Future unclear for tower

Verdict still out on total damage, but board divided on fixing it | PAGE 5
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COMMUNITY
Crowds pour out to hear about Niles' gambling pitch
Experts both for and against the proposal spoke at a meeting in Niles last week as village officials consider video gambling machines. Page 6
Village Board still divided on how to tackle Leaning Tower

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
For Sun-Times Media | @istudenkov

Early this year, the Niles Board of Trustees will have make a vote that has far-reaching implications for one of the village's most iconic structures — the Leaning Tower of Niles.

But the board is still divided on how to deal with the local icon. Wiss, Janney and Eistner Associates Inc. is scheduled to come back sometime in the next few months with an engineering review of damage the tower suffered over the years and how much it would cost to repair it.

The report may reignite the debate that divided the board during a meeting in August, when the funds for the study were originally approved.

Trustees Rosemary Palicki and Chris Hanusiak expressed reservations about paying for repairs of a structure the village doesn't even own. Since then, Palicki's position has softened somewhat, but Hanusiak continued to express skepticism about the tower and its value as a landmark.

The Village of Niles has been leasing the tower since 1995 from its owner, the Leaning Tower YMCA. This was originally done in order to repair the damage that accumulated over the years. But since then, the tower's concrete has been slowly deteriorating, requiring another round of repairs.

Before committing funds for repairs, the village hired Eistner Associates to assess the extent of the damage.

Palicki was an enthusiastic supporter of the tower during the early stages. But once she found out that the village didn't own the tower outright, she expressed reservations about spending taxpayer money on the tower when it's not clear what would happen once the lease expires.

In an interview that took place in December, Palicki said she recognized the tower's value as a village landmark, but she didn't think the repairs should get a blank check.

"I hope we can [repair the tower], because it's a symbol of Niles," she said. "It's part of our history. I think we need to know, realistically, whether it's something we can afford to maintain."

For now, Palicki is keeping an open mind.

"Without having an engineering study, I can't be sure how I'll vote," she said.

Hanusiak, on the other hand, wasn't particularly interested in seeing the tower repaired. During a recent interview, he told the Niles Herald-Spectator that he wasn't particularly happy with the current arrangement.

"For reasons known to God, the Devil and a few politicians, the Village of Niles contracted with the YMCA to rent a parcel of land from the Y which included the then-dilapidated tower," said Hanusiak. "The village then spent oodles of money to fix it, and now it is again falling apart."

When asked how he felt about the village potentially spending money to repair it, he didn't mince words.

"The village administration wants to spend untold amounts to fix the cement, repair or replace fountains and do other general work," said Hanusiak. "The [YMCA] spends zero dollars but reaps all the benefits."

He is skeptical about the tower's value as a landmark.

"News accounts from the 1990s contained wild claims that tourists would flock by the thousands to see the miniature Pisa tower," said Hanusiak. "Result? Sort of like the question — suppose you throw a party and nobody came?"

Niles Herald-Spectator reached out to other trustees, and they've all expressed support for the tower.

Trustee Joe LoVerde, who spoke strongly in defense of the tower's value during the August meeting reiterated his position, touting the tower's unique history and how long its been a part of the village.

He also saw it as an important part of the revitalization of Touhy Avenue corridor, one of the many things that could draw visitors in.

"It should once again be marketed and the story of the tower be told for all to appreciate and enjoy," said LoVerde. "I will do all in my power to both support and help promote the Leaning Tower of Niles."

Trustee Danette Matyas summed up her feelings on the tower thusly.

"The Leaning Tower has been a part of the village since I was little," she said. "I consider it a landmark and icon." She said she'd personally seen Niles residents and out of town visitors and taking pictures and otherwise enjoying themselves around the tower.

"As a trustee, I think it's very important to save [the tower] and look at other ways to raise money to save it, so it doesn't come out of taxpayers' pockets," said Alpogianis. "We need to take a look at federal grant money or state grant money for architectural repairs."
Robin Ellis plays a video gambling machine at Bringer Inn in Morton Grove in January 2013. Niles is considering allowing video gambling, since Morton Grove already allows it.

With village considering video gambling, locals pour out to get info

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
For Sun-Times Media | @studenkiv

As Niles considers legalizing video gambling, residents poured out to learn about the topic at a meeting Wednesday.

The hearing was held Jan. 8 by the Task Force for Testimony on Video Gaming, in order to gauge public opinion on the issue. But while the meeting was well-attended, only five individuals actually spoke — and one individual submitted his testimony in writing.

In October, Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo said he wanted to find new ways to generate revenue. One of the options he wanted to explore was allowing bars and restaurants to install video gambling machines.

Przybylo appointed an all-volunteer task force collect testimony from experts, village residents and Niles business owners. The Board of Trustees would then use this testimony to help them decide whether to allow video gambling.

Illinois State Representative Louis Lang (D-Skokie), the chief sponsor of the legislation that authorized video gambling in Illinois, spoke at the village's second hearing on gambling Jan. 8.

During the course of his testimony, Lang repeatedly stated that he had "no skin in the game" when it came to video gambling in Niles. But, at the same time, his testimony offered nothing but support for video gambling. He argued that Niles residents who want to gamble have plenty of options outside the village, and that Niles is depriving itself of potential revenue.

"If people want to do voluntary activities, they might as well do it here [in Niles]," said Lang. "I urge the people to consider economic growth, economic development."

He questioned the moral objections to video gambling, arguing that prohibiting it was a different type of objection that prohibiting the sale of alcohol and cigarettes.

"This is not a moral question," said Lang. "This is about what we allow people to do."

Speaking as a business owner, Trustee George Alpogianis told the task force that he while he didn't personally support video gambling, he supported bringing it to Niles.

"As a businessman, [I think] we need to make sure to keep a level playing field," said Alpogianis.

Right now, he argued, Niles businesses are at a disadvantage next to businesses in Morton Grove, where video gambling is allowed.

Fred Kudert, a member of the Niles 2030 Plan Implementation Sub-Committee, questioned the viability of video gambling as a revenue stream and urged Niles government to consider whether or not it would bring in more revenue than other potential revenue sources. He also argued that introducing video gambling wouldn't go over well with Niles residents.

"[The sub-committee] sent out a survey that asked residents what the least desirable development would be," said Kudert. "The No. 1 least desirable development was video gambling."
Morton Grove public works employee Dave Hoffman pulls towels and cardboard away from sewer drains on Foster Street. The storms in June 2013 came on garbage day.

**Morton Grove designates new money for flood prevention**

**BY RICK KAMBIC**

Morton Grove trustees approved two measures on Monday that they hope will result in better flood prevention.

The village’s cost-sharing loan program for overhead sewers was doubled from $50,000 in available money to $100,000, while trustees also approved an 18-month moratorium on paving alleys while engineers research flood prevention options.

Houses built before the 1960s have drainage systems that use gravity to pull waste and water into a combined storm water and sewer system. When rains reach flood levels, water can rise back up drainage pipes and flood basements with waste.

An overhead sewer reroutes pipes up a resident's wall as a means of storage. Other devices covered by Morton Grove's program include shut-off valves that, when flipped, prevent fluids from rising above ground level.

Morton Grove has offered residents no-interest loans for such devices since June 2010, but Director of Public Works Andy De Monte said only about four people applied each year because the loans only covered a fraction of the cost.

Now, the updated program offers money for half of the cost, up to $2,500. De Monte said the homeowner must pay for the installation and then will get reimbursed.

De Monte said Morton Grove is an old community, and even his house has gravity-based plumbing with no means of preventing rising sewer waters.

The moratorium on paving alleyways was approved because De Monte said he’s worried about the shrinking amount of land that can absorb water and the growing number of useless or abandoned paved areas that contribute towards flooding.

De Monte said water has to go somewhere, and without natural land to absorb moisture, intense rains will flow down streets and into homes after sewers back up.

Throughout the next 18 months, De Monte said an engineering firm will be contracted to review alleys, unused parking lots and grass plots desired by developers to see if above-ground storage basins could also be constructed.

While those studies are done, Morton Grove's new lobbyist and grant-writing company will focus on searching for state funding to help offset those potential costs.

For alleys that need repaving to be plowed or for safe passage, De Monte said he will review those cases individually.

Morton Grove Police Chief Mark Erickson, left, welcomes newly-hired recruits Thomas Barkei and Jonathan F. Schmidt after they were sworn in on Jan. 13.

**Morton Grove police hire two more new officers**

**BY RICK KAMBIC**

Morton Grove has hired two of the seven new officers that will replace retirees in 2014.

Fire and Police Commission Chairman Michael Simkins swore in recent college graduates Thomas Barkei and Jonathan F. Schmidt during the Village Board’s Jan. 13 meeting.

Barkei graduated from Aurora Central Catholic High School before earning a degree in criminal justice from Iowa Wesleyan College. In his free time, Barkei plays flag football and slow pitch softball.

Schmidt graduated from Batavia High School and then earned a degree in law enforcement justice administration while also minoring in homeland security. Schmidt said he’s dedicated to his friends and career.

The duo is now enrolled in the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy’s 12-week training program at College of DuPage, and is expected to replace two retiring Morton Grove officers by mid April.

Commander Paul Yaras said five other officers will be retiring by fall and he plans to have another group of recruits in the academy’s March 31 term.

All seven officers retiring in 2014, including Chief Mark Erickson, have worked in Morton Grove for more than 30 years, Yaras said.

The department maintains 45 sworn officers and already hired two new recruits in 2013, which means by mid-year, 20 percent of the police force will have been hired in the last 18 months.
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Morton Grove gets aggressive in search for state money

BY RICK KAMBIC
rkambic@pioneerlocal.com

Morton Grove officials are negotiating a contract with lobbyist Dan Shomon, who was a top aide to Barack Obama from 1997 until 2006.

Mayor Dan DiMaria said he promised voters a more aggressive approach to getting state and federal money if elected mayor. DiMaria said he's fulfilling that promise.

"There is a pool of money in Springfield for municipalities and everyone is trying to get some of it," DiMaria said. "We're not down there every day working in the ins and outs of the capital building, but we should be." DiMaria referenced Glencoe's use of a lobbyist since before 2000 and their resulting ability to accomplish more for residents. He said he asked for Morton Grove to also hire a lobbyist while still a trustee, but "past administrations had other priorities."

Glencoe's current lobbyist is Cullen & Associates, whose owner Thomas Cullen was named by the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Magazine as one of Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan's former top advisers.

When the firm's contract was extended last year, it specifically cited a need to expand Willow Road. Glencoe agreed to pay $48,000 plus $4,800 in expenses.

For Morton Grove, Shomon will be focusing on infrastructure needs such as help with $1 million worth of sewer lining every year and the multi-million police station rehab along Lehigh Avenue, among others.
POLICE BLOTTER

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

MORTON GROVE

DUI
Kathleen Lightburn, 38, of Niles, was charged Jan. 4 with driving under the influence of alcohol and child endangerment. Police said an officer saw Lightburn's car make an erratic lane change and cut another car off. After being pulled over, Lightburn allegedly told the officer she had one glass of wine and just pulled over for traffic reasons and then admitted to having marijuana in her car. He allegedly gave police a bag that contained 13.7 grams of a leafy substance. He is scheduled in court Feb. 25.

THEFT
Violet Widmann, 59, of Chicago, was charged Jan. 4 with retail theft after allegedly concealing $78.77 worth of gloves, batteries and razor blades in her purse before leaving the Menards, 6301 Oakton Street. She is scheduled in court Feb. 11.

BATTERY
Nicholas Daniels, 22, of 918 Margate Terrace, Chicago, was charged with battery on Jan. 5. A 16-year-old girl told police that Daniels "smacked" her on the arm after she touched an electric airplane sitting on a desk inside the employee break room at the YMCA, 6300 W. Touhy Ave. Daniels reportedly told police that he swatted the teen's arm away after he told her not to touch someone else's property. He has a Feb. 24 court date.

MORTON GROVE

THEFT
Joanne Georgakakis, 39, of 2845 W. Summerdale Ave., Chicago, was charged with retail theft on Jan. 4 after she allegedly stole nine items of merchandise from Wal-Mart, 5600 W. Touhy Ave. She has a Jan. 23 court date.

THEFT
Davona Stevenson, 19, of 2706 W. Flournoy St., Chicago, was charged with theft on Jan. 6. Police said Stevenson, an employee of a store on the 8500 block of Golf Road, failed to charge a customer for $79.86 worth of items and gave the same customer $250 in cash from her drawer on Dec. 24. She has a Jan. 23 court date.

NILES

THEFT
Joan Flaherty, 21, of 3333 N. Buffalo Grove Road, was charged Jan. 8 with possession of marijuana. Police said Lee's vehicle was pulled over for traffic reasons and then admitted to having marijuana in his car. He allegedly gave police a bag that contained 13.7 grams of a leafy substance. He is scheduled in court Feb. 25.

THEFT
Davona Stevenson, 19, of 2706 W. Flournoy St., Chicago, was charged with retail theft after allegedly taking four tea bags, coffee filters and a paper towel for which she did not pay. Police and Menard's loss prevention department were seen consulting together on the 8500 block of Golf Road, failed to charge a customer for $79.86 worth of items and gave the same customer $250 in cash from her drawer on Dec. 24. She has a Jan. 23 court date.

CRIME BRIEFS

IDENTITY THEFT
A two-year-old email between a resident, realtor and banker was used in an attempt to steal personal information. Police say the resident was selling her mother's house at the time and was given instructions from the banker via email on how to transfer needed money. Suddenly on Jan. 1 the resident appeared to have replied to that two-year-old email asking the banker for a clarification. Upon further review, the resident realized that her Gmail account was tampered with and set to filter certain emails into a hidden folder and not to the main inbox.

PROPERTY DAMAGE
Someone opened a standpipe valve at a business on the 6300 block of Howard Street, causing water to flood the west portion of the building on Jan. 7. Police said the fire department forced open a rear door of the business in order to shut off the water, causing damage to the door, according to police.

NILES

HARASSMENT
A 38-year-old Niles man told police he began receiving harassing text messages on Jan. 4 from a 55-year-old Niles man with whom he was involved in a traffic accident. Police said the suspect admitted to texting the man and agreed to no longer contact him.

THEFT
A 54-year-old landlord from Niles told police that between Dec. 5 and Jan. 7 he was contacted by a woman claiming to be a friend of the tenant he was trying to evict. The woman allegedly told the man she would "make trouble" for him, police said. When police contacted the woman, she reportedly said she did not feel she was harassing the landlord, but agreed not to contact him anymore, according to police.

MORTON GROVE

THEFT
A vehicle identified only as a 2007 Chevrolet was reported stolen on the evening of Jan. 8 from the 9000 block of Cumberland Avenue. The owner told police she typically kept the vehicle unlocked with a spare key inside.
District 64

Board 'leaning toward' pick for new superintendent

Two candidates being considered for superintendent of Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 visited district schools last week, meeting with parents, teachers, support staff and administrators.

Parents and members of the public were given just 30 minutes to pose questions to candidates Robert Machak and Laurie Heinz during separate community forums at Emerson Middle School in Niles and Lincoln Middle School in Park Ridge.

The candidates were then interviewed by the Board of Education during two separate closed meetings on Jan. 9 and Jan. 10. School Board President Anthony Borrelli said the board is "leaning toward" hiring one of the two candidates, but must first schedule visits to the candidate's current school district, review the results of a background check and develop a contract.

"So many things have to be done," Borrelli said. "It's still early in the process.

Borrelli added that he would like the board to approve the new superintendent during the next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Jefferson School, 8200 Greendale Ave. in Niles.

During his appearance at Emerson, Machak was largely asked questions regarding the education of special needs students in the district. But when asked about what "best practices" he had put in place during his administrative career — and what he might bring to District 64 if hired — Machak spoke at length about student service projects.

"One of the neatest things I saw kids do was to get involved in service learning," he said, describing how students participated in educational intergenerational projects with local seniors while he was principal of Field Middle School in Northbrook and how students made Christmas cards, sold them, and then donated the money to a local food pantry during his time as superintendent of Emmons Elementary School District 38 in Antioch.

"It's a wonderful idea to incorporate this notion of service," Machak said.

Parent Kathleen Hagenlocker, who has two children at Franklin School, said she would like a superintendent who is accessible, knowledgeable and a good person to work with. She acknowledged that she felt positively about Machak.

"I didn't see any red flags," she said.

"Like the passion he carried for exploratory courses," added parent Lisa Crampton, who has three children at Field School.

Crampton was referring to Machak's view of elective courses that were put into place when he was superintendent of Emmons Elementary School District 38 in Antioch.

Machak explained that non-graded elective courses encouraged students to explore new areas of interest.

A good exploratory program is key to a good middle school," he said.

Machak, who is currently superintendent of Evergreen Park Elementary School District 124, declined to comment specifically to the Park Ridge Herald-Advocate about why he was interested in the District 64 superintendent, but did say that the community is one he would "like to raise my kids in."

"District 64 is interested in the success of all children, not just some or most, and that fits in with my philosophy," Machak added.

Machak was hired as superintendent of District 124 in 2012, shortly after a high-profile, two-week teachers strike.

Also seeking the top leadership post is Heinz, who visited District 64 schools Friday. During her morning meet-and-greet at Emerson, she fielded questions about her strategies for balancing student needs and providing social-emotional learning opportunities.

Teachers also inquired how she would navigate the sometimes-tenuous relationship between educators and the school board, and find common ground for long-time staff and a fairly new administrative team.

"I think that does help unify us all moving forward in the same direction," said. "I think we all have to operate from the same base of information. I think that does help unify us all moving forward in the same direction."

Heinz said spending a few days a month at District 64 schools would be a personal priority.

"As superintendent, I want to be hands-on and very involved," she said. "I really do want to be connected to the kids."

She detailed how she most recently oversaw the implementation of a revamped gifted program at Skokie School District 68 as assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. Her administrative tenure has also been marked by new technology initiatives, including the addition of digital technology, engineering and robotics classes at District 68, and the gradual rollout of a 1:1 laptop initiative in fifth through eighth grades at Northbrook School District 27.

