Fun on the Fourth

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Niles
Annual July Fourth parade brings community together

BY PAM DEFIGLIO
For Sun-Times Media

Niles' Fourth of July parade kicked off with a patriotic moment. People stood up from their lawn chairs and clapped as members of the Niles Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7712 led the parade Friday morning under blue skies and pleasant temperatures.

From then on it was a collage of floats, dancers, bands and music as the parade wound through mostly residential streets.

"It's just nice to see the community come out and have everyone be so excited," said Caroline Rycik, who lives nearby and walks to the parade every year.

The annual parade began at Notre Dame College Prep and proceeded to Grennan Heights Park.

The Jesse White Tumbling Team stopped every few hundred feet and set up its trampoline. Tumblers ran toward it, jumped, somersaulted high through the air and landed on a cushioned pad, while the crowd clapped and shouted approval.

Likewise, a group of Civil War re-enactors called Chicago Light Artillery Battery A, who wore historic uniforms, stopped every so often to fire their period weapons. The Medinah Shriners had several entries in the parade, including clowns, a miniature airplane and men dressed as genies circling about on "flying carpets" built on go-kart platforms.

"People love this parade," said Domenica Galati of Niles, who was watching with her sister Gabriella, as well as and Glenn Gierke of Park Ridge.

Gierke said his favorites were the Sicilian marching band and the Waterloo German band, which had a float decorated to look like a cuckoo clock.

Lots of community groups came out, from the Girl Scouts, who collected food donations in the shopping carts they pushed, to St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, whose members handed out rulers which said "Jesus'

SEE PARADE, PAGE 6 »
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Gabriella and Domenica Galati of Niles and Glenn Gierke of Park Ridge watch last Friday’s July Fourth parade in Niles. I PAM DEFIGLIO FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

**PARADE**

Love...Beyond Measure.

The Niles Library handed out pencils, and Niles village trustees, marching with the mayor, Andrew Przybylo, handed out small American flags. Niles Park District commissioners threw tennis balls and candy to the crowd. The Niles Township Republican Party marched with supporters of Bruce Rauner, the Republican candidate for governor in the fall, and handed out nail files.

St. John Brebeuf Church, Boy Scout Troops 821 and 176, the Niles Lions Club, the Niles Senior Men’s Club and other groups also had contingents.

The parade route ended at Grennan Heights Park for a festival featuring a live band, free pony rides, about a dozen games, a bounce house, a display area and tents with dining tables.

Jerry Jenrich, Chuck Krone and Paul Schmelze, who serve on the Niles Baseball League board, were among the volunteers who had arrived at 6 a.m. to prepare hot dogs for the crowd. They worked with Niles Park District staff and volunteers to wrap them individually in foil.

“We had 4,800 hot dogs, but we ran out of buns — there were only 4,000 buns,” said Jenrich. Consequently, latecomers got a low-carb special: two hot dogs wrapped in foil, with no bun.

Nearby, children were riding ponies around a circular track. Isabella Zawadski of Rolling Meadows, who was walking next to her daughter Ursula, said her husband and family have close friends in Niles and come to the celebration often.

“Today is my 12th anniversary of coming to the U.S.,” she said proudly. “We are U.S. citizens now, and we are so excited to be here today.”
Maryhill Cemetery to welcome St. John Paul II shrine

BY PAM DEFIOLIO
For Sun-Times Media

Starting in late August, motorists driving down Milwaukee Avenue in Niles will be able to see a shrine at Maryhill Cemetery dedicated to St. John Paul II and two other saints.

The shrine, a 32-foot-tall tower of Barre gray granite quarried in Barre, Vermont is four feet by four feet wide, and will contain four panels with images in mosaic and gold leaf, said Ted Ratajczyk, director of cemetery services for Catholic Cemeteries of Chicago, which operates Maryhill Cemetery.

"Two sides will have a depiction of St. John Paul II; the third side will have Our Lady of Czestochowa, and the fourth will have Our Lady Mother of the Americas, which is Our Lady of Guadalupe," Ratajczyk said. "Those were two saints very special to St. John Paul II and he had devotions to them."

St. John Paul II and Our Lady of Czestochowa are particularly close to the hearts of Polish Catholics, and Our Lady of Guadalupe is revered by Mexican Catholics. Both ethnic groups have significant populations in and around Niles.

A dedication ceremony for the shrine is planned for Sept. 6 at 9:30 a.m. with Bishop Andrew Wypych, an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, presiding. Catholic Cemeteries is part of the archdiocese.

Catholic Cemeteries is also having a dedication ceremony for a shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe at All Saints Cemetery, River Road and Central in Des Plaines, on Saturday July 12 at 9:30 a.m.

Artists at Conrad Pickel art studio in Vero Beach, Florida are at work on the St. John Paul II shrine for Niles, Ratajczyk said. They are making mosaic designs of Venetian glass imported from Italy. Each mosaic tile is between three-eighths of an inch to one-half inch square and the design will also have tiles of gold leaf sandwiched between two layers of clear glass.

Catholic Cemeteries is paying for the costs of the shrine.

A tapestry with the portrait of Pope John Paul II hangs from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica, at the Vatican, during his canonization. (FILE)

This rendering shows what a shrine to St. John Paul II, Our Lady of Czestochowa and Our Lady Mother of the Americas will look like when it is installed at Maryhill Cemetery in Niles later this year. (CONTRIBUTED)

"We always try to adorn our cemeteries with images of Catholic saints," Ratajczyk said. "When families choose Catholic cemeteries, they are carrying on their Catholic faith."

Anyone is welcome at Catholic cemeteries to see the artwork or visit a grave, he said, adding they are open 365 days a year.

"It's a very welcoming and tranquil atmosphere to pray, meditate and remember," he observed.

St. John Paul II, who was born in Poland, served as pope for Catholics worldwide from 1978 until his death in 2005. Pope Francis canonized him a saint in April.

In the United States, the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic men's organization, has opened a national shrine to St. John Paul II in Washington, D.C., and they welcome visitors for prayer and liturgies.

In the Chicago area, another shrine to the former pope is being planned for Resurrection Cemetery in south suburban Justice. It will be a bronze statue on a granite base, and is expected to open in 2015, Ratajczyk said. Resurrection Cemetery also has a St. John Paul II mausoleum and a bronze bust of the late pope.
Niles

Plan Commission recommends
OK of Howard Street gun shop

BY IGOR STUDENIKOV
For Sun-Times Media | 07/10/14

After a prolonged meeting Monday night, the Niles Plan Commission decided to recommend approval of a controversial gun shop and training center.

The commission originally supported the Sportsmen's Club and Firearms Training Academy special-use permit in June, sending it to the Niles Board of Trustees for final approval. But the decision inspired controversy as residents of Niles and Skokie complained that the location at 6143 Howard St. would be too close to Niles West High School and other schools. The Village Board decided to send the matter back to the commission.

During the July 7 meeting, the Plan Commission heard testimony from the public and considered reports presented by the Niles Police Department. Commission Chairman Thomas argued that there was no convincing evidence that having a gun shop near a school made the students less safe and the commission voted 5-2 to recommend approval of the application.

When the matter will reappear before the Niles Village Board for final action was not immediately known.

Myles P. Cunningham, Jr. and his partners are looking to open a firing range and a gun shop. Known as the Sportsmen's Club and Firearms Training Academy, it would open in a currently vacant industrial building in Niles' main manufacturing district.

Since the Plan Commission's June meeting, Niles Township High School District 219 has spoken out against the shop, arguing that it would be located within one mile of Niles High School.

Concerns were also expressed about the business being located one block away from New Hope Academy, a private day school for students who are struggling with emotional and behavioral challenges.

The Niles Police Department submitted reports to the commission, one looking at several gun shops throughout the Chicago area and how many daycare centers and schools were located within a one mile radius of them. The report explored whether or not the shops had impacts on crime.

The ranges considered included Maxon, in Des Plaines, and Shore Galleries, in Lincolnwood, both of which operate within one mile of schools. In both cases, as well as others that the police department studied, no increase in crime or violence in the area was noted, according to police.

The police department also compiled a list of mass shootings and school shootings over the past 14 years, how the shooters obtained firearms and whether they had any criminal history or history of mental illness. The data suggested that a slim majority of the shooters purchased the guns legally, while many of the others stole guns from friends or relatives, police said.

The Plan Commission also listened to public testimony. Niles resident Todd Bestigter was one of the several residents who argued that a gun shop would make the nearby area less desirable.

"We are really concerned about property values within a mile of the shop," he said.

"If there was a gun store within a mile of where my wife and I were looking to buy a house, we wouldn't have bought it." Don Khan, of Niles, was among those who argued that the gun shop wouldn't hurt property values.

"After hearing all the safety concerns, you can build it next to my house," he said.

Brandy Larrance, owner of the New Hope Academy, said a gun shop would adversely affect her ability to attract students.

"Given the testimony of the parents, this would affect the value of my business," she said. "It firmly believe there needs to be a place where you can safely discharge your weapon, [but] I have the problem with the shop's proximity."

Many opponents of the gun shop expressed concerns about Cunningham's decision to hire Michael Darga, the shop's general manager. Darga worked at Shore Galleries for 20 years. Opponents of the shop noted that Shore Galleries has been singled out as one of the four suburban gun shops that sold guns that wound up in the hands of criminals.

Cunningham said that Darga has not gone through a background check because he can't technically be employed by a shop that doesn't exist yet. But once the shop is established, all employees will be required to go through background checks and Cunningham said he wouldn't keep Darga on board if there are any red flags.

The board wound up approving the special use permit 5-2, with Commissioners Barbars Nakanishi and Karen Dimond voting 'no.'
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

DUI
Jason R. Epperson, 46, of 7708 W. Palatine Ave., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence on June 28 after he was stopped by a police officer working a seat belt checkpoint outside the store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. He has an Aug. 14 court date.

RETAIL THEFT
Alexis Counts, 18, of 355 N. River Ave. He has an Aug. 14 court date.

HARASSMENT
A 16-year-old girl told police she received a text message on June 18 from someone claiming to have photographs of her changing in a locker room. The suspect then threatened to share the photos if the teen did not do what she was asked, though the messages did not include any specific orders, police said.

THEFT
On June 17 two men were seen leaving a store on the 9500 block of Milwaukee Avenue with two unpaid cable modems valued at $100. That same day, two men were also reportedly seen grabbing soccer jerseys from a display inside a store on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue and running out of the store.

A ring valued at $80 was reported stolen June 14 from a room at Niles Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 9777 N. Greenwood Ave. The manager of a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center told police that a large amount of merchandise, valued at $1,049, was discovered missing on June 26. The manager suspects nine women and one man who entered the store together may have taken the items, police said. A bag filled with clothing was reportedly left behind by one of the suspects.

A woman told police that her wallet was stolen on the afternoon of June 29 after she left it behind in a shopping cart outside a store on the 800 block of Civic Center Drive.

BURGLARY
A bicycle was stolen from an open garage on the 7100 block of Riverside Drive on the afternoon of June 18. The owner told police he heard someone in his garage and encountered a man riding away on his bicycle. The resident got in his vehicle to chase after the man, but lost sight of him, police said.

BURGLARY TO VEHICLE
A briefcase containing multiple laptop computers was reported stolen on the morning of July 1 from a vehicle parked in a lot on the 7300 block of Melvina Avenue.

Ten boys charged after damage, theft reported at Park Ridge Youth Campus

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
johnson@pioneerlocal.com
@Jen_Pioneer

Police located the stolen golf cart the following day at the Niles home of a 12-year-old boy who was charged with theft, criminal damage to property and criminal trespass, police said.

"The investigation into that led to the other nine [suspects]," Leavitt said.

Another 12-year-old Niles boy was charged with burglary, criminal damage to property and criminal trespass, while police also leveled charges of criminal damage to property and criminal trespass against two other 12-year-olds from Niles and three Park Ridge boys, ages 12, 13 and 14. Charged with criminal trespass were two 14-year-old Park Ridge boys and a 15-year-old from Niles.

The charges were announced July 7. All have been assigned to appear before the Park Ridge Peer Jury.

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George & Annette Mei
50th Anniversary

George & Annette Mei celebrated 50 years of marriage on June 20th 2014. They have lived most of their married lives together in Park Ridge. They have three children and six grandchildren, all living close enough to enjoy time with them. Through the years George & Annette have set an example of love, encouragement, strength and support to their family and friends. Their love for each other is only magnified by their love of family. What a great example they are to all of us! We love you Mom and Dad! Happy Anniversary.

Megan Elizabeth Thurber and Matthew Charles Brown
Engagement

Janet and Craig Thurber of Northbrook are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Megan Elizabeth, to Matthew Charles Brown, son of Geraldine and Charles Brown of Glenview.

Megan, a Glenbrook North High School graduate, received her Bachelor’s degree from Denison University before pursuing a Master’s degree at Purdue University. Presently Megan works as a Speech-Language Pathologist and Assistive Technology Consultant for the Northern Suburban Special Education District.

Matthew, a graduate of Glenbrook South High School, is an Army veteran who earned a Bachelor’s degree in International Studies from Creighton University. Matthew works as a paralegal for the Department of Justice.

The couple will wed at the Village Presbyterian Church in Northbrook this September.

Paloma Cruz
2014 Graduate - University of Chicago

The Cruz-Gonzalez family of Wilmette celebrates the graduation of Paloma Cruz from The University of Chicago. Paloma graduated with Baccalaureate degrees in (The College of International Studies), (East Asian Languages and Civilization). Paloma plans to attend Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Fall 2014. Paloma is a graduate of New Trier High School class of 2010. Well done Paloma!

To place your special announcement in the celebrations section, please send inquiries to:
heraldnewscelebrations@stmedianetwork.com
Local libraries adding to digital collections with ‘Hoopla’

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

As the world goes digital, so too are some of the collections offered by public libraries.

Gone are the days when checking out a CD required traveling to the library and picking up a physical album copy. Today, 22 Chicago area libraries are offering their cardholders access to Hoopla, an online app that allows them to remotely “borrow” movies, television shows, music and audio books.

Hoopla works like this: users download the application onto a smartphone or tablet and choose their library. They then type in their library card number, which allows them to choose from thousands of items, including newly released albums and DVD movies. Library cardholders can then download or stream the items they want and will have access to them for several days, the number determined based upon the item.

Unlike physical discs, there are no returns involved.

“Hoopla automatically checks them back in so there’s no more late fees or worrying about having to return the items,” according to Jeff Jankowski, the creator of Hoopla.

Another perk, according to Jankowski, is that the items are always available; there is no longer a need to place a hold and then wait until the patron who last checked it out returns it.

Hoopla is also available through computers, but in those cases the movies, music or audio books can only be streamed.

“Our most robust collection right now is music,” said Jankowski. “We offer entire music albums. We have over 170,000 of them and it’s growing rapidly.”

New albums are available the day they are released.

The Park Ridge Public Library added Hoopla in January and so far there are 383 patrons who have signed up to use it. It is being funded through an Illinois Per Capita Grant of $6,000 for the first year it is rolled out, said Library Director Janet Van De Carr.

“With a lot of people interested now in downloading digital materials, we thought Hoopla was a good opportunity to offer that to the public in a loaning model that suits the library’s needs as well,” she said.

Van De Carr fully expects that applications like Hoopla will lead to drops in circulation of DVDs and CDs at the library.

“As time goes on we will see a shift in the use of physical materials to more downloadable and streaming materials,” she said.

Park Ridge Library cardholders can check out up to 10 Hoopla titles per month.

The Morton Grove Public Library began offering Hoopla to cardholders in March and, as of July 1, just more than 1,150 titles had been checked out, according to Natalya Fishman, head of adult services. Cardholders can check out up to eight titles per month.

“What we have been most impressed with in relation to Hoopla is the interface’s ease of use,” Fishman said. “We were expecting an influx of questions on how to sign up, check out titles, etc. But patrons must be figuring it out on their own because we have not had a huge amount of questions and the service is being used.”

The library does offer personal assistance in using Hoopla and patrons can call the library for a demonstration or a tutorial session, Fishman said.

Other area libraries with Hoopla access to cardholders include the Oak Park Public Library, Franklin Park Public Library, Barrington Public Library District, Highland Park Public Library, La Grange Public Library, Elmhurst Public Library, Prospect Heights Public Library, Cook Memorial Library in Libertyville and the Chicago Public Library.

Jankowski said there are 324 library systems across North America that offer Hoopla to their patrons.

“We're adding typically 40 to 70 new library systems a month,” he said. “By the end of this year we're looking at having at least 800 library systems.”

An e-book reader could be rolled out next year, Jankowski added, as well as the potential for magazines, graphic novels, comic books and reference databases to be offered through Hoopla as well.
Four suburbs partnering to hire new firefighters

BY IGOR STUDEIKOV
For Sun-Times Media /@istudenkov

Niles, Morton Grove, Park Ridge and Wilmette are teaming up to hire more firefighters. The departments from the four municipalities created a single application process where the candidates can apply for one department in particular or for several departments at once. This was done in order to save money and simplify the testing process.

Candidates have until Aug. 11 to apply, and testing will take place Sept. 6.

According to village of Niles spokesman Hayley Garard, the four municipalities decided to work together on the applications for several reasons.

"It makes it easier for the candidate to test for more than one community," she said. "Also it is cost savings for the municipalities to run the application together. Generally, the list results in hundreds of eligible candidates, so working together with other municipalities is a great option." The Niles, Morton Grove and Wilmette fire departments worked together on the application process before, but this was the first time Park Ridge decided to join in.

