create each of those distinct characters for the audience, but she must simultaneously give the audience a glimpse into her own self when she's away from the mic."

Sound effects are essential, as in a real radio broadcast, and the production relies on a Foley artist, someone who conjures everything from footsteps to breaking doors. In this case, Shawn Goudie creates the rich audio accompaniment to the spoken script. "I'm constantly amazed by how some of the simplest things I do create a magical moment for someone watching," he says. "Out of the corner of my eye, I'll catch people pointing at certain things I use and whispering to the person next to them. Like the wind machine. It's a barrel of wood slats with canvas stretched over it and a handle. Depending on the speed I turn the crank, you may have a gentle breeze or the coming of a storm. Footsteps in the snow is just popcorn in a burlap sack, but man, does it do the trick."
Comedian Retta says she spends most of her time both on and off the set of NBC's "Parks and Recreation" laughing, playing improv games and singing with co-stars Amy Poehler, Rashida Jones and Aziz Ansari. But if her career had gone as planned, her life would've been much less playful. "I had every intention of going to medical school and becoming a neurosurgeon," Retta says. "But I'm OK with the road I've chosen. The neurosurgeon road didn't allow for me to be a guest on 'Late Night with Jimmy Fallon,' so it's all good."

When she's not lighting up the late-night circuit, Retta travels around the country doing stand-up comedy. "My stand-up is all based on truth," she says. "I tell stories based on things that have actually happened to me or people I know." The New Jersey native used a similarly personal tactic to land the role of wacky office manager Donna Meagle on "Parks and Recreation," now in its sixth season. "I remember after I read for the part, [co-creator] Mike [Schur] asked to see my watch [I'd] just gotten from Gilt. I was very proud of it and proceeded to babble on and on about what a great deal I got for it. I think that got me the job."

Role call: "In preparation for a role, I read the part over and over again until I think I've found an organic way to perform it. Once I've got that down, I try to be comfortable enough with the dialogue that if I'm asked to adjust something, I can do it and still feel comfortable. As for playing Donna, it's been five years now, so I'm pretty comfortable. My preparation just lies in knowing the lines by the time we shoot the first take."

Donna's future: "I'd love to see Donna get a worthy love interest. Someone who is as mysterious as she is [with] a strong personality. Truth be told, I just want him to be super hot. A little eye candy never hurt anybody."

Funny genes: "My parents immigrated from Liberia to the US before I was born. Mom was very adamant that my brothers and I concentrate on schoolwork. I'm the only professional comedian, but my brothers are both funny. My middle brother is probably the funniest one in our family. My mom says I take after her mother with how silly I am."

Chicago connection: "I've performed at some of the local colleges: University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago and Northwestern University. I recently got to enjoy some great comedy there as well — I saw my castmates Nick Offerman and Aziz Ansari each do shows at Just For Laughs Chicago. While I'm always stunned by the weather, I love the vibe of the city."

"Parks and Recreation" airs Thursdays at 7 p.m. on NBC.

BY LIZ CROKIN

The 'Parks and Recreation' star on her stand-up sets and singing with Amy Poehler
Shopping Spy

The latest intelligence from the retail scene

Springing forward>

Up-and-coming Nellie Partow, known for her minimalist designs and past stints at fashion houses Donna Karan and Calvin Klein, brings her haute couture to Saks Fifth Avenue Nov. 18 and 19. Stop by to meet the designer and peruse her Spring 2014 collection.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
700 N Michigan; Saksfifthavenue.com

Holiday happenings

Ravenswood's Lillstreet Art Center kicks off a season of festive affairs Nov. 22 with Let There Be Light, a holiday party celebrating a curated collection of ceramic art by 35 local and national talents. Enjoy complimentary refreshments and music while browsing the collection, plus artisanal goodies from Lillstreet's gift shop.

Free, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., 4401 N. Ravenswood; Lillstreetgallery.com

Pucker up

Give your lips some love with help from local line Karismatic. The company, which has been customizing and blending makeup for more than a decade, just launched an organic, long-lasting gloss line available in three shades. $15, Tease

Salon & Spa (1044 W. 18th) or Teasel A Beauty Lounge (7830 W. North, Elmwood Park), Karismatic.com

Nellie Partow eel skin jacket, $3,750
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- Renee, age 53

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Dear Jenny,
I’m stuck between a rock and a hard place. About a year ago, I made the mistake of introducing my best guy friend and best girl friend. They hit it off right away, and since then, the two have hooked up repeatedly. It was going well for a while, but now she wants to end it, he’s all torn up and I’m stuck playing the middle man in a complicated situation and hearing it from both sides. Frankly, I don’t know what to do anymore. What’s my role here? How do I handle things?
- Alexander, Seattle

Jenny says: You don’t! Remove yourself completely from the situation. Neither of your friends involved you when they were hooking up repeatedly, did they? Why should you be the one to come back into the picture for damage control? Playing mediator is exhausting, and can be tricky. It puts pressure on you to handle things correctly and, if you don’t, all three of you could end up very unhappy. Although you have good intentions, it is not your responsibility to solve your friends’ conflict. Even if you wanted to, it would be very difficult to remain neutral and non-judgmental, given you are friends with both. To stay sane and supportive, explain to both of them that it isn’t fair they expect you to be the middle man — and then stay away from any situations or conversations that involve their relationship. Be clear that you care about them and hope for the best, but you do not want to be involved. Remain respectful and stay true to your word. In a situation like this, it’s hard to win. So don’t try.
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Splash into our holiday gift guide

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**Gustav Reyes Walnut and Titanium earrings**
Each pair of earrings from Gustav Reyes is made by hand in Chicago. His latest collection features simple silhouettes made with silver and wood elements.
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Part 3: How to Energize Employee Loyalty

From Monster Intelligence

As most employers find out after the fact, once employee loyalty is gone, it's hard to repair that rift. Given their current frame of mind, employers are likely to learn a difficult lesson of employee retention gone wrong.

As we noted previously in the article Employee Loyalty, The Perfect Storm..., more than 50% of employees have no allegiance to their company, a condition caused in large part by the economic downturn.

Now that the economy is turning around, many employers are trying to retain top employees, workers who might have one foot out the door.

Of the employees surveyed by Monster, the top reasons those surveyed would stay at a company are:

a. Being part of a "family"
b. Feel more valuable as a worker
c. They get to be treated as an individual
d. They can make a bigger impact
e. They want opportunities to learn and learn by doing a variety of roles

Most of these are easy fixes to improve employee retention can be achieved by making some small organizational changes.

Employee Retention: Make them an Offer They Can't Refuse

According to Monster research, one of the top reasons that employees look for new jobs is for a higher salary or better benefits. Yes, once they do find a new job, you can always counter offer, but counter offers are usually too little, too late, especially if they found a job they really love.

It's easier -- and possibly cheaper -- to give them a little salary bump or some extra benefits before they even start looking. Giving them a little monetary "good job" unprovoked employee recognition helps them feel appreciated and will keep them from looking for greener pastures.

Listen to What They Have to Say

All any employee wants is to feel like they are making a difference at the company. According to the Monster survey, 77% of employees would like to see better leadership at their company, and the biggest part of leadership is managing employees.

Something as simple as listening to your employees -- their ideas or concerns -- is enough to feel like they matter. Is one of your employees having an issue with a coworker? Mediate the situation. Do they keep coming to you with crazy ideas that would never work for your company?

Keep listening. Even if 99% of their ideas are unusable, they could have that one brilliant idea that they might never share if they feel they aren't being listened to.

Create a Fun, Family Atmosphere

If employees enjoy going to work, chances are they aren't going to be looking for another job. Over three quarters of employees say they value a better company culture at their job.

You don't have to be Zappos to create a great corporate culture. Simple things like adding soda machines in the kitchen or designating a break room with video or board games to give employees down time will go far in creating a relaxed and accommodating company culture. Create a monthly happy hour or other off site team building exercise.

If your employees are able to bond with their coworkers, they will be more enthusiastic about their job.

Provide Career Advancement

Career advancement is one of the most important factors for happiness in a job, according almost 90% of employees surveyed. Workers can feel stale or stagnant if they stay in a job too long. Having the ability for either vertical movement within their department or horizontal movement around the company will help employees feel like they have options.

If you aren't offering your employees opportunities to gain fresh experiences at your company, they are going to look elsewhere for those opportunities.

