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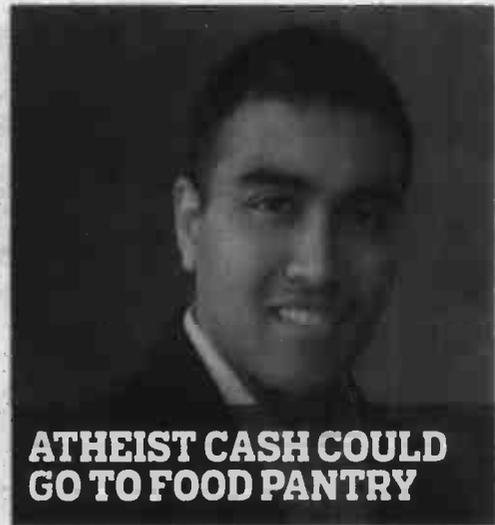


# Niles Herald-Spectator



## The minority vs. the mayor

Two village trustees take issue with Przybylo's leadership style | PAGE 6



« GO  
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WHAT'S ON  
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## NILES

# The new boss

Village trustees divided on Mayor Andrew Przybylo's leadership

BY IGOR STUDENKOV  
For Sun-Times Media | @istudenkov

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.

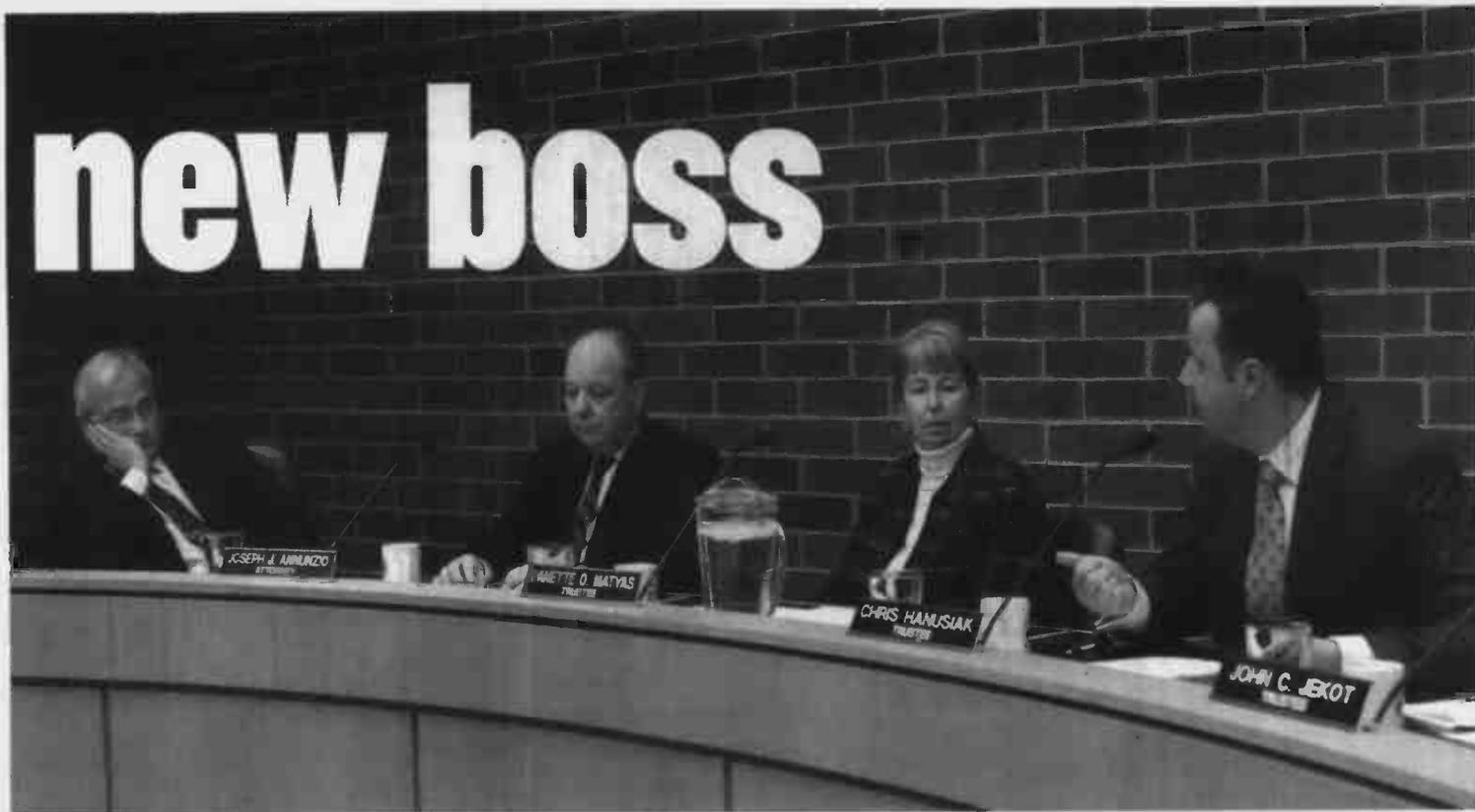
Even before being elected in 2011, Palicki was a fixture at board meetings, speaking out for transparency and accountability. She's worried that the village has gotten worse in that regard.

"I think that we've regressed a little bit with the new administration," said Palicki. "We've closed down significant public participation in [board] meetings."

Early in the fall, Przybylo changed the board's public comment procedures. Whereas before, members of the public could comment on each resolution before the board voted on it, a new procedure requires the public to comment on every resolution before the board actually discusses any of them.

Przybylo justified the change as the way of making the meetings go faster. But Palicki argued that this made it harder for trustees to consider public input.

"I think it's more limited this



During the Niles Village Board meeting Dec. 10, Trustee Chris Hanusiak (right) questions Mayor Andrew Przybylo (left) as Attorney Joseph Annunzio and Trustee Danette Matyas look on. | KEVIN TANAKA/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

way," she said. "Before, we could listen to public opinions and then, we could make a vote that was completely informed. Now, public is asking questions before we can discuss the issues."

Palicki added that, by the time they get to the items further down on the agenda, the trustees may not remember what the public actually said. She feels that this is a loss for the board — and Niles as a community.

"I think that it's important for the public to ask questions," 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



Mayor Andrew Przybylo says he doesn't want to discuss matters that had been previously approved during the Niles board meeting Dec. 10. | KEVIN TANAKA/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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.

Hanusiak agrees with Palicki that Niles has gotten worse on transparency and accountability — though for somewhat different reasons.

"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



Trustee Rosemary Palicki reads her environmental practices report while Trustee George Alpgianis looks on during the Niles board meeting Dec. 10. | KEVIN TANAKA/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

accountability, particularly when it comes to ethnics 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 he 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.

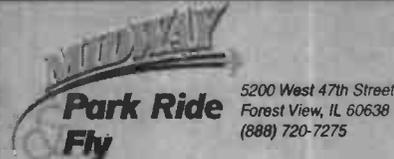
"Hopefully we will all support [Przybylo's] vision and plan," he said, "as long as his vision and plan puts the best interest of all Niles citizens and the community first."

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||| MORTON GROVE

# Atheist now plans to donate \$3K to food pantry

BY RICK KAMBIC  
rkambic@pioneerlocal.com | @rick\_kambic

An 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."

But the original \$3,000 fundraised in late October still looms large.

"I'm trying to figure out what to do with the money and I still want to give it to the people of Morton Grove, so I've decided to give it to the Niles Food Pantry," Mehta said in his video. "I know I said this before, but I can't imagine they would reject the money, especially at this time of year."

Niles Township Supervisor Lee Tamraz sits on the food pantry's board of trustees and said he will convene the seven-member board for a special meeting to address the donation, if a check arrives.

"As of today [Dec. 26], we have not received a check," Tamraz said. "The first step is to see what accompanies the check. I don't know what he wants in return, but if he were to just send a check with nothing else written on it, then I don't see the harm in putting the money to good use."



Hemant Mehta

Morton Grove Park Commissioner Dan Ashta defends his decision to not stand during the Pledge of Allegiance, saying the First Amendment also affords freedom to not talk. | RICK KAMBIC/SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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.

Tamraz did admit to being familiar with the saga, and said he needs to do more research before deciding how he'd vote.

"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.

Another twist to the Niles Township perspective is that Tamraz is a veteran and member of American Legion Post 134.

"We fought for freedom," Tamraz said. "From my perspective, any individual in this country has a right to do what they're comfortable with. On the other hand, I don't want to jeopardize the food pantry."

||| MORTON GROVE

# Cops: Morton Grove man tried to ransom dog

BY RICK KAMBIC  
rkambic@pioneerlocal.com | @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 owners on 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.



Joseph Jando

## NILES

# Most unusual crime stories of 2013

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON  
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com | @Jen\_Pioneer

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 women'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 seek-

ing 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 Norman Kazmierski, 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 Kazmierski'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 unflattering 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](http://niles.suntimes.com)



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**||| POLICE BLOTTER**

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 9200 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.

Lena Gilliana, 29, of 2084 W. Lunt Ave., Chicago, was charged with retail theft on Dec. 20 after she allegedly stole \$505 worth of merchandise from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. She has a Jan. 23 court date.

**DUI**

Keith Cunningham, 34, of 7920 S. Lamont 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.

Travis Petrie, 42, of 24 N. Williams St., Westmont, was charged with driving under the influence on Dec. 21. He was taken into custody at 2:30 a.m. on the 8600 block of Dempster Street following a traffic stop for speeding, police said. He has a Jan. 15 court date.

**MORTON GROVE**

**POSSESSION 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 if 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.

**PARK RIDGE**

**DRUG POSSESSION**

A 17-year-old Chicago boy was charged with possession of marijuana on Dec. 29 following a traffic stop at Touhy and Rose Avenues. Police said the officer smelled marijuana coming from inside the vehicle and when questioned, the teen allegedly handed the officer a bag containing about 2.5 grams of suspected marijuana. He was released on his own recognizance and assigned a Feb. 19 court date.

**UNDERAGE DRINKING**

Jonathan Mondragon, 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.

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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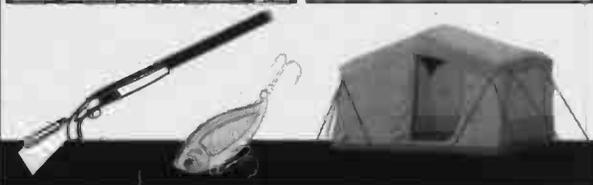
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||| NILES

# Residents want to bike more, but many feel 'uncomfortable'

BY NATASHA WASINSKI  
For Sun-Times Media | @natwaz

**D**rivers 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.

Only half of those polled said they are comfortable biking on the roadways, or feel safe crossing streets.

When asked if walking along Milwaukee Avenue is pleasant, 10 percent of the pool responded affirmatively. But 63 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 was 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 multi-modal transportation in January, and aims to present a final plan for improvements by March.

## 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 signaled streets and arterial roads **22 minutes**

Shortest route possible **12 minutes**

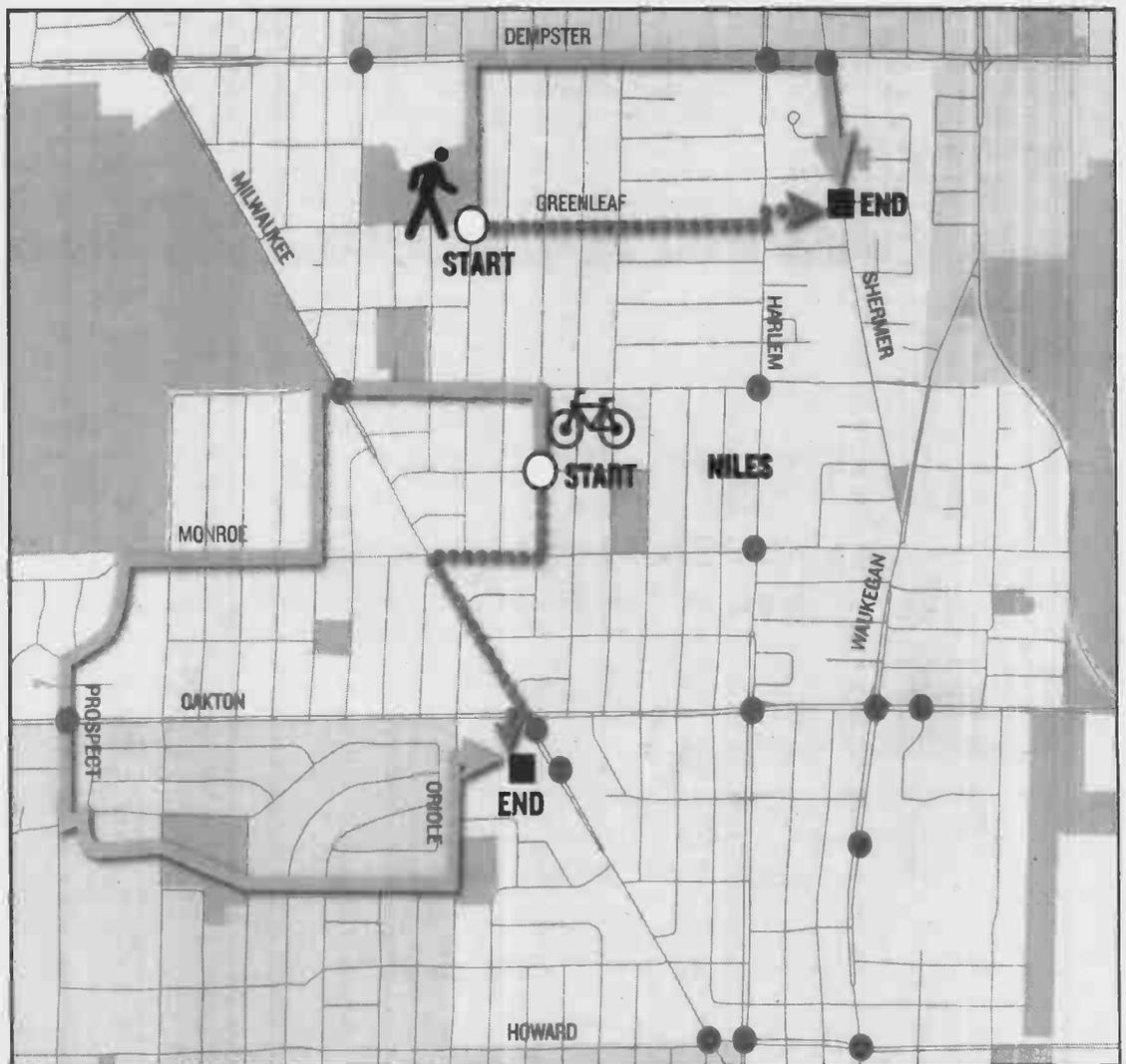


**SCENARIO 2: Person biking from Oleander and Kedzie to the Oak Mill Mall**

Route using signaled streets and arterial roads **2.5 miles**

Shortest route possible **.75 miles**

### ● Traffic signals



SOURCE: Village of Niles, Multimodal Plan 2013

## III DISTRICT 64

# 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, day-long 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 then 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 next 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 B.W.P. 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 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 contract, 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.

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‡Due to state and federal laws, points cannot be earned on some items. Points will not be awarded to anyone who currently is or was at any time in 6 months prior to purchasing Pharmacy Items covered by Medicare, Medicaid, Tricare or other government-funded healthcare program. Pharmacy Items must be purchased at participating Walgreens Drugstore, Rxpress, Duane Reade, or Walgreens Pharmacy locations ("Participating Stores") to earn points. Excludes Pharmacy Items purchased from AR, NJ or NY pharmacies and prescriptions transferred to a Participating Store located in AL, MS, OR or PR. For terms and conditions, visit Walgreens.com/Balance.

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**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 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 receive help accessing state resources, 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 5:45 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 Witek 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. FILE

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# MARY, SEAT OF WISDOM SCHOOL INVITES YOUR FAMILY TO OUR OPEN HOUSE

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2014-2015 School Year

**WHEN** Sunday, January 26, 2014  
FAMILY MASS - 9:30 am  
OPEN HOUSE - 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

**WHERE** Mary, Seat of Wisdom School  
1352 South Cumberland Avenue  
Park Ridge, IL 60068  
Phone: 847-825-2500 Fax: 847-825-1943



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## Holidays are over, time to focus on the home

HELP SQUAD  
BY  
JACKIE PILOSSOPH



### HELP SQUAD

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, unclogged, 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 Luper, 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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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.

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John said, "It's amazing that after months of nursing my achilles tendonitis, 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."

A treatment for patients with plantar fasciitis, neuroma, tendonitis and general foot pain.

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# OPINION

## || LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Why a 'no' vote for atheists' donation is a 'yes' for Morton Grove

**B**ackward 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 chooses 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."

