That's one hot ride
Village of Niles welcomes new firetruck to fleet. Page 4

The village's new firetruck has features including a dual screen command information center, more spacious cab passenger seating and improved LED lighting.

Voices in harmony
Some of the world's best a cappella acts gather for SingStrong Chicago at Niles North High School. Page 36

Best on the court
Pioneer Press reveals its Mi-Area Boys and Girls Basketball Teams. In Sports

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Niles welcomes new firetruck to town

BY IGOR STUDENKO

Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo and other village and Fire Department personnel officially welcomed a new firetruck to the village of Niles.

During the ceremony, which took place on March 26 at 9 a.m., firefighters drove the new firetruck in front of the Village Hall. The vehicle includes a number of new features - most notably, a basket-like platform at the tip of the ladder. The mayor and Village Manager Steve Vinezeano got a chance to see that particular feature first-hand as they climbed onto the platform and took it to the Village Hall roof.

The Niles Fire Department has been field-testing the vehicle for the past few months, and it recently entered service. Robert Greiner, NFD's district supervisor, told Niles Herald-Spectator that the new truck has already proven to be useful - and that the department expects that it would continue to be a great addition to the fleet.

Greiner explained that the big advantage of the basket is that it can carry firefighting equipment something that came in handy when the firetruck was recently used to put out a fire in Morton Grove.

"It was a good thing that we got it," he said. "It worked really well."

The firetruck has several other new features, including a dual screen command information center, more spacious cab passenger sitting and improved LED lighting.

According to the village press release, the firetruck cost $1.1 million and has a life expectancy of 20 years. The department has been training with the truck for the past few months. Greiner said that, because of its size, learning how to maneuver it was a bit of a learning curve.

"It is a lot of truck," he said. "It is a challenge to drive it around. You need to think of where you'd want it to be."

The Thursday ceremony was relatively low-key. Aside from Przybylo, Vinezeano and Greiner, Niles Fire Department Chief Steve Borkowski, Interim Niles Police Department Chief Dennis McEnerney and Niles Department of Public Services Director Mary Anderson attended, as did a number of police officers and firefighters.

Przybylo and Vinezeano posed for pictures with other officials. They were then strapped into the safety harnesses and led onto the basket, which took them up to the roof.

Once he stepped off the basket, Przybylo said he was impressed with the new vehicle.

"Well, that was fun," he addressed the firefighters. "Good luck with this, guys. Beautiful purchase. And be safe."

In an official statement, Borkowski touted the firetruck as a great tool.

"Being able to have a new tower ladder like this is vital to our operations and allows us keep up with the newest lifesaving technology," he said. "It is another tool that will help our talented firefighters do the best job possible and keep our residents safe."

Greiner told the Niles Herald-Spectator that he expects the new vehicle to serve the department well in the future.

"It would really help us with window rescues," he said. "It's very safe, very secure. That's what it's all about."

Igor Studenkov is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

The village's new firetruck has new features including a dual screen command Information center, more spacious cab passenger sitting and improved LED lighting.
Niles board urges state not to cut tax funding

IGOR STUDENKOV
Pioneer Press

The village of Niles Board of Trustees urged the state government not to cut the village's share of the state income tax.

Under Gov. Bruce Rauner's budget proposal, the local share of the revenue from the state income tax would be reduced by half. The village has argued that the decrease would cost the village $147,248. During its March 24 meeting, the board approved a resolution urging the governor and the Illinois General Assembly to reconsider.

Since 1969, every municipality in Illinois received a portion of the state income tax revenue.

Last year, the village received $2,322,344 through the fund. The General Fund received $2,822,344 through tax revenue.

Rauner's proposal would need to be approved by the Illinois General Assembly before it is implemented.

On March 2, the village issued a press release urging residents to contact the governor and state legislators about the issue.

Mayor Andrew Przybylo warned the public of the dangerous consequences of the cuts.

"This funding can't be easily replaced, and it will require service reductions," he said.

Trustee Chris Hanusiak, who is also running for re-election, was the only trustee who spoke against the resolution. He argued that the voters would want the village to be more fiscally responsible and live within its means.

"23 precincts [in Niles] overwhelmingly voted for Rauner," he said. "We had a deficit but we still continued to hire. We need to be fiscally responsible, for the sake of the residents of Niles."

Przybylo responded that Niles has been fiscally sound, and the state government would be taking advantage of that to fix its own problems. He argued that Niles shouldn't give up the money without a fight.

During the public comment period, Village Board candidate David Carrabotta echoed Hanusiak's arguments.

"There was a message sent by residents in electing this new governor," he said. "We have the responsibility to stop spending money we don't have. Let's send a message to the [state] government showing that we're responsible by straightening out our budget and straightening out our pensions."

While he and Hanusiak are running as independents, the two have released a joint campaign platform.

"Resident Susanna Atanas spoke strongly in favor of the resolution."

"I urge the mayor and the Village Board to join other mayors in opposing this," she said.

"We will not be robbed. Gov. Rauner — grow up and do your job right. We didn't put you in office to be blind to 99 percent of your constituents."

Igor Studenkov is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Niles Township supervisor honored

Niles Township government supervisor, Marilyn D. Glazer, was honored by the Township Officials of Cook County, trustee division, for her work on their board of directors, officials said in a release.

A plaque was presented to Glazer at the division meeting on Thursday, March 19 at the Tuscany Restaurant in Oakbrook. Division President Ron Szymanski made the presentation.

Glazer had to resign from the trustee division board of directors when she was appointed supervisor of Niles Township government.

Niles Township Government Supervisor Marilyn D. Glazer with Division President Ron Szymanski.

With a population of over 102,000, Niles Township includes the villages of Skokie, Lincolnwood and Golf, and sections of Morton Grove, Niles and Glenview.

Pioneer Press staff report
Trustee candidates face off at Golf Mill Mall

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
Pioneer Press

Niles Village Board of Trustees candidates answered questions and argued about village issues during the Niles Candidates Town Hall.

The event took place March 25 at Golf Mill Mall's Center Court. Maine Township Supervisor Carol Teschky moderated.

Six candidates are running for three seats. Incumbent Trustee Joe LoVerde is running with former police Chief Dean Strzelecki and Niles Ethics Board member Denise McCreery as the Niles Forward Party slate. Incumbent Trustees Chris Hanusiak and Rosemary Palicki are running as independents, as is the new candidate David Carrabotta.

LoVerde touted his experience in Niles government, particularly his work on stormwater relief and emphasized the importance of retaining businesses and attracting new ones. Strzelecki touted his experience on the police force and the steps he took to improve communications between officers and residents. McCreery touched upon her experience as president of the Niles Chamber of Commerce and Industry and promised that she would listen to the voters.

Carrabotta said he would work to improve village finances and stop using TIFs and other tax incentives. Palicki said she would continue to listen to residents, work to increase transparency and carefully consider the issues.

Hanusiak said his record on the board speaks for itself and he would continue to oppose video gambling should there be any attempt to revive the existing ban.

After the opening statements, Teschky asked questions submitted by the public and the press. First, the candidates were asked how they would handle a commercial building owner who hasn't been able to attract tenants for several months.

McCreery said she would work with the Niles Chamber of Commerce and Industry to help businesses. Carrabotta said he would treat each business individually, helping them if necessary, or simply sitting back and trying to remove regulations and other obstacles that may be in their way.

Palicki said that beautification could help attract businesses to vacant storefronts. She also said she would try to make sure the board is more careful about granting tax incentives.

Strzelecki said the village inspector general position — which was established in 2013 — was a strong mechanism for rooting out corruption.

Next, the candidates were asked if they would work to increase transparency and carefully consider the issues.

Carrabotta said he would do his own thing, arguing that residents could have gotten information about the flier through media or by researching it on their own.

"It's government out of control," he said.

Next, the candidates were asked to give their take on another controversial issue — granting special-use permits to the Sportsman's Club gun shop and training center. Palicki and LoVerde opposed granting the permit, arguing that the gun shop didn't meet all the requirements. Both trustees said on multiple occasions that they didn't oppose gun shops per se — which they reiterated during the debate.

Strzelecki said he was confident that, as long as the safety procedures are followed, the gun shop wouldn't make the village any less safe.

"You can't handle a gun in the shop unless you have a (firearms owner identification card)," he said. "They're not going to be able to buy ammunition without a FIOD card. The shop is going to have the highest burglary alarms.

"It's government out of control," he said.

Next, the candidates were asked if they would support term limits. During the 2012 municipal elections, Niles voters approved two referenda — one placed on the ballot by the Village Board and one placed by activist Joe Makula. While all candidates said they supported term limits, Palicki reiterated her position that a judge should decide which referendum would become law.

"It's government out of control," he said.

Finally, the candidates were asked if they would support the "Tourney to Excellence" it and if they would vote for it.

"I vote for things that make sense," he said. "When things make sense, you vote for them. When they don't, you vote 'no.'"

By Igor Studenkov is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 reviews strategic plan

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
Pioneer Press

As Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 prepares to take its first steps toward creating a new strategic plan, the school board met to review how the previous plan worked out.

During the March 25 meeting, District Superintendent Laurie Heinz presented the review. She indicated that, while the district had many successes with introducing and expanding the use of technology in education, it struggled with improving ways to set goals for students and improve collaboration within the district.

The report also suggested what the district could do better when designing a new strategic plan. That included more emphasis on achieving results, provisions for addressing the district's financial issues, more planning for facility improvements and regular reviews of the plan's progress. It also called for the district's administrative team to take a more direct role in the planning process.

In 2009, the district started working on its current strategic plan. Known as the "Journey to Excellence," it called for five improvement strategies addressing different facets of the district's operations. This included incorporating more technology; setting up a system of goals and benchmarks to improve student performance; improving communications between the school staff, families and community organizations; improve instruction and developing a protocol to ensure the staff would be able to implement the strategies. Each strategy was further divided into "action plans" that explained how the district would implement each strategy.

The Board of Education approved the plan in 2010. It was designed to last for five school years. It started during the 2010-11 school year and is scheduled to end in 2015-16.

The district staff is in the early stages of the planning process for the next strategic plan. Heinz told the board that, with only one year to go on the current plan, this was a good time to look at whether the action plans worked and what the district could learn from its failures and successes.

"Although it's a different plan we're going to have moving forward, [the current plan] was a tremendous plan," said Heinz. "It really allowed the district to move forward in a lot of ways."

She told the board that the district made considerable strides with the first strategy, citing as examples the i-lab Chromebook initiative and using Infosnap for student registration. The teachers have also done a better job of using apps to teach students and others.

"In the past, everybody was just buying apps year and year. Turn to Plan, Next Page
Man accused of beating passenger aboard Niles bus

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

A Morton Grove man claiming to be skilled in mixed martial arts stands accused of demonstrating his fighting prowess in the wrong place: aboard a Pace bus.

William Walsh, 26, of the 7100 block of Greenwood Street, was arrested and charged with battery on the evening of March 17 after he allegedly punched a 46-year-old Glenview man repeatedly while both were passengers on a bus driving through Niles.

The victim told Niles police that Walsh was yelling at other passengers at the back of the bus and continued to yell as he approached the front door. This prompted the man to tell Walsh, "Calm down. You're getting off the bus anyway," police said.

According to police, Walsh responded to the man's comment by dropping the bags he was carrying and making a fist before allegedly telling him, "Do you have a problem with me? Well, you have one now. I'm an MMA fighter."

Walsh then allegedly began punching the man several times in his face and back.

Police located Walsh at the corner of Oakton Street and Harlem Avenue after he reportedly got off the bus at Milwaukee and Oakton and headed east.

The victim complained of pain around his kidney area and sharp pains when he inhaled. His lip was also swollen and bleeding, police said, and he was taken by paramedics to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

The bus driver provided the same story of what had happened to the victim, police said.

Walsh was released on bond and is set to appear in court on April 30.

William Walsh

Strategic plan gets reviewed

Plan, from Previous Page

BY VIC HORTON

A Morton Grove man said that her daughter, who goes to school in the district, has benefited from the system. She believes that the system would be a great asset if it's fully implemented.

Heinz said that the district's efforts to improve communications with parents and local organizations is very much a work in progress. "You reach out and you hope its reciprocated," she said. "Sometimes, it is, sometimes it isn't. But we need to keep trying."

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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.

**THEFT**

Amelou Gobenciong, 36, of the 6700 block of Knox, Lincolnwood; and Vernica Cavallari, 18, of the 3300 block of Diane Avenue, Park City, were each charged with retail theft on March 17. Police said the two women were accused of entering the self-checkout lane at a store on the 8500 block of Golf Road and failing to scan items. The stolen merchandise totaled $179.09, police said.

Aleksandra Wysocki, 33, of the 600 block of Clover, Schaumburg, was charged with retail theft on March 18 after she allegedly stole 15 cosmetic items valued at $501 from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. She has an April 28 court date.

Marta Lopez, 40, of the 9300 block of Bay Colony, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with theft on March 15. According to police, Lopez, the manager of a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center, was accused of clocking in as an employee who had quit in January and collecting pay checks issued to that employee while she also collected her own salary. Lopez allegedly stated that she had worked during the hours the former employee had been scheduled to work. Police said the theft totaled $201.45. Lopez has an April 16 court date.

**DUI**

Sam Laspisa, 47, of the 22100 block of Chestnut Ridge, Kildeer, was charged with driving under the influence of drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of hypodermic needles following a traffic stop on March 18 at 1:30 a.m. According to police, three hypodermic needles and two pipes believed to be used for smoking crack cocaine were located inside Laspisa's vehicle, which was stopped on the 7900 block of Milwaukee Avenue. He has an April 30 court date.

Travis Taylor, 26, of the 9600 block of Golf Terrace, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with driving under the influence and felony possession of a controlled substance on March 22 after he was reportedly stopped for speeding and driving the wrong way on Caldwell Avenue at 3:50 a.m. According to police, a search of Taylor's car revealed a "white, rock-like substance" inside a wallet that was inside the driver's side door. Taylor has an April 1 court date.

**BURGLARY**

A 77-year-old woman told police that between March 9 and March 14 three necklaces, three sets of earrings and two gold rings were stolen from her room inside a residential living facility on the 8900 block of Golf Road. The woman also told police that $210 in cash was stolen from her closet in December, but she did not report the theft.

**THEFT**

A 2014 Nissan Altima was stolen overnight between March 15 and March 16 from the 8700 block of Grace Street.

Approximately 30 sets of eyeglass frames were stolen March 15 from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. Store security video reportedly showed a woman taking the frames off display racks and placing them in her purse before leaving the store with a man. An employee told police that a similar theft occurred at another store in the chain.

Forty-eight cans of Red Bull energy drink were stolen March 18 from a store on the 8000 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

A man was seen stealing four boxes of perfume and cologne from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center on the afternoon of March 23. The items were valued at $246.

**HARASSMENT**

A 60-year-old Niles woman told police on March 18 that she has been the victim of online harassment. According to police, the woman reported that Facebook accounts had been opened in her name without her permission. An investigation was pending.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**

A Niles man told police on March 22 that he discovered the dashboard of his vehicle had been taken apart while it was parked in a lot on the 8800 block of Golf Road. Police said the ignition was also pulled out, but nothing was stolen from the vehicle.

Between March 21 and March 22, someone pried open the mailboxes belonging to tenants of an apartment building on the 8000 block of Milwaukee Avenue, making it impossible to secure the boxes, police said.

A resident of the 8900 block of Heathwood Circle told police she discovered a section of her exterior window screen had been cut out on March 21.
Fine jewelry Deals of the Day are only available at stores that carry fine jewelry.
Maine South shifts focus for second all-school fundraiser

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

After raising more than $180,000 last year for a local animal rescue that needed a new home, Maine South High School is embarking on yet another all-school fundraising campaign, mixing extracurricular activities with an opportunity to give back.

This year, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital will be the recipient of all funds raised by students, staff and the community through free-will donations and school activities.

The first of the fundraising events will be the school-wide dodgeball tournament on Friday, April 10 at the Park Ridge school, 1111 S. Dee Road. Money will be raised through team sign-ups, for $50, eight to 10 students can compete as a team.

The tournament will be followed by the school’s very first Color Run on Saturday, April 11 at 12 p.m. Hosted by the Maine South National Honor Society and Park Ridge Youth Commission, the Color Run will consist of a two-mile walk/run around the campus with a $20 entry fee per person.

Unlike similar walks, participants will cross the finish line covered in paint, as paint packets are thrown at them from stations set along the route, according to Maine South Assistant Principal David Berendt.

On Friday, April 17, Hawkfest, open to Maine South students only, will raise money through admission for an evening of games, inflatables and raffle prizes.

Food will be the focus during Pizza Madness on Wednesday, April 22 where local pizza restaurants will donate pies for participants to sample. This event, which begins at 5:30 p.m. in the student cafeteria, is open to anyone in the community for a minimum $5 donation.

School clubs are also invited to organize their own fundraisers for the cause.

“I’m sure other things will develop as other organizations put ideas together,” Berendt said.

St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, based in Memphis, was selected by students themselves. Via online voting, a large list of charitable organizations was narrowed down to four: St. Jude’s, Feed My Starving Children, Wounded Warriors and Park Ridge-based Avenues to Independence.

In return for its contribution, an adoption suite inside the new center was named in recognition of Maine South.

Katelyn Kahn, who is a member of the events committee for the all-school fundraiser, said she was surprised by how much her classmates raised last year.

“I found out before the assembly and I was very excited to see everyone’s reaction,” she said. “I was not expecting that much money, so I hope we can do the same again this year.”

Berendt believes the experience of giving back will be long-lasting.

“I think the most important thing [about the fundraiser] is people realizing they should look past themselves and be a steward of giving back to the world,” Berendt said. “I think the sooner you learn that, the better the chance you will carry it on for the rest of your life.”
Maine West gym to get $10 million upgrade

**BY LEE V. GAINES**
Special to the Tribune

A $10 million addition to Maine West High School's gymnasium will include a fitness center, aerobics workout room, wrestling room, offices and new lockers.

The Maine Township District 207 Board of Education voted unanimously at a special meeting last week to approve a nearly $10.2 million contract with Waukegan-based Happ Builders, Inc. for the 24,000-square-foot addition on two sides of the gym, said spokesman David Beery.

The money was put aside and the upgrades are part of a 10-year capital improvement plan for the district's three schools, he said.

The district received six bids ranging from $10.2 million to nearly $12.4 million, Beery said.

The addition, which has been discussed by district officials for the past year, will "bring Maine West closer to having the equivalent physical education and athletic facilities that Maine East and Maine South already have," he said. Both those schools also have field houses, which is not currently in the works for Maine West, but possible in the future, Beery said.

When Maine West opened in 1959, the building included "a feature that was unusual if not unique," Beery said. The basement includes an indoor running track and weight room, in addition to few locker rooms and a wrestling area, which are all still in use, he said. Though unique, the 55-year-old facility does not provide "what students and staff could reasonably expect to see in a suburban high school in 2015."

The addition will mean the basement track will be less congested, Beery said.

Construction will begin in mid-April. The first phase, which includes work on the gym's air conditioning system and installation of the new locker rooms, is slated to wrap up by the start of the next school year.

Maine East and Maine South have previously walked across the Rosemont stage.

The second phase of the project—which will include construction of the fitness center, aerobics and wrestling rooms and staff office space—will begin in August and is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of next year, Beery said.

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**CORRECTION**

The March 19 story "District 219 issues heat up board race" contained a factual error. The story incorrectly stated that candidate Linda Lampert said some feeder schools were excluded from partnering with District 219. She in fact acknowledged that some of the feeder districts chose not to partner with D219.
Hospice care companies plan merger

Three were pioneers in area

BY ELLEN JEAN HIRST
Tribune reporter

Three Illinois nonprofit hospice companies were expected to announce on Tuesday that they are combining to form what's expected to be the largest end-of-life provider by patient volume in the state.

The companies — Chicago-based Horizon Hospice & Palliative Care, Barrington-based JourneyCare and Glenview-based Midwest Palliative & Hospice CareCenter — will emerge with a new name after the deal is completed June 1.

The combined hospices will be able care for about 2,500 patients daily in 10 Chicago-area counties. Mary Runge, president and chief executive of JourneyCare, will assume the same role with the new company.

The companies collectively employ 800 health care professionals, with home visits making up more than 90 percent of their business. The deal subject to regulatory approval, involves combining the assets and liabilities of the three businesses. No money is changing hands.

Mary Runge, Horizon's chief executive, said putting the deal together was a collaborative effort. "Three CEOs for over the last few years really put our own ambitions aside and there was never any triangulation or fear of losing our jobs, but only a focus on how this can be better," Runge said. "It's very special, this merger."

The combined companies' revenues in 2013 were about $80.9 million, the equivalent of about 15 percent of the $548.3 million spent on hospice care that year in Illinois, according to research organization Hospice Analytics. JourneyCare and Midwest Hospice each have annual revenue of more than $30 million; Horizon's annual revenue is less than $13 million.

Nearly 150 hospice care providers operate in the state, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health. About half of them are in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will counties.

The combining companies were some of the first to open in the Chicago area nearly three decades ago when hospice care was still largely volunteer-based. Some of the companies' original funders still serve on their respective boards. The three CEOs have worked together, in 2006 they formed a loose affiliation through a purchasing collaborative.

By combining, the companies will be able to spread their strengths across the new company, Bealles said. JourneyCare and Horizon are known for their pediatric hospice care programs, she said, while Midwest has an accredited Jewish care program and many health system relationships.

An aging population is expected to increase business for hospice care in the coming years, Bealles said.

"Typically in the last couple years of life, someone who has a progressive illness will end up hospitalized and then they'll go to rehab and then they'll go home where there's not adequate support," Bealles said.

Then they end up back in the hospital, often dying in an intensive care unit, she said, which is "both expensive and unpleasant."

"What we've been able to do with hospice care is stop that cycle," Bealles said. Hospice care has been shown to save the health care system money, she said. It's cheaper to die in a hospice center or at home than at a hospital.

Since the Affordable Care Act passed in 2010, hospital systems and other health care companies have been consolidating as reimbursements become lower and payments increasingly are tied to patient outcomes.

“Our health care partners are consolidating and at the same time narrowing their networks, looking for those that provide best value, outcomes and cost,” Bealles said. "And you have to be able to serve their entire population. The ability to be that partner of choice in our community is really what's driving this." Bealles said she was drawn to the industry after she joined a hospice company in Madison, Wis.

Her first week, while walking out of the lunch room, she heard a bell ring, indicating someone had died. A co-worker told her to wait near the hospice's entry to witness a procession.

Workers wheeled out the body, draped in a beautiful quilt. Family members reached out to touch the deceased. Bealles, in awe at the intersection of compassion, respect, sorrow and joy, was in tears.

New company's inpatient locations

Pepper Family Hospice Center
405 Lake Zurich Road, Barrington
Woodstock Hospice Center
527 W. South St., Woodstock
Marshak Family Hospice Pavilion
2050 Claire Court, Glenview
Hospice Suite at Northwest Community Hospital
800 W. Central Road, Arlington Heights
Ada F. Addington Inpatient Hospice Unit
710 S. Paulina St., Chicago

COUNTIES SERVED
The 10 counties served by hospice and palliative care are: Boone, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Will and Winnebago.
SingStrong to serenade Niles West High School

Natalie Hayes
Pioneer Press

Grammy winners and stars from popular musical reality TV shows will converge on Niles West High School April 10-12 for the third annual SingStrong, a three-day, non-stop singing festival with the goal of raising thousands of dollars to support the Cure Alzheimer's Fund.

The all-vocal event merges together singers of every level for three straight days of concerts, voice classes and competitions - all with the goal of raising thousands of dollars to support the Cure Alzheimer's Fund.

A capella groups and soloists from as far as Taiwan and Venezuela are scheduled to appear at this year's SingStrong, along with nine college and high school groups and Grammy winner Ben Bram, gospel powerhouse Resound and stars from NBC's "The Sing-Off" and "America's Got Talent," according to Jonathan Minkoff, executive producer for SingStrong.

"We're all crushed by an avalanche of fake music every day," Minkoff said. "A capella is the opposite of that, and this festival gives you an incredible, uplifting, transformative feeling that you have to hear for yourself."

Kind of like a Comic-con for die-hard a capella enthusiasts, Minkoff designed SingStrong to satisfy all the desires of people who love singing under one roof in just three days time.

Niles West student Julia Nejman, who will perform with her school's a capella team, Guys and Dolls, said SingStrong is about more than just watching professional a capella groups perform.

"What I love about SingStrong is that it's basically a huge event where people who love the same thing get to be nerds about it for a few days and meet others with similar interests," Nejman said. "We love hosting it here at West because we get to be a part of something huge all while supporting the fight against Alzheimer's disease."

The weekend will kick off with "ACA-IDOL," an "American Idol"-style a capella competition for professional and collegiate groups. A so-far unidentified celebrity judge will give live feedback and audience members will vote for their favorite performers by texting with their cell phones.

Main concerts featuring professional a capella groups will take the stage on Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 9:30 p.m.

High school groups will have their moment in the spotlight on Saturday at 2 p.m. during a high school-level competition. Awards will be issued in two categories - performance and arranging and composition. Although some would argue they had the home court advantage, last year Niles West's three a capella groups - Echo Effect, High Fidelity and Guys & Dolls - beat out four other high school teams that performed at SingStrong.

Guys & Dolls member Thea Gonzalez described her first experience at SingStrong last year as "surreal."

"It really does feel like you're on a different planet - the energy and the vibe is off with "ACA-IDOL," an "American Idol"-style a capella competition for professional and collegiate groups. A so-far unidentified celebrity judge will give live feedback and audience members will vote for their favorite performers by texting with their cell phones.

Guys & Dolls member Thea Gonzalez described her first experience at SingStrong last year as "surreal."

"It really does feel like you're on a different planet when you come to this event," Gonzalez said. "The most fascinating part of a capella is how personal it is. Singing in itself is so personal because it comes from a person's heart and a cappella is the culmination of several people's hearts coming together for the same goal."

SingStrong started in Skokie three years ago thanks to a connection between the auction and ticket sales, and Minkoff said he hopes this year's SingStrong will surpass that amount.

"We filled thousands of seats last year, but (if heaven forbid) our audience stayed home, we'd still have more than 200 singers having the time of their lives," Minkoff said.

Ticket prices range from $15 to $35. Discounts are available for seniors, students and groups of 10 or more. Tickets are available for purchase at www.SingStrong.org.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Read it and weep

Writer forges early connection to books

BY LAURA PEARSON

Books loom large in Jami Nakamura Lin's earliest memories.

"One day my dad came home from work and found my mom, sisters and I sobbing in the master bedroom, the entire bed covered in Kleenex."

Her father's concern turned to laughter when they explained they'd just finished reading "Where the Red Fern Grows."

A writer and reader services assistant at Des Plaines and Morton Grove libraries, the Lincoln Square resident is still serious about reading, now gravitating toward history, poetry, essays and "slipstream" fiction that melds fantasy and reality. Living in a small apartment means keeping her self-described "hoarder" tendencies in check.

"But I can't ever narrow down my collection too much," she says. "Every time I've given books away, it has been a bit painful."

About this story

This piece first ran in Printers Row Journal, the Chicago Tribune's premium Sunday book section.

-- Laura Pearson

Blizzards are a sign of spring as Park Ridge Dairy Queen reopens

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

Pioneer Press

They wait [all winter] until the day it opens again,“ Edison Park resident Gina Schrantz said of her two children, who were waiting to order.

In addition to the traditional Blizzards and soft serve cones, the Park Ridge Dairy Queen sells cakes and hot foods, including burgers, hot dogs, corn dogs, chicken strips, Polish sausage, onion rings and more.

Dairy Queen is open from 11 a.m. from 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

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Twitter @Jen_Pioneer
**SHOUT OUT**

**David Leske, politically involved Niles resident**

Niles resident David Leske was at the Niles Candidates Town Hall debate, where candidates for the Niles Park District Board of Commissioners and Niles Public Library Board of Trustees gave statements, and the Village of Niles Board of Trustees candidates answered questions and debated positions. We approached Leske before the debate started and caught up with him after it ended.

Q: What brings you to this debate?
A: I'm attending because one of my friends is running.

Q: And who would that be?
A: [Incumbent Niles Village Board trustee] Chris Hanusiaic.

Q: So, other than Chris, are there any candidates you support?
A: [Niles Village board challenger] David Carrabotta.

Q: Why do you support them?
A: Let's just say this - people who share the same moral vision are people who become friends. People who share the same values are people who become friends.

Q: What did you think of the debate?
A: I think it should be longer. Cut out the [Niles] library and [Niles] Park District stuff.

*Shout Out is a weekly feature where we get to know and introduce our readers to their fellow community members and local visitors throughout suburban Chicago.*
My two cents on woman for the $20 bill

I just think if we're going to put someone on a bill, man or woman, let's have a truly undisputed great.

woman on the $20.

Any great American women's list has to start with Abigail Adams, a true patriot and intellectual who often advised her husband during the crisis of Independence. Adams was the wife of one president, mother to another and grandmother to a U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain. One could call her the mother of our country.

