District 67 event spotlights cultures from Japan to Mexico | PAGE 6

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Celebration of Cultures brings out crowd, brings in cash

BY IGOR STUDENKO
For Sun-Times Media | @istudenkov

It was only five minutes after the International Celebration of Cultures officially began, and the Golf Middle School was already filled with children and adults.

Golf School District 67 PTA president Ilana McKittrick marveled as she observed the line in front of the ticket counter Jan. 31.

“I can't believe so many people are already here,” she said.

For the past ten years, the annual Celebration of Cultures has been the PTA’s most successful event. It features cultural exhibits, performances and plenty of international food. Originally launched to showcase the district community's diversity, it was successful from the get-go, and its popularity has only been growing since.

According to International Celebration of Cultures chair Kristina Otte, at least 30 different ethnicities are represented in the district's student body. The PTA wanted something to put together an event that would show that the district is proud of this diversity. It was also a way to bring the district — and the entire community — together.

Otte explained that the planning process starts in mid-November of the previous year. Parents and teachers volunteer to set up tables with displays showing off their cultures and offering samples of their culture's cooking. Because different people volunteer on different years, no event is ever quite the same.

“We put out a call to whoever it's interested,” said Otte. “Every year, we get something different.”

This year, Bangladesh, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Romania, Serbia, Sweden and South Korea were represented. The district’s Assyrian community was represented as well.

The event organizations gave kids an extra incentive to visit all the tables. Each event brochure had a “passport,” with spots for stickers from every table. If kids asked a question listed on the passport, they’d get a sticker. If they collect stickers from all tables, they could claim a small prize.

“We found in the past that, if [kids] don’t have something to do, they’ll just run around,” explained Otte.

Nada Ardelanu represented Serbia at the event for second year. A child of Serbian immigrants, she sees the event as an opportunity to educate her daughters.

“I have two little girls,” said Ardelanu. “It's very important that they learn about other cultures and their culture.”
Rachel Featherstone helped serve up Swedish meatballs and desserts during the 10th Annual International Celebration of Cultures at Golf Middle School in Morton Grove Jan. 31. / NATALIE HAYES/STAFF PHOTO/THE SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Chang's Taekwondo & Fitness Center demo team during the 10th Annual International Celebration of Cultures at Golf Middle School in Morton Grove Jan. 31. / NATALIE HAYES/STAFF PHOTO/THE SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Anju Malhotra and her family have been representing India at the event for four years. She originally decided to participate because she wanted to share her culture.

"I thought it was important to showcase our country and really explain what it's about," said Malhotra.

She also appreciates the Celebration of Cultures' ability to bring people together:

"Food attracts people," said Malhotra. "Because of that, I went around and I got to meet people I wouldn't have met otherwise."

The Celebration of Cultures also hosts performances. This year's performances included a traditional Okinawan dance performed by St. Matthew's Japanese School students, a Taekwondo demonstration from Chang's Taekwondo & Fitness Center and a "Melting Pot Mash-up" multicultural dance presented by a group of Golf Middle School students.

Over the years, the Celebration of Cultures became so successful that the PTA decided to move its annual silent auction to take advantage of the crowds the event attracts. And, according to McKitterick, organization has been able to use money earned from ticket sales in a number of ways.

"We've used it to help teachers pay for books, school supplies, parties," she said. "One time, we bought a Smart Board for a classroom."

Ultimately, the organizers hope that everyone who attends the Celebration of Cultures will be able to have fun learning about other cultures — and celebrating their own.

"We definitely want people to feel pride in their culture, and the amazement at all the cultures in the district," said Otte.
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Morton Grove seeking pitches for key property next to Metra station

The barren acreage at the southwest corner of Ferris and Capulina Avenues, pinned against the Metra tracks in central Morton Grove, will soon have a blueprint for redevelopment.

"Site B," as it's known, is integral to Mayor Dan DiMaria's push for a mixed-use business district built around the Metra Station. DiMaria has visions of creating a "mini-Edison Park" in the area, as DiMaria told the Morton Grove Champion last fall.

The village owns the nearly two-acre site, formerly occupied by single-family houses and a furniture warehouse, and has just issued a request for proposals, or RFP, asking developers to submit their visions for new residences and places of business.

"We're hoping to see townhouses, condos, mixed-use buildings, and any other compatible uses we're not considering that the RFP may flush out," DiMaria said. "Morton Grove has so many assets in need of revitalization — sleepy areas that are untapped such as downtown and the forest preserve.

"This RFP shows the village's commitment to take action on redevelopment," DiMaria added.

One complementary effort is a recasting of Dempster Street from star to costar in central Morton Grove. Pedestrian-friendly efforts like façade improvements and new "parklets," high-visibility public parking and general beautification are viewed as likely to link between Dempster and the new downtown, according to a November pitch by the village's Economic Development Commission.

But the success of a new downtown also hinges on finding suitable uses for the site — uses that treat the Metra as the nucleus of the commercial and residential corridors along Lincoln, Ferris and Lehigh avenues.

Morton Grove's Community and Economic Development Director Nancy Radzevich isn't opposed to an extension of the density and massing of neighboring five-story residential buildings onto the vacant tract.

"There used to be more of a critical mass of commercial around the Metra," Radzevich said. "Each interested developer needs to figure out what the market will bear."

Radzevich could not provide specific targets for residential and commercial unit count or parking allotment, deferring to the market on each. "Parking is a catch-22 for developers — they want to meet needs while avoiding excess."

The district's newly-adopted zoning for Lehigh running north to the Metra station and Lincoln heading east from the tracks toward Austin Avenue requires ground-floor retail in all new buildings — assurance that any substantial development will bring about wholesale changes to the area's character.

Site B was once the proposed site for a new library in Morton Grove, but the pitch was jettisoned after news broke that library board members had commented that the board should "make people feel pain," so as to build support for a second library.

Development proposals for the site are due by March 5. The number of quality responses will influence the review period, Radzevich said, but a final selection would go before the Village Board for a vote no later than six weeks beyond the submission deadline.

The village hopes to see the winning project completed two years after a developer closes on the land.

Mayor: Two grocery stores eyeing village

Morton Grove residents mourning the loss of Dominick's may soon get an alternative.

At the Jan. 27 village board meeting, Mayor Dan DiMaria announced that two grocery stores are interested in coming to Morton Grove.

"[Director of Community Development Nancy Radzevich] has been trying to attract grocery stores," he said. "We have two prospective stores and two casual restaurants."

Since the village's Dominick's location was shut down at the end of last year, Morton Grove was left with only one large-scale grocery store. The Produce World International Market, which is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Harlem Avenue and Dempster Street, offers a mix of general groceries and ethnic foods from various European countries.

DiMaria didn't give any details of what those potential grocery stores might be and where they might be located. Village Administrator Dan Horne said that, because negotiations are still in preliminary stages, he and the other Morton Grove officials couldn't elaborate, either.

"There is no other information that we can provide at this point," said Horne. "I believe the message the Mayor was trying to convey is that he and village staff are being proactive in business recruitment efforts."
BY IGOR STUDENKOV
For Sun-Times Media | @istudenkov

The Morton Grove Village Board will get some help hunting down state cash in Springfield.

The board unanimously approved a contract with lobbyist Dan Shomon on Jan. 27. Over the next twelve months, he will be helping Morton Grove obtain state grants and other assistance for stormwater management, municipal center improvements and other village projects.

Shomon was chosen largely thanks to his connections in the Illinois state legislature and his experience lobbying for other municipalities in the Chicago area. His contract with Morton Grove will last until the end of 2014, and trustees will be watching closely at whether Shomon will be able to live up to the hype.

Shomon was a top aide to Barack Obama in the Illinois state legislature. Now, he

But trustee Maria Toth wondered what a lobbyist could do that a village couldn't. Shomon said that, during legislative negotiations, Morton Grove's concerns can get lost in the shuffle if someone isn't there to represent it directly.

"Unless there's someone sitting at the table, it's very hard to get what the village needs," he said.

Under the contract approved by the board, Shomon will be paid $4,000 a month out of the village's general budget. He will also be able to bill Morton Grove for travel expenses related to village business — so long as those expenses are under $200.

Just before the board cast its vote, DiMaria sought to reassure the more skeptical trustees. "The amount of money we're willing to commit to invest in Morton Grove is less than one percent of the budget," he said. "It's a small amount of our budget for a pretty large return."

Addressing Shomon, he added.

"If you don't perform, we won't renew your contract."

One woman was critically injured and three others were hospitalized after a wrong-way driver collided with another vehicle in Chicago's Edison Park neighborhood.

A few minutes before midnight, rescue crews responded to the crash in the 6000 block of North Harlem Avenue, where a driver apparently traveling in the wrong direction hit another vehicle, Fire Media Affairs spokesman Juan Hernandez said.

The crash happened in the northbound lanes, said Niles Police Sgt. Ron Brandt.

A 27-year-old woman was taken in critical condition to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, Hernandez said. Three other women were taken to Presence Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center, where they were listed in "stable" condition.

More details were not immediately available from the Niles Police Department, which is investigating the crash because they cover the northbound Harlem Avenue lanes that border St. Adalbert Cemetery, at 6800 N. Milwaukee Ave. in north suburban Niles.

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POLICE BLOTTER

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

NILES

RETAIL THEFT
Kabiruddin Charania, 62, of 6537 Niles Center Road, Skokie, was charged with retail theft on Jan. 24 after he allegedly stole cosmetics and personal items valued at $30.82 from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. He has a March 7 court date.

Angela Gilsen, 24, of 10058 Holly Lane, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with retail theft on Jan. 24 after she allegedly stole gift cards at the store. She has an April 2 court date.

Faraz Uddin, 27, of 427 W. Palatine Road, Palatine, was charged with felony retail theft on Jan. 24 after he allegedly stole $29.82 worth of items from a store on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue. Police said Uddin had a prior arrest, which is why a felony charge was approved. He had a Jan. 29 court date.

Robert Woodson, 27, of 9100 Forestview Road, Skokie, was charged with driving under the influence on Jan. 26 following a traffic stop on the 7900 block of Waukegan Road at 2:30 a.m. He has a March 13 court date.

MORTON GROVE

DUI
Sarkis Azizian, 19, of Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and hit and run after he was arrested on the 8500 block of Austin Avenue in Morton Grove Jan. 24. Police said Azizian fled the scene of an accident without providing information to police, and later failed sobriety tests. A court date is scheduled for March 17.

Daniel Velasquez, 33, of Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol after he was arrested on Capulina and Ferris Avenues Jan. 28. Police said he was stopped for a traffic violation before he failed sobriety tests. A court date is scheduled for Feb. 25.

ORDER OF PROTECTION
Paul H. Wehr, 50, of Morton Grove, was charged with violating an order of protection on Jan. 25. Police said Norat was found sleeping in his vehicle and that he later failed sobriety tests. A court date is scheduled for Feb. 25.

THEFT
A woman reported her iPhone was stolen Jan. 23 after she left it on top of a shopping cart with the phone. Police said a surveillance image showed a man who was waiting in line take the shopping cart with the phone.

BURGLARY
A home was burglarized between 7 and 8:30 p.m., Jan. 23, on the 8500 block of Overhill Avenue. No other details were provided.

BURGLARY TO VEHICLE
A vehicle parked on the 5800 block of Touhy Avenue on the morning of Jan. 24 was burglarized when a side window was shattered. Police said a brown bag containing groceries and an envelope with $500 in cash was stolen.

PROPERTY DAMAGE
A metal sign was damaged in an argument over the use of her car. Police were then called back a third time after the teen returned to the apartment, asking to retrieve cigarettes from his vehicle, police said.

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School board officially hires new superintendent

BY NATASHA WASINSKI
For Sun-Times Media | @natwaz

During a special meeting Thursday night, District 64 School Board President Anthony Borrelli held up a copy of the Park Ridge Herald-Advocate and pointed to the front page headline: "New school leader, almost" the newspaper read, to which Borrelli confirmed: "It's a new school leader, yes."

With unanimous backing from officials, Laurie Heinz signed on as the next superintendent of Park Ridge-Niles School District 64, effective July 1.

Applause broke out after the Board of Education approved the appointment by a 6-0 vote. Board Secretary Terry Cameron was absent, though Borrelli relayed her, too, had issued a "resounding yes."

Heinz, currently the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction with Skokie School District 68, agreed to a three-year deal with the district's students and staff before her official start date.

"From what I have seen of the district already, it seems like a tremendous place for students to learn," she said. "I am proud to be their next superintendent and will dedicate myself to building on the foundation of excellence that has already been established within the district."

Heinz said she plans to spend at least 10 days visiting District 64 schools between May and June, and will implement a 100-day plan to ensure a smooth transition.

The most notable was Evergreen Park Elementary School District 124 Superintendent Robert Macaia's decision to withdraw from consideration. He and Heinz were the top two applicants being considered for the spot.

Most recently, officials rejected a request by Borrelli to have an open discussion of Heinz's contract. Board members instead voted for a closed session during the Jan. 24 special meeting.

Board member Dan Collins ultimately opposed the compensation package, saying Heinz's salary and benefits should not be higher than Bender's.

The Board of Education voted 5-1 to approve the agreement with Heinz immediately following her appointment.

Q&A: New superintendent says D64 is 'a tremendous place'

BY NATASHA WASINSKI
For Sun-Times Media | @natwaz

Laurie Heinz addresses members of the Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 School Board after being appointed superintendent Jan. 30.

Heinz comes to District 64 from Skokie School District 68, where she currently serves as assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

Q: Please describe your family life.

A: I was born in Chicago and grew up in Buffalo Grove. I now live in Vernon Hills with my family. My husband and I have a wonderful daughter who is currently in eighth grade. She is a competitive gymnast, volleyball player, cheerleader, and a member of both student council and a teen leadership group that helps struggling students. She also plays the trombone in her middle school band. We have extended family in the area and spend many Sunday evenings enjoying family dinners together.

Q: What are you most looking forward to in your new role with District 64?

A: First and foremost, I am looking forward to getting to know the schools and meeting the staff and students this spring. I believe that schools are the heart of every district and I want to see the many wonderful ways our teachers are engaging our students and helping them reach their potential. I am also looking forward to collaboratively developing a strategic plan that will provide a detailed road map of our long- and short-term goals for the next five years.

Q: What are some of the goals or actions of your 100-day transition plan?

A: As you can imagine, there is much to do to prepare for a new school year in a new district. In order to make a smooth transition, I will be spending time in District 64 in May and June. This will allow me to visit schools, meet with teachers, students, administrators, and PTA/PTOs to get to know what each stakeholder group values and how I can partner with them to help each group achieve their goals.

I plan to meet individually with officials as well as with the whole Board of Education to establish our goals and to develop a shared vision for the future of the district. Additionally, I will meet with members of the central office staff to tap into their expertise and to establish the calendar and "to do" list for the upcoming school year. I also want to explore Park Ridge.

Q: Growing up, what was your favorite subject in school?

A: As a child, my favorite subject was reading. In my opinion, there was nothing better than getting lost in a book! As an adult, I remain an avid reader and regularly have both a personal and professional book that I am enjoying.
Tardy Maine East students taking buses will get off hook

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
For Sun-Times Media | @istudenkov

Maine East High School students who take Pace buses to get to school will now be excused if their buses run late — so long as they ride buses that stop right in front of the school.

The new tardiness policy went into effect on Jan. 27, at the beginning of the school's second semester. It was created in response to a growing student complaints about late buses. The new policies seek to accommodate students who were legitimately delayed while making sure that students won't be able to cheat the system.

There are several Pace bus routes running through Maine East's attendance areas, but only two stop within walking distance of the school. Route 250 travels along Dempster Street, immediately north of Maine East, while Route 240 travels along Potter Road to the west of the school.

To accommodate the students, certain trips take a slightly different route, picking up students at the attendance area and stopping directly in front of the school. Those special trips deliver students to school in the morning and pick them up after school is over.

In the past, students who arrived by bus were subject to the same tardiness policy as the rest of the student body. But according to David Beery, Maine Township High School District's Director of Communications, student feedback made school officials change their mind.

"This policy was prompted by an increase in the number of students who tell us that they are tardy because of the late-arriving buses," he said.

The delays were due in large part to winter weather. Rush hour traffic delays have also played a role.

But excusing all students arriving by buses would leave room for abuse. Beery explained that, because the regular buses don't stop directly in front of the school, the staff has no way of knowing when they actually arrive. If Maine East excused all bus-riding students, some students could deliberately take one of the later morning buses, claim their bus was delayed and the staff would be none the wiser.

That's why only students arriving on buses that stop in front of Maine East will be excused if they arrive late.

Maine East readily acknowledged that students who take regular buses could be legitimately delayed. In the announcement posted on the school website, the administration urged such students to take earlier buses and otherwise adjust their schedules.