# Shut up, I'm having a dialogue here

BY RANDY BLASER



**I**'ve decided that when people say we need to have a national dialogue on this topic or that topic, they are not really interested.

What they want is for everyone to finally agree with them. Those who think otherwise can just shut up.

My view comes in the wake of the "Duck Dynasty" controversy.

You may have heard of it or seen the popular reality show on the cable network A&E.

It's kind of a "Beverly Hillbillies" come to life show about a clan of backwoods rednecks from Louisiana who strike it rich by inventing a high quality duck caller.

Anyway, the family patriarch, Phil Robertson, recently gave an interview to GQ Magazine, and he gave his opinion, based on his Biblical beliefs, of where homosexuals will end up in the hereafter. And it ain't paradise.

Of course, his comments in the magazine, whose editors probably thought it would get some good laughs from the country bumpkin, provoked a firestorm, but that's not all.

Robertson also reminisced about how he worked shoulder-to-shoulder with blacks in the days before Civil Rights and the blacks were "singing and happy" and had nary a complaint about white people.

*"A wise Jesuit (not the pope) once told me, when you characterize an entire group as all bad or all good, then you can't really speak to the good that is in everyone or the evil that is in everyone, too."*

For these remarks, Robertson has been condemned as a racist and a homophobe, and he's been suspended from his own show.

In other words, he's been effectively marginalized and silenced. I don't think that is necessarily a good thing for a society that claims to be free and diverse.

Here's why.

We need to be very careful when we start labeling people as racist and homophobic.

Those terms are the nuclear warheads of the culture wars, which are meant to silence opposition once and for all. Is Robertson a racist and homophobe? I don't know enough about the guy to make that judgment. What he said might be, but that doesn't mean he is.

I try to give people the benefit of the doubt before I activate the launch sequence.

To me, people who make those type of statements just need to be educated. I want to go deeper.

I believe Robertson when he says blacks that he saw and knew seemed happy in the pre-Civil Rights days. They might seem happy today, but I know those are misinterpretations, a false picture based on the mundane, day-to-day existence and interactions of diverse people who want to get through another day.

People hide the pain of injustice very well.

And Robertson's interpretation of St. Paul is believed by millions of Americans, probably even the pope, at least on the surface. The problem is in using such sweeping generalizations to condemn a single group of people. Robertson's opponents did the same by condemning him personally based on a few words in an interview.

A wise Jesuit (not the pope) once told me, when you characterize an entire group as all bad or all good, then you can't really speak to the good that is in everyone or the evil that is in everyone, too.

Robertson's comments — if we all chose to be reasonable rather than reactive to dialogue — could open a door to a discussion about the nature of sin and human sexuality, the complex issue of race relations and why what we see on a daily basis may not be reality.

Now that would make one heck of a reality show.

## LET US HEAR FROM YOU

Send your letters to the editor to News Editor Ben Meyerson at [bmeyerson@pioneerlocal.com](mailto: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.

### 1,000 WORDS BY JACK HIGGINS



## Time to make and break New Year's resolutions

**Y**ou'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.

BY PAUL SASSONE



8. Be less stressed.
9. Volunteer.
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!



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

Get up and **go**

Your guide to the weekend and beyond  
Every Thursday

## ||| FEATURED HOME

BY WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE



**\$319,000**

### **7401 W. Main St., Niles**

**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

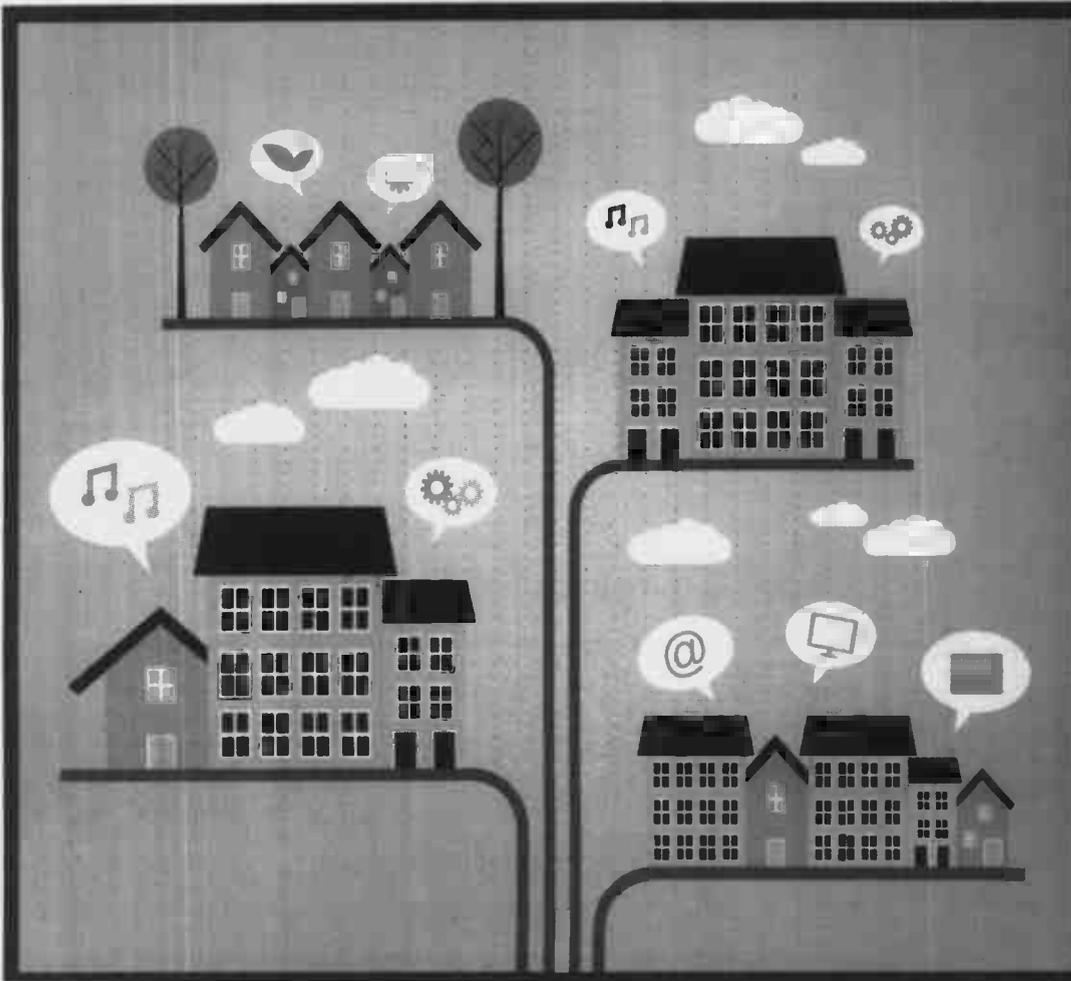
**Property tax:** \$6,312.22 (2012)

**Exterior:** Brick

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63 and Maine Township High School District 207

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BY WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE

### 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 grades 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 2 and under with a caregiver. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

#### Niles All-American Toastmasters Club

7:30 p.m.: Toastmasters helps women and men learn the arts of speaking, listening and thinking and features beginning and advanced speeches, usually five to seven minutes each. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-825-6241.

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 Tuesdays through Jan. 28. Registration required. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

#### Preschool Story Time

10 a.m.: Stories, songs, and action rhymes for children aged 3 to 5. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

#### Nelson School Literacy Night

6 p.m.: Nelson School PTO meeting and principal reading night. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

### SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

To submit an event for consideration in print, visit [www.pioneerlocal.com/submit-content](http://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.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8

#### Toddler Time

10 a.m.: Stories, songs and rhymes for children ages 1 to 3 with a caregiver. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-6625.

#### Big Kids Story Time

1:30 p.m.: Stories, songs, creative dramatics and other fun activities for children ages 4 to 6. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

#### Ligia Amarei: New Mom's Group

7 p.m.: The group discusses "Entrusted with a Child's Heart" by Betsy Coming. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 773-968-0091.

## HAPPENING NEARBY

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, 6820 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-966-5522. \$284-\$578.

#### Entrepreneurial Knowledge Group (EKG) Meeting

9:30 a.m.: A monthly meeting of independent entrepreneurs. Regus, 350 S. Northwest 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](http://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. \$90-\$115.

#### Nonfiction Book Discussion

10 a.m.: The group discusses "Packing 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](http://glenviewpl.org), 847-729-7500, ext. 7900, or the Youth Services Desk. For grades four through eight. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview.

#### Detective School Part 3: The CSI Effect

10 a.m.: Two local police officers discuss how CSI cases play out in real life. Registration required. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 708-867-7828.

#### Wee Read

11 a.m.: Babies up to 24 months are invited for stories, songs and fingerplays. Older siblings are welcome. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

#### Park Ridge Panhellenic Club Meeting

Noon: The Park Ridge Panhellenic Club hosts a program titled "Amazing Birds." Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 846-696-4789. \$21.

#### Chorus

1 p.m.: Join Park Ridge Senior Center chorus for an afternoon of singing. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-3597. \$8-\$10-per month.

#### Minecraft Tournament

2 p.m.: Minecraft creative competition. The winner receives a Minecraft prize. For grades four to six. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

#### MGPL Kids: Snow Much Fun!

3 p.m.: Escape the chilly weather with fun winter activities and games. Children under age 8 must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Call 847-929-5102 or visit [www.mgpl.org/kids](http://www.mgpl.org/kids) for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

#### Drop-in Chess Club

7 p.m.: For kids up to grade eight. Children under age 8 should be accompanied by an adult. Bring

your own set if possible. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Call 847-729-7500.

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.

#### Movin' 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 847-965-4220.

#### 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 708-867-7828.

#### 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](http://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.

SUNDAY, JAN. 5

#### The Art of Jewish Caregiving

10 a.m.: Presenter Elizabeth Cohen speaks about

SEE CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE »

◀ FROM PREVIOUS 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](http://www.chabadandfree.com/JYZ). Chabad & F.R.I.E.E. of Niles, 9401 Margail Ave., Des Plaines. Call 847-345-6405. \$7.

**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](http://glenviewpl.org) or by calling 847-729-7500, ext. 7600. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview.

**MONDAY, JAN. 6**

**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.

**TUESDAY, JAN. 7**

**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 play time 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**

10:15 a.m.: Drop in for a short story time. Please no adults or siblings. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

**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](http://www.mgpl.org/teens) for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8**

**Evening 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](http://www.mgpl.org) for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

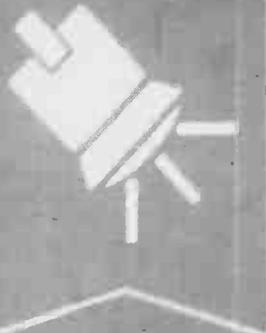
**THURSDAY, JAN. 9**

**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.

Use the Stage section to learn about local theater productions.

Get up and **go**

Your guide to the weekend and beyond  
**Every Thursday**



5

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

Get up and **go**

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## BUILDING PERMITS

BY WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE



WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE MAP

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Content appears as it is provided in public records. To see all Niles and Park Ridge building permits, visit [niles.suntimes.com](http://niles.suntimes.com).

**Permit cost:** \$55  
**Construction cost:** \$2,100

### 1 Flood control

**Address:** 6921 W. Dobson St., Niles  
**Issue date:** Sept. 20  
**Permit cost:** \$120  
**Construction cost:** \$8,920

### 2 Roof (commercial and residential)

**Address:** 8035 N. Oconto Ave., Niles  
**Issue date:** Sept. 20  
**Permit cost:** \$81  
**Construction cost:** \$9,000

### 3 Furnace and air conditioning (HVAC)

**Address:** 7787 N. Nordica Ave., Niles  
**Issue date:** Sept. 16  
**Permit cost:** \$47  
**Construction cost:** \$2,700

### 4 Flood control

**Address:** 8114 N. Harlem Ave., Niles  
**Issue date:** Sept. 16  
**Permit cost:** \$80  
**Construction cost:** \$7,676

### 5 Single family - remodel

**Address:** 7344 W. Howard St., Niles  
**Issue date:** Sept. 18  
**Permit cost:** \$252  
**Construction cost:** \$11,900

### 6 Fence

**Address:** 724 Ottawa Ave., Park Ridge  
**Issue date:** Sept. 18  
**Permit cost:** \$25  
**Improvement value:** \$2,295

### 7 Driveway

**Address:** 7642 N. Osceola Ave., Niles  
**Issue date:** Sept. 20  
**Permit cost:** \$40  
**Construction cost:** \$4,000

### 8 Flood control

**Address:** 6852 W. Keeney St., Niles  
**Issue date:** Sept. 16  
**Permit cost:** \$80  
**Construction cost:** \$7,676

### 9 Tuck pointing (commercial and residential)

**Address:** 8035 N. Oconto Ave., Niles  
**Issue date:** Sept. 20

### 10 Flood control

**Address:** 6929 W. Cleveland St., Niles  
**Issue date:** Sept. 16  
**Permit cost:** \$80  
**Construction cost:** \$7,676

# BUSINESS

||| MORTON GROVE

## 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 Morton Grove even asked the family if they were interested in selling the shopping center to someone who would capitalize on the subsidy and invest in the high-traffic area.

"I do think if they chose to sell it [the



LA Fitness was among the tenants expected to leave when Prairie View Shopping Center was going to be rebuilt. Now, LA Fitness may get a new building all to itself. FILE

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 impacts 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.

"That center is to the point where it's not only tired-looking, but there might be code violations," Liston said. "Also, because it's a TIF, we have authority for condemnation. I don't know that it's something we'd want to do, but we do have that right."

Liston later said that Morton Grove has found no code violations in Prairie View Shopping Center, but she worries that with age more problems will arise than can be handled.

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.

# TREND

## 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 Snyder 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 LUC/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

||| CAUSE & EVENT



Cast of "The Elves and the Shoemaker" included: Emily Schroeder '15, Christina Mooshil '15, Sophia Acevedo '17, Lauren Kuszynski '16, all of Chicago and Jessica Connolly '14 of Norridge with Katie Nicolay '14 of Morton Grove.



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

**RESURRECTION  
BREAKFAST WITH  
SANTA**

**Benefiting:** Resurrection Alumnae Association Scholarships

**Date:** Dec. 14

**Location:** Resurrection College Prep High School

**Attended:** 400+

**Raised:** \$2,500

**Get your event in Trend**

Have a philanthropic cause or event, or a party to share? Email Deborah Hoppe at [dhoppe@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:dhoppe@pioneerlocal.com). She can send you guidelines for submitting information for Trend. Or call (312) 321-2734.

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## ||| BOUQUETCATCHER.COM

# New Fla. residents marry in Norridge

Christine Holder and Dirk Haller

BY JILL FAILLA  
Contributing writer

**D**espite 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.

The Rev. Luther J. Bajus married the couple Oct. 12. The celebration followed at Cafe La Cave in Des Plaines. 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.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CONCEPTS ONE PHOTOGRAPHY

**Photographer:** Concepts One Photography, Bloomingdale  
**Videographer:** Concepts One Photography, Bloomingdale  
**Photo book:** Concepts One Photography, Bloomingdale  
**Ceremony venue:** Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Norridge  
**Reception venue:** Cafe La Cave, Des Plaines  
**Officiant:** The Rev. Luther J. Bajus  
**Dress:** Watters, Gigi's Closette, Glenview  
**Floral arrangements:** Divine Designs & Events, Chicago  
**Bridesmaids' dresses:** House of Brides  
**Tuxedos:** GQ Formal Wear, Schaumburg  
**Disc jockey:** Alan Stern, Tricked Out Entertainment, Arlington Heights  
**Hair and makeup:** Tamara Makeup + Hair Artistry, Chicago area

||| **BOUQUETCATCHER.COM**

ENGAGEMENT



### 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 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*

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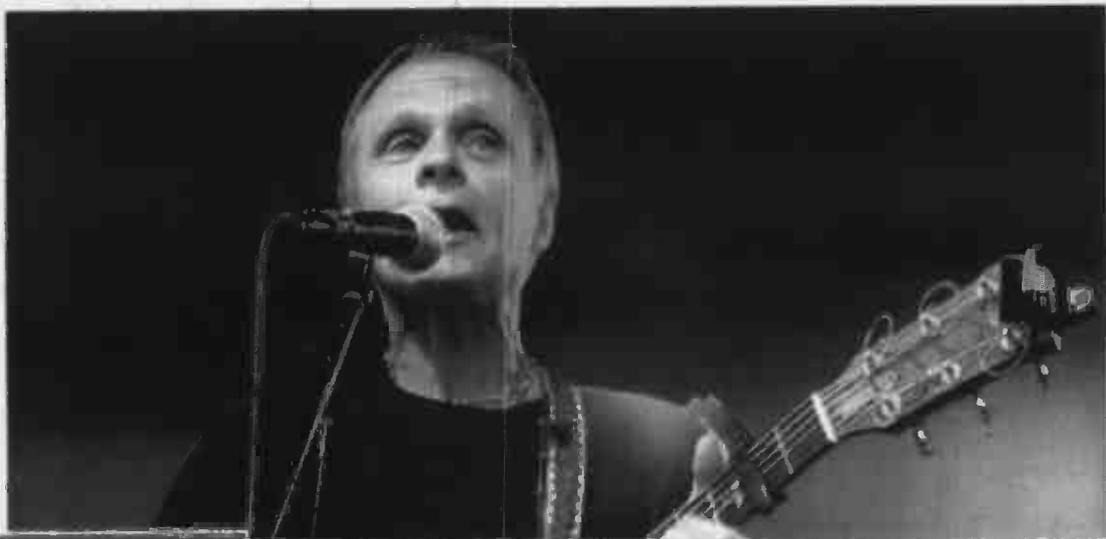
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# Get up and **go**

Your guide to  
the weekend  
and beyond

**Every Thursday**



Keep up with the latest  
songs & albums in  
the **Listen** section.