Danielle Hartung, a mother of two Roosevelt students, said she thought Heinz "presents herself very well."

Hartung would like the next leader to be someone who has a clear vision, works well with both teachers and parents, and keeps all students' needs in mind.

Terry Krahl, a member of the District 64 Board of Education from 1983 to 1998, attended both meetings with Machak and Heinz.

"I was just curious to see how the [hiring] process changed," she said.

Krahl said the most noticeable difference in education since her time on the board is the mobility of superintendents.

"In the olden days, you went to a district and stayed there," she said. "You had no incentive to go elsewhere."

Krahl applauded today's administrators for their "creativity" in carving out career paths to a not-so-easy position.

"It's a tough job," she said.

Current superintendent Philip Bender is leaving the district at the end of the 2013-14 school year.
Park District creates policy for giving aid

BY RICK KAMBIc
rkambic@pioneerlocal.com / @rick_kam bic

Officials at the Morton Grove Park District are implementing a new policy for helping low-income families use its programs, a system that officials say will now be more fair and uniform.

More than $15,000 in program fees and membership premiums were waived for 55 Morton Grove families between fall 2012 and fall 2013. However, Superintendent of Recreation LeeAnn Fisk told park commissioners those grants were not consistent.

The park district plans to implement a new scale that offers 45 percent off to families with annual incomes of $15,999 or less, 35 percent off for families with incomes between $16,000 and $29,999, and 25 percent off for families with incomes between $30,000 and $39,000. All grants will be capped at $1,000 as well.

The percentages and income levels are based on various other national and local poverty level subsidies, Fisk said. Before granting waivers, the park district reviews W2 tax forms, any forms regarding state aid, and documents from schools that show any other subsidies.

"We want to put these percentages into place so there's no question as to who's getting what or how things are calculated," Fisk said. "Coming into this, we couldn't figure out why some families got what they got."

According to Fisk's Jan. 9 report to the Park Board, 18 families who received grants last year were picked at random for review. One family with an annual household income of $6,000 had 60 percent of a camp fee waived. Most Monday through Friday summer camps at the park district range from $186 to $284 for each of the four sessions, which varies by the type of activities and length of camp.

Each camp, however, also has less expensive groups that meet only on Tuesdays and Thursdays or Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Another family in Fisk's report was given 40 percent off camp fees. That family had an annual income of $11,500. A third family, one with a $21,000 income, was granted 50 percent off camp fees. A similar instance occurred with the preschool program. One family with an income of $12,000 had 50 percent of preschool fees waved, while a family with a $30,000 income got 30 percent off, and a third family that earned $38,000 had 40 percent of fees discounted.

Two- and three-day-a-week preschool classes for 2- and 3-year-olds run between $382 and $761. Five-day-a-week classes for 4-year-olds cost $1,587.

"Not only do we help those who can't pay, but we're making sure our residents can participate," Executive Director Tracey Anderson said. "That's the good thing. Money aside, we're helping people feel included."

Anderson said granting subsidies on a few passes wouldn't force the facilities to close. Pool passes for children range from $61 to $64, and range between $73 and $77 for adults. Both Anderson and Fisk said applications for financial aid that reference a hardship, such as a house burning down, will still be reviewed on an individual basis with a different type of analysis.

NEW FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

- Annual income of $15,999 and under qualify for 45 percent discounts
- Annual income between $16,000 and $29,999 qualify for 35 percent off
- Annual income between $30,000 and $39,000 qualify for 25 percent subsidy

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

Get up and go
Your guide to the weekend and beyond

Every Thursday
Coming Together In Skokie slates six-week look at Korean culture

Innovative program now in its fifth year

BY MIKE ISAACS
misaacs@pioneerlocal.com / @SKReview_Mike

Coming Together in Skokie — which now has Niles Township in its title, too — marks its fifth year this month by taking a six-week look at the culture of Korea through an eclectic array of programming throughout the village and beyond.

The innovative annual program, which has quickly become a staple in Skokie, adds the Korean culture to a list that has included the Greek, Assyrian, Filipino and Indian cultures over the past four years.

"The village remains deeply committed to this important and unique collaboration among many different community groups that presents the opportunity for everyone to take part in a valuable learning experience," states Mayor George Van Dusen in the color-

ful Coming Together in Skokie & Niles Township booklet that will be found at different venues, including the Skokie Public Library.

A press conference to introduce the new chapter of Coming Together in Skokie & Niles Township is scheduled for Jan. 16, before the plethora of programs begins a bit later in the month and runs into March.

The common denominator in each year's program is always literature, by way of a carefully selected book or books that inspire many of the 50 or so events that are planned.

Three books — "Everything Asian" by Sung J. Woo, "Kimchi & Calamari" by Rose Kent and "Rabbit and the Dragon King: Based on a Korean Folk Tale" by Daniel San Souci and Eujin Kim Neilan have been chosen for this year's installment. Programming also includes visits by authors.

Coming Together in Skokie was developed from a series of informal lunches among key women with diverse backgrounds in the village.

"We felt that through reading — through literature — we could give people a greater understanding of each other," said Susan Van Dusen, one of the founding five and wife of the mayor.

Other founders included Skokie Library Executive Director Carolyn Anthony, Niles Township High School District 219 Superintendent Nanlaan Gatta, Indian Community of Niles Township President Usha Kamaria and Sheila Gilani of the Skokie Holiday Inn.

The women knew that Skokie, among the most ethnically diverse cities and villages in the state, already had gained recognition for how it celebrates the different backgrounds of its citizens. Its annual Festival of Cultures has served as a model for other communities, for example.

The founders wanted to continue the spirit of such a program but not simply to repeat it.

"We looked for ways to celebrate our diversity but not in a one- or two-day festival, which is wonderful, but we wanted a more intense experience," Van Dusen said. "We had no idea whether it would work or not but we went with it. Our expectations were met and then exceeded manyfold."

Coming Together in Skokie attracts about 3,000 visitors to its programs every year. Pioneer Press will have an in-depth look at this year's version as well as upcoming programming in its Jan. 23 issue. It will also be on hand for the grand opening Jan. 26 at Niles West High School.
HELP SQUAD

CTA glitch results in bus rider walking to work in 25 below

HELP SQUAD
BY JACKIE PILOSSOPH

J erry Helland of Genoa wrote an email to his daughter, Lisa Hammer of Glenview, and she alerted Help Squad, stating that he wanted the following story to be told, not for any financial gain, but so that it didn’t happen to anyone else.

The morning of Jan. 7 was one of the coldest Chicago mornings in history, with the wind chill factor making it feel like 25 below zero.

Although no day is a good day for a bus pass to malfunction, this particular day was the worst possible day it could have happened.

Helland is a government employee who has been taking the Metra from Elgin, followed by a bus from Union Station to his Loop office every morning for several years. He said he has never had any problem with his Ventra pass until the day Chicago was being called Chiberia.

That morning, with the card on which he had just put $20 via his computer, Helland was told by the CTA bus driver on his 151 bus route that the card had a zero balance.

Helland told Help Squad that the driver told him there were “no more free rides.” Not wanting to create a situation and fearing he could get arrested, the 70-year-old man (who recently had back surgery) got off the bus and walked to work.

Dear Mr. Helland,

First of all, we’re sorry that you had to trek to work in subzero temperatures. That couldn’t have been fun. We’re also sorry that the CTA driver appears to have been so cold.

Upon hearing your story, we contacted the CTA and spoke with media representative, Lambrini Lukidis. After promising to attempt to find out who the driver was, as well as explaining that this is the first incident in recent weeks she’s heard about regarding a problem with a Ventra card, Lukidis issued this statement:

“As a matter of procedure, bus operators are required to ask for fares at all times, and drivers are further instructed not to engage in fare disputes with customers. In this instance, the driver did ask for a fare but did not tell the customer to get off of the bus based on customer’s version of events. The customer exited the vehicle on his own. Given the temperatures on Tuesday, it would have been OK for the customer to remain on the bus.”

Helland’s response:

“I may not have been physically kicked off the bus but the CTA policy is wrong. When a Ventra card does not work properly, the passenger should be given benefit of doubt... it was 25 below zero. It appears the Ventra system continues to have problems and the CTA needs to appreciate it has a continuing problem.”

Helland did contact Ventra. A representative told him that his account did, in fact, show a $20 balance, but that they had to “push it through.” Helland asked what that meant and if there was anything he could have done to prevent his account from malfunctioning. The representative didn’t really have an answer.

Help Squad did attempt to reach Ventra to find out what might have happened and if the company had any advice for other CTA riders who might experience this glitch. We left Ventra three messages and never heard back.

The CTA did end up crediting Helland $1 for the ride he missed. Lukidis issued this statement, as well:

“The CTA is also in the process of upgrading Ventra readers to provide more information right on the reader to customers when a transaction doesn’t go through to better assist them. This includes letting them know when their balance has insufficient fare.”

Our conclusion is that the CTA driver didn’t technically do anything wrong, and that Helland’s story seems to be an isolated incident, but come on. Seriously? We’re talking about a 70-year-old man in negative-25-degree weather. Why wouldn’t the driver take Helland’s word for it, especially with Ventra’s history of system malfunctions? The whole thing sounds a little icy.
Hey, United Van, take Springfield with you

BY RANDY BLASER

State Rep. Michael McAuliffe, R-20th, who represents Chicago's far Northwest Side and nearby suburbs, posted an interesting link on his Facebook page the other day to a report from United Van Lines that shows Illinois is second in the nation in the number of people getting the heck out of the state.

But that isn't all. Illinois has been No. 2 in this study for three of the past four years. In 2011 we topped New Jersey, this year's leader, as the most desirable state to be from.

Could it be true? Illinois is like New Jersey? More people want to get out of Illinois than any other place in America except New Jersey? Can't Michael Madigan block a bridge somewhere?

But United Van Lines is just a moving company, and one of many moving companies. Maybe the stats are skewed. Many people moving into Illinois opt to use U-Haul.

Unfortunately, the U.S. government confirms what the moving company knows to be true. A lot of people are leaving the Land of Lincoln.

According to the census bureau, nearly 278,000 people got out of Illinois in 2012. More than 208,000 people moved into Illinois for a net loss of 70,000 people in one year. I'm no expert by any means, but even I know this can't be good.

Where do they go? Obviously, California, Texas and Florida are the most popular destinations for people to get out.

But consider this. When factoring out the movement between states, Illinois lost 8,000 residents to Wisconsin, 11,000 to Indiana and 9,000 to Missouri. That's right, some 28,000 of the 70,000 choosing to get out of Dodge, so to speak, or 40 percent of our losses in 2012, moved across the border.

Last I heard, these border states aren't retirement destinations. Why would so many people be leaving?

"I don't know about you, but as a lifelong resident of Illinois, and as someone who loves his home state and hometown, this just isn't good enough. I don't like hanging around with New Jersey and Nevada. I don't like people fleeing the state for greener pastures. I don't picture greener pastures as Wisconsin, Indiana and Missouri."

I don't know about you, but as a lifelong resident of Illinois, and as someone who loves his home state and hometown, this just isn't good enough. I don't like hanging around with New Jersey and Nevada. I don't like people fleeing the state for greener pastures. I don't picture greener pastures as Wisconsin, Indiana and Missouri.

But I have a solution. Hire United Van Lines to back up one of their trucks to Springfield, load up the Capitol Building starting with Mike Madigan's office, and get him and the cadre of clowns running this state into the ground out of here.
New state laws hard to understand

45,872

and counting. That is the number of things I don't understand. Tanning is one of them. I don't understand why people do it. Cultivate a tan, that is. You are what you are and you ain't what you ain't, as John Prine sings.

And it must not be too healthy getting yourself tanned all the time. Because a new Illinois law went into effect Jan. 1 forbidding those under 18 from using tanning parlors, even if they have permission from their parents.

What I wonder is: Do teenagers have a different molecular structure than the rest of us? If not, and we're all molecularly equal, then wouldn't tanning be harmful for people over the age of 18, too?

Oh well, I guess the Illinois legislature thinks we adults can take care of ourselves. I hope that assumption is true now that it is legal to tote iron in Illinois. You know, tote iron. Pack a roscoe. A piece. Carry a gun. It's hard for me to understand.

Not so many years ago, it seemed remote and far-fetched that just about anyone could go about the streets carrying a concealed gun. Guns seemed to be on their way out. Back then we were all laughing at Archie Bunker's solution to airline hijacking — arm all the passengers.

That idea wouldn't draw a smile today, probably is NRA policy and would be supported by many politicians. I understand that carrying a gun will not be permitted in some places, such as schools (though the NRA thinks arming school personnel is a good idea). And merchants can put up signs telling customers they can't bring a gun onto the premises. But what about us non-pistol-packers?

Can I wear a sign stating: "I am unarmed. Please don't shoot me"? Or, do I want to go the other way, try to bluff with a sign that states: "Armed and dangerous. Don't even try it"?

I don't understand.
High School Cube News, Sun-Times Media’s new high school sports website, launched this week. It’s the latest evolution in Chicago area prep sports coverage. High School Cube News will integrate all the highlights and live games from HighSchoolCube.com with the comprehensive coverage formerly provided by Season Pass.

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

Go to highschoolcubenews.com or click "SPORTS" on your local newspaper site.
PROPERTY TRANSFERS

By WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE

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

Niles
6575 E Elting Drive: Henryk Baran and Irene Baran to Gs Property Investments Group LLC for $203,000 on Nov. 25
6915 W Milwaukee Ave, #A: Michael Janowski to Paul S Juarez and Mary L Juarez for $275,000 on Nov. 25
6456 W Normal Ave: Scott D Humphries and Karyn J Humphries to Patti Sloj for $407,500 on Nov. 25

Morton Grove
6337 Hennings Court: Jly Pak and Morton Grove Trust and Michael Replin Trust to Adrian Niculescu and Maria Niculescu for $269,000 on Nov. 27
8458 W Normal Ave: Scott D Humphries for $407,500 on Nov. 25

Skokie
7441 Lincoln Ave: Aisha Nawab to Atif M Shaikh and Javed A Saffar for $199,000 on Nov. 27
6575 W Ebinger Drive: Henryk Baran to Lisa M Durchin for $285,000 on Nov. 25
4450 Main St: Heewon Kim to William M Wade and Glynn S Wade for $140,000 on Nov. 25
4430 N Neya Ave, #303: Abba Jarouer to Shameen Ahmadi and Javed A Saffar for $199,000 on Nov. 27

Kane
9731 Feglen Drive, #6n: Kerry Greiner Trust and Michael Replin Trust to Adrian Niculescu and Maria Niculescu for $56,000 on Nov. 26
9731 Feglen Drive, #6n: Kerry Greiner Trust and Michael Replin Trust to Adrian Niculescu and Maria Niculescu for $56,000 on Nov. 26
6815 N Milwaukee Ave, #509: Michael Development Co LLC to John C Pereira and Melissa Pereira for $203,000 on Nov. 26
2609 Park Lane: Judicial Sales Corp, for $285,000 on Nov. 25

Deerfield
1101 Norman Blvd: Christopher Lahey and Stacy M Hernandez to Sandra Rosemont
6200 Byron St: Elias G Kontos to Kristen B Canalia to Lisa M Durchin for $230,000 on Nov. 26

Des Plaines
6200 Byron St: Elias G Kontos to Kristen B Canalia to Lisa M Durchin for $230,000 on Nov. 26
8731 Hamlin Ave: Mitchell M Dayan Trust, Mitchell M Dayan Trust and M Dayan Mitchell Trust to Millenica Inc for $150,000 on Nov. 26
8651 St Louis Ave: Nicolae Big, Lisbeth Herrera and Lisbeth Herrero to Sandra Vergara for $250,000 on Nov. 25

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Get up and go
Keep up with the latest songs & albums in the Listen section.

Every Thursday
**NILES**

**THURSDAY, JAN. 16**

**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 847-663-1234.

**FRIDAY, JAN. 17**

**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.

**MIXED CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**
6:30 p.m.: An evening of entertainment and fun for all ages. Prairie View Community Center, 8934 Dempster St., Morton Grove.

**TUESDAY, JAN. 21**

**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.

**Study Munchies**
4 p.m.: Teens can stop by with friends to study for finals. Snacks and drinks provided. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**Park Board of Commissioners**
6 p.m.: Meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Howard Leisure Center, 8676 W. Howard St., Niles.

**ESL Club**
7 p.m.: New English speakers can join this conversation club to practice speaking English. Meet people from all over the world to share personal stories and discuss current events and other topics chosen by the group. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. For more information, call 847-663-6433.

**SUBMIT YOUR EVENT**
To submit an event for consideration in print, visit www.pioneerlocal.com/submission 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.

**Family Story Time**
7 p.m.: Stories, songs, and activities for children with children ages 2 to 6. Attendees are welcome to wear pajamas. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**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.

**HAPPENING NEARBY**

**THURSDAY, JAN. 16**

**Genealogy Help**
9 a.m.: A representative from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution will be at the library to answer any genealogy questions. This service will be available on the third Thursday of each month, September through May. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

**Story Time for 2s**
9:30 a.m.: Stories and songs for 2-year-olds with an adult. A second session is held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

**Thursday Morning Book Discussion**
10 a.m.: The group discusses "The Light between Oceans" by M.L. Stedman. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

**Story Time for 3s**

**Survivor Book Signing**
1 p.m.: Meet with Holocaust survivors who have written stories about their experiences. The event is held in the Feis Family Lobby on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons in January, subject to author availability. Illinois Holocaust Museum, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. Call 847-967-4800.

**Craft Studio: Rainbow Loom**
4:30 p.m.: Learn to make a bracelet using colorful rubber bands. For kids in grades 4 to 8. No registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5216 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-324-3149.