"During the past week or so, we have been informing students and families about the bus schedules and new policy," Beery said. "We have posted information concerning this on the school web site. We have described the new policy during student announcements and have sent an explanatory email to parents."

Through it all, there was one message that Maine East tried to get across.

"We have been emphasizing for students the importance of arriving at school on time, even in difficult weather," Beery said.
Rare disease traced to fish sold at grocery store

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
johnson@pioneerlocal.com | @Jen_Pioneer

Shoppers who purchased a specific type of fish from a Niles supermarket are being warned by the Illinois Department of Public Health not to eat it, or risk getting a rare disease.

Buffalo fish sold after Jan. 30 at Fresh Farms International Market, 5740 W. Touhy Ave., have been linked to Haff disease, according to the Department of Public Health.

According to the Department of Public Health, health officials in Cook County and Chicago have reported two people who ate buffalo fish from Fresh Farms Inter-

ational Market, 5740 W. Touhy Ave., have been linked to Haff disease, according to the department on Feb. 4.

The disease is very rare, with the last case in Illinois reported in 2004," said IDPH Director Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck in a statement.

"While cooking food to the proper temperature will kill bacteria, cooking will not eliminate this toxin and the fish will still be unsafe to eat."

A man who identified himself only as Fresh Farms' front-end manager told Pioneer Press that the store removed all buffalo fish on the morning of Feb. 4, after it was contacted by the IDPH.

"It's being taken care of," the manager said.

Anyone who has eaten buffalo fish from Fresh Farms International Market is advised by the health department to watch for possible signs of Haff disease and contact a health provider if any symptoms are experienced.

Maine East students honored for pro-voting video

By Jennifer Johnson
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com | @Jen_Pioneer

Two Maine East High School students were named the winners of a Cook County video contest aimed at promoting a new Illinois law that allows 17-year-olds to vote in a primary election.

Andrew Garneata and Veronica Walesinski were recognized by Cook County Clerk David Orr on Feb. 4 for the short video they submitted to the county's "Voting at 17" contest. The contest encouraged 17-year-old students to create a video in their school and complete the following statement: "I'm 17 years old and..."

Garneata and Walesinski's video, several students provided one-word responses, while Garneata, standing at a podium, asked the viewing audience, "What do you stand for?"

Walesinski provided the actual camera work.

"Andrea and Veronica are two excellent visual storytellers," said Phillip Ash, a video production teacher at Maine East, in a press release issued by Orr's office. "To produce a clear, visual, pro-voting message in 10 seconds was a good challenge for them and they were eager to do it. I'm very proud of their work, and I'm thankful that they're being recognized. It's a well-deserved honor."

The recognition of the winning video was part of "Democracy Week," which is an effort by Orr's office to register 17-year-olds to vote. Registration took place at high school across the county.

The new Illinois law allows 17-year-olds who will be 18 by the general election in November to register and vote in the March primary.

Garneata and Walesinski's video can be viewed at youtube.be/BSel8OFpUW. All of the submitted videos can be found at youtube/ Wliyvu06lyY.

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Costs of keeping the fire burning

HELP SQUAD
BY
JACKIE PILOSSOPH

The crackling, popping sound of burning wood, the ambiance of a dimly lit room, the smell of wood, and the toasty warm feeling in the room. Those are the advantages of a wood burning fireplace, according to Brian King, operations manager of Early Times Home Solutions, an Elmhurst-based home improvement company that services fireplaces and chimneys.

Given the winter we’ve been having, Help Squad reached out to King for some fireplace maintenance tips. Doing these things won’t just give you a more pleasant experience, but they could save you money in the long run.

1. Check for downdrafts: Extreme cold and/or wind can cause a downdraft in your chimney, making it more difficult to light the fire and keep it going. Before lighting the fire, open the fireplace damper and hold your hand under it to see if you feel a cold air downdraft. If so, crack a door or window on the opposite side of the room to change the airflow. Your fire will be easier to light, and it will keep the flame lit.

2. Have your chimney cleaned and serviced annually: It’s a good idea to get your chimney cleaned and serviced once a year by a certified chimney company.

The company technician will inspect your chimney by placing a video camera into the smoke chamber and flue areas. Also, if you are buying a home, it is absolutely necessary to have the chimney inspected before closing on the home, as chimney repairs can be costly.

3. Buy a good chimney cover: A proper chimney cover will keep snow, ice, critters, leaves and other debris out.

4. Get quality wood: Make sure you buy your wood from a reputable supplier. Wood that burns the best has been sitting and drying out for at least nine months to a year.

Thinking about getting a new fireplace? In this weather, we can really understand why! Gas or wood burning?

We asked King to give us a price comparison, as well as the advantages of each.

Gass: The initial investment is approximately $600-1,000, and after that, the only cost of a gas fireplace is the cost of gas. Plus, gas fireplaces are easy. They turn on and off, they are simple, and you still get the ambiance and the heat.

Wood Burning: A full cord of wood consists of 16-inch pieces, stacked four feet tall by eight feet wide. King estimates you will go through about one cord per season if you use your fireplace three or four times per week. The cost of a face cord: $225. There is also the cost of cleaning and maintaining the chimney.

Need help?

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

Let Help Squad make the call for you.

Send your letters, your complaints, your injustices and your story ideas to HelpSquad@pioneerlocal.com and we will be happy to help you.
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You've got two kinds of neighbors

Park Ridge is a neighborly community whose neighbors fall into two general categories: friendly and feisty. Like you, I live with some of each.

The feisty are those — often including ourselves — who never have time to look you in the eyes and greet you by name. The excuses given are many: "I like my privacy," "I'm busy" — besides, my neighbors could care less.

Each excuse may have merits, but really, being friendly costs only minutes.

We've taken to calling the help of an occasionally friendly neighbor as a random act of kindness. Say, like asking about our welfare, picking up the papers from our driveway, going that extra mile to shovel our walk or clear our sewer.

Random acts of kindness? Yes, the label fits. Only there were times when these acts were not that random, and no one thought to elevate simple neighborliness to the pedestal of "Kindness."

Remember, half of us here are over 60, so we can actually recall a town and a time and an America when helping someone was — well, it was a way of life. I'm told by professionals that when you get older like me, your friends, it's absolutely true. However, it's also absolutely true that in general, kindness was more in vogue when we look back at the evidence from the most popular movies, television, music and artwork of those years. Impefect as that era was, notice the uplifting kindness and MGM innocence to the pedal of "Kindness."

A second concern about the Common Core Standards relates to five facts. As before, I speak for myself as a parent and taxpayer, not for the Board:

- The standards have never been field tested (i.e., no one has actually ever used them, so no one really knows if they will be effective or bear the kind of fruit its supporters envision).
- The standards were not even written before states signed on to them.
- The committees who were charged with validating (approving) the English and math standards had only one education expert in each group and both experts refused to approve them.
- The standards were not state-driven (contrary to claims from supporters). The two organizations that drove their development were the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers. While both sound like public, representative institutions, both are private trade associations that receive their funds from the federal government and Bill Gates's foundation. It would be an understatement to say that they are cozy with federal bureaucrats.
- The standards have not been internationally benchmarked (again, contrary to commonly heard claims). Many countries have English language standards that are far more rigorous than those in Common Core. Several mathematics experts have lamented that the Common Core standards are not at all competitive with other advanced nations. Dr. James Milgram, who refused to sign off on the standards, wrote that math students in CC states would in eighth grade be at least two years behind students in high-achieving countries.

Perhaps the Common Core will turn out to be exactly what we needed. Perhaps the administration will shoot far past the standards — like putting premium gasoline in a car that only requires regular.
For homeless, hard to find a Valentine

Yikes!

Valentine's Day will be here before you know it.
Almost certainly before Joe knows it.
I was hurrying to get out of this hideous cold. My mind was on many things, one of which was what to get for Valentine's Day, when I collided with Joe.
Joe's not his real name. I don't know his real name.
But it became obvious that Joe wasn't thinking about Valentine's Day.
What he wanted was more earth-bound. What he wanted was for me to give him some spare change.
That's what he asked for - spare change.
Other passersby apparently didn't have change to spare (and it was brutally cold) because they didn't give him any.
Joe probably had a story to tell. He's a human being, so he must have a story. But we didn't want to hear it.

It was so very cold and the wind was like a handful of razor blades. We — I — just wanted to get out of the weather.
Besides, Joe looked dirty. And aren't people like him supposed to be mentally ill, maybe dangerous?
I gave him some money and asked him how was he doing as I tried to bustle by.
Yes, it was a stupid question, I grant you, since one glance told me he wasn't doing too well at all.
"OK," he said back to me.
"Thanks," he added, for the money.
I didn't say anything other than: "You're welcome."
To talk more seemed like an impertinence. He didn't try into my life. Why should I pry into his?

And, to be honest, I didn't want him to think I was taking an interest and follow me.
I shuffled on, head to the wind. I looked back. Some other guy gave Joe money.
That's all.
Did I emotionalize this brief encounter? Load it with significance or pathos it didn't have?
Would later that day Joe dash around the corner and hop into a Lexus, drive off to his lakefront condo, there to laugh at the bleeding-heart suckers he ripped off that day?
It's possible.
Or, maybe when he could stand the biting cold and snarling wind no longer he tried to find a place to stay for the night.
According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, there are just under a million people in the United States homeless each night.
A lot of those people are nobody's Valentine.
$325,000

AGENT Phyllis Chudik, Baird & Warner, 847-204-0948

7427 Emerson St., Morton Grove
House size: 1,073 square feet
Lot size: 7,875 square feet
Year built: 1957
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 2
Garage: One-car attached
Property tax: $6,387.58 (2012)
Exterior: Vinyl siding, brick and stone
School districts: East Maine School District
63 and Maine Township High School District 207

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## PROPERTY TRANSFERS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Buyer(s)</th>
<th>Seller(s)</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Niles</td>
<td>7759 Nordica Ave</td>
<td>Suhyun Kim to Mohammed Fouzan Hussain</td>
<td>$130,000</td>
<td>Dec. 17</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Morton Grove</td>
<td>8539 Callie Ave</td>
<td>Judicial Sales Corp to 8820 Oswego LLC</td>
<td>$321,500</td>
<td>Dec. 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenview</td>
<td>1013 Rolling Pass</td>
<td>Jean Marie Rumpsa to Dream Homes LLC</td>
<td>$450,000</td>
<td>Dec. 20</td>
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<td>Lincolnwood</td>
<td>3830 W Jarlath St</td>
<td>1411 Gregory Inc to Eric S Odell and Jennifer Odell</td>
<td>$1,592,500</td>
<td>Dec. 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skokie</td>
<td>9715 Woods Drive</td>
<td>Dorothy T Gibson to Michal Sikorski</td>
<td>$212,000</td>
<td>Dec. 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northfield</td>
<td>6 Robin Hood Lane</td>
<td>Peter A Maitzen Trust to Elizabeth A Suehr</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>Dec. 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evanston</td>
<td>206 Elmwood Ave</td>
<td>Robert J Havey and Rita C Havey to John Wieland and Molly Wieland</td>
<td>$1,225,000</td>
<td>Dec. 18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Looking for fun? Check out our Top Five picks for the weekend's best bets.

- **5**
- **Get up and go**

Your guide to the weekend and beyond

Every Thursday
"Maybe it’s time we hang the help wanted sign."

You can’t find today’s talent with yesterday’s tools.

Nobody brings more innovative solutions to employers than Monster. Career Ad Network targets candidates wherever they live online. It turns your company’s job postings into banner ads and strategically places them on Monster’s vast network and diverse partner sites. So you’ll attract qualified seekers based on your needs as well as highly sought-after passive seekers. Monster. Find Better.

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Start finding better today. Visit pioneerlocal.com/monster or call 1.219.648.3200
Use the **Stage** section to learn about local theater productions.

Get up and **go**  
Your guide to the weekend and beyond  
Every Thursday
**NILES**

**THURSDAY, FEB. 6**

**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.

**Intro to Word Web App**
1 p.m.: Learn to use the free version of Microsoft Word. An MSN account is required. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**BookBites: Reading Social Book Discussion**
7 p.m.: The group discusses "The Obituary Writer" by Ann Hood. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**Reading with Rover**
7 p.m.: Students in kindergarten and older can sign up for a 20 minute slot to read to a therapy dog. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**TUESDAY, FEB. 11**

**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.

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12**

**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.

**SUBMIT YOUR EVENT**
To submit an event for consideration in print, visit www.pioneenlocal.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.

**SUNDAY, FEB. 9**

**Second Sunday Special Polar Explorers**
2 p.m.: Polar Explorers of Wilmette is an expedition company that makes a trip to the North Pole or the South Pole each year. Learn about the trials and experiences of this trip. Space is limited. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**MARCH, SATURDAY, FEB. 15**

**CJE SeniorLife Resource Counseling**
12:30 p.m.: Make an appointment for a private session with a Resource Specialist from CJE SeniorLife, trained to counsel adults 60 and older, their families and caregivers. 60-minute sessions are available. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 773-508-1054.

**MONDAY, FEB. 10**

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

**TUESDAY, FEB. 11**

**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.

**INTRODUCTION TO EXCEL WEB APP**
1 p.m.: Learn to use the free version of Microsoft Excel. An MSN account is required. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**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. Call 847-663-1234.

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12**

**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.

**Property Tax Appeal Seminar**
6:30 p.m.: Participants can learn the appeals process, how to discover tax refunds and bill errors, how to uncover qualifying exemptions and receive tips to successfully maximize the reduction of their property taxes. Registration required. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**FRIDAY, FEB. 7**

**Special Musical Bibliobop**
10 a.m.: A musical performance by Alina Celeste for children. The hour includes music, stories and dancing. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**Battle of the Books Reader's Theater**
5 p.m.: Battle of the Books participants rehearse followed by a performance at 6 p.m. at the Battle of the Books Ceremony. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**TUESDAY, FEB. 18**

**Park Board of Commissioners**
6 p.m.: Meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St., Niles.

**Mega Movie Pajama Night**
6 p.m.: Kids can dress in their PJs for a night of games, snacks and PG-rated movies. For ages 4 to 9. Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 W. Sibley St., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

**SATURDAY, FEB. 15**

**Free Computer & Internet Safety for Beginners Class**
10 a.m.: Computer security expert and owner of local tech company FireLogic Derrick Wlodarz will present a free two-hour interactive lecture on how to stay safe in today's digital world. Registration required. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**THURSDAY, FEB. 6**

**There's No Place Like Home: Programs and Services to Help People Aging In Place**
11 a.m.: Learn about the programs and services available to elders to help them age well in their homes. North Shore Senior Center, 640 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-784-5123.

**An Evening with TeaLula Chai Wallah**
7 p.m.: Sheila Duda of TeaLula demonstrates how to make delicious chai from scratch, plus give a history of the drink. Samples are provided. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

**Advanced Word 2010**
7 p.m.: This intensive workshop will cover tables, charts and clip art in greater detail. Registration is limited to six people. Morton Grove residents have priority. Completion of the Do More with Microsoft Word 2010 workshop, or a thorough understanding of Word 2010, is required. Registration is also required. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

**So You Think You Can Spell?**
7 p.m.: The Morton Grove Public Library's first-ever adult spelling bee competition. Registration is required to compete; all spectators welcome. For more information or to register, go to calendar.mgpl.org or call 847-929-5101. Curragh Irish Pub, 8266 Lincoln Ave., Skokie.

**FRIDAY, FEB. 7**

**Nonfiction Book Discussion**
10 a.m.: The group discusses "City of Scoundrels" by Gary Krist. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

**PhotoShop Elements Basics**
10 a.m.: Learn how to enhance your digital photos using the photo editing software PhotoShop Elements IO. This class will cover the basic functions such as cropping, red-eye reduction and more. For more information or to register, go to calendar.mgpl.org or call 847-929-5101. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

**Chorus**
1 p.m.: Join Park Ridge Senior Center chorus for an afternoon of singing. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-5127.

**SEE CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE »**
impresionist painters. This is a five-week session that begins at noon Feb. 8, Feb. 22, March 8 and March 22. Mother's, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804.

Introduction to Goodreads
2 p.m.: Learn how to use the popular book-centric website Goodreads to organize books you have read and want to read, find book recommendations and connect to a world of other book lovers. For more information or to register, call 847-329-5101, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

Microsoft Excel 2007 Basics
2 p.m.: Learn how to make lists, enter data and keep records with the spreadsheet program. Registration is limited. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. For more information, call 847-825-3123.

Guys' Night Out
7:30 p.m.: Guys 18 and older can join friends for a trip to Allstate Arena in Rosemont for Monster Jam. Bring money for snacks and souvenirs. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, 6820 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-966-5522. $25-$75.

