Lighting up for holidays

Holiday Lights Coalition gathers at Park Ridge library to cover trees with white lights | PAGE 6
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Volunteers light up Park Ridge library grounds for holidays

Volunteers with Park Ridge's Holiday Lights Coalition gathered on the grounds of the Park Ridge Library last weekend to cover trees with white lights in preparation for the Christmas season.

Using poles to string lights as close to the tops of trees as possible, children worked alongside adults on ladders Nov. 15 to decorate dozens of trees on the library property, as well as small trees outside the Uptown Metra station on Summit Avenue.

This year, the group — consisting of mainly Park Ridge Indian Scouts and members of other scouting groups — focused entirely on the library grounds instead of branching out into the business district.

Instead, business owners in Uptown have been asked by the Holiday Lights Coalition to decorate the trees outside their shops in time for Winterfest on Friday, Nov. 28.

So far, the majority of sidewalk and parkway trees remain dark.

Volunteers took over tree decorating in Uptown after the Park Ridge City Council eliminated funding for holiday decorations in 2009.
Norridge

Charges filed in Harlem Irving Plaza mall shooting

SUN-TIMES MEDIA WIRE

Charges have been filed in connection with a Thursday shooting at a mall in northwestern suburban Norridge that left two people injured.

Norridge police announced Saturday morning that Everett D. Harris, 31, of the 7100 block of North Keeler, was charged with three counts of attempted murder, two counts of aggravated battery on a public way, two counts of aggravated kidnapping, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, unlawful use of a weapon by a felon and aggravated driving with a revoked license.

Harris was scheduled to appear in bond court Saturday.

The incident leading to the shooting began in Chicago's West Side Harrison police district, said Norridge Police Department Chief James Jobe. There, a 29-year-old woman's ex-boyfriend took her two children, ages 4 and 6, without her permission, Jobe said.

The ex-boyfriend then went to Harlem Irving Plaza mall, 4104 N. Harlem Ave. in Norridge. The woman and her 36-year-old cousin followed him to the mall, but it wasn't known how they knew of his whereabouts, Jobe said. When they confronted him in a parking garage there about 1 p.m., the ex-boyfriend shot them both before driving off.

The woman was shot a total four times in her head, wrist and shoulder, Jobe said. Her cousin was shot in the groin area. Both were taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge and are expected to survive, Jobe said. Their conditions had stabilized Thursday night.

The children were not hurt but were taken to Lutheran General for observation.

The ex-boyfriend drove back to Chicago after the shooting and was arrested at Fullerton and Cicero by Chicago Police, Jobe said.

He was released to Norridge police and was interviewed by detectives Thursday night. The police statement did not specify the relationship between Harris and the woman who was shot.

No customers at the mall were injured, Jobe said, and the mall was operating normally.
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After 50 years, Pickwick Restaurant to close next month

JENNIFER JOHNSON
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An Uptown Park Ridge staple for more than five decades is about to close its doors. The Pickwick Restaurant, anchoring the landmark Pickwick Theatre building at the corner of Prospect Avenue and Northwest Highway since the 1960s, is set to serve up its last patty melts, hot turkey sandwiches, burgers and ice cream sundaes on Dec. 7.

A new restaurant — with a brand new name — will open in its place next spring, according to Dino Vlahakis, co-owner of the building.

"The Pickwick Restaurant was a magnificent anchor in Park Ridge," Vlahakis said. "I think anyone who has grown up in Park Ridge has, at one point or another, eaten there. But now it's time for them to move on."

Restaurant owner George Paziotopoulos declined to comment, but employees confirmed that the restaurant will close its doors next month.

Paziotopoulos is the third owner of the Pickwick Restaurant, according to Vlahakis, whose family bought the building and theater in 1967.

In 2003 the restaurant received national publicity when television journalist Barbara Walters sat down with Park Ridge native and then-U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton for a lunch interview in one of the Pickwick's booths.

The interview, part of a promotional tour for Clinton's memoir "Living History," led the Pickwick Restaurant to create "the Hillary burger," topped with olives, in the former first lady's honor.

While growing up in Park Ridge, Clinton often ate at the Pickwick after attending movies at the theater next door.

For some, the restaurant's look and feel is a throwback to another era, and Vlahakis acknowledged that it hasn't changed much over the decades.

That's why, he believes, it's time for something new, although he declined to share additional information about the new tenant or who will be running the restaurant, citing a request from the proprietor. He did say that the new operator is a professional in the restaurant business.

"We're talking about a real good restaurant," he said of the next tenant. "This will be the place to go in Park Ridge."

Employees at nearby Hill's Hallmark expressed surprise upon learning of the pending closure, though others had heard rumors.

"It's not going to be the same," said Kristie Glascock. "It was a place to get regular American food, like a turkey sandwich."

Glascock grew up in Park Ridge and ate at the Pickwick as a child. She now takes her daughter, 13, there.

"It's my daughter's favorite place to go. She's going to be crushed," Glascock said.

Glascock and colleague Barb Blickhahn noted the "nostalgic" quality of the place and its connection to Park Ridge's commercial past.

"It was like an institution of what was on Prospect Avenue," Blickhahn said. "Besides the theater, I would say there's nothing that has the same longevity."

Elaina Bonacci of 2 Sisters Boutique noted that she often encounters Pickwick Restaurant employees in the common basement of the building.

"We're going to miss them," she said. "George is a good guy."

But Bonacci said she is eager to welcome the new restaurant that will replace the Park Ridge institution.

"It will be exciting when the new people come in," she said.

Niles Township High School District 219

ISBE School Report Card

NATALIE HAYES
Special to the Tribune

New college-focused data released by the state in the 2014 school report cards puts Niles Township High School District 219 ahead of most schools in the state based on graduation rates, college enrollment numbers, and the percentage of freshmen on-track for post-secondary education.

The new school report cards—which reveal a more comprehensive, college-focused look at Illinois' public schools than in years past—highlight how students perform throughout their four years of high school, including how they score on state tests taken during their junior year.

School District 219 was revered in the report for its 93 percent graduation rate, and for the district's high percentage of graduates that head off to college—82 percent compared to the state's average of 70 percent.

But the report card reveals a disconnect between how many students are heading off to college after graduation and how many are actually ready to take on college-level coursework.

The district's percentage of "college-ready" students, 57 percent, shows a large chunk of students are heading to college when they're not ready for college-level academics.

And although the data ranks Niles North and Niles West among the top 25 high schools in Chicago-land in the "Freshmen on Track" category with a 98 percent score, that ranking is misleading without a closer look.

District 219 superintendent Nanciann Gatta explained in a letter to parents this month that the number of "Freshmen on Track" is determined solely by the number of freshmen enrolled in core college prep classes in English, math and science.

And because District 219 phased out "basic-track" core

SEE REPORT CARD, PAGE 12 »
Basement fire at Niles home causes $100,000 in damage

DAVID POLLARD
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Rosey Umrani is an early riser — and that could be one of the reasons she and her family escaped a fire that started in the basement of their Niles home Sunday morning.

"I was watching the news and I smelled something and I ran to the laundry room," she said. "I saw a lot of smoke and I ran to wake everyone up. Praise God that I was awake."

The fire started around 10 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 16 in the laundry room of the three-bedroom home located at 7088 W. Greenleaf St.

Robert Greiner, district chief of the Niles Fire Department, said when they arrived on the scene the basement area of the home was on fire. The fire was extinguished at 12 p.m.

"The basement was fully involved and had extended to the second floor," he said. "It went up through the walls to the second-floor bedroom."

Greiner estimated the fire caused about $100,000 in damage, but no one was injured.

The Umrani family, mostly dressed in their pajamas and coats grabbed while fleeing the home, were stunned but thankful to have escaped. They had lived in the home for 14 years.

After escaping the house, Jabron Umrani, 16, ran to neighboring homes to alert neighbors of the fire because their home shared common walls with others along the block.

Liliya Melnik, who lives next door, said her home wasn't damaged, but has an odor of smoke as a result of the fire. They planned on opening up the windows and leaving for a while to get the smell out.

"There was nobody injured, which is the most important thing," she said.

Saadia Umrani, 28, said her brother Jabron was a real hero. She also added their neighbors were very helpful as well.

"The neighbors came out and gave us coffee," she said.

Greiner said the cause of the fire hasn't been determined and is currently under investigation.

Saadia Umrani said the village has really helped them with resources.

"They took care of us through family services," she said. "It's very comforting."
classes during the past three years and advanced all freshmen students to more rigorous college-focused core classes, almost all freshmen by default are now considered "on track for college."

In actuality, however, Gatta said between 45 and 50 percent of freshmen are still not on track for college readiness.

To boost the level of college preparedness among younger students, the schools have begun offering a slew of resources to help students succeed in the more rigorous freshman core classes.

Tutoring, extension courses, and a second period of English and/or math lets students get more individualized help with passing core coursework. But with remedial programming costs totaling nearly $3 million per year on average, District 219 at the same time is aiming to reduce those costs by partnering with the nine elementary school feeder districts to start coordinating curricula and college-focused benchmarks.

District 219 entered into the “Classrooms First Consolidation” initiative with Skokie School District 69 this year with the goal to provide District 69 students—starting in kindergarten—with a refined set of curriculum geared toward better readiness for high school at Niles North or West and beyond to college.

While District 219 has yet to formally partner with the other feeder districts, school officials have said the partnership with District 69 would be used to develop a college prep curriculum model that would have the option of being adopted by school boards from any of the elementary districts that feed into District 219 high schools.

The report cards also revealed data about state test scores, teacher and administrative salaries, spending per student, and other financial information.

District 219 students achieved a 64 percent success rate on the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) compared to the state average of 54 percent. The average ACT score was 21.8, compared to 20.4 statewide.

Educators make an average salary of $102,691, and administrators earn an average of $129,608 per year, according to the report.

Property taxes make up a whopping 91 percent of the school district's funding sources, which is high compared to most school districts across the state, which rely on property taxes for an average of 61 percent of their total budgets.

The district spent about $22,300 on operating expenses per student in 2014—about $10,300 more than the average public school in Illinois.

The full report is available at www.illinoisreportcard.com.

**Continued from Page 10**

**REPORT CARD**

Man suspected of trying on, stealing women's underwear from Niles store

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Niles police are looking for a man suspected of stealing more than $100 worth of women's underwear after trying it on inside a dressing room at Golf Mill Shopping Center.

The theft was reported on the evening of Nov. 12 inside a department store. According to police, the store's loss prevention agent saw the man, who was in his early 20s, enter the department store and select women's underwear and pants from display racks.

The man then entered a woman's dressing room with the clothing and reportedly exited the room without it. Police noted, "It appeared he may have been wearing the store merchandise under his own clothes." After checking the dressing room and determining the items were not left there, the agent attempted to apprehend the man, but he had already left the store and then got into a vehicle, police said.

The vehicle was described as a light-blue sport utility vehicle that left the parking lot and headed north on Milwaukee Avenue.

The value of the stolen underwear and pants was $192, police said.
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Shop 9700 S. Western Ave., Evergreen Park (in Carson's Evergreen behind Home):
Thursday 9AM-9PM; Friday & Saturday 9AM-11PM; Sunday 11AM-6PM; Monday & Tuesday 10AM-9PM.

Shop 7234 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove: Thursday–Saturday 9:30AM–9:30PM; Sunday 11AM-8PM; Monday & Tuesday 9:30AM–9:30PM.

Shop 16727 S. Torrence Ave., Lansing: Thursday–Saturday 9:30AM–9:30PM; Sunday 11AM–7PM; Monday & Tuesday 9:30AM–9:30PM.

*No additional discounts apply. Special in-store offers valid now through Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014. No coupon necessary. All clearance center merchandise sales are final; no returns. Intermediate markdowns may have been taken. Free item must be of equal or lesser value. BOGO excludes shoes, jewelry, handbags, home store and luggage. [122158]
Niles deputy chief named interim police chief

JENNIFER JOHNSON
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Niles Deputy Police Chief Dennis McEnerney is adding another title to his long resume with the department: interim police chief.

McEnerney will take the role following the Nov. 14 retirement of outgoing Police Chief Dean Strzelcik, who served the department for 39 years.

"It's quite an honor. I've lived my whole life in Niles, 58 years now, and to be assuming that position is tremendous," McEnerney said.

McEnerney joined the Niles Police Department in 1978 as a patrol officer — his first job in law enforcement. In the years to follow, he moved up the ranks of the department, taking on roles that included detective, sergeant, commander and eventually deputy chief of investigations.

In 2002 he became a team leader for the newly formed North Regional Major Crimes Task Force, and currently serves as commander of the multi-jurisdictional investigative organization.

Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo appointed McEnerney interim police chief, with approval from the Village Board.

"I'm confident that Deputy Chief McEnerney will serve the Police Department and community incredibly well and that he will provide the necessary continuity and stability for the department," Przybylo said in a statement released by the village Thursday.

"McEnerney brings a level of maturity, institutional knowledge and respect outside the department that will benefit the village during this period."

McEnerney has expressed interest in the police chief's position on a more permanent basis, as well.

"I would be interested if it was offered or made available to me," he said.

Niles Public Library helps aspiring authors finish their novels

IGOR STUDENKOV
For Sun-Times Media | @studenk0v

Every Monday of November, the Niles Public Library is hosting "write-ins" to help area writers finish their novels.

The write-ins are part of National Novel Writing Month, an worldwide annual event in which writers spend November trying to write a novel. The Niles Library has hosted write-ins for the past four years.

The idea is not only to give writers a space to write, but to provide a collaborative atmosphere that inspires them to keep going.

If the participants’ responses are any indication, the library has succeeded.

National Novel Writing Month is usually abbreviated as NaNoWriMo — has been around since 1999. It started out as a project by San Francisco freelance writer Chris Baty. Over the next few years, it expanded across the country and beyond.

The goal of the project is primarily to get writers to finish a novel. Editing can be saved for later. Participants can use NaNoWriMo’s official website to record their progress, communicate with fellow participants, get access to resources and generally get inspiration.

Niles Teen Librarian Donna Block was one of those participants. She liked the idea so much that she decided to bring it to the library.

"We started in 2009," she explained. "Librarian Darlene Fox and I got involved with NaNoWriMo because we both liked the idea of trying to write a first draft of a novel in a month. We thought participating would be a good way to connect with library patrons who are interested in writing, but just need a little motivation to get started and stick with it."

They decided to do write-ins — events where patrons could come in and try to finish their novels. Block thought the write-ins could benefit participants in a number of ways.

"It's nice to have a place to go to write where you're not completely alone," she said. "The library provides a space for writers to get together, free Wi-Fi and tons of resources in case they need to do some research for their stories."

Since 2009, the library has hosted write-ins on Monday evenings between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. The write-ins are listed on NaNoWriMo’s website, and the library advertises write-ins through fliers, postcards, its blog and social media. While some of the people who come to write-ins are from Niles, many come from surrounding municipalities.

Block said that over the years the write-ins have gone through several changes.

"We do less preparation now and spend less time talking about writing, because most participants just want to buckle down and get their writing done," she explained. "In the past we prepared more writing exercises ahead of time, and found that everyone was more interested in working on their novels. We also used to meet in the computer lab. Now everyone is writing on their laptops or tablets or phones, so we don't use the library's computers."

One thing that hasn't changed is that the library provides snacks, soft drinks and coffee. Block and Fox also bring in writers magazines such as Writer's Digest.

Block, Fox and four other people attended the first write-in session of 2014, and one person left halfway through. But during the second session, three new participants joined in. The participants represented a broad spectrum of writing genres, including young-adult fantasy, thrillers, romance and character-driven "one-room" fiction.

For the most part, the participants spent those sessions writing. Every once in a while, discussions broke out among participants. When a participant struggled with some plot, or character-related issue, he or she asked others for help. Other times, participants asked for opinions on certain subjects to get inspiration.

Block and Fox were mostly hands off during the write-ins. They answered questions and occasionally gave writing "sprints" exercises in which participants tried to write as many words as possible. But for the most part they used the time to work on their own novels.

Joseph Gregory, of Chicago's Edison Park neighborhood, had not taken part in a write-in until the Nov 10 session. He said that he found the experience helpful.

"I like the energy that comes from [the write-in]," said Gregory. "When you do NaNoWriMo, you can talk to people online, but you don't really talk to them. Having a bunch of people in the same room, working toward the same goal, it's very inspiring."

Vy Chazen, of Morton Grove, has been coming to Niles library write-ins since 2011. She said she's enjoyed every bit of them.

"I love it," said Chazen. "NaNoWriMo is great because of the community it promotes — fun, quirky and supportive. I've finished [my goal] twice before and look forward to finishing this year."

Participants in Niles Public Library's National Novel Writing Month write-in talk about how much control they may or may not have over their characters

Przybylo said in a statement released by the village Thursday, "McEnerney brings a level of maturity, institutional knowledge and respect outside the department that will benefit the village during this period."
For the past few months, Niles' Family Services Department and East Maine School District 63 have been working together to help Niles students in trouble.

In May 2014, the two entities agreed to hire a social worker to help students, parents and school staff address potential problems early, before they blow up into something larger. So far, the program has included District 63 schools that fall within Niles village limits, as well as the Niles Teen Center.

Since it was launched, the program has proven to be so successful that the two parties want to make it permanent. What's more, the Family Services Department is looking into potentially expanding the program into other school districts with students from Niles, including District 64, 70 and 71.

Niles family services is the family counseling division of the village's Department of Human Services. Its services are available to all village residents for a fee based on income.

According to Tony Hollenbeck, family services director, the idea for the pilot program came from discussions with District 63 officials. In the past, families usually got referred to family services after a crisis.

But when a student acts out, it doesn't usually happen in a vacuum. Sometimes, it is caused by behavioral, emotional and psychological issues. Other times, it is caused by external factors, such as homelessness or unemployment within the family. In many cases, kids deal with unresolved traumas, or mental issues that their family members suffer from.

Family services and District 63 officials wanted to see if they could do something to catch signs of trouble early and address the issues that might cause students to act out before the misbehavior escalates.

After some discussion, they decided to create an early intervention program. A social worker specifically assigned for the task provides programs such as art therapy, yoga and mindfulness training. The workers also consult with parents, teachers and administrators to help them recognize signs of potential issues and get students the help they need.

“This is a new approach to services that are focused on prevention and early intervention,” Hollenbeck said. “[The approach is] community based, collaborating with existing school-based staff to create a diverse 'web' of supports available to students, families and school staff.”

The pilot program was approved in May 2014. Under the agreement, family services designed the program, hired a social worker and evaluated the results. The Family Services Department and District 63 split the cost.

Family services hired Mildred Garcia Gomez for the 19-hour-a-week position. Gomez splits the time among District 63 schools in Niles — Mark Twain Elementary School, Nelson Elementary School and Gemini Middle School. She also works with the Niles Teen Center.

Hollenbeck said he is pleased with the way the program has worked so far.

“We have experienced a great deal of support from the schools,” he said. “We have been busy securing resources, providing case management, short term housing, counseling etc. to keep the students academically engaged, support their social and emotional needs, and strengthen our families' ability to navigate through very difficult and stressful life circumstances.”

The next step, he said, is to try to make the program permanent and expand the school-based social worker position into a full-time position.

During the Nov. 6 Niles Human Services Committee meeting, Hollenbeck mentioned that family services is looking into expanding the program into Park Ridge-Niles District 64, which partially serves Niles, as well Niles Elementary School District 71, which is made up solely of Niles' Culver Elementary School.

The department is also considering expanding the program to include Morton Grove School District 70, which is made up of only one school — Morton Grove's Park View Elementary School.

“They mostly serve Morton Grove, but they actually do get some Niles students,” Hollenbeck explained.
The local Naval Air Station skies will be twinkling when Tinker Bell lands safely in Glenview.

The big love of her life, Peter Pan, will also drop in at Glenview United Methodist Church, where Disney's "Peter Pan Jr." will be staged Nov. 21-23.

Expect Pixie dust and fairies to grace the Broadway-worthy stage in the south wing of the church's social hall.

Take Two Children's Theatre, a division of the Skokie-based North Shore Dance & Drama, LTD, is making Neverland possible.

"We're very excited about this," said Alisha Potter of Glenview, show co-director and costumer. "It's a classic tale that offers so many neat character roles and many opportunities for all of the kids."

Potter, theatre founder, is a Glenview School District 34 drama specialist and a teacher/librarian. She is joined in show co-director duties by Anne Neumann of Skokie and Judy Smith of Wilmette. Neumann specializes in choreography and Smith is a vocal director. Janis Hurst and Marianne Albovias, both of Glenview, are costumers.

"Peter Pan is a great way to start the family holiday season," said Smith, who spent part of a Nov. 10 dress rehearsal on a sewing machine. "It's a story that evokes all the best parts of family and love and growing up."

Smith called the production a "classic J.M. Barrie story, one of the best scores that Disney ever produced."

"We love it. We've loved doing the music," Smith said of Barrie's work, showcased in the 1953 Walt Disney film.

"Don't think that's the best score that Disney ever produced." Added, "Just because you're old doesn't mean you have to grow up."

Kelly Hoj, 9, of Glenview, is a Pleasant Ridge Ridge School fourth-grader who doubles as Peter Pan.

"He's conceited a little bit," said Kelly, who added, "I just because you're old doesn't mean you have to grow up."

Bridget Ballarini, 7, of Glenview and an Our Lady of Perpetual Help second-grader, was Tinker Bell at the dress rehearsal.

"She's not that hard (to interpret)," said Bridget of portraying Tinker Bell.

"I've been in a lot of plays," said Ashley Hogue of Glenview, a gracious stage mom. Hogue, who has studied ballet since

"Never smile at a crocodile!" Mikel said. "The lesson is, to not trust everybody that you meet, including a smiling crocodile."

Dual casting gives all roles the star treatment. There are two casts, green and blue.

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The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) annual school report card shows Golf Middle School in Morton Grove outperformed statewide averages in reading and math on 2014 state standardized tests, according to a report released this month.

Results from the 2014 Illinois State Achievement Test (ISAT) show 79 percent of Golf School District 67 students outscored students across the state with a reading proficiency level of 78 percent compared to the state average of 57 percent.

In math, 77 percent of students met or exceeded state standards, compared to an average of 60 percent of students across the state.

When scores are broken down by race, black and white students scored about the same in reading, but white students outscored black students by 12 percent in math.

Hispanic students, which make up 9 percent of the student body at Golf Middle School, fell behind white students (which make up 51 percent of all students) when it came to meeting or exceeding state expectations in reading by 12 percent, and were behind by 23 percent in math, according to the data.

On a long-term scale, Golf School District 67 students showed positive overall year-to-year academic growth in both reading and math.

The student academic growth chart compares students' performance in reading and math in Illinois State Achievement (ISAT) testing from one year to the next to measure academic improvements over time.

Scores of more than 100 indicate students are improving relative to their grade level and are exceeding state standards, according to information from the ISBE.

On a scale of 120—with anything above 100 being considered positive growth, and scores dipping below 100 considered to be below state standards—Golf School District 67's reading score was 103 compared to the state average of 99.

In math, Park View students scored a 105 compared to the state average of 103.

Last year, ISBE implemented more rigorous testing standards with a heavier focus on critical thinking skills to prepare students for a new testing system that will replace ISAT tests starting this school year.

Spring 2014 marked the last year of ISAT testing for Illinois public schools, but students across the state were tested on tougher questions in math, English and language arts in 2013 and 2014 to prepare them for higher academic standards rolled out under the Common Core State Standards initiative this year.

The tougher tests reduced composite ISAT scores at most schools, even when student achievement levels were unchanged, according to the ISBE school report card web site.

The "Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College" (PARCC) exams align with Common Core State Standards and will replace the ISAT's starting this school year.

The PARCC exams will be given more than once during the school year with the goal of providing a more accurate picture of a student's level of preparedness for college and a career.

The statewide school report cards also revealed other district information, including attendance rates, administrative salaries, and how much each school district spends per student.

The school's attendance rate was 97 percent—two percentage points higher than the state average.

The district spent $13,426 on operational costs per student last school year, which is about $1,380 more than the state average of what schools spend per student.

Teachers at Golf School District 67 earn an average of $87,489 per year, while administrators earn an average of $134,056.

At neighboring Park View School District 70, teachers earn $85,588 per year on average.

District 67 administrators make almost $10,000 more than District 70 administrators, who earn an average of about $124,400 per year, according to the data.
Maine South students still parking in Forest Preserve, despite request

JENNIFER JOHNSON
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Students who drive to Maine South High School in Park Ridge have been told to stop parking in an off-campus lot that requires them to walk across heavy morning and afternoon traffic.

But some students aren’t listening.

A week after emails were sent to all students and parents, roughly 60 cars were still parked in areas of the Cook County Forest Preserve Dam No. 4 woods, located directly across the street from the school.

The Park Ridge City Council also discussed the issue, even hearing from a Cook County Forest Preserve police representative, but ultimately decided it was up to Maine South to address.

“It’s a school problem,” Forest Preserve Police Chief John Roberts told the council Nov. 10.

The Nov. 6 email, sent to students and parents, refers to the “growing problem” of students parking in the Forest Preserve and crossing the heavily traveled Dee Road in the middle of the block in order to get to and from school.

In the message, Principal Shawn Messmer wrote that ideas like crossing guards, traffic signals and having police conduct traffic control were brainstormed with the Park Ridge Police Department and the Cook County Forest Preserve police, but “none have proven to be viable due to state laws governing traffic control and cost.”

The email went on to state, “We are left with no choice but to request that students not park in the Forest Preserve and that parents not allow their sons or daughters to do so. Maine South does not support or condone our students parking in the Cook County Forest Preserve.

“No one wants to see a student be the cause of an accident, be injured, or be killed because of making a poor decision that is preventable. If your student is choosing to park in the Forest Preserve, please have him or her end this practice. There are other places to park in the community that provide a safer route to school; please utilize those.”

Parking in the Forest Preserve reportedly became a problem this school year as students found it a more optimal place to park. There are no signs prohibiting long-term parking there.

