Trekking to see new saints

Local Catholics visit Vatican to see Polish pope canonized | PAGE 6
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This story isn’t about Don’s accomplishments while in the NFL. The story is about his never give up on God attitude - that helped get him there.

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ALL INVESTORS MUST BE ‘ACCREDITED INVESTORS’
**ST. JOHN BREBEUF**

**Locals visit Rome for former pope's canonizing**

**BY IGOR STUDENKOV**  
For Sun-Times Media / @istudenkov

For Deacon Mariusz Kosla of Niles' St. John Brebeuf Catholic Parish, traveling to see the canonization of two popes near St. Peter's Square meant experiencing a "beautiful" spiritual event.

But it also meant arriving near the square at 2 a.m., waiting in line 90 minutes just to use the bathroom, and "standing literally in the same spot for 14 hours."

"It looked pretty scary at times," Kosla said.

For the past eight years, church Deacon Mariusz Kosla has been organizing pilgrimages to destinations sacred to Catholics. But this trip was special for a number of reasons. John Paul II was pope for most of the parishioners' lifetimes, and his influence went beyond church matters.

The canonization is a particular source of pride for Niles' Polish-American community, which makes up the significant portion of the parish and the village population.

For Kosla, the trip is a chance to celebrate John Paul II's accomplishments and show the world what the Catholic faith is about.

St. John Brebeuf Church was the first Catholic church in Niles. The original building was built in 1953, at the time when Chicago's Polish-American population was starting to move to the suburbs. The village already had a sizable Polish-American community, and it would continue to grow over the years. Today, Poles are still largest ethnic minority group in Niles, and they still account for a sizable portion of the parish.

"We were very proud," Kosla said. "Many in our group are Polish."

But while their hearts may have been full, Kosla said "there's only so much you can push the body."

He said members of his group, ranging in age from their 40s to 90, had "not half an inch to move."

They had trouble breathing, and other people were screaming and pushing their way toward the front.

All two blocks or so outside St. Peter's Square.

"Thank God no one from our group was hurt," he said.

After Rome, the group headed to Poland, where they planned to visit Wadowice, the town where the John Paul II was born. They'll then travel to Krakow, the city where he became a priest and lived until he was elevated to pope.

The pilgrimage will take 14 days overall, with the group returning to Niles on May 7.

Usually, the pilgrimages attract around 24 people. This time, 45 people went.

"It's split about 50-50 [between regulars and new people]," said Kosla. "We got Poles, Americans and Filipinos. It's a very diverse group."

Not everyone who wanted to take the trip was able to go. Part of it was simply the matter of capacity. But there was also the question of affordability.

"It was expensive to go, and many people couldn't afford it," said Kosla. "Many places in Rome hiked up their prices. It's a $4,000 trip for 14 days."

Kosla said that the group that was going was fairly excited — for a number of reasons.

"John Paul II was a pope for a very long time," he said. "Many people knew him very well. Normally, when a church pronounced someone a saint, they were alive 400 to 500 years ago. This man was alive nine years ago."

John Paul II's significance goes beyond being a leader of the Catholic Church.

"He played an important role in the fall of Communism, so he had political influence," said Kosla.

He said that Polish-American parishioners — and Polish-Americans throughout Chicagoland — are especially proud that the first Slavic pope in history will be canonized.

For Kosla, the canonization ceremony offers a chance for Catholics from all over the world to gather together and demonstrate their faith — something he's very happy to be a part of.

"It's an exercise of faith," he said. "That is really what makes it different from any tour, vacation or trip. We go as believers, as Christians, and we unite from people all over the world. That is a manifestation to everyone of what we believe, who they are and what the church is about. It's a very deeply spiritual component for everyone going."
Village Board reveals pitch to legalize video gambling

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
For Sun-Times Media | @studenkovich

The Niles Board of Trustees has unveiled the law that would legalize video gambling in the village.

In a rare break from the usual board procedure, Mayor Andrew Przybylo decided not to ask the board to actually vote on the ordinance. Instead, he had the ordinance read aloud and moved the vote to the May 27 meeting.

Przybylo said that the move came because residents have complained they didn’t have a chance to comment on the issue. He hopes that the month between the first reading and the vote would give residents more time to study the ordinance and submit their comments.

The video gambling legalization has been in the works for months. In January and February, the village’s video gambling task force collected testimony from organizations, individuals and the village itself.

At the meetings, several residents gave their opinions on video gambling — and most spoke out against it. Many complained that they didn’t have a chance to voice their opinions.

The video gambling resolution was originally supposed to be voted on during the April 23 meeting. But in response to concerns expressed at previous meet-

ings, Przybylo decided to change tactic. In a rare break from board tradition, he decided to do a first reading, postponing the actual vote for a second reading.

"This is another attempt to get the message out," said Przybylo. "This is the reading people will hear, and they will be able to give comments [after the meeting]."

He asked Trustee Joe LoVerde to read the entire ordinance out loud.

The ordinance would allow veterans organizations, fraternal organizations and businesses and nonprofit organizations with liquor licenses to apply for video gaming licenses.

There will be 14 licenses available. Ten will be available to businesses that have operated in Niles for at least 18 months, two will be available to business owners who have owned or leased property in Niles for at least five years, and the remaining two will be available to veterans groups and fraternal organizations that have been in Niles for at least five years.

The applicant may not have more than five video gambling machines, and they must be located at least 250 feet away from another video gaming license holder. The licensees must have cameras recording what goes on in video gambling areas, and Niles Police Department needs to be able to access those cameras remotely.

In keeping with the mayor's desire to avoid prominent signs advertising video gaming, the ordinance limits the signage to a small "video gaming" sign. The licensees will be required to display a village-issued sign with a number video gaming addiction hotline. If the licensee's liquor license is revoked or suspended, the same thing will happen to their video gaming license.

The ordinance prohibits residents under 21 from using video gaming terminals. Licensees that don't enforce that will be fined between $50 to $1,500.

Niles Department of Finance previously estimated that the village would get about $2,500 in revenue per machine. The ordinance specifies that 75 percent of the revenue will go toward Water Fund Infrastructure projects, and 25 percent will go to Department of Family Services' addiction services.

Finally, the ordinance will expire automatically on May 1, 2019 unless the board votes otherwise.

After LoVerde finished reading the ordinance, Przybylo urged the Niles residents to submit their comments on the ordinance to himself and the trustees, either by phone or email.

"I trust that the public will inform their trustees and their mayor of their feelings on the issue," he said.
Trustees approve $100 per year sewer, water, electric hike

BY MARCELLA S. KREITER
For Sun-Times Media

The Niles village board voted Tuesday night to impose a sewer tax and raise water rates and electricity taxes, costing homeowners more than $100 more a year.

Trustees Chris Hanusiak and Rosemary Palicki expressed opposition to the action, calling them a burden on homeowners and anti-business.

The sewer tax, which passed 4-2, will cost homeowners 75 cents per 1,000 gallons, or $45 on average annually, to pay for sewer maintenance. The village estimates the tax will raise $900,000 a year for the Water Fund.

"It's time to stand up as adults and fix all our problems," Trustee Joe LoVerde said. "We're one of the only towns that didn't have a sewer tax. The infrastructure is owned by us, not the homeowner. Elected officials cannot turn their backs any longer on people who have flooded since the 1960s."

Hanusiak, however, argued that the village should look for alternatives.

"We have to fix infrastructure, but we can't burden citizens," he said.

The water rate increase, which also passed 4-2, is the result of increases imposed by the city of Chicago, according to Village Manager Steve Veneziano. The city has raised rates 185 percent since February 2007, while Niles has raised its rates only 99 percent.

The rate will go from $6.67 per 1,000 gallons to $7.67 and is expected to cost the average household $60 annually. Seventy-five percent of the increase will go toward costs and the rest toward repair of water mains, which lose 600,000 gallons annually to leaks, the most of any other municipality in the region.

"Our infrastructure was neglected and now we're paying the price," Palicki said.

The 20 percent increase in the electricity tax was expected to add $5 to $10 to electricity bills annually and generate $210,000. It was approved 4-2.

In other action the board:
• Voted 4-2 to approve a move by the Har-Mi Currency Exchange to a different storefront in the Niles Shopping Center.
• Voted 4-2 to increase the number of gas stations allowed to sell liquor at their convenience stores from two to three.
• Voted 4-2 to remove the sunset provision on the liquor license when the gas station at Caldwell and Touhy is sold.
• Voted 4-0, with Palicki and Hanusiak voting present, to approve an increase of 1 percent to 3.5 percent for village employees.
• Voted 6-0 to approve a contract with the Skich auditing firm.
• Voted 6-0 to update a mutual aid agreement through the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System.

Minority trustees object to village tax hikes

BY MARCELLA S. KREITER
For Sun-Times Media

Niles village Trustee Rosemary R. Palicki Tuesday objected to increases in village taxes and fees to help fund a $5 million increase in the fiscal 2015 budget.

"I don't think levying a tax on citizens is the way to go," Palicki said during the monthly board meeting. "There has to be the realization we don't have the money to do all these things. We can't keep saying yes to everything."

The board voted to impose a sewer tax and raise water rates and electricity taxes, adding more than $100 annually to the average homeowner's bill.

Palicki and fellow Trustee Chris Hanusiak said the village should rethink adding new positions to the village payroll at a cost of $350,000 annually. They suggested other aspects of the $77 million budget should be rethought as well.

Finance Director Scot Neukirch said the budget is larger in part because of the creation of five new funds including two tax increment financing districts and three funds dealing with asset seizure.

The biggest increases are for police and fire pensions, capital improvements and water. The fire pension is 48 percent funded and the police pension is 44 percent funded as the village tries to stabilize the pension system. There also is an increase for risk management for workers' compensation.

Former Trustee Louella Preston, who spoke at the meeting, criticized the budget for lack of funding for strategic planning.

"Your budget is really only reflective of one year," she said. "All the government bodies around Illinois have long-range plans. You do not. You need long-range goals for this village."

"I would love to have a five-year plan," board President Andrew Przybylo responded.

The general fund currently has a deficit of $12.5 million, in part because of disappointing sales tax receipts as a result of the harsh winter and TIF funds that failed to materialize. The new budget reduces that deficit to less than $5.8 million.

Fifty-two percent of the budget is allocated to salary and benefits, with 17 percent, nearly $7 million, going to pension funding. Capital improvements, which represent 9 percent of the budget, took the biggest hit, reduced nearly $9 million.

The board is scheduled to vote on the budget at its May 27 meeting.

Skokie Swift fans celebrate 50 years

BY MIKE ISAACS
isaacs@spentonlocal.com | @SkokieMike

The train blew its whistle Saturday and traveled along the Yellow Line tracks just as it did almost 50 years ago to the day.

The CTA's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Skokie Swift was a time warp to be sure — well, actually, two time warps.

There was the recalling of personal history — memories of the Swift's maiden voyage and early days a half-century ago — but there was also the chance to travel on an L train built well before the Swift was ever conceived.

A large group crowded onto the Oakton-Skokie platform in downtown Skokie to ride one of two 1923-built cars by the Cincinnati Car Company for the Chicago Elevated Railways, one of the CTA's forerunner companies.

The event drew train buffs who relish days like this one as well as current and former riders sharing fond and vivid memories of the Skokie Swift. Train aficionados hooked up with like-minded enthusiasts; fathers brought young children who had already demonstrated a love for the romance of the railway.

"I grew up here riding the Skokie Swift ever since I was a little kid, this was still on the North Shore Line. Every Tuesday morning before my sister and I entered school, we would get on the North Shore Line, ride to Howard, take the elevated down to Granville and walk two blocks to my grandmother's house."

Not everyone who came out for this special day had such long and lasting memories of the Skokie Swift.

And Weissman of Glenview brought his two small children, Maia and Jacob, just because they wanted to ride on a "special train."

John Howard, of Evanston, brought his two young sons for the historic train ride because they're such train enthusiasts.

"I think I was almost born with train's in my blood," said Eric Bronsky of Skokie. "I've played with model trains since I was a little tot and eventually inherited my brother's model railroads, and became more and more interested in real trains as time went on."

Chicago Firefighter Jerry Medina worked as a bus operator for the CTA, but he always lamented the fact that he never worked on the CTA trains.

"I really love the train system in this city," he said when asked why he was out there on such a chilly Saturday. "It's a piece of history here that we get to see. I rode the Skokie Swift ever since I was a little kid and there's just a lot of history here."
Science-savvy Park View School kids ranked eighth in state

BY NATALIE HAYES
For Sun-Times Media
@NatHayReporter

If the future of science was in the hands of the young Science Olympiad team at Park View School, it would look pretty promising.

The team of 17 junior scientists drove robots, flew handmade helicopters, and crafted inventive instruments to win the judges over and snag first place at the regional competition last month.

The team next moved on to the state competition last week in Champaign, where they placed eighth.

Between the two competitions, the team entered 23 different events which were mostly team-building projects requiring months of after-school work, according to Science Olympiad coach Jeff Peet, who leads the team along with Park View science teacher Lisa Linke.

"It's a year-long process and a huge time commitment," Peet said. "The team practiced every day after school, and they are constantly asked to study for events."

Students Tommy McDonagh and Michael Rohn won a medal in the "wheeled vehicle" event, which required contestants to create a small wind-up car that could travel fast and stop at a given point quickly.

In the "robo-cross" competition, students Katie Benstead and Robert Majcher built an award-winning robot on wheels that could travel around the room picking up different items before dropping them into a bucket.

Benstead and teammate Hana Frisch won a medal in the entomology category, and two other students—Darby Chamness and Sofia Dekhtyar—won a fourth place medal in the solar system event.

Park View's Science Olympiads put their best critical thinking skills to the test by building tricky inventions like the "Boomilever," which is a bucket fastened to a wooden object and attached to the wall. The "Boomilever" with the lightest mass that holds the most sand wins, explained Peet.

While Jay Monga and Alexa Popescu competed in the "Boomilever" contest, McDonagh and teammate Jackie Wang built and played their own version of an instrument called a "zither" using wood, guitar strings, and PVC pipes.

Peet said he was extremely proud of the team's drive and determination during the past year while they prepped for the competitions. "Day after day I've watched these students dedicate time and effort into the program, the school, and their love of science," Peet said. "I could not be more proud."
FIRE
A 2003 Buick Century started on fire on the morning of April 22 while a woman was driving it on the 8500 block of Church Street. The owner, an 81-year-old Niles woman, told police she was waiting at the red light on Church Street when she noticed white smoke coming from under her seat. She exited the car and reported that within seconds the interior became engulfed in flames, police said. Niles firefighters extinguished the blaze.

CRIME BRIEFS

RETAIL THEFT
Joy Marc Querol, 29, of 820 McIntosh Court, Prospect Heights, was charged with retail theft on April 19 after he allegedly stole a lighter valued at $8.33 from a store on the 8500 block of Golf Road. Querol was arrested by Niles police for retail theft twice in February, police bulletins show. He has a May 19 court date.

DUI
Cesar Camacho, 20, of 4602 N. Hamlin Ave., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence on April 19 following a traffic stop on the 7900 block of Touhy Avenue at 2:23 a.m. He has a May 21 court date.

Justin Marcus, 33, of 60 S. Cumberland Parkway, Des Plaines, was charged with driving under the influence and no proof of insurance on April 19. Police stopped Marcus' vehicle on the 8000 block of Milwaukee Avenue after he was reportedly seen driving without headlights at 11 p.m. and weaving. He has a May 12 court date.

Marcos Cortez, 30, of 4147 N. Cove Ln., Glenview, was charged with driving under the influence, driving without a valid license and driving with open alcohol on April 21. Police said Cortez fled the scene in his vehicle after striking a parked car on the 8500 block of Golf Road at 3:40 a.m. He was pursued briefly through the parking lot by police before being taken into custody. He has a May 19 court date.

DISPUTE
A woman allegedly became verbally abusive to an employee April 22 at a store on the 8400 block of Golf Road after she was told her cell phone she brought in for service had been reported stolen. She was ordered to leave the store and did so before police arrived.

THEFT
A 66-year-old woman reported that she was shopping on April 21 at a store on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue when she discovered her wallet had been taken from her purse. When she contacted her bank, she learned that $1,000 in charges had been made to her credit cards at several locations in Skokie, police said.

An iPhone and $450 in cash were stolen on the morning of April 15 after a man left them unattended for a few minutes next to a workout machine and under a towel at a fitness center on the 8500 block of Golf Road.

BURGLARY TO VEHICLE
A laptop was stolen overnight between April 18 and April 19 from a vehicle parked on the 9000 block of Grace Avenue.

PROPERTY DAMAGE
Several profanities and a five-pointed star were scratched into the hood of a 63-year-old resident's Nissan Pathfinder while it was parked between April 18 and April 19 on the 7700 block of Nordica Avenue.

Overnight between April 18 and April 19, a paintball gun was used to shoot orange paint at the garage of a home on the 6300 block of Western Avenue.
It's been almost five years since Niles West High School became one of the first high schools in Illinois to halt production of its student newspaper and replace an age-old tradition with an online-only news service.

The move to electronic journalism seems to have paid-off for the students and staff behind the popular Niles West News web site, which receives 50,000 hits per month on average and has won recognition at a national high school journalism competition for four years running.

Each spring, the student reporters and editors at Niles West News stack their journalistic talents up against other schools across the U.S. when they fly out to the west coast for the National Scholastic Press Association High School Journalism Convention.

This year the Niles West News team fell short of being included in a list of 14 high schools to win the Journalism Education Association's top honor, the "Pacemaker Award," but the student newsmakers are still two-for-four after having earned the prestigious designation in 2011 and 2013.

The 11 students from Niles West who trekked to San Diego for the annual conference, April 10-13, were challenged with an arduous assignment to write, shoot, edit, and upload a broadcast news story to a web site in less than seven hours.

Four Niles West students took home awards for stellar under-pressure newsgathering skills in the write-off competitions.

Seniors Gabby Abesamis, Alyssa Guzman, and Michelle Sproat received an "excellent rating for online news package," and junior Vinny Kabat earned an honorable mention for sports writing.

Sproat, video editor at Niles West News, said the most challenging part of the write-off competition was working within a tight deadline.

"With finding sources, this competition left no time to be unsure about asking questions, so we needed to just find people, get the answers we needed from them and work with whatever we got," Sproat said. "That was another challenge, but it showed me as a journalist that sometimes you need to frame your story a little differently to work with the interviews you manage to get."

Beyond their in-person reporting performance, the schools' web sites were also evaluated on the whole gamut of modern-day online journalism.

A panel of judges monitored the Niles West News web site periodically during the several months leading up to the convention, looking at content, breaking news, social media presence and news updates.

Niles West came out as one of 28 finalists out of 148 schools that entered the "Pacemaker Award" competition.

"We were disappointed that we didn't win, but it was more competitive than usual this year," said Evelyn Lauer, a faculty advisor to the Niles West News. "For a brand new publication, to get nominated for a high honor like this is a testament to our news staff and to how far we've come in the past four years."

The school's former print newspaper, the "West Word," was eliminated in 2010 to save money on printing costs and to train future aspiring reporters on the new age of electronic journalism.

The online format has given the Niles West community faster access to breaking news and the ability to watch online media broadcasts—including morning announcements three times per week.

The web site also features standalone and packaged news video.