"The city of Park Ridge has taken part in consortiums in the past, but we've usually done our own test," said Park Ridge Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Sorensen. "So what made the department decide to join in? "When you're able to pull together resources, it's a lot more efficient in terms of the administrative side," said Sorensen. "And it's cost-neutral, so the costs are shifted onto the [candidates]."

Park Ridge recently received a grant allowing it to hire up to three firefighters for a period of two years. One firefighter has already been hired.

Candidates must apply online at selectionworks.com. The application fee is $55.00.

Some requirements are the same for all departments. Candidates must be between the ages of 21 and 35 at the time of the exam; they must have passed the Candidate Physical Ability Test and Aerial Ladder Climb Test at least a year prior to the test; they must have a valid driver's license; and they must have a high school diploma or a GED.

But other requirements vary. For Wilmette and Park Ridge, only U.S. Citizens can apply. Niles also accepts applicants who are in the process of applying for U.S. Citizenship. Morton Grove accepts candidates who are citizens, permanent resident aliens or temporary resident aliens who intend to become citizens.

While all departments require applicants to have a valid Basic Operations Firefighter Certification and EMT-Paramedic License, Niles, Morton Grove and Park Ridge require them to be residents of Illinois, while Wilmette is willing to accept applicants from any state.

Morton Grove and Niles have vision requirements. Morton Grove puts the limit at 20/30 vision corrected, while Niles requires 20/20 vision corrected.

After the applications are submitted, the candidates would have to undergo a two-part test. The test will take place on Sept. 6, at 9 a.m. and it will be held at Glenview's Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy. The test will be the same for all candidates and it will include a written exam and a "scenario-based" test designed to give evaluators a look at the candidates' skills.

Not all candidates that pass will necessarily be hired by any of the departments right away.

So what made the department decide to join in? "As of Friday [June 27], we have 18 applicants," he said. "That's after 2 to 3 days."
Crowds pack Maine East for annual July 3 fireworks

Big crowds again flocked to Maine East High School for Park Ridge's annual July 3 fireworks display and assorted entertainment.

Hours before the pyrotechnics, hundreds of spectators staked out a good viewing spot, tailgated and watched as their children played various games and danced to music spun by a deejay.

This year's event was also meant to mark the Park Ridge Park District's 100th anniversary, and free anniversary T-shirts were handed out to some of the lucky spectators.
Transportation

Pace 290 bus adds more weekend service through Niles

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
For Sun-Times Media | @istudenkov

Even as Pace looks at improving the Niles Free Bus service, it has quietly improved one of the paid routes serving Niles.

Until recently, Pace Route 290, which runs along Touhy Avenue, made stops in Niles an average of once every 40 minutes during the weekend. But since the beginning of June, the frequency increased to an average of once every 20 minutes between late morning and early evening.

Route 290 runs between the Howard L station at the Chicago/Evanston border and the Cumberland Blue Line station in Chicago, just south of Park Ridge. The route primarily travels along Touhy Avenue, passing through Chicago's northern neighborhoods, portions of Lincolnwood and Skokie, the southern part Niles and parts of Park Ridge, including Uptown.

Before the June 1 service change, half of the buses that left the Howard terminal between 9:10 a.m. and 6:50 p.m. on weekends did not go all the way to Cumberland. Instead, they stopped at Lincolnwood Town Center and turned back east. Now the buses go to Milwaukee and Touhy in Niles before heading back east, making a three to seven minute layover at the nearby Niles Free Bus maintenance facility.

"The service change came about in response to feedback from customers and our bus operators," said Pace spokesman Patrick Wilmot. "The feedback we received said that weekend buses were often very crowded in this area of eastern Niles and western Skokie as shoppers and workers traveled to and from all of the retail locations in the area. We studied the ridership patterns and decided to move ahead with improving the frequency for our customers."

Along with Village Crossing the increased bus frequency has made it easier for riders to visit other destinations along the route. That includes Leaning Tower YMCA and Lincolnwood Town Center. It also gives riders more opportunities to take advantage of the existing transfer connections, like to Pace Route 270, which serves Milwaukee Avenue; the Niles Free Bus Route 411; and the CTA Red, Purple and Yellow Lines.

Wilmot said that Pace is funding the expanded service and believes that the service changes will attract enough riders to make the extra spending worthwhile.

"We anticipate some extra fare revenue from increased ridership," said Wilmot. "It's a little early to evaluate ridership, but we will be monitoring the trends and anticipate there will be an increase over time."

The transit agency believes that the expanded service will inspire more residents to switch to public transit.

"We believe this helps to make transit a better alternative to dealing with heavy traffic congestion and some really packed parking lots in the area," said Wilmot.
A little phone time can cut monthly bills

HELP SQUAD

No one enjoys sitting on hold while trying to reach a customer service representative at a large company. That said, that's exactly what I've been doing over the past month, not just with one company, but with several.

Why? I wanted to see if I could save money on some of my monthly bills by inquiring about new rate plans and other factors that might make my payments lower. Here are my results.

1. Cable, Internet and Phone Service: Because I've been living in the same place for several years, it has been awhile since I inquired about new rate plans for my cable, home phone and high-speed Internet services, all provided by the same supplier. I wanted to check for promotional rates, as well as find out what would happen to my monthly bill if I cancelled my home phone service, since I can't remember the last time I actually used my home phone, other than to answer sales calls, which are mostly recordings.

I spoke with a few different representatives as I kept getting transferred and given different rates by different people. But finally, a manager agreed to lower my rate by $19 per month, which included the disconnection of my home phone.

A very important point: if unlike me, you don't want to give up your home phone, calling your cable, home phone and Internet provider — whether they are one company or more — to find out their latest promotion is wise, because you could be paying more for your services per month than their current offer. What's nice is, the company will gladly give you the current offer. You just have to ask!

2. Security System Company: When I had my home phone disconnected, I didn't realize it would affect my home security system, which was linked to my home phone. So, I called my security system provider, where a representative told me they could set the system up to link to my cell phone, but that it would cost $99, plus an additional $8.99 per month.

I explained to the representative that I disconnected my home phone so that I could save money, and that had I known about the security company's additional charges, I probably wouldn't have done so. The response: the representative agreed to have someone come install the system for no charge, and keep my monthly charge the same!

3. Mobile phone: Very similar to the cable, home phone and Internet provider, mobile phone companies offer special promotions almost all the time. It has been many years since I set up my mobile phone service, where I've been paying the same rate ever since. I wanted to find out if a current promotion might end up costing me less per month than I was currently paying, so I gave them a call. Guess what? With the current promotion, the company was able to lower my bill by approximately $70 per month!

4. Large hospital bill: Did you know that if you have a medical bill that is quite large resulting from a high deductible on your medical insurance policy, you can actually set up a payment plan with almost all hospitals or medical groups? If you call the billing department, they can set it up so you can pay a low amount every month. In my case, a large North Shore hospital allowed me to pay $75 per month for an $1,800 bill.

5. Homeowners and Auto Insurance: In all the years I've had insurance for my home and car, I've never paid too much attention to what exactly the coverage is. I leave those details up to my agent, whom I know well and genuinely trust. That said, I decided to do some research to figure out if there was a way to reduce my premium. Here's what I found out.

For both home and auto insurance, if you are willing to have less coverage and a higher deductible, your premium will be lower. I decided it wasn't worth it for me to take the risk, but everyone feels differently. Just know that it is an option.

Also, if you've had no car accidents, or claims or losses in your home for awhile, call your agent to see if you can get your premiums lowered. Lastly, if you get your homeowners and auto insurance from the same company, you do receive a discount.

My total savings: From this point forward, I will be paying $89 less per month for the same services! I can also take a deep breath knowing I'm only paying $75 per month to pay off my medical bills.

What I found with all the representatives I spoke with from the companies I called is if you just ask to pay less, chances are they will accommodate you. The money I'm saving each month might not seem like a lot, but saving $89 per month for five years equals $5,340. Now that's a lot!
Letter to the editor

Hockey should be supported by IHSA

Why isn't hockey supported by local high schools? Hockey is growing rapidly, especially with the popularity of the Chicago Blackhawks. According to an article posted on September 13, 2013, by “The United States of Hockey,” Illinois youth participating in hockey has increased 31% over the last 10 years. In fact, no other state in the U.S. has grown as much in the last 5 years. However, unfortunately hockey is still considered a club sport at the high school level and not supported by Illinois High School Athletics (IHSA). The mission statement of IHSA, which oversees the participation of interscholastic athletics and activities, is to enrich the educational experience. Why are some sports, such as football, basketball, and soccer supported, yet not hockey? Even sports like bass fishing and bowling are governed by IHSA.

Hockey is a great sport because it is fun both to watch and to play. It can include a large number of students and people from the community to attend games. For the athletes, it’s great exercise and an honor to be part of the team. They must be disciplined in order to go to school, play hockey, and keep their grades up. The team can also be positive role models for younger and/or future players.

I realize that there are certain rules in order to get a sport accepted into IHSA. I also realize that hockey is a very expensive sport to play. With the support of the corporate sponsorship of IHSA, it could help hockey reach more youth throughout Illinois, thereby enriching the educational experience of more students.

Oliver Pasquesi, age 12, Lake Bluff

50 years after Civil Rights Act, we still need to change our hearts

“Having lived through it, I can tell you that things are better today. Not great, but better. What we need to focus on today is education. Our system of local schools is de facto legal segregation by race. The overwhelming majority of all-black schools are underperforming and the overwhelming majority of all-white schools are among the best.”

I remember a story my grandparents told. They once ran out of gas on South Independence Boulevard, in an all-black neighborhood. So they went into a neighborhood tavern, ordered a drink and called a friend to bring the gas. After telling the story, someone asked, “Did they break the glass after you left?”

My grandparents owned a neighborhood tavern in the 1950s, and after a black patron had a drink and left, the white patrons demanded that the glass be broken.

Things are better now.

The second fear among all whites was that one thing called Vietnam. I remember a story my grandparents told. They once ran out of gas on South Independence Boulevard, in an all-black neighborhood. So they went into a neighborhood tavern, ordered a drink and called a friend to bring the gas. After telling the story, someone asked, “Did they break the glass after you left?”

My grandparents owned a neighborhood tavern in the 1950s, and after a black patron had a drink and left, the white patrons demanded that the glass be broken.

Things are better now.

The second fear among all whites in 1964 was the idea that a black family would move into the neighborhood. “There goes the neighborhood,” someone would say, and everyone knew what that meant.

I recall a young black reporter telling me about when his family moved into a white neighborhood on Chicago’s South Side in the 1970s. Within a few years, all the white families had left and the neighborhood was all black. “Why did they all leave?” he asked, and I was too ashamed to answer.

In the 1970s white people did not want to live in the same neighborhoods as black people. And we still see the remnants of that today, with all-white neighborhoods and all-black neighborhoods through great swaths of Chicago and the suburbs. I remember being steamved in the mid-1950s when the Chicago Tribune called my city neighborhood a “changing neighborhood.” That was a 1970s term, and I wanted to call the paper and ask, “Changing into what?” because when you answer that simple question, you can’t help but be disgusted with your answer.

Having lived through it, I can tell you that things are better today. Not great, but better.

What we need to focus on today is education. Our system of local schools is de facto legal segregation by race. The overwhelming majority of all-black schools are underperforming and the overwhelming majority of all-white schools are among the best.

And while we rant and rave about the tragic Trayvon Martin story, innocent black children are gunned down in Chicago every week.

The great Civil Rights Act of 50 years ago has changed much of our racist behavior for the better. I know it is better today. Yet, today, we still need to change our hearts.
Marketing to men and women walks razor's edge

Commercial love couples. It's an easy way to sell stuff: A smart person explains the value of a product to a dumb person.

Smart person = woman. Dumb person = man.

Woman: “You know, honey, we should have life insurance.”

Man: “Me not know what that is. But me go buy.”

Advertisers like women. Women make the decisions, buy stuff. So advertisers aim for women. And if the product is one specifically for women, advertisers want to keep men as far away as possible.

Take feminine products. You women know what they are. We men haven't a clue. That's why we call them feminine products. At least one commercial proudly boasts that its product was made for women by women.

But we men have problems and products, too.

Take shaving. Women don't know the pain of staggering into the bathroom in the morning and groggily dragging a sharp piece of steel across your throat. It's dangerous, potentially fatal. One slip...

Because shaving is fraught with peril it is imperative men have a dependable razor. The razor, of course, must be invented by a man. Men understand.

I phoned the drugstore and asked if their razors had been invented by a man. Being a woman, the clerk naturally couldn't (or wouldn't) tell me.

So, I called a razor company. You know it. It begins with the letter G.

A woman answered the phone.

I hung up.

Until proven feminine-derived, I will continue to use this brand of razor. At least until the day I see a commercial for a new razor: “Fred, why the bandage on your neck?”

“Oh, I severed my jugular the other morning on that darn razor.”

“Must have been invented by a woman. You should use the brand I use — Mister Manly, the razor John Wayne would use if he weren't dead.”

THERE'S A CAREER FOR EVERY PASSION.

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7317 Crain St., Niles

Agent says ...
What is the most unique feature about this house? There is a full bath in the third bedroom.
What is your favorite feature to show potential buyers? The home is in very clean condition. It was just painted and has newly refinished hardwood floors.
If this home were a celebrity, who would it be? Perry Como
If this home were a style of music, what style would it be? Jazz
Which school districts are this house in?: East Maine School District 63 and Maine Township High School District 207

$267,500

Home size: 1,248 square feet
Year built: 1960
Bedrooms: 3  Bath: 2.5
Garage: 2.5-car detached
Tax: $1,808.73 (2012)

AGENT Mary Lou Scinto Allen, Coldwell Banker, 847-691-8135

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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Before working anywhere near overhead power lines, be sure to call 1-800-EDISON-1.
If you're planning to dig underground, call 811.
Calling now will ensure you don't have to call 911 later.

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PROPERTY TRANSFERS

BY AOGREO NEWS SERVICE

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

Niles
7320 W Carol Ave: Colleen Amos Trust and Patrick Blaney Trust to James Ryan and Tipton Maria Procedia L for $460,000 on May 20

905,000 on May 19

Summer Matlin to Evon Mikhail for Morton Grove

Morton Grove
7448 Arcadia St: Adam J Erickson and Carrie L Erickson to Lisa K Kosnik and David E Kosnik for $306,000 on May 21

5506 Lincoln Ave, #220: Annette Sumner, Ina Beth Schafter and Susanne Summer Matlin to Evon Mikhail for $105,000 on May 19

9413 Ozanam Ave: O’hannes Semerdjian and Silva K Semerdjian to Salam S105,000 on May 19

20 Park Lane, #104: Dorothy E Anderson Trust, Dorothy E Anderson Trust, E Anderson Dorothy Trust, Jerry A Larson, James E Larson, Laura L Brubaker, William S Larson, John B Larson, Donald A Larson and Karen P Allen-Cottrell to Tom R Holmes Trust, Tom R Holmes Trust, R Holmes Tom Trust, Janet R Holmes Trust, Janet R Holmes Trust and R Holmes Janet Trust for $270,000 on May 21

22 Pack Lane, #104: Dorothy E Anderson Trust, Dorothy E Anderson Trust, E Anderson Dorothy Trust, Jerry A Larson, James E Larson, Laura L Brubaker, William S Larson, John B Larson, Donald A Larson and Karen P Allen-Cottrell to Tom R Holmes Trust, Tom R Holmes Trust, R Holmes Tom Trust, Janet R Holmes Trust, Janet R Holmes Trust and R Holmes Janet Trust for $270,000 on May 21

1219 Hoffman Ave: Michael W Kallai to Sunway Realty LLC for $265,000 on May 20

1713 Park Ridge Point, #1713: Dolores Petro to Mikel Pluska and Juliana L Basko-Pluska for $440,000 on May 19

1731 Penfield Way, #1731: Patricia A McDonald and David McDonald to Gazi Siddiqui for $205,000 on May 20

Glenview
1907 Fenton Lane: Ryan E Grommes and Timothy Kosogof to Michael S Vanpoucke and Rebecca A Vanpoucke for $465,000 on May 19

909 Wegg Way: Peter Karras Trust and Karras Peter Trust to Wegg Land Wegg Trust for $400,000 on May 21

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Chi homes are on sale. For more information visit: www.bankrate.com. Bankrate national averages are based on 5/20/14.
NILES

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 947-663-1234.

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.

MONDAY JULY 14

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.

'Minecraft' Monday
4:30 p.m.: Stop by to try the monthly ‘Minecraft’ Monday challenge. For students in grades three to five. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

TUESDAY JULY 15

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.

Little Authors: Talk, Pretend and Play
2 p.m.: A family workshop where children are the storytellers and grownups are the scribes. For kids ages 3-6 with a parent or caregiver. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

To submit an event for consideration in print, visit www.pioneervallocal.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.

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

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. For more information, call 847-663-1234.

FLYING MARSHMALLOWS AND COTTON BALLS
10 a.m.: Students learn how science is used when they design a catapult and send marshmallows and cotton balls flying. For students in grades one to three. A second program begins at 1:30 p.m. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS DISCUSSIONS
7 p.m.: The book club discusses a different battle-themed book every other Wednesday through July. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

THURSDAY JULY 17

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

PAWS TREATS AND CRAFT
3 p.m.: Bake homemade dog treats and braid a T-shirt dog toy. For grades five to 12. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

FRIDAY JULY 11

Nonfiction Book Discussion

BATTLE BOOT CAMP
11 a.m.: Learn about tips and tactics for the upcoming Battle of the Books program and participate in a mock battle. For students in grades four and five. Parents and interested adults are invited. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

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.

