Digging into culture

Diverse Maine East students celebrate homelands’ past | PAGE 6
The Gold Standard

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With popular Bollywood songs blasting from speakers, Maine East High School students sampled ethnic foods and cheered on their friends in stage performances during the school's International Celebration Saturday.

The 24th annual event, held to showcase the Park Ridge high school's ethnic diversity, featured traditional foods from about a dozen countries — from Indian samosas and Greek baklava to banana spring rolls from the Philippines — as well as performances of Bollywood-style dance, Serbian and Greek line dance, Middle Eastern belly dance and garba, a style of dance that originated in Gujarati, India.

Principal Michael Pressler says he thinks of International Celebration as Maine East's second homecoming because it brings a number of graduates and families back to the school.

"It's a neat celebration that's very visual of where the kids came from and of their backgrounds," he said. "What they know and what they've experienced is fascinating."

Indian culture was largely represented in the stage show, with four different groups performing.

"It's how we keep in touch with our roots," said Anjali Varghese, who studies South Indian dance and was part of a group number entitled "Nee Nadaswaram," which featured a selection of movie songs.

Dance is also an important cultural touchstone for Nikola Nikolic, Katja Damjanic, Lucy Ivkovic, Jovana Ilie and Tanja Rakovic, who performed a traditional Serbian dance. The students attend church together at Holy Resurrection Cathedral on Chicago's Northwest Side and every Saturday take part in dance performances.

"It's very family oriented," said Damjanic of their relationship.

Shimul Sheth, who danced to a set of current Bollywood numbers with Maine East's International Club, came to the U.S. from India a year ago, and admits it can be difficult being so far from where she grew up.

"I don't feel like I'm home," she said.

Friend Neha Patel promptly put an arm around her.

"I'm with her, so she doesn't have to feel alone," Patel said with a smile.

Along with other classmates who have roots in India, Sheth and Patel were looking forward to Holi, the centuries-old "festival of colors" celebrated in spring. Both planned to take part in the traditional spraying of colored water and powder that would be held at their temple.

At the Mongolian Club's booth, Tserenchunt Bayarjargal showed off a traditional two-string horsehead fiddle from his native country of Mongolia — but admitted he doesn't know how to play it.

"I was going to, but I didn't have a teacher," he said. "We hang it on the wall for decoration."

Bayarjargal's family keeps their culture alive in the U.S. by marking Mongolian Independence Day each August and celebrating "White Moon," a new year's festival where families visit elderly relatives and community members.

"We don't forget about our culture. It's very important," Bayar-

Tanja Rakovic, Katja Damjanic, Jovana Ilie, Nikola Nikolic, and Lucy Ivkovic in the group Soko dance for the Serbian Club at the 24th Annual International Celebration, held at Maine East High School on March 15. JASON GLOSNIAK/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Maine East High School students Aniisha Patel and Janvi Patel set up the South Asian table at the 24th Annual International Celebration March 15. JASON GLOSNIAK/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Hellenic group dancers Perry Haspia, Samatha McGrath, Niko Haralampopoulos, Maria Skoufos, Peter Kosmas and Contina Boleziots perform at the 24th Annual International Celebration at Maine East High School March 15. JASON GLOSNIAK/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Tanja Rakovic, Katja Damjanic, Jovana Ilie, Nikola Nikolic, and Lucy Ivkovic in the group Soko dance for the Serbian Club at the 24th Annual International Celebration, held at Maine East High School on March 15. JASON GLOSNIAK/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA
Mo Khan declares victory in 20th District House race

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
johnson@pioneerlocal.com
@Jen_Pioneer

With applause from a room of supporters and a champagne toast, Park Ridge native Mo Khan declared victory in what turned out to be a tight race in the 20th Illinois House District Democratic primary Tuesday night.

Unofficial suburban vote totals from the Cook County Clerk's Office and Chicago precinct totals from the Chicago Board of Elections show Khan with 2,200 votes to opponent Jerry Acciari’s 2,048 votes. One Chicago precinct still had not reported as of 10:30 p.m.

"Thank you for helping me get to this point," Khan told supporters who gathered at his Uptown Park Ridge campaign headquarters Tuesday night. "Now we're on to the general election. Let's do what we need to do six months ago: Let's keep working together, bringing more people into the fold, and make sure we have a positive impact on not only this district, but the people of the entire state of Illinois." Khan credited his win on what he called "unbelievable support from so many friends and so many family members — an unbelievable team of people coming together." He also called it a "hard-fought primary," despite the fact that his opponent, Acciari, was virtually absent from the campaign.

Unofficial vote totals show Khan with 63 percent of the vote in the suburbs, but with only 46 percent in the 41 Chicago precincts that are part of the 20th District.

Khan will face Republican incumbent Michael McAuliffe in the November general election.

"This election is going to be about the economy of Illinois, who can create more jobs — me or Rep. McAuliffe?" Khan said. "We’ve seen what he has or has not done in the course of 16 years and I’m coming here to make sure we prepare our students for the jobs of tomorrow and make Illinois a better place." Khan, 28, graduated from Maine South High School in Park Ridge and is currently pursuing a law degree at Loyola University.

Foss-Eggemann wins Republican committeeman seat

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
johnson@pioneerlocal.com
@Jen_Pioneer

As with campaign promises to restore leadership within the Maine Township Republican party, Park Ridge resident Charlene Foss-Eggemann is the winner in the Maine Township Republican committeeman race.

With all precincts reporting unofficial vote totals Tuesday night show Foss-Eggemann with 63 percent of the vote to opponent Carol Teschky’s 37 percent.

Foss-Eggemann, who spent election day at Roosevelt School, her home precinct, and at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, credited her win to the volunteers who assisted her, saying they are "completely dedicated" to rebuilding the local GOP. Her first plans as committeeman-elect include hosting a unity breakfast for all Republicans this Saturday at Sunset Grill in Des Plaines and partnering with opponent Teschky.

"I'm hoping now that the campaign has ended we are going to mend fences and continue to build on the strong campaigns we both ran and join forces to support all our Republican candidates and push back the Democrats on Nov. 4," Foss-Eggemann said.

Currently the president of Park Ridge Republican Women and a trustee on the Park Ridge Public Library Board, Foss-Eggemann has cited a lack of leadership within the Maine Township Republican Organization in recent years and called the organization "defunct" as a result.

As committeeman, she said she plans to recruit a "grassroots group of volunteers to get out the vote" and serve as precinct captains, while also focusing on other duties required of township committeeman, including appointing election judges, raising money for the Maine Township Republican Organization, and campaigning for Republican candidates.

Just days prior to the election, Foss-Eggemann received an endorsement from Park Ridge Mayor David Schmidt who emailed supporters and other constituents, urging them to vote for Foss-Eggemann, whom he identified as a friend.

Teschky currently serves as Maine Township supervisor. She was reelected to a four-year term for that position last year.

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Holocaust Museum, Evanston YWCA unveil plan for race exhibit

“RACE: Are We So Different?” set for October opening

BY MIKE ISAACS
misaa@sknreview.com | @SKReview_Mike

It's a subject that many find difficult to raise and perhaps even more difficult to discuss in a meaningful way.

But an enlightening exhibition set for next fall at the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie aims to fearlessly focus on different aspects of race. Race: Are We So Different? comes to the Chicago area under a special partnership between the museum and YWCA Evanston/North Shore.

"Racism is not how you look," historian Robin Kelly once said. "It is about how people assign meaning to how you look."

Noreen Brand, the museum’s director of education, began her comments about the upcoming exhibit by recalling that provocative quote last week during a press conference in Evanston.

"We celebrate differences and personal identity and family background, country and language, and at the same time differences among people have been the basis for discrimination and oppression," she said.

The museum hosts thousands of students every year to engage them in questions about "what does it mean to be who you are, how to celebrate differences, how to look at identity and how to foster understanding of what it means to be a human being."

Brand called the effort "an investigation of the history of race from a scientific perspective, looking at human invention of race and then how, at one point, it was legitimized and now we're looking at how can we dismantle this concept."

"This was a natural for us," she concluded about hosting the project.

It proved a natural for YWCA Evanston/North Shore as well. President and CEO Karen Singer called the exhibition and its associated events an important new initiative in the organization's racial justice work, "one that will have a profound effect on all of us and on our communities."

The result of three years of dreaming, planning and collaborating, she said, the two partners along with sponsors are bringing a national expedition to the Chicago area for the first time.

It runs from Oct. 12 through Jan. 25, 2015 at the Skokie museum, but many associated programs will be held in Chicago and North Suburban communities this spring, summer and during the exhibition's run.

YWCA Evanston/North Shore CED Karen Singer speaks about a new exhibition, "Race: Are So Different?" that will come to the Illinois Holocaust Museum in October. The museum and the YWCA are sponsoring the exhibition. MIKE ISAACS/SUN TIMES MEDIA

"RACE: ARE WE SO DIFFERENT?"
For more information on the exhibition and various programs, access the following:
- www.illinoisholocaustmuseum.org
- www.ywca.org/evanston

In fact, a discussion series on the works of August Wilson that will help move people individually, and collectively, to seek racial equity, the YWCA said in statement.

"Eliminating racism is core to the identity and mission of the YWCA," Singer said. "Our work reflects this key commitment.
Understanding and talking about race and racism, understanding how our communities and institutions have and continue to be affected by racism is critical to our ability to work together to create racial equity."

"Race: Are We So Different?" was developed by the American Anthropological Association. It looks at race through history, variation and lived experienced. First presented at the Science Museum of Minnesota, it tells stories and explores race from biological, cultural and historical perspectives.

Like many of the museum’s provocative and most resonant traveling exhibitions, "Race: Are We Still Here?" uses different multimedia tools to explore in a unique way a difficult subject. Interactive components, multimedia presentations, iconic objects, photographs, and graphic displays will all be central pieces of an in-depth exploration of race.

Evanston Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl last week said one of the reasons she wanted to run for mayor was to preserve the city's significant diversity. At that point, she said, Evanston was losing its African American population, which has somewhat turned around.

But celebrating diversity is not solely indicative that Evanston has solved all racial problems, Tisdahl said.

"We clearly have not. But the one thing you can say about Evanston is we are always working to be better. That's why having this exhibit here is so tremendously important," she said.
Carson’s Clearance Center to open in former Loehmann’s space

BY PAM DEFILIO
For Sun-Times Media

A Carson’s Clearance Center, featuring merchandise from the department store, is coming to Morton Grove. Mayor Dan DiMaria announced at Monday’s village board meeting.

The store will fill the 20,000 square feet recently vacated by Loehmann’s, a nationwide discountor of high-end designer women’s fashions, in the Village Plaza Shopping Center at the northwest corner of Harlem Avenue and Dempster Street. It could open as soon as early April.

The Carson’s Clearance Center will carry apparel, shoes and home goods; it will be only the third such store for Bon-Ton Stores Inc., Carson’s corporate parent.

“A regional company took note there was going to be a vacancy,” said DiMaria. “People are starting to get the vibe Morton Grove is a good place to do business.”

Nancy Radzewich, community and economic development director for the village, said the Carson’s Clearance Center would fit in well with the other retailers in the mall, which include the Eddie Bauer Outlet, Home Goods, TJMaxx, Planet Fitness, Produce World and Pet Supplies Plus.

“Our permit team did a walk-through with them; it looks like they’re doing minimal alterations,” Radzewich said, adding that could mean the store would open sooner than if significant construction work were involved.

“I don’t know when it will be up,” she said. “We’re just working with their schedule.”

The Morton Grove clearance center would open in early April, according to a press release from Bon-Ton Stores Inc.

“We are pleased to announce the opening of our third free-standing clearance center,” President and CEO Brendan Hoffman said in the release. “The store in Morton Grove will feature a wide assortment of clearance merchandise from women’s, men’s and children’s apparel, shoes, handbags and home items, all offered at terrific values.”

Marty Kerr, vice president of investor and public relations for Bon-Ton, said the other two clearance center stores are located in Lansing, Ill., and the Milwaukee, Wis., area.

CBRE, a national commercial real estate brokerage, also released a statement saying it leased the space to Bon-Ton, resulting in a 98 percent occupancy rate for the Village Plaza shopping center.

Maine East registers 77 student new voters

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
johnson@pioneerlocal.com | @Jen_Pioneer

A February voter registration drive at Maine East High School in Park Ridge generated 77 new voters this year, according to the Cook County Clerk’s Office.

The drive took place on Feb. 6 and was aimed at both students who had recently turned 18 and 17-year-olds who will turn 18 by the November general election. A new state law allows 17-year-olds to vote in a primary election if they will be 18 at the time of the general election.

“We had a few teachers who had gone through training to be voter registrants, so we manned tables in the cafeteria during the lunch periods and registered as many students as we could,” said Carl Brownell, social science department chairman at Maine East.

Across Cook County, more than 8,400 high school students were registered to vote between Jan. 1 and Feb. 21, according to the Cook County Clerk’s Office. The suburban high school with the most new voters registered was Lyons Township High School in La Grange (with 420), followed by New Trier High School in Winnetka (309) and Palatine High School in Palatine (258).

Locally, Maine West High School registered more than 150 new voters this year. Maine South High School also conducted voter registration, but the number of registrants was not known, according to David Beery, spokesman for Maine Township High School District 207.

“Our number always tends to be a little lower at Maine East than other schools mainly because we have more students who aren’t U.S. citizens,” explained Brownell, referring to the school’s large population of recent immigrants.

This year was the first time that 17-year-olds could register to vote in a primary election under the state’s new Suffrage at 17 law.

Two Maine East students, Andrea Garneata and Veronica Walesiński, were selected as winners of a Cook County video contest aimed at promoting the Suffrage at 17 law.

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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.

**PUBLIC INDECENCY**
William McDonald, 27, of 9670 N. Dee Road, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with public indecency on March 9 after a woman told police she saw a man exposing himself while driving his car around a Golf Mill Shopping Center parking lot. The woman obtained the license plate information on the vehicle, which led police to McDonald, who was taken into custody outside his residence. He has a March 28 court date.

**OBSTRUCTION**
Marcos Beltran, 18, of 8809 Wisner OBSTRUCTION into custody outside his residence. He himself while driving his car around a Dee Road, unincorporated Maine

**RETAIL THEFT**
Steven Parker, 35, of 5534 W. Bernice Ave., Chicago, was charged with retail theft on March 8 after he allegedly stole a Bluetooth speaker from a store on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue. Police said Parker also had arrest warrants for failing to appear in court on a February retail theft charge out of Chicago and for a traffic offense in DeKalb County.

**BURGLARY**
A furnace, hot water tank and air conditioning condenser were stolen between March 10 and March 12 from a home that was being renovated on the 7900 block of Milwaukee Avenue. Police said two doors and some windows were discovered unlocked and the power had been turned off when the theft occurred. The items were all installed in November, the contractor told police.

**THEFT**
A Niles man told police that on March 9 a caller threatened him, accusing the man of sleeping with his girlfriend. Police said the man believes the caller is the boyfriend of a female friend he met four months ago and he denied having a relationship with her.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**
The rear window of a vehicle parked in a lot on the 8300 block of Ballard Road was broken between 12:40 and 2:40 a.m., March 7.

**THEFT**
An employee at Golf Mill Shopping Center reported that her iPhone was stolen while she was working on March 7. Police said the woman was able to track the location of her phone to the area of Talcott and Dee Roads in Park Ridge, but Park Ridge police were unable to find the phone.

A woman told police that her wallet was taken on March 7 while she was eating inside a restaurant on the 7000 block of Dempster Street. A credit card that had been inside was reportedly used to make $1,600 worth of purchases at a store and was also used at gas stations in Chicago and in Blue Island.

A designer watch and $150 in cash were stolen on March 6 from an unlocked locker at XSport Fitness, 9210 N. Milwaukee Ave.

On March 10, a woman allegedly picked up a purse that had been left unattended briefly inside a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. When the husband of the purse’s owner confronted the woman, she reportedly handed the purse back to him and left the store. The purse was missing a phone and wallet containing $300 worth of gift cards, police said.

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**POLICE BLOTTER**

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A team of 8-year-old hockey players from Skokie have proved that age doesn't matter when it comes to gliding across the ice to get the puck in the net.

For the past 12 years, the Skokie Flyers Mite A team has maintained a tradition of trekking five hours up to Baraboo, Wis., for the Logan Klemm Memorial Hockey Tournament, where the kids face off against teams from Illinois' northerly neighbor.

This year's tournament was extra special, Flyers coach Victor Lazzaroni said. That's because for the first time in the team's history, the Flyers clenched the Championship Logan Klemm Memorial Trophy after the March 2 tournament.

The victory was a big deal for the players and their families, who look forward to tournament each year. Each morning at dawn, the players and their parents emerge from their hotels in the Wisconsin Dells to gather in the small makeshift Pierce Park Ice Arena for a youth hockey tournament described as "unlike any other" by parent Patrick Long.

"What I've learned about hockey — perhaps unlike any sport — is that the kids' passion for it is overwhelming and can be life-changing if you're receptive to it," Long said. "Good luck getting a kid out of bed to play baseball — I've tried — but get out of their way if they're going to play hockey."

The families convene on a few cold, dark winter mornings in late February to watch the kids play in an old-fashioned, one ice sheet facility in rural Wisconsin with no mechanical refrigeration, meaning the ice is naturally frozen by the cold weather.

Frigid Wisconsin nights freeze the ice to sub-zero temperatures, which makes perfect conditions for "fast hockey" in the early morning hours, Long said.

"It is so cold — guaranteeing fast ice — that the players have to wear long underwear and use hot pockets to keep warm," Long said. "In this environment, kids simply play their hearts out, and you can feel the emotion of the game rise and fall."

More than just a hockey tournament, the trip is a bonding experience for the players and their families, who play "shinny" hockey in the empty halls of the Dells water park hotels at night and splash around in the indoor water parks during the day.

The tournament was named in memory of Logan Klemm, a hockey player who was in third grade when he passed away from a sudden illness in 2000.

Logan's parents, Timm and Tana Klemm, started the tournament the following year as a way to remember their son and celebrate his love of hockey.

"The Flyers played in honor of Logan by exuding his passion for the sport," Long said. "A young boy's love for the game has propelled the people around him to make something special happen that brings our players on a pilgrimage to enjoy it — it's worth noting and talking about."

Skokie Flyers Mite A Team players come from Skokie, Lincolnwood, Evanston and Chicago.

The Flyers beat three other teams — the Onalaska Tornados, the Monroe Avalanche and the Waukegan Wildcat — to win the championship.
Farmers’ Market holding spring event this weekend

BY PAM DEFILIO
For Sun-Times Media

Dispelling any doubts that spring is on its way, the Morton Grove Farmers’ Market is holding its Spring Market Day on Saturday, March 22, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The market will be held indoors at the Morton Grove Civic Center, 6140 W. Dempster.

It’s a pre-season event for the Farmers’ Market, which will then hold a Mother’s Day Market May 10 and start holding regular weekly markets starting June 7.

“This Saturday, we will introduce two new vendors, Kountry Kettle Corn and 72 Decorations,” said Elaine Monterola, public relations manager for the market.

They make homemade kettle corn and dried floral arrangements, respectively, and join a lineup of vendors selling chocolates, baked goods, artisanal cheeses, natural meats, fruits and vegetables and other delectables.

Saturday’s entertainment features three bands: Whitey O’Day, CJ Lele, and Bob Perstein. RC Juggles, a balloon artist, will also be at the market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“Many of our vendors have been very busy during the off season creating new products, most notably Beijo de Chocolat, Jilly Bean Jar, LAZ Cosmetics and Tamales Express,” Monterola said.

The market is still accepting applications for vendors for the full summer season. The managers are especially looking for jelly/jam vendors and prepared-food vendors. They also need volunteers, and are hoping community groups and sponsors will get involved.

“This year, we are introducing a Market Friends fundraiser that allows families and individuals to ‘sponsor’ the market,” Monterola explained. Sponsors will receive a Market Friends T-shirt and a mention on the market website.

That helps the nonprofit market survive financially, she said. It is its own entity, but under the umbrella of the Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce, which is also a nonprofit.

That requires careful money management.

“Any funds left over from the previous year are used to fund the market the following year,” Monterola said. “We are very careful to not spend beyond our means. Approximately half of our budget comes from regular season vendor fees. If we are not able to reach our sponsorship and fundraising goals to make up the other half, we are forced to cut back on our festivals, outreach, and marketing efforts.”

The Farmers’ Market is returning this summer in the same space as last year — 6140 W. Dempster, or more precisely, the parking lot between the Harrer Park field house and the American Legion Civic Center.

Katie, Josie, and Chuck Falzone purchase vegetables and plants from Rebecca Sutter of Lyons Farm at the Morton Grove Farmers’ Market in 2013. (P.R.

What is your son doing this summer?

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Police: Man shot at on Golf Road

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
johnson@pioneerlocal.com | @Jen_Pioneer

Cook County Sheriff’s Police are investigating a report of a gun fired at a man in unincorporated Maine Township Monday afternoon.

Sheriff’s Department Spokeswoman Sophia Ansari said a 41-year-old man was walking east on Golf Road between Potter and Dee roads at around 1:45 p.m. when he said he was approached by a group of men. Words were exchanged and the man was approached by a group of men.

Police searched the area, but no suspects were reportedly located. The incident remains under investigation, Ansari said.

Sheriff's Police have not revealed if the incident is believed to be gang-related, nor was the exact location of the incident.

The man was not hit, she added.

Police: Man shot at on Golf Road

We had no classes that were meeting outdoors during this time and at no time during this incident was there any threat to the safety of students or staff,” Beery said.

East Maine School District 63, which has a school just blocks from where the alleged incident was reported, was not notified by Cook County Sheriff’s Police that a shooting was under investigation in the area, a district representative told Pioneer Press.

“We didn’t hear anything about it until we had dismissed the students,” said District 63 administrative assistant Debbie Piazza, speaking on behalf of Superintendent Scott Clay.

Mark Twain School is located in Niles, about one block south of Golf Road and two blocks east of Dee Road. Apollo School, also in District 63, is located about one mile north where the alleged shooting occurred, while Stevenson School is 1.2 miles southeast.

Alcohol sales on tap at Park Ridge convenience stores

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
johnson@pioneerlocal.com | @Jen_Pioneer

Convenience stores in Park Ridge will soon be stocking shelves with alcoholic beverages.

The City Council on March 3 approved the first reading of an ordinance establishing a new liquor license that allows convenience stores to sell alcohol between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. Final approval is expected on March 19.

The license was established at the request of 7-Eleven, which in interested in selling liquor at its three Park Ridge stores, including a gas station at Cumberland Avenue and Higgins Road.

