Clothesline Project helps female survivors of violence speak out | PAGE 6

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Oakton mounts powerful display on violence against women

Clothesline Project t-shirts express survivor pain

BY MIKE ISAACS
misacs@pioneerlocal.com | @SKReview_Mike

"I hate the last three years you've put me through," the survivor writes to her dad. "All the mental and physical abuse you put my mom and your own daughter through. I've called the cops and had so many nightmares because of you."

"I never thought someone so close to me would ever think about trying to hurt me in so many different ways," writes another survivor.

Another survivor writes: "I was 9, when you took my beautiful innocence away. For five years you would touch me in places I did not want to be touched. You did it when my mom wasn't home. You told me never to tell her. And I still haven't because I'm scared."

These are among the raw and powerful stories that female survivors of violence express on t-shirts that could be seen last week at Oakton Community College's Skokie campus. The same shirts are scheduled for a display at the Des Plaines campus toward the end of the month.

The Clothesline Project has become a national and even global vehicle for women affected by violence to express themselves in a completely unvarnished way. They anonymously write their stories and messages on t-shirts. The project is at once therapeutic for survivors, but when the shirts are viewed together, they become a potent and overwhelmingly poignant reminder of rampant sexual abuse waged against women.

"It's important to bring programs like The Clothesline Project to our campus because statistics show one in four women will experience completed or attempted rape," said Karishma Brownlee, coordinator for Access, Equity and Student Rights at Oakton Community College. "We also know that not all men are perpetrators even though most of the perpetration is done by men."

The Clothesline Project comes to Oakton during national Sexual Assault Awareness Month. It began in Cape Cod, Mass. in 1990 to address the issue of violence against women.

According to the Men's Rape Prevention Project in Washington DC, 58,000 soldiers died in the Vietnam war. During that same period, 51,000 women were killed mostly by men who supposedly loved them.

In the summer of 1990, according to project organizers, that statistic became the catalyst for a coalition of women's groups on Cape Cod to "consciously develop a program that would educate, break the silence and bear witness to one issue — violence against women."

Many in this small core group had experienced some form of personal violence themselves and were seeking a unique way to take "staggering mind-numbing statistics and turn them into a provocative, in-your-face educational and healing tool."

Visual artist Rachel Carey Harper, inspired by the power of the AIDS quilt, conceived of using shirts hanging on a clothesline to raise awareness about the issue.

"The idea of using a clothesline was a natural," Cape Cod organizers said. "Doing the laundry was always considered women's work and in the days of close-knit neighborhoods women often exchanged information over backyard fences while hanging their clothes out to dry."

For two days last week, shirts were displayed in a large room on the first floor of Oakton's Skokie campus — shirts of all colors and messages. They were on tables and hung on walls; they were outside the main room and displayed along a nearby hallway with spotlights on them as well as in other places throughout the building.

In addition to Brownlee, an Oakton student counselor and a representative of the Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault (Northwest CASA) were on hand to answer questions and refer those who needed services.

"We want to bring awareness about violence against women," said Robin Brandt, a counseling intern at Northwest CASA who visited the Skokie campus.

Northwest CASA averages about one hotline call every day and 115 hospital calls per year. Clinicians see about 250 clients per year, she said.

But the Clothesline Project makes an emotional statement that mere statistics only hint at — a statement of resilience and heartbreak about the prevalence of violence against women, which is often under-realized.

Many of the 125 or so shirts displayed at Oakton were, in fact, created by women and girls who live or go to school no longer than a drive away.

"You were supposed to be the man of the house, but instead you were the animal of the house," one shirt reads. "Forcing my mom into your bed, hitting her with the belt and smacking her face behind your
The t-shirts that are part of the Clothesline Project at Oakton Community College are raw, emotionally poignant expressions, mostly from female survivors of violence.

You're not alone.

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The Clothesline Project, which was presented for only the second time at Oakton, was first brought there two years ago.

Brownlee said Oakton's Office of Access, Equity and Diversity is focused on building a campus culture and climate that is resilient. "We know things happen," she said. "We know people get hurt. We want to be able to talk about what happens. We also want to be able to talk about prevention. But in the event an event has taken place, we want to be a resilient campus. We want to be able to move forward."

Many of the t-shirts on display last week were written without any filter, and stories practically filled the front from collar to bottom. Others had just a few words written on them. One of the shortest was also one of the most important, Brownlee said, because it provided inspiration and empowerment for all the women who have come forward to tell their histories.

It simply read, "You're not alone."
Father John Smyth, president of Notre Dame College Prep in Niles, resigned last week after seven years at the all-boys high school.

Smyth, 79, said he stepped down over what he described as "differences" with Notre Dame's executive board.

"The board of directors became more involved in the decision-making process on the operational side, which was the territory of the principal and president," Smyth said. "I decided I couldn't stay."

Smyth said he left on friendly terms, and that he was looking forward to dedicating more time to his charity, the Standing Tall Foundation.

Paula Waters, chair of the Executive Board of Notre Dame College Prep, declined to comment on the circumstances that led to Smyth's departure. However, she acknowledged the impact he had on the school.

"The theme at Notre Dame Prep is 'faith, scholarship and service,' and he has been a great friend to the boys there."

His decision to leave Notre Dame Prep in before the end of the current school year in June allows the Executive Board a comfortable time frame to search for a successor, Waters said.

"It's not easy to find a replacement, and if you start in the summer, most candidates have already signed contracts by then," Waters said. "A good time to start looking is early in the year."

Smyth is held to a high regard in the Catholic prep school's community for helping the school remain open after the priests of Holy Cross, Ind. Province at the University of Notre Dame withdrew its 50-year sponsorship in 2007.

Father Smyth, who resides at Maryville Academy — a Catholic-run home for troubled youth — joined Notre Dame Prep that year as the school's controlling body shifted to a lay board under the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Board vice chair Peter Newell was selected to serve as interim president while a search is conducted for a new president. Father Smyth attended his last event as president last weekend at Notre Dame Prep's annual fundraiser gala.

Plans are in the works for a retirement celebration to honor Father Smyth sometime this spring.

"Notre Dame is a fantastic school — everything is top-notch," Smyth said. "We left as friends — I said I'll go my way and you'll go your way."

Hypodermic needles were discovered on playground equipment outside a Park Ridge elementary school last week.

Park Ridge Deputy Police Chief Lou Jogmen said the needles, three in total, were found on a slide, on a walking bridge and on the ground of the playground at Carpenter School, 300 N. Hamlin Ave.

The needles are believed to have been left on the playground between March 28 and April 8, while students were on spring break.

Principal Brett Balduf told the Park Ridge Herald-Advocate that a student discovered one of the needles on April 8 and brought it to a playground supervisor. Balduf was then alerted and a custodian checked the area, finding the two additional needles. The caps had been removed, Balduf said.

Parents were notified by email of the discovery.

"Obviously we were concerned, our staff was concerned, our parent community was concerned," Balduf said. "It's disappointing that someone would discard needles on a school playground where kids play."

Balduf said there have been no other problems reported on the playground.

Jogmen said the needles were discarded by the school nurse and it did not appear that they were tested for any drug residue. Carpenter School has requested a special police watch for the property, he added.
Morton Grove Days gearing up for July 3-5, needs volunteers

BY PAM DEFIGIJO
For Sun-Times Media

Now that the giant snowdrifts have melted, are you ready to party on a scorching 104 degree day? That's what the thermometer read when Morton Grove put on its Independence Day parade during its 2012 Morton Grove Days; fortunately, it was more temperate, though still hot, last year.

Georgianne Brunner, president of the Morton Grove Days Commission, came to the last village board meeting March 24 to ask for volunteers and sponsors for the 2014 Morton Grove Days, which will be held Thursday, July 3 through Saturday, July 5. The Commission runs Morton Grove Days as a strictly volunteer effort; they include a festival, carnival, parade, fireworks, beer garden and food.

"It costs a lot of money to run this event, so we need sponsorship," she said. Businesses are encouraged to check out the sponsorship application on the mortongrovedays.org website, or contact Ed Ramos, the village clerk, who is doubling as the Commission's sponsorship chair, at 847-965-4100.

This year, a request for donations for Morton Grove Days went out with the village water bill mailing, she noted. Anyone who didn't notice that can still donate by sending a check to the Morton Grove Days Commission, 6101 Capulina Avenue, Morton Grove, IL 60053.

Terri Cousar, the Commission's secretary, said volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks, such as selling carnival tickets at the event, checking ages and putting IDs on patrons at the beer garden, and other tasks. Entertainment Committee Chair Bill Archer indicated a desire to step down after this year, so the Commission will need a volunteer to replace him, she said.

"We haven't decided if we're going to have a raffle this year or not," she said, adding the Commission is scheduled to meet Tuesday night, April 8, to firm up plans. The entertainment schedule has not been finalized, and some of the entertainment slots are still open.

To volunteer, email MGDaysVolunteers@comcast.net.

Volunteers on the Morton Grove Days Commission include Georgianne Brunner, commission president; Jim Karp, commission treasurer; Terri Cousar, commission secretary; Ed Ramos, sponsorship chair; Paul Tobin and Mark Manno, co-chairs of festival operations; Officer Mike Whitesell, security; Jim Karp, financial subcommittee; Bill Archer, entertainment committee; Paul Minx, beer garden chair; Mark Manno, restaurant chair; Peter Falcone and Bill Grear, carnival; Debbie Farrell and Randy Golinski, volunteers; Terri Cousar and Pat Zmolek, parade; Rich Block, merchandising and Mark Manno, Touch-a-Truck. The Commission needs a public relations chair and raffle chair, interested parties can email mortongrovedays@gmail.com.
POLICE BLOTTER

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

BATTERY

Jamie Kremel, 31, identified as homeless, was charged with aggravated battery and retail theft on April 5. Police said a security guard at a store on the 8500 block of Golf Road reported that Kremel punched her in the face after she detained Kremel for an alleged retail theft that occurred at the store on the 8500 block of Golf Road. Police said a security guard at a store on the 8500 block of Golf Road reported that Kremel punched her in the face after she detained Kremel for an alleged retail theft that occurred at the store. According to police, Kremel was accused of stealing a computer keyboard and other electronic merchandise, all valued at $272, from the store, though she paid for a television. She also had a knife that was kept in a sheath on her belt, police said. Kremel remained in Cook County Jail with bond set at $25,000. Her next court date is April 23.

RETAIL THEFT

Sylvia Johns, 23, and Jennifer Johns, 29, both of 7518 W. Monroe St., Niles, were each charged with retail theft on April 3. According to police, the women were accused of stealing two waste container dollys, which were concealed inside a garbage can they purchased. Court information was not included.

Digipak Patel, 34, of 4703 N. Springfield Ave., Chicago, was charged with retail theft on April 5 after she allegedly stole merchandise from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center while accompanied by her child and a 43-year-old woman. She has a May 19 court date.

DUI

Michael Solovastru, 23, of 6818 Beckwith Road, Morton Grove, was charged with aggravated driving under the influence on April 6 after he allegedly struck three cars parked in a lot on the 8700 block of Milwaukee Avenue at 3:20 a.m. Police said Solovastru had been driving the vehicle. He has an April 25 court date.

Edgar Sanchez, 31, of 500 W. Touhy Ave., Des Plaines, was charged with aggravated driving under the influence on April 6 after he allegedly struck three cars parked in a lot on the 8700 block of Milwaukee Avenue at 3:20 a.m. Police said Sanchez had difficult sitting up in the driver's seat and kept falling over in the direction of the passenger's seat while he was questioned by the responding officer. He has an April 16 court date.

Chelsea Karle, 24, of 4607 N Sheridan Road, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol after he was arrested on the 7200 block of Dempster Street in Morton Grove April 7. Police said Martinez was pulled over for a traffic violation and officers found "three hits of LSD." A court date is scheduled for May 1.

MORTON GROVE DRUGS

Jorge L. Martinez, 20, of Skokie, was charged with possession of a controlled substance after he was arrested on the 7000 block of Dempster Street in Morton Grove April 7. Police said Martinez was pulled over for a traffic violation and officers found "three hits of LSD." A court date is scheduled for May 1.

DUI

Miguel Mandujano, 46, of Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol after he was arrested on the 7200 block of Dempster Street in Morton Grove April 6. Police said Mandujano was stopped for undisclosed traffic violations and later allegedly failed field sobriety tests. A court date was scheduled for April 14.

CRIME BRIEFS

THEFT

A Niles woman reported that her wallet, containing $500 in cash and debit cards, was stolen on April 6 after she left it behind in a bag outside Fresh Farms Grocery, 5740 W. Touhy Ave. According to police, surveillance video shows an "older" man in a baseball cap opening the bag and removing the wallet before walking north from the area.

Surveillance video inside a store on the 8900 block of Greenwood Avenue shows a woman stealing an iPhone that had been left behind in the yogurt aisle on April 6, police said.

BURGLARY TO VEHICLE

A GPS device was stolen overnight between April 5 and April 6 from a vehicle parked in a lot on the 8600 block of Dempster Street. A window was broken to gain entry.

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Maine East High School students and Erika’s Lighthouse are teaming up to raise awareness about depression.

On April 7, the Maine East High School District Board of Education unanimously approved the creation of the Depression Awareness Club at Maine East. Also known as Demons Against Depression, the club will be working to help students recognize the symptoms of depression and get the help they need.

The club has been unofficially meeting since December 2013, but now that it’s been approved, the club will be taking its awareness efforts directly to the Maine East students.

Winnetka-based Erika’s Lighthouse was formed in 2004, after the founder’s daughter, Erika Neukranz, lost her battle with depression. Because of the stigma and misconceptions surrounding depression, people may not be able to recognize it, and students who are struggling with it may not try to get the help they need.

Erika’s Lighthouse set out to change that. The organization has launched a number of programs designed to raise awareness and combat the stigma surrounding the disease. To raise awareness among teens, the organization helped set up a teen club at New Trier High School. The club proved to be so successful that it branched out into other locations. There are currently twelve Depression Awareness clubs in Chicago and its suburbs.

Sarah Griebler, the Teen Coordinator at Erika’s Lighthouse, emphasized that, while the clubs welcome students who are struggling with depression, they are not depression support groups.

Griebler said that a club starts when students or school staff reach out to them. From there, the organization works to help get the club off the ground.

“We help them navigate the start-up process, like getting staff sponsors and finding out their school’s requirements for starting a new club,” she said.

According to Peggy Kubert, the Executive Director at Erika’s Lighthouse, the Maine East students approached her organization in the summer of 2012. Griebler said that they saw an issue in their community that needed to be addressed and they wanted to do something about it. During 2013, the organization trained them to run what it calls “panels.”

“The panel is a program that they bring into their sophomore health classes,” said Kubert. “They speak to all sophomores in health classes about different aspects of depression, what it feels like, what are the signs and where [students] can get help.”

Demons Against Depression had their first unofficial meeting on Dec. 5. Since then, they have been having meetings on Thursday afternoons. Ronald Clark, the Maine East physical education teacher and coach, has agreed to become their sponsor.

According to Griebler, the club has already started doing work on depression awareness. This year, they’ve done two panels—one in Prospect High School of Mount Prospect and one in Warren Township High School of Gurnee.

On April 7, the district board voted to make the club official. Before casting his vote, board member Jin Lee spoke about the importance of depression awareness.

“Depression is a very serious concern for our young children,” he said. “A lot of the time, we as parents don’t see the signs. This club is critically important.”

Board member Carla Owen voiced a similar sentiment.

“I just want to thank the people who started this club,” she said.

According to district spokesman David Beery, the club plans to meet at least once every two weeks.

With only two months to go before the school year ends, Demons Against Depression doesn’t have a lot of time to do events. According to Kubert, the club will have a table during Maine East Mental Health Awareness week, which will take place in the beginning of May.

Now that the club is official, Erika’s Lighthouse will continue providing support.

“After the club is established, we continue to support our clubs’ students and adult sponsors through club visits, trainings, and regular communications, including a monthly club newsletter,” said Griebler.
The Niles Village Board may take a second look at a controversial proposal to regulate trees in the village. The tree ordinance, which has been in the works since 2012, was designed to protect heavy trees throughout Niles while giving the village government more power to remove unhealthy trees and trees that create a hazard on public property. The Environmental Practices Committee approved the final version in December 2013.

But when the ordinance went before the Village Board during the January meeting, it faced severe backlash from the public. Residents who spoke at the meeting complained that it went too far, infringing on property rights. They took particular issue with the fact that the ordinance would require them to get permits if they wanted to remove the trees and give the village power to remove unhealthy and hazardous trees from private property, even without owner's consent.

Faced with the backlash, the board decided to send the resolution back to the committee. At its April 9 meeting, the Environmental Practices Committee members decided to take the next few weeks to consider proposed revisions and make their own suggestions. The committee hopes to have the final version ready to go by May, so that it may go up for vote by June.

Niles Trustee and committee chair Rosemary Palicki said that public concerns voiced at the board meetings will be taken into account, and that Niles residents are welcome to e-mail their concerns and comments to the committee.

During the meeting, Chris Zalinski, a committee member and professional landscaper, said he felt that the village should still have the power to protect healthy trees and remove "at risk" trees, but he suggested that some of the language may need to be revised.

Zalinski also suggested tweaking the role of the village arborist — who, under the original tree ordinance, would have the final say or which trees get cut down. He suggested that the arborist would serve as a consultant, residents can contact if they have any questions about what to plant and what to remove.

Ultimately, he wanted an ordinance that the village residents would feel positively about. "We don't want to make anyone's lives worse," Zalinski said. "That's not why we spent 14 months working on the ordinance."

Because only three of the five committee members were at the meeting, Palicki wanted to hold off approving any changes. Instead, the committee decided to send the copies of Zalinski's suggestions to all board members and give them a chance to suggest revisions of their own. All members would convene during May and vote on the final version.

Because Palicki wanted to make sure all board members will be able to attend, the meeting date hasn't been finalized at press time.

All the Niles residents who spoke during the public comment period expressed concerns that the ordinance was still going too far. Resident Jerry Szczepanski urged the committee to take a cue from Skokie's tree ordinance.

"I looked at the Skokie ordinance and there's no language about private property," he said. Szczepanski also wondered if it would be possible to see the revised version before it goes to the Village Board.

"If we can distribute it publicly, I'm fine with that," Palicki said. "I just need to check with [Village Attorney Joe Annunzio]."

Resident Mark Gittings was concerned that the public wouldn't have an opportunity to comment before the revisions are adopted and asked if there was any way to submit comments to committee members. Palicki explained that, because most committee members are private citizens, she couldn't give out their contact information. She said the public could send the comments to her trustee email address, and she'd forward them the rest of the committee.

"I'll send them out as soon as we get them from you," Palicki said. She emphasized that encouraging the growth of healthy trees is part of Niles' long-term development plans. The ordinance may change, but it will pass in some form or another.

"If it takes another 3-4 months to get to that point [where we have a good ordinance], it's worth the delay, but we need to have something," Palicki said.
During the first few months Morton Grove native Ryan Smith was stationed at the U.S. Army's Forward Operating Base Robinson in Afghanistan, almost nothing happened. "I would tell him all the time, 'I'm praying you're safe,'" said his mother, Lisa Smith. "And he would say, 'could you not pray so hard? We're really bored.'"