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 five question-and-answer session. Registration required. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

Anime and Manga Club
2 p.m.: Watch and discuss anime and manga, then build fandom-inspired treats and crafts. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

MOODY JULY 21

Yoga for Kids: Stretch, Bend and Breathe
4:30 p.m.: Kids ages 4-8 can learn yoga poses and breathing techniques. No experience needed. Attendees are asked to bring a large bath towel and wear comfortable clothes. Kids in second grade and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

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SATURDAY JULY 12

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

Burger Bingo Day
8 a.m.: This event features entertainment from Vinny Kabat from 8-10 a.m. and Jon Weber from 10 a.m. to noon. Featured vendor is Bennhart Farms. Morton Grove Farmers Market, 6210 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-750-6436.

Morton Grove Farmers Market

PowerPoint 2007 Basics
10 a.m.: Learn the basics of the program. Attendees must have a firm understanding of mouse usage and basic computer commands. Registration is required. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-720-3234.

Second Saturday Family Story Time
10 a.m.: Stories and crafts for the whole family. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Taste of Park Ridge
10:30 a.m.: Join area residents for three days of viewing Baffle of the Books program and participate in a mock battle. For students in grades four and five. Parents and interested adults are invited. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

SEE CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE
Family events while snacking on local cuisine.

- Food vendors include Mrs. A's Cupcakes, Creme of the Croque, Lisa's Italian Ice, Chicago Prime, All on the Road Catering, Rocky Mountain Chocolate, St. John Chrysostoms Monastery, Dairy Queen, Spuntino Pizza, Sunrise Grill, Houlihans, Affresco, Bangkok Belly, Rex Italian Foods, Hay Caramba, Boston Fish Market, Maki Sushi, Cafe Zalute, Himalayan, Panino's Pizza, Wine Styles, Subway and JD Kadd's Pizza. Music headliners are Evolution, Your Villain My Hero and 7th Heaven. The Park Ridge Fine Arts Symphony also conducts its regular concert at Hodges Park on Friday night, beginning at 8 p.m. Visit the website for more detailed information. Park Ridge Metra, 100 S. Summit Ave., Park Ridge. $5 for eight food tickets.

Harmonica 101
Noon: Learn to play harmonica with Joe Filisko of the Old Town School of Music, in this hands-on workshop. Participants focus on proper technique and how to relax and breathe. A Diatonic, 4-inch-long harmonica in the key of C is required. Harmonica purchase is available for $5. Ages 12 and up. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. For more information, call 847-965-4220.

Food Safety Fact and Fiction
1:30 p.m.: Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Call 847-729-7500.

Sunday, July 13

Trifecta: 100th Anniversary Class
8:15 a.m.: Run, swim or walk for 30 minutes alongside an instructor. Register in advance, Park Ridge Community Center, 1515 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-892-5123.

Pancake Breakfast in the Woods
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. For more information, call 847-674-1500. $7 adult, $5 children under 10.

Block Party at the Pool
Noon: Stop by for music, fun and games, including a bags tournament. Burgers and hot dogs are available for purchase. Devonshire Aquatic Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie. Call 847-674-1500.

Free with season pass or pool entry fee.

Film and Discussion: 'A Song for You'
1:30 p.m.: Discussion follows the film about the impact of the Holocaust on a family who tries to escape the Nazis by crossing the border. Reservations are required. Email reservations@ilhmec.org. 93 minutes. Illinois Holocaust Museum, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. Call 847-967-4800.

Monday, July 14

YA Babysitting Class
9 a.m.: Learn babysitting including childcare, safety and finding employment. For students grades six to 12. This is a two-part class beginning at 9 a.m. July 14 and 15. Classes must be taken in succession. Registration required. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Jealousy in Literature
1 p.m.: Discuss themes of how jealousy and betrayal versus envy pan out in our favorite literature. Theologians offer religious views. To register, call 847-784-6030. North Shore Senior Center, 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-784-6030. $8 members, $11 non-members.

Officer Friendly Story Time
1:30 p.m.: Story program for ages two and younger with an adult. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Pages Book Discussion: 'Daughter of Smoke and Bone'
7 p.m.: Seventeen-year-old Karou, an art student in a Prague boarding school, carries a sketchbook of monsters--the chimaera who form the only family she has ever known. Barnes and Noble, 5405 Touhy Ave., Skokie. Call 847-329-8460.

Tuesday, July 15

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.

Tony Bennett
2 p.m.: Historian Hy Speck traces the long and successful career of this musical legend, who has sold millions of records and won 17 Grammy awards. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Introduction to Microsoft Word 2010
7 p.m.: Learn how to create and format documents, print, proof and save. Registration required. Limited to six participants. Morton Grove residents have priority. Must be experienced and comfortable with computer, keyboard and mouse. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.
OPEN HOUSE
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HOME FOR SALE

BIZ NOTES

- Chunowitz, Teitelbaum & Mandel, Ltd.
  partner Marty Magida was elected to serve as vice
  president of the National Franchise Consultants and
  Accountants during its annual meeting in June 2014.
  NFCA is an alliance of nine public accounting firms
  specializing in franchise accounting and consulting
  for McDonald's owner/operators. The organization
  was formed in 2001, to share knowledge and best
  practices, and participates in a variety of McDonald's
  sponsored conferences, charities and events.

  Magida has more than 35 years of experience advising
  clients on myriad accounting and consulting issues,
  including estate and tax planning, purchasing/selling
  small businesses, business valuation and succession
  planning.

- Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage has
  appointed Gianna Burdi to Assistant Manager of its
  Hinsdale office located at 8 E. Hinsdale Avenue.
  In her new leadership role, she will assist and
  mentor independent sales associates to help them
  build their businesses. She brings more than 14 years
  of real estate experience to her new role, actively
  selling real estate since 2000 with Coldwell Banker
  Residential Brokerage in Oak Brook.

- John Albright has joined Hub International,
  a leading global insurance brokerage, risk advisory
  and employee benefits firm, as chief legal officer. In his new
  role, Albright will oversees Hub's global legal and compliance
  functions. He lives in Wilmette, with his wife and
  two young children.

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

Relevant Radio offers up Catholic dialogue from new Park Ridge studio

BY NATASHA WASINSKI
For Sun-Times Media @Natwaz

A long-time Catholic radio station is hitting the Chicago airwaves from its new home in Park Ridge.

Relevant Radio relocated its Illinois operation to the northwest suburb this summer to strengthen its local presence. The station previously broadcast from a small office in downtown Chicago.

"We decided to look for a place where we could really reach out to the community and grow our listener base and station," explained board member and National Development Director Linda Ruf.

She said Park Ridge's vibrant Catholic community and accessibility to Chicago was a good fit for the business.

Deemed "Talk Radio for Catholic Life," the station's mission is to "help people bridge the gap between faith and everyday life."

"What we try to do is answer people's questions about faith and connect them with the good work going on in their community," Ruf said.

Relevant Radio has been in the Chicago market for nearly a decade. Launched in Green Bay in December 2000, the radio company today delivers round-the-clock programming via 34 stations in 13 states. Its stations have a combined potential audience of 32.6 million people.

Relevant Radio is broadcast on 950 AM in most of the Chicago area. In the western suburbs, the station is on the dial at 930 AM. Listeners can also hear the broadcasts online by streaming the audio from relevantradio.com and its mobile apps.

The new studio at 145 S. Northwest Highway has all the recording and broadcasting capabilities as its main facility in Green Bay.

Cardinal Francis George blessed and commissioned the space at the end of May, when he also took to the mic to express gratitude for the radio's work.

"It's a great pleasure to be with [Executive Director Rev. Francis J. Hoffman] Father Rocky and all those who manage this radio station...as we bless the new facility...so that many people will encounter Christ, their savior, through the radio," George said, according to a news release.

Relevant Radio produces live shows from Park Ridge from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. everyday. The station's robust programming focuses on topics ranging from how to talk to an atheist about faith to good movies for children. Radio hosts also tackle the issues of today, like the social responsibility of Christians to immigrants, the teachings of Pope Francis, and the debate surrounding the use of euthanasia.

"We feel like that's part of our mission: to promote the good work going on in Park Ridge and other Chicago communities, and help people understand why it's important to get involved in solving some of these social justice issues," Ruf said.

Local audiences may recognize some familiar voices, like that of Father Richard Simon of St. Lambert Parish in Skokie. In his 10 a.m. show, "Father Simon Says," he examines daily Scripture readings before opening up the phone lines to field questions from listeners.

There are other local ties as well. Sheila Liaugminas, host of the current affairs show "A Closer Look," is mom to Father Andrew Liaugminas, who served his first assignment at Mary, Seat of Wisdom in Park Ridge. Wilmette resident Harry Kameer, author of "From Values to Action: The Four Principles of Values-Based Leadership," is a regular on-air guest.

Ruf said Relevant Radio's interactive programming and up-to-the-minute coverage of news is what sets the station apart from other Catholic radio programs.

"I started listening and realized what a really powerful tool it was, especially for busy people," she said. "I was in a traffic jam in Chicago learning about things I kind of knew about, but didn't fully understand.

"No matter where you are on your faith journey," she added, "the radio station has programs to help you understand and educate on issues from a Catholic perspective."
The Event: The Swissotel Chicago was starstruck on June 9 when the best and brightest from Chicago's renowned stages came out for the League of Chicago Theatres' 2014 Spring Gala. More than 250 directors, producers, playwrights and patrons came to honor Michelle T. Boone, commissioner of the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events as she received the Tribute Award for DCASE's dedication to theatre and the arts in Chicago.

Guests also applauded wildly as the Broadway in Chicago Emerging Theatre Award went to Oracle Productions; the Theatre Advocacy Award was presented to the Alphawood Foundation; and the Artistic Excellence Award given to director Gary Griffin.

Since 1979, the League has been working to enhance the art of theater in Chicago through audience development and support services for more than 250 theaters throughout the city and suburb. Leveraging its collective strength, the League promotes, supports and advocates for Chicago's theater industry locally, nationally and internationally.

Cause célèbre: "The arts are such a part of Chicago's identity," said Commissioner Boone of Chicago. "It would be really hard to imagine the city without our cultural treasures, particularly in theater."

Speaking on behalf of the Office of the Mayor, Boone noted: "It's a wonderful legacy for Chicago to have leadership in public office that not just embraces the arts but really gets and supports it."

Junior Council President Daniel Reinglass, originally of Deerfield, explained that the League represents the widest variety of theaters in the country. "From multi-million dollar organizations to storefronts with budgets of less than $10,000. And that is a representation of what Chicago theater really is — a wide array of people, all working together to make great theatre and make this cultural experience a possibility."

Bottom line: The gala raised $120,000 dollars for the LCT.
The journey from pillow-cruiser to premium near-luxury sedan has been a slow and steady process for Buick's LaCrosse. For 2014, the LaCrosse has added refinements and styling upgrades to help enhance its presence in the premium sedan segment.

Marketing and branding play key roles, as the LaCrosse is still considered a "bridge" between mainstream Chevrolet and luxury Cadillac models. As such, pricing for a LaCrosse Premium starts at $38,810. My tester checked in at a very Cadillac price of $45,595, including $5,800 in options and destination.

The LaCrosse (along with rejuvenated Regal) leans on styling cues from the past, including a prominent "toothy" chrome grille and (ugh) fake portholes on the fenders that look like discount add-ons. For 2014, Buick added active shutters to improve aerodynamics, and revised LED headlamps and tail lamps. Sculpted body lines, new deck lid, chrome trim and attractive 19-inch chrome wheels help separate it from the Chevrolet Impala, with whom it shares a platform.

Powertrains are a direct carryover from the previous year with base cars coming with GM's eAssist mild-hybrid technology, and Environmental Protection Agency mileage numbers of 25 city and 36 miles per gallon highway. A spunky 304 horsepower V6 version is more in keeping with premium-car expectations, and delivers 18 city and 28 mpg highway. Both cars come with a six-speed automatic that shifts unhurriedly.

In the past several years, there has been a distinct upturn in GM interiors, and the LaCrosse is no exception. Interior upgrades this year reform the center stack into a passenger-friendly design and a reduction in the "monotone" look that plagued GM interiors. There are now only seven operational buttons versus the previous 17. A large, eight-inch color touchscreen is easier to navigate through (and easier to see) intuitive controls and smartphone-style swipe recognition. A jump this year is the IntelliLink touchscreen interface settling just below Cadillac's (finicky) CUE minus haptic feedback, but it links with smartphones for hands-free calls or audio functions. The "jump" will be for traditional Buick customers or buyers who have been out of the market for several model years and are now catching up.

Another interior differentiator from Impala is LaCrosse's rear bench, which is comfortable in all three (middle passenger) positions. Dual-zone climate controls also feature capacitive-touch operation. Interior upgrades for top models this year include perforated leather and ventilated heating and cooling, better adjustability and memory features. Cargo capacity is still down a little with some competitors at 13.3 cubic-feet.

In either engine configuration don't expect the LaCrosse to be a sports sedan, but it has more verve than its predecessors.
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**30 MPG**

$179.00* MO.

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NO SECURITY DEPOSIT!

36 month lease. $2,995 due at signing. EDA #9763

**IMPORTS & DOMESTICS**

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**SUBARU FORESTERS**

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**SUBARU OUTBACKS**

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Sales Hours: Mon-Fri 9am to 7pm; Sat 9am to 7pm Service Hours: Mon-Thu 6:30am to 7pm; Friday: 6:30am to 5:30pm; Sat 7am to 4pm
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- '13 Kia Forte EX H32002A: $14,990
- '13 Toyota Corolla HY1398: $14,990
- '12 Hyundai Veloster H31900A: $15,492
- '12 Toyota Camry HY1393: $16,990
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Preview sales continue at The Coves in Algonquin

Enthusiastic buyers are already contributing to brisk sales at The Coves in Algonquin, where a model home and on-site sales office are coming soon.

Being offered by William Ryan Homes, The Coves in Algonquin is part of a scenic master-planned community that includes luxury townhomes and upscale single-family homes in a setting of ponds, parks, walking trails and lush landscaping. Prices start at $268,990, and sales are taking place at nearby Sandy Creek Estates until the on-site sales office is open.

“In these final days of our preview sales period, we are offering some choice homesites distinctive for their scenic views,” said Debbie Beaver, vice president of operations for the Chicago division of William Ryan Homes. “We’ve already sold 12 of the 65 homes, and with 13 available floor plan choices and attainable prices, the homes have been selling quickly. We urge interested buyers to act now.”

Located at Square Barn Road and Reserve Drive, The Coves is convenient to Algonquin Commons and abundant shopping, restaurants and services in the Randall Road corridor, yet the community is set apart in a quiet country setting. A large park is across the street. The community is served by Huntley District 158 schools, and Buffalo Park Forest Preserve offers access to the Fox River.

The 13 available floor plans include ranch designs ranging in size from 1,796 to 2,088 square feet and two-story plans offering from 2,052 to 3,785 square feet, including some with first-floor master bedrooms. Some home sites are suitable for look-out basements.

The Sheridan is an elegant two-story design with 2,508 square feet including four bedrooms, 2½ baths, full basement and three-car tandem garage, priced from $291,990.

The plan includes a formal living room and adjacent dining room, central staircase with landing and a large, informal living area consisting of a spacious kitchen with walk-in pantry that is open to the breakfast room and family room.

The second floor features a spacious master bedroom with walk-in closet, wall closet and private bath, and three other bedrooms are served by a hall bath and laundry room.

Optional features include William Ryan Homes’ signature morning room, deep-pour basements (including look-out varieties), finished basements, bay windows, fireplaces, volume ceilings, loft/tech centers per plan and concrete driveways. A selection center in Schaumburg offers hundreds of samples, room displays and knowledgeable counselors.

The Coves in Algonquin is located south of Route 62 (Algonquin Road) and east of Square Barn Road on Reserve Drive. Sales for The Coves are presently taking place at the Sandy Creek Estates model home at 438 W. Amberside Drive. Sandy Creek Estates is located on Lake Street/Route 20, 1.5 miles west of Randall Road and just past Nesler Road. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day except Friday, when hours are from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, when hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call Kristine on-site at (815) 404-3219, call Liz at (888) 357-7186 or visit www.williamryanhomes.com.
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How Today’s High-Demand Jobs Impact Salaries

By: Evan Rodd, PayScale

Despite the dubious Fiscal Cliff, wage growth in the US has continued to flourish. Across all industries measured by the PayScale index, Q4 2012 showed some of the strongest progress since 2006, including small business salaries.

While this is good news for job seekers, increasing wages for high-demand jobs can be a double-edged sword for some companies, including retaining top employees, while simultaneously designing a compensation strategy that attracts new talent.

This is especially true in industries that experience an increase in wages, and in companies that offer and require specialized job skills.

Let’s take a look at industries that are offering high-paying jobs.

Energy and Healthcare Lead the Way

Though most industries saw an upsurge in wages, the current power players in high-demand jobs are energy, tech, and healthcare staffing.

Additionally, wages in mining, oil, and gas exploration and utilities experienced a national increase of almost 6 percent over the past year, as well as rising projected growth rates over the next ten years.

Energy wages were already seeing a steady increase during less prosperous economic times given the mandate for oil and other innovations in energy-related technology. It is highly likely that we will see an increase in alternative energy jobs as well, including the need for advancement in related fields.

As demonstrated by the PayScale Index, energy wages are not the only hot job commodity. IT jobs continue to thrive, especially in tech-savvy cities like Seattle, San Francisco, and Boston, which all respectively experienced an annual wage growth of more than 3.9 percent.

Tech Skills Are Booming

The need for software developers and IT staffing is booming, mixed with increasing projected growth rates (upwards of 30 percent) that show no sign of slowing down, as shown in the Payscale Index.

