MURDER IN MORTON GROVE
Man charged with killing wife day after being arrested for domestic battery | PAGE 7
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Niles
Multimillion dollar flood-control project kicks off

BY PAM DEFIGLIO
For Sun-Times Media | @NilesHSNews

Though bulldozers have already been digging out a huge water-detention basin on a field next to Niles' Our Lady of Ransom Church for the past two weeks, residents and officials gathered there Thursday for a groundbreaking ceremony.

After four years of study and two years of engineering, the village of Niles was celebrating the construction kickoff of Tier One of its multimillion dollar flood-reduction program. Huge rainstorms in the past six years have caused Niles streets to turn into rivers, and prompted a flood of tears from residents with water-filled basements: "People didn't go on vacations because they were worried about flooding," remarked Mayor Andrew Przybylo to the residents and officials gathered for the groundbreaking ceremony.

The bulldozed basin at the church, 8300 N. Greenwood, is the first visible sign of the Tier One phase of the Stormwater Relief Plan, as the village calls its flood-control project. The village and its engineering consultant, Hey and Associates, have been designing a sophisticated system of improved sewers which will direct water that would normally flood the village into the Our Lady of Ransom detention basin, another basin to be dug soon on the southeast corner of the Maryhill Cemetery property, and other places.

Tier One also includes the Cleveland Avenue storm sewer, which officials had earlier said will carry water eastward and discharge it into the river near Caldwell Avenue.

Construction on the Cleveland Street project will begin in the fall, Przybylo said.

In June 2012, the Village Board approved $14.6 million for Tier One construction projects, with much of the revenue coming from a 0.25 percent sales tax increase in the village.

The stormwater relief project, as the village calls it, was originally set to break ground next year, but Przybylo and the village board decided to push up that schedule.

"Following the two floods of [April and June] 2013, we decided enough was enough, and the program was accelerated," he said.

Saying that climate change may have caused the floods, which drastically worsened since 2008, Przybylo said once the flooding is contained, the village will start looking at what it can do to encourage sustainable energy, possibly even to the point at which people could produce enough electricity to sell some back to the power companies through the reverse grid.

"Our planet I think is in trouble, and I think we all acknowledge that," Przybylo said, to applause. "We have to stop the changes happening in our climate."

Przybylo and Village Manager Steve Vinezeano presented plaques to Rev. Chris Gustafson, pastor of Our Lady of Ransom, and representatives from Maryhill Cemetery and the Archdiocese of Chicago, which owns the cemetery. The plaques acknowledged them for their cooperation in allowing the village to build the detention basins on their property.

Jeff Wickenkamp of Hey and Associates said if heavy rain occurs this summer or afterward, the excess water is predicted to go into the detention basin, and then gradually drain out over about 24 hours and flow back into the sewer system at a rate the sewer system can handle.

"These [detention basins] only fill with water when the sewer system is overwhelmed," he explained.

Former Mayor Robert Callero, who lives near Our Lady of Ransom Cemetery, said he moved there in 1966, but homes didn't begin to experience severe flooding until the 2008 flood. One house on Bruce Street had water up to the basement ceiling, while another had water as high as the first floor, he said.

"This is a great step forward," he said.
A woman was found shot and killed at her home in Morton Grove.

FROM NIKE: Man who killed wife arrested
BY NATALIE HAYES
For Sun-Times Media

A 74-year-old man accused of killing his wife in their Morton Grove home during a failed murder-suicide Friday had been arrested for domestic battery the previous day.

Howard Kim, who was released this week from Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge after being treated for a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest, now faces first-degree murder charges for the killing his wife, 71-year-old Chung Kim.

A spokesperson for the Cook County Coroner's office confirmed Chung died of multiple gunshot wounds. She was pronounced dead at the couple's home at 5508 Madison St. at 10:45 p.m. June 27.

Morton Grove Police Commander Paul Yaras confirmed Chung had called police on June 26 to report a domestic dispute with her husband.

A neighbor living across the street who asked not to be identified said he saw Chung taken away in an ambulance on the Thursday before the murder, while Howard was arrested by police outside the home.

Howard Chung was released from custody the following day after Yaras said Chung Kim had refused to press charges against her husband.

"He had slapped her, but there were no visible injuries," Yaras said. We had him locked up, but the State's Attorney's office decided not to prosecute because she didn't pursue the charges and there was no physical evidence of an injury," Yaras said.

What happened next behind the closed doors of the couple's home on Friday night is not entirely clear, but police say Howard Kim shot his wife several times before turning the gun on himself.

A family member called police to "report a problem at the house," police said. When officers arrived, they found the couple lying on the floor unresponsive.

Neighbors described the Kims as a quiet couple who kept to themselves.

The June 26 domestic battery arrest was Howard Kim's first run-in with the Morton Grove Police, Yaras said.

The couple's two-story home sat eerily quiet Tuesday afternoon, with a billowing American flag next to the front window and a freshly-cut lawn.

The outdoor lights had been left on and two cars—a newer-model BMW and a Honda sedan—sat in the driveway.

Last week's fatal shooting in Morton Grove marks the first murder in the community in 14 years.

Howard Kim will face first-degree murder charges in connection with his wife's death, and will appear in court at a later date, police said Tuesday.

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The Niles Village Board has ditched a proposal that would have made it more difficult to remove trees on private property.

The tree ordinance was originally introduced in January, only to be sent back to the Environmental Practices Committee out of concern that it went too far in regulating what residents could do on private property. The revised version stripped away most of the controversial provisions. But lingering concerns prompted most trustees to vote against it, defeating the motion 2-4.

While Niles had some laws regulating trees in the village, the environmental committee's ordinance sought to significantly expand them in order to protect trees and public and private property.

After locals protested, the committee stripped away most provisions related to trees on private property. It still required residents to get a permit if they wanted to cut down trees more than 10 inches in diameter, and gave the residents an option to register the trees they wanted to plant.

The ordinance also maintained the village's right to cut down dead or diseased trees on private property if the owners refuse to remove them. Section 106-40 on the current Niles municipal code gives the village that right, while Section 106-41 gives it a right to bill the property owner for the expense. Both provisions have been on the books since 1965 and were last amended in September 1999.

While the changes pleased many residents, others remained concerned. During the public comment period, resident Joe Walsh urged the board to get rid of all permit-related provisions.

"I have a problem with one thing — permits," he said. "The permit to remove a 10-inch [tree] is ridiculous. I can remove it by myself."

He also urged the board to remove the provision that gave the residents an option to register their trees.

As the ordinance went up for vote, Trustee Rosemary Palicki, who chairs the Environmental Practices Committee, tried to ease concerns about permits, arguing that they are a safety measure.

"It's for the protection of your neighbors, and for your own protection and for utilities lines," she said.

Palicki also emphasized that tree registration would be strictly voluntary.

Trustee George Alpogianis wondered if cutting down trees was that much of a safety issue.

He asked Tony Dati, the village forester, how often the trees that were cut down damaged nearby homes and utility poles.

"Since I've been in public works, I've rarely seen a resident take down a tree and cause damage," he replied.

Trustee Joe LoVerde said that, as executive director of the Niles Park District, he cares a great deal about the trees. But he felt that the ordinance still went too far.

"Just leave the private citizens alone and let them take care of their property," said LoVerde.

Trustee Chris Hanusiak had similar concerns.

"I can't support the sections that allow government to come in on our property," he said. "So I must reluctantly vote 'no.'"

Palicki noted that voting against the ordinance wouldn't keep the government off private property.

"If, God forbid, it doesn't pass, [the village] would still have the right to cut the dead and diseased trees and bill the owners for the expense," she said.

As the trustees got ready to vote, Mayor Andrew Przybylo urged the board to approve the ordinance.

"The trees add value," he said. "We are not talking about anything invasive — we are talking about safety."

But the board voted against approving the ordinance, with Trustee Danette Matyas joining Alpogianis, LoVerde and Hanusiak in voting 'no.'

After the meeting, Palicki told Niles Herald-Spectator that, while she wasn't pleased with the outcome, she accepted the board's decision.

"Of course I'm disappointed," said Palicki. "I think it's a loss for the village of Niles, but this is the democratic process."
Crime
Niles police: Park Ridge boy reports beating on last day of school

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
johnson@pioneerlocal.com | @Jen_Pioneer

A Park Ridge father filed a police report after his 12-year-old son was reportedly beaten by a classmate on the last day of school.

The alleged altercation occurred on the afternoon of June 11 outside Emerson Middle School, 8101 N. Cumberland Ave. in Niles, but was not reported to police until June 24, 18 days later.

According to Niles police, the 12-year-old victim said that he was leaving school when he was confronted by a boy he had never met before. The boy reportedly told the victim, "I wanna fight you," though the victim said he did not want to fight, police said.

After repeating his request, the boy allegedly pushed the victim, who said he was then punched in the face and knocked to the ground after he pushed the boy away, police reported.

Once on the ground, the victim was allegedly kicked. The victim told police that a female classmate and her father witnessed the incident.

The status of the case was not immediately known, according to Niles Police Sgt. Robert Tornabene.

Prepare for parade, party and parking bans on Fourth of July

BY STEPHANIE AGUILAR
For Sun-Times Media | @stephaguar

From a parade to food and face painting, there’s more than fireworks happening around Niles this Fourth of July.

The village of Niles is sponsoring its annual parade beginning at 9 a.m. at Notre Dame College Prep and ending at Grennan Heights Park.

After the parade, festivities continue at the park until 2 p.m.

Hosted by the Niles Park District, entertainment will include face painting, pony rides and a performance by R-Gang, a Chicago-based R&B band.

While Niles isn’t hosting its own fireworks show, two nearby towns will.

Park Ridge will have fireworks at Maine East High School July 3 at dusk. Before the show, there will be a DJ and interactive dance party at 6:30 p.m. and a performance by Brian Patti Big Band starting at 8 p.m.

Skokie will have fireworks near the Niles Park District at 6:30 p.m. and a performance by Big Time Cram from Ozark to Kenneky from 7:45 p.m. to 10 p.m.

July 4 following food, drinks and live bands until dusk. The first 10,000 people will get free 3-D glasses for the 3-D Fireworks Fest.

Niles residents should be careful of where they park on the Fourth. Parking restrictions will be in effect until 2 p.m. along the parade route, which starts at Notre Dame College Prep, then continues south on Ozark to Main, east on Main to Harlem, south on Harlem to Monroe, west on Monroe to Oketo and ends at Grennan Heights Park.

Parking is also restricted on:
- Crain from Ozark to Ozanam
- Ozanam from Greenleaf to Dempster
- Keeney and Kedzie from Odell to Olcott
- Odell, Oketo, Oceola and Olcott from Keeney to Kedzie

For more information, visit the village of Niles at https://www.niles.com and the Niles Park District at http://www.niles-parks.org.

Arts and Athletics and Why They Are Important in Public Education

Cinda Klickna
Illinois Education Association President

When we get to choose how to spend a few hours, what do we choose to do?

Go to a movie or a play? Take in a concert? Visit an art museum? Go to a ball game?

Isn’t it interesting that the people we so often choose to entertain, educate and enlighten us are artists and athletes? And, isn’t it ironic that the arts and athletics are often the first things cut by school districts throughout our state?

A study by Stanford University and Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching showed that students who participate in the arts:
- Are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement than students who don’t;
- Are three times more likely to be elected to class office within their schools;
- Are four times more likely to participate in a math and science fair;
- Perform community service more than four times as often.

Yet, today organized activities in the arts or sports are available to a dwindling number of students. In many of the districts where opportunities still exist, parents must pay art or athletic fees, an extra expense many families cannot afford.

Whether it is singing in the choir or playing in the band; drawing, sculpting or making ceramics; shooting hoops or playing ball, the benefits to students of organized athletics and arts programs are compelling reasons to support their funding.

Albert Einstein said he came up with the theory of relativity by playing the violin.

Years later, Steve Jobs championed education in the arts and noted, "The broader one’s understanding of the human experience, the better design we will have.”

What’s more important to a successful business than teamwork? Nothing energizes students more than being part of a team that plays a game or puts on a show. Learning to work with others toward a shared goal is an incredibly valuable lesson. When else can our students learn it?

In my own experience as a teacher for 25 years, the students who were in band, art and athletics often had an edge over others. The students knew what it meant to work collaboratively - how else would a musical production or a sports team get anything accomplished? These students had more drive, performed better and tested higher than some of their peers. Obviously that doesn’t hold true for every student, but studies do show that students who are involved in the arts score higher on tests.

Having a well-rounded curriculum, which includes the arts and physical education, is something that our union members believe is essential for the success of all students. Participation in arts and athletics allows students to foster their talents and prepares them for more successful futures.

A message from:

Illinois Education Association
Storm surge

Massive storm floods Park Ridge police station

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
johnson@pioneerlocal.com | @Jen_Pioneer

The front desk of the Park Ridge Police Station often fields calls of flooded roads and basements, but on Monday it was the station itself that began taking on water.

Located in the lower level of City Hall at 200 S. Vine Ave., the sunken courtyard of the police station began taking on water Monday night, said Police Cmdr. Jason Leavitt. The water then flowed into the station through the main entry door to the lobby and under a second door that leads to offices, interview rooms and the prisoner lock-up area.

Roughly an inch of water covered the vestibule, lobby and front desk area, while water also spread across a hallway, offices, storage areas and the jail cells, Leavitt said.

No one was in custody at the time and police operations were not directly impacted, he said, though officers did spend time moving furniture and trying to dry out wet carpets and floors.

The department was still waiting on Tuesday afternoon for a cleaning crew to arrive.

"We've had flooding and periodic water, but not to this level," Leavitt said.

Why exactly the courtyard flooded to the extent it did was not immediately known, and the city's Public Works Department was notified.

Public Works Director Wayne Zingsheim said a gauge at the Service Center that measures rainfall recorded 3.31 inches fell within a 24 hour period Monday, with most of it occurring in the evening and night hours.

Greenwood Avenue west of the Park Ridge Country Club again took on water and was closed to traffic for a time.

The Touhy Avenue viaduct also flooded for a brief time, Zingsheim said.

"The storm was so intense it was blowing manhole covers off the sewers on Devon Avenue," he added.

Neighboring Niles reported that the northern part of the village received 2.76 inches of rain, while 2.56 inches were recorded in the southern area of the village.

A number of Niles residential streets were closed due to flooding and basement flooding was also reported, according to the village.

Both Park Ridge and Niles reported minimal tree damage, with one tree falling on the 900 block of South Western Avenue. Niles Public Works crews were using chipper trucks to pick up smaller branches that may have fallen in the streets. No widespread power outages were reported in the area.

"We've had flooding and periodic water, but not to this level," Leavitt said.

"The storm was so intense it was blowing manhole covers off the sewers on Devon Avenue," he added.

Sandbags sit outside the main door to the Park Ridge Police Station. (OUTSIDE ILLINOIS CALL 1-800 253-0021)

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"The storm was so intense it was blowing manhole covers off the sewers on Devon Avenue," he added.

"Hopefully that means there were no issues," he said.

Zingsheim noted that a recent storm sewer project for Fenton and Burton Lanes "worked wonderfully. There was maybe a little bit [of water] in the curbs, but that's nothing compared to what they used to get up there."

New types of relief sewers are meant to put stormwater back in the street — and out of basements — until the sewers can accommodate it, which is the reason for some of the street flooding experienced in the area.

Niles Village Spokeswoman Hayley Garard reported that basement flooding did happen in Niles. As of Tuesday night, the village had received six calls of flooded basements and 22 calls of street flooding.

"Hopefully that means there were no issues," he said.
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D64 looking at lowering Chromebook costs

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
For Sun-Times Media | @istudenkov

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 board is looking to ease the fees sixth through eighth-grade parents will have to pay for Chromebook computers.

The discussion comes as the district continues to aggressively collect unpaid student fees. Board President Anthony Borrelli wanted the board to think of the ways to potentially reduce Chromebook fees. The board didn't make any significant headway during its June 23 meeting but it is expected to continue to discuss the issue over the next few months.

Because the district has pledged not to raise taxes until 2018, its options are limited. And even if the district does decide to lower fees, the decrease won't kick in until the 2015-2016 school year at the earliest.

In April 2007, voters within the District 64 service area narrowly passed a referendum that allowed it to add 44 cents to its property tax rate for the next two tax years. In exchange, the district promised not to raise taxes for the next ten years.

"At the time, [District 64] made a promise that, barring a dire financial emergency, it won't return to taxpayers seeking any other referendum relief," said district spokeswoman Bernadette Tramm.

Since then, the district has raised student fees to make up for the financial shortfalls. And, in the fall of 2013, it renewed its efforts to collect unpaid student fees.

According to the report presented at the board, as of June 2014, District 64 collected $35,000 in unpaid fees for the 2013-2014 school year, and $10,200 for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years.

The district contracted a collection agency to collect those fees, and the agency kept $1,903 in fees for the 2013-2014 school year and $1,195 in fees for the two previous school years.

As of June 17, District 64 is still $38,004 short in unpaid fees. According to the report, at least some of those families agreed to pay back a total of $717 through installment plans.

According to the district website, the fees for the next school year are $84 for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students, $227 for students in grades 1 through 5 and $315 for grades six through eight. This doesn't include $350 in Chromebook fees that parents of sixth- through eighth-grade students will have to pay.

During the meeting, Borrelli asked the board to consider doing something to decrease the Chromebook fees.

"The cost per student, per family atop of [regular] fees may be a tipping point, and I was wondering if we could mitigate some or all of computer fees," he said.

Trustee John Heyde said that he wasn't happy with the current situation, but the district was trapped between the rock and the hard place.

"The issue is that we have very high fees, and if we didn't, we'd have taxpayer pay for it instead of the parents," he said.

Board Vice President Scott Zimmerman reminded the trustees about the referendum pledge, but he said he would be open to discussing the issue.

"Maybe it warrants discussion among the board," he said. "Maybe we can offset those fees — that's the only way I can see it."

The board, he said, was constantly trying to balance placing financial burden on the parents and placing the financial burden on the parents. Zimmerman felt the board should discuss if the burden on parents was "over-extended."

The board discussed whether there was a way to offset fees without increasing fees or taxes. Becky Allard, the district's chief business official, said that they could take a certain portion of the capital funding, but that could hurt construction and renovation projects.

Ultimately, the board decided to continue discussing the issue over the next few months.

Heyde felt that it would probably take a while. "Personally, I don't think this board will make a decision by [the end of the summer] and that's okay," he said.
III

POLICE BLOTTER

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

NILES

BATTERY

Stephanie Parker, 32, and Gorety Lee, 30, both of 8452 W. Touhy Avenue, were each charged with battery on June 24 after the women allegedly became involved in a physical fight outside their apartment building around 8 p.m. Police said Parker sustained a bloody nose in the incident and was treated by paramedics. Both women have a July 28 court date.

DUI

Edward Sularz, 59, of 8452 W. Touhy Avenue, was charged with driving under the influence on June 21. Sularz reportedly told police that he lost control of his car while backing out of his driveway and struck the house across the street. He has a July 28 court date.

Lesley J. Korthaske, 48, of 1165 Golf Road, Park Ridge, was stopped for driving under the influence of alcohol following Korthaske's arrest on Golf Road and Woods Drive on June 21. Police said Korthaske was stopped for driving violations and later allegedly failed sobriety tests. A court date is scheduled for July 18.

THEFT

Maria Kononov, 28, of Lincolnwood, was arrested for the theft of several designer dresses on June 23. Police said Kononov allegedly took the dresses from an unknown location sometime last year. She is scheduled to appear in court on Aug. 1.

DUI

Lesley J. Korthaske, 48, of 1165 Golf Road, Park Ridge, was charged with battery on June 24 after the women allegedly became involved in a physical fight outside their apartment building around 8 p.m. Police said Parker sustained a bloody nose in the incident and was treated by paramedics. Both women have a July 28 court date.

CHICAGO

THEFT

A bicycle was stolen on the 7900 block of Golf Road on June 22, while it was parked on the 8500 block of Roseview Drive.

DUI

Lesley J. Korthaske, 48, of 1165 Golf Road, Park Ridge, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol following Korthaske's arrest on Golf Road and Woods Drive on June 21. Police said Korthaske was stopped for driving violations and later allegedly failed sobriety tests. A court date is scheduled for July 18.