**Pizza Wars**
7 p.m.: The District 219 Education Foundation for Excellence, with the assistance of the student organization Dance Marathon, will host its fourth annual Pizza Wars. Tasting will begin at 6 p.m., and the trophy will be awarded at 7:30. The evening will also feature live entertainment from Niles West and North student bands, face painting and a strolling magician. Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton St., Skokie. $12-$15, $40 for a family of four.

**BE AN ONLINE DETECTIVE**
7 p.m.: Learn how to find public records and protect your private data online. Registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5216 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-673-3733.

**FRIDAY, JAN. 17**

**Photoshop Elements**
3 p.m.: Learn the basics of using layers and other simple functions of Adobe Photoshop. Registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5216 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-324-3149.

**Lego CodeBots Club**
4:30 p.m.: Kids ages 4 to 8 can use Lego WeGo sets to make robots. Registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5216 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-324-3149.

**Mega Movie Pajama Night**

**Minecraft Club**
6 p.m.: Children in grades four to eight can join, but space is limited. Glenview Public Library, 3930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Call 847-612-5100.

**T.G.I.F. Family Night**
6:30 p.m.: An evening of entertainment and fun for all ages. Prairie View Community Center, 8934 Dempster St., Morton Grove.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 18**

**Blood Sugar Accu-Chek Screening**
9 a.m.: Mather’s, 7104 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804.

**American Red Cross Babysitting Training**
9 a.m.: Learn how to act in an emergency, prevent accidents, play with and supervise children of different ages and more. Come to class with a pen, pad of paper and a child-like doll. Please bring a lunch. For ages 11 to 15. Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 W. Sibley St., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-5127. $60-$95.

**Introduction to Microsoft Windows 8**
10 a.m.: Participants will learn about Microsoft's latest operating system. Registration required. Morton Grove Public Library, 5125 Oakton St., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

**Developmentally Disabled Adult Loss Workshop**
10 a.m.: Includes a time for reflection, sharing and renewal and a closing ritual for family members loved ones of a developmentally disabled adult. Registration required. Contact Merrill Smith or Grace O'Connor at 847-318-2303. Adult Down Syndrome Center, 1610 Luther Lane, Park Ridge. Call 847-318-2303. $15 suggested donation.

**Club Wonder! Fun with Apps**
10:30 a.m.: Julie Levin of Wee Speech shares apps that may help children with special needs develop stronger speech and language skills. For ages 3 to 7. Registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5216 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-324-3149.

**Wearable Art**
Noon: Create wearable art by up-cycling T-shirts. Call 847-663-1234 or visit www.mgpl.org for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

**Skokie Madden Bowl VI**
Noon: Compete with "Madden NFL 13" players of all ages for a gift certificate to GameStop. Snacks, drinks and prizes are provided. Registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5216 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-673-3733.

**Wearable Art**
Noon: Create wearable art by up-cycling T-shirts. Mather's, 7104 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804.

**PowerPoint Bootcamp**
1 p.m.: Two PowerPoint workshops consolidated into an intensive three-hour session. Learn to cre-

**The Roots of America**
12:30 p.m.: Steve Justman showcases his collection of songs through performances, singing and interpreting a mix of traditional and popular folk, pop standards and country. Lunch is catered. For ages 55 and older. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-3597. $17-$19.

**iPad: Fun Stuff, Class 2**
3 p.m.: Review basic functions and learn new ones. Registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-673-3733.

**History Alive: Meet Ruby Bridges**
4 p.m.: Learn about the first grader who broke the barriers of segregation when she attended a “white only” school in 1960. Contact the library for tickets. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-324-3149.

**Digitize All the Things**
7 p.m.: A hands-on class that teaches participants how to produce digital copies of vinyl records, audio cassettes, video tapes, 35mm slides, audio cassettes and printed photos. Participants are encouraged to bring their own items. Registration is required. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-673-3733.

**The Old Things Antique Club of Park Ridge**
7:30 p.m.: Meetings will be held the third Monday of the month for those who enjoy collecting antiques. Email OldThingsAntiqueClub@gmail.com for more information. Iannetti Studios Heritage Center, 255 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. Call 847-692-3718. Free.

**Park Ridge Chorale Auditions**
7:30 p.m.: Rehearsals are held from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The concert will be held at 7 p.m. April 5 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge. For more information, call Guy at 847-650-2876 or check www.parkridgechorale.com. Park Ridge Nonprofit Center, 720 Garden St., Park Ridge. Call 847-650-2876.

**TUESDAY, JAN. 21**

**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. For more information, call 847-825-3122.

**Baby Bounce**
9:15 a.m.: Special stories, songs, rhymes and play time just for babies ages 1 and under. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

**SUNDAY, JAN. 19**

**Coco Key Water Resort**
Noon: The Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation is hosting a day-trip to the Coco Key Water Resort in Rockford. Water park pass, pizza, soft drinks and transportation included in the program fee. Attendees should bring a towel. Registration required. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, 6820 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-966-5522. $65-$140.

**Rainbow Therapy Time**
12:15 p.m.: Children with special needs are invited to meet and play with these specially trained dogs, who, along with their human trainers, can help the kids learn some social, attention and language skills. Parents should remain in the library while their children take part in the therapy independently. For those ages 7 to 12. Register at 847-324-3149. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie.

**Beguiled by the Wild**
1 p.m.: The Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation is hosting a trip to the Lake County Discovery Museum in Wauconda. Attendees are asked to eat prior to the trip. Must be 12 or older to attend. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, 6820 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-966-5522. $25-$60.

**MONDAY, JAN. 20**

**Winter Fun**
9 a.m.: The Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation is hosting a trip to Heritage Park in Arlington Heights. Children ages 6 to 22 can enjoy a day of sledding, fort building and snow toss followed by hot chocolate and indoor activities. Attendees are advised to bring a snack and lunch. The group will meet at Oketo Park, Oketo Park, 8990 Oketo Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-966-5522. $46-$100.

**Teddy Bear Time**
9:30 a.m.: Stories, songs and finger plays for
Raise funds for your school through Community Connect

1 subscription sold = $20 for your school

Earn money for athletic programs, playground equipment and much more!

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1. Unlimited earning potential – For every subscription sold, your organization will earn $20.00.

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4. Bragging Rights – The school who sells the most subscriptions will receive a full-page “Thank-You” ad to the participants and quarterly benefits such as a full page ad for school use.

Sign up your school today!
Call us at: 312-321-3021
Email us at: communityconnect@pioneerlocal.com

Niles-Herald-Spectator | Community CONNECT

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

**1 Electrical service**
Address: 7020 W. Jarvis Ave., Niles
Issue date: Oct. 1
Permit cost: $103
Construction cost: $1,500

**Flood control**
Address: 7042 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles
Issue date: Sept. 30
Permit cost: $110
Construction cost: $5,995

**3 Water heater**
Address: 6900 W. Seward St., Niles
Issue date: Oct. 3
Permit cost: $40
Construction cost: $2,200

**4 Roof (commercial and residential)**
Address: 7823 N. Nordica Ave., Niles
Issue date: Oct. 3
Permit cost: $27
Construction cost: $2,995

**5 Roof (commercial and residential)**
Address: 7525 N. Oak Park Ave., Niles
Issue date: Oct. 1
Permit cost: $40
Construction cost: $15,000

**6 Sewer repair/clean out**
Address: 7530 N. Natchez Ave., Niles
Issue date: Oct. 3
Permit cost: $80
Construction cost: $5,600

**7 Plumbing – misc.**
Address: 6310 W. Howard St., Niles
Issue date: Oct. 1
Permit cost: $80
Construction cost: $3,000

**8 Flood control**
Address: 8145 N. Olcott Ave., Niles
Issue date: Oct. 1
Permit cost: $90
Construction cost: $7,500

**9 Building application**
Address: 7812 N. Oleander Ave., Niles
Issue date: Sept. 30
Permit cost: $490
Construction cost: $50,000
Loehmann's going out of business in Morton Grove

BY RICK KAMBIC
rkambic@pioneerlocal.com | @rick_kambic

One of Morton Grove's oldest businesses is closing its doors, but Mayor Dan DiMaria believes Loehmann's departure is a prime opportunity for growth.

Loehmann's is a 93-year-old company that sells name-brand clothes for 30 to 65 percent off, but the chain's 39 stores nationwide are liquidating and offering even larger discounts throughout the next few weeks.

Morton Grove's store is located in the Village Plaza Shopping Center at Dempster Street and Harlem Avenue, and its next-door neighbor is a major competitor.

"Their business model doesn't work anymore," DiMaria said. "Their neighbor is TJ Maxx, someone with a modern approach to discount goods. This isn't the first time Loehmann's has filed for bankruptcy."

The company was up for sale in November, according to a company press release, but lack of interest led to its filing for bankruptcy on Dec. 15 and subsequent court decision to dissolve the business.

A company spokesman said Loehmann's has $65 million worth of merchandise to get rid of in the next month, before furniture and company-owned stores are also sold off.

For Morton Grove, the departure comes months after Pequod's Pizza decided against building a new restaurant across from the Metra station and weeks after Dominick's closed its doors after 48 years.

"Dominick's closing is a plus for Morton Grove," DiMaria said. "Losing a food store is not a plus, but Dominick's itself put a lot of restrictions on the owner of that shopping center and losing them opens the door to a lot of better opportunities."

Loehmann's going out of business was categorized the same way. DiMaria said the soon-to-be available space will attract more productive retailers.

"I'm sad to see them go, but that mall owner has been great at getting national retailers," DiMaria said. "Plus we're already out there networking and going to conferences, so this space will bolster our portfolio. Our community is safe and our major roads are busy. We have a lot to offer prospective businesses of all sizes."

Redevelopment is going slow as the owners of Prairie View Shopping Center didn't secure a new big box retailer by the time Dominick's turned its lights off for good.

Those frustrations came out during a Dec. 11 finance committee meeting, but DiMaria is encouraging his followers to remain focused. He complimented the Economic Development Commission's work in researching pedestrian-friendly initiatives and the staff's work in reaching out to prospective retailers.

"A little patience is required because we weren't very aggressive in the past, so we're playing a little catch-up," DiMaria said. "We're in good shape though."

Major markdowns at Loehmann's department store began on Jan. 9 and are expected to continue for several weeks as its warehouse in New Jersey has $65 million worth of product to sell.
Event: For their fifth annual Women in the Arts fundraiser, the Steppenwolf Theatre Company gave 275 of the city's business and civic community leaders the opportunity to effectively eavesdrop on a conversation between a playwright and three of his stars.

Stars shone brightly at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago on Dec. 9, where Steppenwolf ensemble member Tracy Letts, Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning playwright of "August: Osage County," moderated a discussion a la 'Inside the Actors Studio' with stage and screen actors Margo Martindale, Juliette Lewis and Julianne Nicholson, the three of the leading ladies starring in the new screen adaptation of Letts' play.

The annual benefit raises critical funds for Steppenwolf's programs: Steppenwolf for Young Adults, the School at Steppenwolf, and Steppenwolf's professional leadership series which encourages the next generation of arts managers and producers through apprenticeships, fellowships and internships.

Cause Célébre: "One of the reasons that we're thrilled to bring three guests today," said Martha Lavey, Steppenwolf artistic director, "is that we feel it is a reflection of the ensemble spirit that so characterizes and defines Steppenwolf Theatre."

That collaborative core was forged in 1974, when Steppenwolf was founded by Gary Sinise ("Forest Gump"), Terry Kinney ("Oz," "The Mentalist"), and Jeff Perry ("Scandal") in a church basement in Highland Park.

"Steppenwolf has been around for 37 years and it's (still) all about the artists. We provide an artistic home for them," said Sandy Karuschak, director of development.

Lewis called Letts' script a gift of "complexity and depth."

"The (Women in the Arts) benefit brings together some of the best women business leaders and artists in the country and they are all connected to Steppenwolf," said Karuschak.

Bottom Line: The event raised $150,000.
CAUSE & EVENT

EVANSTON HISTORY CENTER FOOD DRIVE
Benefiting: Evanston food pantry
Date: Dec. 1
Location: Evanston History Center
Attended: 300+
Website: evanstonhistory-center.org

I'LL BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...
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Most NFL fans knew that entering the 2013 season -- and the 2014 playoffs -- the Pittsburgh Steelers held the mark for most Super Bowl wins with six and were tied with the Dallas Cowboys for most Super Bowl appearances with eight. But since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970, which team had appeared in the most conference championship games? Here again, the answer is Pittsburgh with 15, followed by Dallas and San Francisco with 14, and Oakland with 11. No other team is in double figures.

...Need more evidence that momentum means everything going into the playoffs? In six of the eight Super Bowls prior to the 2014 game, a No. 1 or No. 2 seed squared off against a team seeded fourth or lower. And guess what -- five of those six lower-seeded teams won the game. Can you remember the one lower-seeded team that lost? It was the 2008 Arizona Cardinals, and they came within a spectacular Santonio Holmes fumble, corner-of-the-endzone catch in the final seconds of upsetting the Steelers.

...Triple doubles are things of legend in the NBA -- double figures in points, rebounds and assists in a single game. They're usually associated with the all-time great such as Oscar Robertson (who almost averaged a triple double for an entire season -- 30.5 points, 10.1 rebounds and 9.7 assists), Magic Johnson and LeBron James. But Tony Wroten? The backup guard for Philadelphia became the first player in league history to post a triple double (18, 10 and 11) in his first career start, a November 2013 win over Houston.

Get your event in Trend

Have a philanthropic cause or event, or a party to share? Email Deborah Hoppe at dhoppe@pioneerlocal.com. She can send you guidelines for submitting information for Trend. Or call 312.321.2734.

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Although Jen Field and Adam Rabin grew up five minutes from each other in the northwest suburbs, they didn't meet until after they had moved across the country.

Jen, from Buffalo Grove, and Adam, of Wheeling, connected online in 2010 while living in Arizona. Once they met, they realized they had mutual friends back home and that their parents probably ran into each other often.

"It just happened that we were from the same place," Jen said.

Being from the same area is convenient when the two visit home, and after Adam proposed on Thanksgiving in 2012, home was the natural choice for a wedding location.

"We fell in love with the InterContinental," Jen said of the Rosemont hotel. "I kind of wanted something different than the usual hotel."

Their Sept. 28 wedding featured the fall accents they love (and don't get much of in Arizona), such as floral arrangements with white and burgundy flowers, a birch chuppah and deep red bridesmaids dresses.

"I just wanted something kind of vintage and classy," Jen said.

Jen and Adam's first dance was to "I Got You" by Jack Johnson, a song released earlier this year. The two, who are Jack Johnson fans, liked the lyrics and that the sweet song was something few people had danced to.

"I always try to find a way to do something a little different," Jen said.

Jen said wedding planning was a lot easier than she thought it would be, mainly because she and Adam were on the same page, and their families worked well together.

Keeping in mind some good advice — to relax and remember that everyone was there for her and Adam — came in handy, the bride said.

"That’s probably the most memorable thing about our wedding: We had fun, and we felt like everybody else did, too," Jen said.

The couple spent their honeymoon on the Hawaiian islands of Maui and Kauai, where they went skydiving.

"That’s my most proud moment of the honeymoon," Jen said with a laugh. "We’re not good at sitting still."

The couple live in Scottsdale, Ariz. Adam is an engineer for Honeywell, and Jen is a client manager for American Express.

Contact Renee Lee at rlee@bouquetcatcher.com or 312-651-6613 to share your wedding story. Facebook.com/BouquetCatcher Twitter @BouquetCatcher Pinterest.com/BouquetCatcher
Motor Mater

The Hyundai Tucson compact SUV emulated the popular boxy styling of the times when it debuted in 2005. While most of Tucson's current competitors still cling to typical crossover shapes, designers at Hyundai have never been bashful about bucking a trend, as evidenced by the Tucson's attractive shape.

For 2014, Hyundai revises the trim names of the Tucson. Formerly called the GL, GLS and Limited, the crossover now becomes the GLS, SE and Limited. The 2014 Tucson has new projector headlamps with LED accents that provide a modern, trendy look. A panoramic sunroof with roof side rails adds an upscale touch.

All models get new engines for 2014. The new 2.0-liter Nu GDI benefits by replacing the multi-port fuel injection with a direct injection (GDI) system. Horsepower remains about the same at 164, but torque increases from 146 to 151 lb.-ft. This engine gives the ability to tow up to 2,000 pounds. The Tucson benefits from an upgraded suspension, called the Sachs Amplitude Selective Damping system. This helps smooth out the somewhat stiff and choppy ride of the previous model.

Inside, the high-tech cockpit comes standard with tilt and telescopic steering wheel, steering wheel-mounted audio and cruise controls, power windows, power door locks, fold-away mirrors and remote keyless entry with alarm and panic button. Front cupholders are illuminated with blue light for nighttime drives.

The Tucson Limited has dual front automatic temperature control with CleanAir Ionizer that improves air quality when the heater or air conditioner is running.

The entry-level Tucson GLS now comes with three years of Hyundai's Blue Link telematics service, as well as Bluetooth hands-free phone capability. The SE and Limited variants add a new 4.3-inch color touchscreen with rearview camera while Tucson Limited buyers can step up to a new and more-intuitive third-generation navigation system with a larger 7.0-inch touchscreen and HD radio.

Tucson GLS and SE trims have a 160-watt AM/FM/SiriusXM/CD/MP3 audio system with six speakers. This system includes SiriusXM Satellite Radio and iPod/USB auxiliary inputs. An available premium audio system with navigation pumps out 360 watts of sound and includes an external amplifier and subwoofer. It also plays compact discs, accesses digital music files employing Bluetooth streaming audio and allows passengers to access their personal listening devices.

Tucson Limited has dual front automatic temperature control with CleanAir Ionizer that improves air quality when the heater or air conditioner is running.