Lauer—who leads this year's news staff of 25 students—said the upgrade to an online-only news format has given graduating Niles West students an advantage when entering journalism programs in college because many high schools still focus on print-only news coverage.

"Before we went online, Niles West wasn't on the map in high school journalism," Lauer said. "Now, we go into the conference and everyone knows who we are each year."
Maine East educator named Physics Teacher of the Year

Maine East High School teacher David Schultz has been named Outstanding High School Physics Teacher of the Year from the Illinois section of the American Association of Physics Teachers, Maine Township High School District 207 announced Thursday.

Schultz was nominated by other teachers at Maine East, citing his work with students that led to solar panels being installed at the Park Ridge school. This project was an outgrowth of Schultz’s involvement with a Renewable Energy Club, which began focusing on the use of solar and wind energy.

“This project started as a result of district training and in-service work in problem-based learning going back about five years,” Schultz said. “In problem-based learning, the emphasis is picking a project and then exposing students to a certain discipline or related disciplines needed to do the project.”

A teacher for eight years at Maine East, Schultz was also recognized for inspiring students to learn more about physics by incorporating interesting activities and topics into classroom instruction, including lectures, demonstrations, labs and student projects.

“I actually build a lot of the equipment that I use for demonstrations and labs,” Schultz said. “From the minute class starts, my students are engaged in learning. I am enthusiastic about physics and I want students to share in that excitement. I serve up the basics, but do so by making as many connections to the real world and to cutting edge research as possible.”

Schultz currently teaches advanced-placement physics C.

This is the first time a District 207 teacher has received the Outstanding High School Physics Teacher of the Year Award. The first award was given in 1981.

District 207 picks Paula Meyer Besler to replace Pellar

The Maine Township High School District 207 Board of Education has selected Paula Meyer Besler to replace long-time District 207 board member Donna Pellar.

Besler is the director of community health relations at Advocate Lutheran Hospital in Park Ridge. She will be sworn in prior to the May 5 board meeting. The Park Ridge resident, was selected in a 5-0 vote Sunday afternoon after the board interviewed nine candidates.

Pellar vacated her seat after 19 years of service because she moved from the district.

“We had nine outstanding candidates from which to choose,” said District 207 Board President Margaret McGrath. “Each candidate brought community involvement, a real passion for the quality of our high schools, as well commitment to serve students well while being good financial stewards for the community.

“Paula has worked closely with our schools in her capacity at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, helping us bring programs like cardiac screening to our schools, and working with both student internship programs and providing support for the School-based Health Center. We welcome her to the District 207 Board of Education.”

Besler is a 1986 graduate of the University of Illinois, where she earned a B.S. in business administration. She has also completed coursework for a postgraduate degree in family and child law at Loyola and is scheduled to complete a certificate in diversity management in health care from Georgetown University and the American Hospital Association Institute of Diversity this July.

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FC-1 Academy is a joint program between Glenview SC and Spartan FC, and is open to players from all surrounding communities.
A Chicago man accused of fleeing from Niles police on a motorcycle last week sought help from a Park Ridge police officer as he tried to escape being caught, authorities said.

Omar Lozano, 42, of 6826 W. Barry Ave., allegedly drove up to a Park Ridge officer on the 1000 block of Austin Avenue on the afternoon of April 21, said "help me," confessed to running from police, and said that he needed to get to his hospitalized mother, according to a report from the Niles Police Department.

Niles police say they stopped Lozano around 3:50 p.m. on the 8200 block of Oakton Street after he was seen illegally passing cars by driving on the painted median on his Suzuki motorcycle.

Lozano reportedly told police that he was in a hurry to see his mother who was at an Elgin hospital. During the traffic stop, after providing police with his insurance card and motorcycle registration, Lozano jumped back on his bike and drove away, turning in front of three lanes of traffic on Oakton Street as he fled west, police said. A vehicle reportedly struck Lozano's bike slightly, but he continued driving, heading south on Meacham Avenue into Park Ridge.

Three squad cars pursued Lozano until he reached a dead-end on Fairview Avenue and drove up onto a path, past a fence and house, before officers lost sight of him, police said.

Later, Niles police were told that Lozano had made contact with a Park Ridge police officer who was leaving a call on the 1000 block of Austin Avenue.

Lozano was arrested by Niles police who reported that the vehicle identification number on the motorcycle did not match the one that was on Lozano's insurance card and registration.

Lozano was charged with fleeing and eluding police, reckless driving and leaving the scene of an accident. He has a May 7 court date.

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

Father, son accused of using cash, strip clubs visits to bribe school officials

BY KIM JANSSEN

A pair of father-and-son businesses in Niles bribed education officials with cash, Caribbean cruises and strip club visits as a part of a nationwide fraud that scammed taxpayers out of more than $33 million, the feds announced Monday.

Jowhar Soultanali, 58, of Morton Grove, and his son Kabir Kassam, 34, of Wheeling, allegedly amassed five homes, a small fleet of five luxury automobiles and diamond and jewelry by overcharging school districts for purported tutoring services, and creating and distributing false student progress and improvement reports," the indictment alleges.

They allegedly bribed co-defendants Arturo Martinez, 52, an official with the New Mexico Public Education Department; San Antonio teachers Cedric Petersen, 61, and Brian Harris, 83, and Armando Rodriguez, 54, a Corpus Christi, Texas, teacher.

In addition to cash payments, Petersen allegedly also received Caribbean cruise vacations.

Neither father nor son has yet entered a plea.

If convicted, they each face up to 20 years on each of five counts of mail fraud and up to 10 years on each of three counts of bribery.

The government is also attempting to seize their homes, cars, jewelry and $33 million.

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**Sending your kid to college?**

7 tips that could save you big bucks

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This is the time of year when high school seniors begin to exhale. Graduation is just weeks away, and if they are college bound, hopefully they've been accepted to the school of their dreams.

Yet, as kids begin to relax, parents may be more stressed than ever, wondering how they're going to finance the next four years of their college student's life.

According to Victoria Sushan, a Deerfield-based financial, credit and debt management advisor, 58 percent of Americans aren't prepared to pay for college.

With Sushan's help, we came up with seven tips that might shave off some of the expenses you will incur when it comes to paying for college.

1. **Make financial aid forms a priority.** There are two types of financial aid: federal and that given through the college. When applying to either, it's important to get the application in as soon as possible. This will maximize your chances of getting the most money you are eligible for. Also, seek help from college counselors and financial advisors who specialize in college planning to help you fill out the forms. They will make sure your forms are not only accurate, but that they are filled out as best as possible, which could have an impact on a financial aid decision maker.

2. **Go to the Web and visit Scholarships.com or SchoolSoup.com.** There you'll find hundreds of scholarships, grants and other financial aid that could be available to your college student. With monetary awards based on gender, minority status, religion, first in family, hobbies, merits, achievements and unusual qualities — even hair color. Sushan said if your child has good writing skills, oftentimes, a great essay will win award money.

3. **Consider faith-based scholarships.** Are you and your family strongly affiliated with a religion? There are many religious organizations that offer college scholarships, such as the Jewish United Fund or Young Christian Leaders.

4. **Get educated: Financial planning is essential to saving money when it comes to college.** Talk to your accountant, your financial advisor, and possibly a college planner. They can determine if something such as the way you file your taxes will affect your financial aid.

5. **Look into work study:** Talk to college or university counselors about work study programs for your college student, where they can work for the college or university while in school and obtain tuition credits.

6. **Consider living options:** It might be a lot less expensive for your college student to live off campus. Check with college admissions officials regarding the policies; some colleges require first-year students to live on campus. If not, they might have a list of roommate requests for other students living in off-campus apartments.

7. **Consider community college:** According to Sushan, the average cost of a four-year university or college is $34,000 per year. Community colleges average $5,000 per year. Many credits, if not all, transfer from community college to a four-year college, so your son or daughter could start at a community college and end up graduating from a four-year institution.
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Mom In Style
District 207 honored to be among 'most challenging' 

The Washington Post's recent inclusion of all three Maine Township High School District 207 schools — Maine East, Maine South and Maine West — on this year's list of America's Most Challenging High Schools is an important milestone in our mission to improve learning. Our schools have made concerted efforts to improve our ability to meet the needs of 21st century students, and this signifies the first time that all three have made one of the "top high schools" list together.

Our teaching staff, as well as our support staff, have made continuous improvement and innovation a hallmark of District 207. Our parents and students demand and deserve nothing less from us, and our Board of Education remains focused on our primary mission. In addition, the District 207 communities continue to be incredibly supportive of our efforts to provide a world-class education in order to prepare our students for college and careers.

There are other groups, however, who seldom get acknowledged when high schools are recognized for their achievements: our partner districts at the elementary level who work closely with us so that our students enter our high schools ready to learn. Our three largest elementary Districts, Des Plaines 62, East Maine 63, and Park Ridge-Niles 64 have each made a priority to work closely with our high school staff to insure that meeting the needs of our students is our most important shared mission. In addition, Pennoyer Northwest District 79 as well as our many private schools throughout our Maine Township High School communities do a tremendous job of preparing students.

The Post recognition only establishes a new floor for us. We can and will continue to improve thanks to our strong connections to so many wonderful partners on the journey.

Dr. Ken Wallace District 207 Superintendent

LET US HEAR FROM YOU
Send your letters to the editor to News Editor Ben Meyerson at bmeyerson@pioneerlocal.com or mail to Niles Herald-Spectator, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago, IL 60654. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. Niles Herald-Spectator reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and content. All letters must be signed to be published.

Plastic bag ban means a return to civility

"You could just grab the handles of as many (plastic) bags as you could heft, and lug the stuff home. Once grocery clerks realized there was no order to the thing, they could pack that stuff any old way they wanted. It really was the breakdown of civilization. As the great poet Yeats wrote, 'Things fall apart; the center cannot hold.'"

To do it properly, you needed a can opener, with a sharp point at one end to open cans and an opposite blunt end to open a bottle. Here's how you did it: Position the opener at the top of the can, press down to puncture it and create a hole in the shape of a triangle, rotate the can 180 degrees and create a smaller triangle hole on the other end to allow you to pour the beverage from the can properly.

The importance of the can opener was recognized by all, as someone was always responsible for "putting it back" or remembering where it was, and by the special term of endearment it still has today — "church key."

Then along came the pull tabs. The innovation was great because you no longer needed to bring the church key to the picnic.

But where to discard the tab once you pulled it off the can? Being Americans, we naturally just threw them on the ground. Think of millions of aluminum cigarette butts scattered across America's parks and beaches. Again, we thought this was the greatest invention. But it was just another door to chaos and cut feet.

Today the ring and the tab stay on the can, so that's an improvement. Or is it? The can has doomed the far superior glass bottle for storing beverages.

But that's a topic for another day.
Newspaper reporter — better job than lumberjack

Thank god for lumberjacks.

If it weren't for lumberjacks, newspaper reporter would be the worst job in America.

That's according to CareerCast, a job site, which, using U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics figures, has come up with the best and worst jobs in America.

To decide on the best and the worst, the job site used factors such as income, stress and outlook. The worst jobs had low pay, high stress, diminishing job opportunities and sometimes danger.

I spent a lot of my working life as a newspaper reporter, so I am not surprised at where the job ranks on this list. Projected job growth for newspaper reporters by the year 2022 is negative 13 percent.

"I spent a lot of my working life as a newspaper reporter, so I am not surprised at where the job ranks on this list. Projected job growth for newspaper reporters by the year 2022 is negative 13 percent."

So, it would seem that only fools would choose to be newspaper reporters. Not necessarily. There are rewards.

Reporters get to write, which they all like to do. And some of them are even good at it.

Reporters get to see politics up close and personal. If done right, reporting is a social service profession. What reporters write can be of service and benefit to readers.

Reporters can tell the truth — not just what one side said followed by the opposite from the opposition. Very often in public affairs the actual truth (not just two sides) can be determined. Pretty much reporters are the only people who can find out the truth — or who even try.

So being a newspaper reporter can be a good thing — just not when it comes to buying anything.

**FEATURED HOME**

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**8809 N. Elmore St., Niles**

- **House size:** 1,508 square feet
- **Lot size:** 8,125 square feet
- **Year built:** 1962
- **Bedrooms:** 3
- **Bathrooms:** 2
- **Garage:** Two-car attached
- **Property tax:** $6,887.62 (2012)
- **Exterior:** Vinyl siding and brick
- **School district:** East Maine School District

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**Session 1:** July 6-12
**Session 2:** July 13-19
**Session 3:** July 20-26
**Session 4:** July 27-August 2

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Niles
6200 W Touhy Ave: Bank of America, Houser Christopher I M Trust, Diana Houser Trust, Houser Trust and Melinda H Moos to Costco Wholesale Corp for $5,000,000 on March 14
8650 N Shermer Road, #309: Harold Haas and Esther S Haas to Mevlja Idrizovic and Huso Idrizovic for $150,000 on March 11
8423 W Betty Terrace: Krystyna Czop to Cindy Garcia and Angel Lira-Beltran for $300,000 on March 12
Morton Grove
6337 Hennings Court: Noreen Cashman to Samuil Khoper for $307,500 on March 13
9100 Oleander Ave: Linda I Lamonda to Property Illinois 1h3 for $200,000 on March 12
Park Ridge
1012 N Knight Ave: Peggy Lynch Trust and Maria C Ropes Trust to Timothy M Metropulos for $175,000 on March 13
1704 W Crescent Ave: Mavis D Magantes Trust, Carol L Grenlie Trust, Dawn D Mudd Trust, Dawn D Mudd Trust 100 and D Mudd Dawn Trust 100 to Joseph Magnelli and Anne Magnelli for $290,000 on March 14
2200 Woodland Ave: Redwing Property LLC to Christa J Friedman for $325,000 on March 14
Glenview
4100 Triumvera Drive, #404: Avda M Hussein to Arkadiy Krasik, Dmitriy Karasik and Yelena Fridman for $82,500 on March 13
1811 Rogers Ave: Gene Swytnyk to Jeremy M Stempien Trust, Jeremy M Stempien Trust, Carole B Stempien Trust, Carole B Stempien Trust and B Stempien Carole Trust for $1,032,000 on March 14
Skokie
7040 Babb Ave: Ksj Real Estate Holdings Ltd to Nicholas S Greiner and Kimberly C Greiner for $315,000 on March 14
4641 Main St, #4641: Mahmood Semaka to 4641 Main LLC for $100,000 on March 12
Norridge
8218 W Leland Ave: Rothchild & Klein II LLC to Rochelle Fabillon for $279,000 on March 13
Des Plaines
8924 Kenneth Lane, #106f: Kenny W Suh to Roosevelt Christian for $35,000 on March 13
10065 Linda Lane, #10065-IN: Providence Real Property LLC to Vit Trust for $235,000 on March 12
Wilmette
643 Hibbard Road: Gifla Davis and Gilla P Davis to Larry J Steiner and Elaine Steiner for $316,000 on March 14
609 Romona Road: Elaine H Dekin to Bradley A Carlson and Agnes M Carlson for $365,000 on March 12
2710 Hawthorne Lane: Michael Kilroy McGarry Trust to Joseph G Rowell Trust, G Rowell Joseph Trust, Joseph G Rowell Trust, Edith S Rowell Trust and S Rowell Edith Trust for $395,000 on March 13
Northfield
1717 Northfield Square, #1717: Edrila M Braun to Paul J Prudden for $138,000 on March 14
302 Crestwood Village: Joseph Besheer to Zian Jia Zeng and Ix Jiang for $168,500 on March 14
925 Elmwood Ave: Richard H Donohue and Helen L Donohue to William Borders and Anna Borders for $1,065,000 on March 14
Evanston
9534 Central Park Ave: Oscar Broekman, Dena Maer and Dena Broekman to Eliot Wickersheimer and Jodi Wickersheimer for $725,000 on March 12
304 Hartzell St: Keith Hartough and Karen L Hartough to Henry G Zander IV for $590,000 on March 13
1502 Main St: Kirk L Dobbin to Elizabeth Stare for $591,000 on March 13
324 Sherman Ave: Evanston 30 LLC to In/Site Investment Group LLC for $145,000 on March 12
1720 Maple Ave, #404: Mary Jo Metz to Melissa M Luft for $227,000 on March 14

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### NILES

**FRIDAY, MAY 2**

**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 from the names of the pieces to winning strategies. Caregivers must remain in the room with children in kindergarten through second grade. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**IceLand Ice Show: 'Stadium Skatakural'**

7 p.m.: Ice skating students exhibit their handwork and talent. Additional performance Saturday at 6 p.m. IceLand, 8435 Ballard Road, Niles. $8-$10. Call 847-663-1234.

**HAPPENING NEARBY**

**Sunday, May 4**

**Earth Day Celebration**

10 a.m.: Donate a bike or trike to benefit the Park Ridge Park District's 100 Trees program and receive a 10 percent discount on the purchase of another used bike at the Bike and Trike Exchange until 3 p.m. Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 W. Sibley St., Park Ridge.

**Earth Day**

11 a.m.: The whole family is invited to celebrate Earth Day with activities, including recycled crafts, dancing, live music, an animal show, eco-friendly vendor booths, tree climbing and more. Attendees are welcome to drop off gently used items to be reused or recycled. Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 W. Sibley St., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-5127.

**Microsoft Word 2010 Bootcamp**

1 p.m.: Two Word workshops consolidated into an intensive 3-hour session. Covers setting up page layouts, basic formatting, printing and saving documents, and more. Registration is required and limited to six. Morton Grove residents have priority. Prerequisite: Must be experienced and comfortable with computer, keyboard and mouse. For more information or to register, go to calendar.mgpl.org or call 847-929-5101. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

**Free ACT Practice Exam with Princeton Review**

1 p.m.: Start preparing for college admissions with a free practice ACT exam with The Princeton Review. Visit www.princetonreview.com/testfest for more information and to reserve a spot. Ragus, 350 S.

### 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.

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

**Saturday, May 3**

**Friends of the Library Book Sale**

10 a.m.: Find great bargains on gently used hardcovers, paperbacks, videos, CDs and more. The sale is open for members 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. May 2 and open to the public 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 3 and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. May 4. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3253.

**‘Spanamal!’ Musical**

7:30 p.m.: The senior class performs at 7 p.m. April 25 and 26, 2 p.m. April 27 and 7:30 p.m. May 2 and 3. Maine South High School, 315 S. Dee Road, Park Ridge.

**SUNDAY, MAY 5**

**Baby Time**

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

**Citizenship: Spring Session**

6 p.m.: Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**TUESDAY, MAY 6**

**Adult Computer Beginner Boot Camp**

10 a.m.: Learn to use the mouse, keyboard and begin searching the Internet. This four-week training session meets Tuesdays through May 27. Registration required. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**Inside Writing and Publishing**

7 p.m.: Author Libby Fischer Hellmann explains her move to self-publishing, the differences, benefits, drawbacks and costs of self-publishing vs traditional publishing. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**SATURDAY, MAY 10**

**World Language Storytime: Visit Serbia**

10:30 a.m.: Preschoolers are invited to share stories and songs in Serbian, followed by a craft and a snack. For ages 3 and older with a caregiver. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**World Language Storytime: Visit Russia**

2 p.m.: Children ages 4 and older with a caregiver can share stories and songs in Russian followed by a craft and a snack. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. For more information, call 847-663-1234.