Charlene Brandt, community relations manager for 7-Eleven, could not say exactly when alcohol sales will begin at the stores, adding that it is dependent on the length of the application process.

“That varies from three to 12 weeks,” said the Park Ridge Herald-Advocate.

The new liquor license sets restrictions on the amount of space allowed for packaged alcohol to be displayed, requires the stores to have an electronic scanning device to read driver’s licenses and identification cards, and requires “hard spirits” to be stored in a locked shelving unit that is only accessible by employees. Sales must also be monitored by cameras.

A minimum square-footage requirement for stores allowed to sell alcohol has been removed from the ordinance.
Dear Help Squad,

Last Spring we had three of our four daughters play at Full Package Basketball of Northfield. The program began in early April. On May 5, my oldest daughter came home from practice with ankle pain, and by the next morning it hurt her to walk.

That week, my daughter was put in a boot, told not to play any sports and was advised to see an ankle surgeon. We spent the next two months seeing ankle surgeons, trying to determine if and when she should have surgery. I kept in touch with Matt Truding and told him that Kelly would not be able to play for the rest of the season.

I paid the full, agreed upon amount for my younger two daughters ($850 each) and $800 of the $1,300 for my oldest daughter. In June, Kristen Sheehan of Full Package contacted me to pay the $500 remaining balance for my oldest daughter. I told her that my daughter was injured still and couldn’t play, and that since she only played four weeks of the four-month season, I was hoping for a partial refund. She said that I needed to talk to Matt.

I called and e-mailed Matt several times over the summer, asking to discuss a refund. He did not respond. In October, I e-mailed Danielle Levin, another owner at Full Package. When she received my initial e-mail, she apologized that Matt had not responded to me, and said that she would look into the situation and get back to me. After a couple of weeks and no response, I e-mailed her again, and she did not respond.

After reading your column in the Park Ridge Advocate each week, I began to think that maybe you could help resolve this. My voicemail to Matt asked to discuss a possible refund of $400, which I thought was fair.

Can you please help me resolve this situation?

Mary Kons
Park Ridge

Dear Mary,

First of all, we hope your daughter’s ankle is healed, that she’s doing well and that she’s back out on the basketball court!

When we received your e-mail we called Matt and left a message. He called us right back, said he remembered the situation and told us he felt badly that they never resolved the situation with you.

Matt then agreed to send you a check for $400 that day, a partial credit for the session since your daughter only played a month into it.

This was perhaps one of Help Squad’s easiest solves ever. A total slam dunk!

Since Full Package rebounded so quickly, and since Matt is the president of Full Package Basketball for girls, which offers leagues for fourth-through eleventh-graders, we thought we’d ask him to share with our readers the benefits of girls’ basketball.

Here’s what he said:

• It builds self-confidence, on and off the court.
• It teaches players how to work through their conflicts. They learn how to understand interpersonal relationships which enables them to be more successful in life.
• In the game of basketball, players are dealing with constant changes and learning to work through any problems that come up.
• It is a constant movement activity. There’s not a lot of standing around which is physically and emotionally healthy.
• It is a skill sport. What that means is, anyone can make themselves a good player by working at it. Even if you aren’t the fastest or tallest, if you learn the skills and understand the game, you can be successful.
• It’s one of the few sports in which individual skills can be rewarded and also be used within a team to make a team successful. In basketball, everyone is a part of the game.
• Being on a basketball team gives players a sense of being part of something, and a sense of pride, which improves self-esteem and self-assurance.
• It teaches discipline.
• It teaches players how to trust each other.
WHAT'S YOUR AGENDA?

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

DISCOVER YOUR AGENDA BY PICKING UP A COPY OF FRIDAY'S PAPER.
Bill Gates reaches well beyond his grasp

“Most people who fret about these monumental global issues have little wherewithal to do anything about them other than join a service organization and play a small part. More than anyone, Gates has the wherewithal to do something gigantic about it and he is doing it.”

BY RANDY BLASER

Have you ever met the two most influential people in how you live your life? I’m not talking about your mentor, or the relative who gave you your worldview, or the person who gave you a moral foundation. I’m talking about the two people who have had the most influence on how each and every one of us lives and works. Is there anyone in the world who has had more influence than Bill Gates and Steve Jobs?

These two computer geniuses stand with the likes of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford as innovators who have changed everything about how we live.

I’ve been thinking about this because I am a devotee of the products and ideas given to us by Steve Jobs and Apple. I love their ease of use, their elegance, their intuitiveness and their simplicity.

And I’ve long been a harsh critic of Microsoft products, particularly the Windows operating system. I used to joke that Windows crashes so much that if Bill Gates made cars he’d be in jail. Nevertheless, both men have accumulated wealth beyond anyone’s wildest dreams, more money than anyone could spend in a lifetime.

Which raises another issue: Is there something beyond accumulating money? Both have been well rewarded for their innovation and ideas, deservedly so. But I think any person in such a position would have to ask, is that all there is? What’s the point of having it all when so many in our world have nothing?

I have no idea if Steve Jobs ever tried to answer that question, let alone even ask it.

Yet every time I see some innovative or interesting solution to a really big world problem, Bill Gates is behind it.

For example, I’ve been a member of Rotary since 1992, serving in the Oak Park, Wilmette Harbor and Gurnee clubs over time. Rotary’s ambitious world project, begun in 1985, is to wipe out polio. In 2009, Rotary got a $200 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and polio is darn near wiped out.

A few years ago I heard a snide news report about Gates. His idea was that a new type of toilet could change the world, and he sponsored a contest to reinvent the toilet. Seems goofy at first, until you wonder what it’s like to live in a place where the only source of water is the same place your village uses for a washroom.

Last year I heard a report about a new teaching program that is changing the way kids learn called Khan Academy. Bill Gates is helping to fund it.

Go on the website for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and search for what they do, and you will see the scope and ambition of how Bill Gates really wants to change the world. A more ambitious agenda I’ve never seen. There are global health initiatives to address HIV, malaria and pneumonia, and public development initiatives from agriculture development and building libraries to nutrition and water and sanitation.

Most people who fret about these monumental global issues have little wherewithal to do anything about them other than join a service organization and play a small part. More than anyone, Gates has the wherewithal to do something gigantic about it and he is doing it.

It’s like the poet Robert Browning said, “A man’s reach should exceed his grasp, or what’s a heaven for?”

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.
There are two sides to Oregon cat attack story

Real news, at last! By now you must have heard about Lux the cat from Portland, Ore. His family called 911 on him because Lux attacked them, held them prisoner, as it were, in their own bedroom.

The cops came and snared Lux with one of those things they grab dogs with. But that's only one side of the story.

Anyone who knows cats knows there is another side: Lux's side.

Cats are dignified beings. They do not take insults or abuse lightly.

The family Lux lives with has a baby. The baby pulled Lux's tail. Lux retaliated and scratched the baby. The baby's father then kicked Lux in the behind.

This outraged Lux's dignity and he took action.

That behavior is typical of cats — and humans.

Let me ask you: What would you do if someone kicked you in the behind?

Right.

People and cats are a lot alike. That, I think, is why some people don't like cats.

“People and cats are a lot alike. That, I think, is why some people don't like cats. Cats, like people, will love you under certain conditions. And the love of a cat is a wonderful thing. But it has to be earned.”

So, are dogs thus better than cats? Some people would say so.

I've lived with dogs and I've lived with cats. I've loved them and they've loved me. In that sense I always have considered them of equal value and delight.

Right now I have a cat.

So, I love her best.

And, oh yes, I never kick...
FEATURED HOME
BY AGGREGO NEWS SERVICE

6575 W. Ebinger Drive, Niles
House size: 2,500 square feet
Lot size: 3,910 square feet
Year built: 1928
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 4
Garage: Two-car detached
Property tax: $6,732.93 (2012)
Exterior: Brick
School districts: Niles Elementary School District 71 and Niles Township Community High School District 219

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Property Transfers

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

### Morton Grove
- 6330 Lincoln Ave, #4: Reni Zoe Ziwin Trust and Edith Mandell Trust to Amel Ramic for $95,000 on Jan. 29
- 7435 Foster St: Lynn B Smith and Ramic for $95,000 on Jan. 29
- 1322 Elliott Ave: Charles Koules to $420,000 on Jan. 27

### Park Ridge
- 735 Vine Ave: 1420 So Prospect Inc to Thomas B Smith to Niron Youkhanna for $910,000 on Jan. 30
- 735 Vine Ave: 1420 So Prospect Inc to Thomas B Smith to Niron Youkhanna for $910,000 on Jan. 30
- 1731 Pavilion Way, #1731: Irene Stasiuk on Jan. 28

### Glenview
- 622 Glenview Road: Catherine C Davis to Shaozhuo Dong and Yi Xie for $420,000 on Jan. 27
- 308 Happ Road, #402: Marcia M Lamperovic and Ashraf I Memon to Jennifer Wong and Kimberly Nguyen Wong for $465,000 on Jan. 29
- 3900 Nokomis Ave: Louis S Vasta to Nan Ly and Crystal Quach for $395,000 on Jan. 30

### Skokie
- 7910 Babb Ave: John Cornici and Livia Cornici to Gregory M Ray for $310,000 on Jan. 29

### Lincolnwood
- 1622 Glenview Road: Catherine C Davis to Shaozhuo Dong and Yi Xie for $420,000 on Jan. 27
- 6758 N Nokomis Ave: Louis S Vasta to Nan Ly and Crystal Quach for $395,000 on Jan. 30

### Northfield
- 308 Happ Road, #402: Marcia M Lamperovic and Ashraf I Memon to Jennifer Wong and Kimberly Nguyen Wong for $465,000 on Jan. 29

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**Property Transfers**

**BY AOROEGO NEWS SERVICE**

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**Cruise**

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**Unchanged**

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**Source:** Bankrate.com, 2014
NILES
THURSDAY, MARCH 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 847-663-6265.

Be Ready for Spring
1 p.m.; The church will be accepting winter coats and accessories from 1 to 3 p.m. through March 20 for donation to the needy. Call the office at 847-647-9867 for pickup. St. John Lutheran Church, 7429 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Call 847-647-9867.

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.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

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

East Maine School District 63's Annual Charity Basketball Game
5:45 p.m.; Watch the teachers and staff from the district display their skills on the basketball court and enjoy exciting halftime entertainment. All proceeds from the event benefit Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago. Gemini Junior High School, 8955 N. Greenwood Ave., Niles. Call 847-827-1181. $5.

MONDAY, MARCH 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.

CJEE SeniorLife Resource Counseling
10 a.m.; Make an appointment for a private session with a Resource Specialist from CJEE 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 773-508-1064.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

Children's Consignment Sale & Vendor Fair
9 a.m.; Shop for deals on all children's items including clothing, books, toys, furniture and more. Vendors include Pampered Chef, Tastefully Simple and more. Run 8 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, email stjohnconsignment@yahoo.com. St. John Lutheran Church, 7429 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Call 847-647-9867.

Free Microsoft SkyDrive Deep Dive Class
10 a.m.; Learn how to set up a free account, save existing Office files into the SkyDrive cloud and leverage Microsoft’s Office Web Apps. Registration required. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. For more information, call 847-663-1234.

HAPPENING NEARBY
THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Trip to the Water Reclamation Plant
Noon; For more information, call 773-775-4790 or email info@npseniorcenter.org. Norwood Crossing, 6016 N. Nina Ave., Chicago.

Senior Spelling Bee
1 p.m.; Participate in the 2014 Senior Spelling Bee hosted by the North Shore Senior Center in partnership with the Morton Grove Public Library. The winner and runners up will advance to the regional semi-final in June. The state finals will be held at the 2014 Illinois State Fair on Senior Day. Coffee and dessert provided. The public is invited to cheer on the contestants. North Shore Senior Center, 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-663-3073.

Brickton Art Center Class
4 p.m.; Students grades two to six can enjoy a monthly art class taught by a staff member from the Brickton Art Center. Registration is limited. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Learn to Use Online Photo Editing Tools
7 p.m.; Learn how to use free online photo editing tools, like Pixlr, PicMonkey, Fotor, SumoPaint and more. Registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-673-3733.

FRIEDAY, MARCH 21

Do More with Word 2010
10 a.m.; Participants will learn how to create and change page layouts, work with columns, bullet points and more. Registration required. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-985-4220.

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.

Get Health Coverage
1 p.m.; Illinois Health Marketplace navigators will be available for confidential, individual consultation. Bring verification of income (pay stubs, income tax return) and a form of identification (driver's license, Social Security card, student visa) to complete your online registration. For further information, navigators can be reached at 773-282-6622, ext. 267. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

YA 'Divergent' Release Party
4 p.m.; Students in grades six to 12 can find out what faction they are and celebrate the movie release of "Divergent" with faction tattoos, trivia and more. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Lego CodeBots Club
4:30 p.m.; Kids ages 4 to 8 can use Lego WeGo sets to make robots. Registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-324-3149.

Field School 60th Annual V-Show ‘Queen of Diamonds: A Crowned Caper’
7 p.m.; By using their observation skills, a Field School student (played by a parent) solves a mystery that even the most famous grown-up detectives can't begin to crack. Performances are at 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through March 23. Eugene Field Elementary School, 707 W. Wilson St., Park Ridge. Call 312-636-1717. $7, $5 ages 12 and under.

Friday After Class (F.A.C.)
7 p.m.; A luau-themed event, featuring live music and games, for kids in fifth to eighth grade. Prairie View Community Center, 6834 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-1200, $3-$5.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Park Ridge Newcomers Club Spring/Summer Kids Sale
9 a.m.; Gently used children's items for sale, including spring/summer clothing (newborn to size 12), shoes, coats/jackets, toys and games, books, DVDs, furniture, bedding and maternity clothes. Visit www.parkridgenewcomersclub.org/kidsale for more information. St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, 260 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. $2.

Morton Grove Farmers Market Indoor Spring Market

Playdate with Nature
9 a.m.; Games, crafts and educational activities based around the seasonal nature theme of the day. Registration required. Wildwood Nature Center, 529 Forestview Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-5127.

American Red Cross Babysitting Training
9 a.m.; Learn how to act in an emergency, prevent accidents, play with and supervise children of different ages and more. Come to class with a pen, pad of paper and a baby-like doll. Please bring a lunch. For ages 11 to 15. Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 W. Sibley St., Park Ridge. Call 847-682-5127. $80-$95.

PowerPoint 2007 Basics
10 a.m.; Learn the basics of the program. Attendees must have a firm understanding of mouse usage and basic computer commands. Registration is required. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-647-9987.
Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie.

Do More with Excel 2010
2 p.m.: Participants will learn more about Microsoft Excel 2010 with hands-on projects. Some projects include calculations, sorting and filtering data and custom formatting. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

Antiques Appraisal
2 p.m.: Learn the value of antique items with an appraisal by Leonard Auctioneers & Appraisers, Inc. Skokie Heritage Museum, 8031 Floral Ave., Skokie. $5 per item.

MONDAY, MARCH 24

Teddy Bear Time

One Woman Show: Beverly Sills
1 p.m.: Roberta Randall's portrayal of the internationally acclaimed soprano's life as a singer, impresario, wife and mother from child performer in 1933 to Co-Director of the New York City Opera. Call 847-470-5223 to register. North Shore Senior Center, 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove. $9-$12.

Music and Movement Story Time
1:30 p.m.: Easy access and fun for all ages for a little bit of music and movement. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-965-4220.

Morton Grove Village Board of Trustees Meeting

Lenten Taize Prayer Service
7 p.m.: Spend an hour in prayer, song and reflection. All religious denominations are welcome. St. Paul of the Cross Church, 320 S. Washington St., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-7605.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

What Is a Banned Book? Who Decides?
10:30 a.m.: Barbara Jones, director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom and executive director of the Freedom to Read Foundation, will point to the ALA's latest "Top Ten List of Challenged Books" and charge that the use of software to filter content in libraries is an insidious form of censorship. Ethical Humanist Society, 7574 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call 847-867-3334.

YA 'Divergent' Book-to-Movie Event
 Noon: Join friends for a trip to the Pickwick to watch the "Divergent" movie; followed by a discussion at the library comparing the book and the movie. For students in grades six to 12. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

TAG Meeting
12:30 p.m.: Teens meet to plan future programming at the library and enjoy pizza. Registration required.
Deerfield financial advisor named tops by Barron’s

- Deerfield financial advisor Steven Heftor, 59, has been named the 2014 Top Advisor in Illinois by Barron’s Magazine. According to the magazine, the rankings are based on information supplied by more than 4,000 advisors, and factors include assets under management, revenue produced for the firm, regulatory record, quality of practice and philanthropic work.

- Independent investment and wealth management firm Gresham Partners announced that Jay Owen has joined the firm as a principal. Owen will be involved with the firm’s delivery of investment and wealth management services to families and family offices, and he will serve as a member of the firm’s investment committee. Jay is co-founder and co-managing partner, with his brother, of DOM Capital Group LLC, a family office established in 2007 to serve members of their family whose ancestors founded Dominick’s Finer Foods supermarket stores. Previously, Jay was an executive director with J.P. Morgan Private Bank and he held positions with Morgan Stanley and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

- Eight Alden short-term rehabilitation centers are on the U.S. News and World Report Best Nursing Homes 2014 list. The facilities received the highest score of five stars to make the list. The Alden locations on the list include: Alden Des Plaines; Alden Estates of Barrington; Alden Estates of Evanston; and Alden Estates of Skokie.

Does your company have news about grand openings, hires, promotions, awards or recognitions?

Email your items to biznotes@pioneerlocal.com
Taste enjoys large helping of ticket-buyers

The Taste of Morton Grove fundraiser March 8 was so packed that latecomers could not find a space in White Eagle Banquets' mammoth parking lot.

Because of the crowds at one of Morton Grove's best-attended Tastes ever, organizers were able to best last year's total of funds raised for local nonprofit organizations.

"There were more people than I expected," said Mike Simkins, who chaired the event put on by the Morton Grove Foundation.

Eileen Harford, the foundation's event and raffle chair, tallied some figures and estimated that 800 people attended the Taste, which was held in a huge ballroom at White Eagle in Niles.

"It's for such a wonderful cause," she said. The foundation awarded checks to 24 non-profits with the proceeds.

As of Monday March 11, the Foundation had taken in $61,981, with another $200 or so expected to trickle in from silent auction items, according to Cindy Kopczyk, also one of the organizers. She said it would be safe to say the event raised $62,000, or about $1,500 more than last year's total.

The hundreds of attendees visited table after table to sample dishes from local restaurateurs. Offerings included pasta from Graziano's and Father and Son Italian Kitchen; pizza from Giordano's and Gulliver's; Asian food from Sri Siam, China Chef and Unimart; chili from Morton Grove firefighters; pierogi from White Eagle; and desserts from Meier's Bakery, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Dairy Queen, Culver's, Classy Cut Catering and others.

Terry LeBeau, who with his wife Mary Jo has been a key event organizer for years, said the increased online presence this year may have helped drive the attendance. For the first time, people could buy both event tickets and raffle tickets online.

"And the weather today didn't hurt," he said, alluding to milder temperatures and no snowfall on March 8.

LeBeau also credited the fact that the foundation started a few years ago to engage the beneficiary organizations more deeply in event planning. Foundation members invited the beneficiaries to a breakfast and asked them to help secure silent auction items and sell a certain number of event and raffle tickets.

"It went over well—they liked intermingling and networking," LeBeau said. "They're more involved now, and I think they feel partial ownership of the event."

Harford said the foundation took advantage of five income sources: event tickets and sponsorships, raffle tickets, quick pick raffle tickets, the silent auction and the fire department boards. For the latter, firefighters carry around large boards with checkerboard squares drawn on them, and event-goers can buy a square to support the charities.

Checks were presented to charities at the Taste itself; Kopczyk said proceeds from earlier years stay in the account and roll over from year to year. The foundation presents different amounts to different charities.
‘Palate’ serves up $27,000 for Infant Welfare Society of Evanston

WARM YOUR PALATE
Benefiting: The Infant Welfare Society of Evanston
Date: Feb. 27
Location: Now We're Cooking, Evanston
Attended: 100+
Raised: $27,000
Website: iwse.org

Nicole Pederson, executive chef of Found in Evanston, serves braised beef tongue and sour root puree on a crostini with mushrooms to guests of IWSE’s Warm Your Plate benefit.

Susan Julian of Glencoe (left) and Ann Mommsen of Winnetka, former president and IWSE member since 1972

Dave Perlick of Barrington, executive chef at Terra American Bistro in Evanston, cuts chilled lobster to serve to guests of the Infant Welfare Society of Evanston’s “Warm Your Plate” fundraiser.

Mary Galvin of Barrington Hills (left) and Dawn Meiners of Winnetka
Monica Thuet (from left) and Peggy Hopkins, both of Glenview, Kristen Huber and Shawn Sander, both of Winnetka, Becky Kado and Ann Noon, both of Glenview | PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY BROCCOLI OF NORTHFIELD

KELLY CORRIGAN BOOK REVIEW
Benefitting: The American Cancer Society
Date: Feb. 26
Location: Sunset Ridge Country Club, Northfield
Attendees: 250
Raised: $7,500

Get your event in Trend

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

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Just one more reason to get up & go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond
Every Thursday
Former circus duo celebrate in Rosemont

Julie Gordon and Nathan Botkin

BY HEATHER DORNHECKER
Contributing writer

Julie Gordon and Nathan Botkin were brought together in 2006 as performers in the Illinois State University Gamma Phi Circus, the oldest collegiate circus in the United States.

Julie, a Western Springs native and former gymnast, flipped and flew in the air, and Nathan, formerly of Bolingbrook, was a base who often caught her after stunts.

“We really learned to trust each other and grew a very strong friendship,” Julie said. The couple performed together for about two years.

In April 2013, the couple traveled back to the university to attend the annual circus home show, the most anticipated performance of the year.

With the help of the circus director and current performers, Nathan coordinated a proposal that called Julie from the audience to help with a clown act.

“We both know a lot of the clowns, so I knew she wouldn’t find it odd for them to use her as an audience participant,” he said.

The clowns formed a wall behind Julie as she held a “Kissing Booth” sign toward the audience. When she turned around, Nathan was down on one knee.

“She definitely had no idea it was coming. I just told her earlier that day that I couldn’t pick out a ring because I was too indecisive. She kind of got mad about it, but I had the ring in my pocket the whole time,” Nathan said.

Nine months later, they married Jan. 18 at Saint John of the Cross in Western Springs. Their reception followed in the Penthouse Ballroom of Victoria Rosemont.

The couple included a generation dance where the DJ invited married couples onto the dance floor. After a bit of dancing, he asked those who have been married five years or fewer to leave the dance floor, followed by 10 years or fewer and so on, until the longest-married couple remained.