But a dramatic incident in September 2013 changed all that. Army Specialist Smith and his partner, Specialist Michael Torres of Anaheim, Calif., prevented two Taliban soldiers from attacking the base — a feat which earned them the Combat Infantry Badge and, for Smith, a mayoral proclamation of Ryan Army Specialist Ryan Smith of Morton Grove poses with Morton Grove Mayor Dan DiMaria after DiMaria read a proclamation honoring Smith's actions in Afghanistan. [PAM DEFIOLIO/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA]

Smith Day in Morton Grove on Saturday, April 19. At 12:15 p.m. on that day, members of a group called Warriors' Watch Riders, which honors military veterans, will arrive at Smith's home in a procession of motorcycles and escort him to a community celebration from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the American Legion Memorial Civic Center, 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove.

The public is invited to come and meet Ryan, said Lisa Smith, who is providing coffee, snacks and sweets at the event. Ryan will turn 23 the day before the celebration.

Well-wishers also can get more details on the dramatic day in September when Specialist Smith, who graduated from Niles West High School in 2009 and attended Oakton Community College before enlisting in the Army, helped repel the attackers.

"Out in the crop fields, I saw two guys carrying weapons," said Smith, who was on guard duty in one of FOB Robinson's towers with Torres. Though they could see the two Taliban soldiers with the naked eye, they used binoculars to get a better look at the weapons, which Smith said were .50-caliber machine guns.

Smith phoned a commanding officer, who gave the order to shoot, and he and his partner did, killing the two Taliban soldiers. The whole incident probably took place in about five minutes, he said; within half an hour, a U.S. Marines Special Forces unit had picked up the weapons, leaving the bodies for the enemy to retrieve.

The Taliban soldiers intended to attack FOB Robinson, Smith believes, though he was not sure which tower they were targeting. The base is located in the Sangin Valley in Helmand province; it hosts Army, Marines and Navy personnel as well as members of other allied military forces and about 20 military contractors, Smith said.

Smith started his basic training with the Army's First Division, 26th Infantry regiment in March 2013, and was assigned to Afghanistan, arriving by June. After the September incident, he was re-stationed at Camp Leatherneck, also in Helmand Province. He returned stateside in February.

As for future plans, Smith said, "I'll be out-processing from the Army, then going probably to Oakton [Community College]."

He's not sure yet what he wants to do after that. Mayor Dan DiMaria read a proclamation honoring Smith, and proclaiming April 19 a day in his honor, at Monday's village board meeting. Many of Smith's family members attended.
Dear Help Squad,

We purchased a new business location in June 2013 and started electrical service with ComEd. When we moved in after renovations were completed in December of 2013, we noticed that our electrical charges were 2-3 times what our previous bills had been at our old location in Rosemont.

After receiving several exorbitant bills, we did some research and found that we were paying an hourly wholesale rate for electrical supply, which far exceeded the standard rates. When I called ComEd, they responded that we inherited a rate plan from the previous tenant. I don't understand how they can put us on a rate plan that we had not chosen. We submitted paperwork to get us off the rate plan and recently moved to Nordic Energy effective April 30, 2014, but ComEd keeps billing us at the higher rates.

I spoke to ComEd but received nothing but excuses. Can you assist us in securing a refund for the overpayments due to the incorrect rate plans?

Thanks for your help,

Scott Hoffman
Hoffman Brothers, Des Plaines

Help Squad has found that some of our cases take days to solve. Some take weeks and some even take months. We are happy to say this one was solved within hours!

When we first called ComEd, with Hoffman on the line, we were told by the representative that she was unable to speak with members of the media. She then referred us to Martha Arendt, a spokesperson for ComEd.

We called Arendt, who, after taking Hoffman's information, began investigating the issue. Meanwhile, Hoffman made his own call back, requesting a manager and mentioning that Help Squad was now involved.

Less than 24 hours later, Arendt sent us this statement:

"We regret that Mr. Hoffman was not on the appropriate rate and have rectified the matter with him. When we became aware of his situation, we made the change to his account effective April 1, which will be reflected in his next billing cycle."

The supervisor who assisted Hoffman explained that she went ahead and changed Hoffman's billing rate plan from a commercial hourly rate to a commercial demand rate, which is the rate plan Hoffman said he would have chosen had he been given the option when he first moved. Additionally, the representative went back and changed the rate plan on past bills, beginning with the bill from June, 2013.

What does this mean to Hoffman? He received a credit from ComEd for $1,683.37!

Dear Scott,

We are so happy that ComEd stepped up and did what was right, giving you the billing rate plan you wanted from the start. We wish you all the best, and hope that Hoffman Brothers thrives in its new location!

One thing Help Squad learned from this case is the importance of calling ComEd before or immediately after you move into a new residence or business. Make sure you are aware of the rate plan that the old owner/renter had, and then ask ComEd what your options are. In other words, don't assume you have to keep the same rate plan that is already in place.

Furthermore, if the old owner was using a retail electrical supplier (meaning a different company), know that you have the option of keeping the supplier or canceling the account and using ComEd for your carrier.

For more information, visit ComEd.com.

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

Let Help Squad make the call for you. Send your letters, your complaints, your injustices and your story ideas to HelpSquad@pioneerlocal.com and we will be happy to help you.
Chicago business leaders (and leaders in the making) don't have time to read all the news, every day. But it's still part of our job. The Grid 12 gives you a quick, comprehensive roundup of the day's hottest headlines.

So whether you're on your smartphone, tablet or desktop — at the kitchen table, in the car or at the office — it's time to get down to business.
LETTERS

Let computers choose voting districts

I have enjoyed reading many of Randy Blaser's Op-Eds. This one in particular hit a raw nerve ("After a depressing vote, here's my plan," March 27). I could not agree more with the concept of letting a computer choose districts by population to prevent the current jury rigging by Madigan & Company and a very corrupt Democratic Party. This will bring parity to the election process.

His second point on money will keep the elections localized and concentrate on what is pertinent at the local, state and federal level for our state. This will prevent the outside interference and allow us to choose our candidates to represent us.

The third point goes back to the original days of our country's founding. Elected officials did the business of government and went back home to work for a living. Limits are imperative to prevent the kind of corruption we have witnessed these past 30-plus years.

If elected officials want a pension, they should start a 401K, just like those of us in the private sector. No more pensions for life with unlimited funding.

If we do not change and change now, this state will not survive and will continue to hemorrhage people and money.

Richard W. Small
Highland Park

Senior Spelling Bee left me 'jovial'

"Jovial" was indeed the right word to describe the Senior Spelling Bee on March 20th! There was such a lovely group of people in attendance, and the best part was that even when a word was misspelled, the speaker was applauded and cheered by everyone! Thank you for a wonderful, fun afternoon!

Carolyn Sherman
Skokie

Never mind the quota, enforce speeding laws

The Illinois Senate last week passed a bill outlawing law enforcement in Illinois from establishing ticket quotas. I certainly understand the concern about police loading up on un warranted tickets just to make a quota. Anytime you establish such a policy, it is ripe for abuse.

Police might be inspired, especially toward the end of the month, to load up on a hapless driver's infractions just to make a quota. The individual officer's discretion about issuing warnings as a way to control traffic patterns and protect someone's safety is taken out of the picture.

In today's tough times, I can also see how some local governments would consider ticket quotas as a way to make easy money. After all, raising revenue is the whole idea behind red light cameras. Issue more citations and collect the cash.

But the real issue isn't quotas and it isn't about raising revenue for area municipalities.

The issue is about traffic safety, or, more plainly, how do we keep people from getting killed on our highways? And for that, I think we need good, old-fashioned law enforcement.

I drive a lot, and I think speeding is a big problem in Illinois. Everywhere I go, I see cars zooming past me. When I try to just keep up with traffic, I am flying way beyond the posted speed limit.

"The issue is about traffic safety, or, more plainly, how do we keep people from getting killed on our highways? And for that, I think we need good, old-fashioned law enforcement.

I drive a lot, and I think speeding is a big problem in Illinois. Everywhere I go, I see cars zooming past me. When I try to just keep up with traffic, I am flying way beyond the posted speed limit."

I rarely see anyone pulled over by a squad car, much less even see a police car on the expressways or tollways.

"The issue is about traffic safety, or, more plainly, how do we keep people from getting killed on our highways? And for that, I think we need good, old-fashioned law enforcement.

I drive a lot, and I think speeding is a big problem in Illinois. Everywhere I go, I see cars zooming past me. When I try to just keep up with traffic, I am flying way beyond the posted speed limit."

High beams, the tailgate and eventually the finger until I speed up or they pass me.

State officials must think speeding is a problem, too. Signs on the area expressways and tollways constantly remind drivers how many of us have been killed on the highways this year.

And why is speeding such a problem? Why do we flout the law so flagrantly in Illinois?

I think because the law isn't enforced.

LETT 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 must still be a few of you left out there. How do you manage to survive? How do you navigate life? I mean, you people without a computer or electronic communications device.

More and more, newscasts consist of referrals to the TV station's website. I imagine that will continue until the evening news will be something like this:

"Mayor Rahm Emanuel made a stunning announcement today. For more on this story, visit our website at badnews@comdotcom."

"And turning to international news, go to our website at badnews@comdotcom."

"The Federal Department of Plagues and Pustules has issued a warning that just might save your life. To learn more, visit our website..."

"There was some surprising news in that tight pennant race. And to find out more, visit our website..."

"And finally, tonight, what do jumper cables, a kitten, exact change and King Tut have in common? Find out at our website..."

"And that's the news for tonight. Don't worry, though, when all this comes to pass you will still be able to get your news from newspapers. They will, by then, be more ecologically friendly. They will consist of just one page with these words on it: 'Holy Toledo! To find out more, visit our website at oldschool@com.com.com.' Books also may undergo a similar metamorphosis. Just one page that states: "Anna Karenina — Even the snows of Siberia could not quench her passion. Visit our website at vavavoom@rumdumhouse.com.com.com." And me? I hope to be around — "Sassone: What chair could hold him? Visit our website..."
**FEATURED HOME**

**BY AGGREGO NEWS SERVICE**

**AGENT** Kristi Roque, Baird & Warner, 773-640-7766

*8304 N. Olcott Ave.,
Nilles*

- **House size:** 1,500 square feet
- **Lot size:** 6,313 square feet
- **Year built:** 1943
- **Bedrooms:** 3
- **Bathrooms:** 2.5
- **Garage:** One-car attached, two-car detached
- **Property tax:** $7,121.58 (2012)
- **Architectural style:** Georgian
- **School districts:** East Maine School District 63 and Maine Township High School District 207

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**PIONEER PRESS MORTGAGE GUIDE**

**Easter Brunch!**

**Sunday, April 20th, 9:30AM - 3:00PM**

**Meet the Easter Bunny!**

**Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30AM**

**ADULTS $30**  **KIDS 6-12 $15**  **KIDS 5 & UNDER FREE**

**Pinstripes.com**

**Lenders, to participate in this feature call Bankrate.com Sales Department @ 800-509-4636**

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**LIBERTY BANK FOR SAVINGS**

877-522-1612

https://www.libertybank.com/pioneer-press

**30 yr fixed**

- 4.125%
- 0.000
- $180,000
- 20% 4.166

**15 yr fixed**

- 3.750%
- 0.000
- $180,000
- 20% 3.196

**5/1 ARM**

Call for Rates

**LIBERTY BANK FOR SAVINGS**

**30 yr fixed and 5/1 arm rates for loan amounts up to $1 Million**

**Overland Park, KS**

**Source: Bankrate.com, for more information visit www.bankrate.com. Bankrate national averages are based on 100 largest institutions in the top 15 markets in the United States.**

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** abundance:**

- **Up:** 24%
- **Down:** 38%
- **Unchanged:** 38%

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**Homes for Sale?** For details on how to get a home listed on the Featured Home page, email homes@wrapports.com or call 312-300-7974
PROPERTY TRANSFERS
BY AGGREGO NEWS SERVICE

EDITORS NOTE: Content appears as it is provided in public records.

Niles
8103 N Greenwood Ave: Tina F Oraham to Ih3 Property Il LP for $170,000 on Feb. 27.

Morton Grove
8535 Callie Ave: Donald U Zehner to Dejan Smilanic for $240,000 on Feb. 25.

9009 Oriole Ave: Konstanty J Dembowski and Halina S Dembowski to Mark Zamora and Anna M Zamora for $253,500 on Feb. 28.

9337 Olcott Ave: Baltazar S Alberto and Victoria N Alberto to Prenca Lukic and Mary Lukic for $247,500 on Feb. 27.

Park Ridge
716 Parkwood Ave: Restoration Remedies LLC to Keith Richard Morajda and Amy C Morajda for $376,000 on Feb. 25.

1334 Elliott Ave: Curt A Preissner to Ih3 Property Il LP for $288,000 on Feb. 26.

Glenview

1230 Plingsten Road: Solomon N Okoli and Hsoma E Solomon Okoli to Peter E Baciu for $295,000 on Feb. 24.

2750 Commons Drive: Allyson Leigh Wilcox and Allyson Wilcox Olson to Harry Fishman and Allison Arons for $222,000 on Feb. 27.

Wilton
230 Millbrook Lane: Summit 4 LLC to Yu Yang and Jiawen Cao for $473,000 on Feb. 26.

Northfield

Evanston
9252 Drake Ave, #307: Susan Levine to Robert Felix for $230,000 on Feb. 27.

3256 Park Place: Michael S Keating and Michele Keating to Timothy John Houen and Anyu Chang for $650,000 on Feb. 25.

Mount Prospect
100S Cardinal Lane: Kathryn Harbionson to Mary I Rochotte and Thomas C Rochotte for $395,000 on Feb. 24.

Chicago
7438 N Ottawa Ave: Kevin P Finlay to Ryan P Martin and Kelly J Martin for $325,000 on Feb. 27.

7030 N Orleans Ave: Dennis Franz Trust to Elaine Chan and James Koepeke for $420,000 on Feb. 24.

6944 N Medford Ave: David John Lipp, George A Lipp Jr and Judith A Lipp to Zdzislaw Lenczowski and Zak Lenczowski for $333,000 on Feb. 27.

Winnetka
883 Willow Road: Grant F Denapoli and Kimberly A Denapoli to Charles Sheridan and Janine Sheridan for $1,150,000 on Feb. 27.

Northbrook
6935 W Balmoral Ave: Intercounty Judicial Sales Corp and Ross to Real Equities Inc for $210,500 on Feb. 27.
**NILES**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 17**

**Toddler Time**
10 a.m.: Stories, songs and rhymes for children ages 1 to 3 with a caregiver. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**Resume Assistance and Review**
1 p.m.: Schedule a 30-minute appointment to receive individual resume assistance with Bob Podgorski of R.P.P. Enterprises. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**Walk-In Computer Help**
1 p.m.: Stop by the Training Lab to receive help with email, using MS Word, saving documents and more. Attendees can bring their laptop or tablet or use a library computer. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**Library Night Out: Jim Nesci’s Cold Blooded Creatures**
7 p.m.: Explore the world of reptiles in this fun and entertaining program for the whole family. Bring a camera for this hands-on experience. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**Niles Songwriters’ Group**
7 p.m.: Singers and songwriters share work and give helpful feedback. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. For more information, call 847-663-1234.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 18**

**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.

**Knights of Niles Chess Club**
4:30 p.m.: Children in kindergarten to eighth grade can learn chess or improve skills in this after-school activity. Chris can teach everything the kids in fourth to eighth grade. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. For more information, call 847-324-3179.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19**

**Maintaining Your Home Computer**
10 a.m.: Come to this interactive lecture to learn the insider answers from the tech experts at local computer company FireLogic. Registration required.

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**Submit Your Event**
To submit an event for consideration in print, visit [www.pioneerlocal.com/submit-content](http://www.pioneerlocal.com/submit-content) and click the "Events" tab on the left side of the screen. Please submit the event no later than 10 days before the desired publication date.

Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

Spring Skate ‘Bunny Hop’
7:30 p.m.: The lecture by licensed healing practitioner Brigitte Schneider includes an explanation of medically documented healing, people sharing their healing experiences and an opportunity to experience healing power. For more information, visit [www.bruno-groening.org/english](http://www.bruno-groening.org/english). White Eagle Banquets & Restaurant, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30**

**The Beatles: An Afternoon with Revolver**
2 p.m.: Celebrate the historic arrival of John, Paul, George and Ringo on U.S. shores 50 years ago with an entertaining program series by award winning author and Beatles expert Robert Rodriguez. This program focuses on the topic "How The Beatles Re-Imagined Rock 'N Roll in the Studio 1967-1970." Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. For more information, call 847-663-1234.

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**HAPPENING NEARBY**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 17**

**Google Calendar**
10 a.m.: Learn how to create an online calendar you can use to organize your schedule and that can be shared with others. Registration is required; go to calendar.mgpl.org or call 847-324-3079. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-324-3179.

**Microsoft Excel 2010 for Beginners**
3 p.m.: Learn how to create spreadsheets and graphs in the computer program. Registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-324-3179.

**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 847-825-2123.

**Craft Studio: Rainbow Looms**
4:30 p.m.: Learn how to create colorful jewelry. For kids in fourth to eighth grade. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. For more information, call 847-324-3179.

**Business After Hours Bowling Tournament with Edison Park Chamber**
5:30 p.m.: Teams of four, which can be selected or arranged by the Chamber, will compete against each other in this bowling tournament. Fee includes bowling, all-you-can-eat appetizers, pizza and soda. Cash bar available. Edison Park Inn, 6715 N. Olmsted, Chicago. For more information, call 847-825-3121. $25.

**TAG Meeting**
7 p.m.: Teens meet to plan future programming at the library and enjoy pizza. Registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie.

**Chemistry of Honey**
7 p.m.: Learn about the science of the natural sweetener. Registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. For more information, call 847-673-7774.

**Skokie Photographic Society**
7:30 p.m.: The group meets on the third Thursday of each month. All levels of photographic skill are welcome. Skokie Village Hall, 527 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-677-8324.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 18**

**Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt**
11 a.m.: Celebrate Easter with an outdoor hunt for colorful eggs. For kids ages 3 to 10. Participants should bring their own basket. Prairie View Community Center, 6634 Dempster St., Morton Grove.

**Egg Dip in the Pool**

**Logo 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.

**F.A.C. Event for Teens**
7 p.m.: An Easter egg hunt "with a twist" for kids in fifth to eighth grade. Prairie View Community Center, 6634 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-1200. $3-$5.

**Side Effects May Include**
7:30 p.m.: To celebrate Parkinson’s Awareness month, MadKap productions presents a provocative one-man show starring Andrew J. Pond as a stand-up comedian who learns to cope with his wife’s Parkinson’s diagnosis by finding the humor in her medications and their side effects. Former Seinfeld writer Marc Jaffee shares his personal experiences in this autobiographical tale. Ten percent of proceeds benefit Shaking With Laughter and the fight against Parkinson’s. Gorilla Tango Skokie, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call 312-677-7761. $15-$25.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19**

**Electronics Recycling Event**
9 a.m.: The group will collect small electronics, like phones and VCRs, as well as textiles, like shoes, boots, clothing and accessories. Fee is $5 per vehicle.
Blood Sugar Accu-Check Screening
9 a.m.: Mather's, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804.

Plug into the Past with Ancestry Library Edition
10:30 a.m.: Learn how to use the database Ancestry Library Edition in this hands-on computer class. Learn about the genealogy collections it offers and how to search for family records. E-mail experience and previous Internet experience is required. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. For more information, call 847-825-3123.