Pajama Party Public Skate
8:30 p.m.: Celebrate Valentine's Day with an evening of skating to love songs from the past. All skaters wearing their favorite modest pajamas receive half-price admission. Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 W. Sibley St., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-5127.

SUNDAY, FEB. 9
Friends of the Library Children's Book Sale

Bowl to Roll
Noon: Join the Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation at River Rand Bowl in Des Plaines for an afternoon of bowling, pizza, soda, raffles, prizes and more. Registration required. The money raised helps fund the M-NASR's transportation service. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, 6820 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-966-5522. $25-$50.

Lyric Opera Profile: Rusalka

MONDAY, FEB. 10
Duplo Mania
II a.m.: Children ages 3 to 6 can build a Duplo creation, listen to a story and enjoy free time. Registration available. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

'Brainsiacs' Game Show
12:30 p.m.: Join in for lunch and compete in a "Jeopardy!"-style game. The game will be played with teams up to five people and prizes will be awarded. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-929-3597. $17 members, $19 nonmembers.

Artifacts and Documents: Their Meaning amid Change
I p.m.: Join Rabbi Weissberg for a discussion about the issues and meanings behind objects such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Aleppo Codex, the Holy Cross and the Sarajevo Haggadah. This is a two-part class beginning at I p.m. Feb. 10 and 24. North Shore Senior Center, 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove. For more information, call 847-784-6030. $18-$24.

Sundae Monday
6 p.m.: Spend the evening hanging out with friends, playing games and making custum sundae creations. For students 18 and older. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, 6820 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-966-5522. $25-$50.

Pages Book Discussion: 'Will Grayson, Will Grayson'
7 p.m.: Join in for a book discussion of the novel by John Green and David Levithan. When two teens, one gay and one straight, meet accidentally and discover that they share the same name, their lives become intertwined as one begins dating the other's best friend, who produces a play revealing his relationship with them both. For more information, visit www.mgpl.org or call 847-929-5101. Barnes and Noble, 5405 Touhy Ave., Skokie. $19 members.

TUESDAY, FEB. 11
Baby Bounce
9:15 a.m.: Special stories, songs, rhymes and play time just for babies ages I and under. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Story Time for 4s and 5s
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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.

- **Flood control**
  - Address: 6951 W. Dobson St., Niles
  - Issue date: Oct. 21
  - Permit cost: $80
  - Construction cost: $8,000

- **Electrical service**
  - Address: 7613 N. Harlem Ave., Niles
  - Issue date: Oct. 25
  - Permit cost: $180
  - Construction cost: $1,250

- **Roof (commercial and residential)**
  - Address: 7651 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles
  - Issue date: Oct. 24
  - Permit cost: $778
  - Construction cost: $82,000

- **Flood control**
  - Address: 6922 W. Dobson St., Niles
  - Issue date: Oct. 21
  - Permit cost: $80
  - Construction cost: $9,500

- **Flood control**
  - Address: 7757 N. Nora Ave., Niles
  - Issue date: Oct. 21
  - Permit cost: $80
  - Construction cost: $9,800

- **Roof (commercial and residential)**
  - Address: 7120 W. Jarvis Ave., Niles
  - Issue date: Oct. 23
  - Permit cost: $9,470
  - Construction cost: $99,100

- **Parking lot**
  - Address: 735 Civic Center Drive, Niles
  - Issue date: Oct. 23
  - Permit cost: $941
  - Construction cost: $1,153

- **Water heater**
  - Address: 7841 N. Octavia Ave., Niles
  - Issue date: Oct. 21
  - Permit cost: $40
  - Construction cost: $7,000

- **Roof (commercial and residential)**
  - Address: 7958 N. Neva Ave., Niles
  - Issue date: Oct. 21
  - Permit cost: $45
  - Construction cost: $5,000
New owner with deep roots takes over Tiffany's Restaurant

By Jennifer Johnson

If you're a kid and it's summer, a trip to the local ice cream shop can't happen often enough.

For Argiris Sfikas, being surrounded by sundaes was just part of an ordinary weekend.

Sfikas' parents, George and Stella, owned and ran Lockwood Castle, a popular ice cream parlor at Devon and Central avenues on Chicago's Northwest Side, for more than 20 years. As a boy, Sfikas and his older brother helped their parents out on Saturdays and Sundays, learning how a restaurant runs from the ground up.

"My dad gave me a bucket and told me, 'Help the dishwasher,'" Sfikas recalled with a laugh.

Today, Sfikas, of Skokie, is continuing the family tradition of restaurant ownership as the new proprietor of Tiffany's Restaurant, just outside Park Ridge.

Located at Touhy Avenue and River Road in Des Plaines, the American family-style restaurant features large, yellow signs promising a "new attitude" along with its new ownership.

"From the customers I've talked to, I guess the last people wouldn't even say good morning," Sfikas said. "This is a family-owned place and we want to feel a little closer to the customers than your average corporate place. We want people to feel more welcome and give it a little more of a homey feel."

If Sfikas grew up in a restaurant kitchen, his father was nurtured by one.

Unable to care for all his children after the death of his wife, George Sfikas' father sent 10-year-old George off to a boarding school in his native Greece to learn cooking. For five years George lived at the school, eating there, sleeping there and learning an occupation, Argiris Sfikas said. As a teenager, George got a job cooking for the crew of a commercial ocean liner. He eventually worked his way up to overlooking the food preparation of the staff and had the honor of preparing the captain's meals himself.

One day his brother Paul, now living in the U.S., encouraged George to give up life on the ship and come to Chicago.

"And that's what he did," Sfikas said.

After landing a job at Mr. K's Restaurant near Harlem and Higgins Avenues in Chicago, George started saving up his money in order to start his own restaurant. That day came in the early 1970s when he opened Lockwood Castle, best known for its sundaes so big that diners were promised a free one on their next visit if they actually managed to eat the whole thing. Ice cream orders also came with sparklers or small umbrellas in them.

As a teenager, Sfikas moved away from the family business and worked for a family friend at Mitchell's, another Greek-owned establishment at Racine and Clybourn. Though he had learned a little about running a business from spending time at his parents' ice cream parlor, Sfikas says he learned even more by working alongside the now-retired owner of Mitchell's.

When Lockwood Castle closed in the mid-90s, Sfikas went back to work for his father, who was now part-owner of Chicago's Cambridge House. George then became an owner of Beef 'n' Brandy's in Countryside, where Sfikas also worked.

After selling that business, George Sfikas retired — but Argiris Sfikas began looking at new opportunities. His search led him to Tiffany's Restaurant, which he took over and reopened in November.

"I saw what this neighborhood is missing. I hope it succeeds. I know that it will. I believe that is what this neighborhood is missing."

Family ownership remains an important part of the business as well. Though technically retired, George Sfikas still comes in every day in the morning to make the day's soups. And the restaurant is managed by Argiris Sfikas' wife, Lauren Hodges, who was a server at Beef 'n' Brandy's when the Sfikases ran it.

The couple would eventually like to turn a portion of the restaurant into a sports bar and cocktail lounge concept that is available for private parties. Catering and delivery are also additions they would like to explore further down the road.

"It's a positive atmosphere," said Hodges of Tiffany's. "I hope it succeeds. I know that it will — It's just a matter of time."
Catholic Charities has D’vine taste for helping people

The Event: Blizzard? What blizzard? For the more than 400 wine aficionados attending the 13th annual Catholic Charities’ d’Vine Affair at the Union League Club of Chicago the atmosphere was downright sunny on Jan. 25. Benefiting Catholic Charities Self-Sufficiency Programs, the fundraiser was hosted by the agency’s president, Monsignor Michael M. Boland, along with Joseph and Helen Glunz of Grayslake for Louis Glunz Wines, Inc., and co-chairmen John and Teddi Scholz of Highland Park.

Considered one of Chicago’s premier wine tasting events, the d’Vine Affair brought together 90 different wineries from across the country featuring 250 different wines for a four-hour tasting event created to help raise critical funds.

Cause célèbre: “It’s not a band-aid; it’s a solution,” said committee member Julie van Overbeek of Highland Park. The Self-Sufficiency program which works with individuals over a five-year period, helping them to achieve educational degrees, gainful employment and financial independence, was launched in Lake County. And now, “we have been a pilot for the rest of the country,” said van Overbeek.

Boland called the need ‘tremendous’ for the 1.3 million people in Cook and Lake counties, alone, whom Catholic Charities aids each year.

“This is one of 160 programs that (Catholic Charities) has and our goal is always to help people become self-sufficient or, if they are seniors, to be safe,” said Boland.

“So one dollar donated today,” stressed silent auction chairman, Erin Cohn of Highland Park, “lasts for generations because the members learn important skills which they pass onto their children.”

Bottom line: The event raised nearly $95,000 for the Self-Sufficiency Programs bringing the 13-year total to over $1 million.
CAUSE & EVENT

OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE EMPTY BOWLS
Benefiting: Interfaith Action of Evanston, Maine Township Food Pantry, New Trier Township Food Pantry, Niles Township Food Pantry, Northfield Township Food Pantry and Self-Help Closet & Pantry, Des Plaines (six local agencies)

Date: Dec. 7
Location: Oakton Community College, Des Plaines
Attended: 500+
Raised: $27,000

LEFT: Professional and student potters from the Chicago area contributed hundreds of unique bowls to the Oakton Community College annual benefit that fights hunger.

ABOVE: Participants at Oakton's 10th Annual Empty Bowls fundraiser enjoyed a simple meal of soup and bread as a reminder that "someone's bowl is always empty."

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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Chicago Auto Show showcases newest trends, future vehicle stars

The 106th edition of the Chicago Auto Show (February 8-17, McCormick Place) is an annual sensory extravaganza combining new vehicles with auto-themed attractions, rides, drives, technology displays, contests and celebrity meet and greets.

INSIDE:

THIS YEAR'S 'MUST-SEE' EXHIBITS
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Race-bred technology, as applied to the street, will be prominent in numerous manufacturer displays including Chevrolet, Dodge, Ford, Toyota and Mazda. A growing horsepower trend is the emergence of smaller engines making big power, with models from Cadillac to Mazda showcasing how automakers are doing more with less.

For the technology-focused car shopper, each manufacturer will be strutting their tech stuff from connectivity, engine/vehicle controls, green solutions and even new luxury/convenience features. Going a “tech step” further is the Auto Show Connected Pavilion, which showcases startup app developers and building auto technology companies innovations to present pioneering mobility solutions.

Affordable luxury is prominently displayed at this year’s show. Luxury nameplates from Audi, Mercedes-Benz and even Land Rover are expanding their product portfolios, offering vehicles to consumers to fill in the gap between the upper limits of mass market vehicles and the luxury segment.

The Auto Show offers outdoor test drives and three indoor tracks highlighted by the very popular Camp Jeep off-road simulated course, and Toyota’s proving ground with full-size vehicle test/track.

To help navigate the Chicago Auto Show, check out the official smartphone app, Kurt Schiele, 2014 Chicago Auto Show chairman, said the new app, “is intended to provide attendees with a richer and more informational experience.”

App features include show details, floor map, sponsor listing, breaking news and vehicle lineup.

**Newest pickups have ‘Big 3’ focused on weight, MPG**

**2014 Ram 1500**

**2015 Ford F-150**

**2014 Chevrolet Silverado**

**BY ANDY MIKONIS**

For Sun-Times Media

One thing you will notice if you visit this year’s Chicago Auto Show is the attention given to the full-size pickup category. This is one category where the “Big 3” is unmistakably still the “Big 3.”

Trucks are known to be highly profitable for automakers and all three pushed hard to capitalize on a recovering economy by introducing all-new or significantly upgraded pickups. Those trucks outperformed the overall light vehicle market for 2013, which saw an 8 percent gain over 2012. The Ram truck brand with a 22 percent increase tied for third place among all brands for the year. As trucks increase in popularity, customer expectations have changed.

“Isn’t it too long ago pickups had a bench seat, vinyl guts, and a three-on-the-tree,” said Bob Heghloeb, director of the Ram Truck brand. “If you look at the way the segment has evolved, we’ve gone from standard cabs to extended cabs, and now crew cabs are 60 percent of the mix. People are using them for daily transportation, not just workhorse. These are luxury vehicles.”

Ford continued into its 37th year in the top pickup sales spot with the F-Series, also in its 32nd year as the top-selling vehicle overall. Ford made the most significant introduction at last month’s North American International Auto Show in Detroit with the all-new 2015 F-150.

The new F-150 represents a major advancement in the evolution of the pickup truck, highlighted by the use of an aluminum body. Reducing mass is perhaps the most important factor in increasing fuel economy. Ford said this aluminum use will cut some 700 pounds compared to the current truck.

In a truck application, reduced weight potentially means more payload. It also means Ford can use smaller, more fuel-efficient engines. To that end, the next radical announcement for the 2015 F-150 was the availability of a 2.7-liter engine. It’s the next step in Ford’s EcoBoost strategy; the current 3.5-liter V6 EcoBoost available in the F-150 has proven to be quite popular.

By using turbocharging, direct injection, and variable valve timing, this engine can produce V-8 power with better fuel mileage. The 2.7-liter will use the same idea, and is likely intended for the more casual user who might enjoy the economy, but still have some extra punch for the occasional load.

The number-two best-selling truck, and number-two best-selling vehicle overall for 2013, is the Chevrolet Silverado. General Motors got a lot of traction with a relatively modest redesign for the 2013 model year, which was shared with its sister truck, the GMC Sierra.

All three engines were replaced with new ones of the same size. Significantly, the 5.3-liter V-8, which is the volume engine choice, received a higher fuel economy rating than Ford's 3.5-liter EcoBoost V-6. While Ford's strategy appears rife with cost and complexity issues, GM did it the old fashioned way by improving on more traditional powertrain technology, employing direct fuel injection and cylinder deactivation that allows the engine to run on four cylinders under light load.

The Silverado and Sierra get high marks for overall refinement, feature availability and a quieter ride. For those who might be interested in a lighter truck with a smaller engine, General Motors answered by reentering the midsize truck market with introduction of the all-new 2015 Chevrolet Colorado and GMC Canyon.

While not a clean sheet redo, Ram has kept momentum going from major upgrades to the Ram 1500 pickup in 2013, continuing to rack up awards for technology as well as refinement and interior design for the 2014 model.

On the fuel economy front, Ram had replaced the base 1500 engine in 2013 with the 3.6-liter Pentastar V-6, for up to a 25 mpg rating. This year they followed up by introducing the 3.0-liter Ecodiesel V-6, which will rate even higher.

“When you design these trucks, just like everyone else, our number one consideration is fuel economy,” said Hegloeb. “We had to deliver, and look at the technology that comes with that.”

Ram was the first to use cylinder deactivation and now has added eight-speed transmissions, automatic stop/start, and grille shutters and air suspension to aid aerodynamics, among other innovations.
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The 5 Best Things You Can Say in a Job Interview

By Hannah Hamilton, Monster Contributing Writer

Interviewing for a new job can be incredibly nerve wracking and it's natural to feel nervous about it. But if you take a deep breath and focus on preparing to say the things recruiters want to hear, you'll be fine.

Just take these five tips from experts.

“Let me tell you about a time that I solved that problem.”

Even if an interview question could be answered with a simple “yes” or “no,” you want to be sure to say more so you highlight the value you'd bring to the organization if you're hired for the position.

“Always have an anecdote or story about your previous experience that relates and can give more insight into yourself on the job,” suggests David Morgan, President of IT and Engineering at Addison Group.

“Can you clarify?”

Asking follow-up questions such as “does that make sense,” demonstrates to an interviewer you’re intent on communicating thoroughly and accurately, a skill most employers appreciate.

“Checking-in with the interviewer by asking him or her whether things are clear and establishing a common understanding is a good way to not only engage, but also demonstrates a certain amount of care, both of which do wonders in getting that follow-up interview,” says The Workforce Consultants Managing Director Lynda Zugec.

“I read about that project on your website.”

When two people meet for the first time, it's polite to ask questions and express an interest in each other. In a job interview, though, you demonstrate your interest in the company by doing research before you show up, so don't have to ask basic questions and can move on to having an intelligent conversation about it.

“I don't mean memorizing the About Us page on the company website. I'm talking about doing your due diligence (read: research!) and knowing the company you're applying to,” says Voices Human Resources Manager Jessica Campbell.

“What made you decide to work here?”

Well-thought answers to an interviewer's questions demonstrate your knowledge, experience and communication skills. But companies also want to see you're curious about what they do.

“One of the best things you can do at an interview is come prepared with thoughtful questions for the interviewer,” says Cheryle Palmer, owner of Call to Career. Doing so demonstrates an interest in the company and the job, and shows you did your homework before the interview.

“I'd love the chance to join this team!”

There's a huge difference between begging for a job and expressing a genuine desire to work for a company and fill the role you're interviewing for. Recruiters are looking for people who are excited about the company and have a real interest in their prospective role.

