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Four hundred years later Romeo and Juliet still resonates

BY NATALIE HAYES
For Sun-Times Media | @NatHayReporter

Where art thou Romeo? Juliet and her star-crossed lover will take the stage at Niles West High School this week for a string of performances of the classic tragic romance of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, retold with a tenacious modern twist.

Niles West Theatre breathes new life into the 400-year-old tale by infusing Shakespearean dialogue with a modern-day setting instilled with not only tragic romance set to underground hip-hop music but heated politics and a youth-led social uprising.

Andy Sinclair, theater director at Niles West, said he hopes the modern take on the classic play will resonate with District 219 high school students, who read the play in freshman year English class.

The story has all the drama, feuding, romance and death as the original—but it addresses modern-day issues like youth-led social uprisings as exemplified with Occupy Wall Street and the revolutionary wave of civil resistance in the Middle East.

"The blueprint is a town square in disrepair and ruin as society tears itself apart when the young try to take over from the old," Sinclair said.

Sinclair also sheds new light on questions left unanswered by the original—such as why the Capulet's and Montague's hate each other in the first place.

To fill that gap, the two families become fierce political foes when Montague and Lady Capulet are pitted against one another as they vie to win a mayoral election.

The added political conflict accomplishes two things: it sets a deeper context from which the story unfolds, while lending women a stronger voice, Sinclair said.

"Shakespeare didn't write a lot for the ladies beyond the roles of Juliet and the nurse, so I wanted to add a pivotal female role," Sinclair said. "I love when a piece of art can be looked at differently years later."

The show runs at the Black Box Theater, 5701 W. Oakton St., Skokie. Performance times are 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Feb. 21 and 22, and a free community performance will be held at 10 a.m. Feb. 20.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $7 for students, seniors and children. To purchase tickets, call the box office at 847-636-2633 or go to www.nileswesttheatre.com.
Adding two extra lanes to the westernmost stretch of the Kennedy Expressway doesn't bother Demetrios Agalianos. But a wall just feet from his Northwest Side home — meant to lessen noise from the busy expressway — isn't sounding as sweet.

"Expansion is fine, but no wall," Agalianos said. "It will ruin the view."

Agalianos was one of a number of impacted residents who attended a Feb. 13 public presentation of the Illinois Department of Transportation's most recent plans for an expansion of L-90 between East River Road and Harlem Avenue. The presentation took place at the Holiday Inn Chicago O'Hare.

The plans, which have been revised since a similar meeting was held nearly one year ago, call for an additional eastbound lane between Cumberland Avenue and Harlem Avenue and adding a westbound lane between Harlem and Cumberland, with two separated "local lanes" for drivers exiting to Cumberland, I-90 and southbound I-294.

A direct ramp connecting the Jane Addams Tollway with southbound Cumberland Avenue is also proposed.

State and federal funding has not yet been approved for the project, estimated to cost $43 million.

"Depending on priority and funding availability, this project could be added to the program at any time," said John Baczek of IDOT.

Expanding the expressway, said Baczek, will make it "safer and more efficient for the traffic that's out there today," though he did acknowledge that traffic could increase if drivers who currently avoid the Kennedy because of existing congestion decide to return.

The project, if funded, would tie in with a proposed I-190 flyover ramp sending eastbound traffic directly to the Cumberland exits. The flyover still awaits funding approval.

Sound insulation is planned for long stretches of the project area, largely in areas where homes are nearby. The walls will range from 9 feet to 23 feet in height, said Mike Zabel of HNTB, an infrastructure firm working with IDOT. The reduction in noise as a result of the walls is estimated at between 5 and 14 decibels, Zabel said.

"It's pitiful, if you ask me," said Joellen Dobos, a resident of unincorporated Norwood Park Township, just south of the expressway, explaining that the expected reduction in noise pales in comparison to the aesthetic impact a sound wall will have on the neighborhood.

"I'll feel like I'm living in a fortress," she said. "If the wall needs to be 21 feet high just to reduce 5 decibels of noise, to me that's not worth it."

Neighbor Barbara Glasglo expressed concerns about whether the walls would be maintained well by IDOT, while Pat Senco said the wall could impact safety and crime as it would block off a residential street from view.

Last year, residents living on Bryn Mawr Avenue, which faces the expressway, had concerns about increased noise from expansion and expressed a desire for a sound barrier.

There are no plans for a sound wall along the north side of the Kennedy, which passes through Park Ridge.

Residents living in areas where walls are proposed will have an opportunity to vote as to whether they want them. If less than 50 percent are in favor, the walls will not be recommended, said Zabel.

If the Kennedy is expanded, the current plans do not call for any impacts to the existing CTA Blue Line tracks or the Cumberland Avenue pedestrian bridge, Baczek said.
Cameras, stadium lighting on tap at Maine Township high schools

Maine Township High School District 207 is getting ready for the second year of a long-term capital improvement program, with plans to install new security cameras and stadium lighting this upcoming summer.

Mechanical upgrades, roofing, paving, window replacements, and carpeting are also on the "to do" list.

Officials on Feb. 3 approved $5.45 million in low bids for the construction projects at all three high schools.

An additional $255,815 was allocated for asbestos abatement and window demolition.

Building and Grounds Committee members reviewed and expressed support for the bid recommendations on Jan. 28.

Most projects came in under budget. Mechanical work — the biggest expenditure at $1.6 million — will be costlier than first anticipated since improvements to Maine South's locker rooms, fitness center and weight room were added to the workload.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Mary Kalou said district has run into problems as of late with the school's existing fan coil units since the aging ventilators are 50 years old.

"We know that should we go another winter with these, it's likely we'll see that same kind of failure," she said.

Roughly $752,000 is allocated for roof restoration and replacement work at facilities on all three campuses.

Next fall the athletic fields at Maine East and Maine West will be lit by Musco Lighting, which specializes in the design and manufacture of sports-lighting systems. Maine South got updated stadium lighting five years ago.

Four new light poles will be installed at the two locations. The price tag for the energy-efficient systems is $603,100.

Board member Sean Sullivan added he would like the district to consider further improving the fields with turf though it is not a listed priority of the 10-year plan.

Replacing pavement in teacher and student lots at Maine East, the cafeteria lot and back drive of Maine South, and the back circle of Maine West will cost about $424,600.

Mike Galis, the director of facilities and purchasing, said the installation of 14 new windows on the first and second floors at Maine East should take care of previous water leakage problems.

Summer classes at the high school would not be disrupted, he noted.

A digital system will replace manual controls in Maine South elevators. Also, new interior and exterior panels along with door operator will meet accessibility standards.

Unlike most school systems, District 207 has chosen not to borrow money to pay for the capital improvements.

"We are clearly living within our existing resources and funding our projects for what we can afford and what we have the capacity to do," Kalou said. "On the flip side of that, there are projects we have had to say no to."

An unexpected surplus of cash, however, is allowing District 207 to beef up its security.

At a cost just over $1 million, approximately 120 new cameras with facial recognition software will be installed across the three campuses.

Located in the interior and exterior of the schools, the security cameras will operate on stand-alone networking systems with remote access capabilities for Park Ridge and Des Plaines fire and police.

Board member Jin Lee asked how the district would strike a balance between student security and privacy.

Sullivan pointed out there is no legal expectation of privacy in public schools.

"In this day and age, with all these active shootings that occur, I don't know of anybody who has complained even at the college level of having cameras there to help deter any type of criminal activity," he said.

Galis collaborated with the schools' technology staff to identify key spots in the buildings to place the cameras. In addition to having local law enforcement's eyes on the schools, administrators hope the presence of cameras would discourage students from engaging in acts of vandalism and theft.
Family: Missing SIU student found dead

A Southern Illinois University student from north suburban Morton Grove, missing for nearly a week, has been found dead, according to a message posted on a Facebook page started for the missing man.

Pravin M. Varughese, 19, was last seen about 11 p.m. Wednesday in the 900 block of West College Street in Carbondale, according to Carbondale police.

"On behalf of our family, we wanted to thank you all for your kind words, endless support and prayers for Pravin. Authorities have confirmed this morning that they have found his body," the family's statement read.

"We ask that you continue to keep Pravin's parents and sisters in your prayers as we go through this difficult time and mourn the loss of a beloved Son, Brother, Grandson, Nephew, Cousin and Friend." Carbondale police would not confirm Varughese's death, but have scheduled a press conference for 2 p.m. SIU's Pi Sigma Epsilon AB chapter tweeted, "Today we lost a brother, a member, and a friend. R.I.P. Dev. You will always be family to us and forever in our hearts." The Saluki family lost one of its own today. Keep Pravin Varughese's family and friends in your thoughts & prayers. #RIPPravin an SIUC Student government group tweeted.

His sister, Priya Varughese, said he, his cousin and a roommate had all gone to a house party in that area that night.

His most recent post on Twitter, sent about 11:17 p.m. Wednesday night, reads, "Bloody knuckles ... guess I was in a fight #backdown." Pravin Varughese, originally from Morton Grove, was a sophomore at SIU studying criminal justice, his sister said. He lived in an off-campus apartment with his cousin and another roommate.

Relatives, friends and members of his church traveled to Carbondale to help search for him. They also set up a Facebook page, "Missing: Pravin Varughese" to share updates.

The family was offering a reward of at least $15,000 for information leading to his recovery, police said.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call Carbondale police at (618) 457-3200 or Crime Stoppers at (618) 549-2877.

Army investigating Morton Grove soldier's death

Sgt. Okan Murat Cetinbag, 24, of Morton Grove, was hospitalized after being injured Feb. 7 at his home on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, according to a statement from the U.S. Army.

He was removed from life support and pronounced dead at 6:25 p.m. Tuesday at Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage, the statement said. His family was in attendance.

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is investigating the infantryman's death, but details on his injuries, and the cause and manner of death were being withheld Friday as the investigation continues.

Cetinbag joined the Army in January 2013 and was assigned to Anchorage in June, according to the statement. He had a combat tour in Afghanistan with the U.S. Marine Corps in 2010.
POLICE BLOTTER

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

THEFT

Kulsam Merchant, 43, of 8255 Kilpatrick Ave., Skokie, was charged with felony theft on Feb. 12. Police said that between Nov. 28 and Feb. 12, Merchant, an employee at Target, 6150 W. Touhy Ave., under-rang merchandise, voided merchandise and applied nonexistent coupons to purchases made by his family members. The total loss to the store was $750, police said. Merchant has a March 26 court date.

JESSICA GUERRERO

Jessica Guerrero, 22, of 1100 S. Forums Court, Wheeling, was charged with driving under the influence and driving without her license present on Feb. 8 following an accident at the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Ballard Road at 2:15 a.m. Police said Guerrero disregarded a traffic signal and struck another vehicle while making a turn. She has a March II court date.

CRIME BRIEFS

NILES

BATTERY

A 40-year-old man told police that the driver of another vehicle spit in his face through the open window of his car on the afternoon of Feb. 7. The incident occurred in a parking lot on the 8500 block of Golf Road after the victim said he was nearly struck by the other car and told the driver to watch his speed, police said. The alleged offender was last seen driving west through the parking lot toward Milwaukee Avenue.

DECEPTIVE PRACTICE

Police said a caller, claiming to be with “ComEd collections,” attempted on Feb. 10 to get a 60-year-old man to purchase two Green Dot prepaid debit cards, put $745 on the cards and then transfer the money by calling back and reading the card numbers to the caller. The caller reportedly told the man that he had an outstanding electric bill for his restaurant on the 9600 block of Milwaukee Avenue and needed to pay it or the electricity would be shut off that night. The man did not purchase the cards and instead called police who told him the call was a scam to steal his money.

BURGLARY TO VEHICLE

A computer and computer tablet were stolen on the afternoon of Feb. 8 from a vehicle parked outside Super H Mart, 801 Civic Center Drive.

THEFT

A man told police that he discovered his car keys missing from his locker at XSport Fitness, 9210 N. Milwaukee Ave., on the morning of Feb. 7 and then realized his car was stolen from the parking lot. As the man was looking around the lot, he reportedly received a phone call from a friend who said he was following the victim’s car on southbound I-94 near the Hinsdale Oasis, police said. Illinois State Police were contacted, but the man’s friend said he lost sight of the vehicle near the Ogden Avenue exit, according to police.

MORTON GROVE

FRAUD

Police said a person sent an email to a victim on the 9000 block of Neenah Avenue in Morton Grove Feb. 4 pretending to be American Express. The victim replied to the email with unknown information, and later learned the email was not from American Express, police said.

BURGLARY TO VEHICLE

A towonehouse on the 7700 block of Nordica Avenue was burglarized between Jan. 30 and Feb. 11 while the residents were away, police said. Several pieces of jewelry and an envelope containing approximately $2,000 in cash were reported stolen. Police said there were no signs of forced entry.

BURGLARY

A townhouse on the 7700 block of Nordica Avenue was burglarized between Jan. 30 and Feb. 11 while the residents were away, police said. Several pieces of jewelry and an envelope containing approximately $2,000 in cash were reported stolen. Police said there were no signs of forced entry.

LIBERTYVILLE

BURGLARY

Police said someone entered a vehicle on the 7600 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

TRENSPASSING

Police said someone entered a vehicle on the 7700 block of Church Street Feb. 10 and opened every compartment. The victims told police nothing was missing.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

A woman told police the rear window of her van was smashed on the night of Feb. 12 while she was shopping inside a store on the 9500 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

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Niles North Varsity cheerleaders remain conference champions

BY NATALE HAYES
For Sun-Times Media I @NalHayesreporter

The Niles North Varsity cheerleading team fell five places short of making it to the state finals this year, but the squad has maintained their running title of conference champs for the second year in a row.

The 24-member coed team started the month off strong when they placed second behind Buffalo Grove High School at the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Cheer Sectional in Rolling Meadows Feb. 2.

The Vikings cheerleaders had to place in the top ten at the IHSA Cheerleading State Final preliminary rounds in downstate Bloomington Feb. 7 and 8 to make the state finals, but the team placed 15th out of 25 teams competing in the "coed team" category of that round.

Head coach of Niles North Varsity cheerleading Aleka Landon said the sport has grown increasingly competitive during recent years as a result of IHSA competition officials putting into place new requirements for higher-level tumbling and stunts to appear in competitive cheer routines.

This year's cheerleading team presented a special challenge for the varsity-level coaches because 13 new cheerleaders joined the squad after that many seniors graduated.

The 24-member coed team competing in the "coed team" category of that round.

The Varsity Niles North Cheerleading team at the CSL Conference held at Niles West Jan. 9. Niles North won the Coed Division at that conference. (PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEKA LANDON)

The sport has been getting more intense over the years as the level of tumbling and the difficulty of stunting increases," Landon said. "It gets harder to get to that point each year."

Landon started coaching cheerleading at Niles North two years ago, but has been coaching the sport since 1999.

She and two other cheer coaches — varsity coach Natalie Hoss and tumbling coach Josef Zajciew — spend four nights a week in three-hour practice sessions with the team preparing them for home sports games and competition season.

This year's cheerleading team is to enhance the quality of educational services provided to students by facilitating the involvement of parents who are English language learners," according to the agreement.

Programs offered by the center, the agreement specifies, include English literacy programs, family literacy classes, parent education courses, local transportation services to and from the center, which is housed in the District 68 administrative building, access to municipal resources, translation services, a native language news library and many others.

All center operations, activities and programs are funded through dues paid by districts as well as grants received by the state and federal government and private donations.
Incoming Park Ridge-Niles District 64 Superintendent Laurie Heinz won’t collect all the same benefits as her predecessor, but she will earn more money.

The Board of Education on Jan. 30 authorized a three-year contract and compensation package for the new administrator through June 30, 2017.

Heinz will receive a base salary of $201,000 when she takes over the leadership post July 1. District 64 will also pay her a per diem rate of $773.08 for each day worked in May and June during the transition.

Heinz is scheduled to get 20 vacation days and three personal days a year during her tenure. Her health and dental insurance and sick leave allotment will be comparable to that offered to teachers under the collective bargaining agreement.

Under the performance-based agreement, Heinz must meet the following goals: evaluate student performance, review curriculum and instructional services, review school finances, and report to board findings related to student performance and recommendations for curriculum or instructional changes.

Bender joined District 64 in 2010 after overseeing a small kindergarten through high-school district located outside of South Bend, Ind. In his first year he earned $185,000, plus an $800-per-month travel reimbursement, among other benefits. He was also given a moving allowance up to $10,000.

Bender received a 2.5-percent pay raise in 2011, increasing his salary to $189,625. He hasn’t seen a raise since then, though an adjustment to his agreement two years ago allows him to swap up to 14 unused vacation days a year for compensation.

Officials decided to eliminate the cash buy-back for unused days and fixed mileage stipend in Heinz’s contract. However, she will receive an annual communication stipend of $1,320 for using a personally-owned cell phone and/or tablet for work purposes.

Ending the practice of “back door benefits” is one way District 64 is reining its expenses, said School Board President Anthony Borrelli.

Heinz’s six-figure salary falls off the lower-end of the spectrum for administrative compensation.

Still, the rate at which pay is increasing is comparable to what’s happening in the private sector, Borrelli said, and public entities shouldn’t expect to keep up.

“Contracts are getting out of hand,” he acknowledged. “Salaries are rising beyond what is sustainable.”

But with superintendents increasingly making lateral moves, competition among districts to retain good talent is fierce. And not much talks more than money.

“People are entitled to the best compensation package they can get,” Borrelli said. “Except there has to be a reasonable ceiling at some point so the burden on the taxpayer is relieved.”

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Edison School's anti-bullying campaign a swimming success

BY GAIL SAUNDERS
For Sun-Times Media

Edison School is taking steps to stop bullying before it even starts.

Although faculty and staff have been working to make children more sensitive to the feelings of others throughout the year, this is the first year that their programs have come together to culminate in an anti-bullying day, which will take place on Feb. 26.

On that day, everyone has been asked to wear pink clothes and will be given pink wristbands to wear.

The color allegedly came to symbolize anti-bullying after a 2007 YouTube video featured two Nova Scotia teens buying and distributing 50 pink shirts after a ninth-grade boy committed the fashion faux pas of wearing one the first day of school.

"We don't want students to be bystanders. We want them to be upstanders," said Edison School Principal Lisa Buizoni by phone.

The day is part of the school's anti-bullying agenda in a program woven into the curriculum during the year. At the beginning of the year, the fourth- and fifth-graders were asked to sign an anti-bullying banner as part of Rachel's Challenge, a program named for Rachel Scott, a student killed at Columbine. Each week, classrooms hold meetings using Second Step, a character education program that covers anti-bullying.

"When we take it down to the elementary level," said Buizoni. "We ask them, 'How do we treat other people? How does someone who's being bullied feel?'"

In addition, the school, which houses third- through fifth-graders, rewards their students with a cutout of their mascot, the blue dolphin, for good behavior. A child can receive one for remembering to push chairs in after the other students have forgotten to before leaving the room, or for picking up after someone who's accidentally dropped something in the hallway or for consistently handing in homework.

"We make it about effort, that a student did something without prompting," she said. "The kids feel really good when they get a dolphin. They're walking down the hall with it. Even our custodians and nurse say something to the children when they see them. We try to make as big a deal as possible to reinforce the good choices they are making."

Once a child receives a dolphin, he goes to the office and drops it into a box in the front lobby. The next morning after the daily announcements and the pledge, three to five dolphins are randomly picked from the box and the names are read over the intercom.

This year, the school has added the golden dolphin for behavior that goes above and beyond. For example, outside at recess one day a student included a non-verbal special needs child in her play time.

"Making that child feel comfortable and accepted is what we want for all children," Buizoni said.

Only six golden dolphins are placed in the faculties' mailboxes each week. After a child receives one, he picks a number from one to 100, and the number is placed on a bingo board in the hallway. Once a row of ten is filled, all recipients are rewarded with a celebration like a dance party or with treats like popcorn or pretzels.

There have been fewer and fewer office referrals since this program has gone into effect.

"It's terrific when we see a change in our students who have been recognized as making a positive change in the classroom," she said. "Sometimes it's not tangible, but it's just as important."
HELP SQUAD

Opposite of a pipe dream?
A pipe nightmare!