Club Wonder: Art with M-NASR
10:30 a.m.: Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation presents a multi-sensory art class for children with special needs. Registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-324-3149.

Presentation: The Audubon Society
11 a.m.: Learn about native birds. Norwood Park Senior Center, 5801 N. Natoma Ave., Chicago. Call 847-318-5200.

Digital Craft Time: Make Music on the Web
2 p.m.: Learn how to make original music and remix existing tunes on free Web apps, like Incredibox, Muzic and UJAM. For kids in fourth to eighth grade. Registration required. Additional program at 3 p.m. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. For more information, call 847-324-3149.

'Llama Llama'
3 p.m.: Emerald City Theatre Troupe presents a silly play based on the children's books by Anna Dewdney. Tickets required. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. For more information, call 847-324-3149.

Career Support Group
9:30 a.m.: Network with others who are looking for work and learn strategies for finding a job. The group meets on the third Monday of each month, Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-324-3176.

Harmonious Horizons
10:20 a.m.: A family music class that includes singing, dancing and playing instruments. For children ages 5 and younger with a caregiver. A second class is available at 11 a.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

E-Story Time
1:30 p.m.: Digital stories, songs, rhymes and traditional stories for children of all ages. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Write On! A Skokie Writers Group
7 p.m.: Local writers of all ages and skill levels meet to learn how they can improve their writing skills. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-673-3733.

Etsy Basics: Setting Up Your Online Store
7 p.m.: Rebecca George offers this course on setting up an online Etsy shop to sell your own crafts, supplies and vintage items. George runs an Etsy shop called Purple and Lime. A question and answer session will follow. For more information or to register, call 847-673-3733. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie.

Park Ridge City Council Meeting
7 p.m.: Park Ridge City Hall, 505 Butler Place, Park Ridge. Call 847-318-5200.

The Old Things Antique Club of Park Ridge
7:30 p.m.: Meetings will be held the third Monday of the month for those who enjoy or collect antiques. Membership fee is $20 a year. For more information, email OldThingsAntiqueClub@gmail.com. Iannelli Studios Heritage Center, 255 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. Call 847-692-3718. Free.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

Baby Bounce
9:15 a.m.: Special stories, songs, rhymes and play time just for babies ages 0 and younger. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Story Time for 4s and 5s
10:15 a.m.: Drop in for a short story time. Please no adults or siblings. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. For more information, call 847-825-3123.

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

Looking for fun? Check out our Top Five picks for the weekend's best bets.
Use the Stage section to learn about local theater productions.

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

**BUILDING PERMITS**

**BY AGGREGO NEWS SERVICE**

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**THE BIZ NOTES**

The Glenview Village Board recently recognized three local businesses taking steps to "go green" by incorporating environmentally responsible practices into their daily business operations. The Go Green Gold Business Award went to Midwest Palliative & Hospice Carecenter, Marshall Family Hospice Pavilion, Go Green Business Awards went to the Dry Cleaning Factory and Morning Glory Flower Shop.

- Grand Food Center co-owner Chris Barber accepted the "Friend of the Township" award from New Trier Township Community Service Administrator Brian Leverenz at its 2014 Annual Town Meeting held April 8 at Winnetka Community House. Leverenz, who administers the township food pantry, praised the grocer for its continuing generosity to the pantry and its clientele.

- The McGaw YMCA in partnership with Y.O.U., and Northwestern University's Office of STEM Education Partnerships, has received $110,000 of funding from a longtime supporter, the Lewis-Sebring Family Foundation, as a part of a potentially larger grant, to design a space in its building for teens and pre-teens.

- State Bank of Countryside has announced the addition of a Mortgage Banking Division to its fast-growing list of product & service offerings. Brian Reynolds, Director of Mortgage Banking, has taken the lead for the new division and is excited about the positive community impact it will have.

- Benjamin Eye Care Center & Optical Shop in La Grange welcomes Dr. Kamran Riaz to the practice. He is a graduate of Hinsdale Central High School.

Does your company have news? Email biznotes@pioneerlocal.
King Spa steaming along at four-year mark

BY PAM DETIGLIO
For Sun-Times Media

After four years in business, King Spa & Sauna in Niles, which draws customers from around the Midwest, is still getting a lot of “oohs” and “aahs.” They come from visitors’ reactions to the elaborate decor, which includes a pyramid-shaped sauna coated in 23-karat gold. And then there are the “oohs” and “aahs” from patrons experiencing the creature comforts of a hot tub, steam room and eight theme saunas— one of which tops out at 170 degrees Fahrenheit.

“We Koreans really love this place. It’s part of our culture,” said Arina Moon, manager of the Chicago location, which owners Donald and Joon Kim opened in April 2010 to fill a void of homesickness for Korean-Americans. It has since also become popular with Europeans, who make up about 80 percent of the clientele, Moon said.

She recalled how, when she was a child in Korea, her mother took her every week to a bathhouse— there is always one side for males and another for females— where her mother scrubbed her and rinsed her before taking her to the hot pool for a soak. On the men’s side, fathers did the same for their sons.

“Families go together to the jjimjilbang [baths/sauna],” Moon said. “It’s a family gathering or a place you go to relax.”

As recently as the 1980s, Korean families went to the jjimjilbangs because they didn’t have shower facilities in their homes in Korea. But that has changed as homes have modernized, Moon said.

Today, Korean-Americans frequent King Spa more because it offers a relaxing experience and a chance to spend time with friends and family, said Anthony Buban, a front desk clerk who has worked at King Spa since it opened.

Patrons can luxuriate in the hot tubs, get massages or scrubs, relax in the jewel-encrusted saunas, dine in the restaurant and then watch movies, sleep or just hang out with friends in the main hall. King Spa is the only such grand Korean spa in the Midwest; the owners own another King Spa in Dallas. Similar Korean spas exist on the East Coast.

Tips for visiting the spa

Located at 809 Civic Center Plaza, King Spa is hidden behind the Home Depot at Oakton Street and Waukegan Road, which is why many Niles residents don’t even know it’s there. When you arrive at the front desk, pay your admission fee of $30, or $25 for children under 12 and receive a towel, locker keys and a uniform, which is a T-shirt and shorts. Proceed to either the men’s or women’s locker room, and take off your shoes where the sign instructs you. Place your shoes in the shoe locker, then go to the main locker room, take off all your clothes—yes, all—and put them in the locker.

Now, you enter the wet pool area, which is also segregated by sex, and the good clean fun begins. Even if you have already showered that day, custom and hygiene dictate that you shower your hair and body until they’re squeaky clean— with either the spa’s soaps and shampoos, or ones you bring yourself.

Next, take a soak in the hot pool. Bathing suits aren’t allowed per Korean custom, and it might take a few minutes to get used to the fact that everyone is naked, but you will. There are all ages here, from kids to grandparents, and most people do not have perfect bodies.

Once you’ve had all the hot water you can stand, you can plunge into the cool pool to cool down, then hit the steam room, and then cool down again if you want. You can also have an employee give you a scrub, massage or facial for fees ranging from $50 to $120.

Dry off, put on your spa getup and wander— on heated floors called ondol in Korean— to the lavishly decorated main hall, where the eye hardly knows where to look first. There’s the gold pyramid, the mauve and white French provincial divans, and an underlying nature theme of rocks and precious gems, in sort of a Louis-XIV-meets-the-pharaohs-in-the-North-Woods mash-up.

You can start easy, in the gold pyramid sauna or the amethyst sauna, where the temperature is about 110 to 115 degrees Fahrenheit. Just go in and lie down, like you see other people doing, for 10 minutes or so.

There’s a juice bar/restaurant which serves Korean spa food, an entertainment room showing mostly family-friendly movies, and a sleeping room, where you can stay the night. An extra $5 charge for that will appear on your bill if you are present in the facility at 3 a.m. Weekends tend to be busiest, and Buban advises people seeking peace and quiet to come on weekday mornings or afternoons. A typical Saturday can see up to 1,200 guests, and the average guest stays about five hours, Moon said.

Regardless of how crowded it is, though, Buban said the staff works continuously to keep the place spotless.

“They’re cleaning 24/7 here,” Buban noted as a worker mopping the lobby carpeting. “They close the wet spa at 2 a.m. and we drain the pools and clean until about 5:30 a.m.”

He has only one other piece of advice for patrons: Even though the spa experience is meant to be a relaxing time with friends and family, it doesn’t mix with alcohol, so don’t drink before you arrive.

“Dry heat intensifies the state of being drunk,” he said. “It’s a health risk. You must hydrate— don’t take these saunas too lightly.”
Notre Dame celebrates with roaring ’20s spirit

DONs & DAMES THE ROARING ’20S: 23RD ANNUAL SPIRIT OF NOTRE DAME DINNER AUCTION
Benefiting: Notre Dame College Prep, Niles
Location: Marriott Lincolnshire Resort, Lincolnshire
Date: March 29
Attended: 350
Raised: $230,000
Website: nddons.org

1. Niles Police Chief Dean Strzelecki and his wife Laurie Strzelecki of Niles, with their daughter Deana Tokarz and her husband Brad Tokarz, also of Niles. Brad Tokarz is a 1998 Notre Dame College Prep graduate.
2. Beth DiMeo of Park Ridge (from left), Rev. Richard Conyers and John DiMeo of Park Ridge
3. Maureen and Tom Polcyn of Park Ridge
4. Netty Rigali of Park Ridge (from left), Bob and Therese Rigali of Chicago and John Rigali of Park Ridge
5. Sharon Angelini of Park Ridge director of special events at Notre Dame College Prep, at the wheel of a 1938 Trumpet from England.
6. Jo Anne D’Avanzo and Bridin Lyons, both of Harwood Heights | ALL PHOTOS KARIE ANGELELLUPO FOR SUN TIMES MEDIA
CAUSE & EVENT

BLUE AND WHITE PARTY
Benefiting: Imerman Angels Cancer Support
Locate: John Barleycorn
River North
Attend: 400
Date: March 6
Raised: $30,000
Website: imermanangels.org

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 (812) 321-2734.
Couples don't stress over wedding details

Sana Ali and Esau Gutierrez

BY HEATHER DORNBECKER
Contributing writer

Rather than stressing over details for their wedding, Sana Ali and Esau Gutierrez focused on the big picture: making sure everyone had a good time.

The couple wanted to make their wedding memorable by creating a fun atmosphere with good food, good music and good company. Their No. 1 priority was making the night enjoyable for their guests and themselves.

"I didn't want to get caught up in the things that take meaning away from what we were actually doing, which was committing ourselves to each other, getting married and celebrating with our families," Sana said.

The Chicago natives chose Chateau Ritz in Niles for their reception because it boasted the natural ambiance they desired. Sana especially loved the chandeliers.

Sana received many compliments on her centerpieces: vases from a local dollar store, filled with water, floating candles and flower petals.

"It was the simplest things that everyone loved," she said.

A mariachi band played during cocktail hour for a taste of Esau's Mexican heritage. Musical selections with Middle Eastern influences played during dinner to honor Sana's heritage.

The couple had a photo booth area that allowed guests to accessorize and record a 7-second video clip to share well wishes and memories. The clips were transformed onto paper, creating a modern-day flipbook and lasting wedding keepsake. Sana and Esau kept the clips as their take-away from the day.

"People loved the flip books. Everyone wanted to make sure they did one," Sana said.

Exchanging vows at Saint Pascal Parish, near where they live in Chicago, was one of Sana's favorite moments. For Esau, it was hearing his twin brother's best-man speech.

The couple met in 2010 at Sangria, a popular salsa club once located on the near north side of Chicago. They got engaged two years later on May 7, a date Esau chose to give the day a different memory as his parents passed away the same day five years prior.

Following their May 11 wedding last year, they honeymooned to the Dominican Republic.

Every wedding has a story. Contact Renee Lee at rlee@bouquetcatcher.com or 312-661-6613 to share yours.

Facebook.com/BouquetCatcher & Twitter @BouquetCatcher & Pinterest.com/BouquetCatcher
Eric Greve & Felicia Mata

Jeff and Susan Greve of Park Ridge announce the engagement of their son Eric to Felicia, daughter of Peter and Debra Mata. The couple got engaged Dec. 12, 2012. The couple are graduating from Hope College, in Holland, Mich. Eric will earn a bachelor's degree in chemistry with environmental science and math minors, and Felicia will receive a double major in psychology and Spanish. They both like research and have studied abroad. They will be married this spring in Michigan and plan to live in Wisconsin to attend graduate programs. Eric will study chemistry at University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Felicia will study clinical psychology at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY HEATHER KAMENIOPOULOS, INFINITI PHOTOGRAPHY

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The BMW 3 series lineup has expanded for 2014. Those who like the 3 series can opt for the highly respected sedan, a hybrid version, a new sports wagon, or the all-new Gran Turismo.

The Gran Turismo, which I recently tested, is a niche offering with hopes of appealing to those who prefer unique styling and a bit more interior volume over the sedan. Although it features four doors, the Gran Turismo's gently sloping rear roofline and hatchback design provide coupe-like exterior styling.

When compared to the sedan, the Gran Turismo's wheelbase is about four inches longer, and its overall length is some seven inches longer.

Because of these dimensions, the Gran Turismo provides additional cargo volume and added rear seat legroom over the sedan.

There is plenty of rear seat legroom for Gran Turismo's two outer seats, but anyone stuck sitting in the middle will be deprived of legroom, as there is a high hump in the center of the floor.

When it comes to carrying your gear, Gran Turismo accommodates long and bulky items thanks to its hatchback design and 40/20/40 split folding rear seatbacks.

The hatchback makes it easy to load packages, but the sloping rear roofline reduces the amount of headroom in the rear. That may not be a problem for some, but six-footers are likely to complain.

For 2014, there are two Gran Turismo models available. The first is the 328i xDrive Gran Turismo ($41,450). That model is joined by the 335i xDrive Gran Turismo ($46,850).

Powering the 328i is a 240 horsepower 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine that provides the muscle of a six-cylinder with the fuel economy of a four-cylinder.

The 335i receives a 300 horsepower 3.0-liter twin-turbocharged inline six-cylinder engine. Both Gran Turismo models include a standard eight-speed automatic transmission and BMW's xDrive all-wheel drive system.

The ECO PRO mode can help to improve fuel economy as much as 20 percent by training the driver to be more efficient, and by utilizing engine management software and transmission controls to reduce power and fuel consumption.

The Start-Stop technology automatically switches off the engine under certain conditions when stopped in traffic. It is a clever concept, but I found it annoying, as the transitions from stop to start were a bit delayed and abrupt. Thankfully, there is a switch to turn the system off when desired.

Like other 3 series models, the Gran Turismo offers a luxuriously appointed cabin that is very quiet and comfortable.

There are many standard amenities, and Grand Turismo buyers can upgrade to either the Luxury, Sport, or M Sport equipment level.

The engine in my 328i xDrive Gran Turismo tester provided plenty of power at higher revolutions per minute, but it felt a bit sluggish when accelerating from a stop due to some turbo lag.

I enjoyed the smooth-shifting eight-speed automatic transmission, and BMW's xDrive all-wheel-drive system. xDrive is designed with rear-wheel bias. That means the car behaves like a rear-wheel drive, but more power can be directed to the front as needed to deliver superior traction and handling on all surfaces.

Because the Gran Turismo is longer and heavier than the sedan, it does not provide the same level of agility. But the Gran Turismo is a wonderful touring car and would be very pleasing for road trips with up to three others.
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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.
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on May 7, 2014, at 7:00 p.m., a public hearing will be held by the Plan Commission of the Village of Lincolnwood, Lincolnwood, Illinois, at the Village Hall at 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois, for the purpose of considering the following:

Applicant: Bankruptcy

Nature of Request: Special Use Approval

Property Address: 7177 North Lincoln Avenue

Applicant: Mike Ilcinkas, Agent for Version Wireless

Nature of Request: Special Use Approval for the construction of new building

Property Address: 7177 North Lincoln Avenue

Applicant: Village of Lincolnwood

Nature of Request: Zoning Ordinance Amendments

Property Address: 7177 North Lincoln Avenue

Applicant: Village of Lincolnwood

Nature of Request: Redevelopment Plan and Project

Property Address: 7177 North Lincoln Avenue

Applicant: Village of Lincolnwood

Nature of Request: Redevelopment Plan and Project

Property Address: 7177 North Lincoln Avenue

Public hearing is hereby given that on May 7, 2014, at 7:00 p.m., a public hearing will be held by the Plan Commission of the Village of Lincolnwood, Lincolnwood, Illinois, to consider the adoption of a Redevelopment Plan and Project for the Redevelopment Project Area.

The Redevelopment Plan and Project Area consists of the parcel of land described in Exhibit A, the parcel of land located at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Touhy Avenue in the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois, and any additional parcel(s) of land located north, south, east, or west of the Redevelopment Project Area.

At the hearing, comments may be made to the Plan Commission regarding the proposed Redevelopment Plan and Project.

This notice is not a notice to appear. It is an invitation to all interested persons to submit oral or written comments concerning the application. Written comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the public hearing.

All persons attending the hearing shall have an opportunity to be heard regarding this application. Any person who desires to appear as an interested party should contact the Village of Lincolnwood, Lincolnwood, Illinois, at 6900 North Lincoln Avenue.

All persons having questions regarding the application may call the Community Development Department at 847-673-7402.
Visit ToDrive.com to learn what cars are leading the pack in sales in your area.

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Public Hearings
Public Notice
Public Notices
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The Illinois Classified Advertising Network (ICAN) provides Pioneer Press and the Doings with advertising of a national appeal.

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Both Pioneer Press and the Doings recommend discretion when placing. Please refer questions and comments directly to ICAN.
The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the real estate other than as mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Act.

Plaintiff, ALBERT G. L. WOLF, et al., vs. JESUS HERNANDEZ, a/k/a JESUS EMIR HERNANDEZ, et al., and BEQUEST OF THE MORTGAGOR, a/k/a THE MORTGAGEE,

Plaintiff, MORTON GROVE MUNICIPALITY RELIEF FUND, vs. SUSAN STEVENS et al., a/k/a SUSAN MUKHERJEE et al., and BEQUEST OF THE MORTGAGOR, a/k/a THE MORTGAGEE,

Plaintiff, ANNA YUSHCHENKO, vs. Unknown; Unknown; Unknown, et al., BEQUEST OF THE MORTGAGOR, a/k/a THE MORTGAGEE,

Plaintiff, MIKHAIL BODNAR; ANNA YUSHCHENKO; PLATINUM WOODWORKERS & SERVICES, LLC, vs. Unknown; Unknown; Unknown, et al., BEQUEST OF THE MORTGAGOR, a/k/a THE MORTGAGEE,
NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the order of The Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, a real estate parcel described as follows:

commonly known as 6504 West Keeler Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, sell to the high bidder of the said parcel, subject to the conditions of the sale.

The sale will be conducted at 10:30 AM on Friday, May 16, 2014, at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 24TH Floor, CHICAGO, IL 60606, by The Judicial Sales Corporation, as the Selling Official. No fee shall be paid by the purchaser of the said parcel to any attorney or person representing the Estate: the purchaser of the said parcel shall pay the assessments required by law in full at the time of the sale. The sale shall be free and clear of all liens.

All interested parties: 10% of the highest bid shall be tendered as a deposit at the sale. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within 24 hours after the sale. In the event of default, the deposit shall be forfeited to the seller.