THEFT

All four wheels were stolen off a semi truck and a tree. Police said the theft occurred at 5 a.m. on June 20 from the 8500 block of Golf Road. The stolen items included four tires valued at $319, from a store on the 8700 block of Golf Road. The stolen items included four tires valued at $319, from a store on Golf Road.

BURLINGTON

Theft

Electronics and miscellaneous paperwork were stolen from Morton Grove Dental Associates on the 9100 block of Naval Avenue when the business was burglarized after business hours on June 23, police said.

BURLINGTON

Cash and fashion accessories were stolen during a residential burglary on the 5700 block of Cleveland Street on June 24, police said.

MORTON GROVE

JEWELRY

Jewelry was stolen during a residential burglary on the 8900 block of Marmora on June 24, according to police.
The mobile stations just north of the Illinois Science + Technology Park campus are hardly noticeable until you pull closer; and even then, they might not fully clarify the importance that they serve.

But it is in this somewhat obscure space where medical exams and testing are being performed, the results of which will deepen and broaden our understanding of aging and illness in America.

"The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey serves as the nation's health check-up, going into communities to collect health information throughout the country," said CDC Director Thomas Frieden. "The survey is a unique resource for health information, and without it we would lack important knowledge about major health conditions."

A total of 24 neighborhoods in Cook County have been selected for the survey while Skokie was chosen as the testing site. That's likely because of its central location to other Cook County communities.

"Cook County was randomly selected to represent every other county in the U.S. as far as population and demographics go," said Janis Eklund, study manager for the Centers for Disease Control's National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. "We actually visit 15 counties a year and we collect health status data on approximately 5,000 people."

Those people represent the country as a whole, Eklund said.

"As the population is aging, the trends are changing," she said. "That's why the CDC collects this data — to look at the health trends in addition to what's changing and where money should be put for programs and policies for the future."

Pioneer Press recently toured the mobile stations in Skokie just before actual testing began, moving through narrowly winding hallways where medical technicians worked in small rooms.

While no medical care is provided directly in the mobile examination center, a report on physical findings is given to each participant along with an explanation from survey medical staff. The various tests and procedures performed depend on the age and gender of the participant and often go beyond what one would receive during a physical.

Some of the tests assess vision and hearing, weight and height, blood pressure and pulse, physical fitness, bone density and more. Participants often find having such detailed free medical information to be of great benefit.

Well, even beyond free.

Participants are compensated for their time and travel expenses of up to $125, the CDC reports.

Random participants

The CDC randomly generated addresses for potential participants about which Eklund and her technicians have no information. Before testing began last week, the CDC spent about three weeks visiting these households for pre-interviews.

"After today," Eklund said, "we'll actually begin having people come in here and do the assessments. It's confidential who has been selected. We protect them and they know that."

Before coming to the testing center, participants in their home undergo a health history survey that includes information about past jobs, exercise routines, their diet, grocery shopping and more. They answer questions about anything and everything having to do with their health," Eklund said.

The process has not been all that easy in Cook County, she said, because many places here are closed off to solicitors or have tall fences and other protective measures. However, all potential participants have received advance letters letting them know that CDC interviewers could come knocking at their doors.

"It's a little more challenging getting to people here," Eklund said. "But we've been doing it slowly but surely, and we're getting people signed up to come in."

Testing in Skokie

Testing will continue on in Skokie through Aug. 5. As many as a dozen people could be at the center at one time, first checking in at the triage and coordinator desk. By the time the CDC mobile center leaves the area, Eklund said, the goal is to have about 350 people tested.

"This is not meant to be a substitute for a family dentist or a comprehensive exam," said technician John Cutter. "Nevertheless, we cap teeth, we look for cavities, we assess for gum health."

Some participants are asked to participate in additional testing after their visit, which includes wearing an activity monitor to detect their movements. They receive an additional $40 if they say yes.

The CDC has been collecting health survey data of this type for more than 50 years. It has three sets of trailers including the ones currently in Skokie, the other two now in different states. Eklund and her team travel 48 weeks of the year.

"While 20 years ago they were looking at taking lead out of gasoline because everybody had a high lead blood level, that's no longer happening now," Eklund said. "After that came the high cholesterol rate so we had to educate and have drugs to lower cholesterol. Now we're looking for the next big area, and as we're aging it's going to be something different. We're asking what that will be."

It's a big and important question to ask. And in these small mobile units in an open space in Skokie, the work is being done this summer to help come up with an answer.
Niles

Officials to take hard look at Howard shooting range

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
For Sun-Times Media / @studenkov

As the result of a bevy of concerns from local citizens, Niles officials will take another look at a gun store that's applied to move into the village's industrial district.

Sportsman's Club and Firearms Training Academy applied for a special permit to open the business at 6143 Howard St., intending to open both a gun store and a shooting range.

The Plan Commission originally approved the application in the beginning of June, sending it to the Village Board. But in the weeks that passed between the two meetings, a number of Niles and Skokie residents expressed concerns that the shop would be too close to several schools.

As the result, the board voted to send the issue to the Plan Commission to consider the issues residents raised. The commission will consider the proposal July 7 at 7 p.m.

During the Plan Commission meeting, neither the commission nor the village staff considered the shop's proximity to schools.

But, as residents noted, the shop is located close to Niles West High School, which is approximately a mile northeast of the proposed site.

In a letter to the village board, Niles Township High School District 219 officials also noted that it's located close to Niles Central High School, the district's alternative therapeutic school that's located directly south of Niles West campus. The letter also noted that the site is located two blocks east of Jump Zone, an indoor children's play area. Finally, the letter noted that New Hope Academy, a private day school for students grade six through twelve who are struggling with emotional challenges, is located a block west of the site.

These concerns prompted a number of Niles, Skokie, Morton Grove and Lincolnwood residents to write to the board and show up to speak at the meeting. Supporters of the shop also showed up, with many of them holding "vote yes" signs. When the meeting began, the board room was nearly capacity.

As soon as the meeting started, Mayor Andrew Przybylo made a motion to move the application back to commission. The motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee John Jekot sought to assure the audience that the board head their concerns.

"There are significant safety concerns," he said. "The record of the Plan Commission meeting is silent on these safety concerns. In order for the board to make the decision, they need to be examined."

Przybylo urged everyone at attendance to come to the commission meeting and make their voices heard.

"I plan on being there, and I hope that you will come as well," he said. "It will be your night to speak about the issue of gun safety. There is so much to learn from you all."

Once the vote was cast, half of the audience left. But many of the ones that remained used the public comment period to give their take on the issue.

District 219 Superintendent Nanciann Gatta reiterated the district's concerns about the shop.

"Simply don't think it's a right business, and it's in the wrong location," she said.

Hannah Williams of Skokie, a junior at Niles West, said the prospect of the shop opening makes her uneasy.

"I admit, I'm slightly terrified that there's going to be a gun shop so close to my school," she said. "It just scares me that there's going to be a new source of guns in Niles."

Carolyn White, of Wilmette, felt that residents' safety was a paramount concern.

"It's not a political issue - it's a community issue," she said. "Citizens have a right to live in a safe environment, and the right to bear arms doesn't overwrite it."

Joe Walsh, a Niles resident who described himself as a "Second Amendment guy," urged the board to study the issue before making a decision.

"[The village] should appoint a committee to see how many gun shops there are near schools," he said. "Appoint a committee, do some research, take some time to look at it and inform citizens, so that they can voice their opinions."

During the Plan Commission meeting, the board was silent on these safety concerns. In the record of the meeting, there was no discussion of the shop's proximity to schools.

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The Tempel Lipizzans presents
2014 Performance Season

Let the Tempel Lipizzans enchant you with their graceful dances, strength and spirit. Summer time means this rare breed of horses will demonstrate and intrigue you with a rare art form derived from cavalry training and battle maneuvers. Don’t miss this rare gem—started over 50 years ago by a Chicago industrialist—right in Northern Illinois.

Next Performance: Tuesday, July 8th at 1pm.
Cafe opens for lunch and drinks at 11am.

Advance discounted tickets available at www.templafarms.com or buy them at the door before the performance.

2014 Performance Dates and Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Evening Performance</th>
<th>Lunch starting at</th>
<th>Dinner starting at</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 21st</td>
<td>June 25th, 29th</td>
<td>11:30am - Malinee</td>
<td>4:30pm - Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 19th</td>
<td>July 23rd, 27th</td>
<td>11:30am - Malinee</td>
<td>4:30pm - Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 16th</td>
<td>August 3rd. 6th, 10th, 14th</td>
<td>11:30am - Malinee</td>
<td>4:30pm - Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 13th</td>
<td>September 3rd, 7th</td>
<td>11:30am - Malinee</td>
<td>4:30pm - Evening</td>
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Tickets
Advance Purchase Online: All the Door
Adult/Veteran/Child: 
$25/$20/$15
$30/$20/$20

The program begins with the youngest of the herd, young foals guided by their mothers and progresses through carriage driving, young stallion training and work on the long rein. See incredible four-horse ballet, elegant choreographed movements in the Airs Above the Ground during which you can picture the partnership between humans and horses on the battleground hundreds of years ago. The performance finishes with the Ovation, an elegant choreographed four-horse takti. All guests may watch the stables after the show.

Cafe serves:
Wine and Beer
Available for Purchase

The Tempel Lipizzans
Tempel Farms
17900 Westworth Rd - Old Mill Creek, IL 60041
Phone: 877-425-2773, Fax: 847-344-5060- temple@tempelfarms.com, www.templafarms.com

HELP SQUAD
Getaway weekend turns into airline ticket nightmare

HELP SQUAD
By Jackie Pilossoph

HELP SQUAD
I have a great Help Squad situation for you!

I went to Arizona over the weekend with five girlfriends for a fun getaway weekend, and my sister-in-law, Jamie Axe, realized when we got to the airport that she mistakenly booked her ticket to come back Sunday instead of Saturday.

American Airlines told her that all of their stand-by seats were filled and they charged her $675 for a one-way ticket home! This is after she had purchased a ticket.

Now here is the kicker. There were at least 15 empty seats on the plane so what prevented them from charging her a $75 change fee? I am so sick for her. Is this anything you can do to help?

Debbie Glickman, Highland Park

When we got Debbie’s email, the first thing we did was contact her to get Jamie’s number. We then called Jamie and found out another huge part to the story. Jamie told us that she was actually considering staying the extra night to avoid paying the $675, but that on Saturday, her husband and three-year-old son got into a car accident and she really wanted to get home to them. Thank heavens, no one was injured, but it was a traumatic experience for her child, and Jamie felt the need to rush home to soothe him. Wouldn’t any mother feel the same way?

Jamie also explained to us that when she arrived home, she filed a claim with American to get a refund for the $675 and was waiting to hear back.

We decided to give American Airlines a call with Jamie on the line. We were connected with corporate communications, where we spoke with a representative who took the information, including the part about the accident, and said someone would get back to us that day.

As promised, we received an email and a phone call from Leslie Scott in corporate communications. Help Squad returned her call and told her about the accident, and the fact that Jamie was willing to show American proof of the accident in the form of a police report.

Scott was extremely sympathetic, and told us there was no need to show proof. She offered to refund Jamie the $200 change fee, but told us there was nothing she could do about the other $475. Scott told us that Jamie would be receiving a phone call in the next couple of days from a customer relations representative who would take down her credit card information and refund the $200.

In the meantime, Jamie called us back and told us she received an email from American Airlines’ claims department in response to her original claim, stating there was nothing they could do, and that in the future, they recommend purchasing a refundable ticket.

We told Jamie about the $200 refund she would be receiving and to expect a call from a customer relations representative.

Later that day, Jamie did get the call and ironically, the representative asked her to provide the accident report. We’re not sure if there was miscommunication between the representative and Scott, but we felt it was in poor taste to ask for proof under those circumstances.

That said, American did show some compassion by giving Jamie the $200 credit.

Dear Debbie and Jamie,

We are pleased that we were able to help Jamie retrieve some of the cost she had to pay to get home to her family. More importantly, we are so happy that Jamie’s husband and son weren’t injured in the car accident. And lastly, it sounds like your girls’ weekend was really fun. That’s something you can’t put a price on, right? Hopefully for your next trip, your airfare will be much less expensive, giving you more cash for food, drinks and shopping, of course.

Use the Stage section to learn about local theater productions.

Just one more reason to get up & Go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond
Every Thursday
Letters to the editor

Amidst shouting, teachers and taxpayers should think

As I read the news here, I can always find someone shouting about their local schools. Teachers in communities like ours and nearby suburban districts shout about how good they are. Taxpayers in these same communities shout back about how costly they are.

The teachers elect unions to shout for them, while the taxpayers elect boards of education to shout for them. The students — especially those recently graduated — are somewhere in the middle, but odds are they're mostly concerned about whether they got a good start in life. As it turns out, most graduates in our top 50 districts are pretty sure they did.

But now back to the shouters. I've been on both sides of this teacher-taxpayer fence for 40 years, and I can say this for a fact: No school I know ever got better by getting cheaper!

So, to the taxpayers: Sure, there are a few more bucks that can be "saved" by cutting janitorial services, secretaries, and music classes. Also by "holding the line" by freezing teacher salary hikes. But my question to the taxpayer shouters is this: Isn't your tax money for your schools supposed to be an investment with returns? If so, how do you expect good returns by electing number-crunchers to your board like GM did to its quality control staffs?

To the teachers: Sure, you have dedicated your career to giving the best you have in order to reach what's best inside those kids. But in the final measure, you are far more than an assembly-line union; you're a professional union. Your fulfillment-quotient depends on far more than just a few more bucks. Remember, neither the school nor the community want to see you anywhere else for your return. You're their best bet, and in the final measure they know it.

Jack Spatafora
Park Ridge

Consider the meaning of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness

"We hold these truths to be self-evident. In other words, there is no reason for debate for no one can rationally deny them. These are truths written in the hearts of all men."

Is it still true in America that any schoolchild knows this phrase, "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another," is the opening line of the Declaration of Independence? Maybe not.

But surely everyone knows this phrase: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

If there is a sacred sentence that all Americans hold dear, it is certainly that one.

As we are about to celebrate Independence Day, the 238th since the members of the Continental Congress signed their names to this document, it is important to review again this credo for our land, this reason for having a country so we can better understand what it means to be an American.

We hold these truths to be self-evident. In other words, there is no reason for debate for no one can rationally deny them. These are truths written in the hearts of all men.

And what are these truths? Everyone is equal. We can understand that and deep down know it is true. We must forever strive to live it.

That all people have certain rights that none can deny. And among these rights are these three: The right to life, the right to liberty and the right to pursue happiness.

Since they are named individually in the Declaration, we can well assume that these three rights have privity over any others. Indeed, all the others flow from these three.

Every single person ever born has the right to life. That is first and foremost. The creator gave us life. No one can take it from us.

Along with the right to life is the second most important right of all people — the right to liberty. We believe that people have the right to live free. That means that as long as we don't infringe on anyone else's right to life and liberty, others can't get to tell us how to live or what to do. Not our neighbors, not the zealots of the day and not the state.

The main function of the state is to protect our rights and then get out of the way.

Finally, there is a third right that a lot of people just don't understand. We have the right to pursue happiness. No other country was founded on the idea that its people are to pursue happiness. But we were.

Note that the founders didn't say we have the right to happiness. They were far wiser than we in knowing that happiness cannot be provided to a free people. It is not an entitlement. And any attempt to provide a free people with the tokens of happiness, will only enslave them to dependency.

They knew that it is in the pursuit of happiness that we find it.

So this week, as you enjoy all the wonderful celebrations that go with the Fourth of July, ponder for a moment what Independence Day means, and strive to live up to those great words found in the Unanimous Declaration of the United States of America.

That's the heritage we've been given. That's what it means to be an American.

It's precious. It's an ideal. It is the duty each generation takes on.

Have a great Fourth of July!
Stop reminding me —
I know I’m fat!

They remind me about once a week.
That’s how often emails come telling me I’m fat.
Oh, they don’t actually say I’m fat. They use euphemisms. These emails are trying to sell “casual and dress clothing for the tall and big man.”

“Big,” is a euphemism for “fat.”
“Mature” also means “fat.”
“Relaxed,” as in “relaxed fit,” means “fat.”

“Tall” does not mean “fat.” Tall is what fat guys wish they were instead of “big,” i.e. “fat.”

So, whenever you see mention of clothes for the mature man or big man, you can be sure the clothes are for fat guys.

People who aren’t fat may not know that fat guys can’t buy clothes in just any store. Fat guys need bigger sizes than most stores stock.

Catalogs and online sites are where fat guys prefer to shop. They have all the good sizes — 2XL, 3XL, etc., all the way up to GL (Good Lord!).

Funny, though. The guys on the cover of the big and tall clothing catalogs, and in the online photos, never look fat. They look tall. I wonder why that is, since there are a lot more fat guys than tall guys.

Must be because being fat has a bad rep. Though a recent study concluded that people who are overweight, but not obese, live longer than people whose weight is normal or who are underweight.

Yet being fat is not a lifestyle. No one chooses to be fat. It happens.

Yes, fat people can lose weight. But how often does the weight stay off? Sometimes. But I’ll let you in on something: Fat people always feel fat even if they no longer are — fat, that is.

There always will be firms that sell casual and dress clothing for the tall and big man because there always will be tall and big men.

Don’t beat yourselves up about it, fellow fat guys. In one of my favorite movies, “Spartacus,” Charles Laughton (the greatest fat actor of all time) tells Peter Ustinov (the second-greatest fat actor of all time), “You and I have a tendency toward corpulence. Corpulence makes a man reasonable, pleasant and phlegmatic. Have you noticed the nastiest of tyrants are invariably thin?”

And, you might live longer.

Unless, of course, you are obese.
**FEATURED HOME**

**BY AGGREGO NEWS SERVICE**

**6654 W. Albion Ave., Niles**
- **House size:** 1,551 square feet
- **Lot size:** 3,750 square feet
- **Year built:** 1905
- **Bedrooms:** 3
- **Bathrooms:** 2
- **Garage:** Two-car detached
- **Property tax:** $4,404.92 (2012)
- **Architectural style:** Cape Cod
- **School districts:** Niles Elementary School District 71 and Niles Township Community High School District 219

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

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**TASTE VOLUNTEERS**

"MAKE IT HAPPEN" AGAIN

The Taste of Park Ridge runs on "high octane volunteerism." The Park Ridge community has long been lauded for its extraordinarily rich culture of volunteerism. While many area suburban residents embrace the notion of community service, Park Ridge residents and merchants seem to shine like a beacon in an environment of doing things for others.

Like most Park Ridge community organizations (there are too many worthy ones to mention here), Taste of Park Ridge committee members revel in not only contributing to a celebratory event, but just as importantly, the camaraderie that develops from working happily together to achieve a common goal. This camaraderie, when combined with the unselfish wish to help others, comprises true volunteerism, and those who experience it, almost magically recognize a kindred spirit upon meeting one. This sense of working together to produce a joyous Undeniably, the Taste could not function without them, and the TOPR team is humbly grateful.

Taste Chairman Mel Thillens, along with Volunteer Coordinator Franklin Ramirez, are particularly pleased with this year’s Community Groups’ response to their annual ticket sales volunteer requests. "We have enjoyed a record volunteer enrollment for 2014, which just goes to show how important the Taste is to Park Ridge," declared Thillens. Mel is also grateful, as is the entire committee, for the incredible sponsorship support favoring the Taste this year. Recently added to the impressive Taste Sponsor roster is Commonwealth Edison. A contributing factor to this much needed support is that this is an election year, with several political candidates sponsoring the fest. These include State Representatives Marty Moylan and Michael McAuliffe, State Senator Dan Kotowski, Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri, Gubernatorial hopeful Bruce Rauner, and Park Ridge Park District Commissioner Mel Thillens, who will be sponsoring the Kids Fun Zone, in Hodges Park on Saturday, July 12th.

Quips Thillens, "I’m not only the Taste Chairman, I’m also a customer." For further information, please visit the Taste of Park Ridge website at tasteofparkridge.com.
EDITOR'S NOTE: Content appears as it is provided in public records.