Emily Dickinson is known as a recluse and spinster and popularized in recent times as "The Belle of Amherst." She is also a true American genius and one of the greatest poets in American literature, if not the greatest woman poet in the English language. Not just politics makes a country great.

If we're going with literary heroines, and there are some writers on the "Women on 20s" list, than how can Louisa May Alcott not be considered? Her book "Little Women" still endures today and she could hold her own in Concord's intellectual circle with the likes of Emerson and Thoreau.

Betsy Ross, American flag, Stars and Stripes forever.

The most influential book in American history is "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Its author is Harriet Beecher Stowe. Everyone in America should know this and would if she were on the $20.

Why can't we be open to the arts? The greatest American art form is jazz, and Ella Fitzgerald is the greatest American jazz singer ever. She deserves to be on this list.

Chicago has meant a lot to the nation and any list of great American women must include Jane Addams.

It is a pity that Sandra Day O'Connor did not make the movement's list. Supreme Court justice of the United States is the doorway to greatness, and O'Connor was the first woman to walk through that door.

Finally, I really like the idea of Nellie Bly, investigative reporter who often went undercover to expose corruption and danger to the public.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Why are taxpayers punished to be saved?

So, who would pay more for less under a voucher system? The Taxpayer, naturally.

To elected officials, you, The Taxpayer, are perpetrator and victim. It is a convenient view for them. It allows officials to do what they want, to impose their views, and hold us up as the reason.

But, as The Taxpayer, we should refuse to look at just the one side, the side officials would have us only see: how they do what they do for us.

We must also see what these officials do to us.

Do you want to pay higher fares for less transportation when you go to work?

Because I don't.

Do you want to shell out $100 for inaccurate and unnecessary red light cameras?

I don't.

Do you want Medicare destroyed? I don't.

Do you want services cut and taxes raised in your town? I don't.

Do you want unconsulted accomplices?

Don't let them get away with making us their unconsulted accomplices.

Rosemary, A Taxpayer.

A NOTE TO READERS

In an effort to ensure fairness and accuracy, Pioneer Press is not publishing any election-related letters to the editor this, the last edition before the April 7 election. Letters are being published online at the Chicago Tribune suburban websites at chicagotribune.com.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

April 7 can bring change to D219

Editor's note: Pioneer Press misattributed a quote to Lampert in a previous story and has given her the opportunity to clarify her position in a letter. No other election related letters will run the week before April 7 as there is no chance for rebuttal.

I am excited about the long-term vision for District 219 and hope to be a leader in achieving those objectives by serving on the board of education. I feel the perfect board is made up of new and seasoned members bringing a fresh perspective to our schools. I am bright, open-minded, approachable, and most importantly, have a child attending a district school. Many of us feel a lack of clarity and engagement from our board. This can change April 7.

The District 219 school board race has left the independent candidate with limited resources, like me, little room to run. Factions have voters confused. Voters may choose up to four candidates to support. You do not have to vote for any specific four; you can pick and choose and even vote for just one or two candidates.

We need a new viewpoint to lead District 219 into the future. One of the biggest issues we have is an easy fix. It is communication. We need collaboration between the board, parents, teachers, staff and community. I am against outsourcing jobs which could be held by community members. Many are feeling excluded by the current decision-making process, but I will seek your voice. We need trust back in our district and not to feel as if changes are being made behind our backs. I am not beholden to any special interest group. The only endorsement I seek is yours.

- Linda Lampert
Niles Township District 219 School Board Candidate

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We want to hear from you! Send your letters to the editor to suburbanletters@tribpub.com. Letters should not exceed 250 words and should include your name, phone number and address (only your name and town will be published).
In Lake County, prices jumped from $2.25 to $2.80 as March drew to a close.

**Family road trip chases down gas for $2 per gallon**

**Dan Moran**

Another dispatch from the ongoing battle between the working class and Big Oil (Revised Spring Forecast Edition):

After experiencing a brief rollback in mid-March that witnessed Lake County pump prices falling from the $2.50 range to more like $2.25 per gallon, the cost of gasoline saw a more stubborn upward trend that kicked in around St Patrick’s Day and continued right into the Spring Break Driving Season.

The bad news from that development was Lake County prices jumped up the staircase from $2.25 to $2.50 to $2.80 as March drew to a close. The good news was you could still find gas in the $2.10 range if you searched for it — in Oklahoma, but still.

Yes, as usual, I have the receipts to prove this, assuming it would ever have to be proven. At the very least, the little scraps of paper that piled up in a rented minivan tell the tale of American driving life in early 2015, a soon-to-be longed-for time when filling up the tank was briefly the least of our worries.

Leaving Lake County on March 20 felt more like sneaking out of a party gone wrong. The aforementioned jump in gas prices had threatened to take some of the glow off of a cross-country road trip, but there was comfort in remembering that gas is always cheaper in the wide-open spaces of the oil-producing states.

I’m not sure if Missouri fits that description, but the $2.09 we paid in Joplin that night would take the title of cheapest price on the whole 4,000-mile adventure. The record from there shows purchases like $2.19 at both the Sky City Travel Center in New Mexico and the Vinita Travel Plaza on the Will Rogers Turnpike in Oklahoma.

The drive home would make those greater Phoenix prices look like a bargain. By the time we made it to the MotoMart in Eureka, Mo., which overlooks the grandeur of Six Flags St Louis, we were happy to pay $2.47 per gallon, and everything was at least 20 cents higher on the Illinois side of the Mississippi.

Of course, all of this complaining is relative. When gas inevitably soars above $3 and beyond, I'll long for the $2.45 sign that greeted me one windswept March afternoon on Dirksen Parkway in Springfield.

If there was a going rate throughout the plains states and southwest last week, it was probably around $2.29, which could be found everywhere from Santa Rosa, N.M., to Winslow, Ariz. In Arizona’s ever-expanding Valley of the Sun, it was more like $2.40 at one Circle K after another.

But the drive home would make those greater Phoenix prices look like a bargain. By the time we made it to the MotoMart in Eureka, Mo., which overlooks the grandeur of Six Flags St Louis, we were happy to pay $2.47 per gallon, and everything was at least 20 cents higher on the Illinois side of the Mississippi.

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Gray paint still hot commodity for spring home rehab

It may still be gray outside, but if you have gray inside, too - painted on your walls - you've got what is still the No. 1 color for spring.

"Grays have been popular for two to three years now," said Ilhan Trnovac, assistant manager at J.C. Licht, 7051 W. North Ave., in Oak Park. "One particular gray, Revere Pewter - that one is very popular."

Spring has officially sprung, and that means spruce-up time, especially for those looking to sell their house. I've said this before, and I'll say it again: The most inexpensive way to give your house a quick and easy makeover is with a new coat of paint.

"It is absolutely the most reasonable way to update and give your house a fresh look," said Larry Jandris, store manager at Norridge Ace Hardware, 8330 W. Lawrence Ave.

If you're like me, you're indecisive when it comes to picking new colors. Do I get brave and try really funky, bright color schemes? Or do I stick with the mundane colors I currently have, and am sick of?

I swear, one of these days I'm going to bust loose and get brave! But for now, I'll probably change my beige walls to gray when the painting in my house gets underway within the next couple of weeks.

The Benjamin Moore Historical Collection, which has 170 or so colors in it that are somewhat muted, is used a lot in Oak Park, Trnovac said.

"It has a little bit of everything with a traditional or historical look to it," he said. "In the Oak Park, River Forest area, that's what we mainly sell."

At Ace Hardware, 2728 N. Harlem Ave. in Elmwood Park, "gray is real big," said owner Larry Colandrea. "The large areas are earth tones, but people will do one wall," Colandrea said. The accent colors are "much brighter than in the past 10 years," he said.

In Norridge, color is in, too, even though "this is still a pretty conservative town," said the Norridge Ace's Jandris.

"Grays and beiges are still the workhorses," Jandris said.

Yet the paint companies are looking to color your world with what they think is the hottest spring color, he said.

"Benjamin Moore says it's green; Valspar says it's blue; Ace says it's pink," Jandris said. "They all want to push color."

Jandris reminded me that different colors tend to emote different reactions. For example, warm colors such as red, yellow and orange are excitable, while cool colors like green, blue and violet have a calming and cooling influence.

"We don't sell paint, we sell color - so we're changing your life through color," Jandris said.

Felicia Dechter is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press. Got a real estate story idea? Email write12@comcast.net.
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<td>Renold Rasikam &amp; Valda Boburken</td>
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<td>Robert T. Schwanz</td>
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<td>128 Wicklund Ave, Libertyville</td>
<td>Baranara Thali</td>
<td>Nicholas C. Lazaretti</td>
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<td>Michael Curciano</td>
<td>03-02-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>246 Ceter Ln, Libertyville</td>
<td>Jonathan M. Dorr &amp; Natalie Dorr</td>
<td>Nasr Rahman</td>
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<td>254 Glenoak Rd, Libertyville</td>
<td>Matthew L. Deans &amp; Katie A. Deans</td>
<td>Drf Cambridge Homes Inc</td>
<td>02-26-15</td>
<td>$176,500</td>
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<td>48 Berkshire Ln, Lincolnshire</td>
<td>Benjamin Felt &amp; Tracey Fei</td>
<td>Alene L. Devlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>37 Dunes Ln, Lincolnshire</td>
<td>Jordan Mandel</td>
<td>Bin Xu</td>
<td>02-24-15</td>
<td>$789,000</td>
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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
DEERFIELD
Circular drive with lush perennial landscape leads the way to this one-owner Jacobs-built custom home with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Expanded & continuously updated, including 2-story foyer, entertainment-size newer kitchen with granite counters and island with seating, maple cabinetry, & bay eating area. Vaulted living room with hardwood flooring, separate dining room, family room with wood-burning fireplace, and newer Pella sliders to deck and yard. Expanded master suite has luxury bathroom.

Address: 905 King Richards Court
Price: $598,000
Schools: Deerfield High School
Taxes: $14,290
Agent: Karen Poteshman Skurie/Baird & Warner Highland Park

LAKE ZURICH
Mature half-acre home site affords privacy by perimeter trees. Four-bedroom, 3.5-bath home includes expansive master suite, full walk-out basement, and heated 3-car garage with a workshop. Freshly painted, new carpets, new heating and family rooms. Entertainment-sized deck & patio with hot-tub. Built-in storage room off the lower level for yard equipment.

Address: 157 Beech Drive
Price: $569,900
Schools: Lake Zurich High School
Taxes: $17,718
Agent: Michael Rein/CENTURY 21 Center

GRAYS LAKE
Large sunroom has sliders opening to the backyard with 20x40 heated pool with diving board, surrounded by aggregate patio and wooded fenced yard with beautiful perennials and trees for park-like living. Traditional colonial with large rooms. Windows have been replaced (Marvin and Pella). New carpeting in bedrooms and basement. Steam showers in baths. Master has whirlpool bath, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths.

Address: 18971 West Maple Ave.
Price: $315,000
Schools: N/A
Taxes: $9,472
Agent: Richard Capocci/RE/MAX Center

NORTHBROOK
4-bedroom, 2.5-bath home has updated kitchen with tons of cabinets. Breakfast bar opens to family room. Separate dining room opens to elegant living room. First-floor mud/laundry room. Hardwood floors, newer windows and skylights. Freshly painted. Unfinished basement with great space.

Address: 1440 Cedar Lane
Price: $549,000
Schools: Glenbrook North High School
Taxes: $8,572
Agent: Paula Joyce/KoenigRubloff Realty Group

Listing from Homefinder.com.
I 22

Audiologists warn of hearing loss from earbuds

BY JACKIE PILossoph
Pioneer Press

There's nothing unusual about kids listening to loud music. It's to be expected, isn't it? But what many people don't realize is that loud music and other loud noises are dangerous and can cause permanent damage to the ears.

It is this serious issue that motivated the audiologists from Audiology Associates, an audiology practice in Deerfield and Northbrook, to spend an afternoon raising awareness by educating a group of New Trier High School band students.

"It's important to get the message across that once you've done damage, it can't be fixed," said Dr. Sheri Gostomelsky, who holds a doctorate in audiology and who founded the practice 15 years ago. "It's easy to dismiss the dangers, but we're seeing more teens losing their hearing because they're listening to music too loudly through their earbuds. And it doesn't get better. It's important to take care of your ears."

"As musicians, these students are extremely reliant on their ability to hear," said Liz Meyer, who also holds a doctorate in audiology. "Education about hearing care among children and young adults is lacking. Teens are experiencing more hearing loss now than ever before, and musicians who don't use hearing protection can do permanent damage to their hearing."

Along with a presentation to the students on ways to prevent hearing loss, Audiology Associates donated hearing protection to the pep band, as well as a sound level meter to help band director Matt Temple determine volume levels at school events and promote healthy hearing for years to come.

"A lot of the students didn't realize that exposure to the typical day-to-day sounds can add up and eventually affect their hearing negatively," said Temple, who has held his position at New Trier for 20 years. "Often times, students assume hearing is only affected by really loud sounds, but that's not true. Consistent exposure to moderately loud sounds can also be very damaging."

Meyer explained that the rule of thumb is that listening to sound at a level of 85 decibels or louder will cause damage. She said kids are listening to their music at even louder levels than that.

"I see the effect of hearing loss on my patients and the negative side effects and I know these kids are doing horrible damage on a regular basis," she said.

Gostomelsky said fortunately, prevention of hearing loss is easy if students are willing to wear proper ear protection.

"There are earplugs that allow you to hear speech and music clearly, but that will limit what your ears are exposed to, so nothing ever gets so loud that it will damage your ears," she explained.

Audiology Associates staff also includes Mark Christian.

The practice is dedicated to treating hearing disorders, hearing loss, and tinnitus, or ringing of the ears, as well as hearing conservation and hearing loss prevention.

Audiology Associates has offices at 1535 Lake Cook Road in Northbrook and at 400 Lake Cook Road in Deerfield. To learn more, visit audiologyillinois.com.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Thursday, April 2

Cafe Music: The Lisker Music Foundation presents an extremely unique concert that fuses classical music with jazz, Latin and Broadway. Young, yet world-renowned musicians (all graduates of Juilliard) perform. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Glenview House, 1843 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-742-0692

Do more with Excel 2010: This follow-up to Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2010 covers performing calculations with formulas and functions. 7 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6410 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-699-1070

The 9th Annual Opera Idol Competition: This is the vocal competition for aspiring opera singers all across the Midwest. Young opera singers who compete may win invaluable training with opera greats such as baritone Sherrill Milnes, soprano Maria Zouves and composer Carlisle Floyd. The senior division 9th Annual Opera Idol Finals event is at 7 p.m. on April 17. Make reservations today! Opera Idol Preliminary Rounds (March 11, and 19); Opera Idol ‘Junior’ Competitions (March 31 and April 2). 7:30 p.m. Thursday, The Merion, 1611 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 847-864-6400

Let’s Talk @ Lunch: Participants bring their lunch, the YWCA Evanston/North Shore provides the beverage, facilitator and a topic, article or video clip as the catalyst for honest conversation. For information, contact: Eileen Hogan Heineman, eheinemann@ywce-ns.org; phone ext. 189 or go to the website.

St. Haralambos Philochothos Spring Bake Sale: The Ladies Philochothos Society of the St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church hosts a Spring Bake Sale. Featured are sweet tsoureki bread, koulourakia, lambathes and Easter gift baskets. Home-made Greek pastries are also available. A Lenten lunch served both days, and a sit-down coffee shop is provided. Call for a pastry order. 9 a.m. Thursday, Holy Taxiarhahi-St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 7373 North Caldwell Ave., Niles, free, 847-647-8880

Book Discussion: This group meets on the first Thursday of each month. 1 p.m. Thursday, Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-5127

Medication and Sharps Collection: Deposit your old or unneeded medications and needles in a safe manner by taking them to the foyers in City Hall on the first Thursday of each month. Medications 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, April 3

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

"Seven Last Words of Christ": Haydn: The Montage Ensemble plays "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Franz Joseph Haydn. noon Friday, St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, 205 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-6659

"Last of the Red Hot Lovers": Emergent Theatre Co. presents Neil Simon’s play directed by film and television star Robert Costanzo. The production preview Thursday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m. and runs March 27-April 19. Tickets are available at www.emergenttheatre.org, or by calling (773) 729-7294. 7:30 p.m. Friday, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, 7050 Church St., Skokie, $20 adults; $10 seniors/students with ID. 773-729-7294

Hangar One, 2651 Navy Blvd., Glenview, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m., $10 per person. No reservations. Visit www.facebook.com/Lincolnwood-TownCenter to register. Schedule: Monday, Wednesday, Friday Telefon: 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m., $10 per person. No reservations. Visit www.facebook.com/Lincolnwood-TownCenter to register. Schedule: 1 p.m. Diaper Derby (0-12 months, nursery; 1:20 p.m. Shopping Cart Races (3-5 years old); 2 p.m. Egg Hunt (2-11 years old). Must bring one’s own basket. 1 p.m. Saturday, Lincolnwood Town Center, 6340 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-745-4220

Share-A-Seder: Temple Beth Israel presents its annual Share-A-Seder. Bring for your family: hard boiled, peeled eggs; kosher for Passover matzah; wine and/or grape juice. Reservations and payment due by March 27. For more information, call or see website. 6 p.m. Saturday, Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie, Dinner: adults

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
WHERE TO BUY NOW

Why high-rise condos are having a moment, plus the latest home price data for 74 city neighborhoods and 201 suburbs.

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CALENDAR

Saturday Night Ballroom - April Dance and Waltz Lesson: Experienced ballroom dancer or a newcomer, with or without a dance partner. Come and join instructor, dancer, and host Vito Magrone for a social ballroom dance. A group lesson prior to the dance is included in the cost. The social ballroom dancing begins at 8 p.m. with a DJ specializing in playing tunes for waltz, tango, cha cha, swing, hustle, salsa, rumba, samba, fox trot and more. Free lot parking. You can pay at the door or purchase tickets online: http://justdance.us/tickets/ (Check website for future dates). 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Just Dance Studios at Georgetown West, 301 South Prospect Ave., Wood Dale, $10, 630-542-7644.

Monday, April 6

Book Babies: Songs, games, story time and free play for babies ages 0 to 3. 10 a.m. Monday, Evanston Public Library - North Branch, 2026 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-448-8600.

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.

Knitting Roundtable: Come work through knitting projects and socialize with fellow knitters. Expert knitters can show you how to solve knitting 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, 6410 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, 6410 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

MGPL Kids: Monday Morning Play group: 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, 6410 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Money Matters Discussion: The group meets on the first and third Monday of each month. 10 a.m. Monday, Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-3597.

Exploring Grief: 7 p.m. Monday, Kenilworth Union Church, 211 Kenilworth Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-4272.

Tuesday, April 7

5Rhythms Dance: Come explore the 5Rhythms Dance - a movement meditation to music. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Raydiant Day, 1400 Greenleaf St., Evanston, free, 847-964-1679.
Rotary Club of Evanston Lighthouse: This community leadership group boasts 80 members and meets every Tuesday. 7:15 a.m. Tuesday, Hilton Garden Inn Chicago North Shore, Evanston, 1818 Maple Ave., Evanston, free.

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.

Genealogy First Tuesdays: This informal group meets to break down the "brick walls" that make genealogy research difficult and give each other tips and advice on exploring genealogy. Registration is required. 2 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Emerging Sounds: New Artists for 2015: Explore music found in the library's popular music CD collection with AV Librarian Michael White. April's discussion will focus on new artists emerging in 2015. As spring brings a thaw, well see if we can forecast which new bands and artists will make a lasting impact on popular music this year. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Michael Paiascak: The local comedian - as seen on "Letterman" and "Leno" - headlines a stand-up showcase. 8 p.m. Wednesday, Zanies Rosemont, 5437 Park Pl., Rosemont, $22 plus a two-item food-drink minimum, 847-813-0484.

Julie Butler Chanteuse: Julie Butler Chanteuse Brings "A Touch of Downton Abbey" to her Red Carpet Events for seniors. A red carpet is rolled out for attendees of the matinee performances. 2 p.m. Wednesday, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, $15, 847-677-7761.

LitLounge Book Discussion: Discuss the book Ali: The Unseen by G. Willow Wilson. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, The Curragh Irish Pub Skokie, 8266 Lincoln Ave., Skokie, 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.

Alzheimer's Support Group at Skokie Library: Support group intended for family and friends caring for someone with memory loss. Email facilitator Joanna Leja at SkokieAlzGroup@gmail.com or call her at 847-673-1250. 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Skokie Public Library, 5218 Oakton St., Skokie, free, 847-673-1250.

Wednesday, April 8

Ben Kronberg: The comedian seen on NBC's "Last Comic Standing" makes his Chicago debut at The Lincoln Lodge's weekly show. 8 p.m. Wednesday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $15-$22, 847-492-8860.

Preschool Story Time: Stories and songs for children ages 3-5 and a caregiver. 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston, free, 847-448-8610.

Julie Butler Chanteuse: Julie Butler Chanteuse Brings "A Touch of Downton Abbey" to her Red Carpet Events for seniors. A red carpet is rolled out for attendees of the matinee performances. 2 p.m. Wednesday, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, $15, 847-677-7761.

LitLounge Book Discussion: Discuss the book Ali: The Unseen by G. Willow Wilson. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, The Curragh Irish Pub Skokie, 8266 Lincoln Ave., Skokie, free, 847-965-4220.
What began as a wedding party at the home of board chairman Peg O’Herron and husband Bob Healy of Schaumburg, has blossomed into a festive St. Patrick’s Day bash.

On March 8, 350 guests came to the Cotillion Banquets hall in Palatine for the 18th annual Avenues to Independence Irish Fest. Awaiting them at the end of the rainbow was a four-course banquet, silent auction and, of course, a Pot O’Gold on which to try their luck in raffle.

Since 1953, Avenues to Independence has worked to maximize self-reliance for individuals with physical, intellectual and other developmental disabilities by providing homes, jobs and community living programs.

The 2015 Irish Fest raised $50,000 which will go directly toward refurbishing, repairing and making Avenues-supported homes and apartments more accessible. See more at: avenuestoindependence.org

Irish Fest raises $50,000 for Avenues to Independence

Eric Johnson, board member (from left, Mary Johnson, Naomi and Kevin Goll, all of Park Ridge

Jim (clockwise, from left), Allison, Cathy, Patrick, Clare and Emma McCarthy all of Park Ridge

Tim Kelly, Avenues participant, (left), with dad Bernard Kelly, both of Inverness

Bob Okazaki of Barrington, executive director, and Michele Shoolin of Glencoe, vice president of development
CAUSE & EVENT

2015 Aloha Casino Event raises $25,000 for Dist. 64 schools

2015 Aloha Casino Event
Benefiting:
Park Ridge School District 64 Elementary Learning Foundation. The not-for-profit ELF grants money to D64 teachers and administrators for innovative and imaginative programs and projects. Since its inception in 1994, ELF has granted $675,000 across more than 200 programs in D64 schools.

Location:
Café La Cave, Des Plaines

Raised:
$25,000

Attended:
325

Featuring:
Casino style gambling with D64 teacher “celebrity” dealers, silent auction, wine auction and a Hawaiian luau-style dinner

Website:
www.district64elf.org

District 64 school board Secretary Vicki Lee (from left), Steve Lee and Vice-President Scott Zimmerman, all of Park Ridge

District 64 ELF Teacher Representatives Kara Pottinger (left), and Cheryl Williams, both Park Ridge school teachers

Introducing Metromix Picks: Chicago's original entertainment guide, now in app form

The editors of Metromix.com have curated their top picks in categories like concerts, brunch spots, art showings and much more, so you can spend less time planning, and more time doing.
Who is liable for windshield broken at golf course?

Dear Help Squad,
In fall 2004, while watching a high school golf match at a local private country club, one of the high school boys hit a stray tee shot into the parking lot in which I was legally parked. Unfortunately, the stray shot hit my vehicle, shattering the windshield. I had the windshield replaced. I contacted the school to get reimbursed. They directed me to their insurance agent. When I contacted the insurance agent and told him the story, his explanation was to the point: The school is not responsible. My point was I was at the golf course to watch a school-sponsored event. If the school was not at the course, I would not have been at the course. So therefore I think the school should be responsible for reimbursing the $127 cost of the windshield. I contacted my insurance company, and the deductible is $500. I know the golf course is not responsible for damages that a golfer causes. The golfer is responsible for any damages that he causes. In this case the golfer was playing for the school; that is why the school should be responsible. I'm looking for a second opinion. Who is responsible for paying for the damages?

Thanks,
Bill
Naperville

Help Squad reached out to State Farm Insurance for an answer to Bill's question. We were put in touch with State Farm's spokesperson, Missy Dundov who explained that, "Each claim is handled on its own individual merits."

CATHY CUNNINGHAM
Help Squad

Subrogation is a legal process in which insurance companies can resolve disputes. Subrogation is a legal process in which insurance companies can resolve disputes and recoup costs through negotiation, arbitration or other legal remedies with another party's insurance company.

It is important here to understand that with auto insurance, a claimant's deductible will come into play, so the damaged party will need to determine if they want to file (and incur that expense), she said.

Help Squad provided all the above information to Bill who responded with the following: "Thanks for investigating my story. I was hoping the school would be liable and pay for the damages, since it was a school-sponsored event. I would not feel right asking the boy's parents to file a claim on their insurance policy or have them reimburse me, even though it was an accident."

You're welcome, Bill. Sorry things didn't work out exactly as you'd hoped. However, your inquiry likely enlightened a few Help Squad readers, and though not monetary in value, there is value to just the same. Thanks for the question.

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.

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press. HelpSquad@pioneerlocal.com

Do sweatpants really cause divorce?

I have always been a huge fan of actress, Eva Mendes. I love that she has such an adorable performance in "The Lucky One" (2003) and "The Lucky One" (2005) and I thought she was great when she played the malicious girlfriend in "The Lucky One" (2008).

So when I saw the clip from her infamous interview warning, "Ladies, the number one cause of divorce in America — sweatpants," I laughed.

What was utterly shocking to me was the aftermath of the comment: the backlash she received from those offended by her disapproval of sweatpants! Not only did Mendes feel the need to apologize on twitter for her sweatpants remark, but her boyfriend, Ryan Gosling, even had to comment on her behalf, stating on twitter, "Obviously the sweatpants remark was a joke. Wearing them now."

My question is, is everyone so sensitive and defensive when it comes to sweatpants? Clearly, they are an item of clothing meant for comfort and not for the purpose of looking sexy or attractive. In other words, what are they for? Why the eggshells?

Do I agree with Eva that sweatpants cause divorce? Yes and no. I will be the first one to admit that I adore sweatpants, and spend a lot of time in them. Just ask anyone in my neighborhood if they have seen me at our local Starbucks in the morning wearing, ahem, sweatpants. They'll vouch for me. And, I do not believe sweatpants were the cause of my divorce.

All that said, I believe there is a time and place for sweatpants in a marriage (or a serious relationship). Lounging around in sweatpants with your spouse and ordering a pizza on a lazy Sunday can be blissful. However, I believe to be the real issue of sweatpants lies in the frequency. In other words, maybe Mendes should have said, "Ladies, the number one cause of divorce in America — wearing sweatpants more often than not."

In my opinion, there are many men and women in relationships who get a little too complacent in their daily appearance, and perhaps because of busy schedules end up putting how they dress at the bottom of their list of priorities. I know I have been guilty of it at times. But repetitive days of no makeup, an old t-shirt, unwashed hair and yes, sweatpants, can lead to a lack of romance, sex, dates and possibly a romantic disconnect which can cause marital problems and divorce.

I happened to be out at a nice restaurant in my neighborhood a couple weeks ago, when I spotted a married couple at the bar, waiting for a table. Keep in mind it was a Saturday night. The guy looked handsome, shaven, and was wearing a button down and dark jeans. The woman: no makeup, hair in a ponytail, old Levi's jeans, a sweatshirt and running shoes. I seriously couldn't believe it. Now, maybe I seem shallow and judgmental, but it frustrated me. This woman was not ugly. She had a nice body and the potential of being very attractive. She couldn't find 15 minutes to make herself look nice for a dinner date with the love of her life? The question going through my mind was, "When did she stop caring?"

I'd be willing to bet a thousand dollars that this woman did not wear a similar outfit on her first date: with her husband several years earlier. Maybe she's lost interest in her husband romantically or sexually. Maybe she's just lazy. Those scenarios are what lead to divorce, not sweatpants.

Looking attractive, instead of wearing sweatpants every single day in front of your spouse (with the exception of the gym) is important because it shows you still value the romantic element to your relationship. People get divorced when they give up, and nothing says, "I gave up" more than sweatpants. Maybe that's what Mendes was trying to say.

Jackie Pilosoph is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Twitter: @lovesentially
The road back from a heart attack

Treatment programs put patients onto life's active track

BY DES BIELER
The Washington Post

"The No. 1 reason that people in the United States, across the board, will die is because of cardiac and vascular disease."

That was the grim beginning of my conversation with Alfred Casale, chairman of cardiothoracic surgery at the Geisinger Heart & Vascular Institute in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

OK, well, that's the bad news. There is some good news, right?