Photo courtesy of Harbor Shores

# Senior PGA Championship at Harbor Shores A HOLE IN ONE

By Anne Thompson

**S**ince 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.

# SPIRIT

A WRAPPORTS PUBLICATION

DEC. 29, 2013-JAN. 4, 2014

WE'RE  
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WELLNESS &  
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HOLIDAY  
BASH**

**THE GRID'S  
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EVENT**

**& MORE**

# SISTER ACT

'August: Osage County' stars  
**Juliette Lewis & Julianne Nicholson**  
on living in Oklahoma, laughing with  
Meryl and their on-set family



*Lorin Adolph*

Private Chef

Watch Lorin's insider shopping and prep tips at [marianos.com](http://marianos.com)

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# THINGS WE LOVE THIS WEEK



## Covergirl Bombshell

The beauty brand channels old Hollywood va-va-voom with its Bombshell collection, featuring extra-intensity mascara (\$9.49-\$11.99), liquid liner (\$6.99-\$8.99), cream snadows (\$6.99-\$8.99) and a new high-shine nail polish line (\$5.49). Walgreens locations citywide; [Covergirl.com](http://Covergirl.com)

## Remix oils, candles and serum

Chicagoan **Giselle Wasfie** 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. Wasfie 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](http://Remixacupuncture.com)



## Foodease + 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; [Foodeasechicago.com](http://Foodeasechicago.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](http://Splashshop.suntimes.com)



## SPLASH

### HOW DO YOU FIGHT THE WINTER WOES?

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*"A healthy mix of cross-country skiing, broomball games and Scotch. I find it's best to just embrace the season."*

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*"A visit to the Lincoln Park Conservatory. It's lush and beautiful, and the slushy, snowy sidewalks seem very far away."*

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*"Escaping back to my family's house in Indiana is always my cure."*

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**Founder**  
Michael Ferro

Splash is distributed weekly inside Sun-Times Media publications.

## 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 Tahler**

Shoot Coordinator: **Katerina Bizios**



Kele Lampe @KeleGrrl: True grit: Joe Manganiello via @Suntimes\_Splash Great article. Thanks for the inspiration & honesty @joemanganiello

# THE CALENDAR

BY THOMAS CONNORS

● ARTS & CULTURE | ● PHILANTHROPY | ● FOOD | ● FASHION

## this week

December 30

### ● EVE 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](http://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.

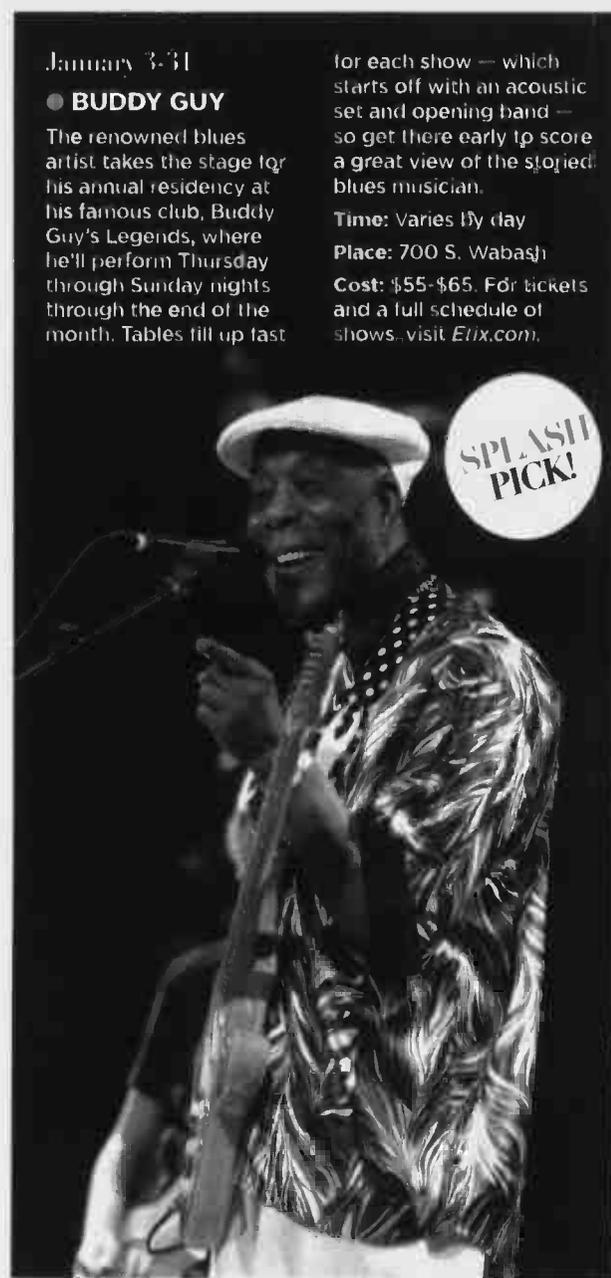
**Place:** The Langham Hotel Chicago, 330 N. Wabash

**Cost:** Tea and talk \$40 plus tax and gratuity. For reservations, call (312) 923-7710.

January 3-5

### ● CHICAGO WINTER-DANCE

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

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](http://Etix.com).



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## next week

Hedda Gabler



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](http://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](http://Broadwayinchicago.com).

January 9-19

### ● 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](http://Stage773.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](http://Courttheatre.org).

January 10-February 1

### ● CHICAGO BLUE-GRASS & BLUES FEST

Now in its fifth year, this solid series kicks off with the bands Leagues and

The Autumn Defense (featuring **John Stlirrat** 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 [Cbbfestival.com](http://Cbbfestival.com).



Foll, Arms & Hog will be performing at the Chicago Sketch Comedy Festival.

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'NAUGHTY AND NICE' HOLIDAY BASH

# HOMETOWN HOLIDAY

**Jenny McCarthy and Donnie Wahlberg**



BY KATERINA BIZIOS

**D**espite 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.

**Candace McDonald and Shukl Moran**



**Right: James Feeley and CJ Koenig  
Below: Amada and Dean Giordano**



**Lori Pearl and Peter Doyle**



**Suzie Moravito and Angelique Robinson**

**Samir Patel, Jacey Capurso, Hans Holborn and Shannon Kenitz**



**Denise and Martin Cody**

PHOTOS BY RAMZI DREESSEN AND BARRY BRECHEISEN



# BEST DRESSED 2013



**TONI CANADA**  
in Prabal Gurung  
at Chicago Dance

**CHAORAN JIN**  
in Halston at the  
Radisson Blu Aqua

**VAL WARNER**  
in Akira  
at McCormick Place

**JASLENE GONZALEZ**  
in Millou and Sergio  
Celestino at The Wit

**JOANEE LEE PAUL**  
in Tom Ford  
at Harris Theater

**THEODORE VENABLE**  
in Brooks Brothers at the  
Four Seasons Chicago

## COCKTAIL ELEGANCE

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.

## FORMAL AND FEMINE

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.

## FLIRTY AND FAB

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.

## WORKPLACE CHIC

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.

## DARING DRAMA

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.

## DASHING GENT

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.

BLOOMINGDALE'S THE MAKEUP DATE EVENT

# RISE AND SHINE

STORIES BY KATERINA BIZIOS

Audience members receive samples during an SK-II demonstration.



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.

Right: Katie Katz and Sandra McGill

Below: Christopher Truffa of Clarins speaks as a treatment is applied to a model.



Felicia R. Horton and Precious Heath



Julie and Avery Sector



Jennifer Boss and Sharon Seymour



Left: Nick Spizzirri and Penny Gac of Low Key Sharp



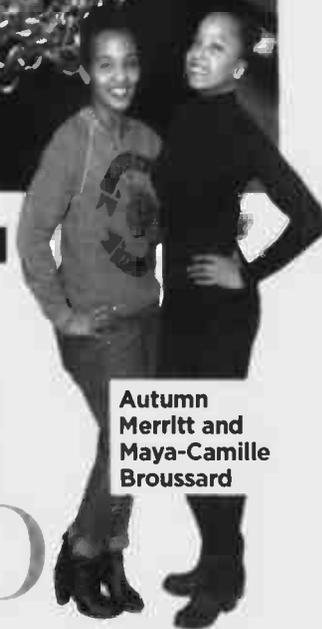
Right: Thai Tyler and Alicia Howard of LoveBomb



A necklace from von Z

SAVOR THE SEASON

## ON THE GRID



Autumn Merritt and Maya-Camille Broussard

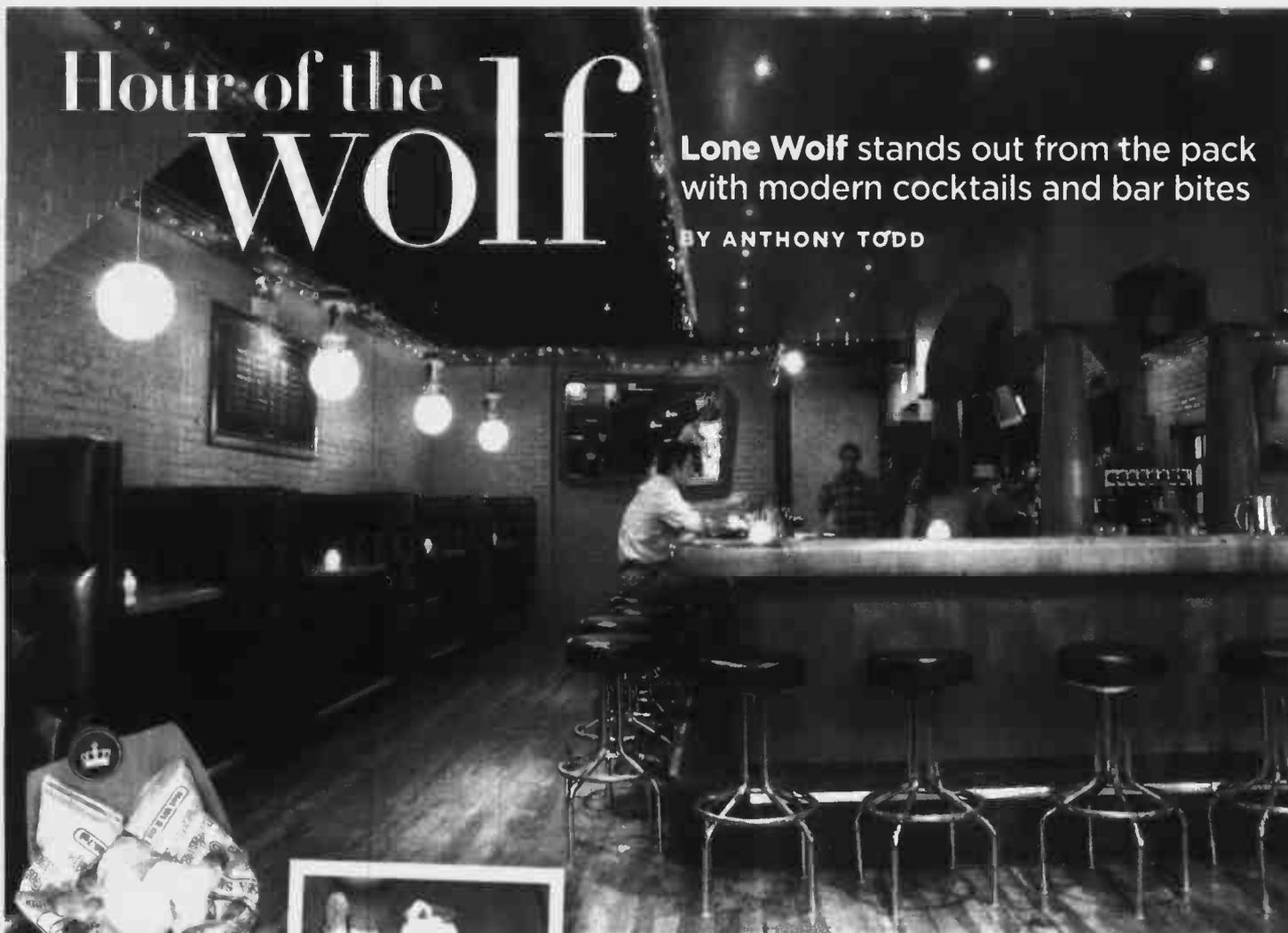
The Grid (351 W. Hubbard) introduced its brunch menu in style Dec. 8, inviting supporters to eat, drink and shop at the Savor the Season event. While sampling entrees like French Toast stuffed with carbonated blackberry, cream cheese, rum maple syrup and chocolate anglaise, and poached eggs with sausage 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.

PHOTOS BY RAMZI DRESSEN

# Hour of the Wolf

Lone Wolf stands out from the pack with modern cocktails and bar bites

BY ANTHONY TODD

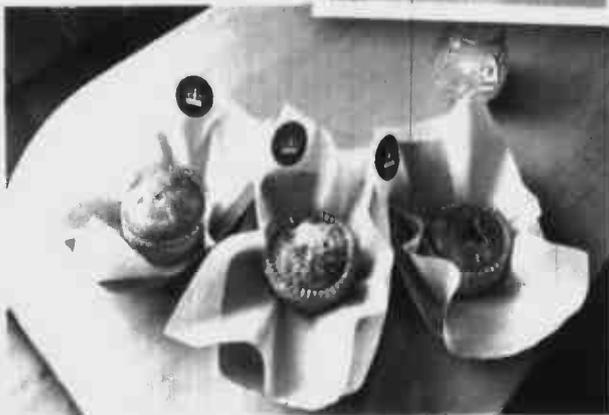


Above: Scotch egg (\$5)

Right: Sgroppino cocktails (\$12)

Below: Royal pies (\$6)

PHOTOS BY RAMZI DREESSEN



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



Stephen Cole

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/lonewolfbar

sunday in the life

# Kathryn the Great

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

BY ZAK STEMER

**W**hen 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 flighty 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.

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sequin cowl  
dress, \$179

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# W

hen 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.

---

# MODERN

**JULIETTE LEWIS AND JULIANNE NICHOLSON** REMINISCE  
ABOUT PLAYING SISTERS IN ‘AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY’

# FAMILY

STORY BY RACHEL HANDLER

PHOTOS BY  
ANTHONY TAHIER



But when Splash sat down with Lewis, 40, and Nicholson, 42, last month — the two were in town for Steppenwolf's Women in the Arts luncheon — there was no hint of the rancor they bring to life in the unflinching, darkly funny film. We asked the veteran actors to interview each other about those magic months in Osage County, occasionally joining in as the two chatted, laughed and reminisced like true sisters.

**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:** Whoa, 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 heart-wrenching. 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 Julia 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



Streep, Nicholson and Lewis gather for dinner in "August: Osage County."

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 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'd find you at the produce stand [laughs]. I'm sorry. I have much bigger plans for you.

**JL:** I thought it was hilarious.



At the Steppenwolf Women in the Arts luncheon (from left): Juliette Lewis, Joyce Gerstein, Margo Martindale, Sue Oleari, Betsy Bluestone and Julianne Nicholson | PHOTO BY EMILY SCHWARTZ

**SPLASH:** All of you had really combative on-screen relationships. Did that tension ever carry over off screen?

**JL:** I did take on colors of my character — the level of insecurity, people-pleasing. Not like I acted that way on set, but you're opening yourself up to the feelings of the character, so for a couple of months I had this general uneasiness. Because the material was really tough and I wanted to do the best I could. But we're all professionals.

**JN:** And grown-ups.

**JL:** You learn you can be completely committed and intense and not create baggage off set. You just deliver the goods when you're supposed to, and learn to live a healthier, other life. That's the way you're supposed to do it.

