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Oakton Community College

Trashy Fashion Show SWANCC-ey

KARIE ANGELL LUC
For Sun-Times Media

SWANCC was in full swing Nov. 15 as swanky fashion trends took center stage at the Oakton Community College Trashy Fashion Show hosted by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.

The afternoon Fashion Show and Educational Expo drew people of all ages to 1600 E. Golf Road in Des Plaines on a wintry day with snow flurries. Real trash provided the means for fashion and a variety of social messages.

Families came to support participants, snapping away on cell phones to capture memories. The fashion show drew participants from the SWANCC communities of Barrington, Glenview, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Park Ridge and Skokie, among others.

The Des Plaines campus was abuzz with people who also attended the Educational Expo which took place down the hall from the fashion show.

In a nearby dressing room, more than 30 models and their fashion designers excitedly made last minute costume adjustments. Wardrobe malfunctions were entirely possible, since a recycled plastic retail store bag could fall off simply by walking.

Duct tape was a handy tool in this case — whatever worked. Just ask Fremd High School student Karen Rumps, 16, of Rolling Meadows, who modeled a look coined, "Don't Feed The Bag Monster!"

"It's really hot," Karen said.

But it was all worth wearing a mountain of T-shirt-sized baggies heaped in earth tone colors, she said.

"It's becoming an uprising problem," Karen said of the abundance of retail bags that sometimes took flight as unsightly balloons, getting stuck in treetops, compromising birds and nature.

One goal of the event was to observe America Recycles Day. Sustainability was a natural conversation starter, and fashion helped.

"I think this is great for the kids; it taxes their mind for creativity," said Joe Sweeney, Park Ridge's First Ward alderman.

"You can tell by the outfits that they're creative and having a lot of fun," he said.

Holly Berger Hoffman of Evanston brought her children to the show.

"I'm excited, we've never been to this before," said Hoffman, who said she appreciated the lesson.

"They're (her kids) learning how you can couple creativity with trying to be green," said Hoffman, who added, "Evanston is just so green."

Madeline Atkinson, 13, of Barrington, modeled a Joffrey Ballet-inspired skirt composed of bubble wrap and made floppy with the use of Hula Hoops.

"Don't throw something away, if you can use it," said the teen, whose cellphone was kept in a clear clutch made of spiffy plastic.

Monica Schoenfeldt, 15, of Niles, who attends Niles West High School, wore a skirt made of an umbrella to call attention to water pollution. The mini-skirt was a challenge to craft because the thin wires could rip the fabric.

"It took a long time," Monica said with a sigh.

Mary Anne Enriquez of Glenview was among adult models. She grew up in Glenview and attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help School.

"I took many T-shirts from my closet, and it was either make rags out of them or throw them away," said Enriquez, who graduated in the 1970s from Maine North High School.

"It's all hand stitched," she said of her outfit with butterfly details that promoted fair trade of cotton.

As she modeled, Mary Allen, SWANCC recycling and education director, read aloud the back story of Enriquez's coffee-stained clothing.

"Cotton, it's called the 'white gold' of the world, an extremely valuable crop grown to create much of the daily needs of humans in the world," Allen said.

"Did you know (that) human drinking water is diverted to grow cotton?" she said. "Entire lakes are drying up, leaving people without water."

Enriquez wore a handmade hat bearing Tide detergent marketing logos. The model, whose clothing was hand stitched — no sewing machine involved — wants people to know that cotton should be recycled, she said.

Cotton is at risk of being taken for granted by Americans who toss cotton clothing in the garbage after two seasons, Enriquez claims.

"Wear or use items longer," was her message.

Allen, a Park Ridge resident, summed up the power of this year's fashion show theme, which was "My Solution to Pollution."

"The whole point of it is to raise awareness about being more resourceful, using things that we have rather than going and buying, and also not to look alike," Allen said. "You know, being different is awesome."

Some outfit materials included plastic parts found at construction building sites. Spectators viewed repurposed curtains and dated bedspreads. The Victorian era, the '60s, hippies and the Roaring '20s flapper era were celebrated.

"Our young girls, they get barraged that they have to look a certain way, and this is a (fashion) show to say, any size is welcome and the more different you are, the better," Allen said. "There's responsibility for being better stewards of the environment."

Contact SWANCC at 847-724-9205 or visit www.swancc.org.

From left, Camila Pulex and Grace Graham, both of Skokie, and both 8, check out a shadow box/karlie anglill luc for pioneer press.

Monica Schoenfeldt, 15, of Niles and a Niles West High School student, is a model at SWANCC Educational Expo and Trashy Fashion Show Nov. 15 at Oakton Community College/karlie anglill luc for pioneer press.
Madeline Atkinson, 13, of Barrington shows off her bubble wrap and hula hoop look. (Arie Angell Luc/Pioneer Press)

Some of the fashions worn by local student models at SWANCC Educational Expo and Trashy Fashion Show Nov. 15. (Arie Angell Luc/Pioneer Press)

Mary Anne Enriquez of Glenview made this outfit and hat herself, no sewing machine please. (Arie Angell Luc/Pioneer Press)

Lizzie Nielsen models a swingy skirt made of items found at a building site. (Arie Angell Luc/Pioneer Press)

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The Village Board has marked an end of an era for the Niles Police Department.

During its Nov. 18 meeting, the board honored recently retired Police Chief Dean Strzelecki. The mayor and trustees thanked him for his years of service and his family for their support.

The board also confirmed the appointment of Deputy Chief Dennis McEnerney as interim police chief, which Mayor Andrew Przybylo made the week before. Officials have not indicated when the village will begin looking for Strzelecki's permanent replacement.

Strzelecki served in the Niles Police Department almost exactly 39 years. He was sworn in on Nov. 1, 1975, becoming a detective in 1983. Over the next two decades, he moved up the ranks, becoming the police chief in September 2004.

Strzelecki's retirement was officially announced during a previous board meeting on Oct. 28. At that meeting, it was not clear whether he had any plans beyond serving as a consultant for the village. On Nov. 8, he announced he is running for trustee as part of the Niles Forward Party slate.

But politics took a back seat during the Nov. 18 meeting. Strzelecki was joined by his family and his former subordinates as Przybylo congratulated the now-former chief on his years of service.

"As the mayor, it is my honor and pleasure to congratulate Dean," he said.

The mayor spoke of Strzelecki's career, highlighting his accomplishments, his involvement in various Niles civic organizations and the awards he won over the years. He wished the former chief a happy retirement.

"The Village of Niles and its residents, as well as the business community, salute Dean for his dedicated service and his commitment to making Niles a safe and secure place to live and operate a business," said Przybylo. "We wish him and his family a long and healthy retirement.

"Dean, we thank you for your service and for a job well done. Congratulations on your retirement."

The entire board and audience in the meeting room rose in standing ovation.

The trustees made their own statements. For the most part, they echoed comments they made during the Oct. 28 meeting, thanking Strzelecki for his service and commitment. They thanked Strzelecki's wife, Laurie, and the rest of his family for the support they gave him over the years.

"Laurie, let us know what it's like to have [Strzelecki] home all the time," Trustee Danette Matyas said.

Przybylo chose McEnerney as interim chief on Nov. 13, two days before Strzelecki's retirement took effect. He made the choice after consulting with Strzelecki and Village Manager Steve Vinezeano, Przybylo said.

McEnerney has been with the Niles Police Department since 1978. Prior to becoming chief, he served as deputy chief of the Investigation Division. In an announcement issued on the day of the appointment, Przybylo said McEnerney's experience, knowledge, and reputation made him a logical choice.

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

The board approved the appointment 4-0, with Matyas and Trustee Chris Hanusiak abstaining.

During the public comment period, former Trustee Louella Preston congratulated McEnerney on his appointment.

"Congradulations to Dennis," she said. "Dennis has been on the force as long as I've been in Niles. He has done an outstanding job as a police officer."

Preston also expressed hope that the village would begin looking for Strzelecki's permanent replacement soon, and that it would consider candidates from both inside and outside the department.
The Niles Public Library Board of Trustees voted unanimously to move $600,000 from the General Fund to the Special Reserve Fund to cover the cost of expected building and equipment repairs. During the summer, the board received a report detailing issues with various aspects of the building that it may address. On Sept. 17, the board decided to use the Special Reserve Fund to cover the repairs. But the repairs are expected to cost a total of $1.8 million, while the Special Reserve Fund only had a balance of $700,000.

The board originally considered moving $1.2 million from the General Fund to the Special Reserve Fund covering the cost of repairs and still leaving some money to spare. But during the Nov. 19 meeting, it decided to scale back the transfer to $600,000. The board was concerned that the repair costs presented in the report were too high, and they decided not to commit any additional funds yet.

According to a report prepared by the Addison-based Fredrick Quinn Corporation on Aug. 13, most of the repairs are related to the exterior of the building. For the most part, the report indicated that the building’s problems are not severe, but could become worse if left untreated. The report recommended addressing them over the next 10 years.

The report looked at several aspects of the library’s exterior. For the roof, it noted some drainage issues, insulation issues, wear on the materials, and gaps in materials that could potentially allow rain, ice and snow to get through. For the walls, it noted some wear and cracks.

For the windows, the report said that while they should hold up without significant issues over the next 10 years, the library may want to consider replacing them with something more energy-efficient. While most of the building’s steel doors are in good condition, the north door, which was used as a temporary main entrance during the library renovation project, needs to be replaced within the next five to seven years, it said.

The board found no significant issues with the canopy or the main entrance. The parking lot was another matter. While the regular maintenance would keep it in good shape for the next three years, the report recommended more fundamental repairs three to five years from now.

The report also noted that some parts of the sidewalk and the pedestrian "island" in the middle of the parking lot had uneven surfaces, something the report suggested should be repaired.

As far as the exterior lighting, the report recommended that the lights themselves be replaced as soon as possible, preferably with something more energy-efficient. While the light poles could last another five years, the report recommended replacing them as well. The report also recommended replacing shorter pole-like light fixtures within the next five to 10 years.

Other than trimming trees whose branches hang over the roof, causing wear, the report didn’t recommend any significant landscape improvements.

A separate report prepared by the Chicago-based Calor Deign Group looked at utility issues. While most of the utilities are in good condition, that report recommended replacing some equipment within the next 10 years.

For ventilation, the report suggested replacing exhaust fans in restrooms, the garage and some staff areas. For heating, it recommended replacing some water pumps and a boiler.

The board was originally scheduled to vote on funding the repairs during the Oct. 15 meeting. At the time, the proposal was to move $1 million dollars to the Special Reserve Fund. Because some trustees had concerns about the fund balances, they voted to postpone the vote until the Nov. 19 meeting.

In discussion at that meeting, the proposed transfer went up to $1.2 million. But once the board actually went to vote on it, it scaled the transfer back to $600,000.

In a follow-up interview, Board President Morgan Dubiel explained that the amount was lowered because of concerns that the repair cost estimates were too high.

"Trustee [Chris] Ball and I felt that it was too much," he said. "The estimate for the roof repairs was especially high — absurdly high."

Because once the money is moved to the Special Service Fund, it can’t be moved back, the board decided to play it safe, Dubiel said.

"If something changes in the next couple of months, well put more money in," he said.
**POLICE BLOTTER**

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

### NILES

#### DOMESTIC BATTERY
Jackson Jones, 43, of 3660 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, was charged with domestic battery on Nov. 16 after he was accused of grabbing a woman and putting her in a headlock inside his vehicle on the 8500 block of Golf Road. Court information was not available.

#### RETAIL THEFT
Rashid Murray, 22, of 4007 Eagle Lane, Rolling Meadows, was charged with retail theft and possession of marijuana on Nov. 17. Police said Murray was accused of stealing $46 worth of men's clothing from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. Two grams of suspected marijuana were found in his jacket pocket, as well, police said. He has a Dec. 9 court date.

#### DUI
Dana Mousette, 27, of 725 Dobson Street, Evanston, was charged with driving under the influence and driving with an expired license on the morning of Nov. 16 after police reportedly found him asleep at the wheel of his vehicle, which was running at the corner of Harlem Avenue and Kirk Drive, with the front tires on a parkway. Police said Mousette had difficulty answering questions and declined to perform field sobriety tests. He has a Dec. 3 court date.

Benjamin Silver, 37, of 828 Leyden Lane, Wilmette, was charged with driving under the influence on Nov. 14 after police responded to the 6900 block of Cleveland Street at 12:30 a.m. for a call of a vehicle blocking a driveway. According to police, Silver was found slumped over the wheel and, when he was awakened, was unsure of where he was. He has a Dec. 9 court date.

Mayra Delgado, 23, of 2052 N. Latrobe Ave., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence on Nov. 14 after police responded to a call of a hit and run accident just before midnight in the area of Harlem and Milwaukee avenues. According to police, the accident occurred on the Chicago side of the intersection, but the driver of the other vehicle did not want to sign complaints. Delgado, who was taken into custody at Milwaukee and Courtland avenues after she was reportedly seen driving erratically with a flat tire, has a Dec. 31 court date.

Mayra Delgado, 27, of 735 Dobson Street, Evanston, was charged with possession of marijuana on the 8500 block of Golf Road. Court information was not available.

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Benjamin Silver, 37, of 828 Leyden Lane, Wilmette, was charged with driving under the influence on Nov. 14 after police responded to the 6900 block of Cleveland Street at 12:30 a.m. for a call of a vehicle blocking a driveway. According to police, Silver was found slumped over the wheel and, when he was awakened, was unsure of where he was. He has a Dec. 9 court date.

Mayra Delgado, 23, of 2052 N. Latrobe Ave., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence on Nov. 14 after police responded to a call of a hit and run accident just before midnight in the area of Harlem and Milwaukee avenues. According to police, the accident occurred on the Chicago side of the intersection, but the driver of the other vehicle did not want to sign complaints. Delgado, who was taken into custody at Milwaukee and Courtland avenues after she was reportedly seen driving erratically with a flat tire, has a Dec. 31 court date.

Mayra Delgado, 27, of 735 Dobson Street, Evanston, was charged with possession of marijuana on the 8500 block of Golf Road. Court information was not available.

### NILES

#### DOMESTIC BATTERY
Jackson Jones, 43, of 3660 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, was charged with domestic battery on Nov. 16 after he was accused of grabbing a woman and putting her in a headlock inside his vehicle on the 8500 block of Golf Road. Court information was not available.

#### RETAIL THEFT
Rashid Murray, 22, of 4007 Eagle Lane, Rolling Meadows, was charged with retail theft and possession of marijuana on Nov. 17. Police said Murray was accused of stealing $46 worth of men's clothing from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. Two grams of suspected marijuana were found in his jacket pocket, as well, police said. He has a Dec. 9 court date.

#### DUI
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### Niles police again warn of IRS phone scams

**JENNIFER JOHNSON**

Niles police are again alerting residents to a phone scam in which callers claim to be representatives of the Internal Revenue Service.

In recent reports, a caller will tell the victim he or she owes money in back taxes to the IRS and will face jail time if they are not paid. The victim is often directed to put the money on a prepaid debit card and share the card number with the caller. Niles police reminded residents that real IRS representatives will not ask for payment using a prepaid debit card, credit card or wire transfer. In addition, most IRS correspondence regarding unpaid taxes is initially done by mail, police said.

Callers who commit this type of phone scam may know the last four digits of the victim's Social Security Number, call from a phone number that appears on caller ID as the IRS, send bogus emails, and call a second time claiming to be with a police department or department of motor vehicles, police said.

"If you should receive such a phone call, the simple thing to do is to hang up," the Niles Police Department said in a statement. "Do not at any time give your credit card information, social security numbers, or go and purchase a secured credit card."

In October, a 54-year-old Niles woman lost more than $2,400 after she was contacted by someone claiming to be an IRS agent and demanding she pay unpaid taxes using a prepaid debit card. Police said the woman also received a call from someone who told her she would be arrested and deported if she did not pay an additional $4,800.

Niles police recommend that residents contacted by someone claiming to be with the IRS call the organization at 1-800-366-4844 to confirm the validity of the call.
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Niles library puts filters on computers, wireless network

IGOR STUDENKOV
For Sun-Times Media | @studenkiv

The Niles Public Library Board of Trustees has adopted a stricter filtering policy that will block library all computers and devices connected to its Internet network from accessing certain content.

The new policy, which was adopted during the Nov. 19 meeting, calls for installing filters that would block content classified as "nudity," "pornography," "racism," "hatred" or "violence.

The librarians will be able to turn off the filters, if they get in the way of legitimate research. Patrons who are caught viewing "objectionable" or obscene imagery could have their Internet access privileges revoked.

The policy is effective immediately, but library staff must first purchase the filters and install them, interim Director Susan Lempke said.

In discussion before the vote, Trustees Karen Dimond and Linda Ryan argued that the new policy goes too far, stifling patrons' freedom to access information and potentially getting in the way of legitimate research. But most trustees said the restrictions are reasonable, voting to approve the policy 4-2.

Prior to the policy change, the filters were installed only on computers in the KidSpace area, and only blocked websites the filter classified as "nudity" or "pornography." If the filters flagged non-pornographic sites by mistake, the librarians could temporarily turn the filter off and let a user access it.

While teen and adult computers didn't have filters, viewing pornographic content still violated library policy. As Lempke explained at an earlier board meeting, the staff operated a kill switch that could instantly turn a computer off.

Any patron caught viewing pornography would be warned not to do it again, and repeated violations would cause their Internet access privileges to be revoked, officials said.

The board first discussed changing the policy during its Oct. 15 meeting, in response to a controversy that arose at the Orland Park Public Library last fall.

Orland Park resident Megan Fox saw a patron using computers to view porn, and when she complained, the library staff said that as long as the content wasn't illegal or obscene, patrons could use adult computers to look up anything. Since then, Foxx and her friend Kevin DuJan have campaigned to get Orland Park library to change its policy.

The Niles policy that ultimately came up for vote was for the installation of filters similar to the ones used on KidSpace computers on all library computers. The restriction parameters will be expanded to include content the filters classified as "racism," "hatred" and "violence.

The Niles policy is more restrictive than the one used on KidSpace computers, which already includes "racism," "hatred" and "violence.

The policy of warning users about viewing porn and suspending their Internet access privileges for repeat violations is still in place, but was expanded to cover users who are found trying to use the computer for software piracy, hacking and harassment.

The new policy also added online filters to the library's wi-fi network.

During the Oct. 15 meeting, Lempke urged the library to avoid such filters, since, she said, they tend to be stricter and it is impossible to turn them off for individual personal computers and e-readers. But shortly after the Nov. 19 meeting, Lempke said library staff found filtering software that would get around that problem.

As the new policy came up for vote, Ryan said she is concerned about people who visit here.

She noted that while there are legitimate concerns that adult computers may be used to view illegal content such as child pornography, the staff is already available to intervene in such a situation.

Board President Morgan Dubiel said that wasn't good enough.

"But they the staff gets exposed to [child pornography]," he said. "We need to protect them, too.

"I came here tonight to thank the board for taking action, because your library isn't as safe as it could be," she said. "I encourage you to protect the children. You will also be protecting your staff from a sexually harassing environment."
Melzer school raises $2,820 for Niles Township Food Pantry

NATALE HAYES
For Sun-Times Media

Students at Melzer Elementary School in Morton Grove discovered the true spirit of Thanksgiving by working together as a school to raise nearly $3,000 for the Niles Township Food Pantry this month.

The Melzer student council launched a Penny Drive campaign with the goal of raising $500 to help feed local families, but by the end of the week the school had doubled their goal to reach $1,410 by Friday. A teacher who asked to remain anonymous offered to match the amount raised by students, bringing the total to $2,820.

The Penny Drive was the first school-wide charitable event in Melzer's recent history that depended on the efforts of every teacher and student in the building, said Jennifer Frazzini, a fifth- and sixth-grader teacher. “The kids really got into it,” Frazzini said. “It was a great way to have so many people in the school come together and make a difference in a short amount of time.”

Frazzini said the idea for the fundraiser started with a vision set by the student council this school year to promote leadership, philanthropy, and a sense of community at Melzer School.

Teachers started getting the kids interested in giving back to their local community by reading two books about helping others to their classes.

After reading “Boxes for Katje” by Candace Fleming and “The Little Hummingbird” by Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas, students were asked to follow the moral of the stories and reach out to help people in their own community, Frazzini said.

“Gathering change is something simple for kids to do, and they realized a little bit goes a long way to helping others, if everyone pitches in,” Frazzini said.

Energy and excitement filled the school all week as classrooms raced against each other to see which classes would have the largest totals for the day.

Junk drawers, couch cushions and pockets were emptied as kids searched their homes high and low for extra change.

Within a day or two, the funds added to the Penny Drive started building as kids brought in nickels, dimes, quarters and dollars, Frazzini said.

The whole school gathered for an assembly on Nov. 18 to present Mark Collins of the Niles Township Food Pantry with their hard-earned money in the form of a giant-sized check.

The school is still coasting on the warm feeling of having done something positive for their neighbors, Frazzini said, and students are already excited to get the next charitable event in the works.

“We’re brainstorming of ways we can get the whole school involved again,” Frazzini said. “Kids are never too young to be exposed to opportunities for giving back to the community.”
The village of Niles’ new plan for Touhy Avenue between Caldwell and Lehigh avenues calls for a new hotel with a convention center, an expanded park around the Leaning Tower, and a Metra station.

Niles takes first steps toward creating Touhy corridor TIF

IGOR STUDENKOV
For Sun-Times Media | @istudenkov

The Niles Village Board took the first steps toward actually creating the Touhy corridor TIF.

Mayor Andrew Przybylo has long advocated the redevelopment of the so-called Touhy Triangle area—a largely industrial area bound by Touhy Avenue on the south, Gross Point Road on the northwest and Lehigh Avenue on the east. In August, the village unveiled a “vision” that called for a business-class hotel, a convention center, an expanded park around the Leaning Tower of Niles and a Metra station.

Chicago-based Kane McKenna and Associates Inc recently completed a study to determine if the area would qualify for TIF designation. During the Nov. 18 meeting, the board approved the study and gave the village the authority to hire the firm to take the first steps toward actually creating the TIF.

The firm’s report calls for the creation of a TIF district that’s larger than the Touhy Triangle, covering the area between Howard Street, Lehigh Avenue, Touhy Avenue and the North Branch of the Chicago River. The report states that while the area doesn’t meet all the criteria for TIF, it meets six of them—enough to qualify for a TIF designation under state law. Those factors include obsolete structures, declining property values, inadequate utilities and the lack of any redevelopment plans.

Under Illinois law, before a TIF District can be created, a municipality must do a study to prove the area in question meets certain criteria. In the case of the proposed Touhy Corridor TIF, that includes whether the buildings in the area are deteriorated, obsolete, unsafe, underutilized, and are otherwise unlikely to attract new tenants and new development, if conditions don’t change. The village of Niles commissioned KMA to do this study in spring 2014.

The village has described the Touhy Triangle “vision” as more of a broad outline than a concrete plan, emphasizing that every aspect of that vision can change, if circumstances require it.

Once the report was completed, the board was faced with a decision of whether to approve it or not. While most trustees favored it, Trustees Rosemary Palicki and Chris Hanusiak expressed reservations.

For Palicki, the fate of the Leaning Tower of Niles was a stumbling block. Niles’ lease of the landmark structure expires in 2059. At that point, the Leaning Tower YMCA, which owns the structure, would have a right to demolish it. Because of this, Palicki has been reluctant to support committing any village funds to the tower while it’s future remains undecided.

“I feel like the train is out of the station on the TIF, and we still haven’t addressed the issue of the tower’s future,” she said.

Ross Klicker, the village’s economic development coordinator, noted that the current lease, the village is responsible for the tower’s upkeep, so some money must be committed to repairs, no matter what happens.

Hanusiak took issue with the TIF district itself—something he expressed concern about when the Touhy Triangle vision was originally unveiled.

“A TIF district freezes that whole area,” he said. “We would need to keep increasing taxes to make up for it.”

Hanusiak also said that Niles’ past experience with TIF districts made him wary of creating another one.

“We still have the Milwaukee/Touhy TIF, and, in my opinion, it’s a failing TIF,” he said. “We didn’t see any type of development from this TIF.”

Klicker disagreed, noting that the new Niles Department of Public Works building was built through TIF funding. And because the district still won’t expire for a few more years, he argued that calling it a failure was premature.

“We are still working on the condo project on the Niles College site, and TIF assistance may be necessary,” said Klicker.

The board voted 5-1 to approve the results of the study, with Hanusiak as the sole “no” vote. The board then voted to contract Kane McKenna and Associates to work on creating the TIF district, with the vote the same way as with the first one.
Maine South's 51st annual variety show 'Not Yet Rated'

JENNIFER JOHNSON
johnson@pioneerlocal.com | @jen_pioneer

"Is there anyone out there who can do justice to the Hawk call?" Charlie Vogg, playing the role of Maine South Principal Shawn Messer, lamented in a skit from the school's 51st annual variety show Friday night.

Suddenly, a loud, throaty squawk emerged from a figure climbing the stairs to the stage. It was Coach David Inserra, his arms raised in hawk-like form, slowly moving up and down.

The audience — many of whom had probably seen Inserra's Hawk Pride call demonstrated plenty of times outside the school auditorium — roared with laughter.

The skit, performed by members of the comedy troupe "Trunk," was one of many performances featured during "V-Show 2015: Not Yet Rated," which spanned three nights at the Park Ridge school and included more than 100 student performers, plus a six-member stage band.

The music and comedy-heavy show also featured dance groups and even a glow-in-the-dark juggling routine, "Follow the Light," by Luke Navas. The show ended with an all-cast rendition of "Gonna Build a Mountain," a tradition for the last 51 years.

SEE VARIETY SHOW, PAGE 18 »

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= CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

VARIETY SHOW

It was the final V-Show overseen by director John Muszynski, who is retiring at the end of the school year after 25 years at Maine South.

“There's a lot of really talented kids in the show - they really put their heart and soul into it,” he said, comparing the show to a “parade” of creativity passing by.