“If the job truly is your first choice and you would accept it if given an offer, then say it,” says Jennifer Bevan, founder of Job Coaching. “Hiring managers want to give offers to exceptional candidates who have a high likelihood of accepting the offer.”
Help Wanted Full-Time

Texas Health Resources

NOW HIRING AT TEXAS HEALTH RESOURCES!

Are you one of us? It’s not about finding a place to work. It’s about finding a place to grow; to be inspired to be encouraged to do your best. And, above all being rewarded for it. It’s about finding a health care system that believes in the principles of respect, integrity, compassion and excellence. This is what a career with a Texas Health Resources hospital offers. Texas Health Resources is seeking health professionals to join our team including:

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- Cardiac Cath Lab
- Psychiatric
- Perioperative Services - Surgery, Supervisor
- Nurse Practitioners
- Case Managers
- Clinical Educator
- Clinical Nurse Leaders
- Certified Surgical Technologists
- HIM / Coding Professionals

Contact us today at: Careers@TexasHealth.org visit us at texashealth.org/ChicagoSun for more information.

EOE/AAIM/F/D/V
5 Most In-Demand Skills for Registered Nurses

By Caroline Zaayer Kaufman
Monster Contributing Writer

Registered nurses are among the most in-demand professionals in the U.S., and the need for people to fill open nursing positions continues to grow. A study by Wanted Analytics looked at the most advertised skills and technology in nursing job listings to determine what skills employers are looking for in registered nurses. Among the top 20 are nurses who are bilingual, those who have crisis-intervention skills, and those with the ability to use specialized equipment such as dialysis and electrocardiograph machines.

Here are the top 5 skills health care employers are looking for in registered nurses today:

1. Emergency Room

Emergency departments are suffering a shortage of nurses and many are willing to hire new nurses and train them for the ups and downs of an emergency setting, according to the Emergency Nurses Association.

Nurses in an emergency room must be able to care for patients of all ages in all conditions. Delivering babies, handling trauma and delivering medication, might all be part of a day's work. Emergency room nurses must have strong multitasking skills, the ability to shift gears rapidly and maintain a sense of humor while personally coping with all sorts of situations.

2. Process Improvement

Health care is a constantly evolving science, and the ability to improve the process by which it is delivered is an important skill to many facilities looking to hire nurses.

Many nurses spend most of their time on nonpatient activities, says the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Generating new ideas and solving problems in the health care process that will increase patient-nurse interaction are important skills for registered nurses to have.

3. Quality Assurance

Quality assurance nurses are in high demand to oversee medical and legal practices in all types of facilities. These nurses must know the laws governing Medicare and Medicaid reporting, patient record keeping and privacy practices.

Hospitals and clinics want nurses who can conduct studies about process improvement plans, teach others how to correct problems and be sure staff members are following all necessary procedures.

4. Behavioral Health

Nurses in behavioral health fields are needed for a variety of mental health care positions. Psychiatric mental health nurses assess and implement care for families, individuals and communities, according to the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.

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5. Patient Electronic Medical Record (EMR)

Electronic Medical Records are being employed in health care facilities across the nation. Offices are replacing their old paper charting systems with computers, and nurses are needed to use and manage these systems effectively.

EMRs track a patient's health history at one practice and are used to diagnose, treat and track patient progress, according to HealthIT.gov. The goal of EMRs is to improve overall patient care, and nurses with strong skills in EMRs can shorten the time spent on record-keeping to allow for more time with patients. EMRs differ from Electronic Health Records because they are focused on one practice. EMRs are used across facilities and are more comprehensive medical histories.

Science in Nursing. Master of Science in Nursing Bridge Option. Cohorts now forming at Woodstock Center. Thursday, February 6th, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Woodstock Center 222 Church St., Woodstock, IL. Evening and online options available. To register or for more information, call 815-537-6515, email WCadmission@aurora.edu or register online.

February 17 • Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital

ACLS Provider Class: This class is for individuals who are taking ACLS for the first time or for those who have let their ACLS card expire. Provides enhancement in treating adult victims of cardiac arrest or other cardiopulmonary emergencies, while earning American Heart Association ACLS for Healthcare Providers Course completion card that is valid for 2 years. Participants will receive their card at the class. Registration is required. REFUND POLICY: Participants must cancel 24 hours in advance. If canceling less than 24 hours in advance, a $50 cancellation fee will apply. Hospital/Medical Center: Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital. 21717/4, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Class Location: Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital 3815 Highland Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515. Parking is free. Address: Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital, Downers Grove, IL 60515. Cost: $180.00.

February 8 • Aurora University

AUW Woodstock Center Nursing Programs Open House: Advance your career at the Aurora University Woodstock Center. Drop in to explore our programs in: RN to BSN degree completion, Master of Science in Nursing. Master of Science in Nursing Bridge Option. Cohorts now forming at Woodstock Center. Thursday, February 6th, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Woodstock Center 222 Church St., Woodstock, IL. Evening and online options available. To register or for more information, call 815-537-6515, email WCadmission@aurora.edu or register online.

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MORTON GROVE

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NO.
59657

The Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois in the case of
CHASE BANK, NA, VONA NAVALAKI,

TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION
10:30 AM, on December 13, 2013, at the
One South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois, 60606,

The following described real estate:

W 1/2, 10 North Lathrop Avenue, W 3/12, E 3/24 Line

JUDGE H. KELLY

Notices of Sale

Tuesday, February 6, 2014

Pioneer Press (DC)

Page 8

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD CALL 847-PRESS-3400 OR VISIT PIONEERLOCAL.COM/CLASSIFIEDS
ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 18.5 of the Illinois Residential Real Estate Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's counsel, with the consent of the court, will file or cause to be filed an application for an order to set aside the sale of the foreclosed property. If the subject mortgaged real estate arose prior to the date of this notice, then the subject mortgaged real estate will be subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special levies levied for the benefit of the common interest condominium unit. The sale is subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Notice of Sale and under the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act. The property will be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Death Tax Act.
TJSC#: 33-28009 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiffs have a right to file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission or any other appropriate agency, or to bring an action for damages, including actual damages and statutory damages.

The indebtedness or obligation is subject to confirmation by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate whose transfer, is due within twenty-four hours of the date of the sale. If you do not receive a Certificate of Sale that will be effective as of the date of the sale, you may file an action for declaratory judgment for possession of the real estate pursuant to Section 7-1701(c) of the Illinois Real Estate License Act.

If you do not receive a Certificate of Sale that will be effective as of the date of the sale, you may file an action for declaratory judgment for possession of the real estate pursuant to Section 7-1701(c) of the Illinois Real Estate License Act.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION AT 312-775-0000.
Bid Notice

The Village of Skokie is now accepting sealed BIDS for Replacement Fire Hydrant Installations. Notice is hereby given that the Village of Skokie reserves the right to reject any and all bids or portions thereof, to waive any irregularities or informalities in bidding, and to award the contract in a manner best serving the interest of the Village of Skokie. The Village of Skokie is a fully accessible building. Persons requiring assistance should contact the Village of Skokie at 847-933-8240 or TTY 847-933-7530.

The Village of Skokie is a non-discrimination policy. Any proposal submitted shall include a statement of compliance with the Fair Employment Practices Act, 785 ILCS 5/10-1.

Bid proposals are due by 2/14/2014 at 2:00 pm at the Village of Skokie Purchasing Office, 60077 South Golf Road, Skokie, Illinois 60077. Bids will be opened by the Village of Skokie Purchasing Office at 2:00 pm on the same day. The successful bidder will be required to furnish insurance in an amount equal to 10 percent of the total bid amount shall be provided with the contract in a manner best serving the interest of the Village of Skokie. The Village of Skokie is a fully accessible building. Persons requiring assistance should contact the Village of Skokie at 847-933-8240 or TTY 847-933-7530.

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In the matter of the estate of Sydelle Grace, Decedent.

Notice is hereby given that letters of office of Sydelle Grace, Decedent, were issued on January 14, 2014, to Kenneth Grace, 5104 Highland Road, Milwaukee, WI 53208, whose attorney is Laura J. Winstead, Law Office of Laura J. Winstead, 114 East 31st Street, Skokie, IL 60076.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court, in the County and State of Illinois, must be mailed or not filed from the date of the first publication of this notice and any claim not so mailed or filed within ten days after the date of the first publication of this notice and any claim not so mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten days after it is filed.

Laura J. Winstead
Attorney

In The Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Probate Division

In the matter of the estate of WILLIAM J. F. JACOBSON, Decedent.

Notice is hereby given that letters of office of WILLIAM J. F. JACOBSON of Mount Prospect, Illinois, were issued on November 23, 2013, to Eric M. Jacobson, 1303 E. Madison Street, Mount Prospect, IL 60056, and anyone having a claim against the estate of WILLIAM J. F. JACOBSON of Mount Prospect, Illinois, must be mailed or not filed from the date of the first publication of this notice and any claim not so mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten days after it is filed.

In The Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Probate Division

In the matter of the estate of ROBERT E. KEATING, Decedent.

Notice is hereby given that letters of office of ROBERT E. KEATING of Skokie, Illinois, were issued on January 14, 2014, to Kenneth Grace, 5104 Highland Road, Milwaukee, WI 53208, whose attorney is Laura J. Winstead, Law Office of Laura J. Winstead, 114 East 31st Street, Skokie, IL 60076.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court, in the County and State of Illinois, must be mailed or not filed from the date of the first publication of this notice and any claim not so mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten days after it is filed.

Laura J. Winstead
Attorney

In The Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Probate Division

In the matter of the estate of CAROL M. KEATING, Decedent.

Notice is hereby given that letters of office of CAROL M. KEATING of Skokie, Illinois, were issued on January 14, 2014, to Kenneth Grace, 5104 Highland Road, Milwaukee, WI 53208, whose attorney is Laura J. Winstead, Law Office of Laura J. Winstead, 114 East 31st Street, Skokie, IL 60076.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court, in the County and State of Illinois, must be mailed or not filed from the date of the first publication of this notice and any claim not so mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten days after it is filed.

Laura J. Winstead
Attorney

In The Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Probate Division

In the matter of the estate of GEORGE F. KEATING, Decedent.

Notice is hereby given that letters of office of GEORGE F. KEATING of Skokie, Illinois, were issued on January 14, 2014, to Kenneth Grace, 5104 Highland Road, Milwaukee, WI 53208, whose attorney is Laura J. Winstead, Law Office of Laura J. Winstead, 114 East 31st Street, Skokie, IL 60076.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court, in the County and State of Illinois, must be mailed or not filed from the date of the first publication of this notice and any claim not so mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten days after it is filed.

Laura J. Winstead
Attorney
THE HIP-HOP ICON
PREACHES FAMILY, FAITH
& FINDING HAPPINESS

PARTIES: MSI'S BLACK CREATIVITY GALA | COMMON CAUSE ILLINOIS' AWARDS GALA & MORE
Want to get glowing with cosmetic dentistry? Just ask around. The name you'll keep hearing on the Magnificent Mile is Dr. Jeffrey Weller. Whatever you choose, from gorgeous veneers and cosmetic dental implants to regular care and cleanings, your smile will feel so good and look so natural, it will leave your friends spellbound.

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IT'S WELLER WHITE

Dr. Jeffrey Weller
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Want to get glowing with cosmetic dentistry? Just ask around. The name you'll keep hearing on the Magnificent Mile is Dr. Jeffrey Weller. Whatever you choose, from gorgeous veneers and cosmetic dental implants to regular care and cleanings, your smile will feel so good and look so natural, it will leave your friends spellbound.

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Chicago Location
1050 N. State St.
312-654-0606

www.WellerDental.com

Hinsdale Location
920 N. York Rd.
630-654-2900
The home store has always been packed wall-to-wall with stylish offerings, but never more than now: it recently launched its first wallpaper collection, featuring patterns like tiles, trees and city facades. There are even removable wallpapers for those who love to change it up. Starting at $56 per roll, Cb2.com

Barney’s New York welcomes Manolo Blahnik
The fashion haven welcomes the legendary shoe guru Feb. 7 with a public meet and greet. Blahnik will chat and mingle with Chicago’s most well-heeled ladies while they browse the new Spring Capsule Collection — and as a bonus, the designer will autograph all new purchases. 15 E. Oak, RSVP to Shoeicon@barneys.com

Charles Tyrwhitt
London’s calling: The British-based men’s store recently swung open the doors to its first Chicago location (and fifth U.S. shop). While it stocks everything from suits to cufflinks, its specialty is 100 percent cotton shirts, which come with a six-month return guarantee. $199 for four, 208 S. LaSalle; Cshirts.com

AT THE SHOOT
Rev Run welcomed photographer Marc Baptiste into his New Jersey home, where he donned his classic jumpsuit, grabbed a basketball and posed on his indoor court.

CREDITS
Photographer: Marc Baptiste
Shoot Coordinator: Katerina Bizios

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE HEALTHY SNACK?
Publisher and Editor
Susanna Negovani, susanna@suntimes.com
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Molly Each, meach@suntimes.com
"A perfectly ripe avocado, drizzled up and sprinkled with salt and pepper.
Art Director
Jessica Sedgwick, jsedgwick@suntimes.com
"Roasted red pepper hummus and whatever I can find to dip in it, please."
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"While green sauces with present flavor, sprinkled with this seed.
Event Coordinator
Taylor O'Doherty, taylor.odoherty@wrapports.com
"I love a good kale salad, with MISO, fresh lemon juice and salt and pepper. It’s raw and delicious."
Interns
Sydney Epstein, Alici Hauge
Splash is published weekly by Splash Publications LLC, a Wrapports Company, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago, IL 60654

need to know
Splash is distributed weekly inside Sun-Times Media publications

CHICAGOSPLASH.COM | FEBRUARY 2-8, 2014
February 6-March 7
- **THE OLYMPIC CITY**

On the eve of the winter games, the Chicago Loop Alliance presents this new exhibit as part of the Pop-Up Art initiative, in which photographers Jon Pack and Gary Hustwit examine what happens to costly Olympic venues and their host communities once the competition is over.

**Time:** Monday-Friday noon to 7 p.m.
**Place:** 29 W. Randolph

**Cost:** Free. For more information, visit [PopUpArtLoop.com](http://PopUpArtLoop.com).

February 6-March 23
- **'GYPSY'**

She's baaack! The grand dame of all stage mothers, Mama Rose, does a number on her daughters — and then some — in this musical on the early life of burlesque beauty Gypsy Rose Lee. The Chicago Shakespeare rendition is directed by Gary Griffin and stars Tony Award-nominee Louise Pitre.

**Place:** Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, 800 E. Grand

**Cost:** $48-$78. For tickets, call (312)595-5600 or visit [Chicagoshakes.com](http://Chicagoshakes.com).

February 8
- **BLUE MASQUE BALL: QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Celebrate Apokries, the Greek version of Mardi Gras, at this celebration ben-
next week

February 9

- LYNN SAGE CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION'S BE MY VALENTINE FAMILY EVENT
There's a little something for everyone at this seventh annual family-friendly event, including science experiments, make-overs, a bead bar for jewelry enthusiasts, a video arcade and a performance by Grammy-nominated kids' musician Justin Roberts & the Not Ready for Naptime Players.

Time: 10 a.m.
Place: The Ritz-Carlton Chicago, 160 E. Pearson
Cost: $85 adults, $65 children in advance; $100 adults, $80 children at the door. For tickets call (312) 926-4274 or visit Lynnsage.org.

February 10

- THE COMCAST SPORTSNET SPORTS AWARDS
This 26th annual event honors top athletes from the Chicago Blackhawks (including legend Stan Mikita), Bulls, Cubs, White Sox, Bears and Fire — as well as Paralympic swimmer Alyssa Gialamas. Presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, the festive evening supports the March of Dimes.

Time: 5 p.m.
Place: Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan
Cost: $400. For tickets, call (312) 596-4721 or visit Csnchicago.com/sportsawards26.

February 11-16

- CHICAGO THEATRE WEEK
Haven't seen a show lately? With over 100 participating productions and partnerships with area hotels, this seven-day celebration of our theater scene, presented by the League of Chicago Theatres in partnership with Choose Chicago, is a great time to get a ticket. Offerings include Broadway in Chicago's "Phantom of the Opera," Northlight Theatre's "Tom Jones" and many more.

Time: Varies by show. For tickets and hotel offers, visit Chicagotheatreweek.com.

February 14-March 1

- 'LOVE STORY'
Those who came of age in the '70s know the tale of the Harvard man and the Radcliffe woman who found love in college and heartbreak in Manhattan. Erich Segal's story (made famous onscreen by Ryan O'Neal and Ali MacGraw) gets the musical treatment at Cicero's Jedlicka Performing Arts Center.