**JL:** Did you always intend to be a mother, and how do you balance our interesting line of work and being a mother? [Nicholson is a mom to Ignatius, 6, and Phoebe, 4.]

**JN:** It's a work in progress and it changes as they get older, and with each job. It's basically with a lot of guilt that you try to make it work the best you can.

**JL:** You shouldn't have that [guilt]. It's what I respect the most — mothers and women who are working and pursuing their dreams, but also nurturing and loving their children, and are not neglectful. I know you're a beautiful parent just from being with you.

**SPLASH:** I'm interested in whether playing this dysfunctional clan influenced your feelings about your own families.

**JN:** In a rather surface way, it was like, 'Phew!' I guess it makes you just realize that everyone is a little bit messed up in their own way, to varying degrees, and the idea is just to have empathy for other people and their experiences, and don't have secrets.

**JL:** Don't [accidentally reveals major plot point, both women laugh]. Oh wait, no! I'm not supposed to say that.

**JN:** Nope, that doesn't happen in our story.

**JL:** I came to the table, I had just turned 40, and I was examining my own relationship to my parents, how I'm like them, the beautiful qualities about them, their shortcomings. That was taking place while this screenplay came about, which was really timely.

It's a rare thing that you get [to play] women all over 30, and they have rich histories, lots of diversity. It was great to get this kind of material. Even the 14-year-old [Jean, played by Abigail Breslin] is intelligent and has a voice. That's the beauty of Tracy's writing.



# FOREVER YOUNG

**I**n 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.

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the cut

BY AMY  
TARA KOCH

1

## WHAT IT IS:

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**COST:** Extracting and injecting PRP is \$400, microneedling is an additional \$300. 100 E. Walton, 4th floor. Call (312) 255-1495 or visit [Cimedspa.com](http://Cimedspa.com).

## ON PINS AND NEEDLES

In microneedling, 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.

2

**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](http://Fourseasons.com).

3

**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, does 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.

**COST:** Facials start at \$145. A take-home Juveel Advanced Rejuvenation kit maintains the facial's effect, and includes 21 ready-to-mix, instant activation doses, \$155. Available at Tricoci locations citywide. Visit [Tricoci.com](http://Tricoci.com).



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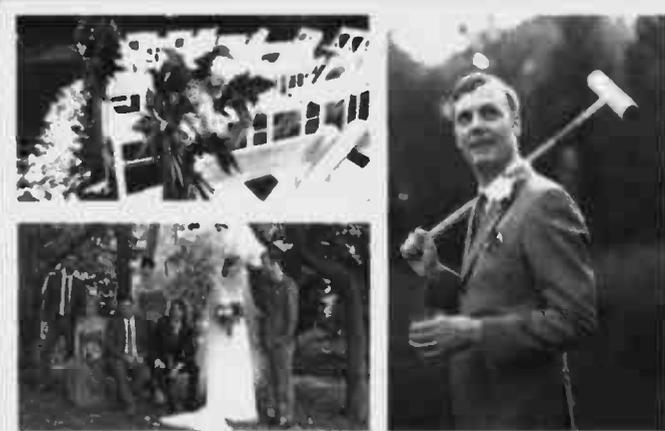
773.466.8800

ever after

# Lauren Viera & Jason Tinkey

BY KATINA BENIARIS

**W**hen 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."



**Gown & veil:** Veronica Sheaffer, 355 N. Laflin; [Vsgowns.com](http://Vsgowns.com)  
**Bride's accessories:** Radiance Fine Jewelry, 2139 N. Damen; [Radiance-finejewelry.com](http://Radiance-finejewelry.com)  
**Bridesmaids' attire:** J. Crew, 900 N. Michigan; [Jcrew.com](http://Jcrew.com)  
**Groom's and groomsmen's attire:** J. Crew, 900 N. Michigan; [Jcrew.com](http://Jcrew.com)  
**Photographer:** Studio Starling, 1917 N. Milwaukee; [Studiostarling.com](http://Studiostarling.com)  
**Florist:** Fleur, 3149 W. Logan; [Fleurchicago.com](http://Fleurchicago.com)  
**Caterer:** Jewell Events Catering, 424 N. Wood; [Georgejewell.com](http://Georgejewell.com)  
**Cake:** Mindy Segal, Mindy's Hot Chocolate, 1747 N. Damen; [Hotchocolatechicago.com](http://Hotchocolatechicago.com)

**MORE ONLINE**

For more of their wedding photos, visit [Chicagosplash.com](http://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 Seller**, 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](http://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](mailto:Splash@suntimes.com).

# The suite life

A new generation of housing options helps accommodate the 'rents

BY MADELINE NUSSER

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.



Brad Lippitz

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."

real estate

## 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](http://Earthcadets.com)



421 W. Melrose

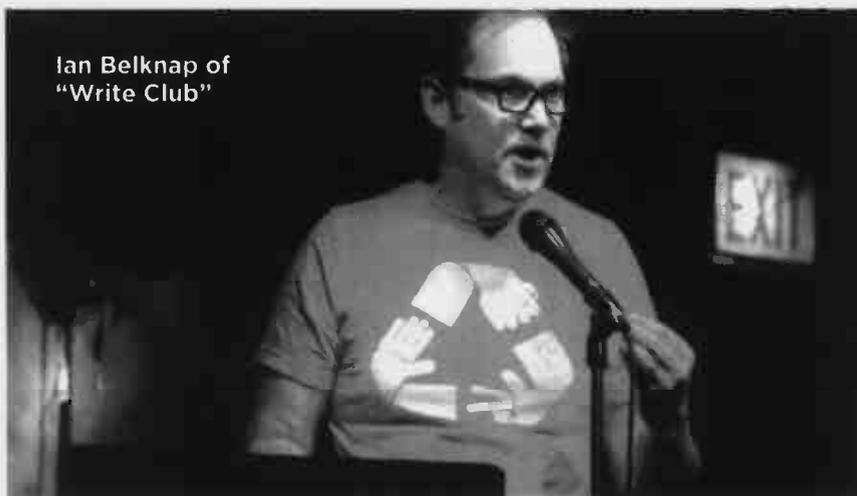
## PARENT 'HOOD

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**

**W**e 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.



Ian Belknap of "Write Club"

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# LIVE THEATER Guide

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[AuditoriumTheatre.org](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org)

"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

### '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](http://Lifelinetheatre.com).

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"

**"PROMISES TO THRILL AUDIENCES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON."**  
PARENTS MAGAZINE

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CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATRES AND SHOWTIMES

### S MORE ONLINE

For more Splash, check out [Chicagosplash.com](http://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

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AmericanHustle-Movie.com  
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**CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES**

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

Though James Van Der Beek hit it big in the late '90s as the angst-ridden 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 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 [bends] genres. It has thriller elements. I don't want to ruin the ending. Jason Reitman always tells such a good story. He was on my list of top three directors I wanted to work with."

**Starstruck:** "[Kate and Josh] are so good. Josh is hilarious. With Kate, I can just sit and watch what she does and play off of it. I don't have to manufacture a lot. There's one moment where I pull up in a car and she's nervous—she's standing 40 feet away, but when I pull up, she changes the molecular structure of the air. I saw



Kate Winslet

Josh Brolin

Van Der Beek stars as a police officer in "Labor Day."

tension radiating in waves."

**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."



## DOWNTOWN

## NEAR NORTH

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CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA

2828 N. Clark at Diversey (773) 509-4949

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● INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS (R) (11:00) 1:30, 4:30,

6:45, 7:30, 9:15, 10:00

● PHILOMENA (PG-13) (11:10) 1:40, 4:00, 7:05

● NEBRASKA (R) (10:20) 1:10, 4:00, 6:15, 9:30

● DALLAS BUYERS CLUB (R) (10:10) 1:15, 4:05,

7:20, 9:55

● 12 YEARS A SLAVE (R) (10:00) 1:00, 4:05, 8:45

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● AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) (10:30) 1:45, 4:00, 7:15, 9:30

● SAVING MR. BANKS (PG-13) (11:00) 4:15, 7:10

● SAVING MR. BANKS (PG-13) 2:00, 9:40

● PHILOMENA (PG-13) 1:50, 9:45

● PHILOMENA (PG-13) (11:30) 4:50, 7:20

● NEBRASKA (R) (10:45) 1:40, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50

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## SUBURBAN

## WEST

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## FROZEN (PG)

12:00 2:15 4:25 6:25 8:25

GRAVITY (PG13) 1:25 3:25 5:25 7:25 9:25

THOR: DARK WORLD (PG13)

12:10 2:20 4:30 6:40

LAST VEGAS (PG13) 8:50

THE DELIVERY MAN (PG)

1:05 3:05 5:05 7:05 9:05

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11:30-12:30-2:30-3:30

5:30-6:30-8:30-9:30

47 RONIN (PG13) (2D) ✓

3:45-9:45

47 RONIN (PG13) (3D) ✓

12:45-6:45

GRUDGE MATCH (PG13) ✓

12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00

THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY (PG) ✓

11:30-2:00-4:40-7:20-10:00

WOLF OF WALLSTREET (R) ✓

1:00-5:00-9:00

AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) (X) X

12:15-3:15-6:15-9:15

WALKING WITH DINOSAURS (PG) ✓

1:45-6:30-8:45

WALKING WITH DINOSAURS (3D) (PG) ✓

11:30

ANCHORMAN 2: THE LEGEND CONTINUES (PG13) ✓

1:15-4:00-6:45-9:30

TYLER PERRY'S A MADEA CHRISTMAS (PG13)

12:30-1:30-3:00-4:00-5:30

6:30-8:00-9:00

THE HOBBIT: DESOLATION OF SMAUG (PG13) (3D)

11:30-6:00

THE HOBBIT: DESOLATION OF SMAUG (PG13) (2D)

2:45-9:15

BLACK NATIVITY (PG)

12:30-6:00

FROZEN (PG) (2D)

1:00-3:30-6:00-8:30

THE BEST MAN HOLIDAY (R)

3:00-9:00

12 YEARS A SLAVE (R)

3:45

Times for Sunday, December 29, 2013

## SOUTH

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## Lansing Cinema 8

16621 Torrence Ave, Lansing IL 60438

708-418-0300

www.lansingcinema8.com

TYLER PERRY'S A MADEAS

CHRISTMAS (PG13)

12:10 • 2:45 • 5:00 • 7:10 • 9:40

FROZEN (PG) 12:00 • 2:20 • 4:45 • 7:00

47 RONIN (PG13)

11:30 • 2:10 • 4:50 • 7:25 • 10:10

GRUDGE MATCH (PG13)

12:30 • 2:50 • 5:10 • 7:30 • 10:05

THE HOBBIT (PG13)

11:50 • 3:00 • 6:10 • 9:30

WALKING WITH DINOSAURS (PG) (DIGITAL)

12:20 • 2:30 • 4:30 • 6:50 • 9:10

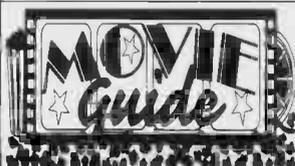
MANDELA (PG13) (DIGITAL)

11:20 • 2:00 • 4:40 • 7:20 • 10:00

ANCHORMAN 2 (PG13)

11:40 • 2:15 • 4:50 • 7:15 • 9:50

HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE (PG13) 9:15





# SHOPPING SPY

The latest intelligence from the retail scene

## 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](http://Edithhart.com)

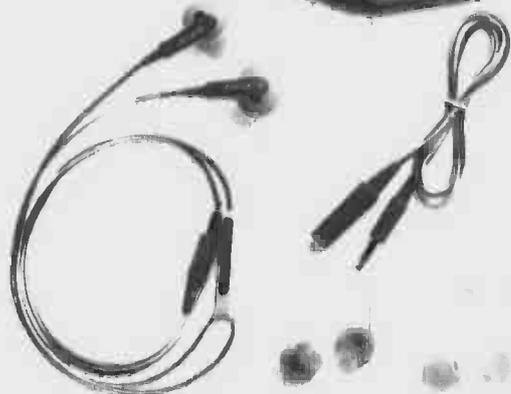
## Culture club

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.-10 p.m.; [Wickerparkbucktown.com](http://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](http://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**



???



'What's your favorite memory from 2013?'



**H**ow 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](http://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!

Tweet your response to @JennyMcCarthy and @Suntimes\_Splash.



# BLOGGING BEAUTY

Patrice Grell Yursik, creator of *Afrobella.com*, shares the things that keep her life lovely

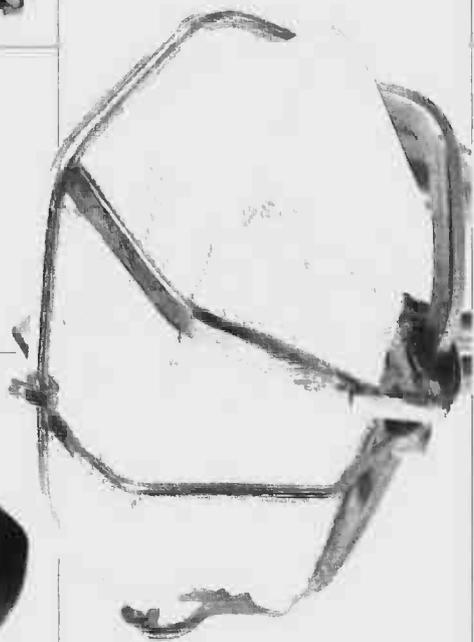
1

"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, and local jeweler and artist **Fanta Celah** does especially beautiful and unique work with crystals."



3

"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."



4

"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."



5

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



6

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



7

"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."



8

"Heavenly fragrant, deeply moisturizing and effective bath- and-body products made by Chicago-based entrepreneur **Dominique Covington**. My skin needs this stuff all winter long."



**1. Benjamin Tea:** roasted almond flavor, \$12. The Bongo Room, 1152 S. Wabash; [Thebongoroom.com](http://Thebongoroom.com)

**2. Fanta Celah:** quartz ring, \$40; [Etsy.com/shop/fantacelah](http://Etsy.com/shop/fantacelah)

**3. Peeled Juice Bar:** Spanking juice custom cleanse, starts at \$99, 940 Church; [Peeledchicago.com](http://Peeledchicago.com)

**4. Mojo Spa: Go Green** face and body scrub, \$15, 1468 N. Milwaukee; [Mojospa.com](http://Mojospa.com)

**5. Mäurer & Wirtz:** 4711 cologne, \$6.95, Merz Apothecary, 17 E. Monroe; [Merz-apothecary.com](http://Merz-apothecary.com)

**6. Jaz Jewelz:** hammered wide brass hoops, \$20; [Etsy.com/shop/Jazjewelz](http://Etsy.com/shop/Jazjewelz)

**7. Thank God I'm Natural:** Naturals sample pack, \$19.99, Mariano's, 40 S. Halsted; [Thankgodimnatural.com](http://Thankgodimnatural.com)

**8. Skin Deep Natural Body Care:** Jasmine gift set, \$40, Sir & Madame, 938 N. Damen; [Skindeepnaturalbodycare.com](http://Skindeepnaturalbodycare.com)

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## THE POWER OF SPORT



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

BY ANDY MIKONIS

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 165 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 red hashmark 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.

