Reprising ‘Joseph’
Maine East to put on the technicolor musical. Page 10

Joseph (Derek Liavas) sings about the colors in his robe during Maine East’s rehearsal of “Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat” in Park Ridge March 2.
Dear reader,

What's a four-letter word you say when you make a mistake?

You would have heard us utter that word last week—and a few other ones too—when we realized that we messed up the new crossword puzzle we had added to Puzzle Island.

Oops.

Well, we're fixing the error this week. The correct version of last week's puzzle, this time containing all the clues, is reprinted in full on the last page of the Go section.

And Puzzle Island? You will find that tucked into the classified section. It carries all the puzzles it normally does, plus a fourth crossword exclusive to our weekly newspapers.

Adding that extra puzzle came in response to the feedback we've gotten from readers over the last several weeks. We've asked how we can bring you the news and information that matters to you most. And you've responded beyond our hopes.

Please, keep sending us your compliments, complaints and commentary. You can reach us best at suburbs@tribpub.com.

The Editors
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Niles hires lawyers to help with water negotiations

IGOR STUDENKOV
Pioneer Press

The Niles Board of Trustees unanimously approved a contract with two law firms to help with the negotiations with potential new water suppliers.

For the past several years, the village has been looking for alternatives to getting water from the city of Chicago. Most recently, Niles considered a proposal where the village would work with Morton Grove and Park Ridge to get water from either Evanston or Wilmette.

As Niles Village Manager Steve Vinezeano explained to the board, hiring Holland & Knight LLP, a global law firm, and WRB LLC, a management consulting and services firm, will help the village with contract negotiations related to the switch. Holland & Knight would provide legal expertise, while WRB would provide advice on infrastructure-related issues. While many details of the project haven't been finalized, the village touted the contracts as an important step toward making the switch.

In May 2014, Gov. Rauner appointed a task force to explore options for Niles to purchase water from the city of Chicago. The task force recommended that Niles consider two options: one with Morton Grove and Park Ridge and the other with Evanston and Wilmette.

Niles trustees approved a contract with two law firms to help with the negotiations with potential new water suppliers.

Grove would pay $25 million and Park Ridge would pay $50 million. Because it would take the municipalities 20 years to pay off the bonds, the savings wouldn’t fully kick in right away. The water Hamilton Associates study estimates that, during the first year, Niles would save $1.4 million, while Morton Grove would save $1.5 million. Niles and Morton Grove would be able to save $11.8 million and $9.5 million over the next 30 years.

The study projects Chicago and Evanston rates would increase by two percent over the next 30 years. As Vinezeano explained to the Village Board during the Feb. 24 meeting, the estimates are deliberately conservative, and savings could potentially be greater.

During the Feb. 24 meeting, the board voted to hire Holland & Knight and WRB to help the village negotiate the supply agreement. Vinezeano explained that each attorney brings something unique to the table.

The first agreement is for Holland & Knight Senior Counsel Barbara Adams, who brings legal expertise, he said. “We have one consultant with expertise in environmental law, and another consultant with expertise in infrastructure law.”

Vinezeano said that Park Ridge’s participation in the project is “in flux” as city officials continue to discuss the project.

Balling told the board that discussions with Park Ridge are “ongoing” and he was hopeful that the uncertainty will be resolved in a few weeks.

Trustee Joe LoVerde touted the vote as an important milestone for the village. “This is a monumental decision,” he said. “It will protect our residents and businesses from out-of-control rate increases.”

Mayor Andrew Przybylo expressed similar sentiments. “This is a tremendous project,” he said. “This is like when the pyramids were built, but it is about savings and bringing those savings to the village of Niles and to, jointly, Morton Grove.”

Igor Studenkov is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Public Library wins transparency award for a second time

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
Pioneer Press

The Niles Public Library won the Illinois Policy Institute Sunshine Award for the second year in a row, according to an announcement at the Feb. 18 board of trustees meeting.

The award was created by the Chicago-based Illinois Policy Institute as a way to encourage municipal organizations throughout the state to be more transparent. That includes libraries, school districts, park districts and municipal, township and county governments.

Award candidates are evaluated based on 10 categories. This includes how easily the public can contact officials. How much information the candidate agency puts out about its public meetings, as well as information on the candidate’s budgets, expenditures, audits, contracts, employment compensation, tax rates and lobbying. In order to earn an award, a candidate must score at least 80 percent.

According to the Sunshine Awards’ website, only seven municipal organizations ever scored 100 percent. That included two organizations in northern Cook County — the village of Skokie and the city of Evanston municipal governments.

The Niles Public Library earned its first Sunshine Award in 2014, scoring 85.3 percent. This year, the library earned 90.4 percent.

In a statement written on the award, Kristina Rasmussen, the Illinois Policy Institute’s executive vice president, urged the library to keep striving to earn a higher score.

“Earning the Institute’s Sunshine Award for government transparency for two years in a row is an important accomplishment that shows how local government bodies can embrace responsible and transparent operations,” she said. “We encourage the Niles Public Library to continue their efforts for government transparency and lead the way in Illinois.”

During the board meeting, board President Morgan Dubiel asked Trustee Chris Ball what the library could do to increase its score.

“We need to show five years of contracts [online],” he said. “The way we disclose salaries — we don’t have as much details as you’d like.”

In a statement to the press after the meeting, Dubiel said that the library was glad to get the award.

“This kind of transparency is critical for trust, and we’re thrilled to be a leader; the first and only library in Illinois to win,” he said. “We work hard to do it right at the Niles Library, and this proves it.”

Niles Public Library trustees, with a copy of the library’s second Illinois Policy Institute sunshine Award, are, from left, Linda Ryan, Karen Dimond, board Secretary Chris Ball, board President Morgan Dubiel and Danette Matyas.

Igor Studenkov is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Flood relief coming to east side of village

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
Pioneer Press

The Cleveland Relief Sewer project, which promises to bring flood relief to eastern Niles, is ready to go up to bid.

The project is the final part of the first tier of the Niles Stormwater Relief Program. While the other two parts of the project - the stormwater basins at Maryhill Catholic Cemetery and Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church - were completed at the end of 2014, this project was delayed as the village waited for regulatory approval.

During the Feb. 24 Village Board meeting, the trustees took several steps to formally clear the last regulatory hurdles. The village expects to go up to bid within six weeks.

The Cleveland Relief Sewer project calls for the building of a new sewage pipe to drain water from the residential section of Niles, near Cleveland Street. The sewer will begin near the intersection of Main Street and Oketo Avenue and continue along Monroe Avenue until it reaches Cleveland Street. It will then continue along Cleveland until it reaches the Cook County Forest Preserve, where it will go into the river.

Sewer pipes along Odell, Octavia, Oconto and Harlem avenues, Waukegan Road and Kenney Street will feed into the new sewer pipes, relieving flooding in those areas as well.

Like all Tier I projects, this project will be funded through a 0.25 percent sales tax increase the village approved in 2012.

The project couldn't proceed until the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, or MWRCDC, reviewed it. The two agencies responded in February.

With that step out of the way, the Village Board had to take two more steps before the project could go up to bid.

First, it had to hold a public hearing where the project would be presented to the public and Niles residents and businesses would have a chance to comment on it. It also had

"Be patient with us - flood relief is coming."
- Andrew Przybylo, Niles mayor

to sign an intergovernmental agreement with the Water Reclamation District. To expedite the project, the village decided to take care of both during the Feb. 24 meeting.

Only one person spoke during the hearing. Resident Steven Yasell, who lives on Odell, said his home was among those affected by the 2008 flood that spurred the creation of the Stormwater Relief Program. He questioned the village's priorities, saying that it shouldn't have spent money on road repair when flooding issues were still unresolved.

"Why couldn't we have used that money to fund the sewer project on streets that haven't been repaved," asked Yasell.

He argued that repaving of Monroe Avenue was particularly pointless, since it would be dug open as part of the Stormwater Relief Project.

"All the money spent seems to be wasted, and I don't like to see my tax money wasted," said Yasell.

Mary Anderson, director of the Niles Department of Public Works, told the Village Board that the project would go up to bid "in 60 days." The delay, she explained, had to do with the changes IEPA asked for.

During the Jan. 20 Stormwater Commission meeting, Jeff Wickenkamp, vice president of Heys and Associates Inc., which consults with the village on project planning, advised the village not to put the project up for bid until the changes are made. Otherwise, the village would have to change the bid, which, he argued, would make it look unprofessional.

Anderson told the board that she expected the project to take up to two years.

"We are hoping to complete 60 percent of it in the first year, and the rest during the second year," she said.

Trustee Joe LoVerde, who chairs the Stormwater Commission, thanked the village staff for helping to get the project this far.

"It's a thankless job to try to get things through the bureaucratic system," he said. "There are [residents] that waited and waited for this project."

Mayor Andrew Przybylo said that, while construction may complicate things for residents living along the streets affected by the project, the end results would be worth it.

"I can tell those folks - it's not going to be pretty, but we'll make it as easy as possible," he said. "I can say, with some certainty, that you're going to have a better neighborhood. Be patient with us - flood relief is coming."

Igor Studenkov is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Igor Studenkov
Pioneer Press

The Niles Forward Party has been sending out campaign literature since the slate was officially unveiled on Nov. 8, 2014. But with the Feb. 28 rally, the candidates sought to kick the campaign into high gear.

The Niles Forward Party kickoff rally took place between 12 and 3 p.m. at White Eagle banquet hall. The event featured face-painting and balloons for kids, games, some food and speeches by candidates and other village officials. It primarily aimed to introduce more residents to candidates, as well as to encourage residents to get involved in the campaign.

Throughout the event, candidates and their supporters described the Niles Forward Party as a slate that would end division within the Niles Village Board and advance projects and initiatives that would change the village for the better.

The Niles Forward Party slate is made up of incumbent Trustee and Niles Park District Director Joe LoVerde, recently retired Niles police Chief Dean Strzelecki and Niles Ethics Board member and former Niles Chamber of Commerce and Industry Director Denise McCreery.

Also running for the seats are incumbents Rosemary Palicki and Chris Hanusialek, as well as new candidate David Carrabotta. While LoVerde has occasionally voted against initiatives supported by Mayor Andrew Przybylo, Palicki and Hanusialek voted against the mayor more times than the other trustees.

Both trustees have raised questions over the village's spending, the way some positions were created and the way tax incentives were granted.

All NFP candidates attended the rally, as did village Trustees George Alpartas, Danette Mathae, village Trustees George Alpartas, Danette Mathae, and former Niles Mayor Robert Callero.

Eagle, helped organize the event. Former Niles Mayor Robert Callero also attended, as did several officials from other village organizations. These included state Rep. John DAmico, D-15; Niles Public Library Board President Morgan Dubiel; and Niles Park District Commissioners Ray Czarnik and Dennis O'Donovan. Dubiel and Czarnik are running for re-election.

Aside from officials, campaign organizers and supporters attended and a number of residents came to find out more about NFP. Everybody who attended was invited to pick up candidate buttons, yard signs and fliers summarizing the NFP platform. Every table had slips of paper on which residents could mark down how they would help the “Niles Forward team.” This included canvassing, office work and donations.

Jim Boratyn, a member of the NFP campaign committee, told the Niles Herald-Spectator that the slate was strong because of the number of candidates each slate brought to the table. He cited LoVerde's experience as a trustee and Park District director, Strzelecki's experience as a police officer and chief, as well as McCreery's business connections. Together, he said, they have a handle on all the major facets of village life.

“The mayor put together a strong team of people,” Boratyn said. “These are the people that will lead us forward.”

He said that there were many things he enjoyed about Niles, mentioning the Niles free bus, low taxes and the Park District programs. The mayor, Boratyn said, has a strong positive vision for the village. There’s just one problem.

“The sad thing is there are people who keep voting against [Przybylo],” he said. “Not because they think they have better ideas — they just want to grandstand.”

Boratyn said the NFP wanted to encourage residents to send out absentee ballots. He cited almumnics runoffs in Chicago as examples of how much a few votes could matter. For some residents, he said, getting to a polling place might be a hardship, so they wanted to make sure they know they have a more comfortable alternative. That’s why, during the rally, the campaign distributed fliers with detailed instructions on how to obtain an absentee ballot.

“As far as I’m concerned, any one who’s 65 or older should fill [absentee ballot applications] out,” Boratyn said. “Do it from the privacy of their own homes.”

The candidates didn’t speak until the end of the rally. They touched on the themes Boratyn described, highlighting each others' experience and qualifications and describing their slate as the best team to lead Niles toward a better future.

“We care, we are dedicated, we have a vision for Niles,” LoVerde said. “Please consider your future.”

McCreery promised residents that, if they are elected, they will listen to the public.

“If you do your part, I promise, on behalf of Joe LoVerde and Dean, that we will work better together,” she said.

All candidates expressed dismay at what they described as negativity on the Village Board, but no one voiced that sentiment stronger than Strzelecki.

“Four out of 10 years [I’ve been a police chief], we had a board that worked together,” he said. “For the last six years I sat on the boards I watched in-fighting, talk about past issues instead of moving forward. We don’t want to live in the past — we want to move forward.”

Several officials who attended the rally spoke in support of the candidates. Callero said that he got to know all candidates well while he was mayor, and he had good reasons to endorse all of them.

“Joe because his leadership in Finance and Stormwater committees, Denise because of her passion for business and Dean because he was a great police chief,” he said. “Vote for JDD — Joe, Denise and Dean. Please go out and help them.”

DAmico offered similar sentiments.

“They are completely committed to doing what’s right for the town of Niles, and its an honor to endorse them,” he said. “Let’s make sure we move Niles forward, and this ticket wins and we can celebrate on Election Day.”

Przybylo said that if the voters like his initiatives they should support the NFP.

“If you like what we tried to do, what we tried to accomplish, you’ll like it more with Strzelecki and McCreery,” he said.

Niles resident Ray Demski left the rally with a yard sign. He said that, to him, the support came down to his admiration for LoVerde and Strzelecki.

“I like Joe LoVerde — he has good business experience,” he said. “I was a part-time police officer, so I used to work for [Strzelecki], and I think he’s great. I don’t know much about McCreery, but if these gentlemen picked her, she must be good.”

Resident Arlene Tykieniewski was more lenient. While she liked LoVerde and Strzelecki, she wasn’t sure about McCreery. She also felt that she didn’t get enough information about the other candidates to make an informed choice.

“I haven’t been getting any mailings [from independent candidates],” she said. “I don’t know what they’re thinking. They’re sleeping on the job.”

Igor Studenkov is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
New fire alarm monitoring program for businesses will be heading for Niles

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
Pioneer Press

Niles businesses and owners of multi-unit residential buildings will soon be able to sign up for the new village of Niles fire alarm monitoring program.

During its Feb. 24 meeting, the Niles board of trustees approved an agreement with Elmhurst-based Chicago Metropolitan Fire Prevention Co. Under this agreement, the company will provide fire alarm monitoring and maintenance for village facilities, and Niles businesses and building owners can join voluntarily.

According to estimates provided by the village, the business owners would be able to pay less than they would under any other options. The village would be able to provide enough alarms for 30 businesses during the first year of the program, but Niles officials hope that it would be able to provide more in the future. And while the project will initially cost the village money, officials expect to make a profit on the program by its second year.

In a memo submitted to the Village Board, Department of Community Development Director Charles Ostman explained the background behind the agreement. In 2009, Niles, Morton Grove, Lincolnwood, Skokie and North Maine Fire Protection District signed an intergovernmental agreement that would allow the villages to offer wireless fire alarm monitoring service to businesses within their borders.

Ostman explained that wireless fire alarm monitoring was “more efficient, reliable and cost saving” than older alternatives. Chicago Metropolitan got the contract to provide the alarms. But since the agreement was signed, only Morton Grove and Lincolnwood actually took advantage of it.

Last year, Niles started looking into implementing the service. After being considered by the Niles Finance Committee, the matter was brought to the board on Feb. 24.

According to the agreement approved by the board, the village would pay no more than $51,600 to buy fire alarm monitoring equipment for all Niles government buildings and 30 businesses. The businesses that choose to take part in the program would need to pay $70 a month. This is the same rate as Morton Grove and Lincolnwood businesses that take part in the program.

Ostman’s memo indicates that the proposed budget for the next fiscal year currently calls for enough money to buy equipment for 50 more businesses. Because that budget will not be approved for a few more months, that figure is provisional.

In a memo sent to the Niles Finance Committee on Jan. 13, the Department of Community Development laid out more details about the financial aspects of the program. It indicated that many businesses that have fire alarm monitoring contracts with other companies pay more than they would under the village’s program. The businesses cited as examples include Jerry’s Fruit & Garden Center (which pays $105 a month) and Oak Mill Mall (which pays $200 a month).

Some businesses — such as Brunswick Zone and Kiddie Kingdom — pay $40 less than they would under the village program. The cost of initial installation of equipment was $1,800, while under the Niles program, the installation would be free.

The memo explains that the program would cost the village $47677 during the first year, but next year, the revenues from the fees would be enough to earn $50,742 in profit. The figures assume that 50 more businesses would sign up for the program. As more businesses enroll in the service, the profits would increase. The department estimates that, by 2020, the program would have a total of 246 businesses, earning the village a total of $347502.

Niles Trustee George Alpogianis, who runs Morton Grove’s Kappy’s American Grill restaurant, said he had good experience with the program.

“I had first-hand experience dealing with them at the restaurant. [Chicago Metropolitan] did a great job. They are very pro-business.”

George Alpogianis, Niles trustee and business owner, commenting on his restaurant’s alarm system

“I had first-hand experience dealing with them at the restaurant. [Chicago Metropolitan] did a great job. They are very pro-business.”

George Alpogianis, Niles trustee and business owner, commenting on his restaurant’s alarm system

Igor Studenkov is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
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.

RETAIL THEFT
- Omar Nayeem, 19, of the 7500 block of West Cleveland Street, Niles, was charged with retail theft on Feb. 17 after he allegedly stole a bottle of perfume valued at $108 from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. He has a March 25 court date.

PROPERTY DAMAGE
- All four tires were cut on a vehicle parked outside an apartment on the 6700 block of Milwaukee Avenue sometime on Feb. 16 or 17.

THEFT
- A man in his fifties is suspected of stealing approximately 20 DVDs and CDs from a store on the 8500 block of Golf Road on Feb. 23. When approached by an employee as he exited the store, the man allegedly said, “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” and walked away.
- A woman is suspected of stealing an undisclosed amount of merchandise from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center on the afternoon of Feb. 23. She was last seen leaving the area in a tan Toyota, police said.
- A Des Plaines woman told police she believes her wallet was stolen Feb. 24 from inside a restaurant on the 8800 block of Dempster Street. Credit cards inside the wallet were reportedly used to make more than $2,700 in purchases.
- A wallet was stolen Feb. 24 from an unlocked vehicle parked on the 8300 block of Waukegan Road.
- A woman told police that her purse was stolen Feb. 24 after she left it behind in the food court of Golf Mill Shopping Center.

Library honors Tom Surace

IGOR STUDENKOV
Pioneer Press

The Niles Public Library Board of Trustees honored in memoriam long-time village employee Tom Surace with a resolution naming Feb. 2 “Tom Surace Day.”

Surace, who died this year at the age of 76, was remembered by those in attendance at the Feb. 18 board meeting.

Board President Morgan Dubiel, who served with Surace on the board and the village of Niles Plan Commission, proposed it as a way to recognize his years of service and his good character. The other trustees readily agreed, signing on to the resolution.

Surace worked for the village from 1979-2010. He originally worked as a driver for the Niles Free Bus system. In 1998, he became the village’s transportation supervisor. In 2008, Surace was appointed to the Niles Plan Commission — a seat he held until his death.

A life-long library user, Surace became actively involved in the 1996 referendum that allowed the library to issue $8.9 million in bonds in order to expand the building, buy new equipment and expand its catalog. As the Niles Herald-Spokesman reported at the time, he was the one who came up with the referendum slogan “A Library for the Rest of Your Life.”

On June 25, 1996, Surace was appointed to the board to fill the seat left vacant by Trustee Roseanne Dulski. He was able to keep his seat in the 1997 election, and he wound up serving on the board until 2003. He served as a board vice president between 1998-2000.

Dubiel said he wanted to do something to honor Surace — both as a public servant and as an individual.

“We worked together,” he said. “[Surace] was an incredibly dedicated person. He was a very kind spirit, and I thought he deserved recognition.”

The resolution Dubiel introduced described Surace’s service, saying that he was “known for thoughtfulness and kindness” and described him as someone who “demonstrated his love for the library and the Niles community.”

The trustees signed the resolution. Trustees Barbara Nakanishi and Carolyn Drblik were absent, so the board decided to let them add their signatures at the next meeting.

Before signing the resolution, board Vice President Karen Diamond praised Surace:

“He was a great public servant, and he was humble too,” she said.

“He was always smiling,” Dubiel said. “He was one of the kindest people I ever met.”

Igor Studenkov is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
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Maine East promises technicolor performance of ‘Joseph’ musical

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Maine East High School will present a reprisal of the musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" over two weekends this month.

The musical, which was last staged at the school in 2005, will be presented March 6, 7, 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the school, 2601 W. Dempster St. in Park Ridge.

"The show is going to be very colorful," Ed Eubank, chairman of Maine East's fine arts department, said in a statement about the musical released by Maine Township High School District 207. "We're putting more into our lighting resources than we have in the past. We are trying to do justice to the 'technicolor' aspect of the show.

The lighting direction will actually be performed by 2009 Maine East graduate Joanna Szewczuk. Technical direction will be done by Jessica Buczek, the school's auditorium director.

"Joseph," with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice, is based on the biblical story of Joseph, who is sold into slavery by his brothers and is later jailed by a jealous pharaoh. Joseph wins over pharaoh by interpreting his dreams of things to come and is eventually reunited with his family.

According to Eubank, about half of the cast will be appearing on the Maine East stage for the first time. "It's so nice to watch their progress," he said. "They've grown so much in the last eight weeks.

Karen Hall is directing the play. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at the door or online through Maine East's Fine Arts Department website, east.mainedistrict207.org/departments/fine.arts.

jjotsson@pioneerlocal.com
Twitter @Jen_Pioneer

Joseph (Derek Llava) shows off his new robe in Maine East's production of 'Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat' in Park Ridge Monday, Mar. 2, 2015.

Joseph (Derek Llava) sits next to Jacob (Shahzeb Fazal) in rehearsal for Maine East's production.

Brothers sing of treachery in Maine East's production of 'Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat.'
District 64 looks at summer construction projects

IGOR STUDENKOV
Pioneer Press

The Niles-Park Ridge District 64 Board of Education considered construction projects for this summer, approving one and holding off on approving two more, during its Feb. 23 meeting.

The board approved the contracts for the second phase of the Field Elementary School construction. It also considered projects that would install a new divider wall at Washington Elementary School and replacing the current phone system throughout the district. While the board was scheduled to vote on the latter two projects during the same meeting, it decided to hold off for another month because of financial concerns.

The Field School construction started in the summer of 2014. The first phase, the building's heating, air conditioning and heating systems were replaced. According to board documents, the second phase involves roof work and roof replacement, replacing gutters and replacing interior ceiling tile on the southeast wing of the building. The plans also called for potentially installing a system that would heat the gutters during winter, which would keep ice from blocking them. The project is expected to start in June and be completed by the end of August.

During the meeting, the board considered a total of four contracts dealing with three different aspects of the construction work – general construction, roofing, masonry and electrical work.

The district originally estimated the second phase would cost between $1,571,800 and $1,528,800, depending on whether it would include heating the gutters. The total cost of the four contracts that came up before the board was $1,998,683.

Board member Dan Collins expressed concern about the roofing contract for the project. He noted there were only two bids, and the first bid was more than a million dollars larger than the second.

Collins, worried that there weren't enough choices, asked if it would be possible to go out to bid for the roofing contracts again.

Nick Papanicholas Jr., vice president of Mount Prospect-based Nicholas & Associates Inc., which handles construction planning and design on the district's behalf, explained that the relatively small number of bidders isn't unexpected, since there aren't many contractors qualified to do the work the project requires.

Collins made a motion that the board would only vote on general, masonry and electrical contracts. But with no other board member seconding him, the motion died.

The board approved the four contracts 5-1, with Collins voting against.

The board considered two other summer projects – replacement of the retractable divider wall in Washington Elementary gym and the installation of the Voice Over Internet Protocol phone system. VoIP provides telephone service over the Internet, which costs less than traditional landline phones.

According to board documents, the district estimates the wall replacement will cost $95,000, while replacing the current phone system will cost $500,000. The actual costs won't be clear until the bids returned. But whatever the costs might be, the original plan was to cover them through bond sale proceeds.

While the board was scheduled to vote on whether to approve the projects, Borrelli and board member John Heyde argued that the action should be postponed. According to board documents, after the second phase is completed, the district would have $2,204,363 in bond sale proceeds. Heyde said that, if the summer projects were completed, it would leave the district with less money for other projects than he originally expected.

He suggested that consideration be postponed until next month.

"Unless there's huge time sensitivity, my suggestion is to take it back and decide if its still a priority," he said.