HELP SQUAD
BY
JACKIE PILOSSOPH

It's been a winter that Chicagoans won't soon forget. We've had more than 61 inches of snow so far, and 21 days when the temperature has dropped below zero. And it's still only February!

The bitter cold and snow could take a toll on your home, specifically your pipes and water system, which could end up costing you thousands of dollars. Thankfully, there are some things you can do to prevent disasters, such as pipes bursting and ice dams in your gutters.

Help Squad checked in with Northbrook-based general contractor, Dave Lupfer, who said he's seen more frozen pipes this winter than any winter he can remember. And as we all know, a frozen pipe can burst, causing water to spray everywhere, which will ultimately result in flooding, especially if you're not home when it happens!

Lupfer offered these frozen pipe prevention tips:

1. Inspect your home and pinpoint vulnerable areas.
   Pipes that are near outside walls and windows are most susceptible to becoming frozen. Check all faucets in your home periodically to make sure water is coming out.

2. Call a professional.
   If no water is coming out and pipe is frozen, shut off your main water valve and call a contractor or plumber immediately. A pipe repair costs a couple hundred dollars, according to Lupfer, versus potentially thousands to repair the damage if it bursts.

3. Preventative maintenance pays off.
   Call an insulation contractor or a roofer to check your attic for sufficient insulation. It should have at least 10 inches of insulation. Insufficient insulation can lead to ice dams in your gutters, which can leak through your roof as the ice melts. The cost of the inspection: a couple hundred dollars. The cost of drywall damage, patching and painting: several hundred.

4. Out of town?
   If you leave town, leave your heat on and set your thermostat to a temperature no lower than 55 degrees. If you are going out of town for an extended period of time, consider turning off your main water valve, in case a pipe freezes. There are also new technologies, such as temperature and water sensors, which will send you an email if the temperature in your home drops below 55 degrees, or if it detects water on your floor. According to Lupfer, alarm companies offer these services.

A face cord versus a full cord

In the Help Squad column, "Costs of keeping the fire burning," published on Feb. 6, we described a full cord of wood, and then gave the cost of a face cord at $225. We apologize that we did not differentiate between a full cord and a face cord. According to a representative at Platt Hill Nursery in Bloomingdale, a face cord is a stack of wood that measures 4 feet by 8 feet and costs $179.95. A full cord is double the amount of wood, and half a face cord measures four feet by four feet (half the amount) and costs $99.95. However, Platt Hill and several other store representatives told us they do not have much wood left. Firewood is available in bundles (five or six logs) at Platt Hill for $6.95. Hope that helps and sorry for the mistake!

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Reg. $495, after 1pm: $249.99. Only at Macy's.

DOORBUSTER
50% OFF
DOORBUSTERS 50% OFF DRESSES

DOORBUSTER
29.99
JEANS FOR HER
Reg. $54-$59, after 1pm: $32-$43.40. Only at Macy's.

DOORBUSTER
69.99
COATS
Reg. (Orig.) $225, after 1pm: $197.99. London Fog peacoat with scarf (WebID 856786) or Calvin Klein down coat with hood, Misses.

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SELECT BRA'S
Reg. $33-$60, after 1pm: buy 1, get 1/2 off 2nd. Bali, Warner's, Maidenform & all Playtex. Shown: Bali Double Support (WebID 566829).

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60% OFF
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DOORBUSTER
39.99
SPORTSWEATSHIRTS
Reg. $55-$59, after 1pm: $34.99. From Unlisted by Kenneth Cole & our Alfani.

DOORBUSTER
49.99
DIAMOND BANGLE
Reg. $200, after 1pm: $99.99. Only at Macy's.

DOORBUSTER
$199 DIAMOND EARRINGS
Reg. $800, after 1pm: $315. 1/2 ct. tw., 14k white gold (WebID 590445).

DOORBUSTER
EXTRA 20% OFF
SHOES & BOOTS

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SPORTSWEATSHIRTS
Reg. $35-$49, after 1pm: $24.99. Only at Macy's.

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SPORTSWEATSHIRTS
Reg. $35-$49, after 1pm: $24.99. Only at Macy's.

DOORBUSTER
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SPORTSWEATSHIRTS
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Reg. $35-$49, after 1pm: $24.99. Only at Macy's.
Help stop distracted driving

“Drop it and drive.”

Chances are, at some point, you’ve uttered a phrase like that after witnessing someone on the road talking, texting or surfing the Web on their cell phone while driving.

Statistics confirm what many motorists continue to ignore: distracted driving is dangerous and deadly. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, drivers using hand-held phones are four times more likely to get into an accident causing injuries. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration reports that more than 3,300 fatalities nationwide about 10 percent of all traffic deaths occur as a result of distracted driving.

And, in Illinois, nearly 6,000 crashes occurred from 2008 to 2012 in which some form of driver distraction involving a cell phone was cited by police, according to the Illinois Department of Transportation. Of those, 30 were fatal.

These are preventable tragedies.

Gov. Pat Quinn along with Secretary of State Jesse White are leading efforts to help save lives by cracking down on distracted driving. This past summer, Quinn signed into law a ban on the use of hand-held cell phones while driving in Illinois and increased penalties where use of an electronic device leads to a crash resulting in serious injuries.

The new state law prohibits motorists from talking on all but hands-free mobile phones while driving. Get caught talking, texting or surfing the Web while driving? Under the new law, fines start at $75. Drivers could pay $150 for repeat offenses and may eventually have their license suspended. Drivers who cause fatal crashes while using a hand-held electronic device could serve up to three years in prison.

The tragic results caused by the growing epidemic of distracted driving are why we have come together to launch a new public awareness campaign. Our goal is to educate drivers about the hand-held ban that took effect this year and remind motorists that if they drive with a phone in one hand, they can expect a ticket in the other.

We are doing our part to spread the word. But, drivers need to do their part, as well, by making the decision to focus 100 percent on driving every trip, every time.

For details about how to participate, visit www.dropitanddriveillinois.com.

Despite all the dire warnings and forecasts of disaster, the Sochi Winter Olympic Games are proving, to me at least, that I do love the spectacle, the drama and the hoopla of the games, and I admire the performance of the athletes.

Sure, the opening ceremonies were perhaps too much spectacle and too much “what the heck was that?” But that’s Russia — sweeping history, over-the-top arts and drama upon drama in its literature.

Words of advice from a literature professor on my first encounter with Dostoevsky still ring in my ears: Get a good translation, especially one that lists all the characters and their names and nicknames, read at least 100 pages on the first sitting, and expect a grand, sweeping story, because Russian literature is like the country — immense.

So the games have given us a glimpse into Russia, which is kind of a welcoming spectacle for those whose picture of the world was shaped by the Cold War and the everlasting fear of a world dominated by the Soviet Union.

Now when I hear that the Russians dominate pairs skating, I no longer imagine, “Oh, great, the Soviets are taking over the world.” Instead, I think, “Why not?” The Austrians are good at Alpine skiing, the Dutch can speed skate and the Russians are great at ballet, too.

I also have come to enjoy all the new events that have come into the Olympics as offshoot of the X Games — the snowboarding events is gone.

Finally, we have hockey. There will never be another miracle like 1980, but that’s OK. This year, no matter what happens, the NHL wins. Go Hawks!

Sochi 2014: Not your father’s Soviet Games

BY RANDY BLASER

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iret Gimayev (top) take part in a hockey game with the stars of Soviet hockey in Sochi in January. (Photo: Reuters)

“So the games have given us a glimpse into Russia, which is kind of a welcoming spectacle for those whose picture of the world was shaped by the Cold War and the everlasting fear of a world dominated by the Soviet Union.”

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

Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. Niles Herald-Spectator reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and content. All letters must be signed to be published.
Who'd want to steal my identity?

I worry, therefore I am.

As an all-the-time worrier, I'm constantly on the lookout for something new to worry about. And I thought I had found it based on the following three occurrences:

1. I have shopped at Target in the last several months.

2. My aging computer is becoming arthritic. If I have to replace it (assuming I can afford to), what will happen to all my secret info in the old computer?

3. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan was quoted as saying identity theft is the second-most-frequent consumer complaint. (The first is against mortgage companies and bill collectors — surprise, surprise.)

Something new to worry about:

Identity theft.

I feared I would be identity thefted. I mean, I feared I would become the victim of identity theft.

But as I am a worrier, I also am an adapter. Soon I began to think: Would it be so bad if someone stole my identity?

I don't have much — very little money, an old car. I don't own much except a lot of books. I have arthritis and other odds-and-ends ailments. I'm overweight and balding. And my cat doesn't particularly like me.

So, if some guy wants to steal my identity he's welcome to it.

Let him be Paul Sassone for a while. See how he likes it.

I have a hunch he and I might make history together:

"Stolen identity returned."

"In the first case of its kind, an alleged identity thief has returned the identity he allegedly stole to its original owner telling police even his own identity was better ..."


Speaking of cake, what's that chemical they put in bread and cake that also is used to make exercise mats? I'm worried about that.
FEATURED HOME

BY AGGREGO NEWS SERVICE

$419,000

AGENT Violetta Janik, Broker's Pro, 708-539-6508

9927 N. Huber Lane, Niles

House size: 2,100 square feet
Lot size: 8,161 square feet
Year built: 1963
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2.5
Garage: Two-car attached
Property tax: $7,988.54 (2012)
Exterior: Brick
School districts: East Maine School District 63 and Niles Township Community High School District 219

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

W O U D  Y O U G I V E Y O U R K E Y S TO A S T R A N G E R ?

To a scammer, your Medicare card is the key to stealing your benefits.

Here's how you can protect against health care fraud:
- Don't give your Medicare number to strangers
- Check medical bills and statements
- Report errors and suspicious charges

To report fraud or ask for more prevention tips, contact AgeOptions.
(800)699-9043
www.illinoisSMP.org

Pioneer Press Mortgage Guide

Check rates daily at http://suburbanchicagonewspapers.interest.com

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Fannie Mae HARP program available. Call today!
(800)699-9043
www.illinoisSMP.org

This project was supported in part by grant numbers SOMPO1G3 and 90MPO05 from the US Administration on Aging, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration on Aging policy.
PROPERTY TRANSFERS
BY AGGREGO NEWS SERVICE

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

Niles
7081 W Touhy Ave, #309: Maureen Serb Trust, Mary E Stanton Trust and E Stanton Mary Trust to Lourdes Dacuñas for $200,000 on Dec. 30

Morton Grove
9220 Odell Ave: Lidya Many to Tavga Morton Grove for $200,000 on Dec. 30

Park Ridge
5156 Oakton St: Stanislav Smolen to Anna Nachman for $75,000 on Jan. 3

Skokie
5931 Jarvis Ave: 5931 Jarvis LLC to Katarzyna Serb Trust, Mary E Stanton Trust and E Stanton Trust for $1,587,500 on Jan. 3

Des Plaines
8816 Dee Road: Sheharyar Parekh to Jamal Aziz for $75,000 on Jan. 2

Kenilworth
622 Melrose Ave: William R Steiner and Caroline F Steiner for $1,248,000 on Jan. 2

Mount Prospect
915 S Oka Ave: Paramount Property Group LLC to Nathan K Varjavandi and Kerry L Varjavandi for $270,000 on Dec. 30

Northbrook
1755 Happ Road: Thomas E Glasser, Thomas E Glaser, Catherine Marlas and Catherine Glasser to Realty Investments LLC for $300,000 on Jan. 2

Park Ridge
1350 Western Ave: Paul Petruccelli to Evan Budin and Brynne Budin for $715,000 on Dec. 30

Silvis
3873 Mission Hills Road, #3: Frederick Page and Jennifer Green to Benjamin D Steiner and Robert F Steiner for $375,000 on Jan. 3

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Content appears as
NILES
THURSDAY, FEB. 20

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.

Niles Songwriters' Group
7 p.m.: Singers and songwriters share work and give helpful feedback. 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.

Korean Game Time
4 p.m.: All ages are invited to try traditional Korean family games, presented by Niles West High School Korean Club students. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

The Shakespeare Project: 'The Two Gentlemen of Verona'
6:45 p.m.: Written by William Shakespeare, directed by Jeff Christian. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

MONDAY, FEB. 24

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.

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.

TUESDAY, FEB. 25

CJE SeniorLife Resource Counseling
1:30 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.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Happening Nearby
THURSDAY, FEB. 20

Financial and Legal Professionals Roundtable
7:30 a.m.: All licensed professionals in the financial, insurance, banking, legal and accounting industries are invited to discuss and share information regarding their specific field. Registration required. Oakton Park, 4701 W. Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-673-0240.

Genealogy Help
9 a.m.: A representative from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution will be at the library to answer any genealogy questions. This service will be available on the third Thursday of each month, September through May. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-929-3123.

Smart Travels with RTA
1:30 p.m.: RTA Mobility Services Outreach specialist Kristen Salkas teaches attendees how to use the RTA safely, easily and affordably. Mather's, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 847-929-3123.

Community Education for Youth & Adults with Developmental Disabilities
6 p.m.: Emily Tegenkamp presents a program titled "Anger & Anxiety Management for People with Disabilities." Jewish Child & Family Services, 5150 W. Golf Road, Skokie. Call 773-487-3741.

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

FRIDAY, FEB. 21

Skokie Chamber Breakfast Club
7:30 a.m.: Moderated by Catherine Johns, these meetings offer each attendee a chance to speak about their business, network with over 40 other professional community members, and interactively learn about monthly business topics. The cost covers breakfast. Hampton Inn & Suites, 5201 Old Orchard Road, Skokie. Call 847-673-6240. $15-$25.

Rummage Sale and Bake Sale
8 a.m.: Proceeds from the rummage sale will go towards improvements for the church building, and bake sale proceeds will go to A Just Harvest soup kitchen. Runs 8 a.m.-4 p.m. March 21-22 and after 10 a.m. morning worship March 23. Edgebrook Evangelical Covenant Church, 6355 N. Spokane Ave., Chicago. Call 773-763-4230.

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

Crafts and Cocoa
1 p.m.: Enjoy hot chocolate while creating a winter-themed project. For ages 8 and older. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, 6820 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-966-5522. $25-$60.

FRIDAY, FEB. 22

Playdate with Nature
9 a.m.: Games, crafts and educational activities based around the seasonal nature theme of the day.

SEE CALENDAR. NEXT PAGE »
Registration required. Wildwood Nature Center, 529 Forsyth Avenue, Park Ridge. Call 847-692-5127.

**Skokie Art Guild**

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

**Fun with Fruit and Fabric Painting**

10 a.m.: Craft guru Shari Pontillo will show attendees how to use apples and celery to paint designs on fabric. For ages 12 and up; materials provided. 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. Call 847-965-4220.

**Two Brothers Brewery Tour**

11:30 a.m.: Join friends for a trip to the Two Brothers Brewery. Attendees can learn about the equipment, ask questions and sample the product. Must be 21 or older to attend. Registration ends Feb. 13. Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 W. Sibley St., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-5127. $10.

**Indian Scout Daddy Daughter Glitz and Clam Gala**

6:30 p.m.: A Hollywood daddy daughter party that includes dancing, refreshments, photos and a red carpet. For ages 12 and up; materials provided. 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. Call 847-965-4220.

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**Party with the Park**

7 p.m.: This sixth-grade social includes a DJ, inflatables, an open gym, swimming, wallyball, ping pong and racquetball. Snacks and soft drinks are available for purchase. No admittance after 7:30 p.m.; pick-up is at 9. Park Ridge Community Center, 1515 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-5129. $5.

**SUNDAY, FEB. 23**

**Wisconsin Dells Winter Getaway**

8 a.m.: Join the Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation for a two-day trip to the Wisconsin Dells. The group plans to stay at the Great Wolf Lodge, enjoy the indoor water park, go horseback riding on the outdoor trails and more. Participants must be 18 or older and should pack an overnight bag with a labeled towel and swim suit. Lodging, meals, admission fees and horseback riding are included in the program fee. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, 6820 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-966-5522. $260-$530.

**Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser**

8 a.m.: All ages are invited to spend the morning enjoying pancakes. The event includes hourly raffles and a grand prize of four tickets to the Chicago Bulls vs. San Antonio Spurs game in March. All proceeds help benefit the Cub Pack and Boy Scout Troop activities. St. Monica Academy, 5115 N. Mont Clare Ave., Chicago. $4-$6.

**Film & Discussion: 'Ahead of Time: The Extraordinary Journey of Ruth Gruber'**

1:30 p.m.: A screening of the documentary about the foreign correspondent and photojournalist, followed by a discussion with the film’s executive producer and Ruth Gruber herself, via Skype. Reservations required. Illinois Holocaust Museum, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie.

**MONDAY, FEB. 24**

**Retail Committee Meeting**

10:30 a.m.: Linda Russo of Cosa Linda Salon meets with members of the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce. All retail businesses are welcome to attend. Registration required. Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce, 720 Garden St., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3121.

**Celtic Nations Part VI: Wales**

1 p.m.: Sherry Avila explores the unique Celtic influence on Wales’s government, history, music, culture, language and more. Mather’s, 7341 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4604. $5 suggested donation.

**TUESDAY, FEB. 25**

**AARP Driver Safety Class**

9 a.m.: This two-day refresher course on road safety can qualify drivers for an insurance discount. Open to persons 55 years of age or older. Held 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Feb. 25 and 27. Call 847-692-9127 to register. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. $15 members; $20 nonmembers.

**Camera Club**

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

**Between the Lines Book Discussion**


**Life Transitions Group**

7 p.m.: A support group for men and women who have been widowed for one to four years. The group is volunteer-facilitated and held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Park Ridge Nonprofit Center, 720 Garden St., Park Ridge. Call 847-720-4170. $5 per session.
### BUILDING PERMITS

**EDITORS NOTE:** Content appears as it is provided in public records. To see all Niles and Morton Grove building permits, visit [niles suntimes.com](http://niles suntimes.com).

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Mariano's debuts in former Dominick's

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com / @Jen_Pioneer

"This is the second time I've cut a ribbon here," Bob Mariano remarked as a stream of shoppers entered the new Park Ridge Mariano's market at Cumberland Avenue and Higgins Road Tuesday morning.

Back in the fall of 1998, Mariano cut the ceremonial ribbon on the newly-built Dominick's store when he was CEO of the Chicago-based company. Nearly 16 years later, he was back as CEO of Roundy's to mark the conversion of the first of 11 former Dominick's stores to Mariano's Fresh Markets.

"The location is fairly prominent," he said when asked why the Park Ridge store - just steps from the I-90 on- and off-ramps - was chosen for conversion first. Up next is the Northfield location at 1822 Willow Road on Feb. 25.

"This is fun," Mariano added. "Park Ridge is a great community and this always was a great site. I'm glad to come back and reenergize it."

On the surface, the look and layout of much of the store hasn't changed that much from when it was Dominick's. Fresh produce is still spread across the north side of the store, the bakery in the back. The brightly-lit indoor-dining area overlooking the store from a second floor landing remains, as does a large liquor section in the southeast corner, including a familiar walk-in cooler, now featuring a variety of craft beers.

But shoppers will find groceries unique to Mariano's (many identified with color-coded labels as organic, vegan or gluten-free), as well as a sushi bar, fresh sandwiches, hot prepared meals, soup and salad bars, Sicilian-style pan pizza, and gelato. The in-store Starbucks has been replaced by a Vero Italian coffee bar, live music greets shoppers entering the northern doors, and a wine and beer bar is a new addition to the liquor area.

The Park Ridge location is one of "only a couple" Mariano's stores that features a wine bar where customers can have a glass of wine or a pint of beer, said Dana Schueler, senior marketing leader for the company.

Bob Mariano, also proud of the wine bar, said the store will eventually undergo a "major remodel" and he hopes to add new features.

"It's not much different, except for the new sign," noted Park Ridge resident Jason Rossi, a former Dominick's shopper who was among the customers checking out the grand opening. "We love Mariano's and it's a great addition to Park Ridge."

"So far it looks pretty good," said Elaine Cyze, also of Park Ridge, who lives within a couple blocks of the store and was a frequent shopper when it was Dominick's. She was in line to try the new Vero coffee.

"I couldn't wait for it to open again," Cyze said of the store.

John Smith, of Park Ridge, also noted that the store's overall appearance had not changed much, but for him, one thing was lacking.