Right. Over the last 25 years or so, Casale said, the treatment of cardiac diseases has improved to the point that "it's really one of the success stories of modern medicine."

"When I was growing up," the 59-year-old continued, "somebody having a heart attack was a catastrophe. Now, although a heart attack is still nothing to be taken lightly, somebody with the same kind of problem is likely to be going home the next day, off of work for a couple of days, and then back in the saddle with a plan in place to change their lifestyle."

That plan probably has a pharmaceutical element. But an extensive course of physical workouts is usually also required, and if hitting the gym can seem daunting for healthy people, it's particularly scary for those whose hearts have recently failed them.

However, if the process is managed carefully, even an elderly person with a weak heart and little previous experience with working out can become a success story.

The key, according to Casale, is to "assess where you are, set a plan for where you want to go, and then very gradually, three times a week over a 12-week period, begin to ramp up gently the amount of exercise." And ideally, continue exercising for the rest of your life.

Which is where a place like the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center, located in Glen Burnie, comes in. Exercise physiologist Debbie Lund, who has been a supervisor at the center's cardiac rehab program since it began in 1985, said "the majority of patients are toward the older population. ... It's mostly aerobic but some strength training."

Jim Southworth, 78, is one of the center's regulars. The Glen Burnie resident has been exercising there for 14 years, ever since undergoing quintuple bypass surgery.

Southworth then does a slow warm-up on a treadmill before setting it on an incline with a speed of 3 mph for about 10 minutes. Then he rotates between a step machine, an arm ergometer sometimes called an arm bike and the treadmill before weighing himself, cooling down and checking his resting pulse and heart rate.

The whole process usually takes a little over an hour, and he is living proof of its effectiveness (along with, of course, sensible eating habits and medication).

Before his bypass, Southworth said, his 5-foot-9 frame carried about 250 pounds, but the initial course of rehab got his weight down to around 195, and he has kept it there.

Once victims of a heart attack or heart disease are done with the 12-week program, they are not required to keep coming back to a medical facility for maintenance; that can be done at any gym or even at home.

Casale noted that "more and more commercial gyms are recognizing that putting programs together for specific populations, like patients who've had heart attacks in the past or are rehabbing from a cardiac event, is not only part of their mission, but it's good business." For heart attack survivors who want to get into a medically supervised maintenance program, Casale suggested checking with a local branch of the American Heart Association or with hospitals that have interventional cardiology programs.

For his part, Southworth gets peace of mind from working out near medical personnel. "This way ... if something goes wrong, within 10 to 15 seconds, somebody's there, and they're taking care of you."
Loud gym music: Bad workout for your ears

BY VICKY HALLETT
The Washington Post

During her first workout at Orangetheory Fitness in Fairfax, Va., Donna Reid was blown away by two things: "How hard it was and how loud it was." The 51-year-old adored the studio's interval training program—a mix of treadmill, rowing machine and resistance exercises—but when it came to the accompanying music assaulting her eardrums, well, that didn't seem so sound.

"I want to do something good for my body. I don't want to do something detrimental at the same time," said Reid, who asked the trainer to turn down the volume. She got her wish for a few minutes. But when it crept up again, Reid knew she would need a different tactic.

She's settled on earplugs, which she brings without fail to her five Orangetheory sessions each week. A couple of classmates have commended this strategy, although they haven't followed her lead. As for the rest?

"When it's a song they like, they'll yell out to the trainer to crank it up. I think they're crazy," Reid said.

At the very least, they're probably not thinking about the potential ramifications of that request. Loud noise, like sun exposure, is the sort of thing that might not seem harmful at any given moment, but the cumulative effects can be devastating and irreversible, said Deanna Meinke, a professor of audiology at the University of Northern Colorado and co-director of Dangerous Decibels, a public health campaign targeting noise-induced hearing loss.

Researchers have raised concerns about music at gyms since the 1980s, loud music, the less likely you are to mind it, he added.

Once permanent hearing loss creeps in, however, you won't be able to ignore that volume any longer. It feels like sticking in an earplug, which muffles everything. Instead, soft sounds are blocked and loud noises seem to get louder, Bakke explained. That's why, as we age, we tend to be bothered more by blasting music. (Or, as Bakke puts it: "I sound like a crotchety old man!)."

As seniors become an increasingly important target for the fitness industry, trainers need to take extra note of noise, said Bernadette O'Brien, an 84-year-old aerobics instructor, who raises these issues at conferences around the world. Music is an integral part of all of her classes "It creates a mood, makes you feel nice and encourages you to move," she said.

But turn it too loud, and "the chronologically enriched won't be happy about it. And they will tell you," O'Brien added. To prevent that, she recommends just 60 decibels for seniors.

As a general rule, adults can safely tolerate 85 decibels for as long as eight hours. But get above that, and the time frame shrinks rapidly, Meinke said. The human ear can handle 91 decibels for two hours, and 94 decibels for just one hour.

A sign that it's too loud: You experience ringing in your ears (tinnitus).

Meinke noted, but the fitness industry doesn't seem all that interested in dialing it down. A study released last year by Australia's National Acoustic Laboratories compared sound levels from fitness classes in 2009-2011 with those from 1997-1998. The finding: High-intensity offerings are even noisier than they were a decade ago, with indoor cycling classes topping the list of culprits, blaring tunes as loud as 99 decibels.

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A sign that it's too loud: You experience ringing in your ears (tinnitus) after you've stepped out of the gym. You also might have temporary hearing loss, but the effect often is too slight to notice, said Matthew Bakke, chairman of the audiology department at Gallaudet University. If you think it may be too loud, it probably is. But the more you're exposed to

people's pharmacy

Vitamin D supplements can help ease psoriasis

BY JOE GRAEDON
AND TERESA GRAEDON
King Features Syndicate

Q: I have been taking 5,000 mg of vitamin D-3, and my psoriasis has seriously improved as a result. If only I had known about this 15 years ago, it would have saved me so much anguish. I can't understand why doctors don't recommend vitamin D along with their creams.

A: Both oral and topical vitamin D can be effective against psoriasis (International Journal of Dermatology online, Jan. 20, 2015). People with eczema may also benefit from vitamin D supplementation (Journal of Drugs in Dermatology, March 2012).

A surprising number of people have inadequate levels of vitamin D, especially during the winter. Read more about this crucial nutrient and its role in helping control blood pressure, easing arthritis pain and preventing fractures in the Guide to Vitamin D Deficiency. Anyone who would like a copy, please send $3 in check or money order with a long (No. 10), stamped (70 cents), self-addressed envelope to: Graedons' People's Pharmacy, No. D-23, P.O. Box 52027, Durham, NC 27717-2027. It also can be downloaded for $2 from our website: peoplespharmacy.com.

Q: I saw a commercial for Brisdelle and wanted to know more since I have struggled with hot flashes and night sweats for way too long. Then I learned it has the same ingredient as Paxil.

I took Paxil some years ago for depression, and when I stopped, the withdrawal symptoms were horrific. I suffered "brain zaps"; it was the worst thing I've ever been through.

As a result, I won't go near Brisdelle. The commercial says it's the only nonhormonal option. Is that really true?

A: Brisdelle is the only nonhormonal drug that the Food and Drug Administration has approved for hot flashes. The maker might be emphasizing the nonhormonal angle because many women worry about hormone replacement therapy. Estrogen and progesterone may raise the risk of breast and ovarian cancer, heart attacks, strokes and dementia.

The ad doesn't mention that the active ingredient in Brisdelle, paroxetine, was originally used as an antidepressant. Nor does it say that stopping paroxetine suddenly can be hard, as you discovered.

Most importantly, the commercial does not tell how well it works. The difference between Brisdelle and placebo was two fewer hot flashes per day. While that is statistically significant, it is hardly impressive, especially since women had to experience at least seven flashes a day to be included in the study. Side effects of Brisdelle include headache, nausea, vomiting and fatigue. Suicidal thoughts also may occur on occasion.

There may be a side effect on the wallet as well. One woman said her Brisdelle bill was $178 for a month's supply. A low dose of generic paroxetine, though not approved for hot flashes, runs about $4.

Q: My doctor prescribed Celebrex several years ago to help ease the arthritis pain in my knee. Three days ago, my pharmacy substituted with generic celecoxib.

I was pleased with the savings, but my pain has grown worse daily. Have other people found that generic celecoxib is not as effective as Celebrex?

A: The FDA approved generic celecoxib in May 2014, so it has been available for less than a year. Although we get complaints about other generic drugs, we've not heard from readers regarding generic Celebrex. If we hear from others, we will let you know.

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via peoplespharmacy.com.
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2 cups (2 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese
3/4 cup sour cream
1/4 cup chopped onion
1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted

Optional Topping Ingredients:
1-1/2 cups corn flakes, coarsely crushed
2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted

Instructions:
1. Heat oven to 350°F. Spray 2 quart glass baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.
2. In large bowl, combine all hash brown ingredients; mix well. Spread into prepared baking dish.
3. In small bowl, stir together topping ingredients. Spread topping evenly over hash browns. Bake 45 minutes or until hash browns are tender. Serves 8 tot.

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Signature

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My Granddaughter, I Love You to the Moon and Back
Diamond Pendant & Music Box

She's your beloved granddaughter, and you'd travel to the ends of the earth to show her how much you adore her. Now, you can express your never-ending devotion to your dear granddaughter with an extraordinary gift available exclusively from the Danbury Mint.

Meaningful design; beautiful presentation.
The silver-plated crescent moon pendant features three sparkling diamonds. Nestled in the graceful arc of the moon rests a gleaming heart surrounded by 14kt gold-plated stars. The back is engraved with the words: "My granddaughter, I love you to the moon and back." The pendant arrives in an exquisite handcrafted wooden box, adorned with the same sentiment as the pendant. Once opened, the melody "Beautiful Dreamer" will begin to play.

Satisfaction guaranteed.
This pendant and music box can be yours to give for just $99 plus $7.50 shipping and service, payable in three monthly installments of $32.50. Your satisfaction is guaranteed. If you are not completely thrilled, return the set within 90 days for a full refund. Don't delay — order today!

The Danbury Mint
47 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06857

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Address:__________________________

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Send no money now.

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Wrap feet in unbelievably soft cushioned comfort. Kushy gel conforms to toes & feet to help take away joint pain, pressure point and painful foot problems. Fits like a glove to help cushion and straighten toes and protect balls of feet. Wear them anywhere, any time for ultimate comfort...they even fit under shoes to rejuvenate each & every step. Imported cotton/rayon & gel construction. One size fits most.

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Woolite® Darks keeps darks vibrant for over 30 washes. It is free of harsh ingredients® and has the perfect balance of clean and care.

*like bleach and enzymes

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Receive a rebate for your purchase price (up to $4.49) by mail with purchase of one LYSOL® Power & Free™ Taptop Multi-Purpose Cleaner.

To receive your rebate, MAIL in the following:
1. Original cash register receipt dated between 03/21/15 and 04/03/15 showing purchase of LYSOL® Power & Free™ Taptop Multi-Purpose Cleaner with date and purchase price circled.
2. Original UPC from product package.
3. This completed form.

Place in a properly stamped envelope and mail postmarked by 05/30/15 to:
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Please print clearly; proper delivery depends on a complete and correct address.

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ADDITIONAL TERMS
Offer valid in US sale on purchase of one (1) unit of LYSOL® Power & Free™ Taptop Multi-Purpose Cleaner between 03/21/15 and 04/03/15. Not sold or packaged outside. Requests must be postmarked by 05/30/15. Offer will be shipped in 4-6 weeks to delivery.

1. Grab a paper towel
2. Tap the top once
3. Wipe to clean and kill 99.9% of germs*

SAVE 10% WITH cartwheel.


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Enjoy Britain's favourite comfort shoes...

For more than fifty years my family have dedicated their lives to making sumptuous shoes that you won't want to take off when you arrive home. Each of our unique Comfort Concept features go some way to giving the most comfortable fit you'll ever experience.

The Finest British Quality
Our commitment to quality and craftsmanship is paramount and today we still mould our shoes on Hotter lasts, before each pair is hand finished and then quality checked before being sent to you.

100% Happy Guarantee
All our range is covered by our 100% happy guarantee. It really is that simple, if you don't love your shoes, simply exchange them within 90 days using the FREE shipping label provided.

Stewart Houigrave, Hotter Comfort Concept®, Founder

P.S. By the way, we have over 140 styles online. Visit us now at www.hotterusa.com!

Find the perfect fit?
New Slim Fit – For those with a narrower foot, say between a US narrow & medium
Comfort Fit – For those who'd normally wear a US medium or between a medium and wide
Extra Wide Fit – Recommended if you normally wear a US wide fitting

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WHAT MAKES HOTTER SHOES SO SPECIAL?...

...SUPER SOFT • LIGHTWEIGHT • CUSHIONING • FLEXIBLE • BREATHABLE • HALF SIZES • WIDTH FITTINGS

JEWEL

Super soft leather
Beautiful ballerina pump jewel slips on softly with pillow-like cushioning that's gentle underfoot. Naturally breathable leather makes this flat shoe feel ultra-fresh.

Heel height: 1 inch
US Sizes: 5, 5½, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 11
Slim Fit available in Dark Aqua, White Gold and Black
Hotter Comfort Fit available in all colours
Extra Wide Fit available in all colours

Normally $119 now 40% off
$71
**MABEL**

*Light cushioning underfoot*

Cool canvas classic Mabel is full of Comfort Concept® features, like the soft touch uppers, lightweight shock absorbing soles and naturally breathable and cushioned leather insoles.

Heel height: 1 inch

US Sizes: 5, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 11

Hotter Comfort Fit available in all colours

Extra Wide Fit available in all colours

Normally $80 now 40% off

$48

**ESSMY**

*Classic cushioned canvas pumps*

Wrap your feet in feather light on-trend style, Essmy. This classic pump is packed with comfort features, like elasticated gussets for extra stretch, a removable cushioned insole, and utterly flexible sole. Classic colours and branded leather tab add distinctive stand out detail.

Heel height: 1 inch

US Sizes: 5, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 11

Hotter Comfort Fit available in all colours

Normally $70 now 40% off

$42

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Call TOLL FREE 1 866 378 7811
NIRVANA

Wiggle room for toes
Sumptuous all round padding, lightweight leather
Nirvana takes you to a higher level of comfort.
The stretchy button strap makes it easy to slip on.

Heel height: 1 inch
US Sizes: 5, 5½, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 11
Hotter Comfort Fit available in all colours
Extra Wide Fit available in all colours

Normally $119 now 40% off
$71

Over 140 styles available at www.hotterusa.com
**New AVA**

Classic and effortless

There's more to Ava's pretty feminine looks than meets the eye. An elasticated, cross over touch strap makes for a comfortable fit, whilst extra cushioning to the heel gives you a little bounce in your step. Distinctive punched flower design adds the perfect finishing touch.

Heel height: 1 inch
US Sizes: 5, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 11
Hotter Comfort Fit available in all colours
Extra Wide Fit available in all colours

Normally $99 now 40% off
$59

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**New QUAKE**

Pretty, breathable punched design

Just the thing for longer summer days, Quake will keep your feet feeling as fresh as a daisy. Cute cut-outs and punched detail in the leather and nubuck uppers allow skin to breathe, whilst an adjustable touch fasten strap brings added comfort. A cushioned, flexible and lightweight sole completes its easy-wear design.

Heel height: 1 inch
US Sizes: 5, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 11
Hotter Comfort Fit available in all colours
Extra Wide Fit available in all colours except Winter Taupe Nubuck

Normally $119 now 40% off
$71

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“The shoes are very comfortable and stylish.”
Lisa, Oakland CA
RIMINI

Introducing our lightweight classic

Sink your feet into super soft Rimini. With its all leather style, and cushioned support at the heel and collar, your feet will be cocooned in luxury. Twin elasticated gussets to the front allow for extra flex. A pretty laser cut design creates a daisy fresh finish.

Heel height: 1 inch
US Sizes: 5, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 11
Hotter Comfort Fit available in all colours
Extra Wide Fit available in all colours except Rose Gold/Soft Gold

Normally $119 now 40% off
$65

Over 140 styles available at www.hotterusa.com
“Wonderful to have a 'dressy' pair of shoes with a reasonable heel”
Mrs Tiggy, Scotland

New POLLYANNA
Light cushioning underfoot
Utterly feminine, Pollyanna boasts a pretty on-trend bow with intricate punched detail. Inside, Hotter Comfort Concept® features - pyramid cushioning, a feather light, flexible sole and roomy fit - all combine to indulge feet.

Heel height: 1 1/2 inches
US Sizes: 5, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 11
Hotter Comfort Fit available in all colours
Extra Wide Fit available in Flint/Cinder and Black
Imported

Normally $129 now 40% off
$77

RUMBA
Softly cushioned underfoot
Sleek, stylish Rumba is a formal leather shoe that's simply perfect for dressier days, with its light, flexible sole and cushioned insole.

Heel height: 1 3/4 inches
US Sizes: 5, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 11
Hotter Comfort Fit available in all colours
Extra Wide Fit available in Black and Beige
Imported

Normally $119 now 40% off
$71

Call TOLL FREE 1 866 378 7811
DONNA

Light and flexible

Softly cushioned and naturally breathable, Donna is a high cut slip on with full flexibility. Donna feels wonderful on the foot thanks to a breathable leather insole with pyramid cushioning and flexi grooves in the sole.

Heel height: 2 1/2 inches
US Sizes: 5, 5 1/2, 6, 6 1/2, 7, 7 1/2, 8, 8 1/2, 9, 9 1/2, 10, 11
Hotter Comfort Fit available in all colours
Extra Wide Fit available in Dark Aqua, Off White and Black
Imported

Normally $150 now 40% off
$90

Over 140 styles available at www.hotterusa.com
SORBET

*Our favourite flexible loafer*

Created from velvety nubuck or butter soft leathers. Sorbet loafers are an absolute luxury for your feet. A deep cushioned instep brings extra bliss, whilst a grooved flexible sole will have you walking on air.

Heel height: 1¼ inches
US Sizes: 5, 5½, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 11
Hotter Comfort Fit available in all colours
Extra Wide Fit available in Nude, Black and Light Taupe Nubuck
Imported

Normally $129 now 40% off
$77

40% OFF

plus FREE SHIPPING & FREE RETURNS on your first order

Call TOLL FREE 1 866 378 7811
SHIPLEY

The perfect classic kiltie

Our distinctively different kiltie shoe is super lightweight and has blissful pillow soft cushioning underfoot. Shipley slips on easily, with discreet stretch for comfort. With flexi grooves in the soles you’ll definitely feel a spring in your step.

Heel height: 1 1/4 inches
US Sizes: 5, 6, 6 1/2, 7, 7 1/2, 8, 8 1/2, 9, 9 1/2, 10, 11

Hotter Comfort Fit available in all colours
Extra Wide Fit available in Black and Tan
Imported

Normally $135 now 40% off
$81

LEANNE

Spring & ultra lightweight

Let Leanne’s shock absorbing sole and underfoot cushioning take your journey’s bumps. Soft and breathable, they sport a hygienic removable insole to keep your feet fresh.

Heel height: 1 inch
US Sizes: 5, 6, 6 1/2, 7, 7 1/2, 8, 8 1/2, 9, 9 1/2, 10, 11

Hotter Comfort Fit available in all colours
Extra Wide Fit available in Dark Pink/White and White/Grey/Lime

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Call TOLL FREE 1 866 378 7811
STAR

Extra bounce. Extra style.

This smart sporty shoe really does have Star features. With a shock absorbing sole, you can look forward to extra bounce, while a cushioned breathable inner sole keeps feet feeling great.

Heel height: 1 1/4 inches
US Sizes: 5, 6, 6 1/2, 7, 7 1/2, 8, 8 1/2, 9, 9 1/2, 10, 11
Hotter Comfort Fit available in all colours

Normally $85 now 40% off
$51

40% OFF
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on your first order

Tango Red Textile

Light Taupe Textile

Turquoise Textile

Dove Grey Textile

Navy Textile

Over 140 styles available at www.hotterusa.com
**IMOGEN**

*Flexible and multi-fastening*

Designed to fit perfectly, Imogen wraps your foot in utter comfort, with a blissfully soft cushioned footbed and contoured support. Lace up detail and an elasticated back buckle fastening allows for an adjustable, secure fit. A lightweight, flexible sole brings added all-day wearability.

Heel height: 1 ½ inches  
US Sizes: 5, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 11  
Hotter Comfort Fit available in all colours  
Extra Wide Fit available in Off White and Navy Blue  

Normally $115 now 40% off  
$69

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**EASY**

⭐️⭐️⭐️⭐️

*Our best selling classic*

Sink into Easy's curvaceous soft footbed then adjust both touch close straps and back buckle for a personalised fit. A light, flexible and super soft favourite.

Heel height: 1 ½ inches  
US Sizes: 5, 5½, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 11  
Hotter Comfort Fit available in all colours  
Extra Wide Fit available in all colours  

Normally $99 now 40% off  
$59

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Call TOLL FREE 1 866 378 7811
**ALMA**

*Super soft with adjustability*

Slip your feet into sumptuous underfoot padding. Alma literally caresses your feet with impressive comfort features: extra padding, ultra soft nubuck, an elasticated adjustable strap and two handy touch close fastenings add up to the perfect fit.

Heel height: 1 1/2 inches

US Sizes: 5, 5½, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 11

*Hotter Comfort Fit* available in all colours

*Extra Wide Fit* available in all colours except Pale Blue

Normally $109 now 40% off

$65

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**MAISIE**

*Utterly light. Utterly soft*

Designed to fit your foot beautifully, Maisie is a super soft sandal made with nubuck and textile straps boasting extra cushioning and contoured support. Three touch close fastenings gives you maximum stability for all day comfort.

Heel height: 1 1/2 inches

US Sizes: 5, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 11

*Hotter Comfort Fit* available in all colours

*Extra Wide Fit* available in all colours except Pale Blue

Normally $115 now 40% off

$69

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What makes Hotter shoes so special?...

SELENA
So soft. So stylish.
Your feet will love Selena. Packed with Comfort Concept® Hotter features, this easy to wear slip-on pampers toes with its extra underfoot foam cushioning, ultra soft milled leather and lightweight sole.

Heel height: 3/4 inch
US Sizes: 5, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 11
Hotter Comfort Fit available in all colours
Extra Wide Fit available in all colours except Mustard

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...SUPER SOFT • LIGHTWEIGHT • CUSHIONING • FLEXIBLE
• BREATHABLE • WIGGLE ROOM FOR TOES

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**UNTIL 10PM**

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**Easter Sale**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 2 THROUGH SATURDAY, APRIL 4**

**UP TO 60% OFF STOREWIDE SAVINGS INCLUDING:**

- Selected Ladies’ Easter dresses
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- up to 60% off home store
- FREE GIFT! with your fragrance purchase
- Plus, everything you need for Easter!

Don’t forget – There are more great items available online!

**BONUS**

**50% OFF**

Separates from NY Collection, AGB* and more.
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**BONUS**

**65% OFF**

Girls’ Easter dresses. Infants’ sizes and sizes 2-16.
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Ciao® 30" rolling duffel. Generous packing space for everything you need. Exterior pockets provide added organization.
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Dresses from Studio 1, Spense® and more. Sizes 4-16. Orig. $78. Web ID 860298.

**BONUS**

25%


**BONUS**

50%


**BONUS**

50%


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**BONUS**

**50% OFF**

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**50% OFF**
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Exclusively ours! Ruff Hewn apparel. Ladies' sizes S-XL. 4-16. Orig. $49 - $89. bonus 24.50 - 44.50. Web ID 865789.

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**BONUS**

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Mix-n-match panties from Vanity Fair®, Maidenform®, Warner's, Bali® and Olga. Reg. $9.50 - $11 each. Web ID 842478. Free item must be of equal or lesser value.

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Anne Klein® & Bandolino® sandals. Ladies' sizes 6-10, 11M. Reg. $69. Web ID 863175.

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Select Life Stride® and Easy Street® shoes. Ladies' sizes 6-10, 11M and 7-9W. Reg. $59. Web ID 863177.

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Carters® playwear.
Infants' sizes, Girls' 2-6X and Boys' 2-7.
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All Kids' sleepwear from Carters®.
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Free item must be of equal or lesser value.


BONUS BUY 1, GET 2 FREE
Pants and shorts from Izod® and Savane®, Waist sizes 32-42. Reg. $50 - 69.50. Web ID 712952. Also save on Big & Tall sizes. Free items must be of equal or lesser value.

19.97 Champion® fleece crewnecks and pants.
Men's sizes M-XXL. Reg. $28 - $36. Web ID 802052.

50% OFF
Dress shirts & ties from Kenneth Cole REACTION®
& Van Heusen®.

30% OFF

BONUS 19.97 Men's golf polos from Chaps®.
Sizes M-XXL. Reg. $55. Web ID 863186.

BONUS 49.97 QUEEN Exclusively ours! LivingQuarters reversible microfiber down-alternative comforter. In twin-king, including twin XL. Reg. $120 - $160. Web ID 854822. Coordinating shams also available.

60% OFF

14.97 TWIN/TWIN XL Exclusively ours! LivingQuarters Select mattress pads. Reg. $46. Also in full-king. Reg. $60 - $100, bonus 19.97. Web ID 533401. Also save 60% on our entire stock of mattress pads.

all home goods available @ carsons.com or at our in store kiosk
**THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, APRIL 2-4**

**BONUS BUYS AVAILABLE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. ADDITIONAL DISCOUNTS DO NOT APPLY TO BONUS BUYS.**

**BUY 1, GET 2 FREE**


**4.97**

**BATH**


**14.97**

18" CARRY-ON


**24.97**


**7.97**

Exclusively ours! LivingQuarters Micro Cozy throws. Reg. $24. Web ID 854970. Also save 50% on our entire stock of blankets.

**50% OFF**


**99.97**


**39.97**


**19.97**

Pyrex 12-pc. round glass set. Can be used as both bakeware and storage. Reg. $40. Web ID 646911.

**60% OFF**


**10.97**


**40% OFF**


**33% OFF**


**79.97**


**4 for 109.97**

Fiesta 5-pc. place settings. We carry every color Fiesta makes. Reg. $56 each. Web ID 773818. Also save on coordinating accessories, bakeware and open stock.

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All home goods available at carsons.com or at our in store kiosk.
EASTER DRESSES
JESSICA SIMPSON • CONNECTED • JESSICA HOWARD

We're your dress destination!
Whatever the occasion, look stunning in standout styles.

$128
Jessica Simpson
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SALE
59.99
Jessica Howard®.
Web ID 863244.

SALE
89.99
Jessica Howard®.
Web ID 867665.

SALE
79.99
Calvin Klein, Reg. $98.
Web ID 863392.

29.98
Shrugs from Lennie, Jessica Howard®, Madison Leigh® and more. Ladies' sizes S-XL. Orig. $42 - $48. Web ID 860303. Additional discounts do not apply to Incredible Values.
40% OFF
Exclusively ours! Relativity® separates. Ladies' sizes S-XL, 6-18.

25% OFF
Ladies' Calvin Klein suitings.
Sizes XS-XL
Reg. $39 - $149, sale 29.25 - 111.75. Web ID 863480.

40% OFF
Fashion tops from Jolt® and Lily White and bottoms from Celebrity Pink.
Sizes S-XL, 1-13,

40% OFF
AGB® separates. Ladies' sizes S-XL
Reg. $58, sale 34.80. Web ID 863482.

34.98
August Silk® cardigans. Ladies' sizes S-XL
Orig. $50. Also available: Shell. Orig. $32, now 21.98. Web ID 863481.

21.98 SHELL
34.98 CARDIGAN
Calvin Klein shells & matching cardigans.
Ladies' sizes XS-XL. Shell. Orig. 44.50.
Cardigan. Orig. 69.50. Web ID 863242.

34.98
Exclusively ours! Laura Ashley® cardigans.
Ladies' sizes S-XL. Orig. $76. Web ID 856890.

Additional discounts do not apply to Incredible Values.

Find more of what you love online!
PLUS, USE YOUR COUPONS TO SAVE EVEN MORE


UP TO 60% OFF ACTIVWEAR

EXERTEK • CALVIN KLEIN PERFORMANCE

25% OFF
Exclusively ours! Exertek® active separates. Ladies' sizes S-XL. Orig. $36 - $58, sale $27 - 43.50. Web ID 863250.

24.98
Exclusively ours! Exertek® active bottoms. In full or cropped lengths. Ladies' sizes S-XL. Orig. $48. Web ID 863252.

19.98
Exclusively ours! Exertek® seamless tanks. Ladies' sizes S-XL. Orig. $36. Web ID 863253.

9.98

25% OFF
Calvin Klein Performance active separates. Ladies' sizes S-XL. Orig. $44.50 - $79, sale $33.38 - 59.25. Web ID 863254.

Incredible values
Never on sale for less

Additional discounts do not apply to incredible values.
20-40% OFF INTIMATE APPAREL

40% OFF

20% OFF

BUY 1, GET 1 40% OFF
Bras from Maidenform®, Bali® and Warner's. Reg. $35-$40 each. Web ID 437244. Second item must be of equal or lesser value.

