

Niles Herald-Spectator



Evelyn Natividad hangs a parol, a traditional Christmas lantern from the Philippines, during the 7th annual parol-making festival at St. John Brebeuf Church in Niles. | JOEL LERNER-Sun-Times Media

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Colorful Christmas traditions



Acting stands out in 'The Letters' [Page 44]



Food Cookbooks perfect for holiday giving [Page 37]



Mommy Sweet holiday gifts on a shoestring [Page 36]

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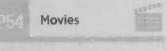
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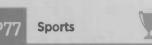
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Cover Story

Lantern-making workshop adds traditional Christmas touch

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES

A large bag filled with colorful, sparkling decorations sat on the table before Tina Velasco and her two young children. Mateo and Sofia.

The family members, of Chicago. were ready to participate in a parolmaking workshop at St. John Brebeuf parish in Niles, an activity that has become a family tradition.

Parols are star-shaped Christmas lanterns from the Philippines made out of bamboo and colored paper. Fred DeAsis, a Filipino artist, has been holding parol-making workshops at St. John Brebeuf for the past seven years. He said that it is a great way for families to carry on a significant Filipino tradition and make new friends at the same time.

Some of the people who attend the workshop only see each other during the once-a-vear event. DeAsis said, so it serves as a reunion for them, as well as a way to prepare for the upcoming

"It's a symbol of getting ready for Christmas," said DeAsis.

Velasco's son, Mateo, was excited to make an "Angry Bird" parol this year. The family has been participating in the parol workshop at St. John



Artist Fred DeAsis instructs how to make a parol, a traditional Christmas lantern from the Philippines, during the 7th annual parol festival at St. John Brebeuf Church in Niles. | JOEL LERNER-Sun-Times Media

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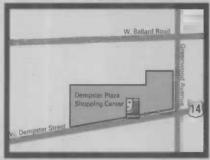
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Justin Buhay-Casteo, 16, of Glenview gets the framework for his parol, a traditional Christmas lantern, during a parol-making festival at St. John Brebeuf Church in Niles on Nov. 18. | JOEL LERNER-Sun-Times Media

Lantern

Continued from page 5

Brebeuf for the past few years.

Velasco said her children are Filipino and Latino and she participates in the parol workshop so that they stay connected with their Filipino culture.

"It's just fun, too," Velasco said of parol-making.

Parols are often hung inside the windows of homes or outside the home. In the Philippines, parols can be very extravagant - even electronic with lights - and it is not unusual for an artist to spend several months making a parol so it is bigger and better than the previous year's decoration.

Centuries ago, the parol lanterns were used to light the way to the local church on Christmas.

During the Nov. 18 workshop DeAsis taught participants how to make the star-shaped frame of the parol using five bamboo sticks. Then participants used colored paper and vibrant decorations, including glitter, snowflakes and bells, to finish off the lantern. The parols also feature two large tassels that hang from the bottom of the star.

DeAsis said he encourages people to bring photographs of their children or pets to use for the parols and make them more personalized.

The hope is that families will keep the tradition alive and teach family members and friends how to make the parols once they learn how.

"It's a great way for her to be exposed to the Filipino culture," said Patricia Reyes, who brought her six-yearold daughter, Amanda, to the event.

Reyes, of Des Plaines, said that when she was younger she remembers seeing parols displayed at her grandparents' home in the Philippines.

"It's nice for her to be able to have the same experience," Reyes said of her daughter.

Reyes added that it is also good for her daughter to spend time with other children who share a common heritage.

"It's an experience for them that they can relate to and pass along to their kids," noted DeAsis.

DeAsis said he was happy with the turnout at this year's event. He also gives similar workshops at other churches in the area and teaches Filipino writing classes as well.

St. John Brebeuf, he said, is a good, centralized location for members of the greater Filipino community to attend the parol-making workshop.

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New political parties vie for Niles leadership

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES

Two slates of candidates have announced plans to run in what will be a highly-contested election for Niles mayor and trustees next April.

The Responsible Leadership for Niles Party announced its slate of candidates in a press release issued Nov. 26, while the New Niles Party 2013 held a press conference Dec. 3 to present its slate.

The Responsible Leader-ship for Niles Party is led by Trustee Chris Hanusiak who is throwing his hat into the ring for mayor. The slate also consists of trustee candidates Louella Preston and Jim Hynes, both incumbents on the Village Board, and candidate Mary Marusek, a former Niles Park Board member who ran unsuccessfully for trustee in 2011.

"There are no hidden agendas, only a desire to increase the participation of Niles

"There are no hidden agendas, only a desire to increase the participation of Niles residents in the governance of their community."

residents in the governance of their community," the party announced.

Hanusiak, who also ran for mayor in 2009, will face off against long-time Niles Trustee Andrew Przybylo who is heading up the New Niles Party in a bid for mayor. Trustee candidates on the slate include George Alpogianis, owner of Kappy's Restaurant in Morton Grove; Danette O'Donovan Matyas, a two-year member of the Niles Library Board; and John Jekot, vice president of the East Maine School District 63 Board of Education on which he has served since 1999.

The New Niles Party's announcement took place at the White Eagle Banquet Hall which Przybylo owns.

"We will get elected," Przybylo said. "We're going to run hard, we're going to run fast."

The Niles municipal election will take place April 9. Mayor Robert Callero, appointed to the position in 2008 following the resignation of Nicholas Blase and elected mayor the following year, has not announced whether he will run to retain his seat.



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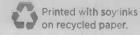
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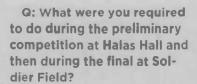
A WRAPPORTS **COMPANY**



Maine South grad shows off football skills at Soldier Field

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Park Ridge native Sarah Madden, a student at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, won an opportunity to take part in a football-passing competition during halftime at the Oct. 22 Chicago Bears game at Soldier Field. The 19-year-old Maine South High School graduate ended up tying with her competitor, winning a grand prize of \$10,000 in tuition.



A: For the competition we had to throw as many footballs into a giant can of Dr. Pepper in 30 seconds. We had to do the same for the final. It was me and another girl who were the final two.

Q: What was it like being on the field during the Bears

A: It was nerve-wracking! There were so many more people (than during the semifinals). Everyone in the stadium was watching me. I'm bad in front of crowds in the first place, but it was really nice. besides that.

Q: How many footballs did you get In the can?

A: At the semi-finals I got 13, which was the highest, and the other person got 13 as well so we were the top two to go on to the next phase. At Soldier Field I got eight and she also got eight.



Park Ridge native Sarah Madden at Soldier Field during an Oct. 22 football pass contest. | CONTRIBUTED

Q: You were not initially named the winner. What happened?

A: Both of us shot a ball after the buzzer went off and they counted hers and didn't count mine. She had nine and I had eight. My dad filmed it....I e-mailed a manager at Dr. Pepper and asked him if he could look over the video and see what he could do. Then I got a call and they said they looked at the video and we were right — the one ball (thrown after the buzzer) shouldn't have counted, so they decided

to add \$7,700 to my \$2,300 win so we could both get the \$10,000.

Q: How did you feel about that?

A: I was excited. I was jumping up and down and my roommate was like, 'What?' I was running around and telling everyone.

Q: How did you become so good at passing?

A: I played baseball and softball for many years when I was a kid and I also throw footballs around with my friends. I was also in Powder Puff football at

my school (Maine South).

Q: What are some of your other interests?

A: I love hiking and doing adventurous stuff. In high school I was in Adventure Club which is rock-climbing and stuff. I just love the outdoors and I love animals. Soon I'm going to be volunteering at an animal shelter with my residence hall.

Q: What are you plans after college?

A: I would like to work at a zoo or at an animal rehabilitation center. My major is wildlife ecology.



Vinezeano to be named acting village manager

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES

With the announcement that Niles Village Manager George Van Geem will be leaving his leadership position this month, Assistant Village Manager Steve Vinezeano is preparing to step up to the plate.

Vinezeano is expected to be appointed acting village manager at the Dec. 11 Niles Village Board meeting.



Vinezeano

"I'm like an old soldier." Vinezeano said. "If someone asks me to stand in and help the community I'm going to salute and do the best I can."

Vinezeano said he is not yet sure if he will apply for the perma-

nent position of village manager.

Niles Mayor Robert Callero has formed a village manager search committee that includes himself and Trustees Louella Preston and Andrew Przybylo, the two longest-standing village trustees. A professional search firm could be hired to find qualified village manager candidates.

Village Attorney Joe Annunzio said Callero will appoint the next village manager with the consent and approval of the Village Board.

Van Geem was hired as the new finance director for the village of Skokie. His last day as the Niles village manager is Dec. 7.

As acting village manager, Vinezeano expects to receive an increase in his salary, but it is not yet known what the amount will be. According to village documents his current annual salary is \$108,000.

"It's an exciting time in the community," Vinezeano said. "The only thing I'm concerned about is keeping all of the dishes in the air."

Vinezeano said that as acting

village manager he will first establish the village's top priorities.

Vinezeano joined Niles in 2000 and has been the assistant village manager for the past 10 years. During his time with the village Vinezeano was the project manager for a 10-member Comprehensive Plan Committee and project manager for the eight-member Storm Water Commission formed to help relieve flooding issues in the village. He is also responsible for developing and managing the largest community rain garden project in Cook County and proposed and created a commercial refuse program that reduced costs by more than 20 percent and increased recycling.



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Term-limits question will go to voters next spring

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES

Niles voters can expect to see the issue of term limits on the April 2013 election ballot.

At the Nov. 27 Niles Village Board meeting trustees unanimously approved a resolution to put a referendum question on the ballot asking voters if trustees should serve a maximum of three full terms, equal to 12 years, and if the mayor should serve no more than two full terms, or eight years.

Mayor Robert Callero said he would prefer that trustees and the mayor are allowed to serve up to three full terms.

"I've seen in other communities that two terms is not enough to get things done," Callero said.

Resident Joe Makula attempted to put a termlimit referendum on the November ballot after obtaining more than 1,000 citizen signatures, but the village clerk did not certify the petitions. Makula took the village to court, but a judge in September ruled in the village's favor, stating that the petitions did not conform to the Election Code.

Makula's referendum had called for limits of four, four-year terms.

When contacted this week Makula said he had expected trustees to approve the resolution putting a term-limit referendum on the April ballot. He said the big difference between what he had proposed and what the trustees voted on is that he wanted to see term-limits as retroactive so current trustees who had already exceeded the limit would not be able to serve another term.

"We're going to get term limits one way or another," Makula said.

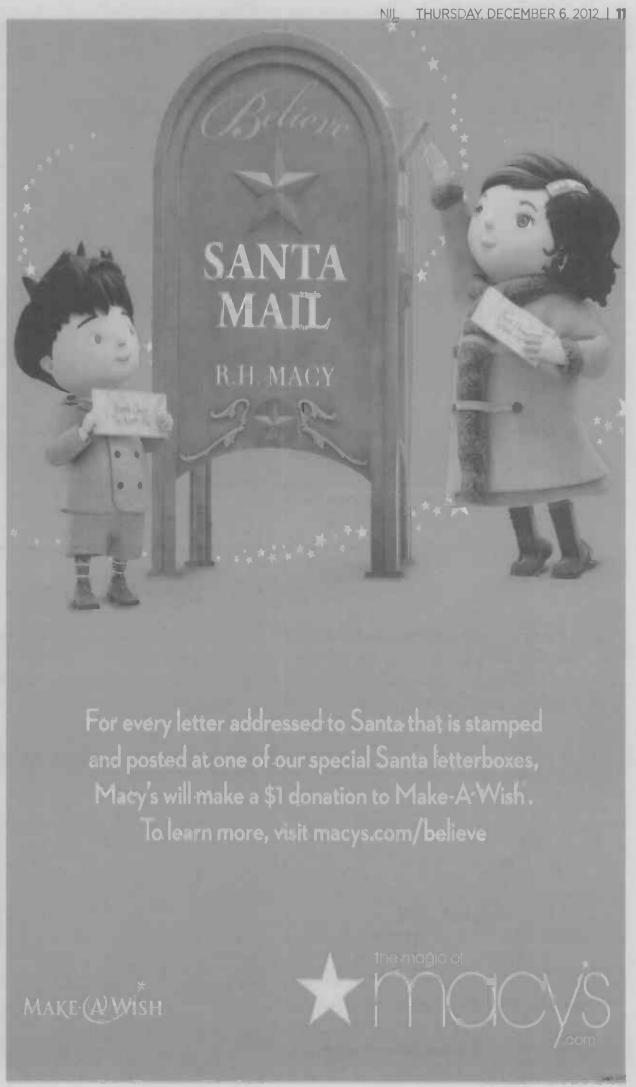
At a recent board meeting long-time Trustee Louella Preston stated that she was not in favor of any type of term limits. Trustee Rosemary Palicki, elected in 2011, expressed support.

"I believe term limits encourage people to get involved in the process of government," she told the Niles Herald-Spectator. "It is too easy to let others make decisions for us."

Palicki said citizens may feel intimidated to run against an established incumbent and she believes term limits "level the playing field."

"There is always the danger that longevity can lead to complacency," said Palicki. "The village of Niles can't afford that anymore."

Niles Mayor Nicholas Blase served the village for 47 years before he resigned amid corruption charges in 2008.





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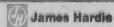


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The following incidents were listed in the reports of the Niles Police Department. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

BATTERY

Arturo Salazar-Guerrero, 22, of 8262 Elizabeth Ave., Niles was arrested on Nov. 28 and charged with domestic battery. A 34-year-old woman told police that Salazar-Guerrero punched her in the face after they got into an argument while playing cards. He has a Dec. 7 court date.

RETAIL THEFT

Michael Deles, 18, of 2202 N. 74th Ct., Elmwood Park, and a 15-year-old from Park Ridge were each charged with retail theft on Nov. 29 at Golf Mill Shopping Center. Police said Deles worked with the 15-year-old to steal two watches valued at \$25 each from a mall store.

Dariusz Swistak, 48, of 1105 S. Roberts, Mount Prospect, was charged Nov. 28 with retail theft on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue. Police said Swistak was accused of placing various office supplies inside a "bed in a bag" and then purchasing just the bedding. The value of the items was \$290.74, police said. Swistak has a Jan. 14 court date.

DII

Martin Villanueva, 40, of 2546 W. Rascher, Chicago, was arrested on Nov. 28 and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and leaving the scene of an accident at Touhy and Milwaukee Avenues. Niles police officers responded to the intersection for a report of a car accident when Villanueva allegedly fled the scene. He has a Dec. 12 court date.

