The minority vs. the mayor

Two village trustees take issue with Przybylo's leadership style | PAGE 6
Take Advantage of Local Utility Rebates Before Funds Run Out

CHICAGO, IL - Local utility companies have made rebate funds available to consumers when insulating and air sealing their home. Chicagoland homeowners are encouraged to act quickly and take advantage of these funds while they last. For qualified customers financing may also be available.

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Village trustees divided on Mayor Andrew Przybylo's leadership

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
For Sun-Times Media | @studenkov

Ever since former Mayor Nick Blase was convicted of a kickback scheme, the issue of transparency and accountability has been at the forefront of Niles politics.

When he was running for mayor, Andrew Przybylo campaigned on strengthening ethics standards. But according to trustees Chris Hanusiak and Rosemary Palicki, transparency and accountability has actually gotten worse since Przybylo took office.

Hanusiak — who ran against Przybylo in the latest election — has been particularly critical. And while Palicki believes the situation can be improved from within the board, Hanusiak insists that nothing short of a new mayor could reverse course.

Even before being elected in 2011, Palicki was a fixture at board meetings, speaking out for transparency and accountability. She's worried that the village has gotten worse in that regard.

“[Przybylo] makes so-called decisions to hire people, make policy changes, etc., without consulting trustees,” said Palicki. “We're closed down significant public participation in [board] meetings.”

Mayor Andrew Przybylo says he doesn’t want to discuss matters that had previously been approved. “I don’t understand that,” said Palicki. “The more info we have, the wiser we are.”

Palicki is also concerned about the current status of the ethics board. Under changes were approved in July, a newly-appointed inspector general took over the investigation of ethics violation complaints, presenting his findings to the board.

“I don’t understand why there have been no ethics board meetings [since then],” said Palicki. “The village attorney said that there were no meetings because there haven’t been any complaints. I don’t understand that. The ethics board has always had regular meetings prior to [the changes].”

She said that the board looked at complaints every month, and it didn’t make sense that complaints would suddenly stop now that the inspector general has been appointed.

“I think something has broken down in the system,” said Palicki. “Things have gotten worse because [Przybylo] makes so-called decisions to hire people, make policy changes, etc., without consulting trustees,” he said. “We are a small community as far as government goes, and it is only fair that the voting authority, the Board of Trustees, has input and participation in the decision-making process.”

Hanusiak’s thoughts on public comment procedures echo Palicki’s.

“It’s sad to hear our fair-minded citizens get up to the microphone to make what they consider important points about Niles, voice concerns over certain policies, and ask thoughtful questions which are then never answered,” he said.

Both trustees weren’t pleased with the way the appointments of the liquor commissioner, and the inspector general were implemented, complaining that they didn’t have a chance to interview the candidates or vote on how they would be paid. To Palicki, this was a symptom of a larger problem.

“I've been strong proponent for having procedures that we follow on every issue,” she said. “As an elected group, we have a responsibility to be consistent. And I get a feeling that we haven't done that.”

Hanusiak, on the other hand, laid the blame squarely on Przybylo.

“When appointing the inspector general, Przybylo did not follow the village ordinance that [Village Attorney Joe Annunzio] prepared,” he said. “Erroneously, Przybylo thought he could appoint the inspector general without the village trustees’ approval. For such a critical job as inspector general, none of the trustees had the opportunity to interview Cohen.”

As for the appointment of the liquor commissioner, he blamed Annunzio.

“It was another Annunzio Special where trustees were not included in scrutinizing resumes or interviewing candidates,” said Hanusiak. “We could have done face-to-face interviews with all candidates publicly, so that so all parties would get to know each other. We were supposed to march to whatever tune Annunzio played.”

Joe LoVerde, one of Board of Trustees’ longest-serving members, has a different perspective. While he said that the process is always ongoing, he believes that the village has made a significant progress on transparency and
accountability, particularly when it comes to ethics guidelines and the way Niles handles its finances and budget planning. And while he believes that appointing the inspector general made was a positive step, there’s room for improvement.

"The inspector general position should make the ethics committee more accountable by nature of having an independent attorney investigate and review complaints," said LoVerde. "I would like to see the ethics committee report monthly or quarterly to the Board of Trustees, and ultimately to the citizens, a report on the number of complaints received, the number founded or unfounded, the number of pending ongoing investigations. This would provide more transparency.

During the final vote to confirm the appointment of the inspector general, LoVerde expressed reservations about the way the process was handled. But three months later, he said that he didn’t have an issue with either that appointment or the appointment of the liquor commissioner.

"I personally believe the process was handled in the best interest of Niles," he said. "The question that remains — and the jury are still out — is that both the liquor commissioner and the village attorney must in every case be independent in their final decisions and possess the strong character to make the correct decisions without any influence from anyone. I am personally confident that will be the case."

Both Hanusiak and Palicki argued that having the village government consistently follow procedures, encourage public involvement and take public feedback into account would go a long way toward increasing transparency and accountability. But Palicki seemed more optimistic about the possibility of change from within.

"I’m not afraid to speak up," she said. "As an individual, I feel comfortable expressing my ideas, and I hope that other board members feel the same way." While she and Przybylo may not agree, Palicki feels like she gives her a fair hearing.

"I think, at board meetings, he does give board members a chance to speak, and he does respond," she said. "Are we in agreement? A lot of the time, we aren’t. But we’re not searching for consensus."

Hanusiak, on the other hand, feels that most board members are reluctant to challenge the mayor, and he believes that any meaningful change would require a change of leadership. And, unlike Palicki, he doesn’t feel Przybylo particularly cares about opposing viewpoints.

"I will only answer for myself — he does not respond well [to my concerns]," said Hanusiak. "What he discusses with the other trustees in private, I have no knowledge."

LoVerde said that he respects both Palicki and Hanusiak, and that he believes disagreements are signs of a healthy government. However, he is skeptical about Hanusiak’s motivations.

"Trustee Hanusiak has run for mayor twice and obviously has his own vision of what he wants Niles to be," said LoVerde. "The elections are long over, the people have spoken and elected Andrew Przybylo as our mayor with a new slate of trustees."

LoVerde feels that trustees should work together with the mayor — but not unconditionally.

"Hopefully we will all support [Przybylo’s] vision and plan," he said, "as long as his vision and plan puts the best interest of all Niles citizens and the community first."
**MORTON GROVE**

**Atheist now plans to donate $3K to food pantry**

BY RICK KAMBIC

A(n) atheist blogger who supports Park Commissioner Dan Ashta's Pledge of Allegiance boycott is making a third attempt to donate $3,000 Morton Grove-area residents, this time by sending a check to the Niles Township Food Pantry.

Hemant Mehta, of Naperville, fundraised the money with a call on his website friendlyatheist.com after American Legion Post 134 vowed to withhold its $2,600 in donations until all park commissioners stood for the pledge.

Mehta said he wanted to thank Ashta for protecting the First Amendment and the ability to advocate for a separation of church and state. However, the Morton Grove Park Board returned the check, saying it did not want to become embroiled in a political or religious dispute.

Mehta then sent a check to the Morton Grove Library, but its board of trustees also declined to take the money. Some trustees cited concerns over accepting money originally intended for the park district, while others said they didn't want money from a "hate group."

"I guess friendly atheists who want to give money to a library is a hate group," Mehta said in a video on his website. "They offered their reasons for why we're a hate group, which as you can imagine were completely off base."

A reader comment on the blog's website that reads "[expletive] God" was among the reasons why, but Mehta said earlier in the week that failed attempts to regulate a forum does not make anyone a hate group.

Despite being given the label, Mehta is now asking his readers to donate to the library individually.

"The Morton Grove Public Library does really have a wish list of things they need," Mehta said in his video. "If you can find it in your heart and wallet to donate to library so they can get all the things they need, I think that would be a really nice gesture."

Mehta emphasizes in his video that a donation has no conditions or strings attached. Some library trustees confirmed there were no instructions given when they received his check.

"There's one thing I don't want to do and that's alienate the community," Tamraz said. "We don't want to lose any supporters of the food pantry because we help a lot of people who are between jobs."

The food pantry reportedly helped more than 5,000 in November, which includes food packages and wrapped toys for children.

**MORTON GROVE**

**Cops: Morton Grove man tried to ransom dog**

BY RICK KAMBIC

A Morton Grove man looking to make a quick buck attempted to ransom a dog he randomly found.

Joseph Jando, 27, of Morton Grove, was charged Dec. 13 with intimidation and parole violation after he allegedly contacted the owner of a stray dog's tag and demanded $1,200 in exchange for the animal's safe return.

The family reportedly called police when Jando allegedly threatened to kill the dog. A Morton Grove detective then impersonated the owner and arrived at the rendezvous place to make the exchange.

Police say Jando was apprehended in the 7300 block of Davis Street after again demanding money and threatening the dog's safety.

Jando was reportedly on parole for a prior offense and was transported to Cook County upon being charged by Morton Grove.

The dog was returned home safely.
Most unusual crime stories of 2013

**BY JENNIFER JOHNSON**

It was another year of people accused of behaving badly in Niles. Here is our list of the top 10 most unusual incidents officers found themselves dealing with in 2013.

**1. Man's bizarre behavior at fitness club leads to charges**

Before his 2013 arrest on disorderly conduct charges at Niles' Xsport Fitness, Janusz Kopycinski was known as the man who heckled Mayor Richard M. Daley as he left office in 2011 — and ended up in jail after he was convicted of aggravated battery of a police officer in connection with the incident.

But on Sept. 25, Kopycinski again ran afoul of the law, charged with disorderly conduct after Niles police said he crashed a woman's aerobics class and frightened members by dancing in military fatigues and making motions with his hands "as if rapidly shooting two handguns," according to reports. He also reportedly held the flame of a cigarette lighter under his palm. Police said he was banned from the facility after his arrest.

**2. Hit-and-run masturbator**

Walking up on a man who was allegedly masturbating inside his car in a Niles parking lot didn't turn out so well for a 34-year-old man who, police said, was knocked to the ground when the driver suddenly threw the car in reverse upon being spotted — and fled the scene.

Police arrested a suspect in the case, Justin Wentz, 30, of Chicago, two months later after a detective reviewed a Bridgeview case involving a man arrested for masturbating inside a store. The man identified as Wentz, had a similar car to the one in the Niles case and the victim of the hit-and-run positively identified the suspect as the driver who had hit him in his getaway attempt.

**3. Bank robber preferred prison life**

When he was caught for allegedly robbing the BMO Harris Bank branch at 7077 W. Dempster St. in Niles in early 2013, Walter Unbehaun reportedly told police officers that he committed the crime because he just wanted to go back to prison. Behind bars for most of his adult life, Unbehaun, 73, reportedly told police he "felt more comfortable" in prison than in the real world.

He got his wish. Prosecutors are seeking a prison sentence of six to eight years.

**4. Man accused of leaving feces at neighbors' doors**

Residents of a Niles condominium building expressed their frustration and disgust with their former neighbor this year, accusing the 71-year-old man of leaving several pounds of feces outside their doors, egging their hallways and scratching their car doors. In January, police charged Norma Kozmierski, who previously lived in the complex on the 7200 block of Touhy Avenue, with four counts of felony damage to a vehicle. That case is making its way through the court system.

Gary Chase, president of the condominium association at 7201 W. Touhy Ave., said the ordeal started after a resident left a note on Kozmierski's vehicle asking him to park properly so that others could park next to him.

**5. Bad Hair Bandit**

His own hair style might be debatable, but Jason Logsdon, 42, earned the unwelcoming moniker "The Bad Hair Bandit" after he allegedly robbed more than a dozen discount hair salons across the suburbs, including Niles, Morton Grove and Skokie. In February Logsdon, of Evanston, had been charged with robbing 15 salons and was indicted on five counts of armed robbery. He is still being held in Cook County Jail without bond.

**6. A bad gyro? That's a death threat**

In October a man allegedly threatened to kill the employee of a Milwaukee Avenue restaurant when he was refused a refund for the gyro he had already eaten and was told to get out of the restaurant. The man fled before police arrived.

**7. Citizens call police to break up arguments**

An argument with a loved one doesn't usually lead to a call to 911 — does it? In 2013 Niles police responded to a number of calls from residents seeking help from officers in breaking up arguments. Whether it was a man's request that officers help bring "order" back to his home after he and his wife argued over a mouse in the middle of the night; a fight over a husband reconnecting with an old girlfriend on Facebook; or a 19-year-old who yelled at his mother for not picking up food from his favorite fast food restaurant, Niles police heard them all.

For more, visit niles suntimes.com
The following incidents were listed in the official bulletin of the Niles, Park Ridge 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**

**ASSAULT**
Mark Pawlak, 54, of 7751 W. Dempster St., Niles, was charged with assault on Dec. 20 after he allegedly picked up a wooden stick and threatened to beat and kill his mother's caregiver. Police said the caregiver was in the basement doing laundry when Pawlak threatened her if she did not take care of his mother in the way he wanted. Pawlak allegedly admitted to police that he had a stick in his hand while he yelled at the caregiver. Police said that Pawlak stated he was unhappy with the woman's services "and tried to teach her a lesson." He has a Jan. 10 court date.

**LEAVING THE SCENE**
Walter Ridley, 49, of 8045 Lyons St., Niles, was charged with leaving the scene of an accident on the morning of Dec. 21 after he allegedly struck a parked car on the 8200 block of Woodland Drive and then drove away. Police said Ridley waived down a police officer to report damage to his own car at 10:30 a.m. and initially denied striking the car on Woodland, but later admitted to doing so. Court information was not available.

**RETAIL THEFT**
Hamza Bouslimi, 23, of 4922 Kedzie Ave., Chicago, was charged with retail theft on Dec. 19 after he allegedly put on two jackets offered for sale at a store on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue and exited without paying for them. A woman seen with Bouslimi allegedly stole eight DVDs, but was not identified by police. Bouslimi has a Jan. 14 court date.

**POSSSESSION OF MARIJUANA**
Mergim Mehmeti, 19, of Skokie, was charged Dec. 18 with possession of marijuana after police allegedly found him and two other men parked in a car with 2.5 grams of marijuana easily accessible. Police say a patrol officer saw the car parked in the 5400 block of Keeney Street with invalid registration. The officer reportedly smelled the scent of marijuana upon approaching the vehicle. Police say the officer asked anyone had marijuana and Mehmeti allegedly raised a folded piece of paper with marijuana wrapped inside. The other two men were released, but Mehmeti was taken into custody. He is scheduled in court Jan. 13.

**DUI**
Keith Cunningham, 34, of 7920 S. Lamon Ave., Burbank, was charged with driving under the influence and possession of marijuana on the morning of Dec. 20 following a traffic stop on the 8900 block of Harlem Avenue. Police said Cunningham was driving 62 mph in a 35 mph zone and .68 grams of suspected marijuana were located inside his vehicle. He has a Feb. 20 court date.

**TRUSSO POSSESSION**
Jonathan Monogram, 20, of the 500 block of Seegers Road, Des Plaines, was charged with underage drinking on the morning of Dec. 29. Police said Mondragon's girlfriend called paramedics to a home on the 200 block of Hamlin Avenue at 4:30 a.m., concerned that Mondragon had consumed too much alcohol. Mondragon refused treatment, police said. He has a Jan. 14 adjudication hearing date.

**DUI**
Janusz Golec, 62, of the 1800 block of Hopi Lane, Mount Prospect, was charged with driving under the influence and improper lane usage on the night of Dec. 26. He was taken into custody on the 900 block of North Northwest Highway. Bond was set at $1,000. He has a Feb. 20 court date.

**DUI**
Jose Arreguin, 23, of the 300 block of South 48th Avenue, Bellwood, was charged with driving under the influence on the morning of Dec. 29. He was taken into custody at Oakton Street and Prospect Avenue. Bond was set at $1,000. He has a Feb. 20 court date.

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Residents want to bike more, but many feel ‘uncomfortable’

By Natasha Wasinski
For Sun-Times Media | @natwaz

Drivers in Niles want to get around town by foot or bike, but don’t always feel comfortable and safe on the village’s streets, a recent survey found.

Sidewalk gaps, tricky intersections, and the lack of an on-street bike network have been identified as residents’ main deterrents to biking and walking.

A representative from Chicago-based Sam Schwartz Engineering presented these findings to the Village Board last month as part of Niles’ ongoing effort to develop a bicycle and pedestrian plan.

The firm has been consulting with the village’s community development department and Multi-Modal Plan Steering Committee since last spring to survey community members and collect data regarding Niles’ street network.

Another agency, Farr Associates, is sub-consulting on land use and architecture issues.

The firms polled people via “pop-up” surveys at trails and major intersections and community workshops (including the Bike Niles event). Traffic statistics and observations of walkways and roads were also analyzed.

Roughly 100 respondents also completed an online survey.

“Even if they’re not bikers, we needed to hear from them, too, and why they’re not biking,” noted Stacey Meekins of Schwartz Engineering.

The results, in some ways, confirmed what the village staff and local leaders have long known: Crossing Niles’ busy streets can be difficult. Getting to the North Branch Trail is a pain. And Milwaukee Avenue can use a facelift.

Of those who took the survey, a whopping majority — 91 percent — agreed with the statement, “I would like to try to bike to more places in Niles and drive less.” Four-fifths of respondents expressed a similar sentiment toward walking.

When asked if walking along Milwaukee Avenue is pleasant, 10 percent of the pool responded affirmatively. But 68 percent disagreed.

“Existing conditions portray the community as a glass half full or half empty,” said Bruce Sylvester, senior planner for the village.

“There’s a lot of room for making it a better place.”

Data crunched by the consultants provided a broader understanding of why residents feel the way they do about biking and walking locally.

On Milwaukee Avenue alone, for example, parking lots and spaces comprise more than half the overall length of a block, which doesn’t make for a very visually appealing stroll, Meekins said.

When pedestrians do walk the major roadway, they tend to run into dead ends. Sidewalk gaps occur along 23 percent of the length of Milwaukee, and 144 curb cuts break up the continuity of the walkway, the report states.

Risky intersections on major roadways are also troublesome. Niles’ average crash and fatality rates are higher than that of suburban Cook County, with the most serious and fatal accidents occurring on Milwaukee, Oakton and Greenwood avenues.

In the report, the consulting firms offered suggestions for improving walking and biking conditions, including building a bikeway and pedestrian network with more bike lanes and sidewalks, and supporting development along Milwaukee.

Residents are also clamoring for more community events, Meekins said, adding that a second village-wide bike event was already in the works for the spring.

The steering committee is expected to work in conjunction with village department heads this month to see how some of the recommended actions fit within their respective budgets.

The village plans to host a public meeting on multimodal transportation in January, and aims to present a final plan for improvements by March.

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CROSSING THE STREET IN NILES

A look at two hypothetical travel scenarios in Niles illustrates how taking the safer route along streets with traffic signals can be a much longer journey than alternative, shorter routes:

**SCENARIO 1: Person walking from Notre Dame Prep College to Oriole and Greenleaf**

- Route using signalized streets and arterial roads
- Shortest route possible

**SCENARIO 2: Person biking from Oleander and Kedzie to the Oak Mill Mall**

- Route using signalized streets and arterial roads
- Shortest route possible

- Traffic signals

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**SOURCE:** Village of Niles, Multimodal Plan 2013

Sun-Times
District 64 bringing superintendent candidates to schools

BY NATASHA WASINSKI
For Sun-Times Media | @natwaz

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 is welcoming the new year by introducing its final candidates for superintendent to the community.

The top two applicants — whose names are yet to be released — will make separate visits to the kindergarten through eighth-grade district on Tuesday, Jan. 7 and Thursday, Jan. 9.

The school board will host public meetings on both days with the candidates from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Emerson Middle School, 8101 N. Cumberland in Niles, and from 5:30 to 6 p.m. at Lincoln Middle School, 200 S. Lincoln in Park Ridge.

The applicants' biographies will be released prior to their visits, a release from the district said.

The months-long process of finding the public school system's new leader began after a surprise announcement in September that current superintendent Philip Bender is stepping down at the end of the 2013-14 school year.

Bender, a resident of Park Ridge now in his fourth year leading the district, indicated at the time that he was seeking a superintendent position elsewhere.

District 64 hired BWP and Associates to assist with the administrative search, a process that involved gathering input from the district's stakeholders, including parents, teachers, staff and board members.

The consulting firm used feedback from a public forum, focus groups and an online survey to develop a "leadership profile" of desired traits in a new superintendent.