**Sunday, May 12**

**Second Sunday Mom’s Day Tea Party**

2 p.m.: Children can bring their mom, grandma or auntie for a special Mother’s Day program that includes tea, treats, a craft and a fashion show. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**Health Care Forum Presentation on Medical Nutrition Therapy**

11 a.m.: Megan Sebanc, registered dietitian/certified diabetes educator from Advocate Medical Group will discuss the correlation between diet and diabetes management. Medical nutrition therapy provided by a registered dietitian is a key complement to traditional medical interventions in diabetes treatment. The Health Care Forum of the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce is a collaborative group of health and wellness professionals providing health education and resources to the community. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge.

**Book Discussion**

1 p.m.: This group meets on the first Thursday of each month. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge.

**Trip to Long Grove Chocolate Fest**

9 a.m.: The festival features sweets, food, shopping, live entertainment and activities. Fee includes transportation and admission. Registration required. Prairie View Community Center, 6834 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-1200. $10-$14.

**Park Ridge Panhellenic Club Meeting**

Noon: The Park Ridge Panhellenic Club presents its annual scholarship awards luncheon and program. Scholarships are awarded to graduates of high schools in the Maine Township area. Membership to the Park Ridge Panhellenic Club is open to alumnae of college Greek letter sororities. Address inquiries to Barbara Pfaff at 847-696-4789. Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. $23.

**The Hidden Murals of Chicago**


**Friends of the Library Book Sale**

4 p.m.: Find great bargains on gently used hardcovers, paperbacks, videos, CDs and more. The sale is open for members 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. May 2 and open to the public 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 3 and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. May 4. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3253.

**‘Spanamal!’ Musical**

7:30 p.m.: The senior class performs at 7 p.m. April 25 and 26, 2 p.m. April 27 and 7:30 p.m. May 2 and 3. Maine South High School, 315 S. Dee Road, Park Ridge.
CALENDAR


May the Fourth Be With You: “Star Wars” Day
I p.m.: Stop by the library until 4 p.m. to pick up a “Star Wars” themed take-home activity. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

MONDAY, MAY 5

Money Matters Discussion
10 a.m.: The group meets on the first and third Monday of each month, Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge.

The Roosevelt Women
I p.m.: While President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt had many sources of support and advice, such as his cabinet and his close friends. He also had a group of women from whom he gained political help and emotional support. This two-part series focuses on five of them. North Shore Senior Center, 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-470-9223. $16 members, $22 nonmembers.

Here, Fishy Fishy
4 p.m.: Children ages 7 to 12 can join the four-week class to learn how to fish. Kids can bring their own fishing pole or use one from the park. Classes begin at 4 p.m. Mondays through June 2. Wildwood Nature Center, 529 Forestview Ave., Park Ridge. $5-$10.

Bug Club
4 p.m.: Children ages 4 to 6 can learn about bugs in this hands-on class. The program begins at 4 p.m. Mondays through May 19. Fee includes all sessions. Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 W. Sibley St., Park Ridge. For more information, call 847-692-5127. $5-$10.

Oakton Batting Cages
5 p.m.: Receive two tokens for the price of one. Oakton Batting Cages, 2800 W. Oakton St., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-5127.

Research Your Family History: How to Start Researching
6:30 p.m.: This session will focus on the beginning steps to researching your family. Participants will learn about various documents and resources found in their homes or with relatives that will assist them as they start their research. Pedigree charts, family group sheets, time lines, research logs and other forms will be described and participants will be given assistance in starting to fill out these forms. For more information or to register, go to calendar.mgpl.org or call 847-929-5101. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

TUESDAY, MAY 6

A World Gone Mad: World War I and World War II
11:30 a.m.: Historian Jim Gibbons will talk about aspects of the two of the most catastrophic wars in history, highlighting significant events that thrust the United States into two unwanted wars. This included the assassination of the Arch Duke Ferdinand, the sinking of the luxury liner Lusitania, Hitler's ambition to achieve power, the attack on Pearl Harbor, the dropping of the Atomic Bomb and much more. For more information, go to calendar.mgpl.org or call 847-929-5101. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

Meet with a Member from Illinois State Rep. Marty Moylan’s Office

Senior Center Book Talk: Fast Fiction
10 a.m.: Daunted by the bulky tomes looming on your nightstand? If so, MGPL has a list of little gems that will deliver great stories without weighing you down. To register, call 847-470-9223. North Shore Senior Center, 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove.

Charles Troy Presents: More of Loesser
1:30 p.m.: Acclaimed musical theater historian Charles Troy takes attendees behind the scenes in the latest songs & albums in the Listen section.

THURSDAY, MAY 8

Thursday Morning Book Discussion
10 a.m.: The group discusses “Me Before You” by Jojo Moyes. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

THURSDAY, MAY 9

Thursday Morning Book Discussion
10 a.m.: The group discusses “Raising Monarchs: Caring for One of God’s Graceful Creatures.” First United Methodist Church, 419 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

A Passion for Perennials
8 a.m.: The sale showcases perennials, those reliable plants that tolerate the unpredictable whims of Chicago’s weather. Many of these perennials are recycled from the gardens of members and friends who thin out and divide their plants. For more information, go to calendar.mgpl.org or call 847-929-5101. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.
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BUILDING PERMITS
BY AGGREGO NEWS SERVICE

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

1. Misc electric
Address: 202 E. Cuttriss St, Park Ridge
Issue date: Jan. 15
Permit cost: $95
Improvement value: $5,000

2. Water heater
Address: 8136 N. Oketo Ave, Niles
Issue date: Jan. 16
Permit cost: $40

3. Fire protection
Address: 6300 W. Howard St, Niles
Issue date: Jan. 15
Permit cost: $96
Construction cost: $85,000

4. Sewer repair/cleanout
Address: 751 East Ave, Park Ridge
Issue date: Jan. 14
Permit cost: $160

5. Data/telecommunications
Address: 6201 W. Howard St, Unit 211, Niles
Issue date: Jan. 14

6. Commercial alteration or repair
Address: 7701 Austin Ave, Skokie
Issue date: Jan. 13
Issued to: American Louvre
Contractor: KMI Building Services
Improvement value: $178,060

7. Fire alarm
Address: 7650 Gross Point Rd, Skokie
Issue date: Jan. 13
Issued to: Orchard Village
Contractor: Customized Protection Services

8. Fire suppression
Address: 2 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge
Issue date: Jan. 16
Permit cost: $375
Improvement value: $6,213

9. Sewer/water top
Address: 6132 Elm St, Morton Grove
Issue date: Jan. 13
Permit covers: Electric service upgrade
Permit cost: $60

10. Data/telecommunications
Address: 650 Butler Place, Park Ridge
Issue date: Jan. 13
Permit cost: $1,000

BIZ NOTES

- Heartland Bank and Trust Company proudly announces Amanda Hark-Divelbiss will serve as an assistant vice president — commercial banking for the Western Springs area. Hark has 14 years of banking experience. Amanda and her husband Mike make their home in Warrenville with their son Benjamin.

- Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage recognized Nancy Gibson's outstanding 2013 performance at its annual awards celebration. Gibson earned the distinction as the top producing agent in Northbrook for the 11th consecutive year. She ranked number three in the North Shore and number eight within the company out of a network of 3,400 agents.

- Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage has named Yvonne Mortimer as manager of its Oak Brook office. In her new position she will be responsible for overseeing the 51 independent sales associates in the development of their business and managing the daily activities of the office.

- RE/MAX In the Village, in Oak Park, recently earned honors from the RE/MAX Northern Illinois region for their 2013 achievements. The charitable efforts of its brokers and staff in support of Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago earned RE/MAX in the Village the designation of Miracle Office from Children's Miracle Network. RE/MAX offices in northern Illinois donated more than $160,000 to the hospital last year.

  Also, Kyra Pych and Roz Byrne were inducted into the RE/MAX Hall of Fame for helping at least 350 clients successfully complete real estate transactions.

Does your company have news about grand openings, hires, promotions, awards or recognitions? Email biznotes@pionerlocal.com.
New Cook County ordinance has builders being environmentally friendly

BY JACKIE PILOSOPOH
For Sun-Times Media | @helpsquadjp

The 2014 construction season has begun, and with it comes a newer Cook County ordinance that will affect what construction companies, builders and municipalities do with debris from their projects. In other words, they either recycle the debris or get fined.

"The ordinance actually went into effect in 2012, but at that point, we started outreach and education," said Bryant Williams, manager of engineering services for the Cook County Department of Environmental Control. "Now we are enforcing it, but we try to provide every opportunity for compliance."

Williams said the decision for the law, which is called the "Cook County Demolition Debris Diversion," was based on two factors: an opportunity to reduce the amount of waste in the county, and the benefit of economic growth associated with the recycled building materials.

"Instead of landfilling demolition debris, there are jobs that can be created through reusing, recycling and repurposing it," he said.

C & D Recycling is way ahead of the game. The Northbrook construction and demolition recycling facility opened in 2007. It was the brainchild of three individuals who had a vision to keep debris out of landfills and putting back into the construction industry. "Everything gets sorted and separated, and then we send it to various end users," said Nancy Hirsch, owner of the company with her brother, Larry Hirsch and their business partner, Sam Sciarretta. "For example, our asphalt shingles are sent to a company that further processes them for road base."

C & D Recycling got its start when Sciarretta, who is also the owner of Se Enterprises, Inc., his Northbrook-based property maintenance company, bought a roll-off truck and some dumpsters he needed to help clear debris from his construction projects. He also started keeping furniture, metal and other construction debris because he knew they had value.

On a vacation in Florida in 2005, Sciarretta noticed a company that was recycling construction debris, and he used it as his business model. He then approached Larry Hirsch, owner of AA Service Company, a Northbrook heating and air conditioning business as an investor. "Larry and I visited the operations in Florida and saw the amount of material that was being recycled, and it was astronomical," said Sciarretta. "Materials vary in different parts of the U.S., and in our region there was even more of an opportunity because there was more product."

Sciarretta said Larry decided to be more than an investor. He wanted to be Sciarretta's business partner. "It was not only a great business opportunity, but also a real way to contribute to the environment," Larry said.

Nancy Hirsch, who was working as a project manager in the office furniture industry, said she got a call from her brother shortly after, offering her a job. "He said, 'Quit your job, I want you to run this company,'" said Nancy, who lives in Northbrook with her husband and two children.

In addition to C & D Recycling, the three own Active Disposal, their transport company that takes debris from homes and construction sites to C & D Recycling.

According to Nancy, some of the debris does end up in landfills, but they strive to recycle all the materials they can, which include wood, brass, concrete, metals, cardboard, roofing, flooring, and mixed construction debris.

In addition to the Cook County ordinance, Nancy said that the villages of Northbrook, Winnetka, Highland Park and Grayslake have their own laws, which requires recycling for construction and reconstruction.

"With the volume we get, which is about 200 tons per day on a slow day to 700 tons per day during our busy time, putting it all in a landfill would be devastating to the environment," Larry said.
Stars shine for Dist. 207 Educational Foundation

*A NIGHT FOR OUR STARS*
Benefiting: Maine Township High School District 207 Educational Foundation
Date: April 10
Location: Rosewood Restaurant, Rosemont
Attended: 150
Raised: $16,000
Website: maine207foundation.org

I. Patricia Schreiber of Park Ridge; 2. Matt Nieradka, 16, a sophomore from Niles (from left), Dante DelGrosso, 15, a freshman from Morton Grove and Perry Hasapis, 15, a Niles freshman with the Maine East Jazz Band; 3. Joey Maltese, 14, a Maine East High School freshman from Park Ridge; 4. Rose Maltese of Park Ridge; 5. Kristi Ryken (front, from left), Carolyn Uehlig, Kathy Dollaska, Eileen Breslin, Cathy Glunz, Patricia Schreiber, Ruth Haller, Sandy Deines, Bonnie Trenkle, all Park Ridge, (back, from left) Scott Williams, Park Ridge, Paul Piszkiewicz, Des Plaines, Phil Berquist, Glenview, John Carl, Arlington Heights. PHOTOS BY KARE ANGELL LUCFOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA
CAUSE & EVENT

LIGHT OPERA
WORKS SPRING
BENEFIT
Honoring James Harms
Location: North Shore
Country Club, Glenview
Date: April 5
Attended: 140
Raised: $35,000

TOP: Jan Hanson of Niles (left) Lyn Dickey of Northbrook
MIDDLE: Bridget McDonough (from left), James Harms and Rudy Hogenmiller, all of Chicago
ABOVE: Dan Solomon, Evanston (back, from left), Erica Evans, Chicago, Paul Giddings, Evanston; (middle, from left), and Gene Servillo, Marianne Schapiro Clase Giddings, all of Evanston; (front, from left), Judy Solomon, Evanston, Rosie Reese and Ben Schapiro, all of Evanston (PHOTOS BY JENNIFER SCHUH, HORIZON PHOTOGRAPHY

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Meghan Swenson and Kevin Lang’s wedding day, the disc jockey played jazz and Rat Pack tunes until after dinner, and the couple danced to “A Kiss to Build a Dream On,” by Louis Armstrong.

“We kind of wanted that old-school, quaint vibe,” Meghan said.

Meghan grew up in Glenview and works there in retail. Kevin is from Wilmette and works in logistics in Niles. They live in Evanston.

Meghan’s mom, Liz Taylor, was a regular customer at the Caribou Coffee in Glenview, and in early summer 2008, she noticed Kevin working there and told her daughter she should introduce herself to him.

They went on their first date in August 2008.

“She likes to get all the credit for it,” Meghan said of her mom. “Mutually, right away, we just clicked and hit it off.”

In February 2012, the couple went to Kevin’s parents’ place in Green Lake, Wis., for the weekend. While the two were on a walk near the snow-covered lake, Kevin proposed.

Both bride and groom are Catholic and felt the ceremony was the priority. Meghan grew up attending Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Glenview; Kevin went to St. Francis Xavier in Wilmette.

They compromised by getting married at St. Francis Xavier and having the Rev. Father Paddy Tyrrell from Meghan’s Glenview parish perform the Mass.

For their reception venue, they chose the Winnetka Community House, a place that has been close to Meghan’s family ever since she attended preschool there.

“It’s kind of been a place that’s near and dear to me,” Meghan said.

There, they enjoyed cocktail hour in the Arches Garden and moved indoors for dinner and dancing.

Meghan said she had a vision of how she wanted things to look on their June 8 wedding day — crisp, clean and classic — and creating the right atmosphere was important to them.

“I guess I just tried to really put a lot of thought into my table settings,” Meghan said.

A point of pride for big Chicago Blackhawks fan Kevin was when the couple walked into the reception to “Chelsea Dagger” — the song played when the Blackhawks scored — at the same time the song was being played at the United Center as the Blackhawks scored during Game 5 of the Western Conference Finals.

“It was a fun moment to have,” Kevin said.

Contact Renee Lee at rlee@bouquetcatcher.com or 312-651-6613 to share your wedding story.
PARTIES
AHA'S CHICAGO HEART BALL
CITY YEAR'S RIPPLES OF HOPE GALA
STYLISH SINGLES EVENT

BILLY ZANE
THE CHICAGO NATIVE COMES ALIVE IN 'THE SOUND OF MUSIC' AT LYRIC OPERA

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Sherry John, President, Women’s Board
Lauren Blair, President, Scenemakers Board

Robert Falls
Artistic Director

Roche Schulter
Executive Director
Iliehia

The Mag Mile just got a little more colorful thanks to its newest tenant. This week, the popular women’s line swung open the doors to a 1,000-square-foot shop, decorated with original artwork by the brand’s designer Stacey Bendet. 919 N. Michigan; Aliceandolivia.com

Alice – Olivia

25 Degrees’ BBQ brisket burger

Make room for a guiltless indulgence this month: 50 percent of the proceeds from the new barbecue brisket, sirloin patty and Cardona cheeseburger — created by chef Tim Goodell and available through May — will benefit the Greater Chicago Food Depository. $12, 736 N. Clark, 25degreesrestaurant.com

The Source fragrance fountain

Get a whiff of this: French designer and perfumer Thierry Mugler debuted an upgraded edition of his famous Source fragrance fountain. Now boasting four canisters stocked with samples and full-bottle refills of the label’s Angel and Alien eau de parfums, it’s the most sustainable way to wear your favorite scents. Refills start at $50, Macy’s, 835 N. Michigan; Muglerusa.com

NoMi Boutique Chocolate

How sweet! Award-winning pastry chef Meg Galus has set up (pastry) shop through May 11 in the Park Hyatt Hotel Library, crafting handmade treats with the finest chocolates, like Valrhona, Cacao Barry and Felchlin. $3-$100, 800 N. Michigan; Parkchicago.hyatt.com

AT THE SHOOT

Billy Zane, currently starring as Captain von Trapp in Lyric Opera’s production of “The Sound of Music,” pressed pause on his rigorous practice schedule to pose for Splash’s cameras. Zane led our team through the opera house, striking energetic poses and helping photographer Simon Perry scout shot locations.

CREDITS
Photographer: Simon Perry
Grooming: Mercedes Parra
Shoot Coordinator: Katerina Bizios

SPLASH

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE DISH IN CHICAGO?

Publisher and Editor
Susanna Negovan
susanna@suntimes.com

Art Director
Jessica Sedgwick
sedgwick@suntimes.com

Managing Editor
Rachel Handler
rhandler@suntimes.com

Senior Editor
Elle Eichinger
eleichinger@suntimes.com

Assistant Editors
Katerina Bizios
kb@bizios.com
Zak Sterner
zsterner@suntimes.com

Multimedia Producer
Ramzi Dreessen
rdreessen@suntimes.com

Director of Brand Strategy
Liza Swetz
liza@suntimes.com

Event Coordinator
Taylor O’Doherty
taylor.odoherty@wrapports.com

Interns
Sydney Epstein
Alicia Hauge

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May 1
- **A DISCIPLINED LIFE BENEFIT**
  Co-chaired by David Storch, chairman and CEO of AAR Corp., and Rick Fezell, vice chairman and Midwest managing partner at Ernst & Young, this business-attire event celebrates the more than 2,000 Perspectives Charter School students and 300 staff members while helping support the schools' future.
  **Time:** 6 p.m.
  **Place:** Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, 120 E. Delaware
  **Cost:** $250. For more information, visit Pcsedu.org/beoñt.

May 2
- **SAIC THE WALK**
  To commemorate 80 years of fashion design and education, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago takes its annual event up a notch. A multimedia performance by faculty member Nick Cave - previously featured in Vogue - accompanies a student runway show and a cocktail reception.
  **Time:** 9 a.m. rehearsal, 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. event
  **Place:** Millennium Park Chase Promenade North, 201 E. Randolph
  **Cost:** $75, or $40 to watch the morning rehearsal. For more information, visit Sacs-fashion.org.

May 2
- **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART'S GALA DE ARTE**
  Themed “Sueños y Esperanzas” (“Dreams and Hopes”), this evening helps support the museum and its educational outreach programs. Join corporate chair Anne Pramaggiore, president and CEO of ComEd, emcee John Guionnes of ABC-7 and co-chairs Yolanda Sterner and Jessica Priego for dinner, cocktails and live music from Grammy-nominated mariachi trio Ella.
  **Time:** 6 p.m.
  **Place:** Fairmont Chicago, 200 N. Columbus
  **Cost:** $500. For tickets, email Danielle@nmmart.org.