One act that almost wasn't in the show was senior Danny Svachula's solo performance of “Proud of Your Boy.” Dressed in a black tuxedo with photographs from his childhood flashing by on a large screen behind him, Svachula sang the song from the Broadway musical "Aladdin" with Ethan Mellema accompanying on piano.

Svachula, who has Down Syndrome, was initially cut from the show after his audition, but was invited in after classmates and Down Syndrome supporters from across the country took to social media and urged the school administration to reverse the Fine Arts Department committee's decision.

Svachula also performed with the Footlighters in the show's opening act, which included a medley of movie themes, like "Eye of the Tiger" and "Ghostbusters." Several other special-needs students also took part in Footlighters.

"He really worked hard and it really shows," said Danny's mother, Diane, of his solo performance. "He was very nervous but he did a great job."

During Saturday night's V-Show, the first act ended with the evacuation of the auditorium due to a fire alarm. According to Park Ridge Acting Fire Chief Jeff Sorensen, theatrical smoke used in the show set off the alarm.

The show was able to continue, once firefighters determined what had occurred.

"The kids thought I was trying to prolong my last V-Show," Muszynski laughed.

Robbery at Niles Meijer store nets $1,900: police

NILES POLICE are looking for a man who robbed the Golf Road Meijer store last week.

The robbery was reported around 9:20 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 16, at the customer service desk inside the store at 9000 Golf Road.

According to police, a man in his 20s, wearing a baseball cap, blue sweater and scarf, approached the service desk and implied he had a gun. He reportedly fled the store with approximately $1,900 in cash, prior to the arrival of officers.

Police said the man did not display a weapon.

Surveillance video images from the robbery were not available, police said, and the incident remains under investigation.
Do you feel **IGNORED, RIPPED OFF** or taken advantage of?

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Opinion

Letters

Anti-gravity trumps all! Hip-hip-hooray for Joe Makula!

A recent meeting of the Niles Village Board will go down in the history of public meetings, because of its rambunctious disorder, the kind of disorder that astronomers tell us happens in the Universe.

Our Niles solar system started in 1961 by Old Sol himself, Nick Blase. Like other solar systems, planets circle the sun because of gravity, and obediently twirl and whirl around their fatherly Sun, blissfully unaware of disasters because Father Sun watches over them!

One of the planets languished in quiet obscurity until an eruption caused the disappearance of the Sun Nick behind the obscuring walls of a federal correctional rest home. Flabbergasted citizens saw the emergence of Planet Przybylo, who tried replacing the Sun as best he could, creating three additional planets to orbit around him. For a year this new, happy solar system spun along dazzling display of street parties, attempts to fill empty “free” buses, biking, green awards, and lots and lots of other eye candy.

But, Alas! Trouble began brewing in the form of an anti-gravity machine known as Joe Makula, a fiercely independent guy who got a term limit referendum on the April 2013 ballot to end eternal monopolies of power. It passed! Anti-gravity! For this November, Joe got a referendum on the ball to stop mayor-oral appointments of trustee vacancies.

Ex-Planet Przybylo freaked out on Joe’s new anti-gravity, took to the public dais and blasted Joe. The petulant Planet was worried that there might not be enough trustees to do village business. Anti-gravity Joe’s new referendum passed with 76 percent of the vote this month, and, boy oh boy, are the machine politicians scrambling for a way out. Always remember, voters, anti-gravity trumps everything! Hip-hip-hooray for Joe Makula!

Dave Laske, Niles

If you love Culver, let D71 know you are not satisfied

I stood Nov. 18 at the Culver School Board meeting to stand behind the teachers of District 71. I stood among most of the current teachers, many retirees and people like me... dismissed for not realizing the power of people and community.

The teachers brought to the board two letters of concern. District 71 is in crisis, these letters implored, a crisis built on many past years of ineffective leadership and going in the wrong direction.

The letters referenced the recent results of surveys teachers took to explain their extreme dissatisfaction with the leadership in Niles District 71 currently. The letters also stated what was witnessed in the outpouring of support from former teachers: We love Culver School.

We want what has been taken systematically over the past seven and a half years. We want our community and children first. Yes, the building looks great with a new paint job and spiffy sign out front. But that was never us. We were inside, we were outside doing service, we were always there for our students and families.

We may not have been showcasing the latest and greatest in gadgets, but we were a community. We were a community of such diverse, rich, loving families. Our students (children) knew they had a place to go in their most awful situations. And indeed they came when friends died, when life was unsure for them individually.

They came because they knew we would be there and they knew who we were. We were their teachers, solid and sturdy. The teachers and the core teams were Culver School’s hallmarks; the parents and teachers depended on them to make sure children received excellent educations as well as excellent guidance forever.

If you love Culver as much as I do and my fellow teachers do, past and present, please send your voice in an email to the board. If you have been a part of the Culver I speak of, please email, write your School Board and implore them to change direction.

There will be no place to go soon. No place to call home for your children. Culver as we knew it will be gone.

Kim Nelson Stricker, Northfield

Wrong's mustn’t be allowed to overshadow good on Thanksgiving

We can all agree that the first Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Pilgrims at Plymouth settlement in 1621. And we can also agree that all the Pilgrims, instead of nearly half, would have died had it not been for the Wampanoags who helped them.

It became a mutual alliance as the Wampanoags leveraged their new friends against their enemies in northern Massachusetts.

So in a way, Thanksgiving can be thought of as a celebration of mutual cooperation and a simple ritual of gratitude for each other; for without each other we might all perish.

Fast forward nearly 250 years. President Abraham Lincoln declares a national day of Thanksgiving for the fourth Thursday in November in gratitude for the Union victory at Gettysburg the summer before.

That win did two things: It put the federal army on the road to victory thereby saving the Union, and it sounded the death knell of slavery.

Where would the world be had the Union dissolved in 1863? Who would have saved the Western World from Fascism some fourscore years later?

Slavery was headed for oblivion, but the win at Gettysburg made it depart a whole lot quicker, and that’s a good thing.

Man can never truly forget our faults or rightly atone for our sins in this world. But mighty wrongs must never be allowed to overshadow the good, which is often simple and overlooked.

Thanksgiving? You bet. For as W. Clement Stone said, “If you are really thankful, what do you do? You give.”

Start by giving thanks. Happy Thanksgiving.

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.
Thanksgiving shopping controversy not surprising

What do you want for Thanksgiving? What presents did you buy your family for Thanksgiving? Not the kind of questions usually asked about this particular holiday, are they? The controversial Thanksgiving issues are how big a turkey to get and how much green bean casserole to make.

Thanksgiving is not a gifty holiday. We don't share presents. We share a meal — and ourselves.

Thanksgiving is not about what we receive, but what we give. Maybe that's why so many people are upset that Thanksgiving is being morphed into just another day to shop. Whereas no one complains that holidays such as Labor Day and the 4th of July have become shop-a-thons.

Thanksgiving never was a day of consumerism. It was family and tradition and private.

Instead of what should we buy, on Thanksgiving we might instead ponder:

1. What are we thankful for?
2. Who is thankful for us?

All of us are familiar with the first question. We are thankful for family, friends, health, a place to live, a decent income, blessings such as that. And that is as it should be. Everyone ought to have a good life.

The second question receives less consideration, I imagine. Just who is thankful for us? Not what do I take out, but what do I put back?

Thanksgiving just might be the day to start making people — including those outside our family and friends — thankful for us.

And while everyone should have a good life, many don't. The holiday charities, the food pantries, all give us the opportunity to make others thankful.

You can find some such opportunities listed in this newspaper.

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Tips for navigating the holidays and your in-laws

by Jackie Pilossoph

There is so much to be thankful for on Thanksgiving — good health, loved ones, friends, a nice home and delicious food. But there's one thing that many men and women don't particularly give thanks for on Thanksgiving Day: their in-laws at the dinner table!

I might be wrong, maybe you adore the woman who bore your husband or the man who still calls your wife his baby girl. But for many, holiday celebrations — including Thanksgiving — can cause tension and stress, especially in a marriage where the wife and her mother-in-law just don't click.

Dr. Deanna Brann, Ph.D, is a licensed clinical psychotherapist and author of the book “Reluctantly Related: Secrets To Getting Along with Your Mother-in-Law or Daughter-in-Law.” I asked Brann for some in-law tips that could help make the holidays smooth, happy and drama-free!

1. Establish ground rules in advance:
   If you are going to your in-laws’ house for Thanksgiving, agree on a time your family is going to leave. Or, take two cars and let your spouse enjoy his or her family without feeling rushed, while you go home when you'd prefer.

2. Be a team player:
   If Thanksgiving dinner is at your home, include your mother-in-law in some of the preparation so she can feel like she's a part of it. Ask her to bring an appetizer or help you set the table or just ask, “Would you sit and talk with me while I make the salad?” In other words, make her feel important and wanted.

3. Don't take things personally:
   Women have a tendency to do this. Add the stress of the holidays and you could get yourself all worked up over an innocent comment that was not intentionally meant to hurt you.

4. Laugh:
   We all have a Norman Rockwell painting in our heads when it comes to the holidays. We want everything to be perfect. Since that so rarely happens, we set ourselves up for disappointment, so when one thing goes wrong, the drama begins. The best philosophy is to laugh! So what if your daughter-in-law cooked the turkey a little too long or if your mother-in-law doesn't realize that margarine isn’t healthy, who cares? It's only one day!

5. Think about your spouse:
   Remember that if your mother-in-law wasn't here, your husband wouldn't be either. Also think about the fact that this is his mom and he loves her. When you are being kind to your mother-in-law, you are being kind to your husband. And if you are the mother-in-law, remember that your son chose to spend his life with her, even if it’s not the choice you would have made.

Far be it from me to claim I'm an expert on the subject of the mother-in-law, daughter-in-law relationship. I actually failed miserably in that department during my former marriage. However, I did learn a thing or two from my mistakes, so here are my three tips:

1. Don't talk negatively about your in-laws: It is really, really bad for your marriage. Feel free to vent to your friends, but if you say one negative thing to your spouse about his mom, it will only start an argument. Even if what you are saying is true, it doesn’t matter. He will be upset. And if he isn’t, then he isn’t a good son!

2. Nice gestures go a long way:
   When was the last time you bought your mother-in-law a nice card or a gift? Pick up a box of her favorite chocolates or buy her a bottle of wine she likes. Everyone appreciates a nice gesture, and it might make her think twice before making a snide remark or deliberately doing something she knows drives you nuts. Nice gestures are also a nice touch for the mother of your son’s kids, by the way.

3. Don’t forget to breathe:
   Thanksgiving Day is a great day to utilize the breathing you've learned in all those yoga classes. Instead of gritting your teeth at your in-laws, fill your lungs with air and then exhale slowly. You can even go really crazy and add an om!

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy for the Village of Morton Grove for 2014 will be held on December 08, 2014, at 7:00 pm at the Richard T. Flickinger Municipal Center, 6101 Capulina Avenue, Morton Grove, Illinois. Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Mr. Ryan Home, Village Administrator, 6101 Capulina Avenue, Morton Grove, Illinois 847/663-3001.

II. Corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2013 were $12,042,423. The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied by the Village for 2014 are $12,816,571. This represents a 6.43% increase over the previous year.

III. Property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2013 were $1,000,873. The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2014 are $479,410. This represents a (-52.10%) decrease over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2013 were $18,662,320. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2014 are $18,617,277. This represents a (-0.24%) decrease from the previous year.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR THE VILLAGE OF MORTON GROVE

Included in the aggregate levy for the Village of Morton Grove is the levy for the Morton Grove Public Library. Property taxes extended for the Library for 2013 were $3,056,319. The proposed library property taxes to be levied for 2014 are $3,209,135. This represents a 5.00% increase from the previous year.

The aggregate levy of the Village of Morton Grove for 2014 for corporate and special purpose taxes includes abatements totaling $2,621,296. The net increase to the Village's levy for 2014 after the abatement is $2,522,864 or 1.94%.

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PROPERTY TRANSFERS

NILES

6807 N Milwaukee Ave 411, Niles 60714-4557: Barbara Krusser sold the property to Sam J Maniscalco for $203,000 on November 4
7102 N Milwaukee Ave 202, Niles 60714-4491: Oksana Markiv sold the property to Jeffrey Steinberg for $124,000 on November 7
8001 W Courte Dr 401, Niles 60714-1160: November 7

PARK RIDGE

122 Elmore St, Park Ridge 60068-3520: Linda A Kuczma sold the property to Kristin G Hunt & Thomas R Hunt for $535,000 on November 5
1408 Devon Ave, Park Ridge 60068-4556: Curtis W Manning sold the property to Christina Christie for $365,000 on November 4
1832 Prairie Ave, Park Ridge 60068-3955: Kevin P Stapleton sold the property to James Hanlon & Nicole Hanlon for $670,000 on November 7
2000 Hubbard Ave, Park Ridge 60068-1738: Marie T Snow sold the property to Adam Luz Da Silva & Tatyana Janiceira for $476,000 on November 7
216 De Cook Ave, Park Ridge 60068-1536: Bryan Keyt sold the property to Jonathan Roy Tanner & Kristin J Tanner for $1,001,000 on November 4
50 N Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge 60068-3291: Donna Lee Lesker Estate sold the property to Karen & Benson for $450,000 on November 4
504 N Aline Ave, Park Ridge 60068-3016: Matthew Petersen sold the property to Antonio Digoia & Roberta Inzerillo for $271,000 on November 4
Real Estate data provided by Record Information Services, Inc. www.public-record.com Inquiries may be sent to info@public-record.com or call 630-557-1000.

GLENVIEW

1060 Raleigh Rd, Glenview 60025-3028: Heritage Equities Llc Series B sold the property to Shawn L Cooper & Eve Cooper for $1,195,000 on November 6
1444 Pebblecreek Dr, Glenview 60025-2003: Gonzalez Trust sold the property to Thomas Aldrich & Elizabeth Aldrich for $277,500 on November 5
154 Princeton Ln, Glenview 60025-5905: Hyman Trust sold the property to Charles Balling for $530,000 on November 5
2040 Wagner Rd, Glenview 60025-1946: Keith R Christenson sold the property to Anthony Voss for $440,000 on November 4
2532 Golf Rd, Glenview 60025-4854: Pnc Bank Na sold the property to Mukesnhumar M Mehta & Dipilmen M Mehta for $255,000 on November 5
2758 Porter Ct, Glenview 60026-1040: Val Fedorovich sold the property to Farhan Hasan & Sana Hasan for $675,000 on November 4
3005 Lexington Ln, Glenview 60026-5940: Skolier Trust sold the property to Mark Larrabee for $349,000 on November 10
326 Country Ln, Glenview 60025-5005: James Facklis sold the property to Grgorz Wozniak & Izabela Wozniak for $560,000 on November 10
3419 Greenbrier Dr, Glenview 60025-4522: Fannie Mae sold the property to Mariya Vargun & Mykhaylo Hrytsak for $213,900 on November 4
3458 Eppani Way 509, Glenview 60025-3871: Michael Alan Winicour sold the property to Nancy Choi & Davis S Choi for $410,000 on November 4
3836 Michael Ln, Glenview 60026-1007: Richard S Kagan sold the property to Henry D Brown & Tricia S Brown for $560,000 on November 4
3871: Michael Alan Winicour sold the property to Anthony Voss for $440,000 on November 4
6004 Golf Rd 326, Glenview 60028-3016: Matthew Petersen sold the property to Donald L Lippert & Allison L Lippert for $1,029,000 on November 5

NORTHBROOK

1031 Whitehall Dr, Northbrook 60062-4659: Hubert G Frank sold the property to Joseph J Ethen & Alicia M Ethen for $390,000 on November 7
1154 Morgan St, Northbrook 60062-7805: Kef Townhomes Venture Llc sold the property to Amy Doudripe & Cecile Padou for $630,000 on November 7
1141 Waukegan Rd, Northbrook 60062-1007: Lorraine C Gott sold the property to Alexander Luiygen for $512,000 on November 5
1715 Oak Ave, Northbrook 60062-5427: Michael Dillon sold the property to Holly Tress for $500,000 on November 5
1820 Cherry Ln 319, Northbrook 60062-3658: Maria Marini sold the property to Woon Gong Hur & Young Min Hur for $127,000 on November 7
HAPPENING NEARBY
FRIDAY, NOV. 28

Duplicate Bridge
9 a.m.: The senior center offers a friendly bridge game every Friday morning. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-5127.

STEAM Starts
10 a.m.: A self-guided exploration of science, technology, engineering, art, math and reading for kids ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-829-3123.

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT
To submit an event for consideration in print, visit www.pionerlocal.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.

DROP IN MOVIE
10 a.m.: Call youth services for title information.
Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Call 847-729-7500.

DROP IN JUNIOR STORY TIME
10 a.m.: The story time features finger plays, songs and more. For children ages 3-5. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 708-867-2286.

HANDICRAFTERS
10 a.m.: Held every Friday at 10 a.m. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-5127.

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. Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie, 4059 Dempster St., Skokie. Call 847-677-1770.

AL-ANON
9:30 a.m.: Details at 708-867-5044. St. Paul Lutheran Church, 5650 N. Canfield Ave., Chicago.
Skokie Art Guild
9:30 a.m.: The group offers figure drawing workshops every Saturday. There are live models but no instruction. Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie. Call 847-673-4450. $20 per session; $12 for guild members.

AUTISM BENEFITING AUTISM CARE AND TREATMENT TODAY: FAMILY FRIENDLY LIVE THEATER SHOW
11:30 a.m.: Show Up for Autism! Family Friendly Live Theater Show supports grants to low income, autism families!
Informal reception and refreshments 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Performance featuring Chris Fascione 12:30 - 1 p.m. The nonprofit organization Autism Care and Treatment Today provides grants to low-income autism families.

TUESDAY, DEC. 1

BABY TIME
11 a.m.: A short program of stories, songs, rhymes and playtime for children ages 2 and younger with a caregiver. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-829-3123.

HOMESCHOOL HELP
6:30 p.m.: Students in kindergarten through fifth grade can receive help with homework from volunteer Park Ridge Elementary School teachers. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-863-1234.

FAMILY STORY TIME
7 p.m.: Stories, songs and activities for families with children. Niles Park Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-863-1234.

BRAIN NUTS
6:30 p.m.: An evening of brain teasers and puzzles to keep brains sharp and improve cognitive skills. St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 4400 W. River Rd., Arlington Heights. Call 847-576-7676.

MGPL Kids: Monday Morning Playgroup
9 a.m.: Drop-in play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver to introduce children to the library in a low-key, unstructured session. Home Instead Senior Care, 8822 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Call 847-677-1250.

TODDLER TURNER
10 a.m.: The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Home Instead Senior Care, 8822 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Call 847-677-1250.

SPONSORED BY 847-673-1250.

MGPL Kids: Monday Morning Playgroup
9 a.m.: Drop-in play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver to introduce children to the library in a low-key, unstructured session. Home Instead Senior Care, 8822 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Call 847-677-1250.

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. Free.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP
6:30 p.m.: Meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Home Instead Senior Care, 8822 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Call 847-673-1250.

TUESDAY, DEC. 2

THE LIGHT IN THE RUINS BY CHRISS COURN

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

MONDAY, DEC. 1

TOO MUCH MONEY? TALK IT OVER!

MGPL Kids: Monday Morning Playgroup
9 a.m.: Drop-in play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver to introduce children to the library in a low-key, unstructured session. Home Instead Senior Care, 8822 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Call 847-677-1250.

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 847-929-5101 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 847-956-4297.

Writers Group

TUESDAY, DEC. 2

THE LIGHT IN THE RUINS BY CHRISS COURN

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

Financial Investment Club

Financial Investment Club

MGPL Kids: Monday Morning Playgroup
9 a.m.: Drop-in play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver to introduce children to the library in a low-key, unstructured session. Home Instead Senior Care, 8822 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Call 847-673-1250.

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

Financial Investment Club

Financial Investment Club

MGPL Kids: Monday Morning Playgroup
9 a.m.: Drop-in play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver to introduce children to the library in a low-key, unstructured session. Home Instead Senior Care, 8822 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Call 847-673-1250.
Baby Bounce
9:15 a.m.: Special stories, songs, rhymes and playtime just for babies ages 1 and younger. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Men's Club
9:30 a.m.: The group meets the first two Tuesdays of each month for breakfast. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. $2.

Story Time for 4s and 5s

Race and Health Care: Dealing with the Disparity
3 p.m.: Part of the Illinois Holocaust Museum's "RACE: Are We So Different" scholar series. The panel is moderated by Dr. Daniel Vicencio, medical director of the Mercy Family Health Center. Reservations required; email RACEexhibit@ywcaes-ns.org, Illinois Holocaust Museum, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. Call 847-967-4800.

Teens Snack Attack
4 p.m.: Cartoons, TV shows and movies for grades 7-12. Plus, there's always a snack! This month come for another round of The Simpsons and doughnuts! Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 708-867-7828.

Alzheimer's Support Group
6:30 p.m.: This is a support group for families caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or dementia that meets the first Tuesday of every month on the second floor of the Home Instead office. Home Instead Senior Care, 8822 Niles Centre Road, Skokie. Call 847-673-1250.

Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2010
7 p.m.: Learn simple formatting and entering/editing data. Registration limited to six. Morton Grove residents have priority. Prerequisite: Must be experienced and comfortable with computer, keyboard and mouse. Registration for all classes in this series opens: 9 a.m. Nov.18, 2014. Call 847-929-5101. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Call 847-965-4220.

Mearra-Selkie from the Sea
7 p.m.: Capture the enchantment of the season with the Celtic tale of a Selkie, a mythical seal mysteriously transformed into a beautiful maiden, and her bittersweet love story with a lonely fisherman. Linda Marie Smith's original script and score, emotive vocals, and use of multi-media "scenery" are delightfully reminiscent of Smith's past theatrical performance at the library, "The Power of Artemisia." Register at http://www.glenviewpl.org, 847-729-7500 x 7600, or the Reader Services Desk, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview.

Ancestry Online
7 p.m.: Learn how to research your family history Tuesdays in December with Ancestry Library Edition in this three-part series. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 708-867-7828.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3

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

Story Time for 3s
10:45 a.m.: Stories and songs for 3-year-olds with an adult. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Holiday Tea at the Drake Hotel
12:30 p.m.: Come enjoy a one-of-a-kind afternoon tea that you will never forget. The heavenly sounds of a live harp enhances the traditional afternoon tea with finger sandwiches, fruit breads, scones and light hors d'oeuvres. Transportation, admission and tea are included. Registration deadline is Nov.21. Medium walking. Call the Senior Center, for more information. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-3597. Fee is $70, for members, $77, guests.

Computer Club
1:30 p.m.: Join the group to understand the ins-and-outs of today's newest technology. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-673-1250.

Family Forum: Dr. Peter Hayes
3 p.m.: Noted Northwestern University scholar Hayes discusses "Magical Thinking or Modern Planning: The Ideas Behind the Holocaust." Reservations required at reservations@ilhmec.org, Illinois Holocaust Museum, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. Call 847-967-4800.

THURSDAY, DEC. 4

Medication and Sharps Collection
8 a.m.: Deposit your old or unneeded medications and needles in a safe manner by taking them to the foyer in City Hall on the first Thursday of each month. Sharps will not be accepted. Park Ridge City Hall, 24-hour dropbox in the same location. 505 Butler Place, Park Ridge. Call 847-318-5200.

Family Forum: Dr. Peter Hayes
6:30 p.m.: Noted Northwestern University scholar Hayes discusses "Magical Thinking or Modern Planning: The Ideas Behind the Holocaust." Reservations required at reservations@ilhmec.org, Illinois Holocaust Museum, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. Call 847-967-4800.
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Dear Help Squad,

We bought a love seat and sofa from Nick’s Furniture of Sugar Grove on Feb. 14 and never received it. We ordered and paid for it in full. The total charge to our credit card was $2,426.

We were told it would be six to eight weeks for delivery. At week 12 we called Nick’s and were told they would get right back to us. They didn’t. We called many more times before Nick’s called back — always with a different story as to why the furniture was not ready. [Another columnist from a different newspaper] tried to help us twice but is now gone. After eight and a half months, we finally told Nick’s we wanted our money back. On Oct. 31 we went to the store to cancel our order and get a full refund, which they told us they processed. However, it is still not showing up on our credit card. It’s been over two weeks and nothing. Previously, Nick’s said they would return $600 to us for our trouble and delay. However, that refund also never showed up, and when we contacted them two weeks after the refund was processed, Nick’s said we wouldn’t receive the $600 until the furniture was delivered. We had not been told that previously — very misleading and untruthful. Can you please help us get our $2,426 refunded??!

Wayne and Bev, Sugar Grove

Help Squad started by calling Nick’s Furniture and speaking with owner Nick Bumba. Nick stated that he had issued the full refund of $2,426 to Wayne and Bev, and that it often takes up to two weeks for a refund to post. On the date that Help Squad spoke with Nick, it had been 13 business days and nearly three weeks since the refund was issued.

Nick said that if Wayne and Bev felt the refund was taking too long, they should contest the charge with their credit card company on grounds of non-receipt of merchandise. This seemed an odd suggestion from a retailer, as merchant banks don’t typically look favorably on credit card chargeback requests.

Next, Help Squad called Capital One’s (Wayne and Bev’s credit card provider) customer service number. We spoke with a representative and asked why it might take so long for an electronically swiped refund to post. The CSR said this was extremely unusual; electronic refunds typically post in one to three days.

Following this conversation, Help Squad decided to take a closer look at the Nick’s Furniture refund receipt. In the lower left corner we read the words “Apprvd: Offline.” Could this mean that Nick had never actually submitted the refund to Capital One?

Our next call was to Capital One’s Credit Card Relations group. There we were put in touch with spokesperson Amanda Landers, with whom we shared Wayne and Bev’s struggle. Upon reviewing the Nick’s Furniture refund receipt, as well as Wayne and Bev’s account activity, Amanda confirmed Help Squad’s suspicion.