Board President Tony Borrelli said he shared Heyde's concern. He asked Scott Mackall, the district's facilities management director, whether a cheaper, more frame-like divider would work as an alternative to the divider wall.

"I talked to the PE staff and the consensus is that, from the educational standpoint, it wouldn't work," Mackall said.

In the end, the board decided not to consider the two projects after all, postponing approval until the next meeting, which is scheduled for March 29, at 7:30 p.m. at Lincoln Elementary School.

Igor Studenkov is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Autism nonprofit dreams of an expanded workforce

BY RONNIE WACHTER
Pioneer Press

It is an army of about 500,000 men and women, charging at the U.S. economy. The traditional, old logic says that they are unemployable.

A non-profit foundation based in Evanston and Park Ridge is telling Chicago-area business that they have evidence proving otherwise.

“We don’t want them to be hired as an act of charity,” said Kathy Kessenich, business development liaison for Have Dreams, a group that serves autistic children and young adults. “This is a viable business decision.”

Have Dreams just wrapped up a program held at the Robert R. McCormick Foundation’s offices, extolling the virtues of autistic employment to officials from numerous Chicagoland corporations. Their message: Adults who suffer from the disorder can excel at - even enjoy - rote and repetitive jobs that drive many employees to boredom and low productivity.

And telling customers that you serve this demographic makes for a great advertisement.

“People see that you’re doing this, and it has this halo effect on your brand,” Kessenich said.

Have Dreams is wrapping up the first year of its “academy” for 21-and-over, high-functioning autistic men and women, placing about 75 percent of its first two classes of graduates in paid, part-time jobs. A grant from the Coleman Foundation funded the academy’s startup costs, and enrollment fees now make it self-sufficient.

But Kessenich said they need more employers - and larger employers - to believe in the academy’s graduates. The meetings at the McCormick Foundation included Lake Forest-based Trustmark Insurance. Deerfield-based Walgreens has also long been a supporter of the group.

Autism is a cognitive processing disorder that, in the most severe cases, renders some almost functionless. But elsewhere on its scale, you’ll find high functioning people who just suffer from some communication and reasoning challenges. Numerous private and government programs exist to assist autistic children, but the support almost completely ends when they turn 22.

And, partly through modern means of diagnosing the condition and women waiting longer to have babies, the autism rate has jumped from one in 150 to one in 68 today. Kessenich said Have Dreams expects 500,000 autistic children to turn 22 in the next decade.

Her group was founded on the principle that some of them can hold jobs, providing a real service to employers who make certain positions available.

Have Dreams began in 1996 in Park Ridge, when one special-education teacher found herself overwhelmed with six autistic students in one room with no resource. She and those seven families worked together to create a program to teach social and communicative skills to young autism sufferers. The Coleman grant enabled the group to start its new venture, the for-adults academy, last year.

One of its first graduates was Drew McDonough, a Lake Forest man now working part-time at Sugar & Spice Extraordinary Sweet Treats in Evanston. On the bakery’s main floor, he and another Have Dreams graduate attacked one of the cooking process’ most mundane tasks with enthusiasm: boxing up and squaring on pallets an endless line of yummies.

McDonough and his partner chatted while they work, discussing which Super Nintendo game was the greatest. When he ran out of boxes, he found bakery owner Jean Kroll in another room, and she pointed him toward a fresh supply. He and his partner had to bend the flat cardboard into boxes, then fill them with cupcakes and breads. They worked with vigor.

Kroll called the late summer of 2012, when she first crossed paths with Have Dreams, a “eureka moment.” Sugar and Spice had just expanded to a larger workspace. She expected to have her largest orders of holiday goodies coming in, and she needed a mountain of cardboard folded into boxes. Tasks like these, she said, are not what she got into the bakery business for.

“We had a need for employees who were interested in repetitive work,” she said.

“Having them as employees, and paying taxes, is ultimately better for society,” she said.

Drew McDonough sorts cupcakes at the Sugar and Spice bakery in Evanston. He and another high-functioning autistic man found jobs there through the Have Dreams foundation’s employment program.

Tough to come by.

“At that point, I knew nothing about autism,” she added.

But when Have Dreams contacted her, she decided to give some of their clients a try.

“We needed them to be able to work in a productive way,” she said. “We weren’t able to hire them for philanthropy alone.”

Kroll ended up being so impressed by those first hires that she became a regular partner with the foundation. She understood, though, that large-scale workplace change will require facts and figures, not here-and-there anecdotal success stories.

To help, the Coleman Foundation’s grant funds research into autistic adult’s productivity in repetitive jobs. Those findings can encourage employers to consider this workforce for positions in data entry, stocking and the such.

Kessenich said the options for the business community in the coming decade will be to open up their workplaces to high-func-
Niles North cheer team takes ninth

Team also clenched CSL title earlier this season

NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

The Niles North Varsity Coed Cheerleading team ended its season strong after coming out ninth overall in the Illinois High School Association state finals in February.

Beyond the achievement of placing in the state's Top 10 teams, the end of the 2014-15 season was also marked by a win in the coed division at the Central Suburban League Cheerleading Conference in January, marking the team's third title in as many years.

Despite having more first-time cheerleaders on the team this year than in the past, the Vikings cheerleaders beat last year's record this season, according to Niles North cheer coach Aleka Landon.

The team failed to make it into the finals last year after placing 15th out of 25 teams in the IHSA Cheerdancing state final preliminary rounds in downstate Bloomington-Normal after falling just five places short of qualifying for the state rounds.

“Our mantra this season was to be better than yesterday,” Landon said.

“This team, without a doubt, demonstrated that they were definitely all in,” Landon added, “and they continue to show their fierce competitiveness.”

Niles North and other high schools that are competing at the state level have had to step up their practices in recent years to keep up with new IHSA requirements for higher-level tumbling and stunts that now appear in competitive cheer routines.

Some of the cheerleaders have started taking private gymnastics classes during their free time outside of school and the coaches started practices way back in the summer to allow plenty of time to prepare for the busy cheer season.

“The growth they’ve shown since the summer has been remarkable,” Landon said. “Our job as their coaches is to find each person’s talent and create a routine that highlights their greatest abilities.”

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

ALEKA LANDON PHOTO

The Niles North varsity cheerleading team placed ninth in state this year at the Illinois High School Association state finals on Feb. 6 and 7 at Illinois State University.
Thanks to you, we raised more than $65,000 locally for Go Red For Women, and over $2.4 million across the country!

This February, with the support and generosity of our customers, along with our associates, you've gone red with us and made it your mission to fight heart disease in women.

Since 2004, Macy's has raised more than $52 million for Go Red For Women.

To learn more about Macy's support of Go Red For Women and other great causes, visit macys.com/magicofgiving

Chicago teen attends college with Lincolnwood scholarship

Missouri sophomore, South Side native funding education the hard way

Natalie Hayes
Pioneer Press

For 19-year-old student Karen Spears, being raised by a hardworking, yet struggling, family in a far South Side neighborhood overridden by gangs and crime was no excuse not to follow her dreams.

Despite not having a college fund or any financial help from her family, Spears' determination to go to college soon found her knocking down the doors to the University of Missouri, where she is now a sophomore working toward a journalism degree.

Applying and being approved for as many scholarships as possible was crucial to affording college for Spears, who has been granted thousands in scholarship money from a variety of sources.

Growing up in the Roseland neighborhood of Chicago, Spears avoided the Chicago Public School system by learning the ropes of the scholarship game early on, even earning enough scholarship money to pay for a private education at Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School, an all-girls prep school in Evergreen Park.

After seeing her grandmother get laid off from her factory job with General Mills, and her mother's job in the Hostess factory later falling to the same fate, Spears decided she wanted to make a better future for herself by earning a college degree.

It was a proud moment when she became the first person in her extended family to ever attend college when she left for the University of Missouri last year.

But getting in was half the battle. Spears now had to finance her education, which she chose to do without much help from financial aid.

"I didn't want to take out a lot of loans, so I had to find different sources of funding," she said. "A lot of people in my position don't know that there are a lot of organizations that fund scholarships for people who grew up in certain neighborhoods, or who have certain talents."

Lincolnwood Town Center's parent company, Simon Property Group, offers a little-known scholarship to students like Spears who enter college financially disadvantaged.

For the 15th year in a row, the Simon Youth Scholarships program will award scholarships of up to $1,500 to nearly 400 students nationwide.

Unlike some scholarships with more stringent application standards, Simon Youth Foundation Community Scholarships are awarded based on straightforward factors like financial need, academic performance, leadership skills and participation in school and community activities.

Living within 50 miles of Lincolnwood Town Center qualified Spears for a stipulation of the scholarship that requires recipients to live near a Simon-owned property.

Spears, who received a $1,200 scholarship from Simon Property Group, said she had to dig deep to find the scholarship because it's issued by a company most teenagers probably haven't heard of.

Some years the Simon Youth Foundation actually gets zero applicants, according to Michael Durnil, CEO of the Simon Youth Foundation, who said the application is easy to find through the Simon Youth Foundation website.

"We probably have about 3,000 applications come in each year on average across the country," Durnil said of the 2014 scholarship.

Spears' advice to other high school students looking for scholarships is to search for inconspicuous companies offering money for college, and to look beyond the more popular scholarships that receive the most applicants.

"You have to explore your options, and look into what your community offers. A lot of scholarships cater to first-generation college students like me and I'm proud to be the first in my family," Spears' advice to other high school students looking for scholarships is to search for inconspicuous companies offering money for college, and to look beyond the more popular scholarships that receive the most applicants.

"You have to explore your options, and look into what your community offers," Spears said. "A lot of scholarships cater to first-generation college students like me and I'm proud to be the first in my family."

This year's scholarship application window is open through Feb. 25. Students can apply at www.syf.org.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Shortly after being sworn into office, Gov. Bruce Rauner told General Counsel Jason Barclay to move ahead on the authorization process to establish a list of growing and dispensary centers for medical marijuana. But even before Illinois' Medical Cannabis Pilot Program is up and operating, legislation was introduced - SB 7538 and HB 21 - by state Sen. Michael Noland, D-Elgin, and state Rep. Kelly Cassidy, D-Chicago, respectively, in their attempts to dismantle drug laws.

Noland’s proposal would legalize the possession of 30 grams of marijuana, enough to make 75 joints with a street value per gram of $10. The 5-plant proposed allowance can yield 1,120 grams of marijuana. This is enough to make 2,800 joints with a street value of approximately $11,200.

Unfortunately, the legalization advocates are winning the debate as they are better organized and well-funded. Moreover, the public is not being sufficiently informed about the harm of marijuana. It is not well known that the marijuana of today is stronger than the pot smoked in the 1970s. It’s certainly not your grandfather’s pot.

Tetrahydrocannabinol, the psychoactive drug in marijuana, has risen from 5 percent to an average of 13 percent in marijuana. In some medical dispensaries in Colorado, it now makes upward of 30 percent of the drug.

Colorado should serve as the prime example of what the legalization of pot can bring to bear upon a state where adults 21 or older can legally possess one ounce (28 grams) of marijuana or THC. The Democratic governor of Colorado, John Hickenlooper, admitted that the legalization of pot in Colorado was a bad idea.

Will the disturbing outcome of Colorado’s marijuana legalization slow down the push to legalize marijuana here in Illinois, this state would likely follow Colorado’s outcome with an increase in crime, hospitalizations, car accidents and deaths. Marijuana use leads to greater cognitive deficits, lower IQs, loss of fine motor skills, suppressed immune system, apathy, drowsiness, lack of motivation, sensory distortion, mental illness and anxiety. Absenteeism and dropping out of school are common in marijuana users who start young and use regularly.

If legalization of pot comes to fruition here in Illinois, this state would likely follow Colorado’s outcome with an increase in crime, hospitalizations, car accidents and deaths. Marijuana use leads to greater cognitive deficits, lower IQs, loss of fine motor skills, suppressed immune system, apathy, drowsiness, lack of motivation, sensory distortion, mental illness and anxiety. Absenteeism and dropping out of school are common in marijuana users who start young and use regularly.

Will the disturbing outcome of Colorado's marijuana legalization slow down the push to legalize marijuana in Illinois beyond that of medicinal use, or will legislators, perceiving that pot is big business, tempt them to throw all caution to the wind and allow the promise of future tax revenue to supersede all else?

Shouldn’t drug policy be based on hard science and reliable data? Call your state representative and senator and ask them to vote NO to SB 753 and HB 218.

Nancy J. Thorne Lake Bluff
And the Oscar for shock goes to ...

I did tune in midway through last week's telecast of the Oscars, and was pleasantly surprised by one event and then just shocked by another.

The surprise?
Lady Gaga can sing better than just about anybody, maybe better than Julie Andrews, who was honored by the pop star with a medley from "The Sound of Music." Gaga—that's what I thought Julie called her—might not be able to pull off the escape from a nunnery Maria character, but as soon as she belts out "The hills are alive..." no one would care.

The shocking event came when actor Sean Penn announced the Best Picture winner, a film called "Birdman," and quipped, "Who gave this son of a bitch his green card?" about winning director Alejandro G. Inarritu.

I gathered from the show that Inarritu is from Mexico, but Penn's remark caught me off guard and caused myriad questions to run through my head since I hadn't seen the film. Does Inarritu have a green card? Should he have one? Does James Bond have one? Is Birdman about green cards? Is he a migrant filmmaker of some sort? Does he represent every single Latino stereotype one could think of?

Was Penn mad that Inarritu won the Oscar because he is Mexican? Was he mad that Clint Eastwood didn't win? Was Penn joking? Yes, he must be joking. But is he joking fun at white people? Immigration foes? Obama?

Or was making the same lame, stupid, insensitive, ugly, insulting type of joke that most Americans know by now is stupid and insulting? Is Penn the guy at the party everyone slinks away from and feels a bit dirty at having heard his lame joke? If only Inarritu had the wherewithal to send Sacheen Littlefeather up to collect his Oscar and then question Penn about how he got in this "incredible immigrant nation," as Inarritu called it.

Where's the Godfather when you need him?

On a scale of 1-10, when do you demand pain relief?

THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION

...is 0.44. That's the mean of the scores from 21 respondents at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, who estimated their current level of pain—so sensitive, the patients were asked to avoid the word "suffering"—from 0 (no pain) to 10 (the worst pain). The results of the survey were published in the April issue of "Pain Medicine," a journal of the American Pain Society. Because pain is such an individual experience, researchers, especially those in the field of pain management, are always trying to better measure levels of pain that patients experience. The Baker Pain Rating Scale is one tool being used to help assess pain in a patient population; it's not a universal scale, and the numbers used vary depending on who is collecting the data. Usually the conversation goes like this:

"On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the least and 10 the most, what is your current level of pain?"

"7" or "8" or "9" or "10" will get you to the next step:

"OK, I'll give you some pain medication."

"Good. I need something now."

"I need something stronger."

"I'm having trouble sleeping."

"Tenderness always comes first unless the patient is in pain. "

"But I'm in pain."

"I received a partial answer when I read a story in the New York Times that — for reasons I still can't fathom — doctors have been reluctant to discuss, let alone treat, patient suffering. Authors writing for medical journals, the story reported, were told to avoid the word "suffering" and write that patients "have" a disease.

The very word "suffering" makes doctors uncomfortable. And that only recently has the medical profession started to confront the issue of how to measure and treat patient suffering.

Asking patients, surveying patients, is a big part of the answer, I read. And the Baker Pain Rating Scale would seem to fit in with this approach. But only — it seems to me — if there is follow up, if there is action. Don't ask me if I am in pain unless you're prepared to do something about it.

I hope I have the fortitude to say this next time I am confronted with the Baker Pain Rating Scale.

But even if I chicken out, you shouldn't.
Dear Help Squad,
I moved my office location in October 2014. I informed ComEd to shut off power at the end of October. When I moved to the new office, I forwarded my mail, however I didn't receive any bill until mid-December. At that time I thought this was an administrative error and it would be handled internally. Now they are charging me for November, December, January and part of February. When I called in February I explained that I had called to cancel in October but they continue to tell me there is no record of that. Despite my request for them to credit those three and a half months, they won't even consider. Please help.
Thank you,
Al, Countryside

Help Squad began by calling ComEd's customer service number. After dialing, the automated message warned us that "Due to high call volume, ComEd is experiencing unusually long wait times." We were advised to "Please visit us at ComEd.com or use the automated system." We set the phone to "speaker" and prepared to wait. Following these two foreboding messages, however, we wound up waiting less than two minutes to speak with a customer service representative. A very pleasant surprise indeed!

After explaining who we were and why we were calling, we were transferred to parent company Exelon's main switchboard. From there we were transferred to Exelon's communications department where information on Al's situation was gathered and Help Squad was told we would receive a call back. Just a few minutes later we received a call from ComEd Communications Manager Liz Keating. Liz was very pleasant, asking several background questions, including when Al moved out of his office space and how he had forwarded his mail. (Perhaps he had missed a bill or other communication from ComEd following his move?) Following our conversation, Liz said she would do some investigating and call us back. This she did in short order. Her assessment was that a resolution to Al's situation may very well be a straight-forward fix; he might simply be able to provide proof of when he moved out. Liz said a representative from ComEd's Customer Service department would contact Al directly.

Help Squad hung up the phone with Liz and immediately called Al to provide him a status update. Less than a minute into our conversation, Al received another call and put me on hold. When he returned he said, "Guess who that was? ComEd?"

He and I quickly finished up so he could call ComEd back. About an hour later, Help Squad received the following email from Al: "Cindy from ComEd said they are going to credit everything back to October 2014. They are to send me a revised invoice by close of business tomorrow. With that said, I can't thank you enough for all your help getting ComEd to agree to this. Many thanks."

A short time later, Liz followed up with a phone call to confirm that Al's issue had been successfully resolved. She said that though ComEd could find no record of Al's call canceling his service in October, his assertion that his company had moved out on Oct. 26, 2014, was enough for Customer Service to conduct an investigation. By comparing the electricity usage patterns at his former office pre- and post-Oct. 26, ComEd was able to verify Al's claim. Liz said that Al's account would be adjusted and he would receive a bill reflecting a move-out date of Oct. 26.

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.

WHAT IF THE FUTURE OF KIDS WAS A STOCK YOU COULD INVEST IN?

Introducing Better Futures — a whole new kind of investment with a greater return than money. When you invest, it helps kids go to college. Because a mind is a terrible thing to waste, but a wonderful thing to invest in. Invest in Better Futures at UNCF.ORG/INVEST
For the 1 in 5 kids with learning and attention issues, every day can be a challenge. Explore Understood.org, a free online resource designed to help you help your child thrive in school and in life.

Brought to you by 15 nonprofit partners.

understood.org

My advice? Follow your passions to avoid uninspired existence

I open my sister's text while I stand in line at the grocery store: “Our babysitter is a creative writing major, graduating in August and starting to pursue freelance writing gigs. I thought you'd be a possible ‘network’ in the field for him. Would you be up for answering some questions he has about breaking in...?”

Loading my groceries onto the conveyor belt, I recall my parents' (understandable) reservations toward my early college dreams of becoming a journalist. Considering Georgetown University's recent findings that "unemployment rates for most majors and workers declined between 2009 and 2012" - with the exceptions of law, public policy, communications and journalism, I see how cycles repeat.

In 1987 - my sophomore year - I heard about fight-to-the-death battles for entry-level jobs in print, TV and radio. Have a backup plan, professors warned, or else move back in with Mom and Dad.

And so, I declared advertising as my major. I'd still be in the Communications Building, breathing the same air as those lucky journalism students. But, I'd be the lucky one with a job right out of school. I was 19 years old. I had it all figured out.

What I learned is that fumbling through a career you never even wanted is to know the pain of an uninspired existence. I had the loving family, the glamorous job, the wonderful husband and the stable income - yet I always felt empty. I never told a soul.

Finally, I left advertising and found joy teaching young children. I saw firsthand how a heartfelt note or a hug from a student trumps any amount of financial compensation.

After almost 10 years of teaching, however, I felt a tug but... what was it? Emptiness? Restlessness? This time, I listened. Then...

"Maybe I'll write a children's book," I thought. "How hard can that be?"

Turns out it's incredibly hard, so I blogged about it to keep my sanity. I also wrote about authors... and books... and raising kids.

Several months later, I received a phone call. A local editor offered me a job writing a weekly, online column. I accepted immediately.

Four years later, the editor offered another column with a bigger audience and a larger paycheck. From the outside, I was this carpooling mom in a nondescript minivan, but inside I felt like Dorothy Boyd telling Jerry Maguire she felt complete or like Dorothy Gale entering Munchkinland. To this day, however, I worry I'll wake from the dream.

During a recent dinner with my husband's law firm colleagues, I'm seated next to Steve Reiss, formerly with The Washington Post and the Miami Herald, now the managing editor of Crain's Chicago Business.

"Christine," someone asks. "What do you do for a living?"

"I write a column in the Pioneer Press," I say.

"Two journalists at one table!" someone says, though I'm quick to clarify. "I'm just a freelancer," I say, watching Reiss's expression. "I don't have a degree in journalism..."

I figure guys like him must loathe people like me. Better to spill my guts.

Reiss places his utensils on his plate. "You. Are. A journalist. Good writing is good writing, and it's not a degree that makes that happen."

"Sometimes I feel like an imposter," I confess. "I didn't pursue a traditional journalism education..."

"Think about it. It's a remarkable time to be a journalist," Reiss adds, pointing to the industry's ongoing digital transformation.

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"Think about it. It's a remarkable time to be a journalist," Reiss adds, pointing to the industry's ongoing digital transformation.
While watching the Oscars this year, something occurred to me. Maybe it's because I'm a love and relationships columnist and therefore sensitive to what movie producers think the public wants to see on the big screen, but I found it interesting that not one movie nominated was close to being a love story.

It leads me to wonder, 'Is Hollywood losing interest in romantic comedies, dramedies or classic love stories that leaves people with warm hearts and puffy, red eyes (in a good way)'

Here are 11 of my favorite on-screen love stories. Some have won Oscars and other awards, and some might be films you've never even heard of. What I can say is that every one of these are unforgettable, beautifully written and a great choice if you want to feel happy, hopeful and inspired.

1. When Harry Met Sally (1989) Written by Nora Ephron (my idol) and nominated for an Oscar for best screenplay, this sweet, endearing movie asks the question, 'Can best friends turn into lovers and stay happy?' It is adorably funny and heartwarming, and will put you in a good mood for a week.

2. Silver Linings Playbook (2012) Nominated for several Oscars and the winner of one, I can't say enough about what a great movie this was. The memorable story about personal growth and finding love when you least expect it is laugh out loud funny, sweet and unforgettable.

3. Love Story (1970) This has made me cry all 50 times I've seen it. A young couple in love faces heartbreaking tragedy. Love Story did win one Oscar, and was nominated for several.

4. Rocky (1976) This movie won the Oscar for best picture, but while many describe Rocky as an inspirational boxing movie, I call it as I see it. Rocky and I say it's one of the best love stories of all time.

5. Along Came Polly (2004) No Oscars for this one, but what makes it one of my faves? Actors. Ben Stiller, Jennifer Aniston and Philip Seymour Hoffman, plus adorable and hilarious writing. The plot: Dumped on his honeymoon, a type A guy starts dating an old classmate who is his exact opposite.

6. 500 Days of Summer (2009) Nominated for two Golden Globes, this movie about the ups and downs of being in a relationship, and how timing can make all the difference is adorably funny and sweet. Zooey Deschanel and Joseph Gordon-Levitt are extremely lovable.

7. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (2008) Three Oscar wins for this bizarre but incredible movie about a man who is born old and grows younger. His love story is strange, but intense and very touching.

8. Sex and The City (2008) Based on the hit series that won dozens of Emmys and Golden Globes, this movie was everything it promised: four of America's favorite girls living in New York City and trying to find happiness in their relationships.


10. Moonstruck (1987) I could watch this movie 100 times and never get sick of it! It's the story of a middle-aged widow from a close-knit Italian community who finds love for the first time in her life. The actors are fantastic, and the chemistry between Cher and Nicholas Cage is intense and very entertaining. After all, who could forget that famous line, “Snap out of it!” Moonstruck won three Oscars.

11. Forgetting Sarah Marshall (2008) This is a cute, funny, sweet romantic comedy about a guy who travels to Hawaii solo at an attempt to get over his recent breakup, only to find out his ex is there with her new boyfriend. It did win an MTV Movie award for the best WTF moment, which is the couple's naked break up.