Even with the amplified demand for accomplished tech talent, the available talent pool remains shallow, creating a highly competitive labor market.

Whether your industry experienced the same types of wage growth, keep in mind that any economic upswing will permeate throughout the overall job market.

This can be a gradual process, which is why an arsenal of data is your best line of defense in the talent wars. Determining wages based on economic trends will undoubtedly encourage star employees to explore other options.

Pricing jobs above the market rate is the only way to remain competitive as wage growth is on the rise.

The chart below outlines some of the hottest high-demand jobs in the current market, with their projected growth rate and median salary ranges.

Creating individual pay ranges, or offering a market premium for these high-paying jobs will help you gain new talent, and prevent competitors from attracting outstanding employees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Relative Experienced</th>
<th>Median Pay</th>
<th>2010-2020 Projected Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Engineer</td>
<td></td>
<td>$79,500</td>
<td>61.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Home Care</td>
<td></td>
<td>$61,000</td>
<td>70.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing Consultant</td>
<td></td>
<td>$92,100</td>
<td>41.20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actuary</td>
<td></td>
<td>$136,000</td>
<td>26.70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Research Associate (CRA)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$90,700</td>
<td>36.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software Architect</td>
<td></td>
<td>$119,000</td>
<td>24.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Advisor</td>
<td></td>
<td>$90,200</td>
<td>32.10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certified Financial Planner (CFP)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$89,500</td>
<td>32.10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security Consultant (IT)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$102,000</td>
<td>27.80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While it’s exciting to see the economy improving, businesses must remain vigilant about pricing jobs in high-demand fields.
ARMOR CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, a leader in correctional healthcare, has full-time positions available at our Milwaukee, Wisconsin location for the following:

- PHYSICIANS
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Genesis HealthCare System in Zanesville, OH invites you to change your reality by bringing your desire for professional and personal growth to the following positions:

- Revenue Cycle Director
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- Respiratory Services Manager
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- Senior Lab Tech (MLT/MT and Histotech)
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- Physician Recruiter

Relocation assistance available!

Genesis offers a comprehensive salary and benefits program including free employee health services, 403(b) retirement savings program with employer matching contributions up to 60%, etc.

Qualified candidates please apply online at www.genesishealthcs.org

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Help Wanted Full-Time

Inside Sales Representative

Sun-Times Media is looking for an Inside Sales Representative. This position is responsible for sales and operational support and information to pre-print customers for the Major accounts. The Inside Sales Representative is accountable for the accurate fulfillment of customer orders and providing excellent customer service. He/She will perform various administrative duties, maintain customer relations, and serve as the communication link between the Customer, Production, Finance, and Customer Services and Collections department as well as other support departments.

Responsibilities Include:

- Generate advertising revenue through opening new products, increasing distribution area and/or frequency of ad copy, digital or mobile advertising.
- Maintain close contact with the client working to maintain and grow their business by ensuring all inquiries and requests are handled in a timely manner.
- As a primary advertiser and internal contact for anything relating to assigned accounts, the role requires a strong PC skills in Word, Excel/Spreadsheets and PowerPoint or higher.
- College degree preferred and a related field in Business, Advertising, Marketing or related.
- Strong PC skills in Word, Excel/Spreadsheets and PowerPoint or related software.
- Work with the media team on an exciting and exciting advertising campaign.
- Sun-Times Media is a part of Sun-Times Media Group, a leading digital media company with more than 200 publishers across the region.
- Our network is comprised of 11 newspapers, websites and mobile editions.
- Sun-Times Media is a part of Sun-Times Media Group, a leading digital media company with more than 200 publishers across the region.
- Our network is comprised of 11 newspapers, websites and mobile editions.
- Sun-Times Media is dedicated to being the premier source of local news and information in the greater Chicago area. As a media partner, you will be a key player in our growth.
- Sun-Times Media is looking for an Inside Sales Representative to join our team.
- We offer a competitive salary package that includes a full benefits package.
- The ideal candidate will have experience in sales and be familiar with the media industry.
- Sun-Times Media is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Required Skills:

- Strong PC skills in Word, Excel/Spreadsheets and PowerPoint or related software.
- Experience in sales and customer service.
- Strong PC skills in Word, Excel/Spreadsheets and PowerPoint or related software.
- Sun-Times Media is dedicated to being the premier source of local news and information in the greater Chicago area.
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Attn: Human Resources - Inside Sales Representative Majors Accounts

350 N. Orleans, 105 Chicago, IL 60654

Email address: hr@sun-times.com - Please note Inside Sales Representative Majors Accounts in the subject line.

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Costume jewelry, Artwork and
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LA GRANGE 5 Elder Lane, Fri
7/11 9am-3pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays,
book, office, games, tools, kitchen,

LAKE FOREST 118 S. Lake St, Fri.
7/11 9am-4pm, Items indoors.

LA GRANGE 5 Elder Lane, Fri
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Shopping for your next car? Visit ToDrive.com to find the make and model that fits your style, needs and budget.
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.

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Chef & Owner at The Bristol & Balena
Get an insider’s look at how Chef Chris and his family shop healthy at marianos.com

MARIANO’S
shop well. eat well. live well.
Talk about a feast for the senses: On the 16th floor of Trump Tower, executive chef Thomas Lents is debuting his new summer menu, themed “Inspirations from Where Land Meets Water.” Aside from its stunning city views, the Michelin two-star restaurant boasts an interactive tabletop map, guiding guests through a nine-course tasting menu featuring Wagyu ribeye with broiled eel and pork hock and octopus. $185 per guest, additional $125 for wine. 401 N. Wabash; Sixteenchicago.com

The brothers behind this furniture giant believe great décor should also be durable, so they’ve created this sleek seat in brightly colored eco-friendly plastic, designed to endure the full spectrum of Chicago weather — just see its 20-year warranty for proof. $199, 2009 Clybourn; Smithe.com

Soothe sun-parched skin with this lightweight super-serum, enriched with collagen-boosting winged kelp and turmeric root. Try it by the bottle or in the Peninsula Chicago’s spa treatments featuring the elixir, including massages, body wraps and scrubs. $75 for 100mL, spa treatments start at $90, 108 E. Superior; Chicago.peninsula.com

Walter E. Smithe Adirondack chair
The brothers behind this furniture giant believe great décor should also be durable, so they’ve created this sleek seat in brightly colored eco-friendly plastic, designed to endure the full spectrum of Chicago weather — just see its 20-year warranty for proof. $199, 2009 N. Clybourn; Smithe.com

Hebru Brantley met the Splash team at his Pilsen studio on one of his rare days off. He posed for the camera surrounded by his paintings, popped open a can of spray paint to recreate the Splash masthead and made the crew’s afternoon when he paused to snap a group selfie.
July 10
- **LYNN SAGE CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION COCKTAIL PARTY**
Sip cocktails, snack on hors d’oeuvres and mingle with 300 fellow Chicagoans including co-hosts Bari Anixter Miodinoff, Brad Jarol, Allison Zisook Goldstein and Splash’s own Liza Sweltzer — 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.

July 10
- **“THE DINNER PARTY”**
Janelle Monae and Wilco’s Jeff Tweedy are among the scheduled performers at this annual summer celebration, which dishes up live music alongside food from the city’s best eateries. Dig in via food trucks, booths or pop-up restaurants, or splurge on the ticketed celebrity chef series. Feeling inspired? Learn top culinary techniques at demos from top chefs and food experts.
Time: Wednesday-Friday 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Place: Grant Park, Jackson and Columbus
Cost: $45. For tickets, visit Thedinnerparty.tv/buy-tix. Can’t make it? Watch online at Chicagosplash.com/dinnerparty.

July 11-13
- **SQUARE ROOTS FESTIVAL**
Sip more than 30 craft beers from around the Midwest, sample fare from local restaurants, partake in family-friendly activities and check out live music from 60 different acts.

July 9-13
- **TASTE OF CHICAGO**
Janelle Monae and Wilco’s Jeff Tweedy are among the scheduled performers at this annual summer celebration, which dishes up live music alongside food from the city’s best eateries. Dig in via food trucks, booths or pop-up restaurants, or splurge on the ticketed celebrity chef series. Feeling inspired? Learn top culinary techniques at demos from top chefs and food experts.
Time: Wednesday-Friday 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Place: Grant Park, Jackson and Columbus
Cost: Free entry, concert tickets start at $18, food/beverage tickets start at $8.50 for 12 tickets. For a full schedule of events, visit Cityofchicago.org.

July 10-13
- **CHICAGO COMEDY EXPOSITION**
Taking place in three different neighborhoods — Lakeview, Wicker Park and Logan Square — this festival features some of the best stand-up comics from across the country, including “Saturday Night Live’s” Brooks Wheelan, “Bob’s Burgers” Andy Kindler and Kelsie Huff of local comedy troupe “The Kates.”
Place: Various venues in Lakeview, Wicker Park and Logan Square
Cost: $20 individual ticket, $25 showcase pass, $60 premium pass. For tickets, visit Comedyexposition.com.
Above: Sandmeyer's Bookstore

ranging from local bands to global favorites, at Lincoln Square's annual music extravaganza, presented by the Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce and Old Town School of Folk Music.

Time: Friday 5-10 p.m., Saturday noon-10 p.m., Sunday noon-9 p.m.

Place: Nine bookstores across the city

Cost: Free. For more information, visit Chicagobookstoreday.com.

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next week

July 17
- SECOND CITY ALL-STAR COMEDY BENEFIT

An all-star lineup of Second City alumni and friends touches down in Chicago for this fundraising event, benefiting Gilda's Club and the Second City Alumni Fund. Performers, including Tim Meadows, Jack McBrayer, David Koechner, Fred Willard and Aidy Bryant, take the stage to reprise some of the best sketches from the institution's 54-year history.

Time: 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Place: Second City, 1616 N. Wells

Cost: $250 general admission, $300 premium ticket (includes two drinks and a souvenir glass) or $500 VIP ticket (includes post-show cocktail reception). For more information, visit Secondcity.com.

July 17
- GATEWAY GREEN'S GAMING FOR GREEN

Try your luck at roulette, blackjack, poker, craps — even a bean bag toss — at this casino night and poker tournament, hosted by associate board members Dom Merritt, Tommy Choi and Greg Pekarsky and emceed by Matt Spiegel, co-host of the NiecNeill & Spiegel Show on 670 The Score. The tournament winner will score a spot at the $10,000 main event table at the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas. Proceeds from the night — which also features live music, cocktails and food — benefit Gateway Green, the organization dedicated to helping beautify Chicago.

Time: 5:30 p.m. check-in, 6:45 p.m. cards dealt

Place: Galleria Marchetti, 825 W. Erie

Cost: $50 spectator ticket, $175 buy-in, $600 buy-in ticket bundle of six. For tickets, visit Gatewaygreen.org/event/gaming-for-green.

July 18
- BOYS & GIRLS CLUB LAWN BALL

This summer staple celebrates 10 years as co-chairs Mindy Turitz and Tim Foufas welcome guests to the lakefront Saddle & Cycle Club for drinks, a candlelit dinner, a presentation from BGCC youth, dancing and a silent auction curated by auction co-chairs Claire York and Ted Thilman. Proceeds benefit the organization's Keystone Clubs, which are small group leadership and service clubs for teens.

Time: 6 p.m. VIP reception, 7 p.m. Lawn Ball

Place: Saddle & Cycle Club, 900 W. Foster

Cost: $350, $450 VIP. For tickets, visit Bgcc.org/events.

July 19
- PAMPER, PROTECT & PLAY AT ADVANCED DERMATOLOGY

Moms can kick back with complimentary makeovers, brow services, skincare consultations, hand hydrodermabrasion and special product discounts while enjoying light bites and refreshments. But no need to call a babysitter — after a brief lesson on sunscreen, kids and spouses can partake in a scavenger hunt through downtown Glencoe before returning to the boutique for a post-hunt party.

Time: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Place: Advanced Dermatology's Skinfo Specialty Skin-care Boutique, 716 Vernon, Glencoe

Cost: Free. RSVP to info@advdermatology.com or call (847) 459-6400

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SPLASHSHOP
AN ONLINE MARKETPLACE AT SPLASHSHOP.SUNTIMES.COM

SKIN DEEP

New skin care from Chicago plastic surgeon Dr. Julius Few in the SplashShop

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CHICAGOSPLASH.COM | JULY 6-12, 2014 5
The memory of Roger Ebert lives on with the release of "Life Itself," a documentary about the life and work of the beloved Sun-Times movie critic. Chicagoans celebrated the film's release — and Ebert's legacy — June 30 alongside the late critic's wife Chaz, who gave the film two thumbs up: one for Ebert and one for the film's director/producer Steve James, who was also in attendance at the Museum of Contemporary Art (220 E. Chicago). Chaz, James and Sun-Times parent company Wrapports Chairman Michael Ferro (an executive producer on the film) spoke about Ebert in front of the premiere's 300 guests before the film began — and by the time it ended, there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

-Katerina Bizios

More than 300 guests filled the MCA.

COAST TO COAST

Friends and fans turned out to the "Life Itself" premieres at ArcLight Cinema in Hollywood and the Film Society of Lincoln Center Walter Reade Theater in New York last month to remember Ebert.

NEW YORK

LOS ANGELES

PHOTOS BY FREDERICK M. BROWN, JASON KEMPIN AND JAMIE MCCARTHY-GETTY

PHOTOS BY RAMZI DREESSEN
Take inspiration from the city’s lush gardens with bold bouquet patterns, a staple of the summer. We’re in love with this season’s graphic prints, which put a modernist spin on the classic trend. This spring, legendary fashion house Versace printed the photo-quality blooms on structured dresses, while French line Les Copains added an artistic twist with large-scale blossoms. Keep the look feminine by pairing the petals with accessories like oversized shades and pointed-toe pumps. However you wear it, a great floral dress is always in bloom.
MISERICORDIA'S ARTIST IN ALL

ALL IN

More than 200 pieces of artwork created by Misericordia residents adorned the halls of the Modern Wing of the Art Institute (111 S. Michigan) at the nonprofit's 17th annual Artist in All event. Honorary co-chairs and sponsors Charles and Rebecca Besser and co-chairs Rebecca Pasquesi and Jen Surma welcomed guests to bid on the art and enjoy bites by Jay Sympson and Bon Appetit. More than $500,000 was raised for Misericordia, which provides care and services for people with developmental disabilities. — Katerina Bizias

Splash was the media sponsor of this event.

SAKS FIFTH AVENUE HOSTS CHARLES TILLMAN

BEAR STYLE

Chicago Bears star and former Splash cover subject Charles Tillman spent the evening with fans and shoppers at Saks Fifth Avenue (700 N. Michigan) June 11. His wife Jackie joined in on the fun, helping raise funds for the Charles Tillman Cornerstone Foundation, which provides opportunities and resources to children and families in need. — Jacqueline Andrukas

Splash was the media sponsor of this event.

PHOTOS BY SOPHIA SPENZAS
Though only in its second year, the Creative State benefit luncheon drew 400 Arts Alliance Illinois supporters to the Palmer House Hilton (17 E. Monroe) June 2. Guests celebrated the arts community and heard speeches from honorary co-chairs Gov. Pat Quinn and Congressman Aaron Schock, who spoke candidly about the vital role of art in the community and the state of the Illinois economy. Later, the Citizen Advocate Award was presented to Richard and Susan Kiphart in honor of their work heightening art visibility in Chicago. Music Institute of Chicago students closed out the event with a performance of Vivaldi's "La Primavera." The afternoon raised $275,000 to benefit Arts Alliance Illinois, which serves to promote and support the value of the arts in Illinois. —Stailey Sharples

Celebrate 41 years of supporting the disabled and providing urban families with education opportunities, El Valor hosted more than 500 leaders at its annual Don Quixote dinner. Guests such as AT&T Illinois President Paul LaSchiaza and National Head Start Association board chair Vanessa Rich gathered at the Hilton Chicago (720 S. Michigan), where the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus was presented with the Don Quixote Leadership Award. Rey B. Gonzalez, president and CEO of El Valor, honored Rich with the Guadalupe A. Reyes Founder's Award for her pioneering work in early childhood development. The evening's proceeds will benefit El Valor's programming, which has helped the organization rank as one of the top 20 Hispanic nonprofit institutions in the country. —Stailey Sharples

Splash was the media sponsor of this event. The Sun-Times Foundation and the Chicago Community Trust will match donations to El Valor up to a total of $5,000. Up to $1,000 can be matched per individual donation.

STRAIGHT FROM THE DESIGNS AT EL VALOR'S DON QUIXOTE DINNER

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Under pressure

BY JENNY MCCARTHY

Despite the notion that summertime is meant for relaxing and enjoying the long days of sunshine and warmth, I tend to find myself busier than ever. Maybe it's the fact that I overcommit myself to endless activities, but I can't help it — there's just so much we want and are able to do.

Regardless, when all of these obligations — both fun and serious — present themselves to me, I start to feel the pressure building. Instead of hiding under the blankets, binging on chocolate and blanketing the notion that summertime is meant for relaxation, I find myself letting my mind let go of all of my worries while I clean. The motion helps me feel as if I'm starting over with a fresh, clear mind.

Nature: Do you have a special spot outside that you find to be exceptionally peaceful — somewhere in your backyard or neighborhood, under a tree or by a lake? Go to it and close your eyes for 20 minutes, or bring a fun book and read — nothing else. Let the sound of nature bring your peace back.

Lists: I find gratification in making lists of everything I have to do, and then crossing them off when they're accomplished. It helps me feel extremely productive and less overwhelmed when I can scratch an obligation off that never-ending list of to-dos.