“You’re correct regarding the receipt and it stating ‘offline,’ which means the transaction didn’t go through and Capital One didn’t receive the refund. However, because we have that valid credit voucher from the customer, we’re refunding the money and going through the dispute process. We [have already] issued the request for the chargeback [to Wayne and Bev’s account].”

Said Wayne upon receiving the refund, “We are grateful for Help Squad’s quick actions on our behalf to have our refund processed. This was a lot of money to us; we saved for some time for this purchase. I’m also thankful we didn’t just write a personal check to pay for the furniture back in February. I’m pretty sure we wouldn’t have gotten that money returned unless we pursued it through the court system.”

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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The Lake Forest-based Project Management Institute, the world's largest not-for-profit membership association for the project management profession, announces that W. Stephen Sawle has been elected to a three-year term on its 2015 board of directors.

Veterinarian Dr. Kathleen Heneghan with Elmwood-Grove Animal Hospital in River Grove has been named the latest winner of the nationwide My Vet's the Best Contest hosted by Pets Best Insurance Services, LLC. The contest recognizes veterinarians across the U.S. for their outstanding performance in their field. As the contest winner, Dr. Heneghan received $1,000 from Pets Best to treat animals in need. She plans to contribute the funds to her animal hospital's Needy Animal Fund, which helps stray animals from two Chicago suburbs.

Catherine D. Cavenagh has joined Dixon Law Office in La Grange, as a trial attorney. Cavenagh is focusing her practice on representing injured workers in complex workers' compensation cases. She also will represent office clients in catastrophic personal injury cases. In her few months on staff, she has made a big difference for clients of the firm.

Lake Forest resident Scott Gibson has been inducted into the Society of Trial Lawyers, as one of the few non-Chicago-based trial lawyers who have the jury trial qualifications for membership. Membership is by invitation only and by peer review of actual jury trial work.

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2014

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*Taxes and gratuity included. Must be 21 or older to attend.
Payment Policy - Cash, Check or Credit Card payment due at the time of reservation. Cancellation Policy - No refund after December 10, 2014
'Tis the season

Since its inception in 1989, Dancenter North's production of The Magic of the Nutcracker has featured the finest in local dance talent. More than 6,000 people see the Nutcracker each holiday season at Libertyville High School as well as the Genesee Theatre in Waukegan. Now in its 26th season, the show is the largest and longest running version of the classic ballet in Lake County. Visit dancenter-north.com.

Holidays are here, and DaValle Jewelers' 100th anniversary sale has spectacular savings to offer you and your loved ones. Extend your holiday spirit — not your wallet — at DaValle Jewelers, located at 5116 N. Harlem Ave. in Harwood Heights. Call (708) 887-9200. Visit davalle.com.

Hands on a Hardbody, a Tony-nominated musical based on the critically acclaimed documentary of the same name, follows the true story of 10 Texans trying to keep one hand on a Nissan Hardbody truck for as long as it takes to be the last one standing and win the right to drive away with the prize. The show will run on select dates from Nov. 21 - Dec. 7 at the Raue Center for the Arts, 25 N. Williams in Crystal Lake. Visit rauecenter.org.

Evanston will once again offer a number of events, activities and celebrations for all members of the community this holiday season. Whether it's a family friendly outing, shopping, dining or formal entertainment, the will is no shortage of hosted by a variety of businesses, historical foundations, and houses of worship throughout the suburb.

In keeping with the charitable theme of the holiday season, many places in the area will offer events that will benefit the community. From food and clothing drives to support those in need, to Small Business Saturday to support local businesses, Evanston residents can find a number of ways to give back to the community they call home while celebrating the season.

Evanston History Center's Annual Holiday Food Drive

The Evanston History Center is collaborating with the Greater Chicago Food Depository for the Center's ninth annual holiday food drive. All the food collected will go to an Evanston pantry to benefit area residents in need. According to the center, the food drive is held in honor of the Dawes family, who would prepare baskets of food and delivered them to needy families on Christmas Eve.

The center will also be hosting an annual open house on Dec. 7. "Our annual open house will offer live music, holiday treats, and three [time] period trees, from the 1870s, 1890s, and 1920s," said Eden Pearlman of the Evanston History Center. "We will also be offering candle light tours of the house."

The Dawes House will be decorated and open to the public during the holidays.

Downtown Evanston's Holiday Bash and Tree Lighting Ceremony

Businesses along the popular downtown-shopping district will offer a number of specials, refreshments and entertainment during the suburb's tree lighting ceremony. Complimentary trolley rides, sponsored by the Evanston Chamber of Commerce, will transport shoppers along Evanston's shopping districts. Hilda's Place Transitional Center and Connections for the Homeless will be accepting warm clothing donations.
Shop the Evanston districts for the holidays

BY MONICA CARTER
For Sun-Times Media

Whether shopping for the perfect gift or looking to treat yourself, Evanston's shopping districts are filled with one-of-a-kind boutiques and independent businesses that offer unique gifts.

Central Street
More than 60 merchants and businesses can be found along Central Street, one of Evanston's distinct shopping districts. A majority of the retail stores and services along Central are locally owned and independent.

This year, Central will celebrate the holidays by hosting Central Street's Holiday Open House on Dec. 7. "Many of the participating businesses will offer in-store promotions, sales and treats," said Rachel Hershinow, owner of clothing and accessory shop Stella Boutique. "We also have a visit from Santa and his elves [and] the All-Village Singers will be providing caroling up and down Central."

The family-friendly event is the shopping district's way of thanking customers for their loyalty to independent businesses.

For those looking to grab a cup coffee before embarking on a day of shopping, Curt's Café offers cappuccinos with a mission. The café is a nonprofit organization that provides training in the food service industry for at-risk Evanston youth.

With guidance by food service professionals, Curt's teaches students food preparation as well as life skills. "We teach them, in the food service industry, some basic entry level skills, but more importantly, we teach them life skills," said Curt's Café founder, Susan Garcia Trieschmann in an interview with the Evanston Review earlier this year. "Curt's Café is a place of worth because we're working with young adults that are ready to make a change in their life and we're here to help them make those changes."

Curt's Café recently celebrated its second anniversary as part of the Central Street district this past November.

The family-friendly event is the shopping district's way of thanking customers for their loyalty to independent businesses.

For those looking to grab a cup coffee before embarking on a day of shopping, Curt's Café offers cappuccinos with a mission. The café is a nonprofit organization that provides training in the food service industry for at-risk Evanston youth.

Downtown
The Downtown shopping district is a blend of independent shops and national retailers. Self-described as the place where Chicago and Evanston meet, there are an abundance of dining and entertainment options.

Downtown's annual tree lighting ceremony in Fountain Square will feature live local entertainment and a visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus, who will help Mayor Tisdahl light the tree.

"On the day of the tree lighting ceremony, a trolley will go through all the different shopping districts to pick up customers," said Matt DiNello, marketing and events coordinator for the shopping district.

Retailers and restaurants will be hosting special events while entertainers, which include characters from Frozen and the Evanston Children's Choir, will be a part of the festivities.

The downtown district will also host Hanukkah and Kwanza celebrations during the month of December.

Chicago and Dempster
The Chicago and Dempster shopping district has seen a growth in new businesses within the last two years. The explosion of unique businesses in our neighborhood has made it a really fun destination," said Tim Peterson of Squeezebox Books & Music.

To celebrate this, the local independent merchants of the shops along Chicago and Dempster will be hosting Small Business Saturday at the end of November.

Small Business Saturday gives residents the opportunity to learn more about new businesses while visiting local favorites. The event will include food, wine and shopping sales.

Local shops will start the holiday season with a Love Local theme. Custom-made bags for the Chicago-Dempster neighborhood will be given away at certain business establishments.

"Small Business Saturday is all about supporting the little guy," said Paulette Leffler of Stumble & Relish. "Our customers love to shop at neighborhood businesses and buy goods from small artisans. It always helps when we can give them something to show their pride."

Main Street
The Main Street district is home to a wide variety of businesses including a number of ethnic restaurants, a Belgian chocolatier, a theatre and two museums.

The district saw a new edition to their area when the owners of local business Oliver's Trains and Toys opened a second shop on Main Street.

According to the Main Street Merchants Association, the owners of Oliver's were looking to open another shop when they found out Main Street was going to lose its only toy store. The district was more than happy to work with Oliver's owners to bring the shop to fruition.

Oliver's and other area independent businesses will also be participating in Small Business Saturday.

For an area that boasts such diversity, it is also one of the most inclusive. This idea is not lost on Malik Turley, an instructor of the dance and fitness studio Hip Circle Studio who is also president of the Main Street Station Merchants Association.

"We're working on coordinating the efforts of Main Street, Dempster and Chicago, Downtown Evanston, and Central Street for Small Business Saturday and beyond."

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DON'T BREAK THE BANK THIS YEAR
Six tips to save in style over the holidays

BY TERRA COONEY
For Sun-Times Media

Even though the spirit of giving is in the air, don't break the bank. Patricia A. O'Brien, certified etiquette consultant and owner of Manners, Please, shared advice on keeping a balanced budget this season without skimping on style.

Tactful tipping
Any random cab driver would appreciate something extra, but you have your pockets to protect. Save the tipping for those who make your life easier all year round. O'Brien said this should also depend on your budget and frequency of service. Leave your dog walker something extra around the holidays, but don't go over-the-top with it if you have your budget and frequency of service.

Cut the cards
Once a card sender doesn't mean always mean a card sender. "People see all the time don't really need a card," stated O'Brien. Sure, it's great to reach out to someone who would appreciate hearing from you, but if you're going to send a card, make it meaningful. It could be offensive to get a card with nothing more than a name scribbled inside from someone you hear from just once a year.

DIY dedication
Look to your local art center to find a class in your area to make something unique this season. "If you can't afford to give cash to your hairdresser or drycleaner, something homemade can be greatly appreciated," O'Brien said. If you know someone who loves to cook, give the gift of ingredients needed to make their favorite dish. Got a friend with a green thumb? O'Brien suggested visiting your local garden center to create something special.

Rules of re-gifting
"Be sure the recipient is not the same circle of friends from whom you received the gift," O'Brien said. Also, deem the receiver the very most appropriate person to have the gift. Though it can save money, never re-gift just to get rid of something you can otherwise donate. Remember to remove all tags, receipts, original wrapping and anything that will leave behind a trace that the gift wasn't chosen specifically for the recipient.

DON'T BREAK THE BANK THIS YEAR

Save the holiday shopping season without busting your budget or going crazy. However, sticking to a budget so you can save money on holiday gifts can be daunting. These tips should help.

White elephant
Instead of buying a small gift for all in a circle of friends, or for an entire office of co-workers, keep your cash flow in check by trading one gift per person. O'Brien shared: "This can be a lot of fun and it makes a party out of gift-giving."

Wrap it right
Boxes saved from throughout the year make great packaging for holiday gifts. Larger packages can even be used to deliver a gift card while keeping your recipient guessing. Even a paper bag can be used as simple wrapping dressed up in a pretty bow. Collecting these from the stores you visit year round can make for some unique packages that are also fun to wrap.

Cut the cards
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DON'T BREAK THE BANK THIS YEAR

Fabulous and creative holiday party themes

This holiday season, try one of these festive ideas to set your fete apart and make your holiday party as memorable as it is merry.

Christmas sweater party: Christmas sweater parties have grown in popularity over the last decade, when revelers have tried to outdo one another with the most outrageous holiday-themed sweater. Give prizes for the most outlandish and let guests know early on so they can begin their hunt for a holiday sweater that's so ugly or outrageous you can't help but love it.

Christmas costume party: Costume parties aren't just for Halloween. This holiday season, consider making your holiday bash a costume party, encouraging guests to dress up as their favorite characters from holiday tales such as "Frosty the Snowman," "A Christmas Carol" or any of the host of beloved holiday legends.

Caribbean Christmas: The weather come the holiday season may be the one thing to put a damper on the festivities. To combat blue feelings from potentially inclement weather, consider a Caribbean theme for your holiday party this season. Rather than wearing sweaters and long pants, wear beach attire and give the party a touch of the Caribbean. Outfit your home in beach decor and serve food and drinks reminiscent of the Caribbean instead of more traditional holiday fare like eggnog and gingerbread cookies.

Film festival: Holiday movies are another tradition, so why not invite friends and family over for a holiday film marathon? Include classics like "It's a Wonderful Life" and "A Christmas Story" and encourage guests to submit their own favorites for consideration.

Christmas karaoke: For those who love to belt out their favorite holiday tunes, consider throwing a Christmas karaoke party that allows guests to perform their own renditions of their favorite Christmas carols. Purchase a home karaoke set and ask guests in advance for a list of songs that they'd like to perform.

Party hard: Try one of these festive ideas to set your fete apart. These ideas will get your group into the holiday spirit.

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THE GIFT OF GIGGLES

By Wendy Altschuler

For Sun-Times Media

Give your family and friends the gift of giggles. Take them to a comedy show or introduce them to the world of funny via comedy training. For inspiration, see some performance art from well-known comedic personalities and rising stars to laugh-out-loud acts. It's all funny business this season.

See a number of fantastic headliners at the Chicago Improv Comedy Club and Restaurant at Woodfield Mall in Schaumburg. Upcoming acts include:

- Tommy Davidson, one of the original stars of In Loving Color: Nov. 20-23
- Louie Anderson, a well-known comic with several television and movie roles, including a spot in Coming to America opposite Eddie Murphy: Nov. 28-30. A matinee for young adults, ages 13 and over, at 4 p.m.: Nov. 30
- Rob Schneider, famous for his roles in Deuce Bigalow, The Waterboy, Big Daddy and The Hot Chick Dec. 12-14
- Christopher Titus, a Comedy Central regular: Dec. 19-21
- John Heffron of Last Comic Standing: New Year's Eve, Dec. 31 and Jan 2-3

"The Chicago Improv Comedy Club and Restaurant is the perfect venue for a night out with friends or for a any special occasion," said Stefani Jerard, general manager of the Improv Comedy Club. "Our lineup of comedians for the rest of the year is jam-packed with fantastic headliners and we offer a unique dining and entertainment experience."

Whether you are a new fan of the stand-up comedy scene or a lifelong enthusiast, an Improv Comedy Club gift card is sure to make everyone on your holiday gift list happy.

"Our lineup of comedians for the rest of the year is jam-packed with fantastic headliners."

STEFANI JERARD,
Improv Comedy Club

Do you have comedic stars in your family or circle of friends? If so, the Improv Playhouse, in Libertyville and Highland Park, offers weekly comedy improve shows; accredited performance arts camps, community outreach and education; private and corporate events and parties; team building and entertainment; and classes with professional comics.

"It's amazingly awesome to see our children and adults take an improv class and overcome their greatest fears or engage in their greatest passions," said David Stuart, owner and executive producer at Improv Playhouse.

Zanies' veterans, Dobie Maxwell and Bill Gorgo, train beginners through advanced aspiring comics.

"The stand-up staff is truly committed to the development of each student, and we offer many opportunities for our students to perform on our main stage," Stuart said.

Improv Playhouse will offer stand-up comedy for youth in January. Visit improvplayhouse.com.

The Comedy Shrine in Aurora blends diverse comedic performers and ensemble acts. Audiences are engaged in a cabaret-style comedy club.

Every Friday and Saturday, assorted shows are available. Whose Line and Whose Line, Naughty Show — similar to ABC's Whose Line is it Anyway — are short-form improve comedy shows with skits and musical numbers based on audience suggestions. Family Time at the Shrine focuses on the littlest members of your family — ages 4 and up. The Greatest Holiday Improv Show Ever is in its ninth year. Robert L. Hines, an emerging comic, will be performing Nov. 7-8. Visit comedyshrine.com.
Many of us may find ourselves with a little extra company this holiday season. These tips will help you manage keeping houseguests.

Plan. No one likes unexpected company, and no one likes to feel like they are intruding. Let friends and family members know that your home is open to guests, but to please let you know so you can plan accordingly. Give yourself plenty of time to organize dates and sleeping arrangements so you are fully prepared.

Stock up on low maintenance food. Don't feel like you need to cook every meal for your guests. This is your holiday, too. Stock up on food that is an ease to prepare and clean up after. Give your guests permission to help themselves to your food and point out meal-specific foods that are available (i.e.: cereal, oatmeal, store-bought muffins and frozen waffles for breakfast).

Give your guest a care package. Make your guests feel welcome by providing them a simple basket full of toiletries. Not only does it look super special and fancy, but also if they forgot something, they don't have to ask you for anything. Opt for travel or small sized items to save on space and money. The go-to gift basket can include: bottled water, a toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, a bath towel, a hand towel, lotion, cotton swabs, a pen and a small notebook. If children are staying with you and you have sentimental or breakable décor, move or pack away those items so you, and the child's parents, don't have to worry the duration of their stay. You want to focus on your guests, not your tchotchkes.

Keep in mind; most people want to be home for the holidays. Although hosting guests isn't always a walk in the park, being a houseguest isn't always easy either. Most likely, these people staying in your home mean a great deal to you (and vice versa) so kick back, relax and enjoy each other's company.
Small space, big impact: Get a small tree that is only a couple feet tall and place it on a table. Group together three trees with different heights for a festive holiday look.

- SUPPLIED PHOTO
- Glitter-you name it. This would also make a fun group or family project.

Although you may not have tons of room to decorate for the holidays, use creativity to add some festive decorations to your home. Plus, most of these options will be good year after year, which means you can try your hand at all of them. Although a big, fresh tree is beautiful, crafts made with love and care will steal the show any day.
PARTIES:
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'SNL'S' Cecily Strong
WE COZY UP WITH THE OAK PARK NATIVE

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Normally sequestered in the NoMi kitchen on the seventh floor of the Park Hyatt, pastry chef Meg Galus brings her sweet treats to the hotel’s lobby for a festive pop-up this holiday season. The sweet shop will churn out treats like peppermint bonbons and homemade hot chocolate mix from now until Christmas. Treats start at $3, gift baskets start at $150. 800 N. Michigan; Parkchicago.hyatt.com

TOMS

The philanthropic retailer unveiled a new Wicker Park location last week, offering everything from artisanal furniture by Lamon Luther (which employs formerly homeless carpenters) to the brand’s classic espadrilles. The store also doubles as a community space, featuring a coffee bar, free Wi-Fi and an outdoor mural. 1611 N. Damen; Toms.com

Two Penny Blue

Talk about trailblazing: The locally based blazer line from Marie Whitney (inset) swung open the doors to its new retail spot last week. With every purchase, the philanthropic company donates a school uniform to a girl in need in Africa. Blazers start at $275. 3738 N. Southport; 2pennyblue.com

Shay

River North has a swanky new cocktail haven and late-night party destination, courtesy of Spot On Group. The booze-centric spot also offers small bites like sumac-spiced fries ($9), mushroom doughnuts ($10) and macarons ($10). 222 W. Ontario; Shaychicago.com

Justin portable charger

Put some energy into this year’s stocking stuffers — literally. These small and colorful sticks pack enough volts to give your phone or tablet up to nine extra hours of power. $19.99. Target locations city-wide; Target.com

need to know

WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR THIS YEAR?

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"That I survived a year with a toddler and we are all mostly unscathed."

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"I’m thankful for good hair days, books that even in tragica times the French toast at Eleven City Diner; 1111 S. Walworth."

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"The few chances that haven’t been cancelled yet: ‘Mockers’, ‘Benedict’ and ‘The Mindy Project.’"

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"Trips to Kentucky to see the people I love the most."

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Splash is published weekly by Splash Publications LLC, a Wrapports Company, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago, IL 60654

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Michael Ferro

Splash is distributed weekly inside Sun-Times Media publications.
November 24

**2ND STORY AT CITY WINERY**

Local storytelling collective 2nd Story celebrates Thanksgiving with "Land of Plenty: Stories of Scarcity and Abundance," featuring tales from Lott Hill, Stephanie Chavara and Minita Gandhi -- accompanied by a soundtrack provided by Mike Pryzgoda -- that explore what it means to be grateful when you have so much.

**Time:** 6 p.m. doors open, 8 p.m. show

**Place:** City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph

**Cost:** $19.62. For tickets, visit 2ndstory.com/events/thanksgiving-2014.

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November 25

**DALEY PLAZA TREE LIGHTING**

The 101st installment of this holiday event 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.

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November 27

**MCDONALD'S**

The 101st installment of this holiday event 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.

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November 28

**CHRISTKINDLMARKET**

One of the city's most treasured traditions, the German-inspired outdoor holiday marketplace returns, with dozens of artisans hawking handmade goods, food vendors serving traditional German fare and, of course, a healthy serving of seasonal merriment.

**Time:** Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday-Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

**Place:** Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington

**Cost:** Free to attend. For more information, visit Christkindlmarket.com.

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**THE DINNER PARTY**

At the latest installment of her monthly series, The Dinner Party, Fear No Art founder and moderator Elsabeth Alfano gathers best-selling authors Rebecca Skloot (right), theater critic Chris Jones, comedian/actor David Pasquesi and chef Chris Pandel of The Bristol, Balena and the upcoming Formento's for lively conversation and a tasting of Pandel's fare. Can't make it? Live stream the show at Chicagosplash.com/dinnerparty.

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. doors open, 7 p.m. show

**Place:** City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph

**Cost:** $45. For tickets, visit Citywiner.com/chicago.

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**SERVICE CLUB HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

Make your list, check it twice and head out to the Service Club's annual shopping luncheon, co-chaired by Bonnie Rickard and Diane Freeman and themed "The 12 Days of Christmas." Stock up on gifts from shops and designers such as Jo Malone, Lulu's on the Avenue and Mary Mary, and chefs-in-training, performances from Northwestern's A.N.U.Bhav dance troupe and CASL kids participants, an awards ceremony, silent auction, raffle and music from DJ Aileen Tie. Funds help continue the mission of the Midwest's largest social service agency dedicated to the needs of Chinese-Americans.

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

**Place:** Zhou B Art Center, 1029 W. Michigan

**Cost:** $95. For tickets, visit Casl.org/events.

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**SPIRIT OF ST. NICHOLAS BALL**

Put on your best black-tie and get in the holiday spirit alongside co-chairs Janie and Chuck Walsh and Monsignor Michael M. Boland at Catholic Charities 25th annual holiday event, featuring cocktails, dinner, dancing to music from the Ken Arlen Orchestra and late-night sweets. Proceeds help Catholic Charities Children's Programs serve nearly 300,000 children in Cook and Lake counties each year.

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

**Place:** Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan

**Cost:** $500. For tickets, visit Catholiccharities.net/stnick.
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Second place no more, silver is shining brightly this winter. Keep things classically simple with ensembles from Zuhair Murad or shimmer in Chanel – the fashion houses incorporated striking metallic accents, rippling fabrics and sparkling streams of sequins into their fall/winter collections. Round out the look with sharp black tights and monochrome pumps and go easy on shiny baubles. Embrace the glittering glamour of the season and you’re sure to find your silver lining.
Party animals

PET OWNERS AND THEIR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS STOLE THE SHOW AT THE 13TH ANNUAL FUR BALL, HOSTED BY PAWS CHICAGO — THE CITY'S LARGEST NO-KILL HUMANE ORGANIZATION — AT THE DRAKE HOTEL (140 E. WALTON) NOV. 14. CO-CHAIRS STEPHANIE AND JAKE HENRY AND ANNE MARIE AND MURRAY PERETZ AND HONORARY CHAIRS JANICE AND PHILIP BECK HELPED DRAW MORE THAN 750 GUESTS AND 275 OF THEIR FURRY COMPANIONS TO THE BLACK-TIE GALA, WHICH FEATURED PHOTOS ON THE RED CARPET, DANCING AND PET-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES. AN APPEARANCE BY SMASHING PUMPKINS FRONTMAN BILLY COGAN — WHO OFFERED AN IN-HOME CONCERT FOR 20 AT THE AUCTION BLOCK — PLUS A $45,000 BID TO SPONSOR PAWS CHICAGO'S NEXT TRANSPORT VAN ADDED TO THE RECORD-BREAKING $1.6 MILLION RAISED. THE FUNDS WILL SUPPORT PAWS CHICAGO'S MISSION TO EXPAND ITS LIFESAVING PROGRAMS AND REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS ANIMALS KILLED EACH YEAR.

SPLASH WAS THE MEDIA SPONSOR OF THIS EVENT.

PHOTOS BY SPAVENGA PHOTOGRAPHY
Cosmetic scene

Renowned plastic surgeon Dr. Thomas A. Mustoe swung open the doors to his new office (737 N. Michigan, suite 1500) Oct. 21, and to celebrate, he welcomed guests to join him for an evening of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres by Paramount Events. Dr. Mustoe's staff joined partygoers at the Splash-sponsored event as they toured the space and learned about the latest procedures and products from lines like Obagi and Neocutis, now available at the office.

Guiding light

After overcoming her battle with breast cancer in 2009, Jody Furlong wanted to commemorate the organization that helped her along her journey: After Breast Cancer Diagnosis (ABCD). Furlong and her husband, Mark, BMO Harris Bank's CEO, invited guests into their home Oct. 23 to learn more about the nonprofit, which provides one-on-one support for those affected by the disease, from diagnosis to treatment and beyond. Furlong, also a board member of ABCD, shared information about the organization's community work with attendees and helped honor the one in eight women who are affected by breast cancer in their lifetime.
making a splash

Q's & A's

Chicago funnymen
the Q BROTHERS put a new
spin on a holiday classic

BY ZAK STEMER

When I call GQ, one half of the hilarious rap-comedy duo the Q Brothers, he answers his phone with a loud and exuberant “Heeeeyyyyyyy.” I start talking, but GQ cuts in, “Yeah, alright then. I’ll talk to you soon. I love you.” It takes a minute before I realize it’s his voicemail message. This interaction sums up the Q Brothers’ philosophy: Never miss an opportunity for a joke. “It fooled my own manager in LA twice in a row today,” GQ laughs when I finally reach him.