Nearly 800 respondents said they wanted the district's next leader to be a good decision-maker, be child-centered, be trustworthy and have a strong sense of integrity. Leadership, communication and interpersonal skills ranked the highest in terms of skills the survey's respondents wanted.

Half of those surveyed agreed that curriculum is one of the biggest issues or concerns facing the district in the next five years, followed closely by funding.

Applicants who fit the bill were recommended to the school board in December. Officials interviewed six people for the job and afterwards narrowed the list down to two candidates.

Soliciting community participation when hiring new leaders is a common practice among school districts.

But Andy Duerkop, president of the Park Ridge Education Association, said he and other teachers would have like to have weighed in on the matter sooner.

At October's Board of Education meeting, he expressed disappointment in the board's decision to not renew Bender's contact, noting teachers and other employees weren't consulted about the superintendent's performance.

"The impression, at least from some of the teachers, is that collaboration isn't something you're interested in," Duerkop told officials. "I think we had a missed opportunity here and we'll be sorry to see Dr. Bender go."

He also had concerns about administrative turnover, given the number of superintendents and principals who have passed through the district in the past decade.

"We have a very short memory in this district," Duerkop said. "One of the things we don't have is any consistency."

In an email to the Pioneer Press last week, school board President Anthony Borrelli said officials are continuing to strengthen their relationship with the union.

"Most recently, taking Andy's lead, the board has reached out to the PREA leadership on several different topics ... the board has also made it quite clear that the PREA will have ample opportunity to confer with the candidates prior to board selection," he stated.

Borrelli pointed out that principals and assistant principals, as well as "all the major players" in finance, facilities, curriculum, and human resources, "are in place" at District 64.

He also doesn't view the loss of school leaders as a knock against the district.

"In many ways, principal turnover is a good thing as it implies that we are retaining and training excellent folks who are generally rising to greater challenges in the education field," Borrelli said.

The Board of Education expects to announce its final selection for superintendent in late January or early February following another round of interviews and meetings with the candidates.
Park Ridge

Park Ridge teen volunteers sought to shovel snow

The Park Ridge Youth Commission is again looking for volunteers to help shovel snow for elderly and disabled residents of Park Ridge.

Seventh Ward Ald. Marty Maloney, chairman of the Youth Commission, is seeking responsible middle school and high school students to volunteer their time to shovel sidewalks and walkways after a snowfall. Interested students to volunteer their time to shovel sidewalks and walkways after a snowfall. Interested individuals should contact Deputy City Clerk Cheryl Peterson at (847) 318-5464.

PARK RIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Moylan to host ‘office hours’ at Park Ridge Library

State Rep. Marty Moylan, D-Des Plaines, will be hosting satellite office hours in Park Ridge for constituents of the 55th State House District.

Office hours will be from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, Jan. 8 and Wednesday, Jan. 22, at the Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave.

Residents of the 55th District can stop by the library during these dates and times to meet with Moylan or to ask questions or share opinions on state issues.

For more information, call (847) 635-6821.

DISTRICT 64

Roosevelt PTO to host Science Fair

Roosevelt School PTO Science Fair will be held Jan. 17, at 1001 S. Fairview, in Park Ridge.

The program, “Explore and Discover” will begin at 6:45 p.m. in the auditorium. Booths will be open from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

PARK RIDGE

Park Ridge Chamber gives back at Sunday Supper

Members of the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce recently donated time and money to feed about 80 hungry guests at the Sunday Supper at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church on North Prospect Avenue.

All on the Road Catering provided a discounted price for the Sunday Supper meals, and Kevin and Ann Wiik provided six gallons of milk and juice while the Barton family brought two more. Other chamber members donated money to pay for the catered meal.

Lian Haller, 14, a freshman at Maine South High School, provided the entertainment with Christmas carols on her violin.

The volunteers included Gail Haller, executive director of the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce; Mike McGrath, Kiwanis member and city employee; Dick Barton, Barton Marketing Group and 2013 Park Ridge Community Star; Kathleen Barton; the Rev. John Schumacher, Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care; Wes Davis, of Davis & Associates; Martha Berns, of Dempsey Design; Laura Israel, member of the Park Ridge Newcomers Club; Candy Reed-Ryan, Chicago Tribune Products; Janet, Jeff and Anthony Tripp from Kiwanis.

A woman shovels her sidewalk in Park Ridge as snowflakes fall in January 2011.
Holidays are over, time to focus on the home

HELP SQUAD
BY
JACKIE PILOSSOPH

The holiday gifts are all unwrapped, the relatives are safely back home, and the empty champagne bottles are in the recycling bin waiting to be picked up.

Now that the holidays are over, this is a perfect time of year to focus on home maintenance and possibly those home improvements you’ve put on the back burner.

When was the last time you had your sump pump checked? How about your water heater? Have you been thinking about remodeling your kitchen, but don’t even know where to begin?

For home maintenance tips that could save you big bucks later on, Help Squad consulted Skokie-based handyman Dan Yee. Here are Yee’s seven tips to a better, safer home:

1. Have your roof inspected:
   Shingle roofs last around 20-30 years, but after a big wind or hail storm, shingles could blow off the roof leaving it exposed. To have the shingles replaced is a small repair job, but if you let it go, water can start to drip into your home, leading to much larger problems.

2. Check attic insulation:
   Over time insulation settles. If there is an inadequate amount, heat and air conditioning will escape, making your home more expensive to heat or cool. Heat loss can also lead to gutter ice dams, which can lead to water damage when they thaw. Attic insulation can be checked by a handyman.

3. Have your gutters checked:
   Make sure they are clean, in other words, unlogged, as well as angled correctly, so that water is flowing away from the house. Too much extra water can cause erosion around the property and eventually end up in your home.

4. Flush out your hot water heater:
   Done once a year or every two years, this will prolong the life of your hot water heater and cause it to function more efficiently. A handyman or plumber can do this for you.

5. Maintain your furnace:
   A new furnace is one of the most costly appliances in a home. Getting it serviced and cleaned twice a year will prolong its life, and will make it work better.

6. Check your sump pump:
   Don’t wait until April showers end up causing a flood in your basement. Check to make sure your sump pump is working properly. The life of a sump pump is approximately seven years.

7. Clean out refrigerator dust:
   Over time, dust accumulates on the coils of a refrigerator, making it run less efficiently. Cleaning off the dust will clear it and have it running like new!

Is 2014 the time to start construction on your dream kitchen? Do you have a bathroom that needs a makeover?

Help Squad connected with Dave Lupfer, a Northbrook-based general contractor who shared what to look for when it comes to hiring someone for a big reconstruction project:

- Get referrals from an outside source like Angie’s List, not from the contractor himself.
- Make sure the contractor is bonded, which means the company has insurance should there be any unfortunate accidents during construction.
- Before hiring the company, ask them to take you to a job where they are currently working. This will allow you to meet the people who are actually going to be working in your home, as well as to see how clean or messy the site is. While there, you can also talk to the client!
- Find out if the contractor is a member of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. Members of this organization must renew their certification every year, which means taking continuing education courses. To you, that means they are staying current and constantly improving their expertise.
- Check out the site, Houzz.com, which offers professional photos of remodeled kitchens and baths. This is a great resource for getting ideas and communicating them to your contractor. In other words, it takes out the guesswork.
- Lastly, construction is like heart surgery. Do you want the cheapest heart surgeon or the one who will do the job right? When it comes to price, don’t hire a certain contractor because you are trying to save a few bucks. Using a company that doesn’t do quality work, or that uses cheap materials, will cost you more in the long run when you have to re-do the project.
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TRAVEL SHOWS
Please join America by Rail Tour Directors, Patti Rogers and Ned Kilmer and learn all about these fabulous tours: videos, literature, and a $59 SAVINGS COUPON. Enter to win a $1,000 Future Tour Credit. (Winner will be announced Feb. 28.)
Referrals will be served. Time: 2:00 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 20 - Holiday Inn Chicago North Shore
5300 W Touhy Ave, Skokie, IL 60077
Tues., Jan. 21 - Double Tree Hotel Chicago
1909 Spring Road, Oak Brook, IL 60523
Fri., Jan. 24 - The Stonegate Conference Center
2401 W Higgins Rd, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
RSVP Required, Space is limited. Call 1-888-777-6605 by 6:00 p.m. Friday, January 17.

America by Rail 1- 888-777-6605
5000 Northwind Dr., Suite 226, East Lansing, MI 48823

Shockwave Therapy Really Works!!!
Susan states, “Thank goodness I decided to invest in shockwave therapy! It was the only thing that really helped me break through this pain with my plantar fasciitis. That horrible, shooting pain with my first step in the morning is finally gone!”
John said, “It’s amazing that after months of nursing my achilles tendinitis, I feel as though I can walk pain free again. All the limping I was doing was starting to cause back pain as well. The swelling of my achilles has finally gone down and I can walk without pain in normal shoes. Shockwave therapy really broke through the cycle of pain. It took a few sessions, but it was the only thing that had an impact.”
Jean said, “This was just what I needed to get rid of the heel pain so I can get back to my regular workout routine. I didn’t realize how much time I wasted just trying to use my at home remedies. After a few sessions of shockwave, I could finally get some relief.”

Call 630-978-8229 to list your auction here!

Hintze Auction Service, Inc.
ANTIQUE AND COLLECTIBLE AUCTION
ESTATE OF JAMES SHIFFLETT
FROM WILMINGTON, IL
Sunday, January 5th, Starting at 10:00am
FRTC, 811 E. Francis Rd, New Lenox, IL
Check out photos and listing on www.auctionzip.com - ID # 9625
Mr. Shifflett was a Baptist Minister in Lockport and Custer Park. Very Large Auction, Full of Beautiful Antiques Impossible to List All.

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Why a ‘no’ vote for atheists’ donation is a ‘yes’ for Morton Grove

Backward and bigoted.

If you read the blogs, you might get the impression that Morton Grove and its various board members should be bombed back to the Stone Age from whence we came. But let me explain why I voted “no” on taking the donation from the Friendly Atheist organization, and why I firmly believe that my “no” vote is really a big “yes” for Morton Grove.

The library had no moral right to the money. It was raised specifically for the Park District. It was not Hemet Mehta’s personal money, but was given by 168 people in good faith for its stated cause. The only ethical thing to do when the Park District refused the donation was for Mehta to return their money.

My second objection was to the “Friendly Atheist” group. The problem is NOT that they are atheist, but that they are not respectful of the views of the vast majority of the residents of Morton Grove, theist and atheist alike. Morton Grove is a widely diverse community. On my block alone Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, atheist and agnostic all live in harmony with one another. We celebrate our commonalities and respect our differences.

It only takes a short look to realize that Mehta’s “Friendly Atheist” site is nothing more than a platform for mocking and demeaning theists of any stripe. Although Mehta may not be personally responsible for the hundreds of hateful and vulgar comments on the site, he does have the editing control to remove comments such as “F*** god” from the site and choose not to do so. The truth is that his “Friendly Atheist” blog is nothing more than a forum where like-minded atheists can bash theists with alacrity.

Our town is full of friendly people — friendly theists AND friendly atheist — and it is with respect for all these people that I voted “no.”

LETT US HEAR FROM YOU

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

Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. Niles Herald-Spectator reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and content. All letters must be signed to be published.
Time to make and break New Year's resolutions

You'll probably break them soon. Or maybe you've broken them already.

New Year's resolutions. I base my pessimism not only on my own weakness, but on the observation that the 10 most popular New Year's resolutions are the same 10 most popular New Year's resolutions that make up the list every year.

The fact that these resolutions occur over and over and over indicates to me we can't keep them.

For the record, though, here are the top 10 New Year's resolutions:

1. Lose weight and get fit.
2. Quit smoking.
3. Learn something new.
4. Eat healthier and diet.
5. Get out of debt and save money.
6. Spend more time with family.
7. Travel to new places.
8. Be less stressed.
10. Drink less.

I don't know about you, but all except numbers 2 and 10 apply to me. These are actions I should take. But I know I'll not do all of them. Neither will you.

But perhaps that's not the point. Maybe we should look at them not as things we must do in a year, but as an approach to living.

These resolutions are all good things. They are things that would make us better persons and they are things that direct us to consider, care for and help others.

These resolutions are a lifetime's work. Oh, we can add other, more immediate resolutions.

One such resolution for me is to find out who the devil is Bruce Rauner. He's all over TV. He wears an $18 watch and he is running for governor. He is chairman of something called R8 Capital Partners. (I don't know, either. I think it's one of those businesses that makes nothing except money.) And in addition to an $18 watch he is quoted as saying his net worth is in the "hundreds of millions of dollars."

I guess his New Year's resolution is to become governor.

Interesting contrast. We ordinary folk want to lose weight, volunteer, etc. And then there's always a new zillionaire contender whose resolution is to rule us.

There are resolutions, and there are resolutions!
FEATURED HOME
BY WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE

7401 W. Main St., Niles

$319,000

House size: 1,540 square feet
Lot size: 5,760 square feet
Year built: 1943
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2.5
Garage: 2.5-car detached
Property tax: $6,312.22 (2012)
Exterior: Brick
School districts: East Maine School District 63 and Maine Township High School District 207

AGENT Danielle Olsen, Coldwell Banker, 773-716-8708

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PROPERTY TRANSFERS
BY WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE

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

Niles
8138 N Ottawa Ave: Ryszard Widlak and Grazyna Widlak to Michael Strzynski and Deborah Sola for $400,000 on Nov. 12
6801 N Milwaukee Ave, #405: Robert Bilinski and Ewa Bilinski to Mary Kay Butkus for $188,000 on Nov. 14
7718 W Monroe St: Mark L Nemeth and Theresa M Nemeth to 1ln Property Illinois LP for $208,000 on Nov. 12
8626 N Oketo Ave: Wojciech Radziwil to Mark L Dietz and Bernice Pineriros for $322,500 on Nov. 14
8157 N Field Drive: Joseph A Vanacora and Debra K Vanacora to Lukasz Klatka and Monika Ruzik-Klatka for $375,000 on Nov. 12
8351 W Normal Court: Edward L Angarone and Patricia A Angarone to Rosario I Reina and Briana M Reina for $435,000 on Nov. 15

Park Ridge
389 Michael John Drive; Margaret Mary Slattery to Rough Diamond Realty LLC for $225,000 on Nov. 14
836 S Fairview Ave: Charles Infante and Carol Ann Infante to David J Webster and Caroline Webster for $610,000 on Nov. 15
700 N Broadway Ave: Bayview Loan Servicing LLC to George W Handy for $16,000 on Nov. 15
1847 Fenton Lane: Brett Atwood Trust 1847, Brett Querhammer Trust 1847, Juliana Atwood Trust 1847 and Julie Reher Trust 1847 to Michael Rodbro and Andrea Rodbro for $555,000 on Nov. 14
643 Babetta Ave: Joseph Musso and Meghan A Musso to Shawn M Johnson Trust, Shawn M Johnson Trust and M Johnson Shawn Trust for $1,130,000 on Nov. 14

Skokie
5248 Sherwin Ave: JP investments and Management LLC to Vanes Dang and Ray Nguyen for $329,000 on Nov. 15
4447 Church St: Jason Fennema and Erin Fennema to Matthews Arends and Rebecca Arends for $322,000 on Nov. 14
7445 Keystone Ave: Dali Investments Group LLC to Peter C Salerno Jr and Jennifer T Salerno for $330,000 on Nov. 14
8928 Austin Ave: Joseph Musso and Meghan A Musso to Shawn M Johnson Trust, Shawn M Johnson Trust and M Johnson Shawn Trust for $1,130,000 on Nov. 14
317 Nottingham Ave: James Morrow and Patricia Morrow to Seth I Leonard and Margaret E Leonard for $215,000 on Nov. 14
2624 Fontana Drive: Timothy J Moylan and Cynthia Cuga Moylan to Benjamin B Daugherty and Andrea Addams Daugherty for $365,000 on Nov. 14
668 Carriage Hill Drive: John Critchley, Natalie Camara and Natalie Critchley to Farhad Khaghani for $210,000 on Nov. 14
32 Warren Road: Angeline Kotker to Kostadin Stoyanov and Elena Ogian Stoyanov for $230,000 on Nov. 14
1800 Dewes St, #204: Thomas M Karey and Collette A Karey to Walter L Malles and Sharon D Malles for $223,000 on Nov. 14
9725 Woods Drive: Stephen A Cook and Marsha Cook to Christian L Friedrich for $375,000 on Nov. 13
9346 Springfield Ave: Wasay Zabih and Zakia Naqvi Zabih to Mohammad Amani and Arian A Mirzakhail for $195,000 on Nov. 15
**NILES**

**THURSDAY, JAN. 2**

Aeronautical Engineering Challenge
1 p.m.: This is a paper airplane contest for students grades one to six. Students can create and fly paper airplanes then decide on the best designs. Children ages one and two must be accompanied by a caregiver. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**FRIDAY, JAN. 3**

Rise and Shine Story Time
10 a.m.: A 30-minute story time for children ages 2 to 6 with a caregiver. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 4**

Windows 8 for Beginners
10 a.m.: Microsoft experts from FireLogic provide an overview of how to navigate and utilize the newest version of Windows. Attendees must be 21 or older. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**MONDAY, JAN. 6**

Baby Time
11 a.m.: A short program of stories, songs, rhymes and playtime for children ages 2 and under with a caregiver. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**TUESDAY, JAN. 7**

Adult Computer Beginner Boot Camp
10 a.m.: Learn to use the mouse, keyboard and begin searching the internet. This four-week training session meets Wednesdays through Jan. 28. Registration required. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 2**

Winter Break Camp
9 a.m.: Students ages 6 to 22 can enjoy winter break with four days of fun activities including arts and crafts, sports, games, music and more. Camp is Dec. 26, Dec. 27, Jan. 2 and Jan. 3. A snack will be provided. Please bring a sack lunch. Registration required. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, 6920 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-966-5522. $284-$578.

Entreprenourial Knowledg Group (EKG) Meeting
9:30 a.m.: A monthly meeting of independent entrepreneurs. Regus, 350 S. Northwestern Highway, Suite 300, Park Ridge.

Book Discussion
1 p.m.: This group meets on the first Thursday of each month. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge.

**FRIDAY, JAN. 3**

Teen Trip: Alpine Valley Skiing and Snowboarding
9 a.m.: Board a bus and head to the slopes. Fee includes transportation, lift ticket, lessons, ski or snowboard rental and supervision. Reduced fee is available if rental isn’t necessary. Bring extra money for lunch and helmet rental ($10). Registration deadline is Dec. 18. Visit www.alpinevalleyresort.com for a release of liability and rental agreement, which must be signed by a guardian and turned in at time of registration. Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-674-1500. $30-$55.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 4**

Nonfiction Book Discussion
10 a.m.: The group discusses “Packaging for Mars” by Mary Roach. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Bobsled Build ‘n Race
10 a.m.: Design and engineer a miniature Bobsled track. Register at glenviewpl.org, 847-729-7500. ext. 7800, or at the Youth Services Desk. For students in grades four through eight. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview.

**SUNDAY, JAN. 5**

The Art of Jewish Caregiving
10 a.m.: Presenter Elizabeth Cohen speaks about your own set if possible. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Call 847-729-7500.

**FUTURE EVENTS**

**FRIDAY, JAN. 3**

**SATURDAY, JAN. 4**

Skokie Art Guild
9:30 a.m.: The group offers figure drawing workshops every Saturday. There are live models but no instructor. Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie. Call 847-673-4450. $20 per session; $12 for guild members.

Moviin’ and Groovin’
10 a.m.: Kids ages 2 to 4 are invited to join in this active class that includes music, dancing, musical instruments and more. Registration is required. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-935-4220.

Civil War Book Discussion
10 a.m.: Tom DeFranco leads a monthly discussion of Civil War related books, events and historical figures. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 708-867-8728.

MGPL Kids: Game On!
10:30 a.m.: Challenge friends in Super Smash Brothers and Mario Kart on the Wii or play against them in driving or volleyball on the Xbox Kinect before school starts. Children under age 8 must be accompanied by a caregiver. Call 847-929-5102 or visit www.mgpl.org/kids for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

Flight-to-Fun Kids Club
10:30 a.m.: Miss Silvia will run a story time and other fun activities. Co-sponsored by the Glenview Public Library and The Glen Town Center. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Call 847-729-7500.