Twitter: @lovesessentially
REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

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<tr>
<td>442 Vassar Ln, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Don L Glass</td>
<td>Eileen Glass Estate</td>
<td>01-29-15</td>
<td>$279,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>795 S 3rd Ave, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Jose A Acosta Roiter</td>
<td>John W Derbyshire Jr</td>
<td>01-29-15</td>
<td>$279,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>341 Cluster Rd, #3B, Evanston</td>
<td>Terryanne Iwamuro</td>
<td>Joseph R Suchon</td>
<td>01-29-15</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6300 Midland Rd, Des Plaines</td>
<td>David L Donaldson</td>
<td>Marlene K Key</td>
<td>01-30-15</td>
<td>$215,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2224 Wesley Ave, Evanston</td>
<td>Nile Douglass Graham &amp; Laura Walbral Graham</td>
<td>David Momsen</td>
<td>02-06-15</td>
<td>$685,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>701 Forum Sq, #202, Glenview</td>
<td>Iqra Moodi</td>
<td>Sanjay Garbani</td>
<td>01-29-15</td>
<td>$110,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>419 Bellwood Rd, Glenview</td>
<td>Sanjiv Lulla &amp; Shailali Lulla</td>
<td>Laxmi Papp</td>
<td>01-29-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>2355 Deevie St, Glenview</td>
<td>Brian A Burns &amp; Beth P Burns</td>
<td>Michael P Leahy</td>
<td>02-01-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>1211 Oak Knoll Dr, Lake Forest</td>
<td>James Hurst &amp; Jessica Hurst</td>
<td>Thomas J Perry</td>
<td>01-29-15</td>
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<td>1235 Lexington Ln, Lake Zurich</td>
<td>Manish Khatri Sabur &amp; Sambhav Manish Hat</td>
<td>Cortus Financial Corp</td>
<td>01-29-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Tall Grass Ctr, Lake Zurich</td>
<td>Jacob Tews &amp; Kael Tews</td>
<td>David D Lee</td>
<td>01-29-15</td>
<td>$135,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>8340 Balfour Ave, #406, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Afshan Rashid</td>
<td>Dan Cainer</td>
<td>01-30-15</td>
<td>$285,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>5425 Monroe St, Morton Grove</td>
<td>David J Howland</td>
<td>Sotoboridi Peric</td>
<td>02-02-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>100 Lenox Ct, Morton Grove</td>
<td>John H Yun &amp; Shirley H Yun</td>
<td>Lexington Station Lcc</td>
<td>01-30-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>715 W Central Rd, #4C, Mount Prospect</td>
<td>John Zschoche Keg</td>
<td>John M Chase Bank</td>
<td>02-02-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>501 E Prospect Ave, #27, Mount Prospect</td>
<td>Israel H Gonzalez</td>
<td>Kevin J Pfeffer</td>
<td>02-02-15</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1075 Maple St, Mount Prospect</td>
<td>Cory H Jensen &amp; Caroline R Jensen</td>
<td>Jeffrey T Palac</td>
<td>03-28-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>985 S 5th Ave, Mount Prospect</td>
<td>Sajal Lazer</td>
<td>Barbara Rerry</td>
<td>01-29-15</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>7021 N Granda Ave, #7C, Niles</td>
<td>Mohammed Salajul &amp; Syamsa Saldula</td>
<td>Mohammed Ahmed</td>
<td>01-29-15</td>
<td>$130,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>9332 N Warren Ouel, Niles</td>
<td>Marco P Romeri</td>
<td>Buta Trust</td>
<td>01-29-15</td>
<td>$315,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>8394 Keystone Ave, Northbrook</td>
<td>Alexander Voitsman</td>
<td>Cllbank Na Trustee</td>
<td>01-29-15</td>
<td>$765,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>9300 Dunbar Rd, Northbrook</td>
<td>Joyce Garvey</td>
<td>Robert Gacata</td>
<td>02-02-15</td>
<td>$416,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>3041 Oak Ave, Northbrook</td>
<td>Vishal K Desai &amp; Tejpal S Desai</td>
<td>Annah Skylerht</td>
<td>02-08-15</td>
<td>$590,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>195 Oak Ave, Northbrook</td>
<td>Brian Hayes &amp; Kathleen Hayes</td>
<td>Peter Lalainique</td>
<td>02-10-15</td>
<td>$1,040,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>147 Northside St, Northfield</td>
<td>John Rенenheit &amp; Leon Renenheit</td>
<td>John Chirnisk</td>
<td>03-29-15</td>
<td>$190,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>179 Oak St, #2A, Palatine</td>
<td>Magan Patel &amp; Rajni Patel</td>
<td>Judicial Sales Corp</td>
<td>03-30-15</td>
<td>$130,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1378 N Donegal Bay, Palatine</td>
<td>Shyamchandra Ghatani</td>
<td>Lucia Sedeno</td>
<td>01-30-15</td>
<td>$110,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1276 E Green Ave, Palatine</td>
<td>Vickie L Swickle</td>
<td>Chicago Acquisition Partners</td>
<td>02-02-15</td>
<td>$180,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>610 S Arcadia St, Palatine</td>
<td>Vineet K Daniels &amp; Stephanie Ray</td>
<td>KF Walter Homes LLC</td>
<td>02-03-15</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1215 Hoffman Ave, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Martin K Weitzman &amp; John K Weitzman</td>
<td>Daniel S S John</td>
<td>03-30-15</td>
<td>$395,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1078 Sylvanwood Ave, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Dan St John &amp; Kristin St John</td>
<td>Eduardo Barrera</td>
<td>02-07-15</td>
<td>$575,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>816 E Old Willow Rd, #19, Prospect Heights</td>
<td>Rajiv Patel &amp; Migan Patel</td>
<td>Judicial Sales Corp</td>
<td>01-30-15</td>
<td>$410,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>297 N Flors Phwy, Vernon Hills</td>
<td>Keith G Rankin &amp; Celeste R G Rankin</td>
<td>Michael J Seaver</td>
<td>03-29-15</td>
<td>$325,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This list is not intended to be a complete record of all real estate transactions. Data compiled by Record Information Services 630-557-1000 public-record.com
LAKE FOREST

Custom-built home nestled on a wooded lot, this could be a 3-unit home with income potential or a single family home. 3+ car attached heated garage with tons of storage. Main level boasts openness with walls of windows, sliders to wrap around deck & skylights. Large kitchen with island overlooks family room w/ wood-burning fireplace. Three kitchens in total. Easy yard maintenance, no grass. Original owner.

Address: 10 West Old Elm Road
Price: $419,900
Schools: Lake Forest High School
Taxes: $4,369
Agent: Jane Lee/RE/MAX Top Performers

NORTHBROOK

Charming farmhouse-style home in downtown Northbrook. Three bedrooms upstairs, 2 full baths, finished basement & attached 2-car garage. Updated bathrooms with heated floors. Beautifully landscaped backyard, mostly fenced, with a brick paver patio. Many recent updates including roof, windows, furnace & a/c, baths, interior painting and landscaping. Across the street from Crestwood Park.

Address: 1000 Angle Ave.
Price: $410,000
Schools: Glenbrook North High School
Taxes: $4,453
Agent: Helen Larsen/Coldwell Banker

BARRINGTON

Newer high-end construction: village location, private yard, and close to schools. This 4000 square foot house has 5 large bedrooms, playroom and 1st-floor office. 9-foot ceilings, 2-story foyer, hardwood floors, dual/zoned heat/AC, fire sprinklers, wired for sound. Built in 1999 on a 1-acre lot, house backs up to Citizens Park and Forest preserve, professionally landscaped with sprinkler system. New gazebo, driveway and water heater.

Address: 374 Sharon Drive
Price: $579,900
Schools: Barrington High School
Taxes: $13,118
Agent: Viktoria Kan/American Realty Network Inc.

DES PLAINES

This home has travertine floors, granite counters, custom paint, large baths, open floor plan and more. Massive foyer opens to huge dining room & leads to kitchen with breakfast bar and open view to family room. 1st-floor game room could be 5th bedroom. Bright airy 2nd level has 4 bedrooms plus a sitting area. Master bedroom has bath with double sinks, glass shower & whirlpool tub. Fully fenced yard.

Address: 1355 East Lincoln Ave.
Price: $374,899
Schools: Maine West High School
Taxes: $6,803
Agent: Joseph Marella/Keller Williams Realty Partners

Listings from Homefinder.com.

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Top consumer complaints in Illinois are debt and ID theft

Identity theft a major concern

The Illinois attorney general's office has released its annual list of top Illinois consumer complaints. In the wake of a number of high-profile data breaches, identity theft ranked as the second-highest concern in 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOP CONSUMER COMPLAINTS, 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Consumer debt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage lending, debt collection, credit cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Identity theft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraudulent credit cards and utility accounts, bank fraud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Telecommunications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wireless and local phone service, cable and satellite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Construction and home improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remodeling, roof and gutters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Motor vehicles and used auto sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As-is sales, financing, warranties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Promotions and schemes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweepstakes, pyramid, work-at-home scams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Mail order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet purchases, catalog ordering, television and radio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Fraud against business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting, directories and publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Motor vehicle and nonwarranty repair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collision and body, engines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric, natural gas and propane, water and sewer, waste removal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other complaints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21,791</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TRIBUNE

STORY

BY GREGORY KARP
Tribune reporter

Consumer complaints about debt again topped the list of concerns for Illinoisans last year. But identity theft, including rampant data breaches in recent years, was the No. 2 complaint and is garnering more attention, according to Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan.

Meanwhile, an effort at the federal level to address data breaches, a draft of the Obama administration’s “Consumer Privacy Bill of Rights,” was criticized by a consumer group Monday. The Consumer Federation of America called the draft “deeply disappointing,” saying it put companies and organizations in control, not consumers, and would actually weaken consumer privacy.

"The bill would pre-empt stronger state privacy laws and make it harder for state authorities and the Federal Trade Commission to stop privacy abuses," the federation said.

Last year was known as "the year of the data breach" for widespread breaches, including those at Neiman Marcus, Michaels, Albertsons & SuperValu, Community Health Systems, Dairy Queen, Home Depot, Jimmy John's, JP Morgan Chase, Kmart, Staples, Sony, UPS and many more.

Stolen credit card numbers, which largely describe the retailer breaches, can be annoying for consumers but aren’t as serious as other breaches that include Social Security numbers, which can be used to fraudulently open new accounts and commit other serious crimes.

In Illinois, Madigan on Monday highlighted legislation she proposed Feb. 20 to update a 2005 law that required notification to consumers of data breaches when it involved their driver’s license numbers, Social Security numbers or financial account information.

"In light of last year’s massive data breaches, it is clearer than ever that much more must be done to protect sensitive data while ensuring that people know when their information has been compromised," Madigan said.

"In light of last year’s massive data breaches, it is clearer than ever that much more must be done to protect sensitive data while ensuring that people know when their information has been compromised," Madigan said.

"It’s highly unlikely that there is a person living in the United States, unless they are completely off the grid, who has not been somehow victimized by a data breach," she said.

The proposed update to the Illinois Personal Information Protection Act would add to the list of data breaches that affect Illinois residents.

"The number, scale and scope of data breaches over the past year is alarming," said Abe Scarr, director of Illinois Public Interest Research Group, which endorses Madigan’s proposed update. "The protections in place for consumers are insufficient, and the response from many of the companies that are collecting and storing our personal information has been unacceptable.”

"In light of last year’s massive data breaches, it is clearer than ever that much more must be done to protect sensitive data while ensuring that people know when their information has been compromised."

- Lisa Madigan, Illinois attorney general

The increase in identity theft, in the top three for the first time, was led by a sharp increase in complaints about IRS and other government impostor frauds. The number of complaints from consumers about criminal impersonating IRS officials was nearly 24 times more than in 2013, according to the FTC.

Overall, tax-related identity theft was the most common form of identity theft reported to the FTC in 2014.

"There are serious crooks out there trying to steal personal information," said Steven Baker, director of the Federal Trade Commission in the Midwest Region.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings are subject to change. Please call the venue in advance.

Thursday, March 5

"Lone Star" and "Laundry and Bourbon": Presenting two plays depicting life in a sleepy Texas town. "Lone Star" and "Laundry and Bourbon," by James McLure. Both seem to show us a simpler life and a unique perspective on the world. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Friday, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday. Oil Lamp Theater, 1723 Glenview Rd., Glenview, $17.50-35, 847-834-0738

Book Bites: Reading Social: Discuss the novel "A Land More Kind Than Home" by Wiley Cash. 7 p.m. Thursday, Glenview House, 1843 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-743-0692

"Build It!" at Kohl Children's Museum: The museum announces its newly constructed, temporary exhibit Build It which puts a spin on classic building blocks by letting children explore and interact with ten different varieties of blocks in a single space through May 3, 2015. Children can discover, stack, bridge, enclose, make patterns, name and symbolize using blocks and more. 9:30 a.m. Thursday, 9:30 a.m. Friday, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, 12 p.m. Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Monday, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. Wednesday. Kohl Children's Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, $10-$11, 847-832-6600

Making a Statement: Children in grades 5-8 can create games, images and animations will also be accepted at a 24-hour dropbox in the same location, although sharps will not be accepted. 8 a.m. Thursday, Park Ridge City Hall, 505 Butler Place, Park Ridge, free, 847-318-5200

Karaoke Thursdays: Enjoy some great pizza and sing a tune or two. 7 p.m. Thursday, Perry's Pizza and Ribs, 711 Devon Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-823-4422

German Stammmtisch: The group meets on the first and third Thursday of each month in the community center to practice German and learn about German culture. For all experience levels, from native speakers to beginners. 1 p.m. Thursday, Oakton Park Community Center, 4701 Oakton St., Skokie, free

Ice Skating at Westfield Old Orchard: The rink, in conjunction with the Skokie Park District, features skate rentals as well as special performances from the professional ice skating ensemble IceSemble. 5-8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 1-8 p.m. Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday through March 15, Westfield Old Orchard, 4999 Old Orchard Center, Skokie, $2 to skate; $5 rentals, $12 for skating lessons, 847-673-6800

Friday, March 6

Friday Night Fish Fry at White Pines: The fish fry events feature an all-you-can-eat lake fresh perch dinner. Specialty wines and beer are offered, and a full bar is available. Reservations are recommended. 5 p.m. Friday, White Pines Golf Club, 500 W. Jefferson St., Bensenville, $14.99, 630-766-0304

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian free admission day: Visit exhibitions, the library, museum shop and more at no charge on the first Friday of the month at this museum devoted exclusively to American Indian and First Nations peoples throughout the U.S. and Canada. 10 a.m. Friday, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 8001 Central St., Evanston, Free, 847-475-1030

Art in the Library exhibit: when art meets design: Enjoy the work of Glenview artist Claudia Bianchi. 9 a.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

What You Should Know About Medicare: Melissa Versch, North Shore Senior Center health insurance program coordinator, discusses Medicare changes for 2015 and Kathleen Molar-
ty, NorthShore University HealthSystem director and manager of care management/social services discusses how a patient is admitted to the hospital and the issues surrounding observation vs. inpatient stay. A Q&A follows. 1 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Drop-In Chess Club: Learn fundamentals and improve your strategy with volunteer chess instructor Steve Levenson. Bring your own chess set if possible. Children ages 8 and under must be accompanied by a parent. 7 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Mother Son Sports Spectacular: Boys, grab your mom and join in a night you won't forget! Come dressed to play in comfortable clothes and gym shoes. Begin night by playing all kinds of fun and crazy sports games, then end with ice cream sundaes and awards. 6:30 p.m. Friday, Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 W. Sibley Ave., Park Ridge, $25 registered/$33 non-registered per couple, 847-692-5127

Field school variety show: Over one hundred parents perform at this show. Down on his luck, Captain Cavendish must sail his boat in order to pay his bills. This becomes a hilarious debacle when the crew quits and leaves him only his loyal First Mate, Haphazard, and Carl the deck hand on board. The Captain must employ his family and friends to jump in and help him sail his ship. 7 p.m. Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Eugene Field Elementary School, 707 W. Wisconsin St., Park Ridge, $8, 847-685-5055

Bruce Campbell's Horror Fest: This inaugural fest focuses on all things horror, with appearances by noted celebrities from numerous genre films and television series. In addition to Campbell ("The Evil Dead"), fans can meet Tobin Bell ("Saw" franchise); Tyler Labine and Alan Tudyk of "Tucker & Dale vs. Evil"; Dee Snider ("Twisted Sister"); Danny Hicks ("Evil Dead II"); "Intruder"; Michael Rooker ("The Walking Dead", "Guardians of the Galaxy"); Kristy Swanson ("Buff The Vampire Slayer"); Adrienne Barbeau ("Creepshow", "Escape from New York") and many others. 5 p.m. Friday, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont, $35-880, 847-692-2220

Saturday, March 7

Circuscope: The creators of the Actors Gymnasium Winter Circus explore a fascinating world on the other side of the microscopic lens. Circuscope transports audiences through surprising acrobatics, mime, live music and otherworldly design. 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, 5 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday. Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, $15-$20, 847-328-2795

AP U.S. History practice test: C2 Education presents a practice test for the Advanced Placement U.S. History Exam. 12 p.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Irish story magic with Chris McBrien: Leprechauns, flutes, magic and puppets. Join Chris McBrien as he celebrates Ireland through magic, ventriloquism and storytelling. 10:30 a.m. Saturday, The Book Market at Hangar One, 2651 Navy Blvd., Glenview, free, 847-904-7304

Northbrook Woman's Club spring luncheon: Melanie Benjamin, author of "The Aviator's Wife", discusses her novel. 10:30 a.m. Saturday, The Glen Club, 2901 West Lake Ave., Glenview, $40, 847-724-7272

Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra concert: 2 p.m. Saturday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 224-456-2399

Silver Screen Series: "The Seven Year Itch": "The Seven Year Itch" (1955, not rated, 1 hr. 45 min.). A middle-aged married man is tempted by his beautiful new neighbor while his family is away for the summer. Cast: Marilyn Monroe, Tommy Ewell. 2 p.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Harmonica 101 with Joe Filisko: Part 2: Back by popular demand: Joe Filisko from the Old Town School of Folk Music returns for a second class on learning how to properly hold the harmonica, breath control, and playing blues and folk tunes. Bring one's own harmonica in the key of C or purchase one from Joe for $5.11 a.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

The Two Hour Cup: Try three different premium loose leaf teas and take home info cards with descriptions and tasting notes. 2 p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m. Sunday, TeaLula, 11 S. Fairview Ave., Park Ridge, $4.50, 888-832-5852

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
Find out who's up, who's down, and who's new on our list of the most powerful Chica...
Calendar, from Previous Page

Challenges. Don't forget your current knitting projects and needles! Call 847-929-5101 or visit www.mgpl.org for more information. 2 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

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

MGPL Kids: Monday Morning Playgroup: Drop-in play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver to introduce young children to the library in a low-key, unstructured session. Call 847-929-5102 or visit www.mgpl.org for more information. 10:30 a.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Pages Book Discussion: "The Testing": Join in a book discussion of The Testing by Joelle Charbonneau. Meet up with the Morton Grove Public Library group at Barnes & Noble every month to chat about fresh, popular YA reads. Check the book discussion page at www.mgpl.org or call 847-929-5101. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Barnes and Noble, 5405 West Touhy Ave., Skokie, free, 847-329-8460

Tuesday, March 10

Northern Lights: Winter Homework Help Center: High school volunteers help kids in grades 1-8 with their homework and reading and math skills. 6 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

On the Road with The Oil Lamp Theater: The theater's cast is on the road this spring with All or Nothing, a performance of four plays specially selected for community performances. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Movies, Munchies, and More: Film: "Hard Day's Night" (G). A lively, good-natured spoof of "Beatlemania" portraying a frantic 36 hours in the lives of the rock group. Cast: Ringo Starr, George Harrison, John Lennon, Paul McCartney. 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

MGPL Kids: Listen Up: Drop-in story and play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver. Call 847-929-5102 or visit www.mgpl.org/kids for more information. 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Beginning Bridge Lessons: Come and learn the most stimulating partnership card game around! Learn the basic bidding and playing in a stress-free environment. Sign up with a friend or partner, or come to meet new ones, to be playing bridge at the end of the session. Phyllis Bartlett, ACBL Accredited teacher, guides the class. Contact the Park Ridge Senior Center. This is an eight week class. 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Park Ridge Park District - Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, $86, 847-692-3597

Blue Sky Innovation

Great Books Discussion Group: Meets on the second Tuesday of each month to discuss some of the best books in the English language. For more information on joining, call 847-673-1814. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie, free, 847-673-7774

Wednesday, March 11

Little Wigglers Storytime: Kids under age 2 work on the foundations for early literacy through songs, rhymes and stories. 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

"Food for Thought" Event: Bette Davis: Leslie Goddard portrays Bette Davis. In a career stretching from 1930 to 1988, she appeared in such classics as "Jezebel", "Dark Victory", "Now", "Voyager", "The Letter" and "All About Eve". By 1942, she was the highest paid woman in America and had two Academy Awards. She also earned a reputation for being difficult to work with and her personal life was as tempestuous as her life onscreen. Lunch will be catered. Contact the Park Ridge Senior Center. 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Park District - Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, $17 Members/$19 Guest, 847-692-3597

LitLounge Book Discussion: "We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves": "We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves" by Karen Joy Fowler is the book to be discussed by the Morton Grove Public Library and the Skokie Public Library joint social book group that meets monthly. Check the book discussion page or call 847-929-5101. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, The Curragh Irish Pub Skokie, 8266 Lincoln Ave., Skokie, free, 847-675-9600

Have an event to submit? Go to chicagotribune.com/calendar
2015 brides love lace, sleeves, soft colors

The romance of Valentine's Day is just behind us, and that means a lot more ladies have diamond rings sparkling on their fingers. I suspect that the first thing those newly engaged women want to do is to shop for their wedding dresses. The 2015 styles are now in the shops, so it's easy to spot hot, new wedding dress trends.

For those brides-to-be dress, late winter shopping is a widely popular trend, said Natalie Bauer of Bella Bianca Bridal Couture in Chicago and Oak Brook, bellabianca.com.

Many bridal gowns this year will challenge traditional white or ivory, Bauer noted. “From champagnes to pastels, unexpected color is a trend growing in popularity. Perfect for the woman who wants to make a statement on her wedding day.”

Bauer’s sister and boutique co-owner Melissa Russell, added that “One of the more prominent trends for brides in 2015 is the resurgence of bridal gowns with sleeves, which is an extremely flattering style for women of every shape and size.” Bella Bianca's Ines Di Santo gown, which has sleeves that are part of a removable bolero, allows brides to have their sleeves and sleeveless too.

Diana Mandusic from Diana's Bridal in Skokie, dianasbridalboutique.com, noted that versatility is quite popular. “Some trends for 2015 are definitely two in one looks, like removable skirts and two layered gowns.”

And alongside traditional whites and ivories, she also sees color, “Soft colors such as blushes, champagnes and silver hues are a big trend in the new collections.”

J. Crew has gotten into the bridal business with both bridal gowns and bridesmaids dresses. These, however, are sold online only at jcrew.com.

And the lace. Always bride-appropriate, it’s the hottest wedding dress trend this year. You'll see it on all styles of bridal gowns and at all price points. Whether it's all over lace, or a lace overlay, or touches of lace around the hem and neckline, it’s what's in this year.

So whether your dream bridal gown is fitted or full, lace or beaded, strapless or with sleeves, it's easier than ever to find the dress that reflects your personality. Happy Shopping and Congrats!

Lynn Taylor Schwaab is a freelance reporter.
Women Driving Excellence reach out at Auto Show

To celebrate women who help start, accelerate, fuel and steer others to success, Women Driving Excellence presented its program for the third year at the Chicago Auto Show on Feb. 17 at Chicago's McCormick Place.

“We actually created this (WDE) to get women to come to the auto show,” said Beth Rosen of Deerfield, also host of the ChicagonistaLIVE! online talk show. “North Shore women who are creating and collaborating in small businesses and building strong networks for each other should know that we’re all helping each other as we travel this same road.”

WDE is a collaborative community created to connect entrepreneurial and established women in business, philanthropy, media, government and community leadership positions.

Beth Engelman of Glenview, joins MJ Tam of Chicago and Beth Rosen of Deerfield on stage at the Auto Show

Women Driving Excellence #WDE15 was created by Rosen and MJ Tam of Chicago, who also appears on the ChicagonistaLIVE! Nancy Loo of the Barrington area and of WGN-TV also appeared on the talk program, as did Duong Sheahan of Chicago.

“I think they (North Shore women) just need to put themselves in the company of these women to get inspired,” said Cathy Litrofsky of Lake Forest.

Litrofsky also said women “should be reminded that you have goals and a lot of contribute.”

Beth Engelman of Glenview, blogger and Pioneer Press “Mommy on a Shoe-string” columnist, was a keynote speaker on the subject of “Gearing Up With Social Videos.”

Engelman spoke on the uses of social networking. She also encouraged women to flex their economic power with big-ticket items like car purchases.

“This (WDE) has been great because it makes the whole car buying experience less intimidating and it gives women a voice,” Engelman said. “Let’s face it, we have the buying power!”

See womendrivingexcellence.com and at #WDE.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter.
Off to college with mental illness

How students, parents can prepare for new challenges

BY DONNA JACKEL
Special to Tribune Newspapers

Margaret Skoch of Cleveland felt a jumble of emotions as the day to leave for college neared. She was thrilled to be attending her dream school, Notre Dame University, her mother's alma mater. She was anxious about leaving home. And then there was her mental health. Skoch had been diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder, depression and anxiety in high school. Although she was feeling confident and healthy, she worried her symptoms might return.

That worry turned into a full-blown panic attack her first night in her dorm. It was the beginning of a rough few months.