Place: 3801 S. Central, Cicero
Cost: $18, $16 seniors. For tickets, call (708) 656-1800 or visit Jpactheatre.com.
Hit the lights and take a page from some of Chicago’s most stylish partygoers, who shine brilliantly in yellow. As if in response to the dreary weather, designers have created everything from neon jumpsuits to goldenrod handbags, so there’s always a way to work the hue into your wardrobe. On the spring runways, John Galliano paraded canary-colored cocktail dresses, while Dior showed off a stunning yellow-snakeskin tote. When you’re styling, remember that black accessories add dramatic contrast, while greens and blues create an even brighter look — just avoid the red/yellow combo or risk a major color clash. Whether you go head-to-toe primrose or just add a pop of saffron, this color makes an outfit anything but mellow.
VALENTINE'S DAY IS COMING AND YOU WANT TO GIVE THE PERFECT GIFT

A. Marek
FINE JEWELRY

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More than 85 pieces of work by African-American artists were on display to welcome nearly 700 guests to the Museum of Science and Industry's (5700 S. Lake Shore) 31st Annual Black Creativity Gala Jan. 25. Guests took in the exhibition during cocktail hour and later moved into the museum’s rotunda, where they spent the evening snacking on bites from six different buffet stations, fueling up for an evening of dancing to the sounds of Gentlemen of Leisure and DJ Lil’ John. Co-chairs Cheri Chappelle, director of diversity and inclusion for Illinois Tool Works and Frank Clark, retired chairman and CEO of ComEd and MSI trustee, helped bring the evening’s fundraising total to $360,000, all of which will benefit the museum's Black Creativity programming and events. — Katerina Bizios

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

Above: Nearly 700 guests attended the event.
Right: Norm and Cheri Chappelle and Vera and Frank Clark

Photos by J.B. Spector and John W. Wheeler
FOR THE PEOPLE

Sen. Dick Durbin announced his plan to re-introduce the Fair Elections Now Act into the Senate at Common Cause Illinois' Champions of Democracy Awards Gala. The Jan. 25 event attracted more than 200 supporters to the Drake Hotel (140 E. Walton), where they applauded Sen. Durbin's announcement — the act aims to create a citizen-funded elections system in which candidates can't accept contributions larger than $100 while running for Congress — and celebrated by dancing the night away to the sounds of Common Cause board member and blues artist Corky Siegel. During the bash, Illinois leaders Hon. Martin Casimir, Dan Conley, Sen. Karen McConnaughay and Sen. Heather Steans were honored for supporting the organization. The evening raised $200,000 for Common Cause's mission of achieving ethical and accountable government through education at local, state and national levels. - Katerina Bizios

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

COMMUNICATIONS | parties

NEARLY 900 GUESTS UNITED TO SURPASS PREVIOUS FUND-RAISING EFFORTS AT URBAN INITIATIVES' 10TH ANNUAL SOCCER BALL JAN. 24. EVENTGIVERS JOINED EMMETTS MARC SILVERMAN AND CARMEN DEFALCO AT THE RIVER EAST ART CENTER (435 E. ILLINOIS) TO SUPPORT URBAN INITIATIVES' SPORTS-BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND SPENT THE EVENING INDULGING IN HORS D'OEUVRES AND LIBATIONS FROM LETTUCE ENTERTAIN YOU HOT SPOTS — INCLUDING HUB 51, THREE DOTS AND A DASH, CAFFE BA BA REEBA AND BUB CITY — AND BIDDING ON LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION ITEMS. LATER, CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS RECEIVED THE SOCCER BALL AWARD FOR THEIR DECADEMON PARTNERSHIP, AND FIFTH GRADER XITLAITH CERDA ACCEPTED THE TROY CAMERON TEAM CAPTAIN AWARD FOR HER DEDICATION TO HER TEAMMATE AND DEMONSTRATION OF LEADERSHIP IN HER COMMUNITY. THE EVENING RAISED $345,000 TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING URBAN INITIATIVES, WHICH BEGAN WITH 12 BOYS AND GIRLS IN CABRINI-GREEN AND HAS GROWN TO SERVE MORE THAN 11,500 KIDS IN NEED. - KATERINA BIZIOS

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

PHOTOS BY CHARLES OSGOOD PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOS BY URBAN INITIATIVES
Mario Batali’s Eataly expands its repertoire with sit-down spot Baffo

BY DAVID HAMMOND

Mario Batali and partners Joe and Lidia Bastianich opened Eataly’s doors just after Thanksgiving, and almost immediately, a tsunami of food enthusiasts flooded the place. “The first week we planned for 8,000 customers; we got 12,000,” says Alex Saper, Eataly’s U.S. COO. “Now that the dust has settled, we’ve concluded two things: People really love Nutella, and people want to learn more about Italian food.”

Eataly is the perfect place to do just that. The 63,000-square-foot market is teeming with a jaw-dropping selection of seafood, pastas, pizzas, antipasti and desserts, much of it sourced locally and all of it inspired by Batali’s native Italy. “Eataly is my take on food that’s simple, local and best — classic dishes reinterpreted for the sophisticated palate,” says Batali, the man behind more than 20 acclaimed Italian restaurants around the globe. In late December, he expanded Eataly even further, opening “casually elegant” eatery Baffo (meaning “mustache,” inspired by the facial hair of Eataly founder Oscar Farinetti) on its lower level.

To maximize your learning experience, we suggest snagging apps and drinks inside Eataly, then sitting down at Baffo for some creative takes on Italian cuisine, like squid-ink fettucini with lobster ($28), antelope chops with butternut-squash caponata ($59) or the six-course tasting menu ($110). Here’s what else to expect at Eataly and Baffo:

Appetizers: At Eataly’s Animelle

Vino Libero, you can get started with a glass of Asti Spumanti ($9) and a small bowl of olives ($6). In the mood for something more substantial? Sample the pesce crudo (think Italian sashimi, $15) or down a dozen oysters ($33) at La Pesce.

Homework: Most of Baffo’s dishes use ingredients that are available for purchase inside Eataly. “We want you to understand that you can make all this stuff at home,” says Batali. Servers at the sit-down restaurant have been seriously schooled in menu ingredients and specific preparations: “Our training was like being in graduate school,” says server Natalie Hackler.

Baffo is boffo: For the most part, the pasta at Baffo is house-made: Try the agnolotti del plin, delicate, hand-sealed, meat-filled pasta envelopes with Piedmontese ocelli butter ($22). For an upcharge, your server will shave white truffles on top. Elsewhere on the menu, you’ll find tongue-and-finger-thick white truffles on top. Elsewhere on the menu, you’ll find tongues, feet and other frequently ignored “fifth-quarter” meats; Batali has long been a proponent of nose-to-tail eating. If you’ve shied away from sweetbreads in the past, Baffo is the place to see good they can be — here, they’re dusted with fennel and set atop sweet and sour onions ($29). Cheers: Have a sip of something you really like at dinner! Stop by Eataly’s wine section and take home a bottle. “Everything we pour is available upstairs,” says Baffo’s Wine Manager Christy Fuhrmann.

Sweet surrender: While Baffo serves sweets, if you finish dinner before 11 p.m., you can “shop for dessert” back at Eataly. There’s the famously popular Nutella bar, plus La Gelateria La Lait, a soft-serve gelato made from the milk of Italian “valley cows,” which have especially excellent milk ($3.90 for a small cup). The well-stocked Pasticceria turns out exquisitely crafted pastries, some gluten-free. The limoncello baba ($5.80) is a beautiful interpretation of the classic dessert; with this after-dinner sweet, according to pastry chef Katia Delogu, “You have both a dessert and a digestivo on one plate.”

FEBRUARY 2-8, 2014 10 CHICAGOSPLASH.COM

W hen I close my eyes, I see three different faces rotating around in a circle, like I’m juggling some bodiless heads in my mind. The first and most prominent face that I see is an angelic one with cute blonde hair and the sweetest red lips. This is my son Evan, of course, and I’m certainly not surprised to have his face be front and center for me.

The next face I see happens to belong to somebody with a fantastic body, so I’m trying to force my mind to attach his sweetest red lips. This is my son Evan, of course, and I’m certainly not surprised to have his face be front and center for me.

The third face belongs to somebody that’s no longer here on earth with me. And what a pleasant surprise it is to see this face come flooding across my mind, because I’ve missed it so much and am grateful to see it so clearly now.

When you close your eyes, do you see just one face? Or are there a few that you keep juggling around, too?

Read Jenny’s blog at ChicagoSplash.com.
fire on ice

How Jason Brown, Highland Park native and YouTube sensation, skated straight to Sochi

BY RACHEL HANDLER

Before reading this, do yourself a favor: Google "Jason Brown." Then spend a few minutes watching the 19-year-old's jaw-dropping routine at last month's U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Congratulations — you're now one of millions to be captivated by Brown's infectiously exuberant performance, which brought the crowd to its feet, garnered nearly three million views on YouTube in a matter of days and landed him one of two men's spots on the 2014 U.S. Olympic figure skating team. "This isn't real!" laughs Brown. "You practice hour after hour in the rink when nobody's watching, and when you're in front of a crowd, all you want to do is give them a performance they'll remember. The response is beyond anything I could've imagined."

Brown, who grew up in Highland Park, is calling from his training center in Monument, Colo., where he's spent the past year running from the rink to the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs — and where he's now prepping for the Olympics while surrounded by cameras and hordes of fans. It's easy to see why he's connected deeply to audiences digital and otherwise: He's as effusive and sincere off the ice as he is on it. Even describing how he began skating at Highland Park's Centennial Ice Arena as a child (under the wing of Kori Ade, who still coaches him today), Brown grows increasingly animated: "It progressed from three days a week [at the rink] to five, and when I was 11, I won the National Juvenile title. That's when I was like, 'Oh my gosh, I want this to be something I put all my heart and soul into,'" he says. "I just love it so much."

According to Brown, that abiding affection for the sport — plus the support of his family and friends, 80 of whom traveled to Boston for the Figure Skating Championships — are what have propelled him throughout his 14-year career. "Almost every athlete's dream is to go to the Olympics. For me, it was more the journey along the way," he says. "I love training and putting in the hours, I love being in front of a crowd and I just want to do my best when I compete."

Just days before he's set to leave for Sochi, Brown says he's trying to process yet another onslaught of surreal experiences: His hometown has just declared Feb. 7 "Jason Brown Day," he's been interviewed by everyone from Arsenio Hall to NPR's Audie Cornish and there's now a Twitter account named after his ponytail. "People come up to me like, 'You're a YouTube sensation,' and I'm like, 'No!'" Brown says, laughing. "I'm just Jason."
ON THE EVE OF HIS CHICAGO BULLS GALA APPEARANCE, REV RUN TALKS RAP, REALITY TV AND HIS REAL-WORLD WISDOM

STORY BY MOLLY EACH
PHOTOS BY MARC BAPTISTE
J
O
SEPH SIMMONS,
AKA REV RUN,
IS THE KIND OF
CELEBRITY WHO
MEANS SOMETHING DIFFERENT
TO EVERYONE. To
hip-hop fans and those who
came of age in the ‘80s and ‘90s, he’s one-third of Run-
DMC, one of the most influential rap groups of all time.
To MTV viewers and those who grew up in the 2000s, he’s
the patriarch from “Run’s House,” the reality series that ran
on the network from 2005-09. To some of today’s youth
he’s a beacon of spirituality, a Pentecostal reverend who
speaks at religious institutions and colleges. To others, he’s
simply known as the father of burgeoning rapper (and teen
heartthrob) Diggy Simmons. And the hits just keep com-
ing: He’s recently reached the DIY Network crowd with his
new show “Rev Run’s Renovation,” and has tapped into the
book world with two best-sellers. It’s the culmination of a
more than 30-year career, which the 49-year-old Simmons
looks back upon with gratitude and self-awareness. “I love
when I’m wearing my Adidas suit or if I’m wearing my
clerical collar,” he says. “I think I have a firm grip on who I
am at this point, and I’m grateful.”

Whatever he does, music is still in Simmons’ DNA, and
Feb. 12, he’ll showcase his skills as guest DJ at An Evening
with the Chicago Bulls, the annual benefit for the Chicago
Bulls Charities. “I love to DJ,” he says. “I did it with Run-
DMC, but this is different. I’ll be DJing with my partner, DJ
Ruckus, and I’m excited. I’ll be scratching and cutting and
it’s going to be great.” (The evening will also feature host
Tim Meadows, a comedy set from Chicago-born comedian
Hannibal Buress and more.) While he’s looking forward to
his DJ set, and to exploring Chicago with his wife Justine,
he’s most pleased to be able to offer an assist to the Bulls
Charities, which support community programs focused on
youth education, wellness and violence prevention. “For me,
giving back to youth is everything,” he says. “I had some-
where to go as a kid — I used to go to the Police Athletic
League. It was just a place to keep kids off the streets after
school. So we’re always aware and willing to help
youth steer a good course.”
This year is poised to be big for Rev. His family is once again in front of the camera on “Rev Run’s Renovation,” which chronicles the top-to-bottom revamp of their Saddle River, N.J., home. “We really love ‘House Hunters’ and ‘Property Brothers’ and all those shows, and my wife likes decorating and putting things together,” he says. “I know it’s a reality show, but it’s a passion project. We love this stuff.” His book with Tyrese Gibson, *Manology*, is coming out in paperback; he’ll continue to travel and speak about spirituality at various institutions; and later this year, he and Justine will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary, a milestone he attributes to making time together. “We go on date nights, we travel alone, and you take that time and you refresh and you remember why you got married in the first place.”

On top of it all, the legendary rapper will soon become a grandfather for the first time. Daughter Vanessa will give birth to a baby girl this month. According to Rev, he’ll be the same kind of grandfather as he is a father. “The only difference is that at the end of the day, Vanessa takes the baby home,” he says.

Life is pretty good for Simmons, and he's grateful and content to keep growing what he's cultivated. “I like doing the reality show I'm doing now, and it's fun to be involved working with my family,” he says. “I don't have many changes [to make]. I just want to perfect the things I'm doing.”
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JUST IN:
MARTY CASEY'S
SILVER ELEMENTS COLLECTION

The front man from Chicago-based band Lovehammers offers sleek silver jewelry benefiting the Marty Casey Elements of Nature Fund.
Now in the Splash Shop.
Why oranges (and apples, kale, spinach and more) are the new black

BY KOREY HUYLER

It's early in the year, but we think it's safe to call it: Juicing is the hot health trend of 2014. Though it's been around for a few years, it's gaining serious steam, with legions of Chicagoans either doing a post-holiday juice cleanse, juicing at home or buying daily juice from a spot around town. "Juicing is going to hit Chicago hard in 2014," says Jessica Murnane, creator of One Part Plant, which provides ideas and coaching in plant-based nutrition. "There are already some great delivery services like Harvest Juicery and JuiceRx, but not a lot of places where you can grab a pressed juice." Not for long. Unlike other nutrition trends, this one looks to be putting down roots, thanks in part to top local chefs opening up their own juiceries this year. So, what's with all the hype? Juices can reduce inflammation, detox your body and support healthy immune function. Plus, you can throw all the fruit and veggies in your juicer and get all your nutrients in one delicious gulp. "One 16-ounce glass of raw, fresh-pressed juice contains over 3 pounds of fruits and vegetables," explains Nicole Kasal, cofounder of JuiceRx and creator of the soon-to-open Cleanse Culture. "When you drink this juice, you are flooding your body with all the vitamins, phytonutrients and antioxidants you need for the day. I love knowing that no matter what else I consume that day, my body is getting a hefty dose of the nutrients it needs."
Freshen up

Whether you’re looking to grab-and-go or sign up for a multi-day cleanse, here’s a mini-guide to the juiciest spots in town:

Earth’s Healing Café
Located near the Montrose Brown Line stop, this spot is known for therapeutic juices like the Electric Greens (cucumber, pear, spinach, cilantro and lime), which alkalizes, oxygenates and nourishes cells. It also offers a one-day cleanse with five different juices. $7.50, 1942 W. Montrose, (773) 728-0598, Ehcafe.com

Green Corner
This Bucktown organic juice and smoothie bar offers fresh-squeezed juices such as the Wolverine (spinach, pineapple, banana, yogurt and orange juice). But if you’re looking to really commit, sign up for a three-to-seven day cleanse, with all juices made in-house. $6 kid’s size, $8-$9, 1880 N. Damen, (773) 292-4939, Green-cornerchicago.com

Peeled Juice Bar
Peeled, which has locations in Lincoln Park and Evanston, hawks to-go juices with quirky names like the Adam’s Apple (apple, pineapple and ginger) and Swiss Beets (beets, apple and ginger), along with offering one the city’s most popular cleanse programs. $6-$7.50, 1571 N. Sheffield, (312) 266-7335, 940 Church, Evanston, (847) 869-7335, Peeledchicago.com

Protein Bar
Protein Bar’s 11 Chicagoland locations are a great spot to grab a juice to-go. Popular options include HI-5 (kale, spinach, pineapple, cilantro and lime) and Beetbox (apple, cucumber, beet, carrot and ginger). $6.49, locations city-wide, Theproteminbar.com

Which juicer is best for you?
There are three types of juicers: centrifugal (fast-spinning blade), masticating (grinds/chews) or triturating (twin gear, usually reserved for hard-core juicers). “Masticating juicers are quieter and work with leafy greens better,” Murnane says. “The juice lasts longer because there is less oxidation — you get more out of your produce. One problem people have with juicing is how many fruits and veggies you have to buy; a masticating juicer helps. They can be more expensive, but with a better shelf-life and less produce-buying, it’s worth it.”