Flight-to-Fun Kids Club: Fairytale Fantasy with Make-a-Messterpiece
10:30 a.m.: Decorate a royal crown with staff from Make-A-Messterpiece, then enjoy a regal coronation ceremony for young kings and queens. Story time provided by Glenview Public Library. For ages 2-6. The BookMarket, 2651 Navy Blvd., Glenview.

Jazz, Gelato and Jam Session
8 p.m.: Held on the first Saturday of each month, this event features music from the house band. Visitors are also welcome to bring their own instruments. Via Gelato, 1853 Tower Drive, Glenview. Call 847-729-7088.

**SEE CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE**
CALENDAR

chronic illnesses and caregiving. Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. Call 773-508-1000.

Mathematics Tea Party
2 p.m.: Kids ages 3-5 are invited to enjoy a tea party that will be filled with songs and math. Registration is required. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

Jewish Youth Zone: Mini Chefs
2 p.m.: Get creative with Tu Bishvat fruit art activities and learn about the seven special fruits from Israel. For ages 2-8. For more information, visit www.chabadandfree.com/JYZ. Chabad & FREE of Niles, 9401 Margail Ave., Des Plaines. Call 847-345-6405.

Teatime at Downton Abbey
2 p.m.: To set the mood for the premiere of season four of "Downton Abbey," chef Michael Maddox will demonstrate the art of preparing dainty tea sandwiches and teatime sweets. Free tasting included. The Glenview Grind will also send attendees home with a tea sample. Register at glenviewpl.org or by calling 847-729-7500, ext. 7600. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview.

Teddy Bear Time
9:30 a.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. Call 847-825-3123.

Money Matters Discussion
10 a.m.: The group meets on the first and third Monday of each month. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge.

Lego Mania
4 p.m.: Lego building for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Story Time for All Ages
4 p.m.: Stories, songs and finger plays for the whole family. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Park Ridge City Council Meeting
7 p.m.: Park Ridge City Hall, 505 Butler Place, Park Ridge. Call 847-318-5200.

SCORE Counseling Appointments
9 a.m.: Counselors from SCORE will advise small business owners on building success. Appointments are required and can be made online or by phone. Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce, 720 Garden St., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3122.

Baby Bounce
9:15 a.m.: Special stories, songs, rhymes and playtime just for babies one year old and under. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Story Time for 4s and 5s

Math Club
5 p.m.: Come to Math Club for tricks, tips and activities to help make math awesome. Registration required. For grades three to six. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

Teen Library Council Meeting
7 p.m.: For teens who want to get involved and earn volunteer service hours through the Morton Grove Public Library. Visit www.mgpl.org/teens for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

Evoking Book Discussion
7 p.m.: The group discusses "The Spy Who Came in from the Cold" by John Le Carre. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

LitLounge: 'The Dog Stars'
by Peter Heller
7 p.m.: Surviving a pandemic disease that has killed everyone he knows, a pilot establishes a shelter in an abandoned airport hangar before hearing a random radio transmission that compels him to risk his life to seek out other survivors. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

MGPL Kids: Meet Cade Fairchild of the Chicago Wolves
7 p.m.: Celebrate winter reading and meet Cade Fairchild of the Chicago Wolves. The event includes giveaways of Wolves logo gear. Call 847-929-5102 or visit www.mgpl.org for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

Affordable Health Care Act
7 p.m.: A representative from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will give an overview of the Affordable Health Care Act and answer questions. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Park Ridge Toastmasters Club Meeting
7:30 p.m.: First United Methodist Church, 418 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge. Call 312-213-3711.

Get up and go

Use the Stage section to learn about local theater productions.

Your guide to the weekend and beyond

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

Get up and **go**

Your guide to the weekend and beyond

**Every Thursday**

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**BUILDING PERMITS**

**BY WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Type</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Issue Date</th>
<th>Permit Cost</th>
<th>Construction Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flood control</td>
<td>6921 W. Dobson St., Niles</td>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>$120</td>
<td>$8,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furnace and air conditioning (HVAC)</td>
<td>7787 N. Nordica Ave., Niles</td>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>$47</td>
<td>$2,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single family - remodel</td>
<td>7344 W. Howard St., Niles</td>
<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>$252</td>
<td>$11,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driveway</td>
<td>7642 N. Osceola Ave., Niles</td>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuck pointing (commercial and residential)</td>
<td>8035 N. Oconto Ave., Niles</td>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>$55</td>
<td>$2,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roof (commercial and residential)</td>
<td>8036 N. Oconto Ave., Niles</td>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>$81</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood control</td>
<td>8114 N. Harlem Ave., Niles</td>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$7,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fence</td>
<td>724 Ottawa Ave., Park Ridge</td>
<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$2,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood control</td>
<td>6852 W. Keeney St., Niles</td>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$7,676</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flood control</td>
<td>6929 W. Cleveland St., Niles</td>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$7,676</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
With Dominick’s closed, shopping center’s owners frustrate board

BY RICK KAMBIC
rkambic@pioneerlocal.com | @rick_kambic

As the lights in Dominick’s turn off for good, Morton Grove officials are still hoping the financially-complacent owners of Prairie View Shopping Center produce a plan for revitalizing the major plaza at Dempster Street and Waukegan Road.

Alan Saposnik of Tower Realty, the leasing agent for the plaza, originally said a new tenant would replace Dominick’s within months of the grocer’s closure, which was on Dec. 28.

Though Saposnik was unavailable for comment, Morton Grove officials say they have yet to see any redevelopment plans or applications for immediate occupancy. While village staff is working toward either plan, they maintain a complete teardown and reconstruction is preferred.

Morton Grove’s finance committee requested an update during its Dec. 11 meeting and vented frustration when Village Attorney Terry Liston had little to report.

Liston said the Canadian family that owns the center has no debt on the property and is not interested in a costly reconstruction. She said they prefer to only manage revenue.

“We’ve told them ‘we’re willing to partner with you, but you have to bring us a project that’s a win-win,’” Liston told the finance committee.

Morton Grove created a tax increment financing district (TIF) around the Dempster Street and Waukegan Road intersection in 2012, primarily to help Prairie View with a proposed $55 million reconstruction. Dominick’s was originally the centerpiece of that project, but the plan collapsed when the grocery chain went out of business.

Liston said the Canadian family that owns the center has no debt on the property and is not interested in a costly reconstruction. She said they prefer to only manage revenue.

“Their property there would be buyers out there. Without a doubt,” Liston said. “But, they do not want to sell either.”

Dominick’s had been an anchor in the shopping center since 1965. The plaza is home to most of Morton Grove’s retail space.

Saposnik previously said he was in negotiations with LA Fitness to possibly construct one new building just for the health club, but he was not available to confirm if that’s still on track.

So far, Liston said management has only asked Morton Grove for money to help with facade improvements, a notion that she labeled as “putting lipstick on a pig.”

“It’s their property and they can do with it what they want, but they probably won’t get any of our money without a substantial investment,” committee chairman Doug Steinman said, also noting that the shopping center’s future has a major impact on Morton Grove’s pending strategic plan.

Village Trustee Maria Toth also attended the committee meeting and expressed frustration.

“When you look at other towns with similar parcels, they are able to attract rival businesses, good businesses, interesting businesses,” Toth said. “So what makes them able to do it, but we can’t bring anything in here where we see 30,000 to 60,000 cars a day. It’s extremely frustrating.”

Liston said a major concern for her is the physical status of the aging building. Selling retail products out of modern facilities could generate more tax money, she continued.

LA Fitness, now the largest tenant in Prairie View, is under lease until April. Other stores that remain in the shopping center include The Salvation Army, K&G Fashion Superstore, Dollar Tree and Sofa World. Many of the freestanding buildings along Dempster Street are also under the same ownership.
Holiday sparkle at ‘Ruby and Emerald Gala’

RUBY AND EMERALD GALA
Association: Adult Recreation Club of the Norridge Park District
Date: Dec. 12
Location: Rosewood Restaurant, Rosemont
Attended: 55
Website: norridgepk.com

1. Rosemary Wegner of Norridge and Mark DeSalvo, Norridge Park District executive director; 2. Geri Noverini of Norridge (from left), Lorraine Szot of Harwood Heights, Phyllis Dammier and Marlene Los, both of Norridge; 3. Janet Schober of Norridge; 4. Dominic Falagario of Norridge; 5. Julie Gersky of Norridge, Adult Recreation Club Coordinator and Kevin Snyders of Woodridge, also with the Norridge Park District; 6. Marie Misuraca (from left), Rosemary Wegner and Florence Porada, all of Norridge

PHOTOS BY KARIE ANGELL LUCOT/SUN-TIMES MEDIA
CAUSE & EVENT

Cast of "The Elves and the Shoemaker" included: Emily Schroeder '15, Christina Mooshil '15, Sophia Acevedo '16, Lauren Kuszynski '16, all of Chicago and Jessica Connolly '14 of Norridge with Katie Nicolay '14 of Morton Grove.

RESURRECTION BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Benefiting: Resurrection Alumnae Association Scholarships
Date: Dec. 14
Location: Resurrection College Prep High School
Attended: 400+
Raised: $2,500

Resurrection Women's Choir members caroling at Breakfast with Santa: Sarah Thelen '14, of Niles (from left), Kayle Plonka '15 of Chicago, Emily Aponte '17 of Chicago and Sabrina Lujan '14 of Chicago.

Get your event in Trend

Have a philanthropic cause or event, or a party to share? Email Deborah Hoppe at dhoppe@pioneerlocal.com. She can send you guidelines for submitting information for Trend. Or call (312) 321-2734.
New Fla. residents marry in Norridge

Christine Holder and Dirk Haller

BY JILL FAILLA
Contributing writer

Despite her soon-to-be-husband's demanding Air Force schedule that required them to move to Fort Walton Beach, Fla., in the midst of wedding planning, Christine Holder, from Chicago, knew she wanted an October wedding in their home state.

Christine met Dirk Haller, from Park Ridge, through mutual friends after graduating high school in 2008. Dirk is two years older than Christine, so he was already headed into his junior year at University of Illinois.

As it so happens, Christine was headed to Illinois in the fall, which gave them plenty to chat about.

"It was very romantic from the start for both of us," Christine said. "We hung out the rest of the summer, started dating, and we've been together ever since."

At the time of Dirk's proposal in December 2012, they had been dating for about five years. Christine said she had been waiting for him to pop the question for quite a while — somewhat impatiently — in her words.

"The day of the proposal he got a hotel downtown. He had been away for officer training since October, and he got a little bit of leave to come back for the holidays. ... So I really hadn't seen him for a while. When he was like, 'Oh, we'll get a nice hotel and spend this nice, romantic weekend downtown' ... I didn't find it suspicious," Christine said.

They enjoyed the Christmas lights on Michigan Avenue and at the Lincoln Park Zoo. After arriving back at the hotel, they were looking out at the Chicago skyline when Dirk got down on his knee and proposed.

"I cried a lot. He jokes that I never even said yes; I just cried," Christine said.

The couple moved to Florida in February, only two months after Dirk proposed. Dirk had accepted a job as an F-15 Test Air Force engineer at the Eglin Air Force Base near Fort Walton Beach.

The couple chose Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Norridge and were appreciative of its flexibility and thoughtfulness throughout the planning process.


They had nine bridesmaids and nine groomsmen, so there were many speeches at the reception.

The ivory-frosted, four-tiered wedding cake featured a bride and groom, with the groom in Air Force uniform.

Despite not living in Florida's panhandle for long, Christine snagged a job as an on-air personality and producer at WTKE-FM The Ticket Sports Network, a sports radio station based in Fort Walton Beach.

Contact Renee Lee at rlee@bouquetcatcher.com or 312-651-6613 to share your wedding story.
Lindsay Tuck & Jacob Poeschel

Richard and Danielle Tuck of Hinsdale and Kathy Tuck of Springfield announce the engagement of their daughter Lindsay to Jacob, the son of David and Rhonda Poeschel of Petersburg, Ill. Lindsay received her bachelor's degree in journalism from Southern Illinois University. She works at The State Journal-Register. Jacob received his bachelor's degree in business from University of Illinois Springfield. He is employed by the Illinois Office of the Comptroller. The couple plan to marry in September 2014 in Springfield.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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

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

Get up and go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond

Every Thursday

Keep up with the latest songs & albums in the Listen section.
Senior PGA Championship at Harbor Shores

A HOLE IN ONE

By Anne Thompson

Since the completion of the Jack Nicklaus Signature Design Golf Course in 2010, Harbor Shores in southwest Michigan has been a leading golf destination in the Lake Michigan region. In addition to attracting golfers from across the Midwest, this acclaimed course has hosted the Senior PGA Championship and is scheduled to host for an unprecedented run over the next several years.

Touring the course
The golf course of Harbor Shores defines the community, and it sits on land once occupied by abandoned factories and toxic waste. Building the course brought the community into a new era by revitalizing the natural terrain and preserving the surrounding marshlands. The resulting course is a challenging, visually stunning attraction that has hosted notable golfers, including those in the Senior PGA Championship.

Championship history in Harbor Shores
2012 was the first year Harbor Shores hosted the Senior PGA Championship presented by KitchenAid, and the event will return in May 2014. In 2016 and 2018, the championship will be back in the Harbor Shores community for a hosting streak that never before has been seen with the tournament.

Tickets and volunteering
You can reserve your spot in the Senior PGA Championship by purchasing tickets online or exploring volunteer opportunities at the event. Open registration is available now through the event's Facebook page.

If you are interested in reserving a place in the audience of the 2014 Senior PGA Championship presented by KitchenAid, call 269-927-4653. You also can experience the Jack Nicklaus course for yourself by booking a Stay-and-Play package at Harbor Shores.

Sponsored content by WeekAway. For more information on these or other destinations, visit WeekAway.com and follow @WeekAway on Twitter.
SISTER ACT

‘August: Osage County’ stars Juliette Lewis & Julianne Nicholson on living in Oklahoma, laughing with Meryl and their on-set family.
TASTE MAKERS
PEOPLE WHO GET FOOD
GET IT HERE.

Lorin Adolph
Private Chef
Watch Lorin's insider shopping and prep tips at marianos.com

Mariano's
shop well. eat well. live well.
things we love

THIS WEEK

Covergirl Bombshell

Foodcase + Canyon Ranch
Start your New Year’s resolutions with this new collaboration between the Chicago-based market and the renowned health ranch. Featuring healthy prepared foods like Tabbouleh salad, yellow Indian dal soup and snickerdoodle cookies, you won’t sacrifice flavor for feeling fit. 835 N. Michigan; Foodcasechicago.com

Archer Townsend
The local line, started by Brandi Archer and her stylist, James Townsend, is stocked with fun outfits for the girl-on-the-go. Our favorite? The Harley dress, perfect for the office or post-work drinks. $188; Splashshop.suntimes.com

Remix oils, candles and serum
Chicagoan Giselle Wastie left her gig as an editor at Glamour to follow her true passion: Using philosophies of traditional Chinese medicine to create chic, holistic health products. Wastie recently introduced new candles, body oils and a face serum, designed to complement and balance your existing energies with all-natural essential oils. Starting at $8. Remixacupuncture.com

AT THE SHOOT

After taking the spotlight at the Steppenwolf Salutes Women in the Arts luncheon, Juliette Lewis and Julianne Nicholson joined the Splash team for a lighthearted photoshoot at the Four Seasons Chicago (120 E. Delaware). The stars of the upcoming “August: Osage County” laughed, hugged and shared stories about their families while posing for the camera.

On the cover
On Juliette: Rachel Roy blazer and pants
On Julianne: Moschino dress

CREDITS
Photographer: Anthony Tahlier
Shoot Coordinator: Katerina Bizios

Kele Lambe @KeleGrrl: True grit: Joe Manganiello via @Suntimes_Splash Great article. Thanks for the inspiration & honesty @joemanganiello

HOW DO YOU FIGHT THE WINTER WOES?

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“A healthy mix of cross-country skiing, broomball games and Snickers. I find it’s best to just embrace the season.”

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“An escape to the Lincoln Park Conservatory. It’s lush and beautiful, and the steadys, money snickers aren’t very savory.”

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“Returning back to my family’s house in Indiana is always my own.”

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December 30
• ETHE OF THE EVE
Get a jump on your New Year’s festivities at this bash in Union Station’s Grand Hall, a Chicago tradition for the last 20 years. Benefiting HighSight — which provides scholarships and college readiness programs for local youth — the black-tie optional evening swings with tunes from local musicians South of 80 and DJ Clik.

Time: 8 p.m.
Place: 500 W. Jackson
Cost: $125 in advance, $140 day of; VIP tickets $160. For tickets, visit HighSight.org.

January 3
• THE BUTLER SPEAKS
Channel “Downton Abbey” with Charles MacPherson, author and operator of the only accredited butler training school in North America, as he discusses the role of the majordomo in Edwardian England and offers household tips for today’s well-run home.

Time: 2:30 p.m.
Place: The Langham Hotel Chicago, 330 N. Wabash
Cost: Tea and talk $40 plus tax and gratuity. For reservations, call (312) 923-7710.

January 3-5
• CHICAGO WINTERDANCE
We all slow down come winter, but cut the rug at this city-sponsored series and you’re bound to feel better. The one-hour lessons offer folks of all ages and skill levels a good intro to salsa, tango, milonga and more.

Time: Thursdays — Saturdays 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., Sundays 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Place: Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph

January 3-5
• BUDDY GUY
The renowned blues artist takes the stage for his annual residency at his famous club, Buddy Guy’s Legends, where he’ll perform Thursday through Sunday nights through the end of the month. Tables fill up fast for each show — which starts off with an acoustic set and opening band — so get there early to score a great view of the storied blues musician.

Time: Varies by day
Place: 700 S. Wabash
Cost: $55-$65. For tickets and a full schedule of shows, visit Etix.com.
January 7-March 16
- HEDDA GABLER
Actor Kate Fry and director Kimberly Senior take on one of the stage's most frustrated and infuriating characters in the Writer's Theatre's production of Henrik Ibsen's classic play. Whether seen as a soul in search of release or an egoist out of control, this seductive and scheming woman is one of drama's greatest creations.
Place: 325 Tudor, Glencoe
Cost: Tickets start at $35. For tickets, call (847) 242-6000 or visit Writerstheatre.org.

January 7-19
- GHOST: THE MUSICAL
With the famous potter's wheel scene, Demi Moore and Patrick Swayze's chemistry and "Unchained Melody" tugging at the heartstrings, "Ghost" remains one of cinema's most tear-jerking romantic tales. A team of award-winning talent brings the popular love story to the stage of the Oriental Theatre.
Place: 24 W Randolph
Cost: $27-$95. For tickets, call (800) 775-2000 or visit Broadwayinchicago.com.

January 9-February 9
- SEVEN GUITARS AT COURT THEATRE
This blues-inflected musing on the meaning of manhood and the struggle for equality and self-determination remains one of playwright August Wilson's most engaging and incisive works.
Ron OJ Parsons directs.
Place: 5535 S. Ellis
Cost: Jan, 9-17 $35-$45, $45-$65 thereafter. For tickets, call (773) 753-4472 or visit Courttheatre.org.

January 9-February 1
- CHICAGO BLUEGRASS & BLUES FEST
Now in its fifth year, this solid series kicks off with the bands Leagues and The Autumn Defense (featuring John Stirratt and Pat Sansone of Wilco) at Concord Music Hall. Over the next three weeks, the fest features a range of musicians from across the country — including Rusted Root and Justin Townes Earle — at multiple venues.
Places: Concord Music Hall, 2047 N. Milwaukee; City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph; Tonic Room, 2447 N. Halsted; Space, 1245 Chicago, Evanston
Cost: Starting at $10. For tickets, visit Cbbfestiva1.com.

Jan 10-February 1
- CHICAGO SKETCH COMEDY FESTIVAL
As this 13th annual event — the largest of its kind in the nation — you'll find 150 troupes, 1,000 performers and more than 170 shows taking place in just eight days, meaning there's no way not to laugh this month. The wide-ranging roster includes such local favorites as Virgin Daquiri and The Cupid Players, along with talent from New York, England, Canada and Italy.
Place: Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont
Cost: $14 on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays; $15 on Saturdays. For tickets, call (773) 327-5252 or visit Stage773.com.