"I'll miss the Starbucks coffee," he said, a cup of the Vero brand on his table.

Mariano's is staffed by slightly over 300 employees, but company representatives declined to say how many are former Dominick's workers.

Mariano's is open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Audition bloopers in the spotlight for Siddons benefit

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
For Sun-Times Media

Ever actor has an audition horror story. So some of Chicago's finest musical theater performers will share theirs in "God, I Think I Blew It!"

The performance, on Monday, March 3 at the Marriott Theatre, is a benefit for the Sarah Siddons Society of Chicago.

This is the third year that director Dominic Missimi has borrowed a line from the musical "A Chorus Line" for the show's title and theme. Two years ago, it was called, "God, I Hope I Get It!" last year, it was "God, I Think I Got It!"

"When we spend time together," Missimi said about the performers he has directed, "we always sit around and talk about all the crazy, funny things that happen to us at auditions. Somewhere along the line, they sang the wrong words, they sang the wrong song, they were auditioning for the stage manager, not the director."

Missimi decided it would be fun for audiences to hear some of those tales.

Three of the cast members, E. Faye Butler, Heidi Kettenring and Barbara E. Robertson, all won Leading Lady honors from the society, but they've also had some less glorious moments.

"We've all got some kind of horror stories," Butler insisted. "That's what makes you strong and gets you through the next step."

In addition to sharing her audition nightmare, Butler will sing two songs. At press time, only "Love, Look in My Window" was set. That song has particular significance for Butler.

"It was a song that was given to me by Jerry Herman," she related. "It was written for Ethel Merman for 'Dolly' and she never performed it." Merman was slated to play the lead in "Hello, Dolly" but when Carol Channing was cast instead, Herman put away five songs he had written because Channing wasn't a singer.

"When I had the opportunity to do 'Hello, Dolly!' in the early '90s at Drury Lane South, Jerry Herman gave me that song," Butler said. "It was a great honor to have a song that had never been done by anyone else."

Kettenring gladly agreed to talk about auditions gone awry when Missimi asked. "He's an old friend and an old teacher and has directed me many times," she said. "Whenever he puts something together, I know it's going to be great. And I've blown it several times so I have plenty of stuff to pull from."

Kettenring will sing the song "Millwork" from "Working" plus one other song that hadn't been selected at press time.

The cast for the benefit also includes Ross Lehman, Gene Weygandt, Dale Benson, Alene Robertson, Christine Mild, Alex Goodrich, Devin De Santis and Stephen Schellhardt. Doug Peck will be the pianist.

Proceeds of the benefit will help the Sarah Siddons Society continue its mission of supporting Chicago theater and providing scholarships to theater students at major Chicago area universities.
Violinist Rachel Barton Pine, one of Chicago's top musicians, visited students at Maine South and Maine East high schools in Park Ridge on Feb. 10.

Barton Pine took questions from the over 150 students in two workshops. Asking for their input, she included the students' suggestions of moods and emotions that can be expressed in musical performance. From classical to heavy metal, the range of her playing dazzled her audiences.

Barton Pine's school visits were in conjunction with her performance with the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra on Feb. 12 at the Pickwick Theatre. The PRCO offers free admission to all students ages 18.

The orchestra's next concerts are on March 12 and April 30. Tickets and information at parkridgecivicorchestra.org, or (847) 692-7726.

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.
Wedding rescheduled to accommodate family
Becky Silvermintz and Gary Craig

Becky Silvermintz and Gary Craig originally planned a larger wedding affair, with about 250 guests, for Labor Day weekend. Instead, they were married months earlier, in a quaint, intimate wedding with just 28 close friends and family members.

Becky, who grew up in Chesterfield, Mo., a suburb of St. Louis, and Gary, a Park Ridge native, met in August 2008 while attending Columbia College in Chicago. When Gary proposed, Becky had just one stipulation.

"I made him promise that if my brother got re-deployed and we could reschedule the wedding, that we would. My brother had missed a lot of other events in my life, so I was like, 'He is not missing this one,'" Becky said.

In April, the couple found out Becky's brother, Capt. Benjamin Silvermintz of the Army Reserves, would be leaving for his second tour in Afghanistan. Becky's late grandfather Dr. Saul Silvermintz also had been in poor health at the time, adding another reason for the couple to move up their wedding.

The couple married June 15 at Kemoll's a restaurant on the 40th and 42nd floors of the Metropolitan Square building in downtown St. Louis.

The ceremony space was decorated with a "family chuppah" one of Becky's cousins had crafted. Flowers are sewn in for every couple that gets married. For Becky and Gary, sunflowers, the state flower of Kansas, were added.

Gary, a marathoner, wore his "dressy" black Vibram FiveFingers shoes for the wedding. Becky wanted fun, comfortable shoes as well, so she wore red Converse sneakers.

Wedding colors were red and blue — red is Becky's favorite color and the color of her hometown baseball team, the St. Louis Cardinals. Gary is a Chicago Cubs fan, and the couple's loyalty to different sides of this rivalry is one of the few things they argue about, Becky said.

Becky and Gary lived together for three of the five years they'd been together before getting married, and neither expected things to feel different after their wedding.

"We have rings, so if anything we'll fiddle with our rings, but we were both expecting nothing to change," Gary said. "If anything, we love each other more."

Becky works in broadcasting with a group of radio stations in Kansas City, and Gary is in his final semester at University of Missouri-Kansas City and will graduate with a bachelor's degree in secondary education social studies.

The couple took a trip to Rome shortly after they got engaged, and instead of honeymooning, the couple plan to save for a larger European trip in the next few years.

They live in Kansas City with Athena, a miniature pinscher-chihuahua mix and Flexo, a miniature pinscher.

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
Brittany Buchanan & Brendan Crosby

Brittany, who grew up in Batavia, and Brendan, from Warrenville, married Dec. 28 at St. Katherine Drexel Church in Sugar Grove. Brittany teaches second grade in Yorkville, and Brendan is a sixth-grade teacher and wrestling coach in Plainfield.

The couple themed their Stonebridge Country Club reception in Aurora around their teaching profession. Bundles of pencils served as escort cards with guests’ table assignments. Table signs were displayed with math cards, such as “7 X 3” for 21.

They live in Sugar Grove.

PHOTO BY R.E.M. VIDEO & PHOTOGRAPHY

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rlee@bouquetcatcher.com

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SCORES | GAME STORIES | PLAYER PROFILES | VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS | AND MORE!

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.
Revelations for travelers stranded in Inge’s ‘Bus Stop’

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
For Sun-Times Media

Given the weather this winter, it’s easy to relate to the plight of the characters in “Bus Stop.” A blizzard has forced them to leave their bus and take refuge in a rural Kansas diner.

First-time director Joe Bonadonna of Elmwood Park, who is staging William Inge’s 1955 play for James Downing Theatre, opening Saturday, Feb. 22, has chosen to focus on the relationships between the confined people.

“There’s eight characters in the show and each character has a relationship with at least one other person,” Bonadonna said. In each case, the people involved don’t have the same outlook on that relationship, though.

Cherie (Chicagoan Sarah Reddy), an aspiring nightclub singer, initially wants nothing to do with Bo (Ben Page of Chicago), a young cowboy who is determined to marry her.

“I don’t usually get to play the ingénue role so I’m having a lot of fun with it,” Reddy said. “We’ve been working a lot on my dumbing her down because she’s a little less educated than myself.”

Cherie does have some good qualities, though. “She’s very high-energy, optimistic and a lovely person,” Reddy said. “She grew up in the Ozarks and got romantically involved with boys very young. Now she’s working in a sleazy nightclub. She’s searching for that special someone that will treat her well and that she can truly love.”

Bo does not seem to fall into that special someone category. “He met her in the nightclub and fell in love with her as a lot of other men in that seedy place would,” Reddy revealed. “She liked him and then he got a little carried away.”

Actually, Cherie is the one who got carried away because Bo kidnapped her. We won’t reveal how that works out although Reddy hinted that there’s “a nice sweet happy ending.”

Dr. Lyman (Mark Brewer of Mount Prospect), a college philosophy professor with a fondness for drinking, is enamored of the waitress Elma (Laurel Kaish of Wilmette), a high school student. “It turns out that he has a history of relationships with young girls,” director Bonadonna revealed.

Brewer wanted to play Dr. Lyman because, “He seems to be a complicated character and it’s sort of a counterpoint to the other story that’s going on between Bo and Cherie. I’ve never had a role where I start out somewhat drunk and continue to get more and more drunk to the point where I sort of become like the Shakespearean fool, where I’m speaking truth but I’m kind of unaware of the truth that I’m speaking.”

Brewer added that Dr. Lyman “is extremely intelligent but he is also very egotistical and has difficulty making true connections with people.” The actor noted that he believes playwright Inge “sees love as being something where you need to give something up of yourself in order to really connect with another person. That level of vulnerability is necessary in order to have a true relationship. And that’s the one thing my character has never been able to do.”

Other connections are between Bo and Virgil (Patrick Feeney of Park Ridge), an older cowboy who has become a father figure to the young cowboy; and the bus driver Carl (Indiana resident Charles Wimmer) and the diner owner Grace (Nancy Barenbrugge of Naperville) who have sexual encounters from time to time.

The highly moral local sheriff Will (Chicagoan Cesar Gonzales) is also trapped in the diner.

Although some of the show’s relationships may seem extreme, director Bonadonna is confident that, “in varying degrees, people in the audience will be able to relate to at least one of them.”
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...

SPRING GETAWAYS & STAYCATIONS

PARTIES
BE MY VALENTINE FAMILY EVENT
AN EVENING WITH THE CHICAGO BULLS

FLY GIRL

WEST SIDE NATIVE CHLOE BENNET STARS AS A GLOBE-TROTTING CRIME-FIGHTER ON 'MARVEL'S AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.'
TASTE MAKERS

PEOPLE WHO GET FOOD
GET IT HERE

-Rick & Ashley Ortiz
Owners of Antique Taco
Get an insider’s look at how Rick and Ashley shop at marianos.com

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Caroline Mazurek, the 2012 winner of "Mario, Make Me a Model"

Mario Tricoci Hair Salons & Day Spas are out to give aspiring models their big break. Head to one of the hair empire's five open model calls and put your best face forward for Mario Tricoci Creative Director John Gallulsi, photographer Matt Ferguson and Factor Women's Director of Scouting Kasia Konlar. The first casting will be at Tricoci's 900 N. Michigan location Feb. 24 at 4 p.m. For more call times and information, visit Mariomakeameamodel.com.

\( \text{Dolce & Gabbana shaping eyebrow pencil} \)

Dust the ice off your brows and be camera-ready in an instant with the fashion house's new liner. Its four shades and tear-shaped nib are designed to enhance your natural look and frame your face. $45, Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan, Saksfifthavenue.com

\( \text{SideDoor} \)

Opening Feb. 18 in River North's historic McCormick Mansion, new gastropub SideDoor serves up craft cocktails, shareable plates and premium hand-carved meats, like the Lawry's prime rib sandwich ($16), in a comfortable, could-sit-here-all-day atmosphere. 100 E. Ontario; Sidedoorchicago.com

\( \text{Mario, Make Me a Model!} \)

"If you could go anywhere in the world right now, where would it be?"

Publisher and Editor
Susanna Negovan
susanna@suntimes.com

Managing Editor
Molly Each
meach@suntimes.com

Art Director
Jessica Sedgwick
jsedgwick@suntimes.com

"Barcelona. It's in the 5th tier, but something warmer might be a shock to the system. Tapas, wine and architecture, here I come!"

Senior Editor
Rachel Handler
rhandler@suntimes.com

Assistant Editors
Katerina Bizos
kbizos@suntimes.com

"Sydney is where my family and I enjoy the beautiful beaches and warm weather."

Zack Sterner
zsterner@suntimes.com

"Rio de Janerio. The weather is amazing and I'd stay for a couple of weeks and go to Carnival. It's one of the things I want to do before I'm 30."

Multimedia Producer
Ramzi Dreessen
rdreessen@suntimes.com

"Morocco — my sister is currently studying abroad there. It's cool and rainy, but I'd take that over the frozen tundra of Chicago any day."

Director of Brand Strategy
Liza Sweitzer
liza@suntimes.com

Special Events
Samantha Saifer Bernard
sbernard@suntimes.com

Event Coordinator
Taylor O'Doherty
taylorodoherty@wrapports.com

Interns
Sydney Epstein
Alicia Haugel

Splash is published weekly by Splash Publications LLC, a Wrapports Company, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago, IL 60654

Founder
Michael Ferro

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**this week**

**February 20**
- **CONCERT FOR A CAUSE**
  Musical nostalgia blends with philanthropy, as popular 90s band *The BoDeans* headlines this open-bar event benefiting the Lone Survivor Foundation. Founded by Marcus Luttrell, the organization provides a holistic, integrated approach to restoring hope and wellness for wounded armed service members and their families.
  
  **Time:** 7 p.m.
  **Place:** House of Blues.

**February 21**
- **MODA**
  A nonprofit, fashion-focused student organization at the University of Chicago, MODA’s annual runway event always draws a stylish crowd. Featuring established brands, up-and-coming local designers and talented U of C students, the lively fête celebrates Chicago’s first-rate fashion sense.
  
  **Time:** 8 p.m.
  **Place:** The Great Hall in Union Station, 500 W. Jackson

**February 22 & 26, March 4, 7, 10, 16**
- **RUSALKA’**
  Soprano Ana María Martínez reprises her title role performance in this romantic work by Antonín Dvořák. This new production, a Lyric Opera premiere, is directed by Sir David McVicar.
  
  **Time:** 6 p.m.
  **Place:** The Casino, 195 E. Delaware
  **Cost:** $275. For tickets, call (312) 443-3674 or email Jamie Summers at Jsummers@artic.edu.

**February 22**
- **UNCORKED: A CASE FOR WINE**
  Hosted by the Auxiliary Board of the Art Institute and co-chaired by Lauren Grundhofer Peterson, Frank Ponterio and Phoebe DePree, this wine-filled event supports the museum’s wide-ranging exhibits and programs. Enjoy a seated dinner with wine pairings along with an auction of first-rate items, including round-trip business-class flights and a night out at a Blackhawks game.
  
  **Time:** 6 p.m.
  **Place:** The Great Hall in Union Station, 500 W. Jackson
  **Cost:** $12-$32. For tickets, visit Bit.ly/moda2014.

**February 21**
- **MOTOWN**
  **CHICAGO PERFORMANCES BEGIN APRIL 22!**

**GET READY, 'CAUSE HERE WE COME.**

**329 N. Dearborn**
**Cost:** $100 and up. For tickets, visit Lonesurvivorfoundation.org/ypn.

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February 27
- **JAMES TYREE FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER**
  Hosted by NBC-5's Rob Stafford and Allison Rosati, this second annual Living through Giving fundraiser honors the legacy of Tyree, the late CEO of Mesirow Financial, former Sun-Times owner and noted philanthropist. The cocktail reception supports the foundation’s commitment to educational endeavors that foster creativity and innovation in order to improve lives.
  **Time:** 5:30 p.m.
  **Place:** Mesirow Financial, 353 N. Clark.
  **Cost:** $200 and up. For tickets, call (888) 334-1738 or visit Jamestryreefoundation.org.

February 27
- **GILDA’S CLUB UNCORKED**
  The Associate Board of Gilda’s Club Chicago, a free support community for anyone touched by cancer, welcomes friends and supporters to this food-and-drink-filled event. Enjoy fine wines, craft beers and appetizers while trying your luck at the silent auction and raffle.
  **Time:** 5:30 p.m.
  **Place:** UBS Tower Conference Center, 1 N. Wacker.
  **Cost:** $45 in advance, $50 at the door. For tickets, call (888) 334-1738 or visit Gildasclubchicago.org.

February 27-April 7
- **MAYA AND THE ARTIST**
  In the third installment in the ‘Maya and the Artist’ series, Chicago artist Francine Turk will showcase new works inspired by handmade Maya Romanoff wall coverings. In addition, Turk will create a piece onsite at the opening event, to be auctioned off to benefit the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago’s research and education on Parkinson’s Disease.
  **Time:** Opening reception February 27, 5-8 p.m.
  **Place:** Maya Romanoff Chicago Showroom, Merchandise Mart, Suite 6-167.
  **Cost:** Free. For more information, visit Mayaromanoff.com.

February 28
- **TICKLED PINK FOR BRIGHT PINK**
  Walk the pink carpet, hit the dance floor and enjoy refreshments from top restaurants at this annual bash, created and hosted by Paramount Events co-owner Jodi Fyfe. Proceeds benefit Bright Pink, a national nonprofit focused on the prevention and early detection of breast and ovarian cancer in young women.
  **Time:** 7 p.m.
  **Place:** Block 37, 108 N. State
  **Cost:** $95 in advance, $125 at the door. For tickets, visit Tickledpinkchicago.com.

March 1
- **WINNING WORKS: CHOREOGRAPHERS OF COLOR AWARD**
  The Joffrey Academy of Dance presents three world premieres by the winners of the 2014 Choreographers of Color award, Justin Allen, Stephanie Batten Bland and Norbert De La Cruz UI, performed by members of the Joffrey Academy Trainee Program. Mingle with the dancers and choreographers at a post-show reception.
  **Time:** 7 p.m.
  **Place:** Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph.
  **Cost:** $20 in advance, $23 at the door. For tickets, call (312) 334-7777 or visit Harriestheaterchicago.org.

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More than 800 Bulls fans and supporters got their chance to take center court at the United Center (1901 W. Madison) with their favorite players Feb. 12 at “An Evening With the Chicago Bulls.” To benefit the Chicago Bulls Charities, teammates Derrick Rose, Kirk Hinrich and Splash cover star Jimmy Butler suited up and sat down for dinner with guests such as Ariel Investments President Mellody Hobson, WMAQ-Channel 5’s Marion Brooks, Chicago Bulls Charities President Nancy Reinsdorf and Chicago Bulls President and COO Michael Reinsdorf. Actor Tim Meadows emceed the bash, introducing Bright Pink founder and Chicago Bulls Charities supporter Lindsay Avner and honoring Ariel Investments’ Chairman and CEO John Rogers for his community work. Later, Chicago-born comedian Hannibal Buress took the stage, closing out the night with a hilarious set. Thanks to a silent auction and paddle-raise, the benefit was a bona fide slam dunk, raising funds for local organizations that promote youth education, health, wellness and violence prevention. — Katerina Bizios

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

Players and guests donned their best reds to show their Bulls pride.
Guests celebrated their loved ones early at the seventh annual Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation’s Be My Valentine Family event Feb. 9. Kids and their parents turned out for an activity-packed day at the Ritz-Carlton Chicago (160 E. Pearson), where they fueled up with brunch before decorating desserts from Sweet Mandy B’s, designing bead jewelry with ELTIF Designs, enjoying mini-makeovers from Rock Candy Salon and Spa, playing arcade games provided by Abt Electronics and conducting science experiments with Kids Science Labs. Co-chairs Joanna Aaron and Sherri Hoke oversaw the fun-filled afternoon, which raised more than $100,000 to benefit Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University. — Katerina Bizios

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event.
Movie and music lovers united at the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra's (CYSO) The Noteworthy Night 2014: A Salute to the Silver Screen. The Preparatory Strings and New Steel Orchestra ensembles welcomed nearly 300 guests to the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago (120 E. Delaware) Feb. 1, where they enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and mingled with co-chairs Michael and Brenda Fineberg. Later, attendees moved into the grand ballroom, where the award-winning CYSO Symphony Orchestra performed Allen Silvestri's "Back to the Future" under the baton of CYSO Music Director Allen Tinkham. Emcee and Sun-Times columnist Richard Roeper took the stage to lead the award presentation, bestowing Note of Excellence awards to the Luminarts Cultural Foundation at the Union League Club of Chicago, CYSO's Terrance Malone Gray and Glen Ellyn District 89 Band Director Lev Garbar. Guests then dug into a three-course meal featuring their choice of the "Jaws" entree, parmesan-crusted sea bass, or the "Rocky," beef tenderloin with peppercorn and wine reduction. The evening raised more than $200,000 for CYSO's music training and education programs. — Katerina Bizios

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

Above: Paul Winberg, executive director of the Grant Park Music Festival, serves as a guest conductor.