Niles
7741 N Harlem Ave: Lorraine V Bande to Bashar Adam and Ammar Adam for $220,000 on May 3

7021 W Touhy Ave, #204b: Jacqueline L Hildebrant and Sandra M Hildebrant to Sandra A Bootz for $140,000 on May 12

6935 N Milwaukee Ave, #304: Valerie M Bruech-Hayes to Richard Swallow Trust and Swallow Richard Trust for $181,500 on May 16

8432 W Betty Terrace: Piotr Majka to Tony Lanar and Shana Lanar for $330,000 on May 16

8037 W Churchill Ave: Paul E Wagner Trust, E Wagner Paul Trust and Paul E Wagner Trust to Anastasia Petridis and George Petridis for $450,000 on May 14

Morton Grove
8300 Concord Drive, #501: Koplin Trafalgar Square LLC to Garry Pavlotsky for $222,500 on May 13

8736 Davis St: Dmitriy Hancharuk, Dmitriy Hancharuk and Irina Pevzner to Mark A Gorski and Jill Opad Gorski for $389,000 on May 15

5506 Lincoln Ave, #519: Angela T Cassata-Huettinger to Maria C Prichard for $72,000 on May 16

Park Ridge
625 N Washington Ave: Laurie E Cairns to Victor S Lobo and Sara M McFadden for $799,000 on May 15

9048 Oliphant Ave: Dennis L Duffey and Pamela L Duffey to Patrick L Connor and Gwendolyn S Connor for $335,000 on May 16

Pawtucket
324 S Rose Ave: Kann John Dlndp Trust, Kann William B lndp Trust and William J Kann Trust to Kate Gorman for $475,000 on May 14

Skokie
8051 Long Ave: Lloyd McElfresh Trust, Mary Ann McElfresh Trust and Ann McElfresh Mary Trust to Roenn Erika von and von Roenn Jamie H for $275,000 on May 12

7016 Lorlo Ave: Sang Rul Nam and Oak Kyung Nam to Galina Artemyeva and Alekandy Garazha for $270,000 on May 13

5236 Grove St: Patrick J Keslin to Kara Rau for $265,000 on May 15

5245 Arcadia St: Cristina Ventura to Alison Dauemheim and Erdinc Cohantimur for $281,000 on May 13

7617 Kenton Ave: Marc A Zolotor to Anil Krishnan and Bindumole Krishnan for $174,000 on May 14

4547 Concord Lane: Richard Randall Mikos Trust, Agnes Mikos Trust and Mikos Agnes Trust to William et Hutchinson and Cristina Traim  Hutchinson for $325,000 on May 14

5207 Harwood Terrace: Santiago Lopez, Norma E Lopez and Norma E Dominguez to Steven M Lichterman and Laura A Lichterman for $332,000 on May 14

9353 Lawler Ave: Ivanka Brezac Trust, Ivanka Brezac Trust, Brezac Ivanka Trust, Brezac Brezac Trust and Brezac Etoe Trust to Natalie R Johnson for $287,500 on May 16

7845 Kostner Ave: Michael Bambouyani to Allison Pink and Richard Owen Ill for $391,500 on May 14

Lincolnwood
6755 Kostner Ave: Jonathan Younan to Raimond Pavely and Aitor Pavely for $290,000 on May 14

Des Plaines
8632 W Emerson St: Stanley Skoczko to Rajaram Poludusu and Uma Poludusu for $535,000 on May 12

8812 Briar Court, #B812: Juan L Ortiz, Iris Castro and Iris Ortiz to Napoleon Shimon for $575,000 on May 14

8990 Kennedy Drive, #D10: Pramod Vellian to Mohammed Ali for $68,000 on May 16
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BY AGGREGO NEWS SERVICE

NILES

THURSDAY, JULY 3

BookBits: Reading Social Book Discussion
7 p.m.: The group discusses "Behind The Beautiful Forevers" by Katherine Boo. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

FRIDAY, JULY 4

Village of Niles Fourth of July Parade and Celebration
9 a.m.: The Village of Niles is sponsoring the Fourth of July Parade. The parade route begins at Notre Dame College Prep and ends at Grennan Heights Park where there will be holiday entertainment, including the band R-Gang, games for kids, face painting, a community information tent and pony rides. Notre Dame College Prep, 7655 W. Dempster St., Niles. Call 847-967-6633.

MONDAY, JULY 7

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

TUESDAY, JULY 8

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 July 29. Registration required. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

Paws to Learn About the Animals and the World Around Us
10 a.m.: The Science Alliance shares a hands-on program that looks at the importance of taking care of the environment for animals. For students in grades one to eight. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

ILLINOIS STATE SEN. JOHN MULROE

Smartphone Photography Apps
7 p.m.: Learn how to use the camera settings and controls on a smartphone. Participants can learn about apps for editing, stylizing and posting photos. Participants are advised to bring a fully charged smartphone. The instructor is Daily Herald photographer George LeClaire. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

THURSDAY, JULY 9

Writing for Real
3 p.m.: Play with words and ideas in a supportive, stimulating environment. Participants can choose topics they like and experiment with different kinds of writing. This is a four-session program is Wednesdays through July 16 except July 2. Participants should be able to attend every session. For students in grades five and six. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

Liga Amarei: New Mom's Group
7 p.m.: The group discusses "Entrained with a Child's Heart" by Betsy Corning. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 773-968-0091.

THURSDAY, JULY 10

CJE SeniorLife Resource Counseling
12:30 p.m.: Make an appointment for a private session with a Resource Specialist from CJE SeniorLife, trained to counsel adults 60 and older, their families and caregivers. Sixty-minute sessions are available. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1054.

Tech Time for Job Seekers and Other Adult Learners
1 p.m.: Adults can learn how to use Lynda.com to update their computer abilities or just practice. Participants can bring their own laptop or tablet or use the library computers. Staff will be on hand to assist. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

Writing for Real
3 p.m.: Play with words and ideas in a supportive, stimulating environment. Participants can choose topics they like and experiment with different kinds of writing. This is a four-session program is Thursdays through July 17 except July 3. Participants should be able to attend every session. For students in grades three and four. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

SATURDAY, JULY 12

Introduction to Excel Web App
9:30 a.m.: Learn how to use the free version of Microsoft Excel. An MSN account is required. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

Second Saturday Breakfast Bingo
9:30 a.m.: Kids and families are invited for breakfast treats and bingo. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

SUNDAY, JULY 13

Genealogy Online Resources
2 p.m.: Librarian Neil O'Shea introduces the library edition of Ancestry.com which is available at the library and from home for Niles Library cardholders. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

Second Sunday Family Program: Noodles the Wonder Dog
2 p.m.: Come to the library to meet Noodles the Wonder Dog, a local rescue pup with a collection of tricks and a playful personality. This winning canine has starred in local theater and national commercials. Pick up free tickets in KidSpace 30 minutes prior to the show. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. For more information, call 847-663-1234.

TUESDAY, JULY 15

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

ESL Club
7 p.m.: New English speakers can join this conversation club to practice speaking English. Meet people from all over the world to share personal stories and discuss current events and other topics chosen by the group. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-6433.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

Battle of the Books Discussions
7 p.m.: The book club discusses a different battle-themed book every Wednesday through July. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

Outlook.com for Beginners
10 a.m.: Learn how to use Microsoft's free email service. Hands on lecture will be followed by a live question-and-answer session. Registration required. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

HAPPENING NEARBY

THURSDAY, JULY 3

Park Ridge Fireworks
6 p.m.: Maine East High School, 2601 Dempster St., Park Ridge. Call 847-925-4494.

FRIDAY, JULY 4

Skokie Fourth of July Parade
Noon: The parade begins at Oakton Community College and ends at Oakton Park. Oakton Community College Skokie Campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie.

Red, White and Splash

Knitting for All Ages
3:30 p.m.: A lively activity for crocheting enthusiasts, beginners and experts and for all ages. No registration required. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood. For more information, call 847-677-5277.

Independence Day Festivities and Fireworks
5 p.m.: Community members are invited to celebrate the Fourth of July with food, games and a concert featuring the Triple Threat Band and Mike and Joe. The first 1,000 attendees receive 3D glasses for the fireworks show at 8:30 p.m. Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-626-2500.

Glenview Fourth of July Fireworks
6:30 p.m.: The fireworks show is synchronized to patriotic music. Dogs and bicycles are prohibited on the golf course. Glenview Park Golf Club, 800 Shermer Road, Glenview. Call 847-724-0250.

Glenview Fourth of July Fireworks
7:30 p.m.: The fireworks show is synchronized to patriotic music. Dogs and bicycles are prohibited on the golf course. Glenview Park Golf Club, 800 Shermer Road, Glenview. Call 847-724-0250.

Skokie Fourth of July Fireworks
9 p.m.: Fireworks begin at dusk. The first 10,000 attendees receive 3D glasses to view the show. Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-674-1500.

Park Ridge Fireworks
6 p.m.: Maine East High School, 2601 Dempster St., Park Ridge. Call 847-925-4494.

Morton Grove Fourth of July Fireworks
9 p.m.: Part of the Morton Grove Days festival. Fireworks begin at dusk. Harrar Park, 6250 W.

SEE CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE »
CALENDAR

Dempster St., Morton Grove. For more information, call 847-965-1200.

SATURDAY, JULY 5

Park Ridge Farmers Market
7 a.m.: The weekly farmers market runs every Saturday through October. Park Ridge Farmers Market, Prairie and Garden Streets, Park Ridge.

Morton Grove Farmers Market
8 a.m.: The market features favorites such as seasonal fruits and vegetables, meats, eggs, baked goods, cheeses, honey, hand-crafted items, natural bath and body products, gifts, prepared foods, live music, children's activities and a free drawing. Runs weekly through Oct. 18. Market Grounds, 6210 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-750-6436.

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

Civil War Book Discussion
10 a.m.: Tom DeFranco leads a discussion of Civil War-related books, events and historical figures. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. For more information, call 708-867-7828.

MONDAY, JULY 7

Lego Mania
10 a.m.: Lego building for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. For more information, call 847-825-3123.

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.

Backyard Butterflies
2 p.m.: Local author Sue Fox McGovern talks about raising monarchs and other backyard butterflies and what attendees can do to attract butterflies to their own backyard. Kids can see eggs, caterpillars and chrysalises up close. A book sale and signing of Sue's book "Raising Monarchs: Caring for One of God's Graceful Creatures" will follow. For students in grades one to six. Younger siblings are welcome. Parents are encouraged to attend. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. For more information, call 847-825-3123. $3.

TUESDAY, JULY 8

Wiggle Worms
9:30 a.m.: Stories, songs and fingerplays for children 2 and younger with an adult. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

YA Coffee with Author Joelle Charbonneau

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

Story Time for 2s
9:30 a.m.: Stories and songs for 2-year-olds with an adult. A second session for 3-year-olds is held at 10 a.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

YA Introduction to 3D Programming and Design
2 p.m.: Learn how to program 3D animations and games using Alice 3.1 software. Attendees can learn about 3D models, methods and objects and create a movie or game. For students in grades six to 12. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Evening Book Discussion
7 p.m.: The group discusses "The Age of Innocence" by Edith Wharton. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

THURSDAY, JULY 10

Thursday Morning Book Discussion
10 a.m.: The group discusses "The Night Circus" by Erin Morgenstern. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Bowling at Kings in Rosemont
6 p.m.: M-NASR goes bowling at Kings in Rosemont. Equipment rental is included in program fee. For ages 18 and up. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, 6820 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-966-5522. $38 pre-registration, $43 regular, add $8 for transportation if needed.

College 101
7 p.m.: This session explores college options, the application process, the application components students need to focus on, and more. For students in grades nine to 12. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Get up and go

Use the Stage section to learn about local theater productions.
WHAT'S YOUR AGENDA?

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

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BIZ NOTES

• Plymouth Place CEO Dale Lillburn, LaGrange Park Village President Jim Discipio and Fifth Third Assistant Vice President Filippo Cacuccio recently cut the ribbon to open the new bank office and ATM that will serve Plymouth Place residents and staff at 315 N. LaGrange Road. Plymouth Place offers independent living apartments, assisted living apartments, memory support suites and skilled nursing care.

• Deerfield native Michael S. Fisher announced the anniversary of his first year in private practice after 20 successful years practicing real estate law in Chicago. Located at 200 N LaSalle St., Suite 2310, Chicago, Fisher is recognized as one of the most experienced Chicago real estate attorneys, having represented nearly every major lender with respect to the eviction and sale of real estate owned or lender owned property.

• Hinsdale-based Normandy Remodeling, a leader in Chicagoland remodeling for 35 years, has been awarded a 2014 Guildmaster Award for exceptional customer service. GuildQuality, an independent customer satisfaction surveying company, has powered the Guildmaster Award since 2005 to celebrate service excellence in the building, remodeling, contracting and home services professions.

• Lake Forest resident Maureen Raihie was recently recognized on the Barron’s “America’s Top 100 Women Financial Advisors.” She has also been recognized on Barron’s “America’s Top 1,200 Advisors: State-by-State” list and on the Financial Times “Top 400 Financial Advisors” list this year.

Do you or your company have news about grand openings, hires, promotions, awards or recognitions? Email your items to biznotes@pioneerlocal.
HOME RUN

KENNY WILLIAMS & ZORAIDA SAMBOLIN
on being lucky in love — when they least expected it

PLUS
THREE LOCAL WOMEN WIN WOW-WORTHY WORKPLACE MAKEOVERS
Thursday, July 24
6 p.m. - Castaways at North Avenue Beach

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A luxury cruise vacation

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Purchase tickets at beachparty.pawsevents.org

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RMB Capital
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Visit our Cause & Event page on our website at Splash.suntimes.com/events for event photo galleries
THINGS WE LOVE

Parade

Maria Pinto M2057
The First Lady has given her stamp of approval to local designer Maria Pinto yet again. Mrs. Obama recently donned the designer's Sophia dress from her recently launched M2057 line for a photo shoot with Parade magazine (and famously wore Pinto's previous collections on the campaign trail). We can't wait to wear it, too — it's perfect for a day at the office or cocktails with an ambassador. $325, M2057.com

> Equinox Precision Running
Run and tell this: The fitness mecca recently launched a new class at its Gold Coast and Loop locations. Focused on precise treadmill intervals that target every muscle in your body, this workout is designed to increase your power, speed and running form. Monthly membership starts at $136, 200 W. Monroe, Equinox.com

Pulsaidera
Start your workday with a clean slate — or at least a clean face. With three head attachments and pulse speeds, this brush is designed to give a deep clean, even in the hard-to-reach-areas around the nose and eyes. Travelers can snag the compact Pulsaidera Buddy — smaller and lighter than the leading competitor but still packing the same punch. $99 full-size, $59 travel-size. Splashtshop.suntimes.com

Morton's 35th anniversary
The iconic steakhouse rings in its birthday with a special menu, featuring select three-course dinners for only $35. Sbragia Family Vineyards joins the celebration, pouring a limited-edition 2012 Merlot, dubbed State & Rush ($64 per bottle), for the occasion. June 30-July 6, 1050 N. State, mortons.com

need to know

SPLASH

WHAT'S THE STRANGEST JOB YOU'VE EVER HAD?
Publisher and Editor
Susanna Negovan, susana@suntimes.com
Art Director
Jessica Sedgwick, jsedgwick@suntimes.com
"I ushered for Penn law school hockey games. Why? They put a 16-year-old girl in the visitors' section to break up fights between fans is beyond me."
Managing Editor
Rachel Handler, rhandler@suntimes.com
"When I was a kid, I modeled for a Sears catalog, which basically involved me hanging around a set with a child I'd never met before. It was really awkward. My modeling career was tragically cut short immediately afterward."
Senior Editor
Eile Edinger, eedinger@suntimes.com
"I missed lunch in my neighborhood on a grind to get to work on time."
Assistant Editors
Katerina Bizios, kbizios@suntimes.com
Zak Stermer, zstermer@suntimes.com
"I was a mall elf for one week during college. There was so much behind-the-scenes drama, including a war between two mall Santas."
Multimedia Producer
Ramz Dreessen, rdreessen@suntimes.com
Director of Brand Strategy
Lisa Sweitzer, lisa@suntimes.com
Account Executive
Alicia Raiford, araford@suntimes.com
Event Director
Diana Vdovets, dvdovets@suntimes.com
Event Coordinator
Taylor O'Doherty, todherty@suntimes.com
Interns
Jacqueline Andriakos, Maddie Fasei, Staley Sharpies and Meghann Steizner
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Founder
Michael Ferro
Splash is distributed weekly inside Sun-Times Media publications.
I AFRICAN/ CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LIFE

This annual festival celebrates African, Caribbean, Hispanic/Latin American and US cultures with food, entertainment and more than 70 live music acts, including the best in reggae, African, pop, rock, Latin, gospel, R&B and more.

**Time:** Thursday 4-10 p.m., Friday-Sunday noon-10 p.m.

**Place:** Union Park, 1501 W. Randolph

**Cost:** $15 per day, $55 for a four-day pass. For tickets, visit Martinsinter-
culture.com.

**July 4-6**

**RIVERWEST MUSIC FESTIVAL**

This inaugural three-day fest brings some of the biggest names in house and electronic dance music from around the globe to two stages on the bank of the Chicago River's North Branch, including Excision, Deep Dish, Damian Lazarus, Art Department, Guy Gerber and Hot Since 82.

**Time:** 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m.

**Place:** Elston and Division

**Cost:** $59.99 single-day admission, $159 three-day pass. For tickets, visit Riverwestmusicfestival.com.

**July 4-6**

**WINDY CITY RIBFEST**

Get saucy and dig into barbecue-covered slabs from local vendors such as Chicago BBQ Company and global purveyors such as Aussom Aussie Australian BBQ — then cast a vote for your favorite. Also enjoy arts and crafts, a kids' area and a full lineup of music, including Dave Matthews Band tribute band Trippin' Billies and Cowboy Mouth.

**Time:** Friday-Saturday noon-10 p.m., Sunday noon-9 p.m.
**“SEUSSICAL”**
This year marks the 110th birthday of Theodor Geisel — aka Dr. Seuss — and to celebrate, Chicago Shakespeare Theater presents its version of the Broadway play, which brings together beloved characters from Seuss books such as Horton Hears a Who!, The Cat in the Hat and The Lorax in this family-friendly production.

**Place:** Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier, 800 E. Grand

**Cost:** $28 adults, $18 children 12 and under. For tickets, visit Chicagoshaes.com.

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**Lynnsage Cancer Research Foundation Cocktail Party**
Sip cocktails, snack on hors d'oeuvres and mingle with 300 fellow Chicagoleans — including co-hosts Bari Anixter Mlodinoff, Brad Jarol, Alison Zilko Goldstein and Splash's own Liza Sweitzer — at this fifth annual summer event. Proceeds benefit breast cancer research programs at Northwestern Medicine and the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center.

**Time:** 6:30-9:30 p.m.

**Place:** Studio Paris, 59 W. Hubbard

**Cost:** $75 in advance, $85 at the door. For more information, visit Lynnsage.org.

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**July 12**

**Luvabulls Auditions**
It's not just the Chicago Bulls that are looking to add star power this offseason — the team's dancers, dubbed the Luvabulls, invite local dancers to try out for a spot on the squad. If you are 21 or older and have training in jazz, hip-hop and synchronized routines, don your best dance attire — plus some glam hair and makeup — and show up to strut your stuff.

**Time:** 9 a.m. doors open, 9 a.m. auditions start, 5 p.m. callbacks

**Place:** United Center, 1901 W. Madison

**Cost:** Free. For more information, visit Nba.com/bulls/entertainment/chicagoluvabulls-auditions.
ART OF STYLE
ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO'S GALA

The Woman's Board and the Board of Trustees of the Art Institute of Chicago challenged guests at their June 20 benefit to put a twist on traditional gala garb and dress "Surrealistically Chic." Partygoers did just that, turning out to the Art Institute (111 S. Michigan) in bold, textured fabrics and artistic prints to celebrate — and get a first look at — the museum's latest exhibit: "Magritte: Mystery of the Ordinary, 1926-1938." After taking in the work of Belgian surrealist artist René Magritte, guests snacked on bites crafted by chef Tony Mantuano and his Bon Appetit Catering team and ended the evening sipping cocktails in the Pritzker Garden. The evening raised $1.3 million, which will benefit the museum's mission and art education programs.