Crime briefs: stolen debit card leads to \$2,209 loss

DECEPTIVE PRACTICE

A 21-year-old Niles woman told police on Nov. 26 that she lost her wallet somewhere in the last 10 days. Police said someone used the woman's debit card to withdraw.\$2,209.28 on four separate occasions. Police said two ATM withdrawals were made at unknown locations and some items were purchased at a retail store in Chicago.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO VEHICLE

A 34-year-old man from Buffalo

Grove said that someone threw a small concrete rock at his vehicle while he was driving south on Caldwell Avenue near the 7900 block on Nov. 29. The rock reportedly shattered the victim's passenger-side front window.

RETAIL THEFT

The loss prevention agent for a retail store at Golf Mill Shopping Center said someone removed a coffee maker on Nov. 13 from a display and left the store without paying for the

item. The coffee maker has a value of \$230.

LOST/STOLEN PROPERTY

A 67-year-old woman from Northbrook said that while she was shopping at a store on the 9000 block of Golf Road on Nov. 29 she put her purse that contained her wallet inside of a shopping cart. When she went to pay for her items, she found that her wallet was missing. Her wallet contained her driver's license, a social security card, credit cards and \$15.

Law allowing teens to serve alcohol nixed

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES

An ordinance that would have allowed 18-year-old waiters and waitresses to serve alcoholic beverages in restaurants was turned down by the Niles Village Board of Trustees on Nov. 27.

Mayor Robert Callero said he had spoken to a few restaurant owners in town who expressed an interest in hiring more college-age students to work as waiters and waitresses, prompting the board's discussion.

But some trustees were concerned with what they felt was a blurry line between 18-year-olds serving alcohol and selling alcohol.

"The sale takes place at the cash register," Village Attorney Joe Annunzio told the trustees. "The sale does not take place at the table."

Annunzio said a state law allows people 18 to 20 years old to serve, but not sell, alcohol. Many municipalities have set their own laws stating that servers must be at least 21. Annunzio said Niles has had this requirement for as long as he can remember.

Katie Schneider, executive director of the Niles Chamber of Commerce, said that Tony Riggio, owner of Riggio's restaurant, informed her that allowing 18- to 20-year-old waitresses and waiters to serve alcohol would benefit his business.

Schneider said that Riggio wanted to increase his pool of potential part-time employees. She added that she also reached out to Amici's and Chambers restaurants and they agreed with Riggio.

"All small business and businesses in general are struggling," said Schneider.

Trustee Rosemary Palicki said she felt the village would be sending a

mixed message to teens by allowing them to serve alcohol in restaurants. She said the village should be focused on sending the message that teens shouldn't be drinking alcohol.

"It's our responsibility to not weaken that message to our teens," Palicki said.

A resident who spoke out against approving the ordinance said he felt drinking is a big problem and expressed concerns that an underage waitress or waiter may serve alcohol to underage friends who come into a restaurant.

Schneider said that places such as Riggio's that are well-respected and have been in the community for many years would not risk their reputations by hiring the wrong person.

Niles Police Chief Dean Strzelecki said that the current law, requiring servers to be at least 21 years of age, is easier to enforce than the new ordinance would have been if it had been approved.

Oakton students open door to homeless awareness

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

DES PLAINES

Des Plaines resident Ryan Alm woke up last week with a wicked cold after sleeping outdoors on the hard ground in a cardboard shack.

"I spent most of the night tossing and turning," he said. "My face was freezing."

But Alm couldn't call in sick or skip class. The 20-year-old Oakton Community College student went about his business and, by 4 p.m., was completely exhausted.

"It's a shame that people have to go through this every day," said Alm, who along with 26 peers spent the night in crudely constructed shanties to raise awareness about the plight of the homeless.

The Oakton chapter of Habitat for Humanity created an on-campus "shantytown" to expose the varying degrees of poverty experienced locally and abroad.

Every night in Illinois an estimated 14,000 people experience homelessness, reported the National Alliance to End Homelessness' State of Homelessness report. A majority of those people live in shelters and transitional housing, while about 16 percent go unsheltered. Families comprise 41 percent of the overall homeless population in the United States.

Marvin Bornschlegl, faculty advisor of Oakton's Habitat chapter, said the school's second overnight event, held Nov. 27, reflected a "tremendous philosophical change" for the project.

Participants last November camped out the eve of Veterans Day, staying up late and socializing. They took down the temporary shelters the next morning before returning to their real homes.

"It took away from the dynamic of the experience," Bornschlegl said.

This year the chapter shifted gears and, with the help of 30 school clubs, created and left the shanties to dot Oakton's Des Plaines campus for a week. Sleep-out participants had a more true-to-life experience by not having the luxury of immediately returning

"How is it going through a day with that chill inside of you?" Bornschlegl said. "How do you do that after a rough night and internally you're still a little cold?"

Skokie native Sahil Pruthi, 23, said he got a handful of hours of sleep that night in the shanty. A friend who also participated had left by 5 a.m. to pick up her siblings for school before heading to class.

"I learned not to take things for granted," said Pruthi.

Though he didn't feel well afterward Alm acknowledged that it was "a cool experience."

And quite literally so. For most of the night the temperature hovered around 30 degrees. If it had dipped below 27 degrees students would have been ushered inside a school building.

Bornschlegl said that, too, would have revealed another struggle people have: the need to leave their few



Oakton Community College students gather around a fire at the "shanty village" they created in the courtyard of Oakton Community College in Des Plaines on Nov. 27. Students built the village to help raise awareness about homelessness. | MICHAEL JARECKI- for Sun-Times Media

possessions unattended for the night in exchange for a temporary roof over their

"It's not so beyond reality for them to have things that we accept to be an item of value," he said.

Challenging biases toward poverty was precisely the point of the project, Bornschlegl said.

Generations of family members packed into a house designed for four people are just as homeless as an individual sleeping on the street. So, too, are underemployed workers living out of their cars.

"There are different grades of homelessness," he said. "That's what I think students should learn."



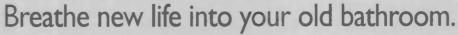
Elizabeth Adcox, 23, of Des Plaines, arranges her cardboard box "home" in the courtyard of Oakton Community College in Des Plaines on Nov. 27. Students built a "shanty village" to raise awareness about homelessness. | MICHAEL JARECKI-for Sun-Times











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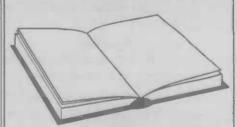
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- · An in memoriam or card of thanks may be placed using the same information above.
- · The deadline for placing a death notice, in memoriam or card of thanks, is Monday at 5:00 pm. Photos must me submitted by Monday at 2:00pm.
- The death notice department is staffed from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday.
- A death notice, in memoriam or a card of thanks may be submitted in person from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday at the Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview, IL
- · Family and friends may visit our website and sign a guest book at Pioneerlocal.com.



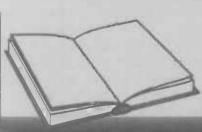
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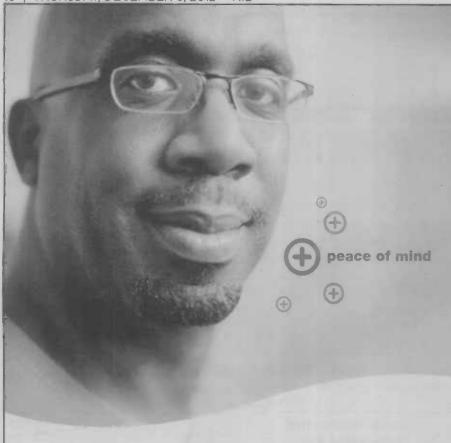


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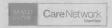
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This is why we studied decimals in school

BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMANN | The Fixer

Dear Fixer: I don't know where else to turn.

On June 30. I purchased \$190.04 in fireworks from Johnny Rockets Fireworks in Highland, Ind. I paid with a credit card. But when I got my credit card bill, I saw that I was charged \$1,900.40.

To my horror, I realized I had signed a credit card slip for an extra \$1,710 due to an apparent error with the decimal point.

I admit I signed for the incorrect amount. I called my credit card company and Johnny Rockets to try to remedy this error. The credit card company says that I signed for that amount and I'm stuck. Johnny from Johnny Rockets finally answered my repeated messages and told me that this type of mistake is not unusual; he said he would get back to me in a week.

After several weeks of not hearing from him (and repeated calls by me), I finally spoke with him again and he told me he needed to retrieve the video of the transaction. He said he would call me in a week.

Several weeks later, he told me he needed the exact time and date of the transaction. I readily supplied this info. He said he would get back to me

Again after repeated messages left by me and over three weeks later, I got him on the phone again and now the story is they don't have videotapes from the day in question - only from July 1 on.

He told me he spoke with the cashier, who assured him that he would "never make a mistake like that."

Johnny said he can't credit me back on my card because they are in the middle of some type of remodeling and he doesn't have access to the credit card system. He told me he

would have to talk with his accountant but that he is going out of the country and I will have to wait until after the first of next year before he can tell me anything.

As you can imagine, this is a complete nightmare.

Emmett Williamson

Dear Emmett: Ohhhh, The Fixer is shuddering, thinking of how many times we've quickly dashed off a signature on a credit card slip without really looking at the decimal point in the total. Yikes!

You told us that you and your son had bought ordinary stuff like bottle rockets, firecrackers, Roman candles, sparklers and smoke bombs — not the arsenal implied by a \$1,900 credit

The funny part is you have a graduate degree in finance and handle the books for several area churches.

So apparently, this sort of mistake can happen to anyone.

The good news is we had a much easier time reaching John Panchisin, president of Johnny Rockets. Panchisin said that as a small businessman, he has to be wary; he's been scammed before by people claiming they need a refund. It's true that he's between seasons and is renovating, which has complicated things, he said. He added that it's impossible to prove what happened by checking inventory records, as the store had many loose sale items during that period.

That said, Panchisin said he believes an error occurred and you weren't pulling a fast one. He promised to send you a refund for the difference - and he was true to his word, mailing you a check for \$1,710. (You said he even offered you the full \$1,900 back but you insisted on paying for the fireworks.)

What it means to you

TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

CHICAGO



City won't abandon retirees on health care, Mayor Emanuel says

Mayor Rahm Emanuel said he's not about to walk away and leave thousands of retired city employees without city-subsidized health care, but changes must be made to control skyrocketing health care costs.

Active city employees will see their monthly health insurance premiums rise by \$50 unless they participate in a "wellness program" to manage chronic health problems such as obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure.

That has led to overwhelming levels of participation and what Emanuel has claimed as "north of \$100 million" in savings for the city.

Retirees are a more difficult population to control. They are older, more sedentary and more sickly. Their health care bills are higher. Their doctors visits are more frequent.

But, Emanuel said, they are not immune from cost controls.

"I'm not [gonna walk away]. We're gonna make sure people have health care," he said. "But, there's a lot of options available to do it and do it in a costeffective way. ..."

The mayor noted that a court-approved "10-year settlement agreement" that calls for the city to share costs with retirees is due to expire on June 30, 2013.

- Chicago Sun-Times

SPRINGFIELD



Lt. Gov. Simon: More disclosure would help regain public trust

Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon says requiring politicians and other elected officials to disclose more information about their financial interests is needed to help restore faith among Illinois residents who've seen their last two governors sent to prison.

Simon and state Sen. Dan Kotowski, D-Park Ridge, are planning to introduce legislation that would overhaul a 40-year-old financial disclosure system that critics have long scoffed at as meaningless. They say the proposal would allow more scrutiny of whether conflicts of interest exist, in part by requiring politicians to fill out more specific financial disclosure forms.

"I think many (Illinois residents) are hesitant to put faith in elected leaders because they think we're self-dealing," Simon told The Associated Press. "The vast majority of folks are in office for the public good. But I don't think you'd know it from our current forms."

Thousands of elected officials, high-ranking government employees and candidates are required to file financial disclosure forms each year. The forms are officially known as a statement of economic interest. But they often are referred to as "none sheets" because people typically answer the eight questions about conflicts with "none" or "not applicable."

- The Associated Press

MASHINGTON



Committee passes email privacy legislation despite objections

Over objections from law enforcement officials, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved legislation that would require police to obtain a search warrant from a judge before they can review a person's emails or other electronic communications,

The bill makes it slightly more difficult for the government to access the content of a consumer's emails and private files from Google, Yahoo, Facebook and other Internet providers. Under the current law, the 1986 Electronic Communications Privacy Act, a warrant is needed only for emails less than 6 months old.

The committee chairman and the bill's sponsor, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said digital files on a computer should have the same safeguards as paper files stored in a home. Americans "face even greater threats to their digital privacy, as we witness the explosion of new technologies and the expansion of the government's surveillance powers," Leahy said during the committee's vote on the legislation. The full Senate is expected to vote on the bill early next year. A House committee hasn't yet voted on a similar bill.

Privacy advocates and civil liberties groups applauded the action, saying the law is outdated in an era of cloud computing, cheaper electronic storage, social networking and wireless phones.

- The Associated Press



VIEWPOINT | Pioneer Press

Court rules wisely

The U.S. Supreme Court took an important step toward lifting an unreasonable Illinois ban on people recording police officers on the job.

The justices upheld a lower court ruling that the state's eavesdropping law violates free speech when used against people who audio record law enforcement officers.

Until now, Illinois had one of the stiffest anti-eavesdropping laws in the nation. Violators could be prosecuted for a felony and face up to 15 years in prison.

Technically, the ruling applies only to the American Civil Liberties Union, which filed a lawsuit in 2010 against Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez to block prosecution of ACLU staff members for recording police officers performing their duties in public places. But lawyers say the courts are likely to apply it to all citizens.

In an era when people are used to recording their lives with smartphones and seeing the results on YouTube, it's time for the law — never a fair one, anyway — to catch up with reality.

1,000 WORDS | Jack Higgins



Hazing incidents are more than a little troubling

When people make a move to the suburbs, local schools are always an important factor.



RANDY BLASER

People want to know if the local school is a good school and if it is safe.

In other words, the main question on the mind of parents is this: Will my child get a good education here and not get beat up?

For educators, job one is high academic standards and a safe learning environment.

That is why the recent news coming out of Maine West, allegations of

a ritual of hazing, bullying and sex assault, perpetrated by older soccer players on freshmen, is so troubling to everyone involved in a school community.