Retaining top employees, especially after a difficult economic downturn, can be an uphill battle, but it doesn't have to be.

Simple solutions that make your employees feel valued will create a sense of loyalty to the company and appreciation for the job they have.
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MORTON GROVE, IL, 60053

Notice of Sale Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment
for the enforcement of a mortgage filed in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, County Court, 7151 W. Dempster Street, Morton Grove, Illinois, 60053, the following described real estate is subject to sale in accordance with Section 17-1501 of the Illinois
Mortgage Foreclosure Act. The real estate is situated at 10-09-304-000-0000. The real estate is subject to a mortgage upon it at the time of the filing of the judgment for the enforcement of the mortgage for the sum of $12,900,000.00. The judgment
was entered by the court on December 28, 2001, and is recorded in the
Cook County, Illinois, County Court, Book 33, Page 1250. The
amount of the judgment is $12,900,000.00. The sale is ordered by
the court and shall be held at 10:30 AM on December 15, 2013, at
The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, 60606. For information: Visit our website at www.judicialsales.com, or call (312) 236-9000.

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The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, 60606. For information: Visit our website at www.judicialsales.com, or call (312) 236-9000.
The property will NOT be open for inspection.

No bids may be withdrawn after 3:00 p.m. on Monday December 2, 2013.

The Skokie Park District will receive sealed bids for gutter and fascia board removal, purchase, and installation of new gutter and fascia board at Skokie Park, 1920 N. Rainbow Blvd., Skokie, IL 60077. Bids are due on Monday December 2, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the Skokie Park District Administration Offices, 3900 Meade Ave., Skokie, IL 60077. Notice is hereby given that Bids will be opened on December 3, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Skokie Park District Administration Offices, 3900 Meade Ave., Skokie, IL 60077.

TO PLACE AD CLASSIFIED AD, CALL
847-998-3400

BID INVITATION

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ADVERTISERS INDEX
I shall now terminate the conversation.
Public Hearings

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Skokie has scheduled a series of meetings to solicit public input on Skokie's 2014-2015 Community Development Program. The program will include: housing, economic development, and Urban and Transportation Planning. Meetings will be held at the following dates and times:

- Monday, December 10, 2013
- Monday, December 17, 2013
- Monday, December 24, 2013

All meetings will be held in the Village Council Chambers of the Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie, Illinois, 60077. The meetings will be open to the public and will be held in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act. All interested parties are invited to attend and participate.

For more information on the Community Development Program, contact the Village Administrator at 847-673-5400.

Public Notices

BELCHER, et al., Plaintiffs,

v.

GOLD RING HOLDINGS, LLC, Defendant.

No.: 09-36-105-135-0000

Circuit Court of the County of Cook, in and for the State of Illinois

Defendants to be served at the address of the Plaintiff:

125 N. Dearborn Street, Suite 2200, Chicago, Illinois 60602

A summons and a copy of this complaint is being served on the above named defendant.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Skokie requests that a special use permit be granted to the applicant for a special use in an M3 district district.

SPECIAL AID: Available upon special use permit application in an M3 district. Districts for the coming year will take into account the development of new school projects, housing, and other activities of economic importance to the community.

All applications will be reviewed by the Plan Commission, and final approval will be made at the December 3rd meeting. The meeting will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in the Village Council Chambers of the Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie, Illinois, 60077.

For more information, contact the Village Administrator at 847-673-5400.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

An interested party is invited to attend and participate in the hearing.

For more information, contact the Village Administrator at 847-673-5400.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Skokie, 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie, Illinois 60077, will have a public hearing on Monday, December 3rd, at 7:30 P.M. in the Village Council Chambers of the Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie, Illinois, 60077.

For more information, contact the Village Administrator at 847-673-5400.

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For more information, contact the Village Administrator at 847-673-5400.
After a short hiatus, SRT's Viper is back bigger and better for 2014. No more Dodge nameplate, no kit-car interior and, while some of the rough edges have been smoothed, still is one of the baddest production rides available.

SRT offers two Vipers (three if you count the 33 TA units), the standard version and GTS-afl in coupe form. I got a "thrill ride" in a new Viper GTS during a recent Chrysler Corp. 2014 preview.

Sleek, low and pleasantly voluptuous with a nod to Italian design describes Viper's exterior. My tester with chrome wheels and 18-inch and 19-inch (front/rear) tires was a jaw dropper (literally) on the street. A new logo adorns the nose along with new, better integrated, head/taillights.

Beneath the long, sculpted hood resides a handcrafted, all-aluminum 8.4-liter, mid-front V-10 overhead-valve engine. This firebreather is now 25 pounds lighter and packs an ultra-high-flow, lightweight composite intake manifold; sodium-filled exhaust valves; high-strength, forged pistons; and an aluminum flywheel that reduces reciprocating losses. Viper produces 600 lb.-ft. of torque, the most of any production naturally aspirated sports-car engine.

Delivering the power to the rear wheels is a Tremec TR6060 six-speed manual transmission featuring closer gear ratios and a shortened final drive ratio. The words "fuel economy" are at odds here. Viper's combined average is only in the mid-teens and as such earns a "guzzler" tariff.

The interior is race-inspired, and overall the Viper has been lifted from a rung-above-kit-car status into modern sports car. I was surprised by the amount of space for driver and (one) passenger. The seats are supportive and the controls are all within reach. Further aiding driver comfort are power adjustable pedals.

GTS models add metal trim work and leather to the wheel, door panels, seat inserts, shift knob and brake handle. One big change is the integration of electronic readouts and "performance page system" that allows you to configure and monitor your road and track performance. An 8.4-inch touch screen w/navigation Integrated Voice Command with Bluetooth, Harmon Kardon audio, SD and USB ports bring the Viper current. Rear seats are not available and storage under the huge sloping window hatch is a shallow 14.65 cubic feet.

On the road (or track) Viper is the "Gran Turismo" videogame come to life. The first time out you have to let the clutch out easy and apply moderate pedal pressure or the rear will kick out briefly, even with traction control on. Launch Control is standard and ensures quick power to the wheels without spin or loss of grip. For 2014 traction is improved with the addition of a third setting for the traction control system for wet weather driving.

Once acclimated to the bursts of power, short gear throws and sweet engine sounds, this car is everything and more than you expect. SRT claims a 0-60 mph time in low three second range and top speed of 206 mph.

The Viper can turn with grippy Pirelli P-Zero tires and stability control, and stops well courtesy of meaty Brembo ABS brakes. Steering is still old-school, power-assisted rack-and-pinion, but I like the feedback and response.

Sure, the weather might not be conducive for supercar driving, but for eight months of the year the exclusivity (approx 1,533 units), performance and excitement of the 2014 SRT Viper makes it one the top performance cars on the road.

**2014 SRT VIPER GTS**

**ENGINE:** 640-horsepower, 8.4-liter 10-cylinder

**TRANSMISSION:** six-speed manual

**DRIVETRAIN:** rear-wheel drive

**FUEL ECONOMY:** 12 mpg city/19 mpg highway

**BASE PRICE:** $124,895

**AS TESTED:** $156,090 (includes destination, guzzler tax)

**WEBSITE:** drivesrt.com

Editor: Paul Kelma • pkelma@stmedianetwork.com | Design: Jennifer Frencl | Director Automotive Advertising: Terry Boyle • tboyle@suntimes.com
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NEW 2014 CHEVY CRUZE LS

$15,378* NO MONEY DOWN & ALL TAXES & FEES INCLUDED
per mo 39 mo lease

NEW 2014 CHEVY EQUINOX LS

$22,854* NO MONEY DOWN & ALL TAXES & FEES INCLUDED
per mo 39 mo lease

NO MONEY DOWN & ALL TAXES & FEES INCLUDED

NEW 2014 CHEVY MALIBU LS

$18,066* NO MONEY DOWN & ALL TAXES & FEES INCLUDED
per mo 39 mo lease

NEW 2014 CHEVY IMPALA LS

$25,634* NO MONEY DOWN & ALL TAXES & FEES INCLUDED
per mo 39 mo lease

NEW 2014 CHEVY TRAVERSE LS

$27,414* NO MONEY DOWN & ALL TAXES & FEES INCLUDED
per mo 39 mo lease

NEW 2013 HYUNDAI ELANTRA

$12,900* 2013

NEW 2012 HYUNDAI SONATA

$13,900* 2012

NEW 2012 CHEVROLET CAPTIVA

$15,900* 2012

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All vehicles subject to prior sales. Offers to qualified buyers. *Plus tax, title, lic & $164.30 doc fee. **City residents pay a little bit more. 36 mo lease. $0 total due at signing. 10k mi/yr. $0 sec. dep. You must qualify. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this ad. Offers end 3 days after pub.
McGrath City Hyundai

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SUN 2013 Sonata GLS
BUY for $174/mo
0% for 72 mos
MSRP: $15,340
107 IN STOCK!