Left: Michael and Brenda Fineberg with Jaclyn Grahl and Joshua Simonds

PHOTOS BY TINA SMOTHERS

Laura and F. Mikael Mleko

When You Do The Math...

You'll Choose McGrath!
Maybe it's time to indulge in a little respite from Chicago (exactly how many polar vortices are we supposed to take?!). If you're getting out of town and escaping to somewhere more tropical, floral prints are the way to go. Always in style for spring and summer, this year designers have outdone themselves with flower power. BCBG Max Azria and Dolce & Gabbana both harvested the elegance of cherry blossom prints, while Christian Siriano opted for ultra-summery hibiscus patterns on textured shorts and capris. Don't have a getaway planned? Maybe a dose of floral fashion will help you think spring. Either way, these flowery dresses will keep your beauty in full bloom.
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C T
Olfactifs Perfect
Coconut Milk by Sarah
Horowitz Parfums,
$75

ON! LOVE
Noktivo Spa &
Boutique’s Love
Springs Eternal
anti-aging serum,
$59

Amazing Cosmetics’
blush in hot pink
matte, $22

Envy Medical Professional Skincare’s
ClarityMD skin treatment pads, $24.99

Pulp & Ink’s Further
hand soap with
fragrant oils, $19

At new Lincoln Park restaurant
Coppervine, food and drinks are perfectly paired

BY DAVID HAMMOND

W e’re setting out to change the way Chi-
cago dine,” says Don Sritong, beverage director at Coppervine.

“Lots of people walk into a restaurant, order their favorite drinks and then try to find food that matches. Rarely are people thinking of food and drink together.” That’s exactly what Sritong is out to revolutionize:

as it says on Coppervine’s website, the spot is in “pursuit of the perfect pairing,” coupling each menu item with a beer, wine or a cocktail.

If you’ve experienced consulting chef Michael Taus’ cooking at his Zealous restaurants in Elmhurst and Chicago, you know his preparations can be complex – but you’d expect nuanced food compositions from a man who refined his craft in Charlie Trotter’s kitchen. At Coppervine, however, to ensure the drinks mesh seamlessly with the food, Taus’ compositions are simpler and divided into small, medium and large portions.

“With each one of my recipes, I took out four ingredients,” he says. Accompanying beverages are usually served in smaller portions as well, enabling you to sample, for instance, several 2 oz. cocktails with multiple courses — and still be able to walk. Here’s what else to expect at Coppervine:

**Vibe:** The main dining room is simple, sophisticated and muted; it feels comfortable and intimate beneath a vaulted ceiling that, according to Sritong, “mimics a wine cellar’s curvature.” The restaurant’s namesake vine of copper curls along one side, sprouting illuminated glass leaves that tie the room together and soften the space’s strong angles.

**What to try:** With three suggested drink options for every course, there are multiple food-drink combinations possible at Coppervine. An appetizer of popcorn seasoned with Parmesan and Thai chili oil ($6) is served with a Wipeout IPA ($14) – “spice taking on spice,” Sritong says. For lobster mac & cheese ($12), Sritong pairs a Brown Butter Old Fashioned ($5); the sweetness of the drink offsets the cheese and seafood. Braised short rib ($19) is accompanied by an "unctuous and smoky" 2012 Boneshaker Zinfandel ($6).

**Surrender** “About 60 percent of our customers participate,” says Sritong, referring to those who opt for his suggested beverage pairings. We advise that you surrender to Sritong, letting him do the choosing, whether it’s beer, wine or a cocktail. Taus is particular about when you drink, too. “Our timing is very strict. Drinks arrive immediately before each course so you can taste them before you eat.”

**Outside the box:** A menu with specified pairings may suggest a rigid formula for dining and drinking. But that’s not the case. “We try to give customers whatever they want,” says Taus. When a recent visitor arrived and explained she was vegan, Taus says he “ran out and bought some seitan. We put together a beautiful vegan dinner for her. We love a challenge like that.”

**Fear of Flintstone:** Sritong says the name the team initially chose for their new restaurant was “Bedrock.” But following a threat of legal action from Hanna-Barbera, they dreamed up Coppervine, a less contentious and more poetic moniker.

1962 N. Halsted (773) 935-1000; Coppervinechicago.com
First things first: It's pronounced “Aah-nders,” not “An-ders,” and definitely not “Aye-nders.” Now that that’s cleared up, Anders Holm, star of Comedy Central’s off-color series “Workaholics,” wants you to know that he is, ironically, currently enjoying a day off. “I’m just kind of kickin’ it,” he says, laughing. “Because I’ve earned it, damn it.”

We couldn’t agree more. Holmes is a co-creator, writer and star of “Workaholics,” meaning each episode contains his signature sarcasm. For the uninitiated, the show follows three best friends who work at a telemarketing firm and “try their damndest to have an awesome time and not kill each other,” Holm says. In pursuit of such awesomeness, the gang has found themselves in a variety of awkward situations, such as being chased into the sewers by neighborhood security, starting a beef jerky business in their living room and running afoul of pesky office substance abuse rules.

The show recently launched its fourth season and the Evanston native (and former member of the Evanston High School swim team) has some very important news to share: “I think it’s safe to say we’re the best television show on TV right now. It’s official. I think everyone will agree.” He promises to up the ante with more terrific conflicts: His character, also named Anders, will attempt to snag a free massage chair before an office foe gets to it and help a friend make some very important choices about a life-altering surgery. “These are real 2014 problems,” Holm says. “We shot it in 2013, but we knew we had to be futurists a little bit. We got a little Marty McFly with it.”

The chemistry between Holm and his co-stars and co-writers, Adam DeVine and Blake Anderson, is years in the making. After meeting in LA and forming the sketch group Mail Order Comedy in 2006, the trio became best friends. “We have a good time,” Holm says. “Usually too good of a time. Our manager has to wrangle us like wet, hairless cats.”

When he’s not knee-deep in shenanigans, Holm has a slew of other projects on the burner. He currently has a recurring guest spot on “The Mindy Project” as Mindy’s ex-fiance, as well as two movie roles in the works: one in the new James Franco/Seth Rogen comedy “The Interview,” and the other in Chris Rock’s upcoming flick. “It was untitled [when I filmed it],” Holm says. “They’re probably just going to name it ‘Anders.’ You know, to kick open the box office weekend with a smash.”

Here, the workaholic takes a rare day to unwind in his hometown with good friends — and a lot of food.

Watch Workaholics Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on Comedy Central.

10 A.M.
Holm loves going to Lighthouse Beach near his parents’ Evanston home to “kick it for a few hours.”

1 P.M.
Lunch at Mustard’s Last Stand (1613 Central, Evanston) where he orders two hot dogs, a cheeseburger, fries and a milkshake.

7 P.M.
After spending the afternoon with friends, Holm and his crew head downtown for deep dish at Giordano’s (730 N. Rush).

9 P.M.
The gang goes to Old Town Ale House (219 W. North). “[I like a place] with less than 10 plasma televisions. I don’t need to watch the game, I just need to drink beaucoup beverages,” he says.

1 A.M.
“I make my way to Rock ‘n’ Roll McDonald’s [600 N. Clark], I’m just trying to hang with the Chicago stable,” Holm jokes.

6 A.M.
The night isn’t over until Holm is back in Evanston at Sarkis Café (2632 Gross Point, Evanston) devouring bacon and hash browns.

Top: Holm, Anderson and DeVine in “Workaholics”
Bottom: Holm on the EMS swim team in 1998
ON CHLOE
Top: Bradamant: The Director; Bradamant.com
Skirt: Leif; Nordstrom.com
Shoes: Dolce Vita; Dolcevita.com
For Chloe Bennet, star of the ABC drama "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.," life has resembled the plot of a comic book: A pretty girl-next-door on the West Side of Chicago lives a normal, by-the-book life, until one day she gets bitten by a radioactive whatchamacallit, develops superpowers and falls into a fast-paced life fighting crime. Except instead of being bitten, Bennet was signed by a talent agency and instead of turning into a superhero, she became a teenage pop star in China.

"Oh, my casual stint as a pop star when I was a teenager? Everyone has those, right?" laughs Bennet, 21. "You know when you have awkward yearbook photos? That's this for me."

Like the origin stories of Bruce Banner and Peter Parker, Bennet's rise to fame was a one-in-a-million tale. She grew up near the United Center, the only girl among six brothers (two are African-American, one is Mexican and the other three are half-Chinese, like Bennet). As a 15-year-old student at Near North Montessori, she was discovered by Nettwerk Music Group, which wanted to create a Chinese pop artist. After making a presentation to her parents — she even put on a blazer and stressed that she would get to learn Mandarin — Bennet was on her way to Shanghai and Beijing.

Within months, she released the single "Uh-Oh" and began to put on shows. "The first time I performed, it was in front of 30,000 people. I had never performed, ever, except plays at Montessori," Bennet says. "[My parents] showed up directly from the airport, and my mom — and this is a mother who gets anxiety when she walks into my little brother's volleyball games — was like, 'This isn't... You're not going to be... This isn't your stage, is it?!' I was like, 'Whose else would it be, Mom? She panicked a lot.'

It's not like a normal teenager to walk away from life as a successful pop princess, but like any comic book hero, Bennet felt it was necessary to make tough calls. "China was fun, but I never felt like me. I felt like I was acting this character," Bennet says. "I gave up everything and within a few months, I was a struggling actor in L.A."
... but in no time ...

Her stint as an out-of-work actor lasted less than her two years belting out tunes across the Pacific. Before long, she landed a role as Hailey on "Nashville," and less than a year after that, she scored a starring role on the much-hyped ABC show "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." "It's kind of a big couple years," Bennet admits. "Now I can be a superhero. I think I might be a bit of a lunatic, but either way, it's working out and I'm having a lot of fun."

On "S.H.I.E.L.D.,” now halfway through its first season, Bennet plays Skye, an orphan computer hacker recruited by the top-secret government agency S.H.I.E.L.D. (the same agency featured in "Thor," "Iron Man," "Captain America," and "Hulk"). The show centers on S.H.I.E.L.D.'s elite team as they hunt down a mysterious villain ("The Clairvoyant") and try to save the world.

One of the most buzzed-about series of the fall season, "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." took some flack early on for its slow pace, but Bennet assures fans that the days of plot setup are over — it's time for the action. In the vein of hits like "Lost," the actress reveals that everything in the story — no matter how seemingly random — has been that way for a reason, and that "no detail should go unnoticed." "Marvel is always so fantastic at telling stories,” she explains. "But in the movies, you only have 2 ½ hours or so. We have 22 hours, so it's a lot of setup to make it really intricate and get all the fine details that [Joss] Whedon does so well. Everything is going to come together, and it's going to blow everyone's minds."

The action gets particularly intense for her character, whose storyline is one of the most mysterious on the show: She's had an allegiance to an anarchist hacking group, doesn't know who her parents are and was recently exposed as an Object of Unknown Origin, which means there's speculation on which universe she comes from. "Basically, we don't know what I am. We don't know who my parents are, we don't know what my parents are. And there's even more that we could not know about," Bennet says. "I get the scripts and I'm like, 'What?!!' literally out loud. I'm sure my neighbors think I'm weird."

For more from our photo shoot with Chloe, go to ChicagoSplash.com

ON CHLOE
Dress: Rachael Cassar; Rachaelcassar.com
Shoes: Giuseppe Zanotti; Giuseppezanotti.com
Ring: Gabriela Artigas; Gabrielaartigas.com

"The second I ever think I'm cool, I trip on something or get gum stuck in my hair. That's the Chicago in me."
Most love stories don't begin with a calculus study session. But for Ashley Miller and John Rothstein, hitting the books turned out to be the perfect equation for romance. The couple first met at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign when Rothstein, a sophomore, began tutoring then-freshman Miller in her least-favorite subject. "He was a very convincing tutor, because we started dating shortly thereafter," says Miller. Over the next decade, the couple experienced a lot of life together: break-ups, make-ups, living apart in different countries, living together in Chicago—but it all culminated in a wedding, held New Year's Eve at the InterContinental Chicago (505 N. Michigan). Rothstein, a derivatives trader and head of training at Optiver US, and Miller, a buyer for Prestige Cosmetics at Ulta Beauty, chose a classic black-and-gold color palette for the black-tie bash, with hints of Gatsbyesque glamour visible in details like rose gold-foil stamped invitations. Guests got into the holiday spirit with New Year's Eve party hats, noisemakers and a Champagne toast at midnight. The evening ended with lots of dancing, even more bubbly and the start of a fresh chapter for the newlyweds. "It’s been such a long journey for us, from meeting when we were 19 years old to today," says Miller. Adds Rothstein, "We call it our own little fairytale: We’ve grown from children to adults together, and this brought us into adulthood in a special way."
With winter on the way out, there’s no better time to get out of town, even if it’s just for 24 hours. For quick getaway ideas, we asked four Splash staffers to share the scoop on their hometowns — which just happen to be some of the Midwest’s best destinations.
**MINNEAPOLIS**

Time to destination: 7 hours by car, 1 hour by plane

Why to go: Outdoor adventures, award-winning restaurants and a dose of 'Minnesota Nice' make this Northern city a must-visit.

Breakfast: I go downtown to Hell's Kitchen (80 S. 9th St.). I love the lemon-ricotta hotcakes ($11.25), but I also scoop up my favorite souvenir — a jar of its irresistible homemade peanut butter ($8).

Mid-morning: The Walker Art Center (1750 Hennepin) for contemporary visual art, exhibitions and film screenings. The outdoor sculpture garden houses a favorite Minneapolis photo op: the Spoonbridge and Cherry.

Lunch: Most ingredients used at Wise Acre Eatery (5401 Nicollet Ave. So.) are sourced from its own 100-acre farm in Plato, Minn. I love the sweet-and-savory grilled ham, jam and cheddar sandwich ($11).

Afternoon: Minneapolis has notorious winters, but one visit to the Chain of Lakes — a 13-mile path connecting four lakes that’s dotted with stops like a rose garden and a bandshell — and you’ll see why locals are so loyal. Grab a bike at Wheel Fun Rentals (3000 E. Calhoun Pkwy.) and explore.

Dinner: I never go home without a stop at The Bachelor Farmer (50 N. Second Ave.). The rotating menu of locally sourced, modern Scandinavian food — think beef tartare with pickled mushrooms, horseradish, capers and popped amaranth ($15) — pays delicious homage to Minnesota’s Nordic history.

Nightcap: Post-dinner, head downstairs for craft cocktails at Bachelor Farmer’s sister spot Marvel Room of the Lake Harriet bandshell

**ANN ARBOR, MICH.**

Time to destination: 3½ hours by car, 39 minutes by plane

Why go: Ann Arbor has college-town charisma to spare, an eclectic mix of bars and restaurants and serious cultural clout.

Breakfast: I head straight to Zingerman’s (422 Detroit St.), prepared to wait in line — but it’s worth it. The famous spot makes 99 different sandwiches; I love #57, Nic’s Opportunity, made with mozzarella, pepperoni, tomato spread, origano and balsamic vinaigrette ($11.50).

Mid-morning: If it’s nice out (read: not snowing), I’m getting lost in greeneries at the Arb (1610 Washington Heights St.). It’s especially gorgeous as the weather warms up.

Lunch: No Thai (1300 S. University Ave.) is my favorite restaurant in Ann Arbor. I always get the same thing: Pad Pak with extra peas, carrots and weak sauce ($9). I’m emotional just thinking about it.

Afternoon: Even for a college town, Ann Arbor is full of culture. Visit the University of Michigan Museum of Art (525 S. State St.) to see more than 18,000 works of internationally sourced art, or catch a movie at the Michigan Theater (603 E. Liberty St.), a gorgeous 1928 relic.

Nightcap: End the night at the Heidelberg (215 N. Main St.) with three floors’ worth of German food and drink. Head to the basement, or “rathskellar,” for Das Boot, a 1-liter glass boot filled with the beer of your choice ($10/$30 to take home).

Rest your head: The Bell Tower Hotel (300 S. Second St.) is an old-school choice for overnight stays, but I always prefer the Stone Chalet Bed & Breakfast (1917 Washtenaw Ave.), a charming 1917 home a little further from campus.

— Senior Editor Rachel Handler, University of Michigan graduate

**ST. LOUIS**

Time to destination: 4½ hours by car, 47 minutes by plane

Why to go: St. Louis overflows with history, from its beautiful parks and museums to its classic restaurants and homey neighborhoods.

Breakfast: My family visits the Chase Park Plaza (212 N. Kingshighway Blvd.) on special occasions and holidays. The brunch buffet is amazing — try the huevos rancheros ($12).

Mid-morning: Forest Park (5595 Grand Dr.) for a walk around the path, a visit to the zoo or a paddleboat on the pond. The famous boathouse is a fun place for a mimosa ($7) after the outdoor activities.

Lunch: Carl’s Drive-In (9033 Manchester Rd.) is a St. Louis classic, set up like a little diner with bar seating only. My dad knows the owner, so we always get a seat — then we dig into cheeseburgers ($3) and sip root beers ($1).

Mid-afternoon: Time to stop by my favorite store, the appropriately named Splish (8811 Ladue Rd.). It’s been my go-to spot since high school, and seems to always carry whatever brands I’m currently loving, such as Australian label Salt and Sam Edelman shoes.

Dinner: I can’t get enough of the meatloaf ($21) at i Fratellini (7624 Wydown Blvd.), a cozy Italian restaurant in Clayton. Or, cross the street to eat at its adorable sister restaurant Bar Les Freres (7367 Wydown Blvd.), which has mismatched china and French-inspired decor.

Dessert: Try the famous custard at Ted Drewes (6726 Chippewa St.). We hop in the back of the car to eat our strawberry shortcake sundaes ($4.60). It’s a St. Louis tradition.

Rest your head: Back to the Chase Park Plaza in the heart of the Central West End. My grandparents met there, so my family has a soft spot for it.

— Special Events Coordinator Samantha Salter Berngard, St. Louis native

**LOUISVILLE, KY.**

Time to destination: 5 hours by car, 50 minutes by plane

Why go: The city oozes Southern charm that will make any visitor fall in love with ‘My Old Kentucky Home.’

Breakfast: A stop at the Blue Dog Bakery & Café (2668 Frankfort Ave.) for breakfast or lunch. Grab some bread on your way out and don’t leave without a cookie (or two).

Mid-morning: One of the oldest stoneware manufacturers in the U.S., Louisville Stoneware (731 Brent St.) art factory dates back to 1815. Post-tour, try your hand at painting your own pieces, or visit the gift shop for a professional souvenir.

Lunch: Jack Fry’s (1007 Bardstown Rd.) has been a staple in Louisville since 1933. You can’t go wrong with the signature shrimp & grits ($12).

Mid-afternoon: Even if it’s not the first weekend in May, nothing compares to a day spent at the home of the Kentucky Derby (700/704 Central Ave.). Head to the museum to brush up on Kentucky’s favorite pastime.

Dinner: Proof on Main (702 W. Main St.) for the seasonally inspired Southern fare and more than 75 Kentucky bourbons, including exclusive barrels of Woodford Reserve and Van Winkle. It’s the true taste of Kentucky.

Night out: I love the Actors Theatre of Louisville (36 W. Main St.), the city’s premier performing arts theater for 50 years and home to the renowned Humana Festival of New American Plays.

Rest your head: The Bell Tower Hotel (700 W. Main St.) is reason enough plan a trip to Louisville. Since opening in 2006, the 90-room boutique hotel, which doubles as a contemporary art museum, is consistently ranked as one of the top hotels in the country. Leave time to peruse the rotating exhibits throughout the lobby, which are open to the public.

— Director of Brand Strategy Liza Sweitzei Louisville native

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Managing Editor Molly Each, Minnesota native
Adventures in architecture


BY THOMAS CONNORS.

Dance may be the most ephemeral of the arts, and architecture the most concrete, but both are gestures in space. So it's fitting that choreographer Melissa Thodos and award-winning architect Jeanne Gang of Studio Gang Architects, a longtime supporter, have joined forces to collaborate on a new performance, debuting Feb. 22 as part of Thodos' Winter Concert 2014 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts.