The idea that just one incident as the one alleged to have happened this past September — a

lawsuit filed last month alleges that three boys had their underwear pulled down and were sexually assaulted by other players — is infuriating. The lawsuit has been filed on behalf of two of those boys, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. Six teenagers have been charged so far in the incident.

It is now alleged that similar hazing and assaults have happened before.

The earliest allegations stem from 2007 and 2008.

It is also alleged that officials at Maine West were informed of the 2008 incident. But officials at the district level — School District 207 runs

How does this happen?

two other high schools besides Maine West — were not told about it until November.

How does this happen?

How does a school administrator not tell his or her boss of allegations this significant going on at a school? How do you not alert the proper legal authorities about allegations of a crime happening at your school? Does "cover up" come to mind? Turning a blind eye?

This story is still developing as I write this and new information may have emerged by the time you read it. We don't know what is to come.

But what I have heard is bad enough.

What kind of educator allows, encourages and witnesses this type of thing? What about the teammates who took on the roles of bully and perpetrator? Where would they get the idea this was something you do to another kid who makes the team? Were they so victimized years ago?

There's a lot of questions to be answered at Maine West. Now that a lawsuit has been filed and legal authorities are involved, there might be some answers.

Opinian pioneerlocal.com

The Cyber Monday head-scratcher

I searched for the headlines of doom.

But I couldn't find any. See, I read that on Cyber Monday workers spent all their time not working. but shopping online. So, I figured that since no work was being done on Cyber Monday, that lack of things getting done would be reflected in the news of the day.

So, as I said, I searched for the headlines of doom:

"BLAZE ENGULFS HOME AS FIRE-FIGHTERS SHOP"

"PIZZA DELIVERIES SLOW"

You know, news items that show how Cyber Monday slows down stuff.

That I couldn't find any made me wonder:

- 1. Does Cyber Monday really slow down production? Or,
- 2. Since Cyber Monday does not result in workplace catastrophe, does whatever we do at work really matter if we do it slower?

Your guess is as good as

But while I was in the Cyber Monday frame of mind, I also started to wonder what the people who worked at online shopping sites did on Cyber

Did they sneak away from their computers and go out shopping at



local retail stores?

"Can I help you, sir?"

"Yes, I want to buy that necklace. Gift wrap it and hurry up. I have to get back to Amazon headquarters. My boss thinks I'm in the bathroom."

Or do the online ordertakers also shop online on

Cyber Monday?

A lot of people shop on Cyber Monday. I read that sales were more than \$1.5 billion. And that sales this year were up 25 percent over last year.

But though online shopping is a sizable chunk of Christmas shopping, most people still buy from stores.

I find that comforting, and for the usual reasons:

I also started to wonder what the people who worked at online shopping sites did on Cyber Monday.

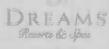
> Sale's made locally put sales tax dollars into local municipalities.

Local stores provide local jobs.

So, now that you have Cyber Monday out of your system, get back to work. And — on your own time — go out and do some Christmas shopping at local stores.

Please send your Letters to the Editor to Niles Herald-Spectator, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60026. Please keep letters to 250 words or fewer. The Herald-Spectator reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and content. All letters must be signed to be published.





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Question of the Week

At Maine South High School we asked, "What is your favorite holiday tradition?"





Mariah Link Park Ridge

"Making a gingerbread house with my mom."



Alex Paluch Park Ridge

"Spending time with my family."



Kate McGinnis Park Ridge

"Baking Christmas cookies."





Samantha Golbeck

"I like to decorate the Christmas tree with my family."

"When do you put up holiday decorations?"

DESPONSES

1) Before Thanksgiving: 8%

2) First week of December:

3) Mid-month: 18%

4) kdon't: 20%

"What is your favorite holiday movie?"

1) "A Christmas Story"

2) "Christmas Vacation"

3) "It's a Wonderful Life"

4) "Elf"

5) Other

To respond to this week's People Poll question, visit niles.suntimes.com.

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Education in Focus

'Freddie the Frog' leaps onto Niles West stage

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

SKOKIE

Young children wrapped up in the musical adventures of a frog and his over-sized elephant friend may not realize by listening they're actually building life skills.

For the first time the music-loving creatures are jumping from book to stage in the Niles West High School Theatre Department's adaptation of the widely-acclaimed children's book series "Freddie the Frog."

"The Musical Adventures of Freddie the Frog" will be performed Dec. 6-8 at the Skokie high school. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students, seniors, and children.

Sharon Burch, a music teacher in lowa, developed the five-book CD set to make music learning more accessible for children and their parents.

Set on the fictional Treble Clef Island, the stories and songs teach children about aspects of music such as notes, rhythm and tempo.

world and once they fall in love with him, they fall in love with music," said Burch, who this week visited local elementary schools to introduce kids to the play's characters.

Former Niles West director of fine arts Mary Jo Papich is serving as the musical director of the musical.

Papich, who was Burch's childhood music teacher, introduced her to Niles West High School Theatre



Niles West junior Cameron Broderick runs his lines as Freddie the Frog during a rehearsal for "The Musical Adventures of Freddie the Frog." on Nov. 29. | CURTIS **LEHMKUHL-Sun-Times Media**

Director Andy Sinclair. Beginning in May, they began working on a script to weave together the books' plots. A narrating group of "red "They enter into Freddie's musical brass army ants" became the central characters charged with interacting with the audience.

> Taking a cue from the Broadway musical "The Lion King," the Niles West production features both puppets and actors in full costume,

> "This is free theater that is welldesigned," he said. "It is a fully realized production."

The "Freddie the Frog"

interactive musical is made possible by a nine-member pit orchestra, 23 crew members, and a cast of 24 actors who play 40 animal characters.

Students from Niles West feeder schools, as well as children of schools in Chicago and Evanston, are attending the high school's annual kid-friendly production.

Sinclair said younger audiences are often the most energetic, albeit honest, viewers. He encourages his actors to make what is often the children's first experience with theater fun in a non-patronizing manner.

UP CLOSE

What: "The Musical Adventures of Freddie the Frog' WHEN: Friday, Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. WHERE: Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton St., Skokie For ticket information visit www. nileswesttheatre.com/ticket-information. html or call (847) 626-2633

"We are exposing them to a world that is what a visit to Laramie, Wyo. would be for us," he said, alluding to the theater troupe's kickoff production for the season, "The Laramie Project."

"This just happens to be on a tropical island," Sinclair added.

To prepare for Burch's visit and a trip to Niles West for the musical, Kelli Murphy's third- grade class at Park View School in Morton Grove began reading about Freddie the

The students are also currently playing the recorder at their twiceweekly, 30-minute music sessions. Some have shown progress in other areas of learning because of the

"A lot of our students that may not be great readers tend to read music more easily," Murphy observed.

Burch believes music's beauty lies in its ability to trigger happiness while simultaneously activating all parts of the brain.

"Once those connections are built in your brain, they don't disappear," she said. "It spills over into other areas of your life."



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Registration

Register now for Oakton's Winterim session, which offers college-credit classes in a condensed time period. Most classes begin Dec. 17.

Courses are available in business, computer information systems. English, history, humanities, law enforcement, marketing, philosophy, physical education, political science, and psychology. Offered at Oakton's campuses in Des Plaines, 1600 E. Golf Road, and Skokie, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., or online, classes do not meet on holidays, the eves of holidays, or on weekends.

For a complete listing of Winterim class offerings, visit www.oakton. edu/winterim.

Also, it is not too early to think spring. Registration for spring 2013 classes at Oakton is underway. Most classes begin the week of Jan. 14, 2013.

Find spring class listings as well as late-start courses online at www. oakton.edu, or in the Spring 2013 Credit and Noncredit Class Schedule, available at the Des Plaines and Skokie campuses.

Register in person at either campus 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays; and 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays. Students with a current application on file may register at my.oakton.

For more information about classes, contact Advising and Counseling at (847) 635-1741 (Des Plaines), or (847) 635-1400 (Skokie).

Get on top of nanotechnology

By 2015, the nanotech industry will need two million workers and approximately six million supporting positions worldwide. Get in on the ground floor with "Fundamentals of Nanotechnology," a new course at Oakton Community College that explores the "nanoworld."

Nanotechnology is the science of manipulating matter on an atomic and molecular scale. Increasingly common in the computer, energy,

biotech, and transportation fields, nanotechnology can improve just about any process, tool, or piece of equipment by vastly increasing the amount of information stored on a computer chip. This process speeds up any computer-based application and can even help doctors target specific cancerous cells for chemotherapy treatment, eliminating potential damage to healthy cells nearby.

"Fundamentals of Nanotechnology" kicks off the new Nanotechnology Employment, Education, and **Economic Development Initiative** (NE3I), a collaborative effort to bring nanotechnology education to Oakton and area high schools. Other partners include the village of Skokie; the Illinois Science + Technology Park (IS+TP), housing more than a dozen science and technology companies; Nanolnk, Inc., which develops nanotechnology curriculum; and the North Suburban Educational Region for Vocational Education (NSERVE), a career and technical education consortium of nine high schools in Chicago's northern suburbs.

Ultimately, NE3I will establish a nanotechnology laboratory at IS+TP, located just four blocks from the Skokie campus. Oakton faculty will staff the lab, training students from the college and nearby high schools via video link to be nanotechnicians.

Apply and register now for "Fundamentals of Nanotechnology"; the course meets 6-8:50 p.m. twice weekly. On Mondays, students meet at IS+TP, 4901 Searle Parkway, Skokie, and on Wednesdays, class takes place at Oakton's Skokie Campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave.

Class begins Jan. 14. Find this course, listed as PHY 140-050 (CRN 12232) and any Oakton class online at www.oakton.edu. Register in person at either campus, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays; 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. on Fridays; and 9 a.m.noon on Saturdays. Students with a current application on file may register at my.oakton.edu.



District 207 schools to require 'anti-hazing pledge'

BY JENNIFER: JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

PARK RIDGE

Maine Township High School District 207 says all students and coaches will be required to sign an "anti-hazing pledge" in light of sexual assault allegations made by sports players at Maine West High School.

Two written statements dated Nov. 30, one attributed to Board of Education President Sean Sullivan and the other to Superintendent Ken Wallace, indicate that District 207 has developed an action plan following alleged criminal incidents described as "hazing" at Maine West in Des Plaines.

The plan calls for students and coaches to sign a pledge issued by the Illinois High School Association stating they will not engage in hazing practices.

District 207's Student Discipline Handbook defines hazing as "initiating or disciplining fellow students by means of horseplay, practical joke or tricks; to harass by banter, ridicule or criticism; (or) to play abusive and/or humiliating tricks."

The pledge that coaches will be asked to sign indicates that they will notify the athletic director or a building administrator if they witness or hear about any "hazing/initiation activities."

The district also plans to launch a hotline allowing students to "report and find adult help on a variety of issues, including bullying and hazing." It was not immediately known when this hotline will be established, according to District 207 Spokesman Dave Beery.

"In general, I'd say we'll be moving as quickly as possible," he said.

In addition, District 207 plans to conduct focus groups with administrators, staff, students and parents at each high school "to study policy, practice, climate and culture as it relates to bullying and hazing" and develop recommendations; review all district policies related to bullying and hazing to determine if any changes need to be made; implement additional, required staff training "to stress the importance of and ensure that staff are aware of mandated reporting duties;" and, with approval from the Board of Education, hire an independent investigator to analyze district policies, procedures and training.

In his letter to parents, Wallace wrote that while officials do not believe bullying and hazing is widespread among the district's three high schools, "one student bullied or hazed is one student too many. Like students, educators must learn from everything, including difficult circumstances, and take steps to always get better."

Three Maine West soccer players claim they were sodomized on the Des Plaines campus Sept. 27 as part of an initiation into the soccer team, according to a lawsuit filed against District 207 on behalf of two of those boys.

Police reports and an attorney for two of the players said their teammates pulled down the victims' underwear and sodomized them with fingers and sticks.

The lawsuit also includes allegations of hazing on the soccer team in 2007 and the baseball team in 2008.

— Sun-Times Media **c**ontributed to this story.

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Puzzles



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SUDOKL

BY LINDA THISTLE

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: **

(*: Moderate; **: Challenging; **: HOO BOY!)

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HOROSCOPES

For the week of December 12 to December 18

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)

Make a start on that new workplace challenge. But get more information before you find yourself too deeply involved without knowing in which direction you should go.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)

You might find things becoming tedious as your schedule slows down for the holidays. Use this time to get information about a possible post-New Year job change.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)

The creative Twin finds outlets for her or his ideas in the early part of the week. The practical Twin takes it a step further and rallies support to turn the ideas into reality.

CANCER (June 21 o J y 2)

It's time to stop being intimidated by someone's negative behavior. Start taking positive steps on your own to help strengthen your position down the line.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)

Look closely at that so-called golden opportunity. Better to be a cautious Cat who approaches things slowly, than one who pounces without knowing where you'll land.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)

Your apology can resolve that personal situation before it overshadows the holidays. You'll feel better, even if you're only partly to blame for what happened.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)

Avoid overtaxing yourself, even if your energy levels are high and you feel that you can do it all. Best to pace yourself so you won't run yourself down before the holidays.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)

Your sense of humor helps get you through a stressful period. Some of your quick quips can take the edge off any remaining negativity being aimed at you.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to

December 21

Your artistic talents not only help you express yourself these days, but they also set

up a line of communication between you and someone very special.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)

It's fine to appreciate the importance of "proper form" for doing things. But relax a bit in order to allow newcomers on the project to feel less intimidated by you.

AGUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)

Use your boundless reserve of optimism to persuade others to work with you to resolve a difficult workplace problem before it can ruin your holiday fun.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)

You brim over with self-confidence as you begin to tackle a new challenge. And, before you know it, you're not alone: Others have taken the plunge with you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a highly defined sense of commitment to others. You would make a fine social worker.

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Calendar



Toddlers 0-3 kids 4-12 Family FAM Teens 13+ Adults 18+ Seniors 65+

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Niles Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. Information may be faxed to (847) 486-7495 or emailed to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

CENTER OF

Schedule



The Center of Concern: 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453, calendar of events includes:

Mondays, Dec. 10 and 17 - Employment counseling, by appointment.

Monday, Dec. 10 - Alzheimer's caregivers support group, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 18 - Medicare counseling, by appointment, sponsored by the federally-funded Senior Health Insurance Program.

Wednesday, Dec. 19 -Grief and loss support group (call first).

Saturday, Dec. 15 -Legal counseling, by appointment.