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ON NEW 2013s!

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$7,750 Discount
McGrath City Hyundai Price
$18,395

2013 Tucson GL
BUY for $239/mo
OFF MSRP
BUY for $259/mo
2013 Santa Fe

14 Mo. No Payments!

1000 DISCOUNT
PLUS
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BUY $174
PAYMENTS UNTIL 2014

2013 Sonata GLS
$174/mo
OFF MSRP

PAY $129/mo
2013 Accent GLS

PAY $144/mo
2013 Elantra GLS

PAY $239/mo
2013 Tucson GL

PAY $259/mo
2013 Santa Fe

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We’re Over-Stocked with Inventory and Need Room For Our Current Inventory.

**2012 NEW CHEVROLET SILVERADO 3500HD DUMP TRUCK**

*Stk #12467*

**MSRP $41,986**

**Discount $9,891**

Buy for **$30,995**

*Saved from MSRP. MSRP may not be the actual price at which the vehicle is sold in the trade area.*

**2014 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LS**

*Stk #C14021 MSRP $30,990*

**Buy for** $28,990

or **Lease for** $249 for 36 mos.

$3,529 due at lease inception. No security deposit required.

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**Discount $1,060**

**Rebate $1,500**

Buy for **$22,900**

*Saved from MSRP. MSRP may not be the actual price at which the vehicle is sold in the trade area.*

**2014 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 4WD 1LT CREW CAB**

**Lease for** $369 for 36 mos.

$3,789 due at lease inception. $12,000 mi/yr. No security deposit or 1st payment required.

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2013 NISSAN

BUY FOR ONLY! $16,995*

2013 NISSAN

BUY FOR ONLY! $22,995*

*Plus tax, title license & $164.30 doc fee. **With approved credit. On select models. In lieu of manufacturer rebates and manufacturer incentives. Ex: $13,89 per $1,000 financed with $0 down. ^May require good down payment. ^^With approved credit. On select models. Ex: $17.35 per $1,000 financed with $0 down. Dealer will not honor any pricing errors in this advertisement. Prices are good 2 days from date of publication. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. See dealer for details.
Always remember, what happens in the corners, stays in the corners
Experience the Cayman. Available at The Porsche Exchange.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAKE</th>
<th>MODEL</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>MILES</th>
<th>CONDITION</th>
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**Contact Information:**

- Muller Honda
  - Address: 550 Skokie Valley Rd., Highland Park, IL 60035
  - Phone: 847-831-4200
  - Website: muller-honda.com

**Auto Loan:**

- Tel: 833-932-9894

**Auto Parts & Towing:**

- Tel: 815-436-2071

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**Cars for Sale:**

- Tel: 708-854-4100

**Auto Parts & Towing:**

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Muller Price $21,620*

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Muller Price $23,555*

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All Wheel Drive
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*** SALES EVENT ***

We Want Your Trade-In!

550 Skokie Valley Road • 847-831-4200
Plan a vacation the whole family can enjoy to Southwest Michigan

By Anne Thompson

Planning a vacation the whole family can enjoy often is difficult. You might want to get away to a parents-only dinner or a day at the beach without the kids tagging along. In Southwest Michigan's Harbor Shores community, you'll find kid-friendly activities that allow you to sneak away for some adult fun while your children enjoy the day.

First Tee of Benton Harbor
There are several programs sponsored by The First Tee of Benton Harbor. These encourage your children to stay safe and active. The First Tee Mentor Program will teach your children to play golf under the guidance of an influential mentor, who also will encourage them to develop as responsible, kind people. Life Experience, Healthy Habits and Summer Employment programs also are offered through The First Tee.

Nature trails
If your children love to bike, run or hike, they might enjoy a tour of the area's beautiful nature trails, which are open year-round. These trails wind through the Harbor Shores community, so you might let older kids or teens go out for a walk or bike ride and meet back at one of the major landmarks in the region.

Silver Beach recreation
When you spend a day on the town in St. Joseph, Mich., your kids will enjoy some time at the Curious Kids Museum or the Silver Beach Carousel, featuring hand-carved figures set on the historic site of the Silver Beach Amusement Park.

Whether you are planning a short vacation this fall or relocating to Southwest Michigan, there is something for your kids to enjoy. For more information about kid-friendly recreation in the Harbor Shores community, call 269-932-1600.
Managing Editor Jennifer Thomas' picks for this week.

1. Winter Arts & Crafts Expo featuring over 100 artists runs Nov. 23-Dec. 22 at the Evanston Art Center, 2603 Sheridan Road. A preview party is 6-9 p.m. Nov. 22. EvanstonArtCenter.org.

2. Chicago blues favorites the Siegel-Schwall Band perform at 8 p.m. Nov. 23 at North Shore Performing Arts Center, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. NorthShoreCenter.org.

3. Friends of the Library Book Sale is 2-4 p.m. Nov. 23 at Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call (708) 867-7828 or visit Eisenhowerlibrary.org.


Behind the bah humbug

"Christmas Carol" actors talk about stepping into Scrooge's shoes

By Myrna Petlick
For Sun-Times Media

You'd think that playing a bitter curmudgeon would put a person in a bad mood. But the five actors we spoke with who star as Ebenezer Scrooge in area productions of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" seem surprisingly cheerful. Maybe knowing that their character finds redemption by the end of the show lifts their spirits.

Larry Yando is an old pro at the role, playing Goodman Theatre's Scrooge for the sixth time. "I always forget, and then I'm brutally reminded every year when I come back, that this is tiring to me," Yando said, laughing heartily.

There's a good reason why he returns, though. "It is so fulfilling to an actor because you get to run the gamut and have this incredible journey, all within two hours, and take a whole bunch of people with you," he explained. "And the journey is from a shut-up, angry fearful person to an open, vulnerable, childlike man who lets the world in."

Getting into character each performance is not a problem for Yando. "If you just mean what the words say, the character comes out of that," he declared. And, because he has played the role so many times, "I sort of open the door and he comes crawling out," Yando added.

Bradley Armacost is another Scrooge veteran, having played the role for three years with Provision Theater Company. This year, the "Spirits" are moving him at Drury Lane Theatre.

"It's an honor to be doing this at this time of year" Armacost said, as he drove to rehearsal. He joked that the biggest challenge of the role is getting from his home in Evanston to the theater in Oakbrook Terrace.

"And the journey is from a shut-up, angry, fearful person to an open, vulnerable, childlike man who lets the world in."

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"It's an honor to be doing this at this time of year," Armacost said, as he drove to rehearsal. He joked that the biggest challenge of the role is getting from his home in Evanston to the theater in Oakbrook Terrace.

Although Drury Lane's version runs just one hour, Armacost said the show doesn't feel like an abridged version of "A Christmas Carol."

Of course, that means Scrooge has to undergo a fairly quick transformation. "To take that journey from A to Z every single night is a delight," Armacost said. "You can groan and moan about the heavy lifting you have to do emotionally to go from where you start to where you finish but it is such a lovely arc."

Getting into character is easy for Armacost because of "the cynicism of our day. That idea of, 'It's never been worse than this,' is what you walk in the door with," he said, jokingly adding, "If I wasn't talking to you, I'd probably have the news on. That would probably depress me and get me ready to say, 'Bah, humbug!'"

First-time Scrooge Jerry Miller will be making two transformations at Metropolis Performing Arts Centre. When he finishes his role in "A Christmas Carol," he'll prepare to play Anne Frank's father in "The Diary of Anne Frank" at the same theater.

"I think Scrooge has been hurt a lot in his life. His sister died giving birth to his nephew. His girlfriend left him. He's all alone in boarding school," the actor said. "I think a lot of his anger and resentment comes from pain that he hasn't dealt with."

Scrooge's character isn't totally bleak, though, Miller said, and the actor noted that this adaptation by Metropolis' resident playwright Scott Woldman is lifted by director Micky York's original musical arrangements, although Scrooge doesn't sing until the finale.