"I was really homesick. I called home every day crying," recalled Skoch, now a junior.

"It was bizarre because I was so happy to be in this place that I loved and at the same time sometimes miserable."

Due to better mental health care and campus services, more young adults with a mental health diagnosis are attending college than ever.

According to the 2013 National Survey of College Counseling Centers, 88 percent of college counseling directors reported a steady increase in students arriving on campus already on psychiatric medication.

Parents should know that with strategies crafted in advance and monitored from afar, teens with a mental illness can thrive in college and beyond.

Like Skoch, many freshmen with a diagnosis arrive at college without any mental health care in place, said Nance Roy, clinical director of the Jed Foundation, a nonprofit that advocates for the emotional health and suicide prevention of college students. Skoch quickly sought out a therapist, but many students fail to ask for help until their illnesses compromise their academics and/or emotional well-being.

Aaron Chen, 21, of Naperville, Ill., had a depressive relapse his freshman year at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign but didn't seek out mental health care until his sophomore year.

"When I originally came here, I expected to be independent. But it turned out that I still needed help, and that sort of made me feel like I was struggling alone."

Roy urges parents to be proactive: Once a teen selects a college, contact the counseling office to find a psychologist and psychiatrist on campus or nearby. Then schedule an introductory appointment for soon after the child's arrival.

Resources

"Transition Year": The Jed Foundation and the American Psychiatric Foundation teamed up to produce this guide to help students and parents prepare for college.

jedfoundation.org/students/programs/transition-year

"The Civil Rights of Students with Hidden Disabilities": The U.S. Department of Education explains the accommodations to which college students are legally entitled.
ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/hq5269.html

Gap year: Get information about various programs for students who wish to take a gap year between high school and college.
americangap.org

The American Association of People with Disabilities: The AAPD offers resources for students with disabilities who are planning their college search.
aapd.com/what-we-do/education/higher-education/getting-there.html

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Student-led mental health advocacy organizations, such as NAMI on Campus (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) and Active Minds, are sprouting up on college campuses. These groups help reduce stigma and offer students support and education.

As important as it is to build a strong safety net for a teen, academic interests should drive the college search. Also, the student should be encouraged to think carefully about how far he wants to be from home, the size of the school, and the setting.

Parents who have been advocates and anchors in their children's lives now, in the months leading to college, must nurture independence.

Improving a child's organizational and study skills should be a priority, said Rick Auger, a professor in the department of counseling and student personnel at Minnesota State University in Mankato, Minn.

"For almost all mental health issues, organization is so critical, especially ADHD, anxiety and autism spectrum disorders," he said.

Parents shouldn't be afraid to let a child fail modestly, according to Auger.

It's time to be a coach rather than a problem solver, he explained.

A parent is likely to have freshman jitters right along with the child.

Staying in regular touch can help both, but the terms of communication should be worked out beforehand, suggested Lauren Freise of San Francisco, a sophomore at Boston College who has battled depression and anxiety.

"While a Sometimes just sending a text with a picture of where they are and a blur about what they are doing will really make their kid's day," Freise said.

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Students' rights under the law

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, almost all colleges and universities must legally provide students with reasonable accommodations (such as being allowed more time to take a test), as long as your child has a mental illness that meets the legal criteria. To receive academic adjustments, parents likely will be asked to provide written proof of a child's disability.

Parents of college freshmen quickly will discover that accommodations are less comprehensive than in lower grades.

"Under federal and state laws, all children in K-12 have a right to a basic education, so schools have elaborate (accommodations) in place," said Peter Lake of Stetson University College of Law. "In higher education, schools are only required to provide opportunity—not to guarantee outcomes or success." In higher learning, accommodations are based on individual needs, which could include arranging for early registration, reducing a course load or providing note-takers. Colleges are not required to make substantial modifications. For example, a student may be granted more time to take a test but won't be entitled to changes to the content of the test. Accommodations can vary widely from college to college. Parents should research prospective schools until they find those that have the right mix of services for a teen, Lake advised.

The biggest change, perhaps, from K-12 is the college student's responsibility to disclose a disability.

"Accommodations are generally not available unless you ask," Lake said.

"Too often, students don't react until their grades plunge."
Watchdogs warn of very dark side to chocolate

**By Lenny Bernstein**

The Washington Post

If you have been happily snarfing down chocolate in recent years, secure in the knowledge that those flavonoids were at least doing good things for your heart, today is not your day. A California consumer health watchdog group has filed legal notices demanding that many of the big chocolate companies post warnings on their packages that show their products contain high levels of lead and cadmium.

As You Sow, an Oakland nonprofit, says single servings of 26 products it tested (three times) contain more of the two harmful heavy metals than allowed under the Golden State's Proposition 65 toxic chemical warning law.

"We are getting (lead and cadmium) from multiple sources," said Eleanne Van Vliet, director of toxic chemicals research for As You Sow. "The problem with those toxic heavy metals is they accumulate in the body. It's terrible for adults, but especially for children."

Overexposure to lead, of course, can cause all kinds of health problems, including lowering children's IQ. Cadmium is a carcinogen and can cause kidney and bone damage.

The chocolate companies, and the association that represents them, are having none of this. They say that there are, at worst, trace amounts of lead and cadmium in chocolate from natural sources, and that regulators have rejected this argument before.

"The Food and Drug Administration and many states monitor the amount of cadmium and lead in food. All Hershey products meet FDA and state standards, and our cocoa powder and chocolate are safe to eat. This includes the very strict Proposition 65 standards for lead and cadmium in candy and other products," said Jeff Beckman, director of corporate communications for Hershey. (Hershey had three possible offenders on As You Sow's list; see asyou sow.org for list.)

"People have been eating cocoa and chocolate for centuries with no evidence of a single incident of concern regarding these naturally occurring minerals," Beckman added.

Susan Smith, senior vice president of communications and outreach at the National Confectioners Association, also wrote back, adding: "Heavy metals such as lead and cadmium are naturally occurring elements found in the Earth's crust. Since these elements are present naturally in the soil and water where plants are grown, there are unavoidable traces occurring in virtually all foods, including fish, meats, grains, fruits and vegetables. Like other foods, cocoa beans, one of the main ingredients in chocolate, may also contain small amounts of heavy metals depending on the natural conditions in which it is grown.

Van Vliet insists that As You Sow is not talking about tiny amounts; rather, she said, if you think about the amount of chocolate the average person consumes each year, these concentrations are worrisome.

If we could get them all in a room, both sides would probably agree on one thing: We do eat a lot of chocolate. According to one trade magazine, Americans consume 4.3 kilograms of chocolate (about 9.5 pounds) every year.

Another group tried As You Sow's strategy in 2002 but ultimately dropped its effort. That prompted researchers at the University of California at Santa Cruz, however, to look into the amount of lead (but not cadmium) in chocolate, and the results were somewhat sobering. Their study, published in 2005 in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives, concluded that the lead in chocolate was not from naturally occurring sources, a stance that one of the researchers, Russ Flegal, reiterated when I called him.

At the time, Flegal, a professor of environmental toxicology, and his colleagues theorized that the husks of cocoa beans are terrific absorbers of environmental lead. They believed that the beans might be collecting lead pumped into the atmosphere by the use of leaded gasoline in Nigeria, whose beans they tested.

Lavender and tea tree oil disrupt male hormones

**By Joe and Teresa Graedon**

King Features Syndicate

Q: I'm wondering if men should be using lavender. Many articles I've read state that lavender is a male hormone disruptor.

A: Lavender and tea tree oil were investigated as hormone disruptors when doctors noticed breast development in three little boys who had been using soap, shampoo, styling gel or lotion that contained lavender and, in one case, tea tree oil (New England Journal of Medicine, Feb. 1, 2007).

An investigation of hormone activity found that both lavender and tea tree oil active estrogen receptors much as estrogen does (Hormones, July-September 2010). In addition, both oils block male hormones, suggesting that you are right: It probably makes sense for men to be cautious about using products containing lavender or tea tree oil.

Q: I would like to tell others what has helped me. My doctor told me I am riddled with osteoarthritis. He didn't have a magic bullet for me but suggested I might try massage.

I have been getting a full-body massage every two weeks since and have thrown away all the pain pills, narcotics included, plus the pain patches. It has been such a relief!

A: The medications that are prescribed for osteoarthritis leave a lot to be desired. NSAIDs can be hard on the stomach and the cardiovascular system. Narcotics have a whole set of other disadvantages. Nondrug approaches such as massage, water therapies and supervised exercise can be helpful in maintaining joint function and reducing pain. Thanks for sharing your success. Each person will need to find the approach that works best.

Q: I'm confused about cinnamon. I thought it was supposed to be good for you, but you recently wrote that it could be bad. What kind of cinnamon is good, and what is it good for?

A: The initial research on the effects of cinnamon demonstrated that common (cassia) cinnamon could reduce blood sugar, triglycerides and cholesterol (Diabetes Care, December 2003).

Because cassia cinnamon, also called Chinese cinnamon, sometimes contains a natural compound, coumarin, that can damage the liver, we have warned people to use a water-based extract by taking capsules or adding cinnamon to coffee grounds in a filter. Cinnamon is not water-soluble, while the active compounds are.

It was not clear whether Ceylon cinnamon would have any effect on blood sugar. A recent study shows, however, that an extract of Ceylon cinnamon (which is free of coumarin) can prevent blood-sugar spikes after a meal (BMJ Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Sept. 23, 2014). The authors conclude that this could "help to reduce the risks of developing metabolic disorders."

Q: You two provide so much wonderful information. I'll read something you've written and I really intend to cut it out of the paper, but before I do it gets lost or I get my mind on something else, and I lose the information.

I'd like to know if you have put this material in book form.

A: Thank you for your kind words. We have actually written 19 books in the past 40 years. One that you may find especially relevant is called "The People's Pharmacy Quick and Handy Home Remedies" (National Geographic). You can find it at peoplespharmacy.com.

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via peoplespharmacy.com.
Study finds listeria lurks in nation’s delicatessens

HealthDay

The next time you order that pastrami on rye at your local deli, you might get an unwanted ingredient: the illness-inducing listeria bacteria.

That’s the finding from a Purdue University study of dozens of delicatessens. Researchers say that on any given day, up to 1 in 10 deli swab samples tested positive for the Listeria monocytogenes germ.

“This is a public health challenge,” said study leader Haley Oliver, assistant professor of food science. “These data suggest that failure to thoroughly execute cleaning and sanitation protocols is allowing L. monocytogenes to persist in some stores,” she added.

While listeria infection can cause serious but transient gastrointestinal illness in most people, the Purdue team noted that foodborne illness is potentially deadly in people with weakened immune systems. Those people include the elderly, infants and small children, and people living with HIV.

“We can’t in good conscience tell people with weak immune systems that it is safe to eat at the deli,” Oliver said.

In the study, Oliver’s team first collected samples from 15 delis before they opened for the day. They examined swab samples from deli surfaces that came into contact with meat (such as slicers or countertops), as well as surfaces that did not, and found that nearly 7 percent of the samples tested positive for listeria bacteria.

A second round of testing at 30 delis over six months found that 9.5 percent of the samples tested positive for the bacteria. In 12 of the delis, the same subtypes of the listeria were found in several of the monthly samplings. This suggests that the bacteria can persist in certain areas over time, the researchers said.

Only about 30 percent of delis never tested positive for listeria over the course of the study. But in some delis, samples came back positive for listeria about 35 percent of the time.

In most cases, positive samples came from surfaces that aren’t usually in contact with food — for example, floors, drains or squeegees. But the researchers noted that it’s still easy to transmit the bacteria from these surfaces to a surface that’s likely to touch food.

Ready-to-eat deli meats are most often associated with listeria, the study authors noted, because the germ can grow even when foods are refrigerated, unlike other bugs such as E. coli or salmonella.

The team also found that most of the listeria picked up on the samples was highly virulent, meaning it was likely to cause serious illness.

“These are cause for concern,” Oliver said.

While tight standards have reduced the presence of listeria in meat-processing plants, there are no regulations specifically meant to control the bacteria in delis, the study authors said. They added that research suggests that up to 83 percent of listeria cases linked to deli meats are due to contamination at retail outlets.

“It’s kind of the Wild West,” Oliver said. “Manufacturing has a zero-tolerance policy for listeria, but that dissipates at the retail level. The challenge of developing systematic cleaning procedures for a wide variety of delis, which are less restricted environments than processing plants, can make listeria harder to control.”

So what’s a wary consumer, especially one with a compromised immune system, to do? Oliver’s team said buying prepackaged cold cuts at a supermarket is one way to avoid listeria. Or you can eat any ready-to-eat meat first to 165 degrees to cut the risk.

Listeria-laden meats don’t always look suspicious, so checking for odor or sliminess may not help.

As for delis, Oliver said that delis that are in good condition have thorough cleaning policies, and that sloped floors are more likely to be listeria-free. Clogged drains and crumbling grout are warning signs, because listeria seeks out moist niches in which to grow, she noted.

The study was published recently in the Journal of Food Protection.

Listeria causes transient gastrointestinal distress in most people but can kill those with weakened immune systems.

Mountain biking likely isn’t something you’d want to do high on marijuana.

How workouts go with marijuana and without

BY MARGARET SHAPIRO

Can smoking marijuana make you a better athlete? That’s probably a question you hadn’t pondered, given pot’s reputation for creating mellowness and food cravings. But with growing numbers of states legalizing or decriminalizing the drug, Outside magazine decided to answer that question. So author Gordy Megroz ran on a treadmill, skied and performed a host of physical tests under the influence, and he talked to scientists to get their take on his performance. Here’s what he found.

Treadmill test: Without pot, Megroz ran at a pace of 5 mph, regularly increased the incline on the ramp and ran for 19 minutes until his legs gave out.

Later, after taking a hit of pot before getting on the treadmill, “I can still feel the pain, but I’m not fixated on it.” He lasted 30 seconds longer. Running the sober-high comparison twice more on other days produced similar times.

Positive comparisons also emerged for bench pressing (not as sore afterward, which Humphreys says may be due to pot’s anti-inflammatory effect) and mountain biking, when he feels “flowy and fast” at least until he hit the ramp and ran for 19 minutes until his legs gave out.

Megroz writes that the World Anti-Doping Association bans marijuana in competitions in part because of its anti-anxiety effects.

Skiing: “After popping a 10-milligram THC gummy, I experience a slight yet very functional high. But something else stood out: I felt invincible and proceeded to attack the steepest lines without fear.”

The Washington Post

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The Washington Post
Nutella vs. other chocolate hazelnut spreads

BY HEATHER SCHROERING | Tribune Newspapers

Nutella, the daddy of chocolate hazelnut spreads, has steadily become a standard on grocery store shelves across the nation since it was first imported to the U.S. from Italy more than 25 years ago. The Ferrero-produced Italian spread's fandom is vast worldwide (it even has its own commemorative stamp in Italy), but it's certainly not the only option.

We blind-tasted and rated 10 spreads from the dozens available, including Nutella and other big brands like Jif and Hershey's, but also small artisan brands and Italian imports. We picked them up at local groceries, Whole Foods and an

1. (tie) Nutella
   Rating: 7.4
   Cost: $3.49 (13 ounces; 27 cents per ounce)
   Comments: "Yum! Just right balance of chocolate and hazelnut. "Very good and pure hazelnut flavor; rich, not too sweet. "Yum! Deep chocolate, rich, nutty flavor." "Some nut plus chocolate."

2. Caffarel Crema Gianduja
   Rating: 7.4
   Cost: $15.90 (11.6 ounces; $1.37 per ounce)
   Comments: "Very creamy, silky texture, like butter. Not too sweet." "Good hazelnut flavor." "Delicious; Just the right blend of hazelnut and chocolate." "Clean, nutty flavor."

3. Golosi di Salute Crema Gianduja Senza Zucchero (sugar-free)
   Rating: 6.1
   Cost: $16 (8.8 ounces; $1.82 per ounce)
   Comments: "Very runny; hazelnuts are very roasty." "Very hazelnutty, not too sweet." "Would be delish on ice cream or over strawberries. Great chocolate flavors and hint of nut. Works as syrup or sauce."

4. Jif Chocolate Flavored Hazelnut Spread
   Rating: 5.5
   Cost: $3 (13 ounces; 23 cents per ounce)
   Comments: "Hazelnuts are very present. Good balance, very sweet." "Medium-strength hazelnut flavor but quite sweet." "Tastes of almond much more than hazelnut." "Weld aftertaste."

5. Maisie Jane's Chocolate Hazelnut Butter
   Rating: 5.4
   Cost: $13 (12 ounces; $1.08 per ounce)
   Comments: "Runny and separated, speckly. Peanutty presence is too obvious at the aftertaste. Like a Nutella-peanut butter twist." "Nutty, although not hazelnut. Not a good balance." "Odd chemical taste."

6. Natural Nectar ChocoDream Hazelnut Cocoa Spread
   Rating: 5
   Cost: $5 (12.3 ounces; 41 cents per ounce)
   Comments: "Interesting flavor. Chocolate and hazelnuts are subtle but obvious." "Just sweet, not chocolate, not hazelnut. Actually weird sweetness. "Rather flat, muddled flavor. The nuts don't shine through." "Unpleasant, metallic."

7. Hershey's Spreads: Chocolate with Hazelnut
   Rating: 4.8
   Cost: $4 (13 ounces; 31 cents per ounce)

8. Rawmio Hazelnut Spread
   Rating: 4.3
   Cost: $13 (6 ounces; $2.17 per ounce)
   Comments: "Too much chocolate. I don't get hazelnuts here. Too sweet." "Odd taste." "Thick texture; good nutty flavor, though not superstrong. Rich taste." "Unexpected flavor — Is it peanut?" "Like coffee; also, not very sweet."

9. Organic Farming Nicciolata Organic Hazelnut Spread with Cocoa & Milk
   Rating: 4
   Cost: $5 (9.52 ounces; 53 cents per ounce)

10. Babbi Crema Nocciole
    Rating: 3.7
    Cost: $8 (5.29 ounces; $1.51 per ounce)

Italian market, and they ranged in price from $3 to $16 a jar.

When the results were averaged, artisan brands and imports didn't necessarily crush big brands. Nutella and Italian import Caffarel Crema Gianduja tied for the top rating with a 7.4. Taste testers' comments varied, noting purity of ingredients (or lack thereof), balance of chocolate and hazelnut flavors, and texture.

Here are the results from our panel of seven tasters. (Prices are what we paid at retail; products were rated 1 to 9, with 9 being the highest.)

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E. JASON WAMBSGANS/ TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS PHOTOS
UNCORKED

Hidden Burgundy

Often overlooked pockets of the famed wine region that yield great values

BILL ST. JOHN

Back when I was a lad, selling wine as a merchant, the most popular white Burgundy was the unpronounceable Pouilly-Fuisse. I most often heard requests for “Polly Poosay.” Why a wine was so sought after whose name was difficult to say remains odd to me. (By the way, it’s close to “pwee-fwee-say.”)

Nowadays, with Burgundies red and white, it’s the unpronounceable names that are the least popular and, consequently, often a great buy because demand for them is so low.

That leads me to the topic for this column: “hidden Burgundy,” wines from this most expensive of French winemaking regions that are extreme values because they are off the retail radar screen. Some have names difficult to say, but more are tucked away in appellations commonly overlooked, for well, reasons difficult to say.

Cote de Beaune

Among the tongue twisters is the lengthily named 2012 Louis Jadot Pernand-Vergelesses 1er Cru Clos de la Croix de Pierre ($35-$40) from near the top of the famed Cote de Beaune. (“Pair-nah-vair-juh-less” is close enough.) It’s in the austere, high-toned Jadot style, which gives it plenty of delicious acidity and a good dollop of minerals as an offset to the rich pear aromas and flavors.

And there’s the 2011 Benjamin Leroux Auxey-Duresses Blanc ($45) from a bit farther south on the same cote. Matt Kramer, in his book “Making Sense of Burgundy,” calls Auxey-Duresses (oh-say-doo-ress) “the most underrated commune in the Cote d’Or” that strip of gold in more than one way at the heart of Burgundy. Leroux’s Auxey, for the price, is a terrifically dense version of nearly unoaked chardonnay, tangerine-y and minerally and long on the palate.

Other, more easily pronounceable yet nonetheless commonly overlooked vineyard areas in the Cote de Beaune include St. Aubin, Chorey-les-Beaune and Santenay, this latter also highly regarded by Kramer. Here are some recommended wines from these three villages.

2012 Francois Carillon St. Aubin Blanc 1er Cru: Notable for its incisive acidity, hemmed in with minerals reminding of white chalk, and its white fruit flavors quietly unfolding on the tongue. $40-$45

2012 Vincent and Sophie Morey St. Aubin Blanc 1er Cru Les Charmots: White fruits and white flowers, white minerals and white wood, a real blanc all around, coming on to the tongue with some heft. $40-$45

2012 Joseph Drouhin Chorey-les-Beaune: A light-bodied but very pretty version of aromas and flavors of chocolate-covered cherries; supple, limpid, elegantly tannic; a real beauty. $25-$30

2010 Camille Giroud Santenay: Santenay turns out broad-shouldered, almost rustic versions of pinot noir. This is delicious for its tastes and aromas of candied fruit (like SweeTarts), with full-on wafts of dusty earth. (And note: The domaine is American owned!) $35

Cote Chalonnaise

Perhaps the most overlooked values in Burgundies made of both chardonnay and pinot noir are to be found coming from the region just to the south of the Cote de Beaune, the Cote Chalonnaise. In general, the wines are more rough-hewn than those made of the same grapes to the north, but from good producers and houses, they are truly amazing values. Here are more recommendations.

2012 Domaine Alain Roy Montagny 1er Cru: Montagny makes whites only. This is a beauty, for its scents and savors of white flowers, white peach and pear and intense minerality, edged in a lemony acidity. What a fine price for so much in a wine. $20-$25

2012 Domaine Faiveley Mercurey: Faiveley is well-known for its holdings here. This is all cherries and raspberries, on the way to being Beaunolais-y for its ebullient fruit. (Be sure to aerate it for at least four hours.) $25-$30

2012 Domaine Chofflet-Valdenaire Girvry 1er Cru: Girvry makes pinots on all fours: deep carmine-purple color, strong flavors of black currants and dried strawberry, chalky tannins and hints of minerals and earth. This domaine is a star of the region. Another unbelievable price. $25-$35

Cote de Nuits

I found a red wine from the tip-top of the Cote d’Or, from the village of Marsannay just outside Dijon at the beginning of the Cote de Nuits. It’s part of hidden Burgundy too; I think you’ll like it.

2010 Regis Bouvier Marsannay Vieilles Vignes Les Longeories: From 50-year-old vines; Dutch cocoa and wet black earth accent the meaty, deeply rendered black cherry fruit. Super straightforward, like a slap on the back from pinot noir as genial fellow. $40

A note on serving these wines: Do not chill the white wines too greatly; they’re better more open, more richly textured — when cool, not cold. And aerate the reds for a good four to five hours, really sloshing some air into them in a decanter, to bring out their subtleties in both aroma and flavor.

If your wine store does not carry these wines, ask for one similar in style and price.

Bill St. John has been writing and teaching about wine for more than 40 years.

bejtrib@gmail.com
A whiskey labeling fight in Tennessee

BY ZAK STAMBOR
Special to Tribune Newspapers

What is Tennessee whiskey?

Well, for just about all of Tennessee's nearly 219 years of statehood, Tennessee whiskey meant something quite straightforward: a whiskey produced in Tennessee.

That's why Phil Prichard, owner and operator of Prichard's Distillery, was infuriated in 2013 when he learned that the Tennessee legislature was considering a bill that would require spirits labeled Tennessee Whiskey to use a process known as the Lincoln County Process.

The technique, named for the process used by Jack Daniel's, Tennessee's most famous whiskey maker, filters bourbon through or steeps it in charcoal chips before the spirit goes into casks for aging. And Jack Daniel's led the push for the legislation.

But Prichard, who had been making a whiskey labeled Tennessee Whiskey since 2003, doesn't use the Lincoln County Process. And he didn't want to start.

"Every argument I heard for protecting a standard of identity didn't make sense," he says, with a hint of irritation evident in his voice nearly two years later. "They claimed to be protecting the quality of Tennessee whiskey. But anyone can charcoal-filter whiskey; it won't make a bad whiskey taste good. They said we have to protect the Tennessee designation like France does with Champagne. But that also has nothing to do with quality. It was just about Jack Daniel's desire to get the process that it invented memorialized."

Prichard's whiskey seeks to hark back to an era before Jack Daniel's produced its first spirit.

Prichard is a descendant of a Tennessee distiller named Benjamin Prichard, who bequeathed his stilling equipment to his son in 1822. While Prichard doesn't know exactly what Benjamin Prichard distilled, he believes that he used white corn to make whiskey because that's what most people at the time were doing.

"They made whiskey from what was available to them," he says. It's that history that he seeks to honor, which is why he calls the spirit Benjamin Prichard's Tennessee Whiskey. The whiskey is rich and complex, with a sweet and spicy nose, and notes of cinnamon candy and black pepper. For good reason, the whiskey has earned acclaim and awards, and he didn't want to be bullied out of changing the spirit's name.