Note: The Center of Concern is closed Dec. 24, 25 and Jan. 1; it will be open from 9 a.m.noon Dec. 31.

Niles Township Clerk



Niles Township Clerk's Office is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and evenings by appointment on the second and fourth Mondays of each month to accommodate residents with passport applications, voter registrations and temporary handicapped parking placards. To schedule an appointment at Niles Township in Skokie, call (847) 673-9300.

CLASSES

Childbirth lessons



Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge, offers a variety of classes for new and expectant parents. Call (800) 323-8622 to register - Bootcamp for New Dads: Teaching important skills, 9 a.m.-noon Dec. 8, Class code 8B29.

Animal assisted therapy



Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy Inc. offers

"Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy" dog training classes at various locations, including 6042 W. Oakton St., in Morton Grove. The fee is \$60. Contact Dorida King at dhking4@yahoo.com or call (773) 736-9021, for schedules and locations.

CLUBS

Bring cookies



The Park Ridge Catholic Woman's Club will meet at 12:15 p.m. Dec. 12 at the South Park Talcott Rd., Park Ridge. There will be a musical program presented by the Harmonaires. Members are asked to bring their favorite Christmas cookies to share and enjoy with punch, tea or coffee.

Knights of Columbus Toys sought



North American Martyrs Council Chapter, Niles, provides ways for members to help others in the community while trying to improve their family and spiritual lives. Call Bob Galassi, (847) 965-0920.

MOMS Club



Northern Chicagoland group holds weekly activities (such as play groups, outings, museums, park dates) and monthly member meetings and Moms Night Out. Call (773) 853-2834 or visit http://sites. google.com/site/momsclubofnorthernchicago or email chicagomomsclub@gmail.com.

Niles Chapter **Toastmasters**



Meets 7:15 p.m. the sec-Recreational Center, 833 ond and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. Members learn how to feel comfortable and have self-confidence talking to an audience. Call (847) 583-9328.

DONATIONS



The Polish National Alliance, Alliance Printers & Publishers and PNA Bank are accepting donations of new toys and games or money for local needy children at Christmas for the annual "Toys For Kids At Christmas" drive. There will be collection boxes in

the lobbies of the Polish National Alliance Home Office, 6100 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago; Alliance Printers & Publishers, 5711 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago; and PNA Bank, 7840 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Toy donations will be accepted until Dec. 7, when the toys will be delivered to the Women's Center in Chicago. Monetary donations will go to purchase additional toys and gifts for the children in the name of the donor. Call the Polish National Alliance, (773) 286-0500. Ext. 316, or visit www.pnaznp.org.

Holiday Drive



The Village of Niles and Niles Fire Department have kicked off the annual U.S. Marine Corps Reserve/Toys for Tots **Drive and Community** Food Drive. Toys for Tots is a charitable program run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve that provides toys to children in need during the holiday season. The following Niles locations are collecting non-perishable food items benefiting Niles Family Services and new toy donations during regular business hours through Dec. 16: Niles Village Hall, 1000 Civic Center Drive; Niles Fire Department, 8360 W. Dempster St. and 6611 Jarvis Ave.; Niles Police Department, 7000 W. Touhy Ave.; Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive; Niles Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Drive; Niles Public

Works, 6849 W. Touhy Ave.; Niles Teen Center, 373 Golf Mill Center: Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St.; CitiBank, 8400 W. Dempster St.; and Parkway Bank,7601 N. Milwaukee Ave. Per U.S. Marine Corps guidelines, all toys must be new and unwrapped. Used toys cannot be distributed.

HEALTH

Healthbeat lectures



Advocate Lutheran General Hospital is hosting a weekly Community Healthbeat lecture series at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital's West End Conference Center, 1775 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge. Free valet parking is available and refreshments will be served. There is no charge; however registration is required. Call 1-800-323-8622 and mention the class code 8G52 or visit www.advocateheatlh.com/luth click on "I need a class or support group" and type in the class code - Dec. 11: Healthy Holidays: Staying Positive Through the Season, Dr. Laura Segalite, psychiatrist, and Dr. Adriana deJulio, psychiatrist resident.

Exercise/Nutrition for Cancer Patients



A variety of exercise and well-being classes for cancer patients is

Senior Coffee Hour

The Niles Library wel-

Robbie Malkowski and

iazz pianist Dave Turner

for a live holiday "sing-

"The Merriest Songs of

10:"30-11:30 a.m. Dec. 11.

Christmas, Hanukkah,

and Broadway" from

a-long" concert of

comes back vocalist

- Concert



offered at Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge. Call (800) 323-8622 to register -Gentle and Restorative Yoga: 6-7 p.m. Mondays, can be done in a chair if needed, Class Code 8C49, Exercise for Cancer: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, improve strength, stamina and flexibility, Class Code 8C47. Gentle Yoga: 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays, Class Code 8C46. Stress Reduction: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Thursdays, Offers stress reduction techniques, Class Code 8C48. Nutrition for Optimal Cancer Wellness: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Fridays, Discusses foods and nutrients to help cancer patients and survivors eat healthy, Class Code 8C45.

Whooping Cough Vaccine

Whooping Cough Vaccine: All three of the Jewel-Osco Pharmacies in Niles are offering the whooping cough vaccine booster in response to recent whooping cough outbreaks across the state. It is recommended that all individuals ages 11 and older receive the

vaccination, called Tdap, which speciallytrained and certified pharmacists are available to administer. Consumers can obtain the vaccination at Jewel-Osco Pharmacies seven days a week and no appointment is necessary.

www.reshs.org or call Alisa Martorano, (773) 775-6616, Ext. 127.

LIBRARY

Niles Public Library: 6960 W. Oakton St., (847) 663-1234 or online at www.nileslibrary. org. Registration is required for most programs unless indicated otherwise.

Green Spa Gifts for Teens

Make all-natural spa products from 4:30-6 p.m. Dec. 14. Recipes include oatmeal bath, mint shower gel, and fragrant stress-relief oil. For seventh- to 12th-graders.

SOCIETY

Hours for the public

Niles Historical Museum: 8970 N. Milwaukee Ave... is open 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Drop in, make arrangements for a tour, drop off artifacts and collections, or just come to visit. Call (847) 390-0160.

Gingerbread House Decorating

Through Jan. 6, come to the Niles Public Library Youth Services Department and make a decoration for the giant gingerbread house.

Breakfast with Santa



KIDS

The Resurrection College Prep High School Alumnae Association presents Breakfast with Santa from 9-11:30 a.m. Dec. 8 at the school, 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. The event will also include facepainting, a theater production by Resurrection drama students and Christmas arts and crafts. Children and families can have their photos taken with Santa and each child will receive a special gift from Santa. Tickets are \$8 per child and \$6 per adult and available at

Teen Gingerbread House Workshop

Construct a centerpiece gingerbread house from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Dec. 8. Baker Kathy Cherie will provide all materials and guide teens in design and decoration. For sixth- to 12th-graders.

Family entertainer Chris Fascione brings winter holiday tales from around the world to life at 2 p.m. Dec. 9. For ages 5 and older. Pick up tickets 30 minutes before the program in the Youth Services

Holiday Storytelling

department.

Niles Park District, 6676 W. Howard St., (847) 967-6633.

Holiday events



Breakfast with Santa - Join Santa for his annual breakfast Dec. 15 at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St.; seatings are at 8:30, 10 and 11:30 a.m. Children will enjoy eating breakfast, make a special craft, visit and take a picture with Santa. All adults and children in attendance must register for this event. A child resident is \$8, a child non-resident is \$10 and adults are \$8.

HOCUS FOCUS

Find at least six differences in details between panels



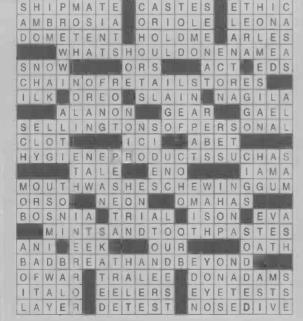


4. Wall is shorter. 5. Locket is missing. 6. Slacks are shorter. Differences: 1. Poster is missing. 2. Sleeve is shorter. 3. Handle is smaller.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

See page 26 for this week's Super Crossword and Sudoku puzzles.

9	2	4	1	8	6	3	5	7
6	8	3	9	7	5	2	4	1
1	5	7	2	3	4	6	9	8
2	6	5	7	9	1	8	3	4
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3	4	9	8	6	2	7	1	5
5	9	1	3	2	8	4	7	6
8	7	6	4	5	9	1	2	3
4	3	2	6	1	7	5	8	9



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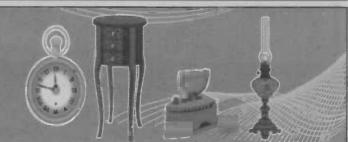
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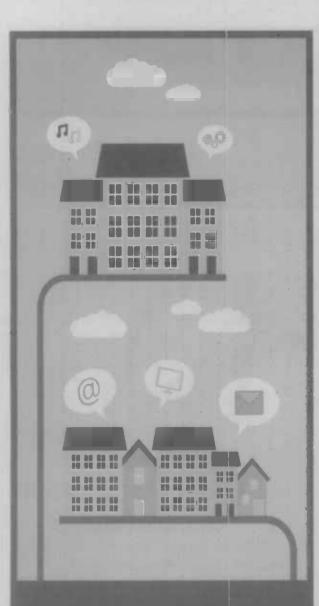
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Northwest Highway & Busse Highway • Park Ridge, Illinois

Business Spotlight

Illinois CyberKnife offers new way of treating cancer

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

PARK RIDGE

Oscar Schnetzer, 85, is now cancerfree and says he owes it all to Illinois CyberKnife in Park Ridge.

Like many other cancer patients, Schnetzer was referred to Illinois CyberKnife at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital to treat his inoperable lung cancer. After only five, one-hour sessions, Schnetzer is happy to say that he's tumor free.

Illinois CyberKnife recently celebrated its one-year anniversary and has treated about 160 patients during that time. It is located at 1700 Luther Ln. in Park Ridge.

"It's a very sophisticated technology that offers precise delivery of radiation," shared Dr. Arica Hirsch, medical director of radiology oncology at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital.

She added: "Biologically it has a much greater effectiveness on the tumor itself."

Some of the most common types of conditions treated at Illinois CyberKnife in the past



Some of the tungsten apertures used to focus radiation during cancer treatments at Illinois CyberKnife in Park Ridge. | JOEL LERNER-Sun-Times Media

year ere lung tumors, spinal tumors and brain tumors. Brain tumors make up 40 percent of the cases at the clinic.

The procedure, which uses a robotic arm delivering highenergy, targeted radiation, is noninvasive, side effects are minimal and there is no need for a stay at the hospital, according to Hirsch.



Drs. Majid Mohiuddin and Arica Hirsch are radiation oncologists at Illinois CyberKnife, a cancer-treatment center in Park Ridge. | **JOEL LERNER**-Sun-Times Media

UP CLOSE

NAME: Illinois CyberKnife ADDRESS: 1700 Luther Ln., Park Ridge SPECIALTY: Non-surgical cancer treatment WEBSITE: www.illinoisck.com

"Side effects are less because we're really treating such a scant amount of normal surrounding tissue," she explained.

Hirsch said what would take six to nine weeks of regular radiology may only take three to five treatments at Illinois

CyberKnife due to advancements in technology.

She added that patients of all ages are candidates for this new form of radiology.

"This gives hope to people when there was no hope," said Schnetzer who found that he responded well to the treatment, with some fatigue as the only side effect.

"It's people like him that really encourage me," said Hirsch.

Normally Hirsch said lung cancer patients could experience a cough, shortness of breath and swallowing issues after being treated with conventional radiology.

Illinois CyberKnife also treats patients with other conditions, such as trigeminal neuralgia, a rare nerve disorder, in only one visit without any surgery or recovery needed.

"A lot of these patients aren't always the healthiest patients," said Hirsch. "They can't go through surgery."

Hirsch said this procedure doesn't disrupt patients' quality of life or daily activities because it is an outpatient service.

"It's advanced so much in the last two to three years," she said of the technology.



Childhood tinkering leads to Antique Clock Shoppe

BY BYLINE FORMAT | bformat@pioneerlocal.com

MORTON GROVE

Don Behles admitted that his Antique Clock Shoppe is not the place to be at noon on Friday.

On Friday morning, he winds all of the clocks - wall clocks, mantle clocks, grandfather clocks, clocks on tables and shelves and at noon all of the chimes and bells go off.

"It gets loud," Behles said.

The rest of the time, though, the Morton Grove shop is a bit of a trip back in time. A variety of clocks, from dozens of countries and several centuries, are on display.

As for unusual clocks, Behles pointed out a small version made by the Swiss firm Jaeger-LeCoultre. Its Atmos clock never needs to be wound. Instead, it has a brass bellows kind of device that expands and contracts with changes in barometric pressure and temperature, and uses that movement to wind the clock.

In order for the concept to work, Behles said the clock has a very small movement.

"It's smaller than what you would find in an old wrist watch," Behles explained.

Also in the shop, Behles has several clocks make in the 1800s, including one made in Ansonia, New York. There also is a brass clock made by JE Caldwell in

But his personal collection at home goes back much further, including a floor-standing clock



Don Behles, who owns the Antique Clock Shoppe in Morton Grove, has been tinkering with clocks since he was a kid. | BRIAN O'MAHONEY-for Sun-Times

made in 1681.

"It tells time with one hand," Behles said.

While he sells the antique clocks, Behles reported that most of his business is maintenance and repairs.

Tinkering with clocks came naturally to Behles, who said he began taking things apart as a kid. But unlike many kids who do that, he also was able to put them back together so they worked.

"When I was a little kid I'd pick up bicycles in the alleys of Chicago and fix them and give them away or sell them," he said.

"I started to tear apart radios and TVs when I was 11 or 12," he added. "My parents were afraid I was going to blow up the place."

His first experience working on a clock came when one of his grandparents had a mantle clock that didn't run.

"I took it apart and got it to run and I was hooked," Behles said.

He has run the shop at 6022 Dempster St. in Morton Grove for 17 years. It was located in Niles for five years before that.

If he has one problem with clocks, it's not really the clocks themselves, but their owner who ignores routine maintenance for their often-expensive timepieces.

"A clock should be oiled at least once every three years," he said. "Most people don't do it.

"They run their clocks until they die," Behles added. "Anything mechanical has to be lubricated. If you lubricate a clock at least once every three years it will last for 200 years."