How do you cope when the pressure is on and you have a million things to accomplish?

Yoga: When the pressure's on, I beeline straight for a yoga class. That 60-90 minutes is the best stress-reliever I could ask for.

Meditation: I've mentioned this before, but I seriously meditate while I clean. The motion of wiping off my counters while letting my mind let go of all of its urgent thoughts and demands allows me to feel as if I'm starting over with a fresh, clear mind.

Lists: I find gratification in making lists of everything I have to do, and then crossing them off when they're accomplished. It helps me feel extremely productive and less overwhelmed when I can scratch an obligation off that never-ending list of to-dos.

Music: I listen to music to combat the pressure in a more positive and effective way:

The staples: While the menu will rotate seasonally, there are a few Bohemian basics. Spätzle has roots in German and Austrian cuisine — the version Papadopoulos prepares comprise chanterelles, bacon, grey shallots, pickled fava beans, bacon, grey shallots, pickled snow peas and aged gouda ($16), packing flavor into every bite. His take on traditional potato pancakes is equally inventive, served with house-cured salmon, homemade apple preserves, kohlrabi and dill ($12).

Musical chairs: There are multiple seating options at Bohemian House, from the lounge-like front area that Powell refers to as the “living room” to the pair of eight-seat chef’s tables. Reserve the lone booth — set into a nook in the wall and boasting a funky light fixture — or sidle up to the bar for a taste of the seasonal house-made limoncello.

Drink up: Operating partner Pagano crafts the rotating list of signature cocktails, working closely with Papadopoulos to create drinks that complement the cuisine. "When [Papadopoulos] is at the market picking out fresh fruits, I'll either be there with him or I'll be on the phone," Pagano says. He'll be infusing a variety of liquors in-house for cocktails — think vanilla-fig bourbon and basil lemonade (starting at $11).

11 W Illinois, (312) 955-0439; bohochicago.com
In the event of a zombie apocalypse, Steven Yeun is prepared—but not in the way you'd think. While his starring role as Glenn Rhee on AMC's "The Walking Dead" has given him loads of on-camera experience fighting off corpses, if he experienced the real deal, Yeun's philosophy would be much more fatalistic. "I'd find some good friends, so worst case is you're holed up, but at least you're not surrounded by people you don't like. If you go, you go," he jokes. "If you're not with people you want to be with, then maybe just get bitten. Maybe it's awesome."

The post-apocalyptic series, which follows former police officer Rick Grimes (Andrew Lincoln) and the group of survivors he leads (including Yeun's character) as they battle zombies and rival communities, is currently filming its fifth season, due to premiere this October. And while Yeun is required to stay tight-lipped, he does say, "We're definitely going for it. We're coming back with bruises and cuts and dings. We just finished a pretty intense week on set—we've done some stuff in the last couple weeks where it's like, 'Man, I can't believe we're going to show this on television.'"

If there's one thing to be said for Yeun, 30, it's that he's not afraid to take risks—both on camera and off. In 2005, the Michigan native graduated from Kalamazoo College and opted against medical school (he had studied psychology with a focus on neuroscience) in favor of moving to Chicago to pursue improv at Second City. It's where he picked up the skills that keep him convincing on "The Walking Dead." "Coming from the Chicago school of thought, [improv] isn't necessarily meant to be comedy," he says. "It's just truth and honesty. The comedy comes from committing."

After four years in the comedy group, Yeun headed for Hollywood, where he had what he calls "a very fortunate six months," culminating in his career-launching role on "The Walking Dead." "Life is very different now," he admits. "You go walking down the street and people recognize you. Sometimes it's amazing and flattering. Sometimes it's like, 'I don't know if I deserve this. This is kind of weird.'"

On July 18, fans will get to see Yeun tap into his research background as a scientist in the new sci-fi flick "Origins." The actor claims that "the less I explain, the more people will enjoy the movie." but reveals that the plot hinges on his character and two other scientists (one played by fellow Chicago native Brit Marling) as they attempt to uncover the origins of the human eye, debunk creationism and prove evolution once and for all—but that story falls apart when they stumble upon bizarre evidence of reincarnation. "For me, it was fascinating on multiple levels," he says. "The feeling that all of us are connected in some way, shape or form—that's something I was very into."

With his big-screen debut on the horizon, Yeun is focusing on the connections that keep him grounded: his family, his friends, his dog Agnes, and his long-running series. "An actor's life can be a struggle and can be daunting," he says. "To have some semblance of security—or as much as you can on our show—is really nice."
When we first encounter our hero, Hebru Brantley, he's apologizing for the weather. It's late June, and the 6-foot-8-inch Bronzeville native is in his Pilsen artist loft, where, despite several open windows, a loud fan and a lot of good will on Brantley's part, the 90-degree heat keeps seeping in. "I'm getting an air-conditioning unit tomorrow," he promises, wiping sweat from his brow.

If stiflingly hot, the space offers a revealing peek into Brantley's brain: It's filled with half-finished artwork that draws on everything from street art to figurative fine art to whimsical cartoons, piles of old Marvel comic books, hundreds of spray paint cans, Xbox games and a Michael Jordan Wheats box leaning precariously against an empty Champagne bucket. In one corner, a giant sculpture of Fly Boy — Brantley's signature character, who appears often in his work — dwarfs multiple figurines of The Hulk, the iconic superhero who also makes a cameo in one of Brantley's bicep tattoos. "He's always been my favorite superhero," says Brantley. "I've always been attracted to the idea that everyone has two sides. And his raw power — he's as close to a god as he possibly can be, but he doesn't have the capacity to understand it."

It's not surprising that Brantley identifies with The Hulk, whose existential dilemma, while fantastical, is akin to the artist's own: How does a gifted man harness his talent to combat evil? Or more specifically, how does an artist like Brantley stay true to his vision, achieve commercial and critical success and inspire hope in one of Chicago's most blighted neighborhoods — and still make it home in time for dinner?

It's something Brantley wrestles with often. Though the self-taught artist, 33, has been painting, sculpting, drawing and making short films for nearly two decades, he's garnered national attention only recently: Last year, he was the featured artist for both Chicago Ideas Week and Chicago Artists Month; in 2012, Jay-Z and Beyoncé dropped $20,000 on one of his paintings at Art Basel; and hip-hop heavyweights like Nicki Minaj, Lupe Fiasco and Swizz Beatz (who Brantley's texting with during our interview) publicly identify as Brantley's friends and fans. Currently, he's showing two exhibits in Chicago — "The Watch," an installation of 13 sculptures facing Lake Shore Drive, and "Parade Day Rain," a series of paintings and sculptures on display at the Chicago Cultural Center through Sept. 23.

King of arts

With hordes of celebrity fans, high-profile exhibits and an ability to inspire hope on Chicago's South Side, artist **HEBRU BRANTLEY** is Chicago's own superhero

BY RACHEL HANDLER • PHOTOS BY MARIA PONCE
But like any good superhero, Brantley is conflicted about the trappings of fame. He plays down his celebrity fandom ("It's cool to be accepted by your contemporaries, to be able to vibe with them on that level, but I try to keep it to myself"), stays mum about most of his personal life ("It's Hebru the artist versus Hebru the man") and is particularly concerned about being pigeonholed as the "the hip-hop artist" or "the graffiti artist." "I don't want to be a jack of all, master of none, but there are so many things within the realm of the arts that I want to do," he says. "My intention is to make people happy when they enter a room of my work, to make them smile, make them feel good."

He aims to accomplish that through what he calls the "universal language": comic book characters. For the duration of his career, Brantley's been developing his own set of young superheroes — the Fly Boys and Fly Girls, inspired by the Tuskegee Airmen, the fabled group of black military pilots who fought in World War II. His goggle-sporting protagonists star in "The Watch" as large, colorful sculptures lined up to represent "soldiers, people that are standing up to [things like] violence and hunger"; in "Parade Day Rain," they're featured in every piece. "I use these characters as a conduit to say whatever I want," he explains. "It makes it a lot less harsh and more palatable. The fact is, I don't necessarily know how to speak or jive well with every individual person — it's easier for me to speak to them through these characters."

As for what he's trying to say? Much of Brantley's work is aimed at children growing up amid the South Side's gang violence and poverty, just as he once did. "Kids feel like there are only a handful of ways out: selling drugs, being a rapper, being an athlete. To say, 'I'm a black kid who grew up on the South Side of Chicago and I created this,' that gives them another option," he says. "When you travel through the South Side, the only art you see is Chester Cheetah, somebody selling kids a product that's really terrible for them. I want to relate to those kids that have never set foot in a museum or seen art. . . . I want that to be my mission and my purpose."

After some prodding, the modest Brantley admits to some progress. "Kids all the time say things like, 'You're my hero, I wanna be just like you when I grow up.' At "Parade Day Rain," "I saw all of these kids that got up to the Cultural Center on their own," he says. "I'm watching them look at the work, digesting it. And seeing me, thinking, 'Man, he looks like us.'"

It's not dissimilar from Brantley's own origin story: Growing up in the 1980s, he channeled his creative impulses into compulsive comic-book reading, spray-painting street art onto abandoned buildings with his friends (which he calls "the base of everything I do now") and "taking apart my toys and reassembling them." In high school, after his mother introduced him to fine artists (and current role models) Jean-Michel Basquiat and Keith Haring, art became Brantley's refuge from the gangs outside. "It was just me, walking my a** home, doing homework, art and TV," he says. "That was my day."

In college, he sold hats and T-shirts bearing his designs, but wasn't convinced he could channel his c-
Brantley and his fiancée Angela Carroll

One of Brantley's recent pieces, designed in collaboration with Artpentry for Soho House Chicago's pre-launch party

Brantley's recent work, in his own words:

**'Parade Day Rain' exhibit, 2014**

"When I initially started planning for this show, I had no idea how it would parallel my life — dealing with the notion of somebody raining on your parade when things are at their highest and then their lowest. While I was preparing for this show, I found out that my father was sick that he had cancer. A month before the show, his health really took a turn for the worse. I had to force creativity while being just toiled inside, because I'm watching my father die. He passed two weeks before the show opened. I didn't realize at the time that a lot of the work — and I don't expect anyone else to pull that from it if you don't know me — directly correlates with what I was going through."

**'Negro Mythos' series, 2013**

"I'm a huge fan of mythology, and the biggest form of that now is through comics. Within my culture, we don't really have a true mythology, but this series is spinning that, presupposing that if these characters were people of color how they'd fit into that mythos. As a showpiece, in making these characters people of color, it changes the lore and the mythology of everything."

**'The Watch' exhibit, 2014**

"In that vein, he's planning his next work, which he'll start this summer. I want to go through Englewood and just put art up, break up the space and the groupings of absolute nothing in hopes that it strikes a chord with one or two people in that community," he says. And like a superhero plotting his next exploit, Brantley is keeping the details to himself. "It's not even something I want to publicize, if you don't know me — directly correlates with what I was going through."

For more from our photo shoot at Brantley's studio — plus a behind-the-scenes video — visit Chicagosplash.com

"It's intended to be sort of an infectious movement, something that can grab people's attention and say, 'Hey, this is a problem that exists.' The whole purpose of 'The Watch' is to draw your attention to that elephant. Just sort of be in your face, be infectious. It's like a gang in a sense, or a cult, where you have one person convincing another person, and everyone's signing up slowly but surely."

Top: Brantley and his fiancée Angela Carroll
Bottom: One of Brantley's recent pieces, designed in collaboration with Artpentry for Soho House Chicago's pre-launch party

Creative powers into a career until a good friend bought one of his paintings for a significant sum. "I realized, 'This is where my heart is,'" he recalls. That was in 2002. Today Brantley still holds tight to that passion — and his healthy dose of artist's angst. "There's so much more to accomplish," he says. "I have so much that I want to say, and there's only so much time. I feel like I'm forever doomed to chasing the idea of the perfect painting." He pauses, then laughs. "I'm a happy person — I'm not like Snuffleupagus — but I just strive for greatness."

Fortunately, Brantley has plenty of people in his life that help relieve that pressure. He's a father to son Jayden, 11, from a previous relationship, and he's parented his younger sister Shea since she was 9 (his mother and stepfather both died of cancer five years ago; he lost his father to cancer last month). "All of her friends and their parents, they're like 'You're the strictest parent and you're not even [Shea's] parent,'" he laughs. In September, he'll marry his longtime girlfriend, model Angela Carroll, whom he calls his "muse." She's always inspiring me to be better," he says, smiling.

In that vein, he's planning his next work, which he'll start this summer. "I want to go through Englewood and just put art up, break up the space and the groupings of absolute nothing in hopes that it strikes a chord with one or two people in that community," he says. And like a superhero plotting his next exploit, Brantley is keeping the details to himself. "It's not even something I want to publicize, if you don't know me — directly correlates with what I was going through."
BEST VIEWS | feature

ROOms WITH A VIEW

FIVE BUILDINGS OVERLOOK SOME OF CHICAGO'S MOST DRAMATIC VISTAS

BY ASHLEY DEVICK

THE EDDYSTONE

421 Melrose, unit 22A; available units range from $219,000 to $1.295 million

This $1.06 million penthouse boasts both lakefront views and old-world charm, but, set back from the traffic noise of Lakeshore, "it's quiet and serene," says listing agent Brad Lippitz (KoenigRubloff, call 773-230-5100). "It feels like you're in a gem in the sky."

The three-bedroom, 2.1-bath duplex is sun-filled and glamorous. "It's all about light and views, in a serene setting right on top of the world," says Lippitz. "It couldn't be a more fitting location." The décor is just as elegant — the space was transformed by the owners into a vintage, art-deco style condo with modern upgrades, like stainless-steel appliances and an open kitchen.

It's also in a prime location near the harbor, close to Clark and Belmont, with a 24-hour doorman and exercise room. While there's no parking in the building, everything you need is right at your fingertips: The classic pre-war building is walking distance to the beach and park, plus Broadway's slew of cafes. Between the location and custom finishes, "this is not a cookie-cutter unit," says Lippitz. "[This is for someone] who wants something special."

With its renowned architecture, lush green parks and critically acclaimed art, it's no secret that Chicago is a stunning city. But the waterfront has always been the centerpiece, and residents continue to clamor for homes that overlook it. "I think what surprises people the most is that the lakefront is completely preserved in Chicago and that it's so beautiful," says Kathleen Ullo (@properties, call 312-915-0850), listing agent for 850 N. Lake Shore Drive (inset), a newly renovated apartment building with sweeping views of the water. "Lakefront views in other cities don't resemble what we have here."

But the beaches are only part of Chicago's appeal. Our architecturally rich skyline is another big draw for homeowners — meaning buildings that showcase the city's landmarks are always in demand. We explored some of the city's premier condo buildings, all of which have units for sale offering particularly dramatic views of lake or land. (While the buildings have more affordable options readily available, we picked the condos with the dreamiest vistas.)

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LINCOLN PARK 2550
2550 N. Lakeview, unit D5-36; available units range from $336,000 to $4,742 million
When plans for 2550 N. Lakeview were revealed, it quickly became one of the most anticipated developments in row-home-heavy Lincoln Park. People want luxury and location, and this building single-handedly delivers with its prime location at the edge of the upscale neighborhood. The 39-story building provides a look at the entire city, from the skyline to the park, harbor, lake and Navy Pier. “You have it all in one brushstroke of view,” says Tere Proctor, president of ARC Residential and the director of sales for the building (call 312-320-0863).
Since opening in 2012, this building has been in high demand, especially in units like the half-floor, 4,429-square-foot space on the 36th floor (listed at $4,742 million), which features four bedrooms, 4.1 baths and an office, family room, dining room and living room. “When you walk into this unit, you’re immediately greeted by lake and city vistas,” says Proctor. “The master suite has a tremendous area overlooking the lake and park.”
The chef-grade kitchen — complete with custom Italian cabinetry — opens to the family room, with a large balcony perfect for watching the sunrise. The unit has towering 12-foot ceilings, and to-die-for walk-in closets. The building’s extras are just as enticing: There’s a fitness center, indoor pool with men’s and women’s saunas, outdoor sundeck and a concierge available for the tenants. Valet parking is available, as well as deeded spaces ranging in price from $50,000 to $100,000. There’s even a 1.2-acre park on site for all residents, as well as a clubroom with its own private entrance.

ERIE CENTER
435 W. Erie, unit 2208; available units range from $289,900 to $1,16 million
A penthouse duplex in the heart of River North is the stuff of dreams — brought to life at 435 W. Erie, a 2,180-square-foot condo with floor-to-ceiling atrium windows and unobstructed city views. “Its ‘wow factor’ is that you get to see everything east, west, north and south,” says listing agent Maureen Burns (@properties, call 312-465-9888).
Competitively priced at $1.16 million, the unit spans the 22nd and 23rd floors of the building, connected by an atrium and winding staircase. There are two ensuite bathrooms and a laundry room on the upper level, and a third bedroom and bathroom on the main level, along with the living room, kitchen and dining room. A large terrace with two separate entrances stretches around the unit — from every direction, residents have access to amazing visuals of Chicago’s iconic architecture.
The boutique 25-story building, built in 2000, has 123 units and a slew of amenities, including a 24-hour doorman, sundeck, fitness center and parking in the building. And the prime River North address gives this building the key real-estate element: location.