To get into character, Miller laughingly reported, "I just think of my worse self." As for his physical transformation, he'll be shaving his beard and moustache and sporting mutton chops. "I'm going for the George C. Scott [Scrooge] look," he said. "That may really get
Bradley Armacost is Scrooge in Drury Lane Theatre's "A Christmas Carol."

"I start with me into character because I won't like the way I look so I can be sad."

Second-time Scrooge Matt Hallstein stars in the world premiere of M.E.H. Lewis' adaptation of "A Christmas Carol" by Lake Forest's Citadel Theatre Company.

To get into character, Hallstein said, "You have to go back in your life and look at areas where you felt excitement or pain. You have a situation that you're in as a character and you draw from life experiences to make those feelings come out through you."

As naturally cheerful as the other Scrooges we interviewed, Hallstein admitted, "The end of the play — where Scrooge comes alive — is probably a little easier for me than being the grouch."

Out in Munster, Ind., Larry Adams is singing his way through the role of Scrooge in Theatre at the Center's production of "A Christmas Carol: The Musical," the Alan Menken (music), Lynn Ahrens (lyrics and book) and Mike Ockrent (book) version of the classic tale.

This is Adams' first turn as Scrooge but his haunting presence as the Ghost of Christmas Present was felt in two other productions of "A Christmas Carol."

"It's an interesting character. The perception is that he's this mean, crusty old guy," Adams said. "You have to realize what made him that way in the first place. There is a sympathetic part there to his character — he lost his mother, he lost his father to prison, he lost his sister in childbirth, he lost his business partner. He lost the love of his life because he was obsessed with money. He's sort of a tortured soul."

Adams noted that because this is a musical, "When there's nothing more to say, you start to sing, and that tightens the emotional level of a particular moment."

Playing Scrooge doesn't darken the holidays for these actors, although it does limit the time they have to enjoy the festivities.

"It doesn't make me feel 'bah-humbuggy' playing Scrooge," Goodman's Yando said. "But the actual role is exhausting so I don't have much energy to celebrate."

"Citadel's Hallstein found a way to celebrate the holidays that is the antithesis of Scrooge. He organized a field trip for 14 fellow actors to join him in packing food for Feed My Starving Children, a nonprofit organization that ships food to malnourished children in 70 countries.

"Taking this role will affect the way Theatre at the Center's Adams feels about the holidays. "It makes me appreciate them," he said. "In the show, it's a very, very positive message even though you have to go through some dark times to get to that point."
When Thanksgiving met Hanukkah

Holidays converge and, oy vey, what meal possibilities

BY LEAH A. ZELDES
For Sun-Times Media

As if there weren't enough mishmash already about the spelling of Hanukkah—or is it Chanukah?—this year we've got another thing to think about. On Nov. 28, that all-American holiday, Thanksgiving, falls on the first day of the eight-day Jewish festival Hanukkah, a once-in-a-lifetime meetup of the fourth Thursday in November on the Hebrew calendar.

The last time they overlapped was in 1888, something that won't happen again till 76695.

So your one big chance to meld these two festivals of religious freedom comes now. And what else do these holidays have in common? Eating! So we asked local chefs and restaurateurs to weigh in on how to mix the two traditions on your plate.

One night of Thanksgivukkah isn't enough for Chef Cleetus Friedman of Fountainehead (1370 W. Montrose, Chicago), who envisions eight nights of turkey: Latke-stuffed turkey to start things off the first night of Hanukkah, followed on the big day by carved whole roasted-turkey popple popple and, finally, “The Menorah,” two potato latkes sandwiching sliced turkey, cranberry sauce, gravy and cole slaw.

Natalie Levine, marketing director for Mercadito (108 W. Kinzie, Chicago) and Little Market Brasserie (10 E. Delaware, Chicago), plans a holiday feast at home feting three traditions: American, Jewish and those of her native Mexico. “I grew up in Mexico City, and I'm Jewish, so it's already unusual.”

With the help of the restaurants' chefs, she's putting together a multicultural menu, centering on chipotle-brased turkey with savory “stuffing” kugel.

Fried foods form a particular custom of Hanukkah, symbolizing a miraculously replenished oil lamp, hence the American Jewish potato pancakes called latkes and the Israeli jelly doughnuts dubbed sufganiyot. Levine's sufganiyot will have cream-cheese-pumpkin-maple filling and a dusting of coconut sugar.

“I am all over Thanksgivukkah!” says Laura Frankel, executive chef of Spertus Kosher Catering. “I am doing the holiday from an American Jewish point of view versus a Jewish American point. I am a patriotic American who loves the country that allows me to celebrate my religious holidays to the fullest. Therefore, I am doing Thanksgivukkah food with a Hanukkah twist.”

Whichever comes first, Frankel also goes for pumpkin sufganiyot, filled with cranberry-apple jelly, finishing up a meal of turkey schnitzels and sweet-potato latkes.

Happy Givanukkah!
FAMILY FRIENDLY

Families can work up an appetite on Thanksgiving morning at the annual Jo Herzog exercise class.

Get in shape before talking turkey

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
For Sun-Times Media

Here's a guilt-free way to start the holiday. Bring your kids to the Jo Herzog Memorial Thanksgiving Day Family Exercise Class, 8-9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 28 in the Park Ridge Community Center, 1915 W. Touhy Ave.

"It allows families to get active together before they sit down for their feast," said Amy Murrin, Community Center manager. The drop-in program is for all ages and abilities.

Six instructors will lead the group. "They make the experience a lot of fun," Murrin said. "Also, it allows people to give because we are asking for donations for the Maine Township Food Pantry." The event is also a celebration of the contributions to the Park Ridge Park District of the late Jo Herzog, who started the Thanksgiving Day exercise event. Herzog served as the fitness manager and an instructor for 25 years.

For details, call (847) 692-5129 or go to www.prparks.org.

FAR OUT!

The whole family will enjoy a musical journey back in time when Shindig! performs The Grooviest Music of the '60s, 3-4:15 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. The band members will be in beads and bell bottoms and audience members are encouraged to dress in '60s attire, too.

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

FACING FEARS

Heights scare a crop-dusting plane but he is determined to overcome his fear to compete in a famous around-the-world aerial race in "Planes." The 2013 PG-rated film will be shown from 4-5:45 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22 in the Baxter Room at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave.

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

BORED NO MORE

The discovery of a special book sends a bored boy with an active imagination on a great adventure in "The Neverending Story." Evanston Children's Theatre performs the play at Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge, Evanston, 7 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22-24. Tickets are $6.

For details, call (847) 448-8250 or go to cityofevanston.org.

SEE ALL THREE

A trio of holiday heroes will be on hand during Story Time with Santa, Mrs. Claus & Elf, 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 at the Book Market at Hangar One, Glen Town Center, 2651 Navy Blvd., Glenview. Registration begins Monday, Nov. 25. The event is sure to fill fast so register soon.

For details, visit glentowncenter.com.
Make your Thanksgiving holiday extra special with these creative activities that put the “fun” in family function.

**Pumpkin Pie Surprise**

Forget pie a la mode, this is pie a la wow! Treat your young guests with these cute pies that are actually treasure troves of goodies and activities.

You need:
- Disposable aluminum pie tins (with cardboard lids)
- Adhesive (such as double-sided tape or glue)
- Pumpkin pie photo printouts

Directions:
To print pumpkin pie photos, download the free jpeg at [http://bit.ly/HW7YF](http://bit.ly/HW7YF). Right-click the image to “save” and then email the image to any photo center (such as Costco or Kinko’s). Request that each 12-inch x 18-inch image be printed on paper with a lustre finish. Note: If you prefer to skip printing the photos, you could also make the pie toppers at home with orange and brown construction paper.

Cut the pie toppers to size and glue to the top of each pie tin lid. Fill “pies” with stickers, crayons, paper, small toys, and maybe a treat. Cover the tins with the toppers and crimp the aluminum edges to secure each top in place.

Thank you to the team at [www.onecharmingparty.com](http://www.onecharmingparty.com) for sharing this charming idea.

**Gratitude Chain**

Remember to give thanks this holiday season with this sweet chain of gratitude that will brighten any room.