Foil, Arms & Hog will be performing at the Chicago Sketch Comedy Festival.
Despite the cold weather, "The View" co-host and Splash columnist Jenny McCarthy heated things up in a Stella McCartney minidress at Parliament (324 W. Chicago) Dec. 20 at her Naughty and Nice bash. Guests indulged in appetizers, sipped Grey Goose, Bacardi, Dewar's, Corzo, Bombay and Piper-Heidsieck drinks and posed for pictures with the Chicago native, who hosted the evening to raise autism awareness. Proceeds benefited Generation Rescue, a nonprofit McCarthy presides over that provides support and treatment assistance to families affected by autism spectrum disorders.

Right: James Feeley and CJ Koenig
Below: Amada and Dean Giordano
Instead of making an impression with cuts or embellishments, sometimes it's better to wow with a hip-hugging, understated piece. We love the way this one's print emphasizes the feminine form for a figure-flattering silhouette.

When the occasion calls for a floor-length number, some of the most striking blend techniques like ruching and draping for goddess-like glamour. Minimal accessories give the gown — and the gal — the chance to shine.

Show a little 'tude with a backless dress (bonus points if it's in sequins or bold hues). The cut helps elongate the neck, especially when paired with an up-do or pixie cut, and adds a subtle, sexy punch to the outfit.

With a few clever wardrobe choices — think crisp shirts and vibrant pencil skirts — you can master the work-to-party transition. The perfect outfit is tailored with a twist and functions flawlessly in either scene.

The best rewards come with big risks, and sometimes you have to be a little fearless with fashion. The key to a wild outfit is striking a balance: Show leg, but cover arms; smoky eyes, but nude lips; you get the idea.

Men, take note: Great fashion starts with a great fit (dart the jacket, taper the slacks and make sure those shoulders are in the right spots). Also, remember that not all shades of black are the same — for a cohesive look, match your jacket and pants.
An early Saturday morning start didn’t deter makeup mavens from celebrating the newly renovated cosmetics store at Bloomingdale’s (900 N. Michigan). The doors swung open at 7:30 a.m. for nearly 300 beauty buffs, who spent the morning snacking on breakfast bites, scoring raffle prizes and taking in the latest lip, eye and skincare trends during a runway show. Later, students from All About Dance took the stage as guests partook in one-on-one sessions with expert makeup artists from NARS, Bobbi Brown, Trish McEvoy and more. Guests left the party looking polished and stocked with a goody bag full of new products.

The Grid (351 W. Hubbard) introduced its brunch menu in style Dec. 8, inviting supporters to eat, drink and shop at the Savor the Season event. While sampling entrees like French Toast stuffed with carbonated blackberry cream cheese, rum maple syrup and chocolate anglaise, and poached eggs with sausage and goat cheese in a diablo tomato sauce, guests snagged holiday gifts from local businesses including von Z, Veruca Salt and Leah Chavie Skincare. DJ Megan Taylor provided the shopping soundtrack.
Lone Wolf stands out from the pack with modern cocktails and bar bites

BY ANTHONY TODD

If you cruise up Western Avenue, you'll see what Lone Wolf bartender Stephen Cole refers to as "the old greystone pubs with the glass brick windows." According to Cole (Barrelhouse Flat) and co-owners Matt Eisler and Kevin Heisner (Bangers & Lace, Trenchermen), those classic Chicago taverns - plus some small-town bars of Cole's youth — were the inspiration for Lone Wolf, the newest addition to trendy West Randolph Street.

Approaching the restaurant on foot, you might do a double take: What at first glance appears to be a crumbling Old Style beer sign is actually a custom-made imitation advertising Three Floyds brewery. And behind a wall of glass bricks sits a dim bar filled with wood and leather that tries to evoke the same comfortable vibe of those old community watering holes.

The menu isn't quite so old-fashioned. Modern cocktails - mostly aperitifs and digestifs - accompany craft beers on the drink menu. While the food might look like standard bar snacks at first glance, it's actually made by Art Jackson, co-founder of Bridgeport-based pie company Pleasant House Bakery, which is something of a cult favorite among Chicago foodies. Here's what else to expect at Lone Wolf:

**Must-try dishes:** The menu centers around Pleasant House's popular Royal Pies: individual pies stuffed with savory filling (like steak and ale or chicken balti), wrapped in pastry and served piping hot ($6). The rest of the fare harkens back to old-fashioned bar bites, with a few English pub-inspired dishes, like pickled eggs with malt vinegar, chicken liver pate and Welsh rarebit ($4 each), a beer cheese spread that "sounds like rabbit, but there's no meat in it," says Jackson.

**Stay awhile:** "We're on Restaurant Row, and there are all these popular places that don't have big enough waiting rooms," says Cole. "We thought it would be nice to have a place where people can come in for a pre-dinner cocktail, something nice and bright and acidic, and then after for something sweeter, a little more bitter." Of course, no one will object if you stay for a pie, but Cole suggests that you pair it with something from the ever-rotating beer list.

**Drink up:** The before-dinner cocktails are inspired by Italian Sgroppino, a Venetian-style drink that combines frozen sorbet or gelato with prosecco. Cole freezes the fruit flavors and added liquor together; his favorite is made with strawberry, hibiscus, lime and tequila.

After dinner, switch to something bitter, like a Giralamo Sour made with Luxardo Amaro Abano, bitters, lemon juice and egg white (all $12).

**Pie in the sky:** One of Lone Wolf's exclusive pies (it's not available at Pleasant House Bakery) is called the Mac Daddy, stuffed with macaroni and cheese, bacon and onion. Jackson invented it for Baconfest, and his co-owners loved it so much that they put it on the menu permanently. It's designed to eat with your hands — though Jackson admits that most people go with a fork and knife.

806 W Randolph, (312) 600-9391; Facebook.com/lonewolfcafe
sunday in the life

Kathryn the Great

Northwestern grad Kathryn Hahn dreams up a perfect day downtown and on campus

BY ZAK STEMER

When Kathryn Hahn met her “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” costar Shirley MacLaine, she describes a scene similar to a teenaged girl meeting a boy band: a little squealing, a lot of fawning and a massive unleashing of admiration. “I've been obsessed with her [forever], she's brilliant, so unbelievably genius,” Hahn says, laughing.

Hahn is a star in her own right, with dozens of movies under her belt, including “We're the Millers,” “Anchorman” and “How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days.” But the Westchester, Ill. native and Northwestern grad’s reaction to meeting MacLaine makes it clear that for all of her Hollywood success, Hahn is still very much the girl next door. “I’m a people pleaser. I guess that would be a good way to put it simply,” she says. “In my work I feel pretty brave, but in real life, I don’t feel as brave.”

That emotional vulnerability is what makes Hahn, 40, so compelling onscreen — and the reason she felt an immediate connection to “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty,” in theaters now. The film, based on a short story by James Thurber, follows Walter Mitty (Ben Stiller), a man who spends most of his life ignoring the real world and daydreaming about being a hero. “I empathize with Walter’s lack of being able to say what he means all the time,” she says. In the big-screen adaptation, which Hahn says is “very different” from the story, Walter leaves his dimly lit desk at Life magazine for a wild adventure that involves jumping from helicopters and swimming with sharks.

In the film, Hahn plays Odessa, Walter’s free-spirited sister and the daughter of Shirley MacLaine’s Edna. “She’s a little bit of a flirty spirit,” says Hahn of her character, who dabbles in acting, performance art and sculpting throughout the movie. Unlike Odessa, Hahn has always had a very clear idea of the life she wanted to lead. “There were a lot of acceptance speeches in my childhood fantasies,” she says. “A lot of me singing along to ‘Footloose’ as loud as I possibly could, staring at myself in mirror.”

On the acceptance-speech front, things are looking bright for Hahn: “Walter Mitty” is already hitting home with its audience, netting $7.9 million on Christmas Day. “I think it speaks to everybody about being brave and having courage,” says Hahn. “Trust your gut and say how you feel. It’s a message Hahn herself aims to internalize as she continues to ascend — and one she heard loud and clear from her favorite actress. “Shirley MacLaine is everything: She speaks what she means and she is who she is. She’s so comfortable with herself,” says Hahn. “She’s somebody I want to be when I grow up.”

Here, the actress lives out her dream day in Chicago.

9 A.M.
Hahn wakes up at her favorite hotel, The Drake (140 E. Walton).

10:30 A.M.
Hahn and her husband visit Northwestern’s Evanston campus, where the two met in a production of “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.” (She was Nurse Ratched, he was McMurphy.)

11:45 A.M.
While in Evanston, they stop at the Unicorn Café (1723 Sherman) for a quick brunch.

2 P.M.
Back downtown, Hahn indulges in some high-end shopping at Ikram (15 E. Huron).

6 P.M.
A good night means a great Italian meal at La Scarola (721 W. Grand).

10:30 P.M.
Hahn got her start at IO Theater (3541 N. Clark), so a return visit is a must. “It’s the birthplace of comedy,” she says.
EMBRACE WINTER BLUES

with fashionable finds from local favorites

Christina
Karin gunmetal sequin cowl dress, $179

Life Therapy
Inspiration & Peace Czech glass beads, $11

t+j Designs Blue Luxe wing crystal earrings, $42

C/Fan Adele beanie, $113

Shalini
Stephanie dress, $175

AN ONLINE MARKETPLACE AT SPLASHSHOP.SUNTIMES.COM
When Meryl Streep asks you to move to Oklahoma, you just say yes. "Meryl wanted all of us to live together [while filming]," explains Julianne Nicholson, who stars with Streep — plus Juliette Lewis, Julia Roberts, Ewan McGregor, Sam Shepard, Chris Cooper, Margo Martindale and Dermot Mulroney — in "August: Osage County," premiering in Chicago Jan. 3. "As there was no house big enough to contain all of us in Pawhuska, Okla., they found these brand-new condos-slash-townhouses. I called it Celebrity Wisteria Lane."

The intimate living arrangements created an immediate bond among the cast. "We all approached the work equally, and there were no egos," says Lewis. "Everybody was down-to-earth, and that's rare." Nicholson agrees. "There was something magical. It just happened to be all of these very specific, eccentric, hilarious, smart people," she says.

The close relationships the group formed were a sharp contrast to the contentious ones they portray on screen. The movie — based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Tracy Letts, which premiered at Steppenwolf Theatre in 2007 — follows the Westons, a fractured family reuniting at their childhood home after a tragedy. Chaos ensues: Sisters Barbara (Roberts), Ivy (Nicholson) and Karen (Lewis) are forced to confront their pill-popping matriarch (Streep), their dark pasts and fraught presents and, perhaps most challengingly, each other.
JULIANNE NICHOLSON: The great thing about shooting on location is that there's nowhere to go. Nobody's going home to their families at night. I remember [the condo complex] wasn't even finished; it was behind a Toyota dealership, off some exit of the highway. And I arrived at night and thought everybody else was at some Four Seasons. But the next day, I saw who my neighbors were and I felt a little more comfortable. Everybody came so open to making new friends and doing the best we could.

Juliette, I have my answer to this, which is why I'm going to ask you. This makes me feel quite narcissistic, but what was your favorite scene of mine?

JULIETTE LEWIS: Whoo, mixing it up! My favorite scene, which I can't reveal to the audience, was when your character goes from the happiest place she's at to the most devastatingly heartbreaking. Watching you perform this scene—the last scene of this character—was like watching someone who's about to go to Magic Mountain, and then they get told, 'By the way, you're gonna die this week. So just enjoy your trip.'

JN: I feel embarrassed that I asked that, but it's because I wanted to tell you what my favorite line of yours was, which is your whole last scene. It's those two polar opposite experiences: devastation about what you've just witnessed, and the covering up that you're trying to do, which is all revealed to me when you say, 'And we're going to Belize. Doesn't that sound nice?' It's one of the most heartbreaking moments in the whole film due to your delivery.

JL: That's nice. Ugh, that's so sad. We're both getting sad for our characters.

SPLASH: What was the craziest thing that happened while filming?

JL: We would spend time in Meryl's condo, having potlucks. It was crazy—we were with people we didn't really know, and Ewan McGregor's there, and Meryl Streep and I are there, and we're all hanging out in the living room, and the presidential debates were on. The most fun part was to see Margo and Meryl create their sister dynamic—they were two loud ladies together.

JN: They were a joy to watch together. They liked their red wine [laughs]. One of the craziest moments for me was on a Monday when I got there. We had a meet and greet, and we all sat on these couches at [director John Wells'] house as a cast, and then we moved over to the table and read the script. I was in terror all day long. Then that night, they had a dinner for us at a local steakhouse. People were there, just having their regular, Monday-night steak—[in walk] Meryl Streep, [producer] George Clooney, Ewan McGregor and Juliette Lewis. It was bananas. The [diners] were just, like, hands in lap, watching. No one was even pretending to eat anymore.

JL: Then a week later, that same restaurant had me on the marquee, 'George, Julia and Meryl ate here.'

JN: Have you ever been to Belize in real life?

JL: I've never been to Belize, but this movie came on the heels of an entire year where I was running away to Cabo San Lucas. Actually, right before I got this job, I was thinking of moving there and opening a health food store.

JN: I remember you saying you were gonna open a produce stand.

JL: No! [laughs] Not a produce stand!

JN: No, you were gonna sell mangoes by the side of the road [both women laugh].

JL: You made it so horrible! It was gonna be a juice place, and I still might do it, but there was a more sad version where I was gonna go and give it all up and live in Cabo.

JN: Good luck. I was with you on the airplane. You're not gonna disappear anytime soon. People love Juliette. They'll find you at the produce stand [laughs]. I'm sorry. I have much bigger plans for you.

JL: I thought it was hilarious.
In many ways, aging is a good thing — there’s increased wisdom, financial stability and expanded cultural horizons. But on the face front, “maturity” involves a laundry list of negatives induced by said experiences — and sheer gravity. So what can be done? Retaining one’s youthful visage is possible without having to face a surgeon’s knife, thanks to these three cutting-edge facial treatments, offered at spas around Chicago. Trust us — they’re worth a splurge.

One local facials that offer cutting edge technology — without the cut

BY AMY TARA KOCH

WHAT IT IS:
Platelet-Rich Plasma (or ‘blood’) Facial at Cellular Intelligence

WHY IT’S CUTTING EDGE: Though viewers were stunned when Kim Kardashian tried this treatment on her reality show earlier this year, the blood facial has now entered the mainstream, with several area spas offering the treatment. Benefits include improvement in fine lines and texture through increased collagen, as well as reduced hyperpigmentation — and because it’s done with your own plasma, it’s the most natural injection option.

HOW IT WORKS: A doctor takes a syringe of blood from a vein in your arm and spins it through a centrifuge to separate the platelet-rich plasma, which sits at the top of the vial and is yellow (not red, as demonstrated in Kardashian’s televised version). The resulting liquid can be applied two ways: topically after micro-needling (see below) or through injections. The entire process takes about 45 minutes, and is best performed over three treatments spread four to six weeks apart.

COST: Extracting and injecting PRP is $400, micro-needling is an additional $300. 100 E. Walton, 4th floor. Call (312) 255-1495 or visit Cimedspa.com.

ON PINS AND NEEDLES
Micro-needling, a procedure popping up in high-tech treatments, 180 surgical-grade tiny needles are pushed across the face, creating tiny punctures. (Though it sounds painful, the needles impart a mellow prickly feeling that’s often compared to being licked by a cat.) The skin reacts to the mild trauma by going into repair mode — to heal the perceived “injury” — by regenerating cells.

FOREVER YOUNG

In many ways, aging is a good thing — there’s increased wisdom, financial stability and expanded cultural horizons. But on the face front, “maturity” involves a laundry list of negatives induced by said experiences — and sheer gravity. So what can be done? Retaining one’s youthful visage is possible without having to face a surgeon’s knife, thanks to these three cutting-edge facial treatments, offered at spas around Chicago. Trust us — they’re worth a splurge.
WHAT: Circ-Cell Advanced Infusion Facial at the Four Seasons Chicago

WHY IT'S CUTTING EDGE: Circ-Cell's pioneering Transdermal Delivery System infuses powerful, active solutions to the skin without anaesthesia or lasers. Micro-needling stimulates fibroblast activity and remodels collagen by tapping into the body's natural restorative cycles.

HOW IT WORKS: After a detoxifying lymphatic drainage massage, peptide-laden serums are released onto the skin, and penetrate deeply into the dermal junction. The combination of these high-grade solutions and the surge in collagen triggered by the body's wound/heal response firms and increases skin density. Finally, active products are layered to further boost plumpness and radiance. Again, results are immediate.

COST: The 50-minute Advanced Infusion Facial is $240, and the 80-minute facial, $320. Call (312) 280-8800 or visit Fourseasons.com.

WHAT: Cellular Age Reversal Therapy Facial with Juveel at Mario Tricoci

WHY IT'S CUTTING EDGE: Vitamin C is one of the most powerful ways to tackle aging skin, and Juveel, a professional strength anti-aging serum, doles the highest concentration (79 percent) of Vitamin C available. Where most Vitamin C serums degrade the moment they come in contact with oxygen, Juveel does not. The vitamin's natural properties are stabilized through freeze-drying and preserved into single serving "puffs," activated only when mixed with Instant Activation Liquid. This highly concentrated serum firms, brightens and evens out skin tone and offers immediate results. Bonus: The product is also free of parabens and fragrances.

HOW IT WORKS: An hour-long treatment targets skin texture and stimulates the fibroblasts that trigger collagen production. The service kicks off with an alpha beta peel, which removes the debris from the skin's surface, and is followed by a lymphatic drainage massage, which pushes fluids and toxins out of your face and restores balance to skin's PH balances. Juveel is then activated and infused into the prepped skin. A stem cell cryodehydrated collagen mask (which is 97 percent identical to human collagen) is applied to lock in the serum while regenerating the skin and encouraging cellular turnover. Should guests want an extra jolt of anti-aging (who wouldn't?), microcurrent (electrical impulses) can be added on to further drive the product into the layers of the dermis.

When wine and spirits writer Lauren Viera signed up for an online dating site in 2008, she didn’t expect to find anyone who met her unique list of requirements, which included “must love hardwood floors” and “knows that spelling always counts.” That is, until she connected with Chicago Park District Special Projects Manager Jason Tinkey. After a dinner date and walk through the park, Viera knew she’d found the one. “I was totally smitten,” she says. The happy couple tied the knot in a fall wedding at the historic Cheney Mansion (220 N. Euclid, Oak Park), built in 1913 to resemble classic English country gardens. “A lot of people compared our wedding to ‘Downton Abbey,’” laughs Viera. Eighty-three guests attended the intimate affair, where they sampled traditional English dishes such as Cornish game hen and beef bourguignon, served at tables topped with wild garden bouquets. Spirits — the bride’s specialty — found their way into nearly every aspect of the bash: Guests sipped pre-Prohibition-themed cocktails, including Old Fashioneds, Tom Collins and Pimm’s Cups; toasted to the couple with local favorite Malort; and downed desserts made with Port syrup. Even the pair’s rich chocolate wedding cake incorporated stout beer. Despite the abundance of delicious food and drink, vintage soul music mixed by Jason Berry from Windy City Soul Club kept Viera and Tinkey’s friends and family on their feet for the entire evening. “Everything was absolutely perfect,” says Viera. “It could not have been a better day.”

**MORE ONLINE**
For more of their wedding photos, visit ChicagoSplash.com

**CHEERS!**
- Cheers to artist Lewis Lavole, Mural Mosaic and BMO Harris Bank on their collaborative community art project. The group, along with thousands of local supporters and organizations — including the Chicago Police Department, Noah’s Arc, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana, the Chicago Bulls, the Chicago Blackhawks and the Greater Chicago Food Depository — came together to create a 2,500-tile mural, on display in Pioneer Court (401 N. Michigan) through the end of December.
- We’re thrilled for American Academy of Art (332 S. Michigan) alumni Jason Seiler, whose digitally illustrated portrait of Pope Francis hit stands Dec. 13 as TIME Magazine’s “Person of the Year” cover. Read about the creative process behind the Andersonville-based artist’s masterpiece on Time.com

**SEND US YOUR CHEERS!**
If you have good news to share — or if you’d like your wedding featured — send a note to Splash@suntimes.com
The suite life
A new generation of housing options helps accommodate the 'rents

BY MADELINE NUSSE

According to census data, more seniors are moving in with their children. But unlike the oft-reported Millennials who still live with Mom and Dad, this trend isn't entirely pegged to tough economic times. The big reason, according to a recent analysis conducted by real estate website Trulia, is that about a quarter of foreign-born seniors live with relatives. And as the percentage of seniors hailing from outside U.S. borders steadily rises — from 8 percent in 1994 to 13 percent in 2013 — so does the number of parents bunking with kids.