Supporters of the Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation took a long weekend to putt for pink at the 23rd Annual Play for the Cure June 16. The golf outing kicked off Monday morning with a buffet-style meal before more than 70 guests hit the greens at Westmoreland Country Club (2601 Old Glenview, Wilmette) to compete in an 18-hole round. Later, co-chairs Ryan Goldstein and Brad Jarol welcomed golfers back to the clubhouse for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a raffle, and sent guests home with goodie bags stocked with Nike Golf pop-up shop credits, iHome alarm clocks courtesy of ABT Electronics and polos. More than $127,000 was raised to benefit the research and treatment of breast cancer in partnership with Northwestern Memorial Hospital and the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University.

Splash was the media sponsor of this event.

STORIES BY KATERINA BIZIOS

T he Woman's Board and the Board of Trustees of the Art Institute of Chicago challenged guests at their June 20 benefit to put a twist on traditional gala garb and dress "Surrealistically Chic." Partygoers did just that, turning out to the Art Institute (111 S. Michigan) in bold, textured fabrics and artistic prints to celebrate — and get a first look at — the museum's latest exhibit: "Magritte: Mystery of the Ordinary, 1926-1938." After taking in the work of Belgian surrealist artist René Magritte, guests snacked on bites crafted by chef Tony Mantuano and his Bon Appetit Catering team and ended the evening sipping cocktails in the Pritzker Garden. The evening raised $1.3 million, which will benefit the museum's mission and art education programs.

Splash was the media sponsor of this event. The Sun-Times Foundation and the Chicago Community Trust will match every dollar donated to the Art Institute of Chicago, up to a total of $25,000. Up to $1,000 can be matched per individual donation.
Talk about a hip trend: Peplum, which surged in popularity nearly two years ago, is back. This time, though, the structure is a little more subtle, creating a modern silhouette. We suggest brightly colored peplum dresses or flared blouses paired with pencil skirts, which easily make the transition from morning office hours to evening happy hours. This spring, Hervé Léger put a new twist on its iconic bandage dresses by adding sleek leather flares, while Ruffian opted for a softer take on peplum separates with lightweight fabrics. Whatever the occasion, the flirty look is guaranteed to add some pep to your step.
A model walks the runway at Garfield Park Conservatory.

The Chicago Shakespeare Theater's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" inspired the décor of GALA 2014 June 16. More than 550 civic, cultural and corporate leaders congregated at Navy Pier (800 E. Grand), where areas were transformed into forests with lush foliage and transplantable trees — later donated to the Chicago Park District. Event co-chairs Anna and Bob Livingston, Robin and Steve Solomon and Charlene and Bill Tomazin guided the evening's events, which included an award presentation honoring Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of The Boeing Company Greg Smith and his wife Denise and CST performer Mike Nussbaum. After a silent auction, speeches from Chicago Public School teachers and a performance by Broadway stars Allison Semmes and Susan Montiz, guests indulged in a three-course dinner provided by Food For Thought Catering. More than $1.2 million was raised for Chicago Shakespeare in Urban Communities, which fights to break down artistic barriers in culturally underserved communities.

Ingenuirty was in full bloom at Garfield Park Conservatory (300 N. Central Park) June 12 as top floral designers from the Chicago area went head-to-head in a runway challenge at Fleurotica 2014. Anna Held Floral Studio, Blumgarten & Co., Mariano's and more sent their top designers to envision, design and dress models in fashions crafted with flowers, plants and other natural materials in just a few hours. Models then strutted the creations in front of a crowd of 300, including honorary co-chairs Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Amy Rule and the evening's honoree Anne Pramaggiore, who received the Jensen Award for her commitment to environmental education and resource conservation. The evening's proceeds will benefit the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance.

Splash was the media sponsor of this event.

The Chicago Shakespeare Theater's GALA 2014

above: Deborah Liverett, Eric Q. Strickland and Ava Youngblood

left: Living sculptures sprang into action at the end of dinner.

Mercy Home for Boys & Girls commemorated the graduation of 56 young people at its 12th Annual Leader Council Graduates Luncheon June 3. Emceed by WBBM-Channel 2 anchor and Mercy Home board member Jim Williams, the event honored both the graduates and the work of the Leader Council, a volunteer organization of professional women in greater Chicago that works to support education for at-risk youth in all three Mercy Home locations.

Nancy Horan, bestselling author of Loving Frank, delivered a keynote speech to the crowd of more than 800 at the Hilton Chicago (720 S. Michigan), helping honor the students who overcame hardships, including severe academic achievement gaps, to earn their elementary school, high school and college degrees.

Splash was the media sponsor of this event.

Play Time

Photos by Michael Litchfield

Follow The Leader

Photos by Cindy Fandl
Ashley DeBoer and Joel Garrett

BY KRISTIN J. LARSON

Not many people consider tying the knot at work, but Joel Garrett, vice president of sales and customer success at Loft on Lake (1366 W. Lake) says selecting the venue for his May 10 wedding to Ashley DeBoer, an account executive at Salesforce, was a “no-brainer.” “It was our No. 1 choice,” he says of the event space, which is owned by his mother Cher Garrett. His bride agreed, and proceeded to carry out her vision of elegance and fun. “Sparkle was our accent color,” laughs DeBoer.

After a lot of Pinterest research and with the help of their expert team of vendors — including Art of Imagination’s Deborah Weisenhaus and J&L Catering’s Ted Grady — the raw loft was transformed into a glittering, glamorous setting, complete with crystal chandeliers and white-gloved waiters passing Champagne to the couple’s 130 guests as they arrived. “We wanted something everyone would remember,” says Garrett. One such memorable moment when the couple’s 3-year-old goldendoodle Lily made her way down the aisle. “We got her a sparkly white collar that held the rings and she came flying down the aisle,” says DeBoer.

The couple met in June 2006 during a night out with mutual friends — “she was on the dance floor, so I finished my beer and went out to join her,” Garrett recalls. Their wedding was a celebration of nearly a decade together, including a period of long-distance romance while he finished school at Illinois State and she was away at Augustana College. In 2012, they moved to Chicago’s Gold Coast and, soon after, got engaged at Roy’s (720 N. State).

And although wedding planning is a part of Garrett’s everyday life, he says he didn’t feel any added pressure for his own nuptials. “We were actually more excited because we’ve seen so many events come in here,” he says. “As long as it was exactly what Ashley wanted, I was happy.”

IT'S IN THE DETAILS

Jewelry: Kate Spade, 56 E. Oak, katespade.com
Hair: Alicia Hanus, Studio 209 Salon & Spa, 108 W. Front, wheaton.info@studio209spa.com
Makeup: Kerianne Sekany, (630) 721-5070; Kerianne.sekany@gmail.com
Groom’s attire: Black by Vera Wang, Men’s Wearhouse, 2070 N. Clybourn; Men’swearhouse.com
Rings: Ben Kouvoumjan Luxury Jewellery, 550 S. Hill, Los Angeles, CA; Bejki.com
Flowers: Juliet Tan Floral Design, 220 N. Halsted; Juliettanfloraldesign.com
Cake: Luxurious Layers, 2315 N. Damen; Luxuriouslayers.com
D.J.: Dustin Harris, Style Matters, 2023 N. California; Stylemattersdj.com
Invitations and programs: Cristina Martinez, KGA Garrett Associates, 1366 W. Lake, KGADesign.com
Photography: Chryst Roberge and Ramona Pedunz, Lofty Weddings Photography, 1366 W. Lake; Loftyweddings.com

CHEERS!

Matthew Cunningham (above) earned an A+ for his work in the classroom at the Chicago Teacher Award Gala June 19. The Chicago Public School's special education teacher received a $50,000 cash prize and will now serve as an ambassador for Chicago’s education community and an advisor for the GEMS Education Teacher Innovation and Leadership Program, set to launch at the end of this year.

Five stars for Chicago native Patti Koehn: With more than 24 years of management experience under her belt, she’s taking on a new role as general manager of the Kinzie Hotel (20 W. Kinzie).

A hearty hooray for Advocate Christ Medical Center (1600 S. Kedzie, Merriam Park) and Advocate Children’s Hospital (4440 W. 95th, Oak Lawn) as the institutions earn recognition for their continued quality care services. Lynn Hennessy — the medical center’s vice president for nursing services and chief nurse executive — and her team were recently awarded Magnet status for the third consecutive year, a ranking granted to only five medical institutions in Illinois each year.

SEND US YOUR CHEERS!

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Clockwise from above: Hand-torn noodles, $14; Beverly Kim and John Clark; house pickles, $8

TAKING FLIGHT

Top Chef' finalist Beverly Kim and husband John Clark elevate Korean-American cuisine at Parachute

BY SELENA FRAGASSI

When former C-House sous chef John Clark moved to Chicago in 2008, he began searching for someone who shared in his love of Korean cooking. Almost immediately, he came across a local magazine spread featuring "Top Chef" whiz Beverly Kim (Aria, Charlie Trotter's, Takashi). "I sent her my résumé hoping to connect and possibly get a job," he recalls. The two ended up working together at the short-lived French fusion spot Bonsoiree — and soon after, they made their partnership official as husband and wife. Now, the couple is keeping things all in the family with their newly opened Korean-American spot, Parachute. "I think we make better food because we enjoy ourselves," says Kim of working with her spouse.

The menu — broken out into snacks, small plates, noodle dishes, meat-focused entrees and hot pots — is similarly family-focused, inspired by Kim's memories of growing up around her mother's rich Korean meals. "My mom is one of our regulars," she jokes. Parachute's crispy sesame leaves with bourbon and barrel soy were a snack Kim's mom made for study sessions ($5); the dolbibimbap features marinated short rib, which was a specialty reserved for family celebrations ($17); and the patbing su dessert with cucumber ice, condensed milk ice cream, red bean and kiwi is similar to a childhood treat she remembers eating during visits to the Korean market ($7). "I used familiar techniques, but we also added our own touches to create a new experience for guests already familiar with a more traditional style," Kim says.

Here's what else to expect at Parachute:

The staples: The menu will adapt to reflect seasonality, but there are a few must-have dishes that will stay the course. Try the house specialty bing bread, stuffed with baked potato condiments and served with sour cream butter ($4 half/$7 whole), or the pork belly and mung bean pancake, topped with kimchi, black garlic, pineapple and egg ($10). "We sell 20 a night in a 40-seat restaurant," says Clark.

The vibe: Cozy and communal. All of Parachute's dishes are prepared family-style, so that everyone at the table "can try a lot of different flavors," says Kim. That emphasis on community is also expressed in seating arrangements, from closely sectioned bench seating to a long marble-top bar that peers into the chef's den and overlooks shelves filled with personal cookbooks, labeled spice racks and a working record player.

Breaking traditions: Kim and Clark keep things interesting by breaking away from many Korean traditions. Their ingredient list is particularly radical — they use watermelon radish zuke for the house pickles trio ($8) and lamb sofrito and cumin for the spicy hand-torn noodle dish ($14).

Drink up: Turn over Parachute's food menu and you'll find a drink program with a focus on concentrated mom-and-pop wine and spirit makers. Each drink is carefully selected to match the salty, sour or spicy flavor profiles of the cuisine, including three housemade cocktails ($10 each) and a non-alcoholic elderflower lemonade ($4).

3500 N. Elston Ave., (773) 654-1460; Parachuterestaurant.com
making a splash

TAKE CARE

CHICAGO CARES FOUNDER LESLIE BLUHM SERVES UP A CHARITABLE SUMMER

BY ZAK STEMER

When Leslie Bluhm noticed that people in Chicago lacked opportunities to volunteer, she didn't just create a service organization to serve, for example, public schools. Instead she created a service platform, capable of helping schools, homeless centers, retirement homes or whatever else the city needs. Since its inception 23 years ago, that platform, called Chicago Cares, has activated north of half a million volunteer and enabled the work of more than 750 local nonprofits, executing 250 projects each month to become the Midwest's largest volunteer service organization. "Our goal is to be nimble," Bluhm explains. "We don't go into a community and say, 'Here's what we can do for you.' We go in and listen and figure out what their needs are. Those needs are different in every community and they evolve and change over time."

Fresh off the success of Chicago Cares' Chicago Serve-a-thon, which sent 5,000 volunteers into Chicago Public Schools, senior centers and parks earlier this month, Bluhm already has her sights focused on her next big project: One Summer Chicago. The program, done in partnership with the mayor's office, gives high school students the opportunity to gain leadership skills through community projects like working in homeless shelters, senior centers and classrooms. "We created an incredible program for 200 students [last summer], and it was so successful that we're taking 350 students for six weeks this summer," says Bluhm. "We teach those kids to be problem-solvers in their own communities. We teach them about the needs and resources within the entire Chicago community and how they can utilize them."

Since her very first volunteer experience in junior high, when she worked at a camp for blind children, Bluhm, 50, hasn't stopped serving — it might just be in her DNA. "My family was always volunteering," she says of her upbringing. In fact, her family is known for their major acts of giving (see Northwestern University's Bluhm Cardiovascular Clinic and Bluhm Legal Aid Clinic or the Art Institute's Bluhm Family Terrace). But the intrepid Bluhm is carving her own path: She and her husband David Helfand created the Bluhm/Helfand Social Innovation Fellowship in 2011. Through the fellowship, the couple gives young social entrepreneurs $10,000, as well as connections to a network of business and community leaders. "It's our way of paying it forward," says Bluhm.

Through her service efforts and fellowship, Bluhm is out to create a community of lifelong volunteers in Chicago, saying that "after volunteering with us, I think 99 percent of people feel that they have [made] an impact, which means they are much more likely to serve again." Above all, she believes that volunteering is a way to unify the city. "I think often people feel isolated in their own communities," she says. "But as soon as we get out there and start working together on a common project, we all realize we have the same hopes and dreams for our city. We all need to help each other."
Perfect match

Chicago power couple Kenny Williams and Zoraide Sambolin on their second shot at love

STORY BY ELLE RICHNER
PHOTOS BY ROY BURRY
STYLING BY JULY BEST
He was going to propose that night to his girlfriend of a little over a year — WMAQ-Channel 5's freshest face, anchor woman Zoraida Sambolin — after midnight Mass at Holy Name Cathedral, the church where her parents were married 51 years earlier. "I blew it, though," laughs Williams, the executive vice president of the Chicago White Sox. "I was excited all day and pulled her aside after dinner and asked her in my office at home. She knows I can't save a surprise for long. But the next day, we went to the church, kneeled before the altar and I asked again the way I had intended — she pretended to be surprised."

On July 3, the couple will wed in a romantic, midsize ceremony. (They're keeping the details private, but "the goal is for everyone to fall in love again," Williams says.)

While the proposal itself was premature, Williams and Sambolin had taken their sweet time leading up to it. For both, the relationship came as a complete surprise — a second chance at love they never expected to have.

Appropriately, it was the White Sox that brought the couple together on Sept. 13, 2010, when Sambolin was hosting a charity event for the team's manager under Williams, Ozzie Guillén. Both admit they were immediately captivated by each other. "The first conversation I had with her, I knew I needed to run fast or I'd be in trouble," Williams says. But for Sambolin, the timing wasn't right. "It wasn't until with her, I knew I needed to run fast or I'd be in trouble," Williams says.)

On July 3, the couple will wed in a romantic, midsize ceremony. (They're keeping the details private, but "the goal is for everyone to fall in love again," Williams says.)

"The first conversation I had with her, I knew I needed to run fast or I'd be in trouble."

— KENNY WILLIAMS

Even then, though, neither was looking for love, having both been in long marriages previously. "I had just decided that relationships weren't for me, that I was just going to float through life and be single and just worry about me," Williams says. "And it's almost as though God said, 'Oh yeah? Really? I know you're not ready for this, I know the timing's not right for her either, but here you two go.' It was a setup in the highest form — I had no chance."

Since then, the two have merged not only their lives, but their families: Williams' three adult sons, ages 23, 25 and 27, and Sambolin's two kids, 10-year-old Sofia and 15-year-old Nicolas. Despite having previously proclaimed she wasn't a baseball fan, Sambolin is coming around to the game. "I'm learning the game because I want to understand," she says, "but what I love about baseball is the culture — it's a family culture." Williams chimes in: "She's picking up on little things. Most people just try to learn the game, but being the newswoman she is, she asks questions about the players and their stories and the behind-the-scenes kind of thing."

Sambolin, a born-and-raised Chicagoan, has always had such curiosity and zeal. "I'm very passionate about this city that we live in and I want it to be the best place it can be," she says. So it's fitting that she got her start here, hosting shows on PBS and Telemundo before anchoring NBC's local weekend show and, eventually, moving to the weekday broadcast in 2007. After a stint in New York, where she co-hosted CNN's "Early Start" for two years, she left CNN in January to return to Chicago and, serendipitously, a spot opened on the news desk back at WMAQ-Channel 5 a few months later.

She re-debuted on the network's morning show alongside co-anchor Stefan Holt in April. "Returning to NBC mornings has been like returning home," she says.

Williams' path here began in 1986, when he was pulled up from the minor leagues to play centerfield for the White Sox. His major-league run was relatively short-lived, and by 1992 he was working in the front office for the South Side team, becoming the Sox's first African-American general manager in 2000 and moving to executive vice president in 2012. He helped bring a World Series title to Chicago in 2005, the team's first since 1917. Though he kept his personal life largely private, Williams garnered quite the reputation on the field — he became known for confrontations and making aggressive trades. Sambolin, though, fell in love with his off-the-field persona. "There's a whole other side of Kenny that people don't know," she says. "They look at him a certain way and talk about him a certain way because it sells, but there's a softer side, a funny side, a quirky side."

It's a side that Sambolin saw firsthand in May 2013, when she announced on air that she had been diagnosed with breast cancer. After undergoing a double mastectomy, the usually private Sambolin took to Twitter to not only show the world the strength of her and Williams' relationship, but to encourage other couples battling one partner's disease. "After the surgery, there are these drains coming out of your body [that need to be changed]," Sambolin recalls. "I tweeted a picture of [Kenny helping change my drains]. The reason I did it is because I wanted to raise the expectations: This is what happens. Not only one woman but several counseled me not to allow him to help, because it's just not a way [your significant other] is supposed to see you."

< ON SAMBOLIN:
La Petite Robe by Chiara Boni: gown, $830
Rodo: clutch, $625
Jimmy Choo: heels, $1,595
All available at Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N Michigan: Saksfifthavenue.com
Jewelry: A Marek: diamond crescent hoop earrings, $15,600; diamond pebble bracelet, $15,000; pave bangle bracelet, $35,000; Palmiero ring, $32,750; A Marek; 3021 Butterfield, Oak Brook. Amaresjewelry.com

< ON WILLIAMS:
Cornéliant: velvet convertible jacket, $1795
Ermenegildo Zegna: dress shirt, $375
Brioni: pocket square, $125
DeLaRentis: black velvet tippers, $529
All available at Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N Michigan: Saksfifthavenue.com
Pants: Williams' own
But Williams — who went with Sambolin to every doctor’s appointment — didn’t even think twice about sharing their story. “When you’re in positions like we’re in, if you can show a different side to the men, then you can raise women’s expectancy levels in such situations,” he says. “It’s a moment when you can teach people that intimacy comes in many different shapes. It’s easy to be in love and to be passionate and compassionate when things are going great, but when you have a little bit of a trial, does the person you think is going to take care of you actually stand by you?”

Now that Sambolin is healthy again, the two are beginning to plan their future. So what’s in store for them? When asked that question, it’s the one time they don’t echo each other’s thoughts or finish each other’s sentences — yet their differing responses demonstrate the balance in their relationship.

Williams answers first, taking the laid-back approach. “You know, you wake up in the morning and go about your day as best you can, you try to raise your children and do the best you can by them and by each other and try to have some laughs along the way.”

Sambolin counters with a little pragmatism. “Well, I do see a plan,” she says. “I feel like of my time on Earth, part of it has to be spent making it better — with Kenny, that’s part of our journey together. I’m hoping that in the coming years, we’ll see what we can do to make this a better city, a better place for kids on the South Side and the West Side. That’s what I see for us, trying to make it a better place. It’s kind of an obligation, you know?”

For the moment, both Sambolin and Williams are content enjoying each other’s company and helping each other become the best versions of themselves. A year and a half after Williams’ only-slightly botched proposal, “I can honestly say I’m the best man I’ve ever been,” he says. “I would like to think I’m a better partner as this stage of my life, but we all have flaws. Hopefully before my time is up on this Earth I’ll be able to say I’ve corrected them, but I suspect I’ll still be a work in progress,” he jokes, adding: “I’m glad she likes projects.”