20% OFF

UP TO 40% OFF KIDS’ ESSENTIALS

40% OFF

40% OFF

SUNNY PATCH
20-40% OFF KIDS' FASHIONS

20-30% OFF

SALE 9.99

SALE 19.99

SALE 40%

SALE 9.99

SALE 19.99
FREE FLOWERING HYACINTH
WITH YOUR FRAGRANCE PURCHASE

FREE GIFT!
Receive a free flowering hyacinth potted plant with a $75 or more fragrance purchase. Limit one per customer; available while supplies last. No separately stated value.

B. Kate Spade Live Color Fully, 3.4-oz. Eau de Parfum, $95.
C. Jessica Simpson Signature, 3.4-oz. Eau de Parfum, $65.
D. DOLCE&GABBANA® Light Blue Sunset in Salina, 1.6-oz. Eau de Toilette, $97.
E. Vince Camuto® Bella, 3.4-oz. Eau de Parfum, $79.
F. Calvin Klein ETERNITY Summer, 3.4-oz. Eau de Parfum, $64.
25% OFF
Selected Timex® watches. Reg. $44.95 - 69.95, sale $33.71 - 52.46. Web ID 863301.

60% OFF

30% OFF

30% OFF

30% OFF

30% OFF
Entire stock of HUE® socks, leggings and tights. Leggings in sizes S-XL. Socks and tights are one size fits most. Reg. $6.50 - $44, sale $4.88 - $33. Web ID 863305.

25% OFF

25% OFF

40% OFF

PLUS,
USE YOUR
COUPONS
TO SAVE
EVEN MORE
see page 2 for details.
25% OFF
Handbags from Tignanello*. Reg. $75 - $159, sale 56.25 - 119.25. Web ID 863308.

25% OFF

25% OFF
Canvas handbags from GAL*. Reg. $40 - $85, sale $30 - 63.75. Web ID 863311.

25% OFF

SALE 39.99

SALE 49.99

SALE 49.99

SALE 49.99

All shown shoes available in Ladies' sizes 6-10, 11M.
UP TO 25% OFF CASUAL SHOES

BARE TRAPS • CLARKS • SKECHERS • FILA • EASY SPIRIT

SALE 49.99
Bare Traps® sandals. Reg. $69. Web ID 863315.

SALE 39.99
Skechers® sandals. Ladies' sizes 6-11M whole sizes only. Reg. $45. Web ID 863316.

SALE 44.99
Fila and Ryka® athletic shoes. Reg. $65. Web ID 863317.

SALE 25% OFF
All Clarks® and b.o.c. sandals. Selected styles in whole sizes only. Reg. $59 - $99, sale 44.25 - 74.25. Web ID 863318.

PLUS, USE YOUR COUPONS TO SAVE EVEN MORE

SALE 49.99-59.99

SALE 69.99
Easy Spirit® casual shoes. Also in 7-9W. Reg. $79. Web ID 863321.

SALE 59.99
Easy Spirit® "Traveltime". Also in 7-9W. Reg. $69. Web ID 863322.

SALE 69.99
Easy Spirit® casual shoes. Also in 7-9W. Reg. $79. Web ID 863321.

SALE 59.99
Easy Spirit® "Traveltime". Also in 7-9W. Reg. $69. Web ID 863322.

SALE 44.99
Fila and Ryka® athletic shoes. Reg. $65. Web ID 863317.

SALE 20 OFF

All shown shoes available in Ladies' sizes 6-10,11M, unless noted.
20-50% OFF MEN'S CASUAL FASHIONS
IZOD • CHAPS • BASS • REEBOK • CHAMPION

SALE 29.99

40% OFF

NOW 29.99

SALE 29.99
Champion® Powertrain hoodies. Sizes M-XXL. Reg. $38. Web ID 839878. Also save 10% on our entire stock of Powertrain separates.

40% OFF

NOW

SALE 29.99
Champion® Powertrain hoodies. Sizes M-XXL. Reg. $38. Web ID 839878. Also save 10% on our entire stock of Powertrain separates.

40-50% OFF

SALE 39.99

SALE 20-40% OFF

SALE 16.98-34.98
SALE
49.99
Tommy Hilfiger®
dress shirts.
Sizes 14½-18½,
32/33-36/37
Reg. $65 - $95
Web ID 863384.
Also save on
Tommy Hilfiger®
neckwear. Reg.
$65, sale 39.99.

SALE
39.99
Geoffrey Beene®
dress shirts.
Sizes 14½-18½,
32/33-36/37
Reg. $55
Web ID 863385.
Also save on
Geoffrey Beene®
neckwear. Reg.
$55, sale 29.99.

SALE
49.99
Men's dress pants
from Calvin Klein &
Lauren Ralph Lauren.
Waist sizes 32-42
Reg. $75 - $80
Web ID 661139.

149.99
AS A SUIT
Suit separates from
Kenneth Cole REACTION®.
Jacket sizes 36R-48R
Waist sizes 30-42, Reg. $350
as a suit. Web ID 863386.
Also save 40% on designer
suit separates from Calvin
Klein, Tommy Hilfiger® and
Lauren Ralph Lauren.

PLUS, USE YOUR
COUPONS TO SAVE
EVEN MORE
see page 2
for details.
119.99 **QUEEN**
Exclusively ours! LivingQuarters Loft 5-pc. comforter sets.
Set includes: Comforter, two shams and two decorative pillows (one sham in twin XL).

29.99 **TWIN XL**

29.99 **TWIN**
Tommy Hilfiger® sheet sets.

PLUS, USE YOUR COUPONS TO SAVE EVEN MORE
see page 2 for details.

50% OFF

SALE 14.99
Exclusively ours! LivingQuarters Won't Go Flat pillow. Reg. $30. Web ID 847348. Also save 50% on our entire stock of pillows.

25-50% OFF **BED & BATH**
LIVINGQUARTERS • TOMMY HILFIGER • CASA BY VICTOR ALFARO

8.99 **BATH**
Exclusively ours! LivingQuarters Spot Stop towels. Holds up against spots that occur from acne products, face creams, and teeth whiteners. Reg. $18. Also save on hand towels and washcloths. Web ID 706745.

9.99 **BATH**
Calvin Klein towels and oversized towels from Casa by Victor Alfaro. Reg. $20. Web ID 780725. Also save on hand towels and washcloths.

**CARSON'S**
all home goods available @ carsons.com or at our in store kiosk
25-50% OFF KITCHEN ELECTRICS & MORE
NUTRIBULLET • CUISINART • HAMILTON BEACH • SHARK

SALE 89.99

SALE 129.99
Ninja® Nutri-Ninja Blender with Auto IQ. Features Smart blending programs, including two IQ settings, digital timer, 1000 watts of power and nutrient and vitamin extraction. Reg. $250. Web ID 857834.

SALE 79.99

SALE 34.99 YOUR CHOICE!
Presto® griddle or Hamilton Beach® 6-slice toaster oven or blender. Reg. $60 each. Web ID 863349.

SALE 29.99

SALE 49.99 YOUR CHOICE!
Rowenta® Pro compact steamer or Effective Comfort iron. Reg. $65 - $70. Web ID 709260. Also save on our entire stock of iron & steamers.

all home goods available @ carsons.com or at our in store kiosk
50% OFF

SALE 69.99
16-pc. dinnerware sets from Pfaltzgraff®, Sango®, Rachael Ray® and more. Reg. $120 - $140. Also save on coordinating accessories. Web ID 863350.

299.99 + BONUS GIFT

SALE 99.99
 Things to Do in Missouri in 2015

Enjoy the show

Biking the Katy Trail

One of the best ways to enjoy the show is to travel across the state on the Katy Trail, the longest rails-to-trails conversion in the country. Stretching nearly 240 miles, the Katy Trail offers great views of the Missouri River, passes through or near several cities - including Missouri's capital, Jefferson City - and offers convenient access to shopping, dining, lodging and Missouri's great wines.

Enjoy the ride.

Wine Country

Producing wine since the mid-1800s, Missouri wine country has made a name for itself as being one of the best wine destinations in the U.S. Missouri is home to more than 125 wineries, four American Viticulture Areas and 10 Wine Trails. You'll be able to try 11 varietals that you possibly haven't yet, such as the famous Norton and Vignoles.

Enjoy the vintage.

Floating/Canoeing/Camping

There are more than 50 floatable rivers and streams scattered across Missouri, serviced by upwards of 60 canoe outfitters who will set you up with everything you need. And, we're home to hundreds of campgrounds, from sites with back-to-basics camping, to those locations offering all the comforts of home. If you prefer the comfort of RV travel, Missouri has plenty of locations for you, too, many complete with full hookups and extras such as Wi-Fi access.

Enjoy the fresh air.

Scenic Drives

Between Route 66, Highway 36 and the Great River Road, it's obvious Missouri has great drives covered. Aptly named "Way of American Genius," Highway 36 runs east to west through the boyhood towns of Mark Twain, Walt Disney and General John J. Pershing. The Great River Road National Scenic Byway follows the Mighty Mississippi and tracks the length of Missouri's eastern border. And, it goes without saying that "The Mother Road," or Route 66, is quite possibly the most famous drive in North America.

Enjoy the drive.

Legends of Golf

Don't miss out when the Legends of Golf Tournament brings the top names from the PGA Champions Tour to Branson, Missouri. The inaugural event in 2014 drew such greats as Ben Crenshaw, Nick Faldo, Hale Irwin, Tom Kite, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Lee Trevino, Tom Watson and others to the renowned Buffalo Ridge Springs and Top of the Rock golf courses. This year's event is scheduled for April 22-26.

Enjoy the rivalry.

Santa Cali Gon

Wagon trains full of settlers traveling west in pursuit of a new life took three main routes: the Santa Fe, California and Oregon Trails. And they all originated in Independence, Missouri, which is why the city celebrates that rich history and pioneer spirit with a non-stop weekend celebration each year. Enjoy live entertainment, an authentic 1800s trappers' encampment and arts and crafts at this can't-miss celebration.

August 29 - September 1.

Enjoy the tradition.

Lake of the Ozarks

Although it's not our largest lake (Truman Reservoir has more surface area), it is number one in shoreline, snaking along at more than 1,100 miles. In fact, that is more shoreline than the entire Pacific coast of California. And as for how much fun is to be had, you could spend days - or even weeks - discovering all there is to do. Try such activities as visiting a cave and viewing the entire lake via helicopter ride, in addition to all your water-based fun.

Enjoy the excitement.

Start planning your getaway at VisitMO.com
NAVIGATE ALL FOUR HEMISPHERES on

A SINGLE TANK OF GAS

Give your family the world with the cosmopolitan appeal and internationally known attractions found in St. Louis. Here, travelers feel like globetrotters. And you feel like a local because it’s so easy to get around. See how it’s all within reach at explorestlouis.com.
Meramec Caverns
Missouri’s Buried Treasure

Meramec Caverns offers guided tours of the magnificent caverns and the breathtaking phenomena within. The colossal corridors will reveal the world’s rarest cave formations, crystal-clear pools with optical illusions, a jungle-like chamber of stalactites and America’s #1 cave scene featured in a light and sound show. Open every day, Meramec Caverns is just 45 minutes away from St. Louis on I-44. The Caverns also offer visitors a home-style restaurant, large gift shop, motel, riverboat rides, canoes, camping, panning for gold and four outdoor zip line rides. It’s fun for all ages! Visit our website at AmericasCave.com or call 800-676-6105.

STL Adventure Pass
Your transportation to all things St. Louis. Hop on and hop off at all your favorite St. Louis attractions for just $7.50—includes unlimited, single-day usage. Visit STLAdventurePass.com for complete details.

St. Louis Outlet Mall
Largest enclosed outlet mall in the State offering 150+ outlets and stores with 12 anchors, restaurants and 12 entertainment venues. Highway 370, Exit 11. stlouisoutletmall.com, 314-227-5900

SAINT LOUIS SCIENCE CENTER
We specialize in making science fun!
Investigate and explore over 700 interactive exhibits and take in a film on one of the world’s largest domed screens in our OMNIMAX® Theater. Come, play and exercise your brain! General admission is always free.

History Clubhouse
Missouri History Museum
Presented by Mary Ann Lee
Lindell and DeBattieri in Forest Park
(314) 746-4599 - mohistory.org

Comes June 27!
FREE admission!

Six Flags
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SPECIAL TICKET DISCOUNTS CHECK OUT SIXFLAGS.COM!
**Discover Saint Charles**

Just west of St. Louis is a river city with unique historical perspective. Explore the brick-paved streets of Missouri's largest historic district, stroll through shops, sample the cuisine, explore the Foundry Art Centre or try your luck at the casino.

Discover one of our many festivals, including Lewis and Clark Heritage Days or Festival of the Little Hills. Saint Charles, voted Best Small Town in Missouri by Midwest Traveler, provides the perfect getaway destination.

A warm welcome awaits and we invite you to visit soon. Learn more at historicstcharles.com or 866-713-9609.

**Savor Hermann’s Old World Charm**

Founded by German settlers in 1836, Hermann delights visitors with award-winning wineries and Old World hospitality.

Exploring the Hermann Wine Trail, which hugs the Missouri River for 20 scenic miles, is a favorite activity. Seven family-owned wineries are open year-round for tasting and tours. Wine Trail vintners host five special Wine Trail weekends annually.

Visitors step back in time as they shop and stroll the quaint historic district. Lodging choices abound, from elegant suites to cozy cottages. Spectacular views have earned Hermann the title “Missouri’s Most Beautiful Town.”

Learn more at VisitHermann.com.

**Washington**

The Perfect Getaway

Enjoy numerous fairs and festivals, great restaurants, lodging, shopping, art and history. Thirty of Missouri’s 100 wineries are within an hour drive.

On the Missouri River, west of St. Louis. Daily Amtrak stops. 888-WASHMO or washmo.org for a printable brochure.

**Hannibal**

Write your own story

Whether you are looking for relaxation, adventure, history, the great outdoors or family fun, you can find it in Hannibal, MO! Go to VisitHannibal.com or call 573-221-2477 to request your complimentary visitor guide.
The Lake of the Ozarks

Covering 54,000 acres and running 92 miles end-to-end, the Lake of the Ozarks is the premier vacation destination in Mid-America. The lake is surrounded by forests, rolling hills and dramatic bluffs that outline its 1,150-plus miles of meandering shoreline.

Centrally located, the Lake of the Ozarks is just 175 miles from St. Louis, 165 miles from Kansas City, 125 miles from Branson and less than a day’s drive from anywhere in the central United States.

The affordable, family-friendly lake area offers outstanding activities for anyone of any age. There are plenty of fun activities for the kids, like outdoor and indoor waterparks, go-kart tracks, mini-golf, arcades and much more. Adults can enjoy playing championship golf, fishing for bass and crappie, visiting wineries, art galleries, relaxing at a soothing spa and everything in between.

Stay your way from economy to luxury in a full-service resort, hotel, motel, condo, cabin, campground, bed and breakfast or vacation home. Regardless of where you stay, we hope it feels like your home away from home.

For a free area-wide vacation guide, call 800-FUN LAKE or go to funlake.com/mos.

Enjoy Everything Pulaski County Has to Offer

You will love the gentle rivers and breathtaking scenery of spring and summer in Pulaski County USA—the perfect family getaway. Experience real outdoor adventure while floating the Big Piney or Gasconade Rivers by kayak, canoe or raft. Historic Route 66, The “Main Street of America,” weaves 33 miles through the county, adding plenty of charm and nostalgia. Pulaski County offers quality accommodations, diverse dining and historic museums in the heart of the Ozarks. Order your free Visitors Guide or Historic Route 66 Driving Tour at VisitPulaskiCounty.info or 877-858-8687.

Do Time in Jefferson City

Do some time in Jefferson City visiting the notorious Missouri State Penitentiary offering history and ghost tours. Decommissioned in 2004, the prison is notably famous for housing inmates such as heavyweight champion Sonny Liston, James Earl Ray and Pretty Boy Floyd. 866-998-6998, MissouriPenTours.com

Lake of the Ozarks Golf Trail

Play Central Missouri’s Lake of the Ozarks Golf Trail. Rolling Ozark hills with a 54,000-acre lake and world-class golf combine for an unforgettable getaway. Call any of our 50 participating Lake lodgings to book a money-saving Golf Trail Getaway Package, featuring 13 different courses. 800-490-8474, lakeoftheozarks.golf.net
Sedalia—A Must-See!
Historic Katy Depot
Discover Sedalia's attractions—historic Katy Depot, Missouri State Fair, Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival, Queen of the Prairies Festival of the Arts, Bothwell Lodge and the Starline Brass Trail's End Plaza. 800-827-5295, visitsedaliamo.com

Sikeston
Savor a bit of the South
Experience the best of Missouri's Bootheel where cotton is king, our rolls are "thrown" and Southern hospitality awaits you. Come and enjoy great food, festivals and music in Sikeston, Missouri. For a free visitors guide, call 888-309-6591 or go to VisitSikeston.com.

Lebanon Getaway to outdoors
It's been said, "If it can be done outdoors, it can be done in Missouri." We look forward to helping you create your memories in Lebanon. Just remember: friendly people, friendly place. lebanonmo.org

Come discover Cape Girardeau!
From historical treasures to family-friendly attractions, from outdoor adventures to antique shopping, from theater productions to art studios and galleries, a wonderful getaway awaits. Come discover all that can be experienced only in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Enjoy! 800-777-0068, VisitCape.com

Amazing Adventures Await at YMCA Trout Lodge
5,200 wooded acres of Missouri rolling hills, a private 360-acre lake, 40+ exciting activities and memories await your family at YMCA Trout Lodge. Hotel-style accommodations, where stepping out on the balcony treats you to a sweeping view of the lake, or family cabins with lake or forest views are yours to choose. With generous buffet-style meals offering delicious food choices, we're just getting started... Check out Triangle Y Ranch, the arts and crafts center, and high adventure activities—zip line, climbing towers, high ropes course and alpine swing. As the lake beckons, your family can swim or ride a banana boat, canoe, sailboat, paddleboat, pontoon boat and funyak. How about walking on water in a Zorb ball and flying through the air on our lake swing, slide or water trampoline? There's also mini-golf, caving, paintball, riflery, archery, tennis, volleyball, hiking trails, themed/evening/year-round activities and much more. Imagine the perfect family vacation where full-service lodging, meals and many activities are included in the rates, and you've found YMCA Trout Lodge—an affordable jewel in the Midwest.

Non-Y members are always welcome and children 5 and under are free. 888-FUN-YMCA, troutlodge.org

WIN A MISSOURI GETAWAY! ENTER NOW AT VISITMO.COM/SWEEPSTAKES
Come Find Your Kansas City

An energetic city forged by a rich history, Kansas City is brimming with activities to keep you entertained—eclectic cuisine, swinging jazz, one-of-a-kind museums, a thriving arts scene and fantastic shopping. Part of the city’s charm lies in its impressive network of parks, boulevards and of course, exquisite fountains. The world-renowned jazz legacy continues today in clubs throughout the city. For barbecue lovers, the city’s signature food can be found at nearly 100 barbecue establishments, but visitors also delight in restaurants of every ethnic origin. At the heart of downtown, you’ll find eight blocks of dining and nightlife inside the pulsing Kansas City Power & Light District. That’s more than 50 restaurants and entertainment venues, offering everything from fine dining to line dancing. And you won’t want to miss our world-class museums. Browse the thought-provoking galleries at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Experience the nation’s only World War I museum. Follow in the footsteps of outlaw Jesse James or America’s 33rd president, Harry S. Truman. The list goes on and on. Come find your Kansas City. Get trip ideas at VisitKC.com or call 800-562-6659.

History Comes Alive in St. Joseph

Once a thriving trade stop and the starting point of the Pony Express, this historical town has held firm to its roots. Fascinating sites and museums commemorate the generations of folks who have made the area their home.

It’s hard to even go a few feet in the city without coming across a historical marker that recounts an extraordinary story, including the life of the most trusted man in America, Walter Cronkite, and the most wanted, Jesse James. Experience 13 unique museums, a thriving live music culture, 12 annual festivals, amazing architecture listed on the National Register of Historic Places and specialty dining in historic homes and neighborhoods.

Sports fans will enjoy the Kansas City Chiefs Summer Training Camp held at Missouri Western State University. And even the most discerning visitor will appreciate St. Joseph’s cultural arts. From a world-class art museum to a renowned symphony orchestra, it’s easy to find an event or experience that’s perfect for you.

Check out what’s going on at the Western Playhouse, Robidoux Landing Dinner Theater or see impressive local stage productions at the Historic Missouri Theatre, a 1927 restored movie palace. Visit stjomo.com for your free guide!
Springfield Makes Your Vacation Dreams Reality

Some travelers seek excitement in the great outdoors. Others enjoy visiting attractions. For some, fine dining and lodging are the necessary components of the perfect vacation. You'll find all that and more at your fingertips in Springfield.

For fans of the outdoors, Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World boasts more than 300,000 square feet of outdoor supplies, apparel and wildlife exhibits. The store is bigger and better than ever with new exhibits and displays along with the NRA National Sporting Arms Museum and the Archery Hall of Fame, conveniently located inside the store and free to see.

For a tranquil experience, visitors can stroll through acres of forests and fields at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center and the gardens at Nathanael Greene Park. The city is surrounded by nature with accessible lakes, rivers and streams.

The area also offers many attractions for the adventurous traveler and those with children. Visitors can ride through Fantastic Caverns, visit the Ambler Diversity of Life Center reptile exhibits at Dickerson Park Zoo or drive through Wild Animal Safari. The Discovery Center, an interactive science center, entertains with unique educational experiences.

For sports fans, the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame has 22,000 square feet of memorabilia and displays. Jordan Valley Park offers hockey and ice skating at Mediacom Ice Park, green space with a unique interactive water feature, trails and more. Next door, the Springfield Cardinals AA team plays at Hammons Field and golfers can choose from five public golf courses throughout the city.

For history buffs, the History Museum on the Square is a must-see along with Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. The battlefield features Civil War exhibits and visitors can walk, bike or drive through the site of the Battle of Wilson's Creek on a self-guided tour. The city's history museum features exhibits of local Ozarks' history dating from prehistoric times through the 1900s. Both feature new displays this year.

Cultural activities are an important part of the Springfield scene. View fine art at the Springfield Art Museum and performances of the Springfield Ballet, Springfield Symphony, Springfield Opera and Springfield Little Theatre as well as high-quality performances at Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts.

That's just a small sample of all Springfield has to offer. Learn more at SpringfieldMO.org or call the Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800-678-8767.
01. MISSOURI From road trips to city nights, our state offers endless variety. Discover zoos and museums or make a splash at our beautiful lakes. Come to Missouri, and enjoy the show. visitmo.com

02. AMTRAK Travel green on Amtrak. Relax and enjoy wide reclining seats. Ride the rails across beautiful Missouri. Kids’ and senior fares available. For info call 800-USA-RAIL or visit Amtrak.com.

03. DRURY HOTELS Vacation Savings. Save up to $500 to visit Kansas City and St. Louis attractions! Call 800-375-0517 for free Vacation Savings or print coupons at DruryHotels.com, StLouisVacations.com.


05. EXPLORE SEDALIA Missouri State Fair. Daum Museum of Contemporary Art. Katy Trail State Park. Bethel Historical Site. And much more! 800-827-5295, visitPulaskiCounty.info

06. LLANSTEAD-income. fishing, camping, hiking, scenic beauty—gateway to the Ozarks and Bennett Spring State Park. Lebanon is naturally luscious! 866-LEBANON, Lebanon-Vacation.com

07. LAKE OF THE OZARKS Central located with year-round attractions, events and festivals. Request your free vacation guide today! lakeoftheozarks.com. 800-Fun-Lake

08. OSAGE BEACH PREMIUM OUTLETS Discover everyday savings of 25% to 65% at a collection of 110 name-brand stores. For more information and to register for the VIP Shopper Club, visit OsageBeachPremiumOutlets.com.

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April 15th | 7:00pm-9:00pm | $175.00

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**AMERICAN CREW LIQUID WAX**

Smooth, soft skin is easy as one, two, three: Cleanse, shave and finish. The new face range from Dove includes 13 products that fit into those steps — think face scrub ($5.99), pro-moisture shave cream ($5.99) and ultra hydrating cream (above, $7.47). Available at Target locations citywide; Target.com

**DOVE MEN+CARE**

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Sleek menswear isn't just a major upgrade in the new 41,000-square-foot Level 257 at Marshall Field's Magnificent Mile, it's here to stay. "Fashion and football are coming together as never before" says Level 257 buyer Vincent Loconsole.

**SPASH**

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MENS STYLE TREND?**

Publisher and Editor
Susanna Negovan, susanna@suntimes.com

"Chicago's designer, Lee Allison makes dapper buttondowns with his lefter's fabric (Apartment Number 9, 535) — love them aline or stacked on a lapel for a formal event."

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"I'm really into the navy and black tuxedos that were so big this awards season."

Intens
Casey Doherty
Susie Moskop
Anna Schapiro

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Founder
Michael Ferro

**COVER PHOTO**

BY RAMZI DREESSEN
General Admission
Includes Pint Glass.

VIP Indiana Beer Tour
Access to Indiana Beer Tour.
Includes Pint Glass.
Early entrance at 1:00pm.

Brewmaster
Lunch with Lagunitas
(12:00pm - 1:00pm) VIP access to Indiana Beer Tour. Includes Pint Glass & T-Shirt. Early entrance at 1:00pm.

Designated Driver
Includes complimentary specialty soda & water.

Tickets On Sale Now!

The calendar

APRIL 4, 11:32

NATIONAL ROBOTICS WEEK

It's 'bots, 'bots, 'bots when students, scholars and hobbyists celebrate robotic technology and demonstrate their innovations at the Museum of Science and Industry. Don't miss it — you might see the next Roomba, Robomow or Nanda Clocky.

Place: S/F00 S. Lake Shore
Cost: $18 general-admission. For tickets, visit Mscichicago.org.

BY THOMAS CONNORS
THIS WEEK
MARCH 31

THE WAREHOUSE PRODUCTION LAUNCH PARTY

In honor of the one-year anniversary of legendary DJ Frankie Knuckles' (above right) death, "The Warehouse" film producers Robert Teitel, Billy Dec, Randy Crumpton and Joe Shanahan — host a movie production launch party for the film, which pays tribute to Chicago's legendary nightclub, the birth of house music and Knuckles' artistic genius. Proceeds will benefit the Frankie Knuckles Foundation.

Time: 6-10 p.m.
Place: The Underground, 56 W. Illinois
Cost: $20 donation, VIP tables starting at $500. For tickets call (312) 943-7600 or visit Theundergroundergroundchicago.com/warehouse.

NEXT WEEK
APRIL 6

FEAR NO ART! THE DINNER PARTY

The conversation always flows at these revealing repasts. This month's guests are Chaz Ebert, photographer extraordinaire Sandro and concert pianist George Lepauw. In the kitchen: Michelin Star Chef
Ryan McCaskey of Acadia
Time: 5 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. show
Place: City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph
Cost: $45. For tickets, visit Citywinery.com.

APRIL 9
• AMERICAN WHISKEY AFFAIR
This third annual affair — a signature event for Untitled, which stocks more than 510 American whiskeys, the most in the world — offers over 75 brands for introduction, tasting, meet-and-greets with master distillers and hors d'oeuvres from Chef Ryan Klkkert.
Time: 8-11 p.m.
Place: 111 W. Kinzie
Cost: $50, $75 at the door. For tickets, visit 3rdamericanwhiskeyaffair.eventbrite.com.

APRIL 9-23
• 'RED-HANDED OTTER'
Ethan Lipton's relatable comedy follows a young man as he balances the loss of his beloved cat, the complications of human love and the well-meaned but sometimes wacky efforts of his friends to cheer him up.
Place: A Red Orchid Theatre, 1531 N. Wells
Cost: $30-$35. For tickets, call (312) 943-8722.

APRIL 11
• CHICAGO HEART BALL
The American Heart Association's black-tie bash supports research and advocacy efforts in the fight against cardiovascular diseases. Sip, sup, mingle, dance and bid on top-drawer auction items.
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Navy Pier Grand Ballroom, 600 E. Grand
Cost: $1,000. For tickets, visit Chicagohearthball.com.

APRIL 9-23
• Chicago Latino Film Festival
Featuring over 100 films from Latin America, Spain, Portugal and the U.S., the 31st annual fest opens with Alberto Arvelo's look at Simon Bolivar in "The Liberator," and concludes with "Fire" from Spanish director Luis Marías.
Place: AMC River East 21, 322 E. Illinois
Cost: $12 adults, $10 children. For tickets, visit Chicagolatinofilmfestival.org.
< A scene from "Ciudad Delirio," playing at the Chicago Latino Film Festival

Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo (center) at last year's Bricks and Ivy Ball

APRIL 8
• Bricks and Ivy Ball
Join Cubs players, board directors Tom Ricketts and Laura Ricketts, President of Baseball Operations Theo Epstein and President of Business Operations Crane Kenney at this benefit supporting Cubs Charities. The '80s-themed evening includes music from DJ Kasper K and an auction.
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Union Station, 500 W. Jackson
Cost: $600. For tickets, visit Cubs.com/bricksandivyball.