Fortunately, dual home options have paralleled the uptick in multigenerational households, and few high-rise spaces claim better senior-ready accommodations than this 4,900-square-foot, five-bedroom penthouse at 421 W. Melrose, unit 22BCD. The 22nd floor Lakeview stunner, with views of Belmont Harbor, is listed for $1,395,000. Its current owners incorporated a 1,400-square-foot mother-in-law suite (as it's commonly known) replete with living room, dining room, kitchen and bedroom.

Most important when caring for the senior set: "You don't have to worry about stairs or security," says Prudential Rubloff broker Brad Lippitz (left, call 773-404-1144). A 24-hour doorman greets entrants (and keeps an eye on those exiting) and the elevator opens into a private 22nd floor entryway.

"If you want your own privacy, you can have it," Lippitz says to families hoping to strike a balance between maintaining personal space and being close. "But you also have the ability to care for one another."

Home comforts >
Help family members make themselves at home with cozy, hand-printed organic pillows from local design studio Earth Cadets, which are covered in vibrant colors, patterns and clever phrases. $32-$65; Earthcadets.com

421 W. Melrose

PARENT 'HOOD
Multigenerational families on a budget should consider this smart gut rehab in Garfield Ridge for $274,800. The 1952 four bedroom at 4537 S. Leamington (above) boasts a mother-in-law suite with a bedroom, bathroom and lounge area plus mini-fridge. While a separate entrance grants privacy, the literal "smart" house is wired to keep tabs on opening doors — a bit of relief for caretakers of elderly parents. (Call Baird and Warner broker Linda Ross at 708-525-1951.)
Listen up

Lend your ears to the storytellers of the Fillet of Solo Festival and you may hear something very familiar.

BY THOMAS CONNORS

We all have a story to tell. For some, social media satisfies the itch to share. But other folks need more. For them, telling a tale means weaving a world, up close and personal. And for those who love to listen, there's nothing like the annual Fillet of Solo Festival. Launched 17 years ago by Live Bait Theater and now a project of Lifeline Theatre, this word-reveling event features 10 solo performers and 13 storytelling collectives performing their own personal, well-crafted stories.
“Storytelling is as old as the hills, but I first became aware of the scene when I arrived in Chicago in 1988,” says Lifeline’s Artistic Director Dorothy Milne, whose own group, Sweat Girls, appears this month. “Five or 10 years ago, a whole new generation of artists hit the scene and mainstream audience support swelled as people became more aware that this is a familiar, accessible, intimate, hilarious and powerful form.” These days, all kinds of people are exercising their narrative muscles: writers, actors, even everyday individuals who’ve become enamored of the power to express themselves and connect with an audience that’s all ears.

This year’s line-up of participants includes the Asian-American outfit Stir-Friday Night, Write Club (two writers, two opposing ideas, seven minutes apiece, the audience picks a winner), and a slew of solo storytellers, including Liz Baudler, Andrew Reilly and Marsha Estell, who will deliver a piece she began crafting more than 20 years ago as a reaction to a health crisis. “It represents my journey from a young girl to the present,” says Estell. “I spent my whole life wanting to be somebody else, yearning to live in a more exotic place and time. Because the present sucked, especially when staring down a scary diagnosis. Revisiting was difficult, and I had to push myself to explore.”

“There’s a lot of universal in the personal,” says Milne. “Family friction, love gone wrong, assumptions shattered, discoveries made. We are perpetually surprised when someone gets up and tells a super specific story and we suddenly realize, ‘I have had that exact same experience, I am not as alone as I thought I was.’ It makes you want to turn and tell your stories to people around you, and to hear theirs.”

Kelsie Huff of “The Kates”

**FILLET OF SOLO FESTIVAL**
January 3-19, Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood and Heartland Studio Theatre, 7016 N. Glenwood. For tickets ($10 per performance, $30 for festival pass), visit Lifelinetheatre.com.

**PROMISES TO THRILL AUDIENCES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.**

**Walking with Dinosaurs**

**THE WOLF OF WALL STREET**

**AMERICAN HUSTLE**

For more Splash, check out Chicagosplash.com, where:
- Senior Editor Rachel Handler reviews Beyoncé’s recent show at the United Center.
- Kiki Luthringshausen shares stylish yet comfortable heels to sport when hosting fabulous dinner parties.
entertainment | MOVIES

IN CHARACTER WITH …

James Van Der Beek

The 'Labor Day' star on his 'Dawson's Creek' days and digging into his new role

BY LIZ CROKIN

T hough James Van Der Beek hit it big in the late '90s as the angsty Dawson Leery on 'Dawson's Creek,' he couldn't be happier to have moved on from the high-school drama. "I don't have to do any more scenes in front of a locker," jokes Van Der Beek, 36. "It's complicated, because you have to do the combination, undo the lock, take books out and close the locker while you're acting — it's a technical nightmare."

His latest role couldn't be more of a departure from his days as a teen heartthrob: In 'Labor Day,' which will be widely released in January, Van Der Beek plays a police officer trailing Kate Winslet and Josh Brolin, who fall in love after Brolin, a convict, manipulates his way into Winslet's home. "It's an epic love story, at one point, with dark undertones," says Van Der Beek. Despite the heavy subject matter, Van Der Beek bonded immediately with his A-list costars. "[Kate and Josh] are so starstruck: "[Kate and Josh] are so great." He laughs. "I thought I'd invented all these techniques, but I later found out they'd all been invented. My process changes and depends upon what the character needs."  

Role call: "I play a police officer who's just trying to do the right thing. My Uncle Bill is a police chief in New Jersey — I think I stole more from him than I realized. I talked to him about procedure and steps, asked how police officers go about things. It was a character that I felt I really knew how to play from the beginning ... I started working in theater at 16. In the beginning, I acted on pure instinct. I thought I'd invented all these techniques, but I later found out they'd all been invented. My process changes and depends upon what the character needs."  

Chicago connection: "I love Chicago. My wife and I were there last year for an appearance. Chicago does Christmas right. It's really well done and tasteful, even at the airport. I love Walter Payton and Jim McMahon. I've just loved Jim’s attitude and style of play since I was a kid, and he knows how to rock the shades wherever he goes."
Start the year off on a fashionable foot with Bucktown boutique Edith Hart. To thank customers for 2013, the shop is offering up to 25 percent off everything in store and online during the first two weeks of the new year, including pieces from Bec & Bridge, Cameo, Tbags, Woodleigh, DL1961, and Paper Crown. 1917 N. Damen; Edithhart.com

Jan. 3 marks the first of Wicker Park/Bucktown’s monthly Orange Dot First Fridays. Presented by the WPB Chamber of Commerce & SSA and hosted by the neighborhood’s artists, designers and shops, Orange Dot First Friday will feature trunk shows, extended hours, performances and exhibitions that showcase local talent. Free, 5 p.m.-10 p.m.; Wickerparkbucktown.com

How on earth do I choose just one? I look at 2013 as my year of new beginnings. Between a new love and a new job, I don’t have just one favorite memory from 2013, but rather a whole collage of amazing memories that have surrounded me. I suppose my first day on “The View” encompasses both my new love and my new job, since Donnie made those first-day-of-work jitters disappear with his thoughtfulness and support.

So, this picture is my favorite memory of that special day when my two new beginnings crossed paths and reminded me just how great 2013 was!

Bec & Bridge
Kate mesh dress, orig. $200, on sale for $150 at Edith Hart

Bose SIE2i Sport headphones, org. $149.99, on sale for $134.99 at Bose

Corey Schjoth: Beating cancer!

Angelie Orellana: When my son’s teacher said to me your son is so ready for regular education! He may have autism but autism doesn’t have him!

Jamie Lee Moses: The day I got married to my best friend.

Tracy L. Bellows: @ironone9: The night the Chicago Blackhawks won the Stanley Cup championship. Celebrating with all my good friends.

Eric Cox: @EricBCox: quitting my 40+ hour bank job to be a stay at home dad and husband!

Tweet your response to @JennyMcCarthy and @Suntimes_Splash.

What’s your favorite memory from 2013?

Read Jenny’s blog at ChicagoSplash.com.
Patrice Grell Yursik, creator of Afrobel/a.com, shares the things that keep her life lovely.

1. **Benjamin Tea:** roasted almond flavor, $12, The Bongo Room, 1152 S. Wabash; thebongo.com

2. **Fanta Celah:** quartz ring, $40; Etsy.com/Shop/FantaCelah

3. **Peeled Juice Bar:** Spanking juice custom cleanse; starts at $99, 940 Church; Peeledchicago.com

4. **Mojo Spa:** Go Green face and body scrub, $15, 1468 N. Milwaukee; Mojospa.com

5. **Mäurer & Wirtz:** 4711 cologne, $6.95, Merz Apothecary, 17 E. Monroe; Merzapotheecary.com

6. **Jaz Jewels:** hammered wide brass hoops, $20; Etsy.com/shop/JazJewels

7. **Thank God I’m Natural:** Naturals sample pack, $19.99, Mariano’s, 40 S. Halsted; Thankgodimnatural.com

8. **Skin Deep Natural Body Care:** Jasmine gift set, $40; Sir & Madame, 938 N. Damen; Skindeepnaturalbodycare.com

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**1. The First Time I Sipped This Tea, I Fell in Love.**

The first time I sipped this tea, I fell in love. It’s a beautiful blush pink and it tastes like a sweet almond dessert.

**2. I’m Not Especially New-Agey, But I Do Believe That Crystals Have Special Energy.**

I’m not especially new-agey, but I do believe that crystals have special energy, and local jeweler and artist Fanta Celah does especially beautiful and unique work with crystals.

**3. This Is a Bright, Inspiring Spot Where You Can Get Amazing Manis and Pedis and Then Fill a Basket with Incredible Products Made Here in Chicago.**

This is a bright, inspiring spot where you can get amazing manis and pedis and then fill a basket with incredible products made here in Chicago. The refreshing scent and the texture of the scrub are perfect.

**4. Jasmin Mitchell Has an Elegant Yet Earthy Aesthetic. Her Brass Earrings Are Affordable, Unique, Classically Chic and Made Right Here in Chicago.**

Jasmin Mitchell has an elegant yet earthy aesthetic. Her brass earrings are affordable, unique, classically chic and made right here in Chicago.

**5. My Mother Adores This Century-Old Cologne and Merz Apothecary Is the Only Place I’ve Found That Sells It.**

My mother adores this century-old cologne and Merz Apothecary is the only place I’ve found that sells it.

**6. An Incredible Line for Both Body and Curly, Afro-Textured Hair Like Mine, I Love It!**

An incredible line for both body and curly, Afro-textured hair like mine, I love it! Created by local author and entrepreneur Chris-Tia Donaldson, the sample pack is a great way to figure out which product your hair will love the most.

**7. Heavenly Fragranced, Deeply Moisturizing and Effective Bath- and-Body Products Made by Chicago-Based Entrepreneur Dominique Covington. My Skin Needs This Stuff All Winter Long.**

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New SQ5 joins Audi’s S-Line with hot turbo

BY ANDY MIKIONIS
For Sun-Times Media

Since performance driving isn’t just for cars anymore, Audi has introduced a new variant of its mid-size Q5 crossover for the 2014 model year. It’s called the SQ5, and it’s the first time Audi has applied its S-Line treatment to a crossover.

At its heart is a supercharged gasoline V-6 engine, similar on paper to the other V-6 choice but turned up for extra horsepower. Audi quotes zero-to-60 miles per hour in a respectable 5.1 seconds, with a top track speed of 155 mph.

Exterior differences are fairly subtle compared to other Q5s. Subtle marks are the select grille bars or mirrors that are finished in grey, the small led highlights the S on the badge, S-Line brake calipers peeking out from larger brakes, the V6T badge on the fenders, and the lower sill treatment. Perhaps the rear view is the biggest giveaway, with meaty dual exhaust tips on either side.

The SQ5 also carries a distinctive LED light signature. S-Line Audis carry upgrades to the interior as well. The SQ5 gets a racing-style, flat-bottomed steering wheel with metallic-looking shift paddles, attractively leather wrapped with contrasting stitching. Gray-faced gauges with white needles are exclusive to the model. Leather seating is standard, but with two optional upgrade choices. The SQ5 also gets aluminum-trimmed pedals and shift knob, with some leather wrapping on the latter.

Sloped in between the Audi Q3 and Q7 crossovers, I liked the size of the Q5. It definitely offers some utility, with ample room for five passengers and a lot of cargo space, even without folding the rear seats down. For someone who needs the extra space, and likes the higher seating position, the Audi SQ5 adds some sport to the utility.

The engine definitely lets its presence be known, with a slight vibration at idle. Supercharged power comes on in a linear fashion, with a healthy growl when accelerating. Fuel mileage would probably not be the SQ5 buyer’s first concern. Still, with a combined city/highway mileage rating of 18 mpg, I found that reasonable and accurate based on my week with the SQ5.

Audi’s legendary Quattro all-wheel drive was a welcome addition to the SQ5. Our friends at Audi were thoughtful enough to shod the tester with 19-inch winter tires, a necessity since the SQ5 comes with standard summer tires. The properly-equipped SQ5 handled nuisance snow, sally and wet roads and changing conditions adeptly. Note the price as tested reflects optional 21-inch wheels, so the extra wheels and tires need to be budgeted in.

Overall, the vehicle felt solid and stable, delivering carlike handling. Speed-sensitive electromechanical power steering is well calibrated for confident turning, without feeling like you are in a top-heavy SUV. I even found the SQ5’s steering made it particularly easy to parallel park.

Luxury and technology features abound in the SQ5 tester. The MMI navigation plus package is one of the most high tech infotainment systems out there. It has online connectivity, which includes a Google earth overlay on the navigation display for a real picture of where you are driving. The knob and buttons that control the screen look architecturally clean and uncluttered. I was pleased to see a CD player was still there, and with an additional Bang & Olufsen upgrade the SQ5 had a great-sounding audio system. One more shout out to a great tech solution: a tiny strobe light on the edge of the mirror that briefly flashes is one of the most effective blind spot warnings out there.

2014 AUDI SQ5 QUATTRO TIPTRONIC

ENGINE: 354-horsepower, 3.0-liter V-6
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TODRIVE | THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2014

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#H32030

NEW 2014 HYUNDAI SANTA FE SPORT AWD 2.4
#H4008B

NEW 2013 HYUNDAI VELOSTER STYLE PACKAGE
#H31676

07 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY
GREAT FOR THE FAMILY TRAVEL! LOW MILES, #H32018
$5,988*

10 TOYOTA COROLLA LE
AUTO, LOW MILES, #H31963A
$9,900*

08 HYUNDAI AZERA LIMITED
AUTO, LEATHER, SUNROOF, LOW MILES, EXTRA CLEAN, #H31441
$10,990*

12 KIA RIO 5 DR HATCHBACK
FULL POWER, MANUFACTURER'S SPECIAL, #H31974A
$11,988*

13 CHRYSLER 200
PWR, PW, SATE THOUSANDS SSSSS, PRE-DRIVEN, #H31398
$13,966*

08 NISSAN ROGUE SL
LEATHER, SUNROOF, CLEANEST IN CHICAGO! DON'T MISS OUT! #H40102A
$13,988*

12 HONDA CIVIC SI
SUNROOF, NAV, SUPER SPORTY, THIS IS FAST AND FURIOUS! #H31331
$17,988*

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$18,988*

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THIS ONE'S A REAL BEAUTY! SAVVY THOUSANDS, LOW MILES, BLK BEAUTY! #H31330
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11 CHEVY CAMARO R/S
LEATHER, NAV, Heads-Up Display, Only 9K Miles! #H31335
$21,966*

08 TOYOTA FJ CRUISER 4X4
AUTO, ALL POWER, ONLY 25K MILES, WOW! #H40038B
$22,990*

10 MERCEDES-BENZ C300
ALL THE Bells and Whistles, SUPER CLEAN, LOW MILES, #H31350A
$23,990*

12 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT TURBO
LEATHER, SUNROOF, NAVIGATION, WON'T LAST! #031945*
$24,988*

12 HONDA CR-V EXL
SUNROOF, LEATHER, NAV, SAVE THOUSANDS, #H31014
$25,966*

13 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE
LEATHER, SUNROOF, NAV, A REAL DIAMOND, POE-DRIVEN#H21325B
$27,988*

08 CADILLAC ESCALADE
AUTO, NAV, DVD, BLACK BEAUTY, WON'T LAST! #H31346
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Big Finish 2013
### Pre-Driven Year-End Sell-Off!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model Year</th>
<th>Make</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>VIN</th>
<th>MSRP</th>
<th>Payment Options</th>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Honda</td>
<td>Accord</td>
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<td>Venza</td>
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<td>Mercedes</td>
<td>Benz C300</td>
<td>C303054</td>
<td>$43,990</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Payment Options:
- $0 DOWN on OVER 300 PRE-DRIVEN!
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*Total down payment will be credited towards the purchase of a vehicle of equal or greater value. Must return vehicle within 100 miles, 72 hours and with no visible marks or scratches.**

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Caravans are predriven. *All prices plus tax, title, lic. & $164.30 doc. fee. $MSRP is for a new 2013 Grand Caravan & may not be the actual selling price within the trade area. 2) Source is Chrysler year to date. Vehicle availability based at press deadline and all vehicles subject to prior sale. Dealer not liable for typographical errors in this ad. See dealer for terms & conditions. Manufacturer incentives subject to change without notice & may affect dealer's selling price. Financing subject to credit approval & insurability. Some may not qualify. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Offers expire 3 days from pub.
### New 2014 Soul
Price: $12,990*

### New 2014 Rio
Price: $13,490*

### New 2013 Optima LX
Price: $17,884*

### Kia Used Car Specials
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- '06 Kia Rio $4,995
- '07 Scion tC $10,495
- '10 Nissan Altima $12,495
- '11 Kia Forte $12,495
- '11 Kia Soul $12,495
- '10 Dodge Avenger $12,995
- '12 Honda Civic LX $13,495
- '08 Toyota RAV4 $14,495
- '12 Kia Soul + $14,695
- '12 Mazda 5 Touring $14,995
- '12 Dodge Gr. Caravan $14,995
- '08 BMW 328xi $15,995
- '12 Honda Accord LX $17,495
- '10 Honda CR-V $20,995

### New 2014 Forte
Price: $15,990*

### New 2013 Sportage
Price: $19,264*

### New 2014 Sorento
Price: $19,690*

### New 2014 Cadenza
Price: $29,990*

### New 2013 Optima Hybrid LX
Price: $19,219*

### New 2014 Corolla L
Price: $14,797*

### New 2013 Camry LE
Price: $18,998*

### New 2014 Prius C
Price: $14,918*

### New 2014 Sienna L
Price: $22,991*

### New 2013 Highlander
Price: $23,992*

### Toyota Used Car Specials
- '06 Nissan Altima $14,993
- '05 Ford Taurus SE $16,695
- '04 VW Jetta Sedan $17,994
- '03 Toyota Avalon XL $18,694
- '09 Nissan Versa $19,992
- '08 Kia Sedona $19,992
- '05 Toyota Prius $18,993
- '10 Hyundai Elantra $19,695
- '06 Cadillac STS $19,993
- '09 Toyota Camry $10,991
- '09 Toyota Camry LE $10,991
- '05 Toyota Avalon $12,993
- '11 Toyota Camry $13,992
- '11 Mitsubishi Outlander Sport $13,993
- '08 Jeep Wrangler $21,992

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*All vehicles subject to prior sales. Offers to qualified buyers. * Plus tax, title, lic & 164.30 doc fee. 2) Off MSRP on select new models. +MSRP may not be actual selling price within trade area. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this ad. Offers end 1/4/14.
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“Storytelling is as old as the hills, but I first became aware of the scene when I arrived in Chicago in 1988,” says Lifeline’s Artistic Director Dorothy Milne, whose own group, Sweat Girls, appears this month. “Five or 10 years ago, a whole new generation of artists hit the scene and mainstream audience support swelled as people became more aware that this is a fun, accessible, intimate, hilarious and powerful form.” These days, all kinds of people are exercising their narrative muscles: writers, actors, even everyday individuals who’ve become enamored of the power to express themselves and connect with an audience that’s all ears.