You need:
- Strips of construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Empty basket or bowl
- Tape

Directions:
As guests enter your home, invite them to write things for which they are grateful on strips of paper (one item per strip). Place completed strips in a bowl or basket. Ask your young helpers to turn the strips into a giant paper chain, which can be used to decorate your home and remind you of life’s many blessings.

**Turkey Categories**

This game is inspired by the game “Scattergories,” which is one of those great games that can be enjoyed across generations.

You need:
- Construction paper (cut into feather shapes)
- Pen and pad of paper (one of each per team)

Directions:
Divide the group into 2 (or more) teams. Set timer to 5 minutes. Place category feathers, face down on a table.

Have one person choose a feather at random. Teams have 5 minutes to come up with as many words that fit the chosen category (for example, if the category is “Thanksgiving Day Foods,” items could be turkey, cranberries, pumpkin pie, etc.).

After time is up, teams take turns reading off items from their list. The team with the most unique items wins.

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**A Gratitude Chain**

Directions:
As guests enter your home, invite them to write things for which they are grateful on strips of paper (one item per strip). Place completed strips in a bowl or basket. Ask your young helpers to turn the strips into a giant paper chain, which can be used to decorate your home and remind you of life’s many blessings.

**“Feathers” for a game of Turkey Categories**

This game is inspired by the game “Scattergories,” which is one of those great games that can be enjoyed across generations.

You need:
- Construction paper (cut into feather shapes)
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Directions:
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After time is up, teams take turns reading off items from their list. The team with the most unique items wins.
Thanksgiving Luncheon
Noon: Celebrate Thanksgiving with friends and give thanks at a special holiday lunch, Norwood Park Senior Center, 5901 N. Natoma Ave., Chicago. Call 773-775-6071. $1.50 donation per person.

Hot Ticket: ‘Amour’
2 p.m.: This 2012 Academy Award-winning film tells the story of a couple whose bond is tested when one suffers a stroke. Starring Jean-Louis Trintignant, Emmanuelle Riva and Isabelle Huppert. 127 minutes. An additional screening will be at 6 p.m. Call 847-929-5101 or visit www.mgpl.org to learn more. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

Craft Studio: Leaf Bowl
4:30 p.m.: Make a festive, lovely bowl out of leaves for the holiday season. Skokie Public Library, 5256 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-324-3419.

MGPL Teens: DIY Craft
5 p.m.: Create button bracelets to wear with any outfit! Instructions and supplies will be provided. Registration required. To register or for more information, call 847-929-5101 or visit www.mgpl.org/teens. Morton Grove Public Library, 8140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

Michael Malone
8 p.m.: The comic, known for his appearances on WGN TV and the CW, performs. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont. Call 847-613-0484, $25.

Saturday, Nov. 23
Let’s Learn About Candy
9 a.m.: Children ages 3 to 12 will read stories about candy, count candies, create a candy-themed craft and make a candy treat. Norridge Park, 4631 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge. Call 708-457-1244, $15-$20.

Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals
9 a.m.: A gathering of classic car enthusiasts. Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont. $20.

Indoor Farmers Market
9 a.m.: Buy the freshest ingredients for your Thanksgiving celebration and support local farmers and food vendors. Fruits and vegetables, meat, baked goods, eggs, honey, cheese, jams, soups, sauces, candles, soap and much more will be available. Children’s activities provided. Glenview New Church, 74 Park Drive, Glenview. Call 847-562-4073.

Candy Science
11 a.m.: Children ages 6 to 11 will learn about the science of sugar as they make candy tiles, fudge or lollipops. Norridge Park, 4631 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge. Call 708-679-1244, $29-$34.

Holiday How-Tos

Science Saturdays
2 p.m.: Robin Meher provides a hands-on science project for families. Evanston Public Library-Chicago Avenue Branch, 900 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Call 847-448-8600.

‘You Don’t Know Jack: The Other Side of the Beanstalk’
4 p.m.: A house has been ransacked. A golden hen is missing and presumed dead. And, the soothing songs once plucked from a precious harp have been replaced by piercing silence. Join the villainous Jack for an adventure to see the other side of the beanstalk. Performances will be at 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 16-24. Gaila Tango Skokie, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call 847-677-7761, $12.

Turkey and ‘Stuffing’
6 p.m.: Children ages 4 to 11 will get to "stuff" their own cuddly turkey then enjoy snacks while watching “Charlie Brown’s Thanksgiving.” Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 W. Sibley St., Park Ridge. Call 847-929-5127, $17-$25.

White Christmas
7:30 p.m.: The Rising Stars Theatre Company presents the Broadway version of the 1954 Paramount classic film. Performances through Nov. 24 beginning at 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. The Stahl Family Theatre, 9500 W. Belmont Road, Chicago. Call 773-736-2480.

Siegel-Schwall Blues Band
8 p.m.: The Chicago-based band, featuring Corky Siegel, will perform. North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. $29-$42.

Sunday, Nov. 24
Lincolnwood Turkey Trot
8:30 a.m.: The annual 5K/10K run or 5K fitness walk through Lincolnwood. Runners start at 8:45 a.m. Walkers start at 9 a.m. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Village of Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Department scholarship fund which provides financial assistance to students not able to cover the cost of youth programs. Must be 18 or older to participate. Registration required. Prosser Park, 5900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood. Call 847-866-5522, $40-$80.

Pancake Breakfast
8:30 a.m.: Enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast. American Legion Post 974, 9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park. Call 847-678-7474, $6.

14th Annual Northwestern Settlement Cherub Brunch Benefit

Critiz’s Choice Cinema: ‘Broken’
2 p.m.: An 11-year-old diabetic’s world is changed when she is unwittingly drawn into her neighbors’ unfolding melodrama involving violence, sex and life-changing illness. 90 minutes. Call 847-929-5101 or visit www.mgpl.org to learn more. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

Fall Dance Showcase
2 p.m.: Morton Grove Park District’s Starbound Dance Companies will perform. Prairie View Community Center, 6834 Dempster St., Morton Grove.

Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra

Alejandro Fernandez
7 p.m.: The singer will perform as part of a worldwide tour in support of his new album, "Confidencias." Allstate Arena, 6290 Mannheim Road, Rosemont. For more information, call 800-745-3000, $49-$150.

Monday, Nov. 25
Music and Movement: Story Time
1:30 p.m.: Open to all ages for a little bit of music and movement with the stories. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Movie at the Library
3 p.m.: The library will be screening “Monsters University,” the family-friendly prequel to “Monsters Inc.” 104 minutes. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Tribal Wood Film Festival
7 p.m.: Eisenhower Public Library, 6920 Mannheim Road, Alsip. Call 708-448-8600.

Triva Night
8 p.m.: Winners receive gift cards. Specials include $4 Budweiser products and 60-cent wings. Buffalo Wild Wings, 7020 Carpenter Road, Skokie. Call 847-929-6933.

See Go Calendar. Next Page >
Chicago History: Double Feature
11:30 a.m.: “Make No Little Plans” (60 minutes) tells the story of Daniel Burnham, an architect and urban designer who shaped some of America’s best known places and spaces; “The Indian Boundary Line” (41 minutes) follows Thomas Comerford, who takes a tour of Chicago’s Rogers Avenue, once the border that separated the United States’ Louisiana Territory from Indian lands. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-929-5101 or visit www.mgpl.org for more information.

Movie Matters: ‘The Stories We Tell’
7 p.m.: A film that excavates layers of myth and memory to find the elusive truth at the core of a family of storytellers. 105 minutes. Call 847-929-5101 or visit www.mgpl.org for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

DOCUMENTARY FILM

‘Honor Flight’
2 p.m.: In this heart-warming documentary a community comes together to honor World War II veterans. 82 minutes. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-625-3123.

Turkey Sandwich Day
11:45 a.m.: Celebrate Thanksgiving with friends and a delicious lunch. Please bring a dessert to share. Registration required. Must be 18 or older. Norridge Park, 4631 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge. Call 773-631-4833 or visit norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org for more information. Runs 10 a.m.–7 p.m. norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org for more information. Runs 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Dec. 7 and 8. Norwood Park Historical Society, 5624 N. New Park Ave., Chicago. $1 suggested donation.

L. Frank Baum: The Wizard of Chicago
1 p.m.: The children’s book author lived in Chicago and wrote “The Wizard of Oz” in the Windy City. Learn his story from Michael Patrick Hamlin, an author and educator who is an expert on children’s books. Mother’s, 734 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804.