"We began this project with the intent to stretch each of our creative areas of expertise by embracing an innovative concept in physics, one that has been of interest to Jeanne Gang for a while," says Thodos. That concept, known as jamming, refers "to a process whereby granular materials that act like fluids become rigid," Gang says. "With lots of experimentation and the help of physics professors Sidney R. Nagel and Heinrich M. Jaeger from the University of Chicago, we have created state-changing structures that the dancers can engage in different ways."

The untitled piece (which will also be presented in the company's mixed program at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance March 8 and 9) involved considerable back-and-forth, as choreographer and architect nailed down a solution in which movement and structure could engage and manifest a scientific idea. Gang and her team devised prototypes that the Thodos dancers then tested, exploring how that interaction generated meaningful motion. "The work is a true collaboration," says Thodos, "where structures designed and built by the Gang studio, followed by meetings with the Thodos team, embody the jamming process through blending both of our disciplines and taking into account how the human body functions kinetically."

For Gang, a dance enthusiast who had yet to collaborate with a dance company, the work with Thodos and her crew proved particularly satisfying. "The whole process has felt like making a discovery," she says. "The final forms the dancers will use are not something we would have imagined at the beginning. They grew out of a process of understanding the unique qualities of dance and materials and the physics of jamming." What's more, she suggests, the collaborative experience she and Thodos shared is partially replicated as viewers observe the piece. "The abstract shapes transform during the dance to resemble anything from simple graphemes to sea stars. I like that the audience will ultimately map their own experience onto the piece and invent their own unique associations. In this sense, it is a highly interactive composition." Winter Concert 2014 also includes a story ballet on the lives and relationships of Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan, a world premiere performance by Hubbard Street dancer Lucas Crandall and a lyrical piece by River North Dance Chicago's Ahmad Simmons.
IN CHARACTER WITH ... Jeff Perry

The Steppenwolf founder on the Chicago theater scene and his role on 'Scandal'

BY LIZ CROKIN

While Jeff Perry can't reveal much about the remaining episodes of 'Scandal's' third season, he does promise the twists, turns and surprises that fans have come to expect from ABC's ultra-hit. "It's all over the place," says Perry. On the political thriller — which follows crisis management expert Olivia Pope (Kerry Washington) as she navigates the topsy-turvy world of D.C. politics — Perry plays White House Chief of Staff Cyrus Beene. Though the first couple of seasons saw major character development for Cyrus, as he came out of the closet and married another man, Perry is particularly excited about what's on the horizon. "We're going to get some flashback shots of his life, fill in more on how he and James [Novak] fell in love," he says. "Cyrus has been so repressed, so closeted and such a workaholic, and falling in love is new territory for him."

Perry's own backstory is familiar to Chicago culture buffs: The actor, 58, helped develop the legendary Steppenwolf Theatre in the '70s with friends Gary Sinise and Terry Kinney. Though his name is synonymous with theater in Chicago, and he's since starred in high-profile series such as "Grey's Anatomy" and films like "The Human Stain," he says he never could've imagined being part of a show as iconic as "Scandal." "This is the most visible role to the greatest number of people with the most obsessed fans I've ever had."

Role call: "I love the range of facets and characteristics in Cyrus. Most are wondrously dichotomous. He's a very idealistic Boy Scout about the public and the presidency. He would take a bullet for the president. He's tremendously loyal. At the same time, he is capable of situational immorality... [To prepare], I had a sit down with Sam Skirner, the Chicago-born chief of staff to George Bush Senior. There was a show [I watched] that was a series of interviews with chiefs of staff. One thing that stuck in my head: One of the chiefs of staff was asked about tempo and duration of a normal day in the White House. The chief of staff paused and he said, 'Have you ever tried to drink out of a fire hose? It was an actor-friendly thing that stuck in my head.'"

Born to act: "An amazing teacher [at Highland Park High School] saved Gary Sinise and me by putting us in 'West Side Story.' That's how I met Gary, and we became best friends... I've been lucky to grow up in the communal lovefest and trust that is the Steppenwolf ensemble. I had unifying support. In the early years, our family's kitchen would comprise the set. Company members would be sleeping at our house."

Chicago connection: "There's something about Midwestern wiring. There's passion. I grew up in a culture that was chasing art rather than fame and fortune. When I grew up in Chicago, there was actually a tremendous lack of fame and fortune. Everyone is pretty much doing what they're passionate about. That's the greatest gift that kind of environment can give you. I go back three or four times a year. I recently went back to help my mates at Steppenwolf by watching their show and taking notes."

The final eight episodes of season three of "Scandal" will air on ABC beginning Feb. 27.
Boomerang buyers are catching a break

By Madeline Nuss

Since the housing bubble burst in 2007, Illinois has annually ranked among states with the highest foreclosure rates. But thanks to changes in federal loan regulations and continued low interest rates, so-called “boomerang buyers” are re-entering the market.

“Once you’ve owned a home, and you’ve lost it, you want pride of ownership again,” says Baird & Warner broker Salomon Lino. Having recently helped multiple boomerang buyers — people who faced a foreclosure or short sale and are ready to buy again, generally after a three-year waiting period — Lino recommends keeping an eye on a few key things, starting with the budget. “The second time around, people are more realistic about finances.” Returning buyers are seeking homes with monthly payments they can afford as well as 15- or 30-year fixed-rate mortgages instead of adjustables.

Also high on boomerangs’ list: Finding a secure neighborhood. The crash particularly hurt new suburban subdivisions, where empty lots failed to sell and homeowners lost devalued property. In contrast to the first time around, buyers are pursuing property in established suburbs and the city.

These priorities make 5562 N. Leonard in Jefferson Park, ringing in at $169,000, an ideal boomerang buyer home, with the Forest Glen woods, a Mariano’s Fresh Market and a Metra station all mere blocks away (call Baird & Warner broker Linda Kramer at 773-401-5898).

For buyers with a bit more spending power, nearby four-bedroom 5034 N. Meade, for $279,000, offers a detached garage and possible second unit income opportunity (call Baird & Warner broker Rebecca Cleal, inset, at 773-467-3329).

Whatever your budget, now is the time to investigate a purchase. “Rates are competitive,” Lino says. “No one wants to wait to buy until home prices come up.”

FAMILY MATTERS

For buyers seeking a single-family home, paying a mortgage can be cheaper than renting. Plus, notes Lino, “you can’t rent a single-family home in a safe neighborhood for under $1,900.” One spot to consider owning is quiet Oak Lawn’s 10808 Lawler, a three-bedroom, 1.5-bathroom abode with vaulted ceilings, wood floors and plenty of updates for $234,500 (Call Coldwell Banker broker Mary Wallace at 708-529-9009). Concerned about credit? Last summer’s federal “extenuating circumstances” guidelines can make it easier to explain dicey credit to a lender than to a landlord.

SITTING PRETTY

Save space and money with CB2’s new Flex Frost sleeper sofa. Three settings allow you to transform your den into a media room or a bedroom — and back again. $999, 800 W. North; CB2.com
If you could be an Olympian, which sport would you choose and why?

I would totally be a figure skater. I grew up in Chicago, and there was nothing to do in the winter, so I would spray the patio with a hose. I actually taught myself how to ice skate, right down to the backward skating, the jumps and the graceful hands.

I'm not even kidding, between 5 and 15 years old, when I thought there were demons hiding under my bed ready to imprison me, I would force myself to think about how I was going to be an Olympic skater with the best outfits and overly hair-sprayed locks.

You guys, to this day, I still hold out hope that I can skate for the gold. What about you? What Olympic dreams do you still harbor?

Read Jenny's blog at ChicagoSplash.com.
Inn good taste

Jermaine Anderson, general manager of the newly opened Godfrey Hotel Chicago, is an on-the-go pro

> "Hospitality is an exciting industry. If you’re looking for a fictional peek into our world, read Heads in Beds on the way to your destination."

"The best pair of running shoes out there. They’re super lightweight — it feels like you have pillows on your feet."

Jacob Tomsky

Heads in Beds: A Reckless Memoir of Hotels, Hustles, and So-Called Hospitality, $7.99, Kindle Store; Amazon.com

Nike: Flyknit Airmax, $220, 669 N. Michigan; Nike.com

Santoni: Tucker loafer, $495, Nordstrom, 55 E. Grand; Shop.nordstrom.com

L'Occitane en Provence: Verbena shower gel, $20, body lotion, $25, L'Occitane en Provence, 900 N. Michigan; Usa.loccitane.com

Malin + Goetz: Neroli candle, $52, Aaron's Apothecary, 2338 N. Clark; Malinangoezt.com

Paul Stuart: Leather carry-all bag, $867, 107 E. Oak, Paulstuart.com

Thumbtack Press: Art prints, start at $19.99; Thumbtackpress.com

Beats: Pill XL speaker, $299.95, Best Buy, 875 N. Michigan; Beatsbydre.com

Trunk Club: Clothing starts at $70, 325 W. Ohio; Trunkclub.com

Harry's: The Winston Set, $25; Harrys.com

L'Occitane en Provence: Verbena for a great start to my morning. I chose this scent for the Godfrey Hotel guest rooms."

"'Pack light' is my motto. Whatever else you need, purchase it when you arrive."

"Great pair of loafers to wear to brunch and comfy enough to walk around town."

"Who doesn't love a good-smelling candle?"

"This is small enough to fit in my carry on, but loud enough to get a noise warning from hotel security."

"My stylist Chelsea Kerzner at Trunk Club is awesome. For the busy businessman who needs a personal shopper, with a fully stocked bar, too."

This Chicago-based company works with hundreds of artists to offer high quality art prints [such as 'Fly Over' by Alan Flinn]. The perfect way to spice up your space on long trips."
Get a deal on Blue Man Group tickets. Visit blueman.com/chicago/special-offers
Horns? Or feathers?
Now that's a tough choice.

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Ford redesigned their Escape last year. The Escape now sports a more athletic stance, and the overall look is more appealing.

Improved styling, pleasing driving characteristics, and a long list of innovative technologies have made Ford's Escape a best seller in the compact crossover sport utility vehicle segment.

There's a green side to the Escape, too. Soybeans are utilized in the construction of seat cushion and head restraint foam. Recycled plastic bottles are developed into carpet fibers. The aerodynamic shape of the Escape, and the use of Active Grille Shutters, help make the vehicle more fuel-efficient.

The 2014 Ford Escape is offered in three trim levels: S ($22,095), SE ($24,945), and Titanium ($28,495). The S is front-wheel drive only, while the SE and Titanium can be had with either front-wheel drive or all-wheel drive.

Escape offers two available EcoBoost engines designed to make efficient use of power and fuel. The Escape S model features a 2.5-liter naturally aspirated four-cylinder engine that makes 168 horsepower.

The Escape SE and Titanium come standard with a fuel-efficient 1.6-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine that produces 178 horsepower. The optional (SE and Titanium only) 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder puts out 240 horsepower.

All Escape models feature a standard six-speed automatic transmission. The most fuel-efficient version (23/32 miles per gallon) features the 1.6-liter engine and front-wheel drive. Fuel economy is only slightly less for the Escape S and Escapes with the 2.0-liter engine or AWD.

Escape is loaded with technology. One of my favorite features available in Escape is the very clever power liftgate that can be operated by swinging a foot under the rear bumper. This is very handy when you are holding packages in both arms.

Escape's list of standard amenities is extensive, and all Escape models feature Ford's MyKey system. MyKey can be used to help parents encourage their teens to drive safely.

With MyKey, you can restrict Escape's top speed, and limit the volume of the entertainment system. MyKey also allows you to set a Belt-Minder chime that mutates the audio until the safety belts are buckled.

Another noteworthy technology that comes standard across the line is Ford's AdvanceTrac with Roll Stability Control (RSC). This system helps the driver maintain control whenever it detects wheel slip, understeer, oversteer or roll motion. It helps maintain control in adverse road conditions, like ice or rain, and it features Curve Control, which slows the vehicle when it takes a curb quickly.

Editor: Nichole Roller • nroller@stmedianetwork.com  
Design: Gina Galinis  
Director Automotive Advertising: Terry Boyle • tboyle@suntimes.com
POST AUTO SHOW EVENT! 3 DAYS ONLY!

WE GET IT DONE for You

$2000 BONUS CASH
CURRENT LESSEES
WE WILL WAIVE YOUR LAST 3 PAYMENTS

SAVE $8500 ON NEW SIERRAS

BUICK

NEW 2013 BUICK ENCORE
#84238
MSRP $25,415

$20,995*

NEW 2013 BUICK REGAL
#64236
MSRP $29,910

SAVE $7,000

NEW 2014 BUICK VERANO
$19,995*

NEW 2014 BUICK LACROSSE
$31,450*

GMC

NEW 2013 GMC TERRAIN
#17413
MSRP $27,900

$23,995*

NEW 2013 GMC YUKON SLT
#17217
2WD
MSRP $52,010

SAVE $10,000

NEW 2014 GMC SIERRA
FROM $23,995

$41,995*

NEW 2014 GMC ACADIA
FROM $31,995*

ALL ANTHONY CUSTOMERS RECEIVE COMPLIMENTARY*:

» Pick up and drop off for service.
» Extended service hours.
» We honor all competitors’ coupons.
» 30 day price match guarantee on tires.*
» Lifetime warranty on parts.*

'12 Chevy Impala LT $13,490*
'07 Buick Lucerne CXL $13,990*
'05 Ford Excursion XLT $16,990*
'10 Buick LaCrosse CXL $16,990*
'11 Buick Regal CXL $16,990*
'07 GMC Acadia SLT $17,990*

USED CAR SPECIALS
HUNDREDS TO CHOOSE FROM!

'11 Volkswagen CC $19,590*
'12 Chevy Camaro $19,990*
'11 Buick Enclave CX $22,990*
'11 BMW 328i $23,990*
'08 Chevy Silverado 1500 LTZ $25,990*
'05 Chevy Corvette $27,990*

All vehicles subject to prior sales. Offers to qualified buyers. *Plus tax, title, lic & doc fee. +See one of our sales consultants for more details. †See dealer for details. +Off MSRP. On select models. See dealer for details. 1)Off MSRP. On select models. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this ad.
We Can... Be Your #1 Choice In Chicagoland!

0% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE

NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 S
Model 3114 VIN 1N179068 Stock N20865
LEASE FOR $199 for 36 mo
Excludes tax, title, lic & doc fee.

NISSAN ROGUE S SELECT
Model 22214 VIN 1N7J73600 Stock N20968
LEASE FOR $239 for 36 mo
Excludes tax, title, lic & doc fee.

NISSAN MURANO S FWD
Model 23214 VIN JN84754 Stock N20936
LEASE FOR $299 for 36 mo
Excludes tax, title, lic & doc fee.

NISSAN PATHFINDER SL AWD PREMIUM PACKAGE
Model 25414 VIN 4464364 Stock N20842
LEASE FOR $399 for 36 mo
Excludes tax, title, lic & doc fee.

www.mullernissan.com

We Want Your Trade In!

Мы говорим по-русски.
Спросите Евгения или Назара

Se Habla Español
Pregunté por Luis

MULLER NISSAN
OF HIGHLAND PARK

1340 Park Ave West
847.433.7900

*0% APR financing to qualified buyers with approved credit on select Nissan models. Example: $19.87 per thousand financed at 0% for 60 months. Length of term limited. *36 month closed end lease to qualified buyers with approved credit, no security deposit required. Lessee responsible for excess wear and tear and mileage over 12,000 mi per year @ .15 per mi. Option to purchase at lease end. 2014 Altima: $13,597; 2014 Rogue: $14,779; 2014 Murano: $16,276; 2014 Pathfinder: $21,963. ‡All manufacturer’s rebates and incentives applied. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee. Must finance thru NMAC. Standard rates apply. Dealer not responsible for errors in this advertisement. Offers end 2/28/14.
# Star Nissan & Mid City Nissan

## Final Weekend of Savings!

### For Nissan Lovers Only

**New 2014 Nissan Altima**

- **Your Choice!**
- **$8000 Off** MSRP on New 2014 Altimas

### Star Used Car Specials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Make</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>MSRP</th>
<th>Offer Price</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Sentra S</td>
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<tr>
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### Mid City Used Car Specials

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<th>Make</th>
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<th>Year</th>
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<td>Nissan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nissan</td>
<td>Rogue AWD</td>
<td>'14</td>
<td>$19,995</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Offers to qualified buyers. Offers cannot be combined. **

- *Plus tax, title, and tax, title, lic. & $166.27 doc fee. You must qualify. 1) Off MSRP on select new Altimas. Dealer will not honor errors in this ad. No prior sales. Pictures for illustration only. Offers end 3 days from pub.*
SHERMAN

AUTOSHOW
PLUS EVENT

$500
BONUS CASH
BEST BONUS CASH FOR 2014!

WE WILL BEAT ANY DEAL DURING THE AUTO SHOW

NEW 2014 JEEP PATRIOT SPORT
Aux Audio Input, Bluetooth, CRD/V6 Power, ABS, Power Door Locks, Keyless Entry, Rear Power Window
$11,995

NEW 2014 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE
Leather, Power Steering, Power Windows, Power Door Locks, Power Mirrors, Keyless Entry, Rear Window Defroster, Rear View Monitor, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Traction Control, Stability Control, Brake Assist, Anti-Lock Brakes, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Traction Control, Stability Control, Brake Assist, Anti-Lock Brakes
$26,995

NEW 2014 DODGE AVENGER
Steering Wheel Audio Controls, Power Windows, Keyless Entry, Rearward Cupholders, Rear Window Defroster, Rear View Monitor, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Traction Control, Stability Control, Brake Assist, Anti-Lock Brakes, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Traction Control, Stability Control, Brake Assist, Anti-Lock Brakes
$14,995

NEW 2014 JEEP CHEROKEE
Leather, Power Steering, Power Windows, Power Door Locks, Power Mirrors, Keyless Entry, Rear Window Defroster, Rear View Monitor, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Traction Control, Stability Control, Brake Assist, Anti-Lock Brakes, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Traction Control, Stability Control, Brake Assist, Anti-Lock Brakes
$10,995

NEW 2013 DODGE DART SXT
Power Steering, Power Door Locks, Rear View Monitor, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Traction Control, Stability Control, Brake Assist, Anti-Lock Brakes, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Traction Control, Stability Control, Brake Assist, Anti-Lock Brakes
$13,995

NEW 2013 DODGE CHARGER SE
3rd Row Seat, Power Steering, Power Door Locks, Rear View Monitor, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Traction Control, Stability Control, Brake Assist, Anti-Lock Brakes, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Traction Control, Stability Control, Brake Assist, Anti-Lock Brakes
$19,995

NEW 2014 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
Power Front Windows, Power Door Locks, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Traction Control, Stability Control, Brake Assist, Anti-Lock Brakes, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Traction Control, Stability Control, Brake Assist, Anti-Lock Brakes
$15,995

NEW 2013 DODGE DURANGO SXT 4X4
Power Steering, Power Door Locks, Rear View Monitor, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Traction Control, Stability Control, Brake Assist, Anti-Lock Brakes, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Traction Control, Stability Control, Brake Assist, Anti-Lock Brakes
$24,840

NEW 2013 CHRYSLER 300
Power Steering, Power Door Locks, Rear View Monitor, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Traction Control, Stability Control, Brake Assist, Anti-Lock Brakes, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Traction Control, Stability Control, Brake Assist, Anti-Lock Brakes
$26,280

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Service & Parts: M-F: 7a-6p Sat: 7a-4p • Sales Hours: M-F: 9a-9p Sat: 9a-7p

We service every Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep & Ram vehicle regardless of where you bought it!