May 3
- **VINEYARD VINES DERBY PARTY**
  Take in the big race with co-hosts Amelia Canham Eaton of The Chicago Life Blog, Mark Beler of Shred4l5, Heidy Best of BECLOTHESMINDED, and Splash's own dapper gents, Zak Sterner and Ramzi Dreessen. Enjoy mint juleps, 14 Hands wine and light bites and place your bets for a chance to walk away with prizes.
  **Time:** 3-6 p.m.
  **Place:** Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steak House, 58 E. Oak
  **Cost:** Free. To RSVP, email Vvderby@zapwater.com.

May 3
- **STEPPENWOLF GALA**
  Funds raised benefit Steppenwolf's performances and educational programming.
  **Time:** 6:30 p.m. performance, 7:15 p.m. reception and dinner
  **Place:** Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted
  **Cost:** $1,000. To purchase tickets, call (312) 654-5632 or email Specialevents@steppenwolf.org.

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May 4
- CHICAGO HOUSE'S SPRING BRUNCH AND FASHION SHOW
A staple on the spring style scene, this event honors State Representative Naomi Jakobsson with the Spirit Award and gives special recognition to Jeremy Hilborn for a decade of work with the organization. Ted Grady of J&L Catering, Ross Slotten of Klein & Slotten Medical Associates and Mallory Ulaszek of Roam co-chair the afternoon, which features lunch, a runway show, dance performances and a flower market.

Time: Noon
Place: Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State
Cost: $200 garden level, $300 runway level. For tickets, call Lori Byars at (773) 248-5200 or email Lbyars@chicagohouse.org.

May 6
- ONE OUNCE OF PREVENTION LUNCHEON
"It's good business to invest in young children" is the motto of this annual event — chaired by Frederick H. Waddell, CEO and chairman of Northern Trust — which brings together business, education, government and philanthropic leaders to talk teaching. Rear Admiral Casey W. Coane delivers a keynote speech.

Time: 11:30 a.m.
Place: Hilton Chicago International Ballroom, 720 S. Michigan
Cost: $150. For tickets, visit Theounce.org/luncheon.

May 7
- CHIARTS KERFUFLLE!
A roster of Chicago arts heavy-hitters — including Steppenwolf's Martha Lavey and Ravinia's Welz Kauffman — will be on hand to help raise funds for ChiArts, the city's first arts-centric public high school. Enjoy cocktails and a strolling cabaret dinner and see visual and performance work from the school's talented students.

Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, 220 E. Chicago
Cost: $250, VIP $500. For tickets, contact Jessica Ramirez at (773) 334-9729 or email Jramirez@chiarts.org.

May 8
- MERIT SCHOOL OF MUSIC'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
The Merit School of Music honors world-renowned soprano Renée Fleming for her contributions to arts education at its 35th anniversary gala, co-chaired by Judith A. Istock and Richard L. Thomas and featuring cocktails, dinner, student performances and dancing.

Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe
Cost: $500. For tickets, visit Meritmusic.org/support-merit.

May 9
- RESCUE OUR ANGELS
"The View" co-host and Splash columnist Jenny McCarthy joins event co-founders Peter and Michele Doyle and "The Real Housewives of New Jersey" stars Chris and Jacqueline Laurita for this seventh annual cocktail party fundraiser for Generation Rescue, with "Windy City Live" host Ryan Chiaverini and "24/7 Chicago" host Catie Keogh serving as guest emcees. Proceeds benefit families affected by autism.

Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Venue One, 1044 W. Randolph
Cost: $150. For tickets, visit Rescueourangels.com.
Chicago's weather may be toying with us—70 degrees and sunny, followed by snow?—but that doesn't stop the city's stylish partygoers from looking glam. Their answer to the shifting seasons: cap sleeves. Slight coverage plus a bit of skin means these dresses are the perfect winter-to-spring transition pieces. French fashion house Lanvin showcased several capped metallic outfits on the runway, while John Galliano created a more subtle take on the trend with mini-sleeves—a sleek limbo between short sleeves and shoulder caps. Whatever the length, it's a chic way to cap off a look.
A. Marek
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Nine handsome singles drew nearly 200 guests to Siena Tavern (51 W. Kinzie) despite the unseasonal snow April 14 for Splash's first-ever Stylish & Single cocktail party. Sean Johnson, Franklin Riley, Al Vallejo, Ryan Newman, Ahmed Braimah, Aaron Smyth, William Skelly, Franco La Marca and Sagar Sheth — who were featured on the pages of Splash's March 30 All About Men issue — mingled with partygoers late into the night while snacking on the restaurant's Wagyu beef meatballs, coccoli, bay scallop crudo and truffle gnocchi and sipping 312 Pale Ale drafts and wine. — Katerina Bizios

1. Laura Gollehon, Nicole Banks, Allison Fyfe and Katie Stenson
2. Meghan Goulette and Ahmed Braimah
3. Raj Sheth and Alyssa Cassata
4. Michael Caputo and Franco La Marca
5. Coccoli from Siena Tavern
6. Amber Neuman, Derrick Agnoletti, Cody Hart and Cara Marie Gary
7. Evan Kostorizos with Achilles and Tasso Loumis
8. Joaquin Briveva and Jennifer Sutton-Brieva
9. Chad Soderholm, Lori Allen and Franklin Riley
10. William Skelly and Roya Samarghandi
11. Sean Johnson, Julie Moja, Jessica Schultz and Nicole Webber

PHOTOS BY RAMZI DREESSEN-SPLASH
AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION’S CHICAGO HEART BALL

HEART HEALTHY

Joan and Paul Rubsclager — longtime American Heart Association supporters — proved they truly do have hearts of gold at the 32nd annual Chicago Heart Ball April 12. The couple was awarded for their record-setting $1 million donation, the largest individual gift in the history of the event. More than 850 black-tie-clad gala goers — including co-chairs Paul J. Burt, founder and CEO of WestLake Financial Group and co-founder of Cera Solutions, his wife Janet and emcee Laura Schwartz, former White House director of events and author of Eat, Drink & Succeed — helped celebrate the colossal contribution at Navy Pier’s Grand Ballroom (600 E. Grand). The bash stayed true to AHA’s mission to fight heart disease and stroke: Guests were served a healthy dinner of fig and prosciutto salad and roasted cod with ginger short ribs. After live and silent auctions, DJs Taras Dembereckyj and Clay Collier kept the party bumping.

Splash was the media sponsor of this event.

ART VAN’S ART OF STYLE PARTY

LIFE & ART

After shooting Art Van Furniture’s (900 E. Boughton) Spring 2014 catalogue, famed photographer Nigel Barker stepped out from behind the lens to celebrate the opening of the retailer’s Woodridge location April 17. Guests at the event rubbed shoulders with Barker and Art Van founder Art Van Elslander while enjoying refreshments and a runway show. Summer Jackson won the store’s first-ever “Supermodel Super Search” after strutting in a carwash competition judged by Barker, Van Elslander and Splash’s own editor and publisher Susanna Negovan, landing a $1,000 gift card to the store, an outfit from Saks Fifth Avenue and the opportunity to be featured in an upcoming Art Van advertisement.

STORIES BY JACQUELINE ANDRIAKOS

CITY YEAR CHICAGO’S RIPPLES OF HOPE AWARDS DINNER

RIPPLE EFFECT

Talk about stand-out attire: Mayor Rahm Emanuel and BMO Harris Bank CEO Mark Furlong donned personalized bright red jackets at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel Chicago (221 N. Columbus) for City Year Chicago’s 15th annual Ripples of Hope Awards Dinner April 9. The jackets, exclusively worn by a small group of community leaders and young adults who work with City Year to make a difference in Chicago Public Schools, were awarded to both honorees for their leadership in advancing educational success in underserved communities. During dinner, guests texted in ideas about how to improve learning for Chicago’s kids; the texts were then projected around the room. Later, City Year’s AmeriCorps members shared stories of helping students in need stay on track to graduate. The evening brought in more than $936,000 to benefit City Year’s intervention programs, which focus on attendance, behavior and course performance in math and English to help nearly 4,000 CPS students each year.

Splash was the media sponsor of this event.
**And Then Sum**

'Food Buddha' Rodelio Aglibot is turning dim sum on its head at Yum Cha

BY ANTHONY TODD

Last year, chef Rodelio Aglibot — also known as the “Food Buddha,” thanks to his TLC series of the same name — serendipitously spotted a significant void in the Chicago food scene. “There wasn’t a really good dim sum restaurant downtown, and there was an opportunity,” he says. So he struck while the pan was hot, opening Yum Cha Dim Sum Parlor in Lakeshore East near Millennium Park this month. For Aglibot, who also helms Mount Prospect’s E+O Food and Drink (short for Earth and Ocean), the restaurant’s launch was a dream finally fulfilled. “I've always wanted to take dim sum and put my twist on it,” he says.

In some ways, Yum Cha feels like a traditional Chinatown dim-sum palace: Carts roll around the restaurant on weekends, guests order off a photo-heavy menu and beloved Chinatown spot Phoenix oversees the cooking staff. But true to his word, Aglibot is shaking things up — the cuisine he's crafted is both conventional and innovative. Take, for example, the sweet potato fries, which he's coated in salted duck egg, a traditional Chinese technique ($4.95). “You have the sweetness of the potato against the saltiness of the duck yolk,” he says. “People have never had anything like it before.”

Here’s what else to expect at Yum Cha:

**Chef stats:** Aglibot grew up in Hawaii, eating Chinese food all the time. Later, during culinary school in San Francisco, he often ventured to Chinatown. “That’s where my education in eating Chinese food really got serious,” he says. After stints at several high-profile spots, including San Francisco’s E+O Trading Company and at LA’s Koi, he headed to Chicago to open Sunda, the Billy Dec-backed Asian fusion restaurant in River North.

**Must-try dish:** There are nearly 100 items on Yum Cha's extensive menu, which, according to Aglibot, is fewer than a traditional Chinatown spot. His favorite? The pork soup dumplings (xiao long bao, $6.95 for four). “I haven't been able to find really good soup dumplings in Chicago,” he says. “With ours, the skin is just perfect and the broth has a lot of flavor.” Other must-haves include Szechuan braised octopus ($11.95), crispy pork ribs with spiced salt and pepper ($16.95) and the traditional bao; Yum Cha has chicken and pork versions ($3.95). “They're like nice little pillows,” says Aglibot.

**Sweet surrender:** “There's no real word for dessert in Chinese — just 'sweets,” explains Aglibot.

At Yum Cha, sweets include Hong Kong toast, brioche bread soaked in a caramel made with sweetened condensed milk, then griddled and tossed with sugar ($6.95). Aglibot's also created a deep-fried coconut milk that's crispy on the outside and soft on the inside ($6.95). “It's a technique I witnessed in Asia: taking a liquid and solidifying it,” he says.

**Tea time:** While Yum Cha will have a selection of “progressive, Chinese-inspired cocktails,” Aglibot also wants to encourage diners to try tea. “These aren’t the Liptons of the world,” he insists. “These are hand-selected, really high quality.” For the best of both worlds, there's a list of tea-infused cocktails like the Wulong Black Dragon, made with oolong tea, Old Forrester bourbon, lemon, cinnamon and peach liqueur ($14).
There aren't specific criteria for what qualifies someone as a "hair guru," but if seven Daytime Emmys for Achievement in Hairstyling, an eponymous hair care line, and Oprah Winfrey's stamp of approval don't do it, nothing will. With those credentials, it's fair to call Andre Walker a master of his trade. Known widely as Winfrey's personal hairstylist and as the creator of Halle Berry's famed pixie cut, the South Side native recently expanded his empire by launching his Gold System products - a line he'll personally showcase alongside longtime friend and Chicago fashion icon Ikram Goldman April 29 at her famed "red box" store (15 E. Huron).

Launched last fall as a specialization of Walker's existing brand, Andre Walker Hair, the Gold System features four new products, including TKO Ultimate Moisture conditioner and Get It Straight styling crème. "My initial line was very simple, and I realized that there was a need for something a little more specific for women with kinky, curly, wavy or course hair," Walker says. With that texture in mind, Walker went to the blackboard — or more accurately, the chemistry lab — and spent two years working with three different chemists to develop his crown jewel: Beautiful Kinks, a product designed to enhance and manage ultra-curly hair. "What I found myself doing over the past years was taking a little bit of one product for shine, another for hold, something else for moisture. I would mix all those things together. Beautiful Kinks covers all that," he says.

In the months since the line's launch, Walker hasn't wasted any time getting back to the lab. He's already working on his next hair innovation: a smart relaxer. Though it's still in its testing stages, Walker is optimistic about the product's groundbreaking nature. "Nobody's ever done anything like [the smart relaxer]," he says. "The thing about relaxers is they either over-relax or they don't relax enough. [Ours] will know how long to work."

Like any great hairstylist, Walker never forgets his roots. His route to stardom reads like a fairy tale: In 1986, he was running his own salon on Chicago Avenue ("There's a parking lot there now," he laughs) when he noticed a local up-and-coming TV host and offered to style her mane. The host turned out to be Winfrey — and since then, he's been her primary stylist, responsible for making sure her coif is always camera-ready and creating looks for covers of O Magazine.

Though Winfrey may have left our fair city, Walker still calls the Gold Coast home — and he's happy to dish out hair-taming advice for Chicago women. "I always say conditioning is the best thing you can do for your hair and is something you absolutely should do on a regular basis," he says. "All the things we do to our hair now — we color it, we go to the salon to get blowouts, we use flat irons — can damage it." Also on Walker's haircare plan? "Use a gentle shampoo to prevent damage," he says. And, of course, "Find a great hair stylist."
BILLY ZANE IS SLIDING DOWN A BANISTER AT FULL SPEED, EYEBROWS ARCHED.

Photographer Simon Perry and I suck in our breath as Zane barrels toward us, but just before the actor crashes into the base, he gracefully leaps onto the carpet below.

Our hearts are racing, but Zane doesn't skip a beat — he sprints back to the top of the stairs, beckoning Perry, who's photographing Zane for Splash's cover, to follow him. He sits precariously on the railing, crosses his Fendi-clad feet, then leans into the camera, pointing his finger until it's inches from the lens. "I like playing with perspective," he says, without breaking his pose.

Zane, Perry and I are at Lyric Opera of Chicago, squeezing a rapid-fire photo shoot in between back-to-back rehearsals for Zane's stint as Captain von Trapp in Lyric's "The Sound of Music," which premiered April 25 and runs through the end of May. The Chicago native has spent more than a month in the Windy City while prepping for the part — and though he's thrilled to return to his "powerful, diverse and resonant" hometown, he's hardly had a second to reminisce. "When I'm not onstage, I work. I keep my creative juices flowing," he says. "No time for revisiting old ground."

It's a statement that applies just as easily to the actor's three-decade career, which he's worked hard to shape into an ever-evolving organism. Best known for his on-camera work — specifically, his star turns in hits like "The Phantom" and "Titanic" — Zane, 48, has brought his Clark Gable looks and playful smirk to more than 100 films and TV shows. But his talents extend far beyond the silver screen. As evidenced by a Broadway turn as Billy Flynn in "Chicago" in 2002 and his latest role at Lyric, he's a singer and an accomplished stage actor. In his free time, he paints — his abstract expressionist work has been shown at Miami's Art Basel and London's Art Fair. While in town for "The Sound of Music," he's consulting for Chicago film-production house Cinespace Studios and creating marketing strategies for local distillery 312 Spirits. And Zane's on-the-fly assistant art direction at our cover shoot isn't a coincidence: He brings up that a few years back, he art directed a Bond-inspired GQ shoot of Jenny McCarthy.

Zane is, quite simply, an artist: abundantly creative, spontaneous, completely consumed by his ideas — and more than a little eccentric. He insists on selecting his own clothes from Saks Fifth Avenue for the Splash shoot, visibly pauses to turn sentences over in his mind before speaking them aloud and admits he's very mindful of his image. He speaks with a slightly clipped accent, enunciating every word and evoking a Hollywood actor of the 1930s. In a sense, Zane's public persona seems to be a performance art piece, designed to surprise and delight whatever audience he encounters.

That passion for performance arose early in Zane. Growing up in Chicago, he watched his parents take the stage in regional theater pieces and attended Wisconsin's Harland Camp of the Theatre Arts, where he played Curly in a production of "Oklahoma!" But it wasn't until graduating from Lincoln Park's Francis W. Parker High School in 1984 that he decided to pursue acting professionally. "I realized I didn't want to be a student for a while — I wanted to go pro," he recalls, then jokes, "It was the '80s. All the kids were doing it."

Now starring as Captain von Trapp in Lyric Opera of Chicago's 'The Sound of Music,' Billy Zane reflects on his ever-evolving career, fatherhood — and a few of his favorite things

STORY BY RACHEL HANDLER    PHOTOS BY SIMON PERRY
Just weeks after moving to LA, Zane booked his first job, playing one of Biff Tannen's cohorts in "Back to the Future." In 1989, he landed his first starring role as a serial killer who tortures Nicole Kidman on the high seas in "Dead Calm." From there, things snowballed: Zane went on to romance Sherilyn Fenn in several episodes of "Twin Peaks," save New York City as a purple jump-suit-clad superhero in 1996's "The Phantom" and, most famously, attempt to foil a budding romance between Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet in 1997's "Titanic."

To this day, "Titanic's" Cal Hockley remains Zane's most recognizable role, something he's more than grateful for. "It's part of our fabric," he says. "[Zane] still chastise me for breaking Rose and Jack up — or missing Jack with a bullet." For better or worse, the film set a tone that's stuck with Zane over the course of his career — he's often asked to play cartoonishly evil or unlikeable characters. It's an image he's both embraced ("Sometimes it's more practical to be feared than loved," he muses) and skewered, most memorably by playing a caricature of himself in 2001's "Zoolander" as the titular character's snooty pal. "I still get, 'Shut it, Zane,' or 'Listen to your friend Billy Zane," Zane laughs. "I appreciate it all."

But the multifaceted Zane has since proven that his range lies beyond playing the antagonist, thwarting typecasting — he turned down the role of Julia Roberts' unhinged husband in "Sleeping With the Enemy" — without interrupting the steady stream of roles that come his way. When summing up his more recent career, Zane puts it simply: "A kitchen sink comes to mind." He currently has no less than 10 projects on the horizon, including a lighthearted part in the upcoming Comedy Central series "Checked Out" that he says "is closest to my character and heart."

"The Sound of Music" speaks similarly to Zane's instincts. "The Captain's transformation is very moving to witness, let alone play, every day," he says. "The show is a reminder to audiences the world over of how simple transformation is." That theme hits so close to home for Zane — the always-transforming artist — that he can hardly separate himself from his character. "Detaching enough to feel the truth but not get caught up in the emotion of the scene and music is genuinely tricky," he says. "It's always a shock to the system to remember to not lose yourself in a moment onstage, during the songs especially. But these are good problems in the end."

In part, Zane took the role of the stoic-turned-soft patriarch because von Trapp's onstage transformation mirrors his own: Three years ago, Zane became a father to Ava, and three months ago to baby Gia, both with his partner, model Candice Neil. While recently deliberating whether to leave his LA-based family to participate in "The Sound of Music," Zane's heart was set on the wall, and Ava would be seeing it for the fifth time, he says. "She'd be singing — a von Trapp child-in-training — and I thought, 'If I don't take this, I'll always regret not performing for her.'"