Now, Chicago natives GQ and his brother JQ (short for Gregory and Jeffrey Qaiyum) are applying that mindset to their latest project: a hip-hop imagining of Charles Dickens’ classic “A Christmas Carol,” which debuted at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater Nov. 19. “It’s our goal to tackle the greats,” explains JQ. “We got to reenvision the world in a way that was totally fresh.”

This isn’t the brothers’ first crack at breathing fresh life into an established idea. They grew up in Lincoln Square, where their family has owned the famed Merz Apothecary for the last 42 years.

This December GQ, JQ and older brother TQ (Tony) are shaking things up with a new men’s grooming shop next door, aptly dubbed Q Brothers (4718 N. Lincoln). While the Qaiyum clan has been in the retail business for generations, GQ and JQ didn’t find their comedic calling until much more recently. “GQ was at NYU and wanted to do a hip-hop theater project with a bunch of his friends,” remembers JQ. “They ran out of time to write his own original piece, so they had to adapt something and Shakespeare was free. It turned out to be this perfect marriage.”

That’s an understatement: The class project eventually became an off-Broadway show called “The Bomb-itty of Errors,” a hip-hop musical version of the classic “Comedy of Errors.” Its success led to a slew of film and TV roles for GQ as well, his credits include movies like “I, Tumline” and guest spots on shows like “Chicago PD.”

Since then, the duo has been tapped by Shakespeare’s original venue The Globe Theatre to create “Othello: The Remix,” which is currently on world tour. But it’s “A Christmas Carol,” which they wrote with their theater company members Jackson Doran and Postell Pringle, that’s been in the works the longest. “[We had] the idea about 15 or 16 years ago while we were doing ‘The Bomb-itty of Errors,’” remembers GQ.

The yuletide remix gives the holiday classic a comedic spin, transforming characters into hilarious hip-hop caricatures. “We have Lil’ Tim instead of Tiny Tim, and Lil’ Tim is an aspiring rapper,” says JQ. Other characters also got the funny filter: Jacob Marley is now the lead singer of reggae band Jacob Marley and the Wailers, the Ghost of Christmas Past is an old-school rapper, Christmas Present is a funky mix of Bruno Mars and Outkast and Christmas Future is a Dubstep musician à la Skrillex.

The myriad musical references are no coincidence. “It’s more like an opera than it is a musical,” says JQ. “There are songs in it, but in between the songs, everything is being rapped over a beat. The music never ceases.”

But the real draw is the brothers’ one-of-a-kind sense of humor, which they admit can get a little competitive. “Writing becomes sort of about who can one-up the next guy,” says JQ. But GQ is quick to add, “We pretty much just laugh 70 percent of the time we’re together. It’s a pretty joyous collaboration.”

Who always makes you laugh?

“My brother. That’s why we write together,” says GQ.

First album

“CD or cassette tape?” GQ laughs. “The first album I ever bought was RUN DMC’s ‘Raising Hell’ [On] cassette for sure.”

Christmas rap

The hip-hop “Christmas Carol” features tongue-in-cheek lyrics like this one, from The Ghost of Christmas Past: “C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S P to the A to the S to the T, I’m the Ghost of the Piggly-Past.”

GQ (left) and JQ
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BY JESSICA TEAS

CECILY STRONG talks to her former babysitter about her ‘SNL’ success, making her way into the movie biz & staying true to her Oak Park roots

The last time I spoke to Cecil Strong was in the ’90s, when we lived across the alley from one another in Oak Park. Never mind that we were just four years apart in age; I was her occasional babysitter, and have hazy memories of the two of us sporting friendship bracelets, scrunchies and mom jeans without a hint of irony, watching comedies on VHS and “Saturday Night Live” reruns.

Now when I turn on the TV, Strong is the one making me laugh. It’s 2½ years after her “SNL” debut and she’s a veteran cast member who can carry a sketch entirely on her own. She’s a natural on live TV, thanks to the silliness and sense of humor with which she was born and developed on the Chicago improv scene. But Strong, 30, isn’t content limiting herself to the small screen: In April 2015, she’ll headline the annual White House Correspondents’ Dinner (“Her political humor is sly and edgy, and it comes with a Chicago accent,” said WHCA President Christi Parsons in a press release) and in late 2015, she’ll leap into the film industry with starring roles in both “Staten Island Summer” and “The Bronze.”

I reconnect with Strong while she’s getting ready to walk her dog Lucy around her New York City neighborhood before heading to 30 Rockefeller Plaza for work that evening. She’s reminiscing as she strolls: “[My passion for acting] started really young. In my preschool, for some reason, there was a drama class and three of us were in it. The name was very Oak Park — it was the Suburban Child Development Center. We had ballet, French and drama — for 3-year-olds. From then on it was just kind of like, ‘This is what I want to do.’”

It didn’t take long for her parents to get on board. “I was always performing around the house,” says Strong. “So my parents were like, ‘Let’s get you somewhere else, where you can annoy some other people.’” “Somewhere else” turned out to be the renowned Goodman and Bailiwick theaters — at age 10, she auditioned for and landed a part in a Bailiwick production that covered the rather sophisticated legend of the first female Pope. “It was the first, and not the last, time I’ve been involved with something that pissed off the more extreme side of the Catholic Church in Chicago,” she jokes.

In those early years, she religiously studied her comedy idols. “Obviously, I watched SNL,” she says. “I also watched MADTV, ‘The Upright Citizens Brigade Show,’ ‘Kids In the Hall,’ ‘The State’ and Tracy Ullman. We watched pretty much everything. My dad would rent Marx Brothers and ‘Monty Python,’ and my mom and I watched the Gilda [Radner] specials together.”
Strong went on to earn a BFA in theater from the California Institute of the Arts, then did the exact opposite of what most aspiring actors do — she left Hollywood and returned to the Midwest. But she had a plan. Much like many of her heroes had done, Strong was determined to kick-start her career on the Chicago comedy scene. For two years, she worked the Second City box office while performing in the touring company, and later, performed at iO. "You always have an audience, you always have a place to do it. You can do [comedy] every night," she says. "It's such a big part of culture in Chicago. When I was there it was every day of my life. Doing a show, seeing a show, working at a theater. It's all you do."

Despite the years spent honing her skills, Strong nearly skipped the "SNL" auditions at iO in 2012 because she didn't feel ready. However, iO co-founder Charna Halpern convinced Strong that she was. Halpern was right: After multiple rounds of auditions both in Chicago and New York, Strong was hired. "[When I heard, I walked the streets of New York and sobbed because somehow my dream had come true. ... And because I'm a big-time crybaby," Strong says.

Since her "SNL" debut, Strong has developed several original characters — Rolling Stone magazine called her Girl You Wish You Hadn't Started a Conversation With at a Party an "instant classic" — and even briefly anchored the legendary "Weekend Update" news desk. Like all of the show's cast members, she's working behind the scenes as well as in front of the camera, writing scenes for each week's show. "I always write with James Anderson and Kent Sublette. We usually write [improvisationally], where we just throw ideas around until we all like one and it makes us laugh," she says. "Sometimes our favorite jokes can come out of a mistake — there was one early version of a scene we do where Kate [McKinnon] and I are 90s self-help women. We were thinking of a 90s place the women and their boyfriends would go. Kent, who can speak quietly, said 'Kurt Cobain,' and James laughed and screamed 'Cocoa Bay! I love it!' So it became a vacation to the concrete beaches of Cocoa Bay."

For Strong, meeting and working with her comedy heroes has been invaluable — but she's also not above getting a little star-struck by some of the hosts and celebs that stop by the set. One of the most memorable was Strong's one-time teenage crush, Leonardo DiCaprio. "We were rehears- ing [when he stopped by] and all of a sudden I remembered being 13 and being in love with this person. There was this 13-year-old girl in my chest who was like, 'Aahhhhhii!,'" she laughs. "It was so weird. ... I thought, Oh, I didn't know that little girl still existed. You forget sometimes with this job — working and thinking so much about what you're going to write and how tired you are — but then you step back and realize, 'Wow, I just worked with a genius,'" says Strong.

Her upcoming jump to film isn't a total departure from the sketch comedy show or her improv roots. "SNL" cast mate Bobby Moynihan and alum Fred Armisen (now of "Portlandia") co-star with Strong in the coming-of-age comedy "Staten Island Summer," written by "SNL" head writer Colin Jost and co-produced by "SNL" creator and producer Lorne Michaels. Likewise, in "The Bronze," Strong acts alongside Second City alumni (and star of HBOs "Silicon Valley") Thomas Middleditch and prolific character actor and fellow Illinoisan Gary Cole. "The directors let us improvise a lot — that's what's fun about working on comedy with comedians," says Strong.

Between working six days (and nights) a week and making movies whenever she can, Strong doesn't have time for much else right now, but has plenty of ambitions for her future. "I have these ideas floating around — it's a major goal of mine, that I could write a couple [movies] for myself," she says, joking that she'll probably stick to comedy when she does give it a go. "I don't know that I'd be great at writing drama. I think it would be like a 12-year-old's diary."

Even as a kid, I remember knowing that Strong was destined for greatness on stage and screen — she had an unabashed enthusiasm for the spotlight when so many of us were terrified of standing out. So it's wonderful to watch the rest of the world take notice of her innate talent. But what I admire most about her is that as her star continues to rise, she's very conscious to not let it get to her head — she's still the same down-to-earth Oak Park girl I grew up with. Inspired by the words of Emerson, she regularly reminds herself to be "silly, be honest, be kind," and, when asked what advice she'd give to aspiring actors, she says, "Stay a nice person." After this conversation, I can honestly — and proudly — report she's done just that.
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2. Dana Rebecca Designs: Lauren Joy mini necklace, $275, Cy Fredrics Jewelers, 2719 Pfingsten; Danarebeccadesigns.com
3. Eli's Cheesecake: blackberry sour cream cheesecake, $41.95, 6701 W. Forest Preserve, Ellicheesecake.com (For Christmas deliveries, order by 11 a.m. on Dec. 23.)
4. Burberry: satin peep-toe pumps, $650, 633 N. Michigan; Us.burberry.com
5. Salvatore Ferragamo: mini Ginny quilted-leather crossbody bag, $850, Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan; Saksfifthavenue.com
8. Mariano's: Phaelanopsis orchids, $15-$90, Mariano's locations city-wide; Mariano's.com
10. MAC: matte lipstick in Living Legend, $16, Macy's, 111 N. State; Macys.com
1. Avión: Reserva 44 tequila, $159.99; Uncork It, 333 E. Illinois; to have bottle etched with a personal message, visit Reservebar.com
2. Tory Burch: lip color in Pretty Baby, $32; 45 E. Oak, Toryburch.com
3. Outdoor Tech: Turtle Shell 2.0 outdoor speaker, $129.95; Nordstrom, 55 E. Grand; Shop.nordstrom.com
4. Malin+Goetz: Dark Rum candle, $52; Bloomingdale's, 900 N. Michigan; Bloomingdales.com
5. Lulu's on the Avenue: Thorin bright yellow statement necklace, price upon request, 900 N. Michigan; Lulusvintagestore.com
6. The Tie Bar: Big Table plaid pocket square, $8.918 W. Armitage; Thetiebar.com
7. Tech Lighting: Avery pendant, price upon request; Idlewood Electric, 5010 W. Irving Park; Idlewoodelectric.com
8. Christian Louboutin: Ron Ron pump, $675; 58 E. Oak; Christianlouboutin.com
9. Alex Marshall: giraffe character dish set, $120; Barneys New York, 15 E. Oak; Barneys.com
11. Heritage Bicycles: Daisy legacy edition, $1,850; 2959 N. Lincoln; Heritagebicycles.com
ALL IN BLACK AND WHITE

1. Tadashi Shoji: lace-trimmed toile cocktail dress, $139.20. Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan; Saksfifthavenue.com
2. Alexander McQueen: small De-Manta printed leather clutch, $450. Neiman Marcus, 737 N. Michigan; Neiman-marcus.com
3. Oromalla: bracelet, price upon request. A Marek Fine Jewelry, 3021 Butterfield Road; Amarekfinejewelry.com
4. Omega: Speedmaster Moonwatch, $12,000. 909 N. Michigan; Omega watches.com
5. Tom Ford: Telma cat eye sunglasses, $415. Spex locations citywide; Spexoptical.com
7. Restoration Hardware: Oscar Wilde literary quote cocktail plates, $49. 938 W. North; Restoration hardware.com
8. The Land of Nod: black stripe teepee, $159. 900 W. North; Landofnord.com
9. Bucketfeet: pineapple mid-top sneakers by DJLU, $82. 108 N. State; Bucketfeet.com
10. MAC: keepsake smoky eye bag, $39.50. Macy’s, 111 N. State; Maccys.com
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Man of faith

Artist James Ensor pinched from religious painting to make a point about art and the world he lived in. BY THOMAS CONNORS

St. Anthony, the Egyptian ascetic whose resolute faith led him to live alone in the desert — where the devil did his best to undo the hermit's deep devotion — has long been portrayed in art. From Martin Schongauer and Michelangelo in the 15th century to Salvador Dalí in the 20th, artists have delighted in depicting the saint's struggles with Satan, showing him besieged by alarming women or threatened by a swarm of grotesque creatures.

' TEMPTATION: THE DEMONS OF JAMES ENSOR'

Nov. 23-Jan. 25, Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan. For tickets (general admission $23, Chicago residents $12 under 14 free), call (312) 443-3600 or visit Artic.edu.

James Ensor’s “The Temptation of Saint Anthony,” 1887

Rendered in a golden hue, Ensor’s icon-like “Temptation” presents the kneeling saint surrounded by top-hatted bourgeois, a skeleton, ill-formed animals — a trippy halo of modern life in all its hideousness. While referencing art history and the peculiarities of his time and place, this almost-outsider art vision has lost none of its perplexing appeal. “Ensor’s art speaks to our world, because he too lived through turbulent times,” suggests Ireson. “Perhaps we can relate to the experiences the artist underwent — grief, illness, career disappointments — but hopefully, not to the same extremes.”
When you and the other person take full control over our minds and bodies. There's a fine line between healthy and unhealthy love, though it can often be hard to recognize.

Love is healthiest when it’s mutual and unconditional. When you and the other person can have your own independent lives but still support each other, you've got it made. Even though I express it differently, I have the same kind of love for Evan and Donnie. It’s an “I’ll do anything for you and nothing will ever change that” love that just feels right deep in my soul.

Unfortunately, many people mistake unhealthy for healthy love. If you have any feelings of manipulation or mind games in a relationship, or if you find yourself sacrificing things that are most important to you, you might not be experiencing the kind of love you deserve.

Unhealthy love can be addictive, and while you might think you need the other person in order to obtain happiness, trust me when I say you're better than that — and there's someone out there who will show you what true love really is.

The first step is simply taking a step back and acknowledging that your relationship might be unhealthy. By taking the time to figure out what's toxic, you've already made an improvement toward self-love, which will inevitably lead you to the healthy, natural, thriving love you deserve.

The superstar multitasker launches a clothing line for Macy's.

He began his showbiz career as the host of "American Idol" in 2002, but now Ryan Seacrest monopolizes the media. He has a nationally syndicated radio show, TV hosting gigs on four major networks, a production company churning out shows from "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" to Nickleodeon's "Webheads," and a prominent position on every awards-show red carpet.

This season, he makes his way into the fashion world with Ryan Seacrest Distinction, a collection of tailored menswear and accessories available at Macy's.

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ROBIN HARRIS

AGE: 32. LIVES IN: Hyde Park. CLAIM TO FAME: President and CEO of Model Atelier. FASHION RISE-STAR: I started modeling when I was 21 with Elite Model Management and then Ford Models. I traveled the world — South Africa, London, Paris and Dominican Republic. I also went to graduate school for international business at the Keller Graduate School of Management and worked as a makeup artist for MAC Cosmetics. STYLE LIMITS: When I wore clothes on the runway, they always fit perfectly — the perfect length, the perfect fit. But when it was time to go purchase those same clothes on rack or in department stores, they weren't there. So I created Model Atelier, a luxury clothing collection for women, sizes 0-12 who are five-foot-nine-inches or taller. POP-UP: Model Atelier has a pop-up store for the holidays through Dec. 31. Our first collection, called the Capsule Collection, features staple pieces: your perfect pants, pencil skirts, bodycon dresses, blazers, trench coats and button-up blouses that run long in the sleeves. I'll also have Model Atelier cosmetics and LVX nail polish. IN VOGUE: Always have a good blazer. If you're running late for a meeting, you throw on a blazer. If you're going out and wearing a cool top, you take off your blazer, and bam! CRY CRY. There are no limits to Chicago fashion. Everyone has his or her own style. Nothing trickles down to us. We go off of how we feel and according to the weather. [We're] very on point with New York, Los Angeles and Paris.

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Sleek and sophisticated

Kia Forte offers more performance, amenities

BY JOHN STEIN
For Sun-Times Media

Sitting on an all-new chassis that is longer, wider and lower than in previous generations, the 2014 Forte offers more room, more performance and more amenities.

Previous fans of the Forte will recognize the sleek design that is now longer, lower and wider. The stylish Kia body sits on an all-new chassis, allowing for more interior space and better performance.

Kia's third-generation Forte is available in two trims: base LX, and upscale EX, with a choice of either a fuel-efficient, 148-horsepower, 1.8-liter, four-cylinder engine (LX), or the more potent 2.0-liter (EX) that features Gasoline Direct Injection, generating 173 horsepower at 6,500 rpm, while also cranking out 154 pound-feet of torque at 4,700 rpm. A six-speed manual gearbox is standard in LX models, with the six-speed automatic as an option.

My Forte tester was the EX trim with the 2.0-liter GDI four-cylinder engine and six-speed automatic transmission. The optional 17-inch alloy wheels were an immediate attention-getter contrasted against the deep metallic blue exterior.

The Kia Forte wears an aggressive stance. Its exaggerated windshield rake and broad shoulders are modern and instantly recognizable.

My favorite design cue has to be the sharply swept headlight lenses cut deeply into the fenders. Blacked out "B" pillars give the sedan a coupe-like appearance. The sculpted metalwork along the Forte's lower flanks gives it an athletic and confident look.

Electric power steering replaces the previous hydraulic system with an improved and more on-center feel, utilizing larger bushings and revised front-suspension geometry.

The 2.0-liter engine was responsive and compliant, and the transmission shifted smoothly in automatic mode. I found my tester's ride to be firm but comfortable, and the handling characteristics are certainly an improvement over the prior model.

The interior is full of sculpted curves, with distinct soft-surface textures and an instrument panel that is calming and easy to view day and night. Chrome bezels ring the HVAC rotary knobs and the optional push-button start.

Additional chrome accents, standard Bluetooth hands-free phone integration and power windows, mirrors and door locks contribute to the premium feel. Optional leather seating, a power sunroof, and dual-zone automatic climate control were big pluses in my tester.

Forte's EPA figures land at 25 mpg city and 37 mpg highway, and with the $15,900 base price, it should be very attractive to consumers in the market for a sophisticated, efficient sedan.
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  - SAVE $2,027.00
  - GURNEE PRICED $12,898.00
  - BUY FOR ONLY $149.00 PER MONTH

**DISCLAIMER:** Financing on select models and terms. All prices and payments are plus tax, title, license and $187.27 document fee. Financing terms is for 84 months @2.99% which equals $131.6 per thousand financed. All payments are with $1900.00 down. These vehicles and prices are not available with any other offers including 100% trade assistance offer. 100% Trade Assistance Program is not available with any other advertised or internet price. Trade Assistance is on the purchase or lease of a new Ford at MSRP thru Gurnee Ford only. Customer is entitled to any and all factory rebates that he or she may qualify for. Your current vehicle must be in safe operating condition with normal wear and tear and free of any paint or collision work. Trade ins can't be older than a 2005. The only adjustments will be mileage ($10 to $35) depending on models and reconditioning. + Factory incentives may very depending on models. See Dealer for any and all details. No other offers or prior sales qualify or apply. While supplies last. All offers expires days after publication.
THE UNBELIEVABLE BLACK FRIDAY DEALS ARE AT
MADPRICECUTS.COM
BLACK FRIDAY ONLY!
9AM-9PM
OVER 600 VEHICLES AVAILABLE
BLACK FRIDAY ONLY!
VISIT US ONLINE TO SEE HOW YOU CAN SAVE THOUSANDS!
MADPRICECUTS.COM

Napleton's

1155 WEST DUNDEE ROAD, ARLINGTON HEIGHTS  (888) 348-5047
UNBEATABLE BLACK FRIDAY WEEKEND
AT ANTHONY BUICK GMC

30% OFF
New Buicks

BLACK FRIDAY
SALES EVENT

FRIDAY 9-9 - SATURDAY 9-6
NO PAYMENTS FOR
3 MOS

ON EVERY NEW VEHICLE

30% OFF
New GMCs

BLACK FRIDAY
SALES EVENT

0% APR FOR
72

FLAT RATE SERVICE
665-9333

$10,260
$6,156
$7,995
$3,762

BLACK FRIDAY MANAGER USED CAR SPECIALS

2005 Buick Lacrosse CXL $9,990
2010 Ford Focus SEL $11,990
2013 Mazda 3i $12,990
2012 Buick Verano Leather $15,990

06 Pontiac G6 GT $9,990
08 VW Beetle Convertible $9,990
11 Hyundai Sonata SE $12,990
14 Chevy Cruze LT $15,990

06 Buick LaCrosse CXS $9,990
09 Pontiac G6 GT $11,990
11 Honda Accord EX $13,990
14 Jeep Patriot Sport $15,990

06 Jeep Grand Cherokee $9,990
13 Nissan Altima 2.5 $12,990
11 Ford Escape LTD $14,990
13 Chevy Malibu LT $15,990

07 Buick Lucerne CXL $9,990
13 Chevy Impala LT $12,990
12 Buick Regal 1SA $14,990
PLUS MANY MORE TO CHOOSE FROM!

CALL TOLL-FREE
888-574-8284

Anthony
7225 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, IL 60031
AnthonyGurnee.com

All offers to qualified buyers. All rebates & incentives applied. *Plus tax, title, lic. & $166.27 doc fee. $No purchase necessary. One per household, while supplies last. Must be 18 or older. **Off MSRP on select models. A minimum of 5% of inventory available at the highest discount. 1) MSRP may not be the actual selling price within the trade area. 2) 0% APR for 72 months to qualified buyers in lieu of rebates & incentives ($13.88 per $1000 financed) on select models. Bank buy down rate may affect the final price. 32k max. 2) May affect the final payment date and total purchase price. You must qualify. See dealer for details. Photos not representative of actual vehicles. Offers end 12/1/14.
BIG FINISH 2014

1 DAY ONLY SALE!

BLACK FRIDAY 9AM-9PM

THE ALL NEW 2015 CHRYSLER
200 LIMITED
WITH BACK UP CAMERA

MSRP: $24,680
BONUS CASH REBATE - $500
BLACK FRIDAY BONUS CASH - $500
REBATE - $1,000
MW CHRYSLER CAPITAL FINANCE REBATE - $500

PALMEN BLACK FRIDAY DISCOUNT - $4,181

PALMEN BLACK FRIDAY PRICE = $17,999

TO CHOOSE FROM: M15334, M15353, M15389, M15477

NEW 2015 JEEP
PATRIOT

MSRP: $22,375
DAY ONLY!

REBATE - $2,000

MW CHRYSLER CAPITAL FINANCE REBATE - $500

PALMEN BLACK FRIDAY DISCOUNT - $3,908

PALMEN BLACK FRIDAY PRICE = $15,967

TO CHOOSE FROM: Stk#'s M15433, M15460

NEW 2015 DODGE
GRAND CARAVAN

MSRP: $22,488

BLACK FRIDAY BONUS - $500
REBATE - $500

MW CHRYSLER CAPITAL FINANCE REBATE - $500

PALMEN BLACK FRIDAY DISCOUNT - $3,497

PALMEN BLACK FRIDAY PRICE = $17,488

TO CHOOSE FROM: Stk#'s M15164, M15204, M15297

0% x 84 mos + $10,000 in savings END$ TODAY!!!

WISCONSIN'S LARGEST

OVER 1000 VEHICLES
SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR ALMOST 80 YEARS

PALMENMOTORS.COM

*All vehicles add, tax, title, license and doc fee. All incentives applied in lieu of financing. Must finance with Chrysler Capital to receive Chrysler Cap. rebate. To qualified buyers with approved credit. All vehicles subject to prior sale. ** Financing in lieu of rebate, $0 Down payment $13.33 per $1,000 financed on select models with approved credit. Not all vehicles have highest discount. Offer available on select Ram pickups. Vehicles pictured in this add are for illustration purposes only and may not reflect the exact same model, options or color as the vehicles on sale. Offer ends Friday 11/28/2014.
3 DAY SALE

Epic BLACK FRIDAY WEEKEND EVENT

THURSDAY, November 27th
CLOSED
Shop the Lot! ALL PRICES CLEARLY MARKED with Early Bird Discounts!

FRIDAY, November 28th
OPEN 7am to 9pm
Receive EARLY BIRD SAVINGS and FREE OIL CHANGE* with vehicle appraisal From 7am to 9am

SATURDAY, November 29th
OPEN 9am to 7pm
Receive a FREE GIFT CARD with test drive

MONDAY, December 1st
OPEN 9am to 9pm
Receive a FREE OIL CHANGE* with vehicle appraisal from 9am to 11am

BLACK FRIDAY ONLY

Visit us Friday, November 28th from 7am to 9pm & enter our Drawing for a FREE GIFT with a test drive!

PRIZES INCLUDE
- 50" Flat Screen Televisions
- IPADS
- Gift Cards
No Purchase Necessary!

GOOD CREDIT? BAD CREDIT? NO CREDIT? NO WORRIES!
The Credit Experts at Libertyville Chevrolet are here to help you!