The entry-level Tucson GLS now comes with three years of Hyundai's Blue Link telematics service, as well as Bluetooth hands-free phone capability. The SE and Limited variants add a new 4.3-inch color touchscreen with rearview camera while Tucson Limited buyers can step up to a new and more-intuitive third-generation navigation system with a larger 7.0-inch touchscreen and HD radio.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
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<th>Make</th>
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<td></td>
<td>8110</td>
<td>$12,990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>New 2014 Jeep PATRIOT SPORT</strong></td>
<td>Aux Audio Input, Rear Parking, C/C, Key/Start, CD/DVD, DVD, Sunroof, Pwr. Slide, Buckets, More</td>
<td>$10,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New 2014 Dodge AVENGER</strong></td>
<td>Steering Wheel Audio Control, Pwr. Windows, Navi, Keyless, Br. Assist, More</td>
<td>$14,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New 2014 Jeep CHEROKEE</strong></td>
<td>Advanced Airbag, Keyless Start, T/R Pressure Monitor, Touch Screen, Voice Command, Bluetooth, More</td>
<td>$18,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New 2014 Dodge DURANGO SXT 4X4</strong></td>
<td>Power Everything, 2nd &amp; 3rd Row Seats, Outside Temp, 3rd Row Seat, Outside Temp Monitor, More</td>
<td>$24,840</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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0% APR financing to qualified buyers with approved credit on select Nissan models. Example: $16.67 per thousand financed at 0% for 60 months. Length of term limited. **36 month closed end lease to qualified buyers with approved credit. No security deposit required. Lessee responsible for excess wear and tear and mileage over 12,000 mi per year @ .15 per mi. Option to purchase at lease end: 2013 Sentra: $9,918; 2014 Altima: $13,670; 2013 Rogue: $12,887; 2013 Pathfinder: $20,622. Dealer not responsible for errors in this advertisement. Offers end 1/31/14.
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NEW 2014 NISSAN ALTIMA LEASE FOR $89‡ PER MONTH
36 Month lease, $2,999 due at signing. Includes 1st payment. No security deposit required.

NEW 2014 NISSAN PATHFINDER $199† PER MONTH
36 month lease, $2,999 due at signing. Includes 12,000 miles per year. 12,000 miles allowed. Lessee responsible for maintenance, repairs/repairs in the event of early lease termination. With approved credit. An extra charge may be imposed at the end of the lease between the residual value of the leased vehicle and the realized value at the end of the lease term. Dealer will not honor any pricing errors in this advertisement. Prices are good 2 days from date of publication. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. See dealer for details.

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NEW 2014 NISSAN SENTRA $8,999† PER MONTH
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NEW 2014 NISSAN MAXIMA 3.5 SE $12,495† PER MONTH
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PLUS TAX, TITLE, LICENSE & $166.27 DOC Fee. **With approved credit on select models. In lieu of manufacturer rebates and manufacturer incentives Ex: $1599 per $1,000 financed with $0 down. **May require good down payment. **With approved credit on select models. In lieu of manufacturer rebates and manufacturer incentives Ex: $1699 per $1,000 financed with $0 down. **Plus tax, title, license & $166.27 doc fee and acquisition fee. Lessee allowed 12,000 miles per year. 12,000 miles allowed. Lessee responsible for maintenance, repairs/repairs in the event of early lease termination. With approved credit. An extra charge may be imposed at the end of the lease between the residual value of the leased vehicle and the realized value at the end of the lease term. Dealer will not honor any pricing errors in this advertisement. Prices are good 2 days from date of publication. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. See dealer for details.
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New 2013 Nissan
SENTRA
Model 12013, VIN: #7056656,
YIWIW760116. 2 at this price
$12,495

New 2013 Nissan
ROGU
Model 22113, VIN: #7044744,
YIWIW043840. 2 at this price
$15,995

New 2014 Nissan
ALTIMA
Model 13014, VIN: #780006,
YIWIW72374. 7 at this price
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- '07 Nissan Versa SL ....$7,995
- '07 Toyota Corolla S ....$7,995
- '10 Nissan Sentra S ....$8,995
- '09 Nissan Versa S 5-SP ....$9,995
- '09 Honda Civic Hybrid ....$10,995
- '07 Toyota Solara SLE ....$10,995
- '10 Nissan Altima ....$12,995

MID CITY NISSAN USED CAR SPECIALS

- '02 Chevy Cavalier ....$1,995
- '06 Audi A4 Quattro ....$11,995
- '04 Honda Accord EX ....$6,995
- '04 BMW 330xi ....$6,995
- '05 Honda Civic ....$6,995
- '04 Mitsubishi Montego 4DR ....$7,995
- '10 Audi TT Roadster ....$11,995
- '03 Honda CR-V ....$8,995
- '11 Nissan Versa ....$8,995
- '09 Chevy Aveo ....$10,995
- '06 GMC Envoy SLE 4X4 ....$9,995
- '11 Jeep Wrangler ....$21,995
- '05 Hummer H2 ....$33,995
- '13 Dodge Challenger ....$22,995

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EVERYONE QUALIFIES!
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NEW 2014 JEEP PATRIOT LATITUDE
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Time for a change

Dreams of a second home are becoming reality

A home on a hill overlooking a quiet lake, public and private golf just minutes away, fine dining in wine country, some of the best fishing in the Midwest, waterskiing, jet skiing, a serene evening cruise, cocktails on the deck or an afternoon by the heated pool. If you have been dreaming about a second home you are not alone says the Investors Business Daily. They report that the vacation-home buying trend continues to grow and has been since 2011.

More and more Americans now own their weekend vacation homes. The number of recreational homes has risen roughly 25 percent since 1989 according to the National Association of Realtors.

Steve Sprengel, Managing Partner at Lake Chapin Shores in Southwest Michigan, during a recent developer conversation noted several key considerations for families as they look to fulfill a lifelong dream.

"First," Sprengel said, "is location. Accessibility, usage and investment return are always key issues. Buyers want to be relatively close to their primary home so they can take advantage every weekend at the lake. Second, homes closer to Chicago also have a much greater resale value than those more than two or three hours away."

Sprengel went on to say now is a good time to make an investment.

"Perhaps as important are current economic conditions" he said. "Stocks are up but generally believed to be vulnerable to a market correction leading many to consider an alternative investment such as a vacation home. Additionally, interest rates are at historic lows but are likely to begin to rise; money will never be cheaper than it is right now. Add in the fact that the real estate market is rebounding quickly and prices are rising and the equation says now is the time to act. It will never be better than it is right now to purchase a second home."

Just 90 minutes from Chicago, is a private lakeside second home hideaway called Lake Chapin Shores in southwest Michigan that continues to gain in popularity with the ever-growing number of families looking for a change in their lifestyle. This unique community offers indoor comfort and convenience, every kind of outdoor activity and scenic beauty on a 600-acre all-sports lake within an easy drive of Chicago and its suburbs.

Homeowner Kurt noted the benefits of an uncrowded lake atmosphere.

"When you are looking for a second home or a place on the water, you can lose sight of the fact that an uncrowded lake really makes a big difference. Lake Chapin is a quiet, uncrowded body of water, which contributes wonderfully to the relaxed atmosphere here," Kurt said.

Lake Chapin Shores is a family-friendly vacation haven with an available concierge service that ensures each spacious home is vacation-ready for every visit. Families waste no time unloading the car each weekend and getting into vacation mode. No other vacation spot offers such maximum leisure time, low maintenance or community network.

Lake Chapin Shores features 21 home sites, each with a different elevation and panoramic views, direct lake access, a variety of floor plan choices with 12 flexible construction design options geared to convenient, hassle-free living. Each model includes open floor plans, with cherry or maple cabinetry, choice of natural granite countertops, energy-efficient appliances, cozy gas or wood-burning fireplace and terrific views with screened porches and expansive decks. Models are adapted to fit the specific needs of individual owners helping families create unique living space that meets their needs and requirements. Materials and equipment are high quality, selected for quiet efficiency, durability and the need for little or no maintenance.

Call (888) 866-4244 to make an appointment for a tour. Visit www.LakeChapinShores.com for a look at each of the 12 model home options, photos and video of Lake Chapin Shores living and a complete list of materials and specifications. Be sure to check out the new "drone video" for a unique look at this highly successful second home community.
Adding a new interior door between rooms

Dear Pat: I have done some remodeling in my house, and I want to add a door from the dining room to my study. It is not a load-bearing wall. What is the easiest way to frame the new wall opening for a door? — Linda R.

Dear Linda: Adding an extra interior door is a more common do-it-yourself home improvement project than most people realize. Often with just one additional door, the traffic patterns throughout the house can be changed. When you are seeking a quiet study, the extra door will allow you to keep the existing door closed and reduce the noise and commotion in the room.

The first step is to select the new door you plan to install. Most interior doors are 6 feet, 8 inches tall. Thirty inches wide is very common, but you may want to select a wider one if you have large office equipment to move in. A solid wood door is more expensive than a hollow fiberglass one, but the mass of solid wood will block more sound transmission.

You mentioned the wall is not a load-bearing wall, but make certain before you start cutting the hole in the wall. If you still have the building plans for your house, this may be indicated on the plans. If you are not absolutely certain, have a builder inspect it to determine if it is load bearing. Load-bearing walls require stronger lumber for the rough opening.

Locate the hole in the wall so that one of the sides of rough framing rests against an existing wall stud. The king studs are the outer-most studs of the framing. One king stud will rest against the existing wall stud and the other one will be located in between existing studs. A good target distance between the king studs is the width of the new door plus five inches. Shorter trimmer studs are nailed inside of the king studs.

The easiest method to build the framing for the new door is to assemble all the pieces together on the floor first. Once it is complete, it can be tilted up and nailed into place in the wall opening. Building it this way minimizes the need for toenailing, which is not as strong a joint as regular through-nailing.

The header, which is the top of the opening, can be made with just a 2x4 on its side for non-load-bearing walls. For load-bearing walls, double 2x8s on edge should provide plenty of support to support a room above it. Small 2x4 cripples will be nailed in place between the top plate and the header. These can be spaced closer together than standard wall stud spacing. The header will rest on the tops of the trimmer studs.

It is critical to keep all the ends flush and the framing square. If the opening is not square, it will be difficult to get the door installed squarely. A carpenter's square can be very helpful with keeping all the parts lined up properly.

In order to minimize having to toenail, first nail the trimmers to the king studs. Follow standard code nailing patterns for adequate strength. Next through-nail the header to the king studs and trimmers. Nail the cripples to the header. Tilt up the framing and nail it in place in the wall opening.
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Bloomnation.com
Thanks to this online floral marketplace, you don't have to wait months for spring to arrive. After browsing real images of arrangements from pre-vetted local florists — including A Perfect Event's Debi Lilly — customers can pick their bouquet, set a delivery date (even same-day) and rest assured knowing it will match the photos. Starting at $65. Bloomnation.com

Tirisi jewelry
Sweeten your style with these candy-colored leather cord bracelets from the Italian line. Add charms to give it a personalized, feminine flair. Starting at $259, A. Marek Fine Jewelry, 3021 Butterfield, Oak Brook; AmarekJewelry.com

SPE-certified menu at The Wit
The Wit hotel's new menu, which features dishes with a focus on sustainability and local ingredients, has received SPE-certification, a designation that ensures food is both healthy and delicious. Items like Michigan farm apple smoothies ($8) and mustard maple glazed Amish chicken ($23) will be available to in-room guests and diners at State and Lake restaurant starting Jan. 14. 201 N. State; TheWitHotel.com

Jimmy Butler went straight from practice with the Bulls to the Hilton Chicago (720 S. Michigan) for his Splash photo shoot. Accompanied by his brother and childhood friend, Butler arrived armed with Christian Louboutin high tops, cowboy boots and belt buckles, then spent much of the afternoon singing along to his own country playlist.

ON THE COVER
On Jimmy:
BLK DNM: leather biker jacket, $995; straight-leg jeans, $190
Diesel: Sharp cotton shirt, $168
Belt and belt buckle: Jimmy's own; similar styles available at Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan

Saksfifthavenue.com

CREW
Photographer: Maria Ponce
Stylist: Favia, Ford Artists
Stylist assistant: Alexandra Bizios
Grooming: RJ Stell for Anthony Cristiano and Sarah Lukasiewicz for Amazing Cosmetics
Shoot Coordinator: Katerina Bizios

“Jimmy Butler is as charismatic as he is athletic. I definitely think all that charm was caught on camera.” — Photographer Maria Ponce

Menin Hotels @MeninHotels: “We must say, @drumbarchi looks great on @sophialibush.”
January 16

- STRIKE A CHORD
David DeJesus teams up with fellow Cubs players and local musicians and takes to the karaoke mic to raise funds for ALS research. Attendees can join in on the singing, sip cocktails, and snack on food from American Junkie, Chicago Q, Siena Tavern, Wow Bao and GT Fish & Oyster.

Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: American Junkie, 15 W. Illinois
Cost: $125 in advance, $150 at the door. For tickets, visit Cubs.com/karaoke.

January 18-February 23

- LUNA GALE
The newest drama from Pulitzer Prize finalist Rebecca Gilman, this highly topical show centers on a social worker who struggles to make the right decisions for her clients while processing the challenges she faces in her own life.

Place: The Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn
Cost: $25-$81. For tickets, call (312) 443-3800 or visit Goodmantheatre.org/luna.

January 18-April 27

- SPOTLIGHT
Marble, wood, bronze and steel may be the most common materials for sculpture, but what about LED lights, light boxes and neon tubes? Ten artists take on the less-than-concrete medium in this illuminating show at the Elmhurst Art Museum.

Place: 150 S. Cottage Hill
Cost: $5 adults, $3 seniors and students. For more information, call (630) 834-0202 or visit Elmhurstartmuseum.org.

January 18-February 23

- WOODY'S WINTER WARM-UP CELEBRITY MIXER
Retired Chicago Cub Kerry Wood and his wife Sarah (above) host this third annual cocktail-centric fundraiser for their Wood Family Foundation, which works to improve the lives of children around Chicago. This year’s celebrity mixologists include WMAQ-Channel 5's Allison Rosati, Ryan Chiaverini of “Windy City Live,” and Cubs legends Ernie Banks and Fergie Jenkins.

Time: 8 p.m.
Place: Harry Caray's Tavern on Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand
Cost: $150 in advance, $175 at the door. To purchase, visit Woodfamilyfoundation.org.
next week

January 19

• 10TH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION CONCERT
The Music Institute of Chicago honors the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. with the renowned Brotherhood Chorale of the Apostolic Church of God performing traditional and contemporary gospel and jazz arrangements.
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Willis Tower Skydeck, 233 S. Wacker
Cost: $99 in advance, $120 at the door. For tickets, visit Chicago-house.org.

January 23

• FIRST BITES BASH
The seventh annual Chicago Restaurant Week (Jan. 24-Feb. 6) kicks off with star chef Paul Kahan (The Publican, Nico Osteria) hosting an evening with dishes from 50 of the city’s top chefs. A portion of the proceeds benefit Gilda’s Club Chicago and Pilot Light.
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: Union Station’s Great Hall, 500 W. Jackson
Cost: $125. For tickets, visit Choosechicago.com.

January 23-26

• EL AÑO EN QUE NACI / THE YEAR I WAS BORN
Created by Argentinian writer, director, performer and songwriter Lola Arias, this incisive stage piece explores the dictatorship of Chile’s Augusto Pinochet as 11 performers relate the lives their parents lived under the violent and repressive regime.
Time: Thursday-Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday 3 p.m.
Place: Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago
Cost: $22 MCA members, $28 nonmembers, $10 students. For tickets, call (312) 397-4010 or visit Mcachicago.org.

January 24

• SAVION GLOVER’S STEPZ
The Tony-winning tap superstar brings an ensemble of tip-top performers to town in a wildly rich show of impeccable and dynamic dances set to music ranging from Shostakovich to Prince.
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph
Cost: $30-$55. For tickets, call (312) 334-7777 or visit HARRISTICHEATERCHICAGO.ORG.

January 25

• BLACK CREATIVITY GALA
Guests at this black-tie event will enjoy a strolling buffet and juried art show, as well as museum exhibits such as Science Storms and The Art of the Bicycle. Proceeds support the Museum of Science and Industry’s Black Creativity programming.
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Museum of Science and Industry, 57th and S. Lake Shore
Cost: $350. For tickets, call (773) 947-3729.

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The 12th annual World of Chocolate gala turned Union Station (225 S. Canal) into a mouthwatering wonderland Dec. 6 to commemorate World AIDS Day and raise funds for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC). More than 1,200 guests gathered in the Great Hall to indulge in chocolate delicacies from 29 of Chicago's top chefs, chocolatiers and caterers, sip specialty cocktails and dine on a light buffet dinner. Chicago Chocolate Tours founder Valerie Beck, Just Like U Like It Catering founder Andrea Alexander and WLS-Channel 7's Jason Knowles awarded vendors top prize in categories like Best Sweet (Peninsula Hotel Chicago) and Best Libation (Prasino LaGrange), while guests received raffle prizes such as American Airlines and Orbitz flight vouchers. The event raised $135,000 to support the AFC's policy and public education programs.

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

The event attracted more than 1,200 guests.
Chicago's fashionable women are a cut above the rest, donning halter dresses that expose their backs and arms while leaving everything else to the imagination. A second-skin halter is best balanced with a long and flowy bottom — think Michelle Pfeiffer in "Scarface" (there's a reason this trend has been around for decades). For accessories, we suggest sleek hair, a flash of leg and shimmering body cream. It's a look that will have you up to your neck in glamour.
JDRF CHANCE OF A LIFETIME GALA

FOR THE RECORD

BY KATERINA BIZIOS

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Smokey Robinson joined supporters in raising record-setting funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Illinois Chapter (JDRF) at the 34th annual Chance of a Lifetime Gala Dec. 14.

The event drew more than 2,000 guests to the McCormick Place Lakeside Center's Arie Crown Theater (2301 S. Lake Shore), where they participated in live and silent auctions and donated to the Fund A Cure program, which benefits artificial pancreas research. After Emanuel took the stage to address the crowd about the importance of research, Robinson got them on their feet, performing hits like “Ooo Baby Baby,” “Tears of a Clown” and “I Second That Emotion.” The evening raised $3.7 million to help find a cure for Type 1 Diabetes.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event. The Sun-Times Foundation and the Chicago Community Trust will match donations to JDRF up to a total of $10,000. Up to $1,000 can be matched per individual donation.