The longest-married couple were Julie’s grandma and grandpa Cozza, who have been married 62 years. When asked what their secret was, they said love was what keeps them strong.

Julie and Nathan said the dance floor was packed until the very last song, “Piano Man” by Billy Joel.

“It was a great way to end the night,” Nathan said.

Julie and Nathan live in Glen Ellyn. Julie is an elementary school teacher in Elk Grove Village, and Nathan is a firefighter-paramedic in Elgin.

Every wedding has a story. Contact Renee Lee at rlee@bouquetcatcher.com or 312-651-6613 to share yours.
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What's INSIDE: Develop your own game strategy, with some tips from an expert gamer...Page 6

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After that, head on over to the middle of the casino floor for the coolest live performances. It's all at Center Stage, where you can let the rhythm move you all night long.

Come on in. It's your time to shine at Hollywood Casino Aurora.

Hollywood Casino Joliet
The stage is set at Hollywood Casino Joliet. Here, you're the headliner and the action is always on cue at your favorite games like blackjack, craps, roulette and more. Plus, you'll find the best video poker pay tables and over 1,100 red-hot slots—including the loosest penny slots, over 568 of them—the biggest collection in town.

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If you're looking to turn up the excitement, bring your friends to the Hollywood Stadium Sports Bar, the chart-topping casino sports bar in Joliet. Catch super specials and see all the big games on the big screen.

When you're ready to unwind, Backstage is your all-access pass to dance the night away. This is where all the hottest acts come together to make Hollywood the most popular destination in the area.

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Not a member of the Rush Rewards player's club yet? Visit Rivers Casino in the month of March to participate in the $250 New Member Bonus Bucks Giveaway. Simply sign up for a Rush Rewards card (membership is free!) and get paid back up to $250 based on slot loss earned on your date of sign-up. Plus, by becoming a Rush Rewards member, you'll have access to exclusive membership benefits like points for Free Slot Play, points for comps, discounts on dining and much more! Visit Rush Rewards for full details!

Don't miss your chance to win a share of $20,000 in the $20,000 Blackjack Blowout Giveaway. Rush Rewards cardholders can earn entries into the Blackjack Blowout Giveaway through 6:30pm on March 28th. Drawings will...
be held on Fridays in March at 7:00pm and five winners will be selected at each drawing to receive $1,000 cash! Guests receive one entry for every winning same color blackjack.

This March, Rivers Casino has enormous amounts of special food and beverage options for you. On Wednesday nights, Canopy proudly hosts Crab Grab, an all-you-can-eat buffet from 5:00pm to 10:00pm. In addition, guests with a Rush Rewards card can receive 15% off their lunch or dinner buffet every day and on Mondays & Tuesdays guests aged 50 and older can enjoy 25% off their lunch or dinner buffet in Canopy. Dine at Flipt in March and enjoy the Perfect Pair featuring the Irish Stew Lamb Burger and a Toffee Malted Milk Shake for $14.

Looking for great nightlife options? Keep up to date on Cube's live bands, DJs and more by liking our Facebook page at facebook.com/CubeRiversCasino or by checking the entertainment schedule at riverscasino.com. Plus, Cube is the best place to catch all of the college basketball action throughout the NCAA championship tournament. You won't miss a minute of the action since Cube offers 27 LCD televisions and a 185" big screen. Stick around after the games on Sundays for Live Band Karaoke from 10:00pm until 1:00am in Cube.

Join us on Monday, March 24th at 7:00pm in Cube for a free Morning News Comedy Show. Morning News comedians Ana Belavai, Pat Tomasulo and Mike Toomey will entertain you with an evening of laughter and comedy.

Planning to come out to Rivers Casino? Be sure to catch the complimentary shuttle from the Rosemont Blue Line to the casino 24 hours a day, seven days a week, running approximately every 15 minutes.

Must be 21. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, crisis counseling and referral services can be access by calling 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537).

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Seven mouth-watering food and beverage options await you.
Good strategy says don’t ‘play house’

BY JOHN GROCHOWSKI
For Sun-Times Media

While playing blackjack recently, I encountered a player who was mimicking the strategy the dealer was required to follow. He was standing on every 17 and higher, and hitting every 16 or lower, regardless of what card the dealer had face up.

“The house makes money playing this way,” he said. “Seems like I should, too.”

The problem is that players and dealers operate under very different conditions, and the way that works best for the dealer results in a lopsided game if followed by players. Casinos know this, and they don’t want the games to be too lopsided. They want you to feel as if you can win, and keep you coming back to enjoy their hospitality. So they give you options, different potential strategies. It’s up to you to understand what you have avenues open to you that give you a better chance to win than does the dealer’s strategy.

It’s only natural that players who start thinking about how the games work often begin with, “If hitting all 16s and under and standing on 17s and above works for the blackjack dealer, why shouldn’t it work for the player?”

There are natural questions that arise in other games, too, including “Doesn’t betting the don’t side in craps mean you’re betting with the house?” “If the house gets the edge on the zeroes in roulette, aren’t the zeroes where your money should go?”

My encounter with the dealer’s rules player came in October. He determinedly hit every 16 and under, even if the dealer had a 6 or some other weak card face up. He stood on every 17, including the soft kind with an Ace being used as an 11, no matter what the dealer’s hand. You can’t go bust with one card when hitting a soft 17. The dealer can always be used as a 1 instead.

I keep silent in such situations. The bad play of another is as likely to help me as to hurt me, and I don’t give advice unless asked. But it’s only natural that players who start thinking in these terms will win more often than it loses if you bet don’t pass, just as it will on pass. You’re not betting with the house when you bet don’t pass. You’re betting against the house in a different way, spotting the house a 1.36 percent edge that’s not that far removed from the 1.41 percent edge on pass.

Roulette

The notion that the house derives its edge from the zeroes isn’t strictly accurate. The house makes money because it pays off at levels that would yield an even game if there were 36 numbers on the wheel, when there actually are 38, including 0 and 00.

That same condition is as true if you’re betting 0 or 00 as it is if you’re betting 1, 16, 28 or any other number. A single number bet on 0 at a double-zero wheel will pay 35-1 odds, even though the true odds are 37-1. A split bet on 0 and 00 will pay 17-1 odds, even though the true odds are 18-1.

When it comes to the outside bets - red/black, odd/even, first 18/last 18, the dozens and columns - you can bet on the zeroes. Part of the conditions of the game is that those extra numbers are there to facilitate the house paying at less than true odds. You can bet the zeroes only on inside bets, where they’re just part of the 38-number set, the same as any other numbers.

There’s no such thing as betting with the house. Trying to go the house way just subjects you to conditions built into the games to make sure the casino always has the edge.

Blackjack

Players and the dealer play under different conditions. Players can bust and lose their bets before the dealer ever plays his hand. If both dealer and player bust, it’s the dealer who wins.

If you play a mimic the dealer strategy, you and the dealer will both bust in the same hand about 8 percent of the time. So the house starts with an 8 percent natural edge, and it gives back about 2.3 percent by paying 3-2 on blackjacks. That takes the house edge down to about 5.7 percent, a bit more or less depending on the number of decks in play and other house rules.

A game with a 5.7 percent house edge is pretty awful, but fortunately, you don’t have to mimic the dealer. By using basic strategy for hitting, standing, doubling down and splitting pairs, you can narrow that house edge to a half percent or so. Again, variable depending on house rules.

Craps

Almost everybody at the table will be betting with the shooter, and the house makes money. So why not bet the opposite of the main flow of the game, and bet don’t pass?

Because “don’t pass” is not purely the opposite of “pass.” If the shooter rolls 12 on the comeout, that’s a loss for pass bettors, but it’s not a win for don’t pass. It’s just a push, getting your money back.

That’s enough of an adjustment that the house will win more often than it loses if you bet don’t pass, just as it will on pass. You’re not betting with the house when you bet don’t pass. You’re betting against the house in a different way, spotting the house a 1.36 percent edge that’s not that far removed from the 1.41 percent edge on pass.

— John Grochowski is a nationally-syndicated gaming columnist and author. He may be contacted at casinoanswerman@casaionanswerman.com.
Welcome to Horseshoe Casino Hammond, where you get the best of lakeside beauty with the lively Chicago city center close by. Just 20 minutes from downtown Chicago, it is a magnificent destination. It's a destination like no other, a gambling and entertainment experience that rivals the greatest casinos in the country.

Boasting over 108,000 square-feet, the gambling floor is nothing short of awe-inspiring. Picture more than 100 action-packed tables and nearly 3,000 big-hitting slots that go off in every direction for as far as the eye can see. Everything from blackjack to baccarat, pai gow, roulette, craps and so much more awaits the serious gambler.

When you step into Horseshoe, you'll have your pick of nearly 3,000 slot machines, the most in Chicagoland. With over 850 new games, Horseshoe is the perfect mix of the classic slots you love, and the newest slots you crave. If you love the excitement of poker but prefer to play at a faster pace and in your own space, then video poker is the game for you. Video poker at Horseshoe includes over 300 machines, including bar top games. Double Bonus, Jacks or Better, Deuces Wild - they're all here. The Midwest's premier Asian gaming destination, Le Cheng, features games like Pai Gow Tiles, Baccarat, Mini Baccarat Dragon Bonus and EZ Baccarat, in an atmosphere of exquisite detail and appropriate feng shui. Spacious and elegant, it features an oversized display of a waterfall cascade on the beautiful etched glass artwork within classic rosewood stained cabinets.

If you are more into serious table game action, gamblers know that nobody does high limit gambling better than Horseshoe. From the spacious gambling floor to the luxurious high limit rooms, and exclusive VIP gambling salons, this is the real thing. In the High Limit Table Room, you'll discover action that's bigger than anything you'll find in Vegas. Horseshoe features blackjack and baccarat all in a plush atmosphere that features exceptional service and highly-skilled dealers. The newly remodeled High Limit Slot Room offers similar luxury with big-hitting machines in denominations all the way up to $1,000. It just doesn't get any bigger than this.

Just around the corner from the Poker Room is Horseshoe Casino's newest tavern, Sixth Street. This "beer bar" features an abundant selection of locally crafted beers as well as 24 rotating taps for different seasonal offerings. This authentic-in-character watering hole offers a relaxing bar scene featuring local favorites and unique bar top foods. Live entertainment is featured on Fridays and Saturdays featuring local artists and well known performers, such as Howie Day. Named after the Fifth Street card in Texas Hold’em, Sixth Street is the perfect place to toast another win at Horseshoe Casino.

The Venue at Horseshoe Casino is one of Chicagoland’s premier entertainment centers. This impressive theater regularly showcases the hottest entertainment acts in the country. The Venue can host up to 3,300 attendees and also transform to a smaller, more intimate setting. Featuring eight luxury suites and offering a spectacular bird’s eye view of the stage along with outstanding VIP amenities, The Venue provides the best views of your favorite performers. Upcoming acts include Bobby Brown on March 28, TLC on March 29, Reba McEntire on May 16, Staind on May 30 and Huey Lewis and the News on June 13. For the most recent lineup, visit Horseshoe Casino’s Website, Ticketmaster, or the Horseshoe Casino Gift Shop to purchase tickets.

Whether you are looking for a quick bite or an elegant evening out, Horseshoe has the food outlet to suit your needs. JB’s features Starbucks® coffee creations as well as gourmet sandwiches and salads. Village Square Buffet is truly legendary dining. Fantastic food has always been an important part of the Horseshoe experience, and no restaurant can top the legendary steakhouse. Jack Binion’s is the quintessential American steakhouse. It continues to be one of Chicago’s favorite-dining destinations. The reason for the enduring popularity of this Chicago steakhouse is quite simple: magnificent cuts of beef and house specialties, impeccably presented. Each piece is hand-selected and trimmed to exacting artisan standards. More than just great steaks, Jack Binion’s Steak House is a winner of Wine Spectator’s coveted Best Restaurant for Wine award.

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The American Camp Association’s 2013 findings

Camping has been an American tradition for more than 150 years. Some things at camp—forming friendships, having fun, practicing new skills and summer learning gains—will never change. However, trends do.

Who goes to camp?
In 2013, American Camp Association (ACA) estimated that approximately 12,000 traditional, organized camps are in the United States. Each year, more than 11.5 million children, youth and adults attend camp. The ACA visions that by the year 2020, more than 20 million youth will attend camp each year.

What types of camps are most popular?
Of the estimated 12,000 American camps, approximately 7,000 are resident camps and 5,000 are day camps. Resident camps are designed for campers staying at camp from several days to eight weeks. Traditional camps are still popular—maybe more popular today than a decade ago—because young people are concerned about the environment, global awareness, mentorship and getting along with one another. The camp community embraces those values. As camps adapt to meet the changing needs of families, specialty camps, day camps and family camps are experiencing a rise in the popularity.

What activities and programs are popular?
In the 2013 ACA Emerging Issues survey, 54 percent of directors responded they had added a new activity or program in the past two years. The top three areas were adventure programs, mentorship and getting along with one another. The camp community embraces those values. As camps adapt to meet the changing needs of families, specialty camps, day camps and family camps are experiencing a rise in the popularity.

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courses, zip lines, backpacking, mountain biking, etc. (22 percent), family camps (19 percent) and new nature programs (17 percent). Other increases were seen in gardening (15 percent), cooking using camp garden foods (14 percent), wellness/fitness (12 percent) and STEM programs (12 percent). Nearly half of camps surveyed report having community service or good-deed programs incorporated into the camp curriculum. The top projects conducted at camps are: community cleanups, food drives, recycling programs and volunteering with senior citizens and hospital patients.

The most popular activities at camps today are swimming, arts/crafts, challenge/ropes course, archery and aquatic activities. In addition, ACA research shows 32 percent of day camps and 50 percent of resident camps offered one or more academic/science and technology programs in 2013. More than four out of five ACA-accredited residential camps offer at least one environmental education program for campers. Whatever the activity, camp gets kids moving. While at camp, campers are typically active three to five hours per day. This exceeds the recommended daily amount of physical activity from the CDC (one hour per day).

**SPECIALTY CAMPS**

Some camps provide programs to special groups: seniors, families, campers with cancer, gifted and talented children, youth at risk, diabetics, asthmatics or persons with disabilities. In addition to the increase of children with disabilities being mainstreamed into camps, many new camps have opened to provide specialized services to children with special medical needs.

Other trends incorporate less traditional models for the camp experience. Trip camps provide programs where the participants transport themselves to different sites by backpacking, riding or canoeing. Travel camps often transport campers by car or bus to geographic and topographic places of interest.

Year-round use of camp facilities is a growing trend. Programs are evolving from spring and fall ancillary weekends to winterized full-see trends, page 7.

Surf and turf: According to a 2013 study, the top five sports activities offered at summer camp are recreational swimming (87 percent), aquatic activities (76 percent), basketball (72 percent), archery (71 percent) and camping hills (67 percent). (above) McGaw YMCA Camp Echo. (below) Park District of Highland Park's Sand Trackers Camp.

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www.bannerdaycamp.com
Parents call Banner "transformative"—a safe place to make new friends, accept challenges and develop self-esteem in a nurturing, positive camp setting. Large pavilions, an air-conditioned dining hall and multi-purpose rooms make it easy to enjoy camp in any weather. Days begin with door-to-door bus transportation. Professional-level specialists lead swim instruction, sports, arts, music and adventure programs. Preschool-age specialists create success for children as young as 3 years old. Beginning in Kindergarten, campers choose activities providing high-level instruction in the areas they love. An unparalleled camper-to-counselor ratio—an average of one staff member for every three to four campers—assures that each child receives personalized attention.

CAMP ANOKIJIG
W5639 Anokijig Ln.
Plymouth, WI 53073
(800) 741-6511 or (920) 893-0782
www.anokijig.com
Camp Anokijig has been recognized for excellence in camping for 88 years. Founded in 1926, Anokijig has built a history of rich tradition of offering youth experiences that last a lifetime. Camp Anokijig is open to boys and girls ages 7 to 16, for four days, one week, two weeks or for up to nine weeks of summer fun. Anokijig is not just another place to go; it is a community... a spirit shared by all who visit. Camp Anokijig is simply an incredible time that you will always cherish. Join Camp Anokijig; you will love it.

CAMP BIRCHWOOD
6983 N. Stearnsbury Lake Dr.
Northwest Laporte, MN 56461
(218) 335-6706
www.campbirkwood.com
Camp Birchwood for Girls: If you are looking for a beautiful camp that offers a ton of super fun activities, cabins that are not too rustic (bathrooms and electricity in each), counselors who make you feel really comfortable, and the chance to meet new friends from all over, then this is the camp for you.

GLENBROOK RACQUET CLUB
1801 Janke Dr.
Northbrook, IL 60062
(847) 498-5333
www.glenbrookracquetclub.com
2014 Tennis and Recreational Summer Camp. June 9 – Aug. 15. Join the Glenbrook Racquet Club for summer tennis or recreational camp. Indoor and outdoor training facilities. Ten weeks of fun, competition and friendships. Sign up by the week or by the session. All ages welcome. Special offering: High-Level Tennis Camp focusing on USTA Tournament Training and high school players looking to compete at the high school level. Call for more information or email info@glenbrookrc.com. Like the club's Facebook page and receive a 5 percent discount.

INTERLOCHEN CENTER FOR THE ARTS
PO Box 199
Interlochen, MI 49643
(800) 681-5912
www.interlochen.org
Interlochen Arts Camp is the world's premier summer arts program for aspiring artists in grades 3 through 12. Located in northwest Michigan, the camp attracts students, faculty and staff from all 50 states and more than 40 countries. These 3,000 artists fill Interlochen's northwoods campus with an explosion of creativity. Student-artists learn from world-class instructors and produce hundreds of presentations each summer in music, theatre, creative writing, dance, film and visual arts. Learn more at www.camp.interlochen.org.

NIKE TENNIS CAMPS
U.S. Sports Camps
750 Lindaro St., Suite 220
San Rafael, CA 94901
(415) 419-6060
www.ussportscaamps.com
Come join the fun and get better this summer at Nike Tennis Camps. With junior overnight, day and half-day camps for boys and girls ages 5-18 of all ability levels and adult weekend clinics, camp is for everyone. Directed by America's most respected college coaches and tennis professionals, Nike Tennis Camps provide the opportunity to improve your game, work hard and have a lot of fun. See website for more details on camps in the Midwest-Western University (full-day and half-day options), Rod Schroeder National Tennis Camp, University of Illinois, Purdue, Michigan State and Butler.

GOOD TIMES SUMMER DAY CAMP
Locations in Glenview, Arlington Heights, Deerfield and Northbrook
Mailing Address:
300 Waukegan Road
Glenview, IL 60025
(847) 729-4864
Location in Libertyville
Mailing Address:
1601 Northwind Blvd.
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 888-4864
www.goodtimescamp.com
The park district has camps for ages 3 to grade 8. These camps for ages 3 to grade 8. These full and half-day camps combine the best parts of summer: friends, swimming, arts & crafts, themed days, games, sports and field trips. The park district has camps for everyone: early childhood, recreation and sport camps. For more information on the camps and how to register, visit www.niles-parks.org or call (847) 967-5663. Registration has begun.
activities, special events, field trips and crafts. Register for one or more of our fun camps; Camp begins June 16, 2014. The Park Ridge Park District Camp Program is accredited by the American Camp Association.

Not sure which camp to register your child for or need more information? Contact Julie Greve at (847) 692-6911 or jgreve@prparks.org. Visit the website for all your camp information.

PLAY ON COMEDY CAMP

1330 Ridge Ave.
Evanston, IL 60201
(847) 331-9614
www.playonltd.com

This exciting camp combines professional comedy and theatre training with field trips, swimming and outdoor fun. While maintaining a focus on classes that will help sharpen their comedic minds, campers are also able to choose from a variety of workshops and electives that round out a wonderfully diverse curriculum. Field trips may include Broadway in Chicago, Chicago Shakespeare and The Second City as well as fun friendship-building trips to a museum or a recording studio. The perfect combination of learning and summer camp fun!

THE SANDY AND GLENDA MASON KESHEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

3210 Dundee Rd.
Northbrook, IL 60062
(847) 205-0274
www.keshet.org

Keshet offers various eight-week, full-day and overnight integrated camp options for individuals with special needs. Families can choose from more than 14 camps to best suit their child's interests and needs. The state-of-the-art programs offer a well-rounded functional summer with an emphasis on maintenance of goals achieved throughout the school year. Camps are located in the Chicago area and its surrounding suburbs as well as Wisconsin. Keshet provides opportunities for children with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities that no one else does. Space is limited.

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28 N. Clark St., Suite 500
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 332-0707
www.tfa.edu

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Steve Earle, please write a song with me

In 2008, on its third album called "Love on the Inside," the country duo Sugarland released a song entitled "Steve Earle" (lyrics below).

This song is a straight-up Earle-songwriting love fest. According to the lyrics, Earle has written songs for all his wives as the relationship grows and then dissolves. The singer requests: "Steve Earle, please write a song for me." Although the validity of the song's claims has not been verified, Earle is an amazing songwriter.

Grammy Award-winning Earle quickly became a master storyteller. A protégé of legendary songwriters Townes Van Zandt and Guy Clark, Earle's songs have been recorded by Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Emmylou Harris, Waylon Jennings, Travis Tritt, The Pretenders, Joan Baez and countless others. Last spring, he released his 15th studio album, 'The Low Highway," to worldwide critical acclaim. Earle is also an actor and author.

"Copperhead Road," Earle's alternative-country-rock album, was released in 1988. The title song (lyrics to the right) tells the story of a Vietnam War veteran, a descendant of a rural moonshine bootlegging clan, who returns home to Johnson County, Tenn. The song also inspired a popular line dance, and it has been used as the theme music for the Discovery Channel reality series "Moonshiners." Copperhead Road was an actual road near Mountain City, Tenn., although it has since been renamed Copperhead Hollow Road because the road signs bearing the song's name were constantly stolen.

In 2000, Earle decided to share his wisdom at a songwriting course at the Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago. In 2012, he held classes as part of Jorma Kaukonen's Fur Peace Ranch workshop.

Now, this summer, from July 7-11, Earle will be the sole instructor at his most refined and in-depth course yet: Camp Copperhead. This fully immersive learning experience will take place at the Full Moon Resort, located at 1 Valley View Road in Big Indian, N.Y. Approximately 100 students of all ages and skill will have uniquely intimate access to a master artisan. The cost covers classes, meals and accommodations.

The camp's website quotes Earle to have said: "Camp Copperhead will be an intensive, all-day-long songwriting workshop, which I'm going to teach every minute of. I love to teach. I have fun doing it."