The sale shall be free and clear of all liens, charges, encumbrances, and equitable interests.

If the property is a condominium, the purchaser of the said parcel shall pay the common assessment required by law in full at the time of the sale.

If the property is a mortgagee, the purchaser of the said parcel shall pay the assessment required by law in full at the time of the sale.

The sale shall be subject to all conditions of the sale:

1. All assessments required by the condominium, including the common assessment, shall be paid at the time of the sale if the property is a condominium.
2. All assessments required by the mortgagee, including the mortgagee's assessment, shall be paid at the time of the sale if the property is a mortgagee.
3. All assessments required by the plaintiff, including the plaintiff's assessment, shall be paid at the time of the sale if the property is a plaintiff.

The sale shall be subject to the following conditions:

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2. All assessments required by the mortgagee, including the mortgagee's assessment, shall be paid at the time of the sale if the property is a mortgagee.
3. All assessments required by the plaintiff, including the plaintiff's assessment, shall be paid at the time of the sale if the property is a plaintiff.

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2. All assessments required by the mortgagee, including the mortgagee's assessment, shall be paid at the time of the sale if the property is a mortgagee.
3. All assessments required by the plaintiff, including the plaintiff's assessment, shall be paid at the time of the sale if the property is a plaintiff.

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2. All assessments required by the mortgagee, including the mortgagee's assessment, shall be paid at the time of the sale if the property is a mortgagee.
3. All assessments required by the plaintiff, including the plaintiff's assessment, shall be paid at the time of the sale if the property is a plaintiff.

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3. All assessments required by the plaintiff, including the plaintiff's assessment, shall be paid at the time of the sale if the property is a plaintiff.

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3. All assessments required by the plaintiff, including the plaintiff's assessment, shall be paid at the time of the sale if the property is a plaintiff.
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Truck dealer seeking Parts Counter Experience. Contact Charlie at 773-284-4805 ext 15.


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Four Marketing Tactics for Facebook

By: Emily Bennington, Monster Contributing Writer

The beauty of developing a social media marketing strategy is that any size company, including your small business, can jump in and apply marketing tactics that build your audience, and communicate with them directly.

Since the small business social media playing field has been leveled, you no longer need the resources of a large company to reach your customers via your small business marketing – although you do need a bit of savvy know-how to do it well.

Marketing Tactic #1: Build a Community First.

If you really want to see your fan numbers jump, build your page around a core idea that people can rally behind – not just your business. “Traditional selling is dead,” says Melinda Emerson, author of Become Your Own Boss in 12 Months. “You have to add value to the conversation, not just push your product.”

Rather than pump out non-stop promotional material about your clothing store, for example, focus on marketing tactics that allow you to spend more time facilitating a discussion on trends, styles, and other information that would be of interest to your audience.

The more you can become a go-to source for the latest consumer trends, the higher your fan numbers will go. The most egregious misstep people make in your opinion is to go for the sale before the relationship,” says Emerson.

“The whole notion of using Facebook to say, ‘buy my stuff, buy my stuff, and, oh by the way, buy my stuff’ is to misuse the site.”

Emerson recalls a shoe company whose marketing tactics were designed to “get noticed” over providing value recently. “This company just started posting pictures of shoes they thought I’d like right on my page,” she says. “Now that’s a good way to get unfollowed.”

Marketing Tactic #2: Think Twice Before Doing a Profile-to-Page Migration.

In Facebook-speak, people have “profiles” and companies have “pages,” but if you’re like many small business owners, it’s probably a very blurry line. While Facebook does give you an option to merge the two, Cindy Morrison, online strategist and founder of the social media consulting firm SOCIALVENTION, recommends against it.

“Too many of business owners have built up a following on their personal profile, but are now struggling to get friends to ‘like’ their fan page,” says Morrison.

Even so, she thinks it’s much better to start from zero than to convert your existing profile into a fan page. “You’ll only lose all of your information and pictures, but all the ‘rights’ that only profiles have.”

If you’re using Facebook to keep up with friends and family and promote your business, the profile-to-page migration isn’t for you.

Marketing Tactic #3: Have a Marketing Strategy.

In other words, don’t just post randomly as the mood strikes – know what you’re aiming for on Facebook.

Set success metrics (e.g., how many times a day do you plan to post, what topics will you cover, what discounts will you run and when, etc.)

Also, pay attention to the “Insights” link on the left side of your page and deep-dive into your fan demographics. If you’ve got a product aimed at men, for example, and your fans are 86% female and 14% male, something isn’t working.

Likewise, if you’ve got 1,000 fans, but only 15 are “talking about” you (Facebook’s way of tracking the number of people engaging with your page), you know the content isn’t resonating enough.

Both Emerson and Morrison agree that the Insights tab is like having a built-in Facebook marketing director, but you have to know what you’re aiming for to know if you’re succeeding.

Marketing Tactic #4: Learn (and Revise) as You Go.

When Wendy Krepak founded Card Cubby, a line of stylish card and coupon organizers, she initially focused her marketing strategy on selling to retailers. It didn’t take long, however, to realize her strategy was costly and full of roadblocks.

“Retailers are slower to take on products now and it’s expensive to attend the shows to sign them up.”

Recognizing that Facebook could help her reach customers directly, Krepak started a Facebook page and “got serious” about targeting her audience.

The new approach has not only resulted in an online sales boost, but Krepak notes that some customers have even taken the product into stores – on their own – to ask retailers to carry it. “The consumer has become my best sales rep!” she says.

Krepak was smart to shift gears when her original plan didn’t work. If you’re getting the sense that your Facebook marketing strategy needs a face lift, don’t be afraid to occasionally go straight to your fans and ask what they want. Is it discounts? Networking? Advice?

“People want to do business with people they know, like and trust,” says Morrison, “and building that kind of loyal fan base takes constant engagement.”
Visit ToDrive.com to learn what cars are leading the pack in sales in your area.

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The furniture behemoth proves small spaces can make a big impact with its new collection, designed for urban dwellings. Adorn your abode with chic, compact pieces, like a triangular cupboard that fits perfectly in tight corners ($69.99) or an expandable chandelier (right, $69.99).

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Mom-to-be and eDrop-Off founder Corri McFadden has curated a selection of nearly 100 classic handbags, pieces of jewelry, shoes and accessories — perfect for letting mom know she's on your mind. For more McFadden, visit Chicagosplash.com, where the luxury resale expert has selected her favorite spring accessories that will hold their value for years to come. Sale from April 10-20; Edropoff.com

Talk about neighborhood beautification: Local airbrush tanning company Golden Girl has assembled all of our basic beauty needs under one West Loop roof. Stop by to get a spray tan, mani/pedi or blowout when the one-stop shop opens April 16. Services start at $15, 160 N. Halsted; Glowoutsalon.com

The local restaurant is revealing its spring menu at its West Town and Roscoe Village outposts. Fresh options include the tuna and shishito peppers (left, $14), Firework heirloom popcorn ($3) and Lush's own Chicago-made wine, Chateau Nomad (starting at $18 per bottle). 1412 W. Chicago; Lushwineandsprits.com

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Through Aug. 3
- 'ISA GENZKEN: A RETROSPECTIVE'
The influential Berlin-based artist has her first large-scale retrospective in a U.S. museum, courtesy of the Museum of Contemporary Art. Though Genzken is known primarily for sculpture, this exhibit showcases four decades of her work in all mediums.
Place: Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago
Cost: Suggested general admission, $12; students and seniors, $7; military, children under 12 and MCA members, free. For more information, visit Moachicago.org.

April 18
- MAVIS STAPLES/REGINA CARTER’S SOUTHERN COMFORT
The Grammy-winning blues-soul-gospel singer, who hails from Chicago, brings her legendary vocals to the Symphony Center for a hometown concert. Regina Carter (inset) opens for Staples, kicking off the show with her upbeat, Southern-infused violin music.
Time: 8 p.m.
Place: Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan
Cost: $28-$60. For tickets, visit Cso.org/ticketsandevents.

April 18
- KID SISTER
The Illinois native and Columbia College alum has made a name for herself in the rap world, and counts Kanye West and The Neptunes as collaborators. Catch her on her home turf, with Syd tha Kid opening.
Time: 8:30 p.m.
Place: Reggie’s Rock Club, 2109 S. State

April 19
- EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA
Grab the family and celebrate the spring holiday with an Easter Bunny visit, arts and crafts, seasonal treats, carousel and train rides and an Easter egg hunt.
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Place: Lincoln Park Zoo, 2001 N. Clark
Cost: Kids 12 and over, $20 ($15 for members), kids 2-12, $40 ($35 for members), kids under 1, free. For more information, call (312) 742-2000 or visit Lpzoo.org/events.

April 21
- FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES BENEFIT DINNER
Co-chaired by Sonya Y. Jackson and John Brookler, this 23rd annual business-attire event helps fund the education nonprofit, which emphasizes history to help students make their own choices. The evening features a cocktail reception, dinner and a keynote address from former NBA player and best-selling author John Amaechi.
Time: 5:30 p.m. reception, 6:30 p.m. dinner and program
Place: Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 E. Wacker
Cost: $500. For tickets, call (312) 345-3232 or visit Facinghistory.org

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April 23

- **BRICKS & IVY BALL**
  Join Chicago Cubs players, coaches, owners and management — plus nearly 900 local celebrities and philanthropists — at the team's fourth annual gala. This year's event, dubbed the "Party of the Century," celebrates Wrigley Field's 100th anniversary and features a seated dinner, entertainment and live and silent auctions. Proceeds benefit Cubs Charities.

  Time: 6 p.m.
  Place: The Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore
  Cost: $600. For more information, visit Chicagocubs.com/bricksandivy.

April 24-28

- **INTERNATIONAL ART, ANTIQUE & JEWELRY SHOW**
  Check out fine art, estate jewelry, antique textiles, silver, furniture and artwork from more than 100 of the country’s top vendors at this inaugural event. Kick things off with the opening night preview party Thursday night, hosted by the Women’s Board of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago to benefit the medical institution.

  Time: Thursday 6 p.m., Friday-Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  Place: Festival Hall at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand
  Cost: $20. Ticket good for all days. For more information, visit ChicagoSpringshow.com.

April 25

- **JOFFREY BALLET SPRING GALA**
  Don your best black-tie garb to join co-chairs Elisabeth Adams and Dana Hokln Garvey for a ballet performance, then hop on a trolley to the Chicago Hilton for cocktails, dinner and dancing alongside the Joffrey's world-renowned company members.

  Time: 6:30 p.m. performance, 8 p.m. cocktail reception, 9 p.m. dinner, 10 p.m. dancing
  Place: Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress and Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan
  Cost: $750. For tickets, visit Joffrey.org/events.

April 26

- **AROUND THE WHIRL IN 80 YEARS**
  Hosted by the Chicago Zoological Society’s Women’s Board and Board of Trustees and chaired by Rosa Ebling, this evening celebrates the 80th anniversary of the Brookfield Zoo — and helps support its education and animal welfare programs — with cocktails, dinner, live music from Maggie Speaks and auction items such as a trip to Paris.

  Time: 6:30 p.m. reception, 8 p.m. dinner
  Place: Brookfield Zoo, 3300 Golf, Brookfield
  Cost: $600. For tickets, visit Pkchicago.com/event/zoo.

Experience the beloved Broadway musical—live on stage at Lyric—and share it with a new generation!

April 25—May 25

New weekend just added!

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**The Sound of Music**

Starring Billy Zane, from the blockbuster film Titanic and Chicago on Broadway, and Jenn Gambatese, star of Wicked and Disney’s Tarzan!

**THE SOUND OF MUSIC**

Lyric Opera production generously made possible by Exclusive Corporate Sponsor Northern Trust. Cosponsors: An Anonymous Donor, Brent and Catherine Gledhill, Robert S. and Susan E. Morrison, Mrs. Herbert A. Vance and Mr. and Mrs. William C. Vance, Mr. and Mrs. W. James Farrell, Jim and Vicki Mills/Jon and Lois Mills, and The Neundorf Trusts in Memory of Maynette V. Neundorf and John K. Neundorf.
Fashion fanatics flocked to McGrath Acura (1301 N. Elston) April 8 for a serious dose of local style at the third bi-annual Shopping for Love. The Splash-sponsored bash — hosted by Kristina McGrath — drew more than 350 guests, who snagged clothes and accessories from nearly 20 boutiques, including Azeeza, eDrop-Off, Monica+Andy and Mia Bossi, while sipping cocktails by Thatcher's Organic, Ommegang Witte beer and Ruffino wines and snacking on bites from Paramount Events. As Fig Media spun Top 40 hits, Leah Chavie performed spa treatments and PrettyQuick and Amazing Cosmetics added finishing touches with mini makeovers. Throughout the bash, supporters donated to Tickled Pink Chicago, which benefits Bright Pink, the only national nonprofit that focuses on prevention and early detection of breast and ovarian cancer — and scored a pair of M2F Brand Denim jeans in return. — Katerina Bizios

WHAT DID YOU BUY?

Photographs by Ramzi Dreessen-Splash
Diamonds might be a girl’s best friend, but turquoise could very well be her best hue. The bluish-green shade works on nearly every skin tone, and can even help balance redness (soft green light reflected by the fabric can cancel red waves leaving the skin). This spring, nobody mined the gemstone-inspired color quite like Burberry Prorsum — designer Christopher Bailey created everything from rich teal shirts to soft aqua jackets and skirts. Pair turquoise with black, gold or bronze, or try pinks and light greens in moderation for a tropical take on the style. Day or night, it’s a trend that’s, well, good as gold.
Kathy's Story

"Not a day goes by that I do not thank Dr. Weller for my beautiful smile. I am fortunate to be able to smile and talk to people with warmth and assurance. That's important because I talk to hundreds of people a day! You see, I have been a managing partner at Gibson's Steakhouse for over 20 years. I know without a doubt, that because of my smile I am confident and sincere in making people feel welcome when they walk in our front door. Dr. Weller is so professional and his techniques are impeccable. The procedure that helped me achieve my dazzling smile was paleness and, in a word, refreshing!"

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What's Your Weller Smile Story?

If you are considering any cosmetic enhancement to your smile, Dr. Jeffery 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 630-654-2900 to schedule your free smile consultation today.

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MISERICORDIA'S SPRING FASHION SHOW AND LUNCHEON

SPRING FORWARD

Spring style was in full bloom at the Palmer House Hilton (17 E. Monroe) March 27, as models marched the latest looks from designers like Akris, Givenchy, Pauw, Burberry and Stella McCartney down the runway at Misericordia Women's Auxiliary Board's 30th annual Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon. Nearly 600 guests, including co-chairs Donna DeFrank and Claudia Miquelon, took in the fresh fashions — all provided by Saks Fifth Avenue (700 N. Michigan). After a silent auction and raffle prizes, resident dance group The Misericordia Heartbreakers — accompanied by singer and Misericordia staffer David Nerychal — stole the show. The luncheon raised $240,000 to care for more than 600 children and adults living with developmental disabilities. — Katerina Bizios

Photos by Diane M. Smutny

Looking for Romance

STARRY NIGHT

Storybook love rarely makes its way into real life. But on April 13, romance novelist Sherrill Bodine brought passion off the pages at Bloomingdale's (900 N. Michigan), sharing her secrets to creating an alluring aura with 75 partypgoers. After the 19-time author doled out tips on everything from staging a romantic setting to sultry fashions, she hosted an intimate book signing for her latest tome, Written in the Stars, then sent guests home with gifts from Chloé, Dr. Stacie McClane, La Perla, Nars, Shiseido and Weller Dental. Ten percent of the event's proceeds benefited the Service Club of Chicago's roster of local charities. — Katerina Bizios

Splash was the media sponsor of this event.
We invited three of Chicago's most influential beauty gurus - Krista Bradford (from left), Carly Cristman and Claudia Sulewski, who combined boast nearly 1 million YouTube followers - to our Splash studio to talk spring style, beauty and more.

Ina's Hots (above) and the Bacon Mary, Celery Mary and Tang Mimosa (inset)

On the Spritz

Three of Chicago's top chefs collide at Boystown's Spritzburger

BY SAMANTHA LANDE

Chefs don't get together and work like this," says mixologist Steve McDonagh of Spritzburger, a new gourmet burger and soda shop that sees him joining forces with chef Dan Smith and renowned pastry chef Gale Gand. "[We're] really excited.

The trio — all top toques in their own rights and close friends for five years — had previously partnered up to work various charity events and throw lavish dinner parties. But when they realized their Boystown neighborhood was teeming with young parents looking for a casual but high-quality place to bring their kids, they decided to make the partnership official.

"We wanted to do something in response to what [the neighborhood] wanted," says McDonagh.

During Spritzburger's recently launched brunch service, each showcases their respective — and diverse — talents: Smith is in charge of creative entrees such as the Breakfast Shepherd’s Pie, filled with cream cheese, chive scrambled eggs and house breakfast sausage ($9);

Gand creates sweet and savory items culled from her cookbook, Brunch, like the fresh ricotta doughnuts made with lemon rind and tossed in powdered sugar ($3); and McDonagh concocts effervescent cocktails like the Tang Mimosa — Tang cubes dropped into sparkling wine ($8). Here's what else to expect while brunching at Spritzburger:

Chef stats: Smith and McDonagh, a real-life couple affectionately dubbed the "The Hearty Boys," rose to foodie fame after winning the first season of "Search for the Next Food Network Star" in 2005.

They went on to host their own show on the network before opening their first restaurant, HB (which later became Hearty), in the space that now houses Spritzburger. The James Beard-winning Gand was the original pastry chef and partner at Tru. She's since written numerous cookbooks and hosted her own show on The Food Network, "Sweet Dreams."

The burgers: If you pop in for dinner, try one of Smith's craft burgers, sourced from a small New Zealand co-op. The WTF (Wow, That's Fiery!) is a stand-out, made with pepper jack cheese, jalapeno jam, chipotle lime aioli and tortilla strips on focaccia ($12).

On the bubble: The "spritz" in the restaurant's moniker reveals itself in a series of fizzy cocktails and sparkling sodas double-carbonated tableside to create larger, looser bubbles. "Our palate is very used to a commercially manufactured soda — tight, sharp bubbles," says McDonagh. For an extra kick, order the Celery Mary, a brunch cocktail made with North Shore Distillery Aquavit, housemade celery soda and fresh veggie juice ($8).

Teamwork: The collaboration doesn't stop with Gand, McDonagh and Smith. The trio reached out to Breakfast Queen Ina Pinkney to feature her famous pancakes, Heavenly Hots, on their menu — and they put their own twist on the treat, adding caramelized orange marmalade, crème fraiche and salted orange caramel ($10).

Starting in May, Spritzburger will partner with a different chef each month to create a Collision Burger, donating a portion of the proceeds to charity. On board already: Rachael Ray, Stephanie Izard, James McNair and Daisy Martinez.

"It's our nod to mixing things up," says Smith.
Michael Wieden and Colleen Krga’s relationship is best described with one word: playful.

The pair hit it off immediately after being introduced by Krga’s former boss in March 2009, and after a five-year courtship, Wieden surprised Krga by donning a tuxedo and playing “Grow Old with You” from the movie “The Wedding Singer” on his guitar. “We live in 800 square feet, and I had no idea he was planning all this right under my nose,” says Krga.