THE DINNER PARTY

BY JESSE GODDARD

At the latest installment of Fear No Art’s The Dinner Party, author Scott Turow, burlesque dancer Michelle L’Amour and “Sound Opinions” co-host Jim DeRogatis joined host Elysabeth Alfano for a gourmet meal with a side of spirited conversation. After a performance by jazz singer Kimberly Gordon, the quartet took the stage in front of a live audience, dined on risotto and smoked pork belly made by chef Heather Terhune (Sable Kitchen & Bar), sipped wine and snacked on Vosges Haut-Chocolat while discussing everything from writer’s block to self-acceptance. Throughout the meal, audience members sampled Terhune’s food and tweeted questions to the guests of honor for a shot at winning one of several prizes, including theater tickets and dinners for two.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event. To catch the next Dinner Party on Jan. 20, purchase tickets at Citywinery.com or watch the event live at Chiagosplash.com.
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Danielle Katz
Dennis Berger
Donna Rotunno
Emily Malinowski
Emily Schwartz
Erin White
Gail O'Connor
Hillary Phelps
Jen Rose
Jenn Markovich
Jill Renn
John Shelbourne
Julie Finerty
Katie Barry
Kelly Conway
Kim Rodgers
Kristy Savela
Lauren Egan
Leah Potkin
Lisa Otto
Marley Kotler
Marnie Salkovitch
Mary Beth Hopp
Mary Jo Field
Molly Dziedzic
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LEGGERO WORK

Comedian and Rockford native Natasha Leggero brings her quick wit to The Hideout  BY ZAK STEMER

Natasha Leggero believes men are no longer necessary. It's a conclusion that the Rockford native has reached after 10 years as a touring comedian. “I feel like more and more, I want a wife,” Leggero, 39, says. “I talk to men who are in the same situation as me, comedians on tour, and they have children and they get everything done. I'm like, ‘Do you have an assistant?’ They're like, ‘No, I have a wife.’ The idea that you're supposed to be a woman and have children and tour is almost impossible.”

That tongue-in-cheek viewpoint is just one of many that Leggero will share when she comes to The Hideout Jan. 18 for the Tomorrow Never Knows festival. The sharp-tongued comedian has built her career around spouting similarly uncomfortable truths from behind her more-glamorous-than-thou stage persona — she often cracks jokes about her love of fur and diamonds while simultaneously tackling everything from rappers' lack of originality to oil spills. Her unique point of view has landed Leggero Comedy Central specials, roles in films like “Betas” and “He's Just Not That Into You” and frequent guest spots on friend Chelsea Handler's show, “Chelsea Lately.” But Leggero's act is just that — in real life, she's charming and polite, talking about rushing her dogs to vet rather than reality stars and drug addicts.

While her off-color comedy has earned her a slew of loyal fans (and 236,000 Twitter followers), it's also had her courting controversy. Leggero recently made national headlines after a joke she made about World War II veterans caused an Internet uproar. Afterward, Leggero issued a comedic non-apology, urging people to donate to nonprofits that help veterans rather than lash out via social media. And in typically fearless fashion, she defended her right to make light. “So I have more respect for veterans than to think their honor can be impugned by a glamorous, charming comedian in a fur hat,” she wrote on her blog, natashaleggero.tumblr.com.

Leggero's dry, self-aware wit is continuing to grab attention: In addition to a new Comedy Central special in the works, she's staying busy with spots on the ABC sitcom “Suburgatory” and her web series, “Tubbin' with Tash,” where she chats with comedians in a hot tub. “[I'll keep it going] if I can keep finding comedians willing to take their tops off,” she jokes. “They all have the same body type: skinny-fat. Depends what you're attracted to. I've never been attracted to symmetry.”

Here, the Illinois-born comedian comes back to Chicago for a funny Sunday:

See Leggero live at The Hideout (1354 W. Wabansia) Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. For tickets, $20, visit Hideoutchicago.com.
STRAIGHT SHOOTER

Chicago Bulls star Jimmy Butler on his family, the team and his love of country music

STORY BY HOLLY EACH  PHOTOS BY MARIA PONCE
Jimmy Butler lights up a room.

When the Chicago Bulls star and native Texan arrives at our Splash cover shoot—toting along his photo shoot essentials, including a pair of cowboy boots and a country music playlist—he's a bundle of energy. He laughs, cracks jokes, pokes fun at himself and lightheartedly razzes our team while he poses for the camera and sings along to Luke Bryan.

Similarly, Jimmy Butler lights up a basketball court. Only there it's with less of a buoyant energy and more of a cool, controlled intensity. The 24-year-old, in his third season with the Bulls, is a versatile player, focusing less on flashy slam-dunks and instead stepping up wherever the team needs him. Smother an opponent's offensive drive? Done. Get the ball to an open teammate or hit a jump shot? He'll make it happen. Play the full 48 minutes of a game? Not a problem for Butler, who did it three times against the Miami Heat in last year's playoffs. Every game, Butler hits the hardwood and does what the team requires of him to win.

"A lot of this game is mental," Butler says. "Some of it's physical, don't get me wrong, but if your teammates need you to do something, especially if they want you to play 48, they know you can do it. They believe in you. So you just push through."

It seems to be the approach for this year's Bulls squad as well. The team has started slow due to injuries, including season-ending surgery for Derrick Rose and Butler's own few weeks on the bench with a toe injury. But as of late, the Bulls seem to be finding their rhythm. At press time, the team had won six of its last 10 games and was on a three-game winning streak. "We're an NBA team and our roster is NBA players, and you have to be prepared to still win games," Butler says. "Thibs [Coach Tom Thibodeau] always says we have more than enough to win, so as long as we keep hearing that and buy into it, we'll keep winning games."

That practical outlook translates to his own game, too. While a versatile player on both sides of the court, Butler shines on defense, shutting down All-Stars like LeBron James and Kobe Bryant and garnering reluctant praise from his adversaries. "Everybody puts their shoes on one foot at a time," Butler says. "I'm not scared of anybody. There are lots of great players in the league, but I'm not backing down from any challenge. I'm an NBA player, too, and I can keep up with the best of them."

His confidence is partly the result of his hard-fought battle to get to the NBA. In high school, Butler was hardly the star of his team. "I wasn't the best; I was actually kind of terrible. But I kept..."
Butler has more than enough material. Much has been revealed about his backstory: As a teenager, he was homeless for several years before being taken in by the Lambert family, whose son played basketball with Butler. But Butler doesn’t look back — and doesn’t want anyone else to, either. "Let the past be the past," he says. "I don’t regret anything. I wouldn’t be who I am without it, and it made me a better person."

Dwelling on the past would mean missing out on how far he has come. Not only is he living his NBA dream, but back home in Tomball, Texas, Butler is part of a loving, blended brood that includes parents Michael and Michelle Lambert and seven siblings. A typical night together usually involves a big family dinner followed by a game of Catch Phrase. "Even if it’s just two of us, we’ll just sit there and guess back and forth," Butler laughs. But most importantly, it’s the place where he can be himself. "I can forget Jimmy Butler the basketball player and I’m just the kid from Tomball that they knew since the beginning of time," he says. "I don’t have to worry about cameras being there, or people taking pictures. It’s just me being me. I do everything that normal people do — though I don’t think normal people play Connect Four by themselves, but hey, I am who I am."

Chicago seems to have embraced Butler for that exact reason. He’s become a fan favorite, not only garnering attention for his on-court skills but also his personal style, which Butler describes as “different.” "Not Joakim Noah different, though," he says. "I think cowboy boots are my trademark, and I like loud colors, spikes and all that good stuff on shoes. I just feel like different is what I’ve always tried to be, and it’s worked out so far." Early this season, fans were buzzing over Butler’s afro, and many were disappointed when he cut it off in mid-November. "I loved my hair, but I wanted something different," he says. "Something will be back soon. You’ll see me with purple hair soon enough."

While he’s beloved by Chicago fans, his biggest cheering squad is still back in Texas. Butler gets game day texts from Michelle Lambert, who, along with his grandma, knows all of his stats by heart. He points to Thanksgiving Day as a perfect example of their devotion. "They’re [cooking dinner] in Bulls aprons," he says. "I’m like, ‘Don’t do that! Don’t cook Thanksgiving dinner in a Bulls apron! Cook in normal clothes!’" Then, like thousands of other exasperated sons across the country, Butler shakes his head with a smile. "But they’re my family."
Rodrick Markus is to exotic ingredients as Willy Wonka is to chocolate. From within his mad-scientist-like headquarters in Ravenswood, the CEO of Rare Tea Cellar peddles provisions both lavish and zany: His shelves brim with everything from Burgundy snails to Okinawan sea grapes to fist-size white truffles. “You could be the king of Spain or the queen of England and may not have a truffle that amazing in front of you,” he says.
The man has the golden ticket for some of the rarest, most sought-after products in the world, and his access to all things outré has helped him blossom into a veritable tea titan. Currently, Rare Tea Cellar supplies hundreds of restaurants nationwide with more than 100 varieties of teas of diverse origins, aromas and flavors (think black tea enriched with Canadian ice wine, rambutis with Georgia peaches and bourbon-vanilla chai). Rare Tea Cellar’s online market is also a huge source of sales for the company — a digital wonderland of high-end teas and unusual provisions available for purchase and delivery.

But thanks to some serious ingenuity on his part, Markus doesn’t just sling top-tier teas — he also provides niche ingredients to more than 1,200 restaurants nationwide, including Chicago spots NAHA, Girl & the Goat, Perennial Virant, Alinea, The Bristol, El Ideas, Allium and Nellcote. His offbeat wares have even inspired completely new dishes, such as Next’s fried Japanese maple leaves, Balena’s truffle pizza and Blackbird’s gemaicha caramel corn.

Despite his runaway success, the Highland Park native didn’t always plan on being the fairy godfather of rare goods. After taking a crack at a career in hypnotherapy at the University of Vermont, a lack of job opportunities sent Markus back to Chicago in 1996, where he took an interest in the importing business. At first, he imported wine, cigars and tea, but once he realized his clients tended to abuse wine and cigars, he readjusted his focus. “There was this niche in the tea world, especially in the high end, that nobody really touched,” he says.

To uncover the rare varietals that would become his trademark, Markus visited tea estates the world over. “We wanted to start treating tea like it’s wine. I’ve always loved the nuances of wine and how it relates to tea,” he says, pointing out its proclivity for aging, developing flavors and aromas and absorbing supplemental flavors like a sponge.

In 2004, after successfully pitching his exotic commodities to the Park Hyatt Chicago, Markus began pitching to restaurant clients as well. He established his credibility by introducing them to both lavish options — teas that clocked in at upward of $300 per pot — and less expensive ones, like traditional black or hibiscus. Almost immediately, restaurants started requesting specific components of his tea blends, like freeze-dried apples from his cran-apple blend and blue cornflower petals from his royal Earl Grey. Because Markus had connections with suppliers, he quickly built an arsenal of unconventional ingredients. “My portfolio grew to 1,500 ingredients overnight,” he says.

As he carved out his niche in the culinary world, Markus begged suppliers to obtain special products just for him. “It was like schmooze-a-palooza,” he says. “I just kept asking for what was not on the list, what they keep in back, what they only sell in India.” His persistence paid off. Now, he’s the guy getting first pick of the world’s most elite vittles, from vintage Chinese puer-erhs and Himalayan white tea to French argan oil and air-dried kaffir lime leaves from California.

Over the years, Markus has developed a similar camaraderie with chefs, enabling him to take part in their creative processes. For instance, he helped The Aviary become one of the first spots to craft tea cocktails — on the fall menu, the hot spot featured the Ford’s Model Tea Party, a medley of gin, scotch, vermouth, Mandarin Napoleon liqueur, water and blood orange tea served in a vintage teacup. “Those guys take everything I give them, and turn it sideways,” Markus says. Most recently, he’s turned the world of sauces on its head by adding flavor pearls to the Rare Tea repertoire. Imported from France and available via the company’s online market, the jarred pearls encapsulate various flavors, from balsamic vinegar to passion fruit, within an alginate-based shell, making them ideal supplements to salads, cocktails and desserts. “I just want to shock people,” he says. “I’ve never been intimidated by any ingredient.”

For his next trick, Markus is working with mixologist Adam Seger on Balsam, a liquor they call “everything but the wine” (think a sweet vermouth sans oxidation) that has already begun rolling out in liquor stores nationwide and will find its way to myriad bars in Chicago throughout the year. “You can take any wine in the world and blend with it, and the application is killer,” he says. Markus is also upping the ante on barrel-aged provisions, releasing rum barrel-aged sugar and seaweed in the spring, and working with Seger on a line of barrel-aged shrubs to be released in the second quarter of 2014. And with the help of a distributor in Singapore, he’s selling teas and ingredients in that market for the first time, plus supplying and blending all of the tea for Billy Corgan’s Highland Park teashop, Madame Zuzu’s.

Despite these planned expansions of his empire, Markus is far from finished with his fearless exploration of the rare goods world. He says his ultimate goal is to grow his international presence and bring Rare Tea to new markets. “We want to have our products available at every corner of the world,” he says. It would seem that the sky, the cave, the sea and the mountains are the limit.
Amelia Canham Eaton & Peter Bergen Krauss
BY TAYLOR ELLIS

When Peter Bergen Krauss met Amelia Canham Eaton in the summer of 2006, the two weren't exactly strangers. Back in the day, their mothers had been good friends and roommates at the University of Michigan, and Krauss and Eaton had grown up hearing one another's names. As fate would have it, both Krauss and Eaton ended up attending U of M, where their paths finally crossed at a mutual friend's party. Krauss, smitten with Eaton's sports smarts, asked her out, and six years later, proposed at Buckingham Fountain. The two tied the knot Dec. 7 at Saint James Chapel (835 N. Rush) in front of 200 guests. Because both Krauss, the executive vice president of Snapsheet, and Eaton, the creator of The Chicago Life Blog and a content strategist at Purely Fashion, love winter in Chicago, they decided on a "nod to the holidays" theme that incorporated metallic touches to reflect "the elegance of the city in December, and the warmth of being surrounded by family and friends," says Eaton. Following the ceremony, family and friends rang sleigh bells as the couple exited the church and hopped into a vintage ivory Bentley. The good cheer continued at The Murphy Auditorium (50 E. Erie), where Eaton slipped into a custom Samantha Sleeper gown and guests enjoyed cocktails and dancing. At one point, Eaton surprised Krauss by playing the University of Michigan fight song on the trombone. "It's been a wild ride," says Krauss. "And I'm grateful for every minute."
As Chicago emerges from a January deep freeze, many residents will endure a familiar sight: sky-high gas and electric bills. But a few bill-payers won't flinch: $47 covered the January heating costs for the first home built by Smart Tech Homes in 2011. "Our heating and home-ventilating systems have gotten even better," says North Clybourn Group broker Karen Biazar (call 773-645-7900), who markets homes for the green builder. Since then, Smart Tech has worked to refine the performance of even the smallest details, including window flashing and HVAC duct seal, and as a result, its 80 Chicago residences have all achieved Energy Star ratings, which guarantee a 30 percent energy savings.

Fortunately, the slew of green amenities doesn't detract from the open design — or the affordable price. One such example is the four-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom new construction at 1806 S. Morgan in Pilsen. The ultra-modern wonder is outfitted with a tankless water heater, low-flow plumbing fixtures and an HRV system (that's short for "heat recovery ventilation" — a perk for Chicago winters), and is on the market for $499,000.

The trick for keeping home prices down? "Smart tech is not an overbuild approach," Biazar says. "[Houses are] built and designed for extreme efficiency and affordability with a door open for expansion." That expansion could include equipping the semifinished basement with a full bathroom — made all the more doable by a few winters of energy bill savings.

A new crop of energy-efficient homebuilders help Chicagoans warm up to winter

BY MADELINE NUSSER

Fair weather fan

For a blast of warm air during the cold months, switch on Max. The ultra-modern "fan heater" from Swiss high-design appliance maker Stadler Form adds a jolt of color and heats up cold rooms using an adjustable thermostat dial. Too much hot air? In the summertime, Max doubles as a traditional fan. $119. Stadlerformusa.com

Above and left: 1806 S. Morgan

An Indigo model home

TURNING BLUE (AND GREEN)

Imagine knowing your energy needs and predicting costs before getting smacked by the monthly bill. Chicago homebuilder Indigo furnishes each abode with a Nest Learning Thermostat, which predicts your schedule and can be controlled from your phone. Indigo's newest development, two four-bedroom single-family homes at the corner of 2963 N. Dawson ($484,000) and 3309 W. Wellington ($469,000) in Avondale, also features the gamut of energy-efficient appliances as well as high R-value insulation. Bonus for green-minded buyers: "We prefer to build on empty lots so as not to create more waste by tearing down a perfectly good existing home," says Kelly Parker, an @properties certified green broker and Indigo's exclusive marketer (call 312-981-8981).
History is what's happening when you're not looking — and that's not just in a big picture sense. Down the block and right in our living rooms, passing time can transform even the most uneventful of actions into milestones. With "Luck of the Irish," Boston-based playwright Kirsten Greenidge explores how the past pervades the present and how the social strictures of one era continue to constrain the lives we live. The show, which receives its Midwest premiere this week courtesy of Evanston's Next Theatre Company, travels from the 1950s — when a middle-class black family engages a struggling white family to "ghost-buy" a home for them — to the present, when that obliging family comes home to roost.

Greenidge's work was inspired by her family's stor— as her grandparents acquired their home with others as the face of the purchase. But the play goes well beyond that initial transaction. "While a real estate situation is at the center of the action, the action spirals out, gets tangled and then tangles again," she says of the play. "It's about the repercussions of that deal, not the deal itself." An assessment of the American dream as much as it is an essay on race, "Luck" works to avoid the civic-lessons pitfalls so many topical plays stumble through.