- Consider your lifestyle: How much do you want to spend and how much do you want to clean? Murnane says to research, read reviews and see what people say about the cleanup required. The one that suits her life best is the Omega 8006. “It’s easy to clean, quiet and the love of my (green) life,” she says. Breville, Black & Decker and Cuisinart also make popular juicers.

Ready to get going? Start with these easy-yet-delicious recipes (all make 32 ounces):

Minty Fresh
3 big leaves of kale
2 handfuls of spinach
1 green apple
2 kiwi
4-5 mint stems and leaves
Squeeze in half of a lime and serve.
—Courtesy of Jessica Murnane

Tomato Watermelon Lime Juice
1 large heirloom tomato
1 large wedge ripe watermelon, rind removed
1 teaspoon agave syrup
1 lime
Sea salt
Juice the watermelon and tomato, then stir in agave syrup and season to taste with sea salt and freshly squeezed lime.
—Courtesy of Jared Van Camp

Simple Everyday Green juice
4 medium green apples (preferably an heirloom variety from your local farmers market)
3 medium stalks of celery
2 leaves kale
4 cups spinach
1 lemon
Sea salt (to taste)
Juice the apples, celery, kale and spinach, then season to taste with lemon juice and sea salt.
—Courtesy of Jared Van Camp

MORE ONLINE
Read up on the benefits of popular fruits and veggies, then view a step-by-step tutorial on the Simple Everyday Green juice at Splash suntimes.com.
When Shannon de Castro and Ricky Barnett met while studying abroad in Seville in 2004, neither could've predicted that nine years later, they'd be married. In fact, they didn't see each other again until 2012, when they bumped into each other at a benefit for the Chicago Children's Museum. Shortly thereafter, they began dating, and two years later, Barnett, vice president of Principal Manufacturing Corporation, proposed to de Castro, a doula for Birthways, while on vacation in Napa Valley. The travel-happy couple decided to forgo the cold Chicago winter for an intimate beachside wedding in Riviera Maya, Mexico. According to de Castro, they chose their wedding venue, the Maroma Resort and Spa, because of its spectacular views of the night sky. "The stars were incredible and we thought, 'This feels right. We have to get married here,'" says de Castro. On Dec. 14, the pair tied the knot on the sand in front of 85 of their nearest and dearest. Although the day wasn't without a few snags — including a photographer with food poisoning and heavy rains the week before — in the end, everything came together perfectly. "The stars really aligned for us that day, and in life," says de Castro. "It was such a special moment."

It's wedding bells for Danielle Hanken and Brian Burt, the team behind local marketing and design firm WebRev. The couple plans to tie the knot this March in Napa Valley.

Congratulations to Brandon Weiss and his team at Weiss Building and Development, LLC (326 Hickory, South Elgin) on earning 12 awards for the company's green practices, including the Department of Energy's Housing Innovation Grand Award and the U.S. Green Building Council Illinois' Home Innovation Green Home Emerald Award.

We're thrilled for Kim Coventry, who joined the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation last month as its new executive director. Coventry succeeds Sunny Fischer, the foundation's first director.

SEND US YOUR CHEERS!

If you have good news to share — or if you'd like your wedding featured — send a note to Splash@suntimes.com.
Sought-after neighborhoods are upping the cost of luxury

BY MADELINE NUSSER

As the luxury home market recovered in 2013, one neighborhood hit soaring new heights. According to recent data compiled in the RE/MAX Luxury Report on Chicago Real Estate, Lincoln Park's sales of luxury detached homes shot up 24 percent from 2012. That means a whopping 166 sales of such homes exceeded a million dollars — 16 more than at the 2007 pre-crash peak.

This year, folks looking for prized properties in Lincoln Park might have to open their wallets extra wide — if you can believe it, prices in the neighborhood are hitting the multi-million dollar mark. "One to two million in the neighborhood isn't necessarily luxe anymore," notes Baird and Warner broker John Irwin (left), who markets homes in Near North and Lincoln Park, where he first saw sales explode at the end of 2012.

Last year's median luxe detached-home sales price was $1.5 million, and with that number in mind, the area has several unique new and recent construction homes. One is Irwin's seven-bedroom, 5.5-bathroom listing on an oversized lot at 712 W. Schubert (call 773-294-8664). An unusual central door on a symmetrical façade opens to the interior focal point: a generous spiral staircase. It and an elevator lead to all four floors, which boast a chef's kitchen, rooftop deck with fireplace and a rare 2.5-car attached garage. At 7,500 square feet, the 2010 home comes with a sizable ask of $3,450,000.

Another community drawing competition for million-dollar homes? Hot Hinsdale. The western suburb saw 142 sales in 2013 with a median sales price of $1,436,000. One of the newest listings to join the million-plus club is 610 N. Washington (call Coldwell Banker broker Dawn McKenna at 630-789-8280).
Alton Brown doesn't mince words. Molecular gastronomy? He's not a fan. "I would rather have a perfect steak and a really great martini," he says. And he can't stomach the way so many folks make a fetish of food, analyzing every morsel as if it were manna from heaven. As one of his culinary school mentors once told him when he was obsessing over a dish, "Alton, it's food. In 12 hours, it's poop."

Not that the Food Network star, whose "Alton Brown Live! The Edible Inevitable Tour" comes to the Oriental Theatre this weekend, isn't passionate about food. It's just that his philosophy goes beyond what's on the plate. "Sometimes we forget that what really makes food special is when you sit down with other people at a table to eat it," he says. "The best food experience I've had in the last year happened a couple weeks ago in Manhattan Beach, Calif. I was out there working on 'Food Network Star' and the staff — there were 10 of us — went to this old-school Mexican restaurant, with margaritas and refried beans. Nothing extraordinary. Best damn meal I've had in a year. And you know why? Because we had a freaking great time."

An entertainer who shares his food-science know-how in a far-from-pedantic fashion, Brown hopes audiences will have a similarly satisfying experience, with this show. "I was raised in the '70s and love all those TV variety shows — Sonny and Cher, Flip Wilson — where you'd get a comedy skit, a song and then some other act. So this show is based on that formula. There are puppets, filmed pieces, some stand-up, two very large and very unusual cooking demonstrations and me and my trio play songs from our upcoming CD."

Brown has been a key player in the media machine that's made everything edible an entertainment (he's appeared in seven Food Network shows, most recently "Cutthroat Kitchen") and he's never lost his enthusiasm for educating viewers. "I spent 15 years making a show that was heavily science-based ['Good Eats'], heavily about know-how," he notes. "My fans wanted to know how things work and why things work. And I think they are better cooks because of it. Hopefully, everything I do is infused with education. And there's education in this stage show. The demonstrations are very scientific. But the main thing I want is for people to walk out and say, 'Gosh dam it, that was a good time. I'm glad I came.'"
though David Walton has shared the screen with plenty of high-profile stars — Zoey Deschanel on "New Girl," Christina Aguilera in "Burlesque" and Olivia Munn on "Perfect Couples," to name a few — he says he still can't get over the thrill of working with Minnie Driver on his new NBC series "About a Boy." "I never get used to seeing the set-ups," says Walton. "It's very reminiscent of "Family Ties" or The Wonder Years." Those shows had a lot of fun situations, but it wasn't uncommon to get tearful.

Role call: "My character is really fun to play. He has a strong libido, and a dream life on paper. He doesn't have to work; he made an insane amount of money writing a Christmas jingle. His day can be planned around getting his favorite bagel — he's a professional at doing nothing. His friends are all getting married, and here comes this 11-year-old boy. In a lot of ways they have the same maturity level. The kid ends up teaching me a lot about what life's all about."

Road to Hollywood: "It started acting in high school (in Boston), I went to Brown — it has a very good theater program — and I went to drama school in London. Then I had this sense that maybe I could act professionally. I went to New York and it was a disaster. I didn't get anything. I was waiting tables, selling knives, doing all this crazy stuff to make money. Then there was a casting call for Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines. The casting director saw something, and asked if she could get me an agent. I went from auditioning for non-paying plays to the 28th floor at CBS, auditioning for 'CSI: Miami.' About six months later, I got a pilot for Fox called 'Cracking Up,' and I moved to L.A.

Chicago connection: I was in the Halloween episode of [recently canceled sitcom] 'Happy Endings,' and I played a Cubs player — I'm immortalized on the show in a Cubs uniform. I also went to a Cubs game during a bachelor party in Chicago. I was amazed and really impressed with the level of alcohol consumed [there]. I was going to go to Game 7 of the Blackhawks-Bruins last year, but then the Blackhawks had to score two goals in Game 6. I have very conflicted emotions about Chicago — it's caused me pain."

"About A Boy" premieres Feb. 21 at 9:30 p.m on NBC.
Gold Coast salon owner Dennis shares style and beauty items to keep you looking good from head to toe.

1. Gaia Herbs:
   Turmeric Supreme, $29.99, Kramer's Health Foods, 230 S. Wabash; Shop.gaiaherbs.com
2. Neutrogena: Rainbath shower and bath gel, $8.29, Walgreens locations citywide; Neutrogena.com
3. Fernet-Branca: Liqueur, $26.99, Binny's locations citywide; Binny's.com
4. Shu Uemura: Essence Absolue, $68, Dennis Bartolomei, 15 E. Pearson; Dennisbartolomei.com
5. Sisley Sislejum: Anti-Age Global Revitalizer for men, $265, Bloomingdale's, 900 N. Michigan; Bloomingdales.com
6. Clarisonic: Plus face and body sonic cleanser, $225, Ultra locations citywide; Clarisonic.com
7. Pro Bar: Meal Original Blend, $3.29, Shop.theprobarmac.com
8. Lululemon Athletica: Cross Tech short sleeve shirt, $68, 2104 N. Halsted; Shop.lululemon.com
9. Lateral Fitness: three classes, $33, 314 W. Superior; Trainlateral.com
10. Urban Oasis: Massage, starts at $65, 12 W. Maple; Urbanosismassage.com

These are the most comfortable workout shirts I own. Plus, they really keep you dry while you work up a sweat.

Erik Marthaler is a fitness genius. His state-of-the-art gym is beautiful.

I have been going to Urban Oasis for 20 years, and Martin is the best. He fixes my overworked body every time.

I use this moisturizer morning and evening. It's great after shaving.

I love to drink this digestif after a heavy meal. It was first made in 1845 in Italy as medicine.

This helps exfoliate dry winter skin and gives you a super-clean complexion.

This is my current shower favorite.

I keep these fruit and nut bars on hand for busy days when I need a quick meal.

These are the most comfortable workout shirts I own. Plus, they really keep you dry while you work up a sweat.

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I use this moisturizer morning and evening. It's great after shaving.

I love to drink this digestif after a heavy meal. It was first made in 1845 in Italy as medicine.

This helps exfoliate dry winter skin and gives you a super-clean complexion.

This is my current shower favorite.

I keep these fruit and nut bars on hand for busy days when I need a quick meal.

Erik Marthaler is a fitness genius. His state-of-the-art gym is beautiful.

I have been going to Urban Oasis for 20 years, and Martin is the best. He fixes my overworked body every time.

I use this moisturizer morning and evening. It's great after shaving.

I love to drink this digestif after a heavy meal. It was first made in 1845 in Italy as medicine.

This helps exfoliate dry winter skin and gives you a super-clean complexion.

This is my current shower favorite.
FIRST
YOU FELL IN LOVE
WITH EACH OTHER

NOW
YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE
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Hawks fans score with wedding theme

K.C. Vetter and Brenden Henthgan

BY CAITLIN MULLEN
Contributing writer

Immediately after K.C. Vetter and Brenden Henthgan got engaged in February 2013 on a beach in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., they wrote “Bon voyage!” in the sand with her newly adorned ring finger putting the exclamation point on the phrase.

From there, they shared the photo with family and friends, shut off their phones and embarked on a Caribbean cruise.

“The best part was we left everybody hanging,” K.C. said.

K.C., from Gurnee, and Brenden, of Park Ridge, met in early 2011 at Abt Electronics in Glenview, where K.C. manages service personnel and Brenden manages delivery personnel.

The two didn’t work together but crossed paths every once in a while and found they complemented each other.

K.C. and Brenden love the Chicago Blackhawks and had mascot Tommy Hawk show up during their wedding’s cocktail hour to take photos with guests.

The Blackhawks theme was carried out in other details, such as the Stanley Cup cake topper and using “Chelsea Dagger,” the song played when the Blackhawks score, as the recessional. K.C.’s dad, David, and his friend made a Stanley Cup card container.

“The family helped a lot with the DIY,” K.C. said.

Involving family was important to the couple. K.C.’s brother, Rick, who serves in the Navy, and David walked her down the aisle, with Rick wearing his dress uniform.

K.C. and Brenden also used Rick’s sword to cut the cake.

The couple chose their wedding date — Sept. 22 — based on the availability of Chicago-area cover band New Odyssey, which K.C.’s family has been a fan of for 20 years.

“I knew that that’s what I wanted,” she said. “That was the big (priority).”

K.C. and Brenden appreciated the open feeling at Victoria in the Park in Mount Prospect, where they had an outdoor ceremony and indoor reception.

“I loved the fact that it was floor to ceiling windows,” she said.

They skipped flowers and instead focused on projects, such as chalkboard painting wine bottles, writing table numbers on each one, filling them with branches and using them as centerpieces, K.C. said.

And escort cards in the shape of leaves — with calligraphy done by K.C.’s aunt — were attached by clothespins to a tree, which David Vetter later planted in K.C. and Brenden’s front yard of their home in Lake Villa.

Every wedding has a story. Contact Renee Lee at rlee@bouquetcatcher.com or 312-651-6613 to share yours.

Facebook.com/BouquetCatcher • Twitter @BouquetCatcher • Pinterest.com/BouquetCatcher

CORRECTION: In the Jan. 30 edition featuring Nina Faustmann and Jon Ziols, Nina’s late father was incorrectly identified. His name is Mark Faustmann. We regret the error.
Stephanie Wilson & Brian Miller

Brian, son of William and Karen Miller of Skokie, is engaged to Stephanie, daughter of Nancy and Geary Wilson of Appleton, Wis. Brian is a graduate of Niles North High School and University of Illinois. He is pursuing a master’s in medical informatics from Northwestern University. Stephanie is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin; Brian is the director of client systems for Epic Systems. The couple took engagement photos with their 6-month-old goldendoodle Dr. Watson. The couple plans to marry July 12 at the Overture Center for the Arts in Madison, Wis.

We want to share your engagement, wedding or anniversary story — free of charge. For more information, contact Renee Lee at rlee@bouquetcatcher.com or 312-651-6613.
WHAT'S YOUR AGENDA?

Agenda is a new Sun-Times entertainment section that offers the best of the Chicago Reader's coverage of events, restaurants and entertainment, along with critical voices and tips from the Sun-Times.

DISCOVER YOUR AGENDA BY PICKING UP A COPY OF FRIDAY'S PAPER.
The Best of Rick Telerander: A collection of the Sun-Times columnist's greatest hits

This collection of columns highlights some of Telerander's best work in his nearly 20 years at the Sun-Times, from his eight-part series on Murray Park, to lighter pieces, such as his column on a Cubs fan who suffered through more than 100 years of futility.
Ars Viva to showcase its strings, oboe

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
For Sun-Times Media

You can always expect diverse, fascinating programming from Music Director Alan Heatherington at Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra. For the group's Sunday, Feb. 9 performance at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, he has chosen three winning selections, two of which feature string orchestra music.

"The string orchestra repertoire is near and dear to my heart," said Heatherington, who was the founding music director of the Chicago String Ensemble for 18 years, before founding Ars Viva in 1995. "That's where I spent a lot of my professional life both as a violinist and a conductor."

He noted that Ars Viva has "such amazing string players, most of them playing on very great instruments. What we sometimes lack in numbers, we make up for in sound, sonority and quality of sound."