Most offers can not be combined. *All prices plus tax, title, & $166.27 doc. fee. Off MSRP on select new models. +Must be identical, in-stock unit from Chicagoland area. See dealer for details. † 0% APR for 84 mos available on select new models to qualified buyers, must finance thru Ally Bank, in lieu of factory rebate: $11,500/1000 borrowed. ‡ Source: Chrysler year to date. All applicable factory rebates & incentives applied. Vehicle availability based at press deadline and all vehicles subject to prior sale. Dealer not liable for typographical errors in this ad. See dealer for terms & conditions. Manufacturer incentives subject to change without notice & may affect dealer's selling price. Financing subject to credit approval & insurability. Some may not qualify. Pics may not represent actual vehicle. Offers end 3 days from pub date.
**Come ride:**

- 2014 Subaru Forester
- 2014 Crosstrek
- 2014 XV Crosstrek

**2014 Subaru Forester**

- 147.00 MO
- Flexible Storage, Bluetooth, Vehicle Dynamics Control
- 32 MPG
- 0% APR
- All-Wheel-Drive, ABS, Side Curtain Airbags, MP3, Full Power

**2014 Subaru Legacy 2.5i**

- 119.00 MO
- 31 MPG
- 0% APR
- All-Wheel-Drive, ABS, Side Curtain Airbags, MP3, Full Power

**2014 Subaru Forester 2.5i**

- 179.00 MO
- 29 MPG
- 0% APR
- All-Wheel-Drive, ABS, Side Curtain Airbags, MP3, Full Power

---

**Evanston Subaru in Skokie**

3340 Oakton Street - Skokie, IL 60076

EvanstonSubaru.com 1-888-858-4089

- Flexible Storage, Bluetooth, Vehicle Dynamics Control
- 32 MPG
- 0% APR
- All-Wheel-Drive, ABS, Side Curtain Airbags, MP3, Full Power

---

*Add tax, title license and $164.30 doc fee. **Finance on approved credit score Subject to vehicle insurance and availability. %Lease on approved credit score. Lease, 10k miles per year, 15 cents after. Lessor responsible for excess wear and early termination of lease. Option to purchase. Trip.$11,214. For $14,833. Legacy $11,599, Outback $14,105, Crosstrek $13,920. *Gas mileage is EPA estimates. All offers end in 3 days, unless noted.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Make</th>
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<td>Chrysler 300</td>
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<td>Honda Odyssey</td>
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<td>Chevrolet Malibu</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Buick Regal</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>GMC Yukon</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Cadillac Escalade</td>
<td>$45,990*</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>45,990*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** gn OVER 300 HIGH-QUALITY PRE-OWNED VEHICLES! **

**Plus tax, title, license & $165.72 doc fee.** Total dollar savings will be applied towards the purchase of a vehicle of equal or greater value. Most return vehicle within 100 miles. A With approved credit. On select used vehicles in stock. 0% APR is a dealer-sponsored buydown rate and may affect final selling price. Max 600 financed $10.000. A With approved credit. Credit available to Illinois residents only. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this advertisement. Prices are good 2 days from date of publication. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. See dealer for details.
Muller Honda

Yes! We Can... #1 Choice in Chicagoland!

NEW YEAR...SAME GREAT DEALS...SAME GREAT SERVICE

Short Term Leasing And Financing Specialists!

0.9% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE!* LOW LEASE PAYMENTS IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

2014 Honda ACCORD SPORT Automatic, Model # CR2F5EEW, Stk # H31269

Deck Lid Spoiler • Dual Exhaust
Power Driver's Seat • Fog Lights
Leather Steering Wheel • 18” Alloy Wheels

$249** Lease Per Month For 36 mos.

Excludes tax, title, fc & doc fee.

2014 Honda CIVIC LX 4DR $199** Lease Per Month For 36 mos.

Excludes tax, title & doc fee.

2014 Honda CR-V EX AWD $269** Lease Per Month For 36 mos.

Excludes tax, title & doc fee.

2014 Honda ODYSSEY EX-L $359** Lease Per Month For 36 mos.

Excludes tax, title & doc fee.

SHOP ONLINE @ muller-honda.com

WE WANT YOUR TRADE-IN!

*Based on closed end leases for 36 months. Excludes tax, title and dealer fees. Plus first payment for well qualified lessees with approved credit. All rebates and incentives applied. 12k allowable miles per year. $20 over Odyssey, $15 over Accord, Civic and CR-V. Residuals: 14 Civic $12,186, 14 Accord $14,677, 14 CR-V $17,986, 14 Odyssey $20,415. Additional options extra. Lessee is responsible for excess wear/tear, maintenance and insurance. Subject to early termination penalty. *0.9% APR financing on select models to qualified buyers with approved credit. Not available with any previous offers. Dealer will not honor errors in this advertisement. Valid 3 days from publication.

We Speak - Korean, Spanish, Russian, Polish and Tagalog

ExpressService

Muller Honda

In Highland Park

550 Skokie Valley Road • 847-831-4200
DONT MISS OUR VIP EVENT
FEBRUARY 22ND
11AM - 3PM

AutoMatch USA
SALES • SERVICE • ACCESSORIES

JOIN US NOW THROUGH FEBRUARY 25TH,
AS WE UNVEIL THE AREA'S BEST PRE-OWNED AUTO DEALERSHIP

2008 Audi A4
STK# 530607 • Mi. 81,859
NOW $14,988

2008 Cadillac SRX
STK# 531213 • Mi. 84,178
NOW $15,537

2009 Jeep LIBERTY
STK# 530714 • Mi. 28,834
NOW $15,897

2009 Infiniti EX35
STK# 1551581 • Mi. 42,656
NOW $20,896

2010 Acura TL
STK# 533105 • Mi. 44,973
NOW $24,900

2011 Infiniti FX35
STK# 530920 • Mi. 26,544
NOW $35,988

2011 BMW X5
STK# 530591 • Mi. 55,829
NOW $36,728

2011 Land Rover LR4
STK# 530716 • Mi. 47,661
NOW $38,988

YEAR     MAKE/MODEL     STOCK#     MILEAGE     NOW*
2006     Volkswagen PASSAT 530713     70,588     $9,738
2004     Nissan MURANO     530712     92,299     $10,487
2009     Buick LACROSSE     530918     41,886     $12,447
2012     Ford FIESTA     530919     14,162     $13,299
2010     Nissan ROGUE     530715     34,025     $16,450
2011     Mini COOPER     530922     33,511     $17,978
2010     Honda CRV     530925     32,716     $20,899
2010     Jeep WRANGLER     530926     19,109     $21,900

YEAR     MAKE/MODEL     STOCK#     MILEAGE     NOW*
2011     Mercedes-Benz GLK350 530599     24,555     $32,688
2011     Jeep GRAND CHEROKEE 531024     37,196     $33,900
2013     Mercedes-Benz C300 533593     9,916     $34,900
2012     GMC ACADIA 531214     30,203     $35,900
2012     Audi A6 530924     28,708     $39,900
2011     BMW 750I 533533     46,565     $41,958
2012     Lexus GX460 530601     23,337     $46,988
2012     BMW X3 531064     22,733     $53,750

9040 Waukegan Road in Morton Grove, IL 60053 888.770.0851 AutoMatchUSA.com

NO THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014 | TODRIVE | 9
NEW 2014 Dodge GRAND CARAVAN

Electronic Stability Control, Keyless Entry W/Immobilizer, 12V Auxiliary Power Outlet, Pwr Windows/locks/Heated Mirrors, U Connect 130 AM/FM/CD/MP3, A/C w/ 3 Zone Temp Control, Outside Temp Display & Much Much More! #141502.

MSRP $20,990 | OUR PRICE $15,990

SAVE $5,000

We service every Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep & Ram vehicle regardless of where you bought it!

7601 N. Cicero Ave • 800-411-1001 • ShermanTimes.com

Service & Parts: M-F: 7a-6p Sat: 7a-4p • Sales Hours: M-F: 9a-9p Sat: 9a-7p

*All prices plus tax, title, lic. & $166.27 doc. fee. $MSRP may not be actual selling price within trade area. +/- Off MSRP. ^Chrysler year to date. Vehicle availability based at press deadline and all vehicles subject to prior sale. Dealer not liable for typographical errors in this ad. See dealer for terms & conditions. Manufacturer incentives subject to change without notice & may affect dealer's selling price. Financing subject to credit approval & insurability. Some may not qualify. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Offers-expire 3 days from pub.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price per Month</th>
<th>Sale Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2002 KIA SEDONA</td>
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<td>2005 FORD EXPLORER</td>
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<td>2005 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER</td>
<td>$149/MO</td>
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<td>2007 CADILLAC CTS</td>
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<td>2012 CHEVY MAZDA</td>
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<td>2011 DODGE NITRO</td>
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<td>2009 HONDA CR-V</td>
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<td>2012 SUBARU LEGACY</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005 KIA SORENTO</td>
<td>$149/MO</td>
<td>$194</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Prices listed do not include taxes, fees, and financing options. See dealership for details.
Builders have home options for families big and small

BY JOHN ROBERTS
for Sun-Times Media

Maybe the kids are finally on their own and you're ready to find something smaller and easier to maintain. Or maybe you want a place you can get to in a couple hours for a weekender or summer getaway, where you have the option of hosting the entire family or relaxing with your significant other.

Housing needs change just as lifestyles change. Fortunately, whatever you decide you want to do, there are plenty of options. It is still a buyer's market out there and builders, more than ever, know they have to meet your changing needs when the time comes to find a new home or a second home.

Sixty-eight percent of Illinois residents are homeowners, and more than 86 percent of those owners have resided in the same home for at least one year. Jan and Steve D'Amico were no exception. However, in October 2011 the D'Amicos were ready for a change and diligently began a search for a new home. For more than 10 months they visited, took pictures and researched various homes, comparing locations, prices, sizes and options.

In September 2012, the couple decided, signing a contract to build a new home at Maples at the Sonatas in Woodstock.

Maples at the Sonatas, a Wilcox Community, is set on 24 acres on the north side of Woodstock and is minutes from Route 47 and the historic Woodstock Square. The subdivision features maintenance-free, single-family ranch homes in various model designs. This luxury ranch community offers models that have as many as three bedrooms, two bathrooms and an attached 2- or 2.5-car garage.

Carol Lyons, sales consultant for Maples at the Sonatas, helped the D'Amicos not only to select the model that best suited their needs and desires but also to find a rental home and place to live while their new home was under construction.

"Renting a home within one half block from where our home was being built was a blessing," Jan D'Amico said. "To be able to walk over every day to see the progress... from the start of the framing until the day we finally became the owners was great and to have the pictures we took, priceless."

If you want to buy a second home not too far away that could eventually become your primary residence when you and your partner decide to retire, another option to consider is Lake Chapin Shores in Berrien Springs, Mich.

The community has attracted both young families looking for a vacation home and active empty-nesters who want a place not too far from home where they can invite the family for the weekend, Sprengel said. Many of the homes have separate living areas for guests, he added.

"It's more of a family destination spot," he said. "We get a variety of families."

According to Sprengel, the empty-nesters at Lake Chapin are very active, and the community is surrounded by a number of amenities, from antique shops and restaurants to wineries along a nearby "wine trail."

"There's a lot to offer," Sprengel said. He added that there are only five homes left to purchase at Lake Chapin Shores.

For more information about Lake Chapin Shores, visit www.lakechapinshores.com or call (888) 866-4244.

For more information about Wilcox Communities, visit www.wilcoxcommunities.com.
Hope Institute to raffle off $1.6 million dream house

Some lucky person will win a magnificent $1.6 million Chicago dream home or $1.3 million in cash in the third annual Chicago Dream House Raffle to benefit The Hope Institute for Children and Families.

Raffle tickets are $150, and entrants will have a chance at the dream house and other prizes, including cars and vacations. Over 550 prizes will be awarded.

The grand prize is a luxurious 4,200-square-foot brand new brownstone located in Chicago. The five-bedroom home includes 3.5 baths, a gourmet kitchen, two master suites, custom millwork, hardwood floors throughout, and two spacious decks.

"We are thrilled to be launching the third annual Chicago Dream House Raffle. As our largest fundraising initiative, the proceeds from the raffle will help The Hope Institute for Children and Families provide educational, residential and health care services to more than 33,000 Illinois children and their families each year," said Mark Schmidt, chief spokesman for The Hope Institute for Children and Families. The institute serves children with multiple developmental and physical disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders.

For the second straight year, Pat Sajak, the raffle’s celebrity spokesperson, lends his support. "We have two kids who have had no issues in terms of health," said Sajak when asked why he supports Hope. "But we have a lot of friends who have not been so fortunate, and I know it is very difficult to deal with as a parent."

Up to 50,000 tickets for the Chicago Dream House Raffle will be sold. As an incentive to purchase tickets early, the raffle includes cash prizes up to $25,000 in each of three early-bird drawings for tickets purchased before the deadlines of Feb. 21, March 21 and April 18.

Other early bird prizes include the winner’s choice of a Mini Cooper, Toyota Prius or Ford Mustang and trips to Prague, Czech Republic; Vienna, Austria; Maui, Hawaii; Jamaica and more. The deadline to purchase tickets for the grand prize thawing is May 23, and the drawing will be held on June 7. For a complete list of drawings, prizes, rules and methods of entry, go to www.chicagoraffle.com.
Always remember, what happens in the corners, stays in the corners
Experience the Cayman. Available at The Porsche Exchange.
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Shopping for your next car? Visit ToDrive.com to find the make and model that fits your style, needs and budget.
5 High-Paying Blue-Collar Jobs

By Hannah Hamilton, Monster Contributing Writer

Are you interested in a career that doesn't always require sitting in a college classroom for 4 years? Perhaps something that relies more on an apprenticeship or other hands-on training would suit you better. The salary experts at Payscale.com found five jobs that pay well and don't necessarily require a 4 year college degree.

1. Aircraft Mechanic
   Median Annual Salary: $53,405
   Aircraft Mechanics must know how to read and interpret maintenance and service manuals for airplanes, so they can do what it takes to keep them flying safely. They perform regular maintenance on planes, perform preflight inspections and make repairs as needed.

   The job pays well because workers have access to complex equipment that can be dangerous, and it also also requires specialized training in a variety of skill sets that go under the scrutiny of several regulatory compliance areas, said HR4Change founder Tony Deblauwe.

2. Welding Inspector
   Median Annual Salary: $60,787
   Welding inspectors look for visual and structural errors in welding jobs, such as cracks, spatter and undercut. They're expected to be comfortable with welding processes and materials. They work both indoors and outdoors with project managers and engineers to make sure the specifications for a job are following its blueprints.

3. Fire Captain
   Median Annual Salary: $61,350
   This job has some obvious risks and requires the experience of a firefighter and the skills of a manager. Fire captains may direct one or more fire companies, serve as the on-scene incident manager and incident-safety officer in case of a fire, train department personnel as needed and use complex equipment in rescue situations.

4. Electrical Technician
   Median Annual Salary: $47,894
   Using diagnostic and measuring devices, electrical technicians create, maintain, and fix equipment and components involving electricity. They must know how to search for problems in equipment, be able to replace broken equipment and install new equipment.

   “Many high paying blue collar jobs have been in the electrical trade, and this has been so for many years,” says Polishing the Professional employment specialist Keith Davis, “These highly paid workers tend to have tasks such as elevator installation, and repairing gas and oil fields.

5. MRI Technologist
   Median Annual Salary: $61,369
   This job involves moving examination equipment, preparing patients for medical procedures, helping patients out of their wheelchairs and onto examination tables and adjusting patients’ positions on the table. MRI technologists also explain MRI procedures to patients and have a working knowledge of the imaging software in case the MRI machine requires adjustment. After the MRI procedure is over, they view the images and are responsible for keeping record of the results.
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Great fringe benefits including health, life, short & long term disability, insurance, two retirements & generous leave package.

For more details, visit www.hhbcmh.org, call 1-800-839-9443 & ask for the Human Resources Dept.
or email cholm@hhbcmh.org

Help Wanted Full-Time

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Account Executive

Looking for a career in sales? Energized by the excitement of the media industry? We would like to talk with you about exciting opportunities…

We are seeking talented sales professionals to join our team. Currently, we are accepting applications for an Account Executive who would be responsible for the growth of advertising revenue in a specific territory within the largest media company in Chicago. The ideal candidate will develop and execute advertising campaigns and ensure proper placement and billing, and presentations. We are seeking a highly motivated individual with a passion for sales. A college degree and two to five years of sales experience preferred, depending on the position.

Resumes with cover letter should be submitted, in confidence, by email, mail or fax and be directed to the following address:

Sun-Times Media
Attn: Jill McMenamin Advertising Account Executive
350 N. Orleans, 10th FL Chicago, IL 60654
Fax: (312) 321-2288
Email: jill.suntimes.com

Please note Account Executive in the subject line

No phone calls please

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How about a rewarding career helping others?
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- Dependable
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An excellent opportunity with an industry leader in multi-site residential healthcare has become available for the right person.

If we have peaked your interest, maybe now is the time for a career change. So. Suburbs.

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SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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Looking for a career in Sales? Energized by the excitement of the media industry? We would like to talk with you about exciting opportunities...

We are looking for great talent to join our team. Currently, we have opportunities in our local Chicago retail market area. Responsibilities include new business development through prospecting, sales calls and presentations. We look for highly motivated individuals with a passion for sales. A college degree and one to five years of sales experience preferred, depending on the position.

SUN-TIMES Media is a network of 41 newspapers and websites and mobile editions. The flagship Chicago Sun-Times is the oldest continuously published daily newspaper in the country. One of the 10 largest daily newspapers in the United States, the Chicago Sun-Times has won eight Pulitzer Prizes and is the complete source for the local and in-depth news, award-winning journalism and extensive sports coverage. Wegmans LLC is the American-based privately owned publisher of the Chicago Sun-Times, the Chicago Reader, Splish, hip and chic.

We offer a total rewards package that includes a full benefits package, uncapped commission program with a lucrative overachievement program, and presentations. We look for highly motivated individuals with a passion for sales. A college degree and one to five years of sales experience preferred, depending on the position.

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CDL A - REGIONAL DEDICATED
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CDL A - LOCAL DEDICATED
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DRIVER REQUIREMENTS:
- One Year Recent Experience
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Begin your career with the FedEx Team as a Tractor Trailer Driver and be a part of one of the most well-known and reliable companies in the world.

REQUIREMENTS:
- At least 21 yrs of age
- Class A CDL with doubles/tankers, HazMat & Tank endorsements
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Additional requirements will be found on the website listed below. Competitive pay rate and benefits offered.

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Drivers – Local and Regional
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CDL A - REGIONAL DEDICATED
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APPLY ONLINE AT WWW.HOLLANDRENGIONAL.COM/CAREERS

EOE
Prime 5-Acre Development Site
Northeast Corner of Randall & Algonquin Roads, Lake in The Hills, IL

SUGGESTED OPENING BID: $500,000
(Recently Appraised at $1,650,000)

Site Benefits Include:
- Flexible B-3 Zoning (Community Shopping)
- Combined 70,000 Vehicles Per Day (Randall & Algonquin)
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Proposed 96-Unit Senior Living Facility with First Floor Retail Space

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Thursday, February 20, 2014
Pioneer Press (DC) 7

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To advertise in this section, please call ICAN directly at (217) 241-1700.

Both Pioneer Press and the Doings recommend discretion when responding. Please refer questions and comments directly to ICAN.
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COURT OF JUDICIAL SALES – REAL ESTATE DIVISION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pur-

pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause on December 17, 2013, an order was entered granting the Plaintiff, CITIBANK, N.A., in its capacity as Successor in Interest as Mortgagee, to sell the above described real estate.

The real estate is located at:

8724 W Elmwood Avenue, Morton Grove, IL 60053

The real estate is improved with a residential real estate at the rate of $5.00 per $100.00 of the assessment. Sale terms: 25% down of the amount paid by the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales or by mail at 1590382. The balance, including the interest thereon, to be paid in full of the amount paid by the purchaser to The Judicial Sales Corporation. Sale terms: 25% down of the amount paid by the purchaser to The Judicial Sales Corporation. The purchaser shall be entitled to confirmation of the sale.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that purchasers of the above described real estate will NOT be open for inspection and shall be subject to general real estate taxes levied against said real estate and is subject to general real estate taxes levied against said real estate and to any other lien or assessment as to the condition of the property. If the property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale shall be subject to general real estate taxes levied against said real estate and the real estate will NOT be open for inspection.

The real estate is improved with a residential real estate at the rate of $5.00 per $100.00 of the assessment. Sale terms: 25% down of the amount paid by the purchaser to The Judicial Sales Corporation. The purchaser shall be entitled to confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and shall be subject to general real estate taxes levied against said real estate and is subject to general real estate taxes levied against said real estate and to any other lien or assessment as to the condition of the property. If the property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale shall be subject to general real estate taxes levied against said real estate and the real estate will NOT be open for inspection.