Classes on a specific aspect of writing will be presented each morning, and afternoon workshops will give students time to pair up to work on their assignments under Earle's supervision. The nightly open-mic offers students the opportunity to play their brand-new songs.

Camp Copperhead is part of a series of camps, called Music Masters Camps, held at the Full Moon Resort. Music Masters Camps bridge the gap between artist and audience and provide a unique opportunity for participants and world-class artists to meet and collaborate in an inspiring and creative atmosphere.

Visit www.camp-copperhead.com and www.musicmastercamps.com for additional information, including registration and pricing.

"Copperhead Road"
By Steve Earle

Well, my name's John Lee Pettimore
Same as my daddy and his daddy before
You hardly ever saw Grandaddy down here
He only came to town about twice a year
He'd buy a hundred pounds of yeast and some copper line
Everybody knew that he made moonshine
Now the revenue man wanted Grandaddy bad
He headed up the holler with everything he had
It's before my time but I've been told
He never came back from Copperhead Road
Now Daddy ran the whiskey in a big block Dodge
Bought it at an auction at the Mason's Lodge
Johnson County Sheriff painted on the side
Just shot a coat of primer then he looked inside
Well him and my uncle tore that engine down
I still remember that rumblin' sound
Well the sheriff came around in the middle of the night
Heard mama cryin', knew something wasn't right
He was headed down to Knoxville with the weekly load
You could smell the whiskey burnin' down Copperhead Road

I volunteered for the Army on my birthday
They drafted the white trash first, round here anyway
I done two tours of duty in Vietnam
And I came home with a brand new plan
I took the seed from Colombia and Mexico
I plan it up the holler down Copperhead Road
Well the D.E.A.'s got a chopper in the air
I wake up screaming like I'm back over there
I learned a thing or two from 'ol Charlie don't you know
You better stay away from Copperhead Road

Copperhead Road
Copperhead Road
Copperhead Road

End Song
service operations seven days a week. Many camps work with schools to provide environmental education during the school year.

**SPORTS-SPECIFIC SPECIALTY CAMPS**

Specialty camp experiences with a sports focus can offer campers a community and friendships with peers and role models with similar interests. They are able to concentrate on and gain confidence in the sport they love. Ten percent of ACA-accredited camps offered a targeted sports focus in 2013. In 2004, only 3 percent of ACA camps offered a targeted sport focus.

According to an ACA report, 98 percent of responding ACA camps reported offering at least one sport even if sports were not a targeted focus. The top five sports activities offered are recreational swimming (87 percent), aquatic activities (76 percent), basketball (72 percent), archery (71 percent) and camping skills (67 percent).

Unique offerings include fencing, lacrosse, SCUBA diving and windsurfing.

Search for the perfect camp experience on ACA's Find a Camp database (www.find.acacamps.org). This resource allows families to search for camp programs based on location, price, session length and activities. Families can also search by intensity level: recreational, instructional or intense/competitive.

Information provided by the American Camp Association
Jewish Council for Youth Services (JCYS) is an independent, nonprofit agency dedicated to serving both Chicagoland’s Jewish and greater communities as well as developing leaders and volunteers. JCYS is an all-inclusive organization that welcomes families of all faiths and backgrounds. It serves more than 2,000 children each summer. The educational and recreational programs nurture individual growth and promote responsibility to others. Check out all of JCYS’s offerings.

**BIG CITY DAY CAMP**
Ages: Kindergarten - 8th Grade
Location: Chicago, IL
An urban day camp offering diverse activities and field trips, Big City Day Camp offers swim lessons with Red Cross certified instructors, weekly sessions with professional sport coaches, artists, musicians and yoga instructors, while college-educated counselors sprinkle in singing, cooperative games, dancing and arts and crafts. Campers enjoy sun and sand at Chicago beaches, unique field trips with behind-the-scenes experiences and cookouts with this urban camp adventure.

**CAMP RED LEAF**
Ages: Youth 9 - 21 years old; Adults 21 and older
Location: Ingleside, IL
Through Camp Red Leaf, JCYS is able to offer youth and adults with special needs an opportunity to enjoy a highly adaptable summer camp experience and weekend respite care on the grounds of the beautiful Camp Henry Horner and Lake Wooster.

**CAMP HENRY HORNER**
Ages: Kindergarten - 10th Grade
Location: Ingleside, IL
Located on 180 wooded acres on the shores of Wooster Lake, Camp Henry Horner is an outdoor day and overnight camp that features lake excursions, a ropes course and zip line, sports fields, arts and crafts, music; dance, drama, cooking, outdoor education and an outdoor heated pool.

**CAMP STAR**
Ages: 6 - 12 years old
Location: Highland Park, IL
A joint effort by the Hyperactivity, Attention and Learning Problems Clinic (HALP) at the University of Illinois at Chicago and JCYS, Camp STAR provides quality summer programming for children with ADHD and related disorders by blending an intensive therapeutic program with a fun camp experience.

**HORNER GROVE DAY CAMP**
Ages: 6 weeks - 6 years old
Location: Buffalo Grove, IL
JCYS brings the traditional day camp spirit to the Northwest Family Center. Campers will have the opportunity to explore special interests in nature, karate, tumbling, sports, music, drama, arts and crafts and daily swim lessons. Utilizing a newly renovated athletic field and indoor facilities, Horner Grove Day Camp offers an all-inclusive camp experience in a convenient location.

**NORTH SHORE DAY CAMP**
Ages: Kindergarten - 8th Grade
Location: Highland Park, IL
More than 200 campers enjoy daily swimming instruction and sports, music and drama, and arts and crafts, along with weekly field trips, overnights and Friday FunDays. North Shore Day Camp creates lasting camp memories every summer.

**JON VEGOSEN CHAMP CAMP**
Ages: 1st - 6th Grade
Location: Highland Park, IL
Jon Vegosen Champ Camp is designed to promote healthy lifestyles through a combination of tennis, fitness, swimming and nutrition education. It focuses on the development of confidence and self-esteem, healthy lifestyle habits, teamwork skills and an appreciation for athletics and sportsmanship. Through daily swim and tennis lessons at the state-of-the-art Lillian L. Lutz Recreation Center, Champ Camp will make a champion out of your summer camper.

**NSDC SPORTS**
Ages: 2nd - 7th Grade
Location: Highland Park, IL
Imagine a camp with an ideal sports training facility. Each week, NSDC Sports campers learn a variety of sports through skill drills, games and tournaments. Located at the Lillian L. Lutz Recreation Center, this camp has access to tennis courts, a heated pool for swim lessons and a sports court that can accommodate any game from basketball and tennis to flag football and soccer.
SUNFLOWER DAY CAMP
In Lakeview:
Ages: 2 – 5 years old
Location: Chicago, IL
In Highland Park:
Ages: 1 – 5 years old
Location: Highland Park, IL
JCYS starts the summer camp experience early with Sunflower Day Camp where the youngest campers enjoy age-appropriate water activities, in-house field trips and outdoor fun where they enjoy arts and crafts, music and games.
Visit www.jcys.org/summer-camps for more information.

Two thumbs up: JCYS, an all-inclusive organization that welcomes families of all faiths and backgrounds, serves more than 2,000 children each summer.

Keshet Special Needs Summer Camp
Registration is Now Open
Offers 8-week, full day, and overnight integrated camp options. For a complete list, visit www.keshet.org.
Space is limited.
For more information, call 847-205-0274.

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Girls Only!

Boys Only!

Camp Birchwood

www.campbirchwood.com  www.birchwoodforboys.com

Summer camp is a great place for kids to do, see, and play during the summer months off from school. Better yet, the Chicagoland area has some great options for kids who love to learn and prefer activities that challenge the mind as much as taking and lake activities challenge the spirit.

One such camp, Jay's Camp in Long Grove, has a number of programs and daily activities to stimulate your child's mind, creative flair and sense of adventure.

Boys between second and eighth grades can jump into the Boys Camp of the Arts, which emphasize arts and crafts along with a variety of "wacky science projects," as the camp calls them. Other activities at Jay's include music, ceramics and pottery, creative drama, photography and much more.

If your child is technologically inclined or just wants to spend part of the summer immersed in the ins and outs of software, 3D animation and digital photography, ID Tech Camps offer summer camp that allow kids to get involved with everything from video game design to robotics.

For smarty-pants children with a soft spot for sports or who are knowledgeable about news, Play-by-Play Sports Camp offers your boy or girl a little piece of the limelight.

Professionals such as clinical psychologist Pam Niesluchowski tend to agree that summer camp is a great to help a school-aged child grow intellectually and communicate better with peers and adults. However, Niesluchowski also points out that, when compared to backyard summer play or watching TV, the experience of summer camp does even more.

"Summer activities, such as camps, provide kids with opportunities for ongoing learning during a time when they would otherwise be doing little," Niesluchowski said.

Niesluchowski, who maintains a private practice and teaches at a Chicago graduate school states that there is evidence that during summer break kids forget some of what they have learned in the previous school year.

"Providing ongoing stimulation through camps and other structured activities, Niesluchowski said, "can help kids stay sharp and get tuned in more quickly, come September."
Camp's added benefits

BY MARCY MARRO
For Sun-Times Media

Going to summer camp is about so much more than just having fun and hanging out with friends. Summer camp also provides a safe environment for children to learn new skills and gain self-confidence, reaching far beyond summer.

Learn New Skills
“The foundation of camp is having fun, building friendships and learning new skills,” said Kathy Donahue, director of recreation services at the Park District of Highland Park. “We provide children with many different and unique opportunities, all of which are learning experiences.”

Developing new skills and increased confidence in abilities is key at the Park District of Highland Park’s Camp Big Top/Little Top, one of the park district’s many camp offerings where campers learn how to fly on a trapeze and how to ride horses and other circus-related skills. When faced with new and unfamiliar challenges, campers also learn the importance of patience and persistence as they try to master new skills.

“Kids go to camp to have fun, and without realizing it, they are learning all these new things,” Donahue said.

Self-Confidence
At the Northbrook Park District, the camp philosophy emphasizes the importance of campers developing a strong sense of self-confidence, while creating memories that last a lifetime.

“Camp is an environment that provides the opportunity to learn new activities and increase skills in many areas, but especially in the social aspect,” said Jonathan Pratscher, CPRP, leisure services supervisor with the

programming receive more than just hands-on learning at ID Tech Camps, a technology camp for children.

Core Values
Summer camps at the YMCA are designed to encourage the four core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility, and campers learn the values, skills and relationships that lead to positive behaviors, better health and educational achievement. In addition to making new friends, campers build self-confidence while discovering new skills and developing a respect for the outdoors, said Mary Craig, association program director at the lake County Family YMCA, which has locations in Vernon Hills and Waukegan.

“We believe all kids deserve the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve,” she said.

Beyond Camp
Children interested in technology, video game development and computer

ages 7 to 18, with locations at 60 universities, including Northwestern and Lake Forest College, which is also home to the iD Programming Academy and iD Gaming Academy.

“Our programs definitely make an impact on a student’s life,” said Karen Thurm Safran, vice president of marketing and business development for ID Tech Camps. “Many times they integrate what they’ve learned into school projects and extracurricular activities, resulting in positive self-esteem and leadership skills. The magic of our programs is that we show how a hobby and passion can turn into a potential career.”
The Gift of Resiliency

All parents wish the very best for their child; wishes like happiness, success in school, fulfillment with their life and the ability to make and keep friends. Resilient children who can adapt to new situations can only realize each of these attributes. Camps are the perfect place to help children learn to adjust to change, build their coping strategies and optimize their development.

Why are camps so ideal in building resilience? The camp experience provides children with simple and complex challenges like conquering the climbing wall, trying a new sport, making and getting along with new friends and learning to ask for help. Each challenge encourages them to take manageable and safe risks away from their parents without their parents' direction and encouragement. Campers are given the space to put away their electronic devices and get a little dirty while developing new relationships and having fun.

Camps also provide safe settings in which campers can start anew without any of the struggles they carry from school. Campers are able to be themselves and create strong relationships not only with their peers but also with their camp counselors. Having such a solid connection with trusted adults other than parents allows children to develop confidence and a powerful identity. This doesn't develop by being good at everything; it develops by having a great camp counselor that will help them find something that they can be proud of doing well. It is also these very relationships and being part of a group bond and common purpose that cultivate a feeling of belonging and community.

A great camp program often gives children choices to help them feel in control of their camp experience. This fosters feelings of competence and these feelings of competence allow campers to be better problem-solvers in new situations. Camp programs also help children develop physically through exercise and enjoy fresh air while being outdoors. Excellent camp programs have a good balance of structured and unstructured activities and provide experiences in a variety of areas like sports, aquatics, arts and adventure.

We know that resilient children are hopeful, possess high self-worth, are aware of their weaknesses and recognize their strengths. We also know that resilience helps with problem-solving skills and promotes the ability to make good decisions in all aspects of life. Through camp experiences, children are given the opportunity to build resilience and make the very best possible for their future.

Recreational and Competitive Summer Camps for 2014

Recreational Tennis and Sports Camp
(At Glenbrook Racquet Club)
Offered to those 4-16 looking to learn the game of tennis as well as play golf and swim. Sign-up for 1-10 weeks. Half-day and full-day options are available. Tennis will be played each day, golf and swimming will be 3 days per week.
Bonus offer: Sign up for at least 4 weeks and get a free tennis racquet ($110 value!).

Recreational Tennis Camp
(At Glenbrook Racquet Club and Glenbrook North High School Courts)
Offered to those 6-14 looking to learn the game of tennis. Sign up for 2-9 weeks. Half-day and full-day options are available.
Bonus offer: Sign up for at least 4 weeks and get a free tennis racquet ($110 value!).

High Performance Tennis Camp
(At Glenbrook North and Glenbrook South High School Courts)
Offered to kids 8-18 looking to build their skills to become more competitive tournament players. Focus on stroke production, foot work, match play, strategies and competition. This intensive tennis program is available on half-day or full-day basis. Sign up for 1-10 weeks.
Early Bird Discount - 5% off total price
Sign up by March 31, 2014
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GLEN BROOK RACQUET CLUB
847-498-5333
1801 Janke Dr., Northbrook, Illinois 60062
www.glenbrookracquetclub.com
Make Seasonal Hiring Easier and More Efficient

Any season may be the season of your discontent—if you don’t take care to source, hire and onboard seasonal workers who represent the best that your business has to offer.

Many pitfalls plague employers that must supplement their full-time staff for the summer, for tax season, or for any other portion of the year when business peaks. Most of these troubles stem from a failure of the company’s leadership to devote energy and resources to assembling an optimal seasonal workforce.

Are you willing to take a fresh look at your seasonal operations to see where you might improve your staffing? Consider these 11 approaches to fielding superlative workers when the annual rush is on.

Don’t assume that high unemployment will make your seasonal hiring a cinch. In fact, “we’ve experienced pockets of the country where it was very difficult to hire,” says Jennifer Lemcke, chief operating officer of Weed Man USA, a lawn-care franchisor. “It’s been hard to hire in Detroit, Michigan has very high unemployment; the catch for seasonal employers is that extensions of Federal jobless benefits have made many Michiganders eligible to collect for up to 99 weeks, reducing the motivation to find work, according to Mark Perry, a professor of economics at University of Michigan in Flint.

Use sourcing channels that offer a high yield of candidates who only want seasonal work. You’ll make better seasonal hires faster if you can mine rich veins of candidates who just want to work for the season. “We have tapped into graduating university students who are taking time to figure out what they want to do,” says Lemcke.

If your seasonal staff is large, dedicate substantial resources to successful onboarding. Giving seasonal employees the sink-or-swim test could hurt your bottom line at season’s end. “One of the most common mistakes is throwing seasonal hires on a sales floor with minimal training or onboarding, viewing them as a way to fill a schedule rather than as company representatives to serve your customers,” says Nels Wroe, partner and product director at SHL Group, a vendor of talent-assessment tools.

Take time to ensure that job descriptions for seasonal hires are accurate, complete and up-to-date. “We have clients using job descriptions that are four or more years old,” says Wroe. Consider asking the author of the job description to spend a few hours shadowing an employee in the relevant position. Your customers won’t forgive poor service simply because it’s rendered by a seasonal worker.

Consider tools for high-volume hiring and screening. If you’re hiring for hundreds or thousands of seasonal positions, you’ll probably benefit from talent-management systems. “Our candidates have doubled or tripled over the last few years, so we need tools to manage the flow,” says Kyle Martin, manager of talent acquisition at Vail Resorts Management Company in Broomfield, Colorado. Wroe says that with seasonal hires, “you have a very limited window to get a return on your hiring investment. Assessments let you select workers who will get up to speed more quickly.”

Hire for attitude as much as aptitude. Most seasonal work is about being flexible and getting up to speed quickly, rather than bringing to bear an elaborate skill set. “All of our training is so in-depth—we don’t necessarily need someone with experience,” says Lemcke. “We’re looking for dependable workers who emphasize safety and customer focus,” says Martin.

Give preference to “same time, next year” candidates. If you’re able to select for candidates most likely to return for another season, do so; it’ll streamline your hiring next year. “We’ll hire 10,000 seasonal workers in 2010, including about 5,000 who are returning,” says Martin.

Don’t shortchange HR and related processes for seasonal employees. You may be tempted to save short-term costs by bypassing some HR processes for seasonal employees. This can bring you trouble on many fronts, from fielding confused workers to running afoul of labor laws. So keep your seasonal workers on your regular HR platform, and disseminate systems and knowledge to branch offices that are hiring for the season. “We supply franchisees with information on how to interview and evaluate candidates, with orientation and training programs, and with all of the forms they’ll need,” says Lemcke.

If you use staffing vendors, consider giving just one an exclusive for your seasonal hires. Staffing agencies may be swamped filling the seasonal needs of many clients at once. If you promise one agency all your business, they may be more willing to go the extra mile to bring you the best seasonal workers.

Don’t assume that all your seasonal hires are just for the season. Many of your seasonal workers will never be candidates for permanent positions, but some of them may be. Tag potential permanent hires early on, keep close tabs on their performance, and at the end of the season, evaluate their fitness for full-time employment.

Don’t neglect your end game. Never assume that your workforce will remain intact through the season; it most likely won’t. “No matter how much we plan, we still have to hire some people toward the end of the season,” says Lemcke. Consider structuring compensation to reward seasonal workers for staying as long as you need them. “Our lawn-care technicians get a bonus based on production if they complete the season,” Lemcke adds.
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EVENTS SHOWS

KNIFE SHOW March 28th - 29th - 30th Holiday Inn Express & Conference Center Janesville, WI & 1-90 and East U.S. Hwy 14 For info: Badger Knife Club, Inc. Phone/Fax: (414) 479-9765 or (379) 978-5191

WANTED


DRIVERS: Tired of OTR? We have THE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU! $6000 Sign-On, $66,000/year, Home Weekend, 2-3 Day Routes. 1-year T/T Experience Required. Apply: www.MBMcareers.com	

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SALE

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DRIVE THE BEST! DRIVE MAVERICK! MAVERICK NOW HIRING IN YOUR AREA! Regional & Dedicated, Exp drivers or students with Class A CDL $175,000/year, $2500 Sign-on Bonus Teams up to $350,000/year, $5000 Sign-on Bonus! Forward Air 888-685-5611

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LAKE PROPERTY

Tennessee Log Home Bargain! 5 Acres, FREE boat slip, Only $74,900. 1,200SF ready-to-live-in, home. On 160,000 acre lake. Huge hardwood setting, near 150 acres nature preserve. Perc approved, 100% Financing. Only one, call now 877-888-0267 x52

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HOMEOWNERS WANTED!!! Kayak Pools is looking for demo homesteads to display our maintenance-free Kayak pools. Save thousands of $$ with our Pay-For-Experience program. Call NOW! 800-315-2925 kayakpoolsmidwest.com Discount Code: 521L314

You're in the driver's seat at ToDrive.com
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### Sale Terms:

- **25% Down of the Highest Bid**: The successful bidder for cash, the following described real estate whose right and interest in and to the real estate whose right and interest in and to the real estate is sold.

- **Payment of Not Less Than Ten Dollars ($10.00)**: The bid amount, including all other necessary funds, as set forth below, shall be subject to confirmation by the court, upon payment of not less than ten dollars ($10.00) by the purchaser. Additional funds shall be required for the purchase of any property by the court. The property is subject to general real estate laws and any other local labor laws.

### Additional Information:

- **Foreclosure Sales**: The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court, upon payment of not less than ten dollars ($10.00) by the purchaser. Additional funds shall be required for the purchase of any property by the court. The property is subject to general real estate laws and any other local labor laws.

### Contact Information:

- **Mark Karlov**, Attorney, Skokie, IL 60076, Phone: (312) 476-5500. Refer to File Number 15-225-197.

### Certificate of Sale:

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Pioneer Press (DC) Thursday, March 20, 2014

LEGAL

Adoption
Assumed Name
Auction - Real Estate
Bid Notice
Divorce
Foreclosures
Foundation Notices
Judicial Sales
Mechanics Liens
Name Change
Probate
Public Hearings
Public Notices
Storage - Legal
Take Notes

Assumed Name
Notice hereby given, pursuant to an Act in an action to dissolve the marriage of any bond issued by the State of Illinois, that a petition was filed on the 20th day of March, 2014, in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, for Dissolution of Marriage between the petitioner and the respondent, and that a judgment was entered on March 6, 2014, amending, in the conduct or transaction of business, to waive any technicalities, irregularities or mistakes, together with the signed copies of the petition, complaint, answer and any other documents delivered to the bidder. The Village of Skokie, Illinois, is a fully accessible building.

Bid Notice
Village of Skokie
Sealed Bids are hereby accepted for the Sealed Bids are hereby accepted for the purchase of ONE (1) 49 lions must be in writing and for- from the Cashier's Office boat- All proposals will be submitted in two (2), separate, sealed en- All proposals must be placed for ONE (1) 49 lions must be in writing and for- from the Cashier's Office boat- All proposals will be submitted in two (2), separate, sealed en-

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

Divorce
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Lavergne Avenue will eastbound lane between the I-crosswalks and pushbuttons will be reconstructed approximately 0.6 miles of Old Orchard Road to provide intersection improvements including additional turn lanes and larger corner radius to address future traffic demands. The Old Orchard Road Bridge over Interstate 94 (I-94) is not included in this project but will be improved under a separate Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) project. Additional construction will be modernized and pedestrian crosswalks and sidewalks will be installed at the I-94 southbound ramps, northbound ramps, Lantern Avenue and Lawrence Avenue intersections. Two right turn lanes will be added to 38th Street, and the new exit ramp will be located at the northbound exit ramp. The Village of Skokie requests an amendment to the zoning code to modify the definition of self-storage, warehouse facilities, and any other necessary changes related to this use. For information about the plans, please contact the Planning and Development Department at 847-968-5000 or visit the Village of Skokie website (skokie.org).