Prior to the string selections, the program opens with Vaughan Williams' "Oboe Concerto in A Minor," featuring Stephen Colburn, Ars Viva's principal oboe. Heatherington praised his soloist. "He always does such an amazing job that other musicians and audience members ask me routinely, 'Where did you get that oboe player?'"

The answer is the Milwaukee Symphony, where Colburn retired as principal oboist two years ago, after being a member of the orchestra since 1966.

Colburn joined Ars Viva because, "It has an outstanding reputation as a topnotch group and the conductor is highly regarded," he said, playfully adding, "They asked me!"

He noted that he has enjoyed playing Williams' "Oboe Concerto" before. "It's characterized by references to British folk tunes and intriguing harmonies — but very accessible."

The second selection is Tchaikovsky's "Serenade for Strings," which Heatherington described as "probably the greatest single piece ever written for a string orchestra. It's a huge audience favorite."

The program concludes with Bizet's "Carmen Suite."

"It uses an array of percussion instruments," Heatherington related. "It is full of the colors of percussion but with clever use of the strings, mining everybody's favorite tunes from 'Carmen.'"

As with every Ars Viva concert, there will be a Music for Life Program. Children ages 4-7, hear the first selection and are then pulled out to learn more from Music Institute of Chicago educators. Kids ages 8-11 are taken to classrooms at intermission. There's no charge for children, accompanied by an adult, to attend the concert or the Music for Life program.

Last year the Ars Viva Orchestra won the 2013 Skokie Fine Arts Commission's Award for Excellence, and Heatherington earned the 2013 Distinguished Achievement Award from Chicago Classical Review.

The honor was especially memorable to Heatherington, a former Skokie resident, who currently lives in Libertyville. He declared that Skokie has played "a huge role in at least half of my adult life, and therefore in my musical career."

Stephen Colburn, Ars Viva's principal oboist, will perform a solo piece at Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra's Feb. 9 performance at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie.

ARS VIVA SYMPHONY
North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd. 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9
$32-$70, discounts for seniors and youth
(847) 673-6300; www.arsviva.org
An On Stage dinner after the performance is $75 per person, separate reservations required at (855) 277-8482

Alan Heatherington

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Celebrating black history at the movies

BY BRUCE DIGRAM
For Sun-Times Media

Initially shut out of Hollywood and then given limited access, African-American actors, writers, directors and producers soon realized they could make their own films for their own audience. It did, however, take a few decades for them to find their own voice.

An eclectic collection of posters for these early African-American independent films are on view through March 21 in honor of Black History Month at the Koehnline Gallery of Oakton Community College in Des Plaines.

"They didn't give up," said Nathan Harpaz, curator of the Koehnline Gallery. "When Hollywood said 'no, no, no,' they said, 'We can do this ourselves.'"

And so they did, generating a wealth of films that mirrored Hollywood releases in typical genres of the '30s, '40s and '50s—Westerns, comedies, gangster movies, World War II dramas and musical extravaganzas. But with "All-Colored" casts.

The Koehnline collection, the result of an anonymous gift, features 40 large- and standard-sized posters from 1938 to 1957, with one anomalous addition from the era of Blaxploitation ("Countdown at Kusini," 1976). Titles include "Prison Bait" (1938), "Harlem Rides the Range" (1939), "Mantan Messes Up" (1946), "Rhythm in a Riff" (1947), "House-Rent Party" (1948), and "Where's My Man, To-Nite?" (1943). Clips from some of the films will be screened in a mini-theater inside the gallery.

"These films were made because African-Americans were discriminated against in Hollywood," said Harpaz, noting that the trend began in the silent era when studios hired white actors to play black characters in black-face makeup. "During the '60s and '70s, the films started to change in character because of the civil-rights movement, but their heaviest period of production was during the '30s, '40s and '50s."

Social consciousness, Harpaz added, was not a requirement.

"They weren't trying to reflect the African-American experience as much as they were trying to match the mainstream movie industry," he said. "Here and there you can see relevant themes, but in general they're just trying to copy what the Hollywood studios were doing."

Of course, at the same time, they were paving the way and developing the audience for far more radical films to come.
"The Lego Movie" clicks nicely

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

If you can get over the rigid, plastic artificiality of pretty much everything in "The Lego Movie," where even the clouds, the rainbows and the waves in the ocean are constructed of CGI Lego bricks, it turns out to be an inorganic ton of fun.

Not so easy on the eyes, maybe, but crazily inventive, frequently funny and even a little moving.

That's not too surprising because "The Lego Movie" was written and directed by Christopher Miller and Phil Lord, who also wrote and directed the family-friendly "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" and directed the R-rated comedy "21 Jump Street" - both films far smarter and hipper than the norm.

The same goes for this one, which is set almost entirely in a world made of those colorful little plastic bricks, with plastic Lego figurines for characters. The concept includes going to some lengths to simulate slightly jerky stop-motion animation to emphasize the limited range of motion of those figurines. And, presumably, the make-believe quality of playing with them.

Basically, "The Lego Movie" is the story of an ordinary, regular, generic construction worker named Emmet (Chris Pratt of TV’s "Parks and Recreation"), who gets mixed up in a revolutionary struggle by the creative Master Builders against President Business (Will Ferrell), an oppressive tyrant obsessed with order and conformity.

Emmet is perfectly happy just following the instructions like the rest of the mindless masses until the Master Builders mistake him for The Special, the one who will use the Piece of Resistance to neutralize the super-weapon President Business plans to use to destroy the world. Unfortunately, Emmet never had a creative thought in his life and he's a hopeless disappointment to the rebels, including Lord Vitruvius (Morgan Freeman as a blind, bearded, Biblical-type prophet), Batman (Will Arnett), Superman (Channing Tatum), Green Lantern (Jonah Hill), Abraham Lincoln, Han Solo, a female super-agent/romantic interest named Wild Style (Elizabeth Banks), Wonder Woman, Shakespeare, and a giant robot/pirate called Metal Beard (Nick Offerman).

If that sounds like the sort of thing that might be made up by a 9-year-old, there's a reason for that - a pretty good one, in fact, involving a radical reality shift late in the game. In the meantime, there's plenty of freewheeling silliness to keep things moving along, plus a bit of anti-conformist satire for social relevance and a sprinkling of oddball one-liners for the grownups in the audience.

It's impressively entertaining, in other words, even when it's spelling out the moral at the end about believing in yourself — and simultaneously apologizing because "that sounds like a cat poster."

At least they didn't leave us with "Hang in there, baby."
Celebrate that chill in the air

BY MYRNA PETUCKI
For Sun-Times Media

Children can Break the Ice at Emily Oaks Nature Center’s Winter Chilly Fest, 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8 and Sunday, Feb. 9 at 4650 Brummel St., Skokie.

“Kids take a hammer and goggles and break a cube of ice that has a penny inside,” Manager Lee Hansen explained. “In Go Fish, they take a little bamboo rod with a clothespin at the end and put it into a box that looks like a frozen pond.” They’ll hook a Swedish fish on the line. There are 10 other activities, plus ice skating, an ice carver, hayrides, and a campfire with hot chocolate and marshmallows for roasting.

Dinner is vegetarian or turkey chilli, cornbread, apple juice, coffee and dessert. Turkey hot dogs are available for kids.

Registration is required.
For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2500 or go to www.skokieparks.org.

REAL CUT-UPS
The Colonial and Victorian art of Paper Quilling and Cutting will be the Sunday Craft Series project, noon-1:30 p.m. Feb. 9 at the Skokie Heritage Museum, 8031 Floral Ave. The workshop is for ages 5 and older, accompanied by a parent. Cost is $2 for residents, $3 for nonresidents.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 3000 or go to www.skokieparks.org.

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD
Things aren’t always what they seem to be. That’s what children will learn at “The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs!” The musical, based on the bestselling children’s book, is performed at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, through March 2, at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago. Tickets are $15.

For details, call (773) 761-4477 or go to www.lifelinetheatre.com.

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH
Every year, Polar Explorers of Wilmette travels to the North or South Pole. Families will hear about their adventures, 2-2:45 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9 at Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. Pick up tickets 30 minutes before program.

For details, call (847) 663-1234 or go to www.nileslibrary.org.
Matryoshka dolls date back to the 1890s.

You need:
Nesting Dolls Template and Faces (you can download this for free at http://bit.ly/1DvHs)
Several pieces of patterned paper (different patterns)
Glue

Make the dolls:
Print the templates and then cut each shape according to directions.
Trace templates (body, scarf, tie) onto various pieces of patterned paper.
For each doll, glue the scarf to the body and the face and tie to the scarf.

Make the eggs:
Pull the egg apart and paint each half as desired. Allow time to dry.
Add "bling" with rhinestones, glitter, stickers and glue.
Use a sharpie to draw intricate designs and patterns.
Before assembling the egg, place a small surprise inside, such as a penny, trinket or beaded pendant.

Dymkovo toys can be animals or people.

You need:
Model Magic (or air drying clay)
Paint

Make the toy:
Create your own Dymkovo Toy by molding the Model Magic into an animal or person. Allow time to dry.
Paint the toy white and add festive accents and patterns.
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.

Travel Film
2 p.m.: Enjoy a family-friendly movie traveling through a different part of the world. Call 847-825-3923 to find out what movie will be playing this week. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge.

So You Think You Can Spell?
7 p.m.: The Morton Grove Public Library's first-ever adult spelling bee competition. Registration is required to compete; all spectators welcome. For more information or to register, go to calendar.mngpl.org or call 847-929-5101. Curragh Irish Pub, 8266 Lincoln Ave., Skokie.

Bowl in Des Plaines for an afternoon of bowling, pizza, soda, raffles, prizes and more. Registration required. The money raised helps fund the M-NASR's transportation service. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, 6820 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220. $31-$72.

Chinese New Year Activities
I p.m.: Join the Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, 6820 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-966-5522. $31-$72.

Festival
II a.m.: A family-fun winter festival that includes a sled dog team demo, ice sculptures, skating exhibition, DJ, snowman cookie decorating, mini snowman contest, snowball throw, snowman ring toss, dodge the snowball and more. Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 W. Sibley St., Park Ridge. Call 847-693-1234.

International Film Shorts
2 p.m.: Join in for screenings of a collection of international short films from a variety of genres including drama, comedy and animation. Call 847-929-5101 or visit www.mngpl.org for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

Winter Chilly Fest
4 p.m.: The event features winter activities, including skating, snowshoeing, snow and ice games, hayrides, campfires and an optional chili dinner. Call 847-677-7001 to order tickets. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. $25-$75.

Arts Viva Presents Stephen Cumber and 'Carmen Suite'
3 p.m.: Maestro Alan Heatherington will lead the award-winning Arts Viva Symphony in a program featuring the music of Vaughan Williams, Tchaikovsky and Bizet. Kids ages 4-11 attend free in a class accompanying the concert. North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Call 847-573-6300. $35-$70, discounts for seniors.

Jon McLaughlin

Danny Malone
8 p.m.: The singer-songwriter performs in the studio. Check-in begins at 7:30 p.m. Evanston SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Call 847-492-8860. $10.

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.

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. 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. Call 847-813-0484.

Flowing Arrangement
2 p.m.: Robert Neri from Robert's Floral Design Studio teaches attendees the fine art of flower arranging. Payment required in advance. All supplies included. Mather's, 7314 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $15 suggested donation.
GO CALENDAR

YA Knot It Up
3:30 p.m.: Learn how to make rainbow looms and friendship bracelets. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

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.

Pat Tomasulo
8 p.m.: The sports anchor for "WGN Morning News" performs a stand-up routine. Must be 21 or older to attend. Admission is $22 and a minimum of two food or drink purchases. Zanies Comedy Club, 54.37 Park Place, Rosemont. Information. CourtesY Shuttle. 847-518-0990, carluccirosemont.com, 6111 North River Road in Rosemont, Illinois 60045.

ThURSDAY, FEB. 13
Valentine's Day Lunch
Noon: Call 773-775-6071 for more information. Norwood Park Senior Center, 5601 N. Natoma Ave., Chicago.

Concert: Laura Freeman and Bockie Monzie
7 p.m.: Celebrate Valentine's Day with a musical performance by the cabaret duo. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

FRIDAY, FEB. 14
Fun with Fondue
3 p.m.: Enjoy Italian, Swiss and French fondues during a discussion about the history of the dish. Also enjoy chocolate fondue to celebrate Valentine's Day. Mather's, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $8-$10.

SUNDAY, FEB. 16
Special Breakfast Celebrating Student Scholarship Fund
10 a.m.: Special breakfast celebrating the creation of the Men's Club of Congregation Beth Shalom Student Opportunity Scholarship Fund. Includes a complimentary tour of the museum. Contact Arlen Lasinsky at 847-947-4501 with questions. Holocaust Museum, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. Call 847-967-4800. $10, $18 per family.

MIDWINTER MOONLIGHT MADNESS
4:30 p.m.: This BYOB event features dinner and a musical performance by the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra. Includes a complimentary tour of the museum. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 N. Elston Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $8-$10.

MONDAY, FEB. 17
Exotic Bangkok
1 p.m.: Enjoy a film that highlights the history of this city, with beautiful structures, vibrant nightlife scenes and beautiful beaches. Attendees can also try a Thai treat. Mather's, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $8 suggested donation.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19
Critic's Choice
1 p.m.: The group watches the movie and discusses the book "Alice in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll. One week advance registration required. Mather's, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804.

THURSDAY, FEB. 20
Chamber After Hours
5:30 p.m.: A networking event for the Lincolnwood, Sauganash and Edgebrook Chambers of Commerce. Nil Tap, 5734 N. Elston Ave., Chicago.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21
Let's Pretend: Introduction to Improv
1 p.m.: Have some fun with improv exercises and theater games. Mather's, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $5 suggested donation.

'Snow Girls'
2 p.m.: The all-female youth ensemble presents a production about a group of girls who are snowed into a school auditorium. Gorilla Tango Skokie, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call 224-456-2399. $25.

SUNDAY, FEB. 16
4:30 p.m.: This BYOB event features dinner and a musical performance by the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra. Performs "Moonlight and More," featuring works by Schumann, Mozart, Dvorak, and Vivaldi. The program also includes a screening of the short silent film "Moonlight," inspired by Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata." Gorilla Tango Skokie, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call 224-456-2399. $25.

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FILM CLIPS

OPENING FRIDAY

THE LEGO MOVIE
Rated PG for mild action and rude humor
Stars: Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks
An ordinary Lego minifigure (Pratt), mistakenly believed to be the great Master
Builder, is recruited to join a mission to prevent an evil tyrant from gluing the universe
together. Phil Lord and Christopher Miller ("Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs")
directed the animated comedy.

THE MONUMENTS MEN
Rated PG-13 for some images of war
violence and historical smoking
Stars: George Clooney, Matt Damon, Bill
Murray, John Goodman, Cate Blanchett
A special squad of art historians during
World War II attempt to save stolen art
treasures from the Nazis. Clooney stars, co-
wrote and directed the drama.

VAMPIRE ACADEMY
Rated PG-13 for violence, bloody images,
sexual content and language
Stars: Zoey Deutch, Lucy Fry, Joel Richard-
son, Gabriel Byrne
A half-human/half-vampire teenager
(Deutch) trains at a special high school to
become a protector of benign mortal vam-
pires who live peacefully with humans. Mark
Waters ("Mr. Popper's Penguins") directed
the action comedy.

LABOR DAY
Rated PG-13 for thematic material, brief
violence and sexuality
Stars: Kate Winslet, Josh Brolin, Gattlin
Griffith
After an escaped convict (Brolin) takes
shelter with a single mom and her son
(Winslet, Griffith), an unexpected bond of af-
fection begins to grow. Jason Reitman ("Up
in the Air") adapted and directed the drama,
based on a novel by Joyce Maynard.

THAT AWKWARD MOMENT
Rated R for sexual content and language
throughout
Stars: Zac Efron, Michael B. Jordan,
Miles Teller
Three best friends (Efron, Jordan and
Teller) agree they will avoid commitment
and stay single forever — before being de-
clared by true love. Tom Gormican makes his
writing/directing debut with the comedy.

GIMME SHELTER
Rated PG-13 for sequences of intense
fantasy action and violence throughout
Stars: Vanessa Hudgens, Rosario Daw-
son, Brendan Fraser
A sort of updated "The Cross and the
Switchblade" for unwed teen mothers,
"Gimme Shelter" mines the plight of an
abused, runaway girl for faux gritty
melodrama before saving the day with its
Christian, pro-life message. And does it in
a way that's so appallingly bogus it almost
deserves points for sheer nerve. After a
screeching scene with drug-addicted mom
(Dawson) in their crackhouse lobby, tatted,
tough-talking, pregnant 16-year-old Apple
(former "High School Musical" princess
Hudgens) hops in a cab and heads for the
suburban estate of the father she never met
( Brendan Fraser). Who turns out to be a
Wall Street type who's only willing to help
if she will agree to an abortion. The easy
inspirational lesson "Gimme Shelter" applies
to a serious and complicated issue (a kindly
priest sends Apple to a loving home for
unwed mothers) is hard enough to take, but
the worst thing about it is the way it smacks
of Hollywood slumming. You can almost
sense Dawson and Hudgens thinking "Oscar
moment" in their more histrionic scenes.