There is one other clock-related item that bugs him: cuckoo clocks. He suggested those may have been some form of revenge by Germany on the United States following World War II, when many soldiers returned home with the noisy devices.

"They really have very little value," Behles said.



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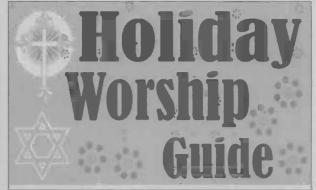
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2245 Valencia Drive, #2215, \$289,000

House size: About 2,200 square feet

Lot size: NA Year built: 1975

Bedrooms: 2 Baths: 2

Garage: Two-car attached

Most recent available tax: \$5,147 (2011)

Agent: Connie Dornan, Prudential Rubloff Properties, 847-208-1397



SKOKIE

3846 Brummel St., \$279,000

House size: 950 square feet Lot size: 5,332 square feet

Year built: 1940

Bedrooms: 5 Baths: 2

Garage: Three-car detached

Most recent available tax: \$4,902 (2010)

Agent: Anne Schepers, Prudential Rubloff Properties, 847-425-5226



BARRINGTON

412 W. Main St., \$250,000

House size: 2,788 square feet Lot size: 5,798.4 square feet

Year built: 1939

Bedrooms: 4 Baths: 3

Garage: Three-car

Most recent available tax:

\$7,329.14 (2011)

Agent: James Scardino,

Baird & Warner, 847-277-8853



OAK PARK

923 S Kenilworth Ave., \$297,000

House size: 1,700 square feet

Lot size: 4,110 square feet

Year built: 1921

Bedrooms: 4 **Baths: 1.5**

Garage: Two-car detached

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1140 Chestnut St., \$289,900

House size: 1,800 square feet

Lot size: 4,000 square feet

Year built: 1924

Bedrooms: 4 Baths: 3

Garage: One-car & extra parking pad

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Suburban Chicago is a desirable place to live. The region is a network of communities that offers access to a world-class city. However, choosing a community from the dozens of towns and villages that surround the city can be challenging for homebuyers.

When it comes to real estate, there is no limit to the choices in the suburbs. Each week, What's In My Price Range? will feature six homes from throughout the area that fall within a certain price range. See just how much your money gets you in the suburbs.

LA GRANGE PARK

829 Catherine Ave., \$279,900

House size: 1,131 square feet

Lot size: 9,282 square feet

Year built: 1963

Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 1

Garage: One-car attached

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Gift giving on a shoestring

Sweet holiday cheer

Spread the cheer (and frosting) with these sweet holiday gifts that are easy to make, wallet-friendly and delicious.

This recipe comes courtesy of Buddy Valastro, owner of Carlo's Bakery and star of the hit series "Cake Boss" on TLC. These cookies are a dream for both expert and novice bakers as they're made with just a few simple ingredients.

You need:

3 extra large egg whites 1/2 teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon juice

1½ cups powdered sugar 1/4 cup unsweetened Dutchprocess cocoa powder

1½ cups unsalted, raw walnut halves

Directions:

Position rack in the center of the oven and preheat to 325°F.

Place egg whites and lemon juice in a bowl and whip on low speed for 2 minutes, then on maximum speed until stiff peaks form (about 5 minutes). Sift sugar and cocoa powder together and fold into batter until batter is smooth and shiny. Fold in walnuts.

Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper, using nonstick spray or a dab of butter in each corner to glue the paper in place.

Drop heaping tablespoons of dough (1/2 inch apart) being sure to include about the same number of walnuts (3 or 4) in each one. Bake until the outside has crisped and the bottom starts to pull away from the parchment paper (15 to 20 minutes).

Remove cookie sheets from the oven. As soon as clusters can be moved, use a spatula to transfer them to a rack and let them cool.



Chocolate, Oreo and Candy Cane Bark (from left), Elf Hat Trail Mix, Cooking with the Cake Boss Brownie Cookies and simple cake quick gifts. | RYAN PAGELOW-Sun-Times Media

Reprinted with permission from Baking with the Cake Boss: 100 of Buddy's Best Recipes and Decorating Secrets (Simon and Schuster, 2011).

In a perfect world, Oreos would be a vegetable, but until then we can at least enjoy this festive candy bark.

You need:

1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips (melted) ½ cup white bakers chocolate (melted) 10-12 Oreo or chocolate-sandwich cookies (roughly chopped)

4 candy canes (crushed)

Directions:

Cover a baking sheet or shallow pan with waxed paper. Pour semi-sweet chocolate into pan and spread with spatula. Place in the refrigerator for 10-15 minutes.

Remove pan from fridge and add a layer of

crushed cookie and candy cane pieces. Top with a drizzle of melted white chocolate.

Place in refrigerator for up to two hours. Break bark into pieces and place on a decorative plate or in a colorful box.

I love gifting trail mix because it's a snap to make (no baking) and always looks great in a glass container. To add a whimsical touch, try adding colorful elf hats to your favorite mix.

You need:

Red candy melts (available at most craft stores)

Bugles

Mini marshmallows

Directions:

Melt candy melts in the microwave on medium heat for about 1 minute. Stir

and continue cooking at 15-second intervals until melted. Stir melted candy well and place in a small bowl.

Working quickly, dip Bugles in the melted candy and top with a marshmallow pompom. Place hat on waxed paper and set aside until candy hardens.

When it comes to giving gifts, it's the thought that counts, and if that thought includes delicious cinnamon swirl cake or pumpkin bread, even

These days, food companies as well as supermarkets and big box stores are listening to our pleas to help simplify our lives with easy to make (i.e., open box and stir) mixes that taste as good as homemade.

The key is to wrap them in pretty foil or cellophane and add a festive bow (of course, keeping the "it's from a mix" part a secret helps too).



For your favorite chef:

A batch of the year's best cookbooks

BY TOM WITOM | Contributor

Some of the year's best cookbooks. perfect for holiday gift giving, should satisfy all the foodies on your list whether they're novices or veteran home chefs.

Here are 10 contenders worthy of anyone's cookbook library:

Aida Mollenkamp's Keys to the Kitchen

(Chronicle Books, \$35)

Food expert Aida Mollenkamp's new book, a self-help resource for the kitchen, includes suggestions on what to know before you start cooking, including what not to buy and preparation techniques for bread, eggs, chicken and fish.

The Smitten Kitchen Cookbook

(Alfred A. Knopf, \$35)

Self-taught cook Deb Perelman works culinary magic in a postage-stamp-size Manhattan kitchen, and is widely known through her popular food blog that draws a whopping 8 million views a month. Perelman's debut book contains tutorials and more than 100 recipes, new ones and a few favorites from her website.

The author shares her secrets for everything from light-as-a-feather gnocchi to



the perfect birthday cake.

Herbivoracious

(Harvard Common Press. \$24.95)

Food blogger Michael Natkin makes a good case for how globally inspired flavors and a flurry of creative, sophisticated new recipes have sparked interest in a vegetarian lifestyle.

Examples of his "new generation" fare include Caramelized Apple and Blue Cheese Crostini; Persimmon, Parsley and Olive Salad; and Swiss Chard and Tomatillo Enchiladas.

From a Southern Oven

(Wiley, \$32.50)

Prolific writer Jean Anderson pays tribute to the South's tradition of baking, both savory and sweet. Mushroom tassies, chicken jambalaya casserole, and Old Dominion tea cakes - they're all included in this fine collection.

Modern Sauces

(Chronicle, \$35)

Food writer Martha Holmberg regards a sauce as not just an afterthought, but something substantive that's added to make a dish sing.

Illustrated with eye-popping photos, Holmberg's book walks home chefs through standards such as hollandaise, bearnaise and marinara to caramelized onion coulis and maple-rum sabayon.

Canal House Cooks **Every Day**

(Andrews McMeel Universal,

Don't let the elegant volume fool you: The latest addition to the Canal House Cooking series by Christopher Hirsheimer and Melissa Hamilton isn't meant to serve as a coffee-table cookbook.

Its 384 pages offer delicious and easy-to-prepare. dishes that celebrate the practice of simple cooking. Recipes are arranged by month - for example, among December's offerings are Lasagne Bolognese, Pappardelle and Mushrooms and Marmalade Cake.

Muy Bueno

(Hippocrene Books, \$22.50)

The warmth of Mexico manifests itself in this appealing volume co-authored by Evangelina Soza and her daughters Yvette Marquez-Sharpnack and Veronica Gonzalez-Smith.

Traditional regional homestyle dishes stand alongside innovative fusion recipes and heartwarming family stories.

Salty Snacks

(Ten Speed Press, \$16.99) Ready to take your love of

salty snacks to the next level? That's the question Cynthia Nims poses in this handy new paperback appropriately subtitled: "Make your own chips, crisps, crackers, pretzels, dips and other savory bites."

Nims favors the homemade route as a way of avoiding excess salt and hidden preservatives lurking in prepackaged foods. Here, she shares recipes for Spicy Tortilla Crisps with Queso Fundido, Bacon-Chive Bread with Goat Cheese, Salami Chips with Grainy Mustard Dip and 72

Gran Cocina Latina: The Food of Latin America

(W.W. Norton & Co., \$45)

Culinary historian Maricel E. Presilla packs nearly 30 years of research into this authoritative reference. Cuban-born Presilla has traveled extensively to more than 20 Latin American countries, studying their culture and eating

The hefty, 901-page book contains some 500 authentic recipes that highlight the diversity of Latin techniques, styles and flavors.

Turkey

(Stewart, Tabori & Chang. \$35)

Trained chef and globetrotting photographer Leanne Kitchen shares her discoveries of the rich bounty of Turkey's thriving food culture. Her keen eye focuses on the country's little known regional specialties, culinary techniques and eateries.



Your Local Worship Guide



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Congregation Bene Shalom

4435 Oakton, Skokie (847) 677-3330 www.beneshalom.org . Interfaith Families Welcome Rabbi Dr. Douglas Goldhamer Asst. Rabbi Shari Chen, Soloist Charlene Brooks All services voice and sign language Check our website for service times

Evanshire Presbyterian Church

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An Egalitarian Conservative Congregation Lay Led Shabbat Service, 9:45AM 8610 Niles Center Rd. Skokie 847-679-6513 www.kehillatshalom.org

WILMETTE

Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah

3220 Big Tree Lane, 847-256-1213 www.bhcbe.org Kabbalat Shabbat Fridays 6:30 PM Shabbat Service - Saturdays 9:15 AM Jr. Congregation. Tot Shabbat. Torah Time 10:30 AM Followed by Kiddush Daily Minyan AM and PM Rabbi Allan Kensky Cantor Pavel Roytman Rabbi Michael Cohen, Ed. Dir.

To showcase your House of Worship here 630-978-8277

worship@Pioneerlocal.com

Your Local Worship Guide

Central Zone

CHICAGO

Edison Park Lutheran Church

6626 N. Oliphant Ave. Chicago, IL
(Across park from Edison Park Metra)
773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com
Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor
Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry
Matt Haider, Worship /Music
Michael Lyda, Childran/Youth/Eamily

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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

Lutheran Unity School - West

Pre K-Grade 8, SHARING GOD,
TOUCHING LIVES EVERYWHERE

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)

6201 W Peterson Ave.
Chicago, IL (773) 631-0715
Saturday Worship 5:30PM
Sunday Worship 10:30AM
Holy Communion Weekly
Pastors:Barbara Berry-Bailey
and Jeffery King

MORTON GROVE

Morton Grove Community Church PresbyterianChurch (USA)

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

NILES

St. John Lutheran Church (LCMS)

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



NORTHFIELD

Willow Creek Community Church North Shore Campus

31.5 Waukegan Road 847-441-6599 Sunday Services: **9 & 1**1 am

Promiseland (Infants-Gr5): 9 & 11 am Elevate (Grades 6-8): 11 am Impact (Grades 9-12): 6 pm

For more information visit www.WillowNorthShore.org

NORRIDGE

Zion Lutheran Church

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

NORWOOD PARK

Norwood Park Lutheran (ELCA)

5917 N. Nina Ave.
Chicago, IL 60631
773-631-2860
Fax 773-631-0142
Sunday Worship 10:00 am
(Communion 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays)
Education Hour - Sundays 9 am
Rev. Robert Johnson, Pastor

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near Devon & Harlem
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stalbanschicago.org

PARK RIDGE

Park Ridge Presbyterian Church

1300 West Crescent Avenue 847-823-4135 www.parkridgepresby.org Sunday Service: 10:00 AM



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. Lexus 2005 ES330 With Navigation 86K Miles. Leather, Moonroof, Luxury Loaded. Super Nice. #26469A \$15,995 877-766-8864



Mercury 2006 Mountaineer Great Condition, Low Miles, CD, A/C, Moonroof. #4680PA \$9995 877-766-8864









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To Drive North



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Only 48K Milesł AM/FM, Automatic, Great Buyl #J131517A
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Cadillac 2005 SRX Ready For Winter! Low Miles Too! #34197 \$14,995 888-638-5096



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Audi 2003 A4 3.0L Power Options, Leather Interior, CD Changer, Clean #33344 \$10,000 866-981-4380



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The weekend go and do planner pioneerlocal.com | Thursday, December 6, 2012 | P. 43 | NIL

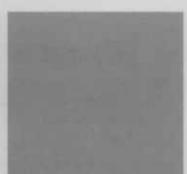
A WRAPPORTS company | A CHICAGO SUNTIMES publication

Cover Story

Acting stands out in Writers' Theatre's latest, 'The Letters.'

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Our picks for the week's best entertainment.

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Family Friendly

to play holiday music.

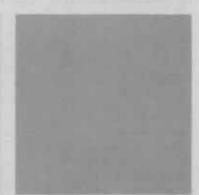






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Acting is real thrill of 'The Letters'

BY CATEY SULLIVAN | Contibutor

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"The Letters" is an example of truly exceptional performances in the service of a script that's not always on the level of the acting.

Directed by Kimberly Senior at Glencoe's Writers' Theatre, the two-person piece is something of a political thriller. The trouble is, playwright Jonathan Lowell's end-game twist is visible from a distance. It's evident early on that the roles of predator and prey will reverse at least once before the hunt ends.

The primary reason to see "The Letters" is the bravura performance by Kate Fry.

Fry is at the height of her considerable powers here, depicting a highly intelligent, wary woman trying to stay one step ahead in a high-stakes mental chess match she's forced to play blindfolded.