So he fought back. While Tennessee's governor signed the bill requiring the Lincoln County Process to be used for any spirit labeled Tennessee Whiskey, Prichard got an exemption.

In addition to enabling Prichard to make whiskey the way he's always made it, that exemption has had a side benefit, he says — it is a pretty good marketing tool.

But it isn't all politics. After all, who would care about a Tennessee whiskey that didn't taste good. And it does. Politics aside.

Creamy layers of comfort

BY DIANE ROSEN WORTHINGTON
Tribune Content Agency

One of my favorite childhood dishes on a blustery day was scalloped potatoes. They were my comfort, happy food. A serving of these simple, creamy potatoes could make even the worst day better. I cook them without cheese, but feel free to add a cup of grated Gruyere to the layers if you like that additional flavor.

Layers of potatoes are flavored with sweet, thinly sliced onion rings and bathed in milk or half and half. The traditional ingredient in these classic potatoes is flour.

The potatoes benefit from the flour and milk mixture, since it becomes a creamy sauce as the potatoes bake. The onion layers provide a sweet undertone. The dish is first cooked covered to allow the potatoes to slowly steam and soften, and then finished uncovered so a crust can form.

You will have an even creamier result if you use baking potatoes (russets, often called an Idaho potato) because they take on a softer texture during cooking.

If you are a crust lover, remember that a shallow baking dish actually cooks more evenly and allows for much more topping than a taller dish.

Scalloped potatoes

Prep: 45 minutes  Cook: 1 hour, 35 minutes  Makes: 8 servings

1 medium clove garlic, minced
3 tablespoons flour
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1/2 teaspoon white pepper
3 pounds medium yellow or white potatoes, peeled, thinly sliced
1 small onion, thinly sliced
1 cup shredded Gruyere cheese, optional
3 tablespoons unsalted butter
3 cups whole milk or half-and-half
2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley

1 Heat oven to 350 degrees. Combine the garlic, flour, salt and pepper together in a small bowl.
2 Arrange a third of the potatoes on the bottom of a lightly oiled 9-by-13-inch ovenproof casserole; sprinkle with half the onions. Sprinkle half of the flour mixture on the onions. Sprinkle with 1/2 cup Gruyere. Dot with 1 tablespoon butter. Make another layer exactly the same way. Layer with the last third of the potatoes, the last third of the cheese and dot with the remaining tablespoon butter. Pour milk over the potatoes; cover with foil. Place the casserole on a baking sheet.
3 Bake, 50 minutes. Remove the foil; bake until the top is golden brown and the potatoes are tender, about 45 minutes. Serve, sprinkled with parsley.

Nutrition Information per serving: 302 calories, 12 g fat, 7 g saturated fat, 35 mg cholesterol, 40 g carbohydrates, 10 g protein, 581 mg sodium, 3 g fiber
Cast shaking things up to the sounds of Elvis Presley

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

Don’t even think about those blue suede shoes. And no dancing, either, if you please. That’s not allowed for the small-town characters in the musical comedy, “All Shook Up,” being staged by the Wilmette Center for the Arts.

“All Shook Up” is just fun,” said Alison Dornheggen, the center’s artistic director. “It’s high energy; it’s music that people know.”

Despite the name, the story isn’t specifically about the life of Elvis Presley, but features his music and a character based on his image. The plot is inspired by William Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night,” and Dornheggen described the Broadway show as a “hodge podge” of Shakespeare and the 1984 film, “Footloose.”

“All Shook Up” a tale of romance, mistaken identity and rock ‘n’ roll, is based on a work by Joe DiPietro, who won Tony Awards for Best Book and Best Score for “Memphis.”

“All Shook Up” opens in Wilmette Friday, March 6 in the theater of the Community Recreation Center with select dates through March 15.

“It’s just such a pleasure,” said Becca Duff, of Oak Park, who plays a mechanic and tomboy. Duff’s character, Natalie, immediately falls for the wayward guy named Chad, played by Turner Morehead, of Chicago.

Morehead is the Elvis-type dreamboat who shows up in town one day, sporting a leather jacket and flipped up hair.

“It’s how I normally wear it,” Morehead said.

Morehead was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee, where Elvis Presley’s Graceland is a tourist attraction.

“It was obviously such a big part of my life,” he said, of the Elvis legacy. “A lot of people know of Memphis because of him. It’s fun for me to get to honor Elvis in my own small way.”

All four of Morehead’s grandparents are traveling to see their grandson perform a lead role. Two of his grandparents are from Memphis.

“My grandmother remembers seeing (Elvis Presley) playing around Memphis,” Morehead said. “His legacy is very important. He was the first rock star who appealed to a wide audience.”

Nearly 20 cast members perform in the family-oriented “All Shook Up,” which includes a gospel version of “Devil in Disguise” and a mashup of “Hound Dog” and “Teddy Bear.”

Lydia Milman Schmidt, of Chicago, is director, joined by music director Joseph Brewer and Brigitte Ditmars, a multi Jeff Award-winning choreographer.

“The music is presented in a surprising way,” Schmidt said. “I think for people who are Elvis fans, there are some (songs) you know and some you won’t know. They really dug deep in the back of the catalog.”

Brewer, whose musical expertise was heard at last summer’s outdoor Starlight Theatre performance of “Annie Get Your Gun” at Wilmette Wallace Bowl, said his favorite Elvis song is “Can’t Help Falling in Love.”

“Oddly enough my dad used to be an Elvis impersonator,” Brewer said.

Allison Kurzman, a Wilmette resident for 10 years, is an ensemble member.

“I’m very happy, very excited,” Kurzman said, about her role. “It’s a good family show.”

Adrian Briones, of Chicago, plays Dennis, the aspiring dentist who loves Natalie.

“It’s delightful,” Briones said. “I’ve never danced so much in a show before, and it’s a very welcome challenge.”

Briones said he is grateful to the Wilmette Park District for supporting theater.

“This has been my home for a good two years,” he said, of the Wilmette stage. “I love it; it holds a special part of me.”

Turner Morehead plays Chad, the motorcycle-riding, guitar-playing heartthrob who comes to town in “All Shook Up.”
Carla Gordon celebrates 65 years with live performance

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Carla Gordon had a unique way of entertaining her father on car trips — she made up songs on the spot for him. She's still turning out lyrics but her audience has greatly expanded.

Not only does the popular cabaret artist create and sing songs that can bring an audience to tears or make them laugh hysterically, more than 50 other singers across the country are performing her songs.

Gordon will share some of those songs and stories about her life in "Broad Strokes...A Songwriter's Story," for her 65th birthday celebration, Saturday, March 14 at the Skokie Theatre.

Gordon's first creation, at age 8, was the clean-up song for Bradwell Elementary School in Chicago. "That's not going to be in the show," she joked.

Gordon, who began performing as a folk singer in her teens, entered a songwriting contest when she was 19. She was pleased to earn an honorable mention, until she learned there were 100 honorable mentions.

"And then I found out there were 50,000 entrants," Gordon said.

For a time, Gordon abandoned folk singing for the business world. Then she returned to performing by writing racy parodies.

"I got hired to work in Boystown, doing a show called, 'Don't Bring the Kids,'" Gordon said. She still gets requests to do that show.

Her Skokie show won't be dirty, Gordon declared, "But it's going to be a little bit risqué."

Gordon will definitely perform "The Voice in Your Heart," the song that helped spread her lyrics across the country.

"I was at a Cabaret Conference at Yale (in 2006) in Amanda McBroom's class — she wrote 'The Rose,'" Gordon related. The students were asked to create a song overnight to perform in class.

"I did the song for Amanda McBroom with my heart in my throat," Gordon recalled. "When I finished the song, she said to me, 'Can I have it?'"

Gordon's answer was, "Only if you listen to my other song. It was a parody to 'The Rose,' called 'Pantyhose.' She literally fell over laughing."

Following that, Chicago-based cabaret artist, accompanist and composer Becky Menzie asked Gordon to write songs for her and her performing partner Tom Michael. Gordon has been writing custom material for them ever since.

Other singers who hear Gordon's songs — many written with composer Wayne Richards — ask for permission to sing them. Audience members will enjoy hearing them sung by the source at the Skokie concert.

She will be accompanied by musical director Bob Moreen, with guest appearances by comic Caryn Bark, singer/comic Jan Slavin and singer Russ Goeltz bobt.

The audience will also get into the act. "From the time I was little, I could rhyme anything," Gordon said. "So, I'm going to ask the audience to give me some rhyming challenges."
A portrait can reveal powerful things about an individual, a time or a place. And no one tells the stories of Chicagoans and visitors to the Second City better than the Chicago Tribune. Chicago Portraits is a stunning new coffee-table book that brings together the Tribune's best portraits from the past 150 years, including powerful images of everyday Chicagoans, actors, artists, athletes and politicians.

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Chicago Tribune
All about spring!

ANNE HECHE
THE STAR OF THE NEW USA DRAMA ‘DIG’ SHINES IN THE SEASON’S HOTTEST STYLES

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SMOKY POPPY BODY CARE
Beauty bastion The Body Shop recently unveiled its limited-edition collection of essentials, including lotion ($12), body butter ($20), perfume ($14) and makeup. Our fave? The Yellow Poppy shimmer cubes palette (above, $22), which adds pretty splashes of poppy color. 3 N. State, Thebodyshop-usa.com

MUD, FACIAL BAR
Chicagoans on-the-go can freshen up at River North’s new facial-focused salon, where treatments — which use ingredients like a signature mud mix, seaweed and milk — take less than 30 minutes. Starting at $40, 676 N. LaSalle, Mudfacialbar.com

J. CREW ACCESSORIES
Just in time for spring, the all-American brand has released a collection of colorful accessories, like the blue Roko pump ($278). 900 N. Michigan, Jcrew.com

UNDER ARMOUR FLAGSHIP
The sports brand is upping its game, unveiling a new Mag Mile flagship, dubbed Brand House, this month. The 30,000-square-foot athletic mecca will hold men’s, women’s and kids’ apparel and footwear and sports equipment. 600 N. Michigan, Underarmour.com

at the shoot
“Dig” star Anne Heche met our team at Lightbox Studio in Los Angeles to try on the latest spring trends. Despite posing like a pro, Heche admitted she was nervous, telling us, “Honestly, supermodels get a bad rap, because this is hard!”

COVER CREDITS
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Makeup: Simone Almekias-Siegl
Shoot producer: Katerina Bizios

ON HECHE
Jacket: Cristiano Burani, price upon request; Cristianoburni.it
Bracelet: Karine Sultan, $105; Karinesultan.com

“Summer is coming up, and I wanted to do some fun bold lips on Anne with a softer smokey eye. This spring look is all about using color and having fun with it!”
Simone Almekias-Siegl

need to know

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT SPRING IN CHICAGO?

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“Outdoor patio — because, really, if you’re not drinking outside, what are you doing with yourself?”

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“There is so much to love about spring in Chicago, but I absolutely adore the beauty of the tulip-lined streets around the Mag Mile.”

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Founder
Michael Ferro
The calendar

- ARTS & CULTURE | PHILANTHROPY | FOOD | FASHION

THROUGH MARCH 15

- The Orchid Show

There's no telling when spring will be here for good — but meanwhile, this seductive showing will take the chill off what's left of winter. Orchids will be for sale at the Garden Shop every day during the show, and experts from the Illinois Orchid Society will be on hand to answer questions on weekends.

Place: Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook, Glencoe
Cost: $10, $8 for seniors and children under 12. For tickets, visit Chicagobotanic.org/orchid.

BY THOMAS CONNORS

THIS WEEK THROUGH MARCH 17

- CHICAGO IRISH FILM FESTIVAL

On view this week are "Darkness on the Edge of Town," a story of vengeance, contemporary Celtic thriller "An Bronntanas;" and "It Came from Connemara," a behind-the-scenes look at Roger Cormier's filmmaking career.

Place: Society for Arts/Gallery Theatre, 112 N. Milwaukee; closing night screening at Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport
Cost: $10, $7 seniors/students. For tickets, visit Chicagoirishfilmfestival.com.

MARCH 4

- THE TASTE OF THE GOLD COAST

Now in its sixth year, this event celebrates fifteen of the finest dining destinations — including Morton's Steakhouse and The Signature Room at the 95th — in the Near North neighborhood. A portion of proceeds benefit the North Dearborn Association, dedicated to the preservation and beautification of the area.

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: FFC Gold Coast, 1030 N. Clark
Cost: $60. For tickets, visit Raymiproductions.com.

MARCH 5

- UNCORKED! WINE & BEER TASTING

City Winery and Eighth Wonder Wines serve up varietals for this philanthropic tasting — also featuring a raffle, craft beers and appetizers — to raise funds for Gilda's Club Chicago, which offers free support to those touched by cancer.

Time: 6-9 p.m.

Place: Museum of Broadcast Communications, 360 N. State
Cost: $45, $50 at the door. For tickets, visit Gildasclubchicago.org.
MARCH 7
- HOPE THROUGH CARING AWARD DINNER
In honor of her 35 years of dedication and commitment, Wendy Abrams, former executive director of the Les Turner ALS Foundation, receives the “Hope Through Caring” award at this 28th annual fundraiser.

Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Ritz-Carlton Chicago, 160 E. Pearson
Cost: $350. For tickets, visit Lesturnerals.org.

MARCH 7
- 'INSPIRED'
Grammy winner Craig Hella Johnson leads the St. Charles Singers through pieces like Dominick Argento's “Walden Pond” and Jake Runestad's “Why the Caged Bird Sings.”

Time: 8 p.m.
Place: St. Michael Catholic Church, 310 S. Wheaton, Wheaton
Cost: $35, $30 seniors, $10 students. For tickets, visit Stchar/essingers.com.

MARCH 14
- 60TH ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE
Once the Chicago River runs green (beginning at 9:30 a.m.), head off for this much-loved spectacle. William P. Hite, general president of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, serves as Grand Marshal and the City of Chicago's first responders are this year's guests of honor.

Time: Noon
Place: Balbo and Columbus, proceeding north on Columbus
Cost: Free.

MARCH 14
- ‘THE ILLUSIONISTS — WITNESS THE IMPOSSIBLE’
Combining humor with Houdini, this family-friendly show features seven star illusionists in an eye-defying spectacle. The cast includes Dan Sperry (“America's Got Talent”), comedian and inventor Kevin James and 2014 Magician of the Year Yu Ho-Jin.

Time: 9:30 p.m.
Place: Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph
Cost: $275-$500. For tickets, call (312) 266-6255 or visit Thodos dancechicago.org.

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MARCH 7
- ‘Chicago Inspired’ Benefit
Thodos Dance Chicago presents a richly varied program, featuring rarely performed pieces by Bob Fosse and recent work from Garfield Lemonius and John Carwright. Later, the company marks its 23rd anniversary with a post-show benefit at Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park.

Time: 9:30 p.m.
Place: Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph
Cost: $275-$500. For tickets, call (312) 266-6255 or visit Thodos dancechicago.org.
We may be craving sunshine, but chic Chicagoans are holding on to winter's icy blue hues. This spring, no designer nailed the trend better than Christian Siriano, who showcased everything from flirty separates to sexy satin sheaths to elegant eveningwear, all in cool blue. Keep the color muted by pairing it with neutral accessories, or dress it up with our favorite icing — diamonds — and you'll make fellow partygoers absolutely melt.
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MONDAY - SATURDAY 10AM - 6PM | SUNDAY 12PM - 5PM
The scene: The Women's Board of the Lyric Opera of Chicago hosted its triennial event at the Ardis Krainik Theatre in the historic Civic Opera House (20 N. Upper Wacker) Feb. 7. In a live auction, attendees bid on nearly 230 lots comprised of 1,300 bottles of wine and more than 45 luxury travel and dining experiences.

The invite list: Chairman Erica L. Sandner and vice chairman Marilyn Thoma welcomed more than 400 of the city's philanthropic finest to the bash, which featured an elegant reception, dinner and live and silent auctions.

The bottom line: The evening raised $1.8 million and celebrated The Women's Board, which has raised more than $4.5 million in the past three months to directly benefit the Lyric's annual campaign and support the opera company's activities. —Chiara Milouis

“Where else will you have the opportunity to bid on an experience with one of the most extraordinary opera talents of our lifetime—Renée Fleming — and have her come to your home?”

—Alpana Singh, manger of the auction's wine advisory committee

GOODMAN THEATRE'S FAME, FANTASY, FOOD, ADVENTURE AUCTION

The scene: The Women's Board toasted the Goodman Theatre's most successful winter fundraiser to date at The Peninsula Chicago (108 E. Superior) Feb. 2.

The invite list: Co-chairs Darlene Bobb and Lorraine Weiss and 200 guests kicked off the evening with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a decadent buffet dinner. Later, auction trustee chair Kristine R. Garrett oversaw the live and silent auctions, which featured items like a 12-person tasting dinner with celebrity chef Rick Bayless, tickets to Broadway musical “Fun Home” and seats at Donna Karan's Fashion Week show.

The bottom line: The event raised more than $450,000 for the Goodman's productions and education and outreach programs. —Chiara Milouis
The scene: More than 1,200 partygoers came together at Morgan Manufacturing (401 N. Morgan) — which glimmered with soft pink lighting — to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Tickled Pink Feb. 20.

The Invite list: The annual fundraiser featured chef tastings and pink treats — including gummy bears by Candyality, mini Glazed & Infused donuts and sushi from Jellyfish — plus a raffle and live music by The Chicago Players.

The bottom line: The fête raised more than $66,000 for Bright Pink, a nonprofit focused on the prevention and early detection of breast and ovarian cancer in young women. — Chiara Micalulis

Splash was the media sponsor of this event.

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To learn more about the GEMS World Academy Chicago Upper School, tour the Lower School campus and meet faculty and staff, visit us at gemschicago.org/splash

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Harry's highight

"Best story of all time: Dennis Rodman was there and I said, 'Tell Dennis if he wants a cigar he's got to sign the basketball that Scottie Pippen already signed.' [Rodman] says, 'Sneaky way to try to get me sign a ball ... I lke you.' I drank more kamikazes and Grand Marnier with that guy — we became friends after that — all because I made him wait for a cigar."

Dream guest

"I want to see Clooney. He is Harry's Velvet Room. His sense of style and elegance — he'd be perfect. Or Kanye [West]; I'd love Kanye to walk in the door. You know why? So I can kick him out."

From 1991 to the early 2000s, it was practically impossible to go out in Chicago without visiting one of Dion Antic's establishments. He was the innovator behind hotspots like Iggy's, Bar Thirteen and Celluloid — but his prized jewel was Harry's Velvet Room, a cigar-and-whisky bar, turned cigar-and-martini bar, turned cigar-and-Champagne lounge. During its 14-year run, the bar played host to countless celebrities (leaving Antic with a slew of alcohol-fueled, A-list stories), including George Clooney, Michael Jordan and Perry Farrell. "It was pandemonium," Antic, 50, remembers. "We had the king of Sweden there ... It was just that kind of thing, it was just fun.

Now, the man with a thousand concepts — some of his other innovative spaces included the now shuttered Shady Lady, a Victorian burlesque; exotic cream cheese spot Bagel on Damen; and a bar dubbed Hell where guests walked through a faux dentist's office — is returning to his roots: Last week, he reopened Harry's Velvet Room in a new locale (1408 W. Webster), and with a more mature twist. The bar is more bistro/tavern in style, featuring a list of 13 craft cocktails, 13 French-inspired dishes and — unlike its predecessor — no bottle service. "This [time], it's all about the classics," Antic explains. "This is about being an adult; it's about being a lady, being a gentleman. Turn your cell phone off. Take the time to enjoy the room and, you know what? You can post a selfie later. It's about growing up."

An industry vet, Antic is certainly all grown up — but the knack for nightlife has been with him since he was a teen. "I was the kid in high school who threw the best parties, hands down. I used to dry-ice my house for Halloween and I have flam ing swordfights with a guy dressed as the Grim Reaper," Antic laughs. "My mother ended up buying a bar [the now-closed Halftime Haven] and she said, 'Take the parties out of the house, put them there.' So I started running my first bar at 19." At 22, he opened the first bar of his own, Sanctuary, in the Gold Coast. From there, it was a steady stream of openings until the late '90s, when Antic had dozens of bars to his name. Then, in 2001, things took a turn: Antic was in a motorcycle accident and his 10-year marriage dissolved. "I decided to get outta here," he remembers. "I bought a house in LA."

He returned five years later — older and maybe a bit wiser — but his mile-a-minute mind hasn't slowed. "I'm always trying to be one step above. I love the creativity of [the industry]. I build the brands, I love putting it together and putting a story to it," he says. "I don't make a Jack and Coke better than anyone else — but I make the room around it a whole lot better. That's me. I'm gonna build you a room you'll never forget."
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2015

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Net results

Amp up the sex appeal without sacrificing elegance with the season's racy see-through trend. During their spring shows, designers like Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen of Elizabeth & James and Rebecca Minkoff played with netted mesh fabrics and retro silhouettes, while Alexander Wang got edgy with circular cutouts and peek-a-boo skirts and tops.

Dress: Phillip Armstrong, $1,200, PhillipArmstrong.com
Over a nearly three-decade career, Anne Heche has done it all — now she's stepping back onto the small screen with her most thrilling role yet.

Here, the Hollywood heroine models the season’s top trends.

The first thing that stands out about Anne Heche is her laugh. It’s contagious, staccato and nearly constant. Actually, the blonde actress is surprisingly bubbly given that her latest role is that of a hardened FBI attaché in USA's new event series, "Dig." But right now, the one-time Chicagoan has plenty to be happy about: The show, which premieres March 5 and tells the story of a murder mystery in modern Jerusalem, has already been picked up for its full 10-episode arc.

"It's a project that I was so thrilled to be asked to be a part of," says Heche, 45. "There are, like, five different stories and you have no idea how they connect or why; there’s an artifact that's stolen, there’s a murder of an American, there’s [someone] being kidnapped and taken to the Holy Land — what does one thing have to do with another thing? It's a Da Vinci Code'-esque thriller, times 10.

Heche's character, Lynn Monahan, is head of the FBI's Jerusalem outpost; Jason Isaacs plays agent Peter Connelly, Lynn's former teacher and now subordinate and occasional love interest. The series is the joint creation of seasoned TV pros Tim Kring and Greg Yaitanes — the producers/creators of "Heroes" and "Homeland," respectively — so it promises wild twists and lots of action. "I've never done an action thriller before — I don't know if it's because I don't look like Angelina Jolie — but I am really thrilled [to play] a body who can kill a man with my bare hands," Heche jokes.

The show also boasts steamy love scenes, but Heche isn't nearly as excited by those. "Oh my God, by far the fight scenes [were more fun to film]. Love scenes are a drag! They're awkward, they're uncomfortable — a nightmare," she laughs. "That being said, Jason (Isaacs) is a complete gentleman. But I like to leave the nudity up to the 23-year-olds. I keep a little more covered up than the girls who are as young as — well, as young as I used to be.

Though unlike many Hollywood vets, who hide their age like it's a blemish, Heche is completely comfortable in her own skin. She's been in the business for nearly 30 years, starting as a teenager on the soap "Another World." Still, though, "I feel like I'm younger than people think I am," she says. "I'm not 95! I'm really not! It just seems like I've been working that long."

Through the '90s and early aughts, Heche was a common fixture on TV and in film, appearing in hit shows like "Ally McBeal" and "Everwood." But she's arguably as famous — or perhaps infamous — for her personal struggles, which she has spoken about candidly and vividly documented in her memoir "Call Me Crazy."

As a child, Heche recalls being sexually abused by her father, an evangelical Christian and closeted homosexual who later passed away from AIDS, before her mother relocated the family to Chicago in 1984. Through scholarships and what she calls "the grace of others," the future star attended Lincoln Park's Francis W. Parker high school. It was there that Heche got her big break: She was spotted in the high school's rendition of "The Skin of Our Teeth" and landed her first gig on "Another World," playing twins Vicky and Marley Love Hudson.

Four years later, while in Nebraska filming 1992's "O Pioneers!" with Jessica Lange, Heche knew she'd found her calling. "I was literally sitting in a Motel 6 with a cheeseburger, watching the Emmys and I won! I'm not kidding. I was chomping on a cheeseburger going, 'This is flattering, how am I going to fit in my corset tomorrow?' And then they announce my name," she says. "That moment, it dawned on me that maybe I should be an actress.

From there, it was a steady rise upward: She co-starred with Johnny Depp in "Donnie Brasco" and with Robert De Niro in "Wag the Dog." Finally, in 1998, she earned top billing when she was cast as a big-screen leading lady in "Six Days, Seven Nights" opposite heartthrob Harrison Ford. But at the same time, she entered a romantic relationship with Ellen DeGeneres, and was publicly shamed as an opportunist. Maybe society wasn't ready for a bisexual leading lady; after "Six Days, Seven Nights," the stream of
Start spring off with a sparkling-clean slate. We’re currently dazzled by embellished white dresses — think sequins, beading and metallic detailing. DKNY served up stunning ivory sequin sheaths on the runway, while Badgley Mischka added glimmering hardware to light, muted fabrics for a soft, elegant look.