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The scene: Mans best friend made the perfect date to PAWS Chicago’s 9th annual Animal Magnetism at Venue One (1034 W. Randolph) March 20, where nearly 500 dog lovers and their furry friends had caricature portraits drawn by Darick Maasen, indulged in “pupcakes” from Swirlz Cupcakes and doggie ice cream and enjoyed puppy pampering by Paradise 4 Paws dog spa.

The Invite list: Hosted by HGTV and DIY Network’s Alison Victoria and PAWS professional board member Lex Cisler and sponsored by The Professionals Moving Specialists, the bash included a paddle-raise for the “Bid to Save Lives” program, which fundraises in support of PAWS Chicago’s shelter medicine program. Later, several animal advocates were recognized for their leadership in helping crack down on puppy mills, including Chicago City Clerk Susana Mendoza, Cook County Commissioner John Fritchey and founder of The Puppy Mill Project Cari Meyers.

The bottom line: The pup-friendly fete raised $130,000, which will help fund critical life-saving programs for homeless animals. Splash was a media sponsor of this event.

1. Lex Cisler, Alison Victoria and Christopher “Brotha’ Fred” Frederick 2. Kim Gleeson and dog Spencer at the Darick Maasen Art caricature booth 3. Dana Magnuson and dog Patton 4. A canine guest tries on Heavenly Beasts fashion 5. Deputy City Clerk Carina Sanchez and honorees Cari Meyers, Alderman Scott Waguespack, Alderman Ameya Pawar, Alderman Proco Joe Moreno and Cook County Commissioner John Fritchey with PAWS Founder Paula Fasseas

STEEPENWOLF THEATRE’S WOMEN IN THE ARTS LUNCHEON

The scene: Steppenwolf Theatre Company honored Emmy- and Obie Award-winning actress and original ensemble member Laurie Metcalf at its sixth annual Women in the Arts Luncheon at The Standard Club (320 S. Plymouth) March 9.

The invite list: Nearly 300 attendees came out for the event, which featured opening remarks by original ensemble member Jeff Perry, a conversation between Metcalf and Steppenwolf Artistic Director Martha Lavey and a video montage of Metcalf’s many memorable roles, such as Jackie Harris in “Roseanne” and Mary Cooper in “The Big Bang Theory.”

The bottom line: The luncheon raised nearly $175,000 for Steppenwolf’s professional development and educational programs, including Steppenwolf for Young Adults and the School at Steppenwolf as well as its Professional Leadership Programs. Splash was the media sponsor of this event.


PHOTOS BY KYLIE FLUBACKER
Calm down, gents — you don’t have to jump on the “Fifty Shades of Grey” bandwagon to look like a million bucks in cool grays. For the last two years, Hollywood’s leading men have been making waves in blue suits, but as the trend reaches critical mass, we’re seeing a shift back to classic charcoals in slim cuts. Recently, A-listers like Eddie Redmayne and Nick Jonas have been rocking slate suits; to get the look, head to Suitsupply or Ralph Lauren for top-notch, fitted options. Formal enough for the office but cool enough for the bar, gray suits are ultra versatile — pair a light suit with brown shoes or a dark suit with black. You’ll look so suave, all the ladies will say — to quote Anastasia Steele — “Oh, jeez!”
The scene: Lookingglass Theatre celebrated its 27-year anniversary with an event themed “An Evening in Wonderland” March 21 at InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile (505 N. Michigan), where guests bid on auction prizes like tickets to a taping of “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert” and a trip to New York City.

The Invite list: Co-chairs Gerry Barad, Thomas O’Neill, and Charlotte B. Whitaker welcomed 350 of Chicago’s corporate and cultural leaders for a night of cocktails, dinner and live and silent auctions. Lookingglass ensemble member David Schwimmer served as the master of ceremonies and chef and restaurateur Rick Bayless accepted a Lookingglass Civic Engagement Award.

The bottom line: The gala raised $700,000 in support of Lookingglass Theatre’s artistic and educational programs, which help develop innovative theatrical programming in the Chicago community.

Splash was the media sponsor of this event.
We've all heard of "California Cuisine," that tired standard of the 1990s, defined by goat cheese, wilted radicchio and undercooked vegetables. At Presidio — named for a park overlooking the San Francisco Bay — first-time restaurateur Patrick Cullen hopes to bring this slice of American cuisine back to its delicious, authentic roots. "We want to showcase the best of that new generation of American cooking that started in Northern California with people like Alice Waters, Thomas Keller and Jeremiah Tower," explains Cullen. True to those culinary pioneers, the restaurant showcases fresh produce, uncomplicated but extremely flavorful preparations and unique beverage options.

Here's what else to expect at Presidio:

Chef stats: Chef Shaun Connolly did stints at moto, Nightwood and Chicago Cut Steakhouse before landing at Presidio. "To me, Northern California means fresh seafood and produce; wine-friendly, lighter cuisine," simply prepared but well executed food," Connolly says.

Menu must: In keeping with the fresh, deceptively simple approach is a rabbit salad ($16), made with local Indiana rabbits and "inspired by a classic duck leg confit salad," says Connolly. The meat is marinated in duck fat — with peppercorns, allspice and Thai chilies — for 24 hours, then tossed with duck fat and shallot vinaigrette, arugula, pluots and toasted almonds.

Cocktail trio: The bar program at Presidio is the first project for The Dogma Group, a collaboration between Alex Renshaw (Drumbar), Clint Rogers (The Dawson), and Brian Sturgulewski (Fulton Market Kitchen, Bordel). In addition to an extensive cocktail menu, they've curated an entire list of fernet, a bitter Italian liqueur. "In San Francisco, fernet is a part of life," says Renshaw. "About 70 percent of all fernet in the U.S. is imbibed in San Francisco." Try a shot with a small glass of craft ginger ale to cut the bitterness ($7).

Final sip: "Rather than making someone cruise through the cocktail menu and ask for a drink without the spirit, we have a dedicated section of the menu for craft sodas," says Cullen. Delicious flavors include banana phosphate, chocolate phosphate and tart cherry phosphate — and look for more complex concoctions in coming weeks.

1749 N Damen, (773) 697-3315; Presidiochicago.com
As seen on TV

Host of 'The Soup' and star of 'Community' Joel McHale brings his quick wit to Hammond

BY ZAK STEMER

First joke

"I tried to make a sketch that I did in a sketch comedy group into a stand-up joke. It did not work at all. I was pumpin' the brakes and the car wasreezing out of control."

Joel McHale is telling the truth, then he's preparing to deliver one of the greatest comedy shows of the Midwest — nay, the world — has ever seen. "My routine is — I'll just say it's a lot of everything — and the Kardashians," he says. "About 75 percent of my act is Ryan Seacrest jokes. Oh, and pyrotechnics. And a lot of knife throwing, like in 'Gangs of New York.' And sword swallowing. I have the tiger that Siegfried and Roy got rid of — that was bad news. It's a very expensive show to pull off."

Jokes aside, the 43-year-old, Seattle-raised funnyman really is planning to bring down the house during his April 10 performance at Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Indiana, but he'll be relying on his unique brand of sarcastic, pop culture-based comedy — honed by hosting E!'s "The Soup" for the past 11 years — to do it.

When he's not prodding the freak show of characters that populate the reality TV landscape on "The Soup," McHale stars in the sitcom "Community," which moved from NBC to Yahoo March 17. Set at Greendale Community College and following a study group of neurotic pals, the show has earned a cult following — it even spawned the hashtag #SixSeasonsAndAMovie.

The sixth season, which premiered earlier this month, sees several new developments, including new cast members (Paget Brewster and Keith David) and freedom from FCC regulations since moving online. But despite the changes, McHale is quick to reassure followers: "It's not just gonna be a bunch of strippers and MMA fighting. It's still the show you love." A couple quick spoilers: There will be another paintball episode and the gang will make a sci-fi movie. "This season's going to be one of the best because the creativity is off the charts," the star says.

If it seems like McHale is spinning a lot of plates, that's because he is. Actually, it's slightly ironic that the comedian takes such great pleasure in lambasting Ryan Seacrest — he and the "American Idol" host have more commonalities than differences. They both have their hands in many simultaneous projects, both pack their days to the brim (McHale worked until 3 a.m. the night we spoke), both know the (McHale hosted the Correspondent's Dinner in 2014) and both have become staples of the E! Network. "Seacrest is a businessman who's got his hand in a lot of different Kar-dashians," McHale laughs. "I'm just a guy with a paper route and a dishwashing job and I rake leaves. I'm just doing odd jobs everywhere... I'm being falsely modest. I do not have a golden touch. I have a touch that I usually press too hard and kill something, like Lenny in "Of Mice and Men." I have failed at so many things, so when something is successful, I run down the streets screaming and bragging."

See McHale live April 10 at Horseshoe Casino (777 Casino Center, Hammond, Indiana). For tickets (starting at $60), visit Ticketmaster.com.

A (rare) heartfelt moment

"My children are my main priority. I have two boys and they're the best thing that's ever happened to me in my entire life. On top of that, I'm married to — I think — the greatest woman in living history. So I don't have hobbies where I put together miniature steam engines."

My fair first lady

"I sat next to Michelle [Obama] for two hours and I felt in love. She is the bee's knees. She is truly hilarious. We're up-to-date on pop culture. I think she could probably be president later on."
SAVE the DATE
TUESDAY, APRIL 14

Women on the move Luncheon 2015

Honoring
Susanna Negovan
Editor and Publisher of SPLASH

The 7th Annual Women on the Move Luncheon is a premier event where Chicago area community and business leaders come together to celebrate excellence, achievement and generosity and to raise funds and awareness to help find a cure for multiple sclerosis.

LUNCH & PROGRAM: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Ritz-Carlton Chicago 160 E. Pearson St.
$150 per ticket $1,500 per table of 10

TO PURCHASE TICKETS:
WomenOnTheMoveChicago.org

Proceeds benefit
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Greater Illinois Chapter
‘IT WAS HARD FOR US, BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE KNEW WE HAD TO DO IT IN HIS HONOR.’

— Bridges on finishing “Furious 7” after the death of co-star Paul Walker
Actor, rapper and Oak Park native CHRIS 'LUDACRIS' BRIDGES on his 'Fast' franchise, finding his voice and his growing family

BY ZAK STEMER • PHOTO BY DONNA PERMELL

There's only one name for someone who, professionally, has done everything from jumping between speeding cars to refereeing a Jell-O wrestling match in a rap video, and who, in his downtime, likes to skydive, dirt bike and shoot machine guns at the range: Chris Bridges. Wait — oh, call him Ludacris. That's much better.

The rapper/actor/philanthropist is many things to many people. To gear-head movie buffs, he's the star of the action-packed auto franchise "Fast & Furious"; to 20- and 30-something music lovers, he's the multi-platinum, Grammy-winning rapper behind such hits as 2000's "What's Your Fantasy." And to the actor is proficient in 52 Blocks, an inner-city students, he's the philanthropist behind The Ludacris Foundation, which focuses on youth leadership programming.

"The versatility in what I've done since the beginning of my career is something that stands out," Bridges, 37, says. "I feel like I can do anything." Case in point: This week, he'll be premiering both "Furious 7," the seventh installment of the $2.4 billion series, and "Ludaversal," his eighth studio album.

The Champaign-bom, Oak Park-raised rapper's "do anything" mentality was a necessity when it came to filming "Furious 7," in theaters April 3. The series is known for its nonstop action: car chases, crashes, explosions, car jumping, flying and drifting — not to mention fist fights and gravity-defying stunts (in the sixth film, Vin Diesel famously drives his car off a makeshift ramp over a highway, jumps out, catches Michelle Rodriguez in midair, and the two safely land on another car). Bridges joins the cast of action all-stars as Tej, the tech-savvy member of Diesel and Paul Walker's fast-driving crew. He first appeared in 2003's "Too Fast, Too Furious," then again in "Fast Five" and "Fast & Furious 6," but while his character was primarily for tech support and comedic relief in the past, this new installment sees Bridges involved in a lot more action, including a fight scene in which he gets to show off his martial arts skills. (In reality, the actor is proficient in 52 Blocks, an African-American martial art.)

"I keep asking myself after every damn sequel, 'How can we top this?'" Bridges says. "And then we keep topping it... I think the last [movie made] $800 million — I really and truly believe we're gonna break a billion with this one and make history.

For all the upbeat energy of the movie, the blockbuster is also tinged with sadness. One of the movie's stars, Paul Walker, died tragically in a car accident in November 2013, midway through production of "Furious 7." Filming stopped for nearly half a year before the team decided to finish the movie. "It was hard for us, but at the end of the day, we knew we had to do it in his honor," Bridges says. With unused footage from past films and new technology — plus Walker's two brothers as occasional stand-ins — they were able to complete production. "We were pretty much finished filming, so it was really just about us going back and finishing strong.

Bridges' other labor of love, "Ludaversal," an album he describes as his most personal yet — drops March 31. "I'm just being vulnerable in this one — you've got some songs on here where I'm really talking about my personal life," he says. "There's a song ['Ocean Skies'] about my father, who was an alcoholic who I've never really wanted to talk about. But once I understood that there might be other people out there going through the same thing I went through...[I had to] encourage people to spend time with and talk to their parents as much as possible.

Everything about the album reflects Bridges' transformation from the mega star he is today. Raised just outside Chicago (he attended Oak Park and River Forest High School until his freshman year), Bridges learned the rap game in Atlanta, where he held odd jobs at places like Pizza Hut as a teenager. But he hasn't lost his fondness for our fair city. Earlier this month, he stopped by Alcott College Prep school to give laptops to students as part of Comcast's Internet Essentials' Get Schooled, Get Connected Spring Challenge. "Anytime I get to give back and do something positive in the community — especially in Chicago — it's a great thing," he says.

It's clear that Bridges hasn't forgotten his roots and humble beginnings. Even the new album's cover art alludes to the two different points in Bridges' life: A photo of his old 1993 beige Acura Legend is juxtaposed with a gleaming private jet.

Success didn't come overnight: The Ludacris we know today has been 15 years in the making. His first album for a major label, "Back for the First Time," was released in 2000 with help from now A-list producer Timbaland. That record launched Bridges to new heights, with hits like "Southern Hospitality" and "What's Your Fantasy."

In 2005, he won his first Grammy for the still-popular song "Yeah" with Usher and Lil' Jon. By 2006, he was turning heads as an actor, earning a SAG Award for his role in "Crash." Through the first decade of his career, fans were treated to a new Ludacris album approximately every two years — his 2006 record, "Release Therapy," earned him two more Grammys.

In 2010, Bridges broke musical genre barriers when he collaborated with then 16-year-old pop star Justin Bieber on the song "Baby," which now holds the spot as the No. 2 most-watched music video of all time with more than 1 billion views. Bridges dropped his album "Battle of the Sexes" later that same year but, since then, he's remained uncharacteristically quiet on the music front. "This is the longest break that I've taken between albums," he says. "I've had to live to get inspired again — that's what it's all about.

The last five years have given Bridges plenty to inspire him — so much, in fact, that he plans to drop yet another album before the end of the year. He's the proud father of two girls, Karma and Cai, and made headlines last December when he proposed to — and quickly married — girlfriend Eudoxie Mbouguiengue. The couple recently announced that they're expecting Bridges' third child, and the famous father couldn't be more thrilled. "Since I've been a father, I've changed in the fact that I'm evolving and progressing. If anything keeps me hungry and keeps me passionate, it's my kids, and knowing that there's something bigger than me," Bridges says. "It's about living life to the fullest."
MEET THE MEN

Gideon Akande
personal trainer and group fitness instructor

Nick Kokonas
co-owner, Alinea, Next and The Aviary; CEO, Top, Inc.

Carmen Rossi
owner, Hubbard Inn, Barn & Company, Heating & Cooling, Pomp & Circumstance

Michael Steiskal
winner, FLATSProject accelerator program; owner, The Public Barber

Eddie Tom, Jr.
player development executive, Rivers Casino

Brigg Klein
assistant general manager, Neiman Marcus, Northbrook

Mark Millmore
director of the MCA Store, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago

Jon Schiff
owner, Real Good Juice Co.

Giuseppe Tentori
executive chef/partner, GI Fish & Oyster

Anthony Walters
Chicago Bears safety

TOP TEQUILA

“I enjoy quality tequilas, such as Casa Noble or Fortaleza — añejo for sipping or reposado for mixing. The key [to mixing a cocktail] is fresh - fresh citrus, never from a bottle. No pre-made mixers. And good ice for shaking and drinking.” — Nick Kokonas

Both available at Binny’s locations citywide, Binny’s.com

BEST BOURBON

“While I love whiskey in all forms, an Old Fashioned has to be my favorite preparation — it’s bold, smooth and just sweet enough to make you want to drink another. For the value — and especially when in a mixed drink — I don’t think you can go wrong with Buffalo Trace.” — Michael Steiskal

Buffalo Trace: Bourbon whiskey, $24.99. Mariano’s locations citywide, Mariano’s.com
BEST DELIVERY

“Urbanbelly [1400 W. Randolph]. My favorite dish is the rice cake noodles: chicken katsu with sliced rice cakes, mango, cilantro and Korean chili broth.” — Giuseppe Tentor

FAVORITE BRUNCH

“Having lived in the South, Carriage House’s [1700 W. Division] delicious Southern menu always brings back good memories.” — Brigg Klein

BEST ROMANTIC SPOT

“I like the diner Pauline’s [1337 W. Fullerton] for an early-bird breakfast for two, but my view is that you can make nearly everything romantic — you’re only limited by what might be considered acceptable behavior at the time.” — Mark Milmore

FAVORITE OVERALL

“Tavern on Rush [1031 N. Rush] because of the ribeye. I’ve taken many clients there and always walked away satisfied. Tavern also has the best patio in the summer.” — Eddie Tom, Jr.

BEST NIGHT OUT

RPM [Steak, 66 W. Kinzie] and then right out to [Studio] Paris [59 W. Hubbard] — that’s a night out on Saturday.” — Anthony Walters

CREATIVE COCKTAILS

“I really love The Promontory in Hyde Park. Make sure to try the El Diablo.” — Jon Schiff

El Diablo: PV Reposado, Combier Fruits de Rouge, Alipus Mezcal, lime and ginger beer. $10. The Promontory, 5311 S. Lake Park West; Promontorychicago.com

AMAZING ARTIST

“I bought a simple piece from local artist Duncan R. Anderson [pictured above, “Dance Lessons”] a few years ago that I love, although I’m certain that what it means to him and what it means to me are completely different.” — Mark Milmore

FAVORITE GALLERY

“I’m a big fan of the Kruger Gallery Chicago [3709 N. Southport, left, “Bananas” by Jeffly Gabriela Molina]. They specialize in avant-garde pieces, showcasing images shrouded in political and social change.” — Carmen Rossi
I love my dark wash jeans. They work well with just about anything, but I love a yellow and white tank in the summer, and it's so much easier to show a little ankle with boat shoes or a pair of low-rise Converse.

Michael Steiskal

Levi's: Commuter 511 slim-fit trousers, $88. 1552 N. Milwaukee; Us.levi.com

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> TOP TRAINER
"Joey Thurman at The Lifestyle Renovation. He does everything from nutrition to fitness." -Brigg Klein

Brooklyn Grooming makes a wonderful, high-end beard balm. My favorite [scent] is Fort Greene — it's botanical and bold, but fades exactly when it's supposed to." -Michael Steiskal

Brooklyn Grooming: classic beard balm in Fort Greene, $26. Brooklyngrooming.com

> BEST BACKPACK
"Coach or Swiss [Gear] backpack — fits right under the seat in front of you and everything is accessible." -Eddie Torn, Jr.

Coach: Bleecker traveler backpack in leather, $548. 625 N. Michigan; Coach.com

> SUPER SUITING
"Here's what you do: Drive into the Loop, Go to 70 W. Madison. Go to the back, past the deli and newsstand, around the corner and into MALO [for Men]. Bypass the reception table and see the tailor. His name is Josh. He runs his operation (Sebastian Green) out of there, and he's the best, most affordable custom-suit guy in town. Whether you tell him Carmen sent you or not doesn't matter, because he treats everyone like aces." -Carmen Ross

> BEST BACKPACK
"No matter where or for how long I'm traveling, I always have my Coach or Swiss [Gear] backpack — fits right under the seat in front of you and everything is accessible." -Eddie Torn, Jr.

Coach: Bleecker traveler backpack in leather, $548. 625 N. Michigan; Coach.com

> PERFECT PANTS
"I don't think you can go wrong with dark wash denim, but when feeling more adventurous I have red, green, yellow and blue Levi's. 515s. I generally wear those in the summer, and buy them one size shorter than usual. This way I can show a little ankle with boat shoes or a pair of low-rise Converse." -Michael Steiskal

Levi's: Commuter 511 slim-fit trousers, $88. 1552 N. Milwaukee; Us.levi.com

> BEST AFTER SHAVE
"Bottega Veneta — I love the fresh scent." -Gussepe Tentori

Bottega Veneta: Pour Homme after-shave balm, $70. Nords trom 55 E. Grand, Shop. nords trom.com

> PRO TIP
"The most important part of shaving is the prep. Wait until after you shower to put a blade to your face — the heat and moisture soften the beard hair and open your pores. Spend a good amount of time massaging your shave cream or oil into your face — this raises the hairs and makes for an easier and closer shave." -Michael Steiskal

Bottega Veneta — fresh scent." -Giulio

Bottega Veneta - Unijve balm, $70, Nordstrom, 55 E. Grand: Shop. nordstrom.com

> FAVORITE RUNNING SHOE
"The Adidas Boost changed my entire outlook on running. As an athlete who favors high-intensity, explosive workouts, I found longer distance runs to be boring and painful on my joints. [With these], I can run longer and recover faster than ever before — the best part is my body doesn't hate me afterward." -Gideon Akande

Adidas: Ultra Boost shoes, $180. Adidas Sport Performance, 845 N. Michigan; Adidas.com"
Self-control check-up

BY JENNY McCARTHY

I'm going to make a bold statement here and say that the majority of us, as long as we're being honest with ourselves, have a serious lack of self-control. Whether it's over food, beverages, the things we say and do — or, on the contrary, don't do — we can all find something we allow ourselves to indulge in just a bit too much.

Do you have issues stopping yourself from texting your crush one too many times, or from saying no to the second glass of wine you didn't intend to have, or from allowing really awful words to fly out of your mouth in the heat of the moment?

Certainly, we're all guilty of one of these, in some capacity — sometimes on a daily basis. So, what is it within ourselves that's so hard to wrangle?

I wish I knew.

What I can say, however, is that there's a daily practice I participate in that helps. At the end of every day, as a way to unwind, I go over my day in my head. I recall everyone I interacted with and what our conversations were like; I recap every meal I ate and every beverage I drank; and I scan my phone to remind myself of all of the texts I sent.

This may seem like a daunting task — and, at first, it is. But you'll soon begin to recognize patterns in your behavior. Did I seem snappy and ungrateful with more than one person I conversed with? Did I make a decision to choose unhealthy foods for my meals? Did I go work out or did I use my few free moments gluttonously sucking down a chocolate milkshake?

Let me tell you, after a few nights of seeing a pattern of bad choices, the poor-decision making slowed. I was forced to be accountable to myself — and there's no worse critic than our own selves. I'd be damned if one more chicken finger crossed my brain or if I had to cringe yet again when recalling what I said to someone in a meeting! There was simply no longer any excuse for my overindulgence or lack of self-control, because it was being reported to someone every night... me!

There's nobody else out there who can change you but you. If you do this on the regular, and you really go through your entire day every day, you'll find yourself making better choices in all aspects of your life! What's one area of your life where you lack self-control? Tweet me @JennyMcCarthy.

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ON SPEED DIAL...

Candace Cameron Bure

The 'Full House' star dials in

BY ELLE EICHINGER

Portraying D.J. Tanner on "Full House" for eight of her formative teenage years, actress Candace Cameron Bure could have gone the way of so many child stars of the '90s — but staying true to her wholesome TV alter-ego proved to be the right path. Now, she's reaping the benefits of her early start as an actress, producer, author and mother of three — who also proved to be the right path.

Now, she's reaping the benefits of her early start as an actress, producer, author and mother of three — who also proved to be the right path.

Above: Bure (right) and Marilu Henner in "A Bone to Pick: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery"

"The Full House" that took me to having a career. It's what I've done my whole life. [You] hear so many crazy stories about the industry — and it is super crazy — but I love it and it feels like home to me.

Behind-the-scenes: "I love being on the production end, as well. It's a natural progression for a lot of actors, to get into directing or producing. I had absolutely no desire to direct, but I always wanted to produce, so I started my company, iCandy Productions."

People would be surprised to know: "That I'm a really big EDM [electronic dance music] fan. It's not totally my scene, but I absolutely love the music. My kids and husband love it, too, so when we're in the car or at the house we're pretty much cranking the EDM."

My work is inspired by: "My family. There are lots of people I admire, but the types of projects I want to do are ones for families, that families can be inspired, uplifted or entertained by. And my fans give me feedback that they know when they watch something with Candace in it, they can expect something appropriate that they can watch with their families and don't have to be embarrassed."

Watch "A Bone to Pick: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery," on Hallmark and Hallmark Movies & Mysteries April 4 at 8 p.m.

Service with a smile

VIP treatment runs off the rails in 'The Upstairs Concierge' by playwright Kristoffer Diaz BY THOMAS CONNORS

W

it has its pleasures. And who doesn't like a good screwball comedy? But there's nothing like a farce. From Moliere to The Marx Brothers, writers and entertainers have gone all-out with over-the-top antics and improbable scenarios to deflate pretensions, speak truth to power and give our everyday foibles a good what-for. With "The Upstairs Concierge" — now at Goodman Theatre — playwright Kristoffer Diaz takes aim at today's sometimes toxic fascination with status and celebrity.

Diaz, whose wrestling-driven "The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity" earned an Obie Award and Pulitzer Prize nomination, likes theater that's "big and loud." His work, he suggests, "exists in the intersection of many cultural traditions, from European drama to Golden Era hip-hop, from the rich history of Latino playwrights in the United States to Jewish comedians from the Catskills. I embrace all of them, and make art that lives somewhere in the middle."

Fast-paced and ridiculous, "The Upstairs Concierge" follows the travails of Ella, recently hired as a concierge in a swanky new hotel catering to VIPs. It's one wrong move and miscommunication after another as she attempts to understand the seemingly senseless protocols of the place (a task made all the more difficult by the hapless staff she's stuck with). "There's this weird idea that being well-known means you deserve to have people take care of your every need, even if those needs are kind of dumb," says Diaz. "I like when people are nice to each other, even if they come from different social strata. When folks are jerks, that's worth having some fun with."

"Writing comedy is very hard," notes director KJ Sanchez, who makes his Goodman debut with this production. "Kris is good at it in a several ways. His humor is never cruel; he never makes a joke at his character's expense. He gets behind his heroes and heroines — he's really rooting for them, and this makes the audience root for them as well. Our 'Upstairs Concierge' world is a little like the island of misfit toys. So many great comedians and funny writers understand the value of humor from loneliness. And they, like Kris, understand how to turn that loneliness into something totally joyful."

John Stokvis and Alejandra Escalante in rehearsal for "The Upstairs Concierge"
HIGH WINDS
Through April 30, the first U.S. pop-up Dyson store is bringing state-of-the-art vacuums, fans and heaters to Westfield Old Orchard. Shoppers can enjoy a complimentary car clean-out, bring their children to one of the shop's engineering youth workshops and enter contests for a chance to win a Dyson product.
4999 Old Orchard, Skokie; Dyson.com

FAMOUS FURNITURE
Oprah Winfrey may have left Chicago, but her furniture hasn't. Leslie Hindman Auctioneers will put a collection of more than 500 pieces from Winfrey's Water Tower apartment up for auction April 25 (a public preview begins April 16). Proceeds will benefit The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy Foundation. 1338 W. Lake; Lesliehindman.com

SOMETHING NEW...
Bella Bianca Bridal Couture celebrates its second anniversary by taking its Gold Coast salon to a whole new level — literally. With the second-floor expansion, brides, bridesmaids and wedding guests can shop an even wider array of designers, including Ines Di Santos, Christos Bridal and Alvina Valenta. 12 W. Maple; Bellabianca.com

HATS OFF
Family-owned Goorin Bros. Hat Shop bids farewell to its Lakeview spot with a half-off sale on select styles, including fedoras, cloches and floppies, flatcaps, cadets, ivys and more, through April 26. The shop will also host a "Lakeview Loyalist" goodbye bash April 9 from 6-9 p.m. 3243 N. Broadway, Goorin.com

OFF THE CHAIN
IANNECI Jewelry gives Bloomingdale's shoppers two chances to be dazzled by its latest medley of Chicago-made silver and gold chains — mixed with plated brass beads and Swarovski pearls and crystals — with all-day trunk shows April 25 and 26. 900 N. Michigan; Bloomingdales.com

Oprah Winfrey Collections' Russian empire-style tabouret, $3,000-$5,000

SUITED FOR SUMMER
Dutch men's clothier Suitsupply was inspired by the views in Cape Town, South Africa, for its Spring/Summer 2015 collection, which features items like herringbone vests and navy suits that will make you the suavest guy at the resort. Suits start at $399. 45 N. Rush; Suitsupply.com
ever after

Nithya Rajagopalan & Vikram Naidu

BY CHIARA MILIOULIS

Nithya Rajagopalan definitely found her knight in shining armor: Her groom, Vikram Naidu, even rode into their wedding on horseback, as is custom during baraat, a part of traditional Indian ceremonies. For Rajagopalan, who works in business development for grocery delivery startup Instacart, the fairytale began in February 2014, when Naidu, director of finance for the on-demand car service Lyft, proposed in Napa.