WOMEN’S CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY
2 p.m.: Celebrate the holidays with festive treats and take a tour of the facility. Registration required. Norwood Park Crossing, 6016 N. Nina Ave., Chicago. Call 773-577-6323.

SATURDAY, NOV. 30

Victoria’s Craft Boutique & Holly Daze Cafe
10 a.m.: Handcrafted items and delicious homemade treats available for purchase. Come in holiday wear and receive a gift. All proceeds go to further help restore Chicago’s oldest house. Call 773-631-4833 or visit www.norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org for more information. Runs 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Dec. 5, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Dec. 7 and 8. Norwood Park Historical Society, 5624 N. New Park Ave., Chicago. $1 suggested donation.

Moscow Ballet’s ‘Great Russian Nutcracker’
3 p.m.: This is a traditional holiday spectacular featuring Russian artists, including gold medalists from international competitions. The Moscow Ballet brings to their annual United States tour the original creation of the ‘Great Russian Nutcracker,’ full of energy, beauty and athleticism. Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Call 847-671-5100. $29.75-$120.

Elton John
7 p.m.: The legendary singer performs as part of a fall tour of the U.S. Visit www.ticketmaster.com or call 800-745-3000. Allstate Arena, 6220 Mannheim Road, Rosemont. $39-$149.

Wednesday, Dec. 4

Women’s Club Holiday Party
12:30 p.m.: The Park Ridge Senior Center women’s club will enjoy a delicious meal followed by Jeanmarie Dwyer-Wrigley telling the story of Mrs. Claus. Chambers Women’s Club Holiday Party at the Women’s Club, 1455 W. Barstow St., Park Ridge. Call 847-663-2657. $25-$30.

Holiday Party Open House
2 p.m.: Celebrate the holidays with festive treats and take a tour of the facility. Registration required. Norwood Park Crossing, 6016 N. Nina Ave., Chicago. Call 773-577-6323.

Thursday, Dec. 5

Russia Festival of Chicago 2013
3 p.m.: The Chicago Russian Festival of Chicago 2013 is a celebration of Russian culture in the Windy City. The Moscow Ballet will perform its ‘Great Russian Nutcracker,’ full of energy, beauty and athleticism. Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Call 847-671-5100. $39-$149.

Friday, Nov. 29

Winterfest
5:25 p.m.: Shoppers can travel by trolley between uptown and downtown Park Ridge for festivities. Santa will arrive by firetruck in uptown at 5 p.m. Downtown Park Ridge, Touhy Avenue and Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. Call 847-925-3322.

Comedy Sportz
7:30 p.m.: Two teams battle for laughs and points as they make up scenes, games and songs on the spot. The audience votes for the winners and a referee calls the fouls. Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 26-29. Gorilla Tango, 7842 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call 847-677-7761. $25.

Saturday, Nov. 30

Justin Moore
7 p.m.: The country singer will perform as part of his “Off the Beaten Path” tour. Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Call 847-671-5100. $23.75-$49.75.

Elton John
7 p.m.: The legendary singer performs as part of a fall tour of the U.S. Visit www.ticketmaster.com or call 800-745-3000. Allstate Arena, 6220 Mannheim Road, Rosemont. $39-$149.

Sunday, Dec. 8

Moscow Ballet’s ‘Great Russian Nutcracker’
3 p.m.: This is a traditional holiday spectacular featuring Russian artists, including gold medalists from international competitions. The Moscow Ballet brings to their annual United States tour the original creation of the ‘Great Russian Nutcracker,’ full of energy, beauty and athleticism. Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Call 847-671-5100. $26-$120.
Million-dollar prize kicks off father, son journey

BY BRUCE INGRAM

Film Critic

A movie that's more about a state of mind (and a wearily resigned, borderline-depressed one at that) than a state of the union, director Alexander Payne's poignant "Nebraska" is a deeply rewarding exploration nonetheless.

It might not be the definitive statement on life in the Cornhusker State, but it does have a lot to say about mis-spent lives, disconnected fathers and sons, barely functional families — and love in spite of everything.

And about the importance of maintaining a healthy skepticism toward junk mail.

A characteristically low-key yet substantial drama from Payne, who won a screenwriting Oscar two years ago for "The Descendants," opens with a very long shot of 77-year-old Bruce Dern shuffling absently along a snowy highway toward the camera.

Dern, who won the Best Actor prize at Cannes for this compelling portrait of a man who has all but vanished, plays Woody, an alcoholic Korean War veteran who is disappearing into senility. He's doggedly determined, though, to pursue one final illusory hope, to make his way to Lincoln, Neb., and claim his million-dollar prize. The utterly bogus million-dollar prize he's been notified of in a letter attempting to sell him magazine subscriptions.

Woody's loudly exasperated wife Kate (June Squibb) and his oldest son Ross (Bob Odenkirk) are ready to put the old man in a home. Yet, despite the fact that Woody was a boozehound and apparently a miserable father, his soft-hearted, younger son David (Will Forte of "Saturday Night Live") is sympathetic. Realizing the old man sees the prize as a reason to keep living, and hoping to get closer in the little time Woody has left, David offers to drive him to Lincoln.

So father and son set out on an 850-mile road trip that ends up taking a traumatic, but ultimately life-changing, detour.

If you're expecting this to be a setup for old wounds to be healed, redemption to be achieved and forgiveness to flow, forget it. The taciturn, occasionally quite prickly, screenplay by Bob Nelson is too emotionally muted for that.

That doesn't mean that David doesn't get what he needs, though, when they have to stop for a few days in Woody and Kate's now-blighted hometown. At first, Woody is treated like a celebrity once the word of his winnings gets out, and there's lots of funny stuff going on as cantankerous Kate, who's driven down with Ross for the impromptu reunion, passes caustic judgment on pretty much everyone in the local cemetery.

Things also get a bit ugly in the tiny town of Hawthorne when the congratulations turn to greed and scorn, but that only forces Kate and the boys into a united front. The important thing is that while he's there, David learns a lot about his old man and, by extension, himself.
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FILM CLIPS

OPENING FRIDAY

DELIVERY MAN
★★ 1/2
Rated: PG-13 for thematic elements, sexual content, some drug material, brief violence and language
Stars: Vince Vaughn, Chris Pratt, Cobie Smulders
This ultimately over-huggy sentimental comedy doesn’t have a lot to offer when it comes to hilarity, but it should prove useful as a cautionary tale for underachievers everywhere. That is, think twice if you find yourself getting really diligent about something. Especially if it’s artificial insemination for profit. You could discover late in life that you’ve sired 533 children and that 142 are suing to learn your identity, like middle-aged man-child David (Vaughn), who was just getting used to the idea of having one kid with his pregnant police-officer girlfriend (Smulders). Co-writer/director Ken Scott (who also directed the better French Canadian original, a.k.a. “Starbuck” six months ago) pretty much copies himself whenever possible as David secretly becomes involved in the lives of his many, many offspring. That strategy was nicely offset in “Starbuck” by a certain sort of edgy comic sentimentiality. Times are hard, make no mistake, and that happens, though if you’re expecting this to be a setup for old wounds to be healed, redemption to be achieved and forgiveness to flow, forget it. The script is far too taciturn and prickly for that, and director Alexander Payne (“The Descendants”) understands that Woody wouldn’t care about that sort of thing anyway.

THE BOOK THIEF
★★ 1/2
Rated: PG-13 for some violence and intense depiction of thematic material
Stars: Geoffrey Rush, Emily Watson, Sophie Nelisse, Roger Allam
“A Child’s Garden of the Holocaust?” Not quite. Yet, this low-impact adaptation of the mega-selling young-adult novel “The Book Thief” takes such a kid-safe approach to the terrible events it dramatizes that it all seems strangely rosy and cozy. Newcomer Nelisse is quite good as young Liesel, growing up in Nazi Germany under the care of kindly adoptive parents (Geoffrey Rush and Emma Watson, each supplying much-needed emotional ballast), who have also given shelter to the teenage son (Ben Schnetzer) of a Jewish friend. Times are hard, make no mistake, and numerous totalitarian travails are touched upon, but it’s hard to get too worked up about it. You can blame that on Death, the soft-spoken, philosophical narrator (Roger Allam of “Game of Thrones”), who takes such a long view of the human condition he even seems to think of Hitler with a sort of weary sympathy. Eventually, you’re likely to feel as unperturbed about what’s happening on screen as he does.