The two said their “I dos” at the Thompson Chicago (21 E. Bellevue) one year after the proposal. Although they were the first couple to host their wedding at the chic new Gold Coast hotel, the day went off without a hitch. They entrusted the details to floral designers Rosalva and Zenia Ruiz of Flor del Monte and the hotel’s staff, including the
talented chefs from Nico Osteria and Assistant Director of Catering Mimi Lopez. “We were in ridiculously capable hands,” says Krga. The result was a twinkling cocktail party reception held inside the hotel’s ballroom, where soft floral arrangements of white hydrangeas, peach roses and red berries mixed with branches bearing hanging votives set a wintry scene. The couple and their 135 guests
dined at stations stocked with rustic Italian fare, including swordfish meatballs with pomodoro sauce, beef tenderloin with truffle cream and an almond vanilla wedding cake with cinnamon mousse and apple confit for dessert. The magical evening was capped off with another surprise performance from the groom: This time, he sang The White Stripes’ “Fell in Love with a Girl” alongside the Gold Coast All Stars. “Nobody knew it was coming, and it was amazing to see the look on Colleen’s face,” he says.
you're looking at Judy Greer's photo and wondering, "Where have I seen her before?", don't worry — it's a fair question. The DePaul grad is the first to admit that she's not always immediately recognizable, thanks to a steady stream of sidekick and best-friend roles (a fact that she's actually grown to accept and cherish — more on that later). But with a reel that includes mega-hits like "The Wedding Planner," "Arrested Development," "13 Going on 30" and the currently ubiquitous Sprint ads, it's likely you've seen her on screen. Put another way: Greer's IMDB page lists 91 acting credits. Meryl Streep only has 73.
Despite that staggering stat, Greer, 38, has spent much of her 16-year career in a perpetual state of semi-obscurity, playing second fiddle to everyone from Katherine Heigl to Jennifer Garner. That’s what inspired her to pen her first book, appropriately dubbed I Don’t Know What You Know Me From: Confessions of a Co-Star. The book, which came out April 8, is an autobiography in the vein of Chelsea Handler’s, taking a humorous look at everything from Greer’s childhood outside Detroit to her college years in Chicago to her Hollywood successes. The tone is filled with witty anecdotes about being an “ugly child” and tongue-in-cheek chapter titles like “I Don’t (Really) Have Enemies” and “Judy Greer Is My Name — Well Now It Is.”

For some actors, embracing the title “co-star” would be an ego-bruising ordeal, but Greer has always viewed it as a stepping stone. “I don’t think it was a struggle to accept that I’m a supporting character,” she says. “I’ve never been disappointed and I’ve never stopped trying to get bigger roles at the same time.” It helps that Greer has a thriving sense of humor — unlike a lot of comedic actors, she’s every bit as lively, energetic and quirky in real life as she is in her films. For instance, when describing her shopping habits, she says, “Basically, I’m the equivalent of a mall walker, but in Target. I rarely go to Target without grabbing a bag of popcorn at the front and walking down every single aisle munching on popcorn and listening to music on my phone.”

The actress’s boundless optimism is finally paying off. This summer, Greer will star in FX’s new sitcom “Married.” The show centers on Greer and Nat Faxon as married couple Lina and Russ Bowman, who are struggling to grow up and keep their romance alive after three kids, financial struggles and years spent in suburbia.

For Greer, who married Dean Johnsen in 2012, playing an out-of-love wife came with some challenges. “I keep getting notes from the director that I’m acting too in love with my husband on the show. They’re like, ‘Stop finding him so charming. You can’t hold his hand and stuff,’” she laughs. “I’m thinking, ‘Oh, I’ll act like I act with my husband,’ but apparently I’m too in love with my husband to be believable in this role.”

“I act with my husband,” she laughs. “I’m thinking, ‘Oh, I’ll act with my husband,’ but apparently I’m too in love with my husband to be believable in this role.”

“Married” isn’t Greer’s first leading role, but she hopes it marks a milestone in her career. “I’ve been the female lead on other television shows in the past — they just sort of get canceled immediately,” she jokes. “We’ll see, maybe this will be the turnaround for me.” If the pilot and scripts are any indication, Greer thinks the show has real staying power. “I think it’s extremely realistic and I think everyone feels that way when they go to college — but going to college there, in that city in particular was so awesome. There was so much to do and it had such a great influence on all of us, on our acting.”

Greer’s time in Chicago turned into something of a fairy tale. She was waiting tables at I Tre Merli (a now-shuttered Italian restaurant on Erie) and, like most college students, she was broke. But her life turned around when she landed her first acting gig in the 1998 flick “Kissing a Fool” alongside David Schwimmer, Jason Lee and Bonnie Hunt. “I auditioned for what I call a ‘Judy-sized’ role, just days before graduating from acting school,” she remembers. “It was so surreal: My first job was in a movie, it was a really cool role and it happened so fast.”

“I didn’t make much money, but to me, it was the equivalent of $100,000. I didn’t even know what I was going to do with all the money.”

When her first paycheck arrived, Greer panicked. She called her dad for advice. His tips were solid: “He was like, ‘Do you have any debt?’ I’m like ‘Yes.’ He said, ‘Pay off your credit card.’ I said, ‘Ugh, OK.’ He said, ‘Take what’s left and buy a little something nice for yourself.’” (Reciting the conversation, Greer gives her dad a deep voice and herself the tone of an apathetic teen.)

After her dad’s directives, Greer was left with a few hundred dollars. She remembers what she did next very clearly: “I bought a nylon Prada bag at Neiman Marcus on Michigan Avenue. I’ll never forget it. I was so excited.” As she tells the story, she grows more animated. “My whole outfit when I walked in was from a thrift store because I was so broke. I was like, ‘They’re going to kick me out of this store for trying to buy this bag. They’ll go full-on ‘Pretty Woman’!” Here, Greer pauses, then adds sweetly, “But they didn’t, because everyone in Chicago is nice.”

Since that first role, Greer’s fame has steadily risen, but she’s still enjoying the perks of relative obscurity. “I can do the things I like to do and zone out and not get bothered,” she says. “I remember JLo telling me a story when we were shooting ‘The Wedding Planner. I asked her if she had security all the time. She told me that one time, she flew to visit her mom by herself because she didn’t think she needed [security], and it was so crazy when she got to the airport in luggage claim that they had to get airport security and cops to come. Since then, she’s had to have security all the time. That would suck.”

But fear of JLo-level fame isn’t slowing Greer down. “My manager and I are always [used to] say, ‘A bird in the hand.’ We tried to take what was coming and not wait for something better because sometimes that doesn’t happen,” she says. “I think that an object in motion stays in motion is probably a better motto for me now.” Greer laughs, adding a typically charming aside: “Sometimes if I slow down too much, I fall asleep.”

WHERE YOU KNOW HER FROM

**“Jawbreaker” (1999)**

“That was surreal, because I came to LA for two weeks just to audition. I auditioned for Jawbreaker on Friday night and they were starting production on Monday morning and they hadn’t cast my character yet. I just got the scene, read it a couple times and auditioned for it and they cast me in the room. That weekend, I had to cut my hair and dye it platinum. It was really cool. It happened so fast.”

**“The Wedding Planner” (2001)**

“When [Jennifer Lopez showed up on set], she didn’t have any makeup on her skin her hair was just pulled back into a wet bun. I remember thinking that she was so beautiful. I thought, ‘What does she do to look so pretty?’ I found out it was: A) She’s just really beautiful and B) she uses this expensive face cream called Creme de la Mer. I saved up all my per diem and bought myself a jar of Creme de la Mer. I still use it, by the way.”

**“13 Going on 30” (2004)**

“I remember one day Jennifer [Garner] was touching her phone with her thumbs, and I was like, ‘What are you doing?’ She said, ‘I’m texting.’ And I was like, ‘What’s that?’ She said, ‘Here, I’ll show you.’ So JG — as we call each other — taught me how to text message.”

The girl with a thousand roles reflects on some of her best movie memories.
BLING
THE HEAT
As temperatures rise, we're forecasting these 4 hot accessory trends for the new season
BY KATERINA BIZIOS

1. Brahmin: Ophelia Lady bag, $345, Macy's, 11 N. State, Macys.com

2. Lester Lampert: Hansa Lucky Eye bracelet in rose gold, $4,600; in white gold, $4,100; 57 E Oak, Lesterlampert.com

3. Amazing Cosmetics: In the Buff blush, $22, 133 E. Cook, Libertyville, Splashshop suntimes.com

4. Tiffany: Caviar diamond bangle bracelets in 18-karat yellow gold by Jean Schlumberger for Tiffany & Co., $50,000 each, 750 N Michigan, Tiffany.com

5. Alexander McQueen: Silk chiffon scarf, $295, Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N Michigan, Saksfifthavenue.com

6. M. Haskell: Power necklace, $325, Macy's, 11 N State, Macys.com

7. Diamond ring: Imported from India, L-950, LuLu's on the Avenue, 900 N Michigan, Luluswtegetstore.com

8. Christian Louboutin: Pigalle multicolor spiked leather pumps, $1,295, Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N Michigan, Saksfifthavenue.com


CANDY GIRL
Baby blues, pale pinks and mint greens swept Versace, Givenchy and Prada's runways this season. Sweeten the look with soft-hued accessories in complementary shades, and keep the rest — from your mani to your makeup — simple. Top everything off with a rosy cheek for a punch of bright color.
GAME ON

Whether you're suiting up to hit the town or relaxing poolside, win big at the fashion game by gearing up with sports-inspired accessories. Mimic the models from Carolina Herrera's runways with bright whites, or go bold with pops of color, as seen in Céline's spring lineup. Top off your sporty statement with the best accessory of all: radiant skin.
THE WARRIOR’S WAY

In the 2008 flick “Sex and the City: The Movie,” Carrie Bradshaw walked the streets of New York City wearing Christian Dior’s Extreme stiletto, igniting a gladiator heel craze. Six years later, the trend has resurfaced in shoes, jewelry, bags and more. From bronze hues to studded details, show serious strength with these gladiator-inspired pieces.

1. Brian Atwood: Serbina high heels, $450, Bloomingdale’s, 900 N. Michigan: Bloomingdales.com
2. Lela Rose: Crowning Glory $112, $75, Bloomingdale’s, Bloomingdales.com
3. Valentino: Rockstud clutch, $1,295, Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan: Saksfifthavenue.com
5. Vintage: Gold coin earrings, $236, Lulu’s on the Avenue, 900 N. Michigan: Lulusvintage.com
6. Omega: DeVille Ladymatic watch, price upon request, 900 N. Michigan: Omega.com
8. Valentino: Rockstud, $1295, Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan: Saksfifthavenue.com
9. Tarte: Mauchas Rainforest Glow instant matte waterproof body perfector, $36, Ulta Beauty locations citywide. ulta.com
BEACH BABE

As the summer sun approaches, make waves with eye-catching beach accessories. Be sure to pack your sun essentials — think a wide-brim hat and statement shades — but let your sparkly statement rings, necklaces and earrings take center stage, and you'll glow more brightly than ever at your next pool party.
A woman’s work

‘Home Truths’ exhibit explores the realities of motherhood

By Thomas Connors

Mom.” Such a simple word. Yet, since the advent of contemporary feminism, these three letters have signified much more than “parent.” And while shifting consciousness and advances in childcare have perhaps bridged the ideological gap between women who choose to have children and those who don’t, motherhood as a subject in art might seem hopelessly old-school. But as curator Susan Bright demonstrates with ‘Home Truths: Photography and Motherhood,” it’s a theme that continues to exercise the creative imagination.

Images of motherhood didn’t disappear with the publication of The Feminine Mystique, but they certainly veered from the conventionally celebratory.

As Bright notes, beginning in the 1970s, artists such as Mary Kelly and Lucy Lippard “dismantled patriarchal representations of motherhood and shifted it to their own experience in a critical way, rather than one which was embedded in a limited way of representing motherhood.”

While the work in ‘Home Truths” may not be in the tradition of such easy-to-like photographs as Gertrude Kasebier’s tender, soft-focus pictures, neither is it all insular and inescapable. “The work is subtle, often melancholy and the politics and feminism is implicit,” Bright says. “But this is not a strident show. It was not my intention to be didactic. I wanted the complexities and contradictions of mothering to be apparent. Messiness and ambivalence are at the heart of this show, which I believe to be the reality of mothering.”

That reality, Bright notes, encompasses more than late nights and temper tantrums. Elina Brotherus’ ‘Annunciation’ series, for example, chronicles years of failed IVF treatments. In one image, she is seen through an archway, slump-shouldered at a table, the light and evident stillness of the room echoing the attributes of historic renditions of the Virgin Mary. A work by Ana Casas Broda — she lying nude and seemingly asleep on a sofa, her video game-playing little boy in a chair — appears to question the bond of mother and child and its expected satisfactions.

Motherhood may be central to many a woman’s sense of self — and how she is perceived by others — but as “Home Truths” reminds us, the reality of that experience and its representation continue to evolve. According to Bright, the assembled work addresses “larger ideological conundrums of power, gender, place, domesticity and the body. What threads them together are powerful feelings and a resistance to societal expectations that characterize experienced mothering.”
School days
Join Luxury Garage Sale owners Brielle Buchberg and Lindsay Segal for cupcakes and Champagne at their Old Town consignment boutique April 17. The duo will join industry experts — TV personality Marcellas Reynolds, celebrity stylist Luke Storey, fashion blogger Lauren Messiah, Glossedandfound.com’s Graham Kostic and photographer Helen Berkun — to judge looks by three up-and-coming stylists. The winner will take home more than $1,000 in prizes and a scholarship to the School of Style in L.A. 6-8 p.m., 1658 N. Wells; Luxurygaragesale.com

Local style
Chicago-based designer Azeeza Khan opens her 900 N. Michigan store April 17-19 for fashion fans to shop her spring/summer 2014 collection. Kick off the three-day affair with Thursday’s fashion showcase, shop for a cause Friday — proceeds benefit the Chicago Children’s Choir and Saturday, enjoy personal styling from fashion bloggers Eva Dalbert of Missrenaissance.com, Jena Gambaccini of Chictyfashion.com and Liz Schneider of Sequinsandstripes.com. Complimentary parking in the 900 Shops garage with any purchase; Azeeza.us

Suit up
Indochino simplifies suit fitting by offering custom designs online, but this week, the menswear company brings its services to Block 37 (108 N. State). Meet with the brand’s traveling tailor now through April 27 for a 30-minute appointment that includes measurements and fabric selection for your one-of-a-kind suit. Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Indochino.com

> Indochino Essential blue suit, $449
> Azeeza CHI STATEment tee, $240
FIVE MINUTES WITH...

NIGEL BARKER

The photographer and host of 'The Face' comes to Chicago for Art Van’s supermodel search  
BY ELLE EICHINGER

This week, fashion photographer and reality TV star Nigel Barker heads to Chicago to help a panel of judges pick the winner in local furniture company Art Van’s first-ever Supermodel Super Search (the winner will be photographed by Barker for an upcoming ad campaign). Splash readers are invited to attend - our own publisher and editor Susanna Negovan will help judge while CelebTV’s Kelli Zink emcees - by RSVPing at Artvanwoodridge.eventbrite.com.

On the side

'I love taking on side projects, Art Van

Catch “The Face” on Oxygen Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

so I created, directed and shot their entire catalog. I wanted to inject life into furniture.”

Road to success

"Growing up, I wasn’t too interested in the fashion world, I was actually destined to become a doctor. My mom entered me into a televised modeling contest and I was in the top three. I was offered a contract, so I decided to take a year off before medical school to see the world. I discovered a world I loved. I went from a conservative background to being with all the freaks and the weirdos and the wonderful fashion people.”

Fashion for the masses

"[Doing ‘America’s Next Top Model’] was a risk. Not so much now, but then the fashion industry frowned upon reality TV and the commercialization of fashion - it’s an elitist world and they felt like shows like that exposed them, ridiculed them. But I also thought, ‘This is an unusual approach and the world is changing rapidly: I didn’t know it would become a cult phenomenon.”

Reality co-stars

"The best people on reality TV are very much the same people on and off TV. Miss Jay [from ‘America’s Next Top Model’] is Miss Jay and there’s no changing him. He is flamboyant but very loving and straightforward. Tyra [Banks] is extremely business-oriented. I’ve never met anyone who works as tirelessly as she does. She’s a very jovial character, young at heart and strikingly beautiful.”

Model features

"‘America’s Next Top Model’ was all about the diamond in the rough, finding real women and uncovering potential. The Face is all models handpicked by supermodels and taught to take it to the next level. Personality is what is unique to [each model]. The individuality is what inspires you. It’s not the perfect skin or great hair or aquiline nose, but the way you move, the way you talk - the same things we find fascinating in the people we fall in love with.”

Head to the Art of Spring Party at Art Van (900 E. Boughton, Woodridge) April 17 from 6-9 p.m.

At first blush

f you’ve ever been caught with broccoli in your teeth, or coming out of the ocean sans bathing suit top (who hasn’t?), you’ve probably wondered how to redeem your pride. It isn’t easy after an embarrassing social situation, but I’m here to tell you, it’s possible

What really matters is how you handle the situation — and the better you deal with it, the better others around you will react. Here are a few things I think help the most when it comes to those horrifying moments in life:

- Keep in mind the fact that you’re not alone. While you’re facedown at the bottom of the stairwell, with only one shoe intact, just remember: You’re not the only person this has ever happened to. Own up to it, realize how embarrassing it is, but then move on. Next week it could happen to someone else and no one will even remember when it happened to you.

- Don’t beat yourself up. If you overthink a situation, you’ll never let yourself forget it. Instead, talk to your friends or family about how you feel. Tell them your story and maybe they’ll be able to relay one of their own embarrassing moments to get your mind off of yours.

- Most importantly, be able to laugh at yourself. People say that laughter is the best medicine — and it’s true. Being able to laugh at yourself will not only make you more comfortable, it’ll also make it easier for people to laugh with you and not at you.

What were some of your most embarrassing moments, and how did you handle the situation?
A new report shows the luxury market is not only on the mend — it's soaring to new heights

BY MADELINE NUSSER

If you've noticed home-for-sale signs suddenly touting hefty price tags, you're not dreaming. According to Coldwell Banker's comprehensive 2014 Luxury Real Estate Report, Chicago home sales over $750,000 skyrocketed 30 percent between 2012 and 2013.

But — as we all know — in the city of neighborhoods, not all zip codes faced the same recovery. Who fared well? We have the highlights, including which properties to watch as the 2014 real estate season heats up.

NEAR NORTH:
Most luxury purchases
Luxe sales in 2012: 389
Luxe sales in 2013: 492

Chicago's most glamorous hotspots — the Gold Coast, Near North and Streeterville — made a strong showing, with a 26 percent increase in luxe home sales in 2013. While the average home price dipped a smidge from $1.5 million to $1.4 million, the eternally hot 'hood saw some substantial listings fly, including homes for more than $7 million. So what's on tap for 2014? For starters, 1518 N. Astor (left), priced at $9.995 million (call Baird and Warner broker Thomas Gorman at 312-543-8614). The gorgeous 1916 Georgian mansion, once inhabited by legendary architect Bertrand Goldberg, sits on a roomy light-filled lot with a sizable terrace and garden. "You can't get over how gracious it is," says Gorman about the 110-foot-deep home. "lt has a wonderful feel to it, with beautifully proportioned rooms."