Park Ridge 7th Ward Ald. Marty Maloney told the City Council that he had met with Messmer to discuss the parking issue and was told that school administrators are looking at establishing a rule that formally prohibits parking in the Forest Preserve.

Messmer could not be reached for comment.

Maine Township High School District 207 spokesman Dave Berry said only that the school is working to find “a solution that will lead to our students not parking there and not crossing Dee Road.”

Resident Paul Sheehan voiced parental concerns about students crossing the busy street and the traffic that stacks up each morning as parents drop off their children at the campus.

“Our concern is (students) may not be fully aware on a slippery day of snow and ice what’s on the other side of the line of traffic that is stopped to turn into school,” Sheehan said. “So that’s a safety concern.”

Public Works Director Wayne Zingsheim also reported seeing students “jaywalking at several locations from the Forest Preserve going east into Maine South.”

Sheehan asked that city staff meet with Maine Township District 207 and the Cook County Forest Preserve police to discuss a solution.

Currently, the Park Ridge Police Department is represented during traffic safety meetings with District 207 staff, and “that won’t change,” Maloney said.

In order to park on campus, students must obtain a parking pass. Parking passes for all Maine Township High School District 207 campuses cost $115 per year, according to Berry.

At Maine South, seniors are given the first opportunity to purchase parking passes, though a lottery is held if more seniors apply than spaces are available, he added. If spaces remain, a lottery is offered for interested juniors.
Nobody does the holidays like MSI and our annual Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light exhibits! Delight in over 50 trees and displays representing traditions from around the world. Revel in an amazing 45-foot Grand Tree designed with a Disney theme. Enjoy performances on the holiday stage and even touch "falling snow" in the rotunda! After you stroll through the winter wonderland, catch the magic of Disney in Treasures of the Walt Disney Archives, presented by D23: The Official Disney Fan Club.

Make holiday memories at MSI, through January 4. Visit msichicago.org for tickets and information to help plan your visit.
Letters

Push Congress to enact carbon tax

Now that the election frenzy is over, it is time for elected officials to set aside their differences in order to solve the big problems before us with climate change. We need to let our federal representatives know that we consider it a priority for them to pass carbon fee and dividend legislation. Of the developed countries of the planet, only two — Russia and the U.S. — do not have some kind of tax on carbon in place.

The most effective way to cut carbon pollution is with a steadily rising fee on fossil fuel producers. If we return the money raised back to all of the households, we’ll shield families from higher energy costs and add jobs to the economy, per a study by Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. This fee system is a market-based approach to solve greenhouse gas pollution and will end up saving 13,000 lives per year. Let’s let the market and our elected Congress people do the work with our encouragement.

Mary Hansen, Northbrook

Voters delivered a pretty clear message

“I think it is simple, really. I think everyone wants our elected officials to honestly debate and fix the problems facing the country instead of worrying about how it gives one party the leg up over the other.”

BY RANDY BLASER

We had an election a couple of weeks ago and it is pretty clear what the voters had to say.

“Get the hell out.”

That’s about it. Not much more complicated than that.

Let’s just start with Illinois, where the big election was for governor.

Up for reelection was Gov. Pat Quinn, who before he got into politics was a professional reformer. About the best thing anyone can say about Quinn is that he really believes what he says.

The supreme irony with Quinn is that he was much more effective as an unelected reformer than he was as governor. And his success as a reformer destined him to failure as governor.

Quinn helped pass the Cutback Amendment, which changed the Illinois Constitution way back in 1980 to cut the State House by one-third and ended cumulative voting, a scheme to ensure that the minority party in a district had representation.

The argument back then was by cutting the House, the state would save money in salaries and benefits going to unnecessary legislators.

It did just that, but also concentrated power in the hands of the legislative leaders, including the man who has been the nemesis of every governor since 1983 — House Speaker Michael Madigan.

So the voters spoke to Quinn last week. And the message was, “Get the hell out.”

Millionaire Bruce Rauner, whose life goal up until a year or so ago when he decided to run for governor was to make as much money as possible, now replaces Quinn. Voters figured if he was successful at making as much money as possible, Quinn is that he really believes what he says.

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Millionaire Bruce Rauner, whose life goal up until a year or so ago when he decided to run for governor was to make as much money as possible, now replaces Quinn. Voters figured if he was successful at making as much money as possible, he could be a successful governor. If he isn't, he will be told to “Get the hell out,” four years from now.

That's what happened to a fellow named Brad Schneider on the North Shore. Two years ago, he was elected to Congress when he defeated Republican Bob Dold.

Maybe he really didn't beat Dold. Maybe voters in 2012 told Dold to get out and Schneider just misinterpreted the message as support for him.

Anyway, last week the voters of the 10th Congressional District told Schneider to, you guessed it, “Get the hell out.”

And irony of ironies, that message resulted in Dold being put back in Congress. Let's hope Dold learned his lesson from two years ago and doesn't presume that voters like him or want to have a beer with him just because he won an election.

But the voters must have a message, even the two-thirds of the electorate who didn't vote and who can only be heard by President Obama. What could the message be?

I think it is simple, really. I think everyone wants our elected officials to honestly debate and fix the problems facing the country instead of worrying about how it gives one party the leg up over the other.

What are the problems?

Jobs, for one. Sure, raise the minimum wage. I don’t care. But people want and need good jobs where they can raise a family and have a house and maybe go on vacation. The minimum wage will never be that.

Security is another big issue. I think most people are OK with the immigrants who are here now staying here. They won the immigration lottery, good for them. But everyone knows this can’t go on forever. The borders must be secured, otherwise we don’t have a country.

Health care has yet to be solved. I know my liberal friends love Obamacare, but when you have to lie and deceive to get the thing passed and when the president has to delay implementation of major provisions of the bill, the issue is not resolved.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

Send your letters to the editor to News Editor Phil Rockrohr at prockrohr@pioneerlocal.com or mail to Niles Herald-Spectator, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago, IL 60654.

Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. Niles Herald-Spectator reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and content. All letters must be signed to be published.
Sixty-seven percent of those who voted in the recent election supported increasing Illinois' minimum wage from $8.25 an hour to $10 an hour. And Governor-elect Bruce Rauner says he too is in favor of raising the minimum wage.

So, when can minimum wage earners expect to receive their badly needed raise? Don't hold your breath.

Rauner says he will back an increase in the minimum wage IF such a raise is part of a package that includes tort reform, workman's compensation reform and tax reform (i.e., tax reduction).

Tort reform isn't just one thing. It has three basic ingredients:

1. Make it harder for injured people to file suit.
2. Make it more difficult for injured people to receive a trial by jury.
3. Limit the amount of money injured people can receive in a lawsuit.

The basic goal of workman's compensation reform is to reduce the amount of money workers can receive after being injured on the job. All of these are good ideas if you are a corporation; bad ideas if you are a worker.

But whether good or bad — what have they got to do with the minimum wage? To put in front of increasing the minimum wage three hurdles, which must be leaped before an increase in the minimum wage can be accomplished, demotes increasing the minimum wage from being a primary objective to a secondary objective.

It wouldn't be just a cynic who might be led to believe that tort, tax and workman's compensation “reform” is a way to scuttle increasing the minimum wage.

And not raising the minimum wage would be a pitty because even if it was raised to $10 an hour, the minimum wage would still not be a living wage.

At 40 hours a week, a $10-per-hour salary would be $400 a week, or $20,800 a year. The federal government lists the poverty threshold for a family of four at $23,850 a year.

So, a person with a family making $10 an hour would still officially be considered as living in poverty.

This is doubly depressing since the most recent federal jobs report shows that the vast majority of new private sector jobs were in retail stores, restaurants, health care and temporary work — all, or mostly, minimum wage territory.

It's clear the number of people earning minimum wage will continue to grow. So, increasing the minimum wage is an issue that is important enough to consider on its own and not just as a third or fourth part of something else.

In fact, here's an outrageous thought: Put the minimum wage issue first on Illinois' to-do list.
Couch potato versus party girl — a relationship issue?

A close friend of mine recently turned 50. In honor of her huge milestone, her husband threw her a party at Glenview's Potato Creek Johnny's with about 100 of their friends, 95 percent of whom were couples.

As I made my way around the bash, talking to friends, sipping wine and munching on cheese curds, jalapeno poppers and of course, birthday cake, I made an observation that wasn't new, but confirmed: girls talk, men really don't.

I'm not saying men stand there and say nothing, but as I looked around the room, I noticed the women were chatting non-stop, the only exception being to take a sip of their drink. The men, on the other hand were doing a lot more eating and watching band.

Where am I going with this? I think that by nature, many men are more introverted than women. They're shyer, they tend to listen more than talk, and conversations are shorter. Think about it. If a girl asks another girl, "What's new?" the answer turns into a longer than women. They're shyer, they tend to listen more than talk, and conversations are shorter. Think about it. If a girl asks another girl, "What's new?" the answer turns into a longer conversation. The same question from a guy to a guy probably results in "Not much, Dude. You?"

So, can these fundamental differences in men and women cause relationship issues? Maybe. Just because a man might be quiet, it doesn't mean he doesn't enjoy cocktail parties. But what about the man who dislikes crowds? The man who would rather spend a Saturday night watching Netflix versus having dinner with his wife and three other couples at a nice restaurant?

I was recently talking to a friend who said she and her husband often argue because she prefers to socialize much more than he does. She said the two, who have three young children, are constantly battling because when Saturday night rolls around, she wants to get a babysitter and have grown-up plans and he's all about staying in and ordering a pizza.

To help address this conflict, I sought the help of Anne Malec, a Chicago- and Winnetka-based psychologist and marriage and family therapist, who said the key to working out this issue is communication.

"The couple needs to find a way to talk about the problem without shaming, blaming or being critical, and realizing and accepting these personality differences," said Malec, who holds a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from Northwestern, as well as a doctorate in clinical psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Malec said compromise is also crucial. For example, the social person in the relationship could start by making plans with smaller groups, with people he or she knows their spouse knows well and likes, and by offering to keep the night shorter than he or she otherwise would.

Malec also said that, oftentimes, one person doesn't like to go out socially because his or her spouse drinks to excess, which might be a serious issue that needs to be addressed.

"A big drinker can be a real turn off," Malec said. "The person might act inappropriately or they might embarrass their spouse. And, their spouse knows they will have to take care of that person at the end of the night."

Like Malec, I believe in the importance of mutual respect in a relationship, and the need for both people to have their needs met.

Here's how I see it. If you really really love your spouse and you want a good marriage, you will nurture your relationship, much like a child or a pet or even a plant. And sometimes that means doing things you don't really want to do just because you know it makes your sweetie happy. But, it doesn't work unless both partners live that way.

And by the way, there wasn't one man at Potato Creek Johnny's who looked like he'd have rather been a couch potato that night. If you've ever been there, you'd see why. The place is the epitome of a guy's bar. I guarantee, no one was dragged there!

Happy 50th, Pauline Levy!
DEATH. RELIGION. SEX.

Heavy subjects are made lighter when authors, comedians, artists, musicians - such as The Smashing Pumpkin's Billy Corgan and others share personal stories and insights into life's prodigious questions.

THE BIG QUESTIONS

hosted by Rob Elder

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Do you feel **IGNORED, RIPPED OFF** or taken advantage of?

Have you been **BURNED** by poor customer service?

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**THE HELP SQUAD IS STANDING BY.**

This weekly column is geared up to provide consumer tips and stories that help readers solve issues with businesses.

To submit a complaint for consideration, email HelpSquad@PioneerLocal.com with as much detail about your complaint as possible.
PROPERTY TRANSFERS

NILES
720 N Milwaukee Ave 302, Niles 6074-4481: Cecilia B Boruta Estate sold the property to Carole Justusson for $187,000 on October 29.
8547 N Oketo Ave, Niles 6074-2067: Maria Nowacka sold the property to Erlinda F Dimaano for $456,000 on October 31.

EMLWOOD PARK
214 N 77th Ave, Elmwood Park 60707-3006: Fannie Mae sold the property to Richard Torres & Migdalia Torres for $177,000 on October 29.
2207 N 73rd Ct, Elmwood Park 60707-2608: Charles A Haugh sold the property to Juan F Argueta & James Christopher Jr for $200,000 on October 30.

HARWOOD HEIGHTS
4811 N Olcott Ave 412, Harwood Heights 60706-3453: Domenico Sparano sold the property to Krzysztof Majewski for $255,000 on October 29.
6006-3453: Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp sold the property to Vito Brunetti & Angela Brunetti for $125,000 on October 30.
6074 W Bloomingdale Ave, Elmwood Park 60707-4118: Lona Kovacs sold the property to Susan Palm for $170,000 on October 30.
7200 W Palmer St, Elmwood Park 60707-2765: Vanessa Fugate sold the property to Peter Conroy & Monica Geils for $245,000 on October 31.

NORRIDGE
5129 N Moreland Ave, Norridge 60706-3249: Geraldine E Gibbons Estate sold the property to Rafal Stopa & Lucas M Fukas for $205,000 on November 3.

PARK RIDGE
1231 Brophy Ave, Park Ridge 60068-5225: James L Ballard sold the property to Robert Chase & Mary Chase for $220,000 on October 30.
234 East Ave, Park Ridge 60068-3508: Martin Glowiak sold the property to Jacqueline Mathews for $407,000 on October 30.
300 N Deed Rd 2g, Park Ridge 60068-3770: Lee Trust sold the property to Diane Brady & Timothy Brady for $965,000 on October 31.

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Get up and go
Your guide to the weekend and beyond
Every Thursday
MORTON GROVE

MONDAY, NOV. 24

MGPL Kids: Monday Morning Playgroup
10:30 a.m.: Drop-in play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver to introduce young children to the library in a low-key, unstructured session. Call 847-929-5102 or visit www.mgpl.org for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, Free.

Knitting Roundtable for Adults
2:30 p.m.: Work through knitting projects and socialize with fellow knitters. Expert knitters can show you how to solve knitting challenges. Call 847-929-5102 or visit www.mgpl.org for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Free.

Yarn Gang
4 p.m.: Kids in grades one and up are invited to try their hand at knitting, crocheting or other yarn crafts. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

TUESDAY, NOV. 25

Bingo Club
10 a.m.: Gather at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and conversation, followed by bingo at 10 a.m. Monetary donations are requested each week for coffee, sweets and prizes. Bingo cards are 50 cents each. Contact the North Shore Senior Center to register or for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-974-6030. $6 members, $10 nonmembers (covers entire semester).

MGPL Kids: Listen Up!
10 a.m.: Drop-in story and play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver. Call 847-929-5102 or visit www.mgpl.org/kids for more information. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Free.

HAPPENING NEARBY

THURSDAY, NOV. 20

Family Reading Night
5 p.m.: Celebrate reading together as a family at this annual statewide event. Family reading packets are available at the youth services desk, along with cushions for cozy reading in the library. Glenview Public Library, 1350 Glenview Road, Glenview. Call 847-729-7500.

HiP Arthroscopy: What You Need to Know
5:30 p.m.: Discover how hip arthroscopy, a procedure allowing physicians to view the inside of your hip on a TV screen, can help diagnose and treat hip pain. Also learn about both operative and non-operative treatment options as well as physical therapy. Presented by orthopedic surgeon Jay F. Deimel, Illinois Bone & Joint Institute. Refreshments provided. Glenview Terrace, 1515 Greenwood Road, Glenview. Call 847-832-4629.

Holiday book signing

Book Discussion: The Family
6:30 p.m.: Northwestern University's Phyllis Lasser explores how author David Laskin brings to life the story of his ancestors who were swept away by the Holocaust. Reservations required. Call Sputerus at 312-322-1773. Illinois Holocaust Museum, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie.

Battle of the Books Orientation
7:30 p.m.: Open to registered participants and parents. No registration is required. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Call 847-729-7500.

Skokie Photographic Society
7:30 p.m.: The group meets on the third Thursday of each month. All levels of photographic skill are welcome. Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-677-9324.

FRIDAY, NOV. 21

Share the Warmth
9 a.m.: Volunteers wanted. Join a group of warm, friendly, supportive women to prepare one-of-a-kind fleece blankets for chemo patients. The basic crochet stitch can be taught if needed. Bring lunch if you would like. This group often stays until 2 or 3 p.m. North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield. Call 847-784-6000.

Rhyme Time
9:30 a.m.: A fast-paced story and rhyme time for children 2-6 with a caregiver. Niles Public Library District, 8600 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

Caregivers of Children with Mental Illness Support Group
9:30 a.m.: Sessions facilitated by a volunteer from the National Alliance on Mental Illness. For more information, call 847-716-2232 or visit www.nami-icns.org. Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette.

Rise and Shine Story Time
10 a.m.: 12:00-minute story time for children ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Niles Public Library District, 9670 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

STEAM Starts
10 a.m.: A self-guided exploration of science, technology, engineering, art and math for kids ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-9323.

Drop-In Grief Support
10:30 a.m.: These sessions are open to any adult whose loss has occurred between three and 24 months prior to the session. Donations are welcome. Midwest CareCenter, 2050 Claire Court, Glenview. Call 847-467-7423.

Ceramics Showcase
5 p.m.: This annual ceramics show and sale features local potters and benefits McGaw YMCA youth programming. McGaw YMCA, 1000 Grove St., Evanston. Call 847-475-7400.

SATURDAY, NOV. 22

12th Annual Blanket of Dreams
8 a.m.: Participants make blankets for the homeless 8 a.m.-6 p.m. that will be donated to Franciscan Outreach. Those who plan to attend should make 1 yard of fleece for an adult blanket and/or 2 yards for a child’s blanket. Free refreshments are provided throughout the day. For more information, call or text Teri at 847-456-8267. Mary Seat of Wisdom Clark Ministry Center, 635 S. Clifton Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-456-8267.

Shabbat Children’s Program
9 a.m.: Children in Shabbat Kids Club can enjoy a program that includes davening, interactive games, a healthy snack and stories. Lubavitich Ghabad of Skokie, 4059 Dempster St., Skokie. Call 847-677-1770.

Skokie Art Guild
9:30 a.m.: The group offers figure drawing workshops every Saturday. There are live models but no instructor. Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie. Call 847-920-9445.

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Stories Wrapped in Strings
9:30 a.m.: Parents and caregivers of young children are invited to join once a month for a free new story time series, Stories Wrapped in String, at the Chicago showroom on Saturdays and at the Wilmette shop on Saturdays. William Harris Lee & Co. staff and special guest artists from local studios and music schools will perform classical and improvised music accompanying stories read by actress, Deidre Harrison, William Harris Lee & Co., 1136 Central Ave., Wilmette. Call 847-920-9445.

Skokie Art Guild
9:30 a.m.: The group offers figure drawing workshops every Saturday. There are live models but no instructor. Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie. Call 847-920-9445. $20 per session; $12 for guild members.

Al-Anon

Baby Signs: Family Sign, Say and Play
11 a.m.: Children ages birth to 5 years can learn sign language with their families and Jamie Stevens, an ASL interpreter and instructor. No registration is required. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Call 847-729-7500.
**FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**

**CALENDAR**

**Holiday How-To's: Annual Holiday Demonstration Weekend**
11 a.m.: It’s time to deck the halls! Stop by Chalet for free, 20-minute “how-to’s” focused on creative decorating and entertaining. Check out expert demonstrations of Winter Containers, Outdoor Lighting, Decorating with Ribbon and Mantel and Staircase Decorating. Chalet Landscape, Nursery and Garden Center, 3132 Lake Ave., Wilmette. Call 847-256-0561. Free.

**Fun, Fancy and Filled Cupcakes**
2 p.m.: Glenbrook South High School foods and nutrition teacher Kelli McDonald shows how to be creative while decorating cupcakes with frosting, cream filling and other treats. Limited to 20 participants ages 13-18. Registration is required. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Call 847-729-7500.

**3D Photography Show and Exhibition**
3 p.m.: The Chicago Stereo Camera Club hosts its 56th Annual "Chicago Lighthouse International Exhibition of Stereo Photography." The public is invited to attend any of the two presentations featuring this unique form of 3-dimensional photography, submitted by photographic enthusiasts from around the world. All funds raised benefit the Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired. Glenview Police Station, 2500 E. Lake Ave., Glenview. Call 847-729-5000. $6 minimum donation.

**‘All You Can Eat’ Pasta Dinner**
4:30 p.m.: Boy Scout Troop 943 hosts a pasta dinner that includes a salad bar, beverage and dessert. Attendees can bring nonperishable food donation to receive a freeaffle ticket. Donations benefit the St. Vincent DePaul food drive. One free ticket per person. There is also a Split the Pot raffle with tickets being $1 each. St. Monica Academy, 5115 N. Mont Clare Ave., Chicago. Call 773-631-7880. $5-$8.

**38th Annual Lincolnwood Turkey Trot**
8:45 a.m.: Lace up your running shoes, bring a non-perishable food item to donate and join the Village of Lincolnwood for the 38th Annual Turkey Trot. This historic 5K/10K run, 5K fitness walk and Drumstick Dash for kids ages 10 and under is the perfect way to kick off the holiday season. Each November, this Lincolnwood tradition brings families together to participate in a fun race or fitness walk to help the Niles Township Food Pantry put food on the table this Thanksgiving for those in need. This CARA Certified 5K and 10K race features a flat, fast course perfect for novice as well as experienced runners. Proesel Park, 7055 N. Kostner Ave., Lincolnwood. Call 847-677-9740. $30-$35.

**Artisan Faire**
9 a.m.: Sisterhood Temple Beth Israel presents "Artisan Faire" with jewelry, dyed clothing, terrariums, scarves, cards, fused glass, upcycled mittens, soaps, Judaica, cookbooks and other fabulous wares. Free gift wrap! Raffles and food for purchase. No admittance charge. Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. Call 847-675-0951.

**St. Catherine Laboure Christmas Bazaar**

**Teen Substance Abuse Awareness Presentation**
10:30 a.m.: TJM congregants Officer Jeff Gordon, Lincolnwood Police Department, and Andrea Varol, Rehabilitation Counselor, addresses teen substance abuse and how to seek help in dealing with this problem. This program is for adults only. All are welcome including friends, teachers, principals, and anyone who could benefit from this presentation. Temple Judea Mizpah, 5610 Niles Center Road, Skokie. Call 847-676-1560.

**Low Vision Study & Support Group**
10 a.m.: This is an interactive exchange of ideas and information to increase knowledge and help attendees to retain their independence while getting the support they need. High and low-tech solutions, community resources and adjustment issues will be discussed. A new co-facilitator will join the group — Michael Henson, Vocational Rehabilitation Instructor with the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services, Bureau of Blind Services. Michael has 20+ years of experience leading low vision support groups. RSVP to Melissa at (847) 510-6200. The Chicago Lighthouse North, 222 Waukegan Road, Glenview.

**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.

**Book Club for People with Low Vision**
11:30 a.m.: Those with low vision and a love for reading can join The Chicago Lighthouse North's new book club. At the first meeting members brainstorm book ideas for the group and complete applications for anyone not enrolled in the Talking Books program. The Talking Books program is available to U.S. residents whose low vision, blindness or physical handicap makes it difficult to read a standard printed page. The digital Talking-Book Player/equipment is mailed to members at no cost, as well as all audio book requests. Friends, family members and caretakers are invited to participate as well. The Chicago Lighthouse North, 222 Waukegan Road, Glenview. Call 847-510-6200.

**ST. CATHERINE LABOREE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

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847-486-9200
Help Squad
Customer seeks removal of improper ComEd charges

Dear Help Squad,
I am in need of your assistance. The ComEd bill for my late father’s residence has been added to my ComEd bill. His name was on both accounts, but his significant other’s name was also on the account for his residence, and she still lives there. When my father passed away on June 21, his significant other stopped paying the ComEd bill (and all other utility bills) associated with their residence. ComEd has added her outstanding balance of $531.57 to my account and has refused to remove it. When I spoke with ComEd on Sept. 17, I was told to fax a copy of my father’s death certificate and a statement requesting the charges to my account be reversed back to the original account, which I did. Now I have received another ComEd bill containing charges from my father’s former residence. ComEd removed my father’s name from the account, but did not remove the outstanding charges. If I don’t pay the balance, it will show up on my credit report — and this is not my bill. My father’s significant other still remains in the house and ComEd is not seeking payment from her. Help Squad, I need your assistance with this matter.

Kathy
Waukegan

Help Squad started by contacting Kathy to obtain the account information for both her and her late father’s ComEd accounts. We also obtained a copy of the fax she sent to ComEd on Sept. 17, notifying the utility of her father’s death and explaining that the other individual listed on his account would now be responsible for paying the electric bill.

We then called ComEd’s customer service number and received the following message: “We are currently experiencing higher than normal call volume. We will be extending our hours of operation to 9 p.m. today. If possible, please try your call again later.”

With expediency in mind, the standard ComEd customer service route was not the path to take on this day.

Help Squad looked up ComEd’s public relations number and called that instead. There we reached ComEd Communications Manager John Schoen. Help Squad briefly explained Kathy’s situation to him and sent an email with more details. Within a few minutes, we received a reply from John stating that he had turned Kathy’s complaint over to a customer care manager and he would be back in touch once he had more information.

Two days later Help Squad received the following email from John: “[Kathy’s] father was the primary holder of two ComEd accounts — his and his daughter’s account. When his residence account was closed, the balance was transferred to his daughter’s account. We received the necessary documentation to adjust [Kathy’s] account in late September and recognize that the modification should have been made in a timelier manner. We have removed the charges from [Kathy’s] account and apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. We also attempted to contact [Kathy] to communicate the resolution.”

That evening Help Squad received a call from Kathy, who excitedly shared the following: “I received a phone call from a ComEd rep today with the greatest news! Thanks to Help Squad the charges will be removed from my account, and I will even get a credit of $1 plus change as reimbursement for late fees. The $531.57 has now gone back to the original account and, if I am not mistaken, the rep stated [the current tenant] will be liable for the charges. I truly can’t thank you enough. Help Squad is the greatest!”

Thank you, Kathy. It was our pleasure to assist you.