For more information, please contact the Planning and Development Department at 847-968-5000 or visit the Village of Skokie website (skokie.org).

**Parade on Wednesday, March 20, 2014**

**OPEN HOUSE**

Village Hall (7300 West North Avenue in Kletz) has an Open House on March 20, 2014 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. to answer questions regarding the project and the proposed development permit application. A copy of the application for a planned development permit and all associated documents is available for review at Village Hall on March 20, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The hearing on April 7, 2014, at 7:00 p.m., is for information purposes only. Attendees are invited to attend, be heard, and question the planning and development permits at the hearing. Any questions regarding this public hearing can be directed to Natalie M revival, Village Hall (7300 West North Avenue in Kletz), 5072-5074. A copy of the application for a planned development permit and all associated documents is available for review at Village Hall on March 20, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The hearing on April 7, 2014, at 7:00 p.m., is for information purposes only. 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High School Cube News, Sun-Times Media's new high school sports website, launched this week. It's the latest evolution in Chicago area prep sports coverage. High School Cube News integrates 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.
A CHICAGO SUN-TIMES.com PUBLICATION

MARCH 16-22, 2014

PARTIES
CAMP KESEM’S FAMILY NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
LOOKINGGLASS THEATRE’S GGGLASSQUERADE
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES’ BIG MAC UNDER GLASS
& MORE

WE’RE TALKING ABOUT...
DINING & LIBATIONS
CULINARY QUEST: FOOD-INSPIRED TRAVEL
BREAKING BREAD AT THE REVAMPED BOKA
ROHINI DEY DISHES ON CHICAGO’S BEST BITES

Shailene Woodley
THE ‘DIVERGENT’ STAR ON FILMING IN CHICAGO AND FORGING HER OWN PATH IN HOLLYWOOD
Anthony’s Story

“I wanted people to focus on something besides my teeth – I am in sales, and in that field you need to make a great first impression. That’s difficult with dark and crooked teeth. I chose Dr. Weller because I saw a lot of his work on other patients and he is an artist, a perfectionist. Dr. Weller used Invisalign to straighten my teeth and then placed veneers. Everyone took such good care of me. They were courteous, helpful, and talked to me as if I was a real person, not just a patient. Now I feel great! I am much more confident and relaxed with people. It makes such a difference!”

Recognized by NBC, FOX, Today Show, WGN & NY Times

What’s Your Weller Smile Story?

If you are considering any cosmetic enhancement to your smile, Dr. Jeffrey Weller invites you to join the thousands of satisfied patients who have shared their Weller Smile Stories.

Dr. Weller’s exclusive smile design process allows you to select the color of your new smile and preview it with customized temporaries. Because function is as essential as form, you have Dr. Weller’s personal guarantee that your completed smile will be comfortable, attractive and long lasting. Call Tina or Jamie at 312-654-0606 to schedule your free smile consultation today.

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COSMETIC | GENERAL | IMPLANT | RESTORATIVE
THINGS WE LOVE

Loft party

At Loft, being smart is always in style. Drop by the Michigan Avenue location March 20 to meet the five Chicago finalists in the brand's "Best (Dressed) Teachers" contest, which will award a $1,000 grant for classroom improvement and a $500 Loft gift card to the winner. Then, from March 31-April 6, log onto Loft's Facebook page to vote for your favorite. 5-7 p.m., 664 N. Michigan, Loft.com

Chicago Chef Week

Spring is in the air, and there's no better reason to come out of hibernation than Chef Week, taking place March 16-22. Drop by more than 50 of the city's top restaurants, including Nico Osteria (right), Balena, Antique Taco and Ada Street, and dig into a three-course lunch for $22 or a four-course dinner for $44. For the full lineup, visit Chicagochefweek.com.

More on CHICAGOSPASH.COM

Stop by Chicagosplash.com, where we're:

- Snagging style tips from Saks Fifth Avenue Men's Fashion Director Eric Jennings
- Living life with Larsa Pippen (right) on her new blog
- Talking must-see spring films, including "Under the Skin," starring Scarlett Johansson (at far right)
this week

March 22
BLUE TIE BALL
The Greek America Foundation celebrates Greek Independence Day with this festive evening, complete with music from DJ John Grammatis, cocktails, light hors d'oeuvres by Ambassador of Greek Cuisine and chef Maria Loi, a silent auction, cash raffle and charity casino. The Hellenic American Leadership Council, the Greek American Motorcycle Association and Olympiacos Soccer Club of Chicago will be honored for their dedication to community.
Time: 9 p.m.
Place: Blackstone Hotel, 636 S. Michigan
Cost: $150. For tickets, visit Greekamerica.org.

March 18-30
‘JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT’
The show that started it all for lyricist Tim Rice and composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, who went on to create such hits as Jesus Christ Superstar and Evita., arrives at the Cadillac Palace Theatre in a new production. This version of the Biblical story of Joseph, his 11 brothers and the coat of many colors features Broadway stars Diana DeGarmo and Ace Young.
Place: 151 W. Randolph
Cost: $25-$130. For tickets, call (312) 977-1700 or visit Broadwayinchicago.com.

March 19
DAY OF GLASS
The Glass Art Society hosts this celebration of the fine art in many forms. Taking place at various locations, from Ignite Glass Studios in West Town to Ed Hoy's International in Warrenville, the day-long event offers studio tours, exhibition and artist demos, giving an up-close look at the world of glass art.
Place: Venues across the city.
Cost: Free. For more information, visit GlassArt.org.

March 21
‘CITY LIGHTS’ AT THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Charlie Chaplin's silent screen masterpiece gets a top-notch treatment, as members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Richard Kaufman, accompany a showing of the film, in which the Little Tramp struggles to save his Little Flower Girl from a hard-knock life.
Time: 8 p.m.
Place: Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan
Cost: $45-$115. For tickets, call (312) 294-3000 or visit CSO.org.

March 22
MORNING SAFARI
Take a walk on the wild side with an early-morning visit to Lincoln Park Zoo's Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House. A zoo horticulturist and an animal expert lead nature-lovers through exhibits featuring the plants and animals of the tropics.
Time: 9 a.m.
Place: 2001 N. Clark
Cost: $10 for members, $13 for non-members. For tickets, visit Lpzoo.org/education/programs/morning-safari.
March 24

● **DRINKS BEFORE DINNER**
An offshoot of the popular "The Dinner Party" series, this low-key, salon-style event offers drinks and appetizers, while creator Elysabeth Alfano engages in casual dialogue with two notable Chicagoans. For the first-ever installment, Alfano chats with stand-up comedian Brian Babylon and Splash editor and publisher Susanna Negovan.

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Place:** Four Seasons Chicago, 120 E. Delaware

**Cost:** $18, which includes appetizers and a cocktail.

For more information, visit Fearnoartchicago.com/drinks-before-dinner.

March 28

● **STEPHEN WOLF AUXILIARY COUNCIL’S RED OR WHITE BALL**
Benefiting Steppenwolf for Young Adults, this annual event - chaired by Jennifer Stuart - features fare from spots such as Summer House Santa Monica, RA Sushi, drinks from City Winery and Goose Island and a raffle and silent auction. The evening's honorary chair is playwright, ensemble member and MacArthur fellow Tarell Alvin McCraney.

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. reception, 6:30 p.m. program

**Place:** 1601 N. Clark

**Cost:** $20 non-members, $15 members and students.

For tickets, visit Chicagohistory.org.

March 29

● **THE BIG PROM**
Barrel of Monkeys conduct creative-writing workshops with third through fifth grade students in underserved Chicago Public Schools. So it's fitting that its benefit takes inspiration from a student-written story called "Space Horses in Space." Cocktails and appetizers, live music, dancing, a raffle and silent auction keep the evening humming.

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** The Drucker Center, 1535 N. Dayton

**Cost:** $50 and $75. For tickets, visit Barrelofmonkeys.org/big-prom.

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For the past four decades, Ronald McDonald House Charities have helped families of children with medical needs find a home away from home. On March 8, more than 900 guests turned out to the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers (301 E. North Water) to support the organization's four Chicagoland Ronald McDonald Houses and the Ronald McDonald Family Room in Edward Hospital at the 10th annual Big Mac Under Glass: An Evening in the Emerald City. Co-chairs Jeff Cantalupo, Lorraine Klemz and Ken Norgan greeted guests during cocktail hour, where they mingled and posed for pictures with Oz characters and bid on live auction items. The giving kept going during dinner, as guests participated in a paddle raise and surpassed the fundraising goal of $530,000, which will help keep 40,000 families together each year. — Katerina Bizios

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event.
like plants popping out after the winter thaw, green hues are springing up left and right this season. From emerald to ivy, shades of green help give skin a healthy glow, especially when accented by gold accessories. On the spring runways, no variant was off-limits. Hermès sent bluish-greens down a jungle-inspired runway, while John Galliano showed off minty minis and tapered pants, proving one thing: You don't need the luck of the Irish to embrace this leafy look.
Children whose parents are dealing with cancer can find solace through Camp Kesem, an organization that sends kids on a fun-filled week of activities each summer. Nearly 1,000 parents, kids and volunteers turned out to the Field Museum (1400 S. Lake Shore) for the nonprofit’s second annual Family Night at the Museum, which included camp-inspired activities for kids like a scavenger hunt, while adults got down to the serious business of fundraising in Stanley Field Hall. Victory Park Capital CEO Richard Levy and his wife Dara were honored for their deep support of Camp Kesem, and in a move that surprised both the attendees and Dara, Richard announced a matching grant of $30,000 to open “Jimmy’s Camp” in memory of Dara’s late husband Jim Fieldman. The event raised $500,000 for Camp Kesem’s 54 chapters across 27 states.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event. The Sun-Times Foundation and the Chicago Community Trust will match donations to Camp Kesem up to a total of $5,000.
Lookingglass Theatre Company celebrated 26 years with 400 of its biggest fans March 8 at the Ritz-Carlton Chicago (160 E. Pearson). Co-chairs Jon Harris and Diane Whatton welcomed guests to the annual Gglassquerade gala — themed “A Celestial Evening” — for cocktails, dinner and silent auctions. Ensemble members David Schwimmer, Philip R. Smith and Heidi Stillman captured the crowd’s attention, presenting civic engagement award to Anne Pramaggiore, president and CEO of ComEd. Later, guests hit the dance floor to the sounds of local band Dr. Bombay. But it was the fundraising total that stole the show: $725,000 was raised to benefit Lookingglass’ award-winning theatrical programming. — Katerina Bizios

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event. The Sun-Times Foundation and the Chicago Community Trust will match donations to Lookingglass up to a total of $10,000. Up to $1,000 can be matched per individual donation.
CHICAGO CHILDREN'S MUSEUM'S HIDE 'N' SEEK

PRECIOUS METALS

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issue-paper corsages, a 90s soundtrack and photo booths took 550 guests back to their high school days at the Chicago Children's Museum's fourth annual Hide 'N Seek fundraiser March 8. The museum's Metropolitan Board, made up of young professionals, hosted the Back to School-themed gala, where partygoers snacked on bites by Lettuce Entertain You Restaurants and danced to DJ sets by Hexes and A-Trak while surrounded by Redmoon performers, who served wine from tall bikes. It was an A+ evening, hitting a fundraising high of $115,000 to benefit the Museum's exhibits, programming and community access initiatives. — Katerina Bizios

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

Above: Rick Carrico, Brett Saltzman, Brandon Smith and Danny Tuchman
Right: Lyndsey Ager and Leslie Venetz

PHOTOS BY MATTHEW REEVES
on the field, Chicago Bears running back Matt Forte breaks tackles and sprints toward touchdowns, and now ranks as the team's second all-time leader in rushing yards (after Walter Payton). Though it's the off-season, he hasn't slowed down — he's charging forward, dedicating himself to a new goal: breaking the cycle of poverty. "The dropout rate in Chicago is so bad and it correlates with crime in Chicago," the football star says. "I figure if we can shrink the dropout rate, we can lower the crime rate as well."

To that end, through his Matt Forte Foundation, Forte is teaming up with the Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle for A Run for Our Future. The way it works is simple: Runners in the March 30 Shuffle have the option to donate $22 or more to join Forte's team and, based on how much they raise, they'll receive items like autographed jerseys, bracelets, T-shirts and even a VIP meet and greet with Forte. All proceeds will go into the organization's scholarship fund — the more money collected, the more students Forte can help. "Having graduated from Tulane, I know how valuable an education is," he says. "When you start a foundation, you have to figure out what you want to impact. Usually it's something close to you."

According to Forte, the high-risk, high-reward nature of his chosen career is what inspired him to hit the books. "You always have to have a backup plan. There are injuries and all sorts of stuff that can happen when you're playing football," he says. "That's why I take education so seriously."

Forte says he'll be in peak physical condition for the Shamrock Shuffle, thanks to his off-season training regimen. He's optimistic about the Bears' chances next season. "We have a lot of pieces in place, we have our entire offense and I think all the starters are back. I think we can make leaps and bounds, just like last year." That ascension to greatness is the cornerstone of Forte's football philosophy and his philanthropic efforts. "Each year I say, 'Do bigger and better than the year before.' When you get to this level, you can't get complacent or satisfied," he says. "Although I've had some career highs, there's still more I can do."

Visit CrowdRise.com/mattforte to join Forte's A Run for Our Future race team.
THE FEARLESS ACTRESS ON FOLLOWING HER HEART, BEFRIENDING GEORGE CLOONEY & FILMING 'DIVERGENT' IN CHICAGO  

BY RACHEL HANDLER
When talking to Shailene Woodley, it's immediately clear that she's not your typical starlet. Right off the bat, she calls attention to the peculiarity of the interview process. "How funny are our jobs?" she laughs. "I'm talking about myself, you're asking me about me and we don't know each other."

And while she's happy to discuss her most recent role — starring in the March 21 cinematic adaptation of the wildly popular, Chicago-based Divergent novels — she's noticeably more animated when expounding upon the real-world causes close to her heart, including, to name just a few, feminism and "re-wilding" (more on that later). In the throes of these types of conversations, any Hollywood posturing falls away and Woodley's voice takes on a musical quality, rising as she makes a passionate point, falling as she pauses to consider an answer and punctuated by a steady beat of laid-back "dudes" and "man.

For the wise-beyond-her-years 22-year-old, acting has nothing to do with celebrity. Yet, almost to her chagrin, she's got fame to spare, thanks to critically acclaimed performances in last year's indie hit "The Spectacular Now," 2011's Oscar-winning "The Descendants" and ABC Family's ratings juggernaut "The Secret Life of the American Teenager." In Woodley's world, performing — like everything else she does — is about passion. "It's been the same since I was five," she says. "I either have butterflies in my stomach when I read a script, or I don't. If I do have butterflies, I do everything in my power to be in that film, because it's something my soul asked me to do."

And perhaps because she's following her heart instead of chasing fame, each of Woodley's parts has taught her something about herself. "You collect little tidbits of wisdom as you go," she says. "Divergent" more than passed Woodley's butterfly test. Based on the first installment of the best-selling young-adult trilogy by Barrington native Veronica Roth, the film is set in the not-so-distant future in Chicago, where every member of society is forced to join a "faction," or tribe, based on their personality type. When Woodley's character Beatrice "Tris" Prior attempts to, well, diverge from the dystopian system, she instigates an epic war.

Woodley says she instantly identified with Tris' dissatisfaction with the status quo. "Tris is fighting for selflessness and bravery," she says. "And I realized it's because when I see most films, I leave feeling affected and inspired and emotionally captivated. And all of that has to be based in truth."

That epiphany encouraged Woodley to accept the part of George Clooney's bright, troubled daughter in Alexander Payne's "The Descendants," which marked her feature-film debut and nabbed her a Golden Globe nomination. But the industry accolades were nothing compared to what Woodley calls the "life-changing" experience of filming in Hawaii, where she formed lasting bonds with the cast and crew particularly Clooney. "He's like my second dad. He's got my back," she says. "I've never met somebody in the industry who's more grateful, who pays it forward without talking about it in the press or speaking about it to anyone else. That to me was the best advice, just learning through his actions."

Living in the lush paradise, Woodley discovered yet another passion: environmentalism. "It was the first time I'd been surrounded by that much nature," she says. "It really raised the stakes for the life I wanted to live." After leaving the island, Woodley got into "re-wilding," which for her means "reconnecting to the ecosystem" by doing things like eating organically, studying herbalism and spending time outdoors. She also began using her burgeoning fame as a springboard for speaking out in the press about the things that mattered to her. "Part of what I've been given is an opportunity to talk about things that I feel like need to be talked about, regardless of whether people agree with me," she says.

In her following movie, "The Spectacular Now," Woodley made a bold statement without saying a word. As down-to-earth teen Aimee, she wore no makeup on screen, and often refused to paint her face for the red carpet in hopes of promoting a more realistic standard of beauty for young women. "One big thing for me is empowering my sisters that are around me, every woman on this planet," she says. "We got this. We can love each other."

The "Divergent" script spoke similarly to Woodley's female-empowering instincts — she found herself drawn to the unorthodox relationship between Tris and her love interest. "In a lot of young adult films, relationships are based on attraction and materialism versus respect, honor and communication," she says. "I thought this would be a great platform to showcase what love can be. It doesn't have to be something that revolves around codependency."

Though Woodley spent several months shooting the film in Chicago in the summer of 2013, playing the lead meant she rarely had time to explore the city. "I got to know my apartment and I got to know movie sets," she laughs. During her limited downtime, she ate at The Publican and thrift-shopped virtually unrecognized, something she knows she'll no longer be able to do once the much-anticipated movie premieres. But she's not concerned about her snowballing stardom. "I know me, I know my friends and family, and if it ever gets to be too much, I'll do something else," she says.

She's not bluffing. After she shoots the sequels, "Insurgent" and "Allegiant," Woodley's schedule is clear. "Right now, I have zero intentions of doing another film," she says. "Until I read something I'm deeply invested in from an artistic point of view, there's no reason to." For now, though, Woodley's fans can still catch her in two big projects set to premiere in 2014: Gregg Araki's "White Bird in a Blizzard," a moody 1980s thriller that debuted at Sundance, and another adaptation of a popular young adult novel, "The Fault in Our Stars."

The latter, a heart-wrenching romance involving a cancer-stricken teen, instilled in her yet another life lesson: "We have a set number of years to be alive. Are we going to focus on negativity and fear and doubt? Or are we going to focus on love and compassion and kindness and fun and laughter?"

And even as Woodley's focus increasingly turns toward activism, she's careful not to cast herself as a heroine. "I don't even know that it's bravery or outspokenness — it's just who I am," she says. "I feel like we have a duty, we have a responsibility to be the best versions of ourselves every single day."
Indulgent eating is a part of any great vacation, but why not make food the focus of your next getaway? Here, we’ve rounded up three different trips centered around a particular food or drink, allowing you to see, study, and, of course, sample it on its home turf.

BY DAVID HAMMOND

STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE

Bourbon can be made anywhere — all it takes is corn whiskey, a charred new oak barrel and a bit of aging. But there’s no better place to learn about the spirit than in Kentucky, its birthplace. Distilleries of all sizes dot the Louisville area, offering tours, a look at the distilling process and tastings. We recommend a visit to Buffalo Trace, located an hour outside Louisville, which produces many labels, including the spicy Sazerac rye and the much-revered Pappy Van Winkle (113 Great Buffalo Trace, Frankfort; Buffalotrasdistillery.com). Or for a trip back in time, head to Evan Williams Bourbon Experience, located on Louisville’s “whiskey row.” It was Kentucky’s first commercial distillery, and now offers a historical tour on how America’s native spirit goes from grain to glass, complete with bourbon samples. (528 W. Main; Evanwilliams.com)

Thirsty for more? Check out Vendome Copper & Brassworks, which has been providing stills and other metal parts to bourbon distillers for more than a century (729 E. Franklin; Vendomecopper.com). Or tour the Brown-Forman Cooperage, one of the largest makers of whiskey barrels in the world, producing for Brown-Forman brands such as Early Times and Jack Daniel’s. (402 MacLean; Brown-forman.com)

Where to stay: The grand, old-school Brown Hotel (left) is the birthplace of the Hot Brown ($22), a traditional Louisville dish that’s a combination of toast points, bacon, turkey and Mornay sauce — an ideal accompaniment to a day of bourbon sampling. (Rooms start at $199. 335 W. Broadway; Brownhotel.com)
In the early 1890s, James Arthur Croxton Jr. started harvesting Rappahannock River oysters in order to supplement his farmer’s income. But the business has survived — and thrived — over 100 years and through three generations, and now it’s run by great-grandsons and cousins Ryan and Travis Croxton. At Rappahannock Oyster Company, bivalve fans can check out breeding rooms, where teeny-tiny oysters are cultivated before they’re “planted” in the river via cages — in the exact same spot where their ancestors culled their harvest. If it’s not peak season, take a walk down to the water and try some fresh-shucked, straight-from-the-river oysters—a memorable experience, as the mollusk is most full-flavored when eaten on the spot. “Our fathers weren’t sentimental about any of this. We are,” says Travis. (784 Locklies; Rroysters.com)

Continue the feast: Dig into Rappahannock Oyster Company’s harvest at one of the Croxtons’ three restaurants. Our pick? Merroir, a shore-side spot just feet from the farm, where almost the entire ever-changing menu is served raw or cooked on an outdoor grill. (784 Locklies Creek; Rroysters.com)

Where to stay: While staying in the Rappahannock region, pass memorable nights at Pop Castle (right), a fully equipped, mid-19th century plantation home that sleeps 16, with rents starting at $650-$800 per night. (Vrbo.com/357713)

The state of Oaxaca in Mexico is home to pre-Columbian cities like Monte Alban and the recently excavated Copalita, located outside Huatulco. It’s also home to Oaxaca cheese, a fresh, mozzarella-like cheese that’s native to the region and boasts a slightly sweet flavor and a supple, pliable texture. And like mozzarella and other fresh cheeses, it loses flavor just days after it’s made due to oxidation, meaning there’s an immense taste difference between weeks-old, refrigerated Oaxaca cheese and the stuff you can eat every morning at roadside stands. "I won’t eat Oaxaca cheese that’s more than one day old," says chef Jane Bauer, an Oaxacan resident who runs Chiles + Chocolate Food Services in Huatulco. Under her knowledgeable eye, visitors can prepare handmade tortillas, salsa from scratch and other fresh, authentic foods, such as an avocado and poblano salad with pumpkin seeds, radishes and Oaxacan cheese. ($75 per person; Huatulco-catering.com)

Expand the adventure: Oaxacan cheese is served in most restaurants and markets, so there’s no shortage of opportunities to try it. But we also recommend a trip two hours down the coast from Huatulco to the market in Tehuantepec, where you’ll have your pick of bowling ball-sized cheeses from various vendors (above).