I, FRANKENSTEIN
Rated PG-13 for sequences of intense
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Stars: Aaron Eckhart, Bill Nighy, Mi-
anda Otto
After countless screen incarnations,
Frankenstein's monster finally gets to be
cool in the brooding over-serious, spectacu-
larly action-packed world of "I, Franken-
stein." But it's not necessarily an improve-
ment. Two hundred years after burying
his creator, Frankenstein's moody, sulking
monster (Eckhart, believe it or not) becomes
an unwilling combatant in a centuries-old
war between angelic Gargoyles and an army
of demons. But at least he gets to rock a
trench coat, a hoodie and tight-cut jeans
while using assorted spiritually-empowered
martial arts weapons to kick demon boot-
ty. All of which might be more fun if "I, Fran-
kenstein" wasn't so tediously humorless
about the situation.
SHOWTIMES

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Blockbuster or flop? The Movie Review section has the scoop.
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- The death notice department is staffed from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday.
- Family and friends may visit our website and sign a guest book at Pioneerlocal.com.

Death Notices

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Age 92, of Morton Grove since 1952, at rest in his home on January 30th. Beloved husband for 70 years of Berdella; dear father of William (Carolyn), James (Doris), Karen (Gary) Sabey, John and Charles (Elizabeth); loving grandfather of 9; cherished great-grandfather of 6.

Visitation and services were held at Simkins Funeral Home, 6251 Dempster St., Morton Grove, Il. on Wednesday, February 5th. Interment to be held Thursday, February 6th at Rock Island National Cemetery. Sign online guestbook at http://www.simkinsfh.com 847-965-2500.

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**CAR STORY**

**Peter Bulandir’s 1969 AMX**

By Car Owner

On July 7, 1977, I became the third (and I hope final) owner of my 1969 AMX. I was a junior in high school. I am very fortunate to have been able to hold on to the AMX through high school, college, marriage, graduate school and three children.

Over the years, I have had mechanical, as well as cosmetic, restoration done to the car.

I'm proud to say even though I thought about changing the sound system, the car retains its original AM/FM 8-track player, still fully functional, along with the very same Jensen Triaxial speakers that were in the car when I purchased it.

My father was an American Motors dealer in the 1960s and '70s, so growing up the 1969 AMX was a bit of a dream car for me.

The car is a two-seater with a 390 cubic inch engine, 315 factory horsepower, and it has a Hurst 4-speed shifter. Off the showroom floor, the car did the quarter mile in 14.1 seconds.

I have enjoyed the car very much these past 36 years, and I've especially enjoyed taking my kids (one at a time) to show the car in local car shows. I'm glad I was able to hold on to it over all these years.

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Imports 64 percent of sales

When purchasing cars in the month of September, Niles residents opted to purchase domestic vehicles 36 percent of time. Purchases of domestic vehicles by residents totaled 90 of the overall 251 auto sales in the month.

Ford topped the domestic sales chart with 38 sales of the 90 total sales of domestic cars to Niles residents. The breakdown of the 38 total Ford sales was 22 used and 16 new over the course of the month.

Residents of Niles went with imports 64 percent of time in September, as 161 of the overall 251 auto sales in the month came from this category. Toyota was the most popular import purchased in the month, accounting for 39 of the total 161 import sales. A total of 21 preowned vehicles and 18 new vehicles comprise the overall total of 39 Toyota purchases in September.

The most popular import bought used in the month of September was Toyota, with a total of 21 sales, followed by Nissan (18) and Honda (10). Popular imports bought new by Niles residents included Toyota, with a total of 18 sales, followed by Nissan (nine) and Honda (six).

On the other hand, the most popular domestic make purchased used was Ford, with a total of 22 sales, followed by Chevrolet (eight) and Jeep (five). In addition, popular domestic brands bought new in the month included Ford, with a total of 16 sales, followed by Chevrolet (eight) and Jeep (four).

Golf Mill Ford sold more domestic vehicles to residents of Niles than any other car dealership in the month of September. Fields Jeep and Jennings Chevrolet rounded out the top three list of top dealers of domestic cars and trucks to Niles residents in the month. In the category of import sales, Bredemann Toyota led the way in September, followed by Star Nissan and O'Hare Hyundai.
Dons’ Dillon makes 21 3-pointers in three-game stretch

BY MATT HARNESS

WILMETTE — Pat Dillon is the best shooter on the Notre Dame boys basketball team.

The senior guard showed that once again in Saturday’s 59-56 loss to New Trier at Loyola’s War on the Shore tournament. Dillon made four shots from behind the arc for 12 points, while Mooney scored 10.

Dillon’s sharpshooting from the perimeter also allowed the Dons to score points in the paint. Shortly after three of his 3s, sophomore forward Ammar Becar got a basket in the post and finished with a game-high 21 points. Dillon’s other 3-pointer came right before halftime.

“[New Trier’s] defense was reluctant to leave Pat, so Ammar had room to work,” Dillon said.

In his second full season on varsity, Dillon is making a much bigger contribution than he did as a junior when he said he played only a few minutes a game, mostly to give the starters a rest.

This season, Dillon is not only a starter, but he’s the only senior to start for the Dons, who feature three sophomores and a junior among the first five.

“I know it sounds cliché, but I am more of a leader this year,” Dillon said. “I feel like I am an extension of the coaches on the court.”

Dillon said one of his jobs Saturday was to make sure the younger players stayed focused despite all the distractions surrounding them at Loyola, where Comcast SportsNet Chicago had a TV crew on site.

“There was a lot going on, so I tried to keep them calm, telling them not to worry about all that stuff,” Dillon said.

Dillon also was a positive influence on Becar when the 6-foot-6 post picked up his fourth foul at the end of the third quarter. Dillon said he reminded the big man to play smart defense in the fourth.

“My guy was on him. It was just as big a factor in the outcome of the game.”

Les said he continues to be impressed with Dillon’s sharpshooting.

“We had him going to his left, and that’s what we wanted,” Les said. “It would have been a tough shot for him.”

The Trevians (14-9) held a 32-20 lead at the half at Loyola, only to watch the Dons (12-11) outscore them 18-10 in the third quarter. Notre Dame continued its run into the fourth, scoring the first eight points.

But New Trier regained the advantage and upped the lead to 54-49 on Thomas’ 3-point play with 2:58 left. Notre Dame tied it at 56-all on junior guard Joe Mooney’s 3-pointer at the 1:39 mark.

Thomas finished with 14 points, and senior forward Ricky Samuelson added 13 points. Notre Dame sophomore forward Ammar Becar scored a game-high 21.

Senior guard Pat Dillon contributed four 3s for 12 points, while Mooney scored 10.
Nikitas cleans glass at Lawrence

BY NICK BULLOCK
For Sun-Times Media, @HSCNewsNorth

Glenbrook South alumnus Jamie Nikitas, a sophomore guard for the Lawrence men's basketball team, continued his strong play this season with a 16-point, four-rebound, five-assist performance in a win against Knox on Jan. 25 in Appleton, Wis.

Nikitas is Lawrence's third leading scorer (13.9 points per game) through 16 games this season. He leads the team in rebounds per game (5.5), steals per game (2.2) and blocks per game (0.6), and sits third on the team in assists per game (2.4).

Several other area athletes also play for the Lawrence men's basketball team. Ridgewood alumnus Tom Antosz and Deerfield alumnus Max Burgess are senior guards and Evanston alumnus Peter Winslow is a freshman guard.

St. Joseph alumnus Joe Edwards, a junior guard for the Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne men's basketball team, started his 18th game of the season in a 91-75 win over Indiana-Purdue Indianapolis on Jan. 25 in Fort Wayne, Ind. The Chicago native finished with eight points, six rebounds and three assists.

Edwards is one of just six players to have played in each of the team's first 22 games, leading the Mastodons to a 16-6 start. He sits second on the team in total assists (56) and is averaging 7.7 points per game.

Loyola alumnus Michael Fallon helped propel his Massachusetts-Lowell men's hockey team to a 6-1 victory over Princeton on Jan. 25 in Lowell, Mass. The sophomore forward from Glenview assisted on a goal late in the second period to give the River Hawks a 3-0 lead.

Fallon has appeared in 14 games this season for the 16-7-2 River Hawks, recording six points on two goals and four assists.

Libertyville alumnus Nicole Kruckman, a sophomore center for the North Park women's basketball team, has picked up where she left off after a strong freshman season.

Kruckman has been a force in the middle for the Vikings this season, leading the team to a 10-8 record.

She's the only North Park player to have started each of the team's first 18 games and is shooting a team-high 58.8 percent from the field. She ranks third on the team in rebounds with 4.2 per game and third in points per game with 8.7.

Have a suggestion for the College Roundup? Email Nick Bullock at bullockpioneerpress@gmail.com.
Vikettes’ hip-hop style leads to state berth

With a new coach and a new choreographer, Niles North finished 26th in Class 3A

BY DAN SHALIN

The Vikettes not only successfully took that into consideration and implemented a hip-hop style that was somewhat unfamiliar to most of the team’s dancers.

Beck, who graduated from Niles West in 2011, came to Niles North and implemented a hip-hop style that was somewhat unfamiliar to many of the acts Beck watched popping and locking, was inspired by many of the acts Beck watched perform at last summer’s Hip Hop World Dance Championships in Las Vegas.

"Seeing the competition with teams from around the world gave me a better idea of what the real modern hip-hop culture is, and I took that into consideration and based the routine off of what I saw in Las Vegas," said Beck, who is a member of the professional dance company Hip Hop ConnXion.

Though Niles North’s dancers were a little skeptical at first, the Vikettes not only successfully adopted the new style, but on Friday, the 15-member team finished 26th out of 30 squads at the second-annual Class 3A competitive dance state finals at U.S. Cellular Coliseum in Bloomington.

"I couldn’t be happier with how the girls performed. They hit everything and gave it their all," Beckman said. "It’s always been my dream to make it to state, and they did that in my first year as head coach. It’s a great feeling and it’s been a great ride."

Beckman added: "This year, Kirstie [Beck] really challenged them, added more difficulty with their segments."

Junior Esther Moss, the team captain, admitted it took the squad a little time to get fully comfortable with Beck’s new moves after she first choreographed their competitive routine in the fall.

"When [Beck] came in, we were a little confused. It was not our style. We were kind of thrown off and kind of doubtful about how it was going to work," Moss said. "But when we went to our first competition, we got really good scores. It was new, and what the judges really enjoy watching. We just kept going up from there. It turned out that we really liked it."

The Vikettes competed at the Glenbrook South Sectional on Jan. 25 and finished fifth. The top six teams qualified for state.

In Friday’s state prelims, Niles North received an average score of 78.50 from the five judges. The top 10 teams advanced to the following day’s finals.

"Next year, I think we could go even farther than we did this year. Hopefully, top 10 in the state," she said. "We should go far, work hard and have a good mind-set because our program is growing a lot."
MAINE

Rookie goalie playing beyond his years

LaBuda skilled at handling the puck, keeping calm

BY ERIC VAN DRU.
For Sun-Times Media, @VanDrkuSports

EVANSTON — Freshman goalie Josh LaBuda didn't play with the Maine hockey team during the spring, which made him somewhat of an unknown commodity to returning players and the team's first-year coaching staff on the first day of tryouts in August.

It also left LaBuda feeling like he had something to prove.

"If you're coming in as a freshman and playing with seniors on varsity, you've got to show them you're able to play with them," LaBuda said.

LaBuda demonstrated he belonged and he did so immediately. He left a positive impression when established seniors such as forward Danny Kasch first tested him, showing reflexes Kasch called "crazy" and a strong glove hand. Those two things, along with a calm demeanor and an ability to handle the puck, helped the Niles resident and Maine East student become the starting goalie on a Maine squad ranked No. 7 in the Sun-Times poll that was released Jan. 29.

"When we were practicing with him, we knew," hockey coach Greg Mrofcza said, "He's a solid goalie, honestly. He hardly ever lets anything in. I can't really explain it better than that."

Maine has two freshmen — both are goalies — on its varsity and just two Maine East students on its team, yet LaBuda said he's felt welcomed all year.

"Hockey players have that [connection] whenever you play with them, so it was pretty easy getting to know everybody," LaBuda said.

Maine coach Greg Mrofcza said his team accepted LaBuda right away.

"It really hasn't been, 'He's a freshman on a varsity team,' " Mrofcza said. "It's been, 'He's a strong goaltender on a varsity team.' "

LaBuda has been working with Maine goaltender coach Bob Moretti on several things since making the team in August.

"I have yet to see him — either in a practice or a game — lose his cool," Moretti said. "He's a pretty mellow kid, and I think that's a very good trait. I've never seen him after a bad goal, freak out. Or after a bad game, freak out. I've never seen him slam a stick against the net or throw the puck down to the other end of the ice. ... I think he understands that staying focused is going to be the key to getting through a game."

BOYS BOWLING STATE NOTEBOOK

Niles changes the focus after its slow start

First-year team came up just short of bowling 1st 3,000 in last 3 games

BY ERIC VAN DRU.
For Sun-Times Media, @VanDrkuSports

The District 219 co-op boys bowling team bowled a 977 in its first game of the state meet, but it followed that with an 860.

Members of the first-year team could figure out what the 860 on Friday meant to their chances.

"That kind of took us out of the competition pretty early," Niles co-coach Matt Sokolowski said.

"The kids look at the scores, they can start adding up, 'We're already down 400 pins. We can make it up, but we would have to bowl the best we have all year,' They realized that."

So Niles adjusted its goals.

Sokolowski and co-coach Vachee Louhran sat down with their team during the lunch break after it bowled a 993 in its third game. Making the top 12 seemed to be out of the question at that point.

Niles was in second-to-last place with 2,830 pins after three games, and it would have to overtake 11 teams to advance to the second day of state.

"We told them, 'We haven't shot 3,000 all year, so let's go for that,' " Sokolowski said. "We'd have to average 1,000 for the last three games. I go, 'Let's have something to shoot for. Let's see if we can do that and move up in the standings.' "

Niles bowled a 1,007 in its fourth game, a 1,006 in its fifth and a 974 in its sixth. It came up 13 pins short of reaching 3,000 for the last three games. The team finished 24th out of 24 teams with a score of 5,817.

MAINE EAST

Maine East junior Anthony Clemente improved as his lone day at the state meet progressed. He started with a score of 180 and then rolled a 171 in his second game. The Niles resident responded by rattling off scores of 217, 234 and 225 in his third, fourth and fifth games of the tournament. His first state meet ended with a 188. He finished in 83rd.

NOTRE DAME

The young Dons finished 23rd with 5,884 pins. They were led by sophomores Matt Voss (1,207, 86th place) and senior Alex Jensen (1,518, 108th). Freshman Robert Van Houghton came in as a sub for the third and fourth games and bowled a 220 and 255, respectively. His 255 was the team's top game.
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With the conclusion of the 2013 NFL season, the members of one team will earn football's holy grail - a Super Bowl ring. Yet oddly, plenty of those rings have a way of winding up in strange places. The most notorious tale involves the Super Bowl ring of Patriots owner Robert Kraft, which he says was stolen by Russian president Vladimir Putin. Putin contends Kraft gave it to him as a gift. But the most bizarre story has to be that of the late Walter Payton's Super Bowl ring, which vanished for several years until a student at the University of Purdue found it in his couch.

***

Four NFL franchises had recorded 600 victories as of the end of the 2013 season. Three play in the NFC; one is an AFC team. The NFC franchises are the New York Giants, the Chicago Bears and the Green Bay Packers, three of the original teams in the league from the early 1920s. Can you name the AFC team? It's the Pittsburgh Steelers, a franchise that began in 1933.

***

As Seattle marched to the 2013 NFL playoffs, a local car dealer came up with what he thought was a tremendous late-season promotion. Through the first 14 weeks there had been but a single shutout throughout the league, so the dealer offered to split $420,000 among 12 lucky fans if the Seahawks shut out the Giants. Final score: Seattle 23, New York 0. Perhaps the dealer didn’t notice that it was the Giants who had suffered that lone shutout. Fortunately for him, an insurance policy covered all but $7,000 of the payout.

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Notre Dame's bench celebrates during Saturday's game against New Trier.
The Trevians won on a last-second 3-pointer. | PATRICK GLEASON FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Another tough test
After falling to New Trier on Saturday, Dons play host Friday to Marian Catholic and Kentucky recruit Tyler Ulis
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.
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