Need help?
Did a utilities company overcharge you? Did a boutique deny your request for a return? Are you the victim of fraudulent business practices? Is someone just exhibiting bad business behavior? Let Help Squad make the call for you. Send your letters, your complaints, your injustices and your story ideas to HelpSquad@pioneerlocal.com and we will be happy to help you.

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Whether it’s craftsmanship, construction or something completely unique, you may be surprised at how many jobs are connected to the things you love. So bring your passion to pioneerlocal.com/monster and start searching. Who knows, you might find the perfect opportunity to put your passion to work.

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Garvey's Office Products, the Niles-based office supply distributor, has earned the 2014 Illinois Family Business of the Year award.

The annual award comes courtesy of the Family Business Center, the networking center operated by Loyola University's Quinlan School of Business. Garvey's is the state's largest independent office supply distributor. It was founded 88 years ago and has been run by the Garvey family since 1964.

The award was presented on Nov. 12 at a gala that took place at Four Seasons Hotel in Chicago. In a prepared statement, company officials said the award wasn't just a triumph for the company, but a welcome recognition of its culture.

Garvey's Office Supplies opened in Chicago in 1926. Bernard Garvey Sr. went to work for the original owner in 1954, and bought the company in 1964. Thirteen years ago, Garvey's moved to Niles, settling at its current location, 7500 Caldwell Ave., six years ago.

Garvey had eight children, and today six co-own the business and are involved in various capacities. Bernie Garvey serves as president, Kevin and Dan Garvey serve as sales managers, Ken Garvey serves as the Operations Director, Mike Garvey serves as account representative, and Sheila Gartland (nee Garvey) serves as the marketing director.

The company credits its longevity to experience, good customer service, an extensive inventory, and flexibility and speed when it comes to orders, according to the statement.

Garvey's takes pride in giving back to the community, the statement said. Since 2007, it has run the Recycle for a Reason program, which recycles toner cartridges and electronics and donates the resulting profits to charity.

Some of the charities include the American Heart Association, Girl Scouts of America, the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Salvation Army and The Chicago Lighthouse. The company makes donations to various charities outside the scope of the program once every three months.

More recently, Garvey's became a Food Drive Transportation Partner with the Greater Chicago Food Depository, helping the charitable organization transport donations.

"Hunger is a year-round issue," said Gartland.

The Family Business of the Year Awards have been presented for 21 years to recognize family businesses that contribute positively to their communities.

"The Illinois Family Business of the Year Awards program gives us the opportunity to celebrate the incredible contributions of family business to our communities and our economy," said Andrew Keyt, the center's executive director.

The awards are determined based on several criteria, including how many generations a business has been family-owned, how much it contributes to its field and community, how innovative it is, and whether or not it is committed to both business and family values.

The awards have several categories. Garvey's was a winner in the Medium Business category for businesses with 50-250 employees.

Bernie Garvey said that the award wasn't just an accomplishment for the company — it's a recognition of the employees and customers that make the company great.

"We're honored and thrilled to be recognized by Loyola University for the Illinois Family Business of the Year Award," he said. "But the award goes far beyond the siblings. Our co-workers and customers are what make the family culture at Garvey's special."
Get up and go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond

Every Thursday

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2014-15
BOYS
HOOPS
PREVIEW

Stevenson prepares for a year of great expectations

St. Joseph legend Gene Pingatore enters 45th season in charge

Former state champs look back at their title-winning seasons
Led by four-year players Jalen Brunson and Connor Cashaw, Stevenson is about to embark on a quest to become Lake County's first state champion.

By John P. Borneman
jborneman@tribpub.com, @Pioneer_JPB

Lincolnshire — On a 29-degree night in November, the gym at Stevenson is quiet, save for the sound of squeaking sneakers, a bouncing basketball and the occasional coach barking instructions.

Soon, the Stevenson boys basketball team will be hard-pressed to find time on the court without a pep band blaring and hundreds — or thousands — of fans screaming. But tonight coach Pat Ambrose, clad in a white T-shirt with the Patriots' logo and "MOTIV8" printed on the front, stands casually on the sideline with a whistle around his neck. He's putting his team through a defensive drill, and senior stars Jalen Brunson and Connor Cashaw are up next.

The fiercely competitive drill requires Brunson and Cashaw to defend their basket against a 3-on-2 attack. They have to work together, shifting to cover all three offensive players. Ambrose is counting how many consecutive stops the defensive team makes.

"We have to make it competitive, not only because we're good, but to engage them," Ambrose said. "We've got to make it hard. More than just a drill."

The duo's first time through the drill does not go well — they surrender a layup. Brunson doesn't like the way they defended, so before they go again, he meets Cashaw in the paint. Cashaw emerges from the huddle shaking his head, but they earn a stop on the next possession.

Plenty of factors will determine how great Stevenson can be this season, but Brunson and Cashaw are chief among them.

Despite a jam-packed offseason spent visiting campuses, making his college decision (you might've heard he picked Villanova over Illinois) and winning a gold medal with Team USA at the FIBA Americas Under-18 Championship, Brunson found time to work out with Cashaw, a recent Rice commit.

Rarely did it take more than a text or call from one to the other to get both players in the gym.

"We'll drop anything just to go shoot, because that's really what our life's about," Brunson said Nov. 7 while wearing a navy blue pullover with the Villanova logo embroidered on the left breast and a flat-brimmed Villanova snapback turned backward before the start of practices. "People call him my sidekick, but no. Connor's another great player on the team."

"I think we push each other to our limits, and once we get to our weaknesses. Layups might be off-limits one game, and the next game might be mid-range jumpers only. The two spend so much time on the court, it wasn't uncommon for the games to devolve into defensive struggles."

"Sometimes we can't even score because we know what we're going to do," Cashaw said, whose daily practice routine calls for him to make at least 300 shots. "Eventually he'll pick up on my moves or I'll pick up on his and it's just a grind-it-out game."

Who gets the better of the grudge matches between the 6-2 Brunson and the 6-4 Cashaw?

"It's on and off," Cashaw said with a laugh. "He'll win one and I'll win one. That's the fun of it all. It's a challenge when we play against each other." That competitive drive spills over into practices with the team, where Cashaw and Brunson lead every drill. Lines are no barrier, as both players have been known to cut if they want to get another shot — and don't even think about subbing out Brunson.

"I'm not trying to be mean, but they'll push other kids out of the way," Ambrose said. "[Brunson] won't come out. And our kids know better than to ask him."

"He wants to be competitive every drill."

Stevenson's past two Class 4A postseason experiences are a major reason for that.

Two times, the Patriots have been tantalizingly close to winning Lake County's first state championship. Two times, they've come away with less. In 2013, Stevenson rode a hot streak into a surprising berth in the state final, where it ran into Jabari Parker and a Sime-
on team that won a fourth straight title.

Last season might have hurt more. The 31-win Patriots had lost just one game all season before falling to Young 75-68 in the state semifinals. Brunson broke a state record with 56 points, but his night unraveled when he was briefly suspended by the IHSA after the Peoria Journal Star website published a photo that alleged he made a two-handed obscene gesture toward the Young crowd.

He was reinstated before a win over Edwardsville in the third-place game, but the situation was a mess.

"Obviously what happened in that game — whatever it was or whatever it wasn't — the outcome is that we lost, and that's all I remember from that game," Brunson said. "We've had two years to [win a title], and we were pretty close. This is the last year and we're still empty handed."

The biggest difference Brunson has noticed with this year's team is the quiet.

Stevenson generates local hype and has garnered national interest — the Patriots will play tournaments in West Virginia and Massachusetts — but with Brunson and Cashaw already committed to colleges, there isn't quite as much recruiting noise.

"Phone's a little quieter now," Brunson said. "I only talk to Villanova now. It used to be every night I'd have to talk on the phone [to recruiters] for about an hour. "I have a little bit more time on my hands." He should also have a little more help this season. In addition to Cashaw, senior starters Matt Johnson and Parker Nichols return. Johnson, a 5-11 guard, gives the Patriots another ballhandling option who does not lack confidence.

"It's championship or bust, and that's what we talk about in the weight room," Johnson said. "When we're doing ab work, we talk about, 'Who wants to win a state championship? That's all we talk about.'

Stevenson will be as guard-heavy as ever this season, but the 6-5 Nichols could be developing into more of an asset in the post after working on his shooting during the offseason. The Patriots have to replace last year's top defender, the graduated Matt Morrissey, but Cashaw took it upon himself to fill that void in the offseason with a two-step plan.

"Lateral quickness and guarding Jalen," Cashaw said.

If that works, Stevenson will have one more piece in place for its drive toward that elusive state title. The process was just beginning when, at the end of their fourth practice of the season, the Patriots met at center court for a brief huddle and some stretching. The season opener — the first of many tiny steps toward Peoria — was less than two weeks away. The players ambled through the hallways out into a frigid night, passing the Stevenson football stadium with its empty bleachers and darkened lights as they headed to the parking lot. A light flurry dusted the pavement with a thin layer of snow.

It was pretty quiet.
**SPARTANS**

ing out of the way. I was just too excited to realize what I was doing. Nowadays, almost every time we get together, my teammates like to remind me about that moment.”

**SINCE HIGH SCHOOL:** Gold attempted to walk on at Michigan State after high school, but he ended up transferring to DePaul, where he played for two seasons. Upon graduation, he lived in Japan for nearly three years. He said a highlight was coaching junior high basketball, and teaching the Japanese students the “American” way to play the game. “I even taught them a few simple plays that we used at GBN,” said Gold, who’s 28 years old and makes his home in Chicago.

**NAME:** Zach Kelly
**ROLE ON TEAM:** Starting forward, junior
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** “We played in the KMOX Shootout in St. Louis. It was an event that brought in all the top teams in the country to play each other. So besides the competition being good and winning our game, it was fun to travel somewhere outside of the Chicago area and see how we matched up with people nationally. We also had some funny moments off the court that trip and may have had a little too much fun with some of the other teams in the hotel. Some guys got caught being out past curfew and coach [Dave Weber] said he was going to make them run sprints when we got back to school. The sprints ended quickly because Malick [Valliani] passed out after the ninth or 10th one.”

**SINCE HIGH SCHOOL:** Basketball has remained a big part of Kelly’s life.

He and Sean Wallis, Glenbrook North’s starting point guard in 2005, won two NCAA Division III national championships at Washington University in St. Louis. Kelly, a 6-7 forward, then enjoyed a short semi-professional career in the English Basketball League before moving back to the U.S. Kelly recently wrapped up a 2 1/2-year stretch as an aide to President Obama’s Chief of Staff. The 27-year-old lives in Philadelphia.

**NAME:** Jonathan Radke
**ROLE ON TEAM:** Starting forward, junior
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** “Embracing the student body after our final game probably is the one I will remember the most, but a close second was laughing at the jokes of [senior] Ryan Richardson during our trip to St. Louis. He was a goofball, and I don’t know how else to say it. I don’t remember anything specific, but I do remember crying because I was laughing so hard. I do wish I could remember some of the stuff he said. I do remember him sneaking us Mike and Ike candy before games. He definitely was the jokester of the team.”

**SINCE HIGH SCHOOL:** Like every other starter from that championship season, Radke continued his career in college, playing at Case Western Reserve. But injuries forced him to quit after his sophomore season. Radke now lives in Manhattan and is an assistant vice president at Citigroup. Basketball remains a big part of the 27-year-old’s life as he plays in two recreational leagues. “I have met many of my best friends through basketball.”

**NAME:** Jon Scheyer
**ROLE ON TEAM:** Starting guard, junior
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** “I remember that Conant game [37-36 win in Class AA sectional final at Conant] like it was yesterday. With about three minutes to go and leading by one, I missed the front end of a one-and-one. Looking back, I don’t know how I would have handled that if we would have lost. That’s how fragile basketball games can be. In the locker room, we found out about coach Weber’s mom passing away. I’ve never seen a group go from pure joy to sadness in such a short time. We really felt for him, and we wanted to win [the state title for him].”

**SINCE HIGH SCHOOL:** A McDonald’s All-American and Illinois’ Mr. Basketball as a senior, Scheyer played four seasons at Duke and was a starter on the Blue Devils’ 2010 national championship team. Undrafted out of college, Scheyer played on the Miami Heat’s summer league team and was invited to the Los Angeles Clippers’ training camp after college, but he never made it on an NBA roster. After retiring as a player, the 27-year-old Scheyer is in his second season as an assistant coach on Duke’s staff, alongside legendary coach Mike Krzyzewski.

**NAME:** Sean Wallis
**ROLE ON TEAM:** Starting point guard, senior
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** “There are certain games you will always remember. For me, it was when we beat Conant in the sectional final at Conant. They were down one with about five and half minutes left in the game and stalled to take the last shot. We stood off them the whole time. It was pretty wild. They got an open layup and then got the rebound and had a follow-up chance that barely missed. We didn’t have another game within 10 points.”

**SINCE HIGH SCHOOL:** The 6-2 Wallis went on to star at Washington University in St. Louis, teaming up with Zach Kelly to win two NCAA Division III national titles. After the second one, Wallis was named the tournament’s Most Outstanding Player. The 28-year-old lives in Chicago and works in marketing for a sports and entertainment company, which he said is involved with the new development around Wrigley Field.

For recollections from other members of the 2005 Glenbrook North state championship team, visit northbrook.chicagotribune.com.
The Wizard of Westchester

In his 45th year at the helm, Illinois’ winningest boys basketball coach has wealth of talent

BY JOHN P. BORNEMAN

WESTCHESTER — Sitting behind the desk in his office at St. Joseph, the most successful coach in Illinois boys basketball history is talking about the number he can’t forget.

As he talks, Gene Pingatore taps his hands on the desk. Some of the knuckles are swollen, the side effect of years spent playing 16-inch softball without a glove. Wearing well-pressed black pants, a crisp white dress shirt and bold red tie, Pingatore is days away from the first practice of his 45th year as Chargers head coach. The 78-year-old’s first 44 seasons were an unprecedented success, netting a state-record 933 wins and the 1999 Class AA state championship against 327 losses.

Pingatore — or “Ping” — is more than 100 victories clear of the name below him on the career wins list, but it’s clear the number isn’t a subject he enjoys discussing.

“There was a point where I had to always go back and look at what the heck the record is, because I don’t pay attention to that,” Pingatore says, sounding almost wistful. “But now I do it so often, I know it by heart.”

The number will climb this season, the question is by how much.

St. Joseph brings back five starters from a team that won 23 games before a blowout loss to Fenwick in a Class 3A sectional semifinal. You’d have to go all the way back to 1986 to find another St. Joseph team that returned that many starters. Senior point guard Glynn Watson (a Northwestern commit) is back, as is classmate and shooting guard Jordan Ash (Nebraska). Junior Nick Rakocevic, a highly recruited 6-10 forward, gives the Chargers a third Division I talent. According to Pingatore, senior guard Joffery Brown could be a fourth.

On paper, Pingatore says, this team is one of the most talented he’s had in years. But is it talented enough to win St. Joseph’s first sectional since 2007? What about dreams of a second state title?

“It’s hard when it’s expected,” Pingatore says. “How do you keep them focused? How do you keep them working?”

“When we won it [in 1999], nobody expected it and as a result, it was easier.”

Cicero roots

Born in 1936 in Cicero, Pingatore’s childhood was shaped by a strong family dealing with the aftermath of the Great Depression and World War II. In Paul Przyma’s new book, “Coaches of Chicago,” Pingatore talked about rationing and recalled taking a wagon to the firehouse to pick up his family’s allotment of dried goods like beans and rice.

“The family was a hardworking family,” Pingatore said. “We never — for the most part — lacked anything, but we worked out butts off to get it.”

Pingatore didn’t make things easier when, at the imaginative age of 6 or 7, a radio program inspired him to “explore the jungle.” He got his sister, lit a candle and went into a closet where recently cleaned curtains were still wrapped in cellophane. The curtains caught on fire, and when Pingatore’s great grandmother used the same greasy frying pan she used to make breakfast to dump water on the flames, the family’s entire apartment burned.

“Just our apartment burned, but we had nothing,” said Pingatore, whose family went to live with his grandparents down the street. “It was a really interesting time to grow up, so you really cherished everything.”

In “Coaches of Chicago,” Pingatore goes into great detail about the importance of his tight-knit family, saying he “looked at family as more than family. I enjoyed their company. They were like friends.”

Basketball may be Pingatore’s life’s work, but family remains a priority. That extends to the families of his players.

“He’s always talking about basketball,” Rakocevic said. “No matter where I see him, it’s always about, ‘How many shots did you get up today? What are you going to do today to be the best?’

“It’s always basketball to him, but he’ll always ask how your family is doing.”

Journey to St. Joseph

Pingatore says the number only serves to remind him that he’s been around a long time, and he’s right — he has been around a long time.

He came to St. Joseph as the foundation was being poured in the ground, taking a position as a history teacher when the Christian Brothers founded the school in 1960 (he’s now the director of alumni affairs). Pingatore had attended St. Mel (now Providence St. Mel), an all-boys high school that was also run by the Christian Brothers, enjoying a standout prep career that included an upset victory over a heavily favored DuSable team in the 1954 City Championship.

Pingatore, a 5-11.5 forward in high school — “I’ve shrunk,” he said, now. “That’s traumatic” — went on to play basketball for Loyola of Los Angeles, where as a defensive-minded guard he ran up against San Francisco center and future Boston Celtics legend Bill Russell.

“My only contact with Russell is that he knocked one of my shots into the second balcony,” he said with a laugh.

After graduation, Pingatore returned to the Chicago area to be around family and pursue a coaching career. He caught on at St. Joseph and spent nine years as an assistant under Pat Callahan, the team’s first coach and athletic director. Pingatore came close to leaving several times over the years, but St. Joseph always pulled him back.

Bobby Knight, whom Pingatore met while Knight was recruiting St. Joseph’s Tom Miller to play at Army in the mid-1960s, offered

SEE PINGATORE, NEXT PAGE »
CATCHING UP WITH ST. JOSEPH’S 1999 STATE CHAMPIONS

Chargers enjoyed every step on path to lone title

Former St. Joe’s players recall the lessons they learned from both losing and winning

BY GEORGE M. WILCOX
pwilcox@pioneerlocal.com, @gwmwilcox

Legendary coach Gene Pingatore, the state’s winningest boys basketball coach, captured his only state championship in 1999 when the Chargers (32-1) won their last 24 consecutive games and beat Warren 61-51 in the Class AA final.

Starting junior guard Jabari Mattix hit the game-winning 3-pointer with two seconds remaining in the 57-54 victory over Proviso East in the Morton Sectional final. Mattix had 12 points and nine assists in that game.

Pingatore an assistant job on multiple occasions, but Pingatore said the timing was never right. Pingatore enrolled in Kent College of Law in Chicago in 1968, only to drop out when he decided he’d rather watch St. Joseph’s first-ever varsity football game in Waterloo, Iowa, than prepare for class.

In 1969, frustrated by his inability to catch on as a head coach somewhere, Pingatore made up his mind to get out of coaching. He had a job lined up with the sporting goods department of Aldens Catalog Store when Callahan had a December falling out with the St. Joseph administration. Callahan resigned, and Pingatore became the interim coach.

“I almost got out,” Pingatore said. “[Callahan] didn’t have to resign, but he resigned. ... I think he definitely was going to leave, and if he waited until the end of the season they would’ve opened it up to all kinds of other people.

“He left in December, and I took over and I never left.”

Old school

In the heat of an intense practice, it’s not hard to imagine a St. Joseph point guard wishing Pingatore had left.

For Pingatore, basketball starts with the point guard position, and he’s had plenty of talented ones at St. Joseph. Isaiah Thomas is the obvious name, but there has also been players like Tony Freeman; Brandon Watkins; William Gates, whose career at St. Joseph was chronicled in the “Hoop Dreams” documentary; Demetri McCamey — whose framed picture with former Charger Evan Turner hangs on the wall in Pingatore’s office — and now Watson.

“If you have an excellent point guard, you’re always going to be competitive,” Pingatore said. “If you have a seven-foot stud and no point guard, you’re in trouble.”

Unfortunately for the point guards, that usually means being held to a higher standard.

“It’s tough having a coach like that that’ll stop everything and get on you about everything just so you can be the best you can,” said Watson, who averaged 15 points a game last season. “It’s hard to do in practice because he’ll stay on you, probably the most.”

Watson, who happens to be McCamey’s half brother, said Pingatore will get on him if he feels Watson isn’t working hard enough, or even if he feels Watson isn’t pushing his teammates to work hard enough. Watson said Pingatore will almost never admit the Chargers are having a good practice until after the fact.

The coach’s approach can take some getting used to, but it’s tough to argue with the results. Pingatore likes to have his teams play high-pressure man-to-man defense, then get out and run. He presses when he has the right athletes to do so.

“He’s a tough guy to play for because he’s so old school,” said Ash, a 14-ppg scorer a year ago. “He has a lot of guys who want to play a certain way, but he sticks to the basics. He sticks to the fundamentals. And really once you do that, then that’s when you add what you have on to it.

“He’s going to teach you the same things, and if you do it wrong, he’s going to say it again like he said the first time. ... When you see the younger guys, it’s like a shock or an eye-opener because it’s their first time with coach Ping.”

‘I’ll know’

The winningest coach in Illinois boys basketball history knows his days on the bench are numbered.

Pingatore isn’t a big fan of the rise of AAU basketball, lamenting the lack of defense and the way players disperse to run different systems in the offseason. He’s had to close his practices in an effort to limit outside distractions. He readily admits that if high school basketball was like it is now when he started coaching, he might not have lasted. He can still relate to his players, but it’s more difficult than it’s ever been.

“Sometimes they don’t understand what I’m talking about,” Pingatore said. “I might use some words they’ve never heard of. ... It’s a different generation, and I’ve got to realize that.”

But just how many seasons does Pingatore have left? He answers that question with a story about a recreational basketball league he used to play in with a group of friends. They were still competing in their 40s, until one year when they ran into a team of younger players who eschewed the league tradition of playing a soft zone in favor of a full-court press. Pingatore was running down the court when he heard John Hornacek, his assistant of 25 years, call his name. He turned just in time to catch Hornacek’s pass with his face, his glasses shattering.

“I said, ‘That’s it, I’m done,’ Pingatore said. ‘That’s how I quit. I walked off the court.

‘I’ll know, I could walk in the gym today and say, ‘Hey, I’m done.’ That’s the way I think it’s going to happen with me.”
center Jon Brown, a banker in Florida; and 6-5 senior forward Steven Morgan, who is a self-published author based in Indianapolis.

Pioneer Press caught up with other players from that 2004-05 team.

NAME: Brandon Watkins
ROLE ON THE TEAM: Captain and point guard, Senior
FAVORITE MEMORY: "Almost everything. From starting off in the preseason rankings, to Ping's 600th victory, to losing to Dunbar in the first game of the Proviso West Holiday Tournament, to going on to win the consolation bracket, and so on. I enjoyed going to practice day in and day out because it was a battle every day and we made each other better and held each other accountable for the success or failure of the team. I can remember playing Proviso East in the sectional at Morton High School that year and it was a tight game. I feel I got called on a bogus foul and ended up fouling out of the game. I was so hurt and angry that I let my teammates down and we were not going to complete our goal of a state championship. My teammates rallied around me and told me that they would pick me up, we didn't get this far to fall now. We got to that point as a team and would continue our journey as a team. And that's what they did. They won the game and continued on to supersectionals and then onto state to make history."

SINCE HIGH SCHOOL: "I continued my playing career at Penn State on a basketball scholarship. I was fortunate enough to be part of history there as well, making it to the Sweet 16 in 2001 of the NCAA tournament. I had other accolades such as all-Big Ten team, captains award for my team and others. While getting some bits of the NBA, nothing stuck. So I decided to try the European market and it turned out to work very well for me. I played about 10 years in countries such as France, Greece, Turkey, Lithuania, Estonia and Germany. I had highlights, from a scoring title, to newcomer of the year and all-first team in some countries. When I decided to unlace the sneakers and hang it up, my heart took me back to St. Joe's to coach and help the young men there get to the places I have been and hopefully further. After spending two years at the high school ranks, I had the opportunity to coach at the collegiate level. I am currently a graduate assistant for the men's basketball team at Northern Illinois University. While in my second year, I help with scouting, film, player development to name a few. I hope to continue this journey to the highest level possible and run my own program or coach at the professional level."

NAME: Damien McIntosh
ROLE ON THE TEAM: Reserve guard, Senior
FAVORITE MEMORY: "I remember every game. Every game was important. Every game counted. I remember we were underdogs everyday. That was our situation. When we beat King (in the state semifinals, 39-40), I knew we were supposed to win the state title. There was no egos on our team. We all knew our roles and knew what to do. Coach talked to me about [not starting] all the time. He told us to factor in the bigger picture. We were winning."

SINCE HIGH SCHOOL: "I had a scholarship at St. Mary's in San Antonio, but after one year I came back home. I bounced around at a few junior colleges. I run my own company as a civil engineer doing quality control and quality assurance for road construction projects. My daughter, Deasiah McIntosh, who was born around Thanksgiving during my senior year, is playing for the sophomore basketball team at St. Joseph."

NAME: Keith Perry
ROLE ON THE TEAM: Reserve forward, Senior
FAVORITE MEMORY: "Our first game at the Proviso West Tournament was when we lost to Dunbar [71-67]. We were ranked seventh in the state. That was probably the most humbling moment we had that year. It was prime time. It was the game of the night and they blew us off the floor. After that, we never took anyone for granted. That's what woke us up. The timing helped, knowing how big the Proviso West Tournament is. Me and Damien McIntosh felt that knowing we were coming off the bench would make us that much stronger. I was a football player. I was a running back who liked to play basketball. I took that role of being a sixth man."

SINCE HIGH SCHOOL: "I played football at Northern Illinois and was a wide receiver from 1999-2005. I played with a few teammates that would go to the NFL, such as Michael Turner. I am in the mortgage industry as a closing manager for Wells Fargo in Lombard. It's definitely tough [keeping in touch with former teammates]; I'm married and with a 2-year-old daughter."