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For information contact Mr. David C. Sisko, Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, 2121 Waukegan Road, Suite 301, Chicago, Illinois, 60648, at 866-724-7000. Under-$100,000 Sale, 3/20, 2/27, 3/6/14 #730970.
Saturday, February 22, 2014

Pioneer Press (CQ)

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COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHICAGO SASKIN

2/20/14 #732607

Bids will thereafter be publicly opened and read aloud. A Bid shall be rejected if submitted late or if found to be irregularities in the bidding procedure, or accepted the Bid that in the opinion of the Board of Education for the purchase of Lawn Mowers and other equipment.

The bidder shall have a written sexual harassment policy in accordance with Section 4.8 of the Zoning Ordinance for the property.

The Attorney for the estate: Elaine Weber-Berger, Attorney at Law, 1001 Feehanville Drive, Room 201, Norridge, Illinois 60706.

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014

At this time the Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Bid shall be considered final. The Owner reserves the right to set aside Bids for the purchase of Lawn Mowers and other equipment.

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For information: Sale Clerk, Further notice shall be given.

028-0000

Permanent Index No.: 1001 Feehanville Drive, Room 201, Norridge, Illinois 60706.

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At this time the Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Bid shall be considered final. The Owner reserves the right to set aside Bids for the purchase of Lawn Mowers and other equipment.

The bidder shall have a written sexual harassment policy in accordance with Section 4.8 of the Zoning Ordinance for the property.

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NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, ILLINOIS REVISED STATUTES.

Notice is hereby given that on March 6, 2014, BID2WIN Auctioneer & Storage Clerk for U-Haul Co. North Shore Chicago will be offering for sale under the Judicial Lein process, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale are as described below, pursuant to the Illinois Self-Service Storage Facility Act, Illinois Code 95/1 to 95/7, on Wednesday, March 12th, 2014 at Lite Storage of River Grove, 333 25th West Street, Chicago, IL 60633. (773) 781-1417. Telephone: 781.2015.

Terry and Tracey

Terry and Tracey

Terry and Tracey

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Terry and Tracey
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CARS FOR SALE
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AUTO BUYING TRENDS
The Civil War is over and the March girls have their beloved father back from the front.

Using Louisa May Alcott’s timeless novel Little Women, American composer Mark Adamo created a continuation of the story of Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy and their Marmee for Houston Grand Opera Studio in 1998.

The current production of his work will be directed by Michael M. Ehrman, artist-in-residence and director of opera at Northwestern University’s Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music. “Adamo takes certain scenes from the book and shows them in flashbacks,” he said. “It is Jo’s memories of how things used to be.”

Jo, the second oldest of the March girls, is a tomboy with ambitions to become a writer.

“We’ve double cast the roles,” Ehrman said. “As an educational institution, our goal is not only to present a good show, but to give the students the experience of being in a production. And I required everyone to read the book.

“Casting is the hardest thing I do,” he admitted. “I know the students, I have them in class, I like them. I actually lose sleep over the casting.”

In this production, which will be sung in English, Jo will be portrayed by graduate students Kelsey Park and Melissa Serluco. Both are mezzo-sopranos and both agreed that Adamo’s music for Jo is challenging.

“Vocally, she’s all over the map,” Serluco said. “In the opera she’s the narrator. She’s such a strong personality, that as you portray her you become that character.”

The singer, who will receive her master’s degree in June, says she looks at Jo’s degree in June, says she looks at Jo’s strength. “When you think about the women’s role in Civil War times and right afterward, you realize how modern Jo is,” she said. “She doesn’t want to get married. She wants to have a profession. She can be sarcastic, but her words can be heartfelt too.

“Jo is a very passionate person,” said Park, who is in her first year of graduate studies at Northwestern. “That’s all reflected in her arias, which go from very high to very low as she expresses her feelings. It takes a lot of stamina.”

A native of Nebraska, Park read the novel only recently. “I’m surprised I hadn’t read it as a child,” she admitted. “But now I see why it has endured. We can all relate to the joy and heartbreak in the March family.”

Adamo’s opera, the first he ever wrote, has been performed in more than 80 cities worldwide. Northwestern University produced the opera in 2004.
Play imagines snow day for 'Snow Girls'

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
For SunTimes Media

Nine girls are trapped in a high school auditorium because of a snowstorm. Director Victoria Montalbano suggested this scenario to the members of Gorilla Tango Skokie Young Artists' cast. From that starting point, the girls, ages 11-17, created "Snow Girls," an original play.

"We spent the first few rehearsals doing character work," Montalbano said. "They each developed their own character. From there, we talked about how they fit together."

When the play begins, the girls are rehearsing for the school talent show. "One of the girls' younger sister has snuck in to watch them rehearse," Montalbano related. "She realizes that the doors are stuck and no one is getting cell phone service."

At first, the girls stay in their own cliques then slowly become friends.

Performances are 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Feb. 22-March 2, at 7924 Lincoln Ave. Skokie. Tickets are $12.

For details, call (847) 692-5127 or go to www.googletango.com.

WEB SITE

A resourceful spider finds a way to save Wilbur the Pig in "Charlotte's Web: The Musical," 2-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22 at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. This is a live, musical version of E.B. White's classic tale.

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

SEUSS NEWS

There will be crafts, games and a book raffle at Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration, 11 a.m. Saturday, March 1 at Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton St. Resident kids pay $10, nonresidents $12, adults $1. Registration is required.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2700 or go to www.skokieparks.org.
Restraint not a virtue for 'Robocop' remake

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

Considering that there's no good reason — aside from whipping up another 100 million bucks or so — to remake Paul Verhoeven's classic original, the new "Robocop" isn't bad, really. It's not as successful as it might have been, mainly because Brazilian director José Padilha tries to inject more philosophy and drama into the proceedings than he (or the lean, mean original concept) can handle. But it has style and adrenaline-pumping robo-thrills aplenty.

A fairly faithful copy in terms of its major plot points, "Robocop" 2014 is the story of Alex Murphy (Joel Kinnaman of AMC's "The Killing"), an honest Detroit cop circa 2028 whose crime-fighting career seems over when he's blown up by a car bomb. He gets a second chance, though, when his wife Clara (Abbie Cornish) makes a deal with the mega-corporation Omnicorp, whose military robo-droids have been effective at fighting crime overseas. If you don't count the occasional slaughtering of innocent civilians.

The slickly sinister Omnicorp CEO (Michael Keaton) wants to break into the American market, but he's thwarted by a law that prohibits armed robots on U.S. soil. However, with the help of a genius-with-a-conscience medical researcher (Gary Oldman), he tries to circumvent the law by turning Alex into a cop that's part-man/part-robot yet still programmed and controlled by his company. Or so they believe.

It's soon obvious that Padilha is taking a more ambitious approach to the material than Verhoeven did in 1987. Verhoeven, who never shied away from a little exploitation (his later films include "Basic Instinct" and "Showgirls"), stripped "Robocop" down to its essentials and concentrated on packing it with as much ultra-violence, black humor and satire as he could muster.

Padilha, who also clearly had the advantage of a much larger budget and a much stronger supporting cast, touches those same bases, but with more restraint. There are several whopping action scenes, all expertly handled, but the director seems to have been more interested in getting philosophical, upping the emotional ante with a subplot involving Murphy's family, and making his version much more striking visually.

Unfortunately, trying to keep all those balls in the air eventually winds up confusing things. Restraint, it seems, is not necessarily a virtue in a movie like this one. Toward the end of the film, Padilha's desire to deepen the human drama clashes severely with the film's original prime directive: to mete out righteous payback as violently and spectacularly as possible.

There's just enough of both, rampaging and reflectiveness, to be interesting, but not enough of either to completely satisfy.
MOMMY ON A SHOESTRING
BY BETH ENGELMAN

My sister Casey has always been the "smart sister." She was the one who got good grades, made logical decisions and never fell for style over substance. So when Casey called to say she was working on a new project that will benefit her children's school, her community at large as well as families in need, I was hooked.

Casey's project is a community-wide consignment sale where the sellers get 60 percent of the sale price, the school gets 40 percent and everybody gets a chance to buy children's clothing and accessories (not to mention strollers, baby monitors and changing tables) for a fraction of the cost.

Best of all, any items not sold are donated to nonprofit organizations such as Head Start and Off the Street Club. So yes, when it comes to consignment, everybody wins.

Consignments sales are not new, but the economic downturn coupled with the public's growing interest in recycling, reinventing and getting "steals" has created a consignment sale renaissance.

Consignments can be overwhelming, especially if you're not prepared, so I went to the experts to find out the best tips and tricks for selling and buying on consignment.

Quality over quantity
"When it comes to furniture shopping you want to look for the best quality you can find," says consignment expert, Melissa Sands, of Vintage Promotions, (http://vintagepromotionalle.com). Sands advocates looking for solid wood items that are made in the U.S. or Europe, as those items tend to be higher quality and often more valuable.

"Don't be afraid to open drawers, flip things over and examine the workmanship," says Sands. "If an item feels cheap and light, it usually is." Sands also suggests staying away from things "made in China" as you can often find those items anywhere.

Keep expectations in check
If you're interested in selling your items on consignment, do some due diligence to ensure you get a fair price. Research comparable items online to get a sense of pricing but don't be disappointed if your item is sold well below what you originally paid. Another potential pitfall is taking things personally.

Traci Burton, who owns the Etsy shop, "Truth or Wear" (www.etsy.com/shop/truthwear), cautions sellers to take the emotion out of their transactions. "Most consigners are picky because we know our audience, we know what sells and we know what doesn't," says Burton. "Just because I don't buy your item doesn't necessarily mean your item is junk, it just means it isn't right for my business."

Earn bragging rights
"There is nothing shameful about buying or selling on consignment," says Gilat Zamost, owner of My Best Friend's Closet (http://mybestfriendsclosethp.com) in Highland Park. Zamost is from New York, which has a rich history of consignment shopping, so she was surprised to come to Chicago and find only a few stores.

"When I first opened my store, a friend asked if she should come through the back door. She thought consignment shopping was something you didn't want your neighbors to know you did. But as my shop became more popular and people saw the amazing deals they could get, people started bragging about how little they paid for what would normally be quite expensive." Zamost also recommends shopping local consignment stores because it's eco-friendly and boosts the community. "My store, as well as many others, donates unsold items to local charities," she says. "It's our way of giving back to the community that supports what we do."
Oscar-Nominated New Release: *Dallas Buyers Club*

Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Morton Grove. Call 847-966-5522. $25-$60.

*Hugs and Kisses Concert*

I p.m.: Mother's: More Than a Café Chorus presents love songs and silly songs for every age. Mother's, 3236 N. Central Ave., Chicago. Call 773-205-3000. $3 suggested donation.

*Dinner Theater: Smash Hits with Stu Frank*

4:30 p.m.: This BYOB event features dinner and a musical performance by Stu Frank. Mother's, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-744-4004. $10-$16.

*Subway* 

I p.m.: Have some fun with improv exercises and theater games. Mother's, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $5 suggested donation.

*Crafts and Cocoa*

I p.m.: Enjoy hot chocolate while creating a winter-themed project. For ages 18 and older. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, 6820 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-966-5522. $25-$60.

*Oscar-Nominated New Release: *Dallas Buyers Club***

2 p.m.: In 1985 Dallas, electrician and hustler Ron Woodroof works around the system to help AIDS patients get the medication they need. Stars Matthew McConaughey, Jennifer Garner and Jared Leto. 117 minutes. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

*Travel Film*

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

*Film: 'Captain Phillips'*

2 p.m.: The story of Captain Richard Phillips and the 2009 hijacking by Somali pirates and the first American cargo ship to be overtaken in two hundred years. Tom Hanks, Barkhad Abdi. 135 minutes. Additional screening at 6:30 p.m. Call 847-829-5101 or visit www.mgpl.org to learn more. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

*Chamber After Hours* 

5:30 p.m.: A networking event for the Lincolnwood, Sauganash and Edgemont Chambers of Commerce. Nil Tap, 5734 N. Elston Ave., Chicago.

*Vinco Martin and Russ Williamson* 

8 p.m.: The comedians perform. $22 and a minimum of two food or drink purchases. Zanies Comedy Night Club and a minimum of two food or drink purchases. Zanies Comedy Night Club, 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-784-6030. $10 members, $13 nonmembers.

*SUNDAY, FEB. 23*

*Film & Discussion: 'Ahead of Time: The Extraordinary Journey of Ruth Gruber'*

1:30 p.m.: A screening of the documentary about the foreign correspondent and photojournalist, following a discussion with the film's executive producer and Ruth Gruber herself, via Skype. Reservations required. Illinois Holocaust Museum, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie.

*Feature Film: 'Elysium'*

2 p.m.: The 2013 sci-fi film about a man who tries to bring equality to a polarized, futuristic world. 108 minutes. Stars Matt Damon and Jodi Foster. A second showing begins at 7 p.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

*Film: 'Watchtower'*

2 p.m.: A man and a woman seek refuge from the world: Nihat at a remote forest fire tower, Seher in her room at a rural bus station. When their lives collide, each has to fight their battle of conscience before the other. 90 minutes. Call 847-929-5101 or visit www.mgpl.org to learn more. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

*Qintessence* 

3 p.m.: A performance based on the history of the windwood quartet. Evanston SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Call 847-905-0675. $35.

*If Music Be the Food of Love* 

3 p.m.: A benefit concert for the Northfield Township Food Pantry. A free will offering will be taken. Glenview Community Church musicians will perform a variety of vocal and instrumental works. Glenview Community Church, 1000 Elm St., Glenview. Call 847-724-2210.

*Music to Warm a Cold Winter's Night: From Sacred to Secular* 

4 p.m.: Wine, cheese and sweets follow the concert, which will feature Maria Avisa Bentley, music director at TBI, Philip Seward of St. James Presbytearian
church; with accompanist Lori Lyn Mackie on piano. Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. Call 847-675-0951. $10 suggested donation.

Traditional Irish Session
6 p.m.: Traditional Irish session hosted by Larry Nugent. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St., Chicago. Call 773-478-4408.

GDP and More
7 p.m.: Performances by GDP, The Sooper Swag Project and Rosegold. Must be 21 or older to attend. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St., Chicago. Call 773-478-4408. $7.

You Won't with Keilen & Me
7:30 p.m.: The two musical duos perform. Evanston SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. $12-$22.

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.

TRIVIA NIGHT
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FILM: 'CLOU0SS' 
11:30 a.m.: Based on Jane Austen's classic novel "Emma," "Clueless" is the modern-day story of a popular girl who spends her days playing matchmaker. Stars Alicia Silverstone, Paul Rudd, Stacey Dash, Brittany Murphy. 97 minutes. Call 847-929-5101 or visit www.mgpl.org for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

Oscar Party
5 p.m.: Professor Ron Falzone leads this Oscar celebration featuring clips and reviews of this year's top films and personalities. Attendees can also participate in Oscar contests and enjoy a movie snack. This is a BYOB event. Mather's, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $10 suggested donation.

Korean Brush Drawing
10 a.m.: Artist Soojin Lee shows participants the techniques of Korean brush drawing with ink and a brush on rice paper. Supplies will be provided. For ages 12 and up. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

Silver Screen Series: 'The Searchers'
2 p.m.: A Civil War veteran embarks on a journey to rescue his niece from an Indian tribe. Stars John Wayne, Jeffrey Hunter. 120 minutes. Call 847-929-5101 or visit www.mgpl.org to learn more. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

NOTRE DAME COLLEGE PREP BURKE SCHOLARS PROGRAM FUNDRAISER
6 p.m.: Begins with 6 p.m. mass; a reception follows with a dinner buffet, music and a cash bar. There will be a silent auction, a basket raffle and the attire is casual. Donations appreciated. To RSVP or provide a donation, visit www.nddons.org/burkescholarsprogram. St John Brebeuf Ministry Center, 8301 N. Harlem Ave., Niles. Call 847-965-2900.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2
Korean Dance and Drum Performance
2 p.m.: The Chicago Korean Dance Company will perform a variety of traditional Korean dances, such as a fan dance, jango dance with drums and others. Call 847-929-5101 or visit www.mgpl.org for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12
Flower Arranging
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, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $15 suggested donation.

Donivan Codey: The Survive Show
8:30 p.m.: Codey is a pop/R&B artist. Gorilla Tango Skokie, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call 847-677-7761. $10.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
Korean Dance and Drum Performance
2 p.m.: The Chicago Korean Dance Company will perform a variety of traditional Korean dances, such as a fan dance, jango dance with drums and others. Call 847-929-5101 or visit www.mgpl.org for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12
Flower Arranging
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, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $15 suggested donation.
3 DAYS TO KILL
Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, some sensuality and language
Stars: Kevin Costner, Amber Heard, Hailee Steinfeld
A Secret Service agent (Costner) hoping to retire and reconnect with his estranged teenage daughter (Steinfeld) must first complete one last dangerous mission — and look after her while her mother is out of town. McG ("Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle") directed the thriller.

POMPEII
Rated PG-13 for intense battle sequences, disaster-related action and brief sexual content
Stars: Kit Harington, Emily Browning, Kiefer Sutherland
A slave-turned-gladiator finds himself in a race against time to save his true love, who has been betrothed to a corrupt Roman Senator. As Mount Vesuvius erupts, he must fight to save his beloved as Pompeii crumbles around him.

THE WIND RISES
Rated PG-13 for some disturbing images and smoking
Stars: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Emily Blunt, Stanley Tucci, Eliza Wood
An idealistic young airplane designer (Gordon-Levitt) grows up to create Japan's World War II fighter plane, the Zero. Japanese animation master Hayao Miyazaki (" Spirited Away") directed the biographical drama.

ENDLESS LOVE
**
Rated PG-13 for sexual content, brief partial nudity, some language and teen partying
Stars: Alex Pettyfer, Gabriella Wilde, Bruce Greenwood, Joely Richardson
A triple dose of true romance and tortured melodrama for tween-age girls, the hyper-emotional "Endless Love" is likely to seem truly endless for just about anyone else. Wilde as sweet, beautiful, filthy rich Jade and Pettyfer as sensitive, hunky, wrong-side-of-the-tracks David are star-crossed teen lovers thwarted by Jade's disapproving dad (Greenwood). Who has apparently forgotten that didn't work out well in "Romeo and Juliet."

ROBOCOP
** 1/2
Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of action including frenetic gun violence throughout, brief strong language, sensuality and some drug material
Stars: Joel Kinnaman, Gary Oldman, Michael Keaton, Abbie Cornish
This ambitious remake of Paul Verhoeven's ultra-violent, darkly satirical original isn't as successful as it might have been, mainly because director José Padilha tries to inject more philosophy and drama into the proceedings than the lean, mean original concept can handle. Kinnaman (of AMC's "The Killing") stars as the not-quite murdered detective who's brought back to life as a cyborg crime-fighting machine. There are nice, surreal visual touches and action scenes are a blast, but trying to deepen the drama defeats the original prime directive: mete out righteous payback as violently and spectacularly as possible.

WINTER'S TALE
Rated PG-13 for violence and some sensuality
Stars: Colin Farrell, Jessica Brown Findlay, Russell Crowe, William Hurt
While robbing a house, a burglar (Farrell) falls in love with a young woman (Findlay) who dies in his arms. Learning he has the gift of reincarnation, he determines to bring her back to life. Akiva Goldsman ("The Da Vinci Code") wrote and directed the romance.

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Movie times are effective Friday, Feb. 21, through Thursday, Feb. 27. Please note that theater schedules are subject to change.

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CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

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Sunday Worship 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor
Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry
Matt Haider, Worship/Music
Michael Lyda, Children/Youth/Family

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6526 W Irving Park Road
773.283.2326, www.unitedinfaith.org
Sunday Worship 8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Praise & Worship Service
Tuesday - 7:00 PM Bible Study
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Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30AM
Saturday Worship 6PM

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**
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Cash, Jerrold M.
Beloved friend and partner of Marlene Williams; devoted friend to Jordan Williams, Jill (Michael) Victorn, Heather Sasek, Matthew (Jodi) Victorn, Adam Victorn and the late David Williams; son of the late Jack and Rose Cash; brother of the late Elaine Lasine; uncle of Lyle Gritchen and Linda (Steve) Swidler.