This year’s line-up of participants includes the Asian-American outfit Stir-Friday Night; Write Club (two writers, two opposing ideas, seven minutes apiece, the audience picks a winner); and a slew of solo storytellers, including Liz Baudler, Andrew Reilly and Marsha Estell, who will deliver a piece she began crafting more than 20 years ago as a reaction to a health crisis. “It represents my journey from a young girl to the present,” says Estell. “I spent my whole life wanting to be somebody else, yearning to live in a more exotic place and time. Because the present sucked, especially when staring down a scary diagnosis. Revisiting was difficult, and I had to push myself to explore.”

“There’s a lot of universal in the personal,” says Milne. “Family friction, love gone wrong, assumptions shattered, discoveries made. We are perpetually surprised when someone gets up and tells a super specific story and we suddenly realize, ‘I have had that exact same experience, I am not as alone as I thought I was.’ It makes you want to turn and tell your stories to people around you, and to hear theirs.”
entertainment | MOVIES

IN CHARACTER WITH...

James Van Der Beek

The 'Labor Day' star on his 'Dawson's Creek' days and digging into his new role

BY LIZ CROKIN

T

hough James Van Der Beek hit it big in the late '90s as the angsty Dawson Leery on "Dawson's Creek," he couldn't be happier to have moved on from the high-school drama. "I don't have to do any more scenes in front of a locker," jokes Van Der Beek, 36. "It's complicated, because you have to do the combination, undo the lock, take books out and close the locker while you're acting — it's a technical nightmare."

His latest role couldn't be more of a departure from his days as a teen heartthrob: In "Labor Day," which will be widely released in January, Van Der Beek plays a police officer trailing Kate Winslet and Josh Brolin, who fall in love after Brolin, a convict, manipulates his way into Winslet's home. "It's an epic love story, at one point, with dark undertones," says Van Der Beek. Despite the heavy subject matter, Van Der Beek bonded immediately with his A-list co-stars. "[Kate and Josh] are major league. It was honestly the easiest job I've ever had," he says. "To be able to play in the sandbox was great."

Film, stripped: "Kate is a single mother raising a young boy. They meet a mysterious stranger in a store. The guy asks her for a ride, and he's at their house throughout Labor Day weekend. It's a complete change of genre. It has thriller elements. I don't want to ruin the ending. Jason Reitman always tells such a good story."

Role call: "I play a police officer who's just trying to do the right thing. My Uncle Bill is a police chief in New Jersey — I think I stole more from him than I realized. I talked to him about procedure and steps, asked how police officers go about things. It was a character that I felt I really knew how to play from the beginning ... I started working in theater at 16. In the beginning, I acted on pure instinct. I thought I'd invented all these techniques, but I later found out they'd all been invented. My process changes and depends upon what the character needs."

Chicago connection: "I love Chicago. My wife and I were there last year for an appearance. Chicago does Christmas right. It's really well done and tasteful, even at the airport. I love Walter Payton and Jim McMahon. I've just loved Jim's attitude and style of play since I was a kid, and he knows how to rock the shades wherever he goes."
New style >

Start the year off on a fashionable foot with Bucktown boutique Edith Hart. To thank customers for 2013, the shop is offering up to 25 percent off everything in store and online during the first two weeks of the new year, including pieces from Bec & Bridge, Cameo, Tbags, Woodleigh, DL1961 and Paper Crown. 1917 N. Damen, Edithhart.com

Culture club

Jan. 3 marks the first of Wicker Park/Bucktown's monthly Orange Dot First Fridays. Presented by the WPB Chamber of Commerce & SSA and hosted by the neighborhood's artists, designers and shops, Orange Dot First Friday will feature trunk shows, extended hours, performances and exhibitions that showcase local talent. Free, 5 p.m.-11 p.m.; Wickerparkbucktown.com

Party hits

Pump up the volume at your New Year's celebration and every party thereafter: Bose products are up to 15 percent off now through Jan. 4 at The Shops at North Bridge. 520 N. Michigan, Theshopsatnorthbridge.com

Bose SIE2i Sport headphones, orig. $149.99, on sale for $134.99 at Bose

Bec & Bridge Kate mesh dress, orig. $200, on sale for $150 at Edith Hart

How on earth do I choose just one? I look at 2013 as my year of new beginnings. Between a new love and a new job, I don't have just one favorite memory from 2013, but rather a whole collage of amazing memories that have surrounded me. I suppose my first day on "The View" encompasses both my new love and my new job, since Donnie made those first-day-of-work jitters disappear with his thoughtfulness and support.

So, this picture is my favorite memory of that special day when my two new beginnings crossed paths and reminded me just how great 2013 was!

Read Jenny's blog at ChicagoSplash.com.

Corey Schjoth: Beating cancer!
Angelic Orellana: When my son's teacher said to me your son is so ready for regular education! He may have autism but autism doesn't have him!!
Jamie Lee Moses: The day I got married to my best friend.
Tracy L.Bellows @ironone9: The night the Chicago Blackhawks won the Stanley Cup championship. Celebrating with all my good friends.
Eric Cox @EricBCox: quitting my 40+ hour bank job to be a stay at home dad and husband!

What's your favorite memory from 2013?

Tweet your response to @JennyMcCarthy and @Suntimes_Splash.
style | TRENDING NOW

BLOGGING BEAUTY

Patrice Grell Yursik, creator of Afrobellacom, shares the things that keep her life lovely


2. Fanta Celah: quartz ring, $40: Etsy.com/shop/fantacelah

3. Peeled Juice Bar: Spanking juice custom cleanse, starts at $99, 940 Church, Peeledchicago.com

4. Mojo Spa: Go Green face and body scrub, $15, 1468 N. Milwaukee; Mojospa.com

5. Mäurer & Wirtz: 4711 cologne, $6.95, Merz Apothecary, 17 E. Monroe; Merzapothecary.com


7. Thank God I'm Natural: Naturals sample pack, $19.99, Marianos, 40 S. Halsted; Thankgodimnatural.com

8. Skin Deep Natural Body Care: Jasmine gift set, $40, Sir & Madame, 938 N. Damen; Skindeepnaturalbodycare.com

"The first time I sipped this tea, I fell in love. It's a beautiful blush pink and it tastes like a sweet almond dessert."

"This is a bright, inspiring spot where you can get amazing manis and pedis and then fill a basket with incredible products made here in Chicago. The refreshing scent and the texture of the scrub are perfect."

"Jasmin Mitchell has an elegant yet earthy aesthetic. Her brass earrings are affordable, unique, classically chic and made right here in Chicago."

"An incredible line for both body and curly, Afro-textured hair like mine, I love it! Created by local author and entrepreneur Chris-Tia Donaldson, the sample pack is a great way to figure out which product your hair will love the most."

"The juices by Evanston-based Peeled Juice Bar are all super-delicious and nutritious. They’ll deliver your juice cleanse almost anywhere in Chicago or the suburbs."

"My mother adores this century-old cologne and Merz Apothecary is the only place I've found that sells it."

"Heavenly fragranced, deeply moisturizing and effective bath- and-body products made by Chicago-based entrepreneur Dominique Covington. My skin needs this stuff all winter long."
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Mix and mingle with Kerry, Current and past Cub players and a variety of local Chicago celebrities as they get behind the bar to serve you and raise funds for the Wood Family Foundation!

**WOODY’S WINTER WARM-UP**

**A CELEBRITY MIXER**

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8 PM UNTIL 11:30 PM

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INDIVIDUAL TICKET • $150
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Three Dots and a Dash

NEW YEAR'S EVE

9:00 PM 'TIL 2:00 AM

FOR TICKETS AND TABLE INFORMATION,
CALL 312.610.4220 OR
VISIT THREEDOTSCHIAGO.COM

435 N CLARK ST. • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
312-610-4220 • THREEDOTSCHIAGO.COM
By Diane Spivak

The Shrine of Christ’s Passion invites visitors to walk the way Jesus walked to Calvary nearly 2,000 years ago.

Less than an hour from Chicago in St. John, Ind., the shrine offers visitors the opportunity to follow the Way of the Cross, contemplating 40 life-sized bronze sculptures on the half-mile journey.

Sit with Jesus at the Last Supper, stand with him before Pontius Pilate and relive Christ’s Passion as he falls under the burden of his wooden cross.

Each interactive setting along the path is equipped with a listening station, featuring commentary by veteran Chicago news anchor Bill Kurtis. Additionally, 180 speakers play background music throughout the illuminated pathway, which is open year-round, weather permitting.

Carved out of a farmer’s field, the site has the look of the Holy Land, which has been re-created with plantings and boulders. The concrete path winding through the setting is easily accessible to the disabled. There are places to sit and rest or reflect along the way, and volunteers are available for assistance.

Conveniently located on U.S. 41, the shrine is easy to spot by its 33-foot, 4-ton stainless steel statue of the Virgin Mary, named Our Lady of the New Millennium, which found a permanent home in St. John in 2011 after traveling throughout Chicago since 1999.

Also on site is a gift store stocked with thousands of religious articles and books. Admission is free, though donations are accepted.

For more information call 219-365-6010 or go to shrineofchristspassion.org.

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Predicting the hot food trends of 2014

BY MELISSA ELSMO
OUT OF MEL'S KITCHEN

The time has come to dust off my culinary crystal ball and predict the great food trends of 2014. It will take 12 full months to see if I am even close to right, but you can always help a girl out by drinking a retro gin cocktail, cooking up some collard greens and hoarding a little hot sauce!

Hyper Local Menu Ingredients: Backyard gardens, beehives and chicken coops are more popular than ever and I'm betting restaurants will begin harvesting their own homegrown vegetables and herbs from rooftop gardens and greenhouses with increasing frequency in 2014.

Scandinavian Fare: Look for Danish spherical pancakes known as aebleskivers to begin popping up on menus as well as creative riffs on gravlax, Swedish meatballs and pickled herring. Embracing the cold climate ingredients of Nordic countries will offer chefs a host of new flavors and techniques to share with their eager guests. And trust me, your life will be better with lefse in it.

The Elevated Grilled Cheese: Get ready to indulge in ooey-gooey grown-up versions of this American classic. Ditch the plastic wrapped cheese singles in favor of artisan breads, handmade cheeses and a host of creative garnish options.

Coconut Oil: Sure, this trendy oil is controversial because of its high saturated fat content, but thanks in part to the popularity of the Paleo diet, coconut oil is making its way onto mainstream market shelves. The solid oil has a high smoke point, making it an ideal choice for pan-frying foods.

Sriracha: Thanks to a court ruling, a major Huy Fong foods factory has halted production and folks are hoarding “rooster sauce” in the face of a potential Sriracha shortage. Passionate Sriracha lovers are sure to go looking for alternatives when their stockpiles run out; creative cats may even dabble in making a homemade version.

Diabetes Awareness: Vegetarian and heart-healthy fare have made their way onto mainstream menus and restaurants are warming to gluten-free fare, but with more than 25 million diabetics living in America, local eateries will surely be cooking up more sugar-free menu options.

Old Tom Gin: With pre-Prohibition era cocktails surging in popularity, mixologists are certain to clamor for the sweet citrus notes of old-school gin in 2014. Logan Square hot-spot Scofflaw peddles their own brand of locally made Old Tom Gin, a sweeter version of London dry gin and perfect for use in a classic Tom Collins.

Not Kale: No one can deny the benefits of this dynamic super food, but enough is enough — it’s time to give collard greens their moment in the sun instead. Thanks to their ability to adapt to multiple cooking methods and their high levels of fiber and potassium, collards will enjoy a surge in popularity in 2014.

Homemade Kimchi: Piggybacking on the recent pickling and canning trends, the popularity of fermented fare is on the rise. A stinky blend of inexpensive and readily available ingredients, kimchi is lauded for its digestive health benefits and addictive flavor.

Ears and Tails: The nose-to-tail movement is here to stay and restaurants will continue to push foodie aficionados to embrace whole-hog cooking by offering approachable dishes featuring crispy pigs ears and braised tails.

To keep me honest, here are the 2013 predictions I made:

- Cauliflower: This versatile veggie will emerge from behind broccoli's shadow.
- Mussels: Mussels deliver big flavor without breaking the bank.
- Nose to tail at home: Increased environmental awareness will help home cooks address their food waste issues.
- Friendly lighting for social media food photos: I predict upscale restaurants will reluctantly embrace this trend by adjusting their lighting to accommodate no-flash photography.
- Hold the meat; pass the veggie: Thanks in part to the continued efforts by our First Lady, it stands to reason that 2013 will be the year of the vegetable.
- Eggs: Considering our newfound love for chickens, tireless devotion to breakfast and a desire for alternative protein sources, egg cookery will be big.
- Restaurant romance: Communal tables are still all the rage, but look for the return of two tops and individual entries.
- Mainstream Banh Mi: Vietnamese and French flavors fuse in this meat, mayonnaise and vegetable-laden savory sandwich.
- Tequila: Due to the rising numbers of folks restricting gluten in their daily diets, tequila-based cocktails will be all the rage.
- Befriending local chefs: As responsible sourcing becomes ever more important to diners, we will know the local chefs who create the food we eat.
HAVARTI GRILLED CHEESE WITH KIMCHI AND 'SRIRACHA' DIPPING SAUCE

These sandwiches embrace a multitude of 2014 trends without suffering an identity crisis. (Makes 6 sandwiches.)

I loaf French bread with sesame seeds, cut into 12, 1/2-inch thick slices
6 ounces Danish Havarti cheese, cut into 12 slices
3 scallions, thinly sliced
1/2-2 cups hot or mild kimchi
1 Gala apple, halved and thinly sliced
1 Bartlett pear, halved and thinly sliced
3 tablespoons butter, melted

For the sauce:
3/4 cup mayonnaise
1/2 cup homemade sriracha
1/4 cup chopped cilantro

Sandwich 2 slices of cheese, a sprinkling of scallions, about 2 tablespoons of kimchi and some apple and pear slices between two slices of bread. Brush the outside of the bread with the melted butter and grill the sandwiches until golden brown and cheese has melted. Mix the sauce ingredients and serve alongside the warm grilled cheese sandwiches.

Sriracha (sort of)

This sauce doesn't taste exactly like the beloved rooster sauce, but a homemade version offers enough complexity to best most bottled hot sauces. (Makes about 3 cups.)

15-25 serrano chili peppers
4 tablespoons canola oil (divided)
2 medium sweet onions cut into rings
1/2 cup sliced lemongrass (the tender portion of 1 large stalk)
2-inch piece of fresh ginger, peeled and roughly chopped
6-8 medium garlic cloves, peeled and left whole
2 medium red peppers, roasted, peeled, seeds and stems removed
1 1/2-ounce can tomato puree
1 8-ounce can tomato sauce
1/3 cup white vinegar
1/4 cup sugar

Halve the serrano chilies lengthwise and remove the stems and seeds from the peppers. Roughly chop the chilies and set aside.

Heat two tablespoons of the canola oil in a large heavy bottomed sauce pan until smoking. Add the onion rings and season with salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, for about 8 minutes or until onions are soft. Reduce heat to medium and add the lemon grass, ginger and garlic to the onions. Cook the mixture, stirring constantly, for about 30 seconds or until fragrant.

Transfer the onion mixture to a food processor. Add the roasted red peppers and process until a wet paste forms. Set aside.

Heat the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil in same pot and add the chilies. Cook the chilies, stirring occasionally, for 2 minutes. Add the onion paste, tomato puree, tomato sauce, vinegar and sugar. Simmer the sauce for 30 minutes and season to taste with salt and pepper.

Transfer the sauce to a blender and process until smooth. Store sauce for up to 3 weeks in the refrigerator.
Movies to cure the winter blahs

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

We've been spoiled the last couple of months with movie studios trotting out the good stuff with at least one eye on the Oscars. But, as usual, the good stuff is in limited supply.

Now we're heading into the winter doldrums, the traditional Hollywood dumping ground for projects that didn't quite live up to expectations. So here are a few recommendations for stay-at-home options and upcoming multiplex fare.

The past

"Groundhog Day" — What better way to compensate for winter than by watching Harold Ramis' classic existential comedy, with obnoxious weatherman Bill Murray reliving the same day over and over until he gets it right?

"Venus" — You could honor the memory of the recently departed Peter O'Toole by checking out any number of his fine performances, from "Lawrence of Arabia" to "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" to "My Favorite Year," but my personal choice would be this touching 2006 drama about an aging actor taking a young woman under his wing.

"Blood Simple" — Look way back to the Coen brothers' very first effort — an ultra-stylish and harrowing murder saga that pumped new blood into film noir.

The present

"The Guild: Complete Megaset" — Each episode is only a few minutes long, but creator/star Felicia Day's online sitcom about a "guild" of online gamers is definitely smart and funny. It's also available online, of course.

"The Rutles: Anthology" — If you're looking for something a little more vintage, Monty Python expat Eric Idle's 1978 Beatles parody (aka "All You Need Is Cash") is always good for an idiotrous laugh. And this anthology package also includes the 2002 "Rutles 2: Can't Buy Me Lunch."

"The Hunt" — Or, if you're in the mood for something with no laughs at all, try this devastating Danish drama about a man (Mads Mikkelsen of TV's "Hannibal") who won Best Actor at Cannes) who's suddenly spurned by an entire community when he's unjustly accused of molesting a child.

The future

"I, Frankenstein" (Jan. 24) — There's no telling how writer/director Stuart Beattie's action-fantasy update of the horror classic will turn out, but Beattie wrote the spiffy Tom Cruise thriller "Collateral."

"Labor Day" (Jan. 31) — Consider this drama about a single mom (Kate Winslet) and her teenage son, who become involved with a wounded escaped convict (Josh Brolin). Why? Because it was written and directed by Jason Reitman ("Juno," "Thank You for Smoking" and "Young Adult").

"The Monuments Men" (Feb. 7) — Written and directed by George Clooney, this World War II action drama about a platoon of art historians and museum curators tracking down stolen masterpieces behind German lines was originally scheduled for a Christmas release before being squeezed out of the trough.
Warm up with Earth Tales on a cold night

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
For Sun-Times Media

There may be a chill in the air but families will get a warm feeling when they gather around a cozy campfire for “Earth Tales from Around the World” at the Morton Grove Historical Museum. The storytelling event focuses on Michael J. Caduto’s book, 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10 at the museum grounds in Harrer Park, 6240 Dempster St.

“Many of the stories will come from this book because two of the themes that we’re focusing on in 2014 are the earth and conservation,” said Museum Curator Mary Busch. “These tales originate from over 40 countries with connections to the earth.”

The local storytellers who are participating aren’t limited to stories from Caduto’s book, however. Participants will have a chance to warm-up between tales. “We’ll take some nice breaks,” Busch reported. “We’ll have hot chocolate and treats inside our education center.”

The local storytellers who are participating aren’t limited to stories from Caduto’s book, however. Participants will have a chance to warm-up between tales. “We’ll take some nice breaks,” Busch reported. “We’ll have hot chocolate and treats inside our education center.”

Admission is free. Advance registration is encouraged.
For details, call (847) 965-0230 or go to www.mortongroveparks.com.

PARTY ON

Who says you have to stop celebrating the New Year at midnight on Dec. 31? The Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., will host a Family Night Storytime: New Year’s Celebration, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9. Kids ages 3-8, and their families, will make party hats, eat snacks and celebrate the New Year. Pajama-wearing is encouraged. Registration is required.
For details, call (847) 677-5777 or go to www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org.

WOLF CALL

Hockey-loving kids can meet Cade Fairchild of the Chicago Wolves, 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8 in the Activity Room at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. There will be giveaways of Wolves logo gear.
For details, call (847) 965-4220 or go to www.mgpl.org.

SUCCESS IS A ROYAL MESS!

Kids ages 2-6 will be treated like royalty at Fairytale Fantasy with Make-a-Messtpiece, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4 at the Book Market at Hangar One, 2651 Navy Blvd., the Glen, Glenview. Kids will decorate crowns, enjoy a storytelling/puppet show and participate in a regal coronation. The drop-in event is free.
For details, call (847) 729-7500 or go to www.glenviewpl.org.
Going to the spa is so 2013. So this year, get gorgeous with these at-home spa recipes that will make your skin soft, smooth and beautiful.

**Edible Mud Mask**

This recipe comes from Gabby W. of the website “Essentially Eclectic,” www.essentiallyeclectic.com. The yogurt and buttermilk exfoliates and soothes the skin while the honey and cocoa adds moisture so your skin feels rejuvenated. If you have sensitive skin, Gabby recommends trying this mask on a small section of your arm or leg first just to make sure you don’t have a bad reaction.