STILL PLAYING

THE BEST MAN HOLIDAY
★★★ 1/2
Rated R for language, sexual content and brief nudity
Stars: Terrence Howard, Sanaa Lathan, Morris Chestnut, Taye Diggs, Nia Long
It might not quite be able to settle on whether it wants to scandalize you or sanctify you, or make you laugh or make you sob, but “The Best Man Holiday” does a lively job of bouncing back and forth from one to the other. The over-achieving gang from Malcolm D. Lee’s 1999 hit “The Best Man” (everyone’s a novelist, a network exec, a TV star or some such) returns for more raunchy sex, old-time religion and full-on melodrama, assembling at the mansion of NFL superstar Chestnut— a proponent of “God, family and football” in that order. At least you’re not likely to be bored.

There’s way too much going on here for that.

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by DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU
directed by RON OJ PARSON

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773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com
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Sunday Worship 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 am
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Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry
Matt Haider, Worship/Music
Michael Lyda, Children/Youth/Family

St. Luke's Evangelical Covenant Church
9233 Shermer Rd., Morton Grove
Sunday Worship & Sunday School - 10 AM
http://www.stlukesecc.org/
Handicap Accessible
Rev. Isabel Hughes, Pastor

Morton Grove Community Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)
8944 Austin Avenue
(Lake and Austin)
Morton Grove, IL
(847) 965-2982
www.mgcppresbyterian.org
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Fellowship 11 AM
Rev. Lolly Dominski
Handicapped Accessible
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St. Paul Lutheran Church
5650 N. Canfield, 60631,
(708)867-5044, www.stpaulcanfield.org
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Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45AM
Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30AM
Saturday Worship 6PM

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www.st-john-niles.org
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Impact (Grades 9-12): 6 pm
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Norton, IL 60706
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www.evanshirepresbyterian.com
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St. Timothy Campus
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10:30 am: St. Timothy’s Lutheran
Noon: Agape Life Outreach Center
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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 will integrate 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.
General Information Concerning The Death Notice Page

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

Death Notices

Finnerty, Marlene T.
(nee Franklin), age 82 of Winona, MN, and formerly of Morton Grove, IL, died September 23, 2013 at St. Anne’s of Winona.

Marlene Therese was born January 30, 1931 in Chicago, IL to Alphonse and Margaret (O'Boyle) Franklin. She graduated from St. Philomena Commercial High School (Chicago, IL). On October 5, 1959, she married John J. Finnerty in Chicago, IL. This marriage was blessed with two sons, Casey and Shawn.

Marlene will be remembered by many for her ardent devotion to her Roman Catholic faith and prayer life, her great sense of humor, and her love of language and conversation.

She is survived by two sons, Casey (Tracy) Finnerty, Winona, MN and Shawn (Zdzislawa Zawadzka) Finnerty, Arlington Heights, IL; two grandchildren, Brian Finnerty and Grace Finnerty; two brothers, Thomas Franklin, Palatine, IL and Michael (Dolores) Franklin, Darien, IL; a sister, Margaret Staley, Crystal Lake, IL and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; sisters-in-law Mary Franklin and Josianne Franklin; and brother William Franklin.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at the Chapel of Our Lady, St. Anne Extended Healthcare, Winona, MN. Rev. Robert Stamschror officiated. A memorial mass was held on November 16, 2013 at St. Peter Catholic Church in Skokie, IL. Rev. Thomas Baima officiated. Interment will be at Mount Carmel Cemetery, Hillside, IL.

Words of sympathy or remembrance may be left at www.fawcett-lunkerfuneralhome.com.

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**SUPER CROSSWORD**

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**PUZZLE ANSWERS**

**HOROSCOPES: NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 3**

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** Decisions involving your finances might seem to be foolproof. But they could have underlying risks you should know about. Don't act on anything hastily.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** You're attracted to a situation that appeals to your Bovine intellect. But don't neglect your passionate side when romance comes calling later in the week.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** A recent development enhances that special relationship. Spending more time together also helps make the bonding process stronger.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** A suspicious situation should be dealt with before it leads to serious problems. Get all the facts needed to resolve it.

**LEO (July 23 to August 22)** Try to be more open-minded in working toward a resolution of that standoff between yourself and a colleague or family member. A little flexibility now could work.

**VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** You might feel a bit threatened by a proposed workplace change. The best way to deal with it is to ask questions. Those involved will provide you with the facts.

**LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** Feeling alone in a crowd during the early part of the week is an unsettling experience. But your spirits soon perk up, putting you into the right mood for the holidays.

**SCORPIO (October 23 to November 22)** A pesky problem should be dealt with immediately, so you can put your time and effort into something more important.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** High-energy aspects dominate, both on the job and at home. Use this time to put some long-range plans into operation.

**CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** Even the usually gregarious Goat might feel overwhelmed by a flurry of activities. Be patient. Things soon return to your normal social routine.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** Career choices that seem too confusing to deal with at this point probably are. On the personal side, a friend might need your advice.

**PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** Your Piscean imagination is stimulated by possibilities you see in a new opportunity. But keep those ideas to yourself until you feel ready to translate them.
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Richard Anderson's 1971 MGB

By ToDrive Editors/Richard Anderson

This September I'll pass another of those life milestones that doesn't mean anything to anyone but yourself: 42 years of owning my 1970 MGB. I bought the car in September of 1971 in DeKalb when I got out of the Army and started graduate school. As such, the car pre-dates my wife of 38 years, Mary, who incidentally has never liked the color of the car! The original owner of the car wrinkled the right front fender, which ended his interest in sports cars. So, for $1,500 and a further $50 for the hardtop I was the proud owner of a relatively new 1970 MGB. The hardtop turned out to be one of the main factors in the longevity of the car as over the years it has protected the interior, especially when the car was stored. The car has gone through various periods in its life ranging from day-to-day work car, weekend fun car and a couple periods of "rest" in various relatives' garages when things like kids and work took precedence. Today the car has 48,000 miles on it with a completely original interior, except for the roll bar, which I added when I used to drive a little crazier than I do now.
Niles residents chose Mercedes-Benz more often than any other luxury auto brand when purchasing cars in August. Mercedes-Benz topped the luxury sales chart with eight sales of the 40 total sales of luxury cars to Niles residents. The breakdown of the eight total Mercedes-Benz sales was four new and four used over the course of the month.

BMW, which accounted for eight sales, was the second most popular luxury brand sold to Niles residents in August. A total of eight pre-owned vehicles and zero new vehicles comprise the overall total of eight BMW purchases in August. Lexus ranked third on the August list of most popular car brands sold to Niles residents, totaling seven sales — two new and five used.

BMW was the most popular luxury brand bought used (eight purchases), while Mercedes-Benz was the most popular luxury brand bought new (four purchases). Acura and Lexus came next in the new luxury car sales category, with five sales each.

In August, 73 percent of luxury car purchases by Niles residents came through a local dealer, while 28 percent came via private party transactions. Residents of Niles purchased 40 total luxury vehicles in August, 29 from local dealers and 11 from private parties. The top auto dealership selling luxury vehicles to Niles residents in August was Loeb to Motors with three total sales, followed by Fields Imports (two sales), Grossinger Autoplex (two), and McGrath Acura of Westmont (two).

Niles residents purchased a total of 252 vehicles (all brands) in the month of August — 187 pre-owned and 65 new. So, the share of overall car and truck sales in the month made up by used vehicles was 82 percent.
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Maine South's Jenna Zitkus swims the 100-yard butterfly at Saturday's Glenbrook South Sectional in Glenview. Zitkus advanced to state in both the 100 fly and the 100 backstroke. | TIM CARRELL/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

GIRLS SWIMMING STATE PREVIEW NOTEBOOK

Helgeson shocks herself with win

Maine South's Zitkus breaks her own school records, qualifies for state

BY ERIC VAN ORE
For Sun-Times Media, @VanDnlSports

Helgeson was in fourth place at the halfway point Saturday, but she slowly closed on the three swimmers in front of her after that. She caught Niles West junior Emma Helgeson said she entered the 100-yard freestyle at the Glenbrook South girls swimming sectional expecting to finish between fourth and sixth place, and for the race's first 50 yards it seemed her pre-race prediction would come true.