Last fall, the couple commenced their three-day Indian wedding festivities, starting Friday night with a get-together at the bride's family home in Naperville, followed by an evening reception Saturday and a formal ceremony and lunch reception at The Drake Hotel (140 E. Walton) on Sunday.

For Saturday's main bash, 250 of the couple's friends and family members turned out for a cocktail party, featuring signature Moscow Mule and Ginger Fizz cocktails and an ice cream sundae bar, plus Garrett's Popcorn as a late-night snack. "A bunch of our college friends did a choreographed dance for us," says the bride. "It was amazing to be surrounded by all these people who had been part of our lives."

On Sunday, the duo said their "I do's" in the Drake's Gold Coast Room — Rajagopalan donned three different saris from her native country — before heading to a South Indian-inspired reception, complete with dishes like aloo matur, uttapam and avial. "Both of our families come from a city in India called Chennai, so we had each table name be a different town or sub-town," Rajagopalan says. "We grouped people by where they have family or where they grew up to personalize it." Thinking back to the wedding, Rajagopalan says, "It was all... amazing."
Thursday, April 9, 2015

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Queen of the court

The newly crowned Miss Chicago and Chicago Luvabull talks health, pageantry and finding Mr. Right.

WHITNEY WANDLAND

AGE: 23. CLAIM-TO-FAME: Miss Chicago, Chicago Luvabull and model for Stewart Talent Agency.
LIVES IN: Lakeview. WISH UPON A STAR: I saw Miss America for the first time when I was 5 and I always wanted to be in pageants. This year was my last eligible year to compete. I was so excited [when I won] because it [happened] on my first try!
HEALTH KICK: My platform is [Jumping for Joy:] Fighting Childhood Obesity. One out of three children are obese — [that's] a huge number! I think it's so important for parents to eat right and be good examples for their children. We're all so on the go, [we sometimes] don't have time to think about what we're putting in our mouths. It's really important to eat healthy and stay active. CROWNING MOMENT: The Miss Illinois pageant is in June — I'm expecting it to be a lot of fun. Hopefully, it works out in my favor!
HOOP DREAMS: My dad was a huge Michael Jordan fan and my favorite movie is "Space Jam." When I went to the [Bulls] games, I'd watch the dancers. I tried out for the Luvabulls and I didn't make it, but I came back the next year and made it. PRINCE CHARMING: I look for someone who is intelligent, has a job and sees where he wants to be in the next 5 to 10 years. We both need to be working toward something.
PERSONAL MANTRA: Nothing comes easy. You have to think you're not going to get everything you want — but what you do get is meant for you to have.

A classic pump with a red sole can even make sweatpants fabulous.

Christian Louboutin: So Kate pumps, $675, 56 E. Oak; Christianlouboutin.com

"Embellishments and jewels can make any woman feel like a queen."

Azeeza US: similar styles $500 and up, 900 N. Michigan; Azeeza.us

Styling the perfect outfit is about mixing high- and low-priced items.

H&M: scuba-look leggings, $30, 840 N. Michigan; Hm.com

MAC Cosmetics: lipstick in Lady Danger, $16, 540 N. Michigan; Maccosmetics.com
Co-owner Sommelier, Grace Restaurant

Spend “A Mariano’s Minute” immersed in the wine picks and pairings of James Beard Award-nominee Michael Muser.
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On the Move: Some noun + verb mashups

BY FRED PISCO | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN

ACROSS
1 Tuna-and-cheese sandwich
2 Mythical greedy monarch
3 Author _ Maria Remarque
4 Light-show light
5 “Naughty boy!”
6 Prison chief
7 Apply asphalt
8 Before, to bards
9 ... Moines, IA
10 Satellite, by definition
11 Drives off
12 Low in fat
13 Crew-team member
14 Invasive apps
15 Works in progress
16 Cherry tune
17 Some lodge brothers
18 Treasure Island monogram
19 Did a jackknife, say
20 Drives off
21 Low in fat
22 Crew-team member
23 Invasive apps
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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.

Clues Words

A. Merely adequate 159 126 82 49 105 144 133 100 65 31
B. Gather rubbish 50 135 17 120 162 67 89 25
C. Amanarchangel 63 103 117 14 90 3 28
D. Exemption 75 26 16 101 140 148 85 11
E. Cancer or Capricorn 35 10 107 53 20 69
F. Creditable 2 80 18 116 24 132
G. Blanked 2 wds. 71 48 109 151 58 156 9
H. Indifferent 15 45 134 29 88 108 66 157 5 121 95
I. Peepet's fear 52 34 12 137 86 40 62 160 127
J. Mixing of wet clay 38 59 113 96 73 147 141
K. Powerball, e.g. 93 79 142 47 118
L. Newcomer 2 wds. 55 94 7 37 99 64 19 84 136 32
M. Horizontal supports 46 87 110 138 70 60 128
N. Informal reception: 2 wds. 56: 27 68 125 145 155 42 8 22
O. West 129 41 149 139 92 76 33 114
P. Honoring banquets 6 23 91 112 124 43 77
Q. Japanese religion 72 115 36 104 158 143
R. Son of Poseldon 74 39 97 4 153 122
S. Not completed 51 119 154 44 98 111 163 61 146 81
T. Cigar tobacco, e.g. 130 4 83 54 150 106
U. Equal: hyph. 57 123 21 161 152 13 131 78 102 30

Musical Drama

BY CHARLES PRESTON

ACROSS

1  Goddess of discord
5  Campfire remains
10  Come down
14  Dryer leftover
15  Perch
16  Seine feeder
17  Mozart opera, with The
19  Wolf's wink
20  Bikini, for one
21  Lollapalooza
22  Dutch or French
23  Talk incessantly
25  Part of D.D.S.
27  Had bills
29  Perfect
32  Org.
35  Famous fables
39  Three; prefix
40  Luau souvenir
41  Strauss opera
42  Cable sta.
43  To the right
44  Kingdom
45  Geezer
46  Osborne's Look Back in
48  Bones
50  '60s child
52  Swiss
58  City southeast of New Delhi
60  French friend
62  Rose oil
63  Cafe au
64  Verdi opera
66  Notable movie maven
67  Encumbances
68  Bullying cries
69  Campus gp.
70  Last name in journalism
71  Wall Street letters

DOWN

1  Violinist Mischa
2  Gaucho's gear
3  Port Knox item
4  Crumblly cheese
5  Sandy's comment
6  Aria
7  Dog
8  Cosmetician Launder
9  Back of the boat
10  Gizmo
11  Verdi opera
12  Sonja Henie's birthplace
13  - Gynt
18  Ball of yarn
24  Domain
26  Actress Farrow
28  Benchley novel, with The
30  New Yorker cartoonist
31  Mardi Gras follower
32  Pond plant
33  Caught in the act
34  Wagner opera
36  Hit the slopes
37  Another, south of the border
38  Music mark
41  First name in architecture
45  Heading
47  Tickled pink
49  Sofian
51  Half of a Washington city
52  Cyberspace letters
53  Last
55  Triple Alliance country
56  Archibald, et al.
57  Wipe out
58  Woe is me!
59  Infatuated
60  French friend
61  Cubist Rubik
62  Horned viper
63  Cafe au
65  Horned viper
66  Notable movie maven
67  Encumbances
68  Bullying cries
69  Campus gp.
70  Last name in journalism
71  Wall Street letters
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<th>Meeting Type</th>
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<td>Committee of the Whole</td>
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<td>Committee of the Whole</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Committee of the Whole</td>
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<td>June 10, 2015</td>
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<tr>
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<td>December 2, 2015</td>
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Ultrasound aids mice with Alzheimer's-type disease

BY RANDY DOTTINGA
HealthDay

Preliminary research in mice raises the possibility that an ultrasound-based treatment might help eliminate plaque buildup in the brain that is associated with Alzheimer's disease.

Scientists don't know whether the approach is feasible for humans, but the research is promising, especially because of how well mice with an Alzheimer's-like disease fared after treatment, said study lead author Gerhard Leinenga, a graduate student at the University of Queensland in Australia.

"The mice performed better on three tests of their memory," Leinenga said, noting their performance was similar to that of healthy mice used as controls.

The ultrasound treatment targets brain-clogging material known as amyloid plaque. Scientists suspect plaque is connected to the development of Alzheimer's disease, a progressive brain disorder, but its exact role is unclear.

"We know that amyloid interferes with the function of neurons and causes brain cells to die, but not everyone with amyloid in their brain will go on to develop Alzheimer's or another dementia," said James Hendrix, director of global science initiatives for the Alzheimer's Association.

Alzheimer's, the most common type of dementia, causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior. In the new study, researchers turned to ultrasound, the same soundwave technology that helps doctors view internal organs and babies in the womb. The researchers applied ultrasound to mice with Alzheimer's-like disease after injecting them with "microbubbles" that vibrate when they encounter ultrasound signals.

"In our treatment, ultrasound acts on the microbubbles, causing them to expand and contract in the blood vessels of the brain," Leinenga said. This disrupts the "blood-brain barrier," which protects the brain from germs in the blood, Leinenga said, apparently allowing molecules to enter the brain and activate cells that "eat" amyloid plaque.

The technique appeared to reduce levels of amyloid plaque in the treated mice and nearly eliminate it in 75 percent of the animals without damaging brain tissue. The treated mice also performed better on memory tests, including a maze, places of avoidance and object recognition, the researchers said.

There are many caveats to the new research.

Potential costs and side effects in humans are unknown. And it's unclear if the treatment will even work, let alone whether it actually halts progression of the devastating illness.

Although plaque is thought to contribute to Alzheimer's, this has not been confirmed.

Also, "human brains and human cognition are much more complex than in mice," Leinenga said. And the brains we treated were much smaller than a human brain, with very thin skulls, so this technique using ultrasound to open the blood-brain barrier will need to be optimized in order to treat a human brain.

Hendrix said the research is "intriguing" but "still very preliminary." "People with Alzheimer's and their caregivers should not ask their doctors about scanning ultrasound to treat Alzheimer's disease at this time," he said.

Leinenga said a number of experiments are planned to test the treatment in mice. "And we plan to construct an ultrasound device suitable for treating much larger brains and to test this in sheep," he said.

The study appears in the March 11 issue of Science Translational Medicine.

Coke a good snack? Health experts paid by cola say so

Consultants happy to 'share' details on nutritional value

BY CANDICE CHI
Associated Press

NEW YORK -- Coca-Cola is working with fitness and nutrition experts who suggest its soda as a treat at a time when the world's biggest beverage-maker is being blamed for helping to fuel obesity rates.

In February, several of the experts wrote online posts for American Heart Month, with each including a mini-can of Coke or soda as a snack idea. The pieces -- which appeared on nutrition blogs and other sites including those of major newspapers -- offered a window into the many ways food companies work behind the scenes to cast their products in a positive light, often with the help of third parties who are seen as trusted authorities.

Ben Sheidler, a Coca-Cola spokesman, compared the February posts to product placement deals a company might have with TV shows.

"We have a network of dietitians we work with," said Sheidler, who declined to say how much the company pays experts. "Every big brand works with blog- ers or has paid talent."

Other companies including Kellogg and General Mills have used strategies like providing continuing education classes for dietitians, funding studies that burnish the nutritional images of their products and offering newsletters for health experts. PepsiCo has also worked with dietitians who suggest its Frito-Lay and Tostito chips in local reports.

It said any communications by the experts it works with contain the appropriate disclosures.

Most of the pieces suggesting mini-Cokes say in the bios that the author is a "consultant" for food companies, including Coca-Cola. Some add that the ideas expressed are their own.

One column is marked at the bottom as a "sponsored article," which is an ad designed to look like a regular story. It ran on more than 1,000 sites, including those of major news outlets around the country. The other posts were not marked as sponsored content, but follow a similar format.

Kelly McBride, who teaches media ethics at The Poynter Institute, said the phrasing of the disclosure that the author is a "consultant" doesn't make it clear the author was specifically paid by Coke for the column.

The message that Coke can be a healthy snack is debatable. A mini-Coke is 75 ounces and has 90 calories, all of it from high-fructose corn syrup. That's compared with 140 calories in a regular 12-ounce can.

Alice Lichtenstein, a professor of nutrition science and policy at Tufts University and a member of the nutrition committee at the American Heart Association, said a smaller can of soda might be a "move in the right direction" for someone who regularly drinks soda. Still, she wouldn't recommend soda as a snack.

Robyn Flipse, the dietitian who wrote the sponsored article for Coke, said she would suggest mini-cans of Coke even if she wasn't being paid. Although she doesn't drink soda herself, she said the smaller cans are a way for people who like soda to enjoy it sensibly.

"I absolutely think that I provided valuable information," she said.
Bring on the bacon

Since being elevated from the breakfast plate to America's collective palate, bacon has become a ubiquitous ingredient on menus ranging from the cheapest of the cheap to prohibitively expensive. It also seems to be the secret weapon of fast-food chains hoping to spice up their offerings. We tasted a few of these popular chains' latest bacon-centric creations - a breakfast sandwich, a pizza and a burger - and found that they were all pretty satisfactory. Long live bacon.

Starbucks
Double-Smoked Bacon, Cheddar & Egg Sandwich
Ad copy: Made with thick-sliced bacon, hardwood-smoked for 10 hours, our new bacon breakfast sandwich is the perfect accompaniment to our dark roast coffees and sure to satisfy any bacon lover's craving. Served on our signature croissant bun with melted cheddar cheese and a perfectly cooked egg.

Our take: No wimpy bacon here. In this pork-centric creation, sturdy, peppery slabs of bacon along with egg and cheddar cheese are sandwiched between two thick pieces of a croissant bun hybrid (the shape of an English muffin with the flaky, messy character of a croissant). The generous amount of cheddar cheese was slightly disappointing, but so rarely does a chain actually make bacon that might be worth eating when peeled off the bun, this oversight (as well as the squishy, fast-food-quality egg) can be forgiven. However, points still have to be taken off for high fat and sodium.
Nutritional: 540 calories, 32 g fat, 940 mg sodium
McGrade: A-

Little Caesars
Bacon Wrapped Crust Deep! Deep! Dish Pizza
Ad copy: The Bacon Wrapped Crust Deep! Deep! Dish Pizza is a large eight-corner Deep! Deep! dish pepperoni and bacon pizza with a crispy crust wrapped in 3/4 feet of bacon!

Our take: Three feet of bacon might not have been a marketing ploy after all — the square, eight-piece pie (the pizza only comes in a large size for $12) came enclosed in a perfect perimeter of it. Bacon aside, the crust was nicely crunchy, with crisped, crackly edges and a spongy dough interior. The pepperoni didn't serve much of a purpose except to make the pizza saltier, but the addition of bacon was surprisingly subtle. Rather than a punch of pork, its contribution was all in the texture; between the soft, burnt cheese topping and cushiony pizza dough, it was nice to have a crispy bite of bacon.
Nutritional (per slice): 450 calories, 23 g fat, 830 mg sodium
McGrade: B+

Wendy's
Bacon & Blue on Brioche burger
Ad copy: We could talk a blue streak about Wendy's newest cheeseburger creation, the Bacon & Blue on Brioche. Featuring a quarter pound of 100 percent fresh pure beef, savory Wisconsin blue cheese and applewood smoked bacon on a toasted brioche bun.

Our take: With the amount of ingredients this burger contains — bacon, blue cheese, mixed greens, tomato and aioli — it was actually hard to discern the bacon. What salty, crunchy complement it might have provided to the beef was overshadowed by sizable chunks of solid blue cheese and a heavy-handed slathering of the mayonnaise-based sauce. Did it work? Sort of. The crumbly, slightly stale bun was too insubstantial, but that was the biggest disappointment. Be warned, the Bacon & Blue is less a bacon-focused item and more a combination of every animal-based fat you might enjoy in one sandwich. Just don't look at the sodium content.
Nutritional: 650 calories, 39 g fat, 1,290 mg sodium
McGrade: B-

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When it comes to marc, older is better

By David Hammond
Special to Tribune Newspapers

"Do you like grappa?" came the question while we visited Gabriel Boudier, a spirit maker in Dijon, France.

"Sure," we shrugged.

"This is better," continued managing director Jean Battault, holding up a bottle of Boudier's Marc de Bourgogne.

We agreed.

France's marc, like Italy's grappa, is a brandy, a distilled wine, made from pomace, the skins, seeds and general gunk left over after wine grapes are pressed.

Marc (rhymes with "car"), like Roquefort or Champagne, is a name protected by French law. To be called marc, the spirit must be produced in a specific way.

The key difference between marc and grappa, according to restaurateur and master sommelier Alpana Singh, is that marc is usually aged, giving the liquor a softer, more rounded quality than might be found in much grappa.

Grappa sometimes seems harsh and one-dimensional. Hoping for more mellowness with the French version of pomace brandy, we purchased one aged 20 years: Domaine de la Folie.

It was not cheap, about $100 a bottle. The nose is resinylike, perhaps not as inviting as Scotch or bourbon. The first sip starts hot on the tongue, but the heat quickly subsides to a pleasant warmth, with notes of vanilla and raisins.

Marc also has an almost bittersweet note, perhaps due to the grape seeds in the pomace. Though much marc is aged for a few years, more aging seems to improve it, and the best marc is produced in Burgundy. So, when purchasing marc, look for a Burgundian bottle with as much aging as you can afford. Marc can be expensive, bottles from the wine house of Romanee-Conti list at a staggering $500.

At the Intercontinental in San Francisco, beverage manager Marissa Payne oversees one of the country's most extensive selections of grappa and marc.

Marc connotes aging, and Marc呵ved to being consumed on its own or mixed into cocktails.

In New York, Aaron Polsky, formerly of Eleven Madison Park and currently beverage director/ head bartender at Mulberry Project, adores marc. "I think marc can provide the richness of cognac," with the complex funk of grappa," says Polsky. "Splitting a base spirit with marc can add layers to a shaken cocktail, and as a base for a Manhattan, it can provide something unexpected but familiar."

Though marc isn't often used in baking, it can provide something unexpected but familiar. Marc must be produced in Burgundy. So, when purchasing marc, look for a Burgundian bottle with as much aging as you can afford. Marc can be expensive, bottles from the wine house of Romanee-Conti list at a staggering $500.

At the Intercontinental in San Francisco, beverage manager Marissa Payne oversees one of the country's most extensive selections of grappa and marc.

Pomace, the seeds, stems and skins left over from pressing wine grapes, doesn't get wasted. In some regions, it is used to make marc, a French brandy.

Quick study

Leah Eskin
Home on the Range

Espresso must be tipped from a tiny cup, in a crowded train station, standing up. Other methods exist, but they aren't as stylish.

Lucia taught me. Actually, it was her mom. We'd ditched our dreary dorm and turned up at her family's place in Perugia. At midnight, a carload of cousins met our train. We swerved up a steep road and tumbled out to a long table, bright with candles, heavy with wine bottles, fragrant with oranges and pistachios.

Lacking the language, I followed along: Mornings: market. Afternoons: kitchen. Evenings: table, candles, wine, oranges and pistachios. On the weekend, in Rome, her grandfather showed me old photos and her grandmother, in exasperation, urged: "Parla italiano! E facile!"

Then Lucia's mom packed us into the car, carreined around corners and hurried to a stop at the station. She walked her stippled leather boots across the hall, ordered an espresso and downed it, standing up.

I've always minded that lesson. Sometimes I embellish with a crisp orange/pistachio bite. It's as close as I get to speaking Italian. As promised: It goes down easy.

Crave more Leah?
Find all your favorite stories and recipes in Leah Eskin's new memoir, "Slices of Life: A Food Writer Cooks Through Many a Conundrum." Available now, wherever books are sold.

Pistachio biscotti

Prep: 15 minutes   Bake: 1 hour   Makes: About 2 dozen

1 1/2 cups flour
1/2 cup almond flour (aka almond meal)
1 teaspoon baking powder
4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, softened
3/4 cup granulated sugar
2 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla
Finely grated zest of 1 orange
1 cup roasted, salted pistachios (no shells)
1/4 cup sanding sugar

Mix: Whisk together flour, almond flour and baking powder. Set aside.

Fluff: Using a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat butter and sugar until fluffy, about 2 minutes. Beat in eggs, vanilla and zest, 1 minute. Beat in flour mixture. On low speed, mix in nuts.

Shape: Divide dough in two. Heap one portion onto a parchment-lined baking sheet. With lightly floured hands, shape into a log, about 7 inches long, 4 inches wide and 3/4-inch high. Sprinkle with half the sanding sugar, pressing it lightly into the top of the log. Repeat, shaping another loaf with remaining dough on a second baking sheet.

Bake: Slide baking sheets into a 300-degree oven, and bake until set, 30 minutes. Let cool.

Slice: Use a serrated knife to slice each loaf crosswise into 1/4-inch thick slices. Tip slices over, cut-sides down on the parchment.

Crisp: Slide pans back into a 300-degree oven and bake until golden and dry (but not hard), about 13 minutes per side. Cool. Enjoy with espresso.
Go bold, or go mellow

**By Joe Gray**
Tribune Newspapers

Often a recipe that calls for Italian sausage will specify whether you should use links with fennel seed, or without, the writer looking to control that flavor in the dish. I will leave that choice, as it applies to this pasta, to you. Choose sausages with fennel seed, and the licorice flavor from the fresh fennel bulb will be intensified; pick those without, and the flavor will be quieter. Either way, the fennel bulb itself will become sweeter in the cooking and more mellow.

Many a dish with fresh fennel will call for saving some fronds as a garnish. You could do that here, certainly, but I prefer fresh thyme leaves, which simmer in the cream, spreading their flavor throughout the dish.

Tip: To prep the fennel, trim the tough root end. Cut off the stalks. (Save stalks to flavor chicken or vegetable broth, if you like.) Remove the tough outer layer.

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**Pasta with fennel and sausage**

**Prep:** 15 minutes  **Cook:** 20 minutes

Makes: 4-6 servings

1 pound penne pasta
1 pound Italian turkey or pork sausage, casings removed
1 tablespoon olive oil, optional
1 large fennel bulb or 2 medium, about 1 pound when trimmed
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup dry white wine
1/2 cup heavy cream
1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves or 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
15 pitted Kalamata olives, quartered lengthwise

Cook the pasta in a large pot of well-salted boiling water until al dente; drain, saving 1/2 cup of the pasta water.

Meanwhile, brown the sausage over medium-high heat in a large skillet, breaking up the pieces with a wooden spoon; cook until no pink remains, about 7 minutes. Transfer sausage to a bowl.

Cut the fennel into slices, about 1/4-inch thick; cut those slices crosswise into sticks, again about 1/4-inch. Add olive oil to skillet, if needed to cook the fennel. Add fennel; season with salt. Cook over medium heat until softened and caramelized, 8 minutes. Stir in thyme; cook to reduce by half. Add the cream and thyme. Simmer until the sauce is thickened slightly but still loose.

Add the drained pasta to the skillet along with the olives. Toss to coat the pasta. Add some of the reserved hot pasta water if dish seems dry.

Nutrition Information per serving (for 6 servings):
509 calories, 18 g fat, 5 g saturated fat, 72 mg cholesterol, 62 g carbohydrates, 24 g protein, 671 mg sodium, 5 g fiber

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**Matzo brittle perfect for Passover dessert**

**By Diane Rossen**
WORTHINGTON
Tribune Content Agency

Most wheat flour isn’t permitted during the Passover holiday, which can be a challenge for making desserts. Also, the Seder meal has so many courses that often my guests don’t want a heavy dessert. I have made flourless chocolate tortes, meringues topped with lemon curd and whipped cream, and almond olive oil cakes that sit idle at the table because my guests are sated.

When I came across matzo brittle many years ago, I thought it was the perfect way to enjoy a sweet that wasn’t too heavy. It is now a serious hit on my Passover table every year. I like to make the brittle ahead and keep it refrigerated until serving. You can even freeze it if you have any left over. I break the matzo apart into shards or use a serrated knife to cut it into pieces, so that everyone can have as much as they want or just a taste. Accompany this with a bowl of beautiful fresh strawberries, and celebrate the spring season.

**Caramel chocolate matzo brittle**

**Prep:** 25 minutes  **Cook:** 12 minutes

Chill: 1 hour  Makes: 4 sheets, about 16 servings

4 sheets matzo
6 tablespoons unsalted butter or margarine
1/2 cup dark brown sugar
1/4 cup bittersweet chocolate chips
1/3 cup toasted slivered almonds
1/3 cup toffee bits

Heat the oven to 400 degrees. Line two baking sheets with foil or parchment paper. Place two matzos on each baking sheet.

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, melt the butter or margarine. Add the sugar; stir well. (If the heat is too high the mixture will burn.) Simmer for about 3 minutes, whisking constantly until it becomes a thick, caramel-like mixture. Remove from the heat.

Working quickly so the caramel doesn’t harden, use a metal spatula to spread the mixture evenly over the entire surface of each matzo sheet. Bake until the topping is bubbly and brown, about 5 minutes. Watch carefully so they don’t burn.

Remove the baking sheets from the oven; immediately sprinkle each matzo evenly with the chocolate chips. Bake until the chocolate is just melted, about 2 minutes. Remove from the oven; spread the chocolate evenly over each piece with a spatula. Sprinkle with the almonds and toffee bits.

Refrigerate at least an hour. Break into pieces or cut into strips and arrange on a serving platter. The brittle can be stored in an airtight container and refrigerated, or also can be frozen.

Nutrition Information per serving: 183 calories, 10 g fat, 5 g saturated fat, 13 mg cholesterol, 23 g carbohydrates, 1 g protein, 19 mg sodium, 1 g fiber
Salami helps cheesecake go savory

Potato and salami cheesecake

Prep: 1 hour
Cook: 1 hour, 15 minutes
Makes: 8 servings

- 3 pounds waxy gold potatoes, such as Yukon Gold
- 1/2 stick (4 tablespoons) unsalted butter
- 1 cup fresh breadcrumbs, toasted in a dry skillet until light golden brown
- 4 large eggs
- 1/2 cup whole milk
- 1/4 cup fresh ricotta
- 1 cup freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano
- 1/2 pound sweet Italian salami, cut into 1/4-inch dice
- 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves, about 1 bunch
- 4 ounces Asiago cheese, grated

1. Place the potatoes in a saucepan and add water to cover. Bring the water to a boil and cook the potatoes until tender, about 45 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, butter the bottom and sides of a 12-inch springform pan with 2 tablespoons of the butter and dust the bottom and sides with 1/2 cup of the breadcrumbs.

3. In a medium bowl, lightly beat the eggs. Add the milk and ricotta, and mix; set aside. Heat the oven to 400 degrees.

4. Drain and peel the potatoes, and pass them through a food mill or ricer into a very large bowl. While the potatoes are still warm, use a large rubber spatula to fold in the Parmigiano, then add the salami and the parsley and stir just enough to evenly mix. Gently stir in the egg mixture; do not overstir — just bring it all together.

5. Place half of the potato mixture in the prepared pan, and gently smooth it to the edges. Sprinkle the grated Asiago over the potato mixture to within 1/4 inch of the outer edge. Top with the remaining potato mixture, and carefully smooth it over with a wet spatula. Sprinkle with the remaining breadcrumbs, and dot with the remaining 2 tablespoons butter. Place the pan on a baking sheet, and bake until light golden brown on top, 25-30 minutes. Remove from the oven, and let rest for 20 minutes.

6. Unmold onto a serving plate and cut into wedges, like a cheesecake, to serve.

Nutrition Information per serving: 450 calories, 22 g fat, 11 g saturated fat, 153 mg cholesterol, 42 g carbohydrates, 20 g protein, 71 mg sodium, 3 g fiber

Mario Batali is the award-winning chef behind 25 restaurants including Eataly, Del Posto, and his flagship Greenwich Village enoteca, Babbo.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency
Top a cappella acts gather for SingStrong

Roughly 30 groups to take the stage

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

You don't need musical instruments to make beautiful music. For proof, visit SingStrong Chicago. The annual festival offers performances by some of the best a cappella groups in the world with proceeds going to charity. This year's musical feast runs from Friday to Sunday, April 10-12, at Skokie's Niles West High School.

"We have more artists than ever," reported Producer Freddie Feldman. "We have nine headliners and they're all so amazing. They've all won numerous awards."

The line up includes groups from Atlanta, Los Angeles, Boston, New York, Taiwan and Venezuela.

"We've got close to 30 a cappella groups performing," Feldman said.