**You need:**
- 2-3 Tablespoons Greek yogurt
- 1 Teaspoon cocoa powder (unsweetened)
- 1 Teaspoon buttermilk
- ½ Banana (mashed)
- 1 Teaspoon honey
- 1 Teaspoon fresh-squeezed lemon juice

Mix ingredients in a blender until well combined. Apply mask to clean, dry face. Leave on 15-20 minutes; then rinse with cool water.

Note: Lemon juice is optimal for oily skin, so if your skin is on the dry side, replace the lemon juice with an extra teaspoon of honey.

**Vanilla Body Scrub**

This recipe comes courtesy of Beth Nielsen, Chief Culinary Officer of Nielsen-Massey (and the founder's granddaughter). It's an elegant and delicious way to slough off dry, scaly skin.

**You need:**
- 1 Cup pure vanilla sugar* 

Mix ingredients and store in an airtight container. Apply a small amount of scrub to damp skin while in the shower or bath. Rinse thoroughly.

*To make your own “vanilla sugar,” combine 2 cups sugar with the black, gooey insides of one whole vanilla bean. Stir thoroughly and store in an airtight container for 1-2 weeks before use.

**Kool Lip Balm**

I love this recipe that comes from Stephanie Dull (Stephaniedull.com) because it’s an effective and tasty lip balm and can also make a great gift for your favorite tween or teen.

**You need:**
- Coconut oil (available at most grocery stores)
- Powdered Kool Aid (Fruit Punch or Cherry)

Warm jar of coconut oil, by placing it in a pot of warm water. Do not microwave.

In a mixing bowl, combine 2 parts coconut oil to one part powdered Kool Aid (add more powder depending on desired color).

Allow time to cool and solidify before spooning mixture into an empty lip balm jar or airtight container.

**Fragrant Leg Rub**

Improve the look and feel of your legs with this recipe courtesy of Christine Candelaria (www.theums.com). She uses this “rub” on her legs morning and night and has seen a marked improvement since first starting the regime in August. Candelaria buys her oils at a local health food store, but you can also find these oils in the “health” aisle at Whole Foods and other grocery stores/apothecaries.

**You need:**
- 2 Tablespoons almond oil
- 3 Drops lavender oil
- 3 Drops cypress oil
- 2 Drops orange oil

Mix oils together and store in an airtight container.

Run a small amount of oil mixture onto legs daily (morning and night).
Our Lady, Mother of the Church
7:30 p.m.: Our Lady, Mother of the Church presents Gian-Carlo Menotti’s holiday opera, “Amahl and the Night Visitors.” Our Lady Mother of the Church, 8747 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. Call 773-625-3389, ext. 33.

Larry Coryell featuring Paul Worsico & Larry Gray with Fred Simon
8 p.m.: The guitarist master performs with a few other jazz musicians. Doors open at 7 p.m. Evanston SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Call 866-777-8932. $20-$34.

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

Our Lady, Mother of the Church
7:30 p.m.: Our Lady, Mother of the Church presents Gian-Carlo Menotti’s holiday opera, “Amahl and the Night Visitors.” Our Lady Mother of the Church, 8747 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. Call 773-625-3389, ext. 33.

LARRY CORYELL FEATURING PAUL WORSICO & LARRY GRAY
Larry Coryell, the renowned jazz guitarist, performs with Paul Worsico and Larry Gray. The trio will bring their unique style to the stage, showcasing their mastery of the instrument and their ability to create harmonious melodies. This event promises to be an unforgettable musical experience, perfect for jazz enthusiasts and novices alike.

SATURDAY, JAN. 4
Skokie Art Guild
9:30 a.m.: The group offers figure drawing workshops every Saturday. There are live models but no instructor. Skokie, Skokie. Call 847-673-4450, 50% per session; $12 for guild members.

Three Kings’ Day Photo Op
10 a.m.: Celebrate the Christmas of Latin America by taking photos with the three kings. Evanston Public Library - Main Branch, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston. Call 847-446-8858.

New Release Movie: ‘The Great Gatsby’
2 p.m.: In 1922, a woman who feels herself to be a mermaid meets a ship’s carpenter. Saoirse Ronan, Emma Watson and Saoirse Ronan. 125 minutes. Call 847-677-7761. $15.

Just Because
3:30 p.m.: Kids in grades 3-5 have fun at this event. Lincolnwood Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-9123.

Jazz, Gelato and Jam Session
8 p.m.: Held on the first Saturday of each month, this event features music from the house band. Visitors also are welcome to bring their own instruments. Via Gelato, 1853 Tower Drive, Glenview. Call 947-729-7088.

The Mark Cleveland Band
3 p.m.: The group of veteran Chicago musicians perform. The Celtic Knot Public House, 262 Church St., Evanston. Call 847-864-1679.

NEW YEAR KICK OFF SHOW
8 p.m.: A smooth jazz performance by guitarist Steve Oliver and saxophonist Jessy J. InterContinental O’Hare Hotel and Gallery, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. $49-$59.

Ezra Furman

TRIVIA NIGHT
8 p.m.: Winners receive gift cards. Specials include $4 Budweiser products and 50-cent wings. Buffalo Wild Wings, 7202 Carpenter Road, Skokie. Call 847-329-9333.

TUESDAY, JAN. 7
Men’s Club
9:30 a.m.: The group meets the first two Tuesdays of each month for breakfast. Cost is $2. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge.

Film: ‘The Place Beyond the Pines’
11:30 a.m.: A motorcycle stunt rider turns to robbing banks as a way to provide for his lover and their newborn child, a decision that puts him on a collision course with an ambitious rookie cop. Stars Ryan Gosling, Bradley Cooper, Eva Mendes and Ray Liotta. 141 minutes. Call 847-929-5101 or visit www.mgpl.org for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

Math Club
5 p.m.: Come to Math Club for tricks, tips and activities to help make math awesome. Registration required. For grades three to six. Morton Grove Public
GO CALENDAR


The Tuesday Ten Showcase 8 p.m.: A mix of ten headliners, including rising stars and surprise guests, perform stand-up. $10 and the purchase of at least two food or drink items. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont. Call 847-813-0484.


Natural Gas 8 p.m.: The improvisational group takes a suggestion from the audience and turns it into a show. The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Call 773-283-7071. $5.

Morning Matinee: 'The Ultimate Life' 10:30 a.m.: A screening of the 2013 drama about a billionaire who reevaluates his life after reading his grandfather's journal. 110 minutes. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood. Call 847-677-5277.

International Film Shorts 2 p.m.: A collection of international short films from a variety of genres including drama, comedy and animation. Call 847-929-5101 or visit www.mgpl.org for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

Afternoon at the Movies for Families 'Despicable Me 2' 2 p.m.: A screening of the 2013 animated movie about a reformed villain who is recruited to help stop a powerful new super criminal. 98 minutes. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood. Call 847-677-5277.

Minecraft After Hours 6:30 p.m.: Play Minecraft and eat pizza with friends. Registration required. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood. Call 847-677-5277.


Big Band Dance 2 p.m.: Spend Sunday afternoon dancing to some of the top music of the 1940s and 1950s. Door prizes will be available and the Park District of Franklin Park will offer a raffle, light snacks and soda. Cash bar. Centre at North Park, 10040 W. Addison Ave., Franklin Park. Call 847-928-8478. $10.

TUESDAY, JAN. 14

Feature Film: 'The Way Way Back' 2 p.m.: Watch the 2013 film about a shy teenager who has a difficult time fitting in while on vacation with his mom and her boyfriend. 104 minutes. A second showing begins at 7 p.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Homebrewing Club: Brew Day 10 a.m.: The club meets to brew their January beer. Must be 21 or older to attend. Elmwood Park Public Library, 5 W. Centi Parkway, Elmwood Park. Call 708-453-7645.


Big Band Dance 2 p.m.: Spend Sunday afternoon dancing to some of the top music of the 1940s and 1950s. Door prizes will be available and the Park District of Franklin Park will offer a raffle, light snacks and soda. Cash bar. Centre at North Park, 10040 W. Addison Ave., Franklin Park. Call 847-928-8478. $10.


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Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts battle in 'August: Osage County''

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

Playwright Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning family-trauma drama is set in Oklahoma, but, just to be clear, this is not the all-singing, all-dancing version of the Sooner State. It's the all-scaping, all-harrowing, all-emotionally suffering alternative.

So, it's fortunate that "August: Osage County" is so often wickedly, acerbically funny as well.

Letts' story, which debuted at Steppenwolf Theatre before transferring to its 2007 Tony-winning Broadway run, concerns several generations of the extraordinarily unhappy Weston family. To whom we are given a brief introduction as kindly family patriarch Beverly Weston (Sam Shepard) briefs the caretaker he has hired to look after his wife Violet (Meryl Streep), who has cancer of the mouth—a symbolic affliction in her case, given her poisonous tongue. Bev's a soft-spoken, alcoholic, retirement-age poet and Vi's a sardonic, foul-mouthed, pain pill-addicted bully. All of the children, except one, have run as far away as they can go.

That's the cheery status quo until Beverly abruptly disappears and drowns himself, precipitating a highly reluctant family reunion. Soon, Vi's sister Mattie Fae (Pargo Martindale), her husband Charlie (Cooper), the Weston daughters Ivy, Karen and Barbara (Julianne Nicholson, Juliette Lewis and Julia Roberts) and their nervous significant others have gathered for the search—then the funeral. And Vi is making up for lost time by inflicting narcotized abuse on the children she so rarely has the chance to see.

Vi is a scenery-chewing, skull-crusher of a role, so it's not surprising that Streep sinks all 32 teeth into her, eliciting a certain amount of sympathy for the obviously damaged character without diluting her essential nastiness. Vi is so overpowering, in fact, that "August" might be too painful to sit through if it weren't for the presence of her embittered, equally tough daughter Barbara (Roberts, also a powerhouse). Barbara gives as good as she gets, leading to a power shift that might have been the climax of any normal-scale drama.

But there's still a lot more anguish to be uncorked in Osage County. You could make a case for this movie version feeling a little stage-bound from time to time, but when the dialogue's this good, who cares? And it's so overbearing, in fact, that "August" might be too painful to sit through if it weren't for the presence of her embittered, equally tough daughter Barbara (Roberts, also a powerhouse). Barbara gives as good as she gets, leading to a power shift that might have been the climax of any normal-scale drama. But there's still a lot more anguish to be uncorked in Osage County.

You could make a case for this movie version feeling a little stage-bound from time to time, but when the dialogue's this good, who cares? You might also make a case for the whole thing being gussied up soap opera as one explosive Weston family secret after another is revealed. "August" certainly doesn't play that way, though, thanks to terrific writing by Letts. The Westons also have a nice way with the occasional philosophical remark. As when Mattie Fae, after one of the story's more shocking and sorrowful revelations, says, "Thank God, we can't tell the future; we'd never get out of bed."
The Evening Rush

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FILM CLIPS

OPENING FRIDAY

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

★★★ 1/2
Rated R for language including sexual references, and for drug material
Stars: Meryl Streep, Chris Cooper, Julia Roberts, Sam Shepard, Margo Martindale

There’s not much hope for any family reunion occasioned by a suicide, but the prospects are particularly bleak for the aggressively unhappy Weston clan — featuring three generations of Oklahoma women who can barely stand the sight of each other. It’s a real family-trauma horror show, but the amazing thing is how much scathing humor the get-together generates in this all-star adaptation of Chicago playwright Tracy Letts’ Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning play, without sacrificing an iota of dramatic oomph. Streep gives a predictably powerhouse performance as the cancer-stricken, pain pill-addicted, dragon-lady matriarch Vi, who turns abuse into an art form.

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE MARKED ONES

Rated R for pervasive language, some violence, graphic nudity and some drug use
Stars: Molly Ephraim, Andrew Jacobs, Crystal Santos

The same demon that possessed the last couple of protagonists in the series targets a young California man (Jacobs), Christopher Landon (son of TV legend Michael Landon) wrote and directed this installment in the horror franchise.

HER

★★★★
Rated R for language, sexual content and brief graphic nudity
Stars: Joaquin Phoenix, Amy Adams, Scarlett Johansson, Kristen Wiig

A remarkable thing about this extraordinary film from director Spike Jonze (“Being John Malkovich,” “Adaptation”) is how perfectly natural it begins to seem that a man (Phoenix) could fall deeply in love with the voice of his computer’s operating system (Johansson). And vice-versa. Jonze’s subtle, brilliantly detailed story (which ruminates about the nature of existence and the definition of true love while it explores our increasing obsession with virtual reality) drags a bit toward the end, but it’s never less than fascinating. You may never look at a movie romance in quite the same way ever again.

GRUDGE MATCH

★★★
Rated PG-13 for sports action violence, sexual content and language
Stars: Robert De Niro, Sylvester Stallone, Kevin Hart, Kim Basinger, Alan Arkin

This high-concept contrivance that pits retirement-age Rocky against Raging Bull in the ring, is actually a lot of fun, thanks to the willingness of its two stars to take a few shots at themselves as well as each other. De Niro and Stallone are aging boxers: The Kid and The Razor (a colossal jerk à la “Raging Bull” and a big sweet lug à la “Rocky”), who get another shot at a grudge match that failed to happen 30 years earlier. Arkin is a major plus (as usual) as The Razor’s even older trainer.

THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITY

★★★ 1/2
Rated PG for some crude language, action violence
Stars: Ben Stiller, Kristen Wiig, Adam Scott, Shirley MacLaine, Sean Penn

This visually spectacular update of the James Thurber classic is something to see, for sure, even if it doesn’t provide a whole lot to think about beyond its promotional tagline “Stop dreaming; start living.” Altering the spirit of Thurber’s 1939 story, like the 1947 Danny Kaye version, the plot turns the imaginary heroics of its hero into the real thing. Director/star Stiller’s “Walter Mitty” is a meek Life magazine photo archivist searching for a missing negative from danger-loving photojournalist Penn to impress the girl of his daydreams. But it’s the daydreams, given epic dimensions via fantastically imaginative CGI effects, that provide the most satisfaction.

THE WOLF OF WALL STREET

★★★ 1/2
Rated R for sequences of strong sexual content, graphic nudity, drug use and language, and some violence
Stars: Leonardo DiCaprio, Jonah Hill, Matthew McConaughey, Margot Robbie

Having celebrated art and artists in his previous movie, “Hugo,” Martin Scorsese turns his attention in “The Wolf of Wall Street” to the creative criminal and the hustling, hand-over-fist money-grabbing that makes Oliver Stone’s “Wall Street” pale in terms of pure, unadulterated greed. DiCaprio is impressive as stockbroker Jordan Belfort, who rocketed to spectacular wealth in the 1990s before going to prison for securities fraud and money laundering — and had a lot of despicable, uncomfortably infectious fun doing it.
THE MIDWEST PREMIERE OF
PORT AUTHORITY

BY CONOR MCPHERSON
DIRECTED BY WILLIAM BROWN

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Shabbat Service – Saturdays 9:15 AM  
Jr Congregation, Tot Shabbat,  
Torah Time 10:30 AM  
Followed by Kiddush  
Daily Minyan AM and PM  
Rabbi Annie Tucker  
Cantor Pavel Roytman  
Rabbi Michael Cohen, Ed. Dir. |

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**To showcase your House of Worship here call 630-978-8277 or worship@PioneerLocal.com**
YOUR Local Worship Guide

CHICAGO

Edison Park Lutheran Church
6626 N. Oliphant Ave. Chicago, IL
(Across park from Edison Park Metra)
773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com
Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor
Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry
Matt Haider, Worship / Music
Michael Lyda, Children/Youth/Family

St. Paul Lutheran Church
5650 N. Canty Ave, Chicago, IL
1708) 867-5044. www.stpaulcanfield.org
Street Level, Air Conditioned
Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45AM
Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30AM
Saturday Worship 6PM

Lutheran Unity School - West
Pre K-Grade 8, SHARING GOD.
TOUCHING LIVES EVERYWHERE

Norwood Park Lutheran Church
5917 N. Nina Ave Chicago, IL
P: 773.631.2860
F: 773.631.0142
www.norwoodparklutheran.org
Worship Services
Sundays
At
10:00 am

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

CHICAGO

United in Faith Lutheran Church
6525 W Irving Park Road
773-263-2326 • www.unitedinfith.org
Sunday
8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Praise & Worship Service
Tuesday - 7:00 PM Bible Study
Rev. Lester White
Handicapped Accessible
ALL ARE WELCOME!

GLENVIEW

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

NILES

St. John Lutheran Church (LCMS)
7429 N. Milwaukee Ave.
847-647-9867
www.stjohn-niles.org
Preaching Christ crucified
for your forgiveness
Welcoming traditional worship
Sanctuary Handicap accessible
Sunday Worship at 9:30
Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45
Rev. Matthew Joseph Gunia, Pastor
"For whenever our heart condemns us,
God is greater than our heart ...."
-1 John 3:20

MORTON GROVE

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

St. John Lutheran Church
300 W. Crescent Ave.
847-823-4135
Sunday Service: 10:00 am
Children's programming for pre-k - 7th grade,
Nursery service for younger children
8:45 am Confirmation classes for 8th grade
9:00 am High School
Adult Education Bible Study Sunday 11:30 am
Adult Education Bible Study Thursdays 6:30 pm
"Open Forum" Adult Learning First Thursday
every month 6:30 pm
www.parkridgepresby.org
Like us on Facebook
Rev. Caryle Ailken Wilkie Pastor
Mr. Aaron Higashi Dir. of Youth &
Family Ministries
Mrs. Amy Schaetzlein Sunday School Dir.

NORWOOD PARK

St. Alban's Episcopal
Family-friendly church
for every kind of family.
Single? Partnered?
Spouse and kids?
6240 N. Avondale,
near Devon & Harlem
Communion every Sunday, 9:30
stalbanschicago.org

PARK RIDGE

Park Ridge Presbyterian Church
1300 W. Crescent Ave.
847-823-4135
Sunday Service: 10:00 am
Children's programming for pre-k - 7th grade,
Nursery service for younger children
8:45 am Confirmation classes for 8th grade
9:00 am High School
Adult Education Bible Study Sunday 11:30 am
Adult Education Bible Study Thursdays 6:30 pm
"Open Forum" Adult Learning First Thursday
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The family members you've entrusted to us have become part of our family and their care has been our sacred commitment for over 175 years.

Catholic Cemeteries
708-449-6100
www.CatholicCemeteriesChicago.org

The Catholic Cemeteries are here for you whenever the need arises. We are open for visitation 365 days a year.

Express Condolences

Sign the online Guest Book

For local community Death Notices visit pioneerlocal.com

Ask about our available Death Notice Emblems.
Call: 847-998-3400 (opt 6)
Express Condolences

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For local community Death Notices visit pioneerlocal.com

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Call: 847-998-3400 (opt 6)
**PUZZLES**

**SUPER CROSSWORD**

ACROSS
1. Shuttle
2. Sweeper, for short
3. Allegation
4. Shovel-nosed
5. Impudent
6. Anger
7. Burly
8. Mister, in Munster
9. Canine "Midnight Rider" singer?
10. Canine "Highway to Heaven" co-star?
11. Zippo lighter
12. Canine "On the Waterfront" Oscar winner?
13. "That's easy"
14. "Get him, tiger!"
15. "Neanderthal"
16. "Judge Dredd"
17. "Skip to it"
18. "Meet the Parents"
19. "Midnight Rider"
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**HOROSCOPES: JANUARY 8 — JANUARY 14**

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** Romantic aspects are high at this time for single Aries looking for love. Warm and fuzzy feelings also are at enhanced levels for those in relationships.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** This week favors what Taurus dote on — namely, love and money. Look for more meaningful relationships as well as an improved financial outlook.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** All lingering shreds of that recent bout with boredom are dissipated as you eagerly accept a challenging offer. Your positive mood persuades others to join you.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** You might need validation for a possible solution to a situation involving someone close to you. Consider asking a trusted friend or relative to help you.

**LEO (July 23 to August 22)** Investigate carefully before agreeing to assist a friend or colleague with a personal problem. There might be hidden factors that will create problems for you.

**VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** Your decision to work with an associate rather than go it alone, as you first proposed, brings an unexpected bonus. Be careful not to be judgmental.

**LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** A loved one's health problem could again make demands on your time and attention. This time, make some demands of your own, and insist that others help.

**SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** This is a good time for the traditionally staid Scorpio to plan adjustments in your day-to-day schedules. Be more flexible and allow off-the-cuff actions.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** Avoid creating unnecessary fuss over a situation you don't approve of. If it's going to work, it will do so despite your objections.

**CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** Working with a trusted colleague could open your mind to exploring some considerations you previously dismissed out of hand.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** Resolving a recent problem leaves you in a good position to strengthen your influence on how things get done. But continue to encourage ideas.

**PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** New friend suggests an interesting opportunity. Check it out before you snap at it. It might be a good deal for some people, but it might not work in helping you.
**CAR STORY**

>> We want to tell your car story. Email it to kevin.bargnes@wrapports.com.

**George Seamon’s Corvette**

By George Seamon

In 2009, I was single and wanted to fulfill a dream I had since 16: Buy a new Corvette and custom build it up.

I had the money for the payments. I couldn't logically rationalize buying the car. I spoke to my father, and he told me I worked hard and why not. The only advice he had was for him to go with me to ensure the best deal.

I knew I wanted the base model with the Z51 track package and automatic transmission. With this combination, I could add all of the combination of parts to make it into an extremely fast but still streetable rod.

I would discuss my ambitions of what to add and what not to add with my father almost daily. I tapped into his knowledge of the days of the old muscle cars and some of the successes and regrets he and his friends had with their various changes of cam, such as adding superchargers and rear ends.

My father passed away a few months later and only saw the beginning of my thoughts. He always had a smile on his face hearing the exhaust note of the car. I think he was able to relive some of his past days through me.

After just finishing my first round of add-ons, I met my future wife, Laura. After our marriage, she and I continued my dream with custom thoughts of her own. We enjoy the car together, going to shows and on trips. It has become our joint passion with a piece of both of us in almost every corner of the vehicle — and with memories of dad.
No change in auto sales

Overall car sales in Niles did not have a percent change in September on a month-over-month basis, as residents of Niles purchased one fewer car in September than in the previous month.

In the month of September, Toyota was the top-selling make to Niles residents with a total of 39 sales. The 39 Toyota sales in the month broke down into 18 new and 21 used. Ford and Nissan rounded out the top three makes in sales (both new and used) during the month with 38 and 22 sales, respectively.

The previous month, Toyota topped the overall auto sales chart for Niles residents with a total of 41 sales, followed by Ford (31 sales) and Chevrolet (23).

The breakdown of all auto sales in September was 43 percent new and 57 percent used. The top make bought new in the month was Toyota, while the top used make was Ford. The previous month, 62 percent of the 252 total auto purchases by residents were used vehicles. Ford was the top make bought used that month, while Toyota was the top brand purchased new.

In September, 68 percent of all car sales to Niles residents came through a local auto dealership, while this share was at 68 percent the previous month. The 68 percent mark in September translated to 171 total sales (and 80 private sales) originating at dealerships, versus 172 total dealer sales (80 private) one month earlier.

Auto dealers that sold the most vehicles to Niles residents in September included Golf Mill Ford, Bredemann Toyota and Star Nissan. One month earlier, Bredemann Toyota, Golf Mill Ford and O'Hare Hyundai sat atop the dealer chart selling to Niles residents.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Make</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeep</td>
<td>2006 Grand Cherokee Laredo 4x4</td>
<td>Super Low Miles Full Power, V8. A Great Buy! #14265A</td>
<td>$11,999</td>
<td>888-698-0893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chevy</td>
<td>2013 Camaro LT</td>
<td>Wow! Only 300 Miles Bluetooth, Satellite Ready! Must See! #13631A</td>
<td>$34,995</td>
<td>888-698-0893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford</td>
<td>2003 Thunderbird Premium</td>
<td>Super Low Miles Hatchback Convertible, One Owner! A Modern Classic #35078</td>
<td>$17,995</td>
<td>888-698-0893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeep</td>
<td>2008 Liberty Sport 4WD</td>
<td>Good Miles, Satellite Ready, Power Options, Ready For Winter! #14280A</td>
<td>$11,250</td>
<td>888-698-0893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chevy</td>
<td>2007 Silverado 1500 Classic</td>
<td>Super Low Miles Extended Cab, V8, Ready To Work! #14237A</td>
<td>$15,995</td>
<td>888-698-0893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford</td>
<td>2011 F-150 XLT 4WD</td>
<td>Super Cab, V8, nothing can stop you In This Truck! #14235A</td>
<td>$22,995</td>
<td>888-698-0893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dodge</td>
<td>2010 Journey SXT</td>
<td>Super Sharp Styling &amp; Excellent On Gas! #10660</td>
<td>$14,495</td>
<td>888-698-0893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volkswagen</td>
<td>2009 Routan SEL</td>
<td>Sunroof, 3rd Row Acoustic Package, A Great Deal! #10665</td>
<td>$16,799</td>
<td>888-698-0893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nissan</td>
<td>2012 Altima 2.5S</td>
<td>A Great Price On A Super Gas Saver! #34942</td>
<td>$16,995</td>
<td>888-698-0893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chevy</td>
<td>2013 Traverse LS</td>
<td>Satellite Ready, 3rd Row Acoustic Package, A Great Deal! #P10685</td>
<td>$15,995</td>
<td>888-698-0893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMC</td>
<td>2008 Sierra 1500 SLT 4WD</td>
<td>Low Miles, Extended Cab, Heated Mirrors, Get The Job Done! #34353</td>
<td>$22,995</td>
<td>888-698-0893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>2009 MKZ</td>
<td>Unbelievably Low Miles Heated Leather, Bluetooth, Very Sharp! #33847</td>
<td>$17,995</td>
<td>888-698-0893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toyota</td>
<td>2013 Camry LE</td>
<td>Low Miles, CD/MP3. Great MPG! This Won't Last! #34822</td>
<td>$12,495</td>
<td>888-698-0893</td>
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<td>Volkswagen</td>
<td>2008 Jetta Sedan</td>
<td>Sunroof, Leather &amp; More! Great On Gas! #53178</td>
<td>$11,400</td>
<td>866-960-7990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nissan</td>
<td>2007 Titan LE 4WD</td>
<td>Powerfull Crew Cab, V8. Ready For Anything! #56438</td>
<td>$18,200</td>
<td>866-960-7990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ford</td>
<td>2005 Mustang Premium</td>
<td>Super Low Mile CD Changer, Automatic Turn Heads In This Yellow Beauty! #35245</td>
<td>$10,995</td>
<td>888-698-0893</td>
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<td>Land Rover</td>
<td>2008 Range Rover Sport</td>
<td>Low Miles, Navigation, DVD &amp; More! All The Toys! #34002</td>
<td>$29,995</td>
<td>888-698-0893</td>
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<td>Toyota</td>
<td>2011 Camry</td>
<td>Bluetooth, Sunroof, Heated Leather &amp; More! Great Gas Saver! #3320A</td>
<td>$18,995</td>
<td>866-960-7990</td>
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<td>Volkswagen</td>
<td>2004 Passat Wagon GLX</td>
<td>Sunroof, Heated Mirrors, Premium Audio, One Owner, Family Ready! #35245</td>
<td>$9,995</td>
<td>888-698-0893</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hyundai</td>
<td>2011 Sonata Limited</td>
<td>Low Miles, Navigation, Back Up Camera &amp; More! All The Optional! #34041</td>
<td>$21,995</td>
<td>888-698-0893</td>
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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.
Area coaches talk point of emphasis for officials

Opinions vary about whether change in officiating is beneficial

BY DAN SHALUN
For Sun-Times Media, Waukegan

Ahead of the 2013-14 season, the Illinois High School Association announced that its referees in girls and boys basketball would make it a point to enforce existing rules limiting defensive contact.

The emphasis — which was initiated by the National Federation of State High School Associations — was designed to curb overly physical play, eliminate clutching and grabbing and to allow more freedom of movement among the offensive players. One major point of emphasis has been contact on the dribbler, commonly called hand-checking.

Enforcement of the rules, which is happening simultaneously in NCAA basketball, has led to some foul-filled games early in the season and mixed opinions among coaches.

A few local boys and girls coaches offered their thoughts on the matter.

What do you think about the decision to enforce these contact rules, specifically hand-checks?

Loyola boys coach Tom Livatino: I have no problem with the new emphasis on the hand-check. But making it a more offensive game, I don't know if I'm in favor of that being a by-product [of the rule]. But I think it's a pretty good rule and we should have more things in line with the college game, like the 35-second shot clock and moving the 8-point line back.

Niles North boys coach Glenn Olson: I think the game of basketball in Illinois was a great game, and still is, and I don't think we needed an overhaul of the rules. The game has evolved and is played off the dribble more. Athletes are better, and because of that there is a little more contact.

I think it was kind of targeting one area of the game, on-ball defense. That's just a small part of the physicality that goes on.

Loyola girls coach Jeremy Schoenecker: Personally, I think it's something that's causing the flow of the game to really not happen anymore. I get where they are coming from in terms of the hand-check, but I think it's hampered the game, as well.

New Trier boys coach Teri Rodgers: It's forced the kids to have to move their feet and not reach and not get lazy. From a coaching standpoint, it's really helpful, because you want your kids to do that anyway.

New Trier girls coach Dan Paxson: I have mixed reactions and will wait for the season to be over to really reflect on it. I know they want to open up the game, but if the three or four best offensive players are in foul trouble, then the [level] of the game is not going to be as high.

How do you feel about the way that decision was announced and how games are being officiated?

Schoenecker: There really wasn't any notification last year that they were trying to [focus on] this rule. They didn't even notify us in the summer. I only found out watching the IHSA rules video three or four weeks before the season began.

Paxson: I would have been helpful [if we had played under the rules] in the summer. The first five or six games [of the season], it seemed like coaching came down to managing fouls and trying to keep kids out of foul trouble. Recently, we've been staying out of foul trouble.

I do think it's important to protect the dribbler. But I'm getting mixed feedback about calls off the ball. Some referees are calling arm-barring [a cutter]. Others, say you can be physical off the ball.

How have you been forced to adjust in terms of the hand-checking?

Schoenecker: Personally, I think the game of basketball in Illinois was a great game, and still is, and I don't think we needed an overhaul of the rules. The game has evolved and is played off the dribble more. Athletes are better, and because of that there is a little more contact.

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I do think it's important to protect the dribbler. But I'm getting mixed feedback about calls off the ball. Some referees are calling arm-barring [a cutter]. Others, say you can be physical off the ball.

How have you been forced to adjust in terms of the hand-checking?

Schoenecker: Personally, I think the game of basketball in Illinois was a great game, and still is, and I don't think we needed an overhaul of the rules. The game has evolved and is played off the dribble more. Athletes are better, and because of that there is a little more contact.

I think it was kind of targeting one area of the game, on-ball defense. That's just a small part of the physicality that goes on.

Loyola girls coach Jeremy Schoenecker: Personally, I think it's something that's causing the flow of the game to really not happen anymore. I get where they are coming from in terms of the hand-check, but I think it's hampered the game, as well.

New Trier boys coach Teri Rodgers: It's forced the kids to have to move their feet and not reach and not get lazy. From a coaching standpoint, it's really helpful, because you want your kids to do that anyway.

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How have you been forced to adjust in terms of the hand-checking?
Mooney a marked man

With opposing defenses plotting to stop him, Dons junior looks to get teammates involved

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

WHEELING — Notre Dame junior guard Joe Mooney scored 31 points in his first game as a varsity starter for the Dons, and opposing defenses quickly started treating him like his older brother.

Mooney said opposing teams have guarded him very tight since that game. Matt Mooney, a 2013 Notre Dame graduate, received similar attention in his high school career. Defenders also have face-guarded Joe Mooney at times, trying to deny the Dons' best offensive player the ball. Joe Mooney said his older brother has been a great influence and a guide for him this season, and he has helped Joe Mooney deal with the defensive attention.

"You can't let it get in your head," Joe Mooney said when asked what type of advice his brother has given him. "Try to get other guys involved and make them pay. If they're going to face-guard you, try to kick to wide-open shooters. Try to kick to a big guy down low, move the ball and set screens for guys. There are going to be guys open if they're keying on you. ... Then, when you get the chance, you've got to attack. You've got to take advantage of every opportunity you get."

Joe Mooney's strengths are similar to his older brother's. Both are dead-eye 3-point shooters — one major difference is Matt Mooney is right-handed and Joe Mooney is left-handed — and both are deceptively quick and crafty off of the dribble, which provides an effective counter when a defender runs them off of the 3-point line.

While they garner similar attention from opposing defenses, a major difference between the two is their roles on their respective teams.

"If I'm comparing junior to junior, we're more dependent on Joe than we were Matt [in the 2011-2012 season]," Notre Dame coach Tom Les said. "We had better guys around Matt, which allowed him to get more opportunities, and he could share and look for his teammates more. We were not playing very well [in a 62-41 loss to Glenbrook South on Dec. 23], and Joe took it upon himself to do everything. Sometimes that can be a negative. Good players don't play well when they try to do too much."

Glenbrook South held Joe Mooney to 14 points on 6 of 16 shooting from the field in the opening round of the Wheeling Hardwood Classic, but he was electric three days later.

The junior hung a career-best 35 points on Maine West by shooting 11 of 15 from the field. Joe Mooney scored 16 points in the first half against the Warriors, but he was at his best in the fourth quarter when Les shifted him to point guard.

The Dons were in the bonus entering the fourth, so Les said he put the ball in Joe Mooney's hands because he is such a good free-throw shooter. Joe Mooney is shooting over 90 percent from the charity stripe this season, Les said.

Joe Mooney also is a skilled ball-handler that can attack the defense and either get to the rim or draw contact to get to the line.

He scored 17 points against the Warriors in the final quarter on Dec. 26. He started the fourth by nailing a 3-pointer, and then followed that by dribbling past two Maine West defenders for a left-handed layup. After Notre Dame senior Pat Dillon drained a 3-pointer, Joe Mooney drained a picturesque trifecta of his own when the Warriors' defense lost track of him for a split second.

Joe Mooney then split Maine West's pick-and-roll defenders and knifed into the lane for an and-one layup at the rim.

That sequence all took place within about the first three minutes of the fourth quarter, and he helped the Dons put the game away in the last five minutes by hitting a floater and cutting back door for an easy layup.

"I can't pass up open looks," Joe Mooney said. "I need to take advantage of every possession. I've always got to be in attack mode."
NILES NORTH

Off the mark

Practice has yet to correct Vikings' struggles at the free-throw line

By Eric Van Dril
For Sun-Times Media, @VanDrilSports

WHEELING — Glenn Olson has been the Niles North boys basketball coach for five seasons and he's been around the game much longer, yet he said he has never seen anything like the struggles the Vikings have had from the free-throw line this season.

Niles North is currently shooting about 40 percent from the line, Olson said after the Vikings went 3 of 12 in a 62-56 loss to Vernon Hills on Friday at the Wheeling Hardwood Classic.

Their struggles persist despite continuous work at the charity stripe, Niles North junior center Danillo Ranger said.

"We do repetition and we make it competitive," Ranger said of how Niles North works on its free-throw shooting in practice.

"We shoot when we're tired, so we'll run a little bit and then shoot free throws. That's what [the key] is — you've got to shoot when you're tired — and right now they're not falling. I honestly can't pinpoint why it is they're not going down for us."

Niles North spends a large amount of time working on its shooting in practice.

The Vikings shoot from about 7-7:30 a.m. in the morning — Ranger said before-school shooting sessions can last until 7:45 a.m. — and free throws are often a focus during that time.

Ranger added that the Vikings also work on free throws in practice as Olson sets aside four or five separate four-minute segments solely dedicated to free throws. Ranger estimated each player shoots about 20-25 free throws during each four-minute block.

Olson called the team's free-throw woes befuddling, adding that they've caused the Vikings to settle for jump shots more often than he would like. Given that Niles North lacks a knock-down shooter and one of its biggest strengths is its guards' ability to penetrate, settling for jumpers was a problem during the Wheeling Hardwood Classic.

Niles North shot 30 of 57 from the free-throw line during its four games at the tournament, and the Vikings settled for perimeter jumpers far too often in a 56-40 loss to Fremd, the eventual tournament champions, on Dec. 26.

The Vikings went 1-3 during their four games at Wheeling and fell to 8-5 this season.

"In terms of what we can do differently, it's just make shots," Olson said. "The bottom line is it's a ball and hoop game. At the end of the day, that's what it's about. It's not a jumping contest, it's not a dribbling contest. It's a ball and hoop game, and we've got to do a better job of getting the ball in the hoop."
Hines' strong shooting on display at Pontiac

Wolves sophomore part of young team that looks to have strong future

BY MICHAEL O'BRIEN
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PONTIAC — Niles West arrived at the prestigious Pontiac Holiday Tournament hoping to prove that its 4-5 record was a fluke, a result of a very young starting lineup and some bad breaks.

Instead, a sleepy performance in the 9 a.m. tournament opening game against Bloom on Dec. 26 sent the Wolves into the consolation bracket.

"We've been struggling the last couple of weeks playing defense," Niles West coach Bob Williams said. "[Against Bloom] it looked like we were surprised to be there almost."

Things improved slightly on Friday. The Wolves faced another very early start in the 8 a.m. consolation bracket game against Lockport. The game was tied at halftime and they trailed by only one after three quarters before losing 52-42.

"At Pontiac, you compete or go home," Williams said. "I thought our kids were better against Lockport. It was a good step forward."

It was also an eye-opening performance from sophomore Evan Hines. He scored 25 points against Lockport, shooting 9-for-13 from the field and 5-for-8 from 3-point range. It was one of the top performances by a sophomore in the tournament.

"That wasn't a one-time thing," Williams said. "[Hines] can really shoot it well. He's had some high-scoring games for us this year. He's been close to 20 points in half our games. As long as he stays active he scores really well. His mentality going into the game is key and for a sophomore that is pretty common."

Hines wants to play in the Big Ten in college, it's been his goal since seventh grade.

Hines works on his shot with his father Ronald Hines every day.

"We work on set shots, off the dribble, off the screen," Evan Hines said. "We practice all over, anything that has a hoop on it."

Evan Hines doesn't have any college scholarship offers yet, but Williams thinks his future is bright.

"I think he's a Big Ten player," Williams said. "He can flat out shoot it. Look at [former Glenbrook North star and current Northwestern coach Chris Collins]. He wasn't an incredible athlete but he could flat out shoot it. [Evan Hines] has that kind of ability and he's almost 6-4."

Niles West starts two sophomores (Evan Hines and Jojo Rios) and a freshman (Mirsad Mackic) so the Pontiac experience was valuable, regardless of the two losses.

"It was great," Evan Hines said. "The fans were great, the [hotel] rooms were great and spending time with the team."

"We're not that far away from being a good team. We have the athletes. If we can get the defense down I think we can be competitive in the conference."
I'LL BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...

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JENNINGS CHEVROLET

What would you guess was the average ticket price for an NFL game during the 2013 season? The answer - $81.54. Nov out which team had the highest average price, and which had the lowest? The most expensive average ticket was for a New England Patriots game, $117.84. The only others averaging over $100 were the Giants, the Jets, the Cowboys, the Bears and the Ravens. The lowest average price was for a Cleveland game - $54.20. The only other team averaging below $60 was Buffalo.

To this day, it's hard to argue that the player who had the greatest impact on basketball was Willy Chamberlain, at least when it comes to the ways of the game. When Willy was a freshman at Kansas, before he was even allowed to play varsity, the NCAA made two rules changes for the 1956-57 season after seeing freshman scrimmages with the KU varsity. Teams were no longer allowed to inbound the ball by lobbing it over the backboard or redirecting a teammate's shot into the hoop.

Northwestern defeated Mississippi State in the 2012 Citrus Bowl, but prior to that, the Wildcats went an astonishing 63 years without winning a bowl game. The program's last post-season win had been in the 1949 Rose Bowl over Cal. By the way the Rose Bowl is still the oldest and best attended bowl game, and it was played just once in a venue other than Pasadena. Because of Pearl Harbor on Dec 7, 1941, the Jan. 1, 1942 Rose Bowl was held in Durham, NC, where Duke hosted Oregon State. The only other team to win a bowl game that season was Ohio State.

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Niles West’s Jojo Rios works his way around Bloom’s Davontae Henry at the Pontiac Holiday Tournament on Dec. 26. (Patrick Gleason for Sun-Times Media)
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