2014 CHEVROLET SONIC LS
MSRP: $14,995
Epic Price:
$10,297*

2015 CHEVROLET CRUZE LS
MSRP: $19,920
Epic Price:
$13,399*

2015 CHEVROLET MALIBU LS W/LS
MSRP: $23,565
Epic Price:
$16,399*

2014 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LS
MSRP: $25,465
Sale Price:
$18,998*

$1,000 Purchase Bonus Cash**
PLUS
NO monthly payments until 2015*
(On select years and models.)

No APR Financing
Rebates & Holiday Bonus Cash varies on select new Chevrolet models. **Drawing entries and free gifts available to customers with test drive of new Chevrolet or pre-owned in stock vehicles. No purchase necessary; while supplies last. *Must be 18 years or older with valid driver's license. Offer expires Monday, December 1, 2014. +Free oil change available during specified hours/dates with appraisal of current vehicle. Limit one oil change per vehicle appraised. Dealer will not honor errors in this advertisement.

Libertyville Chevrolet
1001 S. Milwaukee Avenue - Libertyville, Illinois | 855.822.6247
WE SPEAK SPANISH, POLISH, GREEK, ARABIC & ITALIAN!

*All manufacturer rebates and incentives applied, plus tax, title, lic. & doc. fee. +0% APR financing and no payments until 2015 to qualified buyers with approved credit on select new Chevrolet models. **Available on select years and models. Rebates and Holiday Bonus Cash varies on select new Chevrolet models. **Drawing entries and free gifts available to customers with test drive of new Chevrolet or pre-owned in stock vehicles. No purchase necessary; while supplies last. *Must be 18 years or older with valid driver's license. Offer expires Monday, December 1, 2014. +Free oil change available during specified hours/dates with appraisal of current vehicle. Limit one oil change per vehicle appraised. Dealer will not honor errors in this advertisement.
NEW 2014 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0i
NEW 2015 SUBARU LEGACY 2.5i
NEW 2015 SUBARU FORESTER 2.5i
NEW 2014 XV CROSSTREK 2.0i PREM.
NEW 2015 SUBARU OUTBACK 2.5i

$109 PER MONTH.
NEW 2014 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0i
NEW 2015 SUBARU LEGACY 2.5i
NEW 2015 SUBARU FORESTER 2.5i
NEW 2014 XV CROSSTREK 2.0i PREM.
NEW 2015 SUBARU OUTBACK 2.5i

$135 PER MONTH.

$158 PER MONTH.

$175 PER MONTH.

$179 PER MONTH.

DISCOUNTS
SAVINGS
FINANCING
SELECTION

When A Great Deal Matters, Shop Rob Paddor's...

EVANSTON SUBARU IN SKOKIE

BLACK FRIDAY SALE

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR HOMESTOWN CHARITIES

SUBARU OF AMERICA WILL DONATE $250 TO ONE-OF-SIX CHARITIES, LISTED ABOVE, WITH ANY NEW SUBARU PURCHASE THRU 1/2/15.

EVANSTON SUBARU IN SKOKIE
3340 OAKTON STREET - SKOKIE, IL 60076
EvanstonSubaru.com 1-888-858-4089

* Add tax, title license and $164.30 doc fee. **Finance on approved credit score Subject to vehicle insurance and availability. *Lease on approved credit score. Lease. 10k miles per year, 15 cents after. Lessee responsible for excess wear and early termination of lease. Option to purchase; Imp.$11,365, For. $14,833. Legacy $11,659, Outback $14,604. * Gas mileage is EPA estimates. All offers end in 3 days, unless noted.
BLACK FRIDAY
BLACK LINE EVENT

25% OFF

PLUS AN EXTRA $500 OFF!

GIVEAWAYS EVERY HOUR!
TVs • iPads • iPhone6s • & More!

DOORS OPEN AT 5AM!

CREDIT TROUBLE?
OUR FRESH START FINANCE EXPERTS CAN GET YOU APPROVED TODAY.

433 E. North Ave. • Glendale Heights
(On North Avenue, 2 miles West of 355)
630-446-1400
DuPageDodgeChryslerJeep.net
BLACK FRIDAY
BLACK LINE EVENT

BIG FINISH 2014
0% APR FOR 84 MO. $0 DOWN!

WE'VE PRICE CUT EVERY NEW CAR AND DRAWN IN HUGE SAVINGS!

New 2014 JEEP PATRIOT $14,995
New 2015 DODGE DART $15,515
New 2014 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN $15,990
New 2015 DODGE JOURNEY $16,990
New 2015 CHRYSLER 200 $19,250
New 2014 JEEP CHEROKEE $19,990
New 2014 DODGE DURANGO $20,390
New 2014 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE $29,785

Offers to qualified buyers. Offers cannot be combined. *Plus tax, title, lic & $166.27 doc fee. 2) Off MSRP on select new models. +Off MSRP. See dealer for full details. 3) No purchase necessary. Must be 18 or older. See dealer for full details. 4) Off MSRP on select models. See dealer for full details. §You must qualify. $11.91 per $1000 financed, on select models. §You must qualify. Dealer will not honor errors in this ad. No prior sales. Pics for illustration only. Offers end 12/1/14.
Grossinger Honda.com

AN EVENT SO BIG WE'RE OPENING AT 5:00AM

Grossinger City Toyota

NEW 2014 TOYOTA PRIUS C

MSRP '20,080'
-25%.... $5,010'
$15,070'

2015 TOYOTA CAMRY LE
#K150415

One, 5dr HB, #K141358

3 AT THESE SAVINGS!

BLACK FRIDAY USED CAR SPECIALS

2010 TOYOTA YARIS
#K150715

$6,998'

2011 TOYOTA COROLLA
#K150220

$9,499'

2011 CHEVY CRUZE LTZ
#K150418

$9,998'

1561 N. FREMONT, CHICAGO
(JUST WEST OF NORTH AVE & CLYBOURN)
888.972.9194
GrossingerCityToyota.com

All incentives have been applied. Not on prior sales. *Plus tax, title, & $166.27 doc fee. All vehicles subject to prior sales. Offers to qualified buyers. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in ad. Offers end 12/1/14.

THE BLACK FRIDAY
See Hundreds of Cars

Grossinger Honda.com

New 2015 Honda Accord LX Auto

YOUR CHOICE!

$128'

36 MO. LEASE

New 2015 Honda CR-V LX AWD

New 2015 Honda Odyssey LX

$218'

36 MO. LEASE

2 AT THESE SAVINGS!

New 2015 Honda Civic LX

#560715, Auto Sedan

$98'

36 MO. LEASE

2 AT THESE SAVINGS!

New 2015 Honda Fit LX

#560707, for manual

$15,900'

4 AT THESE SAVINGS!

2 AT THESE SAVINGS!

New 2015 Honda Odyssey LX

$7,995'

2 AT THESE SAVINGS!

1500 N. WESTERN AVENUE, CHICAGO
(7 BLOCKS NORTH OF DEVON)
855.674.6560
GrossingerHonda.com

All incentives have been applied. Not on prior sales. *Plus tax, title, & $166.27 doc fee. Offers to qualified buyers. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in ad. Exp 12/1/14.
NEW 2014 CHEVY CRUZE
MSRP $19,530
$6,042
3 AT THESE SAVINGS!

NEW 2015 CHEVY MALIBU
MSRP $23,165
$6,277
4 AT THESE SAVINGS!

NEW 2014 CHEVY SILVERADO
MSRP $27,060
$7,772
$19,888
1 AT THESE SAVINGS!

NEW 2015 CHEVY SONIC
MSRP $16,320
$3,432
$12,888
2 AT THESE SAVINGS!

NEW 2015 CHEVY IMPALA
MSRP $27,285
$4,997
$22,888
2 AT THESE SAVINGS!

NEW 2015 CHEVY EQUINOX
MSRP $28,605
$6,717
$20,888
2 AT THESE SAVINGS!

NEW 2014 CHEVY VOLT
MSRP $29,695
$16,507
$13,188
2 AT THESE SAVINGS!

NEW 2014 CHEVY SPARK
MSRP $12,995
$2,107
$10,888
1 AT THESE SAVINGS!

CHEVY PALATINE USED CAR SPECIALS

2007 CHEVY AVEO
MSRP $5,995

2007 CHEVY MALIBU
MSRP $4,998

2004 TOYOTA COROLLA
MSRP $7,888

2008 CHEVY COBALT
MSRP $6,995

2010 HONDA ELEMENT
MSRP $11,916

2008 TOYOTA YARIS
MSRP $7,888

2012 CHEVY CRUZE LT
MSRP $10,999

CITY CHEVY USED CAR SPECIALS

PRE-DRIVEN LUXURY

2014 CADILLAC ATS
2.0L, #014097
MSRP $33,990
$25,490
3 AT THESE SAVINGS!

2014 CADILLAC CTS
SEDAN, #D140127
MSRP $49,525
$37,990
3 AT THESE SAVINGS!

All incentives have been applied. Not on prior sales. *MSRP may not be actual selling price within trade area. 1) Off MSRP on select new models. *Plus tax, title, & $166.27 doc fee. All vehicles subject to prior sales. Offers to qualified buyers. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in ad. Offers end 12/1/14.
BLACK FRIDAY
NEW CAR DEALS!
DOOR BUSTER SAVINGS!

FRIDAY 28TH
NOVEMBER

0% FOR 84 APR MONTHS
APR OFF
EX
ON SALE!

REGISTER TO WIN
A 60" FLAT SCREEN TV, REMOTE STARTER & MORE!!

ALL NEW CHRYSLERS DODGES JEEPS RAMS ON SALE!

25% OFF 2015 CHRYSLER PATRIOTS IN STOCK!

15% OFF ALL CHRYSLERS, JEEPS, DODGES & RAMS IN STOCK!

... YOU CHOOSE!

1000 East Park Ave
(RTE 176) - Libertyville

LIBERTY AUTO CITY
LIBERTYAUTOCITY.COM

888.816.3302
SALES: Mon-Thur: 9a-9p
Fri-Sat: 9a-6p
SERVICE: Mon-Thur: 7a-9p
Fri-Sat: 7a-6p

*With approved credit. On select models. In lieu of manufacturer rebates & manufacturer incentives. Ex: $11,66 per $1,000 financed with 50 down. "All vehicles must be in dealer inventory" Off MSRP MSRP may not be price at which vehicle is sold in trade area. Includes applicable manufacturer incentives & manufacturer rebates 36% Off Ex: 2014 Dodge Dart #155310, MSRP: $21,995 - 30% = $15,226. 25% Off Ex: 2015 Chrysler 200 #155540, MSRP: $36,995 - 25% = $27,746. 20% Off Ex: 2014 Jeep Patriot #155530, MSRP: $37,575 - 20% = $29,260. 15% Off Ex: 2015 Chrysler Town & Country #155330, MSRP: $42,180 - 15% = $35,000. In lieu of special financing All *No purchase necessary. Must be 18 years or older with a valid drivers license. Employees & Families of Liberty Auto City, and respective parties are not eligible. One entry per person per household. See Dealer for details. Dealer will not honor any pricing errors in this advertisement. Prices are good until end of sale. Pictures are for illustration purposes only.
FREE GIVEAWAYS ALL DAY!

PRE-DRIVEN DEALS!

0.9% APR & $0 DOWN!

$10,998 TO $13,976

HOT BUYS!

BAD CREDIT IS NO PROBLEM!

LIBERTY AUTO CITY
1000 East Park Ave
(RTE 176) - Libertyville

LIBERTYAUTO.COM

888.816.3302

SALES: Mon-Thur: 9a-9p Fri-Sat: 9a-5p
SERVICE: Mon-Thur: 7:30a-7p Fri: 7:30a-5p Sat: 7:30a-1p

*Plus tax, title, licence & doc fees. **May require good down payment. 4.9% apr. Owners of select certified models. Ex: $27.78 per $1,000 financed with 30 down for 36 months. #10 current Kelley Blue Book Retail value. May be considered estimates. Values vary with mileage, usage and condition. Ex: #192108 2008 Toyota Yaris. Kelley Blue Book Retail Value $11,873. Dealer will not honor any pricing errors in this advertisement. Prices are good 2 days from date of publication.
New 2014 Ram 1500 Promaster Cargo Van
303.7 Cu. Ft. Cargo Space
- Automatic
- Cruise
- Power Windows
- Air Conditioning
- Electronic Stability Control
- Brake Assist
- Hill Start Assist
- All Speed Traction Control
- Electronic Roll Mitigation
- Trailer Sway Damping
- Tire Pressure Monitoring
- Rear Back Up Camera
- Remote Keyless Entry
- AM/FM/MP3 Radio
- Media Input Hub
- Cargo Lamp
- Clearance Lamp
- 1/2 Ton Payload

$24,995

Doesn't Even Compare!

New 2014 Ford E-150 Commercial Van
237.8 Cu. Ft. Cargo Space
- Air Conditioning
- Rear 50/50 Cargo Doors
- Side Cargo Doors
- Rear Cargo Light
- Power Steering
- 4 Wheel Anti Lock Brakes
- Manual Mirrors
- 1/2 Ton Payload

$32,760

We Will Drive to You • Demonstration Right at You Door!
Call Donnie the Promaster Specialist 844-776-6278 • Call Sebastian at 866-703-3300

SALES HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 9am - 9pm
Extended Hours Sat. 9am - 7pm
SERVICE AND PARTS HOURS:
Mon. - Thur. 7am - 9pm; Fri.: 7am-6pm & Sat. 7am - 4pm

* All prices plus tax, title, lic. & $166.27 doc. fee. Based on comparable vehicles. All applicable factory rebates & incentives applied. † Off MSRP on select new model. All applicable factory rebates & incentives applied. Vehicle availability based at press deadline and all vehicles subject to prior sale. Dealer not liable for typographical errors in this ad. See dealer for terms and conditions. Manufacturer incentives subject to change without notice and may affect dealer's selling price. Pics may not represent actual vehicle. Offers end 3 days from pub. date.
THE GROSSINGER BLACK FRIDAY EVENT
AN EVENT SO BIG WE'RE OPENING AT 5:00AM
GET IN EARLY FOR OUR BEST SAVINGS!
See Hundreds of Car Deals Online at BlackFridayCarDeal.com

30% OFF
NEW 2013 BUICK ENCLAVE
MSRP $49,020
-30% $14,730
$34,290 2 AT THESE SAVINGS!

NEW 2014 GMC SIERRA 1500
MSRP $35,755
-20% $28,604
$25,490 3 AT THESE SAVINGS!

NEW 2014 GMC ACADIA
MSRP $34,425
-15% $28,783
$23,899 3 AT THESE SAVINGS!

2014 CADILLAC ATS
MSRP $49,255
-20% $39,404
$31,559 3 AT THESE SAVINGS!

BLACK FRIDAY USED CAR SPECIALS

2003 CHEVY MONTE CARLO SS
$4,990

2011 CHEVY CRUZE LS
$9,990

GROSSINGER AUTOPLEX
6900 N. MCCORMICK BLVD. LINCOLNW00D
800.664.8581
GROSSINGERAUTOPLEX.COM

All incentives have been applied. Not on prior sales. *MSRP may not be actual selling price within trade area. 1) Off MSRP on select new models. 2) Plus tax, title, lic. & $166.27 doc fee. All vehicles subject to prior sales. Offers to qualified buyers. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in ad. Offers end 12/1/14.
THE BLACK FRIDAY EVENT
AN EVENT SO BIG
WE'RE OPENING AT 5:00AM
GET IN EARLY
FOR OUR
BEST SAVINGS!
See Hundreds of Car Deals Online at BlackFridayCarDeals.com

GROSSINGER TOYOTANORTH.COM

NEW 2014 TOYOTA
CAMRY XLE

MSRP $29,825
-30% $8,950
$20,875
3 AT THESE SAVINGS!

BLACK FRIDAY USED CAR SPECIALS

07 Dodge Caliber T50067A $5,994
01 Toyota Avalon XLS T425145 $7,593
10 Ford Focus T45006A $7,993
13 Chevy Sonic T45009A $10,994
14 Hyundai Accent T45009A $10,994
14 Scion TC T45006A $17,994
10 Infiniti G37 142421A $19,994
10 Nissan 370Z 142421A $19,994
14 Scion tC T45006A $17,694
07 Toyota Avalon XLS T45006A $7,593
'10 Ford Focus T45006A $7,993
'13 Chevy Sonic T45009A $10,994
'14 Hyundai Accent T45009A $10,994
'14 Scion TC T45006A $17,994
'10 Infiniti G37 142421A $19,994
'10 Nissan 370Z 142421A $19,994
AND MANY MORE!

7225 N. CICERO AVE. LINCOLNWOOD
800.989.0244
GROSSINGERTOYOTANORTH.COM

All incentives have been applied. Not on prior sales. MSRP may not be actual selling price within trade area. 1) Off MSRP on select new models. Rebate from Grossinger. *Plus tax, title, lic. & $166.27 doc fee. All vehicles subject to prior sales. Offers to qualified buyers. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in ad. Offers end 12/1/14.

GROSSINGER KIA.COM

NEW 2014 KIA
CADENZA

MSRP $35,950
-30% $10,766
$25,182
1 AT THESE SAVINGS!

BLACK FRIDAY USED CAR SPECIALS

07 Ford Focus SE T500127A $6,994
'11 Kia Rio LX A41118B $8,999
'10 Pontiac G6 A41118B $9,999
'06 Nissan Altima 2.5 S A41118B $9,999
'09 Kia Rondo LX A41118B $9,999
'05 Audi A4 3.0L A41118B $11,995
'13 Kia Forte EX A41118B $12,995
'11 Ford Transit Connect XLT 1090 $13,596
'14 Honda Civic LX Sedan A50512A $15,995
AND MANY MORE!

GROSSINGER KIA.COM

6750 N. LINCOLN AVE. LINCOLNWOOD
800.917.1267
GROSSINGERKIA.COM

All incentives have been applied. Not on prior sales. MSRP may not be actual selling price within trade area. 1) Off MSRP on select new models. *Plus tax, title, lic. & $166.27 doc fee. All vehicles subject to prior sales. Offers to qualified buyers. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in ad. Offers end 12/1/14.
ONE DAY ONLY!
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH
FACTORY PRICING
ON EVERY NEW FORD!

- FIESTA - FOCUS - FUSION
- FUSION HYBRID - MUSTANG
- TAURUS - EDGE - FLEX - ESCAPE
- EXPLORER - EXPEDITION - C-MAX
- TRANSIT CONNECT - F-150

GOLF MILL FORD
8401 N. MILWAUKEE AVE
JUST SOUTH OF GOLF ROAD MILES
866-627-6962
SALES HOURS: M-F 8-9P, SAT 9A-7P

WE SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE: SPANISH • POLISH • RUSSIAN • GREEN • GERMAN • ENGLISH • FILIPINO • ASSYRIAN • KOREAN

YOUR AUTHORIZED QUIK LANE DEALER
SERVICE DEPARTMENT OPEN LATE!
OPEN UNTIL 9PM!

WE ACCEPT Matricula y Mexicano Drivers License!

We're #1 in Illinois for ENTIRE MIDWEST
2007 - 2013

Voted One of the Top 100 Ford Dealers in the Country!

7 YEARS IN A ROW!

*Dealer profit not limited to annual model refund amount. +Based on 2013 Ford Motor Company true retail vehicle sales report. **With approved credit. On select models. In lieu of manufacturer rebates and manufacturer incentives. Ex: $13,899 for $1,000 down. Dealer will not honor any pricing errors in this advertisement. Pictures are for illustration purposes only.
ONE DAY ONLY!
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH
30-50% OFF
KBB
ON PRE-DRIVEN

HONDA • JEEP • CHRYSLER • TOYOTA • MERCEDES • KIA
VOLKSWAGEN • MERCURY • DODGE • LINCOLN • NISSAN
LEXUS • FORD • MINI • PLYMOUTH • HONDA • RAM
BMW • VOLVO • CADILLAC • CHEVROLET • SCION • BUICK
GMC • HYUNDAI • SUBARU • INFINITI • AUDI • SUZUKI

WE ACCEPT MATRIMONIAL AND MEXICAN DRIVERS LICENSE!
WE SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE: SPANISH • POLISH • RUSSIAN • GREEK • GERMAN • ENGLISH • FILIPINO • ASSYRIAN • KOREAN
YOUR AUTHORIZED QUICK LANE DEALER
SERVICE DEPARTMENT OPEN LATE!
OPEN UNTIL 9PM!

GOLFMILLFORD.COM
9401 N. MILWAUKEE AVE
JUST SOUTH OF GOLF ROAD NILES
866-627-6962

SOLD AT KBB VALUE! VOTED ONE OF THE TOP 100 FORD DEALERS IN THE COUNTRY!

WE'RE 1 FOR 1'
OUR ORG. IS THE ROUSH DEALER
CREDIT

#7 YEARS IN A ROW!
IN ILLINOIS 
AND THE ENTIRE MIDWEST
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
WE'RE 7 FOR 7!

WE ACCEPT MARRIAGE AND MEXICAN DRIVERS LICENSE!
WE SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE: SPANISH • POLISH • RUSSIAN • GREEK • GERMAN • ENGLISH • FILIPINO • ASSYRIAN • KOREAN
YOUR AUTHORIZED QUICK LANE DEALER
SERVICE DEPARTMENT OPEN LATE!
OPEN UNTIL 9PM!

GOLFMILLFORD.COM
9401 N. MILWAUKEE AVE
JUST SOUTH OF GOLF ROAD NILES
866-627-6962

SOLD AT KBB VALUE! VOTED ONE OF THE TOP 100 FORD DEALERS IN THE COUNTRY!

WE'RE 1 FOR 1'
OUR ORG. IS THE ROUSH DEALER
CREDIT

#7 YEARS IN A ROW!
IN ILLINOIS 
AND THE ENTIRE MIDWEST
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
WE'RE 7 FOR 7!

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Dear Chicagoland,

During this Thanksgiving holiday, the Mancari family wants to pause and extend our gratitude and thanks to you... our customers... and to all of the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and Veterans for serving our country.

We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and a pleasant time during the remainder of the 2014 holiday season. We hope to see you tomorrow when we resume our normal business hours.

Sincerely,

Frank Mancari

Mancari

4630 W. 95th St. • Oak Lawn
1.800.MANCARI
(626-2274)

MANCARI.COM
SALES M-F: 9a-9p Sat: 9a-7p
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WEBB CHEVROLET ON 95TH STREET IN OAK LAWN IS CONDUCTING CHICAGOLAND’S
ULTIMATE BLACK FRIDAY SALE.

THIS MASSIVE EVENT STARTS AT 8AM AND RUNS TIL 10PM WITH A

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50% OFF USED PRICES!
USED VEHICLE PRICING $9,995 & UNDER
0% APR FINANCING ON USED!

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32 LIKE-NEW CERTIFIED CHEVROLETS NEED TO SELL TODAY!
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DON’T MISS THIS MASSIVE BLACK FRIDAY SALE AT
WEBB CHEVY IN OAK LAWN ON 95TH STREET!

GET THERE EARLY!

---

*All current Kelley Blue Book retail values. Values vary with mileage, usage and condition. Ex: 2014 Chevy Cruze, 182244, 406 = $17,440 - $996 = $18,376. Plus tax, title, license + $166.27 doc fee. *With approved credit. On select certified models. +Off MSRP. MSRP may not be price at which vehicle is sold in trade area. Dealer will not honor any pricing errors in this advertisement. Prices are good sale date only. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. See dealer for details.
It's done what no luxury car has done. Be a Porsche.

Introducing the new Porsche Panamera. The first true sports car that's also a luxury sedan. Step on the accelerator and best in class performance and handling is undeniably present. But now, there's a new source of exhilaration: executive class comfort. Elegantly crafted leather seats, a remarkably spacious cabin and a sleek ascending center console. With an endless amount of customization options. In short, the world's most thrilling contradiction. Experience it for yourself, with a test drive.

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Vehicles-Accessories
Vehicles-Insurance
Vehicles-Loans
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1972 any condition, competitive
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$8,211

2003 TOYOTA
COROLLA
$6,411

2006 LEXUS
GS300

$11,411

2007 TOYOTA
CAMRY HYBRID
$11,311

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HAPPY Honda Days
SALES EVENT

$500 MILITARY APPRECIATION OFFER!
See dealer for details

0.9% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE!

$500 COLLEGE GRADUATE BONUS!
See dealer for details

2014 Honda CIVIC LX 4 DOOR
Automatic, Stk#H32972
LEASE FOR $139
for 36 mos
$1499 due at lease signing, plus 1st mo. payment, tax, title, lic. and doc fee.

2014 Honda ACCORD SPORT 4DR
Automatic, Stk#H31773
LEASE FOR $189
for 36 mos
$1699 due at lease signing, plus 1st mo. payment, tax, title, lic. and doc fee.

2014 Honda CR-V LX AWD
Automatic, Stk#H33083
LEASE FOR $199
for 36 mos
$1499 due at lease signing, plus 1st mo. payment, tax, title, lic. and doc fee.

2015 Honda PILOT EX 4WD
Stk#H34325
LEASE FOR $299
for 36 mos
$1499 due at lease signing, plus 1st mo. payment, tax, title, lic. and doc fee.

SHOP ONLINE @ muller-honda.com

WE WANT YOUR TRADE-IN!

$500 For Military and College offers must go towards a down payment or cap cost reduction for the lease or purchase of a new 2014 or 2015 Honda vehicle. Must finance thru HFS. Military appreciation exp. 1-5-15. College grad bonus exp. 1-5-15. *Based on closed end leases for 36 months. For well qualified lessees with approved credit. All manufacturer's incentives applied. $2k allowable miles per year. $15 over on Accord, Civic and CR-V. $20 over on Pilot. Residuals: 14 Civic $14,189, 14 CR-V $14,616, Accord $13,412, 15 Pilot $19,348. Additional options extra. Lessee is responsible for excess wear/tear, maintenance and insurance. Subject to early termination penalty. ^0.9% APR financing on select models to qualified buyers with approved credit. Not available with any previous offers. Dealer will not honor errors in this advertisement. Valid 3 days from publication.

Muller Honda
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550 Skokie Valley Road • 847-831-4200
Revving up for your next car?