Dress: Cristiano Burani, price upon request.

Florals in spring might not be groundbreaking (cue Meryl Streep’s gibe from “The Devil Wears Prada”), but the pretty print did hit the runway in full force this season, appearing in Reem Acra’s rose-print dresses, Michael Kors’ geranium and dahlia motifs and Desigual’s bold graphics splashed on black fabric.

Dress: Givenchy, $3,850.
Neiman Marcus, 737 N. Michigan.
Neimanmarcus.com
The art of invention

BY JENNY McCARTHY

In my book Stirring The Pot, I mentioned seven things I wish someone would invent — for example, a way to take back a text, email or voicemail that you sent but immediately regretted. Since writing the book, I’ve come up with a few other things. Who do we need to call to make these happen?

- Nail polish that never chips. How amazing would it be to never have to worry about your polish chipping? We can travel to the moon, yet I can’t go more than five days without half of my polish coming off (even the so-called ‘no-chip manis’ don’t last!) — we need to change that.

- Along the lines of no-hangover pills, which I mentioned in my book, but better yet: Why doesn’t someone create no-hangover alcohol? With all the different brands and flavors of alcohol out there, why can’t someone figure out a way to make one that doesn’t leave our heads pounding in the morning?

- An automatic clothing-folder. We have machines to wash and dry our clothes, so why don’t we have one to fold our clothes for us? I know I’d still have to put them away, but maybe we could work on a solution to that next.

- A device to record dreams. Could you imagine what it would be like if we could record dreams and play them back the next day? We could make our own little mini-series of our dreams. Of course, we’d be able to filter them by category and delete any undesirable dreams.

What are some other great ideas you wish someone would invent? Tweet me @JennyMcCarthy.

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Annette Gortz
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Everything you need to know this party season

BY THOMAS CONNORS
PHOTOS BY RAMZI DREESSEN

WILD WILD WHIRL

Why go: The Women's Board and the Board of Trustees of the Chicago Zoological Society and Brookfield Zoo host the suburban establishment's largest annual fundraiser, which supports the Zoological Society's conservation, education and animal welfare programs.

What to wear: Black ties and ballgowns

Who's onstage: Maggie Speaks will have galago-ers on their feet.

When: April 25, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Brookfield Zoo, 3300 Golf, Brookfield


SPRING GALA GUIDE

Wild Wild Whirl co-chairs Romana Malinowskl, Kay Guyette and Sarah Opier pose alongside animals at Brookfield Zoo.
and CEO Walter Isaacson is the keynote speaker.
When: March 12, 5:30 p.m.
Where: Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 E. Upper Wacker

ANIMAL MAGNETISM
Why go: PAWS Chicago — which found new homes for 5,952 homeless pets last year — relies entirely on community support to fulfill its mission.
What to wear: Cocktail attire — and don't forget, pooches can dress up, too.
Who you'll see: KISS FM's Christopher "Brotha' Fred" Frederick emcees the lively event.
What's on the block: Raffle prizes include a trip to Barbados and an Apple iPad mini.
What's that sound: DJ Lani Love
For Fido: Doggie brush-outs, barbecues and corgi and co. are provided by Paradise 4 Paws at the "Dog Spa.
When: March 20, 7 p.m.-midnight.
Where: Venue One, 1034 W. Randolph
Tickets: $125 or $150 at the door and $25 per pooch, $250 VIP (includes pet ticket). Visit Animalmagnetism.pawsevents.org.

BIG MAC UNDER GLASS
Why go: Themed "A Night Under the Big Top," the event benefits Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicago & Northwest Indiana.
What to wear: Black-tie optional.
Who you'll see: The special guest emcee is Chicago comedian Pat McGann.
What you'll eat: Let's go straight to dessert: churros with chocolate raspberry dipping sauce and Cracker Jack-infused fun, plus take-away treats.
What's on the block: Raffle items include a Rolex watch sponsored by James & Sons Fine Jewelers, and silent auction offerings range from sports memorabilia and tickets to lavish getaways and more.
When: March 21, 6 p.m.-midnight.
Where: Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, 301 E. North Water

GGLASSQUERADE
Why go: To celebrate 27 years of Lookingglass Theatre and support its programming.
What to wear: Cocktail attire
Who you'll see: Host David Schwimmer and Lookingglass Civic Engagement Award recipients Chef Rick Bayless and Steppenwolf Artistic Director Martha Lavey
What you'll sip: Expertly curated pours from Clarence Dillon Wines accompany each course at dinner.
What's that sound: Dr. Bombay plays a bit of everything, from across the PM dial.
When: March 21, 6:30 p.m.
Where: The InterContinental Chicago, 505 N. Michigan
Tickets: Start at $2,500 for two. Email Eventglookingglasstheatre.org.

APRIL
CHICAGO HEART BALL
Why go: The American Heart Association — devoted to saving people from heart disease and stroke — benefits every dollar raised at this fun fête.
What to wear: Black tie.
What's on the block: Top-drawer auction lots include a trip to California's wine country and a VIP experience with the Chicago Blackhawks.
Late-night: The Associate Board of Chicago hosts Crash the Ball, an official afterparty beginning at 9:30 p.m. and featuring entertainment by Late Nite Band's Party Grass; tickets are $100.
When: April 11, 6 p.m.-midnight.
Where: Navy Pier Grand Ballroom, 600 E. Grand
Tickets: $1,000. Visit Chicagoheartball.com.

WOMEN ON THE MOVE LUNCHEON
Why go: The National MS Society works to realize a world free of multiple sclerosis and to address the challenges of those affected by it.
What to wear: Black tie (and ready to dance).
What's on the block: A champagne welcome, a trip for four to Palm Airways network, plus business-class tickets from Chicago to Abu Dhabi.
What to see: Co-chairs Elissa Efroymson, Mirja Haffner and Francia Harrison, among other supporters.
When: April 21, 6-9 p.m.
Where: The Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan
Tickets: $30, $50 VIP. Visit Chigavarts.org/support/keruffle.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S DISCOVERY BALL
Why go: To help support cancer research and patient services and, ultimately, accelerate a cure.
Who you'll see: Chairs Nasrin and Mark Thierer, emcee Kathy Brock of WLS-Channel 7 and more than 800 business and philanthropic leaders.
What to wear: Black tie.
What's on the block: A club-level suite for 12 at a Blackhawks game donated by John and Rita Canning; Caribbean vacations, and a suite for 20 people at Soldier Field for the Taylor Swift concert July 19.
When: April 25, 5:30 p.m.-1 a.m.
Where: Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel Chicago, 221 N. Columbus
Tickets: Available table sponsorships start at $50,000. Visit Discoverball.org.

In-demand choreographers
Justin Peck and Christopher Wheeldon debut new works during the show.
Who's dancing: Company members and students, after the show, cut the rug yourself at the post-performance dinner with Rich Daniels and the City Lights Orchestra at the Hilton Chicago (720 S. Michigan).
When: April 17, 6:30 p.m. performance, 8 p.m. gala
Where: Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph

KERFUFFLE!
Why go: The fête supports ChiArts, the city's first and only public high school for the arts.
What's on the program: A Champagne welcome, performances by ChiArts scholar-artists in Fullerton Hall and a cabaret dinner in Griffin Court, accompanied by the ChiArts Jazz Combo.
Who you'll see: Co-chairs Elissa Efroymson, Mirja Haffner and Francia Harrison, among other supporters.
When: April 21, 6-9 p.m.
Where: The Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan
Tickets: $300, $500 VIP. Visit ChiArts.org/support/keruffle.

GGLASSQUERADE
Why go: To celebrate 27 years of Lookingglass Theatre and support its programming.
What to wear: Black-tie optional.
Who you'll see: The special guest emcee is Chicago comedian Pat McGann.
What you'll eat: Let's go straight to dessert: churros with chocolate raspberry dipping sauce and Cracker Jack-infused fun, plus take-away treats.
What's on the block: Raffle items include a Rolex watch sponsored by James & Sons Fine Jewelers, and silent auction offerings range from sports memorabilia and tickets to lavish getaways and more.
When: March 21, 6 p.m.-midnight.
Where: Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, 301 E. North Water

Joffrey Ballet Spring Gala
Why go: The Joffrey Ballet celebrates its 20th anniversary as Chicago's most recognized dance company at this event, entitled "Be Moved.
What to wear: Black tie (and ready to dance).
What's on the program:
SOARING TO SUCCESS: ANIXTER CENTER'S ANNUAL BENEFIT FOR ABILITY

Why go: One of the largest nonprofits in the Chicago area assisting people with disabilities, Anixter Center provides an array of services supporting a full life in the community.

Who you'll see: WMAQ-Channel 5 President and General Manager David Doebler serves as event chair.

What's on the program: This year's event honors Comcast Corporation for its commitment to supporting employment for people of all abilities.

When: April 30, 6 p.m.
Where: Union Station, 500 W. Jackson
Tickets: $350. Call (847) 869-5423 or visit Anixter.org/soaring.

MAY BUTTERFLY BALL 17: VIBRANT NATURE

Why go: To support the educational programs of the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

Who you'll see: NBC News' chief environmental affairs correspondent Anne Thompson serves as master of ceremonies.

What to wear: Black tie

What's on the program: Motorola Solutions will be honored for its commitment to science education.

When: May 1, 6 p.m.
Where: Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon

25 YEARS OF HIGH JUMPS

Why go: High Jump has equalized access to education for middle school students of limited means who have exhibited academic ambition and potential. Ninety-nine percent of High Jump alumni go on to attend prestigious college prep schools across the country.

What to wear: Cocktail attire

When: May 2, 6:30 p.m.
Where: The Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, 120 E. Delaware
Tickets: $350. Call (312) 582-7706 or visit HighJumpChicago.org/support/springbenefit.

MISERICORDIA WOMEN'S AUXILIARY SPRING LUNCHEON & FASHION SHOW

Why go: Proceeds benefit Misericordia.

cordia Heart of Mercy Home, which supports more than 600 developmentally disabled children and adults.

What's on the block: Raffle prizes include pieces from British and French designers, including Maie, Ted Baker, Basler, Sandro and Karin Mile, plus a $2,000 Bloomingdale's gift card and a Maximilian mink poncho.

When: May 7, 10:30 a.m.
Where: Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel Chicago, 221 N. Columbus

GALA DE ARTE 2015: EL SOL Y LA LUNA

Why go: The evening supports The National Museum of Mexican Art, one of the largest Latino cultural organizations in the U.S.

Who you'll see: Gala co-chairs Jessica Priego and Yolanda Steiner put on a celestial-themed party sure to be out-of-this-world.

What's that sound: The Dick Judson Orchestra and the Grammy-nominated Trio Ellis perform.

What's on the block: A stay at a luxury seaside villa in Manzanillo, Mexico, original Mexican artwork and suites at sporting events

When: May 8, 6 p.m.
Where: Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park, 200 N. Columbus
Tickets: $500. Email Barbara@nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org.

MOTHERS IN THE MILLS BENEFIT

Why go: The Puppy Mill Project raises awareness for the hundreds of thousands of dogs that spend their lives locked up and breeding in cruel puppy mills every year.

Who you'll see: Emcee Paul Lisnek is a political analyst for WGN TV, host of "Politics Tonight" on CLTV and anchor of HL7's "Newsmakers," and Comcast Network's "Broadway in Chicago Backstage."

What you'll eat: Passed hors d'oeuvres, food stations, wine, beer, a specialty drink and a candy bar filled with goodies to take home.

What's that sound: Out of Control Band performs.

When: May 9, 7-11 p.m.
Where: Moonlight Studios, 1446 W. Kinzie
Introducing...

Lettuce Entertain You's latest concept showcases up-and-coming chefs

BY SAMANTHA LANDE

This year's James Beard Foundation Lifetime Achievement recipient Rich Melman is no rookie in the restaurant business. With over 40 years experience — or as he jokingly describes it, "forty years of mistakes" — and more than 100 restaurants worldwide in his Lettuce Entertain You empire, he has a track record of success. With his latest venture, Intro, Melman and chef partner Matthew Kirkley (L2O) introduce a concept that will serve as a blank canvas for up-and-coming chefs.

"Lettuce Entertain You] has always been a very entrepreneurial organization," Melman says. "I like coaching, and I want to introduce Chicago to new chefs from around the country who I think will be stars. Chefs are mostly artists; we'd like to help make them more business savvy."

Chefs will rotate through the space every two or three months, and have creative reign over everything from the menu to music to décor, while Melman and the other partners at Lettuce will help each refine his or her idea and provide mentorship on the business side.

Here's what you can expect right now at Intro:

Chef stats:
The inaugural chef-in-residence is CJ Jacobson, "Top Chef" alum and executive chef of Girasol restaurant in Studio City, California. He describes his menu as rustic-refined with some California touches and elements of foraging.

Into the woods:

1. Fluke, avocado, radish and Douglas fir
2. Oxtail tea, rutabaga "ramen" and aronia berries
3. Kombucha, Juniper snow, chocolate and sunflower seed

Sourcing local ingredients in Chicago in the dead of winter wasn't an easy task, but Jacobson managed to find some great indigenous plants he foraged himself. He utilizes Douglas fir in his fresh fluke dish — with avocado, Korean chili paste, radish and a Douglas fir jus — as well as in an earthy Fir Mule cocktail with vodka, Douglas fir syrup and ginger beer.

Tick-tock: Instead of reservations, Intro uses Tock, a ticket system developed by Nick Kokonas (Alinea, Next). Diners pre-purchase tickets for the tasting menu for a particular date and time — prices range from $65-$95 for Jacobson's menu — and can add on supplemental dishes and drink pairings.

Fruit forward: Jacobson partnered with the West Loop's Harvest Juicery to create a non-alcoholic beverage pairing ($30) to complement his dishes, using interesting combinations like fennel and watercress and blood orange and tarragon. Juice takes the forefront in some of the cocktails, too, like the Sparkling Vampyro ($12) with beet, apple, elderflower and sparkling wine.

2300 N. Lincoln Park West, (773) 868-0002; Introchicago.com

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SUN. FEB. 22 AT 3:30PM

FRI. MAR. 13 AT 8PM

SAT. MAR. 14 AT 8PM

SUN. MAR. 15 AT 7PM

SAT. MAY 9 AT 1PM & 4PM

ROSEMONT THEATRE

TICKETS ON SALE NOW! For tickets go to RosemontTheatre.com or visit the box office.
Movies and boxing have long gone hand in glove, from "Somebody Up There Likes Me" to "Million Dollar Baby." The combination of athleticism and brutality, aspiration and anguish, are a rich mix from which to spin a cinematic story. The sweet science has been depicted on stage, too, perhaps most famously in Howard Sackler's "The Great White Hope," which recalled the life of Jack Johnson, who became the first African-American world heavyweight champion in 1908. With "The Royale," now at American Theater Company, playwright Marco Ramirez takes a page from history, as well — but he's not playing biographer.

"I did enough research so that I could tell the story dramatically, but not too much so that I got held down by it," says Ramirez. "That's why I've made sure to say this isn't the Jack Johnson story; this is Jay Jackson, a guy I made up."

Jackson knows his way around the ring as well as anyone, and he's itching to prove it by convincing the retired undefeated white heavyweight champion to dance. He's asking for trouble in more ways than one, not only testing his talent but running the risk of a racially driven backlash. Ramirez, whose writing credits include the Netflix series "Orange Is the New Black," notes: "Lots of people hated Jack Johnson. They considered him boastful or flashy, the same way they hate Kobe Bryant or Kanye West. This is obviously a play about a race issue, but at its core, this is a play about what makes a champion tick."

Audiences shouldn't expect "Raging Bull" reality in the show. Not only is that tough to pull off onstage, but Ramirez isn't keen on it. "I watch movies for that. [The play's] fight scenes are stylized in a way that puts us inside the fighters' heads. To me, 'The Royale' would've been lazy and unexciting with realistic boxing sequences. It's like when someone's telling you the story of a dream they had last night. You don't really care about how they flew through the sky or swam through a river of gold. You care when they tell you that you showed up in it, riding an elephant."
ON SPEED DIAL ...

John Lithgow

The actor brings his one-man show to Aurora's Paramount Theatre BY ELLE EICHINGER

It's great to have a show you can take out any old time and perform for people," says John Lithgow, the Emmy-, Tony- and Golden Globe-winning actor behind "Stories by Heart," coming to Paramount Theatre (23 E. Galena, Aurora) for one night only March 7. Though he's been performing the show off and on since 2008, Lithgow will introduce viewers to a brand new story with this performance.

Calling from: "New York. This morning I performed for the very first time the story I'm going to debut [in Aurora] for about 12 friends, so I'm high as a kite."

Behind "Stories by Heart": "My father used to read stories to my siblings and me from a big fat book called 'Tellers of Tales; [one of our favorites was] by P.G. Wodehouse. When my father was an old man and I was looking after him, I decided to read him [the same] bedtime stories... He was ill and giving up on life, but when I read that story, it came alive in my head and it made him laugh and laugh and laugh. He lived another 18 months and, in my mind, the story got him going again. A few years later, I decided to learn the story [and perform it]."

Before a show: "The preparation is the plane ride to town, that's when I review my lines."

I get recognized most often from: "'3rd Rock from the Sun' and 'Dexter.' The gratifying thing is that when people do recognize me, they very often compliment me not just for one thing but for (the fact that there are) 20 things they know me from. That's a source of pride for me."

Pet peeve: "Maybe cell phones going off in an audience — there's nothing worse than that."

People would be surprised to know: "I feel like I've told just about everything there is to tell about me — I have no surprises left!"

Up next: "On Tuesday, I [started] filming ["The Accountant"] with Ben Affleck, above. It's a terrific suspense story. I'd love to tell you many things about it — but I don't think I will..."

For tickets to "Stories by Heart" ($45), visit Paramountaurora.com.

For more information call Mary Kapella PhD, RN or Franco Laghi MD at (312) 996-1575, 9:30AM to 4:00PM, Monday thru Friday at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Center for Narcolepsy, Sleep & Health Research. This study is funded by the National Institutes of Health.
who to watch

Diamonds in the rough

The co-founder of Ash + Ames empowers women around the world with a glimmering jewelry line

TRISHA ASHWORTH

AGE: 45. CLAIM TO FAME: Co-owner of fine jewelry line Ash + Ames. LIVES IN: Lincoln Park. BRAVE NEW CITY: I'm from California, but I don't mind the cold in Chicago. I think it's quite refreshing. TRANSITIONS: After writing three best-selling books on motherhood and marriage, (my co-founder Amy Nobile) and I were looking for our next chapter, and wanted to balance helping women create their best lives with a charitable component.

JEWELRY: We traveled to Haiti a couple years ago and brought back pieces like beautiful horn cuffs [made by female Haitian artists], and our friends loved them. That sparked the idea for the business: a luxe jewelry brand that supports female artisans around the globe while giving back. WOMAN-TO-WOMAN: We work with women artisans in Chicago, San Francisco, New York and many other countries, [including] Haiti, Sri Lanka, France and Israel. These women are able to be entrepreneurs in their own right, have financial freedom and give back to their communities. WHERE THE HEART IS: We're sponsoring an 18-year-old girl named Michou in Haiti. We're helping her with English lessons and computer and public-speaking skills. She will also begin an apprenticeship in jewelry design. All of our proceeds from pieces created by Haitian artisans go back to Haiti. NOTABLE CLIENTS: Beyoncé loves our gold choker ($305) and Jessica Alba is a huge fan of our double bullet necklace ($450). CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: My pave diamond studs ($395) — I wear them every single day. SPRING TREND: The color aqua, fringe, suede and gold — delicate golds are gorgeous with florals.

For more information, visit Ashandames.com.
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Photos courtesy of Stanley Kovak, MD
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Great Danes: From Copenhagen, Odense, etc.

BY S.N. | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN
(stannewman.com)

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2 Surmounting
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8 Make known
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19 Kind of cabbage
20 Kids' song refrain
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66 Searches thoroughly
67 French farewell
68 In ... (undisturbed)
69 Spring sound
70 Wavy lines
71 In a foul mood
72 Yeas and nays
73 Salty solution
74 One, in Verdun
75 Wavy lines
76 Wavy lines
77 Wavy lines
78 Wavy lines
79 Wavy lines
80 Wavy lines
81 Bass ... (cello ancestor)
82 Organic coffee maker?
83 Novelist Jong
84 Squirrels and gerbils
85 Frat parties
86 Upper hand
87 For mature audiences
88 Zingy taste
89 Illustrated map
90 Human
91 Exemplar
92 WWF symbol
93 WWF symbol
94 WWF symbol
95 WWF symbol
96 Mental vagueness
97 2014 Yankee retiree
98 Ivy League team
99 Mustard alternative
100 WWF symbol
101 Part of the ear
102 Denny's rival
103 Dramatics and dance
104 “Doggone it!”
105 Danish-born
father/son
106 Nest-egg initials
107 Homer Simpson grunt
108 Steady look
109 Mannerism
110 Mannerism
111 Unpaid factory worker
112 Examined
113 Spicy dip
114 Chance to win
115 Escapes slowly

Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island. © 2015 Creators Syndicate. All rights reserved.
Quote-Acrostic

1. Define clues, writing in Words column over numbered dashes.
2. Transfer letters to numbered squares in diagram.
3. When pattern is completed, quotation can be read left to right. The first letters of the filled-in words reading down form an acrostic yielding the speaker's name and the topic of the quotation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clues</th>
<th>Words</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Drilling</td>
<td>62 44 29 100 137 129 18 75</td>
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<td>B. Financial</td>
<td>61 9 159 131 87 52 103</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Insult</td>
<td>154 117 20 60 105 11 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Apple pie</td>
<td>81 12 151 126 2 112 161 36 95 145</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Subsequently</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Care</td>
<td>28 49 83 147 70 127 94 160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Aggressive</td>
<td>78 99 158 150 133 132 43 26 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Knocked the</td>
<td>134 101 157 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Anti-Yank</td>
<td>90 50 89 5 143 148 65 23 102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Developed</td>
<td>16 88 36 74</td>
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<tr>
<td>K. Kind of error</td>
<td>96 68 45 77 130 120 7 113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Goal following a downturn</td>
<td>47 141 156 124 22 146 114 104</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. Responded</td>
<td>72 139 67 1 46 92 109 132</td>
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<tr>
<td>N. Part of area calculation</td>
<td>13 116 34 140 107 40</td>
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<tr>
<td>O. Real</td>
<td>19 59 37 153 93 73 121 48 136</td>
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<tr>
<td>P. More spending than income</td>
<td>142 85 30 25 98 55 125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q. Standing up for</td>
<td>27 82 118 41 15 56 162 155 110</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. Concentrates again</td>
<td>63 33 122 115 152 106 54 17 91</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. Fund holding place: 2 wds.</td>
<td>57 135 8 108 69 86 4 76 35</td>
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<tr>
<td>T. Baby or bridal</td>
<td>3 84 51 128 31 97</td>
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<tr>
<td>U. Raw material for plowshares</td>
<td>79 6 58 32 90 42</td>
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Musical Chairs

BY CHARLES PRESTON

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<td>1   '60s song, e.g.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6   Organic-orchard no-no</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10  Pizza baker</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14  Charo's rope</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15  Group of badgers</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16  Eeex's car</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17  Golden Horde member</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18  Surprise attack</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19  Water pipe</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20  Gypsy song</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22  Countertenor</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23  Torn Paper artist</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24  Sea swallow</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25  Gene Autry's horse</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31  Cared for</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34  Lord Byron poem</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>36  Letter drop</td>
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<td>38  Carpenter's box</td>
<td>68</td>
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<tr>
<td>39  Help a hood</td>
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<tr>
<td>40  Mah-jong pieces</td>
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<tr>
<td>42  Beach, FL</td>
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<td>43  Home on the range</td>
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<tr>
<td>45  Stuff</td>
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<td>46  Fiendish</td>
<td>74</td>
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<td>47  Breathing disorder</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>49  Theater feature, once</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51  Garden pest</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53  Former NRC</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54  Bible book</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57  Girl Crazy song</td>
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<tr>
<td>63  View</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
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<td>64  Della's creator</td>
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<td>65  Basketry willow</td>
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<td>66  Stud's place</td>
<td>84</td>
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<td>67  Groovy!</td>
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<td>68  Henri's earth</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69  Pt. of VISTA</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70  Eye sore</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71  Cornered</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13  Forbidden fruit</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>21  Sweatband's place</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>25  Baba ingredient</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26  David Copperfield's mother</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27  Cantina beans</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28  We All: 1929 song</td>
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<tr>
<td>29  Fiddler on the Roof tune</td>
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<tr>
<td>30  Golfer Henke</td>
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<tr>
<td>32  Eydie's partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>33  Preternatural</td>
<td>99</td>
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<tr>
<td>34  Witty</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>37  Private talk</td>
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<td>41  Dressmaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>44  Clinic letters</td>
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<td>48  Sigourney sequel</td>
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<td>50  Marge, of the Reds</td>
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<tr>
<td>52  Everglades bird</td>
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<td>54  Poet __ Wheeler</td>
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<tr>
<td>55  Kind of lens</td>
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<td>56  Kimono</td>
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<td>58  Oil of</td>
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<tr>
<td>59  Crossword river</td>
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<tr>
<td>60  Service-station item</td>
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<tr>
<td>61  Roll-call reply</td>
<td>113</td>
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<tr>
<td>62  Early TV sitcom</td>
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<td>1  Food bits</td>
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<td>2  Novelist O'Flaherty</td>
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<tr>
<td>3  Info</td>
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<td>4  Luigi's lang.</td>
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<td>5  Montero feature</td>
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<tr>
<td>6  Greek hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>7  Edward or Evelyn</td>
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<td>8  Slanted</td>
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<td>9  Embarrass</td>
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<td>10 Show Boat song</td>
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<td>11 Medicine bottle</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Radiate</td>
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Life Storage of Humboldt Park will hold a public sale to enforce a lien imposed on said property, as described below, pursuant to the Illinois Self-Storage Facility Act, Illinois Code 770 IICS 95/1 to 95/7, on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at Life Storage of Humboldt Park, 4014 W. Grand Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60651. Phone number is 1-773-235-2884.