Mark L. Montgomery, also excellent, conveys menace in the most innocuous-sounding bits of dialogue, eventually going in for the kill with sinister, uncompromising authority.

From the start, Fry conveys a seemingly infinite spectrum of emotions, often without uttering a word. A shift in posture, an arch in the eyebrow, a glaze of barely contained tears — she's a master of subtle emoting and her performance is little short of thrilling.

Pry shows us precisely what the fallout is when a totalitarian regime strong-arms its way into an individual's private life. Not quite the Orwellian nightmare of 1984, when "thoughtcrimes" were cause for severe, catastrophic punishment, it's close enough to be chilling.

Lowell sets his 75-minute piece in Russia of 1931, entirely within the office of the unnamed Director (Montgomery), head of a ministry that deals with censorship.

At lights up, Anna (Fry) has been called into the Director's office. Not knowing why she's been summoned, Anna is anxious. But she's also steely and smart, her toughness and wiles



Mark Montgomery and Kate Fry in "The Letters" at Writers' Theatre. | PHOTO BY MICHAEL BROSILOW

'The Letters'

Writers' Theatre, Books on Vernon, 664 Vernon Ave., Glencoe

7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 4 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 2 and 6 p.m. Sundays, through March 3

\$35-\$70

(847) 242-6000; www.writerstheatre.org

gleaming as the Director parcels out information like a hunter carefully baiting a trap. He's called Anna in for a promotion, he says, but just underneath his professional commendations is an undertow of pure danger.

As matters untwist (and twist), we learn

that Anna is an editor whose department has been charged with censoring the highly incriminating letters of a renowned artist. Should their salacious contents reach the public, it would reflect badly on both the Ministry and, indeed, Russia. The urgent trouble is that a copy of the letters has gone missing.

The play takes on the relentless rhythm of a vice tightening into a terrifying interrogation with revelations of murder, threats of torture and increasing claustrophobia.

Dominated by portraits of Lenin and Stalin, Jack Magaw's back-of-the-bookstore set is both nondescript and threatening. It's a shame Lowell's plotting isn't on a par with the production values or the performances.

A CHANGE SUNTIMES PUBLICATION

DECEMBER 2-8, 2012

It's (fashion) showtime for Victoria's Secret ARTIES

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need to know



dec. 2

YLD's BIG EVENT

It's certainly not traditional, but when the Young Leadership Division of the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago celebrates the first night of Hanukkah with a comedy

show, it must be kosher. Taking place at the Sheraton Chicago, the event features an open bar, appetizers and a stand-up set from comedian **Aziz Ansari**. The co-star of "Parks and Recreation" and a vet of Judd Apatow films such as "Funny People," Ansari ranges from testosteroneturvy riffs to deconstructing the trials of the heart. *Chag sameach!* \$80 per person, advance registration required. 301 E. North Water. Call (312) 357-4880 or visit *Juf.org. —Thomas Connors*

THINGS WE LOVE



Hailo, London's biggest taxi app, comes stateside, allowing Chicagoans to order, track and pay for a cab all with a few swipes of their smart phone. Download at any app store.



Ensure holiday invites, greetings and thank you notes stand out in any stack of cards with custom letterpress stationery from Pulp & Ink. Packages start at \$300.1344 N. Wells, Pulpandink.com

<< The new collaboration between designer Sophie Theallet and The Limited features party dresses, cardigans and jewelry that seamlessly transition from the office to cocktails. 845 N. Michigan, Thelimited.com</p>

Caboodles inspire nostalgia for Gen X-ers, but the cosmetic organizers are still one of the most stylish ways to tote beauty goods (and they're still based in nearby Plano, III.). Available in a range of sizes and styles for the makeup maven in your life. Prices vary. Target. 2656 N. Elston or at Caboodles.com



SHOPPING SPY

The latest intelligence from the retail scene

Seasonal Celebration

On Dec. 6 at 6 p.m., celebrate the best of the season - friends, food and shopping - at Fête Chicago, a new night market. Presented by lifestyle editors Emily Fiffer (Daily Candy), Heather Sperling (Tasting Table) and Jessica Herman (formerly of Time Out Chicago), the event brings together local artisan food and design vendors in a West Loop event space. Sip bubbles from Illinois Sparkling Co. while picking up delectables from Bang Bang Pies, Old Town Social charcuterie and Pear Street Preserves, beauty goods from Arch Apothecary, jewelry from Dorus Mhor and much more. Tickets: \$5. with a portion of proceeds benefiting Fresh Moves, a Chicago non-profit organization that helps food deserts receive fresh food. 1520 W. Fulton. For more details visit Feteinchicago. wordpress.com.

Men at Work

Since 2005, Chicago men have been privy to the sophisticated, masculine collection of clothing and accessories at Haberdash boutique (611 N. State). But now dapper dudes from around the globe can scoop up toggle coats from Gloverall, blazers from L.B.M. 1911 and Baldwin denim, thanks to the launch of Haberdash's e-commerce site. The store's supreme customer service goes global as well, as online shoppers can book by-phone appointments with the store's wardrobe experts, free of charge. Start shopping now at Haberdashmen.com.

Sole Store

Famed designer Christian Louboutin is leaving his signature red-soled footprint on Chicago with the opening of his newest store. Setting up shop in the historic Esquire Theater (58 E. Oak), the two-story boutique is packed full of Louboutin's latest shoes, handbags and men's collection. It's a site that will have the city's most fashionable seeing red.

Louboutin



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the calendar

PLAN YOUR WEEK

BY THOMAS CONNORS

'Mistletoe Mixology' Dec. 5: Eggnog may be the official beverage of the holiday season, but why stop there? With family and friends gathering round, it couldn't hurt to expand your offerings. And here's your chance: Death's Door Spirits ambassador and educator Meg Bell sets up bar in Allium at the Four Seasons to whip up a selection of libations that are sure to whet anyone's whistle (including such '50s-era favorites as the Palm Beach Special, Vesper and Moscow Mule'). Executive chef Kevin Hickey will send out appropriately festive snacks. \$100 per person. 120 E. Delaware. For reservations, call (312) 799-4900.



Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

Dec. 6-9: Thirty-five years young this season. Hubbard Street Dance Chicago — under the direction of Glenn Edgerton — remains ever on the lookout for new, challenging and exciting work to add to its impressively eclectic repertoire. For its holiday engagement at the Harris Theater, the group offers a richly varied program that includes the company premiere of "Casi-Casa," a compelling, psychologically driven work by famed Swedish choreographer Mats Ek. Tickets: \$25-\$94, 205 E. Randolph. Call (312) 850-9744 or visit Hubbardstreetdance.com.

Open Doors Gala Dec. 7: Fostering creativity is key to the programs at Columbia College, and countless young people have honed their talents in its classrooms, studios and performance spaces. The Open Doors Gala supports scholarships for Chicago Public Schools graduates and includes an award presentation to John Bryan, former chairman and CEO of Sara Lee Corp. (and one of the city's greatest cultural supporters), who will be honored with the Chicago Legacy Award in memory of Johnson Publishing founder John H. Johnson. The event — held in Columbia's Jeanne Gang-designed Media Production Center - showcases student works in the visual arts, dance, theater and fashion, and includes a performance by the Columbia College Gospel Choir. Tickets: \$1,000. 1600 S. State. Call (312) 369-8188 or contact Bcaburnay@colum.edu.

'The Nutcracker' Dec. 7-27: One of the most fanciful holiday traditions ever, the "Nutcracker" ballet comes alive at the Auditorium Theatre as the Joffrey Ballet presents its exquisitely executed production. Choreographed by company founders Robert Joffrey and Gerald Arpino, and set to the inimitable Tchaikovsky score (performed live by the Chicago Philharmonic), "The Nutcracker" — like Handel's "Messiah" and "A Christmas Carol" — is one of those year-end treats we just can't do without. Tickets: \$31-\$132, available at the Joffrey Ballet Box Office, 10 E. Randolph; by phone at (800) 982-2787 Performance at 50 E. Congress.

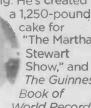


Spirit of St. Nicholas Ball

Dec. 7: Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, one of the largest private, not-for-profit social service agencies in the Midwest, has been lending a helping hand for 95 years. And for the past 23, its December fundraiser has been a holiday tradition. This year's event at the Hilton Chicago, which benefits numerous children's programs, begins in the Great Hall, where Cardinal Francis George and Monsignor Michael M. Boland will welcome guests. Then, it's on to dinner and dancing and the chance to do a little good. Not a bad way to begin the season. Tickets start at \$400. 720 S. Michigan. Call (312) 655-7912 or email Ashley Owen at Aowen@catholiccharities.net.

World's longest candy cane

Dec. 8: As viewers of the Food Network know, chefs like a challenge. Chef Alain Roby is no exception - and he thinks big: He's created



"The Martha Show," and The Guinness World Records

recognized him for the world's tallest cooked sugar building (12 feet high) and the world's tallest chocolate sculpture (more than 20 feet tall). Now he's out to fashion a 40-foot candy cane running through Geneva from his All Chocolate Kitchen. Do we smell a three-peat? Free. 33 S. Third. 7 p.m. For more information, call (630) 232-2395 or visit Allchocolatekitchen.com.

Holly Ball Dec. 8: Fox News Channel's Bret Baier headlines the second annual Holly Ball for Barrington

Children's Charities. The 2-year-old nonprofit was founded by Barrington residents Tom and Darby Hills with the goal of funding needbased causes for children in the area. such as Blessings in a Backpack (which provides weekend meals for children on federal meal programs). The black-tie event will include dinner. dancing to the Pete Fleming Orchestra and a live auction with tickets to the 2013 Grammy and Emmy awards. Tickets: \$200. Barrington

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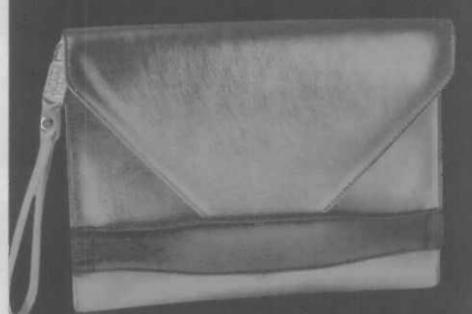
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F

CAUSER EVENT | parties



Maria Burgos and Genesis Rodriguez

Tommia Haynes and Joyce Person

Stephanie Sweeney, Alyssa **Hock and Lauren Rapisand**



Andrea Schwartz and Dan Valliere

MACY'S 'OPERATION HAPPY CHILDREN'

BY KATERINA BIZIOS

he holiday lights at Macy's on State Street always dazzle, but on Nov. 20 the store was even brighter than usual with the additional smiles of 200 preschoolaged kids participating in Operation Happy Children. Before the store opened, they were invited to enjoy a private breakfast in the Walnut Room (where Macy's executives such as Andrea Schwartz served as waitstaff), fol-



Erik Coquet

lowed by face-painting, a visit with Santa and goody bags brimming with gifts. For the fifth year Macy's paired with the Chicago Commons Head Start Program, a full-day preschool for young children in underprivileged neighborhoods.

PHOTOS BY RAMZI DREESSEN

CHICAGO CHILDREN'S MUSEUM GALA

Cyrel Westbrook, Braziyla Bell and Erik Coquet

BY BIANCA BETANCOURT

he Chicago Children's Museum came of age on Nov. 3 when one of the city's top cultural institutions dedicated to children celebrated its 30th birthday. Host committee members Joan Harris and members of the Crown, Goodman and Pritzker Pucker families welcomed more than 550 guests to the annual gala held inside the Navy Pier Grand Ballroom (600 E. Grand). With sponsors including Allstate and BDT Capital Partners, the party raised more than \$870,000 to help support the museum's mission of connecting the importance of learning through play for children.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event.







Darrell Hackett and Charlene Huang

PHOTOS BY ANNA MIYARES

style | WHOWOREWHATWHERE



DELPHINE PONTVIEUXin Allsaints Spitalfields at the Palmer House Hilton

SAMANTHA MATTHEWS in ASOS at A. Finkl & Sons

PATTY
NALEPA
in BCBG at the
Drake Hotel

JENNIFER LANSINGin Ralph Lauren at the
Palmer House Hilton

PRIEGOin Elda de la Rosa at the
Four Seasons Chicago

JESSICA

ABBY LIPTON
in BCBG and Helmut
Lang at the Four
Seasons Chicago

SILVER BELLES

here's no better time to shine than the holidays, and these silver-clad Chicago women are giving the city's shimmering lights a run for their money. Dresses range from subtle to sexy, but bold clutches and sky-high heels can add an extra punch. The key is to look glam without overdoing the sparkle; but then again, diamonds are a girl's best friend.

CAUSER EVENT | parties

CHICAGO UNITED: BRIDGE AWARDS DINNER

BY MADELINE SKAGGS

n the heels of the 2012 Changing Color of Leadership Conference, more than 900 business leaders gathered at Chicago United's ninth annual Bridge Awards Dinner Nov. 15, presented by BMO Harris Bank at the Chicago Hilton. Johnson & Johnson Chairman William Weldon and Walgreen Co. President and CEO Gregory Wasson were honored for their commitment to diversity and economic inclusion. The evening was emceed by WLS-Channel 7's Ravi Baichwal, who introduced presenting sponsor Ellen Costello, CEO of BMO Financial Corp., and Gov. Pat Quinn. The event raised \$725,000 for Chicago United.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event.



Marshall

Lindsev

and Favin Gebremariam





Richard Marx with Barbara and Roe Conn

NEWSAPALOOZA 2012

BY BIANCA BETANCOURT

eporters rocked the Park West Nov. 10 for the third annual "Newsapalooza," a variety show and charity concert featuring Chicago's most musically talented media personalities. The event — a collaboration between WSL-AM 890 radio host Roe Conn and Grammy Award-winner Richard Marx — featured performers such as "Windy City Live" hosts Ryan Chiaverini and Val Warner, "ABC World News Now" anchor Paula Faris and WMAQ-Channel 5's Daniella Guzman. This year's proceeds benefited Clearbrook, which provides aid to people with developmental disabilities.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event.

PHOTOS BY MILA SAMOKHINA



VERSAILLES '73: AMERICAN RUNWAY REVOLUTION

n 1973 five American fashion designers battled five French designers at an epic runway show benefiting the restoration of the Palace of Versailles. Nearly 40 years later, a documentary celebrating the American designers' dominance - and heralding the rise of African-American runway models - was shown at Columbia College Chicago's Film Row Cinema at 1104 S. Wabash. Attendees included the executive producer of "Versailles '73," Deborah Riley Draper, as well as documentary stars and former runway models Mikki Taylor, Pat Cleveland, Norma Jean Darden and Charlene Dash.