NAME: Chad Tancil
ROLE ON THE TEAM: Starting guard, Senior
FAVORITE MEMORY: "Talking about Jabari, it would be when he hit the game-winning shot versus Proviso East in the sectional final to get us to the Sweet 16. The game was pretty close. We were ranked behind them. We were No. 2 and they were No. 1. It has always been a rivalry of ours going back to when Isiah and Doc Rivers were playing. That sectional tournament when we beat Proviso West and Proviso East was really fun. Playing Thornridge in the Sweet 16 was really fun. Getting Downstate, we wanted to win one game to bring back a trophy and then we beat East St. Louis and Darius Miles [66-61 in the quarterfinals]."

SINCE HIGH SCHOOL: "I went to St. Ambrose in Davenport [Iowa]. We sent to the NAIA Final Four in my senior year and went a school-record 32-6. We are still the only Final Four team at the school. I am the manager of strategic accounts for G4S Secure Solutions [based in Chicago]."

NAME: Gene Pingatore
ROLE ON THE TEAM: Head coach
FAVORITE MEMORY: "The first time I thought this team was going to be special was in one of our last summer games. We were just putting this group together with kids coming up and kids coming back. We played at Hinsdale South against Hillcrest, which was being touted as one of the top teams in the area coming back that year. We lost in double-overtime in a game that could have gone either way. The way we competed, I just knew we were going to be a special team."

NAME: Joe Glatz
ROLE ON THE TEAM: Assistant coach
FAVORITE MEMORY: "Almost everything. From starting off in the season rankings, to being a state champion and going on to win the state title. That was a dream come true."

NAME: Matt Foster
ROLE ON THE TEAM: Assistant coach
FAVORITE MEMORY: "The first time I thought this team was going to be special was in one of our last summer games. We were just putting this group together with kids coming up and kids coming back. We played at Hinsdale South against Hillcrest, which was being touted as one of the top teams in the area coming back that year. We lost in double-overtime in a game that could have gone either way. The way we competed, I just knew we were going to be a special team."
WORKING OVERTIME

BY JOHN P. BORNEMAN
jborneman@tribpub.com, @Pioneer_JPB

SKOKIE — Gavi Porush never spent much time thinking about where he might go to high school. His grandparents both went to Fasman Yeshiva, an Orthodox Jewish high school for boys in Skokie. His father went to Yeshiva. His uncles went to Yeshiva. It's not hard to guess where many of Porush's childhood friends attend school.

"Most of the kids here I have known my entire life," said Porush, who lives in West Rogers Park.

"This is where I was always going to go."

And just like his father and uncle before him, Porush plays for the Yeshiva boys basketball team. It's not your average varsity experience — students at Yeshiva attend school for parts of six days every week, with some days lasting almost 13 hours. The schedule is so full of academic and religious obligations that it limits practice time to two or three days a week (at best).

With that in mind — and using Porush as a guide — Pioneer Press spent a recent Wednesday at Yeshiva to see what it's like to attend (and play basketball for) one of Illinois' most demanding high schools.

7:30 A.M.

Every day at Yeshiva begins with morning prayers.

Students are still arriving at the campus at 7:30 a.m. They file into a long, low-ceilinged room with six rows of desks, attached end-to-end. Between every few desks are podiums where rabbis wearing white and blue prayer shawls called tallits read aloud in Hebrew from siddurs, or prayer books. The low murmur of prayer is periodically broken up by exclamations from the prayer leader, who is positioned at the front of the room.

Some students begin their prayers. Many more are preparing, finding their prayer books and adjusting their religious clothing. In addition to the yarmulke each student wears atop his head, morning services call for students to wear tefillin. Tefillin are two small leather boxes containing verses from the Torah that are attached by leather straps. One is worn on the bicep with a strap that wraps around the length of the arm seven times. The other is worn on the forehead. Students use small mirrors to ensure the tefillin is positioned directly between the eyes.

"We're sort of in the middle of orthodoxy," assistant principal and director of student affairs Rabbi Mordechai Ginsparg says. "You sort of get a little bit from each spectrum. We're not the most modern orthodox and we're not the most ultra-strict orthodox... We get a nice variety of kids here."

7:45 A.M.

No more stragglers. The school day — and the prayer session — has officially begun.

One of the students at the morning service is Porush, a senior guard for Yeshiva. He's a trim 5-7 with well-coiffed hair and a little stubble on his chin. He's wearing a dark blue polo shirt under a black sweater and brown dress shoes. His attire is fairly standard for Yeshiva students, save for the yarmulke each student wears atop his head, morning services call for students to wear tefillin. Tefillin are two small leather boxes containing verses from the Torah that are attached by leather straps. One is worn on the bicep with a strap that wraps around the length of the arm seven times. The other is worn on the forehead. Students use small mirrors to ensure the tefillin is positioned directly between the eyes.

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8:20 A.M.

Morning prayers end with the announcement that flag football playoffs are set to begin. Also back by popular demand is the school's intramural ultimate frisbee league.

It becomes obvious that those announcements carry a special meaning at Yeshiva. Students attend school from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday and Sunday. They refrain from work or exercise on the Sabbath, which stretches from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday.

The rigorous academic schedule and religious requirements mean it would be difficult for Yeshiva to support another varsity sport to go along with the boys basketball program that has existed since the high school was created 47 years ago. But the school is committed to providing students with recreational outlets. "About seven years ago everybody realized that we needed to increase the amount of extracurricular activities that we had," Ginsparg said. "We put in a baseball diamond with lights, we re-did our baseball diamond, there's soccer goals outside. We realized that the academics were great, but the kids need more."

9:05 A.M.

Time for the first class of the day — Jewish studies. Porush makes his way across Yeshiva's campus to an octagonal building with stained glass windows and a green domed roof that stands sharp against a bright blue sky. Above the dome is a light fixture made to look like a menorah, the Jewish symbol for Hanukkah. They speak to each other like, well, a cafeteria. Students grab their food from the assembly line along one wall and take it back to long tables sitting side by side in a large open room. On this particular Wednesday, the menu features oatmeal, scrambled or hard-boiled eggs, cereal and toast. It's standard breakfast fare, but some days are better than others.

"Thursdays are the best days, because they have pancakes," Porush says.

Breakfast is served.

The cafeteria at Yeshiva looks like, well, a cafeteria. Students grab their food from the assembly line along one wall and take it back to long tables sitting side by side in a large open room. On this particular Wednesday, the menu features oatmeal, scrambled or hard-boiled eggs, cereal and toast. It's standard breakfast fare, but some days are better than others.

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The meal is over, and students go back to school. They file into the school by popular demand is the school's intramural ultimate frisbee league.

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Danielle Panabaker on her journey from Naperville to network TV stardom
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The luxe shopping destination welcomes the sparkling newcomer to its expansive beauty repertoire. Stop by the Foundation Floor to learn more about the art-driven, philanthropic color line and get tips on how to create matte looks for the season with the brand's new Core Collection. Nov. 22, 3-7 p.m., 15 E. Oak; Barneys.com

Brandon Marshall
Thanksgiving
Earn some good karma for the Bears by giving back with wide receiver Brandon Marshall. Through Nov. 19, he and Harry Caray's are asking Chicagoans to deliver new, unwrapped holiday gifts for Maryville Academy students to any of the restaurant's six city locations; Marshall will present the gifts to the kids at a special Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 24. Harrycarays.com

Blendique
Try your hand at winemaking with this new service from Chicagoan Billy Dim. Use the custom blending kits to mix varietals at home and, once you have a blend you like, upload your perfected recipe to the company's website, create a personalized label and order your own one-of-a-kind wine. Blending kits start at $119.95; Blendique.com

Sofitel Chicago's 'Revealed'
Curated by Olivier Widmaier Picasso, grandson of Pablo Picasso, this striking photo exhibit will feature images of world-famous visual artists from the annals of the famed Paris Match magazine. Stroll through the hotel's lobby and get a behind-the-curtain glimpse of greats like Marc Chagall, René Magritte and even Pablo himself. Free, 20 E. Chestnut, Nov. 20-Jan. 21, 2015; Sofitel-chicago.com

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ON THE COVER: PHOTO BY ANDREW STILES-COUNTY BY GETTY IMAGES

need to know

SPASH

WHAT'S TOPPING YOUR WISH LIST THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?

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"A cute Chanel charity makeup case is at the top of my list. If my family wants to fill it with lip glosses, I won't be mad."

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"I love laptop. I've had mine since college and it's become very snobby and difficult to in age."

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"The same thing I want every year: the Ruben eng poppy my parents promised me when I was 12. And somebody to take care of it."

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THE CALENDAR
- ARTS & CULTURE | PHILANTHROPY | FOOD | FASHION

November 20
- WINTER WISHES: HOLiDAY COCKTAIL CELEBRATION
Toast the upcoming holiday season with nearly 450 fellow Chicagoans at this annual event, presented by the Founders Board of the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital and co-chaired by Susan Chandler, Katie Donovan and Briana Fosnaugh. Funds from the evening will contribute to the organization's three-year, $5.5 million fundraising commitment, which will help advance the work of Dr. Aaron Namvar, division head of neonatology.

Time: 6:30-9 p.m.
Place: The Casino, 195 E. Delaware
Cost: $175. For tickets, visit foundation.luriechildrens.org.

November 21
- FRIENDS OF LA RABIDA AWARDS GALA
Ravi Bachwal of ABC-7 emcees, while Bob Arthur and Patricia Brown Holmes co-chair the La Rabida

November 19
- GEMS WORLD ACADEMY'S COFFEE AND TOUR
Join Head of School Geoff Jones for an exclusive tour of the downtown academy. See the award-winning school and learn about its international studies programs, field studies, global values and more.

Time: 10-11 a.m.
Place: GEMS World Academy, 350 E. South Water
Cost: Free to attend. To register, visit gemsworldacademy-chicago.com/page/coffeetour.

November 21
- HYDE PARK ART CENTER 75TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
The venerable arts institution celebrates this milestone with an awards ceremony for those who keep the arts community colorful. Honorees include Chicago's First Lady Amy Rule, Chuck Thow, Ellen Alberding of The Joyce Foundation, Bette Cerf Hill and Bruce Sagan, and artists Kerry James Marshall and Cheryl Lynn Bruce. Also enjoy live music from Bumpus, dinner from Paramount Events and artwork by Susan Giles.

Time: 7-10 p.m.
Place: Skyline Loft, 1200 W. 35th
Cost: $500. For tickets, visit hydeparkart.org/events/2014-11-21-75th-anniversary-gala.

November 22
- THE BOOTH ONE BALL
The University of Chicago Cancer Research Foundation Women's Board, along with co-chairs Diane H. Reilly and Karen P. Slim
Next Week

November 25

- Daley Plaza Tree Lighting
  The 101st installment of this storied holiday tradition features festive live performances courtesy of Broadway Playhouse, including Dee Snider — former Twisted Sister frontman and star of “Dee Snider’s Rock & Roll Christmas Tale” — and Hansel and Gretel from “Hansel & Gretel: A Wickedly Delicious Musical Treat.”
  Time: 4:30 p.m. live performances, 5 p.m. tree lighting
  Place: Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington
  Cost: Free. For more information, visit Cityofchicago.org.

November 27

- McDonald’s Thanksgiving Day Parade
  Before tucking into a plate of turkey, potatoes and green-bean casserole, head downtown and get in the spirit of the season at this annual parade, chock full of balloons, floats, marching bands, performances, equestrian units and even some local and national celebs. Can’t make it? Catch it on WGN-9.
  Time: 8-11 a.m.
  Place: State between Congress and Randolph
  Cost: Free. For more information, visit Chicagofestivals.org.

November 22

- Peter Nappi Pop-up
  Get a jump on holiday shopping — or just treat yourself — at a Peter Nappi pop-up shop, filled with men’s and women’s luxury Italian leather handbags, shoes, clothing and accessories. Ten percent of the event’s proceeds will benefit Camp Kids Are Kids, which provides a city camp experience for kids with cancer.
  Time: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
  Place: Ritz-Carlton Hotel Chicago, The Pearson Room, 160 E. Pearson
  Cost: Free to attend.

- Pours 4 Paws
  Sample an array of white, red and sparkling wines, plus locally made craft beers, at the Puppy Rescue Mission’s fundraising event, which aids the organization’s mission to help military troops reconnect with the four-legged friends they bonded with while in war zones, and bring the animals to the U.S.
  Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
  Place: d’Vine Wine and Gifts, 243 E. Northwest Highway, Palatine
  Cost: $25 in advance, $30 at the door. For tickets, call (847) 359-9463 or email Liz@d-vinewine.com.
Despite their simplicity, the dresses on these Chicago ladies are anything but boring. As the days turn gray, glow in a soft chiffon bodice dress from Phillip Lim or shimmer in a slinky stretch sheath from Stella McCartney — and add contrast with dark leather booties from Stacey Bendet’s Alice + Olivia line to really stand out. Whether you add cream, eggshell or ivory to your cold-weather palette, with shades of white you’ll twinkle like a star this season.
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Remembering a legend

STORIES BY CHIARA MILIOULIS

Renowned chefs joined Rochelle Trotter in raising a glass in remembrance of her husband, late culinary master Charlie Trotter, Nov. 5. The sold-out A Toast to Charlie Trotter event drew 275 supporters to Venue One (1034 W. Randolph), where chef and emcee Emeril Lagasse and honorary co-chair Mayor Rahm Emanuel helped celebrate the life and legacy of Trotter alongside the city's leading culinary and beverage figures, including Rick Bayless of Frontera Grill, Paul Dobroski of NoMI Kitchen, Graham Elliot of Graham Elliot Bistro, Kevin Hickey of Rockit Ranch, Gale Gand of Spritz Burger and Tony Mantuano of Spiaggia. The evening showcased Trotter-inspired tasting stations paired with cocktails by Sportsman's Club and wine by master sommeliers Serafin Alvarado and Larry Stone. The inaugural fundraiser will benefit Charlie Trotter's Culinary Education Foundation, which raises money to award scholarships to youth who have a passion for cooking and food.

Splash was the media sponsor of this event.

From Paris, with love

Partygoers were transported back to the 1880s for a cabaret-inspired affair to celebrate The Service Club of Chicago's 124th anniversary. The nonprofit's Moulin Rouge-themed gala, hosted by Lisa Kraus and Kristina McGrath, featured lively can-can dancers, a mime and a caricaturist who welcomed guests to the Four Seasons' ballroom (120 E. Delaware), which was decorated with lights and feathers. Before enjoying a delectable dinner and listening to the sounds of the Stanley Paul Orchestra, guests bid in a live auction, featuring a Parisian vacation package, two dinners at Buccellati and Super Bowl tickets.

Splash was the media sponsor of this event.
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American Ireland Fund's 30th Anniversary Dinner

Striking gold

A record-breaking $1 million was raised for The Worldwide Ireland Funds' Promising Ireland Campaign, which benefits nonprofit organizations in Ireland and around the world, at the 30th anniversary American Ireland Fund Dinner. On Nov. 5, 700 guests gathered at the Hilton Chicago (720 S Michigan) to recognize this year's honorees: Father John Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame, who received the American Ireland Fund 2014 Leadership Award, and philanthropic leaders Ellen and Jim O'Connor, who received The American Ireland Fund 2014 Humanitarian Award.

Splash was the media sponsor of this event. The Sun-Times Foundation and the Chicago Community Trust will match every dollar donated to the American Ireland Fund up to a total of $30,000. Up to $1,000 can be matched per individual donation.

Casa Central's Awards Dinner

Milestone mark

Casa Central blew out the candles on its 60th birthday at its Anniversary Annual Awards Dinner Oct. 16 at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel Chicago (221 N Columbus). The evening drew special appearances by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Lisa Madigan and a performance by the Hispanic and Latin folklore-inspired siblings Salcedo Group. To celebrate its history, Casa Central honored Larry J. Goodman, CEO of Rush University Medical Center, with the Pastor Juan Cafferty Legacy Award; Aramark with the Community Builder Award, accepted by Frank Kiely, president of business dining; and Kellogg's with the Corporate Partner Award, accepted by Wendy Davidson, president of U.S. Specialty Channels. Funds raised at the event will benefit Casa Central's mission to build a strong community through its network of services.

Splash was the media sponsor of this event. The Sun-Times Foundation and the Chicago Community Trust will match every dollar donated to Casa Central up to a total of $25,000. Up to $1,000 can be matched per individual donation.
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making a splash

SETTING UP SHACK

Shake Shack founder DANNY MEYER brings a new burger to the city

BY ZAK STEMER

Danny Meyer has finally given into peer pressure. Since he erected the first brick-and-mortar Shake Shack in 2004 (it began as a cart in New York's Madison Square Park in 2001), the St. Louis native and restaurant mogul has been fielding demands that he bring the burger joint to the Midwest. "It was inevitable," Meyer says; the new Shake Shack opened its doors on Ohio last week. "Five years ago we [opened Shake Shack] in Miami Beach and really ever since that moment, tons of friends were saying, 'Alright, so you can no longer tell us that you won't leave New York. What you haven't explained to us is why it's OK to go to Miami but not come [to Chicago]."

Meyer, 56, may be a born-and-raised Midwesterner, but New York has been the epicenter of his culinary domination for more than two decades. He very clearly remembers the night he decided to enter the restaurant game: He was 25 years old and having dinner with his family the night before taking the LSAT. "My uncle saw how depressed I was and basically said, 'Why are you doing something you have no passion for? You're gonna be dead forever, you're gonna be alive for just a short time. Do something you love,'" remembers Meyer. "He said, 'All I've ever heard out of your mouth for your whole life is how much you love restaurants. You should open one.' It had never dawned on me."

Meyer abandoned his law school path and, since opening his first eatery, Union Square Café, in 1985, has been on a steady roll, debuting fine-dining destinations in Manhattan like Gramercy Tavern and The Modern. At this moment, Meyer doesn't even know how many restaurants he controls, saying, "It's irrelevant to me. I can name every single one of them, I just don't ever count up how many there are." (Our count puts the number at 67, by the way, 56 of which are Shake Shacks.)

Meyer insists the Windy City outpost isn't just a New York transplant in Chicago. "We actually mold our menus just a little bit, so that when we open any new Shake Shack, it's gonna feel like [it fits] where it is," he explains. To achieve such cohesion, culinary director Mark Rosati has to get a feel for the local scene or, as Meyer puts it, "He eats and he eats and he eats. He'll eat at the fine-dining restaurants to understand what the avant-garde chefs are doing, he'll ask those chefs what's their favorite bakery, what's their favorite doughnut, what's their favorite hot dog."

The results? The Chicago Shack boasts some never-before-seen items, like a sausage from Publican Quality Meats and custards (called "concretes") made with local ingredients like Vosges chocolate and Glazed & Infused doughnuts. "It pays off because [the restaurant] feels like it's part of the community, rather than just imposing on it," says Meyer.

In 2015, Meyer will open a second Chicago location at the corner of Michigan and Madison, but making a permanent move back to his native Midwest isn't in his plans — his rare moments of downtime are spent with his wife Audrey and four kids at home in New York. "I've got a full life," Meyer gushes. "[My wife and I] really believe in that thing my uncle said: You're gonna be dead for a long time. Try to get as much out of every minute as we possibly can."
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DANIELLE PANABAKER
on going from
Naperville to Hollywood
— and always
moving forward
BY ZAK STEMER

Like lightning,
Danielle Panabaker
never strikes in the same
place twice — at least when
it comes to choosing roles.
She’s played everything from the
victim of a vicious piranha attack (“Piranha 3DD”)
to a struggling Amish woman (“The Shunning”) to a
drug-smuggling prisoner (“Justified”). But it’s her latest
gig that’s putting her on the map: The actress is cur-
rently starring as bioengineer Caitlin Snow on The CW’s
superhero hit “The Flash,” which premiered in October
to nearly seven million viewers — making it the net-
work’s most-watched premiere. “It’s really a treat and
such a delight,” says Panabaker. “People know
who The Flash is. Before [the show] started
airing, people would ask what I was working
on, and everybody already knows the
guy who runs really fast.”
The role is fitting for the 27-year-old, who, like her character, hides a sharp intelligence behind her doe-eyed façade. Growing up, Panabaker's family moved across the country for her father's sales job, from South Carolina to Texas to Pennsylvania to Georgia and, finally, Naperville. But their time here was short — only three years — and in 2003, Panabaker's mother pulled the young actress and her sister from suburban Neuqua Valley High School to pursue acting in L.A. Somehow, working full-time as an actress didn't stop Panabaker from earning her diploma at age 14 or her bachelor's degree from UCLA at age 19. "My younger sister and I were always studying. There was a point when we were starting out that we were in acting class seven days a week," she remembers. "We'd go to school, which was independent study in the morning, then auditions, then class at night."

Splitting the family between two cities became draining, though. "Eventually, my parents said, 'We can't support you forever, we can't support two households. So we'll pull you out of school for one year,'" Panabaker says. "At the end of that year, we either had to be successful actors or we'd be going home to Chicago."

Fortunately, the acting jobs came quickly. Panabaker got her big break as Tick Roby on the HBO miniseries "Empire Falls" in 2005, alongside Ed Harris, Helen Hunt and Paul Newman; she credits the project with giving her the courage to pursue her dreams with full force. "I loved acting, but the art of auditioning is something that always challenged me," she explains. "Being on set and creating and collaborating with people is my true passion, and that really came with 'Empire Falls.' It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

She then moved on to her now well-known Disney projects, "Stuck in the Suburbs" and "Sky High," before landing a dramatic role on CBS's 2006 show "Shark," where she earned a loyal fan following. But when the show ended in 2008, she decided to leave the small screen for the silver screen, starring in a string of horror flicks like "Friday the 13th" and "Piranha 3DD." It was business savvy, not bloodlust, that led to her taking such gory roles. "Those movies tend to do really well and make lots of money," she explains. "The amount of money ['Friday the 13th'] made is still surprising to me. At the end of the day, this is a business."

That industry acumen has served Panabaker well over the last six years, and it's the primary reason she decided to return to TV. "I did [films] for awhile, and then as I got a little bit older, I wanted to be more settled," she says. "Television is just such a steady gig compared to features and other sorts of guest work. It was a matter of finding the right project." When the script for "The Flash" came to her attention last January, Panabaker jumped at the opportunity — "It's nice to play a smart and talented woman with her own point of view and her own history," she says — and within a week, she'd landed the job.

With this role, Panabaker is putting every bit of her high IQ to the test: Caitlin Snow is a scientist at S.T.A.R. Labs who helps Barry Allen (aka The Flash, played by Grant Gustin) manage his newfound super speed. Those familiar with the DC comic books will recognize that Caitlin Snow is much more than a well-meaning book worm — she's a villain-in-the-making. Down the line, she'll become Killer Frost, able to freeze her enemies with a single touch. "Knowing what plans the producers have to continue the story line is really amazing," Panabaker says. But she admits she's not completely familiar with Killer Frost's development. "I did check out the comic books, but to be totally honest, for me as an audience member it's really fun to just read each script as they come."

Clockwise from far left: Panabaker in "Shark"; Grant Gustin and Panabaker in "The Flash"; Panabaker and Ed Harris in "Empire Falls"

Only six episodes in, the show has already been picked up by The CW for a full 23-episode season. For her part, Panabaker is thrilled — and a little exhausted. "Truth be told, I don't know if we've really had a chance to revel in it and celebrate," she says. "We work at least 14 hours a day and often late nights. It certainly keeps us busy — I think we wrapped around 2:30 this morning."

But the ambitious actress remains undeterred and just as driven as she was when she set off for Hollywood more than 10 years ago. In April, when she finds herself with some precious downtime, she says she'll start seeking out her next challenge.

"Maybe [I'll film] a drama that's a little grittier, or a comedy that's a little bit lighter, just to keep me on my toes. I like the challenge, the diversity," she says. "I'll never settle down."

As comic-book fans know, Caitlin Snow eventually transforms into the villainous Killer Frost — so we asked Panabaker the truth about her own dark side. Spoiler alert: She's not very dark.

Super powers: "I would love to be invisible so I can hear what's actually going on when people don't want to necessarily give you a straight answer. I would love to be in multiple places at once — that would make the commute back and forth to Vancouver [where "The Flash" is filmed] a lot easier. Or I'd love to eat whatever I want and not get fat."

Origin story: "I probably got my powers while I was sleeping. I'm really good at sleeping, so the equivalent of the villainous tooth fairy gave me my powers."

Arch nemesis: "Sugar for sure. I'm addicted. I'm a big frozen yogurt fan and I never leave without some peanut butter ingredient on top."