One unique group is Stiletta, a New York-based female sextet that combines dancing with a cappella singing. Judy Fontana Minkoff is the founder of the group, as well as the wife of SingStrong executive producer Jonathan Minkoff.

"There are no other dance a cappella groups in the world that I'm aware of," Minkoff said. "We incorporate pretty heavy-duty hip-hop choreography into our songs."

Minkoff noted that when she founded the group in February of 2013, her first step was finding an excellent beat boxer. She scored with Meghan "MC Beats" Costa, who was ranked third best female beat boxer in the world at the Beatbox Battle World Championship in Berlin in 2012.

To gather the other four members of the group, Minkoff said, "I tried to look specifically outside of the usual a cappella networks because I knew that I wanted performers who were not just singers. They had to have it all."

It's obvious that selection process worked. In mid-March Stiletta cleaned up at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival. "We won every single award," said Minkoff proudly of their wins for Audience Favorite, Best Arrangement and First Place Overall.

In May, Stiletta will compete at the nationals.

In addition to performing with Stiletta at SingStrong Chicago, Minkoff will work with Single Singers Chicago, for which she has served as director since 2012. "It's sort of an ad hoc a cappella group where we say, 'Anyone who wants to sing with us can join.' It doesn't matter how old you are or what your background skills in music are."

Participants rehearse for about three hours during the festival, and then perform on the main stage.

Producer Feldman noted that the money raised through SingStrong Chicago is donated to charity. "A portion of our proceeds goes to the Niles West Choir Department," he said. "Our other charity is the Cure Alzheimer's Fund. Our main cause is fighting Alzheimer's."

Like every member of the SingStrong organization, Feldman is a volunteer. He works tirelessly on the event for two reasons.

"We're trying to help put the Cure Alzheimer's Fund out of business by hoping our money helps them find a cure," Feldman said. His other reason is, "To spread the gospel of a cappella. It's so accessible for all ages, all types of people, musicians, non-musicians. Until people attend SingStrong, they don't realize what's possible with the human voice."

Ball in the House is one of the professional a cappella groups performing at SingStrong Chicago.

SingStrong Chicago
Friday to Sunday, April 10-12
Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton St., Skokie
$75-$100 for full weekend pass; $15-$35 for tickets to individual events
chicago.singstrong.org
Competitors, up to 12 months, will crawl toward the finish line in hopes of winning the Diaper Derby, 1 p.m. April 4 at Lincolnwood Town Center, 3333 W. Touhy Ave. Slightly bigger kids will have a chance to compete in Shopping Cart Races at 1:20 p.m. for ages 1 to 2, and 1:40 p.m. for ages 3 to 5.

"It's pretty simple — from one side to the other," said Sara Diaz, marketing administrative assistant for Lincolnwood Town Center. "The older kids have to grab something, put it in the cart and roll it to the other side."

To compete in the Diaper Derby or the Shopping Cart Races, kids must be registered on the Lincolnwood Town Center website (under News and Events).

At 2 p.m., children ages 2 to 11 can participate in an Egg Hunt at some of the mall's stores. The eggs contain candy, toys, coupons and gift cards. They can be registered online or on-site. Bring a basket.

The Easter Bunny will pose for photos. For details, go to lincolnwoodtowncenter.com.

'Tis the season

Celebrate the warming weather at a Spring Garden Party, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 4 at the north end of the Westfield Old Orchard Shopping Center, Skokie Boulevard and Old Orchard Road, Skokie. There will be face painting, a petting zoo, arts and crafts projects, balloon animals and snacks at this free event. Reservations are required. For details, go to westfield.com/oldorchard.

Creature comforters

Kids can become Animal Ambassadors, 2 to 3 p.m. April 11 at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. They will learn about the animals that live in Illinois from the Grove National Historic Landmark Museum, which will bring its traveling trunk full of natural history and artifacts to the library. Registration is required. For details, call 847-965-4220, or go to mgpl.org.

Watch in wonder

An hour of slight-of-hand is promised for the Second Sunday Family Program: Magic of Gary Kantor, 2 to 3 p.m. April 12 at Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. Pick up tickets for the always-entertaining Kantor 30 minutes before the performance at Kidspace. For details, call 847-663-1234, or go to nileslibrary.org.

Highland fling

Teachers and staff from Highland School will share their favorite stories for pre-kindergartners to fifth-graders, 7 to 8 p.m. April 8 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Refreshments will be served at this drop-in event. For details, call 847-673-7774, or go to skokielibrary.info.
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FILM
Film fest spotlights women's issues

BY GINA GRILLO
Pioneer Press

Our world is smaller now than it has ever been. Our ability to share our ideas and connect, via the internet, to those living on opposite sides of the planet, is now only a mouse click away. The internet and social media have changed the potential reach of the human voice — and women across the globe are finding new freedoms in joining their voices together into a family of voices, where there has long been only a path to silence.

As part of that movement, the Wilmette Theatre will feature the Family of Woman Film Festival on April 10-12, a festival that illuminates issues confronting women and girls globally by bringing those issues to the big screen via documentaries.

Peggy Goldwyn founded the festival eight years ago in Sun Valley, Idaho, to bring attention to the work of The United Nations Population Fund, the agency for reproductive health and the rights of women.

"Most Americans are unaware of this U.N. agency, and of the importance of the work they do to advance women's rights as equal rights around the world," Goldwyn said.

"Coming from a film background, I felt the best way to illustrate the obstacles women and girls face in today's society was by telling stories — giving a face to what might seem an abstraction."

This second annual Family of Woman Film Festival at the Wilmette Theatre was initiated during a conversation between friends Goldwyn and Peggy Wagner, a member of the Wilmette Theatre Board, who decided to bring a mini-version of the main event to Wilmette.

The theme for the 2015 Film Festival is "Women and Their Dreams," and includes the films, "#chicagoGirl" (Syria and United States), "India's Daughter," (United Kingdom and India), and "The Supreme Price" (Nigeria). The Family of Woman Film Festival has launched a new partnership with the organization, Woman Deliver, a global advocate for girls' and women's health and rights.

British filmmaker Leslee Udwin will conduct a Q&A following the screening of her film, "India's Daughter," about the 2012 rape of a woman on a New Delhi bus.

Goldwyn, active in the film industry for more than 40 years, began her career writing and producing documentaries for television. Prior to her work in film, she created scripts for "That Girl," "The Odd Couple" and "Love, American Style." Goldwyn is also a novelist, founder of the Samuel Goldwyn Children's Center and an Emeritus Board Member of UNFPA, Friends of The United Nations Population Fund.

From her Chicago home, teenage Aila Basatneh used social media to help coordinate a rebellion in Syria. Her story is told in "#chicagoGirl."
The film "The Supreme Price" tells the story of Harvard graduate Hafsat Abiola whose father was Nigeria's first democratically elected president. After her father was overthrown by a military coup and her mother was assassinated, Hafsat returned to Nigeria to work with the Pro-Democracy Movement.

Women's issues in the forefront of film fest

Q&A with Alaa Basatneh following the film.

"India's Daughter"
7 p.m. Saturday, April 11
The story of the brutal gang rape of a 23-year-old medical student by six men on a bus in New Delhi in 2012, and the uproarious riots and protests that took place following her death, inspiring a campaign for the protection of women. The film weaves personal insights from the victim's family, with documentary footage and an interview with one of the men convicted of the crime. Explores themes of society and violence against women. Director Leslee Udwin will participate in a Q&A following the film.

"The Supreme Price"
1 p.m. Sunday, April 12
Tells the dramatic story of Harvard graduate, Hafsat Abiola. Hafsat's father became Nigeria's first democratically elected president in 1999, while Hafsat was attending college in Boston. Her father was overthrown by a military coup and imprisoned, while her mother, while campaigning for his release, was assassinated. Shortly after her mother's murder, her father mysteriously died in prison. These tragedies forever transform Hafsat's life as she returns to Nigeria to work with the Pro-Democracy Movement.

Single tickets to the Family of Woman Festival at the Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave., are $10; $8 for seniors and students. An opening reception takes place 6-7:30 p.m. April 10 at de Giulio Kitchen Design, 1121 Central Ave., Wilmette. Hosted by Festival founder, Peggy Goldwyn, and in honor of Alaa Basatneh, the star of "#chicagoGirl." Tickets for the reception are $25 (price includes movie). Visit wilmettheatre.com.

#chicagoGirl
7:30 p.m. Friday, April 10
An inspiring documentary about a Chicago teen, Alaa Basatneh, who uses social media to coordinate a rebellion in Syria. Working with scores of citizen journalists in Homs, Alaa plans protests and assists protesters, all from the confines of her suburban Chicago bedroom. As the situation in Syria grows increasingly desperate, Alaa chooses to leave the safety of her home and sneak into Syria with needed medical supplies.

Q& A with Alaa Basatneh following the film.
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
Spring fashions that feel good and look great

Be bold, be confident, be clothes minded.” That’s the philosophy of fashion consultant and stylist, Heidy Best, owner of BECLOTHESMINDED, a wardrobe consulting firm based in Chicago.

Best believes being stylish involves more than just looking good; it’s also about how clothes make you feel.

“I love to help women look great and feel beautiful,” said Best. “Sometimes that means adding a just few new items to her wardrobe and sometimes it calls for an entire closet overhaul. The key is to help each client find the styles, colors and silhouettes that look best on them and then incorporate simple ways to keep the clothes looking fresh and current.”

I recently spoke with Heidy about her fashion philosophy and asked her to share some of her favorite tips and trends for this spring.

Putting your Best Foot Forward

Sarah Jessica Parker may have been onto something with her shoe obsession: the right shoe can make your legs look longer and leaner. So when buying shoes this spring, go for versatility with an assortment of neutral shoes in varying styles. This season, Best loves the look of classic nude pumps, sexy snake skin wedges, and metallic gladiator sandals. Just be sure to find shoes that are comfortable. After all, there’s nothing beautiful about aching feet.

A New Twist on the LBD

Surprise! According to Best, this season’s LBD is actually blue. She loves this new take on the closet staple. A “little blue dress” can be classic, sophisticated and be a pop of color, much needed after this dreary winter. To show off a tan, choose a dress in a lighter shade of blue. Ladies of a fair complexion might opt for a deeper blue, such as cobalt.

Friendly Floral

Floral prints are all the rage and it’s easy to see why. Flowers are pretty, feminine and come in a rainbow of colors. Best recommends buying a pretty floral cardigan. It can be worn a number of different ways and can change the look of an entire outfit. Floral capris and shorts are also good choices, and a fun twist on a timeless trend.

Talk Back to Mommy!

We asked our Facebook friends to share their favorite spring trends: “Bring on the sandals! I love my wedges.” Laurie Martinelli, Northbrook

“Converse! They’re old school, but feel fresh for 2015!” Jen Luby, Highland Park

“The 70’s are back for spring and summer and I’m looking forward to giving the new culottes and clogs a whirl! Yes, I said culottes!” Meredith Sinclair, Winnetka

“Crazy colored sneakers are back! Love them. New Balance has some cool styles even for us LA middle-aged women!” Louise Sattler, Los Angeles.

What’s your favorite spring trend? Visit us on Facebook, or follow @momonashoe on Twitter and tell us what you’re most looking forward to wearing this spring.
Listings are subject to change. Please call the venue in advance.

**Friday, April 3**

- **"Endgame"**: This theatricalized, environmental production, spectacularly designed by Elizabeth Bracken, takes as its motif a kid's birthday-like party, replete with colorful lights, favors and little hats for the audience who sit at ledges with room for a beverage. 8 p.m. Friday, 4 p.m. Saturday, Steppenwolf Theatre Garage, 1624 N. Halsted St., Chicago, $15-$20, 312-335-1650

- **"Bible Bingo"**: Vicki Quade ("Late Nite Catechism") unleashes what promotional materials call "a new, interactive comedy," centered around an Archdiocesan bingo department on the hunt for revenue. "That's where you come in: Get ready to play bingo for a variety of wacky prizes. Along the way, you'll be drawn into conversation about everything from Adam and Eve to modern sins. Just be careful: You might laugh so hard you forget to yell "bingo."" 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Royal George Theatre Center, 1641 N. Halsted St., Chicago, $30, 312-988-9000

- **"Macbeth"**: See Shakespeare's epic tale of ambition gone wrong. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. Sunday, The Artistic Home, 1376 W. Grand Ave., Chicago, $28-$32, 773-352-5599

- **"Murder Ballad"**: The quirky Adam family comes to town via this strange and comic musical. 7:30 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport Ave., Chicago, $45-$65, 773-335-1650

- **"Genius"**: This play examines the secrets and alliances of two creative couples from different generations who find their lives changed forever one evening after an electric dinner party. 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday, Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago, $12-$20, 773-482-8932

- **"The Book of Mormon"**: This Tony Award-winning musical satire by Trey Parker and Matt Stone ("South Park") and Robert Lopez ("Avenue Q") follows the misadventures of two missionaries who naively attempt to convert the inhabitants of a village in Uganda. 7:30 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, 1650 N. Halsted St., Chicago, $54-$65, 312-335-1650

- **"The Addams Family"**: In this play, Ingrid and Herman are retirees living independently in their long-time family home somewhere in the heart of America. Like any parents with adult children, they long for more visits from their son, the physically disabled Everett, who lives in the Big City several hours away. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $35-$48, 773-281-8463

- **"The Bird Feeder Doesn't Know"**: In this play, Ingrid and Herman are retirees living independently in their long-time family home somewhere in the heart of America. Like any parents with adult children, they long for more visits from their son, the physically disabled Everett, who lives in the Big City several hours away. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $35-$48, 773-281-8463

- **"The Apple Family Plays: That Holiday Change Thing and Sorry"**: In this play, Ingrid and Herman are retirees living independently in their long-time family home somewhere in the heart of America. Like any parents with adult children, they long for more visits from their son, the physically disabled Everett, who lives in the Big City several hours away. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $35-$48, 773-281-8463

- **"The Royal Society of Antarctica"**: This play follows Dee (Aila Peck) as she returns to her birthplace at the blindingly bright McMurdo Station in Antarctica to work as a janitor and seek answers to her mothers disappearance in this weird and touching new work. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $25-$35, 773-283-7071

- **"Creation's Birthday"**: This play brings to life the story of the Big-Bang Genesis through the legendary battle between astronomer Edwin Hubble and the scientific icon Albert Einstein. 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Atheneum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave., Chicago, $30, 773-935-6860

- **"One Came Home"**: Lifeline Theatre presents a world premiere adaptation of Amy Timberlake's Edgar Award-winning and Newbery Honor book, *One Came Home*. During the great passenger pigeon migration of 1871, throngs of strangers descend upon Placid, Wis., bringing prosperity in their wake. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. Sunday and Monday, No Exit Café, 4746 N. Racine Ave., Chicago, $40, 773-728-6000

- **"The Last Bison"**: With Neulore and Emily Jane Powers, 8:30 p.m. Friday, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $35-$48, 773-281-8463

- **"Picture Imperfect"**: This production tells the story of a single mother and the impossible conflicted decisions she must make. Abandoned, impoverished, and haunted by past mistakes, Mary battles an unforgiving system as it moves in painful, inexorable steps to take her beloved autistic son, Cole. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Atheneum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave., Chicago, $30, 773-935-6875

- **"The Creation's Birthday"**: This play brings to life the story of the Big-Bang Genesis through the legendary battle between astronomer Edwin Hubble and the scientific icon Albert Einstein. 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Atheneum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave., Chicago, $30, 773-935-6860

- **"The Apple Family Plays: That Holiday Change Thing and Sorry"**: Richard Nelson's series of four plays explore politics, change and family dynamics. The plays are being performed on alternating nights. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday and Monday, 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Raven Theatre, 615 N. Clark St., Chicago, $35-$48, 773-733-3877

- **"The Bird Feeder Doesn't Know"**: In this play, Ingrid and Herman are retirees living independently in their long-time family home somewhere in the heart of America. Like any parents with adult children, they long for more visits from their son, the physically disabled Everett, who lives in the Big City several hours away. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Royal George Theatre Center, 1641 N. Halsted St., Chicago, $30, 312-988-9000

- **"The Addams Family"**: The quirky Adam family comes to town via this strange and comic musical. 7:30 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Wednesday, Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport Ave., Chicago, $45-$65, 773-325-1700

- **Maker & Muse: Women and Early Twentieth Century Art Jewelry**: The museum presents the major exhibition comprised of works drawn from the Collection of Richard H. Driehaus and prominent private and public collections throughout the United States. 10 a.m. Friday-Wednesday, Richard H. Driehaus Museum, 40 E. Erie St., Chicago, $12.50-$20, 773-335-1650

- **"The Other Place"**: In Sharr White's new drama, Juliana Smithton, a successful neurologist, finds her life coming apart at the seams. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. Sunday, Profiles Theatre at The Main Stage, 4319 N. Broadway, Chicago, $20-$40, 773-549-1815

- **"Genius"**: This play examines the secrets and alliances of two creative couples from different generations who find their lives changed forever one evening after an electric dinner party. 8 p.m. Friday, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 7 p.m. Sunday, Profiles Theatre at The Alley Stage, 4147 N. Broadway, Chicago, $20-$40, 773-549-1815

- **"The Creation's Birthday"**: This play brings to life the story of the Big-Bang Genesis through the legendary battle between astronomer Edwin Hubble and the scientific icon Albert Einstein. 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Atheneum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave., Chicago, $30, 773-935-6875

- **"One Came Home"**: Lifeline Theatre presents a world premiere adaptation of Amy Timberlake's Edgar Award-winning and Newbery Honor book, *One Came Home*. During the great passenger pigeon migration of 1871, throngs of strangers descend upon Placid, Wis., bringing prosperity in their wake. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. Sunday and Monday, No Exit Café, 4746 N. Racine Ave., Chicago, $40, 773-728-6000
Friday and Saturday, Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, 756 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $10-$15, 312-243-9088

“The Power of Prom”: This '80s tribute combines elements of the songs, movies, television shows, and pop-culture that epitomized the decade. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, The Annoyance Theatre, 851 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, $15-$20, 773-697-9693

“All My Relations: A Seneca History”: In collaboration with visual artist and dancer Rosy Simas (Seneca), this exhibit introduces the history of the Seneca culture through milestones in the lives of Simas and her relations. It features traditional and modern Seneca artifacts, which span various generations. 11 a.m. Friday-Wednesday, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, Free-$5; 847-467-6659.


Fresh fish and seafood specials: The inn offers an array of fresh fish and seafood specials each Friday during Lent. 11 a.m. Friday, The Happ Inn, 305 Happ Road, Northfield, Varies, 847-784-0738.


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“Outside Mullingar”: Anthony and Rosemary are two introverted misfits. Anthony has spent his entire life on a cattle farm in rural Ireland, oblivious to the longing of his neighbor Rosemary, who hopelessly pines for him as the years slip away. 7:30 p.m. Friday, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, $15-$60, 847-673-6300.

Saturday, April 4

“Cinderella”: Cinderella would love more than anything to attend the royal ball. With an evil stepmother and two wicked stepisters, she is instead ordered around getting them ready for the big event. She is not allowed to go, but a surprise visit from her fairy godmother may mean all Cinderella’s dreams can come true. See this favorite story with fun music-filled twists. Recommended for grades PreK-3. Call x228 to book your group and save up to 20%. For Tickets to Weekday Performances Call or Stop By The Box Office 847-577-2121 www.metropoliasarts.com. 11 a.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. Monday-Wednesday, Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, 111 W. Campbell St., Arlington Heights, Adults $14, Children 12 and under $12, 847-577-5982

Utsav Holi Color Run 2015: Utsav hosts first of its kind, color run in Barrington to celebrate HOLI, festival of colors as celebrated in India. noon Saturday, Citizens Park, 511 Lake Zurich Road, Barrington, free, 847-533-6057

Anne of Green Gables: Generations of readers have adored children’s novel Anne of Green Gables and now this beloved classic is coming to stage at Provision Theater. Adapted & Directed by Provisions Artistic Director Timothy Gregory and based on best-selling novel by Canadian author Lucy Maud Montgomery. Noon and 3 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Saturday, Provision Theater, 1001
**GO CALENDAR**

Go Calendar, from Previous Page

W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago, $10-$15, 312-455-0066

"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

"Two Trains Running": Set in a Pittsburgh diner, this is the 1960s chapter of playwright August Wilson's century cycle. 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, $27-80, 312-443-3800

Self Defense Family: With Makthaverskan and Solids. 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, $12-$14, 773-281-4444

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

"Fancy Nancy: The Musical": Follow Nancy to her first dance recital, after which she's picked to be a tree in an upcoming show. "Can she still bring fancy flair to her role when it isn't the one she wanted?" asks promotional materials. "Adapted from the bestselling books, this is a funny, frilly ballet story with a lot of heart." 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Apollo Theater, 2540 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, Price varies., 773-935-6100

English subtitles, the movie follows a young culinary initiate befriended by a rat with the palate of a gourmand. 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Alliance Francaise de Chicago Downtown Location, 54 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, $8 admission, 312-337-1070

"The One and Only Ivan": Lifeline Theatres KidSeries presents this world premiere adaptation based on the bestselling book by Katherine Applegate and illustrated by Patricia Castelao. For 27 years, the world of Ivan the gorilla was a dull cage in a roadside shopping mall. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant captured in the wild, Ivan's ambitions and imagination must grow to meet the challenge of rescuing his endangered new companion. 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago, $15, 773-761-4477

"Fire and Beer": The Annoyance House Ensemble improvises based on an audience suggestions. 8 p.m. Saturday, The Annoyance Theatre, 851 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, $12; $8 for students, 773-697-9693

"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

We remember when you partied like it was 1999

Reintroducing Chicago's original entertainment guide

Experience the new Metromix.com, now on all of your devices. With entertainment listings that cover the city and the suburbs, we're your go-to source so you can spend less time planning, and more time doing.

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

Silver Screen Series: "Gaslight": Watch the film Gaslight (1944, NR, 2 hours) Years after her aunt was murdered in her home, a young woman moves back into the house with her new husband. However, he has a secret that he will do anything to protect. 2 p.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

"Busytown": Based on the wildly popular children's books by Richard Scarry, this musical brings colorful characters to life, including Huckle Cat, Lowly Worm, Betsy Bear and Farmer Pig singing and dancing on stage. 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Northbrook Theatre, 3323 Walters Ave., Northbrook, $10-$12, 847-291-2367

"Hello Weekend": With Julian Lynch. 10 p.m. Saturday, Schubas Tavern, 3159 N. Southport Ave., Chicago, $8-$10, 773-525-2508

"Sliver Screen Series: "Talking Is Hard" Tour: With the Griswolds. 6:30 p.m. Saturday, House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, Sold out, 312-923-2000

"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

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Turn to Go Calendar, Next Page
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- Chicago Tribune

“A GREAT BEAUTY OF A PLAY.
Highly Recommended!”
- Chicago Sun-Times

“Lyrically rich and marvelously acted.”
- Pioneer Press

outside MULLINGAR
by JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY
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Linden Square Bunny Hop: For family fun -- look for posters on the doors of participating businesses to find treats, activities and surprises. Wilmette Fire Department truck parked at noon in front of Light Opera Works, 516 4th St; Balloon Art with Showtime Tony at Kitchen Classics at 519 4th St; Jump for Joy Obstacle Course at Personal Fitness Training, 350 Linden Ave. and Face Painting (weather permitting) at Wilmette Dental, 344 Linden Ave. 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Linden Square, 400 Linden Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-3800

Sunday, April 5

Chicago International Music Festival: This educational performance event brings together instrumental ensembles from the United States and beyond. 7 p.m. Sunday, Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, $20, 312-294-3000

Monday, April 6

Hanni El Khatib: With Black Pistol Fire. 8:30 p.m. Monday, Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave., Chicago, $15, 773-278-6600

“Decibel Magazine” Tour featuring At the Gates: With Converge and Vallenfyrr. 6 p.m. Monday, House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, $35, 312-923-2000

Jessie Ware: With Jesse Boykins III. 7:30 p.m. Monday, Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., Chicago, $28.50, 773-549-0203

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

Tuesday, April 7

The Suffers: 8 p.m. Tuesday, Schubas Tavern, 3159 N. Southport Ave., Chicago, $10-$12, 773-732-2508

Traditional Irish Music Night: 8 p.m. Tuesday, Chief O’Neill’s Pub, 3471 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, Free, 773-473-5263

“23”: This is a multimedia sketch production composed of vignettes from a millennial coming-of-age point of view. 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, The Annoyance Theatre, 851 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, $5, 773-697-9693

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

Movies, Munchies, & More: Film: “Inception”: Make time for movies and a snack. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Wednesday, April 8

Happyness: With Ezra Furman. 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave., Chicago, $12, 773-278-6600

Yonatan Gat: With The Avantist. 9 p.m. Wednesday, Schubas Tavern, 3159 N. Southport Ave., Chicago, $10, 773-525-2508

Live music at Brasserie by LM: With The Giving Trio and Combo 1. 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Brasserie by LM, 800 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, free, 312-431-1788

“Rails, Rogues and Wrecks”: The social impact railroad expansion has had on American life is not more apparent than in the songs of the steel rails: The Rock Island Line, Casey Jones, I’ve Been Working On The Railroad, 16 Tons, This Train, The Wabash Cannonball, and The City of New Orleans. This musical presentation by award-winning singer-songwriter Rick Pickren will include the central role that Illinois played in the evolution of the railroad system from east to west and from steam to diesel power. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Fremont Public Library, 1170 N. Midlothian Road, Mundelein, free, 847-837-3225

Julie Butler Chanteuse: Julie Butler Chanteuse brings “A Touch of Downton Abbey” to her Red Carpet Events for seniors. A red carpet is rolled out for attendees of the matinee performances. 2 p.m. Wednesday, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, $15, 847-677-7761

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

Now playing

“Cinderella” ★★★
PG, 1:45, family
Refreshingly free of all snark, the satisfying new live-action “Cinderella” from the princess manufacturing company known as Disney is a sincere, openhearted rendering of the familiar fairy tale. — Michael Phillips

“Run All Night” ★★ ½
R, 1:54, action
In a convention-bound action movie such as “Run All Night,” some nicely rumpled actors (beginning with Liam Neeson, our supreme late-winter action star) can go a long way toward redeeming the cliches, the primary cliche being a flawed protagonist who seeks redemption for his sins. The film co-stars Ed Harris and also Vincent as an New York police detective trying to get Neeson’s character, a guilt-stricken, mobbed-up hit man, to confess to his crimes before the Harris character eliminates him. “Run All Night” also makes room for a Nick Nolte cameo. Directed, frantically, by Jaume Collet-Serra and written by Brad Ingelsby, “Run All Night” promises a sprint punctuated by a lot of gunfire, bleeding and bodies. Mission accomplished. — M.P.

“Kingsman: The Secret Service” ★½
R, 2:09, action
Colin Firth portrays one of the crack gentlemen-spies working for a superspecial agency out to save the world from a crackpot billionaire philanthropist (Samuel L. Jackson). As Firth’s colleague, 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.

“Focus” ★★
R, 1:45, action
In “Focus,” Will Smith plays gentleman thief Nicky Spurgeon, who runs a 30-person team of pickpockets and scam artists. Margot Robbie is the fatale-in-training Jess Barrett, looking for a mentor and a leg up in the con game. Some will take “Focus” in the intended spirit, that of a casual, eye-candy throwback to older Hollywood. Many found the same creative team’s “Crazy, Stupid, Love.” a disarming romantic comedy (me, less so), and clearly the team has a gift for zigzag plotting. But the setup of “Focus” feels hasty and insufficient. Even in a lark about con artists working through their trust issues, we need more. — M.P.

“Chappie” zero stars
R, 2:02, sci-fi
We’re in Johannesburg, South Africa, in the near future. Law enforcement droids have improved crime statistics. The police force orders up another batch of robots from the weapons firm. The firm’s lead designer (Dev Patel) cracks the code for a new iteration of droid that is human in its techno-makeup. “Mad Max” criminals kidnap Patel’s character in hopes of enlisting his inventions in a multimillion dollar heist. The sweet, naive droid the punks nickname Chappie becomes a pawn in their miserable game. This is one of those misjudgments that could only happen from a talented filmmaker with an idea, ripped off from “Ali” and a million other movies, seen through to the bitter end. — M.P.

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Extra cost for peace of mind

As sales of certified preowned vehicles climb, buyers should make sure the used car they're eyeing is worth the upcharge

BY RICK POPELY
Special to Tribune Newspapers

Sales of certified preowned vehicles, touted as the cream of the used-car crop by dealers and manufacturers, hit record levels in 2014 and are projected to continue to grow as more late-model vehicles wind up on used-car lots.

Dealers are supposed to make sure certified preowned (CPO) vehicles are in A-1 condition before they sell them, plus they come with a longer warranty than other used cars and other perks for owners. Because of that, they typically command a price premium of hundreds of dollars over regular used vehicles.

But are CPO vehicles really any better than similar used cars from the same year and with similar miles that have not been "certified"?

That's hard to say because there are no data to answer that, said Mike Quincy, an automotive specialist on the Consumer Reports test staff. Consumer Reports surveys millions of its readers a year about their vehicles' reliability, but the surveys cover all used cars, and CPO vehicles aren't separated from the herd.