Moving to Chicago, Zane says, wouldn't have been possible without Neil's support: "Candice is the most dedicated and generous mother and partner I could have ever wished for." Though the two aren't married, Zane says, "I refer to her as my wife, she calls me her husband. But there'll be a ceremony as soon as the schedule lightens up for both of us." And he marvels at the strength of their relationship. "Balance comes from pulling your weight when the bar is set high by your partner. When [she] makes it seem effortless, it's a revelation ... [It's] magic."

Always blurring the lines between his art and his life, Zane plans to pay homage to that magic on stage at Lyric, where Neil and his daughters will soon travel to see him perform. "I noticed this dynamic in the Captain and Maria: strong individuals who are made stronger by their trust, respect and reliance on each other," he says. "Good examples set to music. That's the gift of this piece — the take-home. Dignity, honor, loyalty, love ... And beer and pretzels. What else is there?"

Inset: With Jenn Gambatese in rehearsal for Lyric Opera's "The Sound of Music"
So far this year, the weather has been CRAZY. Don't get me wrong, I love a peaceful rainy day every now and then — but after the endless snow we had this winter, I would really like some sunshine. Between the frizzy hair, the wet feet and the umbrellas that turn themselves inside out in the wind, can we please take a literal rain check on the rain this spring?

But, since the rain isn't going to listen to me (just like the snow didn't), I've decided to make the best of it. Here are some ways to make your rainy days a little less gloomy:

- Relax. Grab a comfy blanket, wrap yourself up and take a nap. Our lives can be so hectic sometimes; we really should cherish the moments that allow us to sit down and pause the work and stress.

- Work out. You don't need to leave your house to get a good workout in: Just pop in an exercise video and go to town. Being home alone on a rainy day is the perfect excuse to dance around in your underwear and sing off-key to burn some calories.

- Cook a meal. Remember those dusty cookbooks stashed away in the top cabinet? Get one out and try something new. Enjoy a glass of wine or two while you cook — it might even help you enjoy the final product more!

- Are you behind on “House of Cards” or noticed that you haven't seen even ONE movie that was nominated for an Oscar this year? Rainy days are the perfect time to plant yourself in front of your TV and call it a day.

- Pamper yourself. After the long winter, your hands and feet could probably use some TLC, so get out all your polish, scrubs and lotions and treat yourself to a manic/pedi.

- Invite your girlfriends (or boyfriends) over. Spend the day in sweats just gossiping and hanging out with your best friends. Maybe even break out a board game. There are no rainy day blues that a game of Uno or Monopoly can't fix.

- There's no better time for some spring cleaning. Scrub the shower slime that has been staring at you for months and get OCD organizing all the clothes in your closet. Once you start, you won't be able to stop — and next thing you know, your house will be spotless!

- If you're home with kids, create an indoor scavenger hunt or have a stuffed animal tea party. Spend the day full of imagination and creativity.

- Call or email an old friend. You can spend all day catching up with loved ones who you don't normally get the chance to see.

What are some of your favorite things to do on a rainy day?
WORTH THEIR SALT

Beware: Elliot, Achatz, Izard. Sound familiar? That's because in Chicago, we're more than a little fascinated by our master chefs. But here's a secret: Those people don't actually cook most of your food. While the expert chefs may run the show, their kitchens are often populated by legions of talented up-and-comers — executive chefs and rising sous, savory experts and pastry savants — who put in the time to create the dishes we love.

So we're shining the spotlight on some of our favorite young Chicago chefs on the rise. You might not know their names (yet), but you probably know their food.

1. Tom Van Lente
EXECUTIVE CHEF, TWO

Van Lente, 32, got his start in the business early: His family runs Oakbrook Terrace's Drury Lane Theatre, a live theater and banquet hall that serves Sunday brunch for more than 1,200 people. "I was peeling onions and carrots at 8 years old," Van Lente remembers.

Though he always wanted to work in restaurants, Van Lente got a "real college degree" to please his family. But two days after graduation he started culinary school and, in 2006, landed an internship at Landmark Grill & Lounge under chef Ben Browning. "I'll cherish that forever," he says. "Working for [owners] Rob [Katz] and Kevin [Boehm] when they were still young..."

In 2012, Van Lente opened Two, where he cooks fresh, simple food with an emphasis on locally grown ingredients, such as a Swan Creek Farms duck sourced from Michigan and served with purple sticky rice and charred local ramps ($15). He caught the locavore bug from his mentor, Browning. "Chef would say, 'I'm going to Green City Market,'" laughs Van Lente. "On Friday, I'd want to drink beer and sleep in — not go to a market!"

1132 W. Grand, (312) 624-8363; tworestaurantchicago.com

2. Tanya Baker
EXECUTIVE CHEF, THE BOARDING HOUSE

"It's always been the joke in my family: I'm obsessed with food and eating. I'm a thin person, but I can eat like a football player," says Tanya Baker, the 26-year-old, Le Cordon Bleu-educated chef who recently took over the top slot at the Alpana Singh-backed Boarding House.

When Baker first started in 2005, culinary school wasn't quite as trendy as it is now. "It wasn't something that people really supported. It was always a career people [said they] thought was 'interesting,' but they really thought it was strange." But that didn't stop

Baker, who, after graduation, went on to work at several different restaurants owned by the LM Group, like the original LM and Troquet.

What sets Baker apart at Boarding House is her love for playing with texture — and her desire to create beautiful plates, even when the dishes aren't overly complicated. Case in point: a striped bass with oyster mushroom risotto and fried garlic chips, accompanied by a tiny salad of julienned black radish and celery leaves ($33). "Rustic, but elegant," she says.

720 N. Wells, (312) 280-0720; boardinghousechicago.com
3. Aya Fukai
EXECUTIVE PASTRY CHEF, SIXTEEN

"Most little girls say, 'I want to be a princess or I want to be an astronaut.' I always said that I wanted to make cakes," Aya Fukai laughs. Her dreams have certainly come true: As the executive pastry chef at Sixteen, she not only runs the Michelin-starred restaurant's ambitious dessert program, but also manages banquets and in-room dining at Trump Tower, plus desserts for Rebar and The Terrace at Trump.

Surprisingly, given her astonishing success, Fukai, 30, never went to culinary school — she studied pre-med at Boston University and ended up working at the State Room in Boston. "As a non-culinary student, it's hard to find a job where they'll let you in without any experience at all," she explains. "But [people in the industry] always cheered me on."

After college (she has a degree in hospitality management), Fukai worked in a number of acclaimed restaurants before ending up at Ria in 2011, in what was then the Elysian Hotel (now the Waldorf Astoria). She's been at Sixteen since January, crafting whimsical desserts that complement chef Thomas Lentz's creative, themed menus ($125-$250/person).

On the list now? The Goodnight Moon. "In the children's book, there's a line, 'Goodnight room, goodnight moon, goodnight cow jumping over the moon,'" Fukai says. "I wanted to take that line and turn it into a dessert:" The resulting dish combines a croissant chip (the moon) with a cream-cheese filled caramel bavaroise — her take on a classic "cow tale" candy.

4662 N. Broadway; 42gramschicago.com

4. Jake Bickelhaupt
EXECUTIVE CHEF, 42 GRAMS

Instead of going to culinary school, Jake Bickelhaupt went straight to work — at the famous Charlie Trotter's. "I remember seeing Charlie Trotter's cookbook for the first time, and decided to go to Chicago," says Bickelhaupt, who landed the gig in 2005 after emailing the famous chef and asking to visit his kitchen. "The level of cooking was insane. It changed my life."

The fledgling chef did stints at Alinea, Owen & Engine and Schwa before ditching the industry to study physical therapy. But he couldn't stay away. In 2012, along with his wife, Alexa Welsh, Bickelhaupt started Sous Rising, an underground dinner series held in the couple's apartment that immediately garnered rave reviews. When the fried chicken place underneath his Uptown apartment went out of business last April, he decided it was fate, bought the space and opened 42 Grams in January of 2014. "I've always wanted my own restaurant," says Bickelhaupt, 30. "We decided to do it on our own — for fun. That's why the restaurant is what it is."

By that, he means tiny and intimate: The reservations-only spot seats eight-10 people, has a completely open kitchen and turns out intricate, delicious tasting menus ($155/person) with dishes that rival anything at Alinea, Moto or Sixteen. For example: What looks like a flower arrangement on a moss-covered rock is actually bread accompanied by dehydrated fish chips.

4662 N. Broadway; 42gramschicago.com

5. Phil Rubino
SOUS CHEF, CICCHETTI

"I actually was groomed to be a baker, not a chef," says Phil Rubino, whose father owns a bakery on the Northwest Side. "While all my other friends were working at the mall or at car washes, I was working with my dad in the bakery." But as a grown-up, Rubino took to the savory side of the kitchen, working at Bin 36, L20, Spiaggia and Moderno in the early aughts. Now, he's part of a power trio — with partners Michael Sheerin and Sarah Jordan — running one of the best new Italian spots in town.

Rubino, 31, admits it took him some time to realize he loved Italian cuisine. "I've always had this internal battle about cooking Italian food. I used to think I needed to do other things." But after spending two years crafting complex, modern cuisine at L20, he decided he'd rather keep things classic and simple. "I think the whole fine-dining, molecular thing isn't for me," he says. "I'm glad I learned it, but it wasn't what I wanted to do."

At Cicchetti, Rubino cooks rustic Italian food, including an oft-acclaimed beef carpaccio ($15) and a pickled sardine dish with pumpernickel and horseradish crème fraîche ($15). "I don't like to overcomplicate things. That's at the core of Italian food. Simply done, simply presented — there's no fuss."

671 N. St. Clair, (312) 642-1800; Cicchetterestaurant.com
Cut from the same cloth

Director Mary Zimmerman and costume designer Mara Blumenfeld join forces yet again with 'The White Snake'

I mage may not be everything, but in the highly visual work of director Mary Zimmerman, things — and the way they look — are as much a part of the storytelling as the text. That includes costumes: Designer Mara Blumenfeld has collaborated with Zimmerman on more than 20 projects, including «The White Snake.” Inspired by an ancient Chinese tale in which a serpent spirit metamorphoses into a young woman, falls in love with a human and then sees her joy undermined by an unforgiving monk, the production opens at Goodman Theatre May 3.

While the two women have forged a successful creative alliance, Zimmerman doesn't make things easy for her colleague. “Because I don't write my scripts until we are in the rehearsal process, Mara has to go with the flow — the addition of characters, or the loss of some. Her great strengths are her ability with people, her ability to adapt to the ever-changing circumstances and her doggedness in research.”

The way I work is challenging for anyone,” says Zimmerman. “Mara is superb at being able to improvise, to come up with new things at the drop of a hat.”

THE WHITE SNAKE' 
May 3-June 8, Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn, (312) 443-3800, Goodmantheatre.org

Mara has to go with the flow — the addition of characters, or the loss of some. Her great strengths are her ability with people, her ability to adapt to the ever-changing circumstances and her doggedness in research.

Because Zimmerman's productions range so widely in both place and time, Blumenfeld has had to become conversant with myriad cultures and historical periods. And she isn't always just replicating the look of an era, but using it as a springboard to develop characters; for example, in Zimmerman's rendition of the Disney classic, "The Jungle Book," "I did a ton of very detailed research on traditional Indian dance costumes and on the world of Kipling's childhood in India in the 19th century," says Blumenfeld. "But ultimately, all of that had to be filtered to figure out how to make a bunch of human actors be the animals that are so iconic to us from the animated film."

To develop her designs for "The White Snake," Blumenfeld dug deep. "I wasn't familiar with this particular legend or its huge significance in Chinese culture, so I looked at a lot of different versions of the story to see how the characters are represented," she says. "And it's most often performed as a Chinese opera, so that was a whole other world of research to delve into. Even though our version is in no way a Chinese Opera, it was very helpful to learn a bit about that art form and to be able to decide if certain elements of that world were useful for our version of the story."

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The reality star/entrepreneur has a lot on his (RPM Steak) plate: three TV shows and a new restaurant BY ELLE EICHLINGER

Chicago native Bill Rancic — the first-ever winner of Donald Trump’s “The Apprentice” — became a full-fledged reality star when he and wife Giuliana welcomed cameras into their home for their eponymous TV show, now in its seventh season. In June, the couple opens their second Chicago restaurant, RPM Steak (60 W. Kinzie), a spinoff of their Food Network Mondays at 8 p.m. and “America Now” on WCIU every morning at 3 a.m.

In the kitchen
“Every morning I cook at our house. Every morning I cook breakfast for Giuliana and [our son] Duke, and I cook dinner whenever I can. I love experimenting in the kitchen. One dish I prepare at home a lot is one that’s really popular at RPM: Mama DePandi’s bucatini pomodoro. At RPM Steak, we’re going to have a steak named after our son called The Duke. Bring your appetite if you’re going to have The Duke — it’s not for light eaters, that’s for certain.”

Doing good
“I was pretty reluctant [to do ‘Giuliana and Bill’]. But Giuliana and I made a pact early on: We said, ‘If we’re going to do this, we’re going to use it for good and not evil.’ We were able to really use the show as a platform to shine a light on some heavy topics, like infertility and breast cancer.”

Star-struck
“The first time that I really was star-struck was with Neil Armstrong, the man who walked on the moon. He and I were speaking at an event in Malaysia and I wound up having dinner with him every night. It was in awe. I was thinking to myself, ‘My kid’s kids’ are going to be reading about this man in history books.’ I thought that was just surreal.”

< Rancic on the set of “Kitchen Casino”
AMY BANNERMAN & BRIAN STOLPER
BY KRISTIN LARSON

After meeting and hitting it off at a mutual friend's birthday party in January 2012, Amy Bannerman, a marketing manager at KPMG, and Brian Stolper, an insurance agent at State Farm, decided the best way to get to know each other was through travel. First, Stolper filled in when a friend of Bannerman's cancelled on a Lake Tahoe ski trip. "Brian and I had been dating for three weeks and he sort of invited himself," laughs Bannerman. "We had a blast." From there, the couple set off on a whirlwind romance, visiting 10 states and nine countries during their year-and-a-half courtship. It was during a June 2013 trip to Nashville — home to Stolper's alma mater, Vanderbilt University — that he popped the question. "The city is special to me," Stolper says. "I wanted to pick a spot where we could go back and visit time and time again."

The travel theme continued with an intimate destination wedding, held at the Desert Mountain Country Club in Scottsdale, Ariz., March 22. Bannerman paid homage to the area's natural elements with a soft peach, green and white color scheme and bouquet of succulents. Following the outdoor ceremony, the 100 guests moved into the clubhouse, where floor-to-ceiling windows provided sweeping views of Scottsdale and glittering candlelight illuminated tables, each cleverly identified by a different type of cacti in lieu of numbers. Although the bride says she initially wanted to elope, she's glad they were able to celebrate with those who had supported them over the years. "We were surrounded by such grounded people, and we're really lucky for that," says Bannerman.

IT'S IN THE DETAILS

Gown: Essense of Australia. Wolsfelts Bridal, 1025 S. Lincoln, Aurora, Wolsfelts.com
Groom's attire: custom suit, Tom James, 50 N. LaSalle, Tomjames.com
Wedding bands: Razny Jewelers, 37 S. Washington, Hinsdale, Razny.com
Photographer: Katina Patriquin Photography; Katapatriniaphotography.com
Planner: Regina Osgood, Meant2beevents.com
Florist: Kate Ryan Design; Katelynryan-design.com
Band: TreJa Vu; Trejamusic.com
Invitations: Wood Chick; Woodchick.com

SEND US YOUR CHEERS!
If you have good news to share — or if you'd like your wedding featured — send a note to Splash@suntimes.com.
The eclectic enclave of **Albany Park** is a surprise star in Chicago's housing recovery BY MADELINE NUSSER

Long recognized as the most ethnically diverse community in Chicago, Albany Park now has something else to brag about: Its housing market—which bottomed out in 2012—is making strides toward a post-recession rebound. According to a report from the Institute for Housing Studies at DePaul University, some home sales posted annual price gains of more than 20 percent heading into the spring real-estate season.

Why Albany Park? "Until recently, it's been relatively dormant," says Century 21 broker Dymnna Fay-Hart. "The small community is known to be culturally diverse with spectacular little shops, restaurants and global markets. And today's young people are interested in a high level of culture combined with affordability."

The up-and-comer also wins out by bordering stable communities such as Lincoln Square and historic Ravenswood Manor. "Albany Park is adjacent to pricier neighborhoods, but you're not in them and taxes are likely softer as a result," says @properties broker Ellen Webber. The following properties appeal to buyers interested in diversity, culture and walkability. But we can't promise they'll last long—they represent the area's few new-to-market home listings.

**1. 4924 N. KOSTNER**
Situated near the Edens Expressway and Gompers Park, the 2,600-square-foot home with a $374,900 ask has five bedrooms and a sublime backyard. Bonus: "The street is aesthetically beautiful," says Fay-Hart (call 773-230-3800). "You can hear the church bells ring—it's lovely!"

**2. 3024 W. WILSON**
This turn-of-the-century stucco house, which boasts white trim and two elegant, screened-in porches, has an updated kitchen and refinished attic. An added perk to the $499,000 four-bedroom's Albany Park locale: "The area is really walkable and only about a block-and-a-half to the Brown Line," says Webber (call 773-350-7773).

**3. 4517 N. SAWYER**
This stately 1910 two-flat sits on an extra-wide lot and a quiet street. "It's not far from good restaurants and eclectic cultural offerings," says Dream Town Realty broker Jae Lee (call 312-965-5994). Priced at $359,900, the income property also features gracious rooms, a sizable backyard and a two-car garage.

**HOME COMFORTS**

After enduring that grueling winter, we've moved a next-generation thermostat to the top of our appliance wish list. To give us that extra push, Nest Learning Thermostat and ComEd are teaming up to offer a discount package. Through May 31, ComEd customers receive up to $140 in rebates for participating in its Smart Ideas AC Cycling Pilot program, which automatically adjusts your Nest Thermostat temperature around peak energy time. ComEd.com/homesavings

**A WALK IN THE PARK**
GT Fish & Oyster: oysters start at $2.50 each, 531 N. Wells; Gtoyster.com

"Giuseppe Tentori serves up the best oysters in the city."

Metropolis Coffee Company: coffee starts at $13.25 per 1-pound bag, 1039 W. Granville; Metropoliscoffee.com

"Like many in the restaurant business, I keep late hours — and when morning comes, Metropolis is what's in my cup to help me start the day."

Perman Wine Selections Chicago: wine case, $60 for six bottles, 802 W. Washington; Permanwine.com

"Believe it or not, even sommeliers need to buy wine once in a while. Craig Perman's six-for-$60 case is a great way to discover new favorites."

The Boarding House: scallops, $29, 720 N. Wells; Boardinghousechicago.com

"Executive chef Tanya Baker really showcases her talents with perfectly seared scallops, shaved Brussels sprouts and velvety sunchoke puree."

BOKA: roasted chicken, $26, 1729 N. Halsted; Bokachicago.com

"A chicken dish so divine, it was the genesis of my friendship with chef Lee Wolen."