Plan for world domination: "I would kill everyone with kindness."
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BY SPLASH STAFF

EMERALD CITY


2. Tory Burch: cosmetics case in emerald stone, $115, 45 E Oak, Toryburch.com

3. Hermès: Clic-clac H bracelet in green enamel, $720, 25 E Oak, Hermes.com

4. Mary Katrantzou: umbrella, $330, Marykatrantzou.com

5. Williams-Sonoma: personal embosser, $39.95, and labels, $9.95, 1550 N. Fremont, Williams-sonoma.com

6. Ralph Lauren: rugby jersey bib set in Mayan green, $25, 750 N. Michigan, Ralphlauren.com

7. Giuseppe Zanotti: pumps in Bottiglia dark green, Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan, $775, Saksfifthavenue.com

8. Owen + Alchemy: juices start at $9, 2355 N. Milwaukee, Owenandalchemy.com


10. Waterford: Araglin Prestige vase, $325, Bloomingdale's Home, 600 N. Wabash, Bloomingdales.com
TO THE METAL

1. *Chanel*: Camélia De Plumes highlighting powder, $72, Bloomingdale's, 900 N. Michigan, Bloomingdales.com
2. *Go Home LTD*: gilded books, $44 each, Update Interiors, 122 N. Marion, Oak Park; Updateinteriors.com
3. *Therese Kuempel*: ring, $60, Milk Handmade, 5137 N. Clark, Milkhandmade.com
4. *Alice + Olivia*: Issa pleated v-neck metallic gown, $597, Neiman Marcus, 737 N. Michigan, Neimanmarcus.com
5. *Tiffany & Co*: airplane cufflinks in sterling silver, $300, 730 N. Michigan; Tiffany.com
7. *Jonathan Adler*: metallic Nico pillows, $178-$298 each, 676 N. Wabash; Jonathanadler.com
9. *Elizabeth and James*: Cynnie metallic snake-embossed sling backpack, $645, Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan; Saksfifthavenue.com
10. *KitchenAid*: metallic series five-quart stand mixer in satin copper, $599.95, Williams-Sonoma, 1550 N. Fremont; Williams-sonoma.com
1. Material Possessions: red leather jewelry chest, $205. 704 N. Webash. Materialpossessions.com
5. Twinkle Twinkle Little One: antique phone booth bank. $20. 2007 W. Belmont. Twinkle.twinklelittleone.com
8. Adopted: leather folio case for iPhone 6 in Cayenne Gunmetal, $49.95. Adoptednewyork.com
10. Nescafé: Dolce Gusto Circolo coffeemaker, $179. Dolce-gusto.us

Binny's locations citywide: Binny's.com

Common Projects:
vintage high-top sneakers. $770. RSVP Gallery, 1753 N. Damen: Rsvpgallery.com

Adopted: leather folio case for iPhone 6 in Cayenne Gunmetal, $49.95: Adoptednewyork.com


Nescafé: Dolce Gusto Circolo coffeemaker, $179. Dolce-gusto.us

Sermoneta Gloves: red full-finger driving gloves, $109.90. N. Michigan: Sermonetagloves.com
entertainment | ARTS PREVIEW

The eyes have it

The Museum of Contemporary Art examines the work of photographer Anne Collier  BY THOMAS CONNORS

Over a century ago, Eastman Kodak's humble Brownie camera inspired countless folks to snap the moments of their lives. But family albums and Saturday night slide shows are ancient history, and today, it's not just Thanksgiving dinner and that trip to the Grand Canyon that get the photographic treatment. In the age of Instagram and Pinterest, nothing goes unnoticed — or unshared.

Like the rest of us, artists aren't immune to borrowing from the universe of existing images. Anne Collier, the subject of a solo show opening at the Museum of Contemporary Art this week, frequently focuses on material from magazines, calendars, posters and record albums. While the pictures we post generally say something about us, fine art photography aspires to something more. What that "more" is may not always be apparent, but as Collier's work makes clear, there's nothing to be lost in looking.

Embracing the strategy of appropriation (her sources include a Steven Meisel portrait of Madonna and a spiral-bound calendar from the Museum of Modern Art, opened to an Edward Weston nude), Collier's eye scans the commonplace, weaving our fresh insights into our notions of perception and identity, articulated with a feminist emphasis. "She always shows the entire object she is photographing, never cropping out the context, so that she becomes more of a documentarian or really an archaeologist, plainly studying these artifacts," says MCA Chief Curator Michael Darling, who organized the exhibition. "We get sucked into the image she is directing us to, but she works hard to not let us forget the original source we're looking at. In this way, she never confuses authorship, and even in her titles, she lists the original photographers, so as not to cross that line."

Every photo is in essence a self-portrait, a revelation — intentional or not — of our fears, desires, curiosities and prejudices. By comparison, straight-up selfies are far less illuminating. Some of Collier's most engaging shots are those of her own eye, gazing at us from a developing tray or inserted into a paper cutter. These images reference her whole artistic enterprise, while at the same time they seem to ask, quite honestly, "What are you looking at?" Wondering what we see when we look at a photograph is not a new question. But it is one that bears repeating again and again.
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Kristin Cavallari

The reality star-turned-shoe designer on her new collection and style in Chicago.

By Elle Eichinger

She rose to fame as a drama-seeking high-schooler on MTV's "Laguna Beach," but these days, 27-year-old Kristin Cavallari is a full-fledged career woman, with a shoe line for Nordstrom in collaboration with Chinese Laundry and a recently launched jewelry line, Emerald Duv. Plus, she's made the move from the Hollywood Hills to the Windy City to be with her husband, Chicago Bears quarterback Jay Cutler, and their two adorable sons, Camden and Jaxon.

"I typically wear jeans or leggings with boots or booties and a Bears shirt; when it gets colder, big chunky sweaters. Pretty casual, but always wear [shoes] with a little heel."

"I like [Chicago style] because living in California you don't have seasons, so you can't wear boots, jackets, scarves. I love layering, so I love the fashion here — until about January or February, of course."

"I just started working with a trainer and I'm so glad I did; he's been kicking my butt. I realized how lazy I've gotten. I cook most nights — well, actually, I go through phases where for two weeks straight I'll plan the meals out and put a lot of energy into them, and then I won't cook for like, a week."

"It can be hard [to balance work and family]. I'm lucky because I can make my own hours, so I can work after the kids go to bed. If I'm going to be gone for a few days, I leave the kids [at home] because it's too stressful to lug two little boys around, but the hardest part is having to say goodbye. Thank God for FaceTime!"

> Clockwise from top: Leah sandal, $129.95; Lovely leopard print calf hair open toe bootie, $169.95; Chelsea pump, $149.95; all available at Nordstrom, 55 E. Grand; Shop.nordstrom.com

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when same-sex marriage was legalized last year, Ari Bendersky and Drew Harris—who had been dating for 15 years—were elated. "We always said we wouldn't get married until we could legally be married where we lived," said Bendersky, director of content for Abe's Market.com and former founding editor of Eater Chicago. So as soon as the law passed, Harris, field training manager of Jack Spade, made his move. "We're both Jewish, so Christmas Day for us is going to the movies and having Chinese food," he says. After ordering takeout from their favorite spot, Sun Wah BBQ (5039 N. Broadway), Harris gave Bendersky a custom-made fortune cookie that contained a marriage proposal. "I was giddy, crying and laughing," Bendersky says.

One of the first steps in planning the wedding was securing their close friend, DJ Matt Roan, for the big day. "Mau has been a friend of ours for more than 10 years," Bendersky says. "He said, 'Name the date and place and I'm there.'" On Columbus Day weekend, the couple's wedding party traveled to Gordon Lodge (1420 Pine, Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin) for a fall-themed weekend bash. "We waited almost 16 years to have a wedding, so to do it in just one evening didn't seem enough," Bendersky says. The three-day event kicked off with bowling on Thursday and an adult field day on Friday where everyone dressed in costumes inspired by the campy 2001 movie "Wet Hot American Summer," and culminated in a beautiful ceremony with 115 of the couple's closest friends and family.

On Saturday, the couple recited their vows under a stunning chuppah crafted by their friend Barry Gork — then put their own twist on a few Jewish traditions. "The seven blessings are [usually] read by the rabbi, but we picked seven couples to stand up during the ceremony and read a different blessing," Harris says. Later, the party moved to the event center, where Roan and Bendersky's father stole the show. "My dad played drums in a band, so Drew surprised him with a drum kit," Bendersky says. "He was in his element and everyone ate it up." The couple remembers never leaving one another's side throughout the whole weekend. "We were together so much of the night and it naturally happened," Bendersky says. "We got to truly be a couple together officially and legally with everyone for the first time."
MR. WRONG

Isn't it funny how dating can be both the most exciting thing and the most terrifying thing? Thankfully, I don't have to even think about dating anymore, but I do have friends who are still on the dating scene. They ask me how I knew I found The One and what makes him Mr. Right, but I think those answers are different for everyone. I think there are, however, definite signs as to whether you're dating the wrong person. Here are a few that come to mind:

- You find yourself being unhappy more often than not when you're with your significant other.
- You find it hard to be yourself around him — as if he's judging you.
- He doesn't introduce you to his friends and family — or you don't want to introduce him to yours.
- You can't picture yourself together in the future — major red flag!
- You have nothing in common. Yes, it's true that opposites attract, but you have to have a few common interests to make it work.
- When you see your significant other or get a phone call from him, you don't get excited — or worse yet, you feel anxious.
- If he revolves his whole world around you and becomes clingy, it can be cute at first, but it will turn into a very unhealthy relationship.
- You're always wondering what he's up to and don't fully trust him.

I realize that a lot of these signs seem like common sense, but when you're stuck in a bad relationship, you don't notice them as easily. So if you're reading this and recognize that some of these apply to your own relationship, please do yourself a favor: Take a step back and reevaluate things. You won't find Mr. Right by dating Mr. Wrong!

Tweet me any other common signs — or signs of a healthy relationship!
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Upping the ante

The Three Aces team lays out all their cards with new Italian spot Charlatan

IT seems spending time in Little Italy has rubbed off on Anthony Potenzo, Lyle Aker and Matt Troost. The “Three Aces” behind the popular rock ‘n’ roll bar on Taylor Street had only Italian cuisine in mind when creating their second concept, Charlatan, which recently debuted in the space left vacant by West Town Tavern.

The trio isn’t afraid to make sure their spot stands out from its more traditional neighbors. Take the “authentic pasta shapes you won’t see on anyone else’s menu,” says Potenzo, referring to the agnolotti, served with sweet potato, venison, ricotta salata, pine nuts and brown butter ($12-$21) and the trottole, made with house ricotta, vodka sauce, basil, Parmesan and arugula ($7-$12).

‘Then there’s the showstopper: a whole pig’s head for two ($55). “It’s old-school Italian,” says Potenzo, whose grandfather made the delicacy for holidays and special occasions before “chasing the kids around with the eyeballs.” At Charlatan, there’s no chasing — but you will meet the blank stares of the taxidermied animal heads on the back wall. (There’s another good story behind one of them, too — just ask Aker after you’ve already enjoyed your dinner.)

Here’s what else to expect at Charlatan:

Menu breakdown: Trusted executive chef Troost developed the “Italian-countryside-meets-Midwestern-farmhouse” menu, highlighted by “salt and time” appetizers like the grilled octopus ($12) and whipped mortadella ($8), plus large “rolled and extruded” plates including squid-ink lumache ($8-$14) and the whole oxtail with potato puree, horseradish, watercress and beef jous ($58). The dishes are all seasonal and supported by a hearty and mostly imported wine selection — a change from the beer-focused program at Three Aces.

Behind the scenes: The servers all look the part in custom-designed, butcher-style aprons made by Aker’s talented wife Holly. “She got on her sewing machine and whipped them all up one day,” says Aker, noting that each has different details if you look closely. Holly didn’t stop there — she also crafted the all-white sheer curtains.

New York state of mind: “We love New York so much,” Aker says of the partners, who wanted the feel of Charlatan to echo an intimate spot in Brooklyn or SoHo. In addition to the distressed exposed brick, the wall décor and bar and light fixtures were all made with refurbished water pipes. The finishing touch is the cartoonish Andy Warhol Flavor Paper wall covering they custom-ordered for the back wall.

Hot shots: In keeping with the theme, head bartender Alex Gara (The Dawson, Mindy’s HotChocolate) focuses on various Amaris and accoutrements — pickled balsamic and smoked peppers — to infuse his rotating cocktails. But he also likes to leave a little mystery in the glass. “I wanted to use ingredients that were maybe unheard of or unapproachable,” he says, referencing the Escorial in the gin-infused Pinky Ring ($9) and the Cardamaro in the seasonal Applejack-flavored Dr. Feelgood ($9).

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Similar styles available at Saks Fifth Avenue: Nanette Lepore, magician skirt, $298, 700 N. Michigan; Saksfifthavenue.com

NATURAL BEAUTY

Cocovit’s master innovator reveals the all-natural product’s healing powers

BY CHIARA MILIOULIS
PHOTO BY RAMZI DREESSEN

“I absolutely love the way the color pops against my skin tone regardless of what I’m wearing.”

OPI Kiss Me I’m Brazilian, $9.50, Ulta locations citywide; Ulta.com

“I own over 20 crop tops. Since this one is long-sleeved, it’s perfect for the fall and winter.”

Similar styles available at Nordstrom: Trouvé, crop sweater, $34.80, 55 E. Grand; Shop.nordstrom.com

RIKITA KAPADIA

AGE: 35. LIVES IN: West Loop. TITLE: Founder of Cocovit. FAMILY TIES: My family has been using coconut oil for generations and generations. Initially, we started using it as a beauty product for hair, and then my great grandmother started using it on her skin and it got passed down through the generations. But I knew the oil we were using wasn’t the purest oil, so I started doing research and learned that the extraction process used in coconut oils eliminated a lot of nutrients and enzymes. SMALL BEGINNINGS: I partnered with a farm in South India to develop a heatless process, which keeps 100 percent of the coconut oil’s enzymes and nutrients intact. The village was in poverty, but now the farm (that produces Cocovit) employs everyone in that town. BEAUTY BENEFITS: Cocovit is anti-aging and helps with pigmentation, stretch marks and scarring — the antioxidants help repair burns and cuts. It also works as a night cream, eye cream, makeup remover and body moisturizer, and it prevents hair loss by strengthening and moisturizing hair. WINTER MUST-HAVE: Winter leads to super dry, flaky skin, which requires constant exfoliation. Bliss hot salt scrub ($38, Blissworld.com) actually heats up as you rub it on — how great is that? And I love the smell of the eucalyptus and rosemary oils in the scrub. HAPPY HOLIDAYS: Since my family is Indian, the holidays aren’t traditional at either my parents’ or in-laws’ houses. But we do put up a tree every year and exchange gifts, and lots of them — it’s a blast. We watch movies nonstop, play cards and enjoy a fusion of homemade Indian and Mexican food. For more information and to shop Cocovit products ($25 for a 3.3-ounce jar, $38 for an 8.8-ounce jar), visit Cocovit.co.
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2015 Jaguar coupe looks, acts the sports-car part

BY JOHN STEIN
For Sun-Times Media

The 2015 Jaguar F-Type coupe steps in as the replacement for the outgoing XK touring coupe, which takes its final bows in 2015. The new F-Type is a suitable replacement for, if not a complete overshadowing of, the XK.

The F-Type introduced the roadster in 2014, and the new coupe is even better at delivering all the expected pleasures of driving a world-class sports car. Exotic in many ways, the F-Type not only looks the part of Maserati and muscle car, but performance and interior build are first-class.

The F-Type coupe impresses. This car could have relied on retro hooks to gain impact, but instead it delivers a truly impactful contemporary design that is both powerful and expressive while providing exquisite refinement and class throughout the cabin. The round taillamps and fender vents certainly draw from the Jag stable of cues, but thankfully, these are not the dominant plays by the design group.

Inside the cabin, you will find a sophisticated environment that oozes sporty performance and control. From the tight-fitting (and adjustable) bolstering in the seats to the shift paddles on the pitted leather wheel, carbon-fiber accents and red leather accents, this car says it goes fast and recommends holding on (grab handles are available for the passenger).

The cabin is comfortable and accommodating. Audio systems come from Meridian, with 10 or 12 speakers and either 380 or 770 watts of power. Sightlines can be a bit challenging, but worth every effort.

My tester featured the supercharged 5.0-liter V-8 (two V-6s are also available) with 495 horsepower and a 0-60 mph time of 4.2 seconds, with a top speed limited to 186 mph. The Coupe R's distinctive V-8 nets 550 horsepower and 0-60 mph in 4.0 seconds.

An eight-speed automatic is mated to the V-8, and adaptive controls and shift paddles make it very willing and capable of responding to your every command.

The F-Type should not apologize for any space shortfall. My experience was that you manage with the space you have, and the trunk is deep and capable of carrying plenty. This car is about carrying people, two of them, very fast and in great spectacle.

The V-8-powered F-Type Coupe R comes in at $97,900. If that number does not scare you, then this F-Type and its grand sports-car performance should further whet your appetite for excitement.
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As humans we tend to develop patterns and ways of working that result in mental short cuts to our answers. This success mindset has everything to do with you -- how you think and how you behave. One way to break through that is to recognize the untapped talents of an individual, as opposed to the literal details of a resume.

The human element of recruiting is learned over time with a mindset that allows you to see the benefits of the candidate beyond the buzz words. Social networking preferences and online resume posting. Yet recruitment is also a science. Science, technology and computers can identify candidates based on buzz words, making the process more automated.

There is another way of approaching your recruiting strategy. It begins by accepting that recruiting is as much of an art as it is a science. Accepting that recruiting is as much of an art as it is a science. There is another way of approaching your recruiting strategy. It begins by accepting that recruiting is as much of an art as it is a science.

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Recruiting is also an art. Accepting that recruiting is as much of an art as it is a science. Therefore, it's important to consider the hidden talent of the candidate.

Above all, great recruiters find ways to quantify the untapped talent factors that may make a candidate more valuable to the employer while also scoring a "wow" factor. Recruiters who want to move beyond presenting the familiar, traditionally-accepted candidates, will focus on the hidden talent factors that might be invisible to the untrained eye. This is a great time to quantify the untapped factors that document the hidden talent factor of the candidate.

People who come from non-traditional backgrounds have had to demonstrate new skills, resourcefulness, resilience and resolve to be successful. These are all examples of leadership traits that are in high demand in today's marketplace.

1. Look for talent that has reinvented itself. The crash of 2008 changed the lives of millions. People have had to change or suffer the unfortunate consequences. You'll discover talent with additional skills and life experiences that enhance their employee profile. These candidates demonstrate the skills, fluidity, versatility and the ability to deal with the complexity of change -- the top skills needed for solving complex issues that are presented for resolution daily.

2. Learn to read an application differently. Look for what's not said on the resume. Ask interview questions that provide you with a strong sense of someone's professional background and what motivates them. Think about how you have pre-judged the applicant only to discover in conversation new information that clarifies.

3. Discover a candidate's transferrable skills. Many people are hired for potential because they have eighty percent of the job skills but performed them in a different industry, job function, or time. Many people have the ability to translate their learning into different environments -- at very high levels.

4. Search for talent in new areas. Recruiters today need to build relationships that take the LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook interactions to a deeper level -- by moving past name-gathering and profiles to actually creating new relationships that convey the depth of a person's knowledge and experiences.

5. Refresh your recruitment strategy. Below are five critical strategies that you may use to ensure that you are increasing and not limiting your sourcing and recruitment efforts:

   1. Begin by assessing the biases you've created over time for finding "the right candidate." When you consider a candidate that's qualified for a position, do you go beyond the skills and abilities and look at the "whole candidate"? Or, are you stuck because "Mary" has all the qualifications but you don't understand her path to success?
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The estate will be administered by the estate's personal representative, as provided by the Probate Act. Any interested person is hereby notified of the sale of certain real property, located at 2401 West Ohio Street, Chicago, Illinois, on or before May 20, 2015, which date is not less than six months from the date of the first publication of this notice. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Any questions or claims should be directed to Joanne Vernos at (773) 732-3342.

Other Sources

Valle: Joanne Vernos; Rosemary Zehentmaier

755, 5/8-1) to contest the probate of the estate. Petitions should be directed to the attorney within 10 days at-...
**2014-15 BASKETBALL SEASON PREVIEW**

Fasman Yeshiva senior Gavriel Porush works on the form on his jump shot during a practice Nov. 12. Porush is one of the top players on a Yeshiva team that hopes to be competitive in 2014-15 despite a schedule that makes finding practice time difficult.

*Brian Emerson for Chicago Tribune Media Group*

Porush plans to spend a year in Israel before returning to the study hall for more group study time. He grumbles as he heads toward the cafeteria in the form of fish stick day. At lunch, tragedy strikes the cafeteria in the form of fish stick day. "I hate fish sticks," one student says. "It's cool to see that we're a part of that," Yeshiva's interim CEO Rabbi Shmuel Schuman, who plays for the school from 1988-95. Almost 30 years later, he can still recall at least one memory from a game against rival Ida Crown.

"We were down eight with less than 50 seconds left to play," Schuman said. "Somehow, just hitting shots and getting a turnover, we were able to come back and tie it up at the end. In the overtime, I remember how I was able to hit four big free throws at the end of the game to win it ... I remember the team all put me on our shoulders and carried me out of the gym to the locker room. That was a very special moment."

**6:30 P.M.**

It's dinner time. The menu is pepper steak, rice and salad, but Porush isn't having anything. "I don't want to eat before practice," he says.

**7 P.M.**

Yeshiva's first practice of the season has finally started. "We had a basketball program that was kind of rag-tag," Shyman points out that the court has no seating for the players. It's just hard to get a consensus. "We haven't really ever found one that we all really liked," Ginsparg said. "At one point I was going to maybe open it up to all the alumni and students and do it, and maybe I will. ... If we do open it up to a vote, whatever wins, and I don't know what that means."

"Something that I'm told — and I know this might sound lame — is that we are simply Fasman Yeshiva. That also means something. Like, why do we have to be the Fire or the Lightning or the Rockets?"

Whatever they call themselves, Yeshiva should be competitive this season. Seniors Sam Golding (6-1) and Dovy Klein — a 6-1 forward playing Michael Younes as the team's returner players. During the scrimmage, Porush drives into the lane with two hard dribbles before pulling up to hit a soft floater. That catches Shyman's attention. "If he can do that, we'll be really good," he says.

**8 P.M.**

Just about the time some students might start counting down the minutes until their release, Porush is beginning his general studies. The school tries to strike a balance between secular and non-secular pursuits, and Yeshiva's students are just as likely to grow up to be doctors or lawyers as they are to become rabbis.

"It runs the full gamut," Ginsparg said. "We at the high school are trying to train [students] that down the road, whatever they decide to do, it should always have a component of Torah study."

Porush says he's interested in medicine. He has a grandfather and an uncle who are dermatologists, and some of his favorite classes are related to science. Right now, he's taking Humanities, Holocaust History, Economics and Jewish History. Each class is about 50 minutes long and he gets one free period.

Students can leave campus during their free period, but they aren't allowed to get in their cars. Porush and his friends often head across Carpenter Road to the mall to grab a coffee. At 1:45 p.m., the group breaks for 15 minutes of afternoon prayer.

**8:30 P.M.**

The elementary school team is still practicing as the Yeshiva players arrive. The Hillel Torah building is an old one, but there's a hardwood court and six baskets. Along one wall are two rows of folding chairs — one for the home team and one for the visitors. On the other sideline are a few rows of movable metal bleachers. Hillel Torah doesn't have locker rooms, so the players change into their practice gear in the gym. On game days, they'll use a classroom. Coach Ira Shyman points out that the court isn't full-sized. He says that can hurt the team in road games.

There aren't many frills, but playing basketball at Yeshiva connects players with the school's past. "In our library, we have yearbooks from forever," Porush said. "As long as the school's been around, you have yearbooks. And each year, you have the basketball team."

"It's cool to see that we're a part of that," Yeshiva's 145 students reside. "I like to look at the positive things during the day. Our school, I really enjoy it there."

At 1:45 p.m., the group breaks for 15 minutes of afternoon prayer.

**9 P.M.**

Practice has ended. Players meet at mid-court and then head to the sidelines to change back into their street clothes. Outside, a light snow has started to fall. At 6:45 a.m. — less than 10 hours from now — Porush's alarm clock will start screaming. It will be time to start another day.

"Sometimes it's a little much," Porush says. "It's a little hard on the body, little hard on the mind. But I like to look at the positive things during the day. Our school, I really enjoy it there."
Three starters — senior guard Robbie Abuls, senior guard David Hammes and senior forward Sean Boyd — are back for the Trevians. The 6-4 Abuls and the 6-2 Hammes can score from anywhere on the court. "Shooting is a big part of my game, but I worked this offseason on getting to the rim and my mid-range game," Abuls said. "I wanted to become more versatile." Boyd, a 6-5 post, gives the Trevians some size inside, but he was slowed by a ruptured lung this summer and by mononucleosis this preseason.

Senior Ryan Haak isn't new to the team, but if he stays healthy, the 6-3 guard will be new to the rotation. Knee injuries cut short Haak's last two seasons, but coach Scott Fricke said Haak is ready to go. "He can really shoot the ball," Fricke said. "He played some minutes last year, but it was more of a recovery year. We're excited for him." Junior forwards David Ashmore (6-8) and Colin Winchester (6-6) are new to varsity and will team with Boyd to provide the Trevians some height inside. "Those guys are big targets, and I think you will see us running some stuff with two bigs," Abuls said.

The biggest name back is Nojel Eastern, a 6-4 sophomore guard who is among the top players in the state for the Class of 2017. He's already received offers from Bradley, Illinois, Purdue and UNLV. But senior Elijah Henry is expected to be the on-court leader of the Wildkits. The 6-5 forward has the most experience and he's improved his all-around offensive game, according to coach Mike Ellis. He was second on the team in scoring (9.2) and first in rebounding (6.6) and first in charges taken (9) last season. "He can get out to 15 or 20 feet now, and he doesn't have to always play with his back to the basket," Ellis said. "It allows us to be more flexible with our matchups."

Ellis said he likes what he's seen so far from seniors Tommy Haughey and Xavier Hilliard, neither of whom played much last year. If they don't start, they certainly will be part of the regular rotation, Ellis said. "Tommy is a shooter, and Xavier brings toughness and defense," Ellis said.

It's been several seasons since New Trier didn't have an incumbent point guard to rely on going into the season. After Jordan Thomas, a four-year varsity veteran, graduated in the spring, Fricke said he's looking at senior Lucas Stone, junior Tino Malani and Hammes as candidates to bring the ball up the floor. "We've had some real good ones since I've been here," Fricke said. "It could be a situation where we use different guys depending on the team and the defense. We want someone who will make good decisions and be a leader."

— Matt Harness

— Matt Harness
WILLITS feature one
a highlighted game. Plus,
inos return to Evanston,
against conference foe
against New Trier and a
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There are several must-
6 p.m. Dec. 20
GAME TO WATCH:
season
Livatino, entering sixth
season
GAME TO WATCH:
Loyola at Evanston,
There are several must-
see games on Loyola's
schedule, including
Nov. 26 home date
against New Trier and a
Feb. 10 road match-up
against conference foe
St. Joseph. But Livati-
tino’s return to Evanston,
his alma mater, always is
a highlighted game. Plus,
the Wildcats feature one
of the state’s top recruits
in 6-4 sophomore guard
Nojel Eastern.