ONE MUSEUM PARK
1211 S. Prairie, unit 1101; available units range from $399,000 to $1,99 million
One Museum Park — or 1211 S. Prairie — is a relatively new high-rise centerpiece of the South Loop, standing 720 feet tall over Grant Park, the Shedd Aquarium, Adler Planetarium, Field Museum and Soldier Field. (Plus it’s in the middle of a culinary playground — think Acadia, Zapatista and Chicago Firehouse Restaurant.) Designed with hotel-level amenities and views that stun, the building features an outdoor pool, rooftop sundeck, workout facility and parking.
Eleven stories up is a custom three-bed, three-bath condo listed at $1,475 million. The original owners of unit 1101 purchased the home in raw condition; now, the open Italian kitchen has Pedini cabinets. Corian countertops, a Sub-Zero fridge and high-end Whirlpool and Gaggenau appliances throughout. The layout includes large bedrooms, custom closets and updated bathrooms. “The place is completely upgraded — there is nothing like it in the building,” says listing agent Bindu Illuri (@properties, call 312-371-7469).
Its unobstructed views make it a standout. From the living room, you see Grant Park, Millennium Park and the Aon Center; looking east, you can cast your eyes on the lake, Museum Campus and Buckingham Fountain. “The views are the major accent,” says Illuri. “It’s definitely a special unit.”

PARK TOWER
5415 N. Sheridan, unit 4205-06; available units range from $97,500 to $560,000
In Chicago’s growing Edgewater neighborhood, 5415 N. Sheridan at Foster stands out from the pack. The building, Park Tower, has sweeping lake and city views at a fraction of the price of its downtown brethren. There’s an Olympic-sized pool with a racquetball court and health club, plus a 24-hour doorman. But it’s the location and access to local attractions that make this building unique. “When you come up north around Foster and Sheridan, you have a brand new Mariano’s, accessibility to Lake Shore Drive, the beach, tennis and transportation, all within walking distance,” says listing agent Peter Kassis (Kassis Realty Group, call 773-274-0500).
Accessibility and convenience are paramount here. There’s a brand new mini-mart on site, and the lobby features electronic notification screens, alerting residents about the arrival and departure buses stopping right outside the door. Upstairs, one of the premier condos for sale is unit 4205-06 (listed for $559,000). A combination of a one- and two-bedroom unit, this home has 360-degree views of the water and the skyline. The home also boasts three bathrooms, a family room, dining room and kitchen, plus in-unit laundry, central heating and AC. Parking is available to rent for $115 per month.
Party time

Playwright Bruce Norris ponders the parameters of intimacy in 'The Qualms'

BY THOMAS CONNORS

For all of the progress made in the collective sexual consciousness since the 1960s, swinging remains for many people a behavior too challenging to consider. An affront to our deeply ingrained possessiveness and the satisfaction we take in defining ourselves as part of an inviolate pair, it represents a liberation so extreme it can force even the most forward-thinking individual to scurry for the comforts of convention. And that’s no criticism. But as playwright Bruce Norris — the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning author of ‘Clybourne Park’ — suggests in ‘The Qualms’, free-flowing intimacy can be more than an exercise of sensual pleasure. As cast member Paul Oakley Stovall observes,

'THE QUALMS'
Now through August 31, $20-$86, Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted. For tickets, call (312) 335-1650 or visit Steppenwolf.org.

“Bruce is relentless in his desire to deconstruct social norms that we take for granted in America.”

Making its world premiere at Steppenwolf Theatre this week, “The Qualms” takes place at a beachside apartment complex, where friends drink, drug and swap partners. Norris — a guy who likes to get straight to the heart of things — digs into the sticky dynamics of the situation, and also asks us to consider these couplings as a rebuttal, not only of prudery and possessiveness, but of a range of self-limiting socio-political mechanisms.

“Bruce often writes in a satirical vein examining social mores,” says Steppenwolf Artistic Director Martha Lavey. “He looks at these oftentimes sanctified social structures, and asks, ‘What do they hide, what is the agenda underneath?’ While a bare outline of Norris’ plot might lead one to imagine all sorts of fun and games onstage, there’s more talk than action in “The Qualms.” As Lavey notes, “Bruce has said that the play started for him when he saw a documentary called The Lifestyle about a polyamorous community and he found it upsetting, because he admired the people who participated in that culture and at the same time knew he had no ability to do it himself. There’s very little sex in the play. What are featured are discussions about power, ownership and status.” Actress Kirsten Fitzgerald adds, “Yes, this show is specifically about a group of humans who swing, or choose a polyamorous lifestyle. But through these individuals, we get to explore and explode the issues of sex, social politics, monogamy, status, self-esteem and more.”
JENA MALONE & Lem Jay Ignacio

The 'Hunger Games' actress and her bandmate prep for a performance at Thompson Chicago

BY ELLE EICHINGER

After breaking out in films like 1998's "Stepmom" alongside Susan Sarandon and 2001's "Donnie Darko" with Jake Gyllenhaal, Jena Malone has built up an impressive résumé. Most recently, she starred as tribute Johanna Mason in the second and upcoming third installment of "The Hunger Games" series. But the 29-year-old has another talent: acting became music — all these different forms of storytelling.

Good chemistry

JM: It was so beautiful how [Lem Jay and I] met. We were thrown together on stage at a Christmas party and started freestyling a Christmas Carol, which no one really likes. But we became good friends and starting making music.

Lem Jay Ignacio: It was never about, 'Hey, let's start a band, let's pick a name.' It all appeared out of nowhere and surprisingly. We were making music for art's sake, for fun's sake, for friendship's sake.

In tune

LJ: I started playing piano when I was 6 years old, then practiced music in college. So I'm a trained musician — Jena comes from the opposite side of making music.

JM: I taught myself — I still don't know the C note on a piano but I love to play it. For me, learning music was singing Reba McEntire and Lisa Loeb with my mom and memorizing the lyrics.

Performance art

LJ: A lot of our show is based on improv and in-the-moment experience. In acting, you're following a path or a script but, at least in our music project, we're making this up as we go.

JM: Even if you're following a script, you're still pulling things from the unknown — even when you're reading lines there are still surprises. But music is far more free. The environment changes how you perform.

Rhythmic ritual

JM: We don't have any [pre-show] rituals, but we started doing this thing on our hotel tour: Before our performances we're given free access to the hotel, and we take our team — videographer, photographer — and go and just jam in many different spaces and perform for ourselves to build a language together, and then a few hours later we perform the show.

LJ: It's like rehearsal — half performance, half writing new songs.

To see The Shoe perform at Thompson Chicago July 7 at 4 p.m., RSVP to Rsvp-chicago@thompsonhotels.com — and pick up their debut full-length album, 'I'm Okay,' at Best Buy locations citywide.
Jessica Vermylen and Ben Bjorlo

BY KRISTIN J. LARSON

Jessica Vermylen and Ben Bjorlo tied the knot in one of the most classically Chicagoan venues in the city: the Drake Hotel (140 E. Walton). After exchanging vows at St. James Chapel (835 N. Rush), the pair and their 200 guests celebrated inside the historic hotel's Gold Coast ballroom. "Initially, I was very anti-ballroom — maybe it's the typical bad carpet — but when we saw this one, it was just so stunning," says Vermylen. "Because it's already so ornate and the colors are so interesting, I wanted to keep everything else simple and elegant." Wedding planner Stephanie Cook was tapped to execute Vermylen's vision, opting for soft gold linens and Chivari chairs to match the room's gilded look, while floral designer Anthony Gowder created towering arrangements of white roses and Casablanca lilies to set the scene.

For the bride, who works in advertising sales at Twitter, and the groom, a higher education consultant at Huron Consulting Group, it was important that their wedding captured the vibe of the city where they first met and fell in love. Despite having both attended Miami University in Ohio, the couple didn't cross paths until July 2010 during a night out with mutual friends at Butch McGuire's (20 W. Division). "He was cracking jokes that caught my attention and I told my girlfriend he was cute," Vermylen recalls. Bjorlo asked her out and, 2½ years later, surprised her with a proposal at home in January 2013. "I had bought a bunch of roses and candles that her friend set up while we were out," says Bjorlo. "Trying to propose in January in Chicago doesn't leave you with too many outdoor options, so I had to get creative."

After touching speeches from their close friends and family and a three-course meal featuring filet mignon and herb-crusted halibut, the couple spent the remainder of their reception on the dance floor, grooving to tunes from Maggie Speaks. The high-energy dance party proved to be the highlight of the evening for both bride and groom. "One of my favorite moments was looking around the dance floor and seeing family, friends, all these people from different groups, having a good time together," says Bjorlo. Post-reception, the bride changed into a short white dress and a group headed to an afterparty at the place it all began: Butch's.
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago controls millions of dollars worth of prime city property. So it's no surprise that the occasional gem with Catholic ties — and a rich past — hits the residential market. "As the city grew during the turn of the century, the church kept up with the pace — not just in terms of its influence, but also in terms of its physical, built environment," says Chicago History Museum curator Jill Austin. As populations shifted in the late 1970s, Austin says, the Archdiocese began to sell off buildings. "There's such a variety in terms of types of buildings in a parish. They're desirable — really monumental, substantial, high-quality, huge windows — and buyers have transformed them and they've become valuable in a different way."

Such history makes this beautifully renovated 6,365-square-foot, five-bedroom, five-bathroom home at 333 W. Barry (right) all the more alluring. Originally the coach house and chapel for the Society of Helpers of the Holy Souls, it's on the market for $2.995 million and was renovated in 2008 with a third-floor addition, dramatic windows and contemporary stone finishes that complement the original brick. The religious order of nuns used it as a provincial house and then as a home for retired members (believed to have installed one of the city's first elevators) until selling it in 2005. The home also sits steps from the lake and boasts large rooms, a wine cellar, a roof terrace and a sizable front and backyard, according to Baird and Warner broker Millie Rosenbloom (call 312-980-1517).

333 W. Barry

< VOTIVE CONFIDENCE
Rustic metal candlesticks from local vintage purveyor Sarah Polster bring a Gothic touch to the tabletop. $52: Etsy.com/shop/cushionchicago

> LET THE SPIRIT MOVE YOU
As part of a wave of cutbacks in 1990, the Archdiocese closed St. Veronica Catholic Church. The solid 1905 5,000-square-foot brick building with a 9-foot-tall brick fence was converted into two units: a large four-bedroom with three bathrooms, and a smaller two-bed, two-bath apartment. The former spiritual center's ask is $979,000. (Call Dumas & Associates Realty broker Nikki Dumas at 773-278-8778.)
Katrin Schnabl: peplum top, $3,500, 524 W. Eugenie; Katrinschnabl.com

One of my favorite local fashion designers, Katrin Schnabl, runs her shop out of her studio in Lincoln Park.

Luminaire: Omer Arbel lighting, price upon request, 301 W. Superior; Luminaire.com

'I find this to be one of the most inspirational shops for interiors and wonderfully designed objects.'

Rational Park: space rental, varies by request, 2557 W. North; Rational-park.com

'This cooperative workspace occupied by designers, developers and illustrators moonlights as a gallery and event space on nights and weekends. It's a go-to host space for trunk shows or local art, or seeing my son-in-law's band play.'


'Vegetarian-friendly cookbook by London restaurateur Yotam Ottolenghi. I love hosting family and friends for Sunday lunches under the trees in our backyard. We cook everything from scratch.'

Graham's Fine Chocolates and Ice Cream: single scoop, $3.49, 302 S. Third, Geneva; Grahamschocolate.com

'Thier homemade raspberry chocolate-chip ice cream is one of my favorite summertime treats.'

Chicago Fashion Incubator: free to designers, 111 N. State; Chicagofashionincubator.org

'This nonprofit provides a two-year program that fosters six emerging designers as they create a name for themselves in the fashion world. Designers Shelby Steiner and Lagi Nadeau are in their second year and already selling locally.'

> Lagi Nadeau:
Zoe trench, $895; Chloe pant, $425, VMR, 34 E. Oak, VMRchicago.com

Luminaire: Orner Arbel lighting, price upon request, 301 W. Superior; Luminaire.com

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SIGN UP TODAY for THE JAY CUTLER FOUNDATION CHARITY BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

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Attendance: 809
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Website: MSillinois.org

RIGHT: David Alcozer (left) of Niles and his fiancée, Anja Nalepski, part of 'Team Gizmo.'
BELOW: David Alcozer (front center) of Niles flexes with members of 'Team Gizmo' behind him.

Get your event in Trend

Have a philanthropic cause or event, or a party to share? Email Deborah Hoppe at dhoppe@pioneerlocal.com. She can send you guidelines for submitting information for Trend. Or call (312) 321-2734.
Couple connect with same last name
Cheryl and Brian Oommen

BY HEATHER DORNHECKER
Contributing writer

Like many couples, newlyweds Cheryl and Brian Oommen shared mutual friends before tying the knot. In addition, they also shared the same last name.

Before the two met in 2007, their friends thought they were related.

"People would ask us, 'How's your brother?' or 'How's your sister?" Cheryl said. "Someone said my name when Brian and I were sitting next to each other one night, and Brian said, 'Who's this Cheryl? Everyone's been asking me about her.' I told him it was me, and that's how we met."

Seven years later, Cheryl, a Glenview native, and Brian, formerly of Mount Prospect, married April 26 at Alice Millar Chapel in Evanston.

Unknowingly, they had musical surprises planned for each other at their reception at the Hyatt Regency in Schaumburg. After she and Brian were introduced as husband and wife, Cheryl played guitar and sang with friends to a medley of her and Brian's favorite songs. Brian did the same, but by himself. He also surprised her by having her cousins sing Alicia Keys' "If I Ain't Got You," for their first dance.

A top wedding priority for the couple was for it to be a lot of fun and for their guests to feel welcome.

"Usually Indian weddings are pretty large, 600 to 800 to maybe even 1,000 people. We wanted it to be a little smaller, so we had about 400 guests come," Cheryl said.

Cheryl described their engagement last summer as "the ultimate two-day surprise." They went jet skiing, went on a sail cruise and watched the July 4 fireworks, went to the Shedd Aquarium, ate dinner in Greektown where they had their first date and celebrated with friends and family.

Cheryl is an occupational therapist, and Brian is an accountant. They live in Wheeling.

MORE ONLINE: See more photos from Cheryl and Brian's wedding at bit.ly/bc-oommen.
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Jim Martinsen
of Glenview,
parents of Mike
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60th wedding
anniversary
July 16.
PHOTO PROVIDED
Rediscovering the sculpture of Egon Weiner

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN
For Sun-Times Media

A man of optimism and lifelong passion for his art, sculptor Egon Weiner was a Chicago artist whose life and important works are mostly unknown.

That will change with the exhibit, "Egon Weiner: Pillar of Human Emotions," running through Sept. 19 at the Koehnline Museum on the Oakton Community College Des Plaines campus.

Nathan Harpak, Koehnline Museum manager and curator who created this exhibit, is excited about bringing Weiner's work to the public's attention, and notes that this show was energized by the recent rediscovery of a trove of Weiner's work in a factory warehouse.

Weiner's best known work is the Chicago Landmark "Pillar of Fire," a 30-foot-high, abstract bronze sculpture marking the origin of the 1871 Chicago Fire just west of the Loop.

Egon Weiner (1906-1987) was born and trained in Vienna, beginning his artistic career as a teenager. He came to the United States in 1938 to escape Nazi persecution. His parents and one brother later perished in World War II.

In the United States, Weiner continued to pursue his art, eventually serving as a professor of sculpture and fine drawing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago from 1946 to 1971. He was best known, Harpak said, for encouraging young artists to take risks and reveal "the expression of that fire that burns in all of us."

"I interviewed some of his students who became artists and they all were amazed about the incredible energy," said Harpak.

When two of Weiner's sculptures, "The Reaper" (1933), from the family of Nancy Bild Wolf of Glencoe, and "Troll," a 1960s piece, were donated to the Koehnline Museum four years ago, Harpak did not know much about Weiner. Impressed with the pieces and intrigued, he began researching the artist's career.

"It's the second time this has happened to me — the discovery of a major collection that nobody knew about," said Harpak. Previously he'd located Chicago artist Morris Topchevsky's works in Skokie and developed an exhibit on that artist.

While researching Weiner, Harpak met sculptor Joseph Burlini, who knew Weiner during his time at the SAIC in the late 1960s. Burlini told Harpak of a large collection of Weiner's sculptures at the Buchtel Metal Finishing Corporation factory in Elk Grove Village.

The sculptures, part of the artist's estate, were temporarily in the factory owner's possession at the request of the artist's son, who lives in Palatine. The stored collection consists of more than 20 small sculptures of bronze, metal and wood, and Weiner's last large piece titled, "Moon Flower."

The Koehnline exhibit will include approximately 25 sculptures from the museum's permanent collection and the recently discovered bronze, metal and wooden pieces, along with about 30 large-scale photographs of Weiner's large outdoor sculptures.

Harpak said that rediscovering Weiner's work, and creating this show, has been a pleasure he's delighted to share. "It's like (finding) a treasure in your own neighborhood."
Music, memories recall Buddy Charles

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
For Sun-Times Media

Cabaret artist Bob Moreen has fond memories of the time he stumped Buddy Charles by playing and singing a song Charles didn’t know. That was a rare occurrence because the versatile entertainer was known for having a huge repertoire.

“It was a look I had never seen on his face before,” Moreen laughingly related.

“Buddy Charles played at my wedding,” Anne Burnell said. It was a daytime Sunday wedding and Charles had performed until 2 a.m. the night before. “He hadn’t slept and he played for three hours nonstop,” Burnell recalled.

Scott Urban remembers long conversations with Charles during his performing breaks at the Acorn.

“We would talk about anything in life — with a lot of irreverent comments thrown in,” Urban said. “Buddy was among the smartest people I’ve ever met.”

All three of these entertainers praise the late singer and pianist for his remarkable talent, generous support of other performers, kind heart and commitment to family, friends and church. That’s why Urban started a benefit in Charles’ name and Moreen and Burnell donate their talent each year.