Management reserves the right to withdraw any unit from sale. Registered or motor vehicles are sold "As Is / Parts Only," no titles or registration.

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<th>Tenant Name</th>
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<td>Lucinda Davis</td>
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<td>Rosa Perez</td>
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<td>Yvette Young</td>
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<td>Erika Sanchez</td>
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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE TO BE HELD AT THE LOCK UP SELF STORAGE 5250 S. State St. Chicago, IL 60616 DATE** March 26, 2015 **BEGINS AT 11:30 AM CONDITIONS. All units will be sold to the highest bidder. Bids will be taken only for each unit in its entirety. Payment must be made by cash, credit card, or certified funds. No personal checks will be accepted. All goods must be removed from the unit within 24 hours of payment. Payment due immediately upon acceptance of bid. Unit availability subject to prior settlement of account.**

**Car Owners**

Our Transportion Classifieds will drive readers to your automobile ad! Call 866-399-0537 or visit placeanad.tribunesuburbs.com

**Automotive**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autos for Sale</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012 Honda Civic LX 35k mi.</td>
<td>Cal. Title, Auto, Ext. cond.</td>
<td>$14,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014 BMW 328i</td>
<td>Cal. Title, Auto, Ext. cond.</td>
<td>$35,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Toyota Corolla</td>
<td>Cal. Title, Auto, Ext. cond.</td>
<td>$19,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**SPORTS**

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#connect
The Morton Grove Park celebrates Korean culture on March 11 at the Civic Center, 6140 Dempster St.

Morton Grove Park District showcases Korean culture

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

The spotlight will shine on Korea at Morton Grove Park District's Seasonal Showcase of Cultures, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, at the American Legion Memorial Civic Center, 6140 Dempster St.

"This is part of a series of events that we started to showcase the different cultures that encompass Morton Grove," said recreation supervisor Katie Halverson.

There will be a performance by IlKwaNori, which is Korean for "work and play," a poongmul (Korean percussion ensemble) group. According to the website, poongmul has been performed for centuries by Korean commoners "to celebrate hard work, build courage and hope for the future, give thanks for a good harvest, and generally liven up daily life."

"We're going to have a Korean dessert table with all different kinds of rice cakes," Halverson said. "When you purchase a ticket at the door, you'll get some dessert tickets, as well."

The Morton Grove Historical Museum will have a table display of items related to Korean culture. Tickets cost $5. For details, call 847-677-5277, or go to www.mortongroveparks.com.

Homeward bound

Fans of "Little House on the Prairie" can learn more about its author when ArtsPower presents "Laura Ingalls Wilder: A Musical Performance," 3 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. The program is for children in kindergarten through fifth grade and families. Registration is required.

For details, call 847-673-7774, or go to www.skokie-library.info.

Enter enchanted world

An ancient Celtic tale will come alive when Linda Marie Smith presents "Meara: Selkie from the Sea," 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 15, at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. The program of original songs and projected images will stir the imaginations of children and adults.

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

News flash

Kids can lend a hand and a puppet to the World Record Challenge: Puppet "Flash Mob" for Early Literacy, 10 to 10:45 a.m. Saturday, March 21, at the Book Market at Hangar One, 2651 Navy Blvd., Glen Town Center, Glenview. Registration begins Friday, March 6, at www.theglenowncenter.com. Participants receive free tickets to the "Stars on Strings" puppet show.

For details, call 847-729-7500, or go to www.glenviewpl.org.

That string thing

String puppets will skate, juggle, tumble and transform when marionette artist Dave Herzog and puppeteer Marc Dunworth present "Stars on Strings," 11:15 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 21, at the Lakeview Room, Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview. Pick up free tickets at the World Record Challenge.

For details, call 847-729-7500, or go to www.glenviewpl.org.
St. Patrick’s Day crafts

BY BETH ENGELMAN
Pioneer Press

March is here, and with it comes the Irish merriment of St. Patrick’s Day. Celebrate this March 17 with crafts, recipes and a little leprechaun hi jinks.

Mischief-Making Leprechaun Doughnuts

According to Irish folklore, leprechauns are elusive tricksters who love to pull pranks and cause good-hearted mischief. Create some mischief by cooking up a batch of leprechaun-sized doughnuts. Imagine your kid’s delight. Of course each box fits inside the palm of your hand, but that’s all part of the fun!

You need:
- “O” shaped cereal, such as Cheerios
- Chocolate chips, white or dark
- Cooking oil
- Sprinkles
- Sugar
- Cinnamon-sugar
- Powdered sugar
- Waxed paper
- Doughnut Box template (available for no cost at parents.com/fun/printables/familyfun-printables). Note: You’ll need to go to page 2 on the site, in the March 2014 magazine section, and sign in to access the download.

Tweezers

Directions:
To make chocolate doughnuts, melt the chocolate chips and add a teaspoon or two of oil (the oil will make the chocolate shiny).

Use tweezers to dip the top of the cereal in chocolate then place on a piece of waxed paper.

Cover doughnut with sprinkles or powdered sugar and set aside to dry.

To make the cinnamon-sugar doughnuts, bring 1/2 cup of water to boil. Add 1/2 cup sugar and stir until dissolved.

Use tweezers to dip the

Candy-coated pretzels turn into shamrocks

Cereal in the sugar syrup and then toss into a bowl of cinnamon-sugar.

Place on waxed paper until dry.

Print out doughnut box template and assemble according to directions.

When doughnuts are dry, place them in the box until breakfast.

Thank you to Family Fun Magazine for sharing this recipe.

Melted Crayon Rainbow

At the end of every rainbow is a pot of gold, or in this case a really beautiful design of melted wax. I can’t promise this craft will make you wealthy, but you will have a lovely piece of art that will add richness to any room.

You need:
- Crayons
- Hot glue gun
- Canvas
- Hair dryer

Directions:
This craft can be messy so I suggest covering your work area with newspaper. Arrange crayons in rainbow order.

A leprechaun-size box of doughnuts

Glue Crayons to canvas in order.

Set aside for an hour until glue has dried.

Arrange crayons in rainbow order.

Glue Crayons to canvas in order.

Set aside for an hour until glue has dried.

Glue Crayons to canvas in order.

Set aside for an hour until glue has dried.

Candy-coated pretzels turn into shamrocks

Cereal in the sugar syrup and then toss into a bowl of cinnamon-sugar.

Place on waxed paper until dry.

Print out doughnut box template and assemble according to directions.

When doughnuts are dry, place them in the box until breakfast.

Thank you to Family Fun Magazine for sharing this recipe.

Chocolate Shamrocks

These delicious shamrocks make a great after school treat or lovely gift for friends and neighbors. Remember on Patrick’s Day, everyone is Irish.

You need:
- Green chocolate candy disks (available at most craft stores)
- Mini pretzels
- Pretzel sticks
- Wax paper

Directions:
Melt chocolate in microwave or double boiler.

Dip pretzels in chocolate and arrange on waxed paper in groups of 3 to resemble a shamrock. Add a pretzel stick as the stem.

Set aside until chocolate has cooled and hardened.

CROSSWORD CORRECTION

ACROSS
1 Furnishes
8 Bit of body art, for short
11 "St. ___ Fire" (Brat Pack film)
16 Book reviewer?
19 Expel, as from a club
20 Historical chapter
21 Turnpike turnoffs [intimate, in a way]
23 Narrator of “Amaeduus” [go to bed]
24 Pet food brand [recover lost ground]
26 Compassionate [finally become]
28 City of Light creator at the 1893 World’s Fair
29 Welles of “The Third Man”
30 Dunderhead
31 Attaches, in a way
32 Barbershop sound
36 Dealer’s enemy
38 Ridicule
41 Country with the longest coastline
44 Comic strip dog
45 Skateboarder’s safety item [snail]
51 Goodbyes [abate]
52 Flagman
53 Point at the ceiling? [misbehave]
55 She’s not light-headed [anass]
57 Embarrassing puts to miss
59 Cosmic balance
60 Lit group
61 Film library unit
63 Guy’s partner
64 Storied voyager
65 What each group of shaded words in this puzzle does
69 Dark looks
73 Get some Z’s
74 Subtle emanation
75 Concert poster info
79 Comic actress
80 Four-legged orphans
83 Activity done in front of a mirror [clearly define]
85 Office trash [resign]
87 Start of many rapper names
89 Upset stomach [conserve]
90 Loud and harsh [start 91 ___ Tea State (Maine)]
91 ___ Tree State (Maine)
92 Like March Madness teams
93 Contentment
95 Theater giant?
96 Establishes
97 Release tension, possibly
102 Big tank
104 What sahrons lack
108 Finnish outbuilding
109 Control of one’s actions [fall in great quarte]
114 Granite dome in Georgia [moderate]
117 Converses à la Tracy and Hepburn [pay in advance]
119 Athens landmark
120 Retro music collection
121 Do without a radiator
122 Over there
123 Brought on
124 Stan of Marvel Comics
125 Lectures

DOWN
1 Super Bowl highlights, to some
2 House on campus
3 Precamping purchase
4 Luxury hotel chain
5 Barrel racing venue
6 Printmaker Albrect
7 Mixes up
8 Appetizer with puréed olives
9 Pueo extinguisher
10 Balustrade location
11 Physicist Rutherford after whom rutherfordium is named
12 Radiation shield material
13 Hosts, for short
14 Muesli tidbit
15 Electoral map division
16 Setting for a castle
17 Painter Ocello
18 City on the Nile
19 They’re all in the same boat
20 “... Late” (Ricky Nelson hit)
21 Banquet V.I.P’s
22 Wild guess
23 Strikers’ replacements
24 “Taxi” character
25 Get some Z’s
26 What each group of shaded words in this puzzle does
27 Mini pretzels
28 Wax paper
29 Cereal in the sugar syrup and then toss into a bowl of cinnamon-sugar.
30 Crayon box template
31 Waxed paper
32 Place on waxed paper until dry.
33 Directions:
34 Print out doughnut box template and assemble according to directions.
35 When doughnuts are dry, place them in the box until breakfast.
36 Thank you to Family Fun Magazine for sharing this recipe.
37 Melted Crayon Rainbow
38 Directions:
39 At the end of every rainbow is a pot of gold, or in this case a really beautiful design of melted wax. I can’t promise this craft will make you wealthy, but you will have a lovely piece of art that will add richness to any room.
40 You need:
41 Green chocolate candy disks (available at most craft stores)
42 Mini pretzels
43 Pretzel sticks
44 Wax paper
45 Directions:
46 This craft can be messy so I suggest covering your work area with newspaper. Arrange crayons in rainbow order.
47 A leprechaun-size box of doughnuts
48 Glue Crayons to canvas in order.
49 Set aside for an hour until glue has dried.
50 Prop canvas against a wall at a 45-degree angle.
51 Use a hair dryer to slowly melt the crayons and watch as gravity helps create a stunning rainbow.
52 Chocolate Shamrocks
53 These delicious shamrocks make a great after school treat or lovely gift for friends and neighbors. Remember on Patrick’s Day, everyone is Irish.
54 You need:
55 Green chocolate candy disks (available at most craft stores)
56 Mini pretzels
57 Pretzel sticks
58 Wax paper
59 Directions:
60 Melt chocolate in microwave or double boiler.
61 Dip pretzels in chocolate and arrange on waxed paper in groups of 3 to resemble a shamrock. Add a pretzel stick as the stem.
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Friday, March 6

Chicago A Cappella American Songbook: Hear a cappella adaptations of classic songs from Gershwin, Porter, Berlin and others. 8 p.m. Friday, Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, 111 W. Campbell St., Arlington Heights, $35, 847-577-2121

"Titus Andronicus": Babes With Blades Theatre Company will serve up the blood and pie with their upcoming production of William Shakespeare's most violent play, performed by an all-female cast 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, City Lit Theatre Company, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, $10-$22, 773-293-3682

'Sondheim on Sondheim': Porchlight Music Theatre presents an intimate portrait of the famed songwriter in his own words and music featuring new arrangements of more than two-dozen Sondheim tunes. 8 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, $35-$45, 773-327-5252

'Next Thing You Know!': This is the story of four 20-something New Yorkers as they laugh, love and drink their way through the big questions that face all young dreamers who wake up in the city that never sleeps. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 6 p.m. Sunday, The Den, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $15

Into the Bat Caves of Kenya: Scientists Bruce Patterson and Paul Weba, accompanied by vlogger Emily Graslie, venture deep into a cave in Kenya's Mount Suswa to study the varied bats of East Africa. 9 a.m. All week, Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, free, 312-922-9410

'Edgar and Annebelle': Sam Holcroft's play throws us into a world of government surveillance and societal distrust. Against the odds, a young married couple thrives, at least to those who are listening. 4:15 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, The Side Project Theater, 1439 W. Jarvis Ave., Chicago, $15, 773-904-0391

The Hammer Trinity: The Excelsior King: Sixteen actors bring 54 characters to life in a tale spanning three full-length plays: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division St., Chicago, $15-$30, 773-769-3832

The Church: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $30, 773-489-3160

'Forgotten Future: The Education Project': This film is inspired by the dysfunction of the American education system and it explores three students' unique perspectives of the Chicago school system and how it both serves and is failing them and their potential future. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday, Flat Iron Arts Building, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $30, 312-335-3000

Chicago Styled: Fashioning the Magnificent Mile: This exhibition uses 20 outfits from the museum's costume collection to tell the story of a street, in fashion. The exhibit runs Nov. 15 to Aug. 16 and is free with admission. 9:30 a.m. Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday and 12 p.m. Sunday, Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St., Chicago, free, 312-642-4600

'The Walk Across America for Mother Earth': Political activism meets bedazzled drag show in this story about two young friends who flee their suburban upbringing in "Real America" to join a ragtag group of activists on a protest march from D.C. to Nevada. 8 p.m. Friday, Sunday and Wednesday, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, 1650 N. Halsted St., Chicago, $20, 312-335-1650

'Dear John Hughes': See how for the Record, a Los Angeles collective that brings the written word to life. 1 p.m. Thursday (with two pieces by songwriter Steve Winwood), and 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, TimeLine Theatre, 615 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago, $35-$48, 773-281-8463

Brooklyn's Other Desert Cities: Award-winning play tells the story of a writer who comes home for Christmas with plans to write a tell-all memoir. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday, Citadel Theatre Company, 300 S. Waukegan Road, Lake Forest, $35-$3750, 847-735-8554

Woodland Academy presents As You Like It: See William Shakespeare's As You Like It featuring original music composed by students and faculty members. 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Woodland Academy of the Sacred Heart, 760 E. Westleigh Road, Lake Forest, $8-$10, 847-234-4300

Voices of Chicago presented by ARTicuLIT Readers Theatre: Focusing on the rich imagery of poets with ties to Illinois, this dramatized reading offers works ranging from the poignant to the whimsical. Among the poets represented are Carl Sandburg, Archibald MacLeish, Gwendolyn Brooks, Vachel Lindsay, Edgar Lee Masters and Lisel Mueller. The program concludes with two pieces by songwriter Steve Goodman. Enjoy the pre-matination by ARTicuLIT's six performers as they bring the written word to life. 1 p.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member, $15 non-member, 847-784-6030

Go Calendar: Over 100 parent volunteers perform at this show. Down on his luck, Captain Cavendish must sail his boat in order to pay his Turn to Go Calendar, Next Page
bills. This becomes a hilarious debacle when the crew quits and leaves him only his loyal First Mate, Haho and Carl the deck hand on board. The captain must employ his family and friends to jump in and help him sail his ship. 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, Eugene Field Elementary School, 707 Wisner St., Park Ridge, $8, 847-685-5055

Bruce Campbell's Horror Fest: In addition to Campbell ("The Evil Dead", "Army of Darkness"), fans can meet Tobin Bell ("Saw" franchise), Tyler Labine and Alan Tudyk of "Tucker & Dale vs. Evil", Dee Snider ("Twisted Sister"), Danny Hicks ("Evil Dead II", "Intruder"), Michael Rooker ("The Walking Dead", "Guardians of the Galaxy"), Kristy Swanson ("Buffy The Vampire Slayer", "8 Heads in a Duffel Bag"), Adrienne Barbeau ("Creepshow", "Escape from New York") and many others. 5 p.m. Friday, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont, $35-$80, 847-692-2220

Wilmette Theatre Hosts DOC Fest: See selections from the 1960s and 1970s in the documentary film fest. See website for film times and titles. 2 p.m. All week, Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette, $7.50, 847-251-7424

Saturday, March 7

Start Me Up: A Tribute to The Rolling Stones: 7 p.m. Saturday, Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, 111 W. Campbell St., Arlington Heights, $30, 847-577-2121

The Magician and his Shadow: This magic show is about more than just magic. Theater Wit describes this production as a "theatrical magic show that combines magical illusions with the story of a magician whose shadow takes on a life of its own." 1 p.m. Saturday, Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, $14.50 for children, $17.50 for adults, 773-975-8150

'Heat Wave': This play is set in Chicago, in the summer of 1995, and an intense heat wave has gripped the city. By the time it's all over 739 people will have died, mostly the poor, elderly, or minorities with nowhere to seek shelter. As the morgues overflow, the city's emergency response team is called into question. 1p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Steppenwolf Theatre Garage, 1624 N. Halsted St., Chicago, $15-$20, 312-335-1650

No Shame Theatre: Bring a less-than-five-minute piece of original work--monologue, stand-up, sketches, dance, poetry, original music, magic, mind-reading, performance art, storytelling and sign up for the open mic or watch others throw down. 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Lincoln Loft, 3036 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, $5 suggested donation, 773-680-4596

All Our Twilight: Commemorating the 10th anniversary of "Twilight," this show, written by Bryan Renaud and Emily Schmidt, follows phenoms Edward and Bella, who, according to promotional materials, "are reborn on stage in this four-part musical extravaganza filled with blood, lust and shirtless wolf men." 7 p.m. Saturday, Gorilla Tango Theatre, 1919 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $15, 773-598-4549.

El Bandolero & Souphonetics: 10 p.m. Saturday, Masada, 2206 N. California Ave., Chicago, free, 773-697-8397

3.7 BT: With TYDI. 10p.m. Saturday, The Mid, 306 N. Halsted St, Chicago, free, 312-265-3990

'The Greatest Story Never Told': This event brings families and strangers together to collaborate and create improvised stories on stage. Professional improvisers help coax audience suggestions. 1:30 p.m. Saturday, iO, 3541 N. Clark St., Chicago, $15, 773-880-0199

Mrs. Thrones' World of Miniatures: This is the first book club meeting of the new year. Narcissa Niblack Thorne gained world-wide recognition for the miniature rooms she created with such exacting detail that they became educational tools for students of architecture and interior design. Light refreshments are going to be provided. 11 a.m. Saturday, Richard H. Driehaus Museum, 40 E. Erie St., Chicago, $20-$35, 312-482-8933

Snowstorm Winter Music and Arts Festival: This festival is a celebration of the Windy City's residents' winter resiliency, with headliner Moby, plus Trippy Turtle, The Hood Internet, ASTR, local Chicago artists and more. It's all set in a unique winter wonderland. 6 p.m. Saturday, Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave., Chicago, $25-$100, 312-595-7437

SWAN Day Chicago: This is a one-day mini festival during Women's History month (March) to showcase the arts Turn to Go Calendar, Next Page
Go Calendar, from Previous Page

Saturday, Stage Two Center, Columbia College, 618 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, free

Texas Independence Day Concert:
With Kevin Fowler and Roger Creager. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Joe's Bar, 940 W. Weed St., Chicago, $14, 312-337-3486

The Butterfly Swindlers: 9:30 p.m. Saturday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679

Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra concert: 2 p.m. Saturday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 224-456-2399

Downtown Long Grove's Village Tavern Presents Ice Melting Blues Weekend: The Village Tavern hosts the Ice Melting Blues Weekend Festivities. On Saturday, the festivities take place from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. Studbaker John's Maxwell Street Kings perform the lunch show. Dinner shows highlight the Demetria Taylor Blues Band at 8 p.m. Sunday, the Rockin' Johnny Blues Band featuring Mary Lane plays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call for reservations. See website for menu. 12 p.m. Saturday, Village Tavern, 135 N. Old McHenry Road, Long Grove, $10 Cover for Saturday Evening Shows, 847-634-3117

Silver Screen Series: 'The Seven Year Itch': "The Seven Year Itch" (1955, not rated, 1 hr. 45 min.) A middle-aged married man is tempted by his beautiful new neighbor while his family is away for the summer. 2 p.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 640 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Wizard World Comic Con presents Fan Fest Chicago: Karen Gillan, Kristin Bauer, Karyn Parsons and Tracey Gold are among the celebrities and industry professionals scheduled to be in attendance. 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont, $15-$25; free for children 10 and younger with a paid adult admission, 847-692-2220

Dinner Detective: Be a part of this award-winning, interactive comedic murder mystery dinner show in the U.S. Prizes awarded to the Top Sleuths. 6 p.m. Saturday, Chicago Marriott Schaumburg, 50 N. Martingale Road, Schaumburg, $59.95, 866-496-0535

Sunday, March 8

Requiem Concert: The Chancel Choir and Orchestra performs works by John Leavitt, Byrd, Mozart, Faure and Bach. 3 p.m. Sunday, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1234 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Donations accepted, 847-255-8700

Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players; Rags, Rhythm and Reels: 12 p.m. Sunday, City Winery Chicago, 1200 W. Randolph St., Chicago, $20-$30, 312-957-0000

Here, Chicago storytelling show and potluck: Join Here, Chicago for true stories from some of Chicago's most interesting thinkers and creators. This month features Michael Powell, beloved CTA "Friendly Redline Conductor," Rachael Mason, director of advanced improvisation at The Second City, Bill Hillman, internationally acclaimed novelist and founder of the Windy City Story Slam, and Julianne Dennison, former pastor and international human rights activist. Five open storytelling spots are offered and there is a giant community potluck dinner. 8 p.m. Sunday, Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, Free with a potluck dish, or $8, 773-975-8150

When Harry Met Irving: Judy Rossignolu-Rice and Denise McGowan Tracy perform the music of Harold Arlen and Irving Berlin, 7 p.m. Sunday, Dav enport's Piano Bar and Cabaret, 1383 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $20, 773-278-1830

Travis Scott and Young Thug: 6 p.m. Sunday, Concord Music Hall, 2407 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $29.50

Ben Tatar and the Tatar Tots: 11 a.m. Sunday, Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, $6

The Robert Cray Band: 6:30 p.m. Sunday, House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, $32.50, 312-923-2000

'Housebroken Loves Love': Housebroken teaming with comedy band Tiberius. 8 p.m. Sunday, Public House, 400 N. State St., Chicago, $7, 312-265-1240

Faure Masterworks: 3 p.m. Sunday, St. Gregory the Great Church, 5535 N. Paulina St., Chicago, Free-$20, 708-991-0997

Turn to Go Calendar, Next Page

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metromix.com
Monday, March 9

Film screening: 'The Little Princess': Bring the whole family to see this 1939 film about a little girl left by her father in an exclusive seminary for girls, due to her father having to go to Africa with the army. 6:30 p.m. Monday, Drake Hotel, 140 E. Walton Place, Chicago, $12, 312-787-2200.

The Mixer at The Playground Theater: This workshop includes top performers and coaches followed by everyone working in a long-form show. BYOB. 10 p.m. Monday, The Playground Theater, 3209 N. Halsted St., Chicago, $5, 773-871-3793.

Live Bluegrass, Roots and Folk: Every Monday in the pub, The Mudflaps perform. 8 p.m. Monday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679.

Tuesday, March 10

Irish music session: Enjoy Irish music every Tuesday night. 7 p.m. Tuesday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679.

Wednesday, March 11

The Illusionists: This magic show, originally performed on Broadway, features seven talented magicians performing their acts. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph St., Chicago, TBA, 800-775-2000.

A day trip to West Side Story: Go see the classic play at the Drury Lane Theatre. Fee includes lunch, theatre ticket and transportation from the North Shore Senior Center in Northfield. 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $89-$105, 847-784-6030.