Better or not, though, the longer warranties and other benefits of CPO vehicles attract buyers by offering greater peace of mind.

"People perceive that a CPO vehicle will be better than just any car off the streets," Quincy said in an interview, but he warned that slapping a "certified" label on a used car doesn't transform a lemon into a peach.

"The best new cars in Consumer Reports' reliability data will likely make the best used cars. When a car starts out problematic, it's likely to stay problematic," he said. "If a car was designed poorly or built improperly or there is a never-ending software glitch, a CPO program is not likely to fix that."

Michelle Krebs, senior analyst for AutoTrader.com, said a survey of car shoppers last fall showed that consumers are willing to pay a premium of around $2,000 for a CPO vehicle, and the top three reasons were "peace of mind," the warranty and affordability (compared with a new vehicle).

"Clearly, what they think they're getting is peace of mind. They recognize they are getting a vehicle that is certified to a certain level of quality and condition," she said.

An analysis of used vehicles listed for sale on AutoTrader.com during 2014 showed that the average dealer asking price for CPO vehicles of $27,661 was $1,209, or 4.6 percent, higher than the average for all used vehicles. The data do not show actual transaction prices.

All major manufacturers have CPO programs, and CPO sales have climbed steadily since the recession to a record 2.3 million vehicles in 2014. Industry analysts say CPO vehicles accounted for 21 percent to 23 percent of used-car sales by franchised new-car dealers last year. That should increase because a growing number of off-lease vehicles will be on used-car lots over the next few years.

CPO programs differ in detail, but they typically include vehicles that are 6 years old or less and have fewer than 80,000 miles. Certified vehicles usually come with additional warranty coverage, a free vehicle history report, roadside assistance and other benefits. Warranty coverage varies by manufacturer and even by different brands sold by the same manufacturer.

Ford, Honda and Toyota, for example, extend the basic warranty by 12 months/12,000 miles and increase the powertrain warranty to 7 years/100,000 miles. Ford charges a $100 deductible per service visit after the original new-vehicle basic warranty expires, and Toyota charges a $50 deductible. Honda does not have a deductible.

Before a vehicle can be certified, dealers are supposed to perform a comprehensive inspection and make necessary repairs. They also pay a fee to the manufacturer to get the CPO warranty and other benefits. What gets inspected and the fee that dealers pay varies by brand.

"Certified" means different things for different manufacturers, Quincy has found. Some may have achieved a certain level of quality; others may have been designed poorly or built improperly. A vehicle designed poorly or built improperly with a never-ending software glitch is hard to say because surveys don't cover that.

"Whether it's a good value is up to you. If you buy a 2- or 3-year-old car, it's already gone through its steepest depreciation, so in some ways, a good used car is the best and smartest automotive buy out there," Quincy said, cautioning shoppers to fully understand the benefits - and limits - of CPO programs.

"In some ways, they can be an excellent buy. The best cost for a new car in its first three years is depreciation. If you buy a 2- or 3-year-old car, it's already gone through its steepest depreciation, so in some ways, a good used car is the best and smartest automotive buy out there," Quincy said, cautioning shoppers to fully understand the benefits - and limits - of CPO programs.
Sporty, but pricey, makeover

By Robert Duffer
Tribune Newspapers

For 12 years running, the Toyota Camry has been the best-selling car in America, prized for its reliability, well-equipped value, safety and endurance. The Camry doesn't excite, and most car buyers don't care. But as more buyers shift to crossovers, the midsize segment has contracted, and automakers are boldly restyling what was once a function-over-form equation dominated by Camry.

Toyota has refreshed the 2015 Camry with a sportier skin and upgraded interior for its seventh-generation model, which was introduced in 2012.

Outside, it looks like a completely redesigned model. Upright, the bumper has been eaten by what appears to be the lower jaw of the giant trapezoidal grille bedecking new Lexus models.

LED daytime running lights flank the lower half of the grille, and the body panels are more sculpted to flow toward the back.

Every exterior panel has been restyled except the hood, says Toyota, and it gets a slightly wider stance and is an inch longer.

The front might be too much for more conservative Camry fans, but there's no mistaking that the new Camry stands out, at least from other Camrys.

Among the styling changes for 2015 is a new XSE sport trim level, one of four trim levels that Toyota calls the sportiest Camry ever. We had the XSE with the available 3.5-liter V-6 engine for a week.

The makeover continues inside, where the seats and dash materials are all upgraded to feel more luxurious than any preceding Camry. The XSE came with leather-trimmed "ultrasuede" seats and a leather-wrapped steering wheel. Both elements felt and looked good.

Driving the XSE might be the nicest surprise of all. Acceleration was peppy and ever present.

The brake pedal is more pliant than other new cars, meaning the gap between pressing the brake and engaging ABS to avoid a skid is shorter. I doubt the brake pads would be worn down already, but maybe it was my unfamiliarity with Toyota's two-stage brake booster, which is supposed to improve on the feel.

The stiffer body and more rigid chassis mean the Camry handles with more feel as well, making the total package more fun to drive yet still smooth and quiet at highway speeds. It responds to the driver, and with the V-6 in front-wheel drive, the XSE has an edge not usually attributed to the Camry.

The six-speed automatic doesn't have any surprises, but the paddle shifters seem kind of ridiculous. The sporty elements don't sacrifice too much in fuel economy, with the XSE getting 21 mpg in the city and 31 on the highway.

The major refresh delivers on cutting a new form for the Camry, but it comes with a price tag that most Camry lovers will not like. The XSE starts at $31,370 for the 2.5-liter four-cylinder; the V-6 adds $4,220.

The front might be too much for more conservative Camry fans, but there's no mistaking that the new Camry stands out, at least from other Camrys.

Yes, put winter tires on the rear of FWD vehicle

Q: Put new winter tires in the rear on a front-wheel-drive car? You think your readers are happy with no explanation?

—N.D., Chicago

A: We received several messages, including some that stated that we are just plain wrong or even stupid for telling readers to put the new two tires on the back. We are not making this up and have driven cars on a skid pad equipped with the good tires on the front and then on the rear. Here is the explanation.

Hydroplaning occurs when the tire cannot process enough water through its tread design to maintain effective contact with the road. In moderate to heavy rain, water can pool up in road ruts, depressions and pockets adjacent to pavement expansion joints. At higher speeds, the standing water often found in these pools challenges a tire's ability to resist hydroplaning.

"Hydroplaning occurs when the tire cannot process enough water through its tread design to maintain effective contact with the road. In moderate to heavy rain, water can pool up in road ruts, depressions and pockets adjacent to pavement expansion joints. At higher speeds, the standing water often found in these pools challenges a tire's ability to resist hydroplaning.

"If the front tires have significantly more tread depth than the rear tires, the rear tires will begin to hydroplane and lose traction on wet roads before the front tires. While this will cause the vehicle to understeer (the vehicle wants to continue driving straight ahead), understeer is relatively easy to control because releasing the gas pedal will slow the vehicle and help the driver maintain control.

"However, if the front tires have significantly more tread depth than the rear tires, the rear tires will begin to hydroplane and lose traction on wet roads before the fronts. This will cause the vehicle to oversteer (the vehicle will want to spin). Oversteer is far more difficult to control and in addition to the initial distress felt when the rear of the car starts sliding, quickly releasing the gas pedal in an attempt to slow down may actually make it more difficult for the driver to regain control, possibly causing a complete spinout."

Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Fifth Floor, Chicago IL 60611 or motormouth.trib@verizon.net.
Jalen Brunson is leaving Stevenson with three consecutive Pioneer Press Boys Basketball Player of the Year awards and his crowning achievement — a state championship.

BY JOHN P. BORNEMAN | Pioneer Press

PEORIA — Just after 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, roughly 27 hours before they were scheduled to play in a Class 4A boys basketball state semifinal against Bolingbrook, the Stevenson Patriots took the court at Carver Arena for the first time. Save for a smattering of fans, media members and IHSA and arena employees, the home of the Bradley Braves was a well-lit cavern with 11,000 empty red seats. Stevenson was running a little late for its shootaround — thanks to slow service at a Subway during the three-hour trip down from Lincolnshire — but the Patriots wasted no time getting into some defensive drills. Jalen Brunson, standing on the same court where he had experienced the disappointment of a state final loss in 2013 and a semifinal loss in 2014, was ready to work, and he made sure his teammates were, too.

“Let’s sweat Con!” he shouted to senior teammate Connor Cashaw.
Jalen Brunson, from Page 54

"Let me see something Jalen!" he yelled as sophomore Justin Smith took off streaking down the court and finished his turn through the drill with a dunk.

After a few trips down the court, the 6-foot-3, 190-pound Brunson seemed to stop time on the sideline, signaled to an assistant coach and said, "Two-on-0?" The Patriots switched gears, starting their full-court, fastbreak 2-on-0 drill.

"It's real obvious if you watch our practice and 90 percent of the things we do, he is the one who leads us," Stevenson coach Pat Ambrose said. "He's the one that drives us, that sets the tone right away. He will do something additional if he senses it. He will back off the team if he senses it.

"It puts a little pressure on him because some people think, 'You're not a coach,' but he is so gifted as a human to kind of read people in terms of what they need at that point. I think it's rare that people get bothered by it."

Brunson's baseline intensity on an otherwise quiet Thursday afternoon is standard operating procedure. He's at the front of the line for every Stevenson drill. He isn't afraid to cut in front of his less-experienced teammates if he feels like he needs another rep. He rarely (if ever) subs himself out during practice. He wants to have everything just right, to the point that when one line got shorter than another during a shooting drill Thursday, an exasperated Brunson threw up his hands and lamented to junior guard Ryuji Aoki, "See how uneven it is now?"

"It's intense. He's always going hard," Smith said. "He's always going 100 miles an hour."

"It's amazing," senior Cameron Green said. "He works so hard every play. He works every second. You'd think maybe he'd take one play or two plays [off], but every play he'd go hard and push others to their limits."

For the third consecutive season, Jalen Brunson is the Pioneer Press All-Area Boys Basketball Player of the Year. He averaged 23.3 points, 5.3 assists, 4.6 rebounds and 2.6 steals per game as a senior, becoming Lake County's all-time leading scorer on his way to finishing with 2,682 career points. And oh yeah, he finally earned that elusive state championship, helping the Patriots beat Bolingbrook in the semifinals and Normal Community in the title game on Saturday, March 21.

In those games — particularly Saturday's final — Carver Arena was packed with screaming fans, many of them dressed in Stevenson apparel as they watched the Patriots chase Lake County's first boys basketball state championship. But on Thursday, the title game seemed forever away. On Thursday, it was all squeaking sneakers and bouncing basketballs and a recording of Chicago's 1972 World Series theme song "Saturday in the Park." The interesting choice for a jock jam echoed through the empty arena.

Saturday, in the park, I think it was the Fourth of July.

And I've been waiting such a long time, for Saturday.

Picture Brunson in his green Stevenson uniform with the gold and white trim, his eyes red and watering, walking off the court at Carver Arena with a white towel obscuring his face — the background on his phone. He looked at it every day. "Every time I would open my phone, I would see it," he said. "It was reminded of it all the time, just had that memory stick with me."

He relied on a work ethic forged in part by the NBA experiences of his father, who played nine consecutive seasons from 1997-2006 on non-guaranteed contracts with the Portland Trail Blazers, New York Knicks, Boston Celtics, Chicago Bulls, Toronto Raptors, Los Angeles Clippers, Seattle SuperSonics and Houston Rockets. Every season, Rick Brunson said he had to wait for the Jan. 10 deadline after which the base salary in NBA contracts became guaranteed. In 2006, Rick Brunson was trying to make the Philadelphia 76ers when he found out he had been cut after a preseason game against the New York Knicks that Jalen Brunson attended. He was done.

"I remember driving home — [Jalen Brunson] was in fifth grade and I told him, 'Hey, it's not going to work out here,'" Rick Brunson said. "He cried all the way home. He didn't understand. And I told him, 'That's how hard it is to reach your dreams. You gotta work tirelessly. When you work, and you think you did a good job that day, you gotta go back.'"
Jalen Brunson worked out with Cashaw — his friend since Rick Brunson took a job as a Bulls assistant and moved his wife Sandra, daughter Erica and an eighth-grade Jalen from New Jersey to the Chicago area in the summer of 2010 — and stuck to a practice routine that required him to make at least 300 shots per day before his senior season. Most of his statistics actually went down from a junior year in which he averaged 26.1 points, 5.4 rebounds and 2.9 steals, but he bumped his assists per game up to 5.3 (from 4.7) and cut his turnovers from 2.0 to 1.5. He remained a credible threat from the 3-point line while becoming even better at using his body to get to the basket.

Once in the lane, Jalen Brunson finished (he shot 55.8 percent on 2-point attempts as a senior) or got to the free-throw line, where he made 83.4 percent of his attempts, a 10 percentage-point improvement over his junior year. He wouldn’t shy away from contact, something 6-2, 285-pound senior teammate Nick Dillon learned trying to defend him in practice as a junior.

“If I did switch on a screen, I’d go as hard as I could against him,” said Dillon, who sat out this season with an injury.” A lot of guys, if they see a guy like me, they back down and try to shoot a jumper. He’d go right into my chest."

In a busy offseason, Jalen Brunson committed to play basketball for Villanova and traveled to Colorado, where he helped Team USA for Villanova and traveled to Colorado committed to play basketball there.

Jalen Brunson was up first. He dropped in one morning and approached a Stevenson assistant monitor just inside the main entrance of the stadium, crying my eyes out.”

About 15 minutes southwest of Carver Arena, past General Wayne A. Downing Peoria International Airport and the little green sign welcoming visitors to Peoria, there was a pause, before he could make that short trip, Jalen Brunson had to wait. Stevenson’s Jalen Brunson is fired up after driving to the basket against Normal Community in the Class 4A state title game on March 21.

Steponis’s Jalen Brunson is fired up after driving to the basket against Normal Community in the Class 4A state title game on March 21.

Ambrose has the Patriots finish off practices with what he calls the “good-luck half-court chuck.” He nominations a group (juniors, coaches, etc.) to shoot from half court, and the team doesn’t leave until someone makes a basket. On Saturday, it was the seniors’ turn.

Jalen Brunson was up first. He raised his hand to quiet his teammates. There was a pause, then he took a dribble and pulled up for a jumper from the white “L” in the center of Limestone’s court.

The walk from the Marriott Pere Marquette hotel, where Steinonis stayed in Peoria, to Carver Arena is about 350 steps (give or take a 6-7 stride). You could do the whole thing inside if you wanted, using the elevated walkway that connects the hotel and the Peoria Civic Center, but the Patriots preferred to take the outdoor route to get some fresh air.

Before he could make that short trip, Jalen Brunson had to wait. Stevenson’s walk-through was over by 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, and
Jordan Ash
St. Joseph, G, Sr.
2014-15 stats: 14.5 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 3.1 apg
College: Northwestern
The 6-foot-3 Ash was selected the Catholic North player of the year and named to the IBCA all-state second team for Class 3A/4A. He had a team-best 45 3-pointers and a 39 percent shooting percentage from behind the arc. At the Class 3A state tournament, Ash made a total of seven steals in two games to help the Chargers win their first state title since 1999.

Connor Cashaw
Stevenson, G, Sr.
2014-15 stats: 15.9 ppg, 8.3 rpg, 2.3 apg
College: Rice
Like his teammate Jalen Brunson, Cashaw was synonymous with success, winning 108 games as a four-year player for the Patriots. The 6-foot-5 Cashaw was selected to the IBCA all-state second team for Class 3A/4A. During Stevenson’s run to the Class 4A state title, he totaled a team-best 23 points in a 62-45 win over Riverside-Brookfield in the Chicago State Supersectional.

Nojel Eastern
Evanston, G, So.
2014-15 stats: 15.7 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 3 apg
College: Undecided
The 6-foot-4 guard got better as a sophomore, earning second-team all-state honors in Class 3A/4A from the IBCA and leading the Wildkits to a Mid-Suburban South championship and a Class 4A regional title. Ranked as one of the state’s top players in the Class of 2017, he has offers from Creighton, Iowa, and Purdue, according to 247Sports.com.

Rapolas Ivanauskas
Barrington, F, Jr.
2014-15 stats: 18 ppg, 8.3 rpg, 2 apg, 1.3 blocks/game
College: Undecided
The 6-foot-8 Ivanauskas was named the Mid-Suburban West player of the year. Offensively, according to Barrington coach Bryan Tucker, Ivanauskas was a difficult matchup for opposing teams because he can shoot the 3, drive to the basket or post up in the paint. Ivanauskas has offers from Creighton, Iowa, and Purdue, according to 247Sports.com.

George Sargeant
Maine South, F, Sr.
2014-15 stats: 15.7 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 2.0 apg
College: Undecided
During his senior season, the 6-foot-7 Sargeant shot 68 percent from the field and 76 percent on free throws while helping the Hawks to a 26-4 record. He was named to the IBCA’s all-state third team for Class 3A/4A. A four-year varsity veteran, Sargeant won 99 games, three regional titles and two Central Suburban South championships in his career.
Hinsdale Central record-setter Gabrielle Rush keeps working on her shot

BY GEORGE M. WILCOX
Pioneer Press

Ever since Hinsdale Central fielded a competitive girls basketball team in 1978-79, no player in the program has shot the ball more times in games than senior Gabrielle Rush.

And no Red Devils girls basketball player has scored more points.

In all, Rush took 2,065 shots and scored 2,322 points during her four years on the varsity. She set or tied 14 school records.

Rush capped her career by averaging career highs in points (24.9), rebounds (11.7), assists (37) and steals (3.3) to earn the Pioneer Press All-Area Girls Basketball Player of the Year award.

"Rush was the ultimate competitor," Oak Park-River Forest coach J.P. Coughlin said. "We only beat her once in a regional [in 2013] and I thought we had figured out how to stop her, or at least slow her down. Unfortunately for us, she was constantly reinventing her game and adding layers that we weren't prepared for."

Her development can be traced back to her family.

Her dad, Peter Rush, played basketball for Central Catholic in Lafayette, Indiana, and handed down his passion for the game to each of his five children: Danielle, 25; Nick, 23; Christine, 21; Gabrielle, 18; and Matthew, 14.

Peter Rush set up a half court at the family's home with two baskets, a free-throw lane and a 3-point arc painted on the concrete. He even held his own backyard basketball camp for his kids each summer.

"We would all go outside and do shooting drills together," Gabrielle said. "We had to do things like we all had to make a shot in a row and then run to the next [station]. If someone didn't make it, that would set everybody back. That would give you pressure from your siblings. You would get those looks and mean comments if you were not pulling your weight."

Nick Rush became captain of the Nazareth boys basketball team. Christine Rush was a two-year varsity starter at Hinsdale Central and the team MVP in 2011.

She made the Brown women's basketball team as a walk-on and just wrapped up her senior season.

Gabrielle Rush has been her dad's best pupil so far and plans to continue her career at Princeton, which made national headlines this spring by going undefeated during the regular season.

Basketball was far from a regimented activity for the Rush children, though.

"Me and Matthew and my other siblings will turn on the outdoor speakers and go out there and shoot around, play H-O-R-S-E or mess around," Gabrielle Rush said. "It's something we've always done and it's something we have in common. It's expected that you're always going to hear balls bouncing outside."

During the high school season, Gabrielle and Peter Rush visited Life Time Fitness in Burr Ridge every Sunday morning for 60 to 90 minutes to practice shooting. Gabrielle Rush did all the shooting, while her dad rebounded.

"If my shot is working we'll cut it short, but if there are things I'm doing wrong during the week [in games], we'll spend more time on that," Gabrielle Rush said.

Her commitment, determination and competitive spirit made her one of the most dangerous players in the Chicago area, whether it was a 2-point shot, a 3-pointer or a free throw.

"She is a scouting report nightmare," York coach John Constable said. "You have to commit all five to defending her. If you can hold her to under 20 points, you feel like you've done a great job defensively."

2-point shots

Gabrielle Rush's high school coach, Tom McKenna, said she is the last one to leave the gym after every practice.

"I think I'm shooting a lot more off the dribble," Gabrielle Rush said. "I know freshman year I was always spot-up and would take [shots] flat-footed like 2-point shots or 3-points. As the defense has evolved, I have started to create my own shots off the dribble and not necessarily off the pass like I used to be. I think that was the main thing that evolved."

"I had been used to sitting in the corner, someone passes to me and I get a shot off. When that wasn't working anymore, I had to put in more work in the summer to find ways for me to get my own shots off or create shots off the dribble or pass."

3-point shots

Gabrielle Rush's 879 career 3-point attempts is nearly twice as many as any other Red Devils player. Jenny Pavich, who attempted 493 3s in her four-year career during the mid-1990s,
Gabrielle Rush, year by year

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<td>20.7</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>110</td>
<td>714</td>
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**Source**: Hinsdale Central High School, CBS Sports
**BOYS ALL-AREA 1ST TEAM**

**Evan Boudreaux**
Lake Forest, F, Sr.
2014-15 stats: 23.9 ppg, 13.2 rpg
College: Dartmouth
The 6-foot-8 Boudreaux capped his four-year varsity career by leading the Scouts to a 28-3 record and a trip to the Class 4A Waukegan Sectional finals. He was named to the Associated Press Class 4A first team as well as to the IBCA first team for Class 3A/4A. Boudreaux ended his career with 2,077 points and 1,296 rebounds.
Q: Lake Forest is a big golf town. Conway Farms is hosting the BMW Championship in September for the second time in three years. Have you been? Do you play golf?
A: I do play. My dad played in the pro-am of the tournament two years ago, and I caddied for him. It was the first time I've done something like that. We played with Ryan Moore.
Q: Although you're 6-8, you possessed an all-around offensive game in high school. Will it be the same in college?
A: I consider myself a basketball player, not someone who plays a certain position. Dartmouth said they will use me in different ways, such as posting up, coming off the dribble. I don't think I fit into just one role.

**Joe Mooney**
Notre Dame, G, Sr.
2014-15 stats: 19 ppg, 5 rpg, 4.1 apg
College: Undecided
The 6-foot-3 East Suburban Catholic player of the year shot 46 percent from 3-point range and had a 4-to-1 assist-turnover ratio. Mooney was the centerpiece of Notre Dame's 26-5 team that lost to Stevenson, the eventual Class 4A state champion, 78-77 in the sectional semfinals. He has offers from Air Force, UC Davis and New Hampshire.
Q: Your brother Matt was a standout at Notre Dame and he's playing for the Air Force men's basketball team as a freshman. What's it like when you two play one-on-one? Friendly competition?
A: Friendly is the last word I could use to describe our games. They often end with someone splitting us up, and we wouldn't talk the rest of the game. Typical brotherly game.
Q: What did those games against your brother do for you?
A: Without a doubt they made me a tougher player. Getting my butt kicked by him humbled me and showed me how much harder I had to work to get better. It toughened me up mentally. You learn a lot about yourself when you get beat like that.

**Glynn Watson**
St. Joseph, G, Sr.
2014-15 stats: 15.0 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 4.1 apg
College: Nebraska
Between the Class 3A semifinals and finals, the 6-foot-6 point guard scored a total of 57 points to lead the Chargers (29-6) to their second state championship, and first since 1999. The all-Catholic League pick was selected to the IBCA Class 3A/4A first team.
Q: Your older half-brother Demetri McCamey was all-Big Ten at Illinois. What made you decide to sign with Nebraska?
A: I had my options open. It came down to those guys. They stayed in touch with me. After they called me, set up a visit, visited the school, I like the coaches there, the atmosphere there. I like the players. I felt like that was just the place. I felt this is where I can better myself and take my game to the next level; to become a better person and a better player.
Q: What will you remember most about coach Gene Pinga?
A: In practice, he goes for perfection. That's why I've worked so hard because of coach Ping. He always stays on my back like a father figure. He always looks for the best in me. If I'm not playing so good, he asks, "What's wrong?" He knows I can always play better.

**Matt Rafferty**
Hinsdale Central, F, Sr.
2014-15 stats: 19.7 ppg, 10.3 rpg, 5.3 apg
College: Furman
The 6-foot-8 Rafferty missed six games due to a broken right hand, which likely cost him an opportunity to become the school's all-time leading scorer. Rafferty fell 68 points short of the record (1,632). He holds school career records in rebounds (975), steals (164) and blocks (170).
Q: You missed less than one month with a broken shooting hand, returning to the team in time for the playoffs. You seemed determined to close out your senior season on the court. Did you play through any pain?
A: The doctor did a great job of giving me the best chance to play, and I worked very hard in rehab to come back. The first game or two I was a little rusty, but I was pretty close to 100 percent in the playoffs. I didn't really have any pain at all, maybe a little in the first game back.
Q: Hinsdale Central has won six (athletic) state championships (in 2014-15). What's it been like to be part of such a successful athletic program?
A: Everybody here expects to win championships. You're almost disappointed when you don't.

**Jalen Brunson**
Stevenson, G, Sr.
2014-15 stats: 23.3 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 5.3 apg
College: Villanova
The 6-foot-2 Brunson will go down as one of the top high school players in state history after leading the Patriots to their first Class 4A state title this season. A four-year starter, he is Lake County's all-time leading scorer with 2,682 points. Other awards the Pioneer Press Player of the Year earned this season include Mr. Basketball of Illinois, McDonald's All-American, Associated Press Class 4A first team and Illinois Basketball Coaches Association first team for Class 3A/4A.
Q: How far did you have Villanova going in your NCAA Tournament bracket?
A: I had them a long way, ... [Villanova coach Jay Wright] would probably be mad at me for saying this, but I had them losing to Kentucky [in the final].
Q: Out of the players you've played against, whose game do you admire?
A: I'd have to say Jabari Parker, now with the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks] and Jabtil [Okafar of Duke]. I just look at those guys and see how hard they work. ... They're on the path I want to be on.
Jeannie Boehm  
New Trier, F, Jr.  
2014-15 stats: 15.9 ppg, 10.4 rpg, 2.2 apg  
College: Undecided  
The 6-foot-3 Boehm shot 57 percent, and was a defensive stopper on the other end, creating problems for opposing players with her length and athleticism. Boehm earned first-team honors in Class 3A/4A from the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association.  
Q: What was one of your favorite non-playing memories from this season?  
A: I chose to attend Butler University because it has a great academic reputation. I love that it is a small school, and back in my hometown of Indianapolis. I really liked the coaching staff and players especially since I played AAU basketball under head assistant coach Damon Bailey — and the opportunity to play in the competitive Big East Conference.

Taylor Buford  
Stevenson, F, Sr.  
2014-15 stats: 12.5 ppg, 6.3 rpg  
College: Butler  
The Patriots (26-8) suffered three of their losses when Buford missed seven games, six due to an ankle injury. The four-year varsity player led Stevenson to an undefeated North Suburban Lake season. She is one of eight Stevenson girls players to score more than 1,000 career points.

Haley Greer  
New Trier, G, Jr.  
2014-15 stats: 10.8 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 4.6 apg  
College: Undecided  
Greer helped the Trevians (31-2) take third in Class 4A. Greer made 37 percent of 3-point attempts and finished with a team-best 45 3s.

Taylor Cerone  
Stevenson, G, Sr.  
2014-15 stats: 7.4 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 2.5 apg  
College: Undecided  
Cerone is a defensive specialist who averaged 11.7 defensive rebounds per game and had a team-high 18 blocks. She was named first-team all-tournament at Montini.

Annie McKenna  
Trinity, G, Jr.  
2014-15 stats: 14 ppg, 3 apg, 2 steals/game  
College: Undecided  
McKenna is the third four-time MVP for the program, joining former Illinois guard Maggie Acuna and former Stanford guard Toni Kokenis.

Gabrielle Rush  
Hinsdale Central, G, Sr.  
2014-15 stats: 24.9 ppg, 11.7 rpg, 3.7 apg, 3.3 steals/game  
College: Princeton  
The Pioneer Press All-Area Player of the Year set or tied 14 school records as a four-year starter. As a senior, she set marks for points in a season (772), points in a game (41) and rebounds in a season (262). She is the third four-time MVP for the program, joining former Illinois guard Maggie Acuna and former Stanford guard Toni Kokenis.

Q: Are you amazed at all the records you've established?  
A: It's kind of crazy. So many people have asked me about it. "What does it feel like to get all those records?" It's crazy passing all these people I've grown up looking up to, like Toni Kokenis. She's still such a great role model going to Stanford. It's so cool to be a part of the legacy at Hinsdale Central. Some day kids will see my name or Toni's or Morgan [Kasperek's] name. That's such a great crowd around me to be a part of that.

Q: Will you be playing with President Barack Obama's niece, Leslie Robinson, next season?  
A: Yes I will. They went to the White House this year so hopefully they will do that again next year.
For the third year in a row, Stevenson's Jalen Brunson has been named the Pioneer Press All-Area Boys Basketball Player of the Year.

BRIAN O'MAHONEY/PIONEER PRESS

Jalen Brunson, the Pioneer Press All-Area Boys Basketball Player of the Year, capped his career by winning the state title that had eluded him in the past.

Pioneer Press All-Area Boys and Girls Basketball Teams inside
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