Where to stay: In addition to infinity pools and a well-appointed spa, the new Secrets Resort and Spa in Huatulco (below) is a foodie’s delight, with nine different restaurants, many of which serve regional cuisine. At Market Café, for example, dig into a buffet featuring fresh-made mole negro and mole verde, chapulines (spiced grasshoppers) and plenty of dishes with Oaxaca cheese. (Rooms start around $300 a night; Secretsresorts.com/huatulco)
Heather Walpert & Johnny Divita

BY KRISTIN LARSON

Heather Walpert and Johnny Divita will always remember where they were during this winter's Polar Vortex: "stranded" in Cabo San Lucas, soaking up the sun as newlyweds. Divita, a project manager for Norfolk Southern Railway, and Walpert, the director of compliance for Dealership Development, exchanged vows Jan. 4 at the Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Resort, far away from Chicago's sub-zero temperatures. The stunning, sandy setting inspired Walpert to keep the other details simple: She chose an all-white theme for everything from the flowers to the bridesmaids' dresses. The only thing that wasn't white was the bride's gown. "Nobody knew I was wearing blush," she says. "I felt like such a princess." After the ceremony, Walpert, Divita and their 70 guests sipped cocktails by the fire pits and had a lively dance party under the stars to the sounds of a local mariachi band. And although their fairytale wedding weekend was technically supposed to end the next day, the couple's flight was cancelled due to the inclement weather back at home — which meant spending another three days in paradise along with several of their guests. "It was crazy, but so amazing to have some extra time," says Walpert. "I didn't want to come back. The whole week was just perfect."
Fresh take

Chicago standby Boka gets a makeover for its 10th birthday

BY SAMANTHA LANDÉ

Few restaurateurs can boast that they've run a successful Chicago restaurant for a decade. Even fewer have the confidence to make swooping changes when that restaurant is still drawing crowds nightly. But Kevin Boehm and Rob Katz — the masterminds behind Boka Group's top-notch spots (Girl & the Goat, GT Fish & Oyster, Perennial Virant) — did just that, revamping their original restaurant, Boka, with a fresh look and a new executive chef and partner, Lee Wolen. "Kevin really inspired the team when he talked about how rare an opportunity it is to be open for 10 years," says Wolen. "He constantly drives home the point that it's just as important to be restaurant-driven as chef-driven, with great service and atmosphere."

Gone is the cream interior, with the sail-draped ceiling and black-clothed tables. The upgraded space now highlights new elements, like a front wall plated with escutcheons, sleek leather banquettes and a greenhouse-like terrace with a 30-foot living moss and fern wall. What remains is the contemporary American food, along with the laser-focused service people have come to expect from the restaurant. "It should always feel like Boka to our customers," says Wolen.

Here's what else you can expect when you step into the updated Boka:

Chef stats: Wolen most recently served as chef de cuisine of The Lobby at The Peninsula Hotel. Prior to that, he worked at acclaimed New York City restaurant Eleven Madison Park. Wolen has also spent time cooking at world renowned El Bulli in Spain and Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons in Oxford, England.

Must-try dishes: The roasted broccoli salad, a crisp starter accompanied by yogurt and preserved lemon, sprinkled with Marcona almonds and served atop a savory Parmesan cracker ($12). The ricotta gnudi is delicate but satisfying, with vibrant squash sauce garnished with sage and shiitake mushrooms ($15). Expect Wolen's spring menu to include dishes like roasted lamb shoulder with garlic, lettuce and turnips and a spring onion salad with barley and smoked ricotta.

Behind the bar: With the face-lift came a new bar area and bar manager, Tim Stanczykiewicz (Balena, GT Fish & Oyster), who has taken a seasonal approach to cocktails that highlights the use of bitters and herbal liquors. A particularly unique choice is the Date with Divinity, made with Atlantico Platino rum, Ramazzotti, green Chartreuse, lime and mint ($12). Stanczykiewicz also hand-carves all of the ice for the cocktail program.

Growing green: One of the marquee design elements is the beautiful moss wall in the terrace, designed by Heather Shouse from Bottle & Branch and interwoven with quirky portraits of cats and birds. Plans are in the works with Shouse to create a raised garden in the back for Wolen, where he'll grow herbs and vegetables to be used in the restaurant. The garden will also house a 10-seat chef's table. "We're toying with the idea of a tasting menu, or maybe something more casual, like a suckling pig or a theme based on a country," says Wolen.

1729 N Halsted, (312) 337-6070; Bokachicago.com
entertainment | ARTS PREVIEW

From screen to stage

Actress Molly Ringwald carves out a career as a singer

Though she rose to stardom in the teenage-driven, generation-defining 1980s films of John Hughes, including “Sixteen Candles,” “The Breakfast Club” and “Pretty in Pink,” Molly Ringwald has since proven her musical talent in a range of mediums. She’s penned two books, including a novel—"Secret Life of an American Teenager"—and RUSS. "I went to majoring in stories called When It Happens To You, has kept her acting chops sharp and in-stories called When It Happens To You, has kept her acting chops sharp and being a mother drove her life, not music, and when Ringwald did begin to entertain the notion of singing, she envisioned a few gigs in dingy little jazz clubs, not an album and attendant tour. "Life takes you to unexpected places," she says. "I just make myself available for the adventure!"

In her new role, Ringwald hasn’t taken a complete departure from her acting roots. For the redhead whose repertoire ranges from "The Very Thought of You" to the "The Breakfast Club" anthem "Don’t You (Forget About Me)" — rendering a song is not so different from inhabiting a character. "I approach songs as I would approach a scene that I act, asking myself the same questions: Who is this person? To whom are they singing?" She says. "Some nights it’s me singing to someone I know personally, other nights it’s a character singing to someone else from my imagination, or from a book that I read. Some nights I don’t think about anything, and just feel swept away by the melody and the poetry in the sounds of the words, playing together."

### MOLLY RINGWALD QUINTET

$40-$55, March 19, City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph, (312) 733-9463. For tickets, visit Citywinery.com.

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LIVE THEATER Guide

### April 25—May 18

**The Sound of Music**

April 25-May 18

**Elvis Presley**

April 25-May 18

**The Million Dollar Quartet**

April 25-May 18

**A Must-See**

April 25-May 18

**Sondheim Double Bill**

April 25-May 18

**RITUAL**

April 25-May 18

**Theatre of Color**

April 25-May 18

**The Performing Arts Theatre**

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MARIA PONCE FOR SPLASH

'The Bling Ring' star on her new film and nervously approaching her idols

After cutting her teeth at the Actors Training Center in Wilmette, 19-year-old Katie Chang got her big break as the lead in Sofia Coppola's 2013 film 'The Bling Ring' — before even hiring an agent. This month, the Chicago native and Columbia University student stars in "A Birder's Guide to Everything," which follows a group of teens who escape into the woods in search of a rare bird.

Hitting the books
"I remember reading [the script for 'A Birder's Guide to Everything'] on my living room couch before my senior year of high school, and just laughing out loud. I thought it was one of the funniest, smartest, sweetest things I'd read in a while. I love writing and I'm a harsh critic, so to read something that really, genuinely made me laugh was exciting."

Role call
"I play a character named Ellen. She's the new girl in school. She's very intellectual but also creative, and she's headstrong and stubborn. I felt like I had more in common [with her than with my character in 'The Bling Ring']. I understood her motivations more. That was a struggle for me with 'The Bling Ring' — it was hard to find a motivation for robbing people with no care in the world. But this girl is just a regular high school girl and she goes through regular high school things, and I could certainly relate to that, being in high school myself at the time."

Set stories
"[Being on set] was like going to summer camp. The dynamic of the characters pretty much came across off screen, too. I was like the mom of the group. Alex [Wolff], Kodi [Smit-McPhee], Michael [Chen] and I spent every minute together and they definitely annoyed me, just like my own little brothers annoy me — I have no problem saying that — but at the end of the day, I loved working with them."

Star-struck
"Last May at the Cannes Film Festival, I was star-struck [meeting] Daniel Auteuil. I don't speak French [well] and I ended up completely messing up and telling him I loved a movie he wasn't even in. I got so flabbergasted. I would be totally beside myself if I met someone like Wes Anderson or George Lucas or Kathryn Bigelow — if I met her, I would probably just tell her that I loved her and then go cry in a corner."

I f someone asked me, "Out of everyone in the world, who would you trade lives with for forever?" I would immediately answer, "Nobody." But if the question was, "Who would you trade lives with for a day?" lots of names would float through my head. There are so many people out there who would be fun to trade with for a quick 24 hours, just to get a taste of a different and possibly more exotic or intriguing life.

But you know who I would really, really want to trade with for 24 hours? Evan. If I could be Evan for 24 hours, then I could actually see and know how I am doing as his mom. By choosing to be him, I could make sure that I am being the best mom that I can be.

Read Jenny's blog at ChicagoSplash.com.
WTLD WEST

As developers scramble to build in the West Loop, old properties bring out the meatpacking district's charms

BY MADELINE NUSSE

When Google announced a move to the West Loop in 2012, a flurry of developers set their sights on the neighborhood. Now, as Google's "1K" Chicago headquarters — located at 1000 W. Fulton — inches closer to completion, and other tech companies such as Twitter plan their own West Loop moves, a spate of new developments are following suit, including rental high rises and the Soho House hotel. As it is, the hot hood has no shortage of renowned restaurants and entertainment venues, with others on the way. In fact, the only thing not multiplying in the neighborhood might be its signature converted warehouses — the charming spaces that initially attracted restaurants and tech ventures, and before them, a wave of urban pioneers and art galleries in the 1980s.

It's that rustic, lofted appeal that makes the top floor condo at 1217 W. Monroe stand out. (Call Koenig and Strey broker Jennifer Mills Klatt, right, at 773-914-4422.) Recently gutted from the shell, the 6,000-square-foot former warehouse space features soaring ceilings, a private elevator and a two-car garage. But what really drives the $2,795,000 ask is the touch of luxury in the midst of the meatpacking district. The four-and-a-half-bathroom, four-bedroom home boasts modern finishes, a sizable kitchen with sleek Italian cabinetry and Sub-Zero & Wolf and Viking appliances (three fridges and two dishwashers) and a master suite with a floor-to-ceiling tiled bathroom containing a freestanding soak tub and his-and-her sinks.

The luxe surroundings won't detract from the neighborhood's appeal as a creative and artist hub — the 81 feet of hallway space is begging for good art from nearby galleries.

WILDA WEST

1217 W. Monroe

For those hankering for the classic West Loop look, no property comes closer than new-to-market 106 N. Aberdeen, unit 5A (above, call Related Realty broker Juany Monroy-Honeycutt at 773-968-6625). Tucked in a live-work building, the loft features exposed-beam, concrete and brick details, plus a stellar view of the downtown skyline. Priced at $329,000, the two-bed, one-and-a-half-bath condo is situated near restaurants, transportation and something only recently associated with the entertainment-filled neighborhood: good schools.
Tanta: Lomo Saltado (beef stir-fry). $29, 118 W. Grand; Tantachicago.com
"Love the vibe, flavors and food. It's playful and unpretentious—a rarity in upscale restaurants."

Mariscos el Veneno: seafood platter, starts at $12.99
1024 N. Ashland, (773) 252-7200
"Amazing Nayarit seafood with a dive vibe. No frills, BYOB, platters of shrimp, crab legs, deadly hot salsas and giant glasses of horchata to wash it all down."

Vermilion: lobster Portuguese, $34, 10 W. Hubbard; Thevermilionrestaurant.com
"Where else do you find the confluence of old and new world in one dish? It was ranked No. 1 worldwide by USA Today when we opened."

Rosa Regale: sparkling red wine, $17.99, Binny's locations citywide; Rosaregale.com
"An amazing value for a soft sparkling wine made with 100 percent Brachetto, a black-skinned Italian grape. Rumor has it that Julius Caesar and Marc Antony wooed Cleopatra with this."

Crate & Barrel: medium slate board, $19.95, 850 W. North; Crateandbarrel.com
"Designed for cheese, but I use banana leaves to serve almost anything on these. Very minimalist and sleek."

Yo Soy: ticket prices and locations vary; Yosoychicago.com
"Amazing Mexican-inspired underground suppers by Michael Corona and partner Bryan Riggenbach. Almost always sold out — theirs is a list you want to be on."

Dosas: $6.99, Udupi Palace Restaurant, 2543 W. Devon, Udupipalace.com
"Try classic fare like dosas (lentil, semolina and other crepes with a range of stuffings), idlis (rice cakes) and vadas (lentil fritters)."

Tiffins: food container, $24.95, Patel Brothers, 2610 W. Devon, Happytiffin.com
"Retro-chic, steel-layered containers harken back to days before the dominance of plastic."

Pitú Cachaça: cocktails start at $9, Carnivale, 702 W. Fulton, Carnivalechicago.com
"Brazil's national spirit doesn't get as much credit as it deserves. Even better when aged gold or dark from distilled sugarcane. Muddle almost any fruit in it, like berries, lychee, mango or watermelon."

Yo Soy: ticket prices and locations vary; Yosoychicago.com
"Amazing Mexican-inspired underground suppers by Michael Corona and partner Bryan Riggenbach. Almost always sold out — theirs is a list you want to be on."

Vermilion owner Rohini Dey dishes on her favorite local food, cocktails and kitchen must-haves

‘Dey’ on the town
NEW VANILLA CINNAMON
THE MOST STYLISH SHOT OF THE NIGHT
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

MARIANO'S
shop well. eat well. live well.
The Chrysler Town & Country has been the quintessential luxury minivan since it debuted in 1989.

The Chrysler Group minivans are quite impressive when you consider their long list of minivan-first innovations, and the fact they have sold more than 13 million copies since the Dodge Caravan debuted in 1983.

The Town & Country continues to carry the torch as the premier luxury minivan in its segment. However, not long ago, Chrysler Group's chairman and CEO, Sergio Marchionne, talked of ending production of the Town & Country.

That no longer appears to be the case, as there are rumors of a totally redesigned 2016 Town & Country due out sometime next year.

So for now, the Town & Country lives on. In fact, Chrysler is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the modern minivan with the 2014 Town & Country 30th Anniversary Edition.

From an affordability standpoint, the 2014 Chrysler Town & Country is modestly priced (starting at $30,765), and it offers a very long list of standard amenities and optional equipment.

The Touring trim level is the base, although it hardly seems fair calling it a base model. It comes standard with leather-trimmed first- and second-row seats, eight-way power front seats, Stow n Go seating with second-row bucket seats that fold flat into the floor, leather-trimmed steering wheel with audio controls, a media center with 6.5-inch touchscreen, 30GB hard drive, Gracenote music ID, voice command and Bluetooth, and a second-row high-resolution nine-inch video screen and DVD console.

That standard entertainment system also includes an HDMI input, wireless headphones, video remote control, a 115-volt power outlet, and two USB charging ports.

Optional with the Touring-L and standard in the S and Limited trim levels, is the addition of a third-row high-resolution nine-inch video screen.

All Town & Country models also feature standard power sliding doors, power tailgate, rearview camera, and a long list of safety features.

The 2014 Chrysler Town & Country is offered in four trim levels; Touring, S, Touring-L, and Limited. All are powered by a potent 3.6-liter V6 engine mated to a six-speed automatic transmission.

The V6 delivers 283 horsepower and thanks to an ECO mode, Town & Country can achieve up to 25 miles per gallon on the highway.

The V6 very responsive, and it provides plenty of power for taking off from a dead stop and for passing, even when loaded down with seven passengers.

I am not so fond of the transmission, though. At times the shifts were intermittent and harsh. Aside from that, there is a lot to like.

The ride is very smooth and agreeable. With the second- and third-row seats in use, there still 33 cubic-feet of cargo volume. Fold the third row down and that increases to 83 cubic-feet.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
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<th>Price</th>
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<td>$32,995</td>
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* Add tax, title license and $166.27 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. Lessee responsible for excess wear and early termination of lease. Option to purchase. Imp.$1,124, For. $1,433, Legacy $11,599, Outback $14,105 Crosstrek $13,920. Gas mileage is EPA estimates. All offers end in 3 days, unless noted.
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All offers may not be combinable and may be subject to change. Dealer not responsible for ad errors. Photos for illustration purposes only. See dealer for complete details. *Plus tax, title, doc. fee. All discounts applied that are available to everyone. **Based on total package of warranty programs. See dealer for LIMITED WARRANTY details. [1] May not be eligible for special financing. ^Discounts based on MSRP; MSRP may not be the price at which the vehicle is sold. Savings may vary depending on trim level. 1) New car payments based on 72 mos, 1.49% APR, $6500 down payment, plus tax, title, doc. fee, to qualified buyers w/ approved credit. 2) Based on sales volume for 2013 in District-1 according to Hyundai report. 3) To qualified buyers with approved credit on most certified pre-owned Hyundais. — All varying prices or varying trim levels. **Payments to qualified buyers with approved credit plus tax, title, doc. fee based on 72 mos, 2.9% APR $7234 down payment for $239/mo., $7502 down payment for $199/mo., $4463 down payment for $99/mo. (Buydown rate towards select 2013 Elantra models; to qualified buyers w/ approved credit, $8500 max balance financed ($13.89 per $1000 financed w/10% down). Dealer buydown participation may affect final cost. **Bring paycheck stub; restrictions may apply.
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**BEYOND A GREAT DEAL IS A...**

**GROSSINGER DEAL!**

**IN LINCOLNWOOD!**

### Over 300 High-Quality Pre-Owned Vehicles!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
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*Plus tax, title, license & $165.27 doc fee. Dealer will not honor any pricing errors in this advertisement. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. Prices are good 2 days from date of publication. See dealer for details.*
## Sales - Service - Accessories

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### Low Financing Available on Select Models

### 100's of Cars to Choose From!

### If You Don't See It Here, We Will Find It!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Make/Model</th>
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### Coupes - SEDANS - CONVERTIBLES

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### Trucks - VANS - SUVS

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*AutoMatch USA's prices not inclusive of tax, title, license, prep, freight and dealer doc. fees. Advertised inventory available at time of printing. AutoMatch USA is a used car dealership operated by FreedomRoads RV, Inc. dba AutoMatch USA. CarCash is a trademark of National Car Cash, LLC. AutoMatch USA is a trademark of FreedomRoads RV, Inc. All other trademarks are property of their respective holders. Advertised inventory available at time of printing. May not be combined with any other offer and not applicable to prior sales. See dealer for details. Offers expire 3/30/14.

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Leather, Power Everything, Keyless Entry, Rear Camera, Heated Seats, Bucket Seats & More!
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New 2014 Dodge AVENGER
Steering Wheel Audio Controls, Keyless Entry, Rear Camera, Heated Seats, Power Moonroof & More!
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New 2014 Dodge CHEROKEE
Advanced A/C, Keyless Entry, Fog Lights, Power Front Seats, 4WD & More!
$19,990

New 2014 Dodge DART
Power Everything, Power Moonroof, Bluetooth, Keyless Entry, Bluetooth, Heated Seats & More!
$14,385

New 2013 Dodge JOURNEY
Power Everything, Keyless Entry, Bluetooth, Heated Seats, Power Moonroof & More!
$16,490

New 2014 Dodge CHARGER SE
Power Everything, Keyless Entry, Bluetooth, Heated Seats, Power Moonroof & More!
$19,995

New 2014 Dodge GRAND CHEROKEE
Steering Wheel Audio Controls, Power Front Seats, 4WD & More!
$15,990

New 2014 Dodge DURANGO SXT 4X4
Power Everything, Power Moonroof, Bluetooth, Keyless Entry, Bluetooth, Heated Seats & More!
$25,790

New 2014 Chrysler 300
Navi, Power Everything, 4WD, 20 Inch Wheels, Remote Start, Keyless Entry, Bluetooth, Heated Seats & More!
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Most offers can not be combined. All prices plus tax, title, lic. & $166.27 doc. fee. *Off MSRP on select new models. †Deferred payments may affect final payment date. § 0% APR for 84 mos available on select new models to qualified buyers, must finance thru Ally Bank, in lieu of factory rebate. $11,995/$10,000 borrowed. 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.
NEW 2014 NISSAN
SENTRA
LEASE FOR:
$89 PER MO.

NEW 2014 NISSAN
VERSA
100% CREDIT APPROVAL

OVER 300 PRE-DRIVEN VEHICLES TO CHOOSE FROM!

New 2013 NISSAN
FRONTIER
$18,999
$18,888

New 2013 NISSAN
ROGUE

New 2013 NISSAN
ALTIMA

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Housing options abound for the 55-and-older crowd

BY JOHN ROBERTS for Sun-Times Media

Active" is the key word for the 55-and-older crowd, and that means most of that age are looking to live in communities where there are plenty of options for entertainment, exercise and recreation.

Homeownership rates are very high among households headed by someone 55 or older, according to the American Housing Survey, a study released in 2011 by the MetLife Mature Market Institute. More than two-thirds of 55-plus households own single-family detached homes.

 Builders and developers in the region know all too well how important it is to provide the right types of housing and options for 55-plus communities.

Maples at the Sonatas, a Wilcox Community, spans 24 acres on the north side of Woodstock. Minutes from Route 47 and the historic Woodstock Square, the subdivision features maintenance-free, single-family ranch luxury homes.

Models have as many as three bedrooms, two bathrooms and an attached two- or 2.5-car garage, each home combining ample living space with thoughtful design. The homes boast 9-foot tray ceilings, European country exteriors and open floor plans that offer flexible living space, including a four-season veranda or a private courtyard, depending on the model.

The neighborhood includes an on-site clubhouse, often used as a gathering location for neighbors to enjoy a morning cup of coffee or an afternoon game of cards. The clubhouse is the hub for weekly social events such as "Coffee & Conversation" and Book Club on Tuesdays. This Wilcox community also includes a fitness center and outdoor heated pool designed for its residents' exclusive use.

Another development that fits the bill for the active 55-plus buyer is a maintenance-free clubhouse community in Plainfield known as Villas at Fox Run. The community currently has both single-family ranch and luxury ranch homes under construction with only 22 home sites remaining.

The community features several amenities, such as a bike trail, clubhouse, fitness center and outdoor heated pool with a large paved deck and lounge chairs.

The clubhouse features a great room with cathedral ceilings and open floor plan ideal for meeting a neighbor for a cup of coffee or a game of billiards. The cozy fireplace, recessed lighting and comfortable seating areas offer a relaxing setting any time of day.

With an on-site fitness center, there are no pricey gyms to join or drive to. Equipment includes treadmills, elliptical machines, a weight machine, free weights and an exercise bicycle.