Like Water for Chocolate: Directed by Alfonso Arau, 1992, Mexico, 105 min. Set in Mexico at the turn of the 20th century during the Mexican revolution. Food and sex, food and love, life and death are related to faith and humanity in this delightfully sensuous film based on the novel by Laura Esquivel. The film became an international hit, and the ultimate food on film experience. Discussion of film led after showing by filmmaker Reid Schultz. 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12-$15, 847-784-6030.

Have an event to submit? Go to chicagotribune/calendar.

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"The DUFF" ★★
PG-13, 1:40, comedy. "The DUFF" stands for "Designated Ugly Fat Friend." From that cruel acronym, we now have a movie designed to appeal to fans of the source material. Kody Keplinger wrote the book when she was 17 and a merry slave to high school clique cliches. But her sense of humor appealed to older readers as well — basically to anyone who hadn't left behind the old teenage insecurities about looks, status, social stratification and feeling like a loser. We've all been there. What happens in "The DUFF" could be treated as a tragedy (and has been, recently, in "Men, Women and Children," among others). Here, it's handled as a comedy of humiliation, pockmarked with smiley-face emoticons where you wouldn't mind some real emotion. — Michael Phillips

"Fifty Shades of Grey" ★★½
R, 2:05, drama. Adapted and directed by women of considerably larger talent than novelist E L James, the film version of "Fifty Shades of Grey" turns out to be an intriguing tussle — not in the sack, in the Red Room of Pain, but in its internal war between the dubious erotica of James' novel (the first of three) and the far craftier trash offered by the movie. — M.P.

"Kingsman: The Secret Service" ★½
R, 2:09, action. Colin Firth portrays one of the crack gentlemen-spies working for a supersecret agency out to save the world from a crackpot billionaire philanthropist (Samuel L. Jackson). As Firth's colleagues, Michael Caine and Mark Strong offer unblinking gazes par excellence. And Welsh newcomer Taron Egerton is engaging as "Eggsy," recruited by Firth's Harry Hart to join the Kingsman cadre. Based on the 2012 graphic novel "The Secret Service" by Mark Millar and Dave Gibbons, director Matthew Vaughn's picture will appeal to anyone who enjoyed Vaughn's earlier "Kick-Ass." I didn't. I find the jocularity of Vaughn's gamer-style violence a drag. — M.P.

"McFarland, USA" ★★★
PG, 2:08, drama. Upbeat, inspirational films about cross-country athletes defy odds for success. And it's nice to see a movie that is, well, nice. Nice but not dumb. The town of the title lies in the San Joaquin Valley agriculture region of central California. Kevin Costner plays Jim White, who in 1987 leaves Boise, Idaho, with his family to relocate to McFarland. There, in a largely Latino community, the aptly named Whites are faced with finding their friends and their place in this land of lowriders and hot, hot sun. Jim realizes he's surrounded by raw running talent. The boys with the stamina and the stuff of champions are the sons of farm laborers. The movie is a team-building exercise, leading in well-worn but satisfying fashion to the first big meet, then to the first big crisis of confidence, then to statewide competition. — M.P.

"The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water" ★½
PG, 1:32, animation. "SpongeBob SquarePants" made its Nickelodeon TV debut in 1999. The series is the generator behind an $8 billion merchandising revenue stream. The plot of "The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water" honors the series' key themes. Plankton is still after Mr. Krabs' secret formula for Krabby Patties. A 2011 University of Virginia study published in the journal Pediatrics points to the TV show as the probable cause of "short-term disruptions in mental function and attention span" among preschool audiences. I experienced similar disruptions watching "Sponge out of Water" — disruptions I generally enjoy with the right movie, a funnier one than this. — M.P.
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MARCH 18TH, 2:00-3:30PM

Sean Cleland, Fiddle
Award-winning Irish fiddle player, Irish music teacher, adjudicator, collaborator, producer and executive director of the Irish Music School of Chicago.

Jim DeWan, Guitar, Bouzouki, Vocals
Recorded and performed across the US and Europe. Serves currently on the faculties of the Irish Music School of Chicago and the Old Town School of Folk Music.

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By Robert Duffer

Certain experiences promise a thrill: roller coasters, free fall, love. Add “The D” to the list.

Tesla’s Model S P85D, the all-wheel drive variant of the all-electric Model S, is like no other car on the road. I say this without hyperbole. The D goes 0-60 mph in 3.2 seconds, making it the fastest production model sedan ever built. It fits five comfortably, with more cargo room than most crossovers. It burns no gas. It has an “Insane Mode.”

With twin motors mounted on each axle, the full-size sedan also offers full confidence, unlike two-seat rockets with whisked rear ends or rear-wheel-drive horsepower beasts best driven by a pro. The D builds on the same structure that earned the P85 a five-star safety rating from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The massive 85 kilowatt-hour battery pack is at the bottom of the car extended between the axles, giving it a low center of gravity and even better balance across the car.

In a pair of much more sensational cases, road debris pierced the battery pack at the car bottom, and the cars caught fire. The system warned the drivers before, and both walked away not only unscathed but eager to return to their warranty-covered Model S.

The technology, more so than the performance, may be the biggest appeal.

Tesla’s AWD Model S P85D, which includes extra upfront cargo space, above, goes 0-60 mph in 3.2 seconds, making it the fastest production model sedan ever built. A charging station is above left.

The D can satisfy nearly every desire for an everyday driver: family sedan, sports rocket, all-weather confidence, top safety rating and the most user-friendly interface on the market.

Consider Tesla as a tech firm that makes cars. As such, it’s had a few bugs, glitches and, dare I say, a few crashes. The technology, more so than the performance, may be the biggest appeal of the Model S, even in the case of the insane D.

“The all-wheel drive isn’t what I’d want,” said Mark Sami, an IT consultant in the Loop who owned a BMW 6-series before buying his Model S P85. “It’s the autopilot.”

Autopilot uses cameras, radar and sonar sensors with real-time traffic updates to enable the car to drive itself and park itself. This self-driving car feature is part of a tech package for $4,250.

Getting regular software updates from a smartphone is expected; for a luxury car, expectations differ.

There is a little bit of a letdown when seven to eight months into ownership, now there’s a P85D with new seats and all the kinds stuff you wish you had, ” said Meena Barsoum, a dentist from Chicago.

The D’s technology of the user interface is above and beyond. With voice commands that are nearly flawless. To expect that other automakers can’t offer this level of sophistication because it would alienate or intimidate a wide swath of consumers is faulty; if automakers made systems this intuitive and easy to learn, consumers just might embrace them.

One minor complaint is that you have to hold down the voice command button while talking, but it also increases fidelity on the call and ping systems of less evolved vehicles.

If I’m going to be that critical, I’ll add that it’s disappointing, especially in a car costing $133,320, that the back seats lack climate control or seat adjustment functions like those in other luxury sedans. Such is the trade-off for Recaro race-inspired seats.

Otherwise, the D is a peerless thrilling machine with widespread capabilities. Or, as my 8-year-old put it, “It’s like a race car that’s also a family car.”
Northridge wins regional title, still set on improving

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

NILES — One by one, Northridge's basketball players climbed an orange ladder and clipped off a piece of net in their home gym. Many of the Knights' supporters formed a half-circle around the hoop and cheered each snip.

Northridge coach Will Rey was last to climb the ladder on Feb. 26. He cut off the final pieces of the net, then tossed it into a cluster of Knights.

The naked basket was raised to the rafters soon after Northridge finished celebrating its 49-16 dismantling of Chicago Math and Science in the Class 2A Northridge Regional championship game.

It wasn't scheduled to stay that way for long, however. Joe Kestler, the school's maintenance man, was expected to put up a new net before Northridge began practice on Friday, Rey said. Then the Knights planned to get back to work.

"Our best is yet to come," Northridge senior forward Charlie Newell said. "Our goal is to get better. All the wins, all the nets, all the trophies—that's just a byproduct of what we're trying to do. We're just trying to get better.

That sentiment was echoed by Rey, senior point guard Dylan Haig (17 points) and senior forward Matt Brown (eight points, six rebounds, four steals). It's remained the mind-set all season for the Knights, who used a suffocating zone defense to hold Chicago Math and Science (15-9) to 4-for-33 shooting from the field.

After the game, Rey ran down the list of things that need to improve. It included defensive rebounding, positioning on defense and making the extra pass against a shot blocker.

"Right now, the things we've got to get better at are all little things," Rey said. "They're all little, tiny details that we can't let slide under the carpet because we won the game. That's our focus now, is: How do we get better?"

Northridge (22-6) seems to be poised to make a deep postseason run. Its zone defense is locked in and very hard to score against. Haig is a smart, experienced point guard who can both score and generate open looks for his teammates. Junior Patrick Hunt—who hit six 3-pointers in Northridge's regional semifinal win on Feb. 24—and Haig are both capable shooters from deep.

Furthermore, Bowen, Newell and junior forward Joe Eck give the squad size and rebounding in the paint. The Knights, who are also experienced, were scheduled to play Parker in front of their rowdy home fans in Wednesday's Class 2A Northridge Sectional semifinal.

They aren't talking about making it to state, though. Or even about climbing the same orange ladder to cut down the nets after the sectional final on Friday.

Their focus is on the short term, nothing more.

"We really can't think about that [making a deep run] right now because that's not the proper mindset to have," Brown said.

Haig added: "The most important thing we're worried about right now is improving and getting better in the next couple of practices."

Game notes

- Chicago Math and Science senior forward Brandon Miller scored 14 of his team's 16 points, grabbed 10 rebounds, made two steals and blocked two shots.
- Hunt finished with seven points for Northridge. Junior guard Pablo Esparza had six points.

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Wearing yarmulkes during games not always easy for Yeshiva players

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

NILES — Before his team's final game of the season, Yeshiva's Sam Golding got a haircut.

Golding opted for a buzz cut. The perpetually in-style haircut usually doesn't have any impact on basketball players. However, that wasn't the case for Golding in Yeshiva's 64-19 loss to Northridge on Feb. 26 because the senior forward and his teammates wear yarmulkes during their games.

Some of Yeshiva's players, including junior Michael Younes, were able to keep their yarmulkes on for the majority of the game, but Golding's yarmulke continued to fall off.

"If it falls off, it's not like every time I'm going to run back and put it back on, no matter what happens in the game," Golding said. "I'm going to continue to play, and then at the next opportunity, I'll put it back on and put the clips back on. Or put it in my waistband until I get a better opportunity to put it back on my hair."

There was a moment in the Class 2A regional semifinal against host Northridge, for example, when Golding sprinted down the court as part of a Yeshiva fast break. He felt his yarmulke start to slip off, then caught it while he was running and stuffed it into his waistband.

Sometimes, a player or referee would throw a loose yarmulke toward Yeshiva's bench.

"The refs will usually stop the game, or they'll keep it off and throw it to the side," Younes said. "Just to make sure if no one gets hurt."

Referees have been especially good at stopping play during Yeshiva's home games if a yarmulke falls off while they were playing against Northridge. The game continued when that happened, except for when a foul caused it to fall off.

The referees who worked the Northridge-Yeshiva contest didn't stop the game when a yarmulke was on the floor, however. Nobody slipped on one, but it still presented a potential safety hazard—one Shymman has eliminated in Yeshiva's practices by making his players take their yarmulkes off.

"It's always a problem. Every year I scream at them because of how often they end up on the floor.

Although they tend to fall off, especially for players with short hair, Golding and his teammates have grown accustomed to playing basketball while also trying to keep their heads covered out of respect to God.

"We've been doing it our whole lives," Golding said. "I think it is a distraction, somewhat, when it's falling off like that. But it's not like it had an affect on the game."

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter: @VanDrilSports
Jamiyankhuu expected to miss season with injury

Fine, Tener lead experienced Glenbrook South boys gymnastics team

By Eric Van Dril
Pioneer Press

Dalai Jamiyankhuu established himself as one of the top all-arounders in the state a year ago, helping Niles West reach rarefied heights — the Wolves earned their first Central Suburban title since 1991 and a fifth-place finish at state — and winning a state championship on horizontal bar.

The Wolves are not likely to have Jamiyankhuu in their lineup this season, however, because he has a cracked L5 vertebra in his spine, according to Niles West coach Adrian Batista. He added that Jamiyankhuu is expected to make a full recovery, but the junior will be out for another 2-5 months.

“I don’t expect to see him [back],” Batista said. “If he has a quick recovery, obviously we’ll of course take him. He’s one of the best in the state. But I don’t think we’re going to have him.”

Without Jamiyankhuu and last season’s sizable senior class, Niles West is not likely to enjoy the same level of success it did a year ago. It will be a much different team, Batista said, with a slew of young gymnasts poised to join junior David Thai and senior all-arounder Jordan Goldberg in the lineup.

“We’ll be good, but we’ll definitely be late bloomers,” Batista said. “There’s a couple of talented sophomores out there. By midseason, the whole varsity lineup could change. It’s going to be a very fluid lineup this year, not like last year, where we kind of knew where we were at each event.”

Glenbrook South

The Titans return four varsity gymnasts from last season, including senior all-rounder Jeremy Fine and junior Patrick Tener.

The combination of the team’s experience and an infusion of young, talented gymnasts figures to make Glenbrook South a strong contender in the CSL this season. Glenbrook South coach Brandon Tucker said the Titans’ team scores to start the year could match last year’s best team score, which was 132.45 at the CSL meet.

“I think this is going to be a really strong team,” Tucker said. “We have a lot of depth this year. There are a lot of kids who are starting to step up.”

One of the most prominent examples is Tener, who was an all-rounder as a sophomore in spite of little gymnastics experience before high school. Reaching that level that quickly is rare, Tucker said, and Tener continues to improve.

“We’ve been adding like a trick a day almost,” Tucker said, “I think one of the biggest things [for his improvement] is he committed to doing some gymnastics in the offseason, and he’s noticeably stronger as well. Just the strength and the time he spent in the offseason, he’s able to pick up tricks so quickly now.”

Maine South, Maine East

Maine East and Maine South were both coached by Eric Noriega in recent seasons, and the Hawks and Blue Demons practiced at Maine East.

Noriega is only Maine East’s coach this year, though, and Bryan Pracko takes over the Hawks’ program. Pracko previously coached Fremd for three seasons, and he was an assistant coach with Maine South’s girls team during the winter.

The practice situation is the same as it was last year: Maine South and Maine East gymnasts can talk to each other during practice, but they can’t train together. It’s new to Pracko, though.

“There’s nothing really standard about it when you have two teams from different schools working in the same gym,” Pracko said. “It’s very different.”

The Hawks’ top gymnasts include seniors Claudio DeBon and Steve Mei, and junior Luke Paolotti.

Glenbrook North

Last year, Corey Snyder had terrible luck at the end of his junior season. He suffered a toe injury as he warmed up before the CSL meet. He battled through the injury — which Glenbrook North coach Ryan Dul described as an inflammation — during conference, the sectional and the state meet.

Snyder advanced to state in the all-around, as well as on pommel horse, still rings, parallel bars and horizontal bar. But he suffered a silver-dollar sized rip on the inside of his hand at the end of the first day of state. It only allowed him to do his full routines on horse (8.0, tied for 26th) and still rings (8.3, tied for 24th) the following day.

Snyder’s bad luck at the end of last season has motivated him this year, Dul said.

“He really wants to break into the top-10 and make finals,” Dul said. “It’s something he’s been aiming to do for the past three years, and he’s been top-20 — even top-15 — but just not quite in the top-10. He really wants to get there.”

Senior Noah Berkowitz, who tied for 19th (8.85) at state on floor exercise as a junior, is also back. He’s expected to compete on every event except for high bar.

Niles North

The Vikings’ roster features many gymnasts who gained varsity experience a year ago, including senior Allen Nou and junior Davin Kaiser. Both were state qualifiers in 2014.

Kaiser, who’s the team’s lone all-rounder, is expected to miss the first month of the season due to a groin injury, according to Niles North coach Richard Meyer.

Kaiser’s return will likely cause Niles North’s team scores to jump in the second half of the year.

The team’s work ethic and development, which Meyer said has been reinforced by seeing Vikings gymnasts get to state in previous years, will likely have a similar effect.

“We’ve got some good individual work that’s happening, so that’s exciting,” Meyer said. “That’s really kind of what it’s about here with these kids.”

Evanston

Wildkits coach Chester Jones is slated to retire in June. Evanston finished seventh (90.60 points) at the Lyons Sectional a year ago.

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
RISING ABOVE

Former Maine South standout Matt Palucki named academic All-American

BY NICK BULLOCK
Pioneer Press

Two area swimmers led the North Central College women's swimming team to a seventh-place finish in the College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin Championships Feb. 12-14 in Pleasant Prairie, Wis.

Freshman Bonnie Rischmenn, a Highland Park graduate, earned points for her 15th-place finish in the 200-yard butterfly. She also swam in the preliminaries in the 50 freestyle and the 100 butterfly.

Senior Cristina Francisco, a Trinity alumnus, was part of the 13th-place 4x-50 freestyle relay, the fifth-place 4x200 freestyle relay, the 14th-place 4x100 freestyle relay, and the 13th-place 4x100 medley relay.

Palucki named academic All-American

Maine South graduate Matt Palucki, a senior forward for the Washington men's basketball team, was named to the 2014-15 District V selection and a three-time Academic All-UAA selection.

Lyons' Nick Burt, a senior forward, also is a star for the Bears. Through 24 games, he led the team in blocks per game (1.33), assists (2.96) and steals (1.33).

Kevin Kucera, from Loyola, also is on the team. The freshman guard played in 20 games.

Gutierrez guides Oakton to conference title

Led by sophomore guard Alicia Gutierrez, a Maine South graduate, the Oakton women's basketball team secured the Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference championship with wins over Lake County on Feb. 17 and Waubonsee on Feb. 19. Gutierrez ranked 14th in NJCAA Division II in scoring with 20.7 points per game.

New Maine East football coach wants to improve numbers

Smith, the former Niles North coach, has been Blue Demons DC last two seasons

BY MATT HARNES
Pioneer Press

Maine East didn't go far to find its new football coach.

Blue Demons athletic director Steve Schanz announced on Feb. 24 that the school hired Scott Smith, who's worked in District 207 since 2013. "Gabe did an outstanding things here, and he was a great asset to this high school. I want to take the next step. There still is a lot of work to be done. I want our team to be competitive week in and week out."

Maine East is Smith's second job as a head coach. He led Niles North for seven seasons from 2005-2011. He went 22-41 during his time with the Vikings, doubling the team's win total from the previous seven seasons. Smith's lone winning season came in 2008 when the Vikings finished 5-4 but missed out on the playoffs.

Smith's other high school coaching experience includes stretches at St. Viator and Prospect, where he was on the staff for the Knights' 2001 Class 7A state championship.

"We wanted someone with head coaching experience and someone who had a reputation of turning programs around and putting them in the right direction," Schanz said. "We felt Scott was the best fit for us."

Corey heads into retirement after 15 seasons as Maine East's head coach, which was spread over two stints. He was in charge from 1994-2002 and then again from 2009-2014. Corey was 27-108 and never took the Blue Demons to the playoffs. The last time Maine East was in the postseason was in 1977 under Al Eck.

Smith said he understands the challenges he faces going forward. "First, we need to improve our numbers," Smith said. "That's been a concern here. I also want football to be fun for them. I want them to enjoy being part of something they will remember for a lifetime."
Notre Dame hockey team stuns third-seeded Providence

14th-seeded Dons advance to Blackhawk Cup quarterfinals

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

BENSENVILLE - As the Notre Dame hockey team prepared for a second-period faceoff in its own end, Dons junior forward Max Fadell called "Sam" in what was then a scoreless game against Providence.

The 14th-seeded Dons - who went on to earn a 2-0 upset win over third-seeded Providence in the second round of the AHAI Blackhawk Cup on Monday - have worked on "Sam" in practice all year. If the Dons win the faceoff, the play calls for the puck to be tipped back to a defenseman and a player - in this case, Fadell, who's one of the fastest skaters on the team - sprints straight down the ice and looks for a long pass.

"Sam" hadn't worked all season, but it seemed like the right moment - and opponent - to try it against.

"We knew their defense was aggressive, coming off the draw and looking for a shot," Fadell said. The Dons won the faceoff, and the puck was tipped back to junior defenseman David Wendel. He bounced a perfectly-weighted pass off of the boards and into the path of a streaking Fadell.

Fadell controlled the puck behind Providence's defense, then slid it through the five-hole of Celtics sophomore goalie Ryan Ia- ciancio to put the Dons ahead by one with 12:11 left in the second period.

That was all they needed, and senior center Brendan Golden added an empty-netter with 4:4 seconds remaining. With the win, the Dons advanced to play sixth-seeded St. Rita in the quarterfinals at 8:35 p.m. on Tuesday in Bensenville.

Notre Dame's game plan shifted with a one-goal lead, especially in the third period. It played very defensively in front of goalie James Hall (27 saves) and iced the puck many times.

"Once we were up by one goal, the rule of thumb was get it in when you're close to their blue line and get it out when you're close to ours," Wendel said. "We were able to play a more passive, defensive game rather than trying to push and get a goal."

The Dons had two golden chances to score early in the third period, but Notre Dame senior winger Nic Yzaguirre pushed the puck just wide on a breakaway and Wendel's point-blank wrister was denied by Ia- ciancio (36 saves).

But those missed chances proved to be inconsequential when Golden sealed the victory over one of the state's best teams.

"You work so hard all year, and this is what it's for," Fadell said. "It's just amazing."
Double-champion Lee seeks endurance boost for 2016

BY MATT HARNESS
Pioneer Press

WINNETKA — One of the things Cameron Lee said he's going to work on in the offseason is improving his endurance.

While Lee won two state championships and finished second in his other event in the Athletes with Disabilities portion of last weekend's boys state swimming meet at New Trier, the Niles West junior said he is in need of more energy in the last leg of his final race.

Lee closed out his Saturday by beating New Trier junior Charlie Gentzkow in the 100 yard freestyle with a time of 1 minute, 2.19 seconds.

“I didn't think about how close he was to me,” Lee said of Gentzkow, a former 100 free state champion who finished in 1:02.91. “I just was looking for something extra for the final 25 yards.”

Lee also won the 200 free in 2:20.33 and took second in the 50 free in 27.91. He didn't compete in the 100 breaststroke.

Afflicted with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, a neuromuscular condition that affects his lower body, Lee lacks the normal amount of muscle mass in all areas of his legs.

After not swimming as a freshman, Lee was encouraged by Niles West coach Dan Vander Jeugdt to join the team the following season. Lee, who's been swimming competitively off and on for six years, said the prospect of becoming the best in the state intrigued him.

The IHSA debuted the Athletes with Disabilities division of the state meet three seasons ago.

“I wanted to call myself a state champion,” Lee said of his decision to return to competitive swimming. “The fact I could be something greater in the sport than I had been made me want to do it.”

In two seasons swimming at Niles West, Lee, who also plays water polo for the Wolves, owns four state titles. All three of his times Saturday were the best of his career.

Dan Toy, who's coached Lee for both seasons at Niles West, said Lee has the potential to swim even faster as a senior.

“We will be fine-tuning his mechanics and his form to make him a more efficient swimmer,” Toy said. “His pacing and endurance definitely need work, but he has the ability.”

Fifth-place diver Royzen looks for bigger things next year

BY MATT HARNESS
Pioneer Press

WINNETKA — Shortly after receiving his state medal in diving at New Trier, Maxim Royzen already was talking about the future.

“My goal the next two years is to win it,” said Royzen, a diver for nearly six years who trains at Northwestern-based Chicago Dive Club. “(Saturday), I was shaky. It was not my best. I can do much better.”

Men’s Catholic senior Joey Cifelli finished first and set a state record with his 555.40 total. The old mark had stood since 1976.

Deerfield senior Sean Scarry took second with 476.45.

Niles North diving coach Amy Bromberg said Royzen rarely is satisfied. Royzen holds the program record for a six-dive total with 311.6, which he scored Jan. 30 at home against Maine East.

“He pays attention to every detail,” said Bromberg, who’s in her first season with the Vikings. “If little things go wrong, he’s very concerned about fixing them. He likes to get his dives as perfect as he can make them.”

Royzen’s performance last weekend tied him for the fourth-best finish at a state meet by a Niles North diver. Marc Zabrzecki’s runner-up finish in 2000 stands as the benchmark. But Arsen Sarkisian is the model of consistency, having medaled all four seasons. Sarkisian’s personal best was a third-place finish as a senior in 2010.

“Max is very committed to the sport and making himself the best he can be,” said Bromberg, who’s also coached diving at St. Charles East and Champaign Centennial.

“We are excited for the future.”
Notre Dame pulls off surprising win in Blackhawk Cup.

Notre Dame's Nic Yzaguirre checks Providence's John Dunne into the boards during Monday's AHAI Blackhawk Cup playoff game at the Edge Ice Arena in Bensenville.

On the web: The Notre Dame boys basketball team beat Libertyville 67-54 in the Class 4A Notre Dame Regional semifinals on Tuesday night. To read more about the game and the boys basketball playoffs, visit chicagotribune.com/suburbs/niles.
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