ON WILLIAMS:
Saks Fifth Avenue Collection:
linen jacket, $1198
Halia: multi-check dress shirt, $450
Etro: pocket square, $110
All available at Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N Michigan:
Saksifthavenue.com

ON SAMBO LIN:
Roberto Cavalli: floral jersey dress, $935, Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N Michigan:
Saksifthavenue.com
Jewelry: Oromalia: hoop earrings, $4950, Palmiero:
ring, $3750: A Marek, 3021 Butterfield, Oak Brook:
Amaresjewelry.com

M O R E
ONLINE
For more photos from our shoot with Williams and Sambolin, visit ChicagoSplash.com.
ON SAMBOLIN:
Tom and Linda Plath: dress, $1,970,
Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan; 
Saksifthavenue.com
Jewelry: Rina Limor: black and 
white flower drop earrings, $11,500;
Oromalia: diamond and leather 
bracelet, $18,500. A. Marek, 
3021 Butterfield, Oak Brook; 
Amarkejewelry.com

ON WILLIAMS:
Saks Fifth Avenue 
Collection: suit, $1,298
Charvet: tie, $220
All available Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 
N. Michigan; Saksfifthavenue.com

Shirt: Williams' own

GAME ON

We quizzed Williams and 
Sambolin on their newlywed 
knowledge, asking them to guess 
each others responses to a series 
of questions.

SPASH: Outside of the White Sox, 
what would you say is the other’s 
favorite sports team?
Kenny Williams: You’re gonna get 
this wrong.
Zoraida Sambolin: For me, the 
Bulls.
KW: Bulls, I got that right.
ZS: And for him, the Chiefs, because 
his son plays for them.
KW: Bzzz, wrong. I’m an Oakland 
Raiders fan, I grew up there. I love my 
son, I’ll root for my son — but he’s not 
gonna be in the NFL forever.

SPASH: Favorite movie?
ZS: 'ET.'
KW: You could have given me 1000 
guesses — 10,000 guesses — and I 
wouldn’t have gotten that. What’d you 
say for me?
ZS: For you, anything with blood, guts 
and gore — or a romance
KW: But you have to have a specific one. 
'The Notebook.'
ZS: Those are the two sides of Kenny.

SPASH: Who takes longer to get ready?
ZS: Me.
KW: It’s not even close.
ZS: We got that one right!

SPASH: Favorite color?
ZS: [Points at Kenny] Blue. [Points at her-
self] Red.
KW: Orange! When did it become red?
When I met you, it was orange. I have it in 
my phone right now what your favorite color 
is, are you kidding me? [Gets up to look for 
his phone.]
ZS: [whispering] It really is orange, he’s right. 
It’s evolved! I was thinking orange or red, 
but I think more red these days. This is my 
problem! This is why he would get none of 
these right.
KW: [coming back] I’ve got my 
phone somewhere and I’ve got a 
whole list of your favorites.
ZS: Yes, yes you’re right.
The winners of our first-ever workplace makeover contest debut their new looks.

BY ELLE EICHINGER
PHOTOS BY RAMZI DREESSEN

last month, Splash put out a call for readers in dire need of updates to their workplace looks, narrowing the field to these three deserving ladies. Whether just entering the workforce or celebrating a milestone with her company, each of these women wanted a more professional, modern style. With help from Art+Science Salons, Macy's by Appointment, Amazing Cosmetics and Fifth Third Bank, our winners got made over from head to pump.
1. Samina Hadi-Tabassum

Before: Hadi-Tabassum wrote to Splash explaining that as her youngest kids — she has 4-year-old twins and an 11-year-old daughter — go off to kindergarten, she’s excited to be able to put some attention back on herself. “I want to focus on my career and start climbing up the ladder,” she says. A professor at Dominican University, she needed a versatile look that could carry her through the day, from morning mommy duties to evening lectures, and, at the same time, celebrate her reinvented, post-baby workout figure.

The makeover: Hadi-Tabassum, 43, got the most dramatic makeover of our three winners when Art+Science stylist Jo Thomas lopped inches off her mane. “She’s a true artist,” says Hadi-Tabassum, who offered herself up as a blank slate with one requirement: an easy-to-manage ‘do. “I just don’t straighten [my hair] on a daily basis, so we went with the natural flow of the curls and it’s great.” At Macy’s, stylist Brenda Davis pulled Hadi-Tabassum out of her all-black comfort zone with bold colors and stark whites. Later, the team of Amazing Cosmetics artists used shades that complemented, rather than obscured, Hadi-Tabassum’s beautiful South Asian skin tone.

After: “I feel much lighter,” Hadi-Tabassum says of her new look. “And I feel younger too. When my husband saw [my haircut] he said, ‘That’s what you used to have when I first met you!’ So I’m really loving it.” Serendipitously, the day of her makeover was also Hadi-Tabassum’s birthday, so she celebrated with family that evening. “I was telling everyone that I’m finally scrunchie-less,” she says.

Jo Thomas of Art+Science gave Samina’s hair a lift by cutting off six inches of her locks.

2. Antoinette Viola

Before: Three weeks after graduating from Illinois State University with a double major in art education and photography, Antoinette Viola wrote to Splash. “I would love a new wardrobe to give me the confidence I need for my first interviews,” she wrote. “I want my students to take me seriously, which can be difficult when I look like one of their peers.”

The makeover: Though Viola was tending toward her usual oversize sweaters, Macy’s by Appointment style expert Karl Moss steered her in the opposite direction. “He was focused on finding business clothes,” Viola says. “The blazers were more form-fitting, the skirts tighter. I got a lot of really good basics that I can mix and match.” As for hair, Viola showed colorist Alissa Georgevich at Art+Science Salon Lincoln Park pictures of a copper-toned ombre look. “She said that now it’s called a ‘sombre,’ a softer ombre,” Viola says. “She left my roots the same and did a copper tone at the ends.”

Master stylist Julia Bonucchi trimmed Viola’s hair to leave her pretty cuts intact, adding layers for depth.

After: Since our shoot, the 23-year-old has secured a substitute-teaching job in her hometown of Park Ridge and — as a bonus in her Splash prize package — will receive an up to four-month job search coaching scholarship from Fifth Third Bank and NextJob, worth $1,500. (The bank partnered with the career-coaching service to help out-of-work clients land jobs post-recession, and anyone can get a Job Seeker’s Toolkit and sign up to win a full scholarship to the program at Reemploy53.com.) “It was a really fun experience,” Viola reflects. “I got to meet a lot of cool, artsy people who each have their own style. It felt like a huge collaboration.”

3. Kathleen Mathes

Before: Mathes, who laughs that the most recent contest she’d won only landed her a “free gallon of ice cream,” applied on a whim to win our workplace makeover. And she was the perfect candidate: This year, the Elk Grove resident celebrates 20 years with Klein Tools, where she’s the office services supervisor — not to mention her 44th wedding anniversary and 65th birthday later this summer — and she recently dropped 20 pounds participating in her company’s wellness program.

The makeover: “Deb [Porter] was my ‘fashion therapist’ — that’s how she referred to herself,” Mathes says. “She was very patient and spoiled me to the nth degree.” At Art+Science Wicker Park, Jessica Werch — “a perfectionist,” Mathes raves — and Bridget O’Connor used a treatment to help pull out the blond and make Mathes’ hair whiter. On photo shoot day, Amazing Cosmetics co-founder Sue Katz freshened Mathes’ face with subtle shadows and a deep lip color, giving her a lighter shade for everyday.

After: “All of it was such a journey from the very beginning,” Mathes says. “I felt like a princess.” She showed off her new look at a few family events over the weekend before debuting it for coworkers Monday morning. “I came in to work today with the new hair and makeup and one of the outfits,” she emailed us post-makeover. “Compliments galore have been received — and it’s only 9:30 a.m.!”

Sandy Incardona of Amazing Cosmetics gives Antoinette a natural-yet-polished look perfect for the workplace.
Camera-ready

The Art Institute sets its sights on photographer Edward Steichen

BY THOMAS CONNORS

Mention photographer Edward Steichen, and what will likely come up is the roster of celebrities he shot. Noel Coward, sleek as a monolith, the spiraling smoke from his cigarette accentuating his stature. Famously coupled stars Greta Garbo and John Gilbert, she staring down the camera, he with eyes for nothing but her. But it's more than the fame of the faces that makes these images memorable. A lesser photographer would be outshone by these subjects, but Steichen's skill was such that they practically play second fiddle to his mastery of light and shadow: With "Sharp, Clear Pictures.

Edward Steichen's World War I and Conde Nast Years," the Art Institute of Chicago offers another look at how he came to create the pictures he did.

Like many photographers who emerged in the early 20th century, Steichen's first efforts echoed the soft-edged, atmospheric effects of mainstream painting. But living in France, he fell under the influence of modernism and began to embrace a new way of interpreting the world. Then, while overseeing training and darkroom operations as head of the U.S. Air Services Photographic Section during World War I (which generated aerial photographs for intelligence purposes), Steichen had something of an epiphany. Although he didn't shoot in the sky himself, the informative documents his team produced made an impression. "The wartime problem of making sharp, clear pictures from a vibrating, speed- ing airplane 10 to 20 thousand feet in the air had brought me a new kind of technical interest in photography," he later wrote. "Now I wanted to know all that could be expected from photography."

Stateside, Steichen went to work for publisher Condé Nast, where he reinvented celebrity photography at Vogue and Vanity Fair. "He relied heavily on dramatic lighting, geometric backgrounds and meticulous compositions," notes Art Institute Assistant Curator Michel Raz-Russo. "By the 1930s, he began making frequent use of props, such as modernist furniture and white, gray and black panels that were arranged into abstract or geometric shapes. These tools enabled him to capture the professional identity of individuals in singularly striking ways: an almost Constructivist shot of Charlie Chaplin contemplating his signature bowler, multiple shadows expressing the dynamic essence of a stock-still Fred Astaire. Sure, these folks were stars. But Steichen made them shine in a whole new way.

Model moms

Chicagoan and Mia Bossi founder Janet Mandell makes the role of working mom a little bit easier with the release of her latest collection of diaper bags. Each of the line's six new styles doubles as a laptop bag, complete with zippered changing pad and diaper bag inserts. Bags start at $210; Miabossi.com

Smart shoppers

Bargain hunters dreams come true at the Fashion Outlets of Chicago's Fourth of July Sale. Now through July 4, score an additional 30-50 percent off select merchandise at Barneys Warehouse July 2-8 and more. Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-7 p.m. 5220 Fashion Outlets, Rosemont; Fashionoutletschicago.com

< Maria bag with stroller straps, $400 at Mia Bossi
F or the better part of her 37 years, actress Alison Sweeney has lived a double life: her own, and that of Sami Brady, the vindictive and manipulative—yet somehow totally charming—star of NBC’s “Days of Our Lives.” She’s calling it quits later this year, ending a 21-year run to focus on her various other roles—she also hosts “The Biggest Loser” and is a mother of two—and promote her newest novel, Scared Scriptless, out this month.

Role call
“I remember my audition and first day [on the ‘Days of Our Lives’ set] very clearly. It was with the girl who played my sister, Christie [Clark], and the guy who played Austin. It was a scene about getting in trouble—I was sneaking in late at night through a window and my ‘dad’ held a gun to my head. I think that was my first line: ‘Daddy, don’t shoot me.’”

Facial recognition
“I was at my junior prom [the first time I got recognized]. I went with Bryan [Dattilo], who played Lucas on the show, and we were recognized together by someone on the wait staff—she was so excited, she was such a fan.”

Plot line
“[Scared Scriptless takes place] in Hollywood. It’s what I know. I love peeling back the curtain and giving readers a feel for what that reality is—not just for actors but for the crew—when their call time is, what they have to do and what they do to make a movie special. One of the first things you learn when you come out to Hollywood is that every job is just as important [as the next].”

Wake-up call
“I thought of the title in the middle of the night—I woke up at 2 a.m. and was like, ‘That’s it!’ I wrote to my agent and he saw the timestamp [on my email] and was like, ‘That’s it!’”

Writer’s block
“Writing the second book was a lot harder in some ways. The first novel [The Star Attraction, 2013] took years to write—I had all this time and never expected it to be published. I was writing for me and I had no one to answer to. Then [writing] the second novel I was like, ‘Wait, I have a deadline? I have to run the story by someone first?’”

Catch “Days of Our Lives” weekdays on NBC and find Scared Scriptless at Barnes & Noble locations citywide.
SWEET SONG
Melissa Song recounts her uphill journey — and what she's learned along the way

Though I'm not even 40, I've already lived a thousand lives.
My freshman year, I went to three different high schools — and by the time I was 17, I had already lived in 30 different homes. To say that I'm able to adapt would be a serious understatement.

When I was 22, I asked myself, "How can I work and travel?" Even though I was only 5'7, I decided to model. After being told over and over that I was "cute, but nothing special," I chopped off my long hair to a short, platinum blonde and kept trying.

Finally, I was taken on by AriA, a Chicago agency, and from there, life was a whirlwind: I booked jobs no one thought I would, and it felt good. Chicago to Miami, LA to Milan, Paris and all over Europe, I found myself always at the right event, meeting the big man who was going to "change my life." If you model, you're always welcome: Cannes Film Festival, private yachts, helicopter vacations to St. Tropez, $10,000 bottles of Champagne — beautiful insanity!

But I yearned for something I had never had in my life: roots. I moved back to Chicago and within a year I was married to a local businessman and had a baby on the way. Life was calm; life was good. I was a stay-at-home mom and part-time model, helping with the family biz and beginning to dabble in photography. I helped here and there with money, but it was more of a cushion than a necessity.

Then, in what seemed to be overnight, life as I knew it took a turn. The economy crashed; our business closed. We left Chicago and headed to LA, where my husband had a job opportunity. Being a model and photographer, it seemed perfect for me — but my husband was lost. LA wasn't for him at all, after a year, we separated (though we both returned to Chicago to stay near each other for our son).

Thrust into single mama-hood, I panicked, and soon, I was out of money. But as every single mom knows, the panic only lasts so long — after that, survival mode kicks in. I went from taking photographs of my friends' kids for extra cash to selling everything I owned to pay the rental deposit on my new home. I sold every piece of jewelry, my car, handbags — if it was worth something, it was sold. Gone were the days of yachts and Champagne — now it was boxed wine and a used Camry.

It was a rude awakening, but there was no time for drama: I had a son and a life that needed tending to. Every opportunity to pull out the camera and call myself a photographer, I took it — paid or otherwise. To this day I haven't taken a photography class, I've never even read the owner's manual (what mom has time??) ... total on-the-job training. I put myself out there, knowing full well I was out of my league. But it didn't matter; this was do or die. I've become a chameleon, always me, but always adaptable. And it's working; I'm working.

It's not just baby pics anymore — I'm photographing models, executives, restaurants and events for my company, Melissa Song Photography. I'm tested daily, but somehow every month I keep making it happen. Every month I surprise myself and, I'm certain, others as well.

My son "T" told me today that when he grows up, he wants to be a photographer like me because I'm very interesting. I thought that was the best compliment. He is the reason I continue to fight, to reinvent, to smile. I finally have my roots — and everything for us is growing in a good direction: up.

If you or someone you know has a story to share, email Splash@suntimes.com.
Whether it's a boyfriend, best friend or family member, being away from someone you love can be difficult. Luckily, with new technology, there are so many ways for long-distance relationships to survive. It may not always be easy, but with a little effort, a long-distance love can be as successful as one without the miles of separation.

One word: text. Text often and about everything. Consistently texting and communicating with each other makes it almost as if your loved one is there with you. Actually, I've found that I connect on a deeper level through text sometimes, because I'm more willing to let someone in on a funny or embarrassing situation via text than I would be if we were face-to-face.

Send snail mail. Emails and social media can be great, but sometimes cards and "just because" flowers add a more personal touch. Who doesn't get excited to open the mailbox and see a hand-addressed letter waiting there?

Plan visits. I know it can be difficult with busy schedules, but try to plan a weekend getaway as often as you can. Not only will it feel amazing to be together again, but it will also give you something to look forward to on the days you're really missing each other.

Skype or Facetime. Sometimes talking on the phone just doesn't cut it — and being able to see people's reactions while you're talking is the next best thing to being with them. (Just remember that the embarrassing story you texted earlier might get brought up on your Skype call!)

Keep a planner. Celebrating important events like birthdays and anniversaries with loved ones even when they're not nearby shows you're putting in effort to keep your relationship a priority.

What are some ways you maintain the long-distance relationships in your life?

**TWEET AT**

@JENNY MCCARTHY
Tesori: Funghi Misti pizza, $14, 65 E. Adams; Tesorichicago.com

“In my new role as editor-in-chief of EBONY magazine, I don’t have a lot of time for lunch. Thankfully our office is near Tesori. They have a lot of yummy options and the environment is great for meeting with peers and colleagues.”

Batter & Berries: French toast flight, $11, 2748 N. Lincoln, (773) 248-7710

“After a busy workweek, it’s imperative that I spend some time with my girlfriends over the weekend. I love to have brunch with them, and one of my favorite spots to visit is Batter & Berries.”

Tesor chicago.com

Samsung: Galaxy Note 3, $199.99, Best Buy locations citywide; Bestbuy.com

“I recently switched from an iPhone to Android and my new Samsung Galaxy Note 3 is uh-mazing. I love the huge screen, great camera and easy-to-navigate features.”

Pump Room:

Tito’s Handmade Vodka extra dirty martini with blue cheese olives, $16.58, 1301 N. State; Pumproom.com

“The Pump Room is my go-to spot for weekend cocktails. I love the modern-yet-classic vibe.”

Dunkin’ Donuts: caramel latte, prices vary by location, locations citywide; Dunkindonuts.com

“I have to get my coffee at Dunkin’ Donuts. They have the best caramel latte, hands down.”

Art Institute of Chicago: admission, $23, 111 S. Michigan; Artic.edu

“I live for arts and culture — how perfect is it to have the Art Institute of Chicago right across the street from the office? This is the ideal way to get the creative juices going, and it’s also a cute date spot.”

White Sox: tickets start at $5, U.S. Cellular Field, 333 W. 35th; Chicago.whitesox.mlb.com

“I’m a huge baseball fan and down for every opportunity to catch a good game at U.S. Cellular Field. I’m always ready to root for the White Sox — unless they play the Yankees.”

The Peninsula Chicago: massage, starting at $165, 108 E. Superior; Chicago.peninsula.com

“The Peninsula Chicago is by far my top pick in the city for pampering yourself after completing a major project. The massages there are a treat for any hard-working person.”

< Fashion Fair: lipstick in Catfight, $18, Macy’s, 111 N. State; Macys.com

“I’m totally addicted to my lipstick by Fashion Fair [owned by EBONY parent, Johnson Publishing]. Anytime I feel like increasing the sex-kitten factor, it’s a must.”

Tortoise Club: menu starts at $1195, 350 N. State; Tortoiseclub.com

“Tortoise Club is one of my favorite restaurants in the city. The food is amazing, the ambiance is relaxed and there’s not a lot of foot traffic so it’s great for getting to know someone better.”

EBONY

Editor-in-Chief

Mitzi Miller

shares the things that keep her sharp
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BY JEFF TAYLOR
For Sun-Times Media

In the big, premium, luxury sedan arena Audi, BMW, and Mercedes-Benz are the top choices. In my experience, BMWs are the best driving sport sedans, Mercedes-Benz has the biggest amount of luxury/tech, and Audi does the best job of blending them both.

I tested the current and best representative of Audi's flagship sedan: a 2014 A8L (extended length) TDI sedan that starts at $82,500, and with options, came in at just under $100,000 ($99,445, including destination).

The A8 is a "traditionally styled" aluminum-bodied sedan, meaning no super-low profile roofline or hatch, just a slippery, clean look. However, the A8 more than just covers the bases with LED lights front and rear, big wheels and tires, just a touch of chrome smoothly carved for a whole look.