WHO’S BACK
The Ramblers lost four veteran starters off last season’s sectional championship team, three of whom are playing basketball in college.
Senior Griffin Boehm, a 6-4 forward, is the lone starter to return. Boehm was a role player as a junior, but coach Tom Livatino said he expects more from Boehm this season, especially on the scoring front. “He can knock down the three now, and that was not something he did last year,” Livatino said. “But we also need him to score inside. We also need him to be a leader. He has a good voice, and him taking ownership of the team is going to be a big deal.”

WHO’S NEW
A second-year varsity player, senior Mike Mangan is expected to take on a much larger load this season. The 6-4 Mangan played about 10 minutes a game as a junior, but he will have the ball in his hands a lot this season as the starting point guard. “He can get to the basket, hit shots from the outside and is a tough kid and good defender,” Livatino said. Senior forward Peter Poggioli and senior guard Mark Dowdle are two others who are in line to see their playing time increase this season. Junior Brandon Danowski, a sharp-shooting guard, is a varsity rookie. “I agree we lost a lot, but we have guys who are capable players and ready to step up,” Boehm said.

JUMP BALL
For the second year in a row, Loyola will go out of state for its holiday tournament. After playing in Florida last December, the Ramblers are entered in the VisitMesa.com Basketball Challenge in Arizona, which runs from Dec. 27-31. Livatino said last year’s experience strengthened the team. “I think that trip was the key to our season,” he said. “We struggled, but we played some great competition and also bonded with one another. We came back with a better sense of our roles.”

— Matt Harness

WHO’S BACK
Matt Moreno, a junior guard, is back and expected to be the Raiders’ leading scorer. Sam Kayser “is a very quick player,” senior teammate Andrew Case said. Per coach Rashid Smith, Kayser also is the team’s most talented defender. “He’s tenacious on defense and he really has a nose for the ball,” Case said. Having had a full offseason to work on his game after he spent time following the 2012-13 season recovering from Tommy John surgery, Case looks more polished, according to Smith. “His ball handling is much better,” Smith said. “He’s coming along, being able to put the ball down once or twice, or even three or four times.”

WHO’S NEW
Junior Ben Potter has starred for the Raiders’ boys soccer team. Now, he gives North Shore Country Day a true point guard, which is something it lacked last year, according to Smith. “He’s probably one of the most talented basketball players I’ve ever seen,” Morette said. How well Potter adjusts after going 18 months without playing in a high school basketball game will likely affect North Shore Country Day’s season.

JUMP BALL
The talk around Winnetka is about the team. As in, will the pieces fit together for North Shore Country Day? The hope is that Potter’s return allows players to slide back to their natural positions and Morette will no longer have to bring the ball up the court. “I doubt anyone shoots 50 percent from three,” Smith said. “No one averages 10 rebounds. No one with 10 assists. No one will blow you away. Everyone is a jack of all trades with Matt Morette being the ace.” Or as Case said: “For the Raiders to be great and for us to succeed, we’re really going to have to be a great team and work together.”

— Jonah Rosenblum
Maine East girls basketball team won the Central Suburban North last year for the first time in program history, and Omeke and Orange both said they want that level of success. Orange was in the bleachers when the Maine East girls defeated Maine West to clinch the conference title, and he said he wants to play in big games where the energy is as high as it was that night. According to wingman Kanjou, "Our team is better than last year. Hopefully this year we can get [the Central Suburban North title]."

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Maine South will play at the heralded holiday tournament for a third year in a row. The top-notch, 18-team field will be a good measuring stick for the Hawks. Headliners this season include Stevenson and St. Joseph, two teams that are expected to contend for state championships in their respective classes. Longtime participant New Trier also will be back this season.

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Maine South's girls basketball team won the Central Suburban North last year for the first time in program history, and Omeke and Kanjou both said they want that level of success. Orange was in the bleachers when the Maine East girls defeated Maine West to clinch the conference title, and he said he wants to play in big games where the energy is as high as it was that night. According to wingman Kanjou, "Our team is better than last year. Hopefully this year we can get [the Central Suburban North title]."

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The Hawks welcome back seniors George Sargeant and Caleb deMarigny for their third varsity seasons. The two have been part of 53 wins, two Central Suburban South championships and two regional titles. Sargeant, a 6-7 forward, led the team in scoring (17.1) and rebounding (7.0) last season. The 6-3 deMarigny returns as the point guard after averaging 10.2 points, 5.0 rebounds and 3.2 assists as a junior. "Caleb is stronger, quicker and plays with more confidence," coach Tony Lavorato said. "He will have a breakout year and be a more of an impact player from a scoring standpoint. He's up for the challenge."

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Maine East's girls basketball team won the Central Suburban North last year for the first time in program history, and Omeke and Orange both said they want that level of success. Orange was in the bleachers when the Maine East girls defeated Maine West to clinch the conference title, and he said he wants to play in big games where the energy is as high as it was that night. According to wingman Kanjou, "Our team is better than last year. Hopefully this year we can get [the Central Suburban North title]."
2013-14 RECORD: 9-16 overall, 4-8 Metro Suburban.
2014 PLAYOFFS: Lost to Vernon Hills 61-46 in the Class 3A Ridgewood Regional semifinals
HEAD COACH: Chris Mroz, entering fifth season
GAME TO WATCH: Elmwood Park at Ridgewood, 7 p.m., Dec. 12

Some of the Rebels' most memorable games in recent years have been against Riverside-Brookfield. They aren't scheduled to play the Bulldogs this year, however. Their first Metro Suburban East home game is against rival Elmwood Park.

WHO'S BACK
Sweet-shooting sophomore Zac Rzewnicki played for Mean Streets, one of the top AAU teams in the Midwest, during the offseason. He headlines a group of returners that includes senior wings Dino Devivo, David Lechowicz and Brian Burack. Burack is an athletic guard who can slash into the paint. His left shoulder has popped out of its socket several times since he was a sophomore, however, and that affected him on the court. That's why his junior season ended prematurely, but he had arthroscopic surgery in the offseason to tighten his left labrum. He hasn't had any issues with it since.

WHO'S NEW
Point guard Anthony Mroz was the Rebels' creator last season. He'd not only look for his own shot, but would regularly be able to penetrate the defense and kick it out to Rzewnicki, Devivo and others for open looks. Mroz has since graduated — he's playing baseball at Cardinal Stritch in Milwaukee — and, this year, point guard duties figure to fall to junior Keith Kerrigan, sophomore Josh Carrasquillo and, at times, Rzewnicki. "Keith is a really good point guard because he's really fast and strong," junior center Peter Cabaj said. "He knows how to control the ball under a lot of stress."

— Eric Van Dril

2013-14 RECORD: 13-10 overall, 9-6 East Suburban Catholic
2014 PLAYOFFS: Lost to Evanston 52-45 in the Class 4A Maine East Regional final
HEAD COACH: Tom Les, entering eighth season
GAMES TO WATCH: Notre Dame at the Lane Thanksgiving Tournament, Nov. 24-26, 28
The Thanksgiving tournament — with scheduled games against Mount Carmel, Lane and Lake View — will indicate where the team stands, and where it needs to improve.

WHO'S BACK
Senior guard Joe Mooney and junior forward Ammar Becar are the Dons' top returning players. Coach Tom Les said Mooney was the team's best player last year, and he's coming back much improved. Les says Becar also has drastically bettered his game since last year and should continue to build off the strong performance he put together at the end of his sophomore campaign. "They can score, they shoot the ball well and they are very competitive players," Les said.

WHO'S NEW
Les said there are a handful of juniors who should step up and contribute right away for the Dons. That group includes a few juniors who played last year and should see more playing time this year. Expect players like Lucas Simon, Anthony D'Avanzo and Donte Washington to be in the rotation this year.

JUMP BALL
"I think I will have the option of going big or small," Les said. "I am going to have a variety of options to play different styles."

— Brian De Los Santos

Entrance Exam:
January 10, 2015 (8 am)

Notre Dame College Prep
7655 West Dempster Street
Niles, Illinois 60714
847.779.8615 • www.nddons.org
The Vikings will count on junior guard Cris Cook to continue making big contributions. "He does a little of everything for us," Olson said. "He rebounds, he gets assists and he scores points for us." Cook, who started every game last year, said he's worked on his shooting this offseason. He said he's also developed a better understanding of the Vikings' defensive system. Two other starters from last year's team, senior guards Malik Dupree and Danilo Ranger, are returning. Olson said both players have gotten stronger over the offseason. At 6'6, Ranger is able to play inside, but Olson said he also expects the team's tallest player to prove his range this season.

Olson said he expects to play 10 to 11 players per game, so there will be plenty of opportunities for new players. Junior guard Craig Dawkins joined the Vikings' varsity toward the end of last year. Olson said Dawkins is a "phenomenal" athlete with the ability to put points on the board. Dawkins said he learned last season to be shot-ready and to remain focused all game. The Vikings have one sophomore on their roster, guard Jordan LaBelle. Olson hopes LaBelle not only will gain experience, but also contribute to the Vikings' success.

Junior guard Evan Hines has averaged 10.9 points per game this season. Coach Bob Williams said Hines will be a key member of the Wolves' offense, which relies largely on speed and perimeter play. The team also returns junior guard Jojo Rios, who averaged nearly 10 points per game last season. "We expect them both to leave it all on the court for us this year," Williams said of Hines and Rios. Sophomore guard Mirsad Mackic is back after a strong showing as a freshman.

Guard Octavius Parker II transferred from Gordon Tech, where he averaged 13.9 points per game a year ago. Parker is a sophomore. He said he's looking forward to his new team has been smooth, and he's confident the Wolves have what it takes to be successful. The Wolves also have a couple of seniors who are new to the team. Williams said forwards Mario Ljubic and Bryan Villeda are good athletes who have excelled at other sports. Both stand 6'4 and bring height as well as athleticism.

Williams said that in his 24 years coaching he's never had a team with as many confident 3-point shooters as the Wolves have this season. In addition to Rios, Hines and Parker, seniors Emin Ademi and Odi Audisho are strong behind the arc.

Entrance Exam:
January 10, 2015 (8 am)

Notre Dame College Prep
7655 West Dempster Street
Niles, Illinois 60714
847.779.8615 • www.nddons.org
2013-14 RECORD: 8-19 overall, 4-6 Central Suburban North
2014 PLAYOFFS: Lost to New Trier 58-47 in the Class 4A New Trier Regional semifinals
HEAD COACH: David Weber, entering 20th season
GAME TO WATCH: Glenbrook South at Glenbrook North, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 5
The Titans and Spartans are in similar positions to start the year. Neither has a ton of size, which puts a premium on their defensive intensity. The game isn’t just a rivalry, it’s an opportunity to learn more about both squads.

WHO’S BACK
Jan Siegeln, the Spartans’ leading scorer last year, tore the ACL in his left knee before the Spartans began their summer practices. Glenbrook North coach David Weber said he’s hopeful the senior forward, who was a 2013 all-Central Suburban North selection, will return by January. Glenbrook North will likely lean heavily on senior wing Pat Hamilton to score while Siegeln is out. Weber said scoring on the inside will have to increase, and the Spartans also are likely to rely on their guards to create more offense. Weber added that he hopes improved defensive intensity will result in points, too. “We’re a lot tougher this year, defensively,” Hamilton said. “We’re switching all of our screens, and just playing a lot more aggressively.”

Glenbrook North has a slew of first-year varsity players. One notable addition is Michael Stachnik, a junior forward who transferred from Loyola. “He’s going to help us a lot,” senior point guard Matthias Kim said. “He shoots the ball really well. He plays good defense, too. On our team, he’s a pretty big guy. He can help us on the offensive boards.”

JUMP BALL
Glenbrook North had played in the Proviso West Holiday Tournament since 2003, but the Spartans had to scramble to find a new holiday tournament when the event downsized. They wound up committing to play in DeKalb’s Chuck Dayton Holiday Tournament. “In the long run, I think the DeKalb tournament is going to be better for us,” Weber said.

Eric Van Dril

2013-14 RECORD: 14-14 overall, 3-6 Central Suburban South
2014 PLAYOFFS: Lost to New Trier 51-45 in the Class 4A New Trier Regional final
HEAD COACH: Ben Widner, entering third season
GAME TO WATCH: Niles West at Glenbrook South, 7 p.m. Dec. 9
This game isn’t just the Titans’ first Central Suburban South contest, it’s the only time they’re scheduled to play in Glenview before the new year. Glenbrook South will play in two tournaments in 2014 — the Loyola/New Trier Thanksgiving Tournament next week, and the Wheeling Hardwood Classic during winter break — and it has a big game at Glenbrook North on Dec. 5.
2014-15 BASKETBALL SEASON PREVIEW

NORTH RIDGE

2013-14 RECORD: 20-8 overall, 10-2 Independent School League
2014 PLAYOFFS: Lost to Providence-St. Mel 38-36 in the Class 2A Guerin Sectional semifinals
HEAD COACH: Will Rey, entering 11th season

CAME TO WATCH: Vernon Hills at Northridge, 5:30 p.m. Nov. 28
The Knights will play several important games in their pursuit of the Independent School League title, but this Battle at the Ridge Tournament game has the chance to be one of their most entertaining of the season. Vernon Hills senior guard Robby Nardini has deep range and can light up the scoreboard.

WHO'S BACK
Forward Charlie Newell and center Matt Brown both started as juniors on last year's squad. They're returned, and so too has senior point guard Dylan Haig. The 6-4 Newell and the 6-6 Brown provide Northridge with a combination of size and skill that many Class 2A schools don't have. Haig is an experienced ball-handler who is capable of being the best player on the court in big games, which he showed against Providence-St. Mel last season in the sectional semifinals. Junior guard Patrick Hunt and senior guard Tomislav Cuvalo will likely step into the starting lineup and try to help fill the scoring void left by Steve Leazer, who is a freshman on the Saint Louis men's basketball team. "[Hunt] came in as the sixth man [last season], and he would just light it up with the threes," Newell said.

DEPTH figures to be another one of Northridge's strengths this season. The Knights' bench will include junior big man Joe Eck, along with junior guard Pablo Esparza and sophomore guard Kiko Maso. Northridge coach Will Rey said Eck and Maso both really came on during the summer. "I think our bench will be a little bit deeper than last year," Rey said.

JUMBO BALL
The Knights' 2013-14 season ended when Providence-St. Mel guard Bernard Lilly Jr. hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer in their sectional semifinal game. Providence-St. Mel finished third in Class 2A. Haig, Brown and Newell agreed that Northridge players were motivated by the disappointment as they prepared for this season. "Every time you're in the gym, you just kind of have that image in your head of the shot going in at the last second," Brown said.

Matt Brown

2013-14 RECORD: 8-12 overall
2014 PLAYOFFS: Lost to Chicagoland Jewish 57-45 in the Class IA Christian Liberty Academy Regional semifinals
HEAD COACH: Ira Shyman, entering fifth season

GAMES TO WATCH: Yeshiva vs. Ida Crown at Fairview South School in Skokie, 3:15 p.m. Dec. 14; Yeshiva vs. Ida Crown at North Park University, 3 p.m. Feb. 1
When Yeshiva and Ida Crown meet, the schools have to find neutral venues that can accommodate the big crowds. The first game is considered a home game for Ida Crown and Yeshiva is the home team in the second game. Yeshiva also plays Chicagoland Jewish twice during the season. Yeshiva travels to Chicagoland Jewish on Dec. 20 for an 8:45 p.m. game, and it hosts Chicagoland Jewish on Jan. 25 at 5:45 p.m. "Both of those schools are big games for us because they [the players] grow up being friendly with some of the other kids on the private-school teams, so there is a natural rivalry," Shyman said.

ROYCEMORE

2013-14 RECORD: 5-13 overall
2014 PLAYOFFS: Lost to Christian Liberty Academy 67-41 in the Class IA Christian Liberty Academy Regional quarterfinals
HEAD COACH: Alex Blunt, entering first season

WHO'S NEW
After former head coach Justin Welke was named the men's basketball coach at Harper College in the spring, Roycemore hired Alex Blunt. With practice underway, Roycemore athletic director Rob Linkhart complimented Blunt's influence on the team, specifically the way Blunt instructs, works on conditioning and teaches basketball intelligence.
To liven things up at practice, Blunt instituted a rule that the team play dodgeball once a week, and he even participates.
"The game teaches teamwork and strong communication skills, which any good team needs to have to be successful during the season," Blunt said.

— Eric Van Dril

— Nick Matkovich
Trend

‘Dine Out’ month benefits Advocate’s Group Adult Down Syndrome Center

‘DINE OUT FOR DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS’
Benefiting: Advocate Medical Group Adult Down Syndrome Center, Niles
Location: Graziano’s Brick Oven Pizza, 5960 W. Touhy Ave., Niles
Date: Oct. 28
Attended: 80

Fundraising: Graziano’s donated 20 percent of food and beverage total of the customers who acknowledged ADSC to their server during the month of October; this was culminating event.

TOP LEFT: Ryan Jennings and his father Jim Jennings of Glenview; TOP RIGHT: Dr. Brian Chicoine, director of ADSC of Park Ridge (from left), Jack Lavin, his daughter Emily and wife Kathryn of Chicago;
ABOVE LEFT: Maria Kotsinis of Glenview (from left), Chris Doyle, Eleni Doyle and Demetra Soter, all of Chicago, and Nicolas Kotsinis of Glenview; ABOVE RIGHT: Merrily Smith of Park Ridge, Steve & Maria Demet of Lake Forest, owners of Graziano’s.
Looking for fun? Check out our Top Five picks for the weekend’s best bets.

CAUSE & EVENT

UNICEF’S CHICAGO HUMANITARIAN AWARDS LUNCHEON
Honoring: Francie Comer, co-founder with her late husband, Lands’ End founder Gary Comer, of Comer Foundation and the Comer Children’s Hospital; Sue Duncan, founder and Chairman of the Sue Duncan Children’s Center

Date: Oct. 17
Location: Ritz-Carlton Chicago Grand Ballroom
Attended: 400+
Raised: $220,000+

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.
Do you feel **IGNORED, RIPPED OFF** or taken advantage of?

Have you been **BURNED** by poor customer service?

Caught in red tape and **LOST** in a phone tree?

**THE HELP SQUAD IS STANDING BY.**

This weekly column is geared up to provide consumer tips and stories that help readers solve issues with businesses.

To submit a complaint for consideration, email HelpSquad@PioneerLocal.com with as much detail about your complaint as possible.
Join Us For Our Advent Series

UNEXPECTED CHRISTMAS

November 30 - December 24
Sunday Service Times
8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Times
3:00, 4:00, & 5:00 p.m.

New Life Church • 3205 Cannonball Trl.
Yorkville, IL 60560 • nlcyorkville.org

Thanksgiving Eve Service
November 26, 7:00PM
Radeemer Lutheran Church
139 E. First St, Hinsdale
630-323-5530
www.rademerlutheran.org

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Thanksgiving Worship Service
Wed., Nov. 26th, 7:00 pm
Please join us for our Annual
Thanksgiving Pie Social
Following the 7:00pm service
Taste & tender_
Fellowship.
5800 N. California Ave., Chicago
(708) 867-5044
www.stpaulcanfield.org

COME GIVE THANKS

Wednesday
Nov. 26 - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday
Nov. 27 - 10:00 a.m.
Holy Communion celebrated at both
St. Andrews Lutheran Church & School
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
260 N. Northwest Hwy.,
Park Ridge IL
847-823-6656

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WANT OUR DATING ADVICE?
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Plum picks:
Oscar-quality movies heat up the season

BY BRUCE INGRAM

The Oscar race is well underway with lively prospects such as "Birdman," "Whiplash," "Interstellar" and "Nightcrawler" already in theaters. Yet more potential contenders are scheduled for release most weeks through Christmas.

Here's a look at some of the most promising movie picks.

"Foxcatcher" (Nov. 21) — Steve Carell behaves in a most un-Steve Carell-like fashion in this uber-dark, true-crime drama about a disturbed millionaire insinuating himself into the lives of Olympic-champion wrestlers Dave and Mark Schultz (Channing Tatum and Mark Ruffalo), Directed by Bennett Miller ("Moneyball," "Capote").

"Wild" (Dec. 5) — Plenty of buzz has been generated by this long-distance hiking drama, largely because it's a product of "Dallas Buyers Club" director Jean-Marc Vallée. Reese Witherspoon stars as a former heroin addict coming to terms with tragedy by walking a thousand rugged miles of the Pacific Crest Trail.

"The Imitation Game" (Dec. 12) — "Imitation" looks at Alan Turing, the computer-pioneer mathematician who broke the unbreakable Nazi Enigma code during World War II and was fatally oppressed for his homosexuality afterward. Benedict Cumberbatch stars.

"Inherent Vice" (Dec. 12) — Plus-size windows to the soul: Amy Adams in "Big Eyes."

"The Interview" (Dec. 25) — Okay, so it's a Seth Rogen comedy but, hey, it's grappling with a major world issue. Sort of. Rogen and James Franco star as a celebrity tabloid TV duo invited to interview North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un. And then asked to assassinate him by the CIA.

"Into the Woods" (Dec. 25) — Director Rob Marshall made his Broadway movie-version bones with "Chicago," so expectations are high for this adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's Tony-winning musical. Featuring Meryl Streep as a witch whose curse creates problems for familiar fairy tale characters acting in very unfamiliar ways.

"Unbroken" (Dec. 25) — Director Angelina Jolie joins hubby Brad Pitt in the World War II era for this drama about Olympic runner Louis Zamperini (Jack O'Connell of Brit TV's "Skins"). The Air Force bombardier survived 47 days in a life raft after a crash and two years of torture in a Japanese prison camp.

"The Homesman" (Nov. 21); "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part I" (Nov. 21); Cannes Best Actor Timothy Spall gets artful as the eccentric British painter J.M.W. Turner in "Mr. Turner"; Christian Bale steps into the sandals of Moses for the Ridley-Scott directed "Exodus: Gods and Kings" (Dec. 12); Peter Jackson ties up trilogy No. 2 with "The Hobbit: The Battle of Five Armies" (Dec. 17); and David Oyelowo gets his marching orders as Martin Luther King in "Selma" (Dec. 25).
Northlight’s ‘Mousetrap’ is must-see murder and mayhem

BY CATYE SULLIVAN
For Pioneer Press

A dead body (or two), a blinding storm and a house full of eccentrics — one of whom is a murderer poised to strike again. It’s a killer combination, and one that plays out with intelligence, wit and terrific suspense in Northlight Theatre’s staging of Agatha Christie’s “The Mousetrap.”

With Northlight’s production, director Jonathan Berry takes the tropes of the genre and invigorates them into a fresh, exciting thriller that will have you on the edge of your seat.

He also succeeds in making “The Mousetrap” about more than the murder mystery. The plot also explores the dark question of what can happen to horribly abused children and, being set shortly after the close of World War II, it is also a sometimes chilling commentary on the diaspora that follows massive global conflict.

Christie took her story from the real life case of Dennis O’Neill, 12, who with his two little brothers was entrusted to the care of foster parents Esther and Reginald Gough. Dennis died of repeated beatings and starvation. The Goughs were sentenced to light prison sentences — six months for Esther on charges of neglect, six years for Reginald, on charges of manslaughter.

The first murder victim in “The Mousetrap” is one Maureen Lyon, who is clearly based on Esther Gough (not a spoiler, we learn of her death in the opening moments). The police are hunting her killer, whom they think just might be sequestered at the snowbound Monkswell Manor, a guest house newly opened by Molly and Giles Ralston. From there, Christie spins a plot rich in intrigue.

Berry’s cast doesn’t have a weak link, an impressive feat given that it would be quite easy to reduce these characters to clichés: The retired army Major (Patrick Clear); the naïve young newlywed (Cora Vander Brook) and her salt-of-the-earth husband (Keith Neagle); the flamboyantly accented foreigner (Joe Dempsey); the troubled, insecure youth with the inappropriate laugh (Joey DeBettencourt); the sleek femme fatale hiding a dark secret (Lindsey Pearlman); and the prune-faced matron who disapproves of absolutely everything (Laura T. Fisher).

That they don’t come across as tired tropes is a testament to the formidable prowess of the cast and Berry’s exacting direction. The eighth member of the group is Sergeant Trotter (Greg Matthew Anderson), who proceeds to uncover secret after delicious secret in the hearts of the snowed-in guests.

Everyone is superb, but Pearlman stands out as the darkly charismatic woman of mystery, as does Fisher as a hatchet-faced dowdy who always looks like she just bit into a rancid lemon.

Izumi Inaba’s thoughtful costume design enhances each character while Jack Magaw’s spacious set perfectly evokes the grandeur and creepiness of an ancient mansion packed to the rafters with secrets.
Family Friendly

Work up an appetite with family exercise on Thanksgiving

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
For Sun-Times Media

Before you and your kids down turkey and the trimmings, start your day with an invigorating workout. Head over to the Jo Herzog Memorial Thanksgiving Day Family Exercise Class, 8-9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 27 at the Park Ridge Community Center, 555 W. Touhy Ave. “We’ll have five or six instructors teach that morning,” said Fitness Supervisor Diane Murphy. “They’ll do different formats, ranging from Zumba to strength training to kickboxing to Pilates, to show the variety of classes that we offer here.”

The goals of this hour of exercise include elevating your heart rate and “trying to work all the muscles in your body,” Murphy said. Murphy emphasized that anyone can participate. “It’s open to everybody from beginner to advanced,” she stressed. “We show you all different levels so everybody can feel successful.”

The event is free but participants are requested to bring a nonperishable food item for the Maine Township Food Pantry.

For details, call (847) 692-5129 or go to www.prparks.org.

ANOTHER EXERCISE OUTLET

GRAB your ice skates and kids and head to the Thanksgiving Skate, 1-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22 at the Oakton Ice Arena, 2800 W. Oakton, Park Ridge. You will all have a great workout and you will be able to participate in a raffle for a Thanksgiving turkey.

admission fees apply.

For details, call (847) 692-3359 or go to www.prparks.org.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

to a Mathematics Tea Party 2-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. There will be songs, stories, numbers and more for kids ages 3-5, with a parent or caregiver. Registration is required.