JJ McKay

PHOTOS BY JONATHAN MATHIAS PHOTOGRAPHY



Mikki Taylor, Pat Cleveland, Linda Johnson Rice, Eric V.A. Winston. Norma Jean Darden and Charlene Dash



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sunday in the life

Love nameplate necklace by Lana Jewelry

8 A.M.

After Bramlette, her husband, Rob, and 2-year-old daughter Blake wake up, they take their golden retriever, Rocco, for a walk around the city.

WISHEONE

9 A.M.

In mom-mode, Bramlette treats everyone to homemade pancakes for breakfast. If she doesn't feel like cooking, her husband takes the gang out to Wishbone (1001 W. Washington) or Meli (540 N. Wells).

10 A.M.

It's time to take Blake on an educational field trip; favorites include the polar bears at Lincoln Park Zoo (2001 N. Clark), butterflies at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum (2430 N. Cannon) and the sea lions at the Shedd Aquarium (1200 S. Lakeshore).

NOON Lunch is served. "We love Greek

Islands [200 S. Halsted] for a little saganaki. Opa!"



Urban Oasis

1DM

Naptime for Blake. "Every parent knows this is a sacred, happy time. I get to rest, watch all my housewives on Bravo, eat ice cream in bed and run out and get a massage at Urban Oasis [939 W. North]."

6:30 P.M.

Dinner at their favorite spot: Piccolo Sogno (464 N. Halsted). "We like places where you are treated like gold, because you know I am into that."

Hoop Dreams

Jewelry designer Lana Bramlette polishes off a perfect day

BY ZAK STEMER

iamonds might be forever, but for Lana Bramlette, the designer behind Chicago-based line Lana Jewelry, it's glittering gold that's the symbol of eternal love. "In the beginning, I wanted to let the world know that I was committed to my boyfriend, who is now my husband, so I designed a nameplate necklace with his name on it," she says. It wasn't long before her designs became a staple of Hollywood starlets — Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez and Rihanna are all well-documented fans. InStyle magazine has even crowned her the reigning queen of hoops.

Despite being sold in more than 300 stores like Nordstrom, Neiman Marcus and Bloomingdale's, her majesty has never forgotten her roots. "I wanted to make jewelry for a girl like me," she says. "[When I started] I was 27 years old and finally making my own money. Fake jewelry just wasn't appealing. I felt like I was worth more."

This September marked the 10th anniversary of Lana Jewelry and to celebrate, Bramlette brought back her signature nameplates with a twist: They have romantic words like "Love" (pictured above right), "Taken" and "Luck." "It's like that idea in the '50s when girls got pinned," she says. "The nameplates are so personal."

And there's much more on the horizon: The spring 2013 collection will be "very, unbelievably colorful," Bramlette teases. "It's extremely new for Lana because we're so known for gold." Whatever colors the future might bring, it's sure to set the gold standard.

To recharge her creativity, she spends Sunday with the people who make her shine.







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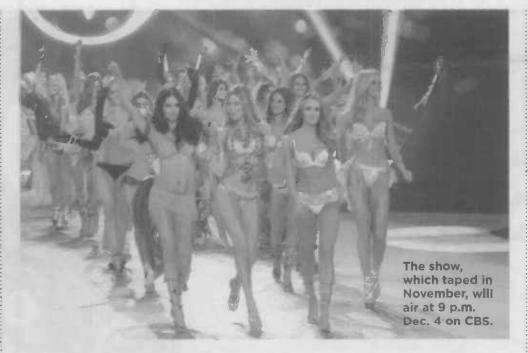
n movies the modeling industry is portrayed as a cold, cutthroat world full of catty co-workers and razor-tongued bosses. But Skokie native Erin Heatherton's experience has been far different. In her job as a Victoria's Secret Angel, the supermodel has found a much warmer community, one that — at the core — is reminiscent of her own family.

"It's like an oasis in the modeling world," says Heatherton of the Angel experience. "There's a lot of love. You don't feel like a clothes hanger, you feel like a family member and you're embraced for who you are." On Dec. 4 Heatherton will show the world exactly who she is when she struts her stuff for the fifth time in the annual "Victoria's Secret Fashion Show," a televised multimedia extravaganza that blends a runway presentation and a concert. But while it's a starstudded event, taking center stage are the Angels, a six-member model group that counts Heidi Klum, Tyra Banks and Gisele Bündchen among its alumni and Adriana Lima and Alessandra Ambrosio in its current ranks. It's one of the most coveted gigs in the business, as it not only pays well, but can launch a model's career to new heights.

"It's the best job in the world," she says. "I've met some of my best friends in the world working for Victoria's Secret. When we go on trips together the atmosphere is like being on vacation with your family, and we all keep in touch when we're not working. They embrace us growing together and that's unparalleled to any other career you can follow as a

fashion model."

The family environment is the perfect fit for 23-year-old Heatherton. Born as Erin Heather Bubley to a close-knit Jewisi family in Skokie, she grew up a selfdescribed "nerd" who competed in science fairs and played basketball for Niles North High School. But her life took a major detour when she was discovered while visiting Florida with a friend her junior year. She soon signed with Marilyn Agency, moved to New York City and since then she's appeared in Marie Claire, Italian Vogue, British GQ and British Elle and walked the runway for some of the biggest designers in the business, including Diane Von Furstenberg, Oscar de la Renta and Marc Jacobs. But while getting glammed up for magazine covers and runway shows is fun, Heatherton relishes the way she can embrace her down-home





personality as an Angel.

"They've really been able to portray me as me," she says. "I'm different from the other girls. I'm not from Brazil. I'm a home girl; I grew up playing sports. And they've allowed me to be comfortable in that space and just have a casual, cool sexiness." It also means that her anti-glam style is celebrated, not altered. She favors great-fitting jeans, boots and floral dresses (she calls it "grandma grunge") and takes a minimalist approach to beauty. "It's not about makeup," says Heatherton. "It's about having great skin and really healthy hair. You can put in a curl or put on a lip color or mascara, but the important thing is that the health of your skin and hair is shining through. It's the most beautiful thing a woman [can do]."

While she spends the year jetting around the world for photo shoots, commercial spots and runway shows, the last few months of the year are centered around the Victoria's Secret's holiday

show, a super-sized event that combines a lingerie runway presentation with a killer concert. It's hands-down Heatherton's favorite gig of the year. "It's like a combination of Christmas and my birthday," she says. "It's a team sport. We all get ready together, we're all rooting for each other, we want everyone to do well. It's so much fun." This year's installment is set to outdo the rest, with six runway segments and performances by Bruno Mars, Justin Bieber and Rihanna. "Her

energy on stage was so powerful," says Heatherton of the singer. "She inspired so much energy in the show and pushed us to really bring it."

After wrapping up the show, the newly single Heatherton will spend the holidays traveling to visit friends and fellow angels, including best friend Lily Aldridge (Heatherton is godmother to her daughter). She'll also channel her energy into philanthropic projects: She works heavily with the Global Poverty Project, and in September she helped produce the Global Citizen Festival, a concert to combat poverty held in Central Park that attracted 60,000 attendees.

While she won't be swinging back through Chicago over the holidays, she does travel back to see her family and friends whenever possible. "I love being in Chicago," says Heatherton, fresh off a trip home for Thanksgiving where she hit only the homiest haunts, like Second City, Flat Top Grill and Caffeine coffee shop in Evanston. She also meets up with friends for a drink or two. "Tommy Nevin's [1454 Sherman, Evanston] is a great place to hang out and run into people you went to school with — they just don't have spots like that in New York."

And a girl like Erin could only come from Chicago.



Getting ready backstage.

REVVING FOR THE RUNWAY

As the clock ticks toward the big fashion show, Heatherton tweaks her routine to ensure she's in top form.

One Month to Go: "I work out all year for the show, but the weeks before you really start picking it up," she says. To keep in stellar shape she mixes running with Pilates and yoga.



One Week to Go: Heatherton takes her workouts down a notch to rest her body, but keeps nimble with yoga. She drinks a lot of water and gets enough sleep.

One Day to Go: "It's really about enjoying the moment. You're already ready, so you don't want to get too caught up in trying to change yourself." To chill out, Heatherton takes a bath with Epsom salts, lights a candle and listens to good music. On



Kings of Leon, Led Zeppelin and George Harrison (left).

One Minute to Go: "I don't get nervous

anymore because it's so much fun," she says. "The short amount of time I'm out on the runway is like going on a rollercoaster. It's such a happy, exciting feeling. I'm more like a racehorse ready to go - I just want to get out there."

Behind Design

A pair of local collectors open up their respective jewelry boxes to reveal the pieces that got them hooked — and what keeps them coming back for more

BY JOURDAN FAIRCHILD

LAURIE DAVIS

t's addictive, like a drug," admits Laurie Davis of her obsession for collecting costume jewelry. Lucky for her, she can get her fix while making a living as the owner of Lulu's at the Belle Kay, a high-end vintage shop in North Center. To fill the racks in her elegant boutique, Davis has spent the past 10 years traveling the world spotting top-notch pieces to sell alongside luxurious fur coats and couture gowns.

How did she develop such a keen eye for accessories? An entire lifetime of admiration. Influenced by her half-Italian and half-Spanish heritage, Davis began receiving gifts of gold jewelry at birth. And when her father, an international businessman, returned home from trips, he'd have charms for his daughters' bracelets and jewelry for his wife. But Davis's love for jewelry jumped up a notch while the family was living in Mexico for four months, and a 16-year-old Davis spied a sterling silver bracelet that made her heart skip a beat. That stunning piece — along with at least 250 others — make up her current personal collection, which fills rows of custombuilt shelves in her dressing room at home.

"These days, it takes a lot to rock my world," says Davis, who's partial to designers such as Selro, Napier and Ciner. "But unless you own the crown jewels or you're Elizabeth Taylor, fine jewelry cannot do what this stuff can do," she says. "Why would I want to wear some 'twinkie' diamond necklace when I could put on something extraordinary?"

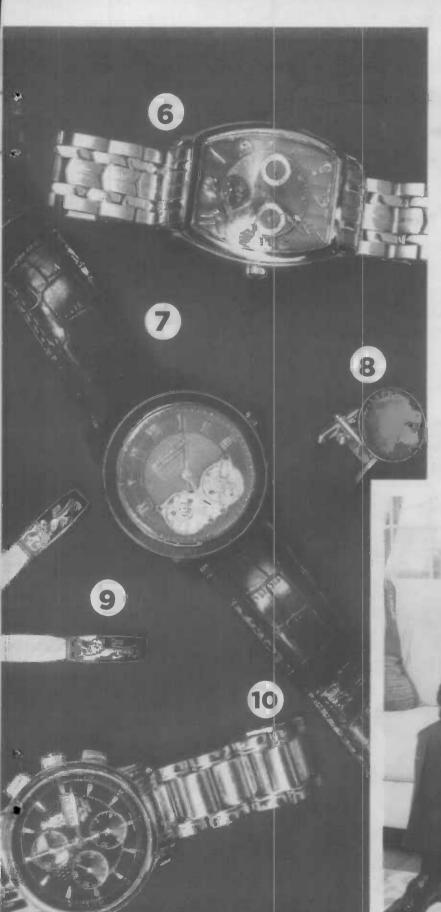
Davis does admit that the bigger-is-better mentality can be a bit intimidating at first. Years ago, a woman came into the shop and declared that costume jewelry just "wasn't her." But she wanted to branch out, so Davis sold her a chunky bracelet. The customer wore the bracelet while dining at Gibsons Bar & Steakhouse a few days later, and at least five people paid her compliments. "That was her turning point," Davis says, "and



Laurie Davis inside her home closet.

she never looked back."

Davis and her team rotate the collection according to season, displaying the baubles based on color along a table near the register. "To me, these are pieces of art, and I don't ever tire of looking at them," she says. As for how and where she finds her treasures? "I'd have to kill you if I told you," she says with a wink.



Davis' Collection

1. Napier: "This comes from one of the oldest manufacturers in jewelry. When I saw this and put it on, it just felt right."

2. Richard Kerr: "They're very classic. They give the right amount of punch to an outfit."

3. Iradj Moini: "This bird is a work of art. I've worn it once to a private preview of Elizabeth Taylor's jewelry auction,"

4. Iradj Moini: "I have a penchant for square rings. I'm very attracted to green and love this stone. It's very important looking, isn't it?"

5. Iradj Moini: "I love shell jewelry; there is something very organic about it."

Levy's Collection

6. Gevril: "This is a limited edition, No. 13 out of 500 made, and the first nice watch I bought for myself."

7. Stührling Original: "I wear this a lot, It's not too fancy or gaudy; it's easy on the eyes."

8. Red cufflinks: "They're slightly reflective. I can't figure out what it was, but it looks like a coin, which is interesting."

9. Black and white cufflinks: "My brothers got these for me at Haberdash [611 N. State]. My name means 'son of a lion' in Hebrew, which you can see on the cuffs, and they're two sided so you can pick which ones you want to wear. They've turned out to be my good luck cufflinks so I wear them for special occasions."

10. Stanley Cup watch: "Some people have their rings from the Stanley Cup, but some of the staff received watches. If you look on the back it says 'Ari Levy.' Nobody else has. it."

ri Levy doesn't have much time on his hands. He's the co-CEO of Engaged Health Solutions, a team doctor for the Chicago Blackhawks, a husband and father to a 1-year-old daughter. So it's a good thing he wears a watch to keep him on track. In fact, Levy owns a handful of fine timepieces, plus a growing collection of cufflinks.

And while he claims to be more of a consumer than a connoisseur, his taste reflects sophistication far beyond his 33 years.

Born to Israeli immigrants, Levy was exposed to the glitzy world on Wabash Avenue as a young boy, thanks to his father's best friend, Israel Levy, a heavy hitter in Chicago's diamond district. "Men in [their] generation showed their affluence by wearing a Rolex and gold jewelry," Levy says. At 14, Levy received his own Movado, which had a classic leather strap and a flat face. "I was fascinated by the fact that something with such small parts could be handcrafted to run forever," he says.