The Boarding House: frisee lardon, $11.95, 59 W. Hubbard; Boardinghousechicago.com

"It's hard to resist deep-fried hunks of crispy lardon and a silky poached egg in a perfectly Parisian atmosphere."

Nico Osteria: torte, $11, 1015 N. Rush; Nicoosteria.com

"I live across the street from Nico and pastry chef Amanda Rockman's Nico Torte is forever calling me. A to-die-for combination of shortbread-like cake, soaked plums and ice cream makes this one of the best desserts I've ever experienced."

Sultan's Market: falafel pita, $3.75, 2057 W. North; Chicagofalafel.com

"I've traveled as far as the Middle East in search of the perfect falafel and nothing comes close to the falafel pitas at Sultan's Market."

The Boarcing House owner and master sommelier Alpana Singh drinks and dines her way across the city.

West Loop Salumi: charcuterie, $25 for 7-10 ounces, 1111 W. Randolph; Westloopsalumi.com

"Well-made charcuterie is an art form and Greg Laketek has taken his craft to the next level with impressive products well worth seeking out."

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The 2014 BMW i3 is an all-new electric vehicle that is the first vehicle of BMW's "i" sub brand. BMW said its i3 city car creates an innovative era in electro-mobility with complete sustainability, and nearly 100 percent recyclable.

BMW's LifeDrive architecture has two modules: Life Module and Drive Module. The Life Module is the passenger cabin, or greenhouse, and is the first-ever mass-produced Carbon Fiber Reinforced Plastic (CFRP) passenger cell in the automotive business. Carbon Fiber Reinforced Plastic plays a major role in the car's efficiency and is equally as strong as, but 50 percent lighter than steel, while also being 30 percent lighter than aluminum.

The Drive Module is constructed of aluminum and consists of a 22-kWh lithium-ion battery, electric drivetrain, MacPherson strut front and five-link rear suspension systems. The battery is mounted in the rear, close to the drive wheels.

BMW says an added benefit of the LifeDrive architecture concept is the absence of a space-consuming transmission tunnel running through the center of the car, giving the BMW i3 the interior space of the BMW 3 Series, while only having the footprint of the much smaller BMW 1 Series.

The diminutive 2014 BMW i3 displays a tall, narrow futuristic design in a five-door configuration. In profile, the i3 features short front and rear overhangs. The front hood is blunt, rising to meet its sharply raked windshield. Aerodynamic Air Curtains help to increase the drive range by minimizing air resistance and drag around the front wheels.

The interior is comfortable and accommodating, but takes a little getting used to visually with its trim accent made from untreated Eucalyptus panels. At first glance these panels resemble a light Formica countertop, however, we're told they will darken and mellow with age. The instrument panel surround and door trim use fibers from the kenaf plant. The gear selector is mounted on the steering column in the form of a large rotary knob.

Rear wheels are powered by a rear-mounted hybrid-synchronous electric motor boasting 170 horsepower, 184 pound-feet of torque, and maximum revs of 11,400 revolutions per minute; energy is stored in a 22-kWh lithium-ion battery. An optional 34 horsepower gasoline-powered Range Extender Generator can also be rear-mounted with batteries mounted beneath the floor.
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NEW 2014 GMC TERRAIN #M40171
$23,890* $199/MO
39 Mo. Lease: $1,458 due at signing. Includes 1st payment. No security deposit required.

### CARS

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*New car prices include applicable manufacturer rebates & manufacturer incentives. Plus tax, title, & $156.27 doc fee. In lieu of special financing. +With approved credit. On select models. In lieu of manufacturer rebates & manufacturer incentives. Ex. $13.89 per $1000 financed with 0% APR for 72 months. **Plus tax, title, license & $156.27 doc fee. Leases allowed 10,000 miles per year, 20¢ per mile over. Lessee responsible for maintenance, repairs/liability in event of early lease termination. With approved credit. An extra charge may be imposed at the end of the lease term between the residual value of the leased property and the realized value at the end of the lease term. Dealer will not honor any pricing errors in this advertisement. Prices are good 2 days from date of publication. Pictures are for illustrative purposes only. See dealer for details.
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<td>2014 XV Crosstrek 2.0i Premium</td>
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Live life to the full

Presbyterian Homes programs support whole-person wellness

Retirement should be more about discovering possibilities than accepting limitations. Presbyterian Homes believes meeting new friends, exploring new interests, mastering new activities and taking advantage of opportunities can all be a part of it.

Presbyterian Homes' Chicago-area retirement communities offer a program called choices, which is designed to help residents explore the wide range of possibilities open to them within the seven dimensions of wellness — social, physical, environmental, spiritual, emotional, intellectual and community.

On the social side, the choices program makes meeting and getting to know neighbors relaxed and easy. A variety of events and gatherings, many of which are planned and organized by the residents, create opportunities to enjoy meaningful social interaction.

When it's time to get physical, the choices program is designed to empower residents to stay fit and active. Classes and programs provide opportunities to get more exercise, make healthier choices and have some fun. These include working out in a state-of-the-art fitness center, nutrition education.

SEE CHOICES, PAGE 9

Active and involved: Presbyterian Homes' choices program helps residents have fun while enjoying a healthful lifestyle. 1 SUPPLIED PHOTO
and taking part in organized activities like regular walking, swimming, golfing and gardening.

Emotional health is every bit as important for older adults as maintaining physical fitness. The choices program offers support groups of peers — those who share and understand common challenges — and professional help from a caring staff of social workers. The program also promotes emotional satisfaction with activities that inspire creativity, unleash a sense of style, nurture compassion and teach new skills.

While Presbyterian Homes communities focus on physical and emotional wellness, they also include care for the spirit. Along with worship opportunities, including clergy-celebrated services and nondenominational programs, other activities with a spiritual dimension are offered, including yoga, tai chi and meditation.

Intellectual stimulation is also key, and the choices program gives residents the chance to exercise their brains by introducing them to things they’ve never done before — things like riding in a helicopter or going kayaking. There are many stimulating opportunities from which to choose, from learning a musical instrument to mastering chess or bridge, taking university-level classes, joining a book club and more.

Residents in Presbyterian Homes communities have many things available to help them get more out of life. Programs can help them stay physically active, mentally sharp and creatively stimulated while they develop new friendships and new interests. Presbyterian Homes is committed to giving residents choices, helping them explore life’s possibilities.

Founded in 1904, Presbyterian Homes is a not-for-profit, faith-based organization accredited by the CARF/CCAC, the nation’s only accrediting body for retirement communities. To learn more about Presbyterian Homes, its programs or its five Chicago-area communities, call (847) 886-1841 or visit www.presbyterianhomes.org.

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To arrange a tour of Lake Forest Place, and to learn more about how our choices program can help you to live healthier and have more fun, call us today or visit www.presbyterianhomes.org.

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Company Branding and Employee Social Networks: A Social Media Win-Win

By: Emily Bennington, Monster Contributing Writer

We all know social media has become a powerful megaphone. The average Facebook user, for example, has 130 friends while the average Twitter user is closing in at around 127. As a result, with little more than a few keystrokes, individuals have the capacity to reach hundreds -- and in some cases thousands -- of people in their networks.

If the Holy Grail of marketing is word-of-mouth, this begs the question: Why aren’t more businesses actively seeking to build a “brand army”? Consider this: If 100 of your employees or recruits posted something positive about your company right now, their message could potentially reach 30,000 social media users. That is significant leverage! So how are most organizations responding to this opportunity?

Many corporations are scared of letting their employees loose on social networks, preferring a command and control management style,” says Dan Schawbel, Personal Branding Expert and Managing Partner of Millennial Branding, LLC. “Businesses want to get their message out in a controlled manner but many fail to recognize that, because of social media, they have already lost control.”

By creating strict social media guidelines that limit the ability to discuss or represent them online.

“Many corporations are scared of letting their employees loose on social networks, preferring a ‘command and control’ management style,” says Dan Schawbel, Personal Branding Expert and Managing Partner of Millennial Branding, LLC. “Businesses want to get their message out in a controlled manner but many fail to recognize that, because of social media, they have already lost control.”

Schawbel says this fear prevents many organizations from empowering their employees and recruits to talk about them online. Still, a few trail-blazing companies are taking a different approach, with positive results.

Recognizing that employees (and these days, just about everyone else, too) are actively using social media sites, these employers have implemented programs that make the company a partner in their online behavior.

Mobilizing with Online Engagement

Accounting giant PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) is one such company. Coming out of the recession -- and a few lower-than-normal recruiting cycles -- some students approached PwC recruiters looking for advice on how to stand out in the tough, crowded job market. In response, PwC launched Personal Brand Week, a five-day intensive on how to create and manage a positive image -- with considerable focus on building a strong web presence.

Now in its second year, PwC's US Recruiting Leader Holly Paul says Personal Brand Week has not only helped PwC locate talented new hires, it's also significantly increased “online chatter” around the company as well.

This year, Personal Brand Week added a contest in which students could submit a short video making their best "elevator pitch." The videos were uploaded to PwC's Facebook page where users were encouraged to vote for a winner. For Twitter promotions, PwC used the hashtag #PwCBrandWeek, allowing followers to track and comment on the events in real time.

Employees: Your Brand Advocates

An employer who understands the power of harnessing their internal network is global facilities company Sodexo. Arie Ball, Vice-President of Sourcing and Talent Acquisition, hired a photographer to take profile pictures of her staff for use on their social networks. She also had Sodexo’s design team insert the company logo into each one.

As a result, employees received a professional photo, while Sodexo garnered additional branding online. “We encourage our team not only to be brand ambassadors for our company, but to build their personal brand as well,” says Ball. “This helps create authentic relationships and ultimately strengthens the credibility of the company brand.”

Ball says the photo promotion has been successful in part because Sodexo works hard to maintain a company culture where employees are proud to align themselves with the organization. “It’s truly a win-win,” she says.

For businesses looking to create their own social media wins, Schawbel recommends a three-step process. First, draft general social media guidelines that provide basic ground rules for what can and cannot be discussed about the company. (Note: It's always best to consult your legal team when writing official guidelines.) For PwC's elevator pitch contest, the firm posted entry rules on their Facebook page which outlined acceptable format and content.

Once these parameters are set, Schawbel says employees and others should be encouraged to talk to managers about their blogs and online profiles, and feel comfortable doing so.

"Finally," adds Schawbel, "it's important to offer solid training on your corporate message so employees can actually promote your company and be consistent in their delivery."

In other words, perhaps it's time we all approached social networks from the standpoint of what our employees SHOULD do -- versus what they shouldn't.
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SANDING & PRIMING CONTRACTOR

Basic General Contractor or Subcontractor with a good work ethic and Quality Assurance. Experience in SANDING & PRIMING services is a must. Must be able to work in a team environment. Pay is negotiable based on experience. Interested parties please contact John at 708-998-3000.

Real Estate Classifieds

RENT YOUR APARTMENT WITH EASE IN THE CLASSIFIEDS. CALL 847-998-3400 TO PLACE YOUR AD

Farms for Sale

For Sale: Farm in Cook County, IL. Approximately 150 acres. Good soil quality. Located near a major road. For more information, contact John at 708-998-3400.

Real Estate Classifieds

RENT YOUR APARTMENT WITH EASE IN THE CLASSIFIEDS. CALL 847-998-3400 TO PLACE YOUR AD

Pet-Renters

Seeking help with our dog. Must be patient and responsible. Experience preferred. Contact us at petrenters@petrenters.com

Real Estate Classifieds

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Auto Sales

New and Used Car Sales

For Sale: New and Used Cars Available. Contact us at 708-998-3400 for more information.

Real Estate Classifieds

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Real Estate Classifieds

RENT YOUR APARTMENT WITH EASE IN THE CLASSIFIEDS. CALL 847-998-3400 TO PLACE YOUR AD

Help Wanted

Accounting Coordinator

Exceptional professional seeks to administer accounting & member contributions for national foundation. Bachelor's in Accnt. 2+ yrs. ACCPAC/RP
Paperwork must be proficient in Excel. Full-time position will be considered. Apply to John at johnsmc@nationalfoundation.org Salary history required.
Thursday, May 1, 2014
Pioneer Press (DC)
NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 4, 2014, at 10:00 AM, the Plaintiff, The Judicial Sales Corporation, will hold an auction pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Case No. 13 CH 27706.

The foreclosed property is: Number: 250 WENONHA Avenue, Unit 106, Chicago, Illinois 60614.

The following described real estate: Condominium, Unit 106, 250 WENONHA Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60614.

The judgment is offered for sale without any reservation or condition.

Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court documents required by subsection (g)(1)(d) of the Condominium Act, 765 ILCS 605/16044, at the time of the sale.

The certificate of sale that will entitle the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale to a deed to the real estate whose subject properly is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes assessed against said real estate, and to the sale. The property will not be open for inspection prior to the sale.


Notice of Sale:

The Judicial Sales Corporation, No. 1 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606. Tel: 312-444-1122.

Notice of Foreclosure:

HARRISON, THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION, No. 1 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 1300, CHICAGO, IL 60602. Tel: 312-444-1122.

JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION,

15 7th St., Suite 1300, CHICAGO, IL 60602. Tel: 312-563-5500.

JUDICIAL SALE:

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.lallenrs.com.

Certificate of Sale:

The certificate of sale that will entitle the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale to a deed to the real estate whose subject properly is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes assessed against said real estate, and to the sale. The property will not be open for inspection prior to the sale.


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

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

Both Pioneer Press and the Doings recommend discretion when responding. Please refer questions and comments directly to ICAN.
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.
TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD CALL 847-998-3400

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TO PLACE A HELP WANTED AD IN THE CLASSIFIEDS, CALL 847-998-3400

RENT YOUR APARTMENT WITH EASE IN THE CLASSIFIEDS. CALL 847-998-3400 TO PLACE YOUR AD

ASSUMED NAME

ADOPTION

LEGAL

Adoption

The Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, hereby gives notice that a petition has been filed in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, for the adoption of a minor child. The petition is filed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, 1825 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60616. The child is known as [Name Remains Confidential].

Auction Real Estate

Bids Notice

Foreclosures

Public Notices

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

In the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, in the matter of the estate of Charles P. Jr., deceased, case number 14CH06488, Notice of Intention to Foreclose the Real Estate is hereby given.

The real estate is located at 7601 W. Fullerton Ave., Chicago, IL 60634. The real estate is subject to a judgment lien in the amount of $760,000.00. Bids will be accepted for the property up to and including the date of the sale. The sale will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. at the Circuit Court of Cook County, 601 S. Dearborn St., Room 1202, Richard J. Daley Center, Chicago, IL 60602. The sale will be open for inspection and bidding.

All bidders must be present at the sale. The sale will be held in accordance with the Illinois Foreclosure Act, 765 ILCS 505/1 et seq.

To participate in the sale, bidders must register with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, 1825 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60616, and submit a deposit of $5,000.00 or 10% of the outstanding balance, whichever is greater, on or before May 1, 2014.

Public Notice

To publicize this sale, the following public notice is being published:

The Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, in the matter of the estate of Charles P. Jr., deceased, case number 14CH06488, Notice of Intention to Foreclose the Real Estate is hereby given. The sale will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. at the Circuit Court of Cook County, 601 S. Dearborn St., Room 1202, Richard J. Daley Center, Chicago, IL 60602. The sale will be open for inspection and bidding.

All bidders must be present at the sale. The sale will be held in accordance with the Illinois Foreclosure Act, 765 ILCS 505/1 et seq.

To participate in the sale, bidders must register with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, 1825 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60616, and submit a deposit of $5,000.00 or 10% of the outstanding balance, whichever is greater, on or before May 1, 2014.
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Gaining Traction

Visit ToDrive.com to learn what cars are leading the pack in sales in your area.

CARS FOR SALE
CAR DEALERS
AUTO BUYING TRENDS

#DRIVE
Melissa Kezios & Randy Wostratzky
Sue and Jim Kezios of Norridge announce the engagement of their daughter Melissa to Randy, son of Rick and Millie Wostratzky of Darien. Melissa is a graduate of the University of Illinois and recently earned her Ph.D. from Northern Illinois University. She is a social studies teacher at Downers Grove North High School. Randy is a graduate of the University of Illinois, where he also received his master's of business administration. He is employed at Spectrum Group, where he is director of wealth markets and retirement research and consulting, business development and marketing. The couple will marry Aug. 9 at Old St. Pat's Church in Chicago, followed by a reception at the Chicago Cultural Center.

PHOTO PROVIDED
Robert Randolph: Rock and roll’s positive energy ambassador

BY JAY GENTILE
For Sun-Times Media

You better be having fun at a Robert Randolph concert. Because if you aren’t, he’ll stop the show until you are.

“I really don’t have a set list,” said the pedal steel guitar virtuoso and leader of the positive energy-fueled soul-rocking juggernaut known as Robert Randolph and the Family Band, performing at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie on May 9. “We just kind of go by the vibe, what’s going on.”

Randolph said he honed this technique growing up in the House of God church, where he was known to uncork rapturous pedal steel guitar performances during services in inner-city New Jersey. That is, until he first heard a cassette of Stevie Ray Vaughan covering “Voodoo Child.” And, in an instant, everything changed.

“I listened to that tape every day for about five to six years straight,” Randolph said, crediting Vaughan as the inspiration behind The Family Band’s high-octane, booty-shaking marriage of “sacred steel” church music with hard-charging rock and roll energy.

That musical energy is what transformed Robert Randolph from a troubled inner-city kid dealing drugs and dodging bullets into one of Rolling Stone’s “Top 100 Guitarists of All Time” — who has now worked with a Who’s Who of legendary artists from Eric Clapton and Ringo Starr to Buddy Guy and Carlos Santana.

Randolph burst out of the church pew and descended onto the music scene in 2003 with the release of the Warner Brothers-backed “Unclassified” and rode a wave of success for the better part of the decade, fueled in large part by the relentless enthusiasm and testimonial fury of their live sets.

Simply put, their music pumps people up. So much so that the New York Knicks have enlisted the sid of Randolph and company to perform before every Friday night home game to “give the fans some hope and excitement.”

Robert Randolph and the Family Band bring their “sacred steel” church music meets rock ‘n’ roll to the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts.

Robert Randolph and the Family Band

ROBERT RANDOLPH
AND THE FAMILY BAND
8 p.m. May 9
North Shore Center for the Performing Arts,
9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie
$36-$62
(847) 673-6300; Northshorecenter.org

But somewhere along the way in recent years, Randolph got caught up in the never-ending pace of the music business and lost his inspiration. The band’s new album “Lickety Split” is about rediscovering that positive energy and passion, a passion that was on full display at a recent concert in Denver — where Randolph invited a street performer he had discovered that day playing guitar outside of a Jamba Juice to jam on stage with the band for three songs.

“I’m not sure what triggered it, but I just said, ‘Hey, we’re playing not too far from here. If you know the venue, I want you to sit in with us.’” recalled Randolph of the experience. “It was a really cool, really great moment. The crowd dug it.”

Randolph is now taking those positive vibes off the stage to help build the Robert Randolph Renaissance Center in Newark, a “full-on educational Renaissance facility” that will offer music and arts education in addition to technical skills training to inner-city youth starting next fall.

“I was one of those kids and I would be one of those kids probably in jail had I not, you know, had family, mentorship, uncles, the church,” he said. “My deal is we all, as a community, need to step up for the kids.”