Each luxury ranch home features many upscale details and amenities such as rich cabinetry, hardwood floors, expansive windows for lots of natural light and generous open floor plans. The ranch homes and villas boast contemporary designs with a European country-style exterior and elegant seasonal verandas.

The one-level living single-family homes feature two bedrooms, two bathrooms, den and a 2.5 car garage. These homes are part of the Courtyard Series of Wilcox Homes and include the Promenade, Portico and Palazzo models. Signature features include an outdoor courtyard accessed through sliding glass patio doors. A private oasis, the courtyard is the perfect location for a quiet dinner with friends or a solo afternoon reading a good book.

Part of the Cathedral Series, the ranch villas include two models, the Canterbury and the Abbey. Both offer two bedrooms, two bathrooms and a two-car garage; however, the Canterbury's den could be converted into a third bedroom with ease. With open spaces perfect for oversized furniture, Palladian-style windows and walk-in closets, the Cathedral Series provides spacious one-level living. The Canterbury also features a double vanity in the owner's bathroom, while the Abbey has an optional bonus room.

For more information about these maintenance-free ranch homes, call (815) 609-0150 or visit www.wilcox communities.com.

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Dream Homes are new construction and are quality-built with two-by-six walls. They’re energy efficient with upgraded insulation and high-efficiency furnaces and water heaters. The kitchens are spacious, well lighted and include an abundance of cabinets. Appliances like ranges, built-in ovens and microwaves, side-by-side refrigerators and dishwashers are included.

The beautiful Winchester model home, priced at only $89,900, includes three bedrooms, two baths, a gourmet kitchen with oak cabinets and appliances, master bedroom with walk-in closet, window treatments, central air, attached 2 1/2 car garage and newly sodded lawn.

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Dream Homes are located on newly sodded sites in Four Seasons, an award-winning community, beautifully landscaped and meticulously maintained. Shopping, banking, restaurants, a clinic and hospital are all located within walking distance. For longer distances, transportation is available through the Boone County Council on Aging.

Model homes may be visited seven days a week. Four Seasons-Dream Homes’ hours are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, visit the website www.fourseasons dreamhomes.com, call (815) 373-2604 or (815) 544-2700, or e-mail dreamhomesusa@t6h.com.

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Katie Barry & Mike Boychuck

Don and Peg Barry of Park Ridge announce the engagement of their daughter Katie to Mike, son of Maureen and Stan Boychuck. Mike is a graduate of Maine South High School and University of Iowa. Katie is a graduate of Maine South High School, University of Illinois and DePaul Law School. They are both employed in the Chicago area. A wedding is planned for Aug. 23 at Holy Family Church in Chicago with reception following at the Drake Hotel. The couple took engagement photos along the Chicago lakeshore with their dog Hank.

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TOP5
Managing Editor Jennifer Thomas' picks for this week.

1. One Night of Queen, a tribute to rock band Queen by Gary Mullen & the Works, takes place at 8 p.m. March 21 at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road. RosemontTheatre.com.


4. Barbara Jones, director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, will point to the ALA's latest "Top Ten List of Challenged Books" at 10:30 a.m. March 23 at the Ethical Humanist Society, 7574 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-3334.

5. A free screening of the 2011 HBO documentary "Gloria: In Her Own Words" about Gloria Steinem takes place at 6:30 p.m. March 25 at Oakton's Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave. (Room P103), and 6:30 p.m. March 27 at the College's Des Plaines campus, 1500 E. Golf Road (Room 1610). Oakton.edu.

YOUR WEEKEND PLANNER

Clint Black unplugs for latest tour

BY BRUCE INGRAM
For Sun-Times Media

Fans of country superstar Clint Black have a couple of big Clint-related events to look forward to soon.

Later this year, Black will be releasing his first album since 2005's "Drinkin' Songs and Other Logic," and March 28 he'll be bringing his stripped-down, mostly acoustic, national tour to Skokie's North Shore Center for the Performing Arts.

We caught up with him on the road for a few quick questions about the new album, playing acoustic and keeping things interesting after nearly 30 years.

Q: Why have you decided to do a mostly acoustic tour now? What appeals to you about playing that way?

A: The idea was to play America's great collection of theaters. We still have drums, bass, piano, and my lead guitarist (mostly on acoustic guitars), but we've kept it as small as we can to make sense in all the venues.

Q: What can people expect to see? How much of the show is just you and a guitar?

A: I start the show alone and play for 15 or 20 minutes. Then the band joins me and for the early part of the show, I share funny tidbits about the songs we're playing. As the show progresses, though, it becomes more quickly paced with less anecdotes. And near the end we introduce some electric guitars into the mix.

Q: Is it true you're debuting material from your upcoming album?

A: We are playing a few new songs, but it's mostly hits with a few of my personal favorite album cuts thrown in.

Q: Will the album have a bare-bones musical vibe similar to this tour? What about the rumors that it's going to be a large package of material — several albums worth, plus a DVD?

A: It was always my wish to look around and see the same faces 30 years hence. It didn't work with everyone for various reasons, but I'm happy to have Hayden, my drummer and bass player still with me since 1987.

Q: Speaking of longevity, is performing still fun for you? You have a reputation for having a good time with the audience at shows.

A: I do still enjoy performing, but it's the audience that makes that happen. Every show for me is a chance to entertain people and I strive for excellence every time.
Chicago folk singers honor Pete Seeger

BY LILLI KUZMA
For Sun-Times Media

When legendary folk artist and activist Pete Seeger passed away at the end of January at age 94, a shock wave spread throughout the music community and the world. Despite Seeger's advanced age, it was still a surprise to so many who had been influenced by his life.

Tribute events have been ongoing, and an event involving a long list of outstanding Chicago-based musicians will be at SPACE in Evanston March 28. Performers include Corky Siegel, Sons of the Never Wrong, Eddie Holstein, Megon McDonough, Mark Dvorak, Justin Roberts, Ingrid Graudins, Chip Covington and Steve Dawson for “If I Had a Hammer: A Tribute to the Life and Songs of Pete Seeger.” Tickets have been selling quickly, with just standing-room-only tickets remaining. Proceeds will benefit Seeger's foundation, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater.

We spoke with one of the event's performers, Mark Dvorak, who is on staff at the Old Town School of Folk Music. Dvorak is also a member of Weavermania, a quartet that recreates the sound of The Weavers [a group formed in 1948 by Seeger, along with Lee Hays, Ronnie Gilbert and Fred Hellerman.]

Q: The March 28 event at SPACE involves a lot of musicians. Will each perform, or will there be group sings?
A: Mark Dvorak: The idea was to get as many people involved as possible, and each performer to do one or two songs, keep it brief and keep it moving. I'm sure there will be a group sing at the end. People all over the world feel a sadness over losing Pete, a very great man, this will allow us to share our loss.

Q: The list of artists reveals an eclectic range of performers, because almost all musicians have been touched by Pete in some way, right?
A: He touched any kind of music you could imagine — from children's music to ballads to world music. He reinvented the banjo, he popularized the 12-string guitar. If you are a folksinger, you're lying if you don't say Pete Seeger was an influence.

Q: You're an artist who carries forward Pete Seeger's legacy — in fact you play the part of Seeger in Weavermania.
A: When I was a new performer and trying to learn and make a living, Pete had all the materials. I didn't realize the level of impact he had on my growth as a performer, and one of the things I inherited from his way, was that I became a live performer first, and recording artist second.

Q: Did you have occasion to meet Pete Seeger?
A: Sure. Several times. We sang together with Weavermania at the Chicago Historical Society in 2002. I picked him up at the airport a couple of times, had lunch with him on a couple occasions, and talked with him on the phone. He was thoughtful and considerate.
Hollywood overdoes abs on parade

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critc

Six-packs, eight-packs, 12-packs, full cases; abs are definitely a-poppin' in movies these days.

And personally I wish they'd pop back to wherever they came from. Not that I feel threatened or inadequate in any way, you understand. I'm pretty sure I have a set somewhere, maybe down in the basement. No, I just think there's something ridiculous about them, basically because they have no practical application. Pumped-up pecs and bulging biceps can come in very handy in a movie if you're Samson, say, trying to pull down the pillars of the temple. But a washboard stomach? Useless except for scrubbing clothes or playing rhythm in a skiffle band.

Useless or not, a rectus abdominus with tendinous inscriptions is now standard-issue acting equipment, though it's hard to pin down how that got started. Maybe it was Gerard Butler's brawny loinloth-and-cape look in the original "300." Maybe it was Matthew McConaughey doing his shirtless pre-Academy Award thing. Me, I blame Taylor Lautner in "Twilight." But it doesn't really matter because the trend is entrenched. Male movie stars now pop their tops on the regular.

There are so many sets of chiseled abs on display in the "300" sequel "Rise of an Empire" — the Spartans clearly had the best personal trainers in the ancient world — that a colleague was convinced they must be computer-generated. A buff-bod CG effect similar to the algorithm that makes fur look realistic in PIXAR movies.

That wouldn't be surprising, really, but it seems more likely that today in Hollywood a good gym membership is at least as important as acting classes — maybe more so. Or perhaps it's closer to the mark to say actors still have to be able to emit convincingly, but they have to be able to do it with 3-percent body fat. In the recent "Son of God," for example, even Jesus has abs. A discrete set, it's true, but it was clear he had been doing his sit-ups.

It wasn't always that way. In the old days, if you wanted to ogle some abs you had to go to a Steve Reeves movie. And in those, acting was optional.

Of course, ogling is what this is all about, and that may be all the justification that's needed. It's only fair, after a hundred years of cinematic fixation on what '90s comic Pauly Shore might have called "boobage," that abs should be get equal time.
Lyle (Anthony Kayer, right) plays with his adopted human brother Joshua (Brian Tochterman Jr., left); in Lifeline Theatre's musical adaptation of "Lyle Finds His Mother," running March 22-April 27. PHOTO BY SUZANNE PLUNKETT

Crocodiles and humans share the laughs

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
For Sun-Times Media

Lyle is not your ordinary crocodile. "He's a vaudevillian/dancer/circus performer," said Anthony Kayer, who plays the creature in the world premiere musical, "Lyle Finds His Mother," 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, March 22-April 27, at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago. He's also different because his adoptive family is human.

This is Kayer's first time performing as an animal and he's enjoying it. "He has the eagerness and wantonness and wonder of a child," the actor said. "But, at the same time, he's very conscientious about rules and regulations, and other people's feelings. He's everyone's best friend."

Lyle sets off on an adventure when his former performing partner writes a letter saying he has located Lyle's crocodile mother. But can he trust Hector P. Valenti?

Tickets are $15. For details, call (773) 761-4477 or go to www.lifelinetheatre.com.

DUCK!

Food is flying in "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2," 2-4 p.m. Saturday, March 22 at Niles Public Library, 6800 Oakton St. You and your children will get a little snack (but not meatballs) during the 94-minute PG film.

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

CHILL WITH 'FROZEN'

A prophecy traps a kingdom in eternal winter. Sound familiar? That's not the weather forecast but the scenario in "Frozen." The 2013 PG film will be shown at 4 p.m. Friday, March 21 and 10 a.m. Saturday, March 22 at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave.

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

WONDER-FILLED SHOW

Anything is possible is the message of Geoff Akins. He proves it at every performance of his Bubble Wonders show. Akins will cut bubbles in half, insert a pencil into a bubble without it popping and do other amazing things while encouraging kids to believe in themselves, 2 p.m. Sunday, March 23 at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave.

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

GO TO THE GARDEN

Kids will learn an ancient Japanese art form during an Interactive Suminagashi Demonstration, at the Malott Japanese Garden Spring Weekend, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 22 and Sunday, March 23 at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. The festival includes a Japanese tea demonstration, traditional storytelling and Koto harp performances.

For details, call (847) 835-5440 or go to www.chicagobotanic.org.
Picture perfect crafts

Turn your everyday photos into works of art with these easy to make projects.

**Photo Action Figures**
Superman who? This craft turns family and friends into action figures, sports stars, and superheroes.

You need:
- Photographs of family and friends
- Chipboard (available at most office supply and craft stores)
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Embellishments such as 3-D stickers, rhinestones and capes (made with felt)

Directions:
- Cut photograph into a silhouette of your subject.
- Glue photograph to chipboard and cut around silhouette. Embellish “action figure” as desired.
- To make a stand, cut the leftover chipboard into a 4-inch semicircle.
- Cut a 1-inch slit at the bottom of the figure and slide onto stand.
- Note: To keep the figure from wobbling, make sure bottoms of both the action figure and stand are flush and perpendicular.

**Embellished Notecards**
These whimsical handmade cards are perfect for weddings, graduations and times when you want to send a little something extra. Another bonus? You'll finally have a chance to showcase those lovely scenic shots you took on your last vacation.

You need:
- Photographs
- Colored cardstock
- Clear cellophane
- Embellishments such as sequins, sand, pebbles or glitter
- Double-sided tape

Directions:
- Measure and cut cellophane so that it's about 2 inches longer and wider than the cardstock.
- Fold cardstock in half and glue photograph to front cover.
- Unfold cardstock and tape cellophane to bottom and both sides of the cardstock.
- Pour in embellishments (pebbles, sand, etc.) through the top opening.
- Tape the top opening closed, making sure the cellophane is pulled taut, yet has enough give to allow the card to fold.

**Photo Flowers**
Let love bloom with these fresh-faced flowers that are made with—what else? Photographs.

You need:
- Photographs
- Glass or round object (for tracing)
- Pencil
- Glue
- Floral tape
- Floral wire

Directions:
- Use the glass to help you draw a circle on your photograph. Note: the middle of the circle will be the middle of the flower, so position the glass to highlight your favorite part of the photo.
- Cut photograph into a circle.
- Fold the circle in half so that you have a semicircle.
- Fold the semicircle in half again (making a fan shape).
- Cut the “fan” from end to end until it resembles an ice cream cone.
- Unfold your circle to find an 8-petal flower.
- Cut off the least important petal as well as half of the petal next to it.
- Place a dab of glue on one of the petals and pull petals together, to make a flower.
- Pinch the petals at the crease to give the flower more shape.
- Add a stem with floral wire; first, make a small loop at the end of your wire, then poke the wire through the center of your photo.
- Secure flower to stem with floral tape.
- Place flowers in a vase and enjoy!

—you need:
- Photographs
- Colored cardstock

- Thank you to the creative minds at Photjojo for sharing this lovely craft. For more cool projects visit http://photjojo.com/store/?src=chicago.
**Mysterious Morocco**

1 p.m.: Join professor Joe Cunniff for a film and creative commentary with Moroccan dusted fables. Mather’s, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804.

**State of the Village Luncheon**

1 p.m.: Lincolnwood Chamber’s Annual State of the Village address by Mayor Jerry Turry. Lincolnwood Community Room, 4170 W. Morse Ave., Lincolnwood. Call 847-679-5760. $25-$35.

**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 is playing this week. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge.

**Hot Ticket: ‘Gravity’**

2 p.m.: A medical engineer and an astronaut work together to survive after an accident leaves them adrift in space. Stars Sandra Bullock, George Clooney. Call 847-929-5101 or check out the Movies & More page on www.npgl.org to learn more. Morton Grove Public Library, 6400 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

**Brickton Art Center Class**

4 p.m.: Students grades two to six can enjoy a monthly art class taught by a staff member from the Brickton Art Center. Registration is limited. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

**Craft Studio: Rainbow Loom**

4:30 p.m.: Learn how to make a bracelet using colorful rubber bands. For kids in grades 4 to 8. No registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-342-3149.

**Women in Motion Wine Tasting**


**Sookie’s Young Professionals Group: March Madness**

6 p.m.: Join Infuse, the Sookie Chamber’s Young Professionals Group for a night of March Madness. The Village Inn Pizzeria, 8050 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call 847-673-0240. $12 for members and nonmembers; includes appetizers and cash bar.

**Classic Film Series: ‘Abraham Lincoln’**

7 p.m.: Watch the rediscovered 1930 film that was one of the first major historical films of the sound era. 93 minutes. Stars Walter Huston, Una Merkel and William L. Thorne. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

**John Caporona**

8 p.m.: The Chicago native, who has appeared on HBO and Comedy Central, performs stand-up. $22 and a minimum of two food or drink items. Additional performances Friday at 10:30 a.m. and Saturday at 9:30 p.m. Zanie’s Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont.

**Happy Hour with Shirley**

1 p.m.: Shirley shares jokes, riddles and funny stories with the group. Mather’s, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. 95-$10.

**Friday Film: ‘Gravity’**

1 p.m.: A medical engineer and an astronaut work together to survive after an accident leaves them floating in space. Starring Sandra Bullock and George Clooney. Call 847-677-5277.

**Morton Grove Farmers Market**


**Movie: ‘Last Vegas’**

1:30 p.m.: A screening of the 2013 comedy about the antics of three 60-something friends during their stay in Las Vegas. Stars Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman and Michael Douglas. 105 minutes. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie.

**YA ‘Divergent’ Release Party**

4 p.m.: Students in grades six to 12 can find out what faction they are and celebrate the movie release of “Divergent” with faction tattoos, trivia and more. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-672-3123.

**Dinner Theater: Petra & Andy**

4:30 p.m.: Dinner followed by vocalist Petra van Nuis and guitarist Andy Brown performing soft jazz stylings of classic songs. Mather’s, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. 95-$10.

**Field School 60th Annual V-Show ‘Queen of Diamonds: A Crowned Caper’**

7 p.m.: By using their observation skills, a Field School student (played by a parent) solves a mystery that even the most famous grown-up detectives can’t begin to crack. Performances are at 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through March 23. Eugene Field Elementary School, 707 W. Meridian St., Park Ridge. Call 312-636-1717. $7, $5 ages 12 and under.

**One Night of Queen**

8 p.m.: Gary Mullen & The Works perform a tribute to Queen. Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. $37-$20.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 22**

**Morton Grove Farmers Market Indoor Spring Market**


**Playdate with Nature**

9 a.m.: Games, crafts and educational activities based around the seasonal nature theme of the day. Registration required. Wildwood Nature Center, 5203 Forestview Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-3127.

**Friends Book Sale**

2 p.m.: Browse a selection of discount-ed items, including hardcover books, DVDs and CDs for $1 and paperback books for 50 cents. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. For more information, call 708-867-7828.

**Submit Your Event**

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

**Des Plaines Geological Society’s 49th Annual Jewelry, Gem, Fossil, Mineral and Lapidary Arts Show**

9:30 a.m.: Guests will enjoy live demonstrations, educational exhibits, door prizes, raffles, silent auctions and other activities. Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch St., Des Plaines. Call 847-298-4653. $3-$5.

**Homebrewing Club: Brew Day**

10 a.m.: The club meets to brew its March beer. Must be 21 or older to attend. Elmwood Park Public Library, 1 W. Comly Parkway, Elmwood Park. Call 707-453-7645.

**Introduction to the Open Studio Process**

10 a.m.: Explore the OSP process and learn to combine intuitive art-making with thoughtful writing and reflection. No art or writing experience necessary. Open Studio Project, 903 Sherman Ave., Evanston. Call 847-475-0390. $5-$65.

**Art Exploration Series: The Impressionsists**

Noon: Learn about some of the most famous impressionist painters. This is a five-week session that begins at noon Feb. 8, Feb. 22, March 8 and March 22. Mather’s, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. For more information, call 773-774-4804.

**Card Making Party**


**Methor-Son Strike Zone**

Noon: Put on those bowling shoes and hit the lanes for cosmic bowling. The afternoon includes pizza, bowling and a special photo of mom and her son(s). Registration required. Brunswick Zone, 3111 River Road, River Grove. Call 847-455-2652. $16 residents, $18 nonresidents.

**Friends Book Sale**

2 p.m.: Browse a selection of discount-ed items, including hardcover books, DVDs and CDs for $1 and paperback books for 50 cents. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. For more information, call 708-867-7828.
GO CALENDAR

» FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

cool and unusual things: bubbles can do. Registration required. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood. Call 847-677-5277.

Monday, March 24
Close Encounters of the Chemical Kind
4 p.m.: Learn about atoms, molecules, and chemical reaction. Registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-324-3149.

Special Event: Doug Benson
8 p.m.: The "Super High Me" comedian performs stand-up. $20 and a minimum of two food or drink items. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont.

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 847-829-9333.

Tuesday, March 25
Family Story Time
7 p.m.: Stories, songs and activities for families with children ages 2 to 6. Attendees are welcome to wear pajamas. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. For more information, call 847-663-1234.

Wednesday, March 26
Natural Gas
8 p.m.: The improvisational group takes a suggestion from the audience and turns it into a show. The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Call 773-283-7071. $5.

Tim Walkoe
8 p.m.: The comedian, who won "America's Funniest People," performs stand-up. $22 and a minimum of two food or drink items. Additional performances Friday at 10:30 p.m. and Saturday at 9:30 p.m. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont.

Thursday, March 27
Classic Film Series: An American in Paris
1 p.m.: A screening of the 1951 musical classic based on Victor Hugo's classic novel. The group departs from Mather's and stops for lunch before the performance. Registration ends March 3. Mather's, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $64-$80.

Sock Hop
Noon: Wear your saddle shoes and bobby socks for a night of music and dancing from the 1950s and 1960s. Light refreshments served. Mather's, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $5.

Dream the Dream: 'Les Miserables'
10 a.m.: The group travels to the Drury Lane Theatre in Oak Brook to see the uplifting story based on Victor Hugo's classic novel. The group departs from Mather's and stops for lunch before the performance. Registration ends March 3. Mather's, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $128-$160.

Spring Arts & Crafts Fair
10:30 a.m.: All crafters are welcome. Call 773-775-6616 for more information. Resurrection College Prep High School, 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago.
FILM CLIPS

OPENING FRIDAY

DIVERGENT
Rated PG-13 for intense violence and action, thematic elements and some sensuality
Stars: Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Kate Winslet, Miles Teller, Jai Courtney
A girl classified “Divergent” (Woodley) in a future society divided into factions based on abilities, discovers she and others of her kind have been targeted for extinction. Neil Burger (“The Illusionist”) directed the futuristic thriller.

ENEMY
Rated R for some strong sexual content, graphic nudity and language
Stars: Jake Gyllenhaal, Melanie Laurent, Sarah Gadon
A professor (Gyllenhall) decides to track down his double after spotting him in a movie — and suddenly finds his life dangerously complicated. Denis Villeneuve (“Prisoners”) directed the thriller.

MUPPETS MOST WANTED
Rated PG for some mild action
Stars: Tina Fey, Ricky Gervais, Ty Burrell
During a world tour, the Muppets find thieves led by a Kermit look-alike. James Bobin (“The Muppets,” “Flight of the Conchords”) returns for the family comedy.