BUCKTOWN:
Passing the million-dollar average
Luxe sales in 2012: 39
Luxe sales in 2013: 58

The Northwest Side neighborhood, plus adjoining Logan Square, witnessed a 49 percent jump in luxury housing sales in 2013. Sliding past the million-dollar mark, the average luxe sale went from $958,000 in 2012 to $1,031,000 last year. Leading the pack were sizable vintage houses as well as top-notch new constructions, similar to Greymark Development's just-built 1847 W. Dickens (right), with an open-plan first floor, a rooftop deck and a two-car garage — all ringing in under a mill at $849,000 (call Coldwell Banker broker John O'Neill at 312-867-8330).

ROSCOE VILLAGE:
Greatest increase in luxury sales
Luxe sales in 2012: 109
Luxe sales in 2013: 172

The area encompassing Roscoe Village leads the luxury explosion with a 58 percent spike in sales. That increase, and the leap in median price (from $985,000 in 2012 to $1.05 million in 2013), point to the same trend: Families will pay good money to reside in this detached home-filled neighborhood and attend its stellar schools. This season, expect 2127 W. Montrose to pique one lucky clan's interest: The lovingly renovated, $1,224,900 five-bedroom Queen Anne (above) sits in Coonley Elementary School's district and lays claim to a generous backyard (call Baird and Warner broker Bill Richardson at 773-697-5602).

SOFA SO GOOD

It's easy to imagine a life of luxury atop this updated Hollywood Regency sofa. The modern and traditional mash-up has been reupholstered in Chiang Mai silk for an extra touch of indulgence. $9,995 at Jayson Home & Garden, 1858 N. Clybourn; Jaysonhome.com
Once Rocsi Diaz revs up, there's no slowing her down. In just over a decade, the intrepid New Orleans native has gone from radio host to weekend co-host and daily correspondent for "Entertainment Tonight," interviewing everyone from pop starlets to Michelle Obama. But the 30-year-old Diaz claims she truly cut her teeth in Chicago where, from 2003 to 2006, she worked as the midday radio DJ of Power 92, covering daily news reports, girl-talk topics and new music. "My listeners in Chicago really got to know me there — it was the best [for] honing my skills," she says. "I credit a lot to Chicago."

Though her roots are in radio, Diaz always dreamed of stepping in front of the camera. So in 2006, she left the Midwest after landing a gig as co-host of BET's music video show "106 & Park" in New York. Six years and dozens of interviews later, she's a seasoned TV pro, having held her own on camera with Beyoncé, Mariah Carey and Usher (to name a few). Now in her second year at "E.T," Diaz says she's still using the skills she fine-tuned during her Power 92 days. "E.T." is great. It's the mothership of entertainment shows. Everything is constantly changing [with all the madness that happens in Hollywood," she says. "But it's not really hard to work at a fast pace] because I'm used to it from my radio days. Everything kept moving and you had to keep up. "Her next assignment? Reporting live from the red carpet at the MTV Movie Awards on April 13. "It's my second time covering it," she says. "I'm really excited."

And while Hollywood fashion is certainly a focus for Diaz, she's also adamant about using her high-profile job to help others. In 2009, Diaz publicly admitted to struggling with anorexia during middle and high school, and during a recent "E.T." segment, she shared her story with a young girl battling the disorder — the girl has since made significant progress in her treatment. Diaz's philanthropic efforts don't end there: In Chicago, she started the RocStar Foundation, a charity dedicated to rebuilding schools after disasters. "I chose to work with schools because if you rebuild a school, you rebuild a community," she explains. On April 5, Diaz's philanthropic achievements were rewarded: J.P. Morgan Chase presented her with the Daily Point of Light Award on behalf of former President George H.W. Bush.

Her latest partnership sees her breaking new ground in a different way: In January, she became the first Latina face of a major water brand, teaming up with Aquasai (water from the Panamanian rainforest). "It's an amazing synergy. They noticed my charity work and my philanthropic views and they're the same way, giving back to the city of Panama," she says.

For all the lives that she's touched and all the celebs she's interviewed, Diaz still has moments that stun her. She recalls a career-defining memory from earlier this year at the Essence Black Women in Hollywood Luncheon: "It was me, Oprah, Sydney Poitier and Gayle King," she says. "My favorite picture I have is the four of us together. You watch these people your whole life and then to be standing with them... you have no idea."
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— Tom Kehoe
Founder, Kehoe Designs
Watch how Tom brings food and flair to parties at marianos.com

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Skokie Theatre's new managers, Wendy Kaplan and Wayne Mell, want folks to come to the cabaret this spring.

They're producing Thursday cabaret series at the theater, featuring three separate acts. The first in the series on April 24 features Hilary Ann Feldman in "My Fair Audrey," a tribute to Audrey Hepburn. On May 15, Scott Gryder and his pianist Nick Sula will present "Life is a Cabaret: The Music and Words of Kander and Ebb." Deborah Darr will be on stage May 22 to present "Broadway and Me: Auditioning for Life."

The cabaret series idea came from members of the Chicago Cabaret Professionals, who often perform at The Davenport Piano Bar and Cabaret in Chicago. They wanted another venue in the suburbs to perform, and the Skokie Theatre made sense, said Kaplan. "Skokie, in fact, used to have cabaret on Thursdays," she said.

Acclaimed Chicago-area entertainer Scott Gryder said the Skokie Theatre lends itself well to cabaret-type performances. "It's hard to find a space like the Skokie Theatre that's between a bar and the larger theaters. That's key for cabaret," Gryder said. "We can still be intimate with the audience." The theater holds about 140, and audience members can purchase drinks and bring them into the venue while watching the performance.

The French word "cabaret" once referred to any place that served alcoholic beverages. By the early 1900s, it referred to a performance style in nightclubs featuring an emcee with entertainers in an intimate setting. Cabarets also became a venue for entertainers to present satirical or political commentary, as Gryder has done with his satirical redux of the "Les Miserables" tune, "I Dreamed a Dream."

With its long storied past, cabaret at the Skokie Theatre makes perfect sense to Gryder. "The Skokie Theatre is historic," he said. "There's a special character to it — it harkens back to the Vaudeville days."

The theater was built in 1912 and renovated for $1.2 million in 2006. It's now being leased and managed by Kaplan and Mell. Gryder and Sula's May show is a 50th Anniversary musical tribute to the legendary songwriting team, John Kander and Fred Ebb, who created "Chicago," "Cabaret," and many more Broadway hits.

Gryder said he'll be doing "all their kooky character songs, all the songs that made them famous. I'm really drawn to their material, all their fabulous story songs."

One of Gryder's favorites is "Mr. Cellophane," sung by a man who feels isolated and unnoticed. It's one of the hit songs in the show, "Chicago."

The song "is just so heartbreaking," said Gryder. "All of us sometimes feel invisible, you want to shout and shout and people still don't know you're there."

The first in the series, "My Fair Audrey," is based on the life of Audrey Hepburn.

Gryder thinks cabaret Thursdays will be welcomed in the Skokie area. "I was happy to hear they're bringing cabaret back to Skokie," he said.
Film fest animates the Pickwick Theatre

BY BRUCE THORAM
For Sun-Times Media

One of the less than ideal aspects of being an animated filmmaker working on short independent films is that the final product is typically viewed on computer monitors — if not smartphones.

That won't be an issue, though, at the debut of the Animation Torrent film festival, where all the entries will be seen April 17 on the super-big, 1920s-vintage screen of the Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge.

"I think if someone has spent a good chunk of their life and their energy on a project, it deserves to be seen in full 1080p on a big screen with great sound in a beautiful theater," said Festival Director Taylor Armstrong. "And that's also the best way to do justice to the medium."

Animation Torrent will feature 45 short films from around the world organized into two 90-minute programs — a lighter, kid-friendly block at 7 p.m. and a more adult-oriented block of offbeat, alternative fare at 9:15 p.m. In addition to the judges' awards for Best In Show and Best Student Short, attendees will choose an Audience Award winner.

Armstrong, who grew up drawing and experimenting with animation, began his career as a graphic designer before finally deciding to devote himself full time to the medium he loved. Beginning with a stint working for feature-film animator Bill Plympton ("The Tune," "Idiots and Angels") — who also served on the festival jury. He knows firsthand how challenging the work can be ("Ten minutes of live-action can be shot over a weekend, but 10 minutes of animation could take a year"), but also its powerful appeal for artists.

"One person with a stack of paper or some software can do literally anything," he said. "You can do a bouncing ball or a guy walking down a sidewalk or a superhero thing. Anything you can imagine, you can create — limited only by your draftsmanship."
High School Cube News, Sun-Times Media’s new high school sports website, launched this week. It’s the latest evolution in Chicago area prep sports coverage. High School Cube News will integrate all the highlights and live games from HighSchoolCube.com with the comprehensive coverage formerly provided by Season Pass.

Go to highschoolcube.com or click "SPORTS" on your local newspaper site.

The Harlem Nights Players present “Raising the Roof,” April 25 and 26 at St. William’s Parish, Chicago.

Shows’ laughs will raise church’s roof

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
For Sun-Times Media

Jeff Kwit knows how to keep a roof over the heads of parishioners and students at St. William Parish — plan a huge benefit to raise funds for needed repairs on the roofs of the church’s four buildings.

Kwit has gathered musical acts and local celebrities, and created a comedy revue for “Raising the Roof,” Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26 at the Parish’s Liebrich Hall.

“I’ve been doing shows at St. William’s since the ‘80s, but ‘Raising the Roof’ has been around for eight years,” Kwit said. In addition to being chairperson of the event, Kwit is the producer and also writes material for his company, the Harlem Nights Players, which is presenting its 32nd Comedy Revue, “Mont Clare Magic.”

“It’s about living in this area,” Kwit said, of the church’s neighborhood, which is nestled at Chicago’s border. “It’s potholes, politics, pawn shops, yard sales, block parties, traffic circles. I hope that everybody can relate to it, not just people who live in this area.”

Thirteen actors are featured in the show, including Donna Thomas of River Forest and Michael Brugioni of Elmwood Park.

This is Thomas’ fifth annual show with Harlem Nights Players. Thomas joined the company because, “I wanted something to fill out my week that wasn’t work or school — and that was fun.” She is an imaging clerk at a pension company and is taking classes in technical writing and graphic design.

Thomas has a short solo and dances in a number called, “How Much Will I Pay?” about the high price of living in Chicago. She also plays a Southern belle in a block party skit, a drunk sitting in the audience, a dog, a pawn shop clerk and someone running a yard sale with her sister, Laneda Thomas.

“We’re kind of a package deal,” Thomas joked, noting that Kwit tends to pair them in scenes. “Apparently we have some kind of chemistry. I don’t see it.”

Although this is Michael Brugioni’s first appearance in a Harlem Nights Players show, he has a long history with the group. “My mom and my dad were involved for years,” he related. “Indirectly, I was involved as a child. I used to come to the rehearsals. My mom’s the legend and I’m the legacy!”

Brugioni plays weatherman Tom Skilling, an old man, a gangster, an announcer and an alderman. He also sings in “How Much Will I Pay?”

Brugioni is currently working on a bachelor’s degree at the Illinois Institute of Art.

Local celebrities WGN-TV reporter Maggie Carlo (Friday), radio-TV personality Lisa Dominique (Saturday), and Matt Spiegel from Score Sports Radio (Saturday), will mingle with attendees, be interviewed by Kwit and most likely take part in the Harlem Nights Players’ show.

Musical entertainment includes singer Vince Amore on Friday and guitarist Chris Minardi on Saturday. TEI Entertainment will offer karaoke from 11 p.m.-midnight on Saturday.

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

Music by Charles Strouse | Lyrics by Martin Chamin | Book by Thomas Meehan

Based on Little Orphan Annie by permission of The Media Tribune Services, Inc.

The Harlem Nights Players present “Raising the Roof,” April 25 and 26 at St. William’s Parish, Chicago.

SHOWS’ LAUGHS WILL RAISE CHURCH’S ROOF
A lovable red-headed orphan will leave her "Hard Knock Life" behind when Devonshire Young Performers presents "Annie Jr." "What little girl doesn't dream of being Annie?" said director Jessica Sawyer. "It's an iconic young female musical theater role." The lucky actor who was cast in the part is Ella Rousseau of Skokie. She is joined by 32 other performers, ages 8-14.

Sawyer thinks families will enjoy this show because, "There's a lot of really fun characters. You have crazy Miss Hannigan, serious Daddy Warbucks and everyone loves Annie. The music is really upbeat and catchy. It's a really good time."

Sawyer is enjoying fulfilling a long time dream with this production of the Charles Strouse (music) Martin Charnin (lyrics) and Thomas Meehan (book) musical -- choreographing "It's a Hard Knock Life." Performances are 5:30 p.m. Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, April 25-27 at Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie. Tickets are $7-$10.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2400 or go to www.skokieparks.org/devonshire-cultural-center.

HOP-2-3-4
You'd better hurry if you want your kids to meet the Easter Bunny at the Lincolnwood Town Center, 3333 W. Touhy Ave., Lincolnwood. His hare-ness will only be visiting kids there and posing for photographs through Saturday, April 19. You can catch him from noon-6 p.m. Thursday, and 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

For details, call (847) 674-1219 or go to www.facebook.com/lincolnwoodtowncenter.

TROUBLE IN THE HOOD
The kids in Skokie Theatre's Young Artist Program are following up on the successful run of "The Trial of Goldilocks" with "The Revenge of Red Riding Hood," also written and directed by Maurice D. Profitt. Performances are 3:30 p.m. Saturdays, April 19 and 26, and Sunday, April 27, and 5 p.m. Saturday, May 3 at Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave. Tickets are $12.

For details, call (847) 677-7761 or go to www.skokietheatre.org.

CATERPILLAR CAPERS
Kids can help color a huge caterpillar, make their own painted tissue paper caterpillar and do other "Very Hungry Caterpillar" projects, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friday, April 18 at Kohl Children's Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview.

For details, call (847) 832-6600 or go to www.kohlchildrensmuseum.org.

TWICE THE FUN
School stress and bedtime woes aren't limited to kids. They also affect the hero of Emerald City Theatre's "Llama Llama" coming to Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., 3-4 p.m. Saturday, April 19. Pick up free tickets starting at 2:30 p.m. that day.

For details, call (847) 673-7774 or go to www.skokielibraryinfo.
Earth Day 2014: Reuse, Recycle, Reinvent

Mommy on a Shoestring by Beth Engelman

Get out your glue guns; it’s time to turn everyday trash into modern-day treasures.

Mr. Magnetic Head
This hardworking craft does double duty. It’s a fun activity for the kids, and it gives you a reason to clean out your junk drawer.

You need:
- Recycled can
- Electrical tape
- Magnetic disks (available at hardware stores). Note: Magnetic disks are dangerous if swallowed, so this activity is not recommended for children under 4.
- Junk drawer items (look for things that can be used as facial features such as nuts, bolts, buttons, rocks, etc.)
- Glue gun (strong adhesive such as Tacky Glue would work equally well)

Directions:
Prepare can by removing all labels, washing and drying it. If the top of the can has sharp edges, cover the edges with electrical tape to make the can child-safe.

Use a glue gun or strong adhesive to affix magnetic disks to the back of your junk drawer items/facial features. Allow time to dry.

To play: Much like the classic toy "Mr. Potato Head," this activity lets your children get creative by adding magnetic eyes, noses, mouths, etc. to the recycled "can-head." Best of all, when your kids are done playing, they can store all the pieces inside the can making this toy a true treasure.

Thank you to Spoonful.com for inspiring this idea.

Mr. Magnetic Head owes his good looks to odds and ends from a junk drawer. PHOTO BY BETH ENGELMAN

Get creative with bits of hardware to make a distinctive Mr. Magnetic Head. PHOTO BY BETH ENGELMAN

Freecycle.org
The phrase one man’s trash is another man’s treasure has been put to good use with Freecycle.org. This free website connects people who want to give away unwanted items with those people who want them (for free). It’s a great way to get rid of things you don’t want while also being an excellent resource for upcyclers who are always on the lookout for random items such as bottle caps, picture frames and wine bottle corks.

With a bit of color and imagination, rocks become pieces for outdoor tic tac toe. PHOTO BY BETH ENGELMAN

Go on a rock hunt until you find between 8-10 rocks. Wash and dry the rocks. Paint half the rocks red and half the rocks yellow. Set aside to dry.

Add ladybug dots on the red rocks and bumblebee stripes on the yellow rocks. Set aside to dry.

Seal paint with weatherproof sealer and once again set aside to dry.

Go outside and make a Tic-Tac-Toe board with sidewalk chalk and you’re all set for a season full of play. Because the rocks have been weatherproofed, you can keep them outside or simply store them in your garage. This game also makes a great (and inexpensive) gift for neighbors, friends and grandparents.

Thank you to chickenscratchny.com for inspiring this idea.

Picture Frame Message Center
This project adds new life to old picture frames and wine corks. Who knew drinking wine could be so crafty?

You need:
- Old picture frame
- Corks (such as those found in wine bottles)
- Chalkboard contact paper (self-adhesive)
- Glue gun

Directions:
Prepare frame by separating the frame from the glass and back cover. Set aside the glass, as you will not need it.

Lay the back cover of the picture frame on a flat surface and remove any dust or grime. Slowly cover it with chalkboard contact paper, being sure to keep the paper smooth and straight.

Use a glue gun to affix cork pieces to the bottom third of the back cover. Cork can be glued vertically or horizontally but keep in mind repeating patterns always look best. Be sure to leave a small border around the back cover so the front of the frame can lay flush once the frame is put back together. Add pushpins and chalk and your message board is complete.

An old frame plus wine corks becomes a new message board. PHOTO BY BETH ENGELMAN
Easter Bunny Pot Luck Lunch
11:15 a.m.: Bring a treat or dish to share at this Easter event. Donations are also accepted. Registration ends April 10. For ages 18 and older. The event fee is $5 for attendees who bring a dish and $7.50 for attendees without a dish. Norridge Park District, 4631 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge. Call 708-457-1244.

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.

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

Library Night Out: Pizza Party
6 p.m.: Celebrate National Library Week with a pizza party sponsored by Home Run Inn. Niles Public Library District, 5980 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

Spring Bing Fling
6:30 p.m.: Girls can make their own sequined skirt, decorate a canvas with stamps, design a crystal-studded bracelet and more. For ages 4 to 10. Norridge Park District, 4631 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge. Call 708-457-1244.

Classic Film Series: ‘Black Moon’
7 p.m.: Watch the rediscovered 1934 horror movie about a woman who decides to return to the island where she was cursed by voodoo as a young girl. Stars Jack Holt, Fay Wray and Dorothy Burgess. 68 minutes. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

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

Easter Egg Hunt
10 a.m.: Kids can participate in the egg hunt and meet the Easter bunny. Registration required. Children ages 3 and 4 begin at 10 a.m. and children ages 5 and 6 begin at 10:30 a.m. at Deer Park, 9200 Emerson St., Des Plaines. Call 847-297-3000. $1.

Earth Day Celebration
10:30 a.m.: Celebrate Earth Day with a craft project and an environmental project for all ages. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

Club Wonder: Art with M-Hasr
10:30 a.m.: Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation presents a multi-sensory art class for children with special needs. Registration required. Skokie Public Library, 5216 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-324-3149.

Egg Hunt
11 a.m.: Search for Easter eggs in Oakton Park. Oakton Community Center, 1507 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-766-1000, ext. 2700.