Helgeson, who was the sectional's No. 6 seed, teared up as she was awarded the first-place medal. Her time of 52.50 seconds was 1.59 seconds faster than her seeded time, and she was the only Niles West swimmer to qualify for the state meet. Helgeson also qualified for state in the 200 free (1:53.07), an event in which she finished second to Loyola junior Grace Tierney (1:52.54).

MAINE SOUTH

Senior Jenna Zitkus strayed from her strongest events at the CSL South conference meet on Nov. 9, choosing instead to try to break Maine South's school records in the 100 and 500 free. Zitkus wasn't able to set either record at the meet, but she returned to the 100 butterfly and the 100 backstroke at the Glenbrook South Sectional and broke her own school records in both events. Zitkus finished second in the 100 back (56.68) and fourth in the 100 fly (57.49) to qualify for the state meet in both. She said she was able to swim career-best times because she was tapered and stayed focused on her turns.

"Before I went into both of them, [Maine South] coach [Don] Kura said, 'Focus on your walls, your underwater kicks are always really good. Really focus on them, and you'll go lifetime bests,'" Zitkus said. "I didn't really think much during the races, but I made sure to feel my legs in the turns and in the underwaters, and every time I got [a new personal best], he was like, 'I told you so.'"

Zitkus will be joined at the state meet by her teammates on the Hawks' 200 free relay — senior Hannah Perestel, sophomore Keenan Bender and junior Erin Patrick — and sophomore Francesca Figioli, who qualified for the Athletes with Disabilities state meet in the 50 free, 100 free and 200 free.

NILES NORTH

Like Helgeson, Niles North sophomore Azra Avdic will be her school's lone representative at the state meet on Friday. Avdic qualified in the 100 fly (57.02) and the 500 free (5:03.64).

Avdic, who also qualified for state as a freshman, appears to have a chance of advancing to Saturday's state finals. The sophomore swam the 14th-fastest time among all state qualifiers in both the 100 fly and the 500 free. The top-12 swimmers in each event at Friday's state preliminaries advance to the state finals on Saturday.

James commits to Pitt

BY PIONEER PRESS SPORTS
ppnpreps@pioneerlocal.com, @HSCNewsNorth

Due in part to the support he's received from Pittsburgh's coaching staff, Notre Dame standout senior running back Chris James verbally committed to play football for the Panthers.

"I just feel like Pitt was the best fit for me after all the research," said James, a Scout.com four-star recruit. "Their school's athletic and academic background really helped too. I just feel like they've been the most honest with me. Their coaches have been there for me throughout the whole process.

Pittsburgh is coached by Paul Chryst, the former offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Wisconsin, and plays in the ACC. James has been raised by his grandmother, Audrey Davis, since he was young, and she also liked the Pittsburgh coaches.

"One thing we wanted to make sure of from the beginning is that we found a school where we felt Chris wasn't being exploited, and we felt like Pitt was a school with coaches who understood that message," Davis said. "The most important thing is this will give Chris the opportunity to get a college degree, and he understands that's what matters more than anything. We couldn't be happier today and I couldn't be more proud of Chris."

James said he made the commitment at about 11 a.m. Friday. James finished his final high school season with 1,734 rushing yards and 20 touchdowns, averaging 6.9 yards per carry.

The 5-foot-10, 210-pound James also had a stellar junior season, running for 2,089 yards and 30 touchdowns.

— Tim Froehlich contributed to this report.
Julia Easter
Forward
A 5-foot-10 junior, Easter showed flashes of stardom last season, notably in a near upset of Evanston when she had 12 points, seven rebounds and held Wildkits center Alecia Cooley to 4 of 14 shooting. Now, Easter will be looking to turn in those performances on a regular basis. "[Easter] is not a true back to the basket post player, she can step out and hit 3s. She has a nice jumper," Niles West coach Tony Konsewicz said. "We're looking for more of an inside presence from her, and for her to be a threat both inside and outside."

Katherine DeLara
Point guard
Only 5-1, this lightning-quick junior point guard will be the team's primary ballhandler. "She has a good first two steps breaking down the defense and getting to the basket," Konsewicz said. "She's worked hard at trying to close at the basket. She's a decent shooter and capable of hitting outside shots."

Teammate Alex Galanopoulos said, "Katherine is so fast. She is one of the key players we'll look to. She has a lot more confidence and knows what she's doing [this season]. She's not [intimidated] any more and has what we need."

Alex Galanopoulos
Guard
The 5-6 senior guard returns after missing her junior season with a torn ACL and meniscus. She has played varsity ball since her freshman year and is a link back to the Jewell Loyd-led conference championship team of 2011-12. "She's a heady player, very cerebral," Konsewicz said. Galanopoulos is expected to be the leader of a young team.

"I've become more of a leader. Jewell Loyd and [last year's top leader] Molly Kleppin taught me well," Galanopoulos said.

— Dan Shalin
Niles North's Olivia Schaps passes off the ball during Tuesday's practice. JOE CHYNOVSKY/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

NILES NORTH GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

SEASON OUTLOOK


Game to watch: Niles North at Maine West, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5. The Vikings will open CSL North play against a team that has become a rival in recent seasons. Paxson said: "We're excited to play everybody, but for some reason our kids seem to get really jacked up for Maine West."

VIKINGS TO WATCH

Olivia SCHAPS
Point guard

The 5-foot-7 pass-first guard played varsity as a freshman last year, becoming a key contributor after missing the first five weeks of the season with a broken finger. Coach Dan Paxson said Schaps can be unselshf to a fault. There were signs of that changing this past summer.

One of the team's few one-sport athletes, Schaps often was forced to take on the scoring load in summer league games because teammates were missing with other sport commitments.

"In hindsight, it was one of the best things for her because she was forced to be a scorer and a playmaker," Paxson said.

Alyssa BRAND
Shooting guard

A 5-7 Junior, Brand can play either guard position. Paxson speculates her strong defensive footwork may have developed on the soccer field.

"She's our best on-ball defender, maybe one of the best in our conference. She really gets after it," Paxson said.

Senior Shar Rasho said Brand plays quickly on offense and defense.

"Alyssa is a very quick player, but she plays in control," Rasho said. "She can also handle the ball a lot."

Shar RASHO
Shooting guard

A senior guard, the 5-5 Rasho has made huge strides due to her great work ethic. She's a good shooter and can play the point too.

"I'm not sure if I've ever coached a kid who is as committed as Shar in terms of attitude in practice," Paxson said.

"She constantly has a ball in her hands in the offseason, she's at every open gym and every summer workout. She doesn't miss a day. She really has made progress. Watching her freshman year, I didn't know she would be the player she is today."

— Dan Shalin

OPPOSING COACH'S TAKE

Last year, they were rebuilding, a young team and pretty inexperienced. ... Their success this year will depend on their guard play. ... They run a blocker-mover motion system. They'll try to get up and down the floor, get the ball out and run, turn it into a full-court game. ... They will try to press. They run a zone press and a little man-to-man.
Elanta Slowek
Small forward

Slowek qualified for the Class 3A state track and field meet in the long jump in both 2012 and 2013, and her jumping ability translates to the basketball court.

Slowek and senior Alyssa Matej regularly play against each other in practice. Matej said she often has to change the trajectory on her jump shots to avoid a block by Slowek.

“She's a very tough defender. She's so quick, and she has a really high vertical," Matej said. "I try to drive on her as much as I can because she's such a threat to block shots.”

Shaylee Sloan
Center

Sloan, arguably the team's most important player, figures to once again terrorize opposing post players this season with her ability to carve out space in the paint and gobble up rebounds.

Slowek said Sloan and the rest of the Blue Demons have gotten better about becoming frustrated and blaming each other for mistakes. Slowek said that working on embracing positive moments on the court has really helped her, senior point guard Jazlene Gonzalez and Sloan.

Alyssa Matej
Small forward

Matej spent her offseason working on becoming a better player within the Blue Demons system, improving her jump shot and certain aspects of her defense.

The senior said she focused on firing jumpers from her usual spots on the court — the top of the key, the elbows and on the baseline.

She said she also spent time breaking down game film to identify things she could improve upon defensively: shifting over to provide defensive help as well as moving her feet to not let players drive past her on the baseline.

— Eric Van Dril
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In this Jan. 10 photo, Maine East's Shaylee Sloan (left) and Elanta Slowek (right) battle Glenbrook North's Alena Marovitz for a rebound. JAMES C. SVEHLA / CHICAGO SUN-TIMES MEDIA
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