Research local dealerships and shop for your next new or used vehicle at ToDrive.com.
How to Be the Worst Manager but the Best Boss

By: David K. Williams

The worst managers can make the best leaders. And a great leader can become the very best kind of boss. How can this be true? I’ll explain.

To begin with, consider what a manager’s role truly is. Their job is essentially to accomplish work through others. Managers instruct, supervise, motivate, evaluate, and mete out rewards and punishments.

Some manage from behind by cracking the whip, micromanaging, and shouting orders in the same way cattlemen or shepherds manage: by fear, intimidation, and authority.

The first problem in this scenario is the way people come to be managers in the first place.

Typically, managers are employees who are promoted because of their expertise in a certain subject matter. They move up in an organization by becoming highly proficient in their original jobs.

Unfortunately, despite their skill in their previously held roles, they are generally untrained as managers. Many lack mentors or positive role models to guide them in this much different path.

And even when companies provide training, it is generally schooling on the various facets of measuring work production and controlling employee behaviors (I refer to this as “managing from behind”).

Little or no thing is taught about the character traits and values a company stands for, the ones it would seemingly want its managers – the face of the company for every employee within it – to represent and exude.

So what do these individuals do? They become terrible managers because they do the following:

- Micromanage
- Take credit for others’ ideas and projects
- Create rules for the many that are meant to police and control the behavior of a few
- Make decisions that support their near-term compensation at the expense of the organization’s long-term goals
- Hire and fire the wrong people for the wrong reasons
- Rule by force, fear, intimidation, and title

None of these approaches achieves anything positive. A team will naturally follow a leader who is willing to lead from the front, instead of drive from behind.

We could write many books on bad managerial behavior. In general, however, the result is the work environment we all know too well: fear, mistrust, worries over job security, and feelings of unfairness and ill will – and a terrible company culture.

What Can – and Should – Businesses Do?

For one thing, they can take a cue from our company, where we have extended the principles of Agile Development into Agile Leadership. Management is simply not a word in the Fishbowl vernacular. We create paired leadership teams that guide and empower employees to do their jobs in the way they see fit.
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Part-Time Package Handlers
Competitive Pay! • Up to $300 in Bonuses!
Seasonal Tractor Trailer Drivers
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Standard message & data rates apply. No more than one message text STOP to 87794 to cancel or text HELP for help. Full terms and privacy policy at http://www.87794.mobi

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You’re in the driver’s seat at ToDrive.com
National DCP offers great benefits, Overtime Pay over 40 hours, and the potential to earn $80,000 Annually!

$2,500 SIGNING BONUS after 90 days of employment!

Required Experience/Qualifications:
- 2 years’ experience and clean driving record
- Ability to lift up to 50 pounds
- Must clear all required DOT pre-employment screening

APPLY NOW!

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  Mokena, IL 60448
- EMAIL: Drivers@nldtcp.com
- PHONE: (855) 637-3341

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FALL RED TAG SALE
Save up to 50% on antiques, vintage furniture, estate items & collectibles. 100’s of items are on sale. Don’t miss some real bargains.

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STUFF
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- Art, Silver, Copper, Glass
- Musical Instruments, Books, Records
- Furniture, Collectibles, Antiques
- Clothing, Accessories, Gift Items
- Household, Office Furniture, Appliances
- Gift Cards, Local & National, Food

HOLIDAY TOY SHOW
Sun Dec 7, 10am-4pm, Tinley Park High School, 6111 W. 159th, Tinley Park, 100’s of new & used toys, model kits, die cast cars, etc. Also in gift & novel items. For more info: 708-590-0173

Estate Sales
- A FA SUCCESSFUL SALE
  "When You Want The Best"
  PHYLLIS REIFMAN
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The Illinois Classified Advertising Network (ICAN) provides Pioneer Press and the Doings with advertising of a national appeal.

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

Both Pioneer Press and the Doings recommend discretion when responding. Please refer questions and comments directly to CAN.
REACH OUT TO THE QUALIFIED LOCAL CANDIDATES IN CHICAGOLAND WITH MONSTER, CALL 847-998-3400
Individuals wanting to review this Annual Statement of Affairs should contact:

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by December 1, 2014.

STATEMENT OF DEBTS (As of June 30, 2014)

Principal Amount

State Sources

$90,731,871

Local Sources:

$10,446,563

Total $101,178,438

School District/Government Agency Name

Address

Telephone

Office Hours

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS Summary Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014

copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by December 1, 2014.

STATEMENT OF DEBTS (As of June 30, 2014)

Principal Amount

State Sources

$90,731,871

Local Sources:

$10,446,563

Total $101,178,438

School District/Government Agency Name

Address

Telephone

Office Hours

Thursday, November 27, 2014

10 am - 4 pm

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

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9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Ardell Lila, Augustine Andrew, Blumenthal Beryl, Boundy Ed, Carlino Anthony, Clark Julio M.
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues

Also by January 15, 2015 the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014, will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education’s website at www.isbe.net.

SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/district agreement for the past fiscal year.

Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2014

Operations

Local Sources

Taxes

Other Sources/Use of Funds from Operations

Working Cash

Other Changes in Fund Balances

GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: $40,000 - $59,999

Salary Range: $00,000 AND OVER

Salary Range: $25,000 - $39,999

Salary Range: $10,000 - $19,999

Salary Range: $20,000 - $24,999

Salary Range: $0 - $9,999

Salary Range: OVER $25,000, EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES,

PAYMENTS OVER $2,500, EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES,

PAYMENTS OVER $2,500, EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES,
ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014

Copies of these annual statements of affairs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 will be available for public inspection in the district office by December 1, 2014.

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Copies of the detailed annual statement of affairs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 will be available for public inspection in the school district office by December 1, 2014.
## ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014

### Local Sources

- **Economic Development:**
  - Employment: 3,102
  - Transportation: 213,550
- **Local Sources:**
  - State Grants: 1,205,200
- **Total Direct Receipts/Revenues:** 6,007,392
- **Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures:** 6,268,267
- **Other Sources/Uses of Funds:**
  - State Sources: 1,366,976
  - One District to Another District: 2000
- **Salaries:**
  - Less Than $25,000: 225,400
  - $25,000 - $39,999: 52,000
  - $40,000 - $49,999: 1,165
  - $50,000 - $59,999: 1,969
  - $60,000 - $69,999: 1,788
  - $70,000 - $79,999: 24
  - $80,000 - $89,999: 10
  - $90,000 and over: 91,451

### School District Name/Account Name

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  - $80,000 - $89,999: 10
  - $90,000 and over: 91,451

### Office Hours

- **7:30 AM - 4:00 PM.**
### Triton College
#### ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Operations and Maintenance</td>
<td>$3,261,496,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government</td>
<td>$1,370,329,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Government</td>
<td>$1,891,167,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Federal Sources</td>
<td>$1,891,167,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Gross Payment for Non-Certificated Personnel</td>
<td>$3,261,496,660</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014

Copied of the annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014, will be posted to the Illinois State Board of Education's website at www.isbe.net.

### Triton College is committed to student success through institutional and academic excellence and providing a student-centered, lifelong learning environment for our diverse community.

### Education

Triton College, a public community college, provides a comprehensive educational program for residents of its district. For students who wish to transfer to a senior college or university, there are 42 associate degree programs, which provide the first two years for a Bachelor's Degree in the university transfer programs. For those interested in job training and career education, there are 32 two-year associate in vocational certificate programs. A broad variety of adult and continuing education courses are available for adults wishing to pursue a variety of interest.

### Certification

I certify that the above data is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

### Triton College, District No. 504

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross Revenues</td>
<td>$9,014,929,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational</td>
<td>$2,325,929,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations and Maintenance</td>
<td>$6,689,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Support</td>
<td>$4,691,745,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bond and Interest Fund</td>
<td>$5,189,672,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Levies Fund</td>
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<td>Special Levy Format</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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</tbody>
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### Triton College

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014

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## ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014, will be available for public inspection in the school district's administrative office by December 1, 2014. Individuals wishing to review this Annual Statement of Affairs should contact:

Stevie School District 69
7500 Madison, Skokie, Illinois 60077
847-767-7555

### School District/Agreement Name


### SUMMARY

The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/agreement for the past fiscal year.

### Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other Changes in Fund Balances</td>
<td>Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total Direct Receipts/Revenues</td>
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<td>Total Beginning Fund Balances</td>
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<td>Total Fund Balances</td>
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<td>Operations &amp; Capital Projects</td>
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<td>Working Cash</td>
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<td>Fire Prevention &amp; Safety</td>
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The summary must be published in the local newsletter.

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by December 1, 2014. Individuals wanting to review the Annual Statement of Affairs should contact the school district/joint agreement administrative office.

To view the annual statement of affairs for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, please visit the Illinois State Board of Education’s website at www.isbe.net.
A real page-turner: giving the gift of reading

BY MONICA CARTER
For Sun-Times Media

Books can send readers on extraordinary adventures. Kohl Chudzen's Museum president and CEO, Sheridan Turner; Rachel Weaver, owner of The Book Table; and Open Books founder, Stacy Ratner, recommend the following titles.

Children

"Imogene's Antlers by David Small introduces the concept of accepting others' differences with this humorous tale using simple text and 1950s-style illustrations," Turner said. "While Abuela by Arthur Dorros is a story steeped in Latino culture and celebrates the bond between a child and her grandmother."

"The Mitten by Jan Brett a winter-themed book based on an old Ukrainian folk tale. Turner said it features "beautifully detailed illustrations." She also suggested her childhood favorite: "A Bear Called Paddington by Michael Bond. When I was growing up in Britain, there was no escaping the allure of this bumbling but lovable bear from darkest Peru. I can only hope the upcoming movie will introduce a new American generation to this timeless character."

Young Adults

"Hometown teen celebrity Tavi Gevinson has fans of all ages here in Oak Park," said The Book Table's owner Rachel Weaver. "The latest installment of anthologies collecting writing from the online magazine Rookie: Rookie Yearbook Three — is a fantastic collection of empowering and entertaining writing."

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The collection features contributions from young female role models such as Lorde, Sophia Coppola, and Dakota and Elle Fanning.

"First published in 1964, it's just been reissued in a special 50th anniversary edition with extra material, which would make an especially lovely gift for young readers of fantasy, adventure and mythology."

"Women can be the perfect time to give people extra-special books," Ratner said, and Joan Blaeu: Atlas Major of 1665 by Peter Van der Krogt fits that classification for her. "It's a massive, gorgeous, history-packed block of a book featuring 500 full-color reproductions of baroque maps along with commentary and giant fold-out illustrations," she said. "One of my favorite novels to give as a gift, especially to fellow booklovers, is The City of Dreaming Books by Walter Moers," Ratner said. "It's the tale of Optimus Yarnspinner, a giant lizard who is destined to be his country's future greatest author, and what happens when he inherits the most perfect short story in the world."

Non-Fiction

"Holidays can be the perfect time to give people extra-special books," Ratner said, and Joan Blaeu: Atlas Major of 1665 by Peter Van der Krogt fits that classification for her. "It's a massive, gorgeous, history-packed block of a book featuring 500 full-color reproductions of baroque maps along with commentary and giant fold-out illustrations," she said. "One of my favorite novels to give as a gift, especially to fellow booklovers, is The City of Dreaming Books by Walter Moers," Ratner said. "It's the tale of Optimus Yarnspinner, a giant lizard who is destined to be his country's future greatest author, and what happens when he inherits the most perfect short story in the world."

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According to Weaver, the best nonfiction book of the season is What If? Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions. "The latest blog-turned-book to hit the market, this comes to us from Randall Munroe," she said. "The tongue-in-cheek infographics and humorous explanations make this an entertaining read. Whose curiosity wouldn’t be peaked by such questions as, ‘How many Lego bricks would it take to build a bridge capable of carrying traffic from London to New York?’"

Fiction

"Weaver recommended The Narrow Road to the Deep by Australian writer Richard Flanagan. "This acclaimed author hasn't had a wide readership in the U.S., so this savagely beautiful novel of love and war should bring Flanagan many American fans," she said. "One of my favorite novels to give as a gift, especially to fellow booklovers, is Dreaming Books by Walter Moers," Ratner said. "It's the tale of Optimus Yarnspinner, a giant lizard who is destined to be his country's future greatest author, and what happens when he inherits the most perfect short story in the world."

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are affordable gifts that keeps giving. They can catered to special interests and hobbies. Consider sports, science or news publications, such as Pioneer Press.

GIVE THE GIFT OF THEATRE!

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK
February 24, 2015 - May 31, 2015

Doubt: A Parable
April 28, 2015 - July 12, 2015

This holiday season, treat your loved ones to an unforgettabte experience with a 2-Play Pass to Writers Theatre!

A 2-Play Pass includes one ticket to The Diary of Anne Frank and one ticket to Doubt: A Parable.

To purchase a 2-Play Pass for $99, call the Box Office at 847-242-6000. Visit writerstheatre.org for more information.
Find one-of-a-kind gifts for everyone on your list during the Arts+Crafts EXPO, featuring over 100 artists.

November 22 – December 22, 2014
Monday – Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm
Sundays, 12 – 4 pm

Don’t miss these shopping events
Jewelry Fest Sat., Dec. 13 10 am – 4 pm
Men’s Shopping Day Sat., Dec. 20 10 am – 4 pm

Don’t miss these shopping events
Jewelry Fest Sat., Dec. 13 10 am – 4 pm
Men’s Shopping Day Sat., Dec. 20 10 am – 4 pm

EAC Student Expo ~ December 6 – 22
Handcrafted items made by our very own Art Center students featured in the 2nd floor gallery.

BY MONICA CARTER
For Sun-Times Media

For some, gift giving defines the holiday season. Part of the excitement is finding the perfect gift for someone and watching their reaction as they open their present. While paper is the most common form of gift wrap, it is also one of the most wasteful as it is quickly discarded as soon as a present is opened.

“The holiday season comes excesses of many kinds: excess food, drinks, sparkle, gifts and of course all that gift wrap,” says Mandy Kirschner spokesperson of Lush Handmade Cosmetics. “According to the Clean Air Council between Thanksgiving and New Year’s an extra million tons of waste is generated weekly, most of which is wrapping paper and shopping bags.”

This year consider creating gift wrap by reusing and repurposing materials found in and around the home. These ideas can give gifts a unique, personal touch as well being environmentally and economically friendly.

Fabric
With countless varieties of colors and styles, fabric is one of the easiest alternatives to paper gift wrapping. Old clothing, curtains, and tablecloths that are no longer useful can be repurposed. The material can be cut large enough to enclose the gift, gathered and tied at the top like a sack.

If there aren’t any old textiles suitable for wrapping, consider shopping at thrift stores or fabric stores for material. Some retail shops like Lush Cosmetics in Skokie’s Old Orchard Shopping Center sell ready-made eco-friendly wraps fashioned from recycled materials.

“There are a selection of Knot Wraps that can wrap any items that you’re giving,” says Kirschner. “They are a stylish alternative to gift wrap and can also be used as a headscarf. Each [wrap] is made from two recycled bottles and can be used again and again.”

Plant pots and glass jars
Clay flower pots can be found either around the house or in garden centers and can easily be painted or decorated before placing a present inside. A drip tray can be used as a lid and tied with decorative ribbon to cover the gift.

Any small gift can be placed and given in plant pots and small jars including floral arrangements.

“Narcissus are the December flower and can be planted on time to be given [as a gift] for the holidays,” says Maria Onesto-Moran of Oak Park’s Green Home Experts. “Terrariums are also super hot right now. They’re really trendy and can be grown simply in glass ball jars. It’s cool because it’s a way to bring some green indoors and something you can grow and enjoy for a long amount of time.”

Natural accents
For a more rustic and outdoors look, gather natural branches, pine cones, amaryllis’ and other natural, seasonal greens. These items can easily be glued or tied to ribbon as a finishing touch to a gift wrapped in brown paper. It is advised, however, that natural items be placed on gifts a day before giving as to not dry them out.

Natural alternatives for gift giving can be a small step in leading a more environmentally friendly lifestyle.

“Living a greener life, isn’t that so difficult,” says Dr. Corinna Baeker, President of Green Festival, America’s largest and longest-running sustainability and green living event. “Everyone can make a difference in being green and even small changes can make a significant impact.”
TAKE TIME TO UNWIND

Don't let holiday hubbub take bounce out of your step

BY WENDY ALTSCHLER
For Sun-Times Media

Carving out time to unwind and revitalize is not a luxury; it is what we have to do to keep our busy lives in balance, to stay healthy and happy. During the hectic holiday season, when family responsibilities and to-do lists are at the summit, making our wellbeing a priority is vital. From massages to spa visits to yoga poses to wine, the below experts offer their sage advice to help you approach the holiday hullabaloo in the most positive and salubrious way possible.

Massage
Sandy Saldano, a veteran licensed massage therapist of 26 years, owns and operates Therapeutic Kneads in Highland Park. Saldano's team of therapists has clinical backgrounds in nursing, martial arts, yoga and occupational and physical therapy. In addition to on-site relaxation therapy, home visits — perfect for folks with full schedules or for offering your guests a peaceful massage in your own home — are also available.

“We offer table massages for those who just want to curl up in their bathtub after our departure or we can provide one or multiple therapists for a more festive environment by providing chair massages for multiple guests,” Saldano said. “It is always the talk of the party long after the guests have gone. Massage creates a peaceful atmosphere that is sure to make the guests feel at home. Our therapists bring all of the supplies, music and warm soothing hands.”

For creating a soothing atmosphere at home and on your own, Saldano recommends using essential oils or aromatherapy. Try cinnamon, orange, chamomile, sandalwood or lavender scents, which are great for diffusing or putting in a warm bath. Many types of diffusers exist to make dispersing the oil convenient, even USB diffusers that can be plugged into your computer.

“Peppermint is great for upset stomachs from too much party food and can be put into hot water for sipping or on your forehead to calm a headache,” Saldano said.

In addition, breathing techniques, which can be performed anywhere, are the cheapest, easiest and most accessible tool that everyone has.

“Slowing down, breathing to a count of ten on inhale and ten on exhale and repeating five times, can calm the nervous system down, exchanging stress toxins for natural tranquilizing hormones,” Saldano said.

Combining any of these things with relaxing music or a heated neck pillow that you can microwave will help combat even the most stressful of times.

Spa treatments
Red Door Spa’s holiday packages are the perfect gift of relaxation to give or receive. The most popular package to accommodate essential beauty needs is the Celebration of Beauty package, which includes a Signature Massage or Signature Facial, a Warm Cream Manicure, a Warm Cream Pedicure and a Makeup Refresher.

“Our Ultimate Package offers a full day of pampering: Oxygen Infusion Facial, Hot Stone Massage, Milk and Honey Manicure, Milk and Honey Pedicure, Enriching Hair and Scalp Massage, Shampoo, Blow-dry and Finish, Makeup Refresher and a Spa Lunch,” said Marciola Wolak, Red Door Spa general manager. “This package is the perfect gift and it is the ultimate indulgence if you are looking to celebrate or experience all of the luxury and relaxation the spa has to offer.”

Yoga and wine
Rebecca Delott, a certified yoga instructor and sommelier in the Chicagoland area, has made a career out of teaching others how to open their senses, calm their minds and eliminate stress. Delott hosts wine and yoga classes, which combine cultural experiences through music, history and relaxation techniques.

“What’s great about this concept is that it brings new yoga to the mat!” said Delott.

“After yoga, we taste and learn about several wines, savoring the flavors and the stories that go along with the journey from vine to glass. Both yoga and wine production involve an organic process of growing up and out by rooting down. Just as winemakers carefully anchor and tend their vines to produce a beautiful wine, we as yogis ground ourselves in order to flourish on and off the mat.”

The weather is getting chiller so heavier and more herbaceous foods are finding their way to the table.

“In this season, I love drinking medium-dry, aromatic whites such as German Riesling or Alto Adige Gewurztraminer,” Delott said.

“I also really enjoy pairing medium-dry reds such as Barbera and Chianti Classico Sangiovese with heavier dishes like herb-roasted chicken and savory Brussels sprouts. These varietals offer bright, fresh red, dark fruit aromas and flavors while being balanced with nice acidity, offering mineral and herbaceous character that complement winter cuisine.”

Some yoga techniques offered by Delott include:

- deep and repetitive breathing, which helps to calm the nervous system, relieve stress and bring clarity to mind.
- practicing the Standing Forward Fold to bring fresh blood and oxygen to the brain, fostering a calming and energizing effect.
- settling into a Reclined Pigeon pose, which is the safest and most accessible outer hip stretch that releases tension from excessive sitting, standing or cycling.

“Take just a few minutes per day to take care of yourself, elevate your mood and create a more peaceful you this holiday season,” Delott said.

Wishing you and your family
Happy Holidays
from Lewis Floor & Home

Happy Holidays
In observance of the holidays we will be closed on Christmas and New Year’s Day.

LEWIS FLOOR & HOME
1840 Skokie Boulevard
Northbrook, IL 60062
Mon-Thurs 9-8, Fri-Sat 9-5, Sun 11-5
phone: 847-835-2400
www.lewisfloorandhome.com
Do you want to build a snowman?
A dozen off-the-beaten-holiday-path activities to try this winter


3. Take a break from all the screens in your life. Make a board game the first holiday gift your family opens, and then play it together.

4. Play in the snow. A great way to feel young is act like it. When the snow inevitably hits the ground, throw on a coat and gloves and start building a fort. Not so architecturally minded? Organize a friendly neighborhood snowball fight or snow angel-making contest. The kids get to judge.

5. Make a multi-user online holiday album.

6. Add a recipe from your heritage to your meal. If you’re of German descent, replace your grandmother’s German potato salad recipe for the standard mashed potatoes at your holiday meal. Add history, nostalgia and family in one tasty dish.

7. Wrap gifts with something surprising. Newsprint and comic pages make great non-traditional gift wrap, but try a different material such as felt, fabric swatches or even an old, clean scarf or table runner.

8. Start a wacky, new tradition. Try something your family has never seen before, such as making the family Christmas morning with a song. Mannheim Steamroller’s “Deck the Halls” blasting up the stairs or down the hall will get their attention. Or, add a new motif to your holiday decorations, such as a light-up holiday farm animal instead of a tree.

9. Get crafty. Instead of buying a new decoration, try a traditional craft such as bottlebrush trees. The shortcut: Buy a bottlebrush at a hardware store and make a trunk of any length. Then attach it to the disc with glue, floral tape or drill a hole in the base to insert the trunk. Spray paint the tree to work with your décor.

10. Add a game to a meal. Try the rice pudding game. Make enough rice pudding for each diner to have a dish. Portion out the rice pudding away from the table, and hide an almond one of the dishes. The game is that everyone eats and carries on normally, and whoever has the almond should hide it in their cheek (don’t eat it!). When everyone is finished, the diners speculate who has the almond, and the true holder of the almond finally reveals it. The winner gets a nominal prize.

11. Share the wealth. The holidays are a time for giving, but try giving your time instead of money. Look for a local soup kitchen, coat drive or shelter and devote a few hours to help those less fortunate.

12. Make a virtual holiday time capsule. Create a free email address. Have everyone email a memory or story from this year’s gathering to the address. Next year, the keeper of the email address can read them aloud at the next gathering.

Kimberly Eisham, For Sun-Times Media
PRO TIPS: ENTERTAINING

BY WENDY ALTSCHULER
For Sun-Times Media

Get ready for the merry-making season with these tips that will make your seasonal hosting a snap. These effortless flourishes can impart a big wow factor and help you feel the sweet vibe of the ho ho holidays.

Holiday character for the home. Decorations galore.

Go alone, bring friends or pack the kids in the car and take them to Color Me Mine in the Burr Ridge Village Center, located at 470 Village Center Drive.

"Color Me Mine, the paint-your-own ceramic studio, is the perfect place to paint wonderful holiday gifts for the important people in your life," said Janie Westenfelder, owner of Color Me Mine.

Pick from the nearly 300 different available items and paint it with the non-toxic, lead-free, food and dishwasher-safe paint. With the aid of stencils, sponges, more than 22,000 images in the design center and a talented artistic staff, you can create a work of ceramic art. Then, a staff member will dip it in a clear glaze and fire it up in a kiln. After five days, your holiday table centerpiece or serving tray destined for sugary season cookies will be ready.

For festive decorations, check out Design Studio, located at 917 Burlington Ave. in Western Springs. Created in 1983 by local artisans, Carol King and Paula Buttel, Design Studio operates under the philosophy of creativity, quality design and originality.

"Our inspiration comes from a love of textiles, ribbons, trims, textures, colors and collecting," King said.

"We surround ourselves with all of these beautiful inspirations and voila, a collection." For those who want to abandon from the job of holiday decorating all together, ask the professionals at Linly Designs. Leave the tree, stair-case, mantel, foyer and dining table adornment duties to these design experts. Create a wonderland with centerpiece, ornaments, custom swags and garlands, lavish holiday décor and custom silk floral arrangements.

"The majority of our clients that use our decorating services are repeat clients that we visit every year for the holidays. We can use their own pieces, or the clients can opt to have us bring out our own accessories to purchase," said Janet Linly, owner of Linly Designs.

Noshes.

Keep dinner simple; order the meal from Casey's Market, located at 915 Burlington Ave. in Western Springs. Entrees are available as well as hearty traditional sides.

"Ordering a fresh turkey from a butcher shop seems to be a long standing tradition and we are glad to keep that going here at Casey's," said Joe Lane, Manager at Casey's.

"Our Fresh Rosebud Turkey's cook up tender and delicious every time. Our deli is glad to help you with any sides that you may need for your holiday party."

Keep the entertaining and socializing to a maximum and the prepping, serving and cleaning to a minimum with the help of Marie's Catering, located at 341 75th St. in Willowbrook. Let the party coordinators arrange and take care of everything for your holiday party. With a variety of menu options, varying in price, finding something that will impress everyone on your guest list is a breeze.

The guests arrived. Now what?