Randolph, now the father of a 5-year-old daughter living in the more upscale town of Livingston, New Jersey, said there are all kinds of after-school opportunities for the youth of his town. But when he visits the neighborhood of his adolescence, there’s nothing. Nada. Zero.

“The kids are bored. They don’t have anything to do,” he said. “They’re just telling the kids go to school and when they get out, that’s it. That’s really the problem,” he said.

Randolph recently visited a school in New Jersey, where he offered 20 students the chance to interview him. He was blown away by “the excitement you see on these kids’ faces” when presented with an opportunity they otherwise never would have had.

Which, like everything when it comes to the world of Robert Randolph, brings us back to the “universal unifier” that is music. “It just gives kids different opportunities to explore life,” Randolph said. “When you see those kinds of responses, that’s what inspires me.”
Think of Neil Simon and odds are you'll think of plays defined by one-liners, rapid-fire quips and light-hearted humor. But with "Lost in Yonkers," the prolific writer goes far deeper than he did with such light-hearted hits as "Barefoot in the Park" and "The Odd Couple."

Not that "Lost in Yonkers," winner of the 1991 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, skimps on the wisecracks. But amid the banter and gags, Simon's comedy offers deeply felt exploration of a family in trouble. And although it's set in the summer of 1942, "Lost in Yonkers" still comes across as stinging and modern.

"The thing that jumped out at me right away about this play is how contemporary it feels," says director Devon de Mayo, who helms the production opening in previews May 2 at Skokie's Northlight Theatre. "The plot starts with this father who has gone into huge debt because of his wife's medical bills. How current is that?"

"Lost in Yonkers" opens as Eddie (Timothy Edward Kane) is moving his two sons Arty; 13 (Sebastian W. Weigman), and Jay, 15 (Alistair Sewell), into his mother's Yonkers home. Eddie then hits the road as a scrap metal salesman, hoping to make enough to pay off his debt while his sons live with their abusive Grandma Kurnitz (Ann Whitney).

"Eddie's an adult who is suddenly having to rely on his mother in a way he never anticipated," says de Mayo. "That struck me as so of-the-moment. How many people in this country are having to move back in with their parents as adults because they've been laid off, or fallen into impossibly deep debt?"

The elderly family matriarch's grown children are testimonies to the damage her abusiveness has wrought over the years. In addition to Jay and Arty, Grandma's home provides a roof for Eddie's emotionally fragile sister Bella (Linsey Page Morton); his low-rent gangster brother Louie (Erik Hellman); and his sister Gert (Anne Fogarty), who was so traumatized by Grandma as a child that she can't talk properly.

"There's a trick balance to 'Lost in Yonkers,'" adds de Mayo. "On the one hand, Simon is so good at writing jokes. On the other hand, he's asking the actors to go places that are pretty dark. This is a piece that deals with sex and death and war in some really thoughtful and provocative ways."

"What I hope," says Whitney, "is that people look at this play and see their own families in there. We've got three generations of actors on stage, telling a story that's incredibly relevant despite the fact that it's set more than [70] years ago."
And they’re off! For Derby Day, May 3, we've tracked down local versions of what could be Louisville, Ky.'s biggest contribution to food history — the Hot Brown sandwich.

The original Hot Brown has been on the menu at the Brown Hotel in Louisville since 1926. The earliest Hot Brown was an attempt at a late night alternative to ham and eggs. The hotel chef at the time, Fred K. Schmidt, developed the open-faced hot sandwich. He made the first Hot Brown sandwich with bacon and turkey, topped off with mornay sauce and broiled until brown.

"The Hot Brown sandwich says a lot about Fred Schmidt as a chef," said the Brown Hotel's current chef, Joshua Bettis. "It shows business savvy and creativity to create a dish using items on hand. It shows he understood flavor profiles by incorporating creamy mornay sauce with the roasted turkey, adding the smokiness of bacon, acidity from the tomatoes and a texture element of the crunch of toast points. Genius."

During Derby Week, the hotel serves as many as 1,200 of the beloved sandwiches. (For the recipe, visit BrownHotel.com/dining-hot-brown.htm).

"For guests driving through or staying at the hotel, it's part of their vacation agenda to have a Hot Brown," Bettis said.

A few chefs have brought the Kentucky classic to the Chicago area. We tracked down a Hot Brown at Derby's in Lincoln Park. Like many variations, their Hot Brown includes a small heap of ham.

At the Horizon Cafe in East Lakeview, the Hot Brown is served with their signature homemade mashed potatoes. The sandwich is topped with a Parmesan cream sauce, bacon and grilled tomatoes.

"It's a rich, open-faced sandwich. It's a great comfort food," said Horizon Cafe's Nick Cocalis. The only tricky part of the process, Cocalis said, is monitoring the sandwich while it broils so that it doesn't burn.

We also found the Hot Brown at Farmhouse Evanston, where Chef de Cuisine Stephen Paul gives the sandwich a little extra kick with a sprinkle of smoked paprika. And instead of the original version with mornay sauce — which is béchamel, but with cheese — Paul tops his Hot Brown with a simple béchamel sauce. In place of the pecorino Romano cheese on top of the sandwich at the Brown Hotel, he uses just a pinch of Parmesan.

Paul, who worked for a time for Southern comfort food genius Art Smith, lately has had even more exposure to the regional cuisine. "Now that I'm dating a gal from Bourbon County, Kentucky, I'm held to an even higher standard than before," he joked.

The Farmhouse Evanston team will be making plenty of Hot Browns and Mint Juleps on May 3 to toast the "fastest two minutes in sports."

Which horse will they be cheering for? "As far as the Derby goes, I always root for the long shot," Paul said.
'Stadium Skatacular' celebrates Chicago teams

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
For Sun-Times Media

There's plenty of team spirit in Niles Park District's Ice Show, "Stadium Skatacular," 7 p.m. Friday, May 2, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday, May 3, and 1 p.m. Sunday, May 4 at the IceLand Skate Complex, 8435 Ballard.

"The first half is all Chicago sports teams," reported Skating Director Amy Forbes. "We do a baseball section—Cubs and White Sox. We have a Blackhawks section that is the finale of act one. We also include the Wolves, the Chicagoland Speedway and, of course, the Bears."

The themes are carried out through costumes and characters. "For example, in the Bears section and the Bulls section, we bring in the Super Fans from 'Saturday Night Live,'" Forbes said. "We also have someone acting as Mike Ditka." Of course, all of the team mascots will be in attendance.

The second half of the show is devoted to "High School Musical."

Tickets are $10 for reserved seats, $8 for general admission.

For details, call (847) 297-8010 or go to www.niles-parks.org.

GREAT WAY TO CREATE

Kids ages 2-5 can construct bridges, roads, castles, towers, skyscrapers and more at a Block Party, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Thursday, May 8 at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. They will work with the library's new set of blocks as part of National Screen-Free Week.

For details, call (847) 297-8010 or go to www.skokielibrary.info.

IT'S A JUGGLING ACT

But it's also a storytelling session, a mime show and a comedy. Popular family entertainer Chris Fascione will showcase his varied skills while encouraging kids to read, 2 p.m. Sunday, May 4 at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. Stories will include "Baba Yaga" and "The People Who Hugged the Trees."

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

THINK FAST!

That's what the young people in the Wilmette Park District's Improvisation Troupe will do, 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 2 at Barnes & Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. The troupe will keep kids and parents laughing.

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

KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

Kids can climb aboard super-size vehicles at the Touch A Truck Family Festival, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, May 4 at the Fields Dealership, 670 W. Frontage Road, Northfield. The benefit is presented by the Women's Board of Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago. Tickets are $35 in advance for up to six people, $40 at the gate.

For details, call (847) 832-6600 or go to www.kohlchildrensmuseum.org.
Pawsatively cute:
Crafts for your favorite canine

By Beth Engelman

It happened. Within 24 hours of getting a puppy, I have gone from a “non-dog person” to dog-obsessed. Our puppy, Tucker, has opened up a new world for me, which is both delightful and exhausting, and filled with walks, cuddles and lots of vacuuming.

We adopted Tucker from Placing Paws of Illinois. He was one of eight puppies abandoned earlier this year on a cold and snowy night. When the puppies were finally discovered, only one survived, and that was Tucker. I am so grateful to Placing Paws and other rescue centers like them that are dedicated to saving abandoned animals. To find out how you can get more involved or adopt your own “Tucker” see placingpawrescue.org

I have also come to understand the reason Americans spend over $53 billion on their dogs each year and why I now believe dog crafting might just be the next big thing.

Micro-fleece Dog Bed
I love this project because it’s fun to do, easy to make and the end result is as cozy and adorable as your dog.

You need:
Micro-fleece fabric (2 colors; each color should be cut into a 35” x 35” square.)
Pillow insert (30” x 30”)
Measuring tape
Scissors
Chalk

Directions:
On a flat work surface, lay fabric on top of each other and cut
Cut 4” squares from each corner of the fabric (both layers).
Cut 4” x 2” fringe around the perimeter of the fabric (both layers).

Glue gun or strong adhesive

Use a double knot to tie each piece of fringe from the top layer of fabric to the bottom layer.

Work your way around the perimeter of the square until your pillow/dog bed is ready to be stuffed.

Insert pillow form and close the opening by tying the remaining pieces of fringe together.

‘Pawcasso’ Keepsake
This project was created by Lauren LaPlante, who was a veterinary technician at Animal Medical Center in Skokie. Although Lauren passed away a few years ago her creativity and love of dogs live on.

You need:
Non-toxic, water-based paint (such as tempera or finger paint)
Paper or canvas
Paintbrushes
Baby wipes

Directions:
Find a spot outside where you can quietly work.
Set out the paper or canvas.
Use paintbrush to gently paint your dog’s paw and then have him walk on the canvas.
Use a baby wipe to clean the paw and repeat process with different colors.

Canine Canister
I love the elegant simplicity of this canister, which is made from a recycled cookie tin.

You need:
Recycled tin with lid (such as a cookie, popcorn or cracker tin)
Spray paint
Removable vinyl stickers (available at craft store)
Stencils (optional)
Ribbon

TOP: Tucker settles in for a nap on his homemade, micro-fleece bed.
TOP LEFT: “Pawcasso” Keepsake created by Tucker.
BOTTOM LEFT: Tucker plans his next painting for the “Pawcasso” Keepsake project.
ABOVE: Recycle and customize a tin to store dog treats or toys in. | Photos by Beth Engelman
Pete Lee
8 p.m.: The comedian, who is a regular on VH1’s “Best Week Ever,” 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. at Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont.

Paul Thorn Band
with Brittney DeMeyer
8 p.m.: The Americana rock band performs. Evanston SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. $20–$40.

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Romeo and Juliet Ballet
1:30 p.m.: Join the Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation for a trip to the Jeffrey Ballet in Chicago to see Shakespeare’s tragic love story. Men should wear a coat and tie and women should wear dresses, skirts or pant suits. Fee includes admission to the ballet. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, 8620 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-966-5522. $69–$68.

Family Craft Day: Make Your Own Mother’s Day Gift
2 p.m.: Children ages 10 and older can make a photo album or a scrapbook to give to their mom for Mother’s Day. Oak Park Public Library – Dole Branch, 255 Augusta St., Oak Park. Call 708-386-9032.

NAAMAT USA Greater Chicago Spring Event
6 p.m.: NAAMAT USA, Greater Chicago Council honors Sharon Sutker McGowan, a longtime leader on the national and local levels of the organization. The program includes special guest speaker Jill Wine-Banks, former Watergate prosecutor, and the Amy Yasinsinger Jazz Quartet. DoubleTree Hotel North Shore, 9599 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Call 847-675-7275. $75.

Sharon Sutker McGowan, Program includes Jill Wine-Banks, who speaks about breaking down barriers for women, including her role as Watergate prosecutor, and the Amy Yasinsinger Jazz Quartet.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration
11 a.m.: Enjoy a fiesta platter of Mexican favorites, such as enchiladas, tamales, carne asada, frijoles, guacamole, salsa and chips, tres leches cake and a virgin slugish margarita. Mather’s, 7,134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-478-4408.

Pub Trivia Night: MGCL at the Bringer Inn
7 p.m.: Participants compete in groups of up to four, and the winning team will win a gift certificate donated by the Bringer Inn. Questions created by MGCL librarians will test your knowledge on a variety of topics. For more information or to register, go to calendar.mgcl.org. 8 p.m. DoubleTree Hotel North Shore, 9599 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Call 847-673-6300. $36–$70; kids ages 4–11 free with adult ticket.

A Postlude Mini-Series
3 p.m.: Celebrate the art of the postlude with Glaven Community Church’s choir director. Glaven Community Church, 100 Elm St., Glaven. Donation requested.

Oak Park Concert Choralie Spring Concert: Cry Out and Shout
4 p.m.: The concert features a cappella gems from the German Baroque, Russian Romantic and American 20th century choral traditions. Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 Division St., River Forest. Call 708-383-4742. $10 general admission, $10 students and seniors.

NAAMAT USA Greater Chicago Event
5 p.m.: A special evening honoring Sharon Sutker McGowan, Program includes Jill Wine-Banks, who speaks about breaking down barriers for women, including her role as Watergate prosecutor, and the Amy Yasinsinger Jazz Quartet.

SEE GO CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE
GO CALENDAR

Trivia Night
6 p.m.: Winners receive gift cards. Specials include $4 Budweiser products and 60-cent wings. Buffalo Wild Wings, 7020 Carpenter Road, Skokie. Call 847-329-3333.

Flower Arranging
2 p.m.: Robert Neri, from Robert's Floral and Gift Designs, teaches participants how to make a Mother's Day flower arrangement. Payment required in advance. All supplies included. Mother's, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $15 suggested donation.

Natural Gas
8 p.m.: The improvisational group takes a suggestion from the audience and turns it into a show. The Gift Theatre, 4800 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Call 773-227-1889. $15 suggested donation.

Classic Film Series: 'The Key'

Bibliobop
10 a.m.: The whole family is invited to dance with their little ones. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

Dinner Theater: Sing Along with Mitch Miller
4:30 p.m.: Enjoy dinner, followed by a show, featuring soprano Heather Braoudakis. This is a BYOB event. Mother's, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $16-$18 suggested donation.

Henna Art
2:30 p.m.: Learn the art, share your skills and learn new patterns and applications of this artistic tradition. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood. Call 847-677-5277, ext. 232.

Tea Party
2 p.m.: Children can bring their mom, grandma or auntie for a special Mother's Day program that includes tea, treats, a craft and a fashion show. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

John Scotfield Organic Trio
6 p.m.: The jazz trio performs with musicians Larry Goldings and Greg Hutchison. Additional performance at 8:30 p.m. Evanston SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. $15.

Tape Art
Noon: A hands-on lesson on the techniques used to create art out of duct tape. Mother's, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $16 suggested donation.
FILM CLIPS

OPENING FRIDAY

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2
Rated PG-13 for sequences of sci-fi action/violence
Stars: Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone, Jamie Foxx
Just as Peter Parker is settling into a pleasant routine with the Spider-Man gig and his girlfriend Gwen (Stone), he's menaced by the ultra-powerful Electro (Foxx). Marc Webb ("500 Days of Summer") directed the $200-million superhero sequel.

BLUE RUIN
★★★ 1/2
Rated R for strong bloody violence, and language
Stars: Macon Blair, Devin Ratray, Amy Hargreaves
Long after the violent death of his father, a meek, emotionally devastated homeless man (Blair) decides to seek revenge when the killer is released from prison. Jeremy Saulnier ("Murder Party") wrote and directed the crime drama.

LOCKE
Rated R for language throughout
Stars: Tom Hardy, Olivia Colman, Ruth Wilson
Nine months after having sex one time with a woman he barely knows, a man (Hardy) makes a long drive to the hospital where she's giving birth, destroying his career and his marriage along the way. Screenwriter Steven Knight ("Redemption") directed the drama.

WALK OF SHAME
Rated R for language and some sexual content
Stars: Elizabeth Banks, James Marsden, Gillian Jacobs
After an impulsive one-night stand, a TV reporter (Banks) is stranded without a phone, car, ID or money before the most important interview of her career. Steven Brill ("Drillbit Taylor") wrote and directed the comedy.

STILL PLAYING
BRICK MANSIONS
Rated PG-13 for frenetic gunplay, violence and action throughout, language, sexual menace and drug material
Stars: Paul Walker, David Belle, RZA
An undercover cop (the recently deceased Walker) recruits an ex-con (Belle) to help him take down a crime lord (RZA) operating in a walled-off section of Detroit. Editor Camille Delamarre ("Taken 2") makes his directorial debut with the thriller.

Andrew Garfield stars in "The Amazing Spider-Man 2."

FADING GIGOLO
★★★ 1/2
Rated R for some sexual content, language and brief nudity
Stars: John Turturro, Woody Allen, Sharon Stone, Sofia Vergara
Woody Allen pimps out John Turturro with Sharon Stone as a customer in Turturro's oddball comedy romance, among even wilder unlikelihoods, but if you can set stuff aside there are things to enjoy here. It's also a bit strange that Turturro casts himself, unironically, as a ladies' man supreme, but never mind. The emphasis is on old-fashioned romance, with Allen providing the comedy in a role written for him, as an aging New Yorker who turns to procuring when he's forced to close his bookstore, figuring his middle-aged florist friend has always had a knack with the ladies. He gets in considerable trouble when he decides to add a lonely Hasidic rabbi's widow (Vanessa Paradis) to the client list.

THE OTHER WOMAN
Rated R for some sexual references
Stars: Cameron Diaz, Leslie Mann, Kate Upton
After discovering her boyfriend is married, a scorned woman (Diaz) plots revenge with his wife (Mann) and yet another girlfriend (Upton). Nick Cassavetes ("The Notebook") directed the comedy.

THE QUIET ONES
Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and terror, sexual content, thematic material, language, and smoking throughout
Stars: Jared Harris, Sam Claflin, Olivia Cooke
A university professor (Harris) uncovers dark forces while conducting experiments on a young woman (Cooke) who believes she is possessed. John Pogue ("Quarantine 2") directed the horror.

WALKING WITH THE ENEMY
Rated PG-13
Stars: Ben Kingsley, Jonas Armstrong, Hannah Tointon
A young man (Armstrong) who has been separated from his family during the Nazi invasion of Hungary disguises himself as an SS officer to find them. Mark Schmidt makes his directorial debut with the war drama.
Celebrated around the world on both stage and screen, Shakespeare’s rousing masterpiece receives its first-ever staging in CST’s Courtyard Theater.

Johnny Depp stars in "Transcendence."

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Age 91, of Skokie. Veteran, U.S. Army, World War II. Retired Pressman, Chicago Sun-Times. Avid golfer, chess player, ping-pong aficionado, and amateur radio operator (W9CDQ). Beloved husband of Jeanne (nee Menen); devoted father of Lynn and James R. (Rosario Toscano); dear brother of the late Leslie Parker; fond uncle of John Parker and Mary Burnett.
A Memorial Service will be held in July. Memorial contributions may be made to Central United Methodist Church, 8237 Kenton Ave., Skokie, IL, 60076. Funeral info: 847.673.6111 or www.chicagolandobits.com.
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My 1955 Chevy Two-Door Coupe
By Scott Zanke of Elgin

For many of us, reminiscing about our first set of wheels brings back memories of freedom, fun, fast engines and even faster times.