Slotted 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 19 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, salty 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 CUV. 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 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

TRANSMISSION: Eight-speed automatic

DRIVETRAIN: All-wheel drive

ESTIMATED MILEAGE: 16 mpg city/23 mpg highway

BASE PRICE: \$51,900 (plus \$895 freight)

AS TESTED: \$61,420 (including freight)

WEBSITE: [www.audiusa.com/models/audi-sq5](http://www.audiusa.com/models/audi-sq5)

Editor: Paul Kelma • [pkelma@stmedianetwork.com](mailto:pkelma@stmedianetwork.com) | Design: Gina Galinis | Director Automotive Advertising: Terry Boyle • [tboyle@suntimes.com](mailto:tboyle@suntimes.com)

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SCAN TO FIND YOUR VEHICLE

"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

### '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](http://Lifelinetheatre.com).

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"

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CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATRES AND SHOWTIMES

### MORE ONLINE

For more Splash, check out [Chicagosplash.com](http://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

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● **INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS (R)** (11:00) 1:30, 4:30, 6:45, 7:30, 9:15, 10:00

● **PHILOMENA (PG-13)** (11:10) 1:40, 4:00, 7:05

● **NEBRASKA (R)** (10:20) 1:10, 4:00, 6:15, 9:30

● **DALLAS BUYERS CLUB (R)** (10:10) 1:15, 4:05, 7:20, 9:55

● **12 YEARS A SLAVE (R)** (10:00) 1:00, 4:05, 8:45

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● **SAVING MR. BANKS (PG-13)** (11:00) 4:15, 7:10

● **SAVING MR. BANKS (PG-13)** 2:00, 9:40

● **PHILOMENA (PG-13)** 1:50, 9:45

● **PHILOMENA (PG-13)** (11:30) 4:50, 7:20

● **NEBRASKA (R)** (10:45) 1:40, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50

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**FROZEN (PG)**  
12:00 2:15 4:25 6:25 8:25

**GRAVITY (PG13)** 1:25 3:25 5:25 7:25 9:25

**THOR: DARK WORLD (PG13)**  
12:10 2:20 4:30 6:40

**LAST VEGAS (PG13)** 8:50

**THE DELIVERY MAN (PG)**  
1:05 3:05 5:05 7:05 9:05

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<b>GRUDGE MATCH (PG13)</b> ✓ 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00	<b>THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY (PG)</b> ✓ 11:30-2:00-4:40-7:20-10:00	<b>WOLF OF WALLSTREET (R)</b> ✓ 1:00-5:00-9:00
<b>AMERICAN HUSTLE (R)</b> ✓ X X 12:15-3:15-6:15-9:15	<b>WALKING WITH DINOSAURS (PG)</b> ✓ 1:45-6:30-8:45	<b>WALKING WITH DINOSAURS (3D) (PG)</b> ✓ 11:30
<b>ANCHORMAN 2: THE LEGEND CONTINUES (PG13)</b> ✓ 1:15-4:00-6:45-9:30	<b>TYLER PERRY'S A MADEA CHRISTMAS (PG13)</b> 12:30-1:30-3:00-4:00-5:30 6:30-8:00-9:00	<b>THE HOBBIT: DESOLATION OF SMAUG (PG13) (3D)</b> 11:30-6:00
<b>THE HOBBIT: DESOLATION OF SMAUG (PG13) (2D)</b> 2:45-9:15	<b>BLACK NATIVITY (PG)</b> 12:30-6:00	<b>FROZEN (PG) (2D)</b> 1:00-3:30-6:00-8:30
<b>THE BEST MAN HOLIDAY (R)</b> 3:00-9:00	<b>12 YEARS A SLAVE (R)</b> 3:45	

Times for Sunday, December 29, 2013

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12:10 • 2:45 • 5:00 • 7:10 • 9:40

**FROZEN (PG)** 12:00 • 2:20 • 4:45 • 7:00 • 9:30

**47 RONIN (PG13)**  
11:30 • 2:10 • 4:50 • 7:25 • 10:10

**GRUDGE MATCH (PG13)**  
12:30 • 2:50 • 5:10 • 7:30 • 10:05

**THE HOBBIT (PG13)**  
11:50 • 3:00 • 6:10 • 9:30

**WALKING WITH DINOSAURS (PG) (DIGITAL)**  
12:20 • 2:30 • 4:30 • 6:50 • 9:10

**MANDELA (PG13) (DIGITAL)**  
11:20 • 2:00 • 4:40 • 7:20 • 10:00

**ANCHORMAN 2 (PG13)**  
11:40 • 2:15 • 4:50 • 7:15 • 9:50

**HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE (PG13)** 9:15



## 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

Though James Van Der Beek hit it big in the late '90s as the angst-y 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 heart-throb: 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 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 [bends] genres. It has thriller elements. I don't want to ruin the ending. Jason Reitman always tells such a good story. He was on my list of top three directors I wanted to work with."

**Starstruck:** "[Kate and Josh] are so good. Josh is hilarious. With Kate, I can just sit and watch what she does and play off of it. I don't have to manufacture a lot. There's one moment where I pull up in a car and she's nervous—she's standing 40 feet away, but when I pull up, she changes the molecular structure of the air. I saw



Kate Winslet

Josh Brolin

Van Der Beek stars as a police officer in "Labor Day."

tension radiating in waves."

**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."



# SHOPPING SPY

The latest intelligence from the retail scene

## 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](http://Edithhart.com)

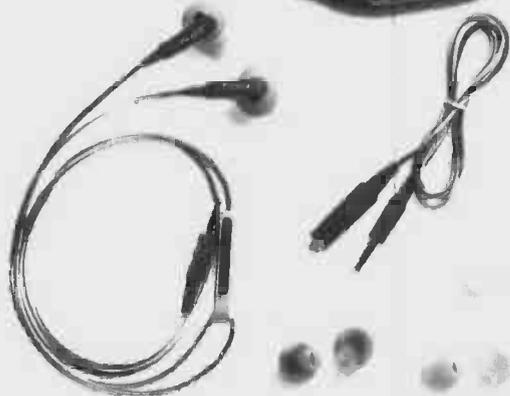
## Culture club

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.-10 p.m.; [Wickerparkbucktown.com](http://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](http://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**



**H**ow 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](http://ChicagoSplash.com).

**Corey Schjoth:** Beating cancer!

**Angellic 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](https://twitter.com/JennyMcCarthy) and [@Suntimes\\_Splash](https://twitter.com/Suntimes_Splash).



# BLOGGING BEAUTY

Patrice Grell Yursik, creator of *Afrobella.com*, shares the things that keep her life lovely

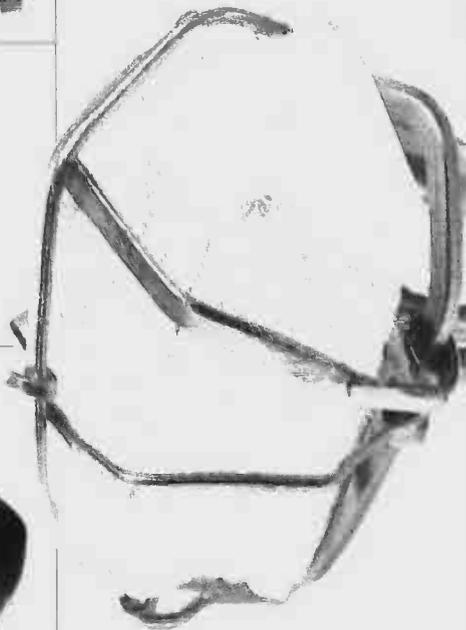
1

"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, and local jeweler and artist **Fanta Celah** does especially beautiful and unique work with crystals."



3



"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."

4

"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."



5

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



6

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



7

"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."



8

"Heavenly fragrant, deeply moisturizing and effective bath-and-body products made by Chicago-based entrepreneur **Dominique Covington**. My skin needs this stuff all winter long."



**1. Benjamin Tea:** roasted almond flavor, \$12, The Bongo Room, 1152 S. Wabash; [Thebongoroom.com](http://Thebongoroom.com)

**2. Fanta Celah:** quartz ring, \$40; [Etsy.com/shop/fantacelah](http://Etsy.com/shop/fantacelah)

**3. Peeled Juice Bar:** Spanking juice custom cleanse, starts at \$99, 940 Church; [Peeledchi.com](http://Peeledchi.com)

**4. Mojo Spa:** Go Green face and body scrub, \$15, 1468 N. Milwaukee; [Mojospa.com](http://Mojospa.com)

**5. Mäurer & Wirtz:** 4711 cologne, \$6.95, Merz Apothecary, 17 E. Monroe; [Merz-apothecary.com](http://Merz-apothecary.com)

**6. Jaz Jewelz:** hammered wide brass hoops, \$20; [Etsy.com/shop/Jazjewelz](http://Etsy.com/shop/Jazjewelz)

**7. Thank God I'm Natural:** Naturals sample pack, \$19.99, Mariano's, 40 S. Halsted; [Thankgodimnatural.com](http://Thankgodimnatural.com)

**8. Skin Deep Natural Body Care:** Jasmine gift set, \$40, Sir & Madame, 938 N. Damen; [Skindeepnaturalbodycare.com](http://Skindeepnaturalbodycare.com)

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Jeffrey D. Nicholls | Sun-Times Media

People walk along the Stations of the Cross at The Shrine of Christ's Passion in St. John, Ind.

# Interactive inspiration at The Shrine of Christ's Passion

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](http://shrineofchristspassion.org).

## Weekends by WeekAway

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

### Lisle, Ill.

**Tree Lights at Morton Arboretum**

Through Jan. 4

[www.mortonarb.org](http://www.mortonarb.org)

### Fulton, Ill.

**Bald Eagle Watch**

Jan. 4

[cityoffulton.us](http://cityoffulton.us)

### Holland, Mich.

**Ice Sculpting Competition**

Jan. 10-11

[www.holland.org](http://www.holland.org)

### Rock Island, Ill.

**Bald Eagle Days**

Jan. 10-12

[qccaexpocenter.com](http://qccaexpocenter.com)

### Niles, Mich.

**Hunter Ice Festival**

Jan. 18-20

[www.ci.niles.mi.us](http://www.ci.niles.mi.us)

### Madison, Wis.

**Isthmus Beer & Cheese Fest**

Jan. 18

[www.isthmusbeercheese.com](http://www.isthmusbeercheese.com)



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# go YOUR WEEKEND PLANNER

## 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-goey 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



A 30-day shutdown of a major Sriracha sauce plant in California could lead to rooster sauce lovers trying their hand at making their own.

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 cooking 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 veggies:** 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 entrées.

**Mainstream Banh Mi:** Vietnamese and French flavors fuse in this meat, mayonnaise and veggie-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, so will knowing the local chefs who create the food we eat.

**HAVARTI GRILLED CHEESE WITH KIMCHI AND 'SRIRACHA' DIPPING SAUCE**

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

- 1 loaf French bread with sesame seeds, cut into 12, 1/2-inch thick slices
- 8 ounces Danish Havarti cheese, cut into 12 slices
- 3 scallions, thinly sliced
- 1 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



A Havarti grilled cheese sandwich with kimchi and homemade Sriracha sauce combines some of the expected food trends for 2014.

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
- 1/4 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 15-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.

“★★★★★ THIS IS ONE TO SEE!”

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“WARM-HEARTED AND EXUBERANTLY ACTED”

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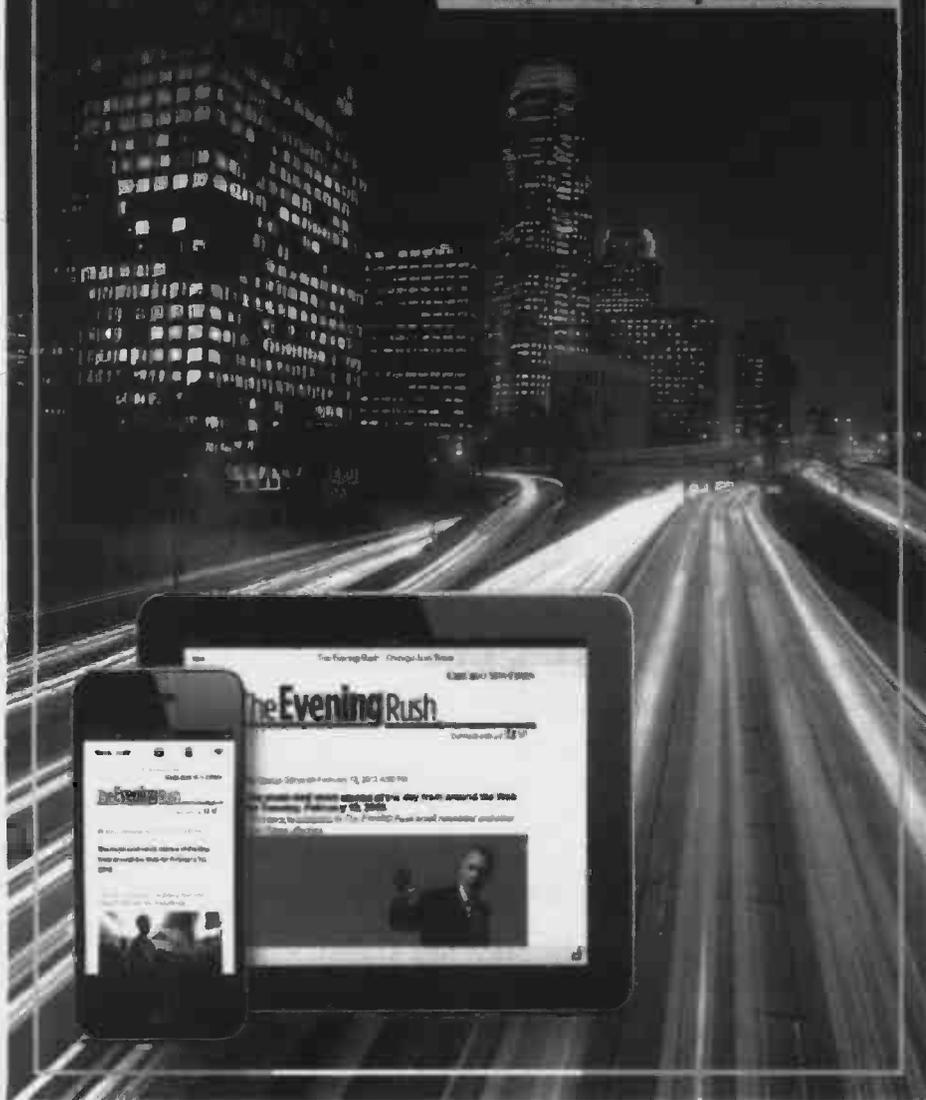
Heidi Kettner and Kelli Pm. photo by Bill Burleigh

# The Evening Rush

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## MOVIES

# 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?



Bill Murray in "Groundhog Day."

**"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.

**"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" 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."

**"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.

**"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 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 idolatrous laugh. And this anthology package also includes the 2002 "Rutles 2: Can't Buy Me Lunch."

**"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.

||| FAMILY FRIENDLY

# 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."

Admission is free. Advance registration is encouraged.

For details, call (847) 965-0203 or go to [www.mortongrovetparks.com](http://www.mortongrovetparks.com).

**HEED THE CALL**

There's a good reason for bringing your family to the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., 7-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3. It's Bingo Time. No registration is required to



participate in this hour of family fun. For details, call (847) 673-7774 or go to [www.skokiepubliclibrary.info](http://www.skokiepubliclibrary.info).

**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) 677-5277 or go to [www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org](http://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](http://www.mgpl.org).

**SUCCESS IS A ROYAL MESS!**

Kids ages 2-6 will be treated like royalty at Fairytale Fantasy with Make-a-Mess-tearpiece, 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 storytime/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](http://www.glenviewpl.org).

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Henry V (top left): Photo by Lisa Eppig; Kenneth's (top right): Photo by Lisa Eppig; Gypsy (middle left): Photo by Lisa Eppig; Road Show (middle right): Photo by Lisa Eppig; The Merry Wives of Windsor (bottom): Photo by Lisa Eppig

# Get gorgeous in 2014

MOMMY ON A SHOESTRING  
BY BETH ENGELMAN



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](http://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\*



Essential oils add a magic touch of fragrance to your homemade beauty treatments.

(Nielsen recommends Nielsen-Massey Madagascar Bourbon Pure Vanilla Sugar)  
¼ Cup extra virgin olive oil  
1 or 2 Drops of essential oil (such as lavender or eucalyptus)

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.

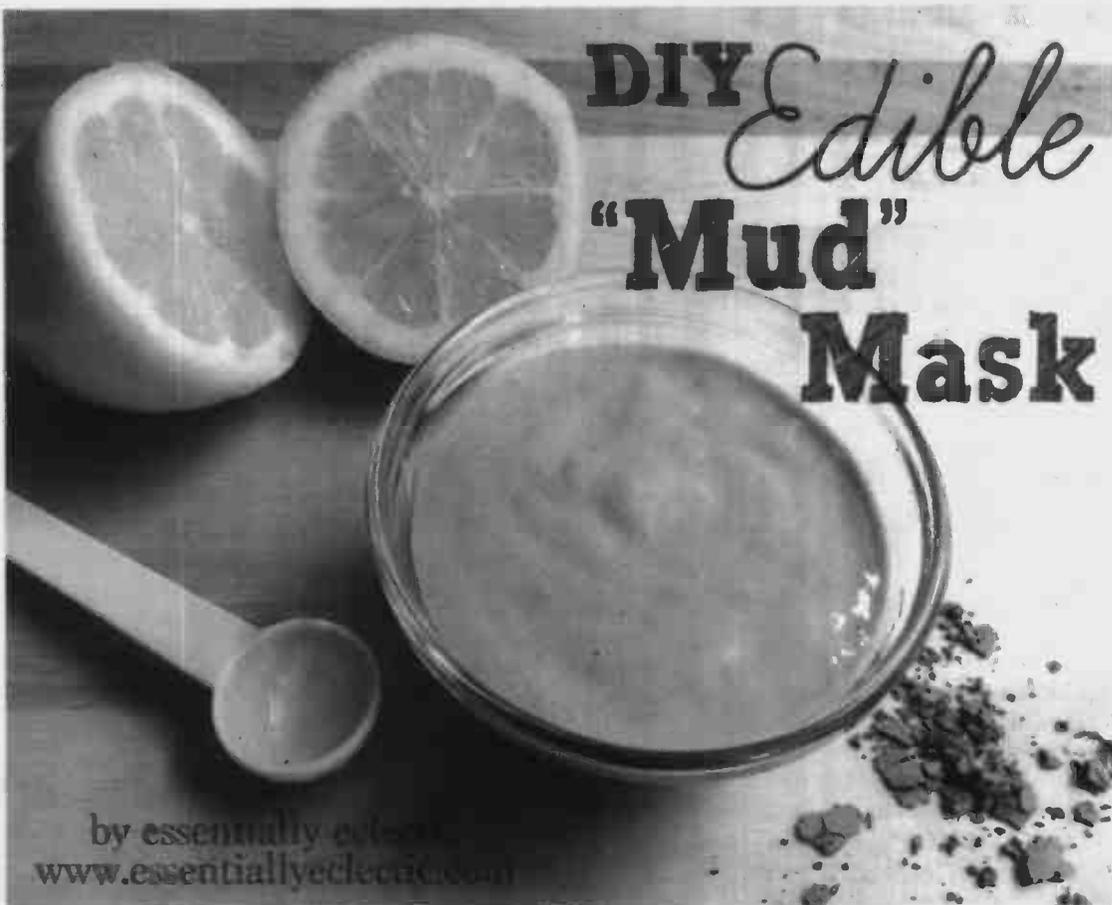
\*To make your own "vanilla sugar," combine 2 cups sugar with the black, gooey insides of one whole vanilla bean. Stir thoroughly and store in an airtight container for 1-2 weeks before use.