Procure the services of Funtown Entertainment, located in Oak Park, to entertain the youngest attendees at your shindig. Specializing in magic, balloon twisting, face painting, puppets and clowns, the entertainers at Funtown will most assuredly leave an indelible impression.

"Since 1989, I've been an independent entertainer, performing as a kid's magician and clown," said Bob Cordero, Funtown Entertainment owner. "I know that parents want quality children's entertainment, and more importantly, that children want fun."

For some adult-centered fun, conduct a celebratory wine tasting, featuring select wines from the Hinsdale Wine Shop including Sauvignon Blanc, Petite Sirah, Malbec, Argentina wines and coveted limited edition wines from around the globe. If you're a wine neophyte, solicit the help of the wine aficionados at the Hinsdale Wine Shop to hold a tasting in your home.

"These are a lot of fun and are theme based, usually involving a fun game and winners get prizes," said Sean Chaudhry, general manager. "It can be a blind tasting where people guess the grape for country of origin or guess the price of the wine."

Your guests will enjoy swirling and sipping the wines and learning. The Hinsdale Wine Shop is located at 10 E. Hinsdale Ave.
The benefits of membership

These gifts will get the kids out of the house

BY WENDY ALTSCHULER
For Sun-Times Media

Most parents can attest to the incredible amount of living space that is lost to toys and kid-centered items. As the holiday season rolls around the corner, the idea of receiving or purchasing more multi-hued presents for your child seems a bit overwhelming. A membership is the ideal gift because it provides quality entertainment, the card fits in your wallet and, if you’re truly lucky, you can get a little alone time while someone else brings your kid out on an adventure. Here are some places that delight children and bring a sigh of peace to well deserving parents:

My Gym: both kids and parents benefit
My Gym offers fitness and art classes for children of various ages, with locations all over the Chicago area including: Aurora, Buffalo Grove, Chicago, River Forest, Skokie and Wheaton. My Gym even runs a kid fun-filled Parents’ Night Out session for folks overdue for a date night.

“Children are inundated with toys, video games and other tangible gifts especially around the holidays,” said Lisa Miroballi, owner of My Gym in Wheaton. “Give the gift of fitness and fun and invest in your child’s overall health and happiness. Anyone can gift My Gym memberships or classes in any amount. For Parents’ Night Out, parents can gift themselves a night out while the kids are having a blast playing games and staying fit.”

Gymboree Play & Music: Mom’s little helper
Little tykes from birth to age 5 will love the instructor-led music, art, sports and play-focused classes at Gymboree Play & Music. South Barrington, Chicago, Vernon Hills, Skokie and Northbrook all have Gymboree Play & Music locations that offer special deals, discounts on kids clothing and learning resources.

“Tots, books, dolls and games are all great gifts but eventually they wear out, get broken or forgotten amid all the other gifts a child receives during the course of a year. A gift certificate for a Gymboree Play & Music program is an alternative gift that just keeps getting better with time,” said Patrice Miller, owner of the South Barrington Gymboree Play & Music. “The child who receives a gift certificate to Gymboree Play & Music will reap rewards beyond the first five years of life. Children gain confidence, social and emotional skills through play and interaction with other children.”

Museums: many options
Let the grandparents take your kids to Kohl Children’s Museum in Glenview, Dupage Children’s Museum in Naperville or any one of the amazing Chicago museums. Often, a yearly family membership is more cost effective than daily admission prices.

“It’s great to see extended families and friends — all visiting with each other and enjoying the treasures in the museum. You can tell the children who are regulars. They clearly feel comfortable in the museum — looking for favorite works, talking about what they see, and scrambling to the studio to make something to take home,” said Susan Kulak, director of family programs at The Art Institute of Chicago. “The Ryan Education Center’s free admission makes it easy for a family to sample all these things and whet a child’s appetite for more frequent gallery visits. Caregivers and children of all ages can learn from each other, explore their creativity through workshops, and discover art masterpieces together through the wide range of programs we offer.”

Arts and craft fairs to delight shoppers

BY WENDY ALTSCHULER
For Sun-Times Media

LAKE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW
Nov. 28-30
Friday: 4-8 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Presented by Step By Step Promotions, the Lake County Fairgrounds Arts and Crafts Show, located at 1000 Peterson Road, offers distinctive items for the home. 300 booths, full of handmade artisan objects, will be accessible for a fun-filled shopping experience. Admission is $3.

HARPER COLLEGE FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND CRAFTS
Dec. 13-14
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

34TH ANNUAL LAMBS FARM HOLIDAY LIGHTS GIFT AND CRAFT FAIR
Dec. 5-7
Friday: 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Pop by the Arlington International Racecourse, 2200 Euclid Ave. in Arlington Heights, to peruse hundreds of exhibits from all over the country: laser etched frames, stained glass, Victorian ornaments, rustic wood signs, soaps, wreaths, ceramics, knits, baked goods, holiday garland, jewelry and more. Adult admission is $8; children under 15 are free and parking is $6.
It's Christmas at...

GARDEN CENTER
& FIREPLACE LOGS, INC.

Coming Soon to Red's
Live Nativity Scene
Saturday, December 6th
11:00 to 5:00

Live Reindeer
Saturday, December 13th
11:00 to 5:00

Say “Hi” to Santa
at both events!

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Mon - Fri 7-6, Sat 7-5, Sun 9-5
Extended Holiday hours: Dec. 4th, 5th, 11th & 12th till 8

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Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow at

CY FREDRICS JEWELERS

If it Snows, It’s Free*

All money from purchases (excluding taxes) between Nov. 28th - Dec. 24th will be refunded if measurable new snow on Jan 1st, 2015 is 6 inches or above at Chicago Executive Airport!

As verified by Weather Watch Service

*see store or cyfredrics.com for details

2719 Pfingsten Rd, Glenview, IL  847.564.8828
When Leslie Berkowitz opened Kidoodles 13 years ago, the focus of her Northbrook gift boutique was primarily on providing a large selection of unique children's gifts.

But now that her clients' kids are growing up, Berkowitz has uncovered a new niche, so significant that she recently launched a new branch of her company called Initial It Gifts, her personalized and monogrammed gift and accessory business.

Her demographic: adults and company executives.

"When you buy someone something that has their initials or name on it, it shows you've put some thought into it," said Berkowitz, a mom of three who previously had careers in advertising and teaching before starting Kidoodles.

Initial It Gifts offers personalized items that include home goods, such as cutting boards, glassware, candles, coasters, wing tags, serving pieces, cocktail napkins and picture frames, as well as jewelry, stationary, scarves, shawls, ponchos and gift baskets.

Berkowitz explained that the gifts are perfect for housewarmings, wedding showers, birthdays and holidays. She said customers get the benefit not only of her large selection of merchandise, but of her creativity and ideas.

"I solve problems," she said. "Through asking detailed questions about taste, occasion and budget, I help people give a gift that is really tailored to the recipient. It's not generic. I come up with gifts that fit all of their needs and that make them look like a star."

Pam Schur of Deerfield has been a client of Berkowitz for many years, and said she has bought several monogrammed items, both for herself and for others.

"I've bought cosmetic bags, candles, jewelry boxes, towel wraps, wine holders, stationary and serving pieces," Schur said. "I like monogrammed gifts because it shows you put some thought into it."

"She has a unique selection, everything you could want," said client Bev Chana of Northbrook. "I just bought five personalized makeup bags for young adult women and my neighbor saw them and ended up ordering some as well."

Initial It Gifts, which is located in Berkowitz's Northbrook home, offers shopping by appointment. Gifts can also be purchased through her online store or via the phone, where customers explain what they are looking for and Berkowitz emails options with photos. Free gift wrapping is included with every gift.

"People absolutely love the gifts I get from Leslie," Schur said. "I've been to their homes and I see them using the gifts. You can't get better service anywhere when it comes to gift shopping. She makes it really easy."

"Her service is exceptional," said Chana. "She makes every client feel like they are a major buyer. She is just great to deal with."
Hot looks for chilly weather
Warm up with winter's hottest coat trends

Wow — our weather sure turned quickly. It's time to get out your winter coats, or better yet, find a new one. There are so many fantastic styles to choose from this season!

"Finding the perfect coat for Chicago weather can be tough," said Shannon Ridgeway, senior marketing director of Westfield Old Orchard. "From classic down outerwear to bright and trendy options, a great winter coat is a must-have for every woman in the Midwest."

One coat that is crucial for brutal winters is the quilted down coat. The current styles are more streamlined and not as puffy. The Vince Camuto quilted walking coat at Nordstrom is a great example of this; it has a faux fur collar for a more updated modern look.

Or consider The North Face arctic down parka, perfect for when the temperatures drop. It's down insulated and has a waterproof finish to protect you from the wind and snow.

This winter, rather than reaching for a black or dark coat, go for color. Bold and bright colors are a huge coat trend this season. Ted Baker London has a bright pink wrap coat at Nordstrom. If that's too dramatic, then go for a pastel, like the baby blue BB Dakota coat at Bloomingdale's.

Another coat trend is modish collars. Instead of the statement necklaces, coats are making a statement with untraditional collars. Funnel collars, no collars, round collars and stand up collars. "Effortless chic and perfect for a night out on the town. Collarless coats are having a major moment," declared Ridgeway.

This season of winter coats offers a great variety for every style: Bright, bold, pastel, statement collars, performance wear, quilting, wrapped, belted and down. Everything goes!
CAUSE & EVENT

WOMEN’S BOARD OF THE REHABILITATION INSTITUTE 2014 PARTY

Date: Oct. 24
Attended: 450
Raised: $1,000,000
Website: ric.org

Benefiting: The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
Location: Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago

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.

Look to FireplacesPlus for Chicagoland's finest fireplaces and accessories, including glass doors, screens, and the area's best selection of gas logs.

See our Napoleon Fireplace Gallery at FireplacesPlus on 700 North Milwaukee Avenue in Vernon Hills with over 50 various burning fireplace units on display.

FREE INSTALLATION with any Gas Log Purchase
See store for details

Napoleon G550 Gas Stove
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Napoleon LDH45 Gas Fireplace
Hargrove Cross Timbers Gas Logs
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Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061
(847) 549-6700

200 West Ohio Street
Chicago, Illinois 60654
(312) 587-7587
Blockbuster or flop? The Movie Review section has the scoop.

Get up and go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond

Every Thursday
WANT OUR DATING ADVICE?

Contact our relationship expert, Jackie Pilossoph, at Jackie@loveessentially.com. We'll keep it confidential.
Head out to area farms to find your holiday centerpiece

BY ANNIE ALLEMAN

The holiday season is upon us, and it’s time to get that Christmas tree. Luckily, Northern Illinois has plenty of tree farms close by with all of the popular varieties.

Choosing a live tree can actually be a green choice, says the National Christmas Tree Association. Trees are a renewable, recyclable, natural product grown on American farms. In the several years it takes a Christmas tree to reach average height, it provides a habitat for wildlife and purifies the air. Most farmers plant more than one tree for every one tree that’s cut.

At many of the farms, customers get a free hayride out to the fields to check out the crop. Many have hand saws available to borrow (some require a deposit) and offer free shaking and baling. They’ll probably even help you get the thing fastened to your car.

Many tree farms also will have treats for sale, along with handmade wreaths and boughs. Some even let you bring the family dog — on a leash. And some farms may even have the man of the season, Santa Claus, in for a visit on weekends.

Anderson Tree Farm, 508 E. Schoolhouse Road, Plainfield. (815) 436-2140. karen@visitandersontreefarm.com. Andersontreefarm.com. Hours: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Nov. 22-Dec. 24. Cost: $9 per foot for you-cut trees; pre-cut trees begin at $75. Cash and credit cards accepted.

Ben’s Fraser Fir Farm, 16324 Capron Road, Capron. On Capron Road (Wooster Street) 7 miles west of Harvard and 1 mile south of the town of Capron and Route 173. (630) 279-0216. Benstreefarm.com. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 28 and weekends to Dec. 14. Hand-pruned, organically grown Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir and Norway Spruce from 10-20 feet tall. The cost is $9 per foot on all trees. Cash and checks.


Camelot Christmas Tree Farm, 13579 Howison Road, DeKalb. (815) 757-0717. Craigcinnamonchristmastrees.com. Open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 28 and then weekends only to Dec. 21, or call for appointment. Cost: $40-$60. Cash or check only.
cost $6.50 a foot. Cash or check only.


**Green Garden Christmas Tree Farms**, 11615 Fauling Road, Manchester. (815) 785-2372. Greengardenchristmastreefarm.com. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays to Sundays, Nov. 28 until a week before Christmas. Cost: $46. Cash or check only.

**Grizzly’s Tree Farm**, 15900 Marengo Road, Union. (847) 812-2961. Mike@mwgas-associates.com. Open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 28 and weekends only to Dec. 14. Cost: $45 for Scotch and white pines; $8 for Fraser firs. Check or cash only.


**Kaiser’s Family Farm**, 1 N 318 Watson Road, Maple Park. (815) 827-5200. Kulpersfamilyfarm.com. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily to Christmas. Cost: up to $45 for firs and pines any size; pre-cut trees Fraser firs are priced by size. Checks and credit cards accepted.


**Lee’s Trees**, 45W002 Lees Road, Lily Lake. (830) 365-2116. Leestreeusa.com. Open 1 to 5 p.m. Fridays; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 28 and weekends to Dec. 21 (or until they sell out). Cost: Average price of you-cut trees is $45. Pre-cut: Balsam Fir, $65-$70; Fraser Fir, $90-$110; White Pine, $85-$100. Credit cards accepted.

**Marmion’s Abbey Tree Farm**, 1204 Butterfield Road, Aurora. (815) 464-5219 ext. 373. Abbeyfarms.org. Open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily to Dec. 23. Trees cost $45; pre-cut trees cost $5 per foot. Cash or check only.


**Pine-Apple Farm**, 309 Three Oaks Road, Cary. (847) 639-3248. Pine-applefarm.com. Hours are 9 a.m.-dusk Nov. 28 and weekends to Dec. 21. Pines cost $60 any size; firs and spruces cost $80 any size; pre-cut Fraser firs start at $70. Cash and check only.

**Pioneer Tree Farm**, 4616 Pioneer Road, McHenry. (815) 365-2116. Leestreesusa.com. Open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 28 and weekends until Christmas. Cost: $45 any size. Cash and check only.


**Pioneer Tree Farms**, 1332 Bell Road, Lemont. (708) 580-0906. Cmiller28@yahoo. com. Puckervillefarms.web.com. Hours 10 a.m.-7 p.m. daily Nov. 28 to Dec. 24. Fraser firs only; cost $55 for 6 feet and $10 for each additional foot up to 12 feet. Cash and check only.


**Sullivan Family Christmas Tree Farm**, 24774 W. Petite Lake Road, Lake Villa. (847) 949-0172 or (847) 989-3092. Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 28 and then weekends to Dec. 21 or by appointment. Cost: any size tree $40; pre-cut begin at $45. Mention the Facebook promotion and receive a free hot chocolate and an ornament with any tree. Cash or check.


**Ziegler Family Christmas Tree Farm**, 24774 W. Petite Lake Road, Lake Villa. (847) 949-0172 or (847) 989-3092. Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 28 and then weekends to Dec. 21 or by appointment. Cost: any size tree $40; pre-cut begin at $45. Mention the Facebook promotion and receive a free hot chocolate and an ornament with any tree. Cash or check.

**Green Garden Christmas Tree Farms**, 24774 W. Petite Lake Road, Lake Villa. (847) 949-0172 or (847) 989-3092. Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 28 and then weekends to Dec. 21 or by appointment. Cost: any size tree $40; pre-cut begin at $45. Mention the Facebook promotion and receive a free hot chocolate and an ornament with any tree. Cash or check.

**Larson’s Family Farm**, 4104 Somonauk Road, Sandwich. (815) 786-2219. Larsonfamilyfarm.com. Open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Nov. 28 and that 2-4:30 p.m. Tuesday to Friday; 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekends to Dec. 21. Cost: All trees $37. Cash or check only.

**Lee’s Trees**, 45W002 Lees Road, Lily Lake. (830) 365-2116. Leestreeusa.com. Open 1 to 5 p.m. Fridays; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 28 and weekends to Dec. 21 (or until they sell out). Cost: Average price of you-cut trees is $45. Pre-cut: Balsam Fir, $65-$70; Fraser Fir, $90-$110; White Pine, $85-$100. Credit cards accepted.

**Marmion’s Abbey Tree Farm**, 1204 Butterfield Road, Aurora. (815) 464-5219 ext. 373. Abbeyfarms.org. Open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. daily to Dec. 23. Trees cost $45; pre-cut trees cost $5 per foot. Cash or check only.


**Pine-Apple Farm**, 309 Three Oaks Road, Cary. (847) 639-3248. Pine-applefarm.com. Hours are 9 a.m.-dusk Nov. 28 and weekends to Dec. 21. Pines cost $60 any size; firs and spruces cost $80 any size; pre-cut Fraser firs start at $70. Cash and check only.


**Pine Apple Acres**, 41 W 651 Powers Road, Huntley. (847) 669-3251. Pineappleacres.com. Open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 28 and weekends to Dec. 21. Pines cost $60 any size; firs and spruces cost $80 any size; pre-cut Fraser firs start at $70. Cash and check only.


**Pine Apple Acres**, 41 W 651 Powers Road, Huntley. (847) 669-3251. Pineappleacres.com. Open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 28 and weekends to Dec. 21. Pines cost $60 any size; firs and spruces cost $80 any size; pre-cut Fraser firs start at $70. Cash and check only.
**ST. JOHN BREBEUF HOSTS**

**DO-IT-YOURSELF 'MESSIAH'**

7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2

St. John Brebeuf Parish, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., Niles

Free, donations will be accepted

Scores available for $15

(847) 966-8145; sjbrebeuf.org

The holiday spirit will fill St. John Brebeuf Parish in Niles on Dec. 2 when Music Director Marek Rachelski leads a do-it-yourself performance of Handel's "Messiah."

This second annual event, "provides an opportunity for the community to hear the music of Handel and also to hear some wonderful soloists," Rachelski said. "More importantly, for the church to present it is to continue to tell the story of the Messiah."

The concert will feature a 15-piece Musica Lumina Chamber Orchestra and about 30 members of the Niles Metropolitan Chorus, both led by Rachelski. He started the orchestra about 10 years ago and the chorus last year.

Although everyone is welcome to attend to hear the music, the music director is hoping that many people will choose to sing with the orchestra and chorus. " 'Messiah' is one of the most widely known oratorios and people have sung it over the years all over the world," Rachelski said. Handel wrote the piece in 1741 and it was first performed a year later. Since then, it has become a hugely popular piece, most often performed during the Christmas season.

Elise LaBarge is the soprano soloist for the performance. She began singing with the choir at the church in September. LaBarge has performed at Monastero's Ristorante, Davenport's Cabaret and Piano Bar, Uncommon Ground and for private parties.

"When the opportunity to sing the Handel presented itself, I jumped on it," LaBarge said. This is her first time singing the "Rejoice" solo. LaBarge enjoys performing "Messiah" because, "Audiences like to hear it. It's great fun, it's festive and it has the holiday spirit built into it. It's a lovely tradition to have and uphold."

This is the second of three Rudcki Commemorative Concerts scheduled for this year. Those performances honor the legacy of Rev. Stanley Rudcki, former chair of the Department of Fine Arts at Niles College, who founded the Niles Concert Choir and Niles Symphony orchestra in the 1960s. Altogether, St. John Brebeuf Parish is presenting eight concerts in its 2014-2015 season, organized and led by Rachelski. They are all open to the public.
Holiday concert to feature Tchaikovsky and ‘Frozen’ selections

BY SHERYL DEVORE
For Pioneer Press

The music of Tchaikovsky, western-style harmonica tunes and a rising soprano star singing selections from “Frozen” will fill the historic Pickwick Theatre Dec. 3 when the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra presents its annual holiday concert.

The program continues an orchestra tradition of beginning with a classical piece and then following it with fun holiday music, said the orchestra’s executive director Deborah Oberschelp.

“This is a festive way of getting in the mood for the holidays,” she said.

This year’s classical piece will be the familiar Nutcracker Suite by Peter I. Tchaikovsky.

After concertgoers envision sugar plum fairies and waltzing flowers, they’ll be treated to some harmonic wizardry, as Mike Runyan presents “A Cowboy Harmonica Christmas,” with orchestral accompaniment.

Runyan will perform a medley of Christmas songs deftly changing from 12 different harmonicas including a 10-hole diatonic instrument, often called the blues harp, to a two-foot long chord harmonica.

“The audiences love it because they can connect with the instrument,” Runyan said. “Almost everyone has played one, haven’t they? It’s easy to pick up and get a pleasant sound out of it. That contributes to the mass appeal. In one sense, it’s a folk instrument, but it can also be taken to the symphonic setting.”

Runyan has toured with pianist, conductor and composer Marvin Hamlisch and continues to arrange pieces for harmonica that he performs with various music groups.

Another audience pleaser will be young soprano Linden Christ, said Oberschelp.

Christ sang selections from “Wicked” at the orchestra’s October concert and is returning to perform selections from the Disney animated movie, “Frozen.”

“Frozen” is the biggest newest hit,” said Christ. “I have been having a blast with ‘Frozen.’”

Christ enjoys the music from “Frozen” because it challenges her to sing in her low and high ranges. “It’s very dramatic music, but also playful and fun, depending on the song. It’s so catchy — you just want to go around humming it all day long.”
Meatballs
get the holiday party season rolling

BY VERONICA HINKE
For Pioneer Press

This holiday season, bag the frozen meatballs. Making them yourself is a cinch, and your guests will love the handmade treats.

"Homemade meatballs are better because you have control of the quality and freshness of the ingredients and your guests appreciate the time and effort you put forth for their dining pleasure," said Dr. Thomas Kwiatt. "For the Christmas holidays, you can serve meatballs on pasta in a red sauce — and sprinkled with fresh basil to bring out the holiday colors on your table."

Kwiatt, a Vernon Hills resident who operates a dental practice there, finished among the top 12 finalists in a competition hosted by Rosebud Restaurant on Taylor Street in June. Now, he's even affectionately known to some as Dr. Meatball.

He said what's ideal about holiday entertaining with meatballs is that they can be made in advance and frozen to be served later as part of a formal dinner or as appetizers — however you're rolling that day.

Kwiatt has plenty of experience in preparing meatballs for large groups. He and his wife Barbara made nearly 600 meatballs for a party they held in August. They plan to serve more meatballs over the holidays, when their grandchildren come to visit. "The grandkids love the meatballs, although their parents don't always enjoy the clean-up," he joked.

Kwiatt said two ingredients make his meatballs winners — Romano cheese and Italian sausage instead of ground pork.

While Kwiatt's recipe includes bread crumbs, Massimo Salatino, Corporate Chef with Francesca's Restaurants, suggests using bread soaked in milk, which he finds helps moisten the meatballs.

For Salatino, meatballs bring up great childhood memories. "Every Sunday, after church, all of my family — my cousins, uncles, grandma and grandpa — would sit around the fireplace and listen to Grandpa telling jokes or talking about his adventures during World War I and World War II," he said. "The kids would help in the kitchen making what we call in Italian 'polpettes.'"

Both Salatino and Kwiatt use an ice cream scoop to help form and shape each meatball, while Kwiatt also uses a melon scoop for shaping smaller, appetizer-size meatballs.

Salatino suggests keeping a little bowl with some vegetable oil at your fingertips, to help prevent stickiness.

Will Johnson, new chef at The Avenue in Wilmette, emphasized keeping meatballs bite-size for entertaining. "It's got to be a comfortable bite," he said. "You don't want your guests to have to struggle with something that's going to end up all over the front of their shirt."

For a pretty presentation of passed appetizers, Johnson suggested putting a little creamy polenta on a disposable spoon with a little meatball on top. Use either a bite-size meatball or a larger one cut in half. Sprinkle a little high quality Parmesan and a few pieces of shredded micro mustard greens or micro radish. Then, prop the handles of the spoons up on a rolled towel that is placed close to the edge of the serving tray. Hold the serving tray in one hand, and in the other hand hold a receptacle for collecting used spoons.

Whether planning a party or a recipe contest, meatballs are a winner.

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MEATBALLS

1 pound lean ground beef
1 pound ground veal
1 pound Italian sausage, casing removed
1 cup grated Romano cheese
2 eggs
2 cups Italian bread crumbs
3 tablespoons fresh basil, chopped
3 tablespoons fresh oregano, chopped
1 red bell pepper, chopped
1 medium sweet onion, chopped
4 garlic cloves, minced
2 teaspoons salt
4 tablespoons olive oil

Sauté chopped bell pepper and sweet onion in two tablespoons olive oil in heavy skillet over medium heat until softened. Add minced garlic for last two minutes. Whisk eggs and add all ingredients in large bowl and blend together or mix in a stand mixer. After mixing, cover container with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least two hours. Remove from refrigerator and form into balls. Brown meatballs in heavy pan with remaining olive oil, over medium heat. After browning, place meatballs in roasting pan at 325 degrees. Baking time will vary depending on the size of the meatballs. Serve with pasta and sauce.

— Thomas Kwiatt
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.

THURSDAY, DEC. 4

Nutcracker Unwrapped!
7 p.m.: Get behind the scenes on this holiday classic! Salt Creek Ballet will explain and decode some of the more mystifying aspects of the Nutcracker story and its music as well as provide a preview of its upcoming performances of The Nutcracker at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts. Audience participation will be a key part of the experience. Ages 4 and up.
Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood. Call 847-677-5277 x232. Fee.

FRIDAY, DEC. 5

Park Ridge Panhellenic Club
Noon: The Park Ridge Panhellenic Club meeting will feature a Maine East choral rising star tasked with rescuing art masterpieces from Nazi thieves. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 708-867-7828. $77, guests.

Modern Times Film Series: The Monuments Men
6 p.m.: Presentation of The Monuments Men, starring George Clooney as the leader of an unlikely WWII platoon tasked with rescuing art masterpieces from Nazi thieves. Eisenhofer Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 708-867-7828.