Easter Egg Hunt
11 a.m.: Search the field for hidden Easter eggs. For kids ages 1 to 10. Participants should bring their own baskets. John F. Kennedy Elementary School, 3945 N. Wehrman Ave., Schailler Park.

Personal Seed Mandala
Noon: Create the spiritual symbol of the mandala using seeds and other natural materials. Mother’s, 714 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. Suggested donation.

Spring Skate ‘Bunny Hop’
Noon: The event features festive skating games for all ages. $5 admission, $3 skate rental. IceLand, 8435 Ballard Road, Niles.

Non-Fiction Discussion: ‘Spellbound’
2 p.m.: The group meets to discuss the 2002 documentary about a spelling bee. Eisenhow Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights.

Luna Llama
3 p.m.: Emerald City Theatre Troupe presents a silly play based on the children’s books by Anna Dewdney. Tickets required. Skokie Public Library, 5216 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-324-3149.

Jeff Lorber, Everett Harp and Chuck Loeb
4 p.m.: The musicians perform jazz, funk and soul. Additional performance at 8:30 p.m. InterContinental O’Hare Hotel and Gallery, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. $49-$69.

Springtime in Paris Dinner Dance
5 p.m.: The seventh annual gala dinner and dance of the Chicagoland chapter of USA Dance, featuring the 2013 amateur USA 9-dance champions Damian Patalana and Iriana Morozova. Cocktails and dancing start at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. Semi-formal attire requested. Crowne Plaza Chicago O’Hare, 5440 N. River Road, Rosemont. $65 members, $75 nonmembers.

This Must Be The Band
8:30 p.m.: Performances by This Must Be The Band and QRSB. Must be 21 or older to attend. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St., Chicago. Call 773-478-4408, $15.

LORE CITY
9 p.m.: Performance by the art rock duo of Laura Mariposa and Eric Bessel. Must be 21 or older to attend. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St., Chicago. Call 773-478-4408, $15.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

Spring Festival
10:30 a.m.: Led by Tom Hoepner and Sharon Appelquist, the event celebrates Earth Day and the seasonal renewal of life. Sunday School children will display their musical talents and present a short play, and give colorful spring flowers in hand-painted pots for planting in home gardens. Ethical Humanist Society, 3754 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call 847-677-3334.

MONDAY, APRIL 21

Harmonious Horizons
10:20 a.m.: A family music class that includes singing, dancing and playing instruments. For children ages 5 and younger with a caregiver. A second class is available at 11 a.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

SEE GO CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE »
Movie: 'American Hustle'
8:30 p.m.: A screening of the 2013 drama about a con man who has to work with an FBI agent and gets mixed up in business with the mafia. 138 minutes. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

Documentary: ‘Chasing Ice’
7 p.m.: National Geographic photographer James Balog captures a multiyear record of the world’s changing glaciers using time-lapse cameras. 75 minutes. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Family Story Time
7 p.m.: Stories, songs and activities for families with children ages 2 to 6. At- tendees are welcome to wear pajamas. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 847-929-5101. Morton Grove.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

Class Act in Broadcasting
1 p.m.: Broadcaster Roy Leonard shares stories from his more than 30 years at WGN, where he hosted “Family Classics,” served as film and theater critic on the nightly news and interviewed celebrities. Mather’s, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 847-291-2960.

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.

Michael Palascak
8 p.m.: The comedian, who has appeared on Comedy Central and “The Late Show with David Letterman,” performs stand-up. $22 and a minimum of two food or drink purchases. Additional performances on Friday at 10:30 p.m. and Saturday at 9:30 p.m. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Earth Day Celebration
8:30 a.m.: Celebrate Earth Day with the Village of Northbrook with exhibits with Earth-friendly products and ideas, recycling, children’s activities, food and entertainment. Village Green Park, 5201 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-291-2960.

Earth Day Environmental Fair
10 a.m.: Discover resources and information on how to reduce the footprint you leave on the planet and save money at the same time. Activities include “Recycling Made Easy” (runs 10 a.m.-2 p.m.), “Accessorize Yourself with Duct Tape” (noon-2:30 p.m.), a screening of “Gasland” (noon), a screening of “Promised Land” (2:30 p.m.) and a Friends of the Library Book Sale (2-4 p.m.). Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 708-867-7828.

MGPL Craft: Blackout Poetry Canvas
10 a.m.: In celebration of National Poetry Month, try your hand at blackout poetry. Cover up the words that don’t inspire to let a poem emerge. Materials will be provided. For more information or to register, go to calendar.mgpl.org or call 847-929-5101. Morton Grove Public Library, 6440 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

Kickstart to Wellness
1 p.m.: An interactive health fair, featuring healthy living demonstrations. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie.

Family Fun: Untuned, Unplugged Game Day
2 p.m.: Play some good, old-fashioned board games. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-324-3149.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Spring Books & Baskets Benefit Brunch

Arbor Day Celebration
Noon: Celebrate environmentalism by planting trees, making art, going on scavenger hunts and more. LaBagh Woods, 5400 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

Mathers’ Art Class with Joan Fortmnr: Art Exhibit Opening Reception
5 p.m.: This is a BYOB event. Mather’s, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804.

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Viva Elvis: A Tribute to the King
2 p.m.: Elvis impersonator Michael St. Angel recreates Elvis’ hip-shaking moves, energized song interpretations and uninhibited style in this high-energy show. An Elvis-themed lunch begins at 2 p.m. followed by the performance at 3 p.m. Mather’s, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $8-$10.

**FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**

**GO CALENDAR**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2014**
**FILM CLIPS**

**OPENING FRIDAY**

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**ALAN PARTRIDGE**

Rated R for language, brief violence and nudity

Stars: Steve Coogan, Colin Meaney, Tim Key

When a fired colleague (Meaney) holds everyone in their radio station hostage, a deejay (Coogan) exploits the situation for publicity. Declan Lowney (TV's "Little Britain") directed the comedy.

---

**BEARS**

Rated G
Stars: John C. Reilly, Marlon Wayans, Jaime Pressly, Cedric the Entertainer

Ayeur in the life of an Alaskan bear family is chronicled. Alastair Fothergill and Keith Scholey ("African Cats") directed the Disney documentary.

---

**A HAUNTED HOUSE 2**

Rated R for crude and sexual content, nudity, pervasive language, drug use and some violent images

Stars: Marion Wayans, Jaime Pressly, Cedric the Entertainer

After moving into a new dream house with a new girlfriend and her kids, a ghost-plagued guy (Wayans) endures more spectral shenanigans. Michael Tiddes returns as director of the comedy-horror sequel.

---

**ONLY LOVERS LEFT ALIVE**

Rated R for language and brief nudity
Stars: Tilda Swinton, Tom Hiddleston, Mia Wasikowska

The centuries-long romance of a vampire couple (Swinton and Hiddleston) is disrupted by the arrival of her uncontrollable younger sister (Wasikowska). Jim Jarmusch ("Broken Flowers") wrote and directed the vampire drama.

---

**THE RAILWAY MAN**

★★ 1/2
Rated R for disturbing prisoner of war violence
Stars: Colin Firth, Nicole Kidman, Stellan Skarsgard, Hiroyuki Sanada

Though it's handsomely made and very nicely acted, this frequently moving drama about a man tormented by his past doesn't quite live up to its potential in terms of ultimate emotional impact. Still, it's a story well worth knowing. Firth is fine as English WWII vet Eric Lomax (the film is based on his memoir) who has been haunted for decades by memories of being tortured in a Japanese prison camp, until he finally has the chance to confront his interrogator (Sanada).

---

**TRANSCENDENCE**

Rated PG-13 for sci-fi action and violence, some bloody images, brief strong language and sensuality

Stars: Johnny Depp, Rebecca Hall, Paul Bettany, Morgan Freeman

After being fatally wounded, a scientist uploads his consciousness onto a super-computer and becomes dangerously powerful. Cinematographer Wally Pfister ("The Dark Knight") makes his directorial debut with the sci-fi drama.

---

**STILL PLAYING**

---

**CUBAN FURY**

★★ 1/2
Rated R for language and sexual references
Stars: Nick Frost, Rashida Jones, Chris O'Dowd

One of the best things about Simon Pegg sidekicks Frost ("Shaun of the Dead," etc.) is the suggestion that, deep down, an out-of-control beast is just waiting for the chance to get crazy. Unfortunately, in the mild, strictly formulaic dance romance "Cuban Fury," Frost plays a repressed and apologetic type who more or less stays that way. After giving up his teenage dreams of salsa-dancing glory, Bruce lives a lonely lovelorn life until learning his attractive new boss (Jones) also loves to salsa — and decides to lace up his old dancing shoes. No surprises whatsoever, but a couple of decent laughs and a few charming moments make it okay.

---

**DOM HEMINGWAY**

Rated R for sexual content, nudity, pervasive language, some violence and drug use
Stars: Jude Law, Luca Franzoni, Richard Graham

After protecting his boss for 12 years by keeping his mouth shut in prison, safecracker Dom (Law) decides to collect some appreciation. Richard Shepard ("The Matador") wrote and directed the crime comedy.

---

**DRAFT DAY**

★★ 1/2
Rated PG-13 for brief strong language and sexual references
Stars: Kevin Costner, Chadwick Boseman, Jennifer Garner

Though mainly a baseball kind of guy ("Bull Durham," "Field of Dreams"), Costner acquits himself reasonably in this wannabe nail-biter about behind-the-scenes machinations leading up to the NFL draft. As the embattled general manager of the Cleveland Browns, he contends with a girlfriend (Garner) who announces she's pregnant, a mom who wants to bury his dad's ashes on the 50-yard line and other distractions while trying to decide whether or not to bet everything on a golden-boy first-round pick. Director Ivan Reitman (of "Ghostbusters" fame) emphasizes drama but uses a light touch trying to emulate the insider appeal of "Moneyball."
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MOVIE TIMES

Nicolas Cage and Tye Sheridan star in “Joe.” ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

Movie times are effective Friday, April 18, through Thursday, April 24. Please note that theater schedules are subject to change.

CENTURY 12 EVANSTON/CINEARTS 6 AND XD
1715 Maple Ave.
Evanston
(847) 491-9751
www.cinemark.com
Contact theater for showtimes.

AMC SHOWPLACE NILES 12
301 Golf Mill Center
Niles
(888) AMC-4FUN
www.amctheatres.com
Contact theater for showtimes.

PICKWICK THEATRE
5 S. Prospect Ave.
Park Ridge
(847) 604-2234
www.pickwicktheatre.com
Contact theater for showtimes.

Heaven Is for Real (PG)
Fri-Sun 1:30-4:15-6:30-8:45; Mon-Wed 4:15-6:30-8:45;
Draft Day (PG-13)
Fri-Sun 2:4-4:15-7-9:15; Mon-Wed 4:45-7:9:15;
Captain America: The Winter Soldier (PG-13)
Fri-Sun 1:30-5-8; Mon-Wed 5-8;
Rio 2 (G)
Fri-Sun 1:30-6-8:15; Mon-Wed 4-6:15-8:15;
Scarface (NR)
Thu. Call for Showtimes

ROSEMONT 18
9701 Bryn Mawr Ave.
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(847) 447-1030
www.muvico.com
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- Chicago Tribune

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MAUNDY THURSDAY SEDER - APRIL 17
PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 13
10:45 am. Service. Community House Sunday School, Ages 0-6. Grade
9-10 am. Easter Breakfast served. Community House (For everyone! Welcome!
(Hi-Lo praise, Ages 1-7 years

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 20TH 8 AM. Service. Church Sanctuary Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper" Drama Presentation

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 18TH 7 PM. Community House Worship Service
10:45 AM Service. Church Sanctuary Childcare. Ages 0-5 years

PALM SUNDAY - A combined service of "Praise" and Traditional, a 10:45 AM

Easter Sunday Weekend
Saturday/Sunday, April 12/13
6:30 PM. Community House Worship at 1.20 noon & 7,30 p.m.

ST. CELESTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Please note that this Mass is
extended celebration.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20
Mass Schedule - 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.
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Mass of the Lord's Resurrection - 7:30 p.m.
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extended celebration.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20
Mass Schedule - 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.
WISHING YOU A BLESSED EASTER!
Morton Grove Community Church-Presbyterian
8944 Austin Avenue (Lake and Austin), Morton Grove, IL
(847) 965-2982 • www.mgcpcpresbyterian.org
Rev. Lolly Dominski

Palm Sunday Worship on April 13 at 10:00 am

**EASTER WEEK**

**Holy Thursday - April 17**

- Mass of the Lord’s Supper - 7:00 pm
- Good Friday - April 18
- Easter Sunday - April 20

**Holy Saturday - April 19**

- Morning Prayer - 8:00 am
- Good Friday - 12 noon
- Easter Sunday - 7:30 am

**Holy Sunday - April 20**

- Morning Prayer - 8:00 am
- Holy Communion Service
- Easter Vigil with Children's Service

**Holy Week Services**

Easter Sunday Services
April 20
- 7:30 am: Sunrise Service
- 9:00 am: Traditional Service
- 9:00 am: Contemporary Service

Easter Breakfast served from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

**First Presbyterian Church of La Grange**

Maundy Thursday - April 17, 7:00 p.m.
- Maundy Thursday Service
- Good Friday Service
- Easter Sunday Service

**Norwood Park Lutheran Church**

Maundy Thursday - April 17, 7:00 p.m.
- Communion Service
- Good Friday Service
- Easter Sunday Service

**Evangelical Covenant Church of Hinsdale**

Maundy Thursday - April 17, 7:00 p.m.
- Holy Thursday Services
- Good Friday Service
- Easter Sunday Service

**First United Methodist Church of La Grange**

Maundy Thursday - April 17, 7:00 p.m.
- Maundy Thursday Service
- Good Friday Service
- Easter Sunday Service

**Christ Church of Oak Brook**

Maundy Thursday - April 17, 7:00 p.m.
- Maundy Thursday Service
- Good Friday Service
- Easter Sunday Service

**Grace Lutheran Church of Lagrange**

Maundy Thursday - April 17, 7:00 p.m.
- Maundy Thursday Service
- Good Friday Service
- Easter Sunday Service

**Park Ridge Community Church**

Maundy Thursday - April 17, 7:00 p.m.
- Maundy Thursday Service
- Good Friday Service
- Easter Sunday Service

**Hinsdale United Methodist Church**

Maundy Thursday - April 17, 7:00 p.m.
- Maundy Thursday Service
- Good Friday Service
- Easter Sunday Service

**Easter Food Blessing**

April 20
- 10:45 AM: Traditional Worship
- 12:30 PM: Blended Service
- 7:00 PM: Contemporary Worship
### CHICAGO

**Edison Park Lutheran Church**  
6626 N. Oliphant Ave, Chicago, IL  
(Across park from Edison Park Metra)  
773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com  
Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday Worship 6:00, 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.  
Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor  
Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry  
Matt Haider, Worship / Music  
Michael Lyda, Children/Youth/Family

**United in Faith Lutheran Church**  
6525 W Irving Park Road  
773-283-2326 • www.unitedinfaith.org  
Sunday 8:30 AM Traditional Worship  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Praise & Worship Service  
Tuesday 7:00 PM Bible Study  
Rev. Lester White  
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Sunday Worship at 9:30  
Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45  
Rev. Matthew Joseph Gunia, Pastor  
"For whenever our heart condemns us,  
God is greater than our heart ...."  
-1 John 3:20

### NILES

**Niles United Methodist Church**  
3245 N. Woods Ave, Niles, IL  
(708) 437-3616, www.nilesumc.org  
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.  
Rev. Matthew E. Carlson, Pastor  
Rev. Dave Poor, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Georgette Schommer, Religious Education  
Rev. Trudy Sale, Parish Administrator  
Steve Karr, Music Minister  
Handicapped Accessible  
Worship Services  
Sundays  
At  
10:00 am

**St. John Lutheran Church (LCMS)**  
7429 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
847-647-9867  
www.st-john-niles.org  
Preaching Christ crucified for your forgiveness  
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www.ChabadofGlenview.com

**North Shore Community Church**  
315 Waukegan Road  
647-441-6599  
www.WillowNorthShore.org

- Sunday Services: 9 & 11am  
- Promiseland (infants-Gr5): 9 & 11am  
- Elevate (Grades 6-8): 9 & 11am  
- Impact (Grades 9-12): 6pm  
- For more information visit www.WillowNorthShore.org

### PARK RIDGE

**Park Ridge Presbyterian Church**  
1300 W. Crescent Ave.  
847-823-4135  
Sunday Services: 10:00 am  
Children's programming for pre-k - 7th grade,  
Nursery service for younger children  
8:45 am Confirmation classes for 8th grade  
9:00 am High School  
Adult Education Bible Study Sunday 11:30 am  
Adult Education Bible Study Thursdays 6:30 pm  
"Open Forum" Adult learning First Thursday  
every month 6:30 pm  
www.parkridgepresby.org  
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(847) 966-1095
www.wmtcogic.org
pastorcranford@gmail.com
Sunday Service: 10:30 AM
Sunday School: 10 AM
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7 PM
Intercessory Prayer:
Tuesday & Friday, 12 PM
Dr. Clarence Cranford, Jr., Pastor
Elizabeth W. Cranford, 1st Lady.
Death Notices

Bangart, James George
Jim Bangart, age 81, of Morton Grove, Ill., passed away March 29, 2014. Beloved husband of Phyllis Bangart for 53 years; loving father of Laurie, Jill (Robert) Moore, the late Steven and Cindy Bangart; Grandpa of Jessica and Alex Moore and Kodi Bangart; great-grandfather to Evan Bangart.
Memorial/Funeral service was held at St. David’s Episcopal Church, 2410 Glenview Rd, Glenview on Saturday, April 12th at 11:00 a.m., and was followed by a light lunch/visitaton with the family at the church.

Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

General Information Concerning The Death Notice Page
• A paid death notice may be ordered to appear in the Pioneer Press when funeral arrangements are made, and must be submitted in writing. Information about charges for death notices may be obtained from area funeral directors or by calling (847) 998-3400. A 24-hour fax service is offered at (847) 486-6836 or death notices may be emailed to deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com.
• An in memoriam or card of thanks may be placed using the same information above.
• The deadline for placing a death notice, in memoriam or card of thanks, is Monday at 5:00 pm. Photos must be submitted by Monday at 2:00pm.
• The death notice department is staffed from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday.
• Family and friends may visit our website and sign a guest book at Pioneerlocal.com.

SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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2. Did lunch 47. Ruining ear?
4. Warm and friendly 49. "Burnt" pigment
5. Singer Bryan 50. - Trench (very deep)
6. Pacific point (very deep)
7. Where Polynesia's home
8. Molting animal, e.g.
9. Cave dwarf of folklore
10. Water, in Wasty
11. How true?
12. Overhead urban trains
13. "That's all--wrote"
14. Like things you can categorize in your head?
15. Tornament
16. Crimson Tide school, for short
17. Raisers
18. Last Oldsmobile model
19. Tibetans' practice

**DOWN**
1. 46. Relative of edu or gov
2. 47. Ruining ear?
3. 48. "Burnt" pigment
4. 49. "Burnt" pigment
5. 50. - Trench (very deep)
6. 51. Where Polynesia's home
7. 52. Molting animal, e.g.
8. 53. Cave dwarf of folklore
9. 54. Water, in Wasty
10. 55. How true?
11. 56. Overhead urban trains
12. 57. "That's all--wrote"
13. 58. Like things you can categorize in your head?
14. 59. Tournament
15. 60. Crimson Tide school, for short
16. 61. Raisers
17. 62. Last Oldsmobile model
18. 63. Tibetans' practice

**HOROSCOPES: APRIL 23 - APRIL 29**

**ANES** (March 21 to April 19) You might need to do a bit more investigating before making a career move. You do best when you come armed with the facts.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Your creativity plus your good business sense once more combine to give you an important advantage in a difficult workplace situation.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Avoid rushing into something just because it offers a break from your usual routine. Take things a step at a time to be sure you're moving in the right direction.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Bouncing back from a disappointing incident isn't easy, but you should find a welcome turn of events emerging. Spend the weekend with someone special.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) An incomplete project needs your attention before someone else takes it over and uses it to his or her advantage.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Doubts involving a potential career change need to be resolved quickly so they don't get in the way when you feel you're finally ready to make the big move.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Looking to blame someone for a workplace problem could backfire if it turns out you've got the wrong "culprit."