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

LOTS TO DISCOVER

It’s Discovery Weekend, Nov. 21-23, at Barnes and Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie, beginning with a Linkee Trivia Tournament, 7 p.m. Friday. Saturday’s activities are Create with Artfolds (10 a.m.), Learn to Draw Like Mo Willems (11 a.m.), Puppet Making and Holiday Sing-Along (1 p.m.) and Holiday Fluxx Game Night (7 p.m.). The event concludes with a Snowmen at Night Story-time (1 p.m. Sunday).

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

TROUBLE BREWING

Kermit runs into a bad guy named Badguy and that spells trouble for the Muppets in "Muppets Most Wanted." The 106-minute PG-rated movie will be shown at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22 at the Niles Public Library, 6900 Oakton St. A snack will be served.

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

Channing Tatum and Steve Carell in "Foxcatcher."

'Foxcatcher' pins down impressive sense of dread

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

You might not walk away from this brooding, depressive true-crime drama feeling that you understand the whys and wherefores of the senseless murder it attempts to explain, but its slowly accumulating atmosphere of dread will certainly make it seem inevitable.

If you're looking for definitive answers from "Foxcatcher," in other words, you're basically out of luck. But if you can accept an approximation arising from fine acting and masterful manipulation of mood, you're not likely to be disappointed.

Based on the unlikely, and ultimately tragic, relationship between multi-millionaire John E. du Pont (Steve Carell, almost unrecognizable) and Olympic champion wrestlers Mark and David Schultz (Channing Tatum and Mark Ruffalo), "Foxcatcher" opens with the first of many references to tarnished American ideals. "I'm here to talk about America," says Mark, holding his Olympic gold medal in a speech at an elementary school. But he's also there to earn $20, which he sorely needs, judging from his tiny apartment and his dinner of Ramen noodles. So it's easy to understand why he's easily seduced when he receives a summons to Foxcatcher, the palatial du Pont estate.

Wrestling aficionado du Pont informs Mark that he plans to restore America to greatness by funding a team to compete at the 1988 Olympics and asks Mark to sign on and move into a posh guest house on the estate. He also invites David, who declines, and that's okay with du Pont — at first. For awhile, du Pont is content with his imaginary role as Mark's coach but, gradually, their relationship changes. Du Pont takes the emotionally vulnerable Mark, whose strength is not matched by his intellect, under his wing. He assigns himself the role of father figure, has Mark introduce him at speaking engagements, introduces him to cocaine and eventually undermines his training entirely. And then cruelly rejects him, announcing that David was the one he wanted all along.

"You can't buy Dave," Mark had told du Pont earlier, but it turns out he can. And David's arrival at Foxcatcher deepens the resentment Mark has always felt about being in the shadow of his more-talented, better-respected, older brother. Who is willing to go only so far to support du Pont's delusional ideas about his role as a coach, mentor and leader of men.

At least, that's the approach director Bennett Miller takes to explaining the twisted psychological underpinnings of the relationship between the Schultz brothers and du Pont — which ended when du Pont inexplicably, cold-bloodedly shot David to death on his estate in 1996.

It's an approach that relies more on suggestion than factual detail (in fact, "Foxcatcher" alters two major features of the true story), informed by an increasingly grim sense of foreboding. And by complex performances that hint at unspoken truths. Especially Carell's as the empty-eyed, slack-mouthed du Pont, who suggests malignancy, if not outright insanity, from his first entrance.

Though he's playing a man who's far too rich for anyone to say so.
Thankful for family and fun

In our house, turkey, stuffing, football and fun are Thanksgiving staples. Although I can’t promise you a Bears victory, I can offer some entertaining activities that will make memories and keep your guests happy.

Secret Code Place Cards

Get creative with place cards that double as code-breaker puzzles. It’s a fun twist on traditional place cards and encourages group interaction. If you have kids at home, enlist them in helping you write the cards using the code-breaker key.

You need:
- Cardstock place cards
- Pen or marker
- Code-Breaker Key (available for free at MommyonaShoestring.com)

Directions:
Use the Code Breaker Key to write names in code on card stock place cards.
When it’s time for dinner, invite guests to find their seats by breaking the code. If needed, pass out copies of the “Code Breaker Key.”

Guests’ Names Word Search

I love word searches because they make the most cynical guest find that “last hidden word.” This idea takes that concept to a new level by giving guests a chance to find everyone’s name. It’s a great way to break the ice and make everyone feel welcome.

Directions:
Visit http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com to make your very own customized word search puzzles. Plug in your guests’ names and the site will do the rest. I recommend passing out puzzles prior to dinner so everyone learns each other’s names before your meal begins.

ABC Thankful Game

Thanksgiving is a time to show gratitude from A-Z, which is why this game is perfect. It’s also a snap to play because it requires no preparation.

To play: Go around the table asking guests what they are thankful for in order of the alphabet. For example, the first player will name something he is grateful for that begins with the letter “a,” then, the next player says something she is grateful for that begins with the letter “b.” Game play continues until every letter is mentioned.

Pass the Popcorn

I love this multigenerational game, which requires a lot of concentration and teamwork.

You need:
- Chopsticks or spoons (great for little hands)
- One piece of popcorn

Directions:
Each player gets either a set of chopsticks or a small spoon. The oldest player starts by using the chopsticks to pass the popcorn to the person seated on his right. That person then passes the popcorn to the person seated on her right, and game play continues until the popcorn has gone around the table. If the popcorn is dropped, start over from the beginning.

Turkey Egg Hunt

Looking for a game to play in between dinner and dessert? Try this silly version of the “hot/cold” game.

You need:
- Plastic or hard boiled egg (“turkey egg”)

Directions:
Choose one player to leave the room while the “turkey egg” is hidden. When the player returns, the others will call out “gobble, gobble,” when the player moves closer to the hiding spot or “giblet, giblet,” when the player moves further away. Once the egg is found, a new seeker is named, and the game repeats.

Happy Thanksgiving!
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.

Friday: A Million Ways to Die in the West
1 p.m. A cowardly farmer begins to fall for the mysterious new woman in town, and he must put his newfound courage to the test when her husband, a notorious gunslinger, announces his arrival. (mbd.com) Run time: 116 minutes. Contact: Community Engagement Department 847-677-5277 Ext. 232 or events@lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood. Call 847-677-5277.

Friday Film: Wadjda
2 p.m. The Saudi Arabian film is screened. Rated PG. Runs 88 minutes. An audience-led discussion follows the film. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Call 847-729-7500.

New Member Shabbat Dinner
6 p.m. New Member Shabbat Dinner honoring new T.J.M. members. Dinner at 6 p.m. followed by Family Shabbat Service at 7:30 p.m. Menus: salad, chicken (chicken tenders for children), potatoes, and vegetable. Pasta for vegetarians. Temple Judea Mizpah, 8810 Niles Center Road, Skokie. Call 847-876-1566. $22 per adult (age 13 and over); $7 per child.

Holiday Tree Lighting
7 p.m.: Delight in the blaze of holiday lights and color when the majestic tree is illuminated on the lawn. Enjoy holiday carols by The St. Joseph Parish Youth Choir. Direct inquiries to the Wilmette/Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce, 847-446-7220.

The Acme Blues Band, featuring Franklin Park resident Julio Cuomo, performs

Make and Take Craft
10 a.m.: Kids can stop by the library every Saturday to make a craft to take home. Winnetka/Northfield Public Library District - Northfield Branch, 1225 W. Lake Ave., Northfield. Call 847-446-7220.

Hungarian Lace Necklace
10 a.m.: This elegant netted pattern is reminiscent of Victorian times. Using needle and thread, learn how to follow the pattern to create the "V" design with an accent color. Previous seed bead experience is required. Bead In Hand, 45 Harrison St., Oak Park. Call 708-848-1761. $30.

Yellowstone Holiday Parade
10:30 a.m.: Parade starts at 4th and Linden streets and proceeds west on Central Avenue to Village Center. Marching bands, classic cars, clowns, bagpipers and local businesses/community groups walking or in decorated floats and cars. Pictures with Santa after parade in front of Village Hall. Complementary horse-drawn sleigh ride through Village Center. Board sleigh at Greenleaf and Poplar Ave. For inquiries, call Wilmette/Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce, 847-251-3800. Downtown Wilmette, Wilmette and Central Avenue, Wilmette.

3D Photography Show and

Holiday How-To's: Annual Holiday Demonstration Weekend
11 a.m.: It's time to deck the halls! Stop by Chalet for free, 20-minute "how-to's" focused on creative decorating and entertaining. Check out expert demonstrations of Winter Containers, Outdoor Lighting, Decorating with Ribbon and Mantle and Staircase Decorating. Chalet Landscape, Nursery and Garden Center, 332 Lake Ave., Wilmette. Call 847-256-0561. Free.

Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest Festival of Trees
Noon: Unique handcrafted trees, wreaths, and more available for purchase to decorate your home for the holidays. Live music, entertainment and Santa daily from 2-4 p.m. Seasonal refreshments, crafts, raffles and more! Brookdale Plaza Oak Park formerly Holly Court Terrace, 1105 Oak Park Ave., Oak Park. Call 708-383-8111. 5 & under free, Adults $5 Students 6-12 & Seniors $3 Families of 4 or more $15.

Kontras String Quartet
1 p.m.: For the first time of its recitals this season as part of Elmhurst College's World Music Series: this program, titled Geselligheit, features Beethoven's first "Razumovsky" string quartet, Tchaikovsky's first string quartet, and Turina's "La oración del torero." The Quartet currently has residencies with the Ars Viva Symphony of Skokie, the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra and Western Michigan University. Elmhurst College - Buik Recital Hall, 190 S Prospect Ave., Elmhurst. Call 630-279-1009. $15-$25.

Japanese Book and Toy Fair
9 a.m.: Beautiful, high quality books and toys for sale, tax free. Bake sale, "Pick Your Prize"affle, soaps, and handmade ornaments. Holiday story time Friday from 9-4 p.m. Bella from Beauty and the Beast and Batman from the Lego Movie visit on Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon. Free holiday crafts for the kids while adults shop. Keystone Montessori School Gymnasium, 7415 W. North Ave., River Forest. Call 708-366-1080.

Handicrafters
10 a.m.: Held every Friday at 10 a.m. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-525-5127.

Friday Film: X-Men: Days of Future Past
1 p.m.: The X-Men send Wolverine to the past in a desperate effort to change history and prevent an event that results in doom for both humans and mutants. (mdb.com) Run time: 131 minutes. Contact: Community Engagement Department 847-677-5277 Ext. 232 or events@lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood. Call 847-677-5277.

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**Film Clips**

**BY BRUCE INGRAM**

**Film Critic**

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**FORCE MAJEURE**

Rated R for some language and brief nudity
Stars: Johannes Kuhnke, Lisa Loven Kongsli, Clara Wettergren

A normal dynamic of Swedish family on vacation in the Alps is shaken in the aftermath of an avalanche. Robert Östlund directed the Cannes prize-winning drama.

**FOXcatcher***

Rated R for some drug use and a scene of violence
Stars: Steve Carell, Channing Tatum, Mark Ruffalo, Vanessa Redgrave

Fine acting and all-enveloping depressive mood go a long way toward making-up for fuzzy plot details in this disturbing tale of a senseless true-crime story. You'll hardly recognize Carell as the decidedly odd aristocratic millionaire John E. du Pont, who enticed Olympic champion wrestlers Mark and Dave Schultz (Tatum and Ruffalo) to join his richly funded Foxcatcher training program in the late '80s and wound up murdering one for no apparent reason. Bennett Miller ("Capote," "Moneyball''), who won the Best Director prize at Cannes, judges facts to suggest a motive but what really happened is anyone's guess.

**THE HOMESMAN**

Rated R for violence, sexual content, some disturbing behavior and nudity
Stars: Tommy Lee Jones, Hilary Swank, John Lithgow

In the old West, a strong-willed woman (Swank) who has agreed to take three women maddened by misfortune back East, hires a drifter (Jones) to guide and protect them. Jones ("The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada'') directed the drama.

**THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY - PART I**

Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, some disturbing images and thematic material
Stars: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Woody Harrelson, Julianne Moore

After shattering the annual tradition of the Hunger Games, Katniss Everdeen (Lawrence) becomes a leader in the uprising against the oppressive President Snow (Donald Sutherland). Francis Lawrence ("Hunger Games: Catching Fire'') directed the adventure.

**DUMB AND DUMBER TO**

Rated PG-13 for crude and sexual humor, partial nudity, language and some drug references
Stars: Jim Carrey, Jeff Daniels, Kathleen Turner, Laurie Holden

Pretty much exactly what you'd expect, with one exception. Where the world-class idiots (Carrey and Daniels) in the Farrelly Bros. colossal 1994 hit comedy were basically benign and sweet-natured, the passing years have made them considerably meaner — and way more obnoxious. You might screen a few low-level laughs from this mostly tedious sequel as the two doofuses hit the road to find a long-lost daughter (and secure a kidney transplant). But, most likely, it will be in spite of yourself.

**BEYOND THE LIGHTS**

Rated PG-13 for sexual content including suggestive gestures, partial nudity, language and thematic elements
Stars: Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Nate Parker, Minnie Driver

A troubled young singer (Raw) on the brink of superstardom finds solace in a relationship with a policeman (Parker) assigned to protect her. Gina Prince-Bythewood ("The Secret Life of Bees'') wrote and directed the romance.

**THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING**

Rated PG-13 for some thematic elements and suggestive material
Stars: Eddie Redmayne, Felicity Jones, David Thewlis, Emily Watson

This biodrama about the life and career of theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking is beautifully shot, extraordinarily well acted and appropriately inspirational. Unfortunately, it's also disappointingly soft in terms of providing insight into the reality of Hawking's life and the complexity of his work. Based on a memoir by his first wife Jane (played with loving determination by Felicity Jones), "The Theory of Everything" views Hawking's life and career primarily within the confines of that troubled romance — with occasional timeouts for dramatizations of intellectual breakthroughs.

**ROSEWATER**

Rated R for language including some crude references, and violent content
Stars: Gael Garcia Bernal, Shohreh Aghdashloo, Kim Bodnia

Suspected of being an American spy, an Iranian journalist (Bernal) is psychologically tortured for 18 days. "Daily Show" host Jon Stewart makes his writing/directing debut with the drama.
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Meeting of the minds: Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels in “Dumb and Dumber To.”

Movie times are effective Friday, Nov. 21, through Thursday, Nov. 27. Please note that theater schedules are subject to change.

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(847) 491-9751
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301 Golf Mill Center
Niles
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www.amctheatres.com
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Rosemont
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www.muvico.com
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4999 Old Orchard Center
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www.regmovies.com
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Blockbuster or flop? The Movie Review section has the scoop.

Get up and go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond

Every Thursday
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHICAGO</th>
<th>CHICAGO</th>
<th>NILES</th>
<th>NORWOOD PARK</th>
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<td><strong>Edison Park Lutheran Church</strong></td>
<td><strong>United in Faith Lutheran Church</strong></td>
<td><strong>St. John Lutheran Church (LCMS)</strong></td>
<td><strong>St. Alban’s Episcopal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6626 N. Oliphant Ave, Chicago, IL</td>
<td>6525 W Irving Park Road</td>
<td>7429 N. Milwaukee Ave.</td>
<td>Family-friendly church for every kind of family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>773.631.9131, <a href="http://www.edisonparkchurch.com">www.edisonparkchurch.com</a></td>
<td>Sunday 8:30 AM Traditional Worship</td>
<td>Preaching Christ crucified for your forgiveness</td>
<td>Spouse and kids?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, 4:30 pm - EvenSong</td>
<td>9:30 AM Sunday School</td>
<td>Welcoming traditional worship</td>
<td>6240 N. Avendale, near Devon &amp; Harlem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 8:00 am - Traditions</td>
<td>10:30 AM Praise &amp; Worship Service</td>
<td>Sanctuary Handicap accessible</td>
<td>Communion every Sunday, 9:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, 9:15 am</td>
<td>Tuesday - 7:00 PM Bible Study Rev. Matthew Joseph Gunia, Pastor</td>
<td>Sunday School at 9:30</td>
<td>stalbanschicago.org</td>
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<td>Adult Bible Study - 8:00 am Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor</td>
<td>Rev. Lester White Handicapped Accessible</td>
<td>Blue Handicap accessible</td>
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<td>Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry</td>
<td>ALL ARE WELCOME!</td>
<td>ALL ARE WELCOME!</td>
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<td>Michael Lyda, Children/Youth/Family</td>
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<td><strong>St. Paul Lutheran Church</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rohr Chabad Center of Glenview</strong></td>
<td><strong>Zion Lutheran Church</strong></td>
<td><strong>Park Ridge Presbyterian Church</strong></td>
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<td>5650 N. Canfield, 60631, (708) 867-5044 - <a href="http://www.stpaulcanfield.org">www.stpaulcanfield.org</a></td>
<td>701 Harfen Avenue, Glenview</td>
<td>8900 W Lawrence Avenue</td>
<td>1300 W. Crescent Ave.</td>
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<td>Street Level, Air Conditioned</td>
<td>Shabbat morning services 8:30 am</td>
<td>Early Communion - 1st Sunday 9:00 am</td>
<td>847-677-3330 - (847) 677-3330</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Worship 8:15 &amp; 10:45AM</td>
<td>NO membership required For all your Jewish needs call 701 Hadern Avenue, Glenview</td>
<td>Holy Communion 3rd &amp; 5th Sunday</td>
<td>Sunday Worship: 10:00 am</td>
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<td>Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible 9:30AM</td>
<td>For all your Jewish needs call</td>
<td>Early Communion 3rd &amp; 5th Sunday</td>
<td>Children’s programming for pre-k - 7th grade, Friday Night Services 9:00 am High School</td>
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<td>Lutheran Unity School - West Pre K-Grade 8, SHARING GOD,</td>
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<td>Adult Education Bible Study Saturday 11:00 am</td>
<td>Adult Education Bible Study Thursdays 6:30 pm</td>
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<td>Pre K-Grade 8, SHARING GOD, TOUCHING LIVES EVERYWHERE</td>
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<td>Open Forum Adult Learning First Thursday every month 6:30 pm</td>
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<td>Mr. Aaron Higashi Dir. of Youth &amp; Family Ministries</td>
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<td>Mrs. Amy Schusterline Sunday School Dir.</td>
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<td><strong>Norwood Park Lutheran Church</strong></td>
<td><strong>St. Luke’s Christian Community Church</strong></td>
<td><strong>Zion Lutheran Church</strong></td>
<td><strong>SKOKIE</strong></td>
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<td>5917 N. Nina Ave Chicago, IL</td>
<td>9233 Shermer Rd., Morton Grove</td>
<td>8900 W Lawrence Avenue</td>
<td>Congregation Bene Shalom</td>
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<td>P: 773.631.2860 F: 773.631.0142</td>
<td>Sunday Worship &amp; Sunday School - 10 AM</td>
<td>Nor ridge, IL 60706</td>
<td>4435 Oakton, Skokie (847) 677-3330</td>
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<td>Worship Services</td>
<td>Handicap Accessible Pastor Elizabeth Jones</td>
<td>Rev. Luther John Bajus, Pastor</td>
<td>Interfaith Families Welcome</td>
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<td>Sundays:</td>
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<td>Sunday Worship 8:30 am</td>
<td>Rabbi Dr. Dov Goldhammer</td>
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<tr>
<td>At 10:00 am</td>
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<td>Holy Communion 3rd &amp; 5th Sunday</td>
<td>Asst. Rabbi Shari Chen, Soloist Charlene Brooks</td>
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<td>Early Communion - 1st Sunday 9:00 am</td>
<td>All services voice and sign language</td>
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<td>Sunday School - 10:35 am</td>
<td>Check our website for service times</td>
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<td>Adult Bible Study - 10:45 am</td>
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<td>Serving the Community</td>
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<td>Sharing God’s Promises</td>
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<td><strong>Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Morton Grove Community Church Presbyterian Church (USA)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Willow Creek Community Church North Shore Campus</strong></td>
<td><strong>St. Peter’s United</strong></td>
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<td>8994 Austin Ave., Morton Grove</td>
<td>315 Waukegan Road</td>
<td>Church of Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Worship 5:30PM</td>
<td>(Lake and Austin)</td>
<td>847-44-6599</td>
<td>Oakton Street &amp; Laramie Avenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Worship 10:30AM</td>
<td>(847) 963-2982</td>
<td>Sunday Services: 8:30, 10 &amp; 11:30am</td>
<td>847-673-8166</td>
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<td>Holy Communion Weekly</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mgcppresbyterian.org">www.mgcppresbyterian.org</a></td>
<td>Promiseland (Infants-Gr. 3): 8:30, 10 &amp; 11:30am</td>
<td><a href="http://www.beneshalom.org">www.beneshalom.org</a></td>
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<td>Pastors: Barbara Berry-Bailey and Jeffery King</td>
<td>Sunday Worship 10AM</td>
<td>Elevate (Grades 6-8): 10 &amp; 11:30am</td>
<td>Sunday Worship 10AM</td>
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<td>Fellowship 11AM Rev. Lolly Dominski Rev. Bunny Hughes</td>
<td>Impact (Grades 9-12): 6pm</td>
<td>Sunday School 9AM (Sept. thru May)</td>
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<td>For more information visit</td>
<td>Rev. Richard Lamford</td>
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Sat & Sun 6PM
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Cantor Benjamin Warschawski
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Children’s Church: 10 am
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Kabbalat Shabbat Fridays 6:00 PM
Shabbat Service – Saturdays 9:30 AM
Jr. Congregation, Tot Shabbat,
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Followed by Kiddush
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**In Memoriam**

**Bryniczka, Beatrice M.**

Beatrice “Bee” Bryniczka - passed away peacefully November 3, 2014, at age 94, in Park Ridge, IL from complications after a stroke. She was born on April 27, 1920 in Chicago, IL, daughter of Stephen and Lilian Czarny. She was the oldest of 3 children and outlived her brother, Stephen (Anna Lee) Czarny and sister, Virginia (Felix) Mallen. She was also preceded in death by her husband, William, and daughter, Constance.

Graduating from Austin HS, Bee grew up riding the streetcars of Chicago and attending dances with beaux. She married her favorite dance partner, William C. Bryniczka, on leave from the U.S. Navy, on August 18, 1945 at St. Stanislaus Church in Chicago. After several Chicago addresses, they designed and built a home in Park Ridge where they settled and raised their four children.

Bee was very social and involved in many clubs, including Newcomers, Alumnae Club, Samba, Canasta, Welcome Wagon, and Garden Club. She was so proud of her anti-free ponnies. She sang in several choruses and was a Boy Scout den mother.

She was active with the Park Ridge Senior Center to the end. Since 1938, Bee was very devoted to her sorority, Beta Sigma Phi, even serving as president. She and Bill danced the night away with the Merry Marnids in Park Ridge. They wintered in New Port Richey, FL for many years and loved having visitors. She had a strong Catholic faith and was very dedicated to her church, St. Paul of the Cross.

Bee will be greatly missed by her three sons, Gregory (Sherry) of So. Barrington, Andrew (Carol) of Arlington Hts., and Daniel (Lori) of Mt. Prospect; grandchildren, Adam (Eva), Nina, Vincent, Trisha (Sean) Fitzmaurice, Julie, Amy (Tyler) Frederick, Kevin, Nicole and Gates; proud great-grandma of Anna and Ashley; dear sister of the late Virginia Mallen and Stephen; proud active member of Park Ridge Senior Center, Garden Club and Newcomers Club.

Funeral Mass 9:30 a.m. Saturday, November 22, 2014 at St. Paul of the Cross Church, 320 S. Washington St., Park Ridge, IL. Procession to St. Adalbert Cemetery.

For info www.nelsonfunerals.com or (847)823-5122.

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**In Memoriam**

**Gates, Norman A.**

Age 79, was born on November 6, 1935 in Chicago, Illinois. Beloved husband of Patricia (nee Haney); loving son of the late Albert and Erna Gates; dear brother of Karl (Jeanne), the late Charlotte and the late Betty (George Meier and Richard Vitch); dear brother-in-law of Paullette (David) Hemersbach; fond uncle of Marjorie Meier, Kenneth (Nina) Meier, Justin (Kim) Gates, Kate Gates, Megan Gates and Michael Hemersbach; loving great-uncle of Mark (Shannon) Meier, Jodi (Jennifer) Meier, Jackson, Samantha and Alexander Gates; and great-great-uncle of Kate and Lindsey Meier.

Norm passed away peacefully at Rainbow Hospice Ark in Park Ridge on November 9, surrounded by his wife and dear friend, Sam Evans. Norm taught English and Drama at East Leyden High School for 33 years. Private graveside service was held at Ridgewood Cemetery on November 13. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 22, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 418 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Lyric Opera of Chicago, 20 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606 or the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22719, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1719. Funeral Arrangements entrusted to Ryan Park Funeral Home.

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**Death Notices**

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**Death Notices**

**Smith, J. Lynette**

(November 28, 1941 – November 7, 2014)

J. Lynette Smith passed from this life into life eternal on November 7, 2014, and is at rest in the loving arms of God. Her death came swiftly after a brief battle with breast cancer. A longtime resident of Des Plaines, IL, Lynette came to Indianapolis to be near family during her final weeks.

Lynette was the daughter of Wendell and Frances Knecht Smith of Cedar Rapids, IA, where she graduated from Jefferson High School. She attended Millville Wesleyan College, in Kansas, then Greenville College, Greenville, IL, graduating in 1965 with a double major in music and elementary education. Lynette taught kindergarten and first grade in Morton Grove, IL, more than 25 years, delighting in her students; and was a dear friend among her colleagues. Following her retirement, she enjoyed travel to visit family and friends. She is remembered by many for her creativity in fashion, decorating, school projects, as well as her handmade greeting cards, and her love of beautiful music.

She is survived by her sister, Glenda E. Hunter (Robert) of Indianapolis, IN; her nephew, Andrew Hunter (Emma) of San Diego, CA; and her niece, Mena.

Memorial gifts may be made in her honor to Greenville College, Greenville, IL.