## Kool Lip Balm

I love this recipe that comes from Stephanie Dulli ([Stephaniedulli.com](http://Stephaniedulli.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.theaums.com](http://www.theaums.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).



Rejuvenate your skin with a mask of ingredients from your kitchen.

# GO CALENDAR

BY WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE

## THURSDAY, JAN. 2

### Travel Film

2 p.m.: Enjoy a family-friendly movie travelling through a different part of the world. Call 847-825-3123 to find out what movie will be playing this week. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge.

### Holiday Break Stay in Shape

6 p.m.: This holiday workout class is available Mondays and Thursdays through Jan. 2. Norridge Park District, 4631 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge. Call 708-457-1244. \$10-\$14 per class.

### April Macie

8 p.m.: The female comedian, who was a finalist on NBC's "Last Comic Standing," performs stand-up. Additional performance Friday at 10:30 p.m. \$22 and a minimum of two food or drink purchases. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont. Call 847-813-0484.

## FRIDAY, JAN. 3

### Film Lover's Friday: 'Hard Boiled'

1:30 p.m.: A tough cop teams up with an undercover agent to shut down mobsters. Starring Chow Yun Fat, Tony Leung and more. 128 minutes. Elmwood Park Public Library, 1 W. Conti Parkway, Elmwood Park. Call 708-453-7645.

### Do the Downton

2 p.m.: The library is showing "Downton Abbey," episode eight and nine of the third season. 132 minutes total. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

### School's Out Movie: 'Smurfs 2'

2 p.m.: Watch the Smurfs team up with their human friends to rescue Smurfette. 105 minutes. Snacks served. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

### MGPL Kids Flicks: 'Despicable Me 2'

4 p.m.: An all-new comedy adventure featuring the return of former super-villain Gru, his adorable girls, the unpredictable Minions and a host of new and outrageously funny characters. 98 minutes. Call 847-929-5102 or visit [www.mgpl.org/kids](http://www.mgpl.org/kids) for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

### 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 773-625-3369, ext. 33.

### Larry Coryell featuring Paul Wertico & Larry Gray with Fred Simon

8 p.m.: The guitar 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.

## 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.

### 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 847-448-8658.

### New Release Movie: 'The Great Gatsby'

2 p.m.: In 1922, would-be writer Nick Carraway moves in next door to a mysterious, party-giving millionaire and is drawn into the captivating world of the ultra-rich. Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Carey Mulligan, Joel Edgerton and more. 143 minutes. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

### Film: 'The Apartment'

2 p.m.: A man tries to rise in his company by letting its executives use his apartment for trysts, but complications and a romance of his own ensue. Jack Lemmon, Shirley MacLaine. 125 minutes. Call 847-929-5101 or visit [www.mgpl.org](http://www.mgpl.org) for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

### Girls' Day Out

2 p.m.: The Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation is taking a trip to see the most talented cheerleaders and dancers in Illinois at the Winter Meltdown Cheer and Dance Competition

## SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

To submit an event for consideration in print, visit [www.pioneerlocal.com/submit-content](http://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.

in Hoffman Estates. Must be 18 years or older to attend. Registration required. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, 6820 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-966-5522. \$24-\$58.

### Bus Trip: Christmas Lights at Lincoln Park Zoo

3 p.m.: Take a trip downtown to see the Zoo Lights display. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 708-867-7828. \$20.

### Teen DIY: Duct Tape It

3 p.m.: Students grades six to 12 can create a duct tape masterpiece. Registration is limited. Evanston Public Library - Main Branch, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston. Call 847-448-8600.

### Tapman 2

7 p.m.: The dance group performs. Gorilla Tango Skokie, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call 847-677-7761. \$15.

### Josh Wolf

7 p.m.: The comedian, who's a regular on "Chelsea Lately" and "My Name is Earl," performs stand-up. Additional performance Saturday at 9:30 p.m. \$25 and a minimum of two food or drink purchases. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont. Call 847-813-0484.

### The Yule Ball

7 p.m.: Celebrate being off school with a Harry Potter dance. Students grades seven to 12 can dress up as a Harry Potter character and enjoy a night of food, movies, games and dancing. Elmwood Park Public Library, 1 W. Conti Parkway, Elmwood Park. Call 708-395-1237.

### Otis Clay

8 p.m.: Otis Clay, the Chicago legend whose gospel-enriched deep soul attack is thrilling in it's power, vitality and richness, performs. Evanston SPACE,

1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Call 866-777-8932. \$16-\$36.

### 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-\$69.

### 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 847-729-7088.

### The Mark Cleveland Band

9:30 p.m.: The group of veteran Chicago musicians perform. The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston. Call 847-864-1679.

## SUNDAY, JAN. 5

### Holiday Brunch

12:30 p.m.: Social begins at 12:30 p.m., brunch is served at 1 p.m. Reservations required. 19th Century Club, 178 Forest Ave., Oak Park. Call 708-386-2729.

### Connecting with the Creative Process

1 p.m.: In this six-week class, explore OSP Process and learn to combine intuitive art-making with thoughtful writing and reflection. Meets every Sunday through Feb. 16 (no class Jan. 19). Email any questions to [info@openstudioproject.org](mailto:info@openstudioproject.org). Open Studio Project, 903 Sherman Ave., Evanston. Call 847-475-0390. \$180.

### 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 also will send attendees home with a tea sample. Register at [glenviewpl.org](http://glenviewpl.org) or by calling 847-729-7500, ext. 7600. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview.

### BACA Meeting

4 p.m.: Film screening hosted by the Bulgarian American Cultural Association. Evanston Public Library - Main Branch, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston. Call 847-448-8600.

### Ezra Furman

7 p.m.: The poetic lyricist performs indie rock tunes. Evanston SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Call 866-777-8932. \$12-\$24.

## MONDAY, JAN. 6

### Just Because

3:30 p.m.: Kids in grades 3-5 have fun at this event. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood. Call 847-677-5277.

### 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.

### Maker Monday

4:30 p.m.: The group makes crafts out of ordinary things. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-6625.

### Trivia Night

8 p.m.: Winners receive gift cards. Specials include \$4 Budweiser products and 60-cent wings. Buffalo Wild Wings, 7020 Carpenter Road, Skokie. Call 847-329-9333.

## 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](http://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

SEE GO CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE »

« FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

## GO CALENDAR

Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

### 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.

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8

### The Creation of 'The Sound of Music'

1:30 p.m.: Charles Troy's multimedia presentation of the history of the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein tale. Gorilla Tango Skokie, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call 847-677-7761. \$13-\$15.

### 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.

### THURSDAY, JAN. 9

### 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.

### Cinematic Classics: 'Breakfast at Tiffany's'

1 p.m.: A screening of the 1961 comedy about a socialite who falls for a struggling writer who moves into her apartment building in New York City. Starring Audrey Hepburn and George Peppard. 115 minutes. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 11

### Second Saturday Family Story Time

10 a.m.: Stories and crafts for the whole family. 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, 1 W. Conti Parkway, Elmwood Park. Call 708-453-7645.

### Opera on DVD

1:30 p.m.: Watch 'Madama Butterfly' on DVD. Elmwood Park Public Library, 1 W. Conti Parkway, Elmwood Park. Call 708-453-7645.

### 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.

### 25th Annual Rhinofest

7 p.m.: Chicago's longest running fringe festival celebrates its 25th anniversary. Runs through February 23. Prop Theater, 3502-3504 N. Elston Ave., Chicago. Call 773-492-1287. \$12-\$15.

### Liquid Soul

8 p.m.: The local acid jazz band performs funky tunes. Evanston SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Call 866-777-8932. \$12-\$24.

### SUNDAY, JAN. 12

### Snowflake Sunday Lunch

Noon: Chase away the winter blues with an afternoon of Bingo and a catered lunch. Must be 18 or older to attend. Norridge Park District, 4631 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge. Call 708-457-1244. \$13-\$15.

### Sports and B-Dubs

Noon: The Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation is headed to Buffalo Wild Wings in Skokie to watch football and enjoy the food. Must be 18 or older

to attend. Registration required. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, 6820 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-966-5522. \$25-\$60.

### 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.

### Uptight Citizens Brigade Touring Company

7 p.m.: The long-form improv comedy group performs. Evanston SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Call 847-492-8860. \$17-\$30.

### 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.

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||| **MOVIE REVIEW**



Julia Roberts and Meryl Streep in "August: Osage County," based on the Tracy Letts play that premiered at Steppenwolf Theatre.

# 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-scathing, 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 (Margo Martindale), her husband Charlie (Chris Cooper), the Weston daughters Ivy, Karen and Barbara (Julianne Nicholson, Juliette

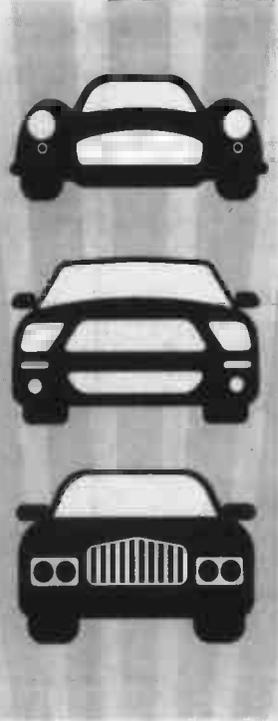
Lewis and Julia Roberts) and their nervous significant others have gathered for the search — then the funeral. And Vi is making up for lost time by inflicting narcotized abuse on the children she so rarely has the chance to see.

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 overbearing, in fact, that "August" might be too painful to sit through if it weren't for the presence of her embittered, equally tough

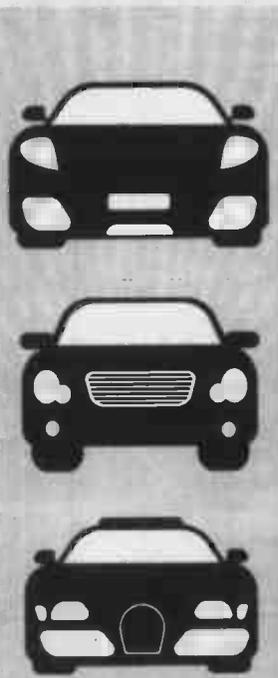
daughter Barbara (Roberts, also a powerhouse). Barbara gives as good as she gets, leading to a power shift that might have been the climax of any normal-scale drama. But there's still a lot more anguish to be uncorked in Osage County.

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."

**'AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY'**  
★★★ 1/2



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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.

#### STILL PLAYING

#### 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



Computer-age Romeo: Joaquin Phoenix in "Her."

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 MITTY

★★★ 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.



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# YOUR Local Worship Guide



## SKOKIE

### Central United Methodist Church

8237 Kenton, Ave., Skokie  
(847) 673-1311  
www.skokiecentralumc.org  
Worship: Sundays at 10:30 AM

### St. Timothy Campus

9000 Kildare Ave. Skokie

#### Sunday Worship

9 am: 시카고 선교교회

10:30 am: St. Timothy's Lutheran

Noon: Agape Life Outreach Center

www.StTimothySkokie.org

### Congregation Bene Shalom

4435 Oakton, Skokie (847) 677-3330  
www.beneshalom.org • Interfaith Families Welcome  
Rabbi Dr. Douglas Goldhamer  
Asst. Rabbi Shari Chen, Soloist Charlene Brooks  
All services voice and sign language  
Check our website for service times

### Evanshire Presbyterian Church

4555 Church Street  
www.evanshirepresbyterian.com  
Every Sunday at 11 AM

### St. Peter's United

Church of Christ  
Oakton Street & Laramie Avenue  
847-673-8166  
www.stpeteruccskokie.org  
Sunday Worship 10AM  
Sunday School 9AM  
(Sept. thru May)  
Rev. Richard Lanford  
Childcare Provided  
Air Conditioned Sanctuary

### Temple Beth Israel

3601 W. Dempster St.  
Skokie, IL 60076  
847-675-0951  
www.tbiskokie.org

## SKOKIE

### Devar Emet Messianic

Synagogue  
7800 Niles Ave., Skokie  
847-674-9146  
www.devaremet.org  
Join us for Shabbat Services at 10am  
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### Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church

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Service with Praise Band  
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10:30 am Sunday School (All ages)  
10:45 am Traditional Service  
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(Adult Classes in English & Assyrian)  
Fridays 7:00-9:30 pm  
Assyrian Fellowship  
Tuesday Evenings 7:15-8:45 pm  
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(for Jr & Sr High Youth)  
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www.ehnt.org  
Weekly Shabbat Services --  
Fri 8PM, Koleinu 7PM & Sat 9:30AM  
Minyan Mon-Thurs 7PM;  
Sat & Sun 6PM  
Monthly Shabbat dinners at 6:30PM  
Religious School Tues & Sat;  
Rabbi Jeffrey Weill  
Cantor Benjamin Warschawski  
Rabbi Neil Brief, Emeritus

## SKOKIE

### KOL EMETH

Conservative Congregation  
Rabbi Barry Schechter  
5130 Touhy, Skokie  
(1 block west of Eden's)  
847-673-3370

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Saturday 9:00 AM Followed by Kiddush  
Sunday 8:30 AM Followed by breakfast  
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847-674-4117  
www.wix.com/skokiecentral/shul

### KEHILLAT SHALOM

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8610 Niles Center Rd, Skokie  
847-679-6513  
www.kehillatshalom.org

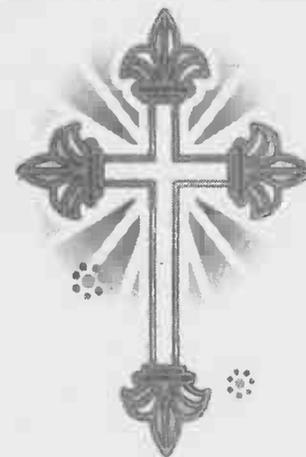
### W.M. Temple Church of God in Christ, Inc.