Gillick, Fred I.
Age 75, of Park Ridge. Owner of Gillick Real Estate in Park Ridge. Beloved husband of Nancy (nee Ramsland); loving father of Linda (Jake Gress) McGovern and Tricia (Mike) McClure; devoted grandfather of Ryan McGovern, Audrey Gress, Madeline and Maeve McClure; brother of Connie Belch and the late Timothy. Preceded in death by parents, John F. and Harriet B.
Memorial visitation Friday, February 28, 10:00 am - 12:00 p.m., at Ryan-Parke Funeral Home, 120 S. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge. Memorial service at 12:00 noon. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, memorials to a charity of your choice is appreciated. For information 847-823-5122 or www.nelsonfunerals.com.

Stack, Helen M.
(née Kubas) Beloved wife of the late John E.; loving mother of Diane (the late Grant) Smith, Cliff (Kathy), Charlene (Robert) Schmitt and the late Mark; dearest grandmother of 8; great-grandmother of 8; fond sister of Frank (the late Geraldine) Kubas and preceded in death by 3 brothers and 2 sisters; cherished aunt of many. Helen had a truly remarkable life which exemplified the hardy American spirit. Family and friends to meet, Thursday, February 20, at St. Paul of the Cross Church, 320 S. Washington, Park Ridge for 10:00 a.m. Mass; Interment All Saints Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, Masses would be appreciated. For information 847-823-5122 or www.nelsonfunerals.com.
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CAR STORY
My 1978 Oldsmobile Cutlass Calais
By Bob Murnane of Tinley Park

I ordered my 1978 Oldsmobile Cutlass Calais in January 1978 and picked it up at the dealer March 2. The purchase price was $7,959 out the door.

I got a new motor in April 2011, a custom-built 355 ci with 415 horsepower on the dyno machine. The engine is all chrome, and it's done up with dual exhaust and headers.

A new 200R4 transmission was rebuilt with a 2,500 stall and a shift kit, new flywheel and a high-performance starter.

The car received a complete paint job in March 2013. The paint has sealer, primer and three coats of dark carmine metallic paint and three of clear coat.

The car is excellent condition and is used for car shows and cruise nights in the summer months. It has about 81,776 miles and was stored in the winter months.
Lexus is top luxury brand

TODRIVE.COM NEWS SERVICE

In the month of November, Niles residents opted to purchase Lexus vehicles more often than any other luxury car brand. Lexus topped the luxury sales chart with 12 sales of the 38 total sales of luxury cars to Niles residents. A total of four new vehicles and eight used vehicles made up the 12 overall Lexus sales in the month.

Mercedes-Benz, which accounted for nine sales, was the second most popular luxury brand sold to Niles residents in November. Acura ranked third on the November list of most popular car brands sold to Niles residents, totaling six sales. Overall, Lexus was the most popular luxury auto brand bought new (four purchases), while Mercedes-Benz was the most popular luxury brand bought used (eight purchases).

In November, 82 percent of luxury car purchases by Niles residents came through a local dealer, while 18 percent came via private party transactions. Private party transactions accounted for seven of the 38 total luxury car sales to Niles residents in November, while local dealer transactions accounted for 31 luxury auto sales. The top auto dealership selling luxury vehicles to Niles residents in November was Jidd Motors with three total sales, followed by Brede mann Lexus in Glenview (two sales) and McGrath Lexus (two).

Niles residents purchased a total of 216 vehicles (all brands) in the month of November — 114 pre-owned and 102 new. So, the share of overall car and truck sales in the month made up by used vehicles was 53 percent.
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Every Thursday
Like his brother, Brewster makes state

BY DAN SHALIN
For Sun-Times Media, @danshalin

FRANKLIN PARK — Maine South senior Tom Brewster is scheduled to compete at his first Class 3A individual state wrestling tournament today, but it hardly will be Brewster's maiden voyage to the event.

Brewster, who wrestles at 160 pounds, was in the stands each time his older brother Joe Brewster reached state, which he did four times between 2007-2010.

Joe Brewster is currently a redshirt junior on South Dakota State's wrestling team and he put in a phone call to Tom Brewster ahead of Saturday's Leyden Sectional.

"He wished me good luck and told me to do some things for mental preparation," Tom Brewster said. "He said, 'The skill is there, but you have to be meaner, tougher. That's about it.'"

Tom Brewster seemed to follow his brother's advice as he cruised to Saturday's 160-pound final. Once there, he fell 20-9 to Oak Park-River Forest sophomore Kamal Bey, who is rated No. 1 in the weight class by IllinoisMatMen.com.

Tom Brewster, who is 32-2, said he'll have to make some improvements if the two meet in the state title match.

"I should have wrestled that match better," Tom Brewster said of the sectional final. "This week, I'll prepare and go over some adjustments that will make [a rematch] much closer. I'll have to make adjustments."

Tom Brewster, ranked No. 5, narrowly missed qualifying for state the last two years. But Maine South coach Kevin Hansen said Tom Brewster should have lofty goals for state, which will run till Saturday.

"The goal [for Tom Brewster] is to try to win a state title," Hansen said. "For any kid of that quality, your dream has to be a state title. That's ours. But being on the podium [top six] would be a special thing for him."

Norteno Dame

Dons junior Jimmy Gallardo qualified for his third straight state tournament at the Leyden Sectional. He reached the 113-pound sectional final, losing 2-1 to Oak Park-River Forest junior Alex Madrigal.

Despite the defeat, Gallardo said he's better prepared for state than in each of the past two seasons. He went one-and-done as a freshman 106-pounder and 2-2 in the 113-pound division in 2013.

"My technique and style have gotten better," Gallardo said. "I've changed everything up. I'm working more on offense now."

Gallardo said he wrestled more in the offseason, estimating he competed in about 100 matches.

"And this year [in practice] I've switched my partners around more to get different views," Gallardo said.

Gallardo will be joined at state by junior teammate Marco Orlandi, who finished third at the sectional in the 160-pound division.

Orlandi defeated Glenbard West junior Alex Morreale 5-1 in the third-place match. Morreale beat Orlandi 3-1 in the second round of the tournament Friday, but Orlandi made the necessary adjustments the following day.

"I knew what he was going to do and I wrestled more my style," Orlandi said of the rematch. "I had never seen him wrestle before and I didn't expect much from him [in the first round]. I underestimated him, I guess."

Niles West

Wolves senior Isaac Reinemann reached his first state tournament after finishing third at the sectional.

The 183-pounder defeated Glenbard West senior Perneion Sheppard 9-5 in the third-place match. Reinemann's state-clinching win was a 5-4 decision over Schaumburg sophomore Logan Gruszka in the wrestle-back semifinal.

With Reinemann on deck for his wrestle-back semifinal, a wrestler suffered an injury that required medical attention from paramedics. The wrestler, Conant 182-pound junior Bobby Alexander, eventually walked off under his own power, but Reinemann was forced to endure a long delay.

"That's the most nervous I've ever been before a match," Reinemann said. "The extra time was tough. My heart was beating [extra fast]."

Niles North

Vikings junior Hermez Abraham got to within one win of qualifying for state at the Leyden Sectional. However, the 106-pounder lost his wrestle-back semifinal 7-3 to Schaumburg sophomore Hazen Rice.

Evanston

The Wildkits had seven wrestlers compete at the Leyden Sectional, but none of them qualified for state. The good news for Evanston is that six of them are expected back next year.

After being eliminated, most of the Wildkits stayed at the sectional to watch the finalists, and coach Rudy Salinas said the group already was looking ahead to next winter.

"They already are setting new goals," he said. "As saddened as they are, it's not the end of the road for them. They're still on the journey. This was another chapter, but they are still writing their book."

Maine East

None of the Blue Demons' sectional qualifiers — sophomores 106-pounder Brandon Lopez, junior 113-pounder Noel Huicochea and junior 220-pounder Mario Pagons — reached state.

Maine East coach Emiliano Hernandez said his wrestlers have to improve mentally in order to thrive at future sectionals.

"People don't realize these matches are 10 times more intense than any other matches during the season," he said. "The [top] kids come here and throw the kitchen sink right from the beginning. It's a mental approach you have to have."

Hernandez said additional offseason tournaments will help his wrestlers.

"You look at Glenbard North and Oak Park, [offseason wrestling] is the kind of thing they're doing," he said. "They are hitting these big tournaments in order to get their kids prepared for this. That's the only way to get to the next level."
Young Dons adjusting to ESCC, Les’ coaching

BY DAN SHALIN
For Sun-Times Media, @danshalin

NILES — After the departure of its all-senior starting five and the transfer of its top reserve from the 2012-13 team, it was inevitable that the Notre Dame boys basketball team was going to be an inexperienced bunch this season.

The Dons feature seven sophomores, three of them starters, five juniors and just three seniors.

While coach Tom Les’ fiery sideline demeanor indicates he is plenty demanding of the current team, the coach said he has been forced to make some adjustments to his practices because of the team’s youth.

“We work more on fundamentals this year [than we did last year],” he said. “Those guys [last year] had their skill set down pretty well and understood the level of focus and energy they had to bring.”

Recently, Les has said youth is no longer an acceptable excuse for losses this late in the season. But the coach acknowledges how tough the transition to varsity can be for young players, especially those competing in the talent-laden ESCC for the first time. Notre Dame is 11-14 overall and 3-4 in the conference entering Friday’s game at Marist.

“When it’s your first time in here, first time playing varsity, it’s a big step, a huge step. It’s not like a sophomore playing college ball,” Les said. “These are kids who are two years from being an eighth-grader and playing junior high. That’s nothing like what’s going on out there [on a varsity court].”

Despite the team’s youth, Les still has high expectations according to sophomore forward Ammar Becar, who saw limited minutes on the varsity as a freshman.

“Last year, with all the seniors, [Les] knew to expect a really good season,” Becar said. “This year, his expectations were just like last year — winning a regional and continuing our streak of winning 20 games. He never changed the way he coaches. He’s always hardest on his best players.”

The 6-foot-6 Becar has been one of the team’s top performers, especially lately. He had 20 points and six rebounds in an 80-58 loss to St. Viator on Friday. That came a week after his 17-point, 10-rebound effort in a 62-50 setback against Marian Catholic, which is currently ranked fourth by the Chicago Sun-Times.

As he has gone from role player to go-to guy, Becar said he has received a different type of attention from Les.

“Last year, I was more in the background, learning and in the background. Coach was telling me to ‘work, work, work,’ because he knew Joe [Mooney], Pat [Dillon] and I were going to be the nucleus of the team this year,” Becar said. “[This year], coach has been on Pat, Joe and me. If there is a mistake made, even if it is [made by] one of the other guys, coach is on us to do more to help out the team.”

With that in mind, Becar said he’s tried to do his part to help the first-year players get comfortable with the system. Dillon, a senior, and Mooney, a junior, are the captains, but Becar said his voice can sometimes be the loudest. He compares his role to the one starting forward Eddie Serrano held a year ago. Les often described Serrano as the team’s sheriff.

“Kids who were on the freshman and sophomore teams last year are not used to experiencing coach Les, and this year they ask me: ‘Ammar, what do I have to do? What am I doing wrong?’” Becar said. “I just tell them to play hard and listen to coach Les and you’ll see how your game will evolve.”

Sophomore forward Donte Washington said he has taken Becar’s advice and that his first varsity season has been a positive experience.

“[Les] is always intense and he tries to get us to do what we need to do,” he said. “He pushes us to our limits, but you couldn’t ask for a better coach.”

CHECKING IN

Friday, Feb. 14
St. Viator 80
Notre Dame 50

THE SKINNY

The St. Viator boys basketball team remained in second place in the ESCC, a game behind Marian Catholic, with a convincing win over Notre Dame on Friday in Niles. Four Lions scored in double figures and the starters sat most of the fourth quarter.

TURNING POINT

The teams hit their first seven shots and St. Viator (18-5 overall, 5-1 conference) led 9-8 with 5:15 left in the first quarter. Then, the Lions went on a 17-7 run to close out the frame. Lions coach Mike Howland said his team’s defense was the key during that stretch. After the surge, St. Viator’s advantage did not dip below double digits, and the visitors built the lead to 30 points late in the third quarter.

THE STARS

Drake-bound senior guard Ore Arogundade led St. Viator with 18 points. He added eight rebounds. The game also represented a breakout performance of sorts for St. Viator guard Mark Falotico, who scored 17 points. The junior missed the first 14 games of the season with a foot injury and had been playing limited minutes before Friday’s contest.

BY THE NUMBERS

Junior guard Patrick McNamara and junior center Sal Cannella added 10 points apiece for St. Viator. Ammar Becar, a Notre Dame (11-13, 3-4) sophomore forward, led all scorers with 20 points. He had six rebounds.
BY JONAH ROSENBLUM
For Sun-Times Media, @HSCNewsNorth

Duante Stephens wants to play college basketball. He doesn't want his career on the hardwood to end here. Not at Notre Dame's gym. Not at Niles North's Main Gym.

To Stephens, his transfer from Notre Dame to Niles North following his junior season is hopefully just part of the path to a collegiate basketball career. "Basketball could help me get a free education. Basketball is just something I love to do," Stephens said. "I felt like whatever it took to play at the next level, I had to do."

At Notre Dame, the 6-foot-3 Stephens played the four.

At Niles North, the senior has gotten to play the two, and at times, the one.

"To actually see him play a position that's fit for his body and to actually see him grow has just been so amazing," said LaCollier Perkins, Stephens' mother. "You have no idea how good it feels to see him allow his natural talent to be showcased.")

Niles North coach Glenn Olson knew Stephens fairly well.

Niles North defeated Notre Dame in the New Trier Sectional semifinals when Stephens was a freshman.

Last season, Stephens helped the Dons secure the 2012 Wheeling Hardwood Classic title with his tight defense on the Vikings' Lorenzo Dillard.

"He played with a lot of great players at Notre Dame, Division I players," Olson said. "I don't think he had ever been in a position where he had to be a guy who took a lot of shots."

The transfer was difficult because, according to Perkins, Stephens has been introverted and shy from his earliest years. He spent much of his childhood with his brothers.

"It's harder for him to meet new people and to get used to people because he's not the one who is going to initiate the conversation," Perkins said.

Stephens was switching to a public school after years in private schools. Perkins said that in grade school, Stephens' classes never exceeded 13 children.

It also was difficult given the vast differences between Niles North and Notre Dame. Stephens recalls walking up to someone in the hallway at Niles North and suggesting he put away his phone. Only later did he learn that the repercussions in Skokie were different than those in Niles.

"At Notre Dame, you just can't do certain things," Stephens said. "You can't be on your phone, you can't eat in class and you have to wear a uniform. When you go to Niles North, it's like the complete opposite of that."

And of course, Stephens was adjusting to a different position — the one he always wanted — but still a different position.

"The beautiful thing is you have the summer," Olson said. "He shot the ball real well and handled it better than we expected."

There was opportunity with the Vikings, a team that Olson said had lost 80 percent of its scoring from the previous year.

"He's a guy that can score in a lot of different ways," Olson said. "It wasn't like he unseated somebody or took minutes away from somebody. It was kind of like a transition year for us. It just kind of worked out naturally."

Stephens has gotten to handle the ball in crunch time at Niles North.

And with his time at both schools, Stephens now has experience at the one through four positions.

"I'm pretty confident as an offensive player," Stephens said. "I have no fear of posting my man up and now I can bring my game from the outside on the wings. I feel like I'm a hard matchup for defenders every night."
Neither fouls nor Maine West can halt Gonzalez

Senior guard helps lead Blue Demons to CSL North title

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

PARK RIDGE — The Maine East girls basketball team saw how quickly Maine West can take a competitive game and put it out of reach on Jan. 10, and the Warriors threatened to do that again in the second quarter of what amounted to the CSL North championship game.

Maine West standout Brittany Collins started Friday's game, which Maine East won 48-44, in dominant fashion. The senior post player had nine points and six rebounds in the first quarter to put Maine West up 12-8 after eight minutes.

Not only that. Maine East senior point guard Jazlene Gonzalez, a four-year starter, picked up three fouls in the first 3:52.

Gonzalez's foul trouble seemed like it would keep her on the bench until at least the start of the second half, but Maine East coach Karol Hanusiak made a bold move to start the second quarter.

She put Gonzalez back in the game.

"We could not win this game without her," Hanusiak said. "I was so confident she could go in and play at a high level and be smart enough not to foul. And we needed her. There was no way we were going to do this without her in there almost the whole game."

The Blue Demons built a lead in the second quarter, led throughout the second half and held on to beat Maine West and win the program's first CSL North title. A banner commemorating the achievement is scheduled to be raised in the school's fieldhouse, and Gonzalez was a major reason for that.

A four-year starter, Gonzalez made 4 of 6 3-point attempts in what she said was her best shooting performance of the season. She finished with a team-best 15 points, and didn't pick up any fouls after the first quarter.

However, things looked bleak for her during the final 4:08 of the first quarter in the biggest game of her career. Hanusiak's head dropped as she sat on the bench immediately after picking up a technical foul — she reentered the game without checking in amid a moment of confusion for the Blue Demons, who only had four players in the game at the time. But Hanusiak quickly told her to "take a deep breath, smile [and] you're going to go back in."

Gonzalez collected herself during that time, thinking back on experiences including Maine East's win over Niles North on Jan. 24 when she managed to play through foul trouble.

"I've had many foul [situations] like this, and I thought, 'OK, I did this before. Let me regroup myself, come back on defense,' " Gonzalez said. "I just kept pushing myself, like 'I can do this, I can do this, I've got it.' And I did it."

Gonzalez returned to the floor to start the second quarter and immediately helped flip the game's momentum. She scored the first points of the quarter on a layup in transition, and then she made a steal and dished to sophomore guard Janelle Alba Garner on a fast break for two points.

She played the rest of the game on the side of the Blue Demons' 2-3 zone, managing to stay on the court and providing a steady presence for Maine East.

"When she came back... we were all energized," Alba Garner said. "That brought the whole team up because we need each other."

Maine East senior Jazlene Gonzalez takes her turn cutting down the net following Friday's win over Maine West in Park Ridge. Gonzalez scored 15 points to help the Blue Demons clinch the CSL North title. | BRIAN O'MAHONEY/COURTESY OF SUN-TIMES MEDIA

The Blue Demons struggled at the line for much of the game in front of a rowdy crowd, finishing 12 of 21. Maine West took advantage in the fourth quarter — the Warriors (16-9, 8-2) cut their deficit to 44-41 with 29.2 seconds remaining — but Alba Garner sunk all four of her free throws in the final 30 seconds to put it away. With the win, Maine East avenged a 47-26 loss to Maine West on Jan. 10.

"Quotable"

"When the buzzer went [off], we fell to the ground and we were all crying. There's no way to explain it." — Alba Garner on what winning the CSL North means to Maine East.
Hockey seems to be the poor stepchild of American team sports – no major network TV contract, less attention paid by the major sports media, a more limited fan base. But all that changes every four years during the Winter Olympics since 1998, when professional players were made eligible. Nearly 30 million Americans watched the gold medal game between the U.S. and Canada in 2010. That's almost 75% more than watched Game 6 of the 2013 Stanley Cup finals between Chicago and Boston.

In his first year as head basketball coach at UCLA, Steve Alford had the team off to a strong start and a likely spot in the 2014 NCAA Tournament. But March Madness might be maddening for Bruins fans. In his previous coaching stints at Iowa and New Mexico, Alford became the only coach ever to lose twice to a No. 14 seed in the first round of the tournament. Alford is best known for leading Indiana to an NCAA title in 1987, but his connection to UCLA is pretty cool. His father was the coach at Indiana's Martinsville High, where legendary Bruins coach John Wooden played his high school ball.

In 2000, Welshman Peter Edwards bet 50 Pounds (a little more than $80) at 2,500-to-1 odds that his then 18-month-old grandson would some day play for the Wales national soccer team. Sure enough, in October of 2013, that grandson, Harry Wilson, became the youngest player ever to be named to the team. Edwards promptly collected on his bet, walking off with 125,000 Pounds – more than $201,800.

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Maine East senior Alyssa Matej (right) hugs coach Karol Honuslak after Friday evening’s win over Maine West. Maine East clinched the CSL North title with the win.

Champs
Maine East wins CSL North with victory over Maine West
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