Director Damon Kiely describes the show as "compelling and complicated." "There are no villains and no angels," he says. "In essence, everyone wants the same thing: to protect their family. The brilliant twist is that it's the 1950s and the African-American family is rich and the Irish-American family is poor. And they are both at a disadvantage, and both frustrated."

"Some of my favorite plays are ones that were designed to make an audience question," Greenidge says. "'Medea,' 'The Cherry Orchard,' 'A Raisin in the Sun.' I encounter plays like this and the text asks me, 'Why?' and 'How?' and 'What is lost?' and 'What is gained?' My task as a writer is to ask those questions first, not necessarily choose a topic from Headline News. In fact, choosing to write plays that way wouldn't be useful, because my plays usually take two to three years, if not more, from the first days of writing to a production. I can't predict what will be topical in two to three years' time. What I can do is choose stories that ask those questions and develop characters that are attempting to hash out answers."
By Rachel Handler

Fourteen-year-old Kiernan Shipka offers a surprisingly nuanced take on the appeal of her latest project, a buzzed-about Lifetime adaptation of the 1979 novel "Flowers in the Attic." "It's a gothic tale ... the story itself is terribly sad, and it's just really awful, but in a good way," Fans of V.C. Andrews' cult classic—which sold nearly 40 million copies worldwide and spawned a 1987 film of the same name—would likely agree with Shipka's apt analysis of its sordid, perhaps inadvertently campy, appeal.

Based on the 1979 novel "Flowers in the Attic," "Flowers in the Attic: "It's a gothic tale ... the story itself is terribly sad, and it's just really awful, but in a good way," Fans of V.C. Andrews' cult classic—which sold nearly 40 million copies worldwide and spawned a 1987 film of the same name—would likely agree with Shipka's apt analysis of its sordid, perhaps inadvertently campy, appeal.

While the original movie glossed over some of the thriller's controversial themes—particularly the romantic relationship that develops between siblings Cathy (Shipka) and Chris (Mason Dye)—Shipka confirms that Lifetime's version is "definitely faithful to the book." But rather than branch out from the film's more scandalous scenes, the preternaturally mature actress says she looked forward to the challenge. "It's just acting," she says. "It's not my real life. I like working with people. I could read. If there's paper, I could write. Get some rest. I'd eat so much food. As long as the doughnuts didn't have rat poison on them [like in the movie]. Those doughnuts looked so good on set [laughs]."

On the 'Mad Men' set: "There are a lot of funny moments. We're really into board games. We're really competitive about Words with Friends, and we play this game called Catch Phrase and people get really into it. It's a really fun busch."

Chicago connection: "I wasn't in Chicago for the holidays—I wish I were. I wish I could see the snow. My dad's there right now, sending me all these crazy photos. It looks super cold. I'm based mostly out of LA, and I always wish we had colder weather because I like dressing for colder weather better than warm. Every year I've been in Chicago for the Fourth of July, and I hope that never changes."

Watch "Flowers in the Attic" Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. on Lifetime.
When Paul Kahan calls one of his restaurants "authentic," he isn't exaggerating. Case in point: Before opening seafood-focused Italian spot Nico Osteria (along with partners Donnie Madia, Terry Alexander and Kimberly Galban of One Off Hospitality, the team behind Avec, Big Star, Blackbird and The Violet Hour), Kahan flew to Puglia with chef Erling Wu-Bower. "Southern Italy is a different world," Kahan says. "The trip was about exploring the culture, the style of eating, the simplicity."

After spending weeks tasting olive oil-drenched pastas, pizzas and fish pulled straight from the sea, Kahan felt ready to return to the States and whip up a menu with Wu-Bower. But he didn't want to replicate exactly what he'd experienced on the Italian coast. "If we were to try to cook the food we had in Puglia in Chicago, the simplicity wouldn't translate," he says. "But an appreciation for that simplicity — and for the freshness of the food — is what we focus on at Nico."

The resulting menu reflects that appreciation, and in classic Italian tradition, it's cleanly split into seven sections to let the seasonal ingredients and fresh flavors shine: crudoi (raw fish), fettunta (bruschetta with various toppings), antipasti, pasta, piatti (entrees), pesce del mercato (fish entrees) and contorni (sides). "Italian food is about less, not more," Kahan says. "[We're] striving to true that idea."

Here's what else to expect at Nico Osteria:

Vibe: Luxe yet rustic, just like the food. The 108-seat restaurant — on the ground floor of the Thompson Chicago — surrounds a giant, open kitchen, where you can watch the staff prepare elegant crudos and handmade pastas. Clean, simple decor elements abound, including a vintage-tiled floor and steel tables. Before or after dinner, sidle up for an aperitif or "full-strength" cocktail at the adjacent Salone Nico, a 60-person lounge with velvet sofas, a living plant wall and a three-story-high atrium.

Go fish: Kahan and his cohorts spare no expense when it comes to finding the best seafood in the world — the fresh fish at Nico is sourced everywhere from California to Tokyo. "When fish are swimming in the ocean, they're stronger, their flesh is more firm, they develop deeper flavors, they're oilier," Kahan says. "Every night, there are five or six fish on the menu that you won't find anywhere else. It rotates based on what comes in the back door." Past selections have included salt-crusted wild branzino ($48/bottle), the Frappato Tami Sicily ($44/bottle) and the Cortese Massone Gavi Piemonte ($48/bottle).

Must-try dish: Kahan's favorite creation of Wu-Bower's? The Neapolitan ragù, which tops braised pork belly, swordfish meatballs and crispy rice cakes with rich tomato sauce ($18 per person). "People have just been going crazy over it," he says. "For this type of weather, it's very heartwarming."

Drink up: "Bret Heir, our sommelier, is a complete and utter Italian wine nut, and his list is incredible," Kahan says. Heir focuses on small producers and older vintages from Italy, Greece and France, such as the Frappato Tami Sicily ($44/bottle) and the Cortese Massone Gavi Piemonte ($48/bottle).

1015 N. Rush, (312) 994-7100; Nicoosteria.com
Does your life seem to resemble the movie “Groundhog Day”? The morning rolls around, you open your tired eyes and the hustle of the day begins. Maybe you have to make lunches and get your kids off to school, or perhaps you have a long work day ahead of you. But within minutes of your alarm going off, your to-do list floods your head with commitments, chores, errands, phone calls, emails and other things that have to be accomplished. It’s just like the day before, and the day before that — and your next day “off” seems like it’s a million months away. The only thing left to do is dream of a day solely to yourself. What would you do? Would you spend it in bed watching movies or reading a book? Meet friends for breakfast and a day of shopping? Finish a project you’ve been meaning to complete? With this dream day in mind, I asked my social media followers the same question. Turns out, lots of people have the same idea.

Danette Davison Sleep in, and stay in pjs all day!

Jennifer Huckleberry @mycandlesofhope: Volunteer at a breast cancer center. If I did not have to work I would volunteer every day

Kristina @krizgirl: Bubble bath! Cup of tea, vanilla candles & a good book!

Tony Folden: Hit the snooze button one more time.

Shana Keel @MissShanaB: A day with no obligations would mean a beautiful walk through the woods taking pictures

Angle Starkey @angstar78: Just be lazy! Enjoy morning coffee, watch TV, and stay in my jammies all day!

Darren Sanford: watch every movie you’ve made!

Tweet your response to @JennyMcCarthey and @Suntimes_Splash.

Kahindo Mateene started her label, Modahnik, here in Chicago, where she was chosen to participate in the Macy’s Fashion Incubator as a designer in residence; later, she landed a spot on season 12 of “Project Runway.” Her designs stand out — especially in these cold winter months — for their vibrant colors and bold patterns. Pieces like the henna-print pleated skirt and the asymmetrical silk crepe shirt dress, both available in the SplashShop, are inspired by Mateene’s travels to Europe and her native Africa, and accentuate women’s bodies in all the right places.
style | TRENDING NOW

The sweetest thing

Vosges Haut-Chocolat founder and chocolatier Katrina Markoff digs into her favorite local treats

1. Koval Caraway Liqueur, $23.99, Binny's locations citywide; Binys.com
2. Irazu Chicago: oatmeal shake, $3.50, 1865 N. Milwaukee; Irazuchicago.com
4. Café Tola: plantain, black bean and goat cheese empanada, $3, 3612 N. Southport, (773) 687-8428
5. Brindille: oysters, $22, 534 N. Clark; Brindillechicago.com
7. Wild Ophelia: tart cherry caramel hearts, $14.99, Walgreens locations citywide; Walgreens.com
8. Lifeway Kefir: organic green kefir, $2.50, Starfruit, Merchandise Mart, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza 2nd floor; Starfruitcafe.com
10. Maude's Liquor Bar: Smoky Violet, $14, 840 W. Randolph; Maudesliquorbar.com

“An unusual take on a distant Swedish bread—plus it’s organic.”

“The tiny, 300-foot spot is so charming and the empanadas are delicious. A great grab-and-walk or to-go spot.”

“The oatmeal shake is delicious.”

“Carrie Nahabedian knocks it out of the park. The oyster dish is blissful.”

“The best Asian market. I found a fantastic Thai granite mortar and pestle that I can’t live without.”

“Nico serves up the perfect bite of dense, clean sea: fried capers and raw escolar fish.”

“My go-to snack with loads of green provisions, including kale and spinach.”

“I am over the moon about the launch of our Super Dark line. My favorite is the Reishi mushroom and walnut flavor.”

“My love is purple floral cocktail.”
PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 25TH ANNUAL

An Evening with the Chicago Bulls

HONORING JOHN W. ROGERS, JR.
CHAIRMAN, CEO & CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER, ARIEL INVESTMENTS, LLC

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2014 AT 6 P.M.
UNITED CENTER, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Join the Chicago Bulls players, coaches and front office for a cocktail reception and dinner on the floor of the United Center.

The gala will be emceed by Tim Meadows and feature a live DJ set by Rev Run & DJ Ruckus and comedy from Hannibal Buress.

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How to Have A More Successful Career In 2014

By Ken Sundheim

It's a new year and a brand new opportunity to achieve the goals you have intended to over the years. In order to make your goals a reality, it's time to gain a renewed momentum and motivation in your work life.

Why change your habits in 2014? For starters, success brings more money, more career opportunities, more respect around the office and a more enjoyable job.

Below, Recruiter.com editor Shala Marks and I will further analyze these variables and allow you to begin a renewed career trajectory for this and coming years.

Defining new limits

The days of playing it safe are over. If you desire to truly be successful in 2014, you are going to have to define new limits for yourself. Comfort is the direct enemy of growth. If an individual never steps outside of his or her comfort zone, the person will never grow and develop—whether personally or professionally.

Examine your current limitations, and then begin to expand them.

For example, if your comfort zone is completing four major tasks per day, try pushing this amount to five. If your boss desires someone to take the lead on a new project, volunteer. Take that extra professional development class, complete that certification, agree to that strict deadline, become a peer mentor. Whatever poses a challenge and pushes you to step outside your usual work boundaries, do it. Challenging yourself on the job not only helps strengthen your skills, but helps to release your full potential.

Becoming more competent

If you want to upgrade your job this year, one key success factor is increasing your competence level(s). And just how does one do this? Psychology Today suggests thinking "happy thoughts." According to the magazine, "Positive mood states promote more effective thinking and problem solving." To become more competent, believe you are competent.

Focus on your skills and talents, knowing that your employer hired you because you are capable of fulfilling the role. Examine your work history and achievements to remind yourself of past accomplishments.

Increasing competence starts with self-confidence. Think positive thoughts about your abilities, envisioning the glass half full. That is, your strengths outweigh any weaknesses, which are simply opportunities for growth.

Understanding the Importance of your time

During office hours, find out where your time goes. Make it a point to cut back unproductive demands on your schedule. Author Peter Drucker describes a three-step process for determining how to gain the most of out your day and ensure maximum productivity.

Recording Time - Before you can effectively manage your time, you must know where it goes. Begin to log what you do on a daily basis. Keep records. There may be a significant discrepancy between where you believe your hours are going and where they are actually being allotted.

Managing Time - Successful people ensure that they spend minimal time on tasks that do not contribute to the overall goals of the organization. Despite heavy demands for their attention, they possess the ability to prioritize based upon the perceived results from accomplishing an activity.

Consolidating Time - Begin to allot a certain number of hours for each important task required of you. It is pointless to give seven hours to the task by spending fifteen minutes twice a day for three weeks. When something needs to get done, lock the door, turn off your cell phone and engage in the project for at least three hours without interruption.

In the end

Regardless of how big or small, sometimes all it takes to change your career is a small taste of victory. Once you get the less significant career wins, allow momentum to ensure success, renew your strength for the new year and become determined all over again. Here's to a happy, healthy and successful 2014!
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Monday, January 20th
7:00 am - 6:00 pm
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1801 N. Napier Blvd.
Naperville, IL 60563

For stores in Chicago (North of 3500)
- Hotel Lincoln, 2nd floor
1810 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60614

For stores in the North and Northwest suburbs
- Hilton Garden Inn
1451 E. Woodfield Rd.
Schaumburg, IL 60173

For stores in the South suburbs
- 3333 S. Cicero Ave.
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Holiday Inn Tinley Park
Convention Center
1651 Convention Center Dr.
Tinley Park, IL 60477

For stores in Chicago (South of 3500)
- Chicago Lake Shore Hotel
5400 S. Lake Shore Dr.
Chicago, IL 60615

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BIDDING AND CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS
SECTION 0000 - Advertisement for Bids
BID RELEASE #1
Niles Township H.S. District #219
Niles 2014 Capital Improvement

Geared bids will be received by IHC Construction Company, LLC for the Niles Township High School District #219 beginning January 19, 2014 at 1:00 pm

Pioneer Press (DC)

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Thursday, January 16, 2014

high school cube news

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your local sports hub.
Meetings for the Norwood Park
Fire Protection District Commissioners for the year
2014, will be held on the first
Tuesday of each month,
March, June, September, and
December. Said meeting will be
held at the Norwood Park
Fire Protection District,
7447 W. Lawrence,
Norwood Heights, IL.
60706. Meetings are to be
called by the Chairman
at 12 Noon.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Meetings for the Norwood Park
Fire Protection District Pension
Fund for the year 2014, will be
held at the Norwood Park Fire
Department, 7447 W. Lawrence,
Norwood Heights, IL.
60706. Meetings are to be
called by the President
at 7:00 P.M.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The monthly meetings of the
Norwood Park Fire Protection
District Board of Trustees will be
held on the second Tuesday of
the month, beginning in Janu-
ary, 2014. Said meetings will be
held at the Norwood Park
Fire Department, 7447 W. Lawrence,
Norwood Heights, IL.
60706. Meetings are to be
called by the President
at 7:00 P.M.
Camille Greco and Patrick Gale

Camille and Patrick both grew up in the south suburbs of Chicago — Camille in Oak Forest and Patrick in Crest Hill. The couple attended the University of Illinois and met through mutual friends on spring break of 2008 in Orlando, Fla. Patrick proposed in Riviera Maya, Mexico on the couple’s four-year dating anniversary. They married Sept. 28 at St. Raymond’s Cathedral, where Patrick attended school from kindergarten to eighth grade. Their reception was at the Tinley Park Convention Center. The couple live in Dallas.
Most experts agree that 1939 was one of Hollywood's great — many would say the greatest — years ever.

Which means we're in luck, because the Pickwick Theatre Classic Film Series will be presenting the best of 1939 movies through 2014. Bookings for the first six months include "Gunga Din" Jan. 23, "Wuthering Heights" Feb. 13, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" March 13 (featuring an appearance by Claude Rains' daughter Jessica Rains), "Scarface" April 24 (okay, that's technically 1932 but Ann Dvorak biographer Christina Rice will be in town for a guest appearance), "In Old Chicago" and "Jesse James" May 1 (a double celebration of star Tyrone Power's 100th birthday), and "Gone with the Wind" June 19 (you may have heard of it).

Of course, the Pickwick no doubt booked most of them for the first time when they were brand new.

Pickwick Classic curator/host Matthew Hoffman is still mulling options for the second half of 1939's finest, but "Son of Frankenstein" is his first choice for Halloween and "The Wizard of Oz" is a definite possibility.

"Hollywood has had so many other great years, but 1939 has no major socio-economic impediments to the studios doing what they did best — feeding the country's increasingly ravenous appetite for movies. And simply having everything click more often than usual.

"We were coming out of the Depression and we hadn't gone into the Second World War," Hoffman said. "This was just an opportunity for Hollywood to reach its peak."

And, of course, it doesn't hurt that all of those films will be having their 75th anniversary in 2014. Why was 1939 such a banner year for Hollywood? Hoffman mentioned a variety of factors, including technical achievements such as the perfection of sound technology and the development of Technicolor. The main reason, apparently, was that there were no major socio-economic impediments to the studios doing what they did best — feeding the country's increasingly ravenous appetite for movies. And simply having everything click more often than usual.

"We were coming out of the Depression and we hadn't gone into the Second World War," Hoffman said. "So there weren't major distracting influences. This was just an opportunity for Hollywood to reach its peak."

For people in the industry at the time, Hoffman noted, 1939 did not emanate a golden hue. It was merely a year like any other, though perhaps a little busier — 750 movies were made that year and 80 million people were going to see them weekly.

Speaking of which, some of the movies we consider most emblematic of that year weren't especially big box-office hits. "The Wizard of Oz," for instance. Ironically, many of them attained classic status after countless reruns on TV.

"Even if they weren't hits at the time, though, they made films we're still celebrating now, 75 years later," Hoffman said. "Which is really remarkable."
Meet Tom Jones, amorous adventurer and star of novelist Henry Fielding's saga of "good, clean lustiness."