5151 Church St., Skokie, IL  
(847) 966-1095  
www.wmtcogic.org  
pastorcranford@gmail.com  
Sunday Service: 11:30 AM  
Sunday School: 10 AM  
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7 PM  
Intercessory Prayer:  
Tuesday & Friday, 12 PM  
Dr. Clarence Cranford, Jr., Pastor  
Elizabeth W. Cranford, 1st Lady

## WILMETTE

### Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah

3220 Big Tree Lane, 847-256-1213  
www.bhcbe.org  
Kabbalat Shabbat Fridays 6:00 PM  
Shabbat Service - Saturdays 9:15 AM  
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# YOUR Local Worship Guide



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### 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. Canfield, 60631,  
 (708) 867-5044, www.stpaulcanfield.org  
 Street Level, Air Conditioned  
 Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45AM  
 Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30AM  
 Saturday Worship 6PM  
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### 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  
 773-283-2326 • www.unitedinfaith.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  
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## GLENVIEW

### Rohr Chabad Center of Glenview

701 Harlem Avenue, Glenview  
 Shabbat morning services 9:30 am  
**NO membership required**  
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 847-910-1738  
 www.ChabadofGlenview.com

## MORTON GROVE

### St. Luke's Evangelical Covenant Church

9233 Shermer Rd., Morton Grove  
 Sunday Worship & Sunday School - 10 AM  
 http://www.stlukesec.org/  
 Handicap Accessible  
 Rev. Isabel Hughes, Pastor

### Morton Grove Community Church Presbyterian Church (USA)

8944 Austin Avenue  
 (Lake and Austin)  
 Morton Grove, IL  
 (847) 965-2982  
 www.mgcppresbyterian.org  
 Sunday Worship 10AM  
 Fellowship 11AM  
 Rev. Lolly Dominski  
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## NILES

### St. John Lutheran Church (LCMS)

7429 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
 847-647-9867  
 www.st-john-niles.org  
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 for your forgiveness  
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 Sunday Worship at 9:30  
 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45  
 Rev. Matthew Joseph Gunia, Pastor  
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 God is greater than our heart ...."  
 -1 John 3:20

## NORRIDGE

### Zion Lutheran Church

8600 W Lawrence Avenue  
 Norridge, IL 60706  
 (708) 453-3514  
 Rev. Luther John Bajus, Pastor  
 Sunday Worship 9:30 am  
 Holy Communion 3rd & 5th Sunday  
 Early Communion - 1st Sunday 9:00 am  
 Sunday School - 10:35 am  
 Adult Bible Study - 10:45 am  
 Handicapped Accessible.  
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## NORTHFIELD

### Willow Creek Community Church North Shore Campus

315 Waukegan Road  
 847-441-6599  
 Sunday Services: 9 & 11am  
 Promiseland (Infants-Gr5): 9 & 11am  
 Elevate (Grades 6-8): 11am  
 Impact (Grades 9-12): 6pm  
 For more information visit  
 www.WillowNorthShore.org

## NORWOOD PARK

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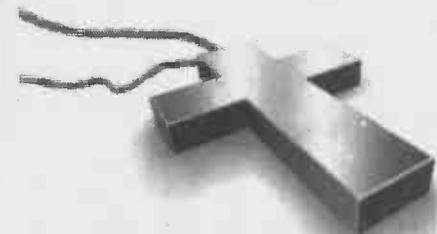
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 Nursery service for younger children  
 8:45 am Confirmation classes for 8th grade  
 9:00 am High School  
 Adult Education Bible Study Sunday 11:30 am  
 Adult Education Bible Study Thursdays 6:30 pm  
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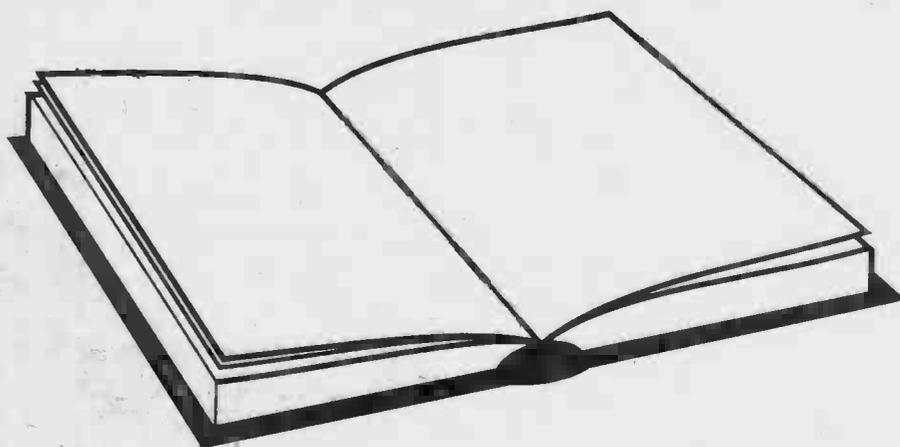
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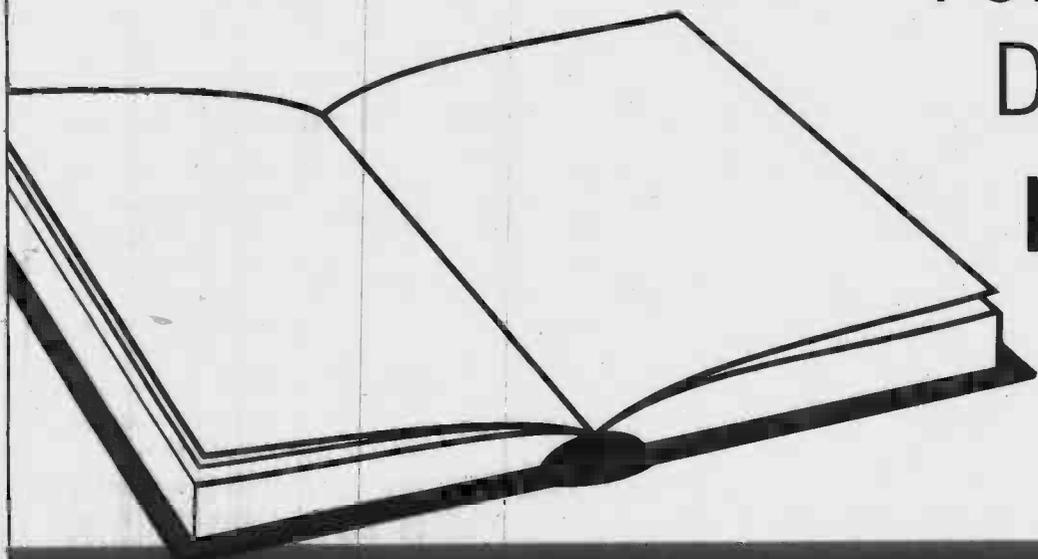
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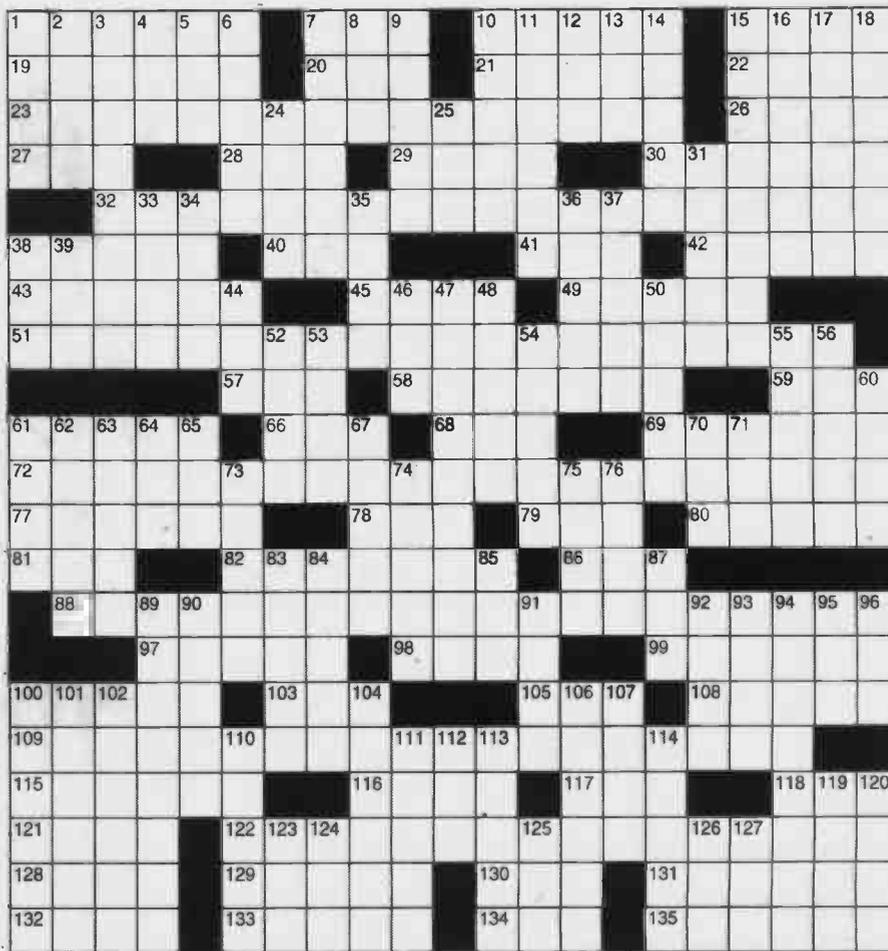


Ask about our available Death Notice Emblems.  
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# PUZZLES

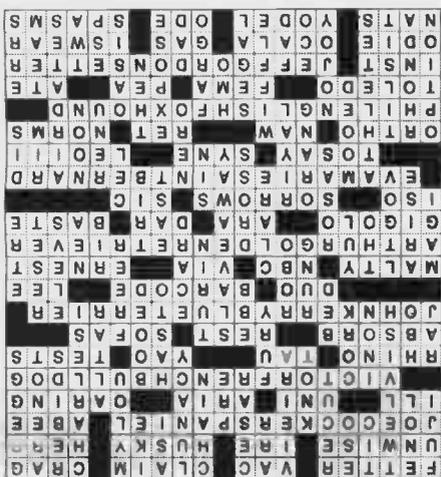
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  - 10 Allegation
  - 15 Steep, rugged cliff
  - 19 Imprudent
  - 20 Anger
  - 21 Burly
  - 22 Mister, in Munster
  - 23 Canine "Midnight Rider" singer?
  - 26 Have — in one's bonnet
  - 27 Having the flu, e.g.
  - 28 Prefix with sex or cycle
  - 29 Opera feature
  - 30 Making a gondola go
  - 32 Canine "Highway to Heaven" co-star?
  - 38 Zoo
  - 40 19th of 24 Greek letters
  - 41 Cager Ming
  - 42 Examines
  - 43 Sponge up
  - 45 See 44-Down
  - 49 Davenport and divan
  - 51 Canine 2004 presidential hopeful?
  - 57 Trio less one
  - 58 Supermarket scanner
  - 59 "Hulk" director Ang
  - 61 Grainy, as beer or ale
  - 66 "Fear Factor" airtel
  - 68 By way of
  - 69 Hemingway or Tubb
  - 72 Canine "Memoirs of a Geisha" novelist?
  - 77 "American —" (Richard Gere film)
  - 78 Legendary coach
  - 79 Patriotic women's org.
  - 80 Moist, as a turkey
  - 81 Same: Prefix
  - 82 Heartaches
  - 86 "Get him, Fido!"
  - 88 Canine "On the Waterfront" Oscar winner?
  - 97 "That's easy for you —!"
  - 98 Auld lang —
  - 99 Pope after Adrian I
  - 100 Weed killer brand
  - 103 Backwoods negative
  - 105 No longer active: Abbr.
  - 108 Averages
  - 109 Canine 1995-2009 Pennsylvania congress- man?
  - 115 Port on Lake Erie
  - 116 Disaster relief org.
  - 117 Stew morsel
  - 118 Gobbled up
  - 121 The "I" of RPI: Abbr.
  - 122 Canine three-time Daytona 500 winner?
  - 128 "Garfield" canine
  - 129 Central Florida city
  - 130 Ethane, e.g.
  - 131 "No lie!"
  - 132 D.C. ball club
  - 133 Alpine warble
  - 134 Lyrical poem
  - 135 Twitches
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Japanese volcano
  - 2 Carbon compound
  - 3 Around 93-Down
  - 4 Twitch
  - 5 That, in León
  - 6 Snip anew
  - 7 Meredith, formerly of "Today"
  - 8 Abbr. at JFK
  - 9 Joker player
  - 10 Sequence
  - 11 Extreme folly
  - 12 "Near — can tell ..."
  - 13 DDE's nickname
  - 14 "Skip to —" (kids' tune)
  - 15 Ninth-century king called "the Bald"
  - 16 Makes a new proposal
  - 17 Response to "Am sol!"
  - 18 Rocker Allman and pitcher Olson
  - 24 Muscle woe
  - 25 Paid intro?
  - 31 "I do" setting
  - 33 Hip to
  - 34 Popped top
  - 35 Great anger
  - 36 Simply must
  - 37 Greeted the villain
  - 38 Rule, in India
  - 39 "True Blood" airtel
  - 44 With 45-Across, recuperation aid
  - 46 Peter out
  - 47 Toil
  - 48 Shroud city
  - 50 Less limited
  - 52 Ladder part
  - 53 Film prefix with Cop
  - 54 Virtual greeting
  - 55 Mtn. statistics
  - 56 Zero out
  - 60 To be, to Fifi
  - 61 Biblical trio
  - 62 Crop up
  - 63 State's #2 exec.
  - 64 E'en if
  - 65 Brynner on Broadway
  - 67 Irish county
  - 70 BBQ meat bit
  - 71 Tchr.'s union
  - 73 Parks and Ponselle
  - 74 Metal debris
  - 75 Part of NE
  - 76 Daily Chi-Town paper
  - 83 Chimp kin
  - 84 Qatari money
  - 85 Ungodliness
  - 87 Disney frame
  - 89 Jocks
  - 90 Copied cattle
  - 91 "I, Claudius" role
  - 92 Contact lens cleaner brand
  - 93 Midday
  - 94 Show times
  - 95 Hoop part
  - 96 Belittle, in rap
  - 100 Alternative
  - 101 The Beach Boys' "Help Me, —"
  - 102 Semihard, mild cheese
  - 104 — ball (game played with a plastic bat)
  - 106 Unveil
  - 107 After that
  - 110 "But there is — in Mudville ..."
  - 111 Actor George
  - 112 Med. group
  - 113 City in North Dakota
  - 114 Refuge
  - 119 Squad
  - 120 Has it wrong
  - 123 Prefix with tour or type
  - 124. In thing
  - 125 Family guy
  - 126 Sci-fi ability
  - 127 Old rival of United



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## III PUZZLE ANSWERS



## III HOROSCOPES: JANUARY 8 — JANUARY 14

BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE INC.



**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** Romantic aspects are high at this time for single Lambs 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 Taureans 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 Scorpion 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.

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## CAR STORY

>> We want to tell your car story. Email it to [kevin.bargnes@wrapports.com](mailto:kevin.bargnes@wrapports.com).

### George Seamon's Corvette

By George Seamon



PHOTO PROVIDED

**I**N 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 cams, 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.

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## AUTO



PHOTO PROVIDED

# No change in auto sales

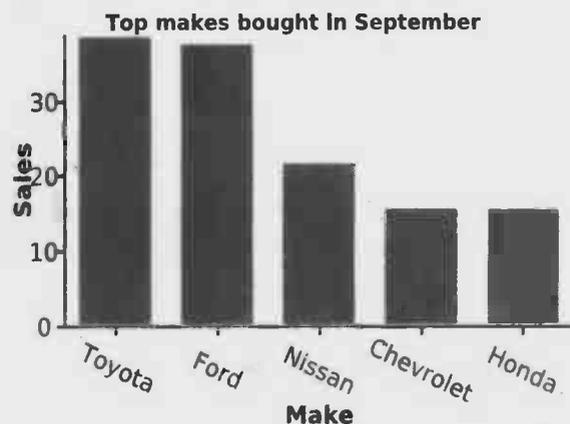
### TODRIVE.COM NEWS SERVICE

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



SOURCE: Illinois Secretary of State

PROVIDED BY TODRIVE.COM

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.

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<p><b>Jeep 2008 Liberty Sport 4WD</b> Good Miles, Satellite Ready, Power Options. Ready For Winter! #14280A <b>\$11,250 888-698-0893</b></p>	<p><b>Chevy 2007 Silverado 1500 Classic</b> Super Low Miles! Extended Cab, V8. Ready To Work! #14237A <b>\$15,995 888-698-0893</b></p>	<p><b>Lexus 2011 GS350 AWD</b> Beautiful! Navigation, Heated Leather &amp; Much More! Loaded! #34826 <b>\$34,995 888-638-5096</b></p>	<p><b>Nissan 2012 Altima 2.5S</b> A Great Price On A Super Gas Saver! #34942 <b>\$16,995 888-638-5096</b></p>
 	 	 	 
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high school CUBE  news

## ||| BASKETBALL

## Area coaches talk point of emphasis for officials

Opinions vary about whether change in officiating is beneficial

BY DAN SHALIN  
For Sun-Times Media, @danshalinr

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 3-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



Loyola boys basketball coach Tom Livatino discusses strategy before the start of the Nov. 27 game at New Trier. Coaches across the state have had to adjust to officiating intended to allow more freedom of movement among the offensive players. | NIC SUMMERS/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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 girls 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.

**Niles North 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:** It 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.

**Glenbrook South boys coach Ben Widner:** I've noticed when [the hand-check is] called earlier in the game, it leads to a cleaner game, most of the time. If one or two are called in the first minute, it's up to the coaches to adjust.

**Livatino:** Where most coaches

will have a problem with the enforcement of the rule is the consistency of it. If one [officialing] crew is calling it the way they are supposed to and calling every hand-check, and then you have another crew [that doesn't], then I have a problem.