Under the hood there is a full complement of V6, V8, W12 engines, including my test car's 240 horsepower, V6 turbo-diesel with 406 pound-feet that produces good fuel economy with some power. Fuel economy checks in at 24 city and 36 highway, and you can travel up to 800 miles on a single tank. Aiding the cause in my TDI tester was the convenient and fuel-saving start-stop efficiency system. When the driver presses the brake pedal at stoplights or in other prolonged idle situations, the engine shuts off. When the driver releases the brake pedal, the engine instantaneously starts up again. A well-gearied eight-speed automatic and standard all-wheel drive complete the drivetrain combination.

Inside, rear passengers are the beneficiary of the A8's five inches of additional wheelbase. Passengers enjoy more rear legroom, a comfy rear seat, and bigger doors for easier entry and exit — it's big. Flat out the A8's interior bests the bland 7-Series, and is almost the equal of the S-Class.

The leather, wood and aluminum trim are nicely integrated capped with a rich suede headliner; it is one of the best-looking, detailed interiors I've tested this year. The 22-way (yes), climate comfort seats with massage is augmented with four-zone climate control that ensures everyone gets their temperature taken. On the tech side, my test A8 came with a redesigned version of Audi's MMI infotainment system. The rotating controller remains to scroll through menus. A new wrinkle is an MMI touchpad to swipe/scratch entry into. There's also a new Google Maps-based navigation system that uses a separate data connection to get live-updated routing and map info. Backing the tech gear is an integrated Wi-Fi hotspot through a subscription cellphone provider.

My test car came with an optional two-panel panoramic sunroof that surprisingly opened up the interior without chopping headroom. Storage space of 13.2 cubic-feet is a little low considering how large this car is.

At the top of the audio list is the Bang & Olufsen Advanced sound system, which my test car had. The popup speakers/tweeters and 1400 watts of power all but shake the panoramic roof off.

On the street, the A8 does not handle nor move like a big car. The turbo-diesel makes adequate power, and there is quite enough torque to move this car off the line with authority. The Drive Select feature provides you with a choice of Dynamic, Comfort, Auto, or Individual modes. I preferred Dynamic, as it offered the most aggressive handling. Comfort was just that and for around-town driving, it was a good choice. I was disappointed by the electric steering's lack of road feel.

The Quattro all-wheel-drive system provided great traction combined with optional 20-inch tires, and additional driving aids.
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Monitor Today's Wage Trends to Win the War for Talent

By: Larry West, PayScale.com

Wages are on the rise in many key US industries, according to the newest release of The PayScale Index, a clear indication that competition for talented workers is heating up.

Although unemployment remains high and job growth is sluggish overall, savvy employers are looking closely at recent wage increases and employee compensation.

The question they're asking: how can we position our company to recruit and hire top talent who can help us stay competitive in a volatile economy?

The answers, in part, can be found in recent labor data and correlating wage trends.

"The PayScale Index is a barometer for the labor market," says Katie Bardaro, lead economist for PayScale.com. "When wages are up, it means companies are hiring and expanding. When wages are down, it means companies are laying off employees and eliminating jobs."

Wages Show Dramatic Year-Over-Year Increase Nationwide

The PayScale Index, which PayScale.com publishes quarterly, tracks compensation trends over time for full-time, private-industry employees in the United States. During the second quarter (Q2) of 2012, wages nationwide were 1 percent higher than in the previous quarter and were up 2.3 percent year-over-year.

This represents the best annual improvement in employee earnings since Q1 2008, before the recession had a significant impact on the labor market.

Strong wage growth during the first half of 2012 has created new opportunities for workers and is motivating many employers to re-evaluate their compensation plans and starting salaries.

"Every organization struggles with deciding how to adjust compensation annually," says Stacey Carroll, principal consultant at PayScale.com. "Organizations are always asking us, 'What is the average pay increase this year?'

The truth is there's no such thing as average. Decisions about how to reward employees are highly individual and should be based on what is in the best interest of each organization."

Compensation Trends In Detail

In addition to reporting national trends, The PayScale Index also provides quarterly and year-over-year compensation information for 15 industries, 19 job categories, and the 20 largest US metropolitan areas as well as small, medium and large companies.

"Industries that performed well in the last year are those that are either experiencing large increases in revenue that they can invest in their employees, or growing due to increased consumer demand for their products and services," Bardaro says.

"Employers need to be familiar with the wage trends in their industries if they want to stay ahead of the curve. If they don't offer their top talent wage increases that either meet or beat the industry average, then they are likely to lose them to a firm that will."

Which Industries Rank Highest In Wage Growth?

1. Mining, Oil & Gas Exploration

Mining, oil and gas exploration outpaced all other industries for wage growth in Q2 2012, with a 5.6 percent year-over-year increase, fueled by soaring oil and gasoline costs and peak prices of commodities such as gold and copper. While overall wages for workers nationwide rose roughly 5 percent between 2006 and Q4 2008, workers in this industry saw their wages increase by more than 10 percent in the same period -- that trend appears to be continuing in 2012.

2. Utilities

Wages for utility workers ended the second quarter up 4.2 percent year over year -- their highest level since Q4 2007. Most utility workers are public employees, however, so the number of workers included in this industry category is relatively small (The PayScale Index only measures private-industry employees).

3. Professional, Scientific & Tech Services

Wages for the professional, scientific and tech services industry, which includes lawyers, accountants, IT consultants and other technology and service professionals, grew 1.7 percent in Q2 2012 and finished the quarter with 3 percent year-over-year growth.

4. Retail

Retail workers range from auto dealers to vending machine operators to the sales clerk at the mall. Retail industry wages are extremely sensitive to economic ups and downs. Year-over-year wage growth for the retail industry hit 2.7 percent by the end of Q2 2012 -- the highest since before the start of the recession.

5. (tie) Information, Media & Telecommunications AND Wholesale Trade

The strength of software and online publishing in 2012 was offset by the relative weakness of print publishing, which resulted in 2.6 percent year-over-year wage growth for the Information, media and telecommunications industry as a whole. Wholesale trade tied for fifth place on The PayScale Index ranking, with 2.6 percent year-over-year wage growth for Q2 2012.
Help Wanted Full-Time

You're in the driver's seat at ToDrive.com
Chicago Sun-Times Media is looking to hire an Advertising Sales Executive to join our team. This role will be responsible for generating revenue through the sale of advertising space across our network of websites, with a focus on the Education industry. This role will involve developing relationships with both current and new clients, as well as creating and executing advertising campaigns. Candidates must have strong ability to create relationships over the phone and in person, with an emphasis on consultative sales. This is a full-time position located in the Chicago area, with the potential for growth.

Requirements:
- Strong ability to create relationships over the phone and in person
- Minimum four years experience in sales, two years in digital sales
- Excellent written, verbal, and organizational skills
- Must be available to work some evenings

Responsibilities:
- Use a consultative sales approach to identify business needs and challenges
- Generate revenue by developing sales strategy and advertising programs for local clients on the Sun-Times Media network
- Effectively maintain your own Salesforce information database, including cold calling
- Will Buy All

Interested parties, please send resume to hr@suntimea.com in the subject line.

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SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Digital & Emerging Sales Position

Exciting and challenging position working with a high-performing interactive media sales team responsible for selling comprehensive digital advertising solutions to local clients on the Sun-Times Media network of websites as well as emerging media platforms.

Primary Responsibilities:
- Generate new business by developing sales strategies and adapting to the needs of the client
- Actively prospect, identify, and qualify new opportunities for business

Requirements:
- Four-year college degree desired
- Minimum four years' experience in sales, two years in digital sales

Local media sales experience a plus
- Must show successful sales record
- Must have strong analytical skills and work well on deadline
- Must be a highly motivated and independent worker
- Excellent written, verbal, and organizational skills

Effective communication and presentation skills
- Must be able to work in a team environment

Working in the media area is fun, interesting and exciting. Sun-Times Media is a network of 41 newspapers and websites and mobile applications, including Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Reader, Splash, and Chicago Magazine. The Interactive Media Department is looking for a creative and motivated individual who is interested in growing their business and building their digital footprint. We are seeking a media sales executive to provide top-notch service to our clients and assist in growing our business. This position will be responsible for selling our digital products to local businesses in the Chicago area.

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree in business, marketing, or related field preferred
- Minimum two years of sales experience in the Chicago area
- Knowledge of digital advertising and analytics

Interested parties, please send resume to hr@suntimea.com in the subject line.

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SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Account Executive-Major Accounts

Majors accountable include new business development, retention of customers and customer service, and maintenance of accurate and up-to-date activity in Salesforce or similar database.

Requirements:
- Strong ability to create relationships over the phone and in person
- Minimum of five years' experience in a customer-focused business-to-business organization
- Demonstrated knowledge of the sales process

Responsibilities:
- Use a consultative sales approach to identify business needs and challenges
- Generate revenue by developing sales strategy and advertising programs for local clients on the Sun-Times Media network
- Effectively maintain your own Salesforce information database, including cold calling

Interested parties, please send resume to hr@suntimea.com in the subject line.

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SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Executive Assistant-Major Accounts

Majors accountable include new business development, retention of customers and customer service, and maintenance of accurate and up-to-date activity in Salesforce or similar database.

Requirements:
- Strong ability to create relationships over the phone and in person
- Minimum of five years' experience in a customer-focused business-to-business organization
- Demonstrated knowledge of the sales process

Responsibilities:
- Use a consultative sales approach to identify business needs and challenges
- Generate revenue by developing sales strategy and advertising programs for local clients on the Sun-Times Media network
- Effectively maintain your own Salesforce information database, including cold calling

Interested parties, please send resume to hr@suntimea.com in the subject line.
TO REMAIN

The property shall remain open for inspection and shall be open to the premises after confirmation of the sale, unless otherwise ordered by the court. The property will not be open for inspection prior to or on the day of the sale.

If you have any questions about the property, contact the public adjuster at 312-673-4200. The public adjuster is available to answer any questions you may have about the property.

Additional information about the property can be found on the website of The Condominium Association, which is available at http://service.affy-pierce.com.

If you have any questions about the property, contact the public adjuster at 312-673-4200. The public adjuster is available to answer any questions you may have about the property.

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High School Cube News, Sun-Times Media's new high school sports website, launched this week. It's the latest evolution in Chicago area prep sports coverage. High School Cube News integrates all the highlights and live games from HighSchoolCube.com with the comprehensive coverage formerly provided by Season Pass.

High School Cube News features school and team pages for every area high school, with live game coverage and highlights from participating schools. Now, all 32 Pioneer Press weekly publications have their very own High School Cube News sites with a hyper-local focus on your favorite teams.

Go to highschoolcubenews.com or click “SPORTS” on your local newspaper site.
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State,

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as

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foreclosure',

the

for.

Youth Campus located at 733 N.
A Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 11:00 am. Friday, July 18, 2014.

Public Hearings

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Storage - Legal

Take Notices

DID YOU KNOW?

The Village of Skokie is now accept-
requests for

The Village of Skokie Public Works Floor

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on July 11, 2014 at Skokie Public Works, 9505 Gross Point Road, Des Plaines, Illinois. 

Billers will be required to certify that the work is to be performed pursuant to the Contract Documents, at least the prevailing rate of wages as found and determined by the Illinois Department of Labor.

A copy of the bid can be obtained from

Billers are strongly encouraged to attend the Pre-Bid Meeting in order to familiarize themselves with the existing conditions, perform field adjustments, and understand the study nature of the project.

The Village of Skokie reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any irregularities or blemishes in bidding documents. The Village of Skokie reserves the right to reject any and all bids at any time prior to award, to waive any irregularities or blemishes in bidding documents. The Village of Skokie reserves the right to reject any and all bids at any time prior to award, to waive any irregularities or blemishes in bidding documents. The Village of Skokie reserves the right to reject any and all bids at any time prior to award, to waive any irregularities or blemishes in bidding documents. The Village of Skokie reserves the right to reject any and all bids at any time prior to award, to waive any irregularities or blemishes in bidding documents. The Village of Skokie reserves the right to reject any and all bids at any time prior to award, to waive any irregularities or blemishes in bidding documents.

A bid set will be held at 3:00 pm on Thursday, July 17, 2014 in Village Hall, 9100 W. Peterson Avenue.

The Village of Skokie Public Works Department is about to commence the construction of a new storm water facility

If you believe that the work is to be performed to the satisfaction of the terms of the contract documents, please contact the Purchasing Office at

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY.

PROBATE DIVISION

In the matter of the estate of Marie Wendel, deceased.

Case No. 2014 IP 009848

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of Marie Wendel, deceased, has been opened and the following persons have been appointed and qualified as personal representatives of the estate.

Announced.

7/3/14

John T. Gonnella

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Notice is hereby given that the Estate of Marie Wendel, deceased, has been opened and the following persons have been appointed and qualified as personal representatives of the estate.

Announced.

7/3/14

John T. Gonnella

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY.

PROBATE DIVISION

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Motor vehicles are sold As Is / Parts Only from May 26, 2014 to July 3, 2014 at 11:30 AM. All auction proceeds are general household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash, credit or debit only. U-Haul Co. of North Shore Chicago reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location, 1110 A 30th Street South. Chicago, IL 60614 and will be at or after 3:00pm and continue until all units are sold. Stephanie Thomas-335 S Indiana, Chicago, IL 60617. Unit 6069 - Bikes, Misc Items and Unit 6142 - Bid Screen TV, China Cabinet, Toilets & Boxes John Doe - 1100 N Cicero Ave, Chicago, IL 60639.

MEMBERS ADVANTAGE CREDIT UNION 1610 Lincoln St. Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

AMENDED SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION Case No. 447-2014

To each person or entity named above as a defendant:

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a complaint against you. To each person or entity named above as a defendant:

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a complaint against you. You may have an attorney for you.

To each person or entity named above as a defendant:

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a complaint against you. You may have an attorney for you.

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You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a complaint against you. You may have an attorney for you.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Illinois Self-Storage Facility Act, a sale will be held on July 16, 2014, at LifeStorage of Morton Grove, 5250 West Golf Road, Morton Grove, Illinois. 60053. 847-650-5900. The contents of the below spaces will be sold at a public auction, pursuant to the Illinois Self-Storage Facility Act, Illinois Code 705/5-10, 5-11, and will be at 11:30 AM and continue until all units are sold.

Condition: All units will be sold to the highest bidder. No personal checks accepted. Payment must be made by CASH OR CREDIT CARD. All goods must be removed from the unit within 24 hours. Payment due immediately upon acceptance of bid. Unit availability subject to prior settlement of account.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Illinois Self-Storage Facility Act, Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter 114, Paragraph 101, ET. SEQ.

Time and Date: 11:30 AM and continue until all units are sold.

Auction Location: The Lock-Up Self Storage, 5250 West Golf Road, Morton Grove, Illinois. 60053. 847-650-5900.

Payment must be made by CASH OR CREDIT CARD. All goods must be removed from the unit within 24 hours. Payment due immediately upon acceptance of bid. Unit availability subject to prior settlement of account.

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New restaurant from Myron & Phil family coming to Touhy

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
For Sun-Times Media | @studenkov

The Niles Board of Trustees unanimously approved a zoning application for a new restaurant at the corner of Touhy and Caldwell avenues, at the western edge of a proposed arts and entertainment district.

The Wildwood Tavern is planned for the building formerly occupied by Christopher’s Off the Bone restaurant. The new venue will be both a restaurant and a tavern, featuring classic American-style food and an extensive selection of craft beers.

Owner Mark Freedman hopes to open the restaurant by Sept. 15, but it may be delayed depending on financing.

Freedman, currently of Chicago’s Edgebrook neighborhood, is no stranger to restaurant business. He worked for years with his father, Myron Freedman, at iconic Lincolnwood steakhouse Myron & Phil.

The steakhouse was open for 43 years, but shuttered after a fire the night of May 8, 2013.

Freedman originally intended the try to rebuild the restaurant, but after fighting with his insurance company for several months, he decided to start from scratch. As Pioneer Press reported in January, he wanted to stay in Lincolnwood, but he was also willing to consider other nearby suburbs.

He settled on the Touhy and Caldwell location for a number of reasons.

"First of all, Niles is a great community to have a business in," said Freedman. "It’s at a corner of Touhy and Caldwell, which is a good business corridor that gets a lot of traffic."

Since Christopher’s Off the Bone closed down in August 2013, the space has been vacant. In documents presented to the Niles Plan Commission, Freedman indicated that he plans to do some renovations to the existing building.

Because of water damage, the floor will be completely replaced. Some of the booths will be removed and replaced with tables. The bar will be moved and expanded. A large TV will be installed to let customers watch sports. But otherwise, most of the building will remain intact.

Because the restaurant would have the same number of seats as Off the Bone, it will have the same number of parking spaces. Freedman also anticipates that many customers would take advantage of public transportation. Pace route 290, CTA route 86A and Niles Free Bus routes 411 and 413 pass either directly in front or across the street from the site.

Echoing its predecessor, Wildwood Tavern plans to offer barbecue items, as well as burgers, salads, sandwiches and appetizers. Freedman said the restaurant will offer a large selection of bottled and tap local craft beers.

Wildwood Tavern will be open seven days a week, opening around 11 a.m. and closing between midnight and 1 a.m.

Mayor Andrew Przybylo is currently trying to turn the section of Touhy Avenue between Caldwell and Lehigh into an arts and entertainment district, with the iconic Leaning Tower of Niles serving as its anchor.

Freedman said he would welcome it.

"I think it's going to be a great," he said. "It's going to be a good fit for us, and I'm happy that we are going to be there first."

Freedman hopes to open the restaurant in the fall, but a lot will depend on whether he’ll have financing lined up in time to make it possible.

"We're still waiting on a couple of issues with the banks and things like that," he said. "Our hope is to open on Sept. 15, but I'm not sure. Some of those decisions are really out of my hands."
The Event: On May 31, the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel Chicago served as the vessel on which 475 Grecophiles embarked on a “Journey to the Greek Islands,” for The National Hellenic Museum’s annual gala.

Cause célèbre: “At the museum we present the Greek immigrant story which, in essence, is a universal story and, in many ways, part of American history,” said Connie Mourtoupalas of Chicago, museum president who originally hails from Thebes, Greece. “Greek history and culture; the principles of Greek philosophy, democracy lay at the very foundations of the US, and are still quite valid today.”

The NHM has become a resource for thousands of schools throughout Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan. Open year-round, it offers programs and classes for children and adults that range from Greek mythology and history to their newest curriculum on immigration.

“The museum has a mission to perpetuate our culture and the Greek heritage,” said Peter Parthenis of Inverness, board member, vice president and event co-chairman.

And now, according to Bill Conopeotis of Lake Forest, museum trustee and event co-chairman, members of NHM, “Are trying to take our local museum to the national level; raise funds and awareness and spread the Greek culture and history throughout the whole nation.”

As part of the celebration, the benefit honored members of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association and the founders of the Greek American Restaurant Association for their on-going philanthropy within the Greek-American community in Illinois and nationally.

In November 2015, NHM will present “The Greeks: From Agamemnon to Alexander the Great,” in partnership with Chicago’s Field Museum. The exhibit of nearly 600 priceless Greek cultural treasures, many never before out of Greece, will only be in two locations: Chicago and the National Geographic Museum in Washington D.C.

Bottom line: The event raised more than $350,000 for NHM.
CAUSE & EVENT

RIDE FOR AIDS
CHICAGO
FUNDRAISER
Sponsored by: Organized
Chaos Motorcycle
Organization
Benefiting: Test Positive
Awareness Network
Location: Argus Brewery,
Chicago
Date: June 8
Attending: 50
Raised: $850
Website: www.organized
chaoschicago.com

Barbara Pignato of Skokie | PHOTO
BY HANNA-KLARA THURFJELL

Debbie Sciortino of Harwood Heights (from left), Leah Schein of Chicago, Kathy Guzman of Harwood Heights, Kathy Sommer of Algonquin and Kelly Soprych of Oak Park | PHOTO BY HANNA-KLARA THURFJELL

Get your event in Trend

HAVE a philanthropic cause or event, or a party to share? Email Deborah Hoppe at dhoppe@pioneerlocal.com. She can send you guidelines for submitting information for Trend. Or call (312) 321-3734.
LOCAL WEDDING SPOTLIGHT ON:
UNIQUE PHOTOS TO LOVE

Want to add some creativity to the typical wedding shots? Take a cue from these six area couples.