"Good Lord, I can't even tell you how much this character influenced my life," says director William Brown, who is helming John Jory's adaptation of "Tom Jones" for Skokie's Northlight Theatre. "I read it in somewhere in the early 1970s — it just made sex look like such fun."

Fielding's voluminous novel, set in 18th-century Great Britain, begins when the title character is an infant and is discovered— a bit like Moses— in a basket on the Somerset property of the wealthy Squire Allworthy. Flash forward to adolescence when poor Tom Jones learns his low-class station means he has no chance at successfully wooing the Squire's comely daughter Sophie. Thwarted romance aside, Jones embarks through thousands of pages of adventures, making time with British lasses across the countryside and swashbuckling through an ongoing conflict between Catholics and members of the Church of England.

Part coming-of-age adventure epic and part social commentary, Tom Jones is essentially the grandfather of all English novels. But don't let the centuries-old age of Fielding's novel put you off. So long as there are young men stumbling toward adulthood and bumbling through their attempts at seduction, Tom Jones remains utterly relevant.

For actor Samuel Ashdown, the chance to play Tom Jones means digging deep into a flawed, heroic and almost accidental lothario. "He really tries to do the right thing, but sometimes his appetites get the better of him," Ashdown says. "I also think he's very naive and generous to a fault. He tries, hard, to do the right thing, but you know, life is messy. The right thing doesn't always apply in real life."

"You could say the story is kind of a rake's progress," adds Brown. "Except that Tom Jones really isn't a rake. He's actually quite seriously an honorable man. And part of his code of honor is honoring the women who come on to him."

Sex on stage is invariably a tricky affair; at worst it distracts the audience from the story as they ponder matters such as whether the actors are cold/self-conscious/actually feeling amorous. Brown is undaunted by the prospect of serial salaciousness.

"First of all, you put people in period clothes and the audience automatically feels much more comfortable with sex," he said. "There's not going to be any nudity on stage. We're going to invite the audience to ... use their imaginations."

"My hope," Brown adds, "is that 'Tom Jones' makes people remember a moment in time when sex was pure fun. When it didn't come attached with issues of power or commerce or disease. When it was all about innocence, and spontaneity and exuberance."
Brotherhood Chorale offers 10th salute to King

By Dorothy Andries
For Sun-Times Media

One hundred and eighty male voices will ring out at Nichols Concert Hall in Evanston, when for the 10th consecutive year, the Brotherhood Chorale of the Apostolic Church of God salutes the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Sponsored by the Music Institute of Chicago, the 10th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Concert will be held Jan. 19, the Sunday closest to the birthday of the martyred civil rights leader.

Under the direction of conductor Brian C. Rice, the chorale, which began in 1969 with less than 30 members, has grown six-fold. Their repertoire now includes traditional and contemporary gospel music, beloved spirituals, and jazz arrangements. The choir sings for services every fourth Sunday at its home, 6320 S. Dorchester Ave., Chicago. In addition to its annual appearance at Nichols, it has been featured at the South Shore Cultural Center and has sung with the Chicago Civic Orchestra.

"It is such an anticipated concert, really a civic highlight," said Mark George, president and CEO of the Music Institute in Evanston. "Plus it is very unusual to have a choir of that size with only male voices."

On the program will be the gospel songs "I'm Glad to Be in the Service" and "Marvelous" by Bishop Walter Hawkins, as well as "Jesus Paid It All," a lively 19th-century hymn in which the choir will be joined by seven young recipients of the MIC's William Warfield scholarships.

Among those playing with the choir for that number will be Jada Adamson-Tate, 10, of Skokie; Maya Gibson, 12, of Zion; violin; Kamau Kokayi-Taylor, 12, of Evanston; jazz piano; Hannah White, 13, of German-town, Wis, violin; Lucienne Williams, 13, of Chicago, viola; and Mira Williams, 15, of Chicago, viola.

The William Warfield scholarship was established by MIC in memory of the great African-American bass-baritone and actor and professor of music at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 1975 until he moved to Northwestern University's School of Music in 1994. He taught there until his death in 2002 at the age of 82. He was a board member of the Music Institute of Chicago and was honored with its annual Dushkin Award in 1996.

The Music Institute has developed a special relationship with the Apostolic Church of God and its choir. It began in 2000 when Sister Isabelle Brazier from the church joined the Music Institute's board of trustees where she served for five years. "She expressed her vision for establishing a youth string orchestra at the church," George explained, "so more than 10 years ago MIC started a Suzuki Strings program there. After five years, the church took it over and now they have a full-fledged, permanent youth orchestra."
LEGO-inspired fun comes to life

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
For Sun-Times Media

Everybody's favorite building blocks will come to life in “The LEGO Movie,” a 3-D computer-animated film. That excitement will grow at a Hands-On Learning event, noon Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Old Orchard Barnes & Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. “We're going to have activities inspired by the characters,” said Keisha Smith, community relations manager. “There will be a decoding activity, a word search activity, a word scramble activity and then we have a special secret giveaway for participants. Also, we'll have a drawing for two passes to see the movie.”

The film is about a very ordinary LEGO mini-figure named Emmet who is incorrectly identified as the most extraordinary person—the only one capable of saving the world from an evil tyrant. Needless to say, Emmet is hardly prepared for the task.

Registration is encouraged.

For details, call (847) 676-2230 or go to www.barnesandnoble.com.

AFRICAN ADVENTURE

There will be West African drumming, dancing and acrobatics at African Explosion: Dance, Drum and Acrobatics, 2-3 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20 at Morton Grove Public Library, 6440 Lincoln Ave. The event celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

For details, call (847) 965-2230 or go to www.nileslibrary.org.

WHAT A KICK!

Children in kindergarten through sixth grade will get a taste of Korean Style Tae Kwon Do when Tiger Martial Arts visits Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., 2:30-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18. Parents must stay with kids who are under third grade. No registration is required.

For details, call (847) 663-1234 or go to www.nileslibrary.org.

GRU TO THE RESCUE

Our hero Gru joins the Anti-Villain League to help stop a diabolical criminal in “Despicable Me 2.” The 98-minute PG sequel to the popular animated film is the Kid Flick for 3:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20 at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave.

For details, call (847) 677-5277 or go to www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org.

LONE STUDENT

Ruby Bridges was the only student in her first-grade classroom in 1960. The six-year-old African-American girl attended a school that had previously been white only. Kids will learn her story when Linda Gorham presents, History Alive! Meet Ruby Bridges, 4-5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Tickets will be available at 3:30 p.m. that day.

For details, call (847) 324-3149 or go to www.skokielibrary.info.
**Winter Aglets:**

Double duty tips on a Shoestring

S
ave time and money this winter with these double-duty tips that turn ordinary household products into superheroes.

**Vinegar**

Sure, vinegar tastes great on salads, but did you know it can help get rid of road salt residue on car carpets and mats? First remove mats from car and place in a well-ventilated area. Then fill a spray bottle with a mixture of half distilled, white vinegar and half water. Spray a generous amount of mixture on the mats and blot with a rag or towel. For extra tough salt stains, try using a scrub brush to scrub away the salty residue.

**Hand Sanitizer**

Keeping hand sanitizer in the car is not just good for fighting germs, but it can also be used in a pinch to help de-ice car door locks. The alcohol in hand sanitizer is similar to the ingredients in commercial de-icers, which helps lower the melting temperature of water. To use, rub a little hand sanitizer on your key before working it into the lock. The ice should melt away, giving you easy access to your car on icy days.

**Vanilla**

Wintertime often means keeping doors and windows continuously closed, which can often leave a house smelling musty or worse. Air fresheners are fine but a few tablespoons of pure vanilla extract can also work wonders. First, pre-heat oven to 275 degrees, then pour two to three tablespoons of vanilla in an oven-safe bowl (glass, ceramic or terra cotta work best). Place bowl in the oven for 20 to 30 minutes or until your house is filled with a delicious vanilla smell.

**Light Bulbs**

To light a room and help ward off seasonal affective disorder, replace your ordinary light bulbs with brighter broad-spectrum bulbs. Although these bulbs are a little more expensive, they help mimic natural light, which is helpful on days when sunshine is a distant memory.

**Snow**

Okay, so maybe snow is not a household product, but given this winter's weather, I imagine it's not far away. So next time it snows try this recipe courtesy of Kim Treger, owner/director of the The Laughing Academy (www.thelaughingacademy.com). You need:

- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 4-5 cups of clean snow (more if needed)
- Special add-in ingredients (such as small pieces of Butterfingers, Oreo or Graham Crackers)

**Directions:**

Whisk the first three ingredients together in a medium bowl and then go outside and collect fresh snow.

Slowly combine a small amount of snow with the milk and sugar mixture until you have a creamy consistency.

Use a fork to quickly mix-in add-in toppings.

Eat immediately or store in the freezer in an airtight container.

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**WE ASKED, YOU ANSWERED**

After experiencing the Great Freeze of 2014, we asked our Facebook friends to share their best-learned wintertime tips...

"Bring soda cans and water bottles that you would typically store in your garage into your home to prevent them from freezing." - Margaret M

"Don't buy a puppy when record lows are in the forecast." - Jenny L

"Get a flu shot. I've been suffering for 9 days!" - Heitzi

"I never thought I'd even consider purchasing a Snuggle, but now I'm currently on their website." - Faye

"Start your car often and run it a little while to ensure it doesn't go flat at the crucial moment you are ready to go to O'Hare (like us)." - Jane
**GO CALENDAR**

**BY WRAPPORTS NEWS SERVICE**

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

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2014**

**Travel Film**
2 p.m.: Enjoy a family-friendly movie traveling 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.

**Film: 'Enough Said'**
2 p.m.: A divorced woman who decides to pursue the man she's interested in learns he's her new friend's ex-husband. Stars Julia Louis-Dreyfus, James Gandolfini. Additional screening at 6:30 p.m. 90 minutes. Call 847-829-5101 or visit www.mgpl.org to learn more. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

**Craft Studio: Rainbow Loom**
4:30 p.m.: Learn how to make a bracelet using colorful rubber bands. For children in grades 4 to 8. No registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-324-3149.

**Pizza Wars**
7 p.m.: The District 219 Education Foundation for Excellence, with the assistance of the student organization Dance Marathon, will host its fourth annual Pizza Wars. Tasting will begin at 6 p.m., and the trophy will be awarded at 7:30. The evening also will feature live entertainment from Niles West and North student bands, face painting and a strolling magician. Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton St., Skokie. $12-$21 to drink. Admission is $22 and a minimum of two food or drink purchases. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont.

**Dinner Theater: Welcome Winter**
4:30 p.m.: Enjoy dinner followed by a performance by soprano Heather Braudakis. Matthae's, 734 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $8-$10.

**T.G.I.F. Family Night**
6:30 p.m.: An evening of entertainment and fun for all ages. Prairie View Community Center, 6834 Dempster St., Morton Grove.

**Andy Woodhull**
8 p.m.: The comedian, who made his debut on Comedy Central's "Live at Gotham," performs a stand-up routine. Additional performance at 10:30 p.m. Must be 21 or older to attend. Admission is $22 and a minimum of two food or drink purchases. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont.

**Rainbow Therapy Time**
7 p.m.: The dance group performs. Evanston SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Call 847-492-8860.

**Movie: 'The Many Adventures of Winnie-the-Pooh'**
2 p.m.: Celebrate A. A. Milne's birthday with a screening of the 1977 animated film about the beloved bear and his friends in the Hundred Acre Wood. 74 minutes. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights.

**Film: 'One Direction: This is Us'**
8 p.m.: Participants can skate to the retro hits of the 1980s. Enjoy treats for the kids and everyone in attendance is entered in a drawing for two tickets to a Chicago Wolves hockey game. Oakton Ice Arena, 2800 W. Oakton St., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-3359.

**Sunday Jan. 15**

**The Color Paradigm: Understanding Color Relationships**
10 a.m.: This workshop will provide you with a solid framework of color-related knowledge. Participants will paint a color wheel and value chart, discuss color issues specific to textiles and walk through some exercises that will open their eyes to new ways of seeing. The Chicago Weaving School, 4201 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Call 773-450-0602. $95.

**Portrait Workshop**
11 a.m.: Children can learn how to draw a self-portrait or a portrait of someone else. For ages 6 to 10. Byrick Art Center, 306 Busse Highway, Park Ridge. Call 847-822-6801. $35.

**Wearable Art**
Noon: Create wearable art by up-cycling T-shirts, Mother's, 710 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $12 suggested donation.

**Skokie Madden Bowl VI**
Noon: Compete with "Madden NFL 13" players of all ages for a gift certificate to GameStop. Snacks, drinks and prizes are provided. Registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-673-3733.

**Rainbow Therapy Time**
1:30 p.m.: A screening of the 2013 biographic drama, starring Forest Whitaker and Oprah Winfrey, about a White House butler who served eight presidents throughout three decades. 132 minutes. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie.

**Dinner Theater: Welcome Winter**
4:30 p.m.: Enjoy dinner followed by a performance by soprano Heather Braudakis. Matthae's, 734 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $8-$10.

**Day of Celebration Honoring the Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.**
8 a.m.: Celebration King's legacy through music, dance and excerpts from his speeches. Performances by the Evanston Children's Choir, Evanston Community Drill Team, Christ Temple Praise Dancers and more. Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center, 1655 Foster St., Evanston. Call 847-448-4311.

**Movie: 'One Direction: This is Us'**
8 p.m.: Squeeze over Harry, Zayn, Niall, Louis and Liam in this all-access pass to One Direction live in concert. 92 minutes. Call 847-929-5102 or visit www.mgpl.org/kids for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

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

**Stars of MTV's 'Girl Code' and 'Guy Code'**
7 p.m.: Jessimae Pelusa, Carly Aquilino and Chris Distefano perform stand-up routines. Additional performance at 9:30 p.m. Must be 18 or older to attend, 21 to drink. Admission is $25 and a minimum of two food or drink purchases. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont.

**Rainbow Therapy Time**
12:15 p.m.: Children with special needs are invited to meet and play with these specially trained dogs, who, along with their human trainers, can help the kids learn some social, attention and language skills. Parents should return in the library while their children take part in the therapy independently. For ages 7 through 12. Registration required. Call 847-324-3149.

**Rainbow Therapy Time**
1:15 p.m.: Participants can skate to the retro hits of the 1980s. Enjoy treats for the kids and everyone in attendance is entered in a drawing for two tickets to a Chicago Wolves hockey game. Oakton Ice Arena, 2800 W. Oakton St., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-3359.

**History Alive: Meet Ruby Bridges**
4 p.m.: Learn about the first grader who broke the barriers of segregation when she attended a "white only" school in 1960. Contact the library for tickets. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-324-3149.

**Best Buy Technology Fair**
6:30 p.m.: Learn more about various brands of tablets, e-readers and smart phones. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights.

**See GO CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE.**

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**FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**

**GO CALENDAR**

**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. 21**

**Family Story Time**
7 p.m.: Stories, songs and activities for families with children ages 2 to 6. Attendees are welcome to wear pajamas. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. For more information, call 847-663-1234.

**The Tuesday 10’ Showcase**
8 p.m.: A mix of 10 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. For more information, call 847-813-0484.

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22**

**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.

**Larry Roeb**
8 p.m.: The comedian, known as “Uncle Larry,” performs stand-up. Must be 21 or older to attend. Admission is $22 and a minimum of two food or drink purchases. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 23**

**Classic Film Series: ‘Brazil’**
1 p.m.: A screening of the 1985 drama, starring Jonathan Pryce and Robert De Niro, about a bureaucrat who tries to correct administrative error, causing him to become an enemy of the state. 132 minutes. Lenox Public Library, 4613 N. Oskaloosa Ave., Harwood Heights.

**Captivo Free Concert**
6:30 p.m.: Listen to an uplifting performance. St. Paul Lutheran Church, 5650 N. Canfield Ave., Chicago.

**FRIDAY, JAN. 24**

**Second Annual Alumni Association Smoker Event**
6 p.m.: Notre Dame College Prep hosts an “elimination dinner” for alumni. The event features a family-style meal, open bar and raffle. Contact Brad Tokarz at 847-668-9890 for more information. White Eagle Banquets & Restaurant, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. $135 per person.

**Nick Vatterott**
8 p.m.: The comedian, who has appeared on “Late Night with Jimmy Fallon,” performs stand-up. Additional performance at 10:30 p.m. Must be 21 or older to attend. Admission is $22 and a minimum of two food or drink purchases. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 25**

**MGPL Craft: Decorate a Ball Jar**
10 a.m.: Decorate a glass ball jar with tissue paper and modpodge. Fill the jar with candies, treats or even a flameless candle for a special someone. For ages 12 and up. For more information or to register, go to calendar.mgpL.org or call 847-929-5101. Morton Grove Public Library, 6400 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

**Winter Lifestyles of the Furled and Feathered Fireside**
2 p.m.: Learn how different animals survive winter. The program features a puppet show, craft, hot chocolate and outdoor hunt for signs of wildlife. For ages 3 and up. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. $5.

**SUNDAY, JAN. 26**

**Annual Business Meeting and Fellowship Meal**
11 a.m.: Call 708-567-9111 for more information. Bethany Baptist Church, 6700 W. Gunnison St., Harwood Heights.

**Crowning Glories**
7:30 p.m.: Mozart’s “Coronation Mass” headlines a musical performance that includes two of Handel’s great Coronation Anthems. North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie - Northlight Theatre, 5151 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Call 847-677-7500. $30-$75.

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**Trip: ‘42nd Street’**
10 a.m.: Attendees can travel to Paramount Theatre in Aurora to see “42nd Street.” The musical is about an aspiring chorus girl Peggy Sawyer and her random journey to stardom. Registration ended Jan. 3. Cost includes transportation to and from Mather’s, a lunch buffet and the show. Mather’s, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $72-$90.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 30**

**But First, This Word from Our Sponsors**
I.p.m.: Professor Bob Burton leads a discussion and video presentation on some of the earliest TV commercials including ground-breakers, award winners and more. Mather’s, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $5 suggested donation.