**Rodgers:** It's not just the players getting used to it. The refs have reffed under the old rules longer than the players have played under them.

**How have you been forced to coach differently?**

**Olson:** One of the reasons our teams have been successful is that we've really gotten after the basketball. With our lack of size, I always thought pressuring the ball was a way to even things out. [This season] we've had our guys guard giving more space than in the past. Early on, I think we over-adjusted a little bit, now we've found a happy medium.

**Schoenecker:** We're telling kids to keep hands off the offensive player, even a forearm. We're talking more about gap coverage, giving more space and trying to beat your opponent to the spot. I think we're getting there, but for certain girls it's a change of pace.

**Paxson:** I think it has the potential to turn us into a better defensive team if we're taking better angles and using our feet to get in position. We emphasize those things anyway. Now it's almost like you can't do it any other way. We've started to adjust.

**Rodgers:** It's like being a parent: If you tell a kid to do something, it's one thing, but if somebody else is telling them, it's another. If [a player is] forced to sit down because they are fouling, it's a real easy incentive to do the right thing. They want to play.

**Widner:** It's hard in practice because we want our offense to be able to handle some physicality. But for the defense, if we don't call [the way it is in games] then we're practicing bad habits. So, when somebody fouls, we say, 'That's going to be a foul,' [without always stopping play].

## III NOTRE DAME

# 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.

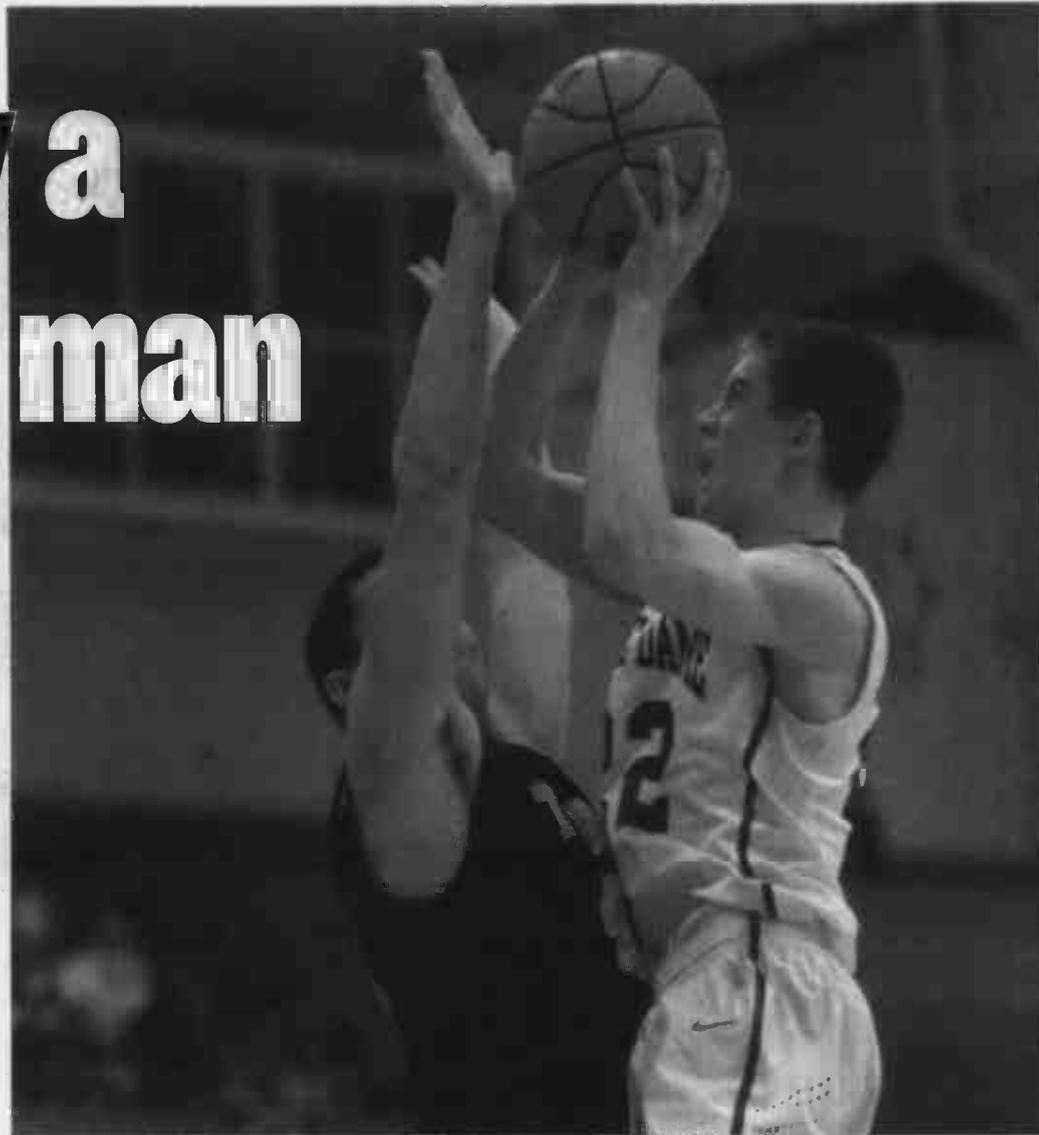
Mooney said opposing teams have guarded him very tight since that game. Matt Mooney, a 2013 Notre Dame graduate, received similar attention in high school. Defenders also have face-guarded Joe Mooney at times, trying to deny the Dons' best offensive player the ball. Joe Mooney said his older brother 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



Notre Dame's Joe Mooney shoots over Glenbrook South's Tommy O'Hara on Dec. 23 at the 36th Annual Wheeling Wildcat Hardwood Classic. | KEVIN TANAKA/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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 defense at the top of the key 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."

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CUBE news

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## BOYS BASKETBALL

Tuesday

Stevenson vs Lake Zurich, 7 p.m.

Wednesday

Wheeling vs Glenbrook North, 7 p.m.



## GIRLS BASKETBALL

Tuesday

Niles North vs St. Ignatus, 7 p.m.

Wednesday

Stevenson vs Lakes, 7 p.m.



## ||| 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-



Niles North's Danillo Ranger shoots a 3-pointer against Fremd during the Wheeling Hardwood Classic on Dec. 26. The Vikings have sometimes settled for jump shots this season because of their struggles at the free-throw line, according to coach Glenn Olson. (NIC SUMMERS/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA)

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."

## CHECKING IN

Thursday, Dec. 26

Fremd 56  
Niles North 40

### THE SKINNY

The Fremd boys basketball team stayed undefeated with a commanding win over Niles North. Fremd limited Niles North to hardly any open looks from inside the 3-point arc and it controlled the glass en route to a 16-point victory that wasn't as close as the final score indicated.

### TURNING POINT

Fremd (11-0) held Niles North to just one field goal in the first quarter and two field goals in the second quarter. Niles North didn't score its first field goal until senior guard J.J. Myles sank a 3-pointer with 26 seconds remaining in the first quarter. Fremd led 15-5 at the end of the first quarter and 34-14 at halftime.

### THE STAR

Fremd senior guard Riley Glassmann finished with a game-best 24 points, and he was very efficient. The Cornell recruit was 10 of 14 from the field, and he scored on several uncontested layups.

### BY THE NUMBERS

Fremd outrebounded Niles North 26-11. Fremd had four players — junior guard Xavier Williams, Glassmann, and seniors forwards Ben Carlson and Matt Ochoa — who finished with five rebounds or more. Niles North (8-3) didn't have anybody secure more than two rebounds.

### QUOTABLE

"The first half is the best we've played all season." — Carlson

## ||| NILES WEST

# 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."



Niles West's Evan Hines shoots a jumper in the Dec. 26 game against Bloom at the Pontiac Holiday Tournament. | PATRICK GLÉASON/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

## CHECKING IN

Thursday, Dec. 26

**Bloom 87**  
**Niles West 58**

PONTIAC — Bloom senior Jared Johnson knew the first-round game at the Pontiac Holiday Tournament was a golden opportunity to showcase his talents and prove his team belongs with the area's elite. He took every advantage of the opportunity, finishing with 27 points and 10 rebounds in Bloom's 87-58 win over Niles West.

Johnson shot 12-for-16 from the field and 3-for-3 from 3-point range. He dazzled the early morning crowd, scoring on drives to the basket, hook shots in the lane, long-distance jumpers and breakaway dunks.

"We just wanted to be here," said Johnson. "We even woke up extra early to get some shots up. The whole team was just excited to come out here and play."

Before Dec. 26, Johnson was averaging 16.5 points, six rebounds and five assists.

The game was close for a quarter, with Bloom leading 19-15. A 15-2 Bloom run early in the second quarter started to put the game out of reach. The Blazing Trojans (7-3) opened the third with an 11-0 run to seal it.

Bloom sophomore Jamal Parks scored 17.

Ahmad Gibson led Niles West (4-6) with 16 points and Romeo Magloire added 15. Freshman Mirsad Mackic had a solid performance with eight points.

# I'LL BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...

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What would you guess was the average ticket price for an NFL game during the 2013 season? The answer -- \$81.54. Now, 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.

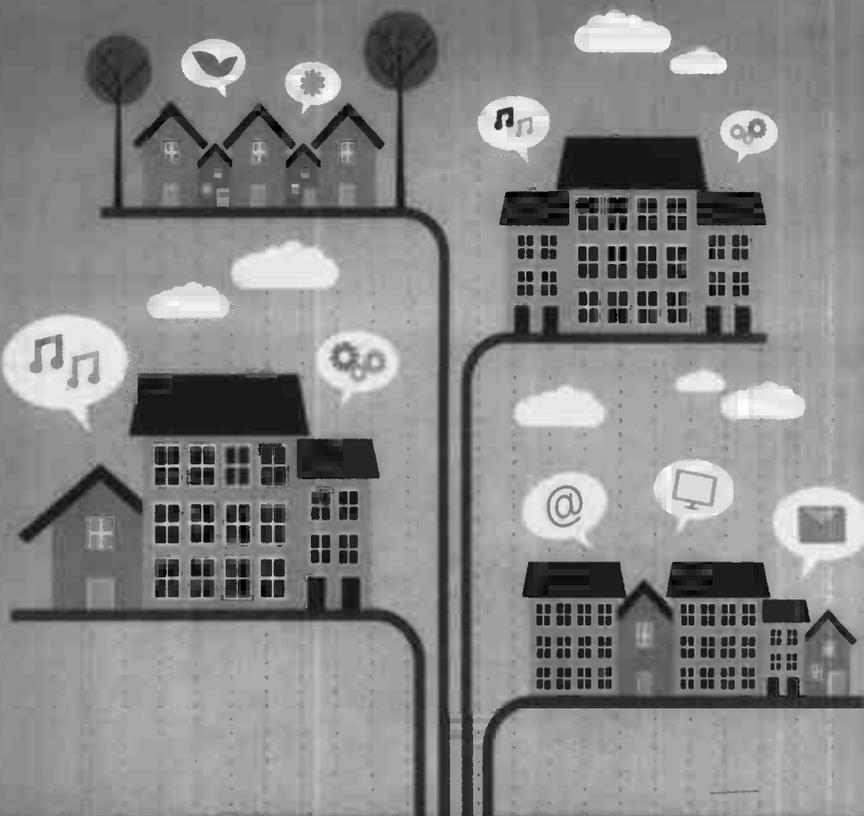
...  
To this day, it's hard to argue that the player who had the greatest impact on basketball was Wilt Chamberlain, at least when it comes to the rules of the game. When Wilt was a freshman at Kansas, before he was even allowed to play varsity, the NCAA made two rules changes for the 1956-57 season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

...  
Northwestern defeated Mississippi State in the 2012 Gator 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, N.C., where Duke hosted Oregon State, losing 20-16.

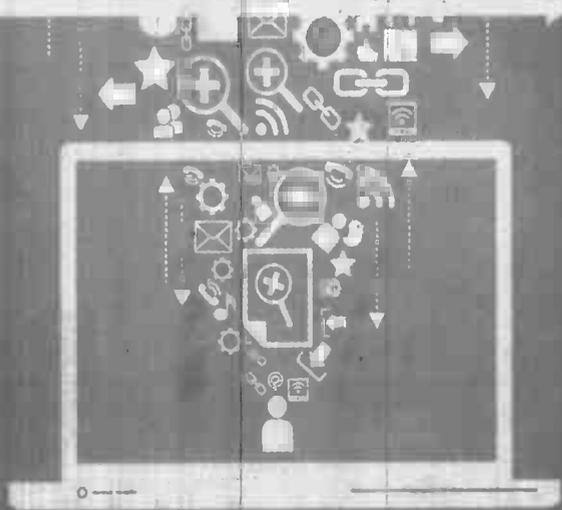
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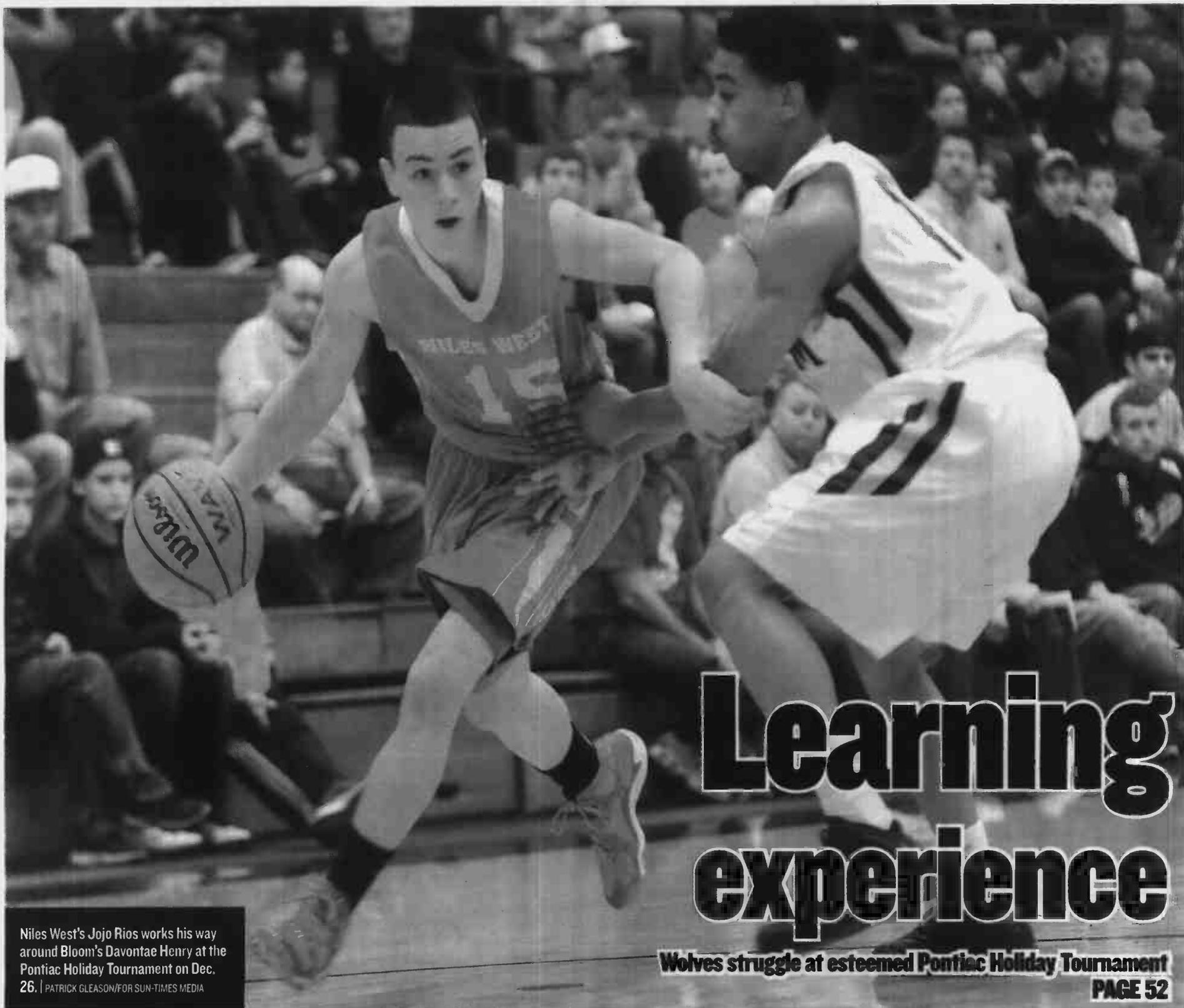
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Niles West's Jojo Rios works his way around Bloom's Davontae Henry at the Pontiac Holiday Tournament on Dec. 26. | PATRICK GLEASON/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

## Learning experience

Wolves struggle at esteemed Pontiac Holiday Tournament



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