The 6th Annual Tribute to Buddy Charles is 8 p.m. Sunday, July 13 at the late entertainer's church, St. Isaac Jogues Parish in Niles. In addition to Urban, Burnell and Moreen, Joel Barry, Mark Burnell, Steve Helioles, Ernie Lane, Paul Marinaro, Audrey Morris and Bob Solone will perform. Numbers will also be sung by Father Andrew Luzcak and Pat Gries (Mrs. Buddy Charles).

This year’s theme is “Who Wrote that Song?” It will feature tunes by songwriters Harry Warren, Jimmy Van Heusen, Johnny Mercer and Frank Loesser.

Moreen will perform one song by each of those composers. “I’m doing things I like,” he said.

Burnell’s selections will include a duet with her husband Mark, “Two Sleepy People.” The Burnells, Urban and Ernie Lane will team up to perform one humorous song by each of the featured writers.

Proceeds of this annual benefit have been used by the church to purchase a new grand piano, redecorate the family room and purchase speakers for the church.

Buddy Charles at his retirement party. [PHOTO BY BOB BLACK/SUN-TIMES MEDIA]

6TH ANNUAL TRIBUTE TO BUDDY CHARLES
St. Isaac Jogues Parish, 8149 W. Golf Road, Niles
3 p.m. Sunday, July 13
$20 donation to the church
Reservations required
(847) 966-1180

Moreen said he particularly enjoys performing for the members of the congregation who knew Buddy. “He was very active in the church and contributed a lot of his time and energy and effort to the well-being of that institution,” Moreen explained.

Burnell performs at the benefit each year because, “Wild horses couldn’t stop me,” she said. That’s because she and Mark performed and recorded with Charles. “Everybody’s participation stems from this huge love.”

Urban echoed that sentiment, saying, “I absolutely loved Buddy and I want to keep his memory alive.”
Artist Didier Nolet is currently exhibiting 31 of his pieces at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Skokie. (Photo by Jill Dunbar)

Didier Nolet's landscapes blend dreams, memories

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
For Sun-Times Media

Don't try to pinpoint the places captured in Didier Nolet's evocative landscape oil paintings. Each of the scenes comes directly from the prolific artist's imagination—often blending memories of his native France with those of his years in Arizona and of the Chicago area, which he calls home. They are always deeply reflective of the emotions he was experiencing during the point in his life that they were created.

Thirty-one of his oil on canvas pieces, several of which are wall size, are hung throughout the first floor of the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Skokie.

Nolet named the exhibit “Evolution” because it includes work that he created between 1991 and 2012. He noted that the biggest changes in his work are related to the differences in the color palette. That was a matter of location, rather than time. During the years that he lived in the Southwest, his colors were more muted, reflecting the dusty atmosphere. When he returned to Chicago, his colors became brighter.

One of the largest oil paintings, “Refuge,” measures 70” by 97”.

“When I was in the Pyrenees, I was enticed by the power of mountains,” Nolet said. “You’re really far away and the mountains are big.”

Although there are no people in Nolet’s painting, the artist is also fascinated by the people who live near these towering masterpieces of nature. “They are very mysterious people,” he observed. “They live in the valley and sometimes they don’t know who lives in the other valley. It’s like their own village is their own country. Mountains are very mysterious. They always hide something.”

Equally mysterious are the dreamlike canvases in which Nolet blends images of his life growing up in France with those of his adopted country. One example of this is “The Swamp,” which Nolet painted while living in Phoenix and reminiscing about France. It incorporates vegetation from both places.

Nolet enjoys sharing his love of the creative process with others. He has invited visitors to watch him paint at the Chicago Botanic Garden and he teaches art classes at a variety of locations, including the Old Town Art Center, Evanston Art Center, the Art Center of Highland Park and out of his studio at 3461 S. Archer Ave. in Chicago.

The artist particularly enjoys discussing his work and will do a gallery talk at the hotel from 7-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 10. “I will walk people from piece to piece and talk about what’s behind each piece,” he said.

All art lovers are invited to drop-in and take that journey of the imagination with Nolet. Refreshments will be served.
Folk singers prepare to play the folk classics of Peter, Paul and Mary; and Pete Seeger; and Tom Paxton at "Give a Hootenanny!" on July 20 at the Skokie Theatre.

Folk music sing-a-long for all ages

BY MYRNA PETUCKI
For Sun-Times Media

They are going to Give a Hootenanny!, 2 p.m. Sunday, July 20 at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. "I perform with a group called Americans Ensemble, which began as a workshop at Old Town School," said singer Carla Gordon, who organized the event. "The people in the group are such good musicians and really love this kind of music. I thought it would be grand to create a show that would appeal to so many ages."

"For those of us who grew up with Peter, Paul and Mary, and Pete Seeger and Tom Paxton," Gordon added, "how cool is it to introduce that to our grandchildren."

In addition to the Americans Ensemble, led by Skip Landt, the lineup will include singer Ester Hans, comic Jan Slavin and the groups Silver Dollars and Three for the Road.

There will be sing-alongs, child-oriented songs and comedy numbers.

Tickets are $12.

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

GRIMM, BUT NOT GRIM

Conner Bailey travels across Europe to crack a 200-year-old code, with the help of Mother Goose, in "Land of Stories: A Grimm Warning." It's the third novel in the series for ages 7-12 by actor and author Chris Colfer. Fans can meet the author and have copies of the book signed at noon Saturday, July 12 at Barnes & Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie.

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

IT'S MAGIC

There will be sleight-of-hand, illusions and audience participation at the Vaudeville Family Magic Show with Sean Masterson, 7:45 p.m. Monday, July 14 at Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave. Tickets are free to Park Ridge Library cardholders, $3 for everyone else.

For details, call (847) 825-3123 or go to www.parkridgelibrary.org.

SWEET SINGING

Treat your children to Camp Songs & Marshmallows around a campfire, 8-9 p.m. Saturday, July 19 at Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2500 or go to www.skokieparks.org/emily-oaks-nature-center.
Little barbecue on the prairie with Bill Kurtis

BY VERONICA HINKE
For Sun-Times Media

Bill Kurtis is known for digging deep. The TV news anchor and investigative reporter today applies his information-gathering skills to all things prairie.

Now he's gone even deeper into his subject — to the base of the prairie fire pit, in fact. Kurtis recently embraced an ancient technique of cooking meat directly on burned-down coals in a hole in the ground.

At his home in Mettawa, Kurtis and Chef Sarah Stegner of Prairie Grass Cafe in Northbrook recently revived the ancient technique to grill meat cuts from Kurtis' Tallgrass Beef Company. Tallgrass beef comes from free-range cattle raised on tall grass on Kurtis' ranch in Kansas, where some graze and some graze on land once briefly owned by claim jumper Charles "Pa" Ingalls of the "Little House on the Prairie" books.

From pioneers to cavemen, grilling meat directly on coals has long been a way to transfer heat instantly, directly to meat. Even Julia Child expressed her love for "dirty grilling," as many affectionately call it.

Prairie Grass Cafe General Manager Dan Sviland joined Kurtis and Stegner for the grilling session in Mettawa, where Kurtis maintains about 20 acres of restored prairie on his 64-acre property.

Kurtis said he and his prairie friends are "crazy" for just about everything Native American, and his latest "grill-less" grilling hobby would have been how meat was cooked every day near this site in Mettawa back when it was a Potawatomi camp. "There were no webber grills," he joked.

For their little barbecue on the prairie, Stegner blended a salad of fresh peas, pea shoots and micro-greens — studded with a sprinkling of violets and dianthus from Three Sisters Garden in Kankakee. "Today was the first day of peas at the Green City Market," she said. "Normally, I cook them a little bit, but you just don't need to when they're this fresh." She tossed the salad gently in sherry vinaigrette.

With help from Kurtis and Sviland, Stegner watched the beef closely, since cuts from tallgrass-fed cattle tend to cook about 30 percent faster than other beef. That's just one of the many advantages of tallgrass beef, as Kurtis explained. More of vitamins A and B and a healthier ratio of Omega-3 fatty acids to Omega-6 provide greater health benefits.

Grass is also, arguably, a better diet for the animals.

What's more, as Kurtis pointed out, growing grass removes carbon dioxide from the air and uses it to grow, which is better for the environment.

Bill's Bee's Knees

SHERRY VINAIGRETTE

Ideal for summer salads, courtesy Chef Sarah Stegner, Prairie Grass Cafe.

1 teaspoon minced shallots
2 tablespoons vinegar
1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard
Salt and pepper, to taste

Combine all ingredients in a cocktail shaker over ice. Shake well, and serve with a lemon twist garnish.

-Prairie Grass Cafe

Corn Fritters

For this recipe, fresh corn removed from the cobs works best.

1 1/4 cups flour
2 cups fresh corn
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 teaspoons salt
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 teaspoon paprika
2 eggs
1/4 cup milk

Mix all ingredients together and add the corn. Fold in egg whites beaten stiff. Fry in hot lard or other oil. Remove from oil and daub off any excess grease.

Serve hot.

— "The Prairie Table Cookbook" by Bill Kurtis with Michelle M. Martin (Sourcebooks, 2008)

* "Bee's Knees Mix"

1 1/2 ounces of "Bee's Knees Mix" (see below)*
1 1/2 ounces North Shore Distillery's Distillers Gin No. 6
1/2 ounce Licor 43 (Spanish liqueur)

I cup hot water
I cup local honey
I cup fresh lemon juice
Combine hot water with local honey, and stir in lemon juice. Refrigerate until cold.

Bring all ingredients to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until thick. Strain, and pour into bottles. Store in the refrigerator.

-Prairie Grass Cafe

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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.

MOVIE BINGO: GOOD, BAD OR CONDEMNEO?
10 a.m.: In this interactive comedy,
Vicki Quade uses her latest character,
Mrs. Mary Margaret O'Brien, a former
nun herself, to show the audience the
differences between good, bad and con-
demned. Skokie Theatre, 7524 Lincoln
Ave., Skokie. Call 847-677-7766.

MIKE TOOMEY
10:30 a.m.: Comedian Mike Toomey
comes to Zanies. Zanies Comedy Night
Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place,
Rosemont. Call 847-813-0484. $22.

SATURDAY, JULY 12
Morton Grove Farmers Market
8 a.m.: The market features fresh
produce and flowers. Morton Grove,
10:30 a.m.: Join area residents for three
weeks of family events while snacking
on local cuisine. Food vendors include
Mrs. A's Cupcakes, Creme of the Crepe,
and hot dogs are available for purchase.
Buffalo Wild Wings, 7020 Carpenter Road,
Skokie. Call 847-674-1500.

Trivia Night
8 p.m.: Winners receive gift cards.
Specials include $4 Budweiser products
and 90-cent wings. Buffalo Wild Wings,
7020 Carpenter Road, Skokie. Call 847-
329-9333.

TUESDAY, JULY 15
Spiral of Chicago:
Cabaret Lunch Cruise
10 a.m.: Join a group for a trip to Navy
Pier in Chicago to depart on the Spirit
Cruise. The cruise includes views and
facts about the Chicago skyline, live
entertainment and a buffet. Attendees
will take place in the Devonshire Theatre.
Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400
Greenwood St., Skokie. Call 847-674-
1500. Free with season pass or pool
entry fee.

Film Screenings by IndieFlx
1:30 p.m.: A weekly screening of an
independent or foreign film. Call 708-867-
7826 for tickets. Eisenhower Public Library,
4619 N. Duketo Ave., Harwood Heights.

Lake Shore Vibe, Murley and Cassettes on Tape
9:30 p.m.: Lake Shore Vibe, Murley
and Cassettes on Tape are a band heav-
edly influenced by the 1960s and 1970s.
U.K. indie scene, along with college radio.
Marty's, 385 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago.
Call 773-404-9494. $8.

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-
613-0484. $25.

Project Esther Summer Picnic
II a.m.: The Chicago Jewish Adoption
Network of Jewish Child & Family
Services in partnership with PJ Library
Chicago invite Jewish adoptive and
prospective adoptive families with chil-
dren under 10. Chicago Jewish Adoption
Project Esther Summer Picnic
7 a.m.: Lake Shore Vibe (LSV) has
original songwriting from a variety of
genres. Murley is a unique blend of
rock, blues and indie. Cassettes on Tape
is a band heavily influenced by the 1960s
and 1970s. U.K. indie scene, along with
college radio. Marty's, 3855 N.
Lincoln Ave., Chicago. Call 773-404-
9494. $8.

Friday, July 11
DIY Nail Design
3 p.m.: Artist Colleen Kelly helps partic-
ants create a new nail look for the
rest of the summer. For students in grades
six through 12. Park Ridge Public Library,
20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-
225-3623.

MOVIES IN THE PARKS: 'THE NUT JOB'
8 p.m.: The 2014 children's film was di-
rected by Peter Lepeniotis. 100 minutes.
Mayfair Park, 4550 W. Sunnyside Ave.,
Chicago. Call 773-683-3831.

Ivan and Alyosha
9 p.m.: Colony House opens. Evanston
SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston.
Call 847-492-9860. $15.

Father of the Planet of the Apes' Film Screenings
By Indieflix
3 p.m.: Prepare for the release of "Dawn
of the Planet of the Apes" with a screen-
ing of the previous film in the series.
Pizza is served. For ages 13-18. Niles
Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton
St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

Lincolnwood Thursday Night Summer Concert Series
8 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. Proesel Park,
7055 N. Kostner Ave., Lincolnwood. Call
847-677-9740.

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

Saintseneca
8 p.m.: Saintseneca performs. Evanston
SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston.
Call 847-492-9860. $12-$22.

SUNDAY, JULY 13
Pancake Breakfast in the Woods
6:30 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. $7 adult,
$5 children under 10.

Trivia Night
8 p.m.: Winners receive gift cards.
Specials include $4 Budweiser products
and 90-cent wings. Buffalo Wild Wings,
7020 Carpenter Road, Skokie. Call 847-
329-9333.

TUESDAY, JULY 15
Spiral of Chicago:
Cabaret Lunch Cruise
10 a.m.: Join a group for a trip to Navy
Pier in Chicago to depart on the Spirit
Cruise. The cruise includes views and
facts about the Chicago skyline, live
entertainment and a buffet. Attendees
will have an hour to tour Navy Pier before
the cruise. The bus depart and returns to
the Divine Savior parking lot. For ages
55 and older. Registration ends June
12. Catholic Community of Divine Savior,
7740 W. Montrose Ave., Norridge. Call
708-457-1244, $75-$85.

Harold Arlen Presented by Richard Klein
11:30 a.m.: Biographer and film
historian Richard Klein discusses
composer Harold Arlen's life and music,
including his songs for "The Wizard of Oz,"
"A Star Is Born" and "Gay Purr-ee.
" Morton Grove Public Library,
5410 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call
847-965-4220.

TO SEE CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE
**GO CALENDAR**

**Modern Times Film Series: ‘American Hustle’**
1 p.m.: Join in for the screening of “American Hustle.” Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 708-867-7828.

**Films in the Forest: ‘Epic’**
6:30 p.m.: Watch a dauntless teenager combat against the evil in a deep musical world of Dr. Seuss. Directed by Scott Weinsteins. Based on the works of Dr. Seuss. Directed by Scott Weintstein.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 16**

**Young Rembrandts**

**Drawing Classes**
4 p.m.: Children can learn how to draw scenes, characters, figures, portraits and still lifes through different forms of media. Preschool drawing for ages 3-5 begins at 4 p.m., elementary drawing for ages 6-12 begins at 5 p.m. and cartoon drawing for ages 6-13 begins at 6:15 p.m. Wednesdays through Aug. 6. Norridge Park District, 4631 N. Okerhll Ave., Norridge. Call 708-457-1244. $37-$57.

**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 773-263-7071. $6.

**Pat Tomasulo**
8 p.m.: WGN Morning News sporting anchor and comedian Tomasulo comes to Zanies. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont. Call 847-813-0484. $22.

**THURSDAY, JULY 17**

**New Release Morning Movie:**

**‘Delivery Man’**
10 a.m.: A middle-aged underachiever finds out he’s fathered 533 children through anonymous donations to a fertility clinic 20 years ago and has to decide whether or not he wants to reveal his identity to them. Stars Vince Vaughn, Chris Pratt and Cobie Smulders. 105 minutes. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**Friday, July 18**

**Friday Morning Coffee Club**
10 a.m.: The group watches “Guilty Pleasures,” about the global phenomenon of romance novels. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

**Dinner Theater:**

**Jimmy Nightclub**
4:30 p.m.: Jimmy Nightclub presents a high-energy show with his own Chicago style as he serenades listeners with favorites from the 1950s through the 1980s. The event includes dinner. Mather’s, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $16-$18.

**Colin Jost**
8:30 p.m.: Co-anchor of “Weekend Update” on Saturday Night Live and head writer for SNL, Jost comes to Zanies. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont. Call 847-813-0484. $25.

**SATURDAY, JULY 19**

**Multimedia Craft Class**
9 a.m.: GoldMind Arts artist Jenny Urbanek helps participants create a bird feeder for a window or garden using recycled materials. Supplies are included. Mather’s, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804. $12.

**‘Animals on Parade’**
10 a.m.: The Salt Creek Ballet stops in to give a behind-the-scenes look at their summer showpiece “Animals on Parade.” Learn about their costumes, ballet terminology and what goes into a ballet show. For all ages. Kids can bring their tutus and get ready to join the group. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

**Healthy Desserts in Less Than a Minute**
2 p.m.: Laura Bruzas from Healthy Dining offers recipe ideas for desserts using seasonal, local and organic ingredients. Delicious desserts will be prepared for you to taste. Call 708-867-2299 to register. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. $3.