**FRIDAY, JAN. 31**

**Dinner Theater: A Night to Remember**
4:30 p.m.: Performance by Kent Rose from The Voice that Remembers with sing-alongs and dinner. Mather’s, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $9-$10.
**FILM CLIPS**

**OPENING FRIDAY**

**DEVIL’S DUE**
Rated R for language and some bloody images
Stars: Zach Gilford, Allison Miller, Robert Belushi
A newlywed couple discover they are soon to become the parents of a bouncing baby devil. Matt Bettinelli-Olpin and Tyler Gillett (“V/H/S”) directed the horror.

**THE INVISIBLE WOMAN**
★★★ 1/2
Rated R for some sexual content
Stars: Ralph Fiennes, Felicity Jones, Kristin Scott Thomas
Though told from the point of view of Charles Dickens’ longtime secret mistress, and concerned primarily with their passionate (yet socially impossible) love affair, the main attraction of “The Invisible Woman” is a rare portrait of Dickens the man, whose works are much better known than his personal life. Director Fiennes gives the biographical portrait a handsome, leisurely paced, sensitively acted production in the Merchant Ivory/Masterpiece Theater tradition in addition to a convincing portrait of Dickens, the dedicated family man, swept up in an undeniable passion while trying to complete Great Expectations. Jones is similarly impressive as the much younger Nelly Ternan, model of Victorian propriety who angrily resists her amorous feelings until resistance proves futile.

**JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT**
Not yet rated
Stars: Chris Pine, Kevin Costner, Keira Knightley
A young CIA analyst (Pine) discovers a Russian plot to destroy the U.S. economy with a terrorist attack. Kenneth Branagh (“Thor”) directed the espionage drama, based on the character created by Tom Clancy.

**THE NUT JOB**
Rated PG for mild action and rude humor
Stars: Will Arnett, Katherine Heigl, Brendan Fraser
After being banished from a city park, a curmudgeonly squirrel (Arnett) decides to heist the contents of a nut store. Peter Lennon (“Gotta Catch Santa Claus”) directed the animated comedy.

**RIDE ALONG**
Rated PG-13 for sequences of violence and brief strong language
Stars: Kevin Hart, Tika Sumpter, Ice Cube, John Leguizamo
To prove himself worthy to marry the sister of a tough cop (Cube), a fast-talking security guard (Hart) agrees to accompany him on a 24-hour patrol of Atlanta. Tim Story (“Think Like a Man”) directed the action comedy.

**STILL PLAYING**

**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
Apprently bored with tormenting middle-class white folks in suburban L.A., the “Paranormal” Satan-spawn have established a new base for their evil activities (and set their sites on a fresh new audience) in the predominantly Latino community of Oxnard. “The Marked Ones” concerns recent high-school grad Jesse (Jacobs), and his comic-relief buddy Hector (Jorge Diaz) who record EVERYTHING on their new video camera—including Jesse’s demonic possession. Writer-director Christopher Landon, who also scripted “Paranormal” two through four, has given this semi-reboot more of a sexual charge than its predecessors, a handful of decent shocks and a surprisingly action-packed finale. No matter how creepy things get, though, there’s near zero suspense because the found-footage gimmick comes with a built-in emotionally distancing effect. Maybe it’s time to turn the freaking camera off already?

**THE LEGEND OF HERCULES**
Rated PG-13 for sequences of intense combat action and violence, and for some sensuality
Stars: Kellan Lutz, Gaia Weiss, Scott Adkins
After being betrayed by his royal stepfather (Adkins) and sold into slavery, the legendary hero (Lutz) must fight his way back to his kingdom. Renny Harlin (“Die Hard 2”) directed the fantasy adventure.

Andrew Jacobs and Gabrielle Walsh star in “Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones.” i s’ PHOTO/PARAMOUNT PICTURES, FILE

**NEWS WHEN YOU WANT IT. IT'S A LOCAL THING.**
check out happenings in your area at PIONEERLOCAL.com
SHOWTIMES
Movie times are effective Friday, Jan. 17, through Thursday, Jan. 23. Please note that theater schedules are subject to change.

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(847) 673-1311
www.skokiecentralumc.org
Worship: Sundays at 10:30 AM

St. Timothy Campus
9000 Kildare Ave., Skokie
Sunday Worship
9 am: St. Timothy’s Lutheran
Noon: Agape Life Outreach Center
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Madsen, Maxine M.
(see Wolverton) Age 92 and 67 year resident of Skokie, passed away December 21, 2013.
Beloved wife of the late Robert J. Madsen; cherished mother of Robert J., Jr. (Lucille) Madsen of Arlington Heights, William (Made lyn) Madsen of Batavia, Madeleine (Patrick Feldman) Madsen of Palatine, Jerome Madsen and John Madsen of Skokie; dear grandmother of eight; loving great-grandmother of eight.
After raising her five children, Maxine was involved in the operation of Johnson's Fine Seafoods of Winnetka with her husband, and then her son Jack, for over fifty years. Maxine and her family were one of the founding families of St. Lambert Church in Skokie.

Visitation and Funeral Mass were held on December 27, 2013 at St. Lambert Church, 8148 North Karlov Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076. Interment All Saints Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090 or to St. Lambert Church, c/o the church. Info: (847) 675-1990 or www.donnellanfuneral.com.

McNulty, Joan T.
(nee Tiderman) Age 83, of Morton Grove. Beloved wife of the late Thomas J.; dear mother of Thomas J. (Denise) and Michael J. (Danette); loving grandmother of Amanda (Jon) Fleege, Jill (Mitchell) Curtis, Meghan McNulty, Lisa (fiancé Samuel Mrofcza) and Daniel McNulty; fond sister-in-law of Sr. Mary Judith Terese McNulty B.V.M. Visitation with Prayer Service, Thursday, January 16, 2014, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Haben Funeral Home & Crematory, 8057 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Interment private. Funeral info.: 847-672-6111 or www.habenfuneral.com.

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Aries (March 21 to April 19) Taking some time out of your busy social life could be just what you need to help you focus on putting those finishing touches on your plans for a career change.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) A misunderstanding about a colleague's suggestions could create a delay in moving on with your proposal. By week's end, all confusing points should cleared up.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) You might feel overwhelmed by all the tasks you suddenly have to take care of. But just ask for help and you'll soon find others rushing to offer assistance.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22) Finishing a current project ahead of schedule leaves you free to deal with other upcoming situations, including a possible workplace change.

Leo (July 23 to August 22) Turn that fine-tuned feline sensitivity radar up to high to help uncover any facts that could influence a decision you might be preparing to make.

Virgo (August 23 to September 22) A state of confusion is soon cleared up with explanations from the experts. Don't waste time chastising anyone. Move forward with your plans.

Libra (September 23 to October 22) You might feel obligated to help work out a dispute between family members. This is one of those times when you should let them work out their problems.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 21) Your ability to resolve an on-the-job problem without leaving too many ruffled feathers earns you kudos from co-workers.
**CAR STORY**

**Luisa Benson's Challenger**

Submitted by Car Owner

Luisa Benson's Challenger

My impulse turned out to be one of the best moves I've made in years. My husband added a cold-air kit, so I'm operating at more than 400 horsepower, and I tinted all the windows. Headers are on the list of additional improvements planned because a supercharger would negate the lifetime warranty we purchased. We'll have to settle for less than 500 horsepower. But it's not just owning and driving a powerful car that has prompted me to write. This car has improved both my self-image and my marriage.

In the 2 ½ years since we bought the Challenger, my husband and I have taken drives north and west of Chicago just to have breakfast or a cocktail and appetizers. We've driven to Montana, Colorado, Florida and Kentucky. We're motivated to get out together because we have such fun in a car that prompts conversation from strangers.

Those of you out there looking for a reason to step outside your comfort zone, for being nonpractical, for responding to an impulse, I say go ahead. Buy your dream car.
Mercedes-Benz top luxury brand

In the month of September, Mercedes-Benz was the most popular luxury auto brand purchased by Niles residents. Mercedes-Benz topped the luxury sales chart with 12 sales of the 42 total sales of luxury cars to Niles residents. A total of six new Mercedes-Benz vehicles and six used Mercedes-Benz vehicles made up the 12 overall Mercedes-Benz sales in the month.

Lexus, which accounted for nine sales, was the second most popular luxury brand in September. Of the nine total Lexus purchases in September, seven were used vehicles and two were new vehicles. BMW took third place on the list of most popular auto brands, totaling seven sales — six used and one new.

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

In September, 76 percent of luxury car purchases by Niles residents came through a local dealer, while 24 percent came via private party transactions. Private party transactions accounted for 10 of the 42 total luxury car sales to Niles residents in September, while local dealer transactions accounted for 32 luxury auto sales. Fletcher Jones of Chicago was the top dealer of luxury cars to Niles residents in September with three overall sales. Other popular dealerships selling luxury vehicles to Niles residents in the month included Loeb Motors (three sales), Lexus of Highland Park (two) and Fields Imports (two).

Taking all auto sales into account (not just luxury sales), Niles residents bought 251 vehicles in September. Of the 251 total auto purchases, 142 were used vehicles and 109 were new vehicles. This means that used cars accounted for 57 percent of overall sales in the month.

SOURCE: Illinois Secretary of State

PROVIDED BY TORDRIVE.COM
NILES WEST

Rios elevates game in time of need

Sophomore assumed point-guard duties when Gibson went down against Maine South

BY DAN SHALIN
For Sun-Times Media, @danshalin

SOKKIE — Niles West's chances of staging a comeback against Maine South appeared slim when Wolves star guard Ahmad Gibson limped off the court with an ankle injury early in the third quarter.

Gibson missed most of the second half Friday night. But the Wolves were able to pick up the slack, and though they lost 50-41 to the first-place Hawks, they closed the gap to five points with two minutes to play after trailing 31-16 at halftime.

It was the seventh straight loss for the Wolves (4-8 overall, 0-4 CSL South), but the contest had its positives, including the play of sophomore guard Jojo Rios, whose role was expanded in Gibson's absence.

Playing the point for much of the second half, including down the stretch, Rios was able to dribble into the heart of the Maine South defense and kick it out to open teammates on the perimeter. Usually, the open teammate was senior forward Romeo Magloire, who hit three 3-pointers in the third quarter.

"The key was mainly dribble penetration and just looking for the hot shooters," Rios said. "We had to move the ball well enough and not be casual. Basically, it was to penetrate, kick it out and look for those hot shooters."

Rios also knocked down a key 3-pointer in the fourth quarter and played well defensively, finishing with four steals.

Though Rios did have 21 points in a 76-66 loss to Niles North on Dec. 7, 2013, Niles West coach Rob Williams said Friday was the 6-foot-1, 160-pounder's best varsity effort thus far.

"I think [Maine South] was his best game," Williams said. "He played very complete at both ends — on defense and he handled and shot the ball well. He's learning. He's a young player and he's learning there is a lot more than just shooting the ball."

Rios, whose first name is Josean, starts alongside Gibson in the Wolves backcourt. Gibson is the team's primary ballhandler, but Rios assumes those chores when Gibson moves to two-guard.

Rios said playing with Gibson in games and against him in practice helped prepare him for the added responsibilities he was forced to take on Friday night.

"I look up to [Gibson] and learn from him," Rios said. "With him down, I've been able to step up my game and he's helped me improve. When he's out, I just have to take the lead and try to get us back in it."

"Ahmad is a great leader. He shows a lot of compassion, he teaches me a lot and doesn't put me down. He's an amazing leader," Rios said.

Rios, who played on the freshman team last season, is one of three underclassmen starting for Niles West. Sophomore sharpshooter Evan Hines and freshman guard Mirsad Mackic are the others.

All three have been adjusting to the speed of the varsity game. Another adjustment, Rios said, has been playing for Williams, the IBCA Hall of Fame-bound coach who has never been shy to build off of and I thought our kids showed some resilience and poise."

Maine South coach Tony Lavorato Jr. add, "It's a great experience," Rios said. "It's tough at times, but you have to fight through it. He's hard on me because he cares. I just have to fight through that. He's amazing. My [older] teammates just tell me they've been through it all, and that I just have to fight through it."

Magloire suggests Rios is fighting through it, though he's young and playing against a top-five team.

"He's young, but he plays like he's been on the varsity for a long time," Magloire said. "I'm proud of that, really. I think he'll do a good job out there in the future."
Niles North senior Peter Tate (12) drives through the Evanston defense during Saturday's game at Evanston. Tate is trying to be a vocal leader on the court for the Vikings this season. Michael Jarecki/For Sun-Times Media

NILES NORTH

Myles, Tate step up as leaders

BY MIKE CHAMERNIK
For Sun-Times Media, @MikeChamernik

EVANSTON — That the Niles North boys basketball team is guard heavy is an understatement. The team has only one starter with a listed position other than guard.

Even with so much competition at the position, seniors JJ Myles and Peter Tate not only have staked their places within the team’s dribble-drive offense, they also have emerged as vocal leaders for the Vikings.

Myles is a Jet Li-quick point guard with a strong handle, reliable jumper, and strong floater. He has a certain amount of effective flash in his game, right down to his neon yellow Nike high tops. He’s shifted from the perimeter last year to point guard this year, and has improved his shooting stroke and dribbling skills. Myles is the only remaining starter from last year’s team that won 27 games and made the sectional finals.

“He brings back the toughness that that group played with,” Niles North coach Glenn Olson said. “He understands the necessary pace to play at and the effort it takes to be successful. He’s experienced it first-hand.”

Tate is a tenacious on-ball defender that also has a knack for crashing the offensive boards. Within the offense he hangs in the corners, where he reads the defense and cuts to the hoop, or he receives passes and knocks down 8-point looks. He was primarily recognized for his defense last year but has blossomed on offense.

“He became a great shooter and a great scorer out of nowhere. We were all surprised,” Myles said of Tate. “He became a player.”

Myles and Tate are leaders by example, according to Olson. They’re not the types who will give an impromptu pregame speech or shout at teammates during games. Instead, they exert maximum effort during offensive, defensive and transition drills in practice and they fly around the court relentlessly in games.

They’re trying to branch out, though. Myles said it’s been difficult for him to be more vocal, but he’s doing it. Tate is doing likewise.

“I’m just a quiet, humble person,” Tate said. “I’m not that vocal. But when I’m on the floor I try to be vocal and try to tell everyone what to do, to do the right things.”

The duo has shined for Niles North, with each scoring around 9 points a game, even though neither has a background of elite organized basketball participation. Tate didn’t make any feeder teams growing up and Myles was unsure of how AAU ball worked so he never joined. For them, hard work mixed with motivation from the allure of varsity ball propelled them to leading roles.

“They’re just two kids who didn’t come into high school as basketball players,” Olson said. “They came in and made a pretty nice career for themselves.”

THE STARS

Stephens scored a game-high 27 points, with four 3-pointers and a number of driving layups. Stephens only scored eight points in the second half, though. Henley and senior guard Will Jones led Evanston with 11 points each.

BY THE NUMBERS

Evanston trailed Niles North 25-14 early in the second, but outrebounded the Vikings 13-4 in the quarter and ended the half on a 17-7 run to trail by one, 32-31, at half.

QUOTABLE

“It was a combination of sticking with one of our better defenders and captains in Will Jones as well as just trying to run another guy at [Stephens] and throw his rhythm off.” — Evanston coach Mike Ellis on the Wildkits slowing down Stephens in the second half.
Blue Demons still looking for first league win

George's 19 points against Maine West aren't enough to prevent Maine East from starting CSL North play 0-4

BY PIONEER PRESS SPORTS

The Maine East boys basketball team fell to Maine West 71-59 and remained winless in the CSL North.

The Blue Demons dropped to 0-4 in conference with Friday's loss.

Abby George led Maine East (5-8 overall) with 19 points while Ashoor Doushow added 11.

Maine West won with a balanced attack as all five starter finished in double figures.

Jamal Sherman paced the Warriors (5-8, 2-2) with 23 points while Adam Wessell finished with a double-double (10 points, 14 rebounds).

Maine East is scheduled to play host to Deerfield today.
NILES — The Illinois high school hockey season extends from the beginning of the school year until March and that has put a great strain on Notre Dame’s hockey team and its multi-sport athletes this season.

The Ice Dons were without junior defenseman Mike Sabatino and sophomore defenseman Jackson Delfosse for about the first two months of the season while they played football. Brendan Golden and Nick Yzaguirre, who are currently first and second on the team in points, had to juggle hockey with playing golf for Notre Dame. Senior defenseman Sean Purman did the same.

Golden and Yzaguirre were able to participate in the two sports at once, and they have played in nearly all of the Ice Dons’ games. The return of Sabatino and Delfosse has provided Notre Dame with increased depth and stability on defense.

“The importance of the two sports at once, and they have played in nearly all of the Ice Dons’ games,” said Maize. “The importance of the two sports at once, and they have played in nearly all of the Ice Dons’ games.”

Mike Sabatino (right) and teammate Jackson Delfosse (not pictured) joined the Notre Dame hockey team after the football season and their presence has given the Ice Dons a lift. Notre Dame now has the bodies to consistently play three pairs of defensemen.

Like all of these little things, it’s almost like you’re starting your season halfway through and it’s tough.”

Sabatino and Delfosse have taken big roles upon their return. They’re two of the top four defensemen and they’re on the Ice Dons’ power play and penalty kill units. Their absence forced other players to assume more responsibility.

Notre Dame junior Brandon Maize said the team has grown tighter by spending time together at practice and in the locker room, and Notre Dame’s players have also been able to do things like go to McDonald’s after a morning practice.

“At this point in the season, yes, we’re starting to play more as a team and come together more because we’re spending more time with each other,” said Maize, a Franklin Park resident. “I think we can begin the season it’s kind of hard when everyone’s doing different sports. But now that we’ve had time to work as a team and build more relationships with each other, I think we’re doing better.”

Maize added that the team also has become closer this winter.

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Full complement

Notre Dame enjoying success now that its entire team is on the Ice

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