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Patience might still be called for until you're sure you finally have the full story that eluded you up till now. A trusted associate could offer valuable guidance.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Look into your recent behavior to see if you could have caused the coolness you might now be sensing from a loved one.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Ease up on your social activities allows you to focus more on your energies on a long- neglected personal matter.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) A dispute with a colleague can be resolved peacefully once you both agree to be more flexible about the positions you've taken.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Volunteering to take on added responsibilities could be a risky way to impress the powers-that-be. Do it only if you're sure you can handle the extra workload.
### DEALER DIRECTORY

Scan a QR code to see that dealer's entire used-vehicle inventory.

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<tr>
<th>Car Brand</th>
<th>Dealer Name</th>
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<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMW</td>
<td>Bill Jacobs BMW</td>
<td>2495 Aurora Ave., Naperville, IL 60540</td>
<td>855-264-1078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIA</td>
<td>Southlake Kia</td>
<td>4191 E. Lincoln Highway, Merrillville, IN 46410</td>
<td>655-292-6798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEVROLET</td>
<td>Webb Chevrolet</td>
<td>9440 S. Cicero Ave., Oak Lawn, IL 60453</td>
<td>855-857-4041</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAND ROVER</td>
<td>Bill Jacobs Land Rover</td>
<td>300 E. Ogden Ave., Hinsdale, IL 60521</td>
<td>655-600-5994</td>
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<td>CHRYSLER</td>
<td>Feeley Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram</td>
<td>1010 East Chicago St., Elgin, IL 60120</td>
<td>888-927-3761</td>
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<td>MITSUBISHI</td>
<td>Max Madison</td>
<td>3890 Ogden Ave., Aurora, IL 60504</td>
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<td>FORD</td>
<td>Art Hill Ford</td>
<td>901 W. Lincoln Highway, Merrillville, IN 46410</td>
<td>855-247-5481</td>
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<td>NISSAN</td>
<td>Western Avenue Nissan</td>
<td>7410 S. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60636</td>
<td>877-817-7341</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUBARU</td>
<td>Bill Jacobs Subaru</td>
<td>2525 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60435</td>
<td>855-250-4119</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOYOTA</td>
<td>Leonard Toyota</td>
<td>725 W. Roosevelt Road, Lombard, IL 60148</td>
<td>877-870-3816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOLKSWAGEN</td>
<td>Bill Jacobs Volkswagen</td>
<td>229 Aurora Ave., Naperville, IL 60540</td>
<td>855-685-3348</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CAR STORY

» We want to tell your car story. Email it to kevin.bargnes@wrapports.com.

**My 1991 Toyota Celica GT convertible**

By Neil Helfgot of Park Ridge

My family owned this white 1991 Toyota Celica GT convertible from 1993 to 2009, when its timing belt slipped and the valves in the engine potentially kissed the pistons. We sold it to a mechanic who had it up and running in about a week.

While I was away at college, the mechanic's family drove it from about 79,000 miles to where it currently sits at about 117,000 miles.

On my 23rd birthday, after I asked for only a backpack, I received the greatest gift a man like me could ever get: the car.

My parents bought back the car for me. I either have been driven in or have driven the car myself for the majority of my life. I wouldn't have it any other way.
In the month of December, Lexus was the most popular luxury auto brand purchased by Niles residents. Lexus topped the luxury sales chart with seven sales of the 16 total sales of luxury cars to Niles residents. The breakdown of the seven total Lexus sales was one new and six used over the course of the month.

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

In December, 56 percent of luxury car purchases by Niles residents came through a local dealer, while 44 percent came via private party transactions. Private party transactions accounted for seven of the 16 total luxury car sales to Niles residents in December, while local dealer transactions accounted for nine luxury auto sales.

The top auto dealership selling luxury vehicles to Niles residents in December was Woodfield Lexus, followed by Loeber Motors and Bill Smith Auto Parts.

Of the nine overall luxury sales by dealerships in the month, Woodfield Lexus accounted for two.

Taking all auto sales into account (not just luxury sales), Niles residents bought 73 vehicles in December. Of the 73 total auto purchases, 43 were used vehicles and 30 were new vehicles. So, the share of overall car and truck sales in the month made up by used vehicles was 59 percent.
High School Cube News, Sun-Times Media's new high school sports website, launched this week. It's the latest evolution in Chicago area prep sports coverage. High School Cube News will integrate all the highlights and live games from HighSchoolCube.com with the comprehensive coverage formerly provided by Season Pass.

With baseball back on the field, let's pause to remember Virgil Trucks, a great name in its own right, made better by his nickname - Fire. Trucks was a right-handed pitcher who helped steer Detroit to the 1945 World Series and won 177 games in his career. But his oddest year - one of the strangest in major league history - occurred in 1952, when Trucks won just five games and lost 19. But get this - of those meager five wins, two were no-hitters and a third was a one-hitter. Trucks died in 2013 at age 95.

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Midway through the 2013-14 NBA season, Miami's LeBron James became the 22nd player in league history to score 60 points in a single game. But only four players have posted at least 60 multiple times in their careers. Can you name them? No surprises if you're a basketball fan - Michael Jordan, Wilt Chamberlain, Elgin Baylor and Kobe Bryant. But who did it the most? Wilt the Stilt, on astonishing 31 times.

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Specializing in one sport year-round in search of a scholarship can be boom-or-bust venture

BY JOHN P. BORNEMAN
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Mike Travlos hasn't had an offseason in almost a decade.

The Lake Zurich junior plays boys basketball for the Bears in the winter, but his season doesn't end in March. In fact, his season hasn't really ended since the third grade, when Travlos said he started playing travel basketball.

Between high school, AAU with Rising Stars Elite and individual workouts, Travlos plays basketball almost the entire year. An average summer week might include three days with a physical performance trainer to work on strength and athleticism, two days with a basketball skills trainer, one or two AAU practices and somewhere between three and seven AAU games on a weekend.

If any of those pursuits fall on the same day, he pulls a double shift.

There are at least two reasons for the year-round grind. The first? He loves playing basketball. And the second? Travlos, like many prep athletes, is trying to attract the attention of college coaches.

"I'd love to play in college," said Travlos, who is looking at schools like Cornell, Lehigh and Bucknell. "I'm getting looks right now, and if I could get a couple offers and go to one of those schools, that would be awesome.

"I want to use basketball as a way to get a good education."

Travlos, who averaged 20 points for Lake Zurich this winter, has a chance to reach that goal. But there isn't a guaranteed payoff for the growing number of athletes who choose to specialize in a single sport. Overuse injuries and burnout are among the concerns tied to year-round training.

"The majority of high school students, as they get older, they tend to specialize in their sport," said Dr. Kathleen Weber, director of Primary Care Sports Medicine and Women's Sports Medicine at Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush.

"The trend is that if you play the same sport year-round, you're going to be better at it. And that's not always the case."

Injury concerns are among the most prevalent for year-round athletes. According to Dr. Jeffrey Mjaanes, a sports medicine specialist and orthopedic physician at Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush, overuse injuries tend to occur when growing children do not take enough time to rest.

"Oftentimes I'll see parents that feel three weeks off here and four weeks off there is going to be enough time," Mjaanes said. "It's really not. And so usually what we recommend is that you take one season off. So winter, spring, summer - fall - one of those seasons, 2-3 months - should be out of the sport, doing something else."

Cases like that of Loyola soccer standout Devin Burns can have caused her club, FC United, and high school teams to reconsider the way they view their training habits.

Burns tweaked her right knee playing in a tournament in Kansas with FC United's 18-U team last summer, but she didn't feel much pain, so she left to catch up with FC United's 16-U team at another tournament in California.

She was on a plane when her knee started to swell, and an MRI revealed a torn ACL. Surgery in early August sidelined Burns for her 16-U tournament and put her on the road to a seven-month recovery. She returned for Loyola on March 20 and scored five goals in her first five games.

"It leads you to examine and re-evaluate what you're doing," said Craig Snower, who is both the Loyola girls soccer coach and FC United girls director. "No one can ever tell you [if the injuries] were overuse or just [athletes] in the wrong place at the wrong time, but we've taken a proactive attitude."

For Snower's teams, the proactive approach means mandatory rest periods and weekly workouts focused on strength training and the prevention of ACL injuries.

Speed and agility drills are key, along with strengthening of leg and core muscles with exercises like one- and two-legged squats, hamstring curls with an exercise ball and side planks to aid balance.

"What is rest?" Snower asked. "Is rest sitting on the couch watching TV for two weeks? That's probably not the best thing for an athlete, either."

"When I say rest, we basically call it a rest from soccer-specific movements. Striking soccer balls, overusing those muscles. So giving those muscles a rest and letting the kids maintain a fitness regimen. That, we feel, is the right formula."

Of course, just because an athlete is given time off doesn't mean he or she will take it. Snower tells the story of a time when he gave his FC United girls two weeks off after a tournament, only to hear days later that a bunch of the players were getting together for pickup games.

"I had to send out kind of a nasty text saying, 'If I wanted you guys playing soccer, I'd have practice tonight. Two weeks off means two weeks off from soccer,'" he said.

But despite the challenges, many athletes talked about how they prefer their year-round schedules.

"Yes, a part of it is you want to get looks and you want to get an opportunity to play college," Travlos said. "But it's you love playing. You don't want to stop. You want to keep going."

Additional reporting by Michael O'Brien, Jeff Bonato, Matt Harness, Eric Van Driil, Tim Froehlig and Jon Kerr.
SKOKIE — Niles West forward Vicki Tirovolas cemented her spot as the school's most prolific scorer in girls soccer history when she recorded the 36th, 37th and 38th goals of her career on April 5.

Tirovolas became the Wolves' all-time leading goal scorer that day, but her status as a dynamic offensive threat has been established for years. The junior scored 17 goals as a freshman and 16 as a sophomore.

"Every school does know who she is," Niles West coach Brett Clish said.

Tirovolas' skill has resulted in other teams man-marking her — appointing a player to follow her wherever she goes on the field. Clish added that when teams play zone against the Wolves, their defenders communicate where Tirovolas is on the field throughout the match.

Tirovolas said in past years that type of attention would frustrate her, especially when she would try to turn and dribble past defenders. But she has adjusted her playing style and now is an even more dangerous offensive threat.

"I would say I definitely distribute way more than I would freshman year," Tirovolas said. "When I get the ball, I actually keep my head up, as opposed to freshman year I would more so put my head down and just dribble. I definitely try to limit my dribbling now."

Although Tirovolas probably could have scored more than three goals against an overmatched Ridgewood team — Niles West won 8-1 — she instead demonstrated her revised game strategy. In many instances when she received a pass at the top of Niles West's formation, she drew the defense and then distributed the ball to girls sprinting into open areas of the field.

"That's been a trend all season," Tirovolas said. "I definitely look more to pass and look for my teammates making runs off of me," Tirovolas said. "That's a really big thing we emphasize — make runs off of me."

That helps take the stress off Tirovolas. "I think there was an awful lot of pressure on her throughout the years because pretty much everybody expected her to always score all of the goals and win every game," said Rudy Glenn, Niles West's assistant coach and Tirovolas' coach with the Illinois Sting for the last five years. "That's a lot of pressure to put on a young pair of shoulders."

The new approach works thanks in part to sophomore Nichole Lopatin, a fleet-footed forward who is the perfect complement to Tirovolas. The two often present a conundrum to opposing teams when they are paired on the field.

"Nichole has that speed aspect, so teams really have to pay attention to her, because if she does make her run then they're going to have to watch her," Clish said. "If a girl drops off to take Nichole, then Vicki can just take the ball herself — whether it be distribute or shoot."

Two more records are in sight for Tirovolas. With 15 assists as of April 9, she can surpass Niles West's all-time assist record later this season. The current mark is 19 set by Cory Zielke, whose goal record Tirovolas broke April 5.

Tirovolas also can break the single-season goals record that she and 2003 graduate Eileen Ouska share if she can get to 18 goals by the end of this year.

Tirovolas said having records to chase provides extra motivation.

"They really make you want it to give it your all every game," she said.
Cone’s success due to hard work

Senior pitched a complete-game shutout against Von Steuben

BY KATE HEDLIN
For Sun-Times, @SportsLoisLane

BELLWOOD — Anthony Sanchez has played on the Niles North baseball team with Ari Cone for three seasons and during that time he's seen Cone undergo an "incredible" transformation.

"He's worked his butt off to get where he is," Sanchez said. "As a sophomore, he struggled hitting his spots. Now he's added a curveball to his routine. ... He's been through the process of being a rookie to being a leader, so people follow him. He's the type of guy we'd all run through a brick wall for."

Cone said he prides himself on his work ethic and he knows he also benefited from playing behind former Vikings' standout shortstop Adam Warda.

"Watching him play taught me a lot," Cone said. "I knew that by the time I was a junior I had to be a leader. It was always going to be a lot of pressure, but it was something I was excited about."

Cone, one of six Vikings seniors, showed his younger teammates how to bounce back from a difficult game over the weekend.

He gave up eight runs Friday and took the loss in an 11-5 setback against St. Patrick. However, he didn't have to wait long for a measure of redemption.

Cone, the Vikings' No. 1 pitcher, admitted to feeling some nerves when he headed to the mound again Saturday. But with the help of some encouraging words from the coaching staff, he bounced back, pitching a complete-game shutout. He gave up two hits and struck out 10 in a 9-0 road win over Von Steuben.

"When I was warming up, the coaches just told me to forget about [Friday]," Cone said. "It was a new day and I needed to focus on what was ahead of me, not what happened yesterday."

With Saturday's win, Cone improved to 3-3 with a 3.04 ERA in six appearances this season, including four starts.

Niles North coach Ed Toledo said Cone, who led the team in wins last year, has been more accurate when pitching and improved at the plate.

Cone is hitting .280 (7-for-25) with two triples, a double, six RBI and seven runs scored.

"He's one of the hardest working kids you'll ever meet," Toledo said. "He's not going to play in college, but you'd never know it by how hard he plays and how he's constantly trying to improve himself."
Wisconsin Badger Ben Brust holds the West Regional trophy after the Badgers beat Arizona 64-63.

Brust makes big impact on Wisconsin

BY NICK BULLOCK
For Sun-Times Media, @HSCNewsNorth

Led by Mundelein alumnus Ben Brust, the Wisconsin men’s basketball team made it to the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament before falling 74-73 to Kentucky in Arlington, Texas. Brust, a senior guard, tied for the Badgers’ scoring lead with 15 points in 38 minutes on April 5 against the Wildcats.

Duje Dukan, a Wisconsin redshirt junior forward who played high school basketball for Deerfield, finished the season with eight points and five rebounds in 15 minutes off the bench.

After struggling out of the gate, Dana Capocci from Hinsdale South helped the Illinois-Chicago softball team string together eight wins in a 12-game stretch from March 14 through April 3. The sophomore outfielder is sixth on the team in batting average (.259) through April 8.

Centered

Three former New Trier athletes placed in the event. Denison freshman Campbell Costley took third place in the 500-yard freestyle, fifth in the 200 free and eighth in the 1,650 free. She was also part of the third-place 800 free relay team. Amberst junior Ashleigh Stoddart was part of the fifth-place 200 medley relay team, the eighth-place 800 free relay team and the 18th-place 400 free relay team.

And Williams senior diver McKenzie Williams was part of the third-place 800 free relay team, the seventh-place 400 free relay team and the ninth-place 400 medley relays.

Another Williams swimmer, Sarah Thompson from Evanston, took first in the 500 free, first in the 1,650 free and second in the 200 free. The junior was part of the ninth-place 200 free relay team, the ninth-place 400 free relay team, the ninth-place 400 medley relay team and the fourth-place 800 free relay team.

Washington University in St. Louis sophomore swimmer Hannah Lil-Hoja, from Hinsdale Central, swam in the preliminary heats of four events.

For the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, freshman Veronika Jedryka, a Buffalo Grove alumna, placed 16th in the 200 backstroke. She was part of the sixth-place 200 free relay team, the seventh-place 400 medley relay team and the ninth-place 800 free relay team.

Middlebury senior Colleen Harper, from Evanston, competed in the preliminaries of the 1-meter and 3-meter dives.

St. Olaf College’s Carolyn Bernhardt, a senior from Glenbrook North, was part of the 16th-place 800 free relay team.

Numerous area athletes competed in the 2014 NCAA Division III Women’s Swimming and Diving Championships March 19-22 in Indianapolis.

For Sun-Times Media, @HSCNewsNorth

BY MEL NELSON
For Sun-Times Media, @HSCNewsNorth

Down 16-1 during the season opener against Hoffman Estates, the Maine East baseball team could have conceded defeat.

Instead, the Blue Demons scraped across three more runs on April 1.

"That showed me that were a mature team and even though we're down, we can still fight," said third baseman and pitcher Will Heins, one of just three seniors on the roster. "In a bad situation we put our heads down and [will] still try to fight as much as we can to try and win."

It was still a 16-4 loss for the young team and fourth-year head coach Ron Clark, who said that game showcased his players' youth.

"We were our own worst enemy that game," Clark said. "Anytime in baseball you walk guys, make errors you're going to have trouble. And we did that a lot in that first game."

Since the opener, the Blue Demons (1-6 through Monday) have had their share of trials, including seven games canceled due to weather, but Clark has told his players to focus on playing fundamentally sound baseball and not the team's record, which he said has led to promising results.

"For example, we struck out a ton our first couple of games," Clark said. "We locked in really hard on our two-strike hitting approach. We drilled it in practice and drilled it and drilled it. And now, we only struck out against Wheeling two or three times [Friday]."

Despite a young roster, Clark said having efficient practices hasn't been an issue.

"With an inexperienced team you may need to go a little bit slower at times and make sure you're not moving ahead before the kids are ready to," Clark said. "So, I guess I've seen a little bit of that with this team."

Heins said he believes playing the game the right way will generate an improved record.

"I think we're on the rise right now," Heins said. "But I think we got to stay confident in ourselves, just do the job to help the team and just all be team players -- don't worry about individual stats and do whatever you can to help the team."

Clark said the best way for players to help the team is by continuing to grow and buying into the process.

"We're not going to play perfect baseball," Clark said. "Nobody is. We're going to make mistakes. We're just hoping to eliminate the mistakes we're making multiple times and learning from them."
Niles West's Vicki Tirovolas (right) and Ridgewood's Maja Bankovic vie for possession during the April 5 game in Skokie. JON DURR/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA
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