I remember the sleepless nights prior to getting my first driver's license, looking out the window at my 1955 Chevy two-door coupe. I could imagine that 327 motor roaring when the lights change at the street corner.

When I was 14 years old walking to and from junior high school, I noticed a guy about a block from our home working on a '50s model Chevy with the engine hanging from a chain wrapped over a tree limb. Every time I walked past this house I saw he had done more to the engine and more chrome starting to shine.

Then, one day it was sitting at the front of the driveway for sale. I knocked on the door and asked whether I could take it for a ride. The guy said I was too young to drive, so I told him about my experience at my family's body shop. He tossed me the keys, and I started the engine. I drove about four blocks.

I told the seller I wanted to buy the car, and after tough negotiating we settled at $250. I ran to the bank about 2 miles away and ran back to buy the car.

Now, there I was a young teenager with no driver's license, cruising from one end of the city to the other showing off my first car.

At dinner time, my dad came home from work and asked whose car was in the driveway. I informed him it was "my first car." He said the car was a rust bucket and walked away shaking his head.

I finally turned 16 and got my driver's license. As I cruised around town, my foot got heavy too many times, and I got speeding tickets quite often.

One night I was drag racing another car, and I saw a police car coming the other way. I was doing about 100 mph. I didn't slow down and took a right on another road, and the cop pursued the other car.

I came back into town about an hour later and wanted to get gas before school the next day. While they were pumping the gas my driver's door opened, and a policeman pulled me out and assisted me to the hood of my car. Downtown we went with seven traffic offenses. I had to call my father to get me.

I had to go to court, and the judge was one of my dad's good buddies. He cut to the chase and told me my car was for sale at the body shop, I could not drive it again and he was dropping all charges against me.

That was the longest 3-mile walk of my life, thinking about my first car and not being able to drive it again.

About three days later a man wanted to look at the car. I let him drive it, and he liked it and asked whether I would take a trade.

I asked what he had, and he pointed to a 1969 Plymouth Road Runner. I drove the car. It was fast. I liked it and asked what price difference he felt was right. He asked whether the Road Runner and $700 would be enough.

"What? Did I just hear that right?" I thought.

He gave me a 2-year-old muscle car with 12,000 miles and the cash. Well, OK, I think we have a deal.

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Auto sales fall 19 percent

Car sales decreased 19 percent in Niles in February on a month-over-month basis, as residents of Niles purchased 16 fewer cars and trucks in February than in the previous month.

In the month of February, Nissan was the top-selling make to Niles residents with a total of 16 sales. The 16 Nissan sales in the month broke down into 14 new and two used. Honda and Toyota followed Nissan in sales (both new and used) during the month with nine and eight sales, respectively.

The previous month, Nissan topped the overall auto sales chart for Niles residents with a total of 15 sales, followed by Ford (13 sales) and Toyota (11).

The breakdown of all auto sales in February was 48 percent new and 52 percent used. The most popular make bought used in the month was Honda, while the top new make was Nissan. The previous month, 64 percent of the 85 total auto purchases by residents were used vehicles. Ford was the top make bought used that month, while Nissan was the top brand purchased new.

In February, 67 percent of all car sales to Niles residents came through a local auto dealership, while this share was at 58 percent the previous month. The 67 percent mark in February translated to 46 total sales (and 23 private sales) originating at dealerships, versus 49 total dealer sales (36 private) one month earlier.

Popular auto dealers selling to Niles residents in February included Star Nissan, Bredemann Toyota and Jennings Chevrolet.

The previous month, Star Nissan, Bredemann Toyota and Loren Hyundai topped the chart of dealerships selling to Niles residents.
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Among retired athletes, who earned the most money in 2013, according to Forbes magazine? The answer, thanks primarily to the licensing deal with Nike for his signature sneakers, was Michael Jordan at more than $80 million. Any guesses who was second on the list of retirees? Here’s a hint: he was 84 years old. It was golfing legend Arnold Palmer, who earned about $40 million in 2013.

Bobbleheads are probably the most common promotional giveaways in baseball at all levels of the game. But you don’t have to tell that to LA Dodgers clubhouse manager Mitch Poole. By the end of the 2013 major league season, Poole had amassed an army of bobbleheads – 583 to be exact – consisting of players, managers, broadcasters, executives and even mascots. A former Dodgers bat boy, Poole acquired his very first bobblehead in the early 1990’s, when he was just a team assistant. It was of baseball immortal Henry Aaron. The collection resides in a glass case outside the Dodgers clubhouse.

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ATHLETIC TRAINING

Q and A: Northwestern's Tory Lindley

Pioneer Press talks supplements, sleep and more with the Wildcats' director of athletic training services

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

LINCOLNSHIRE — Tory Lindley, Northwestern's director of athletic training services, delivered a presentation titled "The Athletic and Academic Performance Advantage: It's a Choice!" at Stevenson on April 14. He addressed a variety of topics pertaining to how one can optimize his or her athletic performance.

Afterward, Lindley spoke with Pioneer Press freelance reporter Eric Van Dril. The following is an edited transcript of their conversation.

ERIC VAN DRIL: Is there anything OK to consume in a GNC store?
TORY LINDLEY: I'm sure, but you just don't know. Some of the food supplements — if they're based in food — have the highest potential of being safe. Beyond that, because there's not testing and verification in purity, you're just putting yourself at risk. You just are, and you have to be responsible for everything you put in your body.

Q: If a high school athlete takes creatine, are they still eligible, technically, to participate in high school sports? Would they pass a drug test?
A: If you can guarantee that the creatine supplement is pure, then yes, the athlete would still be eligible. The risk in eligibility comes through the issues of purity and the issues of other things that are put into the creatine. Creatine, as a muscle builder, can be laced or enhanced with other products that make an athlete feel like their lift is better when they're taking creatine. And so slipping in a little bit of whatever stimulant you want to pick — none of which are going to be safe — is where the impurities in creatine become an issue. In its purist form, they will not be at risk for testing positive. The other side effects of dehydration and the potential for muscle strains and chronic muscle injuries are certainly legit. So with the creatine comes other issues as well.

Q: What should athletes be doing 30 minutes after a practice or a game?
A: Within that 30-minute window comes ... a way in which you can get carbohydrates and protein. Those two predominately, but also fluid replacement. The best example is chocolate milk.

Chocolate milk is an outstanding opportunity — easily packaged, easily accessible, don't need to go to a special store, can pick it up at any convenience store, any gas station, any grocery store — and it's a real good example of protein, carbohydrates as well as the fluid.

Q: Say an athlete drinks alcohol at a party on Saturday night. How long is that going to stay in his or her system, and how is it going to affect them?
A: The performance affect has been proven to be all the way out to 72 hours, so three days after. The decrease in performance is pretty remarkable. The decrease in all the positive hormones that you want running through your body to build muscle, help you recover — all those things are decreased as a result of the alcohol consumption. There's a real strong detraining effect — between 10 and 12 percent of a detraining effect — so you lose what you've worked for throughout the week with one night of bad choices. Beyond that, there's a huge dehydration factor ... which is going to affect brain function. The dehydration factor leads to a number of side effects that people experience in a normal hangover. But even after the hangover, so to speak, the effects in your body from a muscle coordination standpoint, as well as a performance decrease all the way into Tuesday are known, they've been proven and they're real.

Q: If an athlete loses five pounds while competing, how much should he or she be drinking to replenish that?
A: Twenty ounces to 24 ounces-per-pound is the only way you're going to get that back.

Q: How much sleep should an athlete be getting, ideally?
A: Anywhere between nine and 10 hours. That's not just nocturnal sleep. Any combination of sleep throughout the day, including your good nights of rest, can get you to that point. Through trial and error, I think athletes especially — and really highly-motivated students — will find that it can be a challenging, but they'll find that there's really no substitute with that amount of rest and what it can do for a recovery standpoint, from a brain function standpoint, from a muscle-memory standpoint. You're going to retain so much more.

For a complete transcript of the interview, visit highschoolcubeneuws.com.
In this May 23, 2012, photo, Niles North's Sarah Benjamin makes a diving catch. Benjamin's defense, hitting and leadership have given the Vikings a boost this season. [FILE]

### NILES NORTH

**Youthful Vikings get spark and a steady hand from senior Benjamin**

**BY MIKE CHAMERNIK**
For Sun-Times Media, @MikeChamernik

SKOKIE — Niles North's softball team is young, with sophomores up and down the batting order and starting all around the diamond. But a senior in the lineup helps keep everyone together.

Sarah Benjamin, a four-year varsity player, is a leader for the Vikings (8-4) and one of the team's best players. She has an OPS of 1.110 (through April 24), meaning she hits for power and gets on base. In a 16-6 home victory over Highland Park on April 22, Benjamin hit a single, double and triple.

"I just knew that the only way that we needed to get runs on the board, so I just try to put myself in a place where I can help the team accomplish that," Benjamin said. "I went in at last wanting to hit. I really wanted to hit the ball."

Playing left and center fields, Benjamin is an aggressive defender with a good arm. For the first out against Highland Park, she chased down a pop-fly into right-center field and made a tumbling catch.

"She's made some plays that have won ballgames, shut the other team down defensively with some great catches this year," Niles North coach Karin Wick said.

While on-field production is important, Benjamin's leadership makes her stand out. She is one of three seniors on the varsity, and the only senior who started against Highland Park. Seven sophomores or freshmen started the game.

Benjamin mentors younger players with cheerful encouragement and an easy-going approach. She doesn't yell, Wick said, and she is caring and compassionate. That has gotten Benjamin the respect of her teammates, and it has helped the team bond.

"When we play together, there's no age barrier," sophomore pitcher Carolyn Dwyer said. "She brings the team together rather than straight."

### YOUTH SPORTS

**Physician cautions against year-round youth sports**

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

Dr. Jeffrey Mjaanes is a sports medicine specialist at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. He serves as the head physician for DePaul athletics and is medical director of the Chicago Sports Concussion Clinic at Rush.

Pioneer Press contributor Eric Van Dril sat down with Mjaanes after he gave a presentation titled, "The Top 10 Sports Medicine Questions Parents Ask Pediatricians at the Healthy Children Conference + Expo on March 8."

The following is an edited transcript. A longer version of the Q&A — including discussion about the risks of colleges recruiting athletes at an early age, headers in youth soccer, football safety and how athletes can prevent spraining their ankles — can be found at highschoolcubenesnews.com.

**Eric Van Dril:** During your presentation you mentioned the importance of rest, especially for baseball players and gymnasts. How much rest do you prescribe?

**Dr. Jeffrey Mjaanes:** Many studies have shown that year-round sports in growing kids are a problem. And year-round sports lead to significant overuse injuries, and some of those injuries can be severe and even career-ending. Sometimes, I'll see parents that feel three weeks off here and four weeks off here is going to be enough time. It's really not. Your body needs time to rest and recover, and these growth plates that have been getting stress for six, seven, eight months need time to recover. And so usually what we recommend is that you take one season off, so winter, spring, summer, fall, one of those seasons — two-to-three months — should be out of the sport, doing something else. It doesn't mean they become a couch potato. They can do conditioning. They can do cross training. They can do another sport.

**Van Dril:** When parents sign up their kid for youth football or another contact sport, what questions should they be asking of the coaches — specifically when it comes to concussions?

**Dr. Mjaanes:** I really think parents need to ask the coaches and the staff for any club sport that they sign their kids up to do is: What is their concussion action plan? All of these programs should actually have a concussion action plan, whether it's where the coach has been trained and took some training sessions on how to diagnose and identify (athletes) with a suspected concussion, what do they do with a kid with a suspected concussion — how is that handled? Parents need to ask the questions, and the kids really need to be on board, too.

**Van Dril:** Is there a way to prevent girls from tearing their ACLs at such a higher rate than boys?

**Dr. Mjaanes:** On average, [girls are] two to eight times more likely than boys to tear their ACL. The same sport, same age, but they're more likely to tear their ACL in what we call a non-contact fashion, which means it's usually from them landing slightly awkwardly or pivoting quickly. What we can try to do is work on developing a more appropriate muscle balance that might help them with stopping without putting the ACL under so much stress. For landings, what we've found is girls tend to land with their knees coming together rather than straight. So if we can retrain them on how to land properly, we might prevent that awkward land on the ligament.

**Van Dril:** How far along are these ACL-tearing prevention programs?

**Dr. Mjaanes:** They've actually come a long way. Now, a lot of colleges and a lot of even high schools — and definitely a lot of club sports and at the national level, with sports like U.S. Soccer and other national institutions — have really incorporated this type of training and conditioning into their programs....
RACKET and RHYTHM

Wolves' Sacks excels with multiple instruments

BY ROB VALENTIN
For Sun-Times Media, @chicagolandprep

SKOKIE — Niles West junior Jesse Sacks isn't a one-trick pony.

The No. 1 singles player for the Wolves is also one of the best high school trumpeters in the state, and being able to be the best in his high school in two different crafts is an accomplishment he relishes.

"It's definitely something that I take a lot of pride in," Sacks said. "To do well in a fine art and an athletic event is something I really enjoy, and I admire the balance."

Sacks' ties to music and tennis came from both his parents. His dad, Frank Sacks, runs tennis camps and plays the violin. His mom, Janis Sacks, plays the clarinet and was first chair all-state in Florida when she was in high school.

Jesse Sacks grew up playing the piano but switched to trumpet when he was 10. He was drawn to the instrument because it brought great versatility, allowing him to play in the marching band, jazz band and pep band.

He continued to hone his craft, and his parents gave him a professional Bach Stradivarius trumpet for his Bar Mitzvah.

His biggest achievement in music came in January when he was named fourth chair trumpet in high orchestra at the Illinois Music Education Conference and All-State Festival in Peoria.

"It's one of those proud moments for a parent," Janis Sacks said. "I was very happy for him to feel success and be recognized and acknowledged. He's absorbed it all well, and I think he still remains humble and supportive of everyone who puts in the effort."

The journey for Jesse Sacks started at the district level where he competed with 79 other trumpeters who reside in District 7. Sacks was among only six to advance to Peoria.

"It's something I definitely worked hard for," Sacks said. "I practiced two hours every day in my basement and worked with my private teacher. I had the desire to go down to Peoria, and the hard work paid off."

There were 46 trumpeters in total at the statewide competition. Sacks placed fourth chair in high orchestra, considered the most prestigious level, for the festival show.

"We had a conductor from the University of Illinois," Sacks said. "It was great to be exposed to different sounds and musicians that were more serious. Everyone there plays seriously, not just for school credit."

One of Sacks' tennis teammates has a special appreciation of what he can do off the court.

"He's a great player," said Michael Yam, who plays viola. "He knows how to take chances and stand out instead of being quiet and timid."

Sacks finds some similarities between tennis and music, the biggest being rhythm.

"I think in a tennis match you have to gain momentum and be in a rhythm, and it's the same for music," Sacks said. "I compare a close tennis match to a solo or an audition. There's a lot of pressure in both, and you're trying to play your best in a critical moment."

Sacks is planning to continue both tennis and music at the collegiate level and beyond.

"I hope to be a high school band director, and I'd love to coach a high school tennis team and work at a club teaching lessons," Sacks said. "I think I can continue to do both, and they're both things you can do as long as you live."

On the tennis court this season, Sacks is 5-2 at No. 1 singles and hopes to advance to the state meet. Niles West is in a loaded New Trier Sectional, though, featuring the Trevians, a powerhouse that finished fourth at state last year, and a Loyola team with a couple of strong singles players.

"During the year I really need to be able to beat one of those players to get a 4 or 5 seed in sectionals," Sacks said. "If I'm a 6 seed, I have to play a 3 seed and that would be tougher."
Maine East's Mary Iliopoulos throws to first base during Saturday's game at Lake Forest. "She has a gun for an arm, so she can fire it anywhere," Blue Demons third baseman Alyssa Matej said of Iliopoulos. (GREG SCHERMERHORN/TIMES MEDIA)

MAINE EAST

Blue Demons have what it takes on D

BY MIKE CHAMERNIK
For Sun-Times Media, @MikeChamernik

LAKE FOREST — In Maine East's back-and-forth 13-12 softball victory over Lake Forest, the ebbs and flows were exemplified by the Blue Demons' defense.

In the middle innings Saturday, when Lake Forest came back from a 6-0 deficit to lead 12-8, the Blue Demons' defense was subpar. Scouts reached on infield singles, iffy fly balls dropped in and the infield accumulated a few throwing errors.

At other times, Maine East fielded extremely well. In the second, a perfect relay from right field nailed a runner at second, and third baseman Alyssa Matej charged and caught a tricky soft liner. Then, with the Blue Demons protecting a one-run lead in the final inning with two runners on, shortstop Mary Iliopoulos caught a sharp liner and right fielder Roseanne Villaflania caught a fly ball to end the game.

"When we got to play D, we can play some defense," Hernandez said.

Iliopoulos, a sophomore, and Matej, a senior, have emerged as key players. Iliopoulos is rangy at short and handled nearly every ball hit to her Saturday. She caught pop-ups in the wind and showed some grit, wearing short sleeves in near-freezing temperatures for the first four innings.

"It's tough," Matej said. "At short you have a lot more time to react, to move around. At third, it's more an instant thing. It's a little difficult but I think I'm getting the hang of it."

Maine East coach Emiliano Hernandez said that the defense has been a bright spot this year that routine plays are being made and that the Blue Demons are tracking pop-ups much better. They've prevented the big innings out in the field.

"Iliopoulos is ranging at short and handled nearly every ball hit to her Saturday. She caught pop-ups in the wind and showed some grit, wearing short sleeves in near-freezing temperatures for the first four innings.

"She's great," Matej said. "She's an athlete that can play anywhere you tell her to. She has a gun for an arm, so she can fire it anywhere. She's a great player."

Matej, a former shortstop and outfielder, moved to third to accommodate Iliopoulos. She also has a good arm and can handle the balls hit to her. Matej also played basketball and volleyball, so she's a versatile athlete who could handle the switch in positions.

"It's tough," Matej said. "At short you have a lot more time to react, to move around. At third, it's more an instant thing. It's a little difficult but I think I'm getting the hang of it."

The better Maine East gets at fielding, the more the team can do other things in practice. Hernandez said hitting has dominated practice time, and Iliopoulos said once the routine plays fall into place, the team can focus on getting better in other areas.

"From last year we've improved a lot with our fundamental plays and I think that's really good because now we can work on the non-fundamental plays and get those down," Iliopoulos said. "We can become a better team like that."

THE STARS

Maine East sophomore Mary Iliopoulos hit three singles and scored four runs. Murphy had four RBI and Matej hit three singles. Lake Forest senior Sarah Porter got on base in all five plate appearances.

BY THE NUMBERS

The game was sloppy defensively, in part due to cold temps and swirling winds. Maine East had six errors and Lake Forest committed four.

QUOTABLE

"That was my mindset — aggressiveness and going at it. I got the third pitch, it was pretty much right down the middle. It was pretty much the perfect [hit]," — Matej on her game-winning single
FLASHING THE LEATHER

Maine East's defense helps it beat Lake Forest

PAGE 53

Maine East's Alyssa Matej catches a pop-up at third base during Saturday's softball game at Lake Forest. GEOFF SCHEERER/SUN-TIMES MEDIA
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