NYMPHOMANIAC: VOL. I
Rating: No MPAA rating
Stars: Charlotte Gainsbourg, Stellan Skarsgard, Stacy Martin, Shia LaBeouf
After putting mankind out of its misery with a cosmic cataclysm in “Melancholia,” Danish director Lars von Trier is back with another artfully filmed misanthropic provocation. This time, the subject is sex (complete with trickily edited hardcore sequences featuring porn-actor stand-ins) and the main character is Joe (Gainsbourg), a soul-deadened lust addict recounting her erotic misadventures to a sympathetic listener (Skarsgard) who found her beaten in an alley. “The Joy of Sex” it’s not, and things presumably get worse next month in volume two.

STILL PLAYING

THE SINGLE MOMS CLUB
Rated PG-13 for some sexual material and thematic elements
Stars: Nia Long, Amy Smart, Wendi McLendon-Covey, Cocoa Brown, Tyler Perry
A solid base-hit for writer/director/producer Perry (“A Madea Christmas”). It’s a little heavy on the solidarity vibe, perhaps.

Home-wreckers anonymous: Stacy Martin and Uma Thurman in “Nymphomaniac”.

and a melodramatic meltdown midway almost knocks it off course, but it’s pretty funny at times — mainly because it’s raunchier than usual and Brown and McLendon-Covey strike a few sparks. A group of five very different single moms reluctantly join forces after their kids get into trouble at a ritzy prep school.

THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL
Rating: R for language, some sexual content and violence
Stars: Ralph Fiennes, F. Murray Abraham, Bill Murray, Willem Dafoe, Adrien Brody
If you admire director Wes Anderson at his best (“Rushmore,” “The Royal Tenenbaums,” “Fantastic Mr. Fox,” 2012’s “Moonrise Kingdom”), there’s a good chance you’ll be delighted by this masterfully executed, highly stylized, occasionally perverse farce. “Grand Budapest Hotel” is the story of Gustav H (Fiennes in a rare comic role), legendary concierge of the hotel in its 1930s glory days. He’s embroiled in an increasingly complicated struggle involving murder, a priceless stolen painting, young love, an evil aristocrat with a homicidal henchman (Brody and Dafoe), more murders, a prison break and a climactic cross-country chase. It’s strange to think of Anderson turning out a crowd pleaser given his eccentric work (on display here), but this may be as close as he gets.

VERONICA MARS
Rated PG-13 for sexuality including references, drug content, violence, strong language
Stars: Kristen Bell, Jason Dohring, Jamie Lee Curtis, Martin Starr
Years after walking away from her career as a teen private eye, Veronica (Bell) returns home to help an old flame (Dohring) accused of murder. Rob Thomas wrote and directed the return to his hit TV series.
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Movie times are effective Friday, March 21, through Thursday, March 27. Please note that theater schedules are subject to change.

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www.pickwicktheatre.com
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Muppets Most Wanted (PG)
Fri-Sun 1:30-4-6:30-8:45; Mon-Thu 4-6:30-8:45;
Divergent (PG-13)
Fri-Sun 2-5-8; Mon-Thu 5-8;
Mr. Peabody & Sherman (PG)
Fri-Sun 1-3:30-6-8:15; Mon-Wed 4:15-6:15-8:15;
Thu 4:45
God's Not Dead (PG)
Fri-Sun 2-4:30-7-9:15; Mon-Thu 4:30-7-9:15;
Noah (NR) Thu 7 p.m.

Shailene Woodley and Theo James star in "Divergent."

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Mishkin, Madolyn "Meg"
(nee Girvin) Age 67, longtime Morton Grove resident, formerly of Detroit, MI. Devoted mother of Ross (Lisa) Mishkin and Leah (Mark) Clements; loving "Nana" to Isabel, Blythe, Eliza, Avery and Everett; dear sister of Celi Hoeft and James (Sue) Girvin; fond aunt of many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her parents, Robert and Betty Girvin. Special thanks to her devoted caregiver, Patty Worth.

Longtime bus driver and jack-of-all-trades at Golf Middle School and Hynes Elementary, she will be missed by countless students, parents, teachers and Morton Grove neighbors.

In keeping with Meg's wishes, there will be no funeral service. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that contributions be made to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, 1359 Broadway, Suite 1509, New York, NY, 10018 (or www.pdf.org, 800-457-6676).
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Chicago Auto Show: 2015 Ford Mustang
By Mary Daly • mary.daly@wrapports.com

In celebration of the Ford Mustang's 50th anniversary in April, the 2015 Mustang captures key characteristics of the iconic vehicle. Overall, the car is lower, wider and more streamlined. The redesigned interior features an aviation theme with a combination of analog and digital equipment and, for the first time, a push-button start.

PHOTOS BY BRIANNA KELLY

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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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Matt Palucki and Nick Burt both recently earned all-University Athletic Association honors for their play on the Washington University men's basketball team.

Palucki, a junior forward from Park Ridge and a Maine South alumnus, was named to the all-UAA first team, while Burt, a junior forward from Western Springs and a Lyons alumnus, was named an all-UAA honorable mention.

Led in part by Palucki and Burt, the Bears from St. Louis finished their season with a 24-3 record and a run to the second round of the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Championship.

Palucki finished the season ranked third on the team in scoring (14.4 points per game) and second in rebounding (6.9) while starting all 27 games. Burt also started every game and ranked fifth on the team in scoring (7.8 points) and third in rebounding (5.8).

Forward Tom Garvin, a Hinsdale Central alumnus from Hinsdale, was also a member of the team. He appeared in 15 games as a sophomore and contributed 19 points and 12 rebounds.

Another Washington University athlete, Maggie Ingell was recently named UAA Athlete of the Week for softball. The senior outfielder, a Loyola alumna from Wmnetka, hit .833 (10-for-12) with three doubles, two home runs and eight RBI in the Bears' three season-opening wins against Austin College, Greenville College and Hendrix College, all on March 1 in Conway, Ark.

After missing six games with mononucleosis, freshman forward Jacqui Grant, a Maine South alumnus, played 20 minutes and scored seven points during the Illinois women's basketball team's loss to Nebraska in the Illini's regular season finale. The Park Ridge native followed that performance with a 10-point effort to close out the postseason.

Illinois (9-21) fell to No. 23 Iowa in the first round of the Big Ten Tournament, but Grant turned in a nice season for the Illini. She started 24 games and finished third on the team in scoring (10 points), second in rebounds per game (5.7) and first in blocks per game (1.4).

With the help of Barrington alumna Meg Crowley, the No. 18-ranked DePauw women's tennis team defeated California-Santa Cruz to finish seventh at the recent Intercollegiate Tennis Association Division III Women's Indoor Team Championship. The senior scored a point for DePauw with a 6-1, 6-1 victory at No. 4 singles.

Have a suggestion for the College Roundup? Email Nick Bullock at bullockpioneerpress@gmail.com
Loyola's lineup loaded with college recruits

While Murray has moved on to Stanford, Trevians still feature Marquette recruit McGuire

BY MATT HARNESS
mharness@pioneerlocal.com, @harnesspreps

The last year the Loyola girls lacrosse team had this many seniors planning to play the sport in college was 2010.

Those Ramblers went on to a state championship, the second in a run that now stands at five in a row.

"It's hard to compare, but they are similar," Loyola coach John Dwyer said of the 2010 and 2014 senior classes.

Going into this season, seven Ramblers are scheduled to play lacrosse at the next level, including senior midfielders Annie Dooley and Maggie Nick. Dooley has signed with Notre Dame, and Nick has signed with Stanford.

But there could be a difference between the two clubs, Dwyer said.

"We might be deeper, and we have a lot of players who can play a lot of positions," the 18th-year coach said.

Dwyer said he could play as many as 18 girls this season from a roster that features 11 sophomores and freshmen. The coach said the competition for playing time has led to the younger players working out at multiple positions.

But the veterans also are versatile, according to Dwyer. Senior Gieriet Bowen, a Boston College recruit, is a good example.

"Last year, she was an attacker, but she's such a good defender, too," said Dwyer, who probably will play Bowen as a midfielder this year.

Loyola, which went 23-3 a year ago, once again should be the favorite to win the state title.

"It's a battle-tested group," Dwyer said. "They are an unselfish group, and they trust each other.

When we integrate the younger girls and get them some experience, we will have a lot of depth."

New Trier

A new era is upon New Trier after last year's graduation of Kelsey Murray, arguably the program's best-ever player and now a freshman attacker at Stanford.

But the Trevians, who finished 17-4-1 and third in the state a year ago, aren't exactly starting over.

Senior midfielder Charlotte McGuire, who has signed to play at Marquette, headlines a team that is itching to end Loyola's reign.

"She brings a very determined attitude, and she will pose matchup problems on the attack," said Collins, the 14th-year coach who guided New Trier to the state championship in 2008.

Seniors Julie Ball, Betsey Kvam and Bridget Zimmerman are three other returning starters who will join McGuire in the midfield.

"New Trier had the luxury of having a player like Kelsey Murray, and she was a phenomenal asset to have," Loyola coach John Dwyer said. "But they have a lot of talented players still there."

Glenbrook South

The Titans welcome back eight starters from a team that finished 9-9 during the regular season a year ago.

"We have players and coaches who are energized and excited to get out and play this year," Houston said.

"We have to remain composed in the bigger games and have confidence in ourselves as a team," the eighth-year coach said.

Lesch will lean on senior attacker Calle Nowak, senior defender Kari Stevens and senior goalie Evi Gountanis this spring.

Glenbrook North

Glenbrook North coach Thomas Rosenbaum said his team needs consistent play from its defense to be successful this spring.

It should help that seven of the eight returning starters are from the midfield and defense, including senior goalie Marielle Billig.

Maine South

The Hawks will have as many sophomores (seven) as juniors and seniors combined, according to second-year coach Charles Solomon.

Attacker Lauren Hendry, attacker Abigail Greiber and midfielder Jenny Swanson are the only returning seniors with varsity experience.

Maine South finished 10-12 last spring.

Regina

Kate Houston is in her first season in charge of the Panthers, who won one game last season.

Houston said twice as many girls are on the roster this spring as a year ago.

"We have players and coaches who are energized and excited to get out and play this year," Houston said.

"It's a battle-tested group," Dwyer said. "They are an unselfish group, and they trust each other.

When we integrate the younger girls and get them some experience, we will have a lot of depth."
GIRLS SOFTBALL SEASON PREVIEW NOTEBOOK

Maine South improves strength, conditioning

Villalobos' ability to locate her pitches creates optimism for Maine East

BY MIKE CHAMERNIX
For Sun-Times Media, @MikeChamernik

Like most local softball teams, Maine South has practiced indoors for most of the season. But, according to coach Emmy Pasier, the Hawks have made the most of their time off the field.

Pasier said the team needed to get physically stronger and faster, so they've lifted in the weight room and done body-bearing exercises (push-ups, lunges, squats) and sprints during practice.

"We're inside, so let's take advantage of that," Pasier said. "We have one area of the school that has three levels, so let's run stairs."

The Hawks' experienced roster expects to improve on last year's 9-14 record. Maine South has five returning starters. Senior pitcher Jenna Christie, senior catcher Emily Wolf and junior shortstop Nina Anderson anchor the infield, and juniors Courtney Richardson and Emily Suwanski will play center field and left field, respectively.

"If you're looking at a roster, that's pretty nice," Pasier said. "I haven't had the luxury of returning five starters in a while."

Maine East

The Blue Demons' defense will get a jolt from freshman pitcher Alex Villalobos.

Villalobos has two primary pitches, a fastball and changeup, and pounds the strike zone. Maine East coach Emiliano Hernandez said he doesn't expect many walks or wild pitches, so the defense will be more engaged with a faster game.

"We finally have a girl that's a natural pitcher, not someone that we've had to constantly train," Hernandez said.

Elsewhere, senior Alyssa Matej has played shortstop for three years, but she could be moved around this season.

"She's just a good athlete," Hernandez said. "She can play anywhere on the diamond."

Niles West

The Wolves hope experience will take them far this year. The team has six seniors, five juniors and three sophomores, and coach Nicole Reynolds has coached a majority of them in travel softball as far back as four years ago.

"They've been working for this season," Reynolds said. "They're probably the most committed team I've ever had."

Senior pitcher Payton Genis returns to the circle after missing most of last year with injuries.

Her twin sister Taylor Genis is a good-hitting first baseman.

Junior Val Sherman will play third base for senior Jill Rashid, a 2013 all-conference player who's likely out this season after shoulder surgery, according to Reynolds.

Niles North

Niles North's lack of situational experience hurt the team last season. This year, coach Karin Wick has incorporated game situations and challenges into practices. Batters, for instance, don't get 10 batting practice swings; they have to work the count and only get three strikes.

"I'm hoping that when we get to those big games, that we actually perform like we've been there before," Wick said.

Niles North has eight sophomores, but senior Sarah Benjamin is a standout offensive player and team leader in the outfield.

Benjamin hit three home runs and had an .856 OPS in 2013, along with only two fielding errors and four assists.

Ridgewood

With 10 sophomores, including pitcher Sarah Straughn, Ridgewood is very young. Senior Ariana D'Amato, a quick second baseman, is the team's veteran leader.

The Rebels have practiced primarily indoors. They have worked on all aspects of the game, splitting the team up and working on offense and defense equally.

"We just vary what we do to try to keep everyone interested and working hard," coach Steve Poznansky said.

"Every year her arm and bat gets stronger," Wick said. "She's a girl that works hard on and off the field."

"Wede North's lack of situational experience hurt the team last season. This year, coach Karin Wick has incorporated game situations and challenges into practices. Batters, for instance, don't get 10 batting practice swings; they have to work the count and only get three strikes."
Maine South boasts dedicated senior class

BY DAN SHALIN
For Sun-Times Media, @danshalin

Once again this season, the Maine South girls soccer team almost certainly will have to find a way past powerhouse Loyola and New Trier if it wants to win a sectional title.

The Hawks went 13-5-7 last year and lost to Loyola in the Class 3A sectional semifinals. If there is any advantage Maine South might have over the Ramblers and Trevians — and both teams could be even better than they were a year ago — it's experience.

Though the Hawks lost 35-goal-scorer Affison Curry to graduation, the team has eight seniors who played a year ago and it welcomes back senior midfielder Jessie Schmidt, a DePaul signee who missed last season with an ACL injury.

"We haven't even voted on captains yet," Maine South coach JJ Crawford said. "This is the first year I honestly don't know who will be [the captains] because [all the seniors] would do a great job. We'll vote for three, but all could be captains because of their leadership ability, how serious they are and their drive to want to do well. We're in good hands."

Up front, senior Lexi Kiotis, who has committed to Dominican in River Forest, is expected to fill some of the scoring void left by Curry's departure.

Niles North

Vikings third-year coach Paul Elkins said the bar has been raised slightly after the school's boys soccer team captured that program's first CSL North title in the fall.

"I think the boys winning this year made an impact on our school and the girls are aware of that and it's meaningful for the girls," Elkins said. "This season] is kind of the first time we brought that up for our team, the first time we talked about winning conference and the goal for us to win a conference championship."

Elkins returns most of the impact players from a team that went 7-9-3 last season and he said the defense should be the strength of this year's team.

Sophomore goalkeeper Nina Yonan returns after an all-conference performance last season. Senior defender Sara Beladi is a returning starter.

Junior Alyssa Brand is back in the midfield after being named team MVP last season. Brand, who led the team with 12 goals in 2013, has verbally committed to play at Drake.

Junior midfielder Luci Valenzuela was an all-conference performer last spring and senior forward Itzy Hernandez has signed to play at Chicago's Robert Morris University.

Niles West

Junior forward Vicki Tirovolas scored 16 goals last season as a sophomore and found the net 17 times as a freshman.

"Tirovolas' 38 career goals put her fourth on the school's all-time list, just three shy of the 36 scored by record-holder Cory Zielke (2005-08). Tirovolas also has 13 career assists and is tied for fifth on the school's all-time list. Zielke ranks first with 38.

Niles West coach Brett Clish said he's still trying to decide which formation will bring out the best in Tirovolas again this season.

"She's continuing to get better and work on her game, on her shot, her speed and everything," he said. "We're trying to figure out if it will just be Vicki [up top] or we'll play two up there. We're switching it around [in preseason practice] to see what fits us best."

The Wolves, who went 8-14-1 last season, remain a young team, with just two seniors, seven juniors, 11 sophomores and two freshmen.

Maine East

Though the Blue Demons went just 3-17 last year, coach Julie Dickinson said all signs point to improvement this spring.

One reason for Dickinson’s optimism is Maine East has more club players than ever, which is due in large part to two-year-old local club team Olympiacos. In addition to playing more soccer, athletes from the five communities that feed into Maine East are playing together in the offseason.

"[This preseason] their touch on the ball is better, their conditioning is better and they're starting at a level we normally have to work to get to," Dickinson said.

Ridgewood

The Nardulli family continues to supply the Rebels with plenty of soccer talent. This year, freshman Gabriella Nardulli will join her older sister Cettina, a senior midfielder, on the squad.

Two years ago, Cettina Nardulli and older sister Annalisa Nardulli were part of a Ridgewood team that reached the Class 1A sectional final.

Now, Gabriella Nardulli joins the program with a stellar reputation and a chance to strike up a partnership with her sister in the midfield.

"Gabriella Nardulli] can dribble, pass and shoot with both feet and has great field awareness and composure," Ridgewood coach Kenny Caslin said. "Cettina and Gabriella are playing on the same team, and this combination might prove to have more chemistry than the first Nardulli connection."
BASEBALL SEASON PREVIEW NOTEBOOK

Dons’ top pitchers to make shorter, more frequent appearances

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

Notre Dame baseball coach Nelson Gord tried something radical two years ago when he used a different pitcher in each inning during the Dons’ playoff run.

Gord doesn’t plan to use that exact same strategy this year, but he’ll try something similar: The Dons have four quality starters — senior Pat Dillon, sophomore Sam Ferr, junior Joe Rimac, and junior Adnan Sator — and Gord said he plans on having them each throw about 2-3 innings an outing, and make two appearances a week.

The goal is to keep hitters from getting acclimated to a pitcher, Gord explained, and it also will let him use the staff’s top pitchers more.

“In any game, the first time through the order, the pitcher always has the advantage — he’s going to be fresh, you haven’t seen what he has that day,” Gord said. “Then you get to the second time through the lineup, and that competitive edge goes down a little bit. And the third time through the lineup is really where it starts tipping in favor of hitters because the pitcher’s fatigued and you’ve already seen him twice. So really anything that we can do to keep it in our pitchers’ favor, and our defense’s favor, why not do that?”

Gord said he tentatively plans to use Dillon and Rimac in the same game, and pair Sator with Ferr, Sator (verbally committed to catch at Notre Dame) are both Division I recruits.

Maine South

Maine South has had a slew of talented players — the list includes Division I signees like Frank Perrone (Eastern Illinois), Jimmy Franko (Iowa) and Kyle Richardson (Notre Dame) — throughout its program recently, and the Hawks have compiled an impressive list of accomplishments during the last four years: The Hawks have won two CSL South titles, three regionals and two sectional crowns.

Replacing the college players and many other above-average high school players doesn’t faze Maine South coach Bill Milano. He said the Hawks have enough skill on this year’s roster to challenge New Trier and Glenbrook South for a CSL South championship.

Maine South will be led by senior center fielder Gehrig Parker, a Butler recruit, and senior Bobby Pennington. Pennington, who was the squad’s closer last year, is expected to be the ace of the pitching staff. Junior shortstop Caleb Marigny and junior catcher Zach Parker — Gehrig Parker’s younger brother — also figure to have prominent roles for the Hawks.

Niles West

The Wolves have featured a pair of standouts in recent seasons and Niles West coach Garry Gustafson said he’ll try to overcome the losses of 2012 graduate Kevin Loss (a Pittsburgh Pirates minor leaguer) and 2013 graduate Kyle Colletta (playing at Northern Kentucky) by stressing work ethic during the preseason.

“Our motto this year that we’ve got on our shirts is ‘red-collar baseball,’ meaning we have to bring our lunch pail and go out every day in practice and get a little better,” said Gustafson, whose team’s collars are red and white.

“There’s other programs that stockpile talent every year, and we’re the type of team that develops within our freshman team and work hard all the way through our program.”

Niles North

The Blue Demons, who have just three seniors on their roster, will be led by sophomore shortstop Joe Trujillo, junior catcher/pitcher Lukas Parker, senior third baseman/pitcher Will Heins and senior first baseman/pitcher David Schonbrich.

Ridgewood

There have been instances when Ridgewood has struggled with its depth during coach Chris Uhle’s tenure — the Rebels won the Class 3A Guerin Regional with just 11 players in 2011 — but that’s not an issue this season.

Uhle called this year’s squad the deepest he’s had during his four years at the program’s helm. It features several veterans, including third baseman Anthony Mroz, outfielders David Parker and Frank Malicki, second baseman Alex Tomaszewski and staff ace Chris Raszewicki. Malicki is the only junior among those players. The others are seniors.

The Rebels also have a talented sophomore class headlined by shortstop Michael Ruffolo, a transfer from Notre Dame. Uhle said Ruffolo will likely bat leadoff this year.

Northridge

Northridge annually travels to a warmer climate during its spring break.

The Knights are scheduled to leave for Orlando, Fla., on Monday and they will play in a tournament at Disney’s Wide World of Sports Complex. Northridge went to Nashville, Tenn., last season, Orlando two years ago and Kansas City, Mo., in 2011.

Northridge coach Pat Hunt said playing in a tournament during spring break allows his squad to bond.
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Star freshman players are now common in college basketball. But none have yet to match Michigan's Fab Five freshmen in 1991-92. They lost the NCAA title game, but set a record that still stands: 68.5% of Michigan's playing time that season was consumed by freshmen. Texas came close in 2006-07 with a mark of 67.8%, but didn't get past the second round of March Madness. What about Kentucky's famous one-and-done title team of 2011-12, from which three freshmen would be selected in the first round of the NBA draft? Freshmen accounted for "only" 54% of that team's minutes.

Who knows what Ralph Kiner's home run numbers would have been if his career hadn't been shortened by injury? Over his first seven seasons in the majors, from 1946 through 1952 with the then-lowly Pirates, Kiner led his league in homers every single year. Nobody else has ever done that. And he still holds the record for most long balls in a player's first five seasons with 215. The only other player in history with even 200 in his first five years was Albert Pujols at 201. Kiner passed away in February of 2014.

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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.
Niles West pitcher Payton Genis throws to first for an out in an April 5, 2013, game. Genis returns to the circle after being sidelined by injuries for much of last season.
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