**Live on the Lawn**
7 p.m.: Watch local teen bands rock out on the library lawn. No registration necessary. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

**SUNDAY, JULY 20**

**The Big Greek Food Festival of Niles**
3 p.m.: A three-day festival of all things Greek. Food options include souvlaki, Athenian chicken, homemade pastitsio, moussaka, tyropita and spanakopita, as well as pastries and much more. Professional dance groups are scheduled to perform, and there will be a kids section with a magic show, face painting, games and more. Holy Taxiarhai and Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 7373 N. Caldwell Ave., Niles. Call 847-647-8880. $2 adults, $1 seniors, free for children under 12.

**Taylor Mason**
6 p.m.: Ventriloquist, musician and comedian Mason comes to Zanies. Zanies Comedy Night Club Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont. Call 847-813-0484. $25.

**Critic’s Choice:**

**‘Jaws’ by Peter Benchley**
1 p.m.: The group joins to watch the film version of the book read during the month, followed by a discussion comparing the book and the film. Mather’s, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago. Call 773-774-4804.
**FILM CLIPS**

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

**OPENING FRIDAY**

**DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES**

Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of sci-fi violence and action, and brief strong language
Stars: Gary Oldman, Keri Russell, Kodi Smit-McPhee, Jason Clarke
A small group of humans who survived a devastating virus challenge the rule of evolved ape leader Caesar. Matt Reeves (“Let Me In”) directed the sequel to “Rise of the Planet of the Apes.”

**LE CHEF**

Rated PG-13 for brief strong language
Stars: Jean Reno, Michael Youn, Raphaelle Agogue, Julien Boisselier
It’s meant to be a soufflé-light charmer, but this bland, predictable French comedy basically falls flat. Two chefs on the menu, actually: classic-cuisine superstar Alexandre (Reno, better known for action fare) and otherwise-clueless kitchen genius Jacky (Youn) — a half-hearted odd-couple teaming up to save his restaurant from crass trendiness. There are a couple of clever swipes at the “Planet of the Apes.” (“Let Me In”) directed the sequel to “Rise of the Planet of the Apes.”

**DELIVER US FROM EVIL**

★★ 1/2
Rated R for bloody violence, grisly images, terror throughout, and language
Stars: Eric Bana, Edgar Ramirez, Olivia Munn
The hit-and-miss detective/horror thriller “Deliver Us from Evil” comes with a double helping of clichés, but at least the back-and-forth genre-hopping keeps it fairly lively. NYPD detective Sarchie (Australian Bana with a “Noo Yawk” accent) teams up with a whisky-drinking, chain-smoking, smolderingly sexy Jesuit exorcist (Ramirez) to investigate very freaky/very gross goings-on in the Bronx. Scott Derrickson (“Sinister”) co-wrote and directed based on Sarchie’s memoir.

**LIFE ITSELF**

★★★ 1/2
Rated R for brief sexual images/mutilation 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.

**SHOWTIMES**

Movie times are effective Friday, July 11, through Thursday, July 17. Please note that theater schedules are subject to change.

**CENTURY 12 EVANSTON/CINEARTS 6 AND XD**

1715 Maple Ave.
Evanston
(847) 491-9751
www.cinemark.com
Contact theater for showtimes.

**AMC SHOWPLACE NILES 12**

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

**AMC SHOWPLACE ROSEMONT IB**

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

**ROSEMONT PREMIER**

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

**REGAL GARDENS STADIUM 1-6**

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 IB**

7000 Carpenter Road
Skokie
(888) AMC-4FUN
www.amctheatres.com
Contact theater for showtimes.

Pro-teen close encounter: Teo Halm, Reese Hartwig and Astro in “Earth to Echo.”

**Earth to Echo (PG)**
Fri, Sun 1:30-4:30-7-9:15; Sat 1-6:45; Mon-Thu 1-6:45

Silent Film Festival — It’s the Old Army Game
Thu 7:30
CHICAGO

Edison Park Lutheran Church
6626 N. Oliphant Ave, Chicago, IL
(Across park from Edison Park Metra)
(773) 631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com
Saturday, 4:30 pm - Evensong
Sunday, 9:15 am - Spirit Bridge
Sunday, 10:30 am - Contemporary
Rev. Michael D. Sparhy, Sr. Pastor
Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry
Matt Haider, Worship / Music
Michael Lyda, Children/Youth/Family

St. Paul Lutheran Church
5650 N. Canfield, 60631,
(708) 867-5044, www.stpaulcanfieId.org
Street Level, Air Condioned
Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45AM
Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30AM
Saturday Worship 6PM

United in Faith Lutheran Church
6525 W Irving Park Road
773-283-2326 • www.unitedinfait.org
Sunday
8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Praise & Worship Service
Tuesday - 7:00 PM Bible Study
Rev. Lester White
Handicapped Accessible
ALL ARE WELCOME!

St. Luke's Evangelical Covenant Church
9233 Shermer Rd., Morton Grove
Sunday Worship & Sunday School - 10 AM
http://www.stlukesmc.org/
Handicap Accessible
Pastor Gordon Smith
Pastor Elizabeth Jones

Lutheran Unity School - West
Pre K-Grade 8, SHARING GOD,
TOUCHING LIVES EVERYWHERE

Morton Grove Community Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)
8944 Austin Avenue
(Lake and Austin)
Morton Grove, IL
(847) 965-2982
www.mgcpcpresbyterian.org
Sunday Worship 10AM
Fellowship 11AM
Rev. Lolly Dominski
Handicapped Accessible
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Niles

St. John Lutheran Church (LCMS)
7429 N. Milwaukee Ave.
847-647-9867
www.st-john-niles.org
Praying Christ crucified
for your forgiveness
Welcoming traditional worship
Sanctuary Handicap accessible
Sunday Worship at 9:30
Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45
Rev. Matthew Gunia, Pastor
"For whenever our heart condemns us,
God is greater than our heart...." -1 John 3:20

Niles

Zion Lutheran Church
8600 W Lawrence Avenue
Norridge, IL 60706
(708) 453-3514
Rev. Luther John Bajus, Pastor
Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Holy Communion 3rd & 5th Sunday
Early Communion - 1st Sunday 9:00 am
Sunday School - 10:35 am
Adult Bible Study - 10:45 am
Handicapped Accessible
Serving the Community
Sharing God's Promises

Nordridge

Park Ridge Presbyterian Church
1300 W. Crescent Ave.
847-482-4136
Sunday Services: 10:00 am
Children's programming for pre-k - 7th grade,
Nursery service for younger children
8:45 am Confirmation classes for 8th grade
9:00 am High School
Adult Education Bible Study Sunday 11:30 am
Adult Education Bible Study Thursdays 6:30 pm
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• A paid death notice may be ordered to appear in the Pioneer Press when funeral arrangements are made, and must be submitted in writing. Information about charges for death notices may be obtained from area funeral directors or by calling (847) 998-3400. A 24-hour fax service is offered at (847) 486-6836 or death notices may be e-mailed to deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com.
• An in memoriam or card of thanks may be placed using the same information above.
• The deadline for placing a death notice, in memoriam or card of thanks, is Monday at 5:00 pm. Photos must be submitted by Monday at 2:00pm.
• The death notice department is staffed from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday.
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CAR STORY

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

My 1968 BMW 1600

By Dave Newman of Evanston

At age 15, I was an avid bicyclist. I worked at a bike shop and rode my 1960s fixed-gear track bike to Lane Tech every day — rain or shine, snow or sleet. And every day on my way to school I pedaled past Foreign and Domestic Auto Repair on Irving Park Road, where I would glance through the window at a white 1967 Alfa Romeo GTV. Driver's Education was eroding my passion for two wheels as the Italians seduced me to four. My friend Wayne, who already had his license and a Triumph Spitfire, showed me how to slip the clutch just enough to get it rolling. I was hooked.

I must have driven past that sign just blocks from our house. The ring of a doorbell and the sound of my dad's行政 office to look at cars I didn't want. Crestfallen and somber, on the way back home we happened to pass a brown car lot on Diversey and Central that past week.

Seeing how disappointed I was, my dad took me to a used-car lot on Diversey and Central near his office to look at cars. The Chocolate Mess could teach me no more.

I since have visited the BMW headquarters and factory in Munich, driven on the Autobahn and Nurburgring, still belong to the BMW Car Club, have owned many Bavarian creations (including motorcycles) and now enjoy hand-washing my current blue 2008 BMW 123i 6-speed manual on a nice warm day.

Somewhere I have a photo of my 1968 BMW 1600 with a "for sale" sign just blocks from our house. A boyhood passion for motorcycles, fuel pumps, radiators, fuses, cam shafts, size, anti-sway bars, understeer and oversteer, autocross, double clutching and rod bearings. I had fallen for the German marque and its spinning blue propeller logo along with the cult of flashing headlights at other oncoming Bimmers.

After more than 200,000 miles of brake jobs, rust, clutches, mufflers, more rust, turn-signal switches, points and plugs, even more rust and hanger iron straps holding the rear wheel wells from dragging on the tires, The Chocolate Mess could teach me no more.
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Every baseball fan worth his salt knows the answer to the famous trivia question, who did New York Yankees legend Lou Gehrig replace to begin his consecutive games played streak of 2,130? It was Wally Pipp, of course. But before Gehrig took the field in place of Pipp at first base, he was sent to the plate as a pinch-hitter. So actually, the very first player Gehrig replaced, before Pipp, was Pee Wee Wanninger, in the eighth inning on June 1, 1925, in a loss to the Washington Senators.

The only way this one could have been any better was if it had happened on Father's Day. In late May of 2014, in a Class A Midwest League game, Conrad Gregor of the Quad Cities River Bandits blasted a three-run homer in the sixth inning of a 5-2 win over Cedar Rapids. It was Gregor's very first home run as a professional baseball player. Incredibly, Gregor's father just so happened to have been hit directly into the stands where his father, Marty, was sitting, and Marty caught the ball. How about that?

Sam Schmidt drove arguably the most historic laps ever at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway a few days before the 2014 Indy 500, topping out at a sizzling 222.933 miles per hour. How's that? Because Schmidt was left quadriplegic after a practice accident in 2000. The owner of Schmidt Peterson Indy team drove a modified Corvette with infrared sensors and cameras to detect his head movements, sending signals to the wheel, gas pedal and brakes. The vehicle is called a SAM car - a semi-autonomous motorcar.

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Slow pitch gives hitters a chance

Unlike some Wiffle Ball tournaments, Skokie event includes defense and base running

BY MIKE CHAMERNIK
For Sun-Times Media, @MikeChamernik

The Skokie Park District is hosting a Wiffle Ball tournament this weekend, and unlike the scores of hapless hitters on YouTube, batters will actually stand a chance.

The World Wiffle Ball Championship will be held on Saturday and Sunday at Channelside Park in Skokie, and it's a slow-pitch Wiffle Ball tournament.

"It makes it more strategic about the offense, rather than guys racking up strikeouts and mowing everyone away," said Chris Wojcik, a Wilmette resident and member of the Pitches Ain't Hit team.

Wiffle Ball, the baseball-like game played with a perforated plastic ball that dips and curves, comes in two formats. The World Championship bills itself as true Wiffle Ball — slow pitch, classic yellow plastic bats, base running and defense. Other tournaments may use lineball, with fast pitching, aluminum bats and bases determined by how far a batter hits the ball.

"Fast pitch, it's almost impossible to keep all of those elements — defense, base running — and most tournaments that are fast pitch don't even try," said Jim Bottorff, a commissioner of the World Championship. "You get a guy that can really throw hard and fast, it's almost unhittable. In my view, it's a much more competitive game played this way."

The tournament will have 32 teams of five players competing in four games on Saturday. Teams that go at least 3-1 or win their division qualify for Sunday's tournament. Also, teams that go 2-2 qualify for a quick single-elimination tournament at the end of Saturday for the last spot in Sunday's games. There are no age or skill level distinctions in the tournament, so players of all ages and genders will play each other.

After 33 years in Mishawaka, Indiana, the Championship moved to Skokie last year. Some of the powerhouse teams, like Funky Plastic Offspring, moved with the tournament. Funky Plastic Offspring is a favorite to win it all this weekend. Mishawaka's Randy Schuster plays for the team with his father, two brothers and family friend, and they won titles in 2007, 2011 and 2013. Schuster is even a member of the tournament's Hall of Fame.

While Schuster said that having the tournament in his hometown was great, the move to Skokie has had some pluses. Bottorff said the further away teams still attend (players come in from as far away as Arizona and Massachusetts), and new teams have joined, like Wojcik's squad did last year.

"It has actually been pretty awesome to see the excitement that comes along with new teams that haven't been able to experience the tournament before," Schuster said. "Reminds you about how great the Wiffle Ball tournament, and everyone getting to be a kid again for that weekend, really is."
Opinions vary among area high school coaches about value of club basketball

BY MATT HARNES
mharness@pioneerlocal.com, @harnesspreps

Scott Lidskin said he realizes his Illinois Old School program isn’t like some of the others that populate the club basketball landscape.

SECOND SEASON
This is the first in a series of stories about travel basketball.

Mundelein boys basketball coach Corey Knigge said he’s never heard of a club coach working closely with a high school coach, and Knigge spent nearly two decades in the club basketball landscape.

“We want to have a good relationship with the high schools,” said Lidskin, who started Illinois Old School five years ago while he was working at Glenbrook North. “We are not trying to take their kids away. We want to be a partner with them.”

Not all travel programs are alike, and that might help explain why high school coaches in the Pioneer Press coverage area have a wide range of opinions about the role clubs play in their sport.

Mundelein boys basketball coach Corey Knigge said he’s never heard of a club coach working closely with a high school coach, and Knigge spent nearly two decades in the business with Rising Stars.

“If I was friendly with them, but I didn’t have a lot of contact with high school coaches,” Knigge said. “It’s not like I called a coach about working with a specific player.”

Trinity girls basketball coach Edie Stritzel is a cheerleader for club basketball. He said he gets along with the programs his girls play for, and all 16 players who participated in Trinity’s summer camp in June play travel basketball. His daughter, senior-to-be Patricia Stritzel, plays for Chicago Hoops Express.

“When Corey Knigge was coaching club basketball, he said he would have loved to have had multiple Mundelein players on his team. However, one of the few rules the IHSA has with regards to club basketball is that no more than two players from the same high school can play together on a non-school basketball team.

“We had both Robert Knar and Sean O’Brien already playing one summer, and we had to send off another guy to another team,” said Knigge, who coached Rising Stars club teams while he was a Mundelein boys basketball assistant coach.

“I understand why they instituted that rule.”

Knigge is entering his second season as Mundelein’s head boys basketball coach.

The idea behind the rule is to prevent high schools from circumventing the 25 practice days they are given each offseason, according to Kurt Gibson, an IHSA associate executive director in charge of boys basketball.

“I know we’ve looked into it, but it doesn’t seem to happen very often,” Gibson said. “Most coaches are familiar with the rule, and they are allowed to do.”

Maine South girls basketball coach Mark Smith said he knows of several people who coach both high school and club teams, but it’s not something Smith plans to do.

“It’s a gray line that I don’t ever want to get that close to,” he said.
After ACL recovery, Corey ready to resume career

BY JONAH ROSENBLUM
For Sun-Times Media, HSCNewsNorth

According to Maine East football coach Gabe Corey, his son knew right away what was wrong.

As quarterback Alex Corey lay on the ground in Maine East’s 2013 opener against Schurz, Gabe Corey asked his son if it was his ACL.

Yup.

Did it pop?

Yup.

Alex Corey had a fully ruptured ACL and a second-degree MCL tear in his left leg. Seemingly, his season was gone.

Not so fast.

Less than two months later, he played in the regular-season finale. He’ll play again in the Illinois High School Shrine Game in Bloomington on Saturday. Then, he’ll play college ball for a rising North Park program.

Didn’t he think his football career was over?

“He had that moment, but it wasn’t long,” Gabe Corey said.

Dr. Stephen Wright of Fort Wayne, Indiana, offered a pathway by recommending that Alex Corey wait 6 to 12 weeks before surgery.

A study in 2008 by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons stated that having surgery too soon, prior to six weeks after the tear, could result in a stiff knee and a greater chance of lateral tears.

Given a six-week window, Alex Corey viewed it as an opportunity to prepare his knee not only for surgery, but also for the end of the football season. He went to work with a long list of tests required before he would see the field.

“He wasn’t ready to give his senior year up,” Gabe Corey said. “Anybody that ever played a sport can appreciate the fact that your senior year of high school is everything.”

After six weeks, Alex Corey’s MCL was healed. His ACL was put temporarily at bay with a brace. He was cleared to play, but he sure as heck couldn’t run.

On that final Friday night against Maine West, Gabe Corey let his son work out of the shotgun to limit his movement.

“I love the ability to be able to go out of the pocket and just create stuff,” Alex Corey said. “I just wanted to run. I remember times where the whole middle would be wide open and I just had to sit there and look at it.”

Saturday, for the first time in nearly a year, Alex Corey will be able to run free. He will play at safety in the shrine game, perhaps for the last time.

He’ll likely stick with quarterback at North Park.

“I finally get one more last chance at it. I’ll just have to get all my defense out of me,” Alex Corey said. “I love defense and I love hitting people. That’s the thing I’ll miss the most about high school.”
Complementary pieces

Pioneer Press explores the relationship between club and high school basketball programs | PAGE 44

In this Feb. 21, 2013, photo, Maine South girls basketball coach Mark Smith coaches his team in the Class 4A Loyola Sectional final in Wilmette. (FILE)
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