1. Palatine residents Hannah Fey and Adrian Dydynski captured their love of dance during their wedding at Astoria Banquets in Buffalo Grove.
2. Jenny Habjan and Dan Opels took their first-look photos on a winding staircase at the Makray Memorial Golf Club in Barrington.
3. Allyson DAlba and Joshua Rieger took a unique photo with their wedding party before their reception at Rosewood Restaurant in Rosemont.
4. Meaghan Figg and Craig Wingbermuehle took photos at their Brookfield Zoo wedding with the life-sized tyrannosaurus rex the zoo had as part of its "Dinosaurs Alive!" exhibit.
5. Sarah Larsen and Jeffrey Noethlich used their natural surroundings for their photos at Four Rivers Environmental Center in Channahon.
6. Meg Platt and Kevin Jakubowski took photos on a slide in downtown Batavia during the Windmill City Festival.

Contact Renee Lee at rlee@bouquetcatcher.com or 312-651-6613 to share your wedding story. Facebook.com/BouquetCatcher Twitter @BouquetCatcher Pinterest.com/BouquetCatcher
Caitlin Peterson Moore & Dr. Matthew Stuart Schaff

Caitlin and Matt were married Nov. 2 at Luther Memorial Church in Chicago. It was the church where Caitlin was baptized and confirmed. It is also just a few blocks away from her childhood home. The reception was at the Newberry Library. Both grew up in older homes, so the style of the library felt very welcoming to the couple. Caitlin actually put a deposit down on it before Matt even saw it. Caitlin, a Chicago native, and Matt, from Rochester, Minnesota, live in Philadelphia where Caitlin is an exercise physiologist and Matt is a physician — currently a urology resident at Temple University Hospital.

**Tuesday Family Festivals In the Parks**

7 p.m. in various Skokie parks

**July 8 • Devonshire Park:** Pocket Circus
Two-person show where the performers blend acrobatics, magic, juggling and humor.

**July 15 • Oakton Park:** Animal Quest
Up close exotic animal show for the whole family.

**July 22 • Schack Park:** Obstacle Bounce House
A two lane obstacle course with tackle dummies, inflatable pillars, and a slide.

**July 29 • Central Park:** Rick Colen
Interactive show featuring comedy, magic, fire eating and juggling.

Call (847) 674-1500, or visit SkokieParks.org for more information.
Ravinia hosts summer concerts for kids

BY MYRNA PETLICI
For Sun-Times Media

Ravinia is grooming the audience of the future for live music and dance with its diverse schedule of Kids Concerts.

Next up is renowned children’s performer Justin Roberts and the Not Ready for Naptime Players, 11 a.m. Saturday, July 5 in the Martin Theatre.

“Ravinia is one of the most beautiful settings in the whole country for summer concerts,” Roberts said. “We love to be a part of bringing families together to sing, dance and have a good time.”

Roberts noted that for this concert he will perform with a larger than usual seven-piece band, adding two more musicians to his regular Naptime Players. “I guess it’s a 10-piece band if you include all the puppets,” he said, promising, “It will be a blast for all ages.”

Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Tom Chapin takes the Martin Theatre stage at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 12. His CD, “The Incredible Flexible You,” which is subtitled, “a songbook of social clues,” has won a handful of awards from parenting organizations.

Families will enter the unforgettable realm of Ralph’s World at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 19 in the Martin Theatre. The multitalented Ralph Covert, a regular Kids Concert performer, promised, “We will have singing, dancing and a rocking good time. The last few years, I have ended the show by leaving the stage and playing my last few songs through wireless mics out on the lawn, surrounded by the audience. “It’s so great to leave the stage and be plunged into the heart of all those laughing, happy people. It must be strange for my band, though, playing alone on the stage.”

That journey into the crowd makes sense when Covert revealed, “My favorite part of playing at Ravinia is interacting with the kids and parents. My post-show greeting line stretches out of sight. I treasure the chance to say hello and see everyone.”

Also on the schedule is Classical Kids LIVE! presenting “Mozart’s Magnificent Voyage” with the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra (11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 2 in the Pavilion) and the Lang Lang International Music Foundation Scholars with the Midwest Young Artists Symphony Orchestra (11 a.m. Friday Aug. 15 in the Pavilion).

The series concludes with a performance by the Ruth Page Civic Ballet in the Bennett Gordon Hall at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 13.

A new added attraction is KidsLawn on the North Lawn following each Saturday concert from noon-1 p.m. It’s a great place to picnic and children can try a number of interactive exhibits, including large-scale percussion instruments that really work. There will also be stories, videos and an “instrument petting zoo,” so youngsters can try out different instruments.
Exploring the fine art of piano duets

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
For Sun-Times Media

Claire Aebersold and Ralph Neiweem have been making beautiful music together for 35 years. The husband and wife pianists, who are artists-in-residence and faculty members of the Music Institute of Chicago, encourage others to do the same at the Chicago Duo Piano Festival which they founded in 1988. The 26th annual Festival is July 11-20 at Nichols Concert Hall in Evanston.

"Practicing piano is a very lonely thing for a piano soloist," Neiweem said. "What we like so much about playing duo is the fact that it's a social activity as well as learning about your instrument and learning repertoire."

Aebersold noted that the festival is divided into four parts. "We have teaching, a guest artist series, commissioning of new works and premiering new composers, and competitions," she said.

About 50 children and adults have registered to participate in the classes.

There are also four public events.

- At 7:30 p.m. on Friday, July 11, Aebersold and Neiweem will perform a Gala Opening Concert, which will include a portion of "Petrushka" by Stravinsky. Joseph Smith will present a lecture at 1 p.m. Sunday, July 13: "Invitation to the Dance: The Four-Hand Music of Carl Maria von Weber." At 3 p.m., Festival faculty and students will present a recital of Weber's music.

Music Institute staff will have a chance to shine at a Faculty Extravaganza Concert, Tuesday, July 15.

"One of the things that we're most proud of is that we started this Faculty Extrava-
PANCAKE BREAKFAST in the WOODS
Sunday, July 13 • 8:30 a.m.-noon • 4650 Brummel St, Skokie

Bring the family for breakfast among the oak trees! Enjoy delicious pancakes hot off the griddle with syrup or strawberries, turkey sausage and beverages. Complete your morning with a stroll along the Nature Center trails to enjoy “Brush with Nature” plein air painters.

Tickets: $7/adult $5/children under 10

Advance tickets are recommended and can be purchased at Emily Oaks.

G-FEST rampages again in Rosemont

BY BRUCE INGRAM
for Sub-Times Media

Just like the King of the Monsters himself, who made a rampaging return to movie theaters this summer, Chicago's long-running Godzilla Fest is back, and probably bigger than ever.

More than 2,000 people attended last year's G-FEST, doubling its previous record, and all signs point to a significantly larger turnout for the 21st fan convention July 11-13 in Rosemont.

"We're not sure yet how many we're going to have this year, but based on pre-registration I'm frightened," said Jeff Horne, one of the convention organizers. "In a good way, of course."

Horne said the recent "Godzilla" reboot obviously has stimulated interest in G-FEST. But he also believes social media has gradually increased awareness of it as the only fest of its type in the world.

Why? Maybe because G-FEST was largely a labor of love from the beginning. The fest has always been associated with the Winnipeg-based fan magazine "G-Fan" and organized by fans such as Horne, who recalls being hooked at the first one back in 1995.

It didn't begin as a calculated commercial proposition, though it shares many of the features of larger, more profit-driven conventions.

In addition to activities such as costume parades and Godzilla video-game contests, the 2014 G-FEST includes an art exhibit, a large dealer's room, numerous special guests including actors and effects artists, and screenings of kaiju classics beginning July 10 in the grand auditorium of the Pickwick Theatre. (Six films over three days including "Godzilla vs. Biollante," "Godzilla vs. King Ghidorah," and "Gamera, Monster from the Deep.")

This year's fest also boasts a truly king-sized monster attraction: A 100th birthday concert in honor of Japanese composer Akira Ifukube, who scored the original 1954 "Godzilla" and many other kaiju films. G-FEST raised $25,000 with a Kickstarter campaign to fund a 50-piece orchestra for the July 12 event at Pickwick Theatre.

Horne credits much of G-FEST's success to nostalgia appeal ("It reminds fans of when they were young, like listening to classic rock stations") mixed with a sense of community.

"A lot of the same people come back every year," he said. "It's a chance to see friends again. And a lot of parents have passed the passion on to their kids. They've grown up with it and now they're carrying on the love for these films.

"Everyone knows this isn't classic cinema. We're not dealing with 'Citizen Kane' here. But they've always been a lot of fun. And they still are."
Families can enjoy a Pancake Breakfast in the Woods at Emily Oaks Nature Center on July 13, then go for a walk and enjoy fresh air painting.

Breakfast tastes better outside at Emily Oaks

BY MYRNA PETUCKI
For Sun-Times Media

They're cooking up a special treat at Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. From 8:30 a.m.-noon on Sunday, July 13, your family can enjoy a Pancake Breakfast in the Woods.

"Our menu is tried and true," said Manager Lee Hansen of the food served at this popular annual event. Visitors will feast on pancakes and syrup, turkey sausages, strawberries, orange juice and coffee.

Visitors will also experience Brush with Nature, an art event organized by Anatomically Correct. "They're going to be doing some plein air painting along the trails," Hansen noted. "People can not only enjoy a filling and delicious breakfast and the wonders of the natural world out here on a beautiful July morning they can also watch artists at work." The artists will provide an art activity for kids.

Tickets are $7, $5 for children under 10. Advance registration is encouraged but not required.

For details, call (847) 677-9740 or go to www.lincolnwoodil.org.

PET PROJECTS

Your child can enter a pet in the Project Pawway Fashion Show and the Pet Talent Show at Petpalooza, 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, July 14 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. An adult must accompany each child. Animals must be caged or leased. Registration is required.

For details, call (847) 324-3149 or go to www.skokieparks.org.

IT ADDS UP

Life was orderly but boring before there were letters. Five numbers decided to do something about it. Find out what they did at the Numberlys Storytime, 11 a.m. Saturday, July 12 at the Old Orchard Barnes & Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie.

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

SUMMER FUN

Children have a special place at Wilmette Summerfest. The Kids' Area will be at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 1140 Wilmette Ave. The Storybook Mom, Nili Yelin, plans to keep kids entertained every minute, with live musical performances and interactive events, from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday, July 12. "I want to create a fun, relaxed family atmosphere," she said.

For details, go to wilmettesummerfest.com.

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SPEND SUMMER IN A FUN NEW WHIRL! WhirlyBall not only hosts the best corporate events, we're the place for excitement anytime. Come see us when school's out, friends or relatives are in town, on rainy days...or whenever you need that extra SPARK!

773-486-7777
WHIRLYBALL.COM

FREE Movies in the Park

Pack up the kids, blankets and lawn chairs and head to Lorel Park for an evening of free family fun. Movies will begin at sunset.

Thursday, July 10
Peter Pan
(1952, Rated G)

(847) 674-1500 • www.skokieparks.org
Summer boredom busters

Mommy on a Shoestring
by Beth Engelman

But boredom anytime, anywhere, with these crafty activities that are easy to make and fun to play.

Balloon Tennis

This game is perfect for the backyard, beach or your next family picnic.

You need:
- Paper plates
- Rulers (sturdy paint mixers work equally as well)
- Balloon (inflated)
- Duct tape
- Volleyball net (optional)

Directions:
- Use duct tape to attach one ruler to one paper plate. Repeat process until you have two “rackets.”
- To play: Players take turns hitting the balloon with their racket until someone misses a shot. The first player to 21 wins the game.

DIY Maze Games

Next time your children need some downtime, bring out your old CDs and make these “a-maze-ing” games.

You need:
- Empty CD jewel case
- Straws
- Small round beads
- Strong adhesive (such as a hot glue gun or tacky glue)
- Construction paper
- Scissors

Directions:
- Prepare the CD case by removing the middle insert (it typically holds the CD).
- Cut construction paper to fit snugly inside CD case.
- Cut straws into varied lengths.
- Create a maze by gluing straws to the construction paper in a specific pattern. Set aside to dry.
- Add small round beads to the maze, close cover and seal with clear packing tape.

Note: Removing the middle insert often leaves a small opening near the spine of the CD jewel case. Be sure to close off this opening by filling the space with extra straws or use larger beads.

I Spy a Cloud

This activity gives you permission to sit back and watch the clouds float by. It’s also a great way to learn with your children as you use the “cloud spotter” to identify different types of clouds.

You need:
- Puzzle and magnet tape (you can also use flat promotional magnets and glue)

Directions:
- Attach a magnet to the back of each puzzle piece, give your kids a metal cookie sheet and let the puzzle play begin.

Magnetic Puzzles

I can’t promise the “are we there yet?” whine will become a thing of the past, but this travel activity will help keep passengers occupied during long car trips and train rides.

You need:
- Puzzle
- Magnet tape

Directions:
- Attach a magnet to the back of each puzzle piece, give your kids a metal cookie sheet and let the puzzle play begin.

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This activity gives you permission to sit back and watch the clouds float by. It’s also a great way to learn with your children as you use the “cloud spotter” to identify different types of clouds.

You need:
- Puzzle
- Magnet tape

Directions:
- Attach a magnet to the back of each puzzle piece, give your kids a metal cookie sheet and let the puzzle play begin.

Magnetic Puzzles

I can’t promise the “are we there yet?” whine will become a thing of the past, but this travel activity will help keep passengers occupied during long car trips and train rides.

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DIY Maze Games

Next time your children need some downtime, bring out your old CDs and make these “a-maze-ing” games.

You need:
- Empty CD jewel case
- Straws
- Small round beads
- Strong adhesive (such as a hot glue gun or tacky glue)
- Construction paper
- Scissors

Directions:
- Prepare the CD case by removing the middle insert (it typically holds the CD).
- Cut construction paper to fit snugly inside CD case.
- Cut straws into varied lengths.
- Create a maze by gluing straws to the construction paper in a specific pattern. Set aside to dry.
- Add small round beads to the maze, close cover and seal with clear packing tape.

Note: Removing the middle insert often leaves a small opening near the spine of the CD jewel case. Be sure to close off this opening by filling the space with extra straws or use larger beads.

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

Lincolnwood Thursday Night Summer Concert Series
6 p.m.: Lincolnwood’s annual Thursday night concert series features eight weeks of free musical entertainment and fun family activities. Activities begin at 6 p.m., and concerts follow at 7 p.m. Bring your blanket, lawn chairs and picnic basket or purchase food and drinks at the concession stand. For a complete lineup of bands, check out www.recreation.lwd.org. Prosser Park, 7055 N. Kostner Ave., Lincolnwood. Call 847-677-9740.

Rosemont Fireworks
9 p.m.: Fireworks begin at dusk and end by 10 p.m. This event is part of the summer “Rockin’ in the Park” concert series. MB Financial Park at Rosemont, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont. Call 847-349-5008.

FRIDAY, JULY 4

Village of Niles Fourth of July Parade and Celebration
9 a.m.: The village of Niles is sponsoring the Fourth of July parade. The parade route begins at Notre Dame College Prep and ends at Grennan Heights Park where there will be holiday entertainment, including the band R-Gang, games for kids, face painting, a community information tent and pony rides. Notre Dame College Prep, 7655 W. Dempster St., Niles. Call 847-957-6633.

Wilmette Community Band at Niles Fourth of July Parade

Red, White and Splash

Skokie Fourth of July Parade
Noon: The parade begins at Oakton Community College and ends at Oakton Park. Oakton Community College Skokie Campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie.

Independence Day Festivities and Fireworks
5 p.m.: Community members are invited to celebrate the Fourth of July with food, games and a concert featuring the Triple Threat Band and Mike and Joe. The first 1,000 attendees receive 3D glasses for the fireworks show at 8:30 p.m. Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-626-2500.

Morton Grove Fourth of July Fireworks

Tony, Aaron and Rebecca of The Tossers
9 p.m.: The band performs in the Green Room. For ages 21 and older. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St., Chicago. Call 773-478-4408. $7.

Bally's Diamonds
9 p.m.: The band performs in the Green Room. For ages 21 and older. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St., Chicago. Call 773-478-4408. $7.

Paul Reiser
9:30 p.m.: Bestselling author of “Couplehood” and star of “Mad About You” Reiser comes to Zanies as a special event. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont. Call 847-929-5101.

SATURDAY, JULY 5

Morton Grove Farmers Market
8 a.m.: The market features favorites such as seasonal fruits and vegetables, meats, eggs, baked goods, cheeses, honey, hand-crafted items, natural bath and body products, gift, prepared foods, live music, children’s activities and a free drawing. Runs weekly through Oct. 18. Market Grounds, 6210 Oakton St., Morton Grove. Call 847-750-4436.

Film: ‘Drums Along the Mohawk’
2 p.m.: Newlyweds Gil and Lana Martin try to establish a farm in the Mohawk Valley but are menaced by Indians and Tories as the Revolutionary War begins. The film stars Giaudette Colbert and Henry Fonda. 105 minutes. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

Film Screening by IndieFlix
1:30 p.m.: A weekly screening of an independent or foreign film. Call 708-867-7828 for titles. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights.

Film and Discussion: ‘The Maltese Falcon’
2 p.m.: Part of a six-part series on classic detective movies from the Golden Age of Hollywood. Each month, the library will watch a film and follow it with a discussion moderated by author and film historian Doug Deuchler. This month’s film stars Humphrey Bogart as Sam Spade. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

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.

MONDAY, JULY 7

Maker Monday
4:30 p.m.: The group makes crafts out of ordinary things. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-6625.

Trivia Night
8 p.m.: Winners receive gift cards. Specials include $4 Budweiser products and 60-cent wings. Buffalo Wild Wings, 7020 Carpenter Road, Skokie. Call 847-329-9333.

TUESDAY, JULY 8

Film: ‘Ten Things I Hate About You’
11:30 a.m.: In this contemporary version of Shakespeare’s “Taming of the Shrew,” a guy falls for a girl who is forbidden to date until the most hated girl in school, her ill-tempered older sister, goes out, too. Cast includes Julia Stiles, Heath Ledger, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Larsi O'ley. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-929-5101.

Feature Film: ‘American Hustle’
1 p.m.: A con man and his seductive man are forced to work for a wild FBI agent who pushes them into a world of Jersey power brokers and mafia. Stars Christian Bale, Amy Adams and Bradley Cooper. 138 minutes. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

YA Coffee with Author Joelle Charbonneau
8 p.m.: The author of “The Testing” series stops in for lunch and to talk about the series. Copies of the book are available at the Reader Services Desk. For students in grades six to 12. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. For more information, call 847-663-3233.

SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY APPS
7 p.m.: Learn how to use the camera settings and controls on a smartphone. Participants can learn about apps for editing, stylizing and posting photos. Participants are advised to bring a fully charged smartphone. The instructor is Daily Herald photographer George LeClaire. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1294.

DIY Nail Design
3 p.m.: Artist Colleen Kelly helps participants create a new nail look for the rest of the summer. For students in grades six to 12. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

Lunch on the Lawn: Academy of Irish Music, Traditional Irish Music
Noon: Take a mid-day break and refresh with some local talent on the library’s lawn. Bring a lunch and a blanket to sit on. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

LItLounge Book Discussion: ‘The Quiet American’
7 p.m.: This novel is a study of hope and innocence set in a world of violence. The scene is Saigon in the violent years when the French were desperately trying to hold their footing in the Far East. Curragh Irish Pub, 8266 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call 847-965-4220.

Natural Gas
8 p.m.: The improvisational group takes a suggestion from the audience and turns it into a show. The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Call 773-293-7071. $5.

THURSDAY, JULY 10

Movies in the Underground: ‘Rise of the Planet of the Apes’
4 p.m.: Prepare for the release of “Dawn of the Planet of the Apes” with a screening of the previous film in the series. Pizza is served. For ages 13-18. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1294.

Movies in the Park: ‘Peter Pan’
7:45 p.m.: Loret Park, 8135 Loret Ave., Skokie.

FRIDAY, JULY 11

DYI Nail Design
3 p.m.: Artist Colleen Kelly helps participants create a new nail look for the rest of the summer. For students in grades six to 12. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

‘The Tuesday Ten’ Showcase
8 p.m.: A mix of 10 headliners, including rising stars and surprise guests, perform stand-up. $10 and the purchase of at least two food or drink items. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont. Call 847-813-0484.