Frozen and Holiday Classics
7:30 p.m.: "Frozen" and Holiday Classics features holiday songs from "The Nutcracker" and "Let It Go" from the movie "Frozen." Performed by the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra. Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-7726. $25 adults, $20 seniors; free for ages 18 and under.

Natural Gas
8 p.m.: The improvisational group takes a suggestion from the audience and turns it into a show. The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Call 773-353-7071. $5.

FRIDAY, NOV. 28

Handicrafters
10 a.m.: Held every Friday at 10 a.m. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-5127.

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 Holley Court Terrace, 31010 Forest Avenue Oak Park, Oak Park. Call 708-365-III. 5 & under Free, Adults $5 Students 6-12 & Seniors $3 Families of 4 or more $15.

When Harry met Irving
8 p.m.: Celebrate the music of Harold Arlen and Irving Berlin, from "Over the Rainbow" to "God Bless America." With Judy Rossignuolo-Rice, Dennis McGowan Tracy, and Beckie Menzie. Call or go online for tickets. Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call 847-677-7761.

SUNDAY, NOV. 30

Music of the Baroque Presents: The Christmas Oratorio
3 p.m.: From the heaven-storming timpani of the opening movement, the Christmas story unfolds in dramatic narrative, moving arias, and inspiring choruses—performed with the passion and style. Music of the Baroque always brings to Bach's great choral works. North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Call 312-591-1414. $39-$75.

Music of the Baroque Presents: The Christmas Oratorio
3 p.m.: From the heaven-storming timpani of the opening movement, the Christmas story unfolds in dramatic narrative, moving arias, and inspiring choruses—performed with the passion and style. Music of the Baroque always brings to Bach's great choral works. North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Call 312-591-1414. $39-$75.

WRITERS GROUP

Triva Night
8 p.m.: Winners receive gift cards, Specials include $4 Budweiser products and 60-cent wings. Buffalo Wild Wings, 7020 Carpenter Road, Skokie. Call 847-329-9393.

TUESDAY, DEC. 2

Men's Club
2:30 a.m.: The group meets the first two Tuesdays of each month for breakfast. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. $2.

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3

Lunch and Bingo
10 a.m.: Enjoy a game of bingo and lunch. Come early for coffee and conversation. Fee includes lunch from a local restaurant or caterer. Bingo cards 50 cents each. Registration is required. North Shore Senior Center, 5404 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Call 847-784-6030. $6 members, $8 nonmembers.

Hanukkah Party and Latke Luncheon
11:30 a.m.: A fun-filled Hanukkah party, complete with a Latke Luncheon and Holiday Boutique, hosted by the Sisterhood of Ezra-Habonim. Potato latkes served! Entertainment provided by Chuck Field, comedy ventriloquist, whose superb act with dummies such as Zippy and Dr. Sol can truly delight audiences of all ages. A Holiday Boutique, runs from 2 to 6 p.m., offers unique and unusual gifts as well as personal items for everyone's holiday needs. There is no charge to shop at the Boutique. For reservations or for further information, please call the synagogue office at 847-675-4414. Ezra-Habonim Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie. $18 Sisterhood members, $23 for non-members and at the door.

Holiday Tea at the Drake Hotel
12:30 p.m.: Join singer Megon McDonough as she pays homage to some of the generations, such as Carole King, Burt Bacharach, James Taylor, Dolly Parton, and Webb, Stevie Wonder and more. Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call 847-677-7761.

Holiday Cards
9 a.m.: Make gift tags and greeting cards, or get a head start on thank you cards that can be composed at the Thank You Note Workshop at the end of the month. River Forest Public Library, 735 Lathrop Ave., River Forest. Call 708-366-5205.

Lincolnwood Lights
5 p.m.: All welcome to attend the second annual Village Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration at Village Hall. Celebrate the holiday season with hot chocolate, music and a visit from old St. Nick. Join to kick off the holiday season on this special night. Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood. Call 847-677-9740.

Pajama Night, Independent Readers Grades K-4
7 p.m.: Party in pajamas! Wear RJs, bring a pillow and book (or get one at the library), and hang out in the Children's Room while eating cookies and reading. River Forest Public Library, 735 Lathrop Ave., River Forest. Call 708-366-5205.

A Ceremony of Carols
7:15 p.m.: Get ready for Christmas with Margie Skelly, second soprano with the Edgewater Singers and the North Shore Choral Society of Evanston, as she explores the lyrics and history of Benjamin Britton's A Ceremony of Carols, a challenging, spiritual and moving piece of music. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Okeito Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 708-867-7828.

Triva Night
8 p.m.: Winners receive gift cards. Specials include $4 Budweiser products and 60-cent wings. Buffalo Wild Wings, 7020 Carpenter Road, Skokie. Call 847-329-9393.
The luncheon and meeting will be held at the Park Ridge Country Club. Membership to the Panhellenic Club is open to alumnae of college Greek letter sororities. The club awards scholarships to high school graduates in the Maine Township area. Reservations should be made on the Monday before the event. Address inquiries to Barbara Pfaff at 847-696-4709. Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-823-3102. $25.

**First Fridays Holiday Fest & Cookie Walk**

5 p.m.: The celebration begins at event headquarters, located at the Skokie Heritage Museum. There will be live reindeer, elves, photos with Santa, carolers to set the mood from Lincoln Jr. High School and much more! Cookie Walk beginning at 5 p.m., guests will check-in at the Skokie Heritage Museum and much more! The event benefits the Skokie Township area. Reservations should be made on the Monday before the event.

**Skokie Valley Kennel Club**

Saturday, December 6 & Sunday, December 7

Dog Show Tours
10 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day
Meet the Breeds
face to face with over 100 purebred breeds
Puppy Competition
Beginner, 4-6 mos. Sunday-Noon
Unique Gifts & Accessories for you and your dog
Items not usually found in retail stores
Pet Disaster Relief Fundraiser
Face Painting - kids $6, adults $8

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**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - Fun for All Ages!**

**All Breed Dog Show**

**COMPETITION**

**Skokie Valley Kennel Club**

Saturday, December 6 & Sunday, December 7

**Dog Show Tours**

10 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day
Meet the Breeds
face to face with over 100 purebred breeds
Puppy Competition
Beginner, 4-6 mos. Sunday-Noon
Unique Gifts & Accessories for you and your dog
Items not usually found in retail stores
Pet Disaster Relief Fundraiser
Face Painting - kids $6, adults $8

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center
5555 No. River Road, Rosemont
For more info skokievalleykc.org
Santa and his elves will be in town when Lincolnwood Lights kicks off the holiday season.

Light up the season at Lincolnwood holiday event

By Myrna Petlicki
For Pioneer Press

Things will look brighter around Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., when they turn on Lincolnwood Lights, 5-6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1.

"All of the lights are strung up and ready to go," said Linda Vering, community outreach coordinator and marketing coordinator. "A librarian from the Lincolnwood Public Library is going to be reading some seasonal stories."

Entertainment will be provided by the Ruderman Family of Lincolnwood who will sing-alongs. "A librarian from the Lincolnwood Public Library is going to be reading some seasonal stories."

For details, call (847) 673-1540 or go to www.parkridgelibrary.org.

Grinch and Be It

Santas are everywhere. You’ll hear the other side of the story at a Grinch Day! 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1 at the Old Orchard Barnes & Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. Kids will hear "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Dr. Seuss and participate in themed activities.

For details, call (847) 667-2230 or go to www.barnesandnoble.com.

Here Comes the Candyman

The search goes on for someone to take over a candy factory in "Willy Wonka Jr," 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7 at Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. The Broadway, Our Way! production is performed by young people. Tickets are $13.

For details, call (847) 677-7761 or go to skokie/theatre.com.

Celebrity Sightings

Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and "Frozen" stars Elsa, Anna and Olaf will all be at Downtown Evanston’s Holiday Bash and Tree Lighting, 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29. There will be a live musical performance by Elsa, Anna and Olaf. Bring warm clothing for Hilda’s Place, Connections for the Homeless.

For details, call (847) 866-6319 or go to www.downtownevanston.org.

Film Clips

By Bruce Ingram
Film Critic

Opening Friday

Horrible Bosses 2

Rated R for strong crude sexual content and language throughout
Stars: Jason Bateman, Jason Sudeikis, Charlie Day, Jennifer Aniston
It has no real reason to exist aside from racking up another payday after the hit 2011 original, but at least "Horrible Bosses 2" capitalizes on what worked best last time. Namely, the enjoyable comic chemistry of Bateman, Sudeikis and Day as they turn to amateur criminality to thwart another set of workplace oppressors. This time, the guys conspire to kidnap the obnoxious son of a billionaire (Chris Pine) who cements them out of their start-up manufacturing business. Kevin Spacey, Jennifer Aniston and Jamie Foxx return.

Penguins of Madagascar

Rated PG for mild action and some rude humor
Stars: Tom McGrath, Chris Miller, Benedict Cumberbatch, Ken Jeong
The paramilitary penguins of the "Madagascar" movie series star in their own adventure about a secret organization trying to prevent an evil genius from destroying the world.

Still Playing

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 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.

The Homesman

Rated R for violence, sexual content, some disturbing behavior and nudity
Stars: Tommy Lee Jones, Hilary Swank, John Lithgow, Meryl Streep
In the old West, a strong-willed woman (Swank) who has agreed to take three women back East hires a drifter (Jones) to guide and protect them.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1

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).

Dumb and Dumber To

Rated PG-13 for crude and sexual humor, partial nudity, language and drug references
Stars: Jim Carrey, Jeff Daniels, Kathryn Turner, Laurie Holden
Where the world-class idiots (Carrey and Daniels) in the Farrelly Brothers' colossal 1994 hit comedy were basically sweet-natured, the passing years have made them considerably meaner — and way more obnoxious. You might scrounge a few low-level laughs from this mostly tedious sequel as the two doofuses hit the road to find a long-lost daughter, but 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
This deep-dish romantic melodrama delivers all the heart throbs and love agonies you’d expect, along with a generous helping of rising-star showbiz fantasy. What makes it worth watching, though, is the way it ultimately criticizes that fantasy. M’batha-Raw plays Noni, an R&B sex-doll singer poised on the brink of superstardom when an attempt to jump off her hotel balcony sets the stage for romance with her rescuer — a straight-arrow L.A. cop (Parker).

Rosewater

Rated: R for language including some crude references, and violent content
Stars: Gael Garcia Bernal, Shohreh Aghdashloo, Kim Bodnia
A solid and substantial writing/directing debut that suggests "Daily Show" host Jon Stewart has a respectable aptitude for more serious fare. "Rosewater" details the 88-day interrogation of Iranian journalist Maziar Bahari (Bernal), who was arrested and accused of "media espionage" for exposing violent government responses to rioting following the bitterly contested 2009 presidential election.
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Sunday, 9:15 am - Spirit Bridge
Sunday, 10:30 am - New Song
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Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry
Michael Lyda, Children/Youth/Family
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1 Rest ladies 51 Item swept
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122 Toothpaste
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124 Helpful lead
125 Loathsome
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127 Broadway's
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129 "The Divine
130 Data-entry

HOROSCOPES: DECEMBER 3 - DECEMBER 9

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) That change in holiday travel plans might be more vexing than you'd expected. Also, it couldn't hurt to use that Aries charm to coax out some helpful cooperation.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your Bovine determination helps you deal with an unforeseen complication. As usual, you prove that when it comes to a challenge, you have what it takes to take it on.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Although a romantic theme dominates much of the week, all those warm and fuzzy feelings don't interfere with the more pragmatic matters you need to take care of.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Best not to ignore those doubts about an upcoming decision. Instead, recheck the facts you were given to make sure nothing important was left out. A weekend surprise awaits you.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) No time for a catnap - yet. You might still have to straighten out one or two factors so that you can finally assure yourself of the truth about a troubling workplace situation.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) News from an old friend could lead to an unexpected (but nonetheless welcome) reunion with someone who had once been very special in your life.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It might be time for a family council. The sooner those problems are resolved, the sooner you can move ahead with your holiday preparations.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Take some time out to give more attention to a personal relationship that seems to be suffering from a sense of emotional neglect. Provide that much-needed reassurance.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) That unusual circumstance that might faze most people can be handled pretty well by the savvy Sagittarian. Look at it as an opportunity.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Someone you believe has hurt you in the past might now need your help. Reaching out can be difficult. The generous Goat will be able to do the right thing.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Prioritization is an important part of your pre-holiday scheduling. Try to give time both to your workday responsibilities and those personal matters.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) With the vestiges of your anger about that painful incident fading, you can now focus all your energy on the more positive aspects of your life, including that personal situation.
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JENNINGS CHEVROLET

When you think of the NFL's top current receivers, who comes to mind? Detroit's Calvin Johnson of course. Perhaps Arizona's Larry Fitzgerald. Maybe Cincinnati's A.J. Green or Pittsburgh's Antonio Brown. But none of them can match the man with the most receptions over the eight seasons prior to the 2014 campaign. Of course his quarterback for most of those years might have had just a little something to do with it. That would be New England's Tom Brady, and the receiver would be Wes Welker - the only player in NFL history with at least 100 catches in five straight seasons.

Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota was having another spectacular season in 2014, but a word of caution about his prospects as a pro: Oregon had five quarterbacks drafted prominently in the last 15 years, and not one made a significant impact in the NFL. They were Akili Smith in 1999 (No. 3 overall by Cincinnati), A.J. Feeley in 2001 (No. 155 by Philadelphia), Joey Harrington in 2002 (No. 3 by Detroit), Kellen Clemens in 2006 (No. 49 by the Jets) and Dennis Dixon in 2008 (No. 156 by Pittsburgh).

How many hits would you guess are registered in a single NHL season, including the playoffs? In 2013, the answer was a bruising 64,035, an average of nearly 30 per game. Perhaps that degree of wear and tear explains in part why, entering the 2014-15 campaign, there hasn't been a back-to-back Stanley Cup champion since the 1996-97 and 1997-98 Detroit Red Wings. By the way, in 2014-15 the Wings are looking to extend their NHL-leading streak of consecutive seasons in the playoffs to 24.
Toughness a hallmark of Niles West’s Steegmueller

BY MATT HARNESS

mharness@tribpub.com, @harnesspreps

There’s not much that stops Niles West senior Catherine Steegmueller from competing at gymnastics.

Not scoliosis, which she was diagnosed with in 2008, and not a faulty parallel bars apparatus at last season’s Niles North Sectional.

In Steegmueller’s first event of the meet, the bars collapsed during her release move. Niles West coach Susan Arcus said Steegmueller, the third gymnast to perform on the bars, bruised the tops of her feet and hurt her neck and upper back on the dismount.

Given the opportunity to go again, Steegmueller, an all-arounder and the team’s best gymnast, climbed back on the bars and scored an 8.225 to finish 16th. She even completed her routines on the floor exercise, balance beam and vault.

While none of Steegmueller’s scores were good enough to qualify for the state meet, Arcus praised Steegmueller’s toughness, both mental and physical.

“She finished them all, just not at the level she would have liked,” Arcus said.

After three trips to the sectional meet, Steegmueller is motivated to get to the state meet for the first time in her final season of high school, Arcus said.

“She’s a phenomenal young lady,” Arcus said.

“Her dedication and work ethic in the sport are great. But she’s also extremely smart and a terrific person to be around.”

Arcus said Steegmueller is setting an example for a young group of Wolves. The team’s second-best gymnast is sophomore Karina Marin, another all-arounder. Marin spent her freshman season competing for her club team.

Three other sophomores — Haley Aichholzer, Emily Stegich and Claire Embil — are expected to contribute this season.

Aichholzer and Stegich are all-arounders.

“All the girls are working hard and setting great goals for themselves,” Arcus said.

**Now Trier**

Thanks, in part, to Sam Stoddard, the Trevians have qualified for the state meet three seasons in a row. As a junior last season, Stoddard helped her team to a seventh-place finish. Prior to the state meet, New Trier won the Centrla Suburban, its own regional and the sectional title at Niles North.

Stoddard has been a contributor on all three state-qualifying teams. The senior all-arounder finished seventh on the bars at the 2014 state meet.

Senior all-arounder Claire Egerter has joined Stoddard at the state meet the last three seasons, while junior all-arounder Taylor Kwok has been in the last two state lineups.

Junior all-arounder Peyton Burns, junior all-arounder Ana Dabrowski and junior Lauren Chung all made their first appearances at the state meet last season.

**Maine South**

Three of the four Hawks gymnasts who qualified for the Conant Sectional last season are back.

Junior Carly Berns, sophomore Alysa Chiovatero and sophomore Sara Igoztoff return. They all competed in the all-around at the sectional. Chiovatero narrowly missed out on advancing to the state meet on the bars.

Sophomore Anna Seenarain, freshman Natalie Trillo and freshman Micayla Patermo are all-arounders who are new to the varsity lineup.

**Glenbrook South**

Titans coach Steve Gale called last season a building year, as his team won its first regional title since 2001 and sent an individual to the state meet for the first time since 2011.

Hannah Hartley is back after she earned a trip to the 2014 state meet as a freshman in the all-around, vault, bars and beam.

“Hannah [getting to state] was a wonderful way to wrap up the season,” Gale said.

Senior Kaci Castino, sophomore Katie Wahl and sophomore Julia Stadler are other returning all-arounders. Freshmen Bebe Haramaras and Kyle Kruger are two all-arounders who Gale said he believes will be factors.

“We’re back, we’re healthy, we’re competitive and we’re ready to go,” Gale said.

**Evanston**

Seniors Clara Gruger and Mary FitzGibbons both competed on vault at the Niles North Sectional last season, and Evanston coach Chester Jones said he expects each of them to lead the Wildkits in their final year of high school.

Other girls Jones will lean on this season are Lucy Bowser, Kelsey Siegel and Emily Varua.

**Niles North**

The Vikings had no entrants at their own sectional meet last season.

Junior all-arounder Karly Greenfield, junior all-arounder Zoe Lukas, sophomore all-arounder Mia Guzina, sophomore all-arounder Kaylie VanDoren, sophomore Kyra VanDoren and freshman all-arounder Athena Xidis are on this season’s roster.

**Loyola**

The Ramblers don’t have a team, but junior Claire Sullivan returns as an individual. She finished 28th at state last year in the all-around (35.6500).
**Flavin starts strong on the links for RedHawks**

Konstant helps Dartmouth football to successful season

**BY NICK BULLOCK**
Special to the Tribune, @Pioneer_Press

Highland Park graduate Patrick Flavin, a freshman on the Miami (Ohio) men's golf team, concluded the fall season with a 15th-place finish at the Homewood Hilton Airport and FGCU Classic in Estero, Florida.

He finished 8-over for a three-round total of 224 from Oct. 27-28. His score led the team.

Flavin ranked fifth in the Mid-American Conference with a 74.00 stroke average in the fall. His top finish in any event was a tie for ninth and his best round was a 69. He played 15 rounds in the fall.

Sophomore Greg Conrad, a Barrington alumnus, played three rounds in the fall and averaged 75.67 strokes for the Red-Hawks. Brian Ohr, a freshman from Glenbrook North, is also on the team.

Dartmouth junior linebacker WIll Konstant recorded five total tackles, which tied for third on the team, during the Big Green's 42-7 blowout victory against Cornell in Ithaca, New York, on Nov. 8.

The Lyons alumnus played in each of his team's 10 regular-season games, recording 15 total tackles and .5 tackles for a loss.

With his help, Dartmouth finished 8-2, including 6-1 in the Ivy League. It's Dartmouth's best record in 17 years.

Three area athletes play along the Big Green's defensive line: Sophomore Zach Husain is an Evanston graduate, freshman Brennan Cascarano hails from Glenbrook South and freshman Charlie Pontarelli graduated from Loyola.

Oakton Community College men's basketball player Connor Nass got off to a great start to his freshman season. Through the team's first three games, the Glenbrook North alumnus led the Raiders with eight assists per game, which ranked seventh in NJCAA Division II at the time.

New Trier alumna Raechele Cloud, a junior outfielder for the University of Chicago softball team, was recently honored by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association as a 2013-2014 All-America Scholar Athlete. Cloud hit .340 as a junior last season and started 33 of the team's 35 games.

Tabbetha Bohac, a Lake Zurich grad, is a senior pitcher and utility player for the Maroons. She played in 26 games and started 22 last season. Maggie O'Hara, who graduated from Barrington, is a sophomore utility player for the team. She hit .208 and played in 29 games, starting in 22 as a freshman.

Have a suggestion for the College Roundup? Email Nick Bullock at bullockpioneerpress@gmail.com.
Avdíc is a top-tier swimmer, competitor

Vikes junior finished fourth in state in pair of events

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Special to the Tribune, @VanDrilSports

EVANSTON — Back in September, Niles North girls swimming and diving coach Paul Torres identified what he thought it would take for his team to beat Niles West.

The key race was the 100-yard freestyle, Torres recalled recently, and he knew it was likely that Niles West would put eventual 2014 state qualifier Emma Helgeson in it.

Torres approached Vikings junior Azra Avdíc — who took fourth at Saturday’s state meet in the 100 butterfly (55.91 seconds) and 500 free (4:54.02), which are her two best high school events — and told her he planned on racing her against Helgeson in the 100 free.

“I said, ‘If you can beat her, we’ll win this meet,’” Torres recalled.

“I remember she said, ‘I can do it. Yeah, put me in.’ I was like, ‘Ah, that’s awesome.’ She’d always say stuff like that: ‘Yeah, I’m good. I can beat her.’”

Avdíc did. She outtouched Helgeson by .12 seconds. Torres was right about the 100 free being a key race that day. Niles North edged the Wolves by four points, which was the Vikings’ first victory against Niles West in at least nine years.

Avdíc’s victory in the 100 free that night was an example of one of her biggest strengths in the pool. She’s not just talented, she also loves to compete.

“The thing with her is she’s probably the most driven person I’ve ever coached,” Torres said.

“She’s very nice when you talk to her, but when it comes to racing someone one-on-one, she’ll just do anything it takes to win. If it’s a race between one person who’s right next to her, she very rarely will ever lose. If it’s a close race, she will always put it in some extra gear to beat that other person.”

Swimming fast times at the state meet can be an excellent showcase for swimmers, especially for those like Avdíc who have steadily gotten better and better during their high school careers.

Avdíc knew that, she said, but her dad sent her a text message before she raced that served as a reminder that colleges were watching.

“Even though I swim at Northwestern with my club [NASA Wildcat Aquatics] and I see the Northwestern coaches, he was like, ‘The head coach is here, and he’s looking for some people. Try doing a little better,’” Avdíc said.

Avdíc had a brief moment of worry when she saw that text — she thought, “Oh my God, if I do bad, then it’s going to be so embarrassing,” she said — but she embraced being on the state’s biggest stage, racing against Illinois’ best with a lot on the line.

“It’s a cool feeling that you’re in the final heat, one of the top seeds in the state, [which is] one of the fastest states in the nation,” Avdíc said. “It was just awesome.”

Niles West

Senior Emma Helgeson swam the 200 free in 1:54.38 to tie for 11th on Saturday.
WRESTLING SEASON PREVIEW NOTEBOOK

Offseason training helping Niles North

Maine South coach says Nasir, Bess, Schaul can reach state tournament

BY MATT HARNESS
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I

Niles North wrestling coach Chris Albandia said these Vikings have the potential to be the best team in his five seasons in charge of the program thanks to senior lightweight Hernandez Abraham and junior upper-weight Cameron Cichowicz.

"The kids are realizing to compete at the highest level you can't limit your wrestling to the three months of the high school season," Albandia said. "Hernandez and Cameron are two who have put in the time this offseason."

As a 106-pound junior, Abraham won three invitational titles, including the Class 3A Notre Dame Regional championship. Albandia said Abraham will be back at 106 this season.

"He's not gifted size-wise, which is why wrestling is the perfect sport for him," Albandia said of the 5-3 Abraham. "Even though he's small, he's able to compete at a high level."

Abraham and Cichowicz are joined by six other returning starters. Other notable veterans are senior Andrew Hoegen (152), senior Maykel Potros (126), senior Calvin Rosenburgh (170), sophomore Isaiah Tate (220) and junior Thomas Gaul (160). In addition to Abraham and Cichowicz (195), Hoegen and Rosenburgh both wrestled at the sectional.

Maine South

Ibrahim Nasir was one win shy of qualifying for the Class 3A state tournament as a sophomore, losing in the fourth-place match at 195 pounds at the Class 3A Barrington Sectional.

Maine South coach Kevin Hansen said Nasir is ready to take the next step.

"He needed to work on scoring from his feet," Hansen said. "That's how you win state titles, so that was his focus. He's prepared himself."

Nasir will fluctuate between 195 and 220 pounds, at least in the early part of his junior season.

Seniors Jacob Bess and Connor Schaul are two others Hansen, a third-year coach, said he believes can compete at the state tournament. Both wrestled at the sectional last season.

Bess added weight in the offseason and will start the season at 120 pounds after wrestling at 106 as a sophomore. A late bloomer last season, Schaul shouldn't surprise anybody this time around, according Hansen.

Notre Dame

Notre Dame enters the season with one of its most experienced and talented teams in Augie Genovesi's three-plus decades as coach.

The Dons return 11 starters from a team that went 25-5 in dual meets and won the Class 3A Notre Dame Regional title. Senior Jimmy Gallardo (113 pounds), senior Marco Orlando (160-170) and junior Jake Barzwoski (182-195) are back. They all won at least 40 matches last season.

Sophomore Josh Barzwoski won 24 matches last year, but he often was stuck behind his brother, Jake Barzwoski, at tournaments. Genovesi said Josh Barzwoski has found a home in a weight class above his older brother.

A big addition will be senior Niko Por-
STARTING POSITION

Pioneer Press provides overviews of the area’s wrestling teams | PAGE 73

In this Dec. 6, 2013, photo, Niles West’s Scott Pechter (right) wrestles Glenbrook South’s Raudel Flores at 120 pounds in Skokie. | FILE
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