Private services will be held at a later date.

Leppert Mortuary, Nora Chapel assisting arrangements. www.leppertmortuary.com

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7. Based on it
8. Lucy’s hubby
9. Spots pat
10. Disparage

DOWN
1. Big name in
2. Fragment of
3. In Latin
4. Tilt La
5. Kitchen
6. Greek vowel
7. Bartender
8. Author T.S.
9. Gradually
10. Taking

PUZZLE ANSWERS

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21): Soothing hurt feelings before they can ignite an angry outburst is the wise thing to do. When it comes to doing the “wisdom thing,” you do it so well.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19): Budget your time so that you can handle both your workplace duties and your personal holiday planning without burning out on either end.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18): You might find that you need to firm up one or two of those still outstanding decisions so that you finally can move forward as you had planned.

PICTURES (February 19 to March 20): You usually don’t carry grudges, but you might feel this is one time when you’re justified in doing so. But aren’t you spending too much energy holding onto it?

Let it go and move on.

HOROSCOPES: NOVEMBER 26 — DECEMBER 2

Aries (March 21 to April 19): There could be an unexpected change in plans for your upcoming holiday travels. But keep in mind that a little flexibility helps in resolving any disappointments.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20): A new relationship might not be responding quite as quickly as you’d hoped. Could you be expecting too much too soon? Ease up and let things happen at their own pace.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20): As we approach the period of pre-holiday planning, take time out now to reconnect with the people who share your life, especially the one who shares your dreams.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22): A misunderstanding should be resolved before you get caught up in the flurry of holiday preparations. Set your pride aside and deal with it, regardless of who might have hurt whom first.

Leo (July 23 to August 22): Being told that a colleague might have been trying to undercut your effectiveness might or might not be true. Get all the facts before you even think about acting.

Virgo (August 23 to September 22): It’s a good idea to start your holiday preparations early in order to avoid a time crunch if an unresolved workplace situation causes a problem.

Libra (September 23 to October 22): A family member’s actions continue to surprise you, but this time with positive results. Could be your wise counsel finally got through.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 21): Your reluctance to act in a current situation could be traced to your inner self advising you to take more time to study its complexities before you attempt to deal with it. Good luck.

By King Features Syndicate Inc.
I'LL BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...
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Can you name the losingest teams in each of the four major North American team sports over the past 50 years? Most NFL fans will remember the 2008 disaster in Detroit, when the Lions went 0-16 — two worse than the 0-14 Tampa Bay Bucs in 1976. In the NBA, the 2011-12 Charlotte Bobcats take the pitiful prize at 7-59 (a "winning" percentage of 11%). The NHL’s dubious distinction belongs to the 1992-93 Ottawa Senators at 10-70-4 (12%), while Major League Baseball’s poorest performance was posted by the 2003 Detroit Tigers at 43-119 (27%), the second Detroit team on the list of shame.

Wide Receiver Sammy Watkins was drafted by the Buffalo Bills with the fourth overall pick in the 2014 NFL draft, and with good reason. A starter every season at Clemson, Watkins was the only pure receiver ever to make the Associated Press’s All-America first team as a true freshman. There were, however, three running backs with that distinction. Any guesses? They were Herschel Walker (Georgia), Marshall Faulk (San Diego State) and Adrian Peterson (Oklahoma).

A final farewell to New York Yankees legend Derek Jeter with a few numbers baseball fans might not know: At the end of his final season of 2014, Jeter had participated in almost 16% of all Yankees games ever played to that point. His 1,722 regular and post-season wins rank behind only Pete Rose, Hank Aaron and Carl Yastrzemski over the last century. The only other man ever to play for 20 seasons in New York was Mel Ott. And get this — Jeter’s record of 158 post-season games is just four short of an entire season, while his record of 200 post-season hits makes it an incredible season at that.

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WHO'S BACK

The Panthers return six players from last year's team, four of whom were starters. Two of the returning starters, seniors Mavee Degnan and Maggie Palmer, started for Regina two years ago when the school made it to the Class 3A Vernon Hills Sectional final. Both Degnan and Palmer referenced that season when talking about their goals for this year. "We're hoping that the team can get more than 22 wins, which is more than our goal two years ago," Degnan said. Added Palmer: "We want to do as best as we can, maybe even return back to that [Sweet 16]."

WHO'S NEW

With four starters back, it would seem there's not a lot of opportunities for new contributors. But freshman Grace Tamisiea and sophomore Regina Trejo are new faces that are expected to see significant court time this season, coach Kerry Durham said. Both Tamisiea and Trejo play forward and Durham said they bring an inside presence, energy and hustle.

Durham has an athletic and somewhat interchangeable group. Her players are about the same height, and some, such as Degnan and Palmer, play positions one through five. Others, such as Palmer's sister, Colleen, move easily between point guard and swingman (which refers to someone who can play both shooting guard and small forward). Colleen Palmer is a sophomore who played point guard last season for the Panthers. Durham said she takes advantage of this versatility and athleticism by running a structured motion offense with lots of movement and lots of cutting to the basket. The offense isn't new for Regina players; this group of seniors started at Regina the same year their coach did. "This is the first group that's gone all four years through our process. They already understand the process," Durham said. "They're working hard to understand how to obtain those goals." Durham made clear that team defense will help the Panthers achieve their goals. "We pride ourselves on defense, that creates our offense," said Durham, who shrugged off questions about offense and set defensive plays.

— John Kuhn

WHO'S BACK

Ridgewood returns three starters from a year ago, including senior shooting guard Janell Flores and junior Lexie Crotty, who can play anywhere on the floor. The third is senior point guard Justyna Golab. Golab has improved as a ball-handler and has become more vocal, she said. She's also been better about moving on after making an error this year, which is an important trait for point guards. "Before she kind of had her head down if she made a mistake," Crotty said. "This year, she's more positive. She's cheering people on if she makes a mistake. She picks herself up, and we have her to pick [other people] up."

WHO'S NEW

Monica Zygula, a 5-10 junior, has returned to the basketball team. Zygula, a volleyball player for the Rebels, was pulled up to varsity as a freshman, but she decided to not play basketball last year. Ridgewood coach Amanda Timothy and Crotty said Zygula ended up missing the sport a year ago, and she'll try to balance club volleyball with high school basketball this winter. Zygula's return is important because it gives the Rebels more size on the interior. "I feel like it's [a big boost] because she's got the height and she has strength," Flores said.

JUMP BALL

Ridgewood has rarely been able to compete with Glenbard South, Riverside-Brookfield and Fenton in recent years. The Rebels lost by 48 points to Glenbard South twice last year. The Rebels are now in a more manageable league, the Metro Suburban East. They won't play Glenbard South at all during the regular season, and they are scheduled to play Riverside-Brookfield and Fenton only once apiece this year. That's a welcome change. "It's nice to have schools that are more like us [in the Metro Suburban East]," Timothy said.

— Eric Van Dril

2013-14 RECORD: 5-24 overall, 2-10 Metro Suburban
2014 PLAYOFFS: Lost to Antioch 73-21 in the Class 3A Quin Regional semifinals
HEAD COACH: Amanda Timothy, entering third season
GAME TO WATCH: Ridgewood at Elmwood Park, 7 p.m. Jan. 13

The rival schools played a pair of thrilling games a year ago. Elmwood Park edged Ridgewood 54-53 in overtime early in the season, and Ridgewood has rarely been able to compete with Glenbard South, because she's got the height and she has strength," Flores said.

Due to limited space, we refer to the Metro Suburban East as "urban" in some cases. The suburban league also comprises suburban, suburban, suburban and suburban schools.

2013-14 RECORD: 17-11 overall, 5-2 Girls Catholic Athletic Conference Red
2014 PLAYOFFS: Lost to Vernon Hills 57-25 in the Class 3A Gordon Tech regional final
HEAD COACH: Kerry Durham, entering fourth season
GAME TO WATCH: Regina at Resurrection, 7 p.m. Jan. 6

"It's the rival game that everyone looks forward to," Durham said. Last year her team defeated Resurrection 41-34 in Wilmette. Durham said that games between the two Catholic all-girls schools get more intense, more fun and more competitive each year. Durham knows the rivalry well. She previously was the head coach at Resurrection.

Durham's return is important because it sets the tone for Regina. Zygula's return is important because it shifts the focus to defense, that creates our offense," said Durham, who shrugged off questions about offense and set defensive plays.

— John Kuhn
WHO'S BACK

The Spartans pulled center Miranda Weber, point guard Ilena Malman, and guard Lanie Gruemmer and forward Claire Hanrahan up to the varsity as sophomores a year ago. That group has returned — Hanrahan (back) is injured to start the season, however — and coach Danielle Fluegge said they’ve made a lot of progress. Weber is better at using her strength in the paint, for instance. Fluegge added that Malman was a gym rat during the offseason. She’s a captain, and has become better at driving to the basket and absorbing contact.

WHO'S NEW

Glenbrook North has four freshmen — posts Nicole Amen, Samm Carsello and Maggie Oliphant, and point guard Jordan Davison — who are scheduled to play up on varsity. Carsello (collarbone) is injured to begin the season. Davison could make an immediate impact. “She’s really fast and her defense is really good,” Malman said. “Every aspect, I think, is strong,” especially as a freshman. I can’t even imagine what she’ll do when she’s a senior.”

WHO'S NEW

Glenbrook South also has excellent depth. Senior guard Madison Kane and senior forwards Caroline Caspers and Catie Weinman are all expected to be in the rotation. Catie and Carie Weinman are sisters. Freshman Lizzy Shaw, who finished 118th at the Class 3A state cross country meet recently, also is slated to be part of the rotation. “She’s always moving. She’s so quick. She gets around people really fast,” Oldshue said.

WHO'S NEW

The Titans began last season with a ton of inexperienced players. The opposite is true this year. Glenbrook South returns sophomore point guard Carie Weinman, junior forward Caitlin Morrison and senior center Ashley Oldshue. All three started last season, and they’ll likely be joined in the starting lineup by junior guards Sydney DeHorn and Sarah McDonagh. Don’t be surprised if Weinman, who led the team in scoring and assists last year, is better this season. “She did a good job handling the ball for us last year, but you can just tell in practice she’s a lot more confident taking the ball to the basket — just really getting into the paint and either finishing or dishing,” coach Steve Weissenstein said.

WHO'S NEW

Fluegge was Glenbrook North’s interim head coach during the middle of last season when Renee Brosman was on maternity leave. Brosman stepped down as head coach this year to spend more time with her family, Fluegge said. Fluegge is also a mother, and the birth of her son James on May 4 will always be intertwined with taking over as the Spartans’ head coach. “I was eight months pregnant when I interviewed for the position, and an hour later my water broke,” Fluegge said. “My son arrived … early, and when I was in the hospital — the day before he was delivered — they offered me the job. It was a very cool experience.”

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Eric Van Dril
WHO'S BACK

New Trier welcomes back one of the best bigs in the area, if not the state, in 6-3 junior center Jeannie Boehm. A starter since her freshman year, Boehm led the Trevians in scoring (14.8) and rebounding (8.2) as a sophomore. She also is a dominant defender in the post, as evidenced by her 119 blocks last season. "I recognize I have to carry myself different this year by taking on a leadership role," Boehm said. "It's kind of weird to me because I still feel like one of the younger players. But I will do my best." Boehm will be joined by senior guard Jackie Welch and senior forward Kathryn Pedi, both of whom played significant minutes for the sectional champs last season.

WHO'S NEW

Junior guard Haley Greer, the daughter of Chicago Bulls assistant coach Andy Greer, is a transfer from Deerfield. "We didn't know how it would work out when she first came," Boehm said. "But she's fitting in well, and she definitely makes us better." Greer, who plays AAU ball at All in Athletics with Boehm, is expected to take over at point guard after the graduation of Alexa Czyzynski.

JUMP BALL

While Boehm will be the focal point of the offense, she won't be the only scoring option. New Trier assistant coach Eric Duffett said the offense will be balanced this season and a different player could lead the team in scoring almost every game. Duffett said that's due not only to the talent on the floor, but also the team's passing ability and the players' willingness to share the ball.

- Matt Harness
Maine East

Janelle Alba Garner

2013-14 RECORD: 20-7 overall, 9-1 Central Suburban North

2014 PLAYOFFS: Lost to New Trier 55-21 in the Class 4A New Trier Regional final

HEAD COACH: Karol Hanusiak, entering eighth season

GAME TO WATCH: Maine East at Maine West, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 9

The Blue Demons will have to wait until the new year to play their biggest rival. Both teams will look very different this season. Maine East lost four starters to graduation, and Maine West standout Brittany Collins now plays at Saint Xavier.

WHO'S BACK
Maine East coach Karol Hanusiak kept the team's bench short in big games last year, relying on a core group that included Jazlene Gonzalez, Maria Proti, Shaylee Sloan, Elanta Slowek and Alyssa Mates. All five have since graduated, however, which makes Janelle Alba Garner the lone returner who's played substantial varsity minutes. Alba Garner, a versatile junior guard, is likely to have a much bigger role this year. "She's a lot stronger and now she knows she has to step up with scoring," senior center Olivia Hertogs said. Janelle knows that she has to stop being scared and shoot. She has a really good 3-point shot, she's just always looking for the perfect time to shoot it."

Most of the Blue Demons' roster is either new to varsity or new to having a prominent role on varsity. Maine East doesn't have much height, so it will likely be imperative that junior Maddie McTague and Hertogs play well in the paint. Alba Garner will play point guard at times, but Hanusiak said Maine East has other capable ball-handlers, including junior Kelli Lindberg, junior Manan Ismail and sophomore Lauryn McTague, Janelle Alba Garner's sister. However, one big question remains: Where are the points going to come from? "Janelle can't do it all," Hanusiak said. Someone else is going to have to step up and they really have to change their mind-set and really start to think about, 'I need to score,' because 30 points at the varsity level isn't going to do it."

Although Maine East lost so many experienced, talented players, there is still optimism in the program that the Blue Demons can be successful. "It's going to be really hard without them," Lindberg said. "But I think with the group of girls we have this year, we could go as far as we did last year." Hanusiak added: "A couple of the kids [on the team] said to me, 'I don't think we're going to take as big of a dive as everyone thinks we're going to take. I don't think so either, as long as we can put the pieces into place.'"

Eric Van Dril

Maine South

Senior guard Nina Anderson and junior guard Sam Fagenholz both started a majority of the games last season. Anderson, an all-conference selection, was second on the team in scoring at 8.2 points a game, and Fagenholz was third at 7.1. Fagenholz slides into the point guard position this year after the graduation of Kelly Kons, and Anderson will be asked to do a little of everything, including guard the other team's best player. "She's one of those players who has a knack for the ball," Hawks coach Mark Smith said of Anderson. "She's our best defense and our fastest player."

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Matt Harness

2013-14 RECORD: 20-7 overall, 9-1 Central Suburban North

2014 PLAYOFFS: Lost to New Trier 55-21 in the Class 4A New Trier Regional final

HEAD COACH: Karol Hanusiak, entering eighth season

GAME TO WATCH: Maine East at Maine West, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 9

The Blue Demons will have to wait until the new year to play their biggest rival. Both teams will look very different this season. Maine East lost four starters to graduation, and Maine West standout Brittany Collins now plays at Saint Xavier.

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On her first career varsity touch last season, Jackie Ostojic made a 3-pointer in a regional semifinal game. Smith said the 6-1 junior guard will be a big piece of the puzzle this season, along with junior guardi
Senior guard/forward Kienya Jones, a four-year varsity player, is returning for the Vikings. Coach Dan Paxson said Jones has improved every year, and he's looking forward to her contributions. He said she is a "multi-utility" player who plays with a lot of emotion. Jones worked on her outside shot this offseason. She also said her experience has prepared her to be a team leader. The only other senior is guard Alyssa Brand. Brand, who plans to play soccer at Drake next year, has been on the varsity basketball team for three seasons. Paxson said Brand is one of the best on-ball defenders he's ever coached.

The Vikings have added five new players to the varsity, including one freshman, guard Alyssa Aragon. Paxson said he believes that Aragon, who also plays volleyball, has a lot of potential. Players who return from last year include junior center Kiana Weston, who at 5-9 adds height. Paxson said Weston looked good in the first two weeks of practice, and that he expects her to have a lot of rebounds this season.

The Vikings only have two returning seniors, but that doesn't mean they're lacking experience. In addition to Weston, juniors Kathryn Edmond, Olivia Schaps and Stephanie Donado all earned playing time last season. This will be the third year on the varsity for both point guard Schaps and guard Donado, and Paxson said he's expecting a high level of play from both girls.

— Megan Hart

Coach Tony Konsewicz's team returns three starters from last season, seniors Julia Easter and Katherine De Lara and junior Jalynn Estrada. De Lara and Estrada are expected to alternate at point guard this season. The 5-10 Easter plays post, but that doesn't mean she will stay in the paint. Easter said she will probably attempt more 3-pointers than shots within a few feet of the hoop this season.

New this year for the Wolves is 5-11 senior Huma Mededovic, a transfer from Bosnia. "She is an exciting player to watch," Konsewicz said. Wolves fans won't see her only in the post. Easter noted Mededovic's soft touch from the outside, and she said Mededovic will probably spend more time shooting jumpers than making post moves, despite her height and aggressive inside game.

Niles West's roster is made up of 13 juniors and seniors. There are no freshmen or sophomores playing up. And even some of the juniors have varsity basketball experience. Juniors Nicole Lopatin, Kaylee Dyer, and Kaylee Robinson, for instance, were on the varsity as sophomores and will play significant roles this year for the Wolves, Konsewicz said. Lopatin and Dyer will bring an urgency on defense and fill in at the guard positions, while Robinson works in the post, Easter said. And Easter, for her part, has played varsity ball since her sophomore season, and so has De Lara. "Things are going pretty well to start the season. The girls played in a fall league this year and it definitely helped having a basketball in their hands all fall," Konsewicz said. Easter said practices have been fast-paced and positive.

— John Kuhn
**North Shore**

2013-14 Record: 13-9 overall, 3-4 Independent School League

2014 Playoffs: Lost to Willows 55-26 in the Class 2A North Shore Country Day Regional final

Head Coach: Dana Leonard, entering third season

Game to Watch: North Shore at U-High, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 9

Leonard said that with the senior talent on this year's team, she doesn't think any opponent or venue should intimidate her squad. A Dec. 9 match-up against a U-High team that beat North Shore Country Day by 12, 41-29, in Winnetka last season should provide a good early test of that hypothesis.

**Who's Back**

This is a team full of experienced seniors. Longtime sharpshooter Annie Kroll said she has been working on "taking the ball straight to the hoop." Fellow senior Claire McCarthy will be more important than ever because of her position. "She's our only legit post player," coach Dana Leonard said. "Everyone else could play at guard." North Shore also boasts a talented sophomore class, including Lauren Kaplinsky — who is the team's fastest player, according to Kroll — and Grace Atia, who Leonard said has the prettiest shot she's ever seen.

**Who's New**

Freshman Grace Kayser "will play a lot," according to Leonard. Kayser can play forward and center, helping McCarthy out. Fellow freshman Julia Doyle has a lanky build. "They bring us a lot of height, which is much needed on our team," Kaplinsky said. Doyle is still working on her shooting form, but her work ethic — she showed up to every practice this summer — could help ease her adjustment to varsity ball. "These two freshmen have confidence," Leonard said. "They're going to fill minutes for us. We need them, especially down low."

**Jump Ball**

Expect a lot of noise from the Raiders' bench this season. Leonard said she's "asking the girls to step outside of themselves a little bit more this year" with fast breaks and high-fives. A look at teams like the San Antonio Spurs, who have ridden an enthusiastic team attitude to five NBA titles since 1999, inspired Leonard and the Raiders. Kroll, who is somewhat quiet by nature, said she's stepped up her noise level — and so have her teammates. "We're trying to give a lot of encouraging comments to everyone as we play and practice," Kroll said. "We have this team motto that if someone messes up or makes a mistake, we say, 'Flush it.'"

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**Loyola**

2013-14 Record: 21-10 overall, 6-1 Girls Catholic Athletic Conference Red

2014 Playoffs: Lost to Evanston 42-35 in the Class 4A Maine East Sectional semifinals

Head Coach: Jeremy Schoenecker, entering seventh season

Game to Watch: Trinity at Loyola, 2:30 p.m. Jan. 17

As usual, the winner of the Loyola-Trinity game probably has the inside track to the conference championship. This starts a tough stretch to close conference for the Ramblers. Three days after the Trinity game, Loyola plays St. Ignatius and then it ends regular-season league play Jan. 22 against Mother McAuley.

**Who's Back**

Seniors Sarah Elston and Tyra Mills started last season and they are back for their fourth varsity seasons. The 6-2 Elston, a Columbia recruit, is a force in the post, while Mills will run the offense. "We hope that experience allows us to not miss a beat early in the season," coach Jeremy Schoenecker said. Early in her career, Elston played a lot on the perimeter, but Schoenecker said she's become a more polished player in the paint the last two seasons. "We really started incorporating some high-low stuff late last year, and we will continue to do that this year," Schoenecker said. "Sarah should be able to get some easy baskets."

**Who's New**

Sophomore guard Madison Kane and freshman forward Lily Wehman should log significant minutes this season, according to Schoenecker. Wehman is the sister of 2013 Loyola graduate Richie Wehman, who played basketball for the Ramblers. "We are hoping to fill some needs by bringing them up," Schoenecker said. "Lily is athletic, runs the floor well and is a fantastic shot-blocker. Madison is a good shooter."

Elston said she's doing her best to make the rookies' transition to varsity as smooth as possible, much like the seniors did when she was a freshman. "I remember the girls who took me under their wing," Elston said. "They made me feel comfortable and like I was part of the family. I hope I can do that with these younger players."

**Jump Ball**

This is the tallest team in Schoenecker's tenure at Loyola as three players are at least 6-1. Along with Elston, Wehman is 6-2 and junior Liz Satter is 6-1. Satter came off the bench last season as a sophomore. "We have talked about having all three on the court, maybe not early in the season," Schoenecker said. "That size will help us out by being able to be physical with other teams. I can see it helping us late in the year, especially in defensive situations."

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— Jonah Rosenblum

— Matt Harness
Niles North's Jukic regroups, reaches state

BY ERIC VAN DRIEL
Special to the Tribune, @VanDnlSports

SKOKIE — Selma Jukic was elated immediately after she touched the wall in the 50-yard freestyle at the Niles North Sectional. She looked up to the scoreboard and next to her name was 24.40, which was .19 seconds beneath the state cut.

The Niles North junior had seemingly qualified for the state meet for the first time. Jukic climbed out of the pool, and then walked briskly toward her teammates to celebrate Saturday.

She wore a big smile as she neared them, but Niles North coach Paul Torres walked into her path. He told Jukic that she had been disqualified. She'd flinched right before the race began.

"My heart broke into a million pieces," Jukic said of that moment.

As a sophomore, Jukic failed to qualify for state in the 50 free at the sectional. She said she couldn't stop crying afterward because she was so disappointed. That ruined her race in the 100 free.

On Saturday, Jukic used a break after the 50 free to try to regroup and quickly overcome the heartbreak of being DQ'd. The 100 butterfly was the first event after the break, and then it was the 100 free — her last chance to qualify as an individual.

Jukic needed to swim 53.39 or faster to advance to this weekend's state meet at Evanston.

Jukic didn't flinch at the start of the 100 free. She was the fifth-fastest swimmer in her heat, but she touched the wall, looked up at the scoreboard and saw 52.84 next to her name.

She had done it.

Jukic then looked over to Niles North's bench. Her teammates were cheering for her as her coaches celebrated. Jukic didn't shed any tears like last year.

She just smiled.

Niles West

Last year, Niles West's Emma Helgeson said she was satisfied to make it to the state meet. The fact she missed out on being all-state in the 100 free by .15 seconds wasn't a source of disappointment.

"I was just happy I made it there," she said on Saturday. "I was so relieved I made it there, and so happy I had the chance to swim with all those fast girls.

"I was like, 'Next year, for sure.'"

Next year is now here. Helgeson said she was satisfied to make it to the state meet. She said she couldn't stop crying afterward because she was so disappointed. That ruined her race in the 100 free.

Maine South

For Hawks senior Erin Patrick, the crucial amount of time at the sectional was .09 seconds. That was the margin by which Patrick's mark of 59.20 in the 100 backstroke snuck underneath the state qualifying standard.

Another minuscule amount was key in Patrick swimming that fast. Patrick's seeded time of 1:00.66 was .22 better than the top seed in the second-to-last heat.

"Personally, I like to be in the faster heat because you have more people to push yourself against," Patrick said. "I think that was better than being the fastest one in the heat before."

Maine South senior diver Nicole Sisco (429.45) also qualified for the state meet.

Maine East

Maine East's top finisher at the sectional was junior Alyssa Kaewwilai, who took ninth in the 100 breaststroke (1:07.30).

Loyola

After winning its first sectional title in program history, the Loyola girls swimming and diving team is the favorite this weekend to win its first state title in program history.

"I'm very confident because we have a lot of really talented, really fast girls who want it really bad," senior Libby Jardeleza said after the Niles North Sectional on Saturday. "We've been training really hard, so I'm confident in our team. But you don't want to be too confident."

Loyola is led by three Division I recruits in Jardeleza (Penn), senior Grace Tierney (Wisconsin) and senior Katie Rourke (Florida).

Rourke's score of 531.60 points was the highest of any diver at any sectional in Illinois.

Jardeleza, Tierney and Rourke have the best chances to win individual state titles, but as Tierney said after the sectional — and as New Trier has shown in recent years — depth is vital in winning a state championship.

The Ramblers have a lot of that, too, with sophomore Olivia Andrew and junior Maria Kyle among a total of 10 swimmers scheduled to compete in individual events on Friday at the state preliminaries.
NEW BEGINNING

Pioneer Press previews the area’s girls basketball teams | INSIDE

In this Jan. 17 photo, New Trier’s Jeannie Boehm shoots over Waukegan’s Nakia White (25) and Markiera Reed (2).
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