SEE CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE »
Movie Bingo: Good, Bad or Condemned?
10 a.m.: In this interactive comedy, Vicki Quade uses her latest character, Mrs. Mary Margaret O'Brien, a former nun, to show the audience the difference between good, bad and condemned. Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. For more information, call 847-674-1500.

Mike Toomey
10:30 a.m.: Comedian Mike Toomey comes to Zanies as a special event. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont. For more information, call 847-813-0484.

Dinner and a Movie
7:30 p.m.: Enjoy dinner and a movie at Cascade Drive-in in West Chicago. For ages 18 and older. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, 6820 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-866-5522.

Jimmy Pardo
10:30 p.m.: Comedian Jimmy Pardo comes to Zanies as a special event. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont. Call 847-813-0484.

Festival
Noon: Highlights of this seventh annual festival include a team gulyas cook-off, live Hungarian folk music, kids games and activities, a Hungarian marketplace and a wine and beer bar. All proceeds benefit Hungarian United Church of Christ and Community Center, Norridge United Church of Christ, 6260 W. Foster Ave., Norridge. $20-$30; $5 for children ages 6-12.

Dinner and a Movie
7:30 p.m.: Enjoy dinner and a movie at Cascade Drive-in in West Chicago. For ages 18 and older. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, 6820 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-866-5522.

Film and Discussion:
'I Song For You'
1:30 p.m.: George and Gisela Karp and their infant daughter Susie escape the Nazis by crossing the Pyrenees with the help of the French Resistance. A discussion with director Sharon Karp and co-director Silvia Malagrino will follow the screening. Reservations are required, email reservations@ihhmc.org. Illinois Holocaust Museum, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. Call 847-967-4800.

Highland Park Pops

The Big Greek Food Festival of Niles
8:30 a.m.: Eat a delicious pancake breakfast among the trees at Emily Oaks Nature Center. The menu includes delicious pancakes served hot off the griddle with syrup or strawberries, turkey sausage, and beverages. Complete your morning with a stroll and enjoy "Brush with Nature" plein air paintings working along the Nature Center trails. Advanced tickets are recommended and can be purchased at Emily Oaks. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. Call 847-674-1500.

Coffee, Classic Cars and Connections
9 a.m.: Join car aficionados of all ages to check out pre-1980 muscle cars, sports cars and luxury cars at this monthly event to benefit The Center of Concern, a Park Ridge nonprofit that serves the elderly and disabled. Visit the website or call to register. Park Ridge Public Library, 21 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. For more information, call 847-823-0453.

The Last Ship
Music and Lyrics by Sting
Book by John Logan
and Brian Yorkey
Choreography by Steven Hoggett
Directed by Joe Mantello

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CHICAGO SUN-TIMES
FILM CLIPS

BEGIN AGAIN

Rated R for language
Stars: Mark Ruffalo, Keira Knightley, Hailee Steinfeld, Adam Levine
Writer/director John Carney’s follow-up to his near-perfect 2006 indie musical romance “Once” is basically an attempt to lay down the template and have another go with movie stars this time around, and a plusher budget. Ruffalo plays a one-time star producer whose career and personal life are on the skids but sees salvation in his discovery of singer-songwriter Knightley — leading to a guerrilla-style recording of an album in various New York locations. Their relationship is a bit trumped-up, but the musical vibe is quite nice.

EARTH TO ECHO

Rated PG for some action and peril, mild language
Stars: Teo Halm, Astro, Reese Hartwig, Ella Wahlestedt
This flashy but uninspired revamp of ’80s sci-fi adventures for kids (particularly “E.T.”) was shot found-footage style, as if on camcorders, smartphones and the like, making it frequently confusing in addition to thoroughly artificial. Sensing a government conspiracy after their parents are ordered to vacate their homes, three boys (Halm, Astro and Hartwig) ride out into the Nevada desert and befriend a tiny crashed alien. Unfortunately, debut director Dave Green places much more value on the way “Earth to Echo” looks than making the over-familiar story and two-dimensional characters credible.

DELIVER US FROM EVIL

Rated R for bloody violence, grisly images, terror throughout, and language
Stars: Eric Bana, Edgar Ramirez, Olivia Munn
A New York police officer (Bana) partners with an unconventional priest (Ramirez) to investigate a series of disturbing and inexplicable crimes. Scott Derrickson (“Sinister”) wrote and directed the thriller.

LIFE ITSELF

Rated R for brief sexual images/nudity and language
Stars: Roger Ebert, Martin Scorsese, Chazz Ebert, Werner Herzog, A.O. Scott
More than just a tribute to the career of the world’s most famous and influential film critic, this often-revelatory documentary is also an intimate portrait of a life well lived — right up to the very last moment. In most ways, “Life Itself” conforms to the standard format of biographical documentary, covering Ebert’s life and career with archival photos and reminiscences. But it ultimately goes much deeper when Ebert learns, mid-film, that he’s losing his long battle with thyroid cancer — and decides to continue regardless.

SNOWPIERCER

Rated R for violence, language and drug content
Stars: Chris Evans, Kang-ho Song, Ed Harris, Tilda Swinton, John Hurt, Jamie Bell
On a high-speed train circling the globe after an apocalyptic new Ice Age, the poor and oppressed survivors of mankind attempt to overthrow their wealthy masters in the first-class section. South Korea’s Joon-ho Bong (“The Host”) directed the sci-fi adventure.

TAMMY

Rated R for language including sexual references
Stars: Melissa McCarthy, Susan Sarandon, Dan Aykroyd, Kathy Bates, Sandra Oh
After losing her job and learning her husband has cheated on her, a woman (McCarthy) hits the road with her hard-drinking foul-mouthed grandmother (Sarandon). Actor Ben Falcone co-wrote (with his wife McCarthy) and directed the comedy.

STILL PLAYING

THEY CAME TOGETHER

Rated R for language and sexual content
Stars: Paul Rudd, Amy Poehler, Bill Hader, Ed Helms, Cobie Smulders
A corporate candy company exec and the owner of an indie candy shop (Rudd and Poehler) hate each other at first sight — and then, strangely, begin to have a change of heart. David Wain (“Role Models”) co-wrote and directed the romcom parody.
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SHOWTIMES

Movie times are effective Friday, July 4, through Thursday, July 10. Please note that theater schedules are subject to change.

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

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

ROSEMONT 18
9701 Bryn Mawr Ave.
Rosemont
(847) 447-1030
www.muvico.com
Contact theater for showtimes.

REGAL GARDENS STADIUM I-6
4999 Old Orchard Center
Skokie
(847) 673-4037
www.regmovies.com
Contact theater for showtimes.

REGAL GARDENS 7-13
4999 Old Orchard Center
Skokie
(847) 674-0184
www.regmovies.com
Contact theater for showtimes.

AMC SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING 18
7000 Carpenter Road
Skokie
(888) AMC-4FUN
www.amctheatres.com
Begin Again (R)
Fri-Sun 11:20-1:50-4:30-7:10-9:50

Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (PC-13)
Thu 10-10:45-12:01

Dawn of the Planet of the Apes in 3-D (PC-13)
Thu 10-11:30

Apes Double Feature (PG-13)
Thu 7

America: Imagine the World Without Her (PG-13)
Fri-Sun 11:30-2:45-7:15-10:15;

Deliver Us from Evil (R)
Fri, Sat 10:45-1:45-4:45-5:45-7:45-8:45-10:45;
Sun 10:45-1:45-4:45-5:45-7:45-8:45-10:45;
Mon 10:45-1:45-4:45-5:45-7:45-8:45-10:30

Earth to Echo (PG)
Fri-Sun 10:20-2:20-4:40-7:20;

Tammy (R)
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Sun 10:45-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30;
Mon 10:45-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30

Think Like a Man Too (PG-13)
Fri-Mon 11:45-1:45-4:45-7:45-10:30

The Fault in Our Stars (PG-13)
Fri-Mon 11:10-1:10-4:10-7:10-9:10

Maleficent (PG)
Fri-Sun 10-12:30-3-5-8-10:30;
Mon 12:30-3-5-8-10:30;

X-Men: Days of Future Past (PG-13)
Fri-Sun 2:10-4:10-6:10;
Mon 2:10-4:10-6:10

Non-Stop (PG-13)
Mon-Wed 9:30

22 Jump Street (R)
Fri, Sat 11:30-2:30-5-7:40-10:40-12:30;
Sun, Mon 11:30-2:30-5-7:40-10:40

Edge of Tomorrow (PG-13)
Fri-Mon 1:45-6:45

How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG)
Fri-Mon 1:45-4:45

How to Train Your Dragon 2 in 3-D (PG)
Fri-Mon 1:45-4:45

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Chef (R)
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Non-Stop (PG-13)
Mon-Wed 9:30
"Tuneful and harmonically fresh. See it now [and] say you were present at the creation!"
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MUSICAL DIRECTION BY DOUG PECK
CHOREOGRAPHED BY TOMMY RAPLEY
DIRECTED BY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL HALBERSTAM

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- Sunday, 9:15 am - Spirit Bridge
- Sunday, 10:30 am - Contemporary

Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor
Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry
Matt Haider, Worship / Music
Michael Lyda, Children/Youth/Family

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- Welcoming traditional worship
- Sanctuary Handicap accessible
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- Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45

Rev. Matthew Joseph Gunia, Pastor

**Niles**

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773-283-2326 • www.unitedfaith.org

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- 9:30 AM Sunday School
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Death Notices

Pietruszka, Ronald T.
Age 73, passed away on the 6th of June, 2014. Cherished father of Ronald T. Pietruszka II, Corrine Beringer, Charlene Lyons, and Cassandra McCarthy; adored grandfather of Alexys Pietruszka, Jess Vessels, John Vessels, Grant Beringer, Breanna Beringer, Mark Lyons, and Matt Lyons; beloved brother of Barbara Zableiski and Teddy Pietruszka.

Memorial graveside services were held Tuesday (July 1, 2014) at 2:00 p.m. in St. Adalbert’s Cemetery, Niles, Illinois. Memorials may be given to Limbs for Life, 218 E. Main St., Oklahoma City, OK 73104. limbsforlife.org. Info: Zehender Robinson Stormer Cookson Funeral Home, 217-222-3662.

Sign Guest Book at www.chicagoladobits.com
SUPER CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 City in Florida 100 Staff anew
2 Ship spies 101 Leftover bit
3 Give out 102 Long-time
4 End the 103 Falsehood
5 Blunder 104 Can't beat
6 Three x Simpson's 11 Head, to F6
7 Memorable times 111 Ah, to F6
8 Promissable Minneapolis 114 Pull firmly
9 Black cow? 116 Tease in fun
10 Laborer's performance of a slowish piece? 124 Good Friday's time
11 Motto of a group opposing a national song? 125 Minnows
12 Distilled 136 Mel of many voices
13 Walked with heavy steps 138 Take out (do some borrowing)
14 Richard who played the Godfather 152 Put away
15 Made (out) DOWN 153 Came to be
16 Barzin in "The Godfather" 154 Dwarf
17 Make a move with — bad money witch? 155 $5 spitter
18 Car club abbr. 156 Enjoy Aspen

HOROSCOPES: JULY 9 — JULY 15

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your Aries leadership qualities can help bring order out of all that confusion, whether it's on the job or in the home. But be careful to guide, not good others.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Applying a more personal view to a job-linked issue could provide better insight into those persistent problems. Use your logic to cut through the double-talk.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Taking time off could be the best way to get through a seemingly endless round of demands. You'll return refreshed and ready to tackle things from a new perspective.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Restoring a sagging professional relationship takes a lot of effort. State your position firmly. But be sure you pay close attention to the other person's point of view.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A hot prospect intrigues the Big Cat, who is always on the prowl for a promising investment. But be careful that this "promise" has a chance of being kept.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A hot prospect intrigues the Big Cat, who is always on the prowl for a promising investment. But be careful that this "promise" has a chance of being kept.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You might have difficulty getting your opinions heard because of all the noise from the other side. But, others should line up with you once they learn the facts.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Offering to help a colleague is commendable. But before you commit to it, see if that person's situation is all that he or she has led you to believe it is.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You soon should be seeing positive results from your efforts on behalf of a family member. Check that you also have all the facts on a job assignment.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your aspects favor closer family relationships this week. Take time for visits, whether in person, by phone, by mail or in cyberspace.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A missed opportunity isn't always a negative. Maybe your instincts are telling you not to rush into something you "thought" was worthwhile.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your sense of humor helps you get through a tricky situation. But some stick-in-the-muds might not be so willing to make the changes that are necessary.
CAR STORY

>> We want to tell your car story. Email it to kevin@aggrego.com.

My American flag Jeeps

By Nick Prisio of Lake Bluff

In response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, UAW-Chrysler and the Toledo Jeep plant had Jeep plant artist Paul Clawson paint two matching American flag Jeeps that sat at the foot of the giant Jeep sign visible from the highway.

Clawson also painted a 1976 CJ-5 for himself and a 2002 Liberty that was intended to be sold as a promo vehicle to Kroger Foods. The deal with Kroger never happened and it was eventually sold to its new owners in NY where it was titled and driven.

Sadly the forever iconic display Jeeps got scrapped by the factors leaving only two surviving American flag Jeeps: Paul's 1976 CJ-5 and the 2002 Jeep Liberty.

I recently acquired Paul's 1976 CJ-5 and found the missing New York Liberty, completing the set. The Jeeps were featured in the Arlington Heights Memorial Day parade. Service members saluted, and kids said, "Cool Jeeps," throughout the parade route.

Every time the Jeeps' story is told it opens up the imagination and inspires national pride. Ideally they should be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

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Plenty of baseball fans know that 2014 season saw the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Wrigley Field as the home of the Chicago Cubs - second oldest ballpark in the majors after Boston’s Fenway Park, which opened in 1912. So what’s the third oldest big league park still in use when the 2014 campaign began? Surprisingly, it’s Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, which was built in 1962.

...If you know this one, you win the award for biggest sports fan ever. Name the only member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame who also played in the major leagues and hit a home run in his first at bat. His name was Clarence Parker, better known as Ace, who left the old Philadelphia A’s in 1938 to play football for a team then known as the Brooklyn Dodgers. Parker played quarterback and halfback, earning league MVP honors in 1940. After his retirement, he coached baseball and football at Duke. Ace Parker passed away in 2013 at age 101.

Tiger Woods entered 2014 with 14 major tournament titles to his name, four behind Jack Nicklaus. But with Tiger turning 40 in December of 2015, he better get hot if he’s going to catch Jack. Only six players in golf history have won more than one major after age 40: Old Tom Morris (4, back in the 1860s), Ben Hogan (3, all in 1953), Nicklaus (3, in the 1980s), Harry Vardon (2, in the early 1900s), Julius Boros (2, in the 1960s) and Mark O’Meara (2, both in 1998). Boros was the oldest, winning the PGA at 48.

High School Cube News, Sun-Times Media’s new high school sports website, launched this week. It’s the latest evolution in Chicago area prep sports coverage. High School Cube News will integrate all the highlights and live games from HighSchoolCube.com with the comprehensive coverage formerly provided by Season Pass.

High School Cube News features school and team pages for every area high school, with live game coverage and highlights from participating schools. Now, all 32 Pioneer Press weekly publications have their very own High School Cube News sites with a hyper-local focus on your favorite teams.

Go to highschoolcubenews.com or click "SPORTS" on your local newspaper site.
Niles West alumnus Kevin Ross is batting .233 in 10 games with the Jamestown Jammers, a Class A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Pirates life has Ross adapting to first
Niles West graduate looking to raise his average in Class A ball

BY STAN ZOLLER
For Sun-Times Media, @HSCNewsNorth

JAMESTOWN, NY. — Russell E. Diethrick Jr. Park in this struggling industrial city in western New York is not the field of dreams for Kevin Ross. But it’s a stepping stone.

Ross, a 2012 Niles West graduate, plays for the Jamestown Jammers, a Class A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The Pirates selected Ross in the eighth round as a shortstop two years ago and he’s played every infield position during his first two seasons in the organization, but this year he’s played exclusively at first. It’s a move that did not surprise veteran Niles West baseball coach Gary Gustafson.

“I thought they might do that with the kind of frame he’s got,” Gustafson said of Ross, who is listed at 6-foot-1 and 205 pounds.

Gustafson said Ross has a “short, strong throwing arm” and he was clocked at 90 miles per hour on a throw from short to first during his high school career.

Jammers manager Brian Esposito said Ross has been working at both third and first base. Esposito has been impressed with Ross’ defensive work at first, saying he’s “a really good first baseman, especially digging balls [out of the dirt] and supporting the infielders.”

Ross said he has found first a bit easier than shortstop because “there’s not as much to do as there is at short.” The move to first was a matter of necessity.

“We were lacking a first baseman, so they moved me there,” he said. In the 10 games he’s played, Ross is batting .233, but is hitting .316 with runners in scoring position.

Ross is batting .189 against right-handed pitching, but .319 against lefties. Ross said one of his goals is to boost his average and to hit more “bombs” — home runs.

“He’s a tremendous hitter,” Gustafson said. “He’s in a class by himself. The ball makes a different sound off his bat.”

Ross has had to make more than on-field adjustments. The Pirates organization is known for having a strict regimen in its minor league system. The daily routine that includes batting practice or strength conditioning along with shaving every day as beards are not allowed.

“We help these guys in growing,” Esposito said. “He’s doing well and adjusting to the standards we have. He knows what he needs to do.”

That is not a surprise to Gustafson.

“A lot of guys come and go; I’ve had a lot of good ball players,” Gustafson said. “Kevin is special guy ... a special player; there’s no question. “Kevin wants to be a baseball player — told me — his goal is to play in PNC Park [home of the Pittsburgh Pirates] and to be with the Pittsburgh Pirates. That’s his dream.”

And right now, it’s starting in Jamestown.
ELMHURST — Lance Tawzer has learned that the country's oldest existing intracity baseball rivalry often provokes strong opinions.

"If you live in Chicago, you tend to find yourself on one side of the fence or the other," said Tawzer, curator of the Elmhurst Historical Museum.

The museum's current exhibit, "Sox vs. Cubs: The Chicago Civil Wars," opened May 16 and runs through Sept. 28, to coincide with the baseball season. Several organizations have expressed interest in hosting the exhibit, he said, so it's likely to travel once its run has ended in Elmhurst.

In piecing together the exhibit, Tawzer interviewed former broadcasters, journalists, players and fans, specifically looking for fans with a family history of rooting for the Cubs or Sox.

"Occasionally, you will get a rebellious teenager who switches to spite parents," Tawzer said, adding that the legacy factor keeps most family members united behind one team.

Villa Park residents Don and Regina Enders and their daughter Darcy perused the display on a recent Sunday. Don Enders was a Cubs fan until 1970. He changed allegiances after the Cubs, who led the National League East for most of the 1969 season, were passed by the Mets, broke his heart and ended in Elmhurst.

Regina Enders grew up in a house divided: Dad was a Cubs fan, mom, a Sox fan. The kids were split down the middle.

"I've always been a Sox fan because mom was," Regina Enders said. "When I saw this, I was like, 'We gotta go.'"

The exhibit features Cubs and Sox memorabilia and souvenirs — the kinds of things a fan might have brought home after visiting one of the ballparks, Tawzer said.

"We were looking for more of the true fan kind of things," he said.

One case features items from the "fan caves" of two diehard fans — one Sox, one Cubs — including bobbleheads, a banner, a jersey and old stadium seats.

What Tawzer finds most interesting is the amount of shared history between the teams.

"I don't care how much baseball you think you know, there's going to be something here that'll catch you," she said.

Tawzer said he hopes the exhibit gives fans of one team an appreciation for their rival, too.

"I think it's wonderful that it sparks the dialogue it does," he said. "From a cultural history standpoint, this is a big part of people's lives."

Sox fan Elizabeth Dziedzic of Chicago — from the South Side, "of course" — said she enjoys picking on Cubs fans, but the rivalry is fun.

"I think it's a part of Chicago and what Chicago is, and what baseball is to a Chicago fan," she said. "And what would summer be without baseball?"
Kevin Ross, who is pictured running toward third base, is playing with the Jamestown (New York) Jammers, a Class A team. STAN ZOLLER/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA
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