Levy's obsession grew with the purchase of a limited-edition Gevril, a Swiss luxury brand, and then next, a Rothenschild from Germany. "You'll see young guys all wearing Panerai and Baume & Mercier," he says, "but I like to spend time searching for something different." Levy trolls online sites such as Watchxl.com, compares notes with other collectors and relies on local jewelry boutique Marshall Pierce to get his finds appraised. In 2010, when the Blackhawks team received rings for winning the Stanley Cup, Levy was gifted with a more fitting piece: a custom Swiss watch engraved with his name.

When it comes to finding cufflinks, he's adopted a more laid-back approach. "They're much easier to buy on the fly," Levy says. But for the most part, each pair still tells a story. Take the set his brothers gave him five years ago, featuring a lion design in reference to his name (Ari is Hebrew for lion). Ask Levy what his dream piece of jewelry would be, and he'll say with a sigh "Jaeger-LeCoultre," the iconic — and incredibly pricey —Swiss brand. "But, until then, I've got a daughter I need to put through college." Who says you can't dream big?

style | TRENDING NOW

Graff: Bombe Collection sapphire and diamond earrings, price available upon request, 103 E. Oak; *Graffdiamonds.com*

"Glowing with the colors of the winter night sky."

Marchesa: Parfum d'Extase, \$85, Sephora, 520 N. Michigan; *Sephora.com*

"Looks like rock crystal in person ... gorgeous."

Emitations: Zoelle's pink elephant cocktail ring, \$416; *Emitations.com*

"This pink and yellow diamond elephant cocktail ring brings out my inner Auntie Mame — perfectly whimsical when you need a little Christmas spirit."

The season to SPARKIE

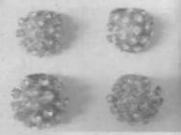
Guest editor and jewelry collector Whitney Lasky gives us her picks for the hottest ways to shine

Anthropologie:
Pearled mercury
collar, \$58, 111 E.
Chicago;
Anthropologie.com

"Takes a simple black cocktail dress to evening elegant — I'd love it with a T-shirt and jeans, too!"

Cartier: Tank Anglaise, medium model, \$47,800, 630 N. Michigan; Cartier.com

"'50 Shades of Grey' has nothing on Cartier. Check out the film 'L'Odyssée de Cartier for the absolute ho day fantasy. A timepiece in my stocking wouldn't hurt either! These scream joyea noel forever."



Sequin: Beaded ring, \$48, 84. W. Armitage; Sequin-nyc.com

"Sleigh bells ring, are you wearin' them? Beaded '60s-inspired rings remind me of a cluster of Italian lights — they would make fabu napkin rings and favors for a New Year's Eve dinner party."

Bulgari: Serpenti double coil ring in 18-karat pink gold with rubellite and full pavé diamonds, \$23,600, 909 N. Michigan; Us.bulgari.com

"Yes, I ate the apple and I am damn proud of it!"



Kate Spade: Kaleidoball encrusted bangle, \$198, 56 E. Oak; *Katespade.com*

"Reminds me of the lights down Michigan Avenue."

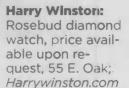
TRENDING NOW | style

J.Crew: Lulu Frost for J.Crew tangerine resin petal necklace, \$278, 900 N. Michigan; Jcrew.com

"Baby, it's cold outside! Layer J.Crew chunky statement necklaces for optimum warmth."

Lester Lampert Vintage diamond and emerald 1920s necklace, \$165,000, 57 E. Oak; Lesterlampert.com

"Nothing says you've been a little bit naughty like this piece from the Prohibition era."



"Stainless and diamond watch for your everyday eyewear." Dana Rebecca Designs: Courtney Lauren earrings,

\$3,960 at Marshall Pierce & Co., 335 N. Michigan; Danarebeccadesigns.com

"Every time a bell rings an angel gets their wings! Oneof-a-kind tourmaline earrings set in 14-karat yellow gold."





ALYCIA BURGNER & ERIK WHITE

rik White, digital director at CBS, first laid eyes on Alycia Burgner, an event coordinator at Bottleneck Management, in 2008 in the lobby of the building where they both worked. For two years he kept his casual crush quiet until his friends ran into Burgner at a local bar — and put in a call to White. On his drive home to the suburbs White decided to take a chance, turned around and headed back to the city where his friends made the introduction and the two chatted the night away. Within a year the couple was engaged, and they tied the knot on Sept. 22 at the J.W. Marriot with 270 guests in attendance. At the reception, the couples' parents took to the dance floor for their own song to honor their long marriages — Burgner's parents celebrated 30 years a few days before the wedding and White's parent's celebrated 39 years a few months prior — and wish the newlyweds just as many years of happiness. The couple said it was a stand-out moment they'll never forget. "To have them all there was truly amazing," says Burgner. In fitting tribute to the way they met, guests partied the night away at Old Town Pour House, one of the bars owned by Burgner's employer, and finished the weekend festivities off with a close-knit Sunday brunch. -Katerina Bizios

CHEERS!



We're thrilled for local jewelry designer Meredith Marks, whose Melissa stud earrings were featured in the annual "Oprah's Favorite Things" issue of O Magazine.

Congratulations to 13th District State Sen. Kwame Y. Raoul - also a lawyer at Quarles & Brady - who was recently honored by the African American Alumni Association at the Illinois Institute



of Technology for his commitment to civic engagement.



Kudos to friend-of-Splash Catie Keogh, who won a Midwest Emmy as host of "24/7 Secrets of the City" on WMAQ-Channel 5. The show airs on Saturday nights at 12:30 a.m.

Send us your cheers at Splash@ suntimes.com

Alycia Burgner and

Erik White I PHOTOS

. Catching breakfast



GT Fish & Oyster baits us with an innovative seafood-based brunch

BY MOLLY EACH

hen it comes to dining out, few things inspire as much excitement as the news that an adored chef is launching a brunch menu. So when award-winning chef Giuseppe Tentori began serving up brunch at his restaurant GT Fish & Oyster, which was recently awarded the 2012

Bib Gourmand, local foodies came in waves — and social media exploded, with photos of shrimp and grits, French toast and crab Benedict peppering the Twitterverse.

In sync with Tentori's dinner dishes, the brunch is a whirl of flavor pairings that keep seafood at the center. But while GT's dinner menu is designed for small plates sharing, Tentori has taken a more traditional entrée ap-





proach to brunch. Even so, it will be hard not to reach over and nab a bite from your companion with dishes like creamy smoked whitefish quiche (\$12) served with a frisée and radish salad, or biscuits and lobster gravy (\$15) atop a lobster and potato hash. For brunchers with a more land-based palate, there are offerings, too. The chilaquiles (\$12) are topped with tender duck, and the open faced pork belly sandwich (\$12) takes the BLT concept to new heights, with lettuce, tomato, avocado and burrata cheese. Sweet items come courtesy of lauded pastry chef Sarah Jordan, and range from simple, fluffy pancakes with apples and maple syrup (\$10) to French toast with yuzu curd and mascarpone cheese (\$11). Of course, no brunch is complete without a boozy beverage: Sip on a house-made Bloody Mary (\$11) — kick it up a notch with a shot of Weller Bourbon instead of vodka — or a white peach bellini (\$9).

And as if GT's weekend offerings couldn't get any more delicious, we were thrilled to discover that the restaurant takes reservations — a saving grace when family comes to town.

531 N. Wells, (312) 929-3501, Gtoyster.com

Brunch, Ahoy!



If you're unwilling to change out of your pajamas and schlepp over to GT Fish & Oyster for their fantastic seafood brunch, try ordering-in from one of these restaurants – hand-picked by GrubHub staffers for their seafood-focused breakfast fare.

Ann Sather

909 W. Belmont Ave.

A GrubHub favorite at Ann Sather is the Cajun Crab Cake Benedict. It comes with two sides, so give the Hash Browns and their famous Cinnamon Roll a try.

The Bourgeois Pig

738 W. Fullerton Ave.

The Bagel and Lox is a seafood breakfast staple, and The Bourgeois Pig does the 'old reliable' well with fresh Nova Smoked Salmon.

E. Leaven Food Company

54 E. Ontario St.

If you're craving a more unique take on smoked salmon for breakfast, try E. Leaven's Lox, Eggs, Onion and Sour Cream scramble served with house potatoes and half a bagel.

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For a full seafood breakfast spread, try the Trio Plate at Steve's Deli – complete with cured nova lox, white fish salad, sable and all the fixings.



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For individualists, the way to go may be a place with a distinct point of view

BY LISA SKOLNIK

ccording to conventional real estate wisdom, a place should be "pristine" when it goes on the market. Decoded, that means devoid of character and color so buyers can visualize their own possessions in the place. Yet it's not hard to make the case that noted Chicago architect Andrew Rebori, best known for his art moderne landmark Fisher Studio Houses at 1209 N. State and patrician high-rise at 1325 N. Astor, wouldn't approve of the "white out" approach at the 1923 neoclassical co-op he designed at 50 W. Schiller. The original clients were a group of tony Lake Foresters "who wanted extraordinary pied-à-terres for their intown excursions," notes Koenig & Strey broker Helen Beller (773-314-3444; Hbeller@koenigstrey. com). To meet their high standards, Rebori made every unit a duplex complete with high ceilings, different square footage and a unique layout. Clearly the owners of 2H, a 1,500-square-foot two-bedroom two-bathroom, down to \$489,000 from \$595,000, take such provenance seriously. They've done a remarkable job giving the unit an authentic Parisian jazz-age demeanor "that looks even better in person," says Beller. Not surprisingly, the owners behind this décor are design stars in their own right: It's Mark and Linda Heister, the husband-and-wife duo who dressed socialites for years under the clothing label Mark Heister Designs.

CHARISMATIC ABODES

Intrigued by the idea of a home with built-in personality? Here are a few more market options that fit the bill.

• 3400 N. Lake Shore, Unit GB: a three-bedroom, three-bathroom condo that was part of the lobby of this prewar beaux-arts building. It has 13-foot-high beamed and arched ceilings, and exquisite millwork throughout for \$499,000. Contact Prudential Rubloff broker **Brad Lippitz**, (773) 230-5100.

 928 N. Howe, Unit 928: a twobedroom, two-bathroom town house loaded with thoughtful decorative touches that enhance its contemporary design for \$379,000. Contact Baird & Warner



broker Shella Troy, (312) 560-6321.

•351 W. Dickens, Unit 4E: a twobedroom, two-bathroom condo with 16-foot ceilings, exposed brick walls, two fireplaces and a lofted crow's nest right in the middle of the living room for \$499,000. Contact Baird & Warner broker **Maria Boncza**, (312) 833-3233.

ACCEPT THE MANTEL Add instant panache to a room with the Sarreid Coromandel mantel box, a hand-carved, gilded box with a painted interior. It's designed to grace a fireplace, but is classic enough to go anywhere. It measures 24¼ inches wide, 5¼ inches deep and 4¼ inches high. \$359 at Walter E. Smithe, Smithe.com.



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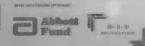
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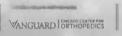
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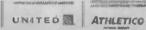
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Wondering about that wandering eye

Jenny reveals the secret weapon against ogling

ear Jenny: I have insecurities like anyone else, but I find it so hard to be a girl. There is so much competition! Especially being in a relationship with a red-blooded, ogling man. How do you have confidence when your man is looking at everyone else who walks by? What can I do so that all of these pretty girls don't make me feel like an ugly duckling? Please give me some of your confidence tips!

Jenny says: Well, I have an answer for you, but it's certainly not easy due to the fact that this is one of life's biggest lessons. I suffered for years from what I named "Why-can't-my-man-think-I'm-the-hottest-thing-in-the-world-and-only-lookat-me?" syndrome.

Let me start with the obvious: It's because they are men. There's no doubt they are wired differently. Example: My son, Evan, said to me, "I don't understand why I can't have multiple girlfriends; there is just so much to love that's different in each one of them." He is 10 years old. I rest my case. It's embedded in their genetic code to spread their seed across the kingdom.

Due to the fact that it's not humanly possible to control your man's thoughts, you are left with only one choice: Change you. OK, I know, you just dryheaved a little, but I swear to you that I suffered greatly from this problem and I have cured myself of this syndrome. I'm going to tell you how.

In my blog (Splash.suntimes.com) I keep mentioning this guru named Byron Katie. This bitch has changed my life. She wrote a book called I Need Your Love - Is That True? It hands down shifted my thinking to make me realize life's most important lesson, which is that it's not my partner's job to think I'm awesome. It's mine.

You are putting so much energy into worrying about what he is thinking that I want you to imagine what would happen if you unplugged that cord and plugged it into loving you and feeling confident about yourself. I'll tell you what will happen: In no time you will not give a rat's ass whose ass your man is looking at. I promise.

Let me finish by telling you this: After hanging around some of the most physically beautiful women in the world, time and again, I've noticed men are sexually attracted to the most confident, not the most beautiful. So go get Katie's book, along with some peace of mind, and the discovery that your own beauty awaits you!

> Send questions to askienny @suntimes.com



DISPATCHES FROM OUR CHICAGOAN IN HOLLYWOOD, LIZ CROKIN

Ben & Kristen on-set chemistry is 'electric'

reported in a recent column that Ben Affleck and Kristen Stewart were out on a dinner date discussing their upcoming film project, "Focus." I wrote that I wouldn't be surprised if a romance blossomed between the two off set, because let's face it, both stars are notorious for hooking up with their co-stars. The movie's script has now been leaked, and it looks like Ben and Kristen are slated to share some steamy love scenes. According to reports, Ben will play a veteran grifter who takes an attractive young woman, played by Kristen, under his wing. Kristen has a nude scene and the two have hot makeup sex after their characters get into an explosive

Another racy scene reads as follows: "Looking up at the man in front of her, the young woman whispers, 'Just kiss me.' He lowers his lips to hers, her back pressed against the hotel room door. After fumbling for the lock, the pair stumble through the hallway to the bedroom, never breaking their embrace.

They fall onto the bed in a tangle of limbs."

I hear that the chemistry between Kristen and Ben is electric. "If you saw them together and didn't know who they were, you would definitely think that they were a couple,"

my source said. One thing is certain: The sparks will be flying between the sheets for these two actors - on set at least.

Jay Cutler and

Kristin Cavallari

Jay's secret weapon

As the saying goes, what a difference a year makes, and it



Ben Affleck and Kristen Stewart share racy love scenes in the upcoming "Focus."

couldn't ring truer for Jay Cutler. Sources tell me that Jay's stable family life with fiancée Kristin Cavallari and their first child, Camden Jack (born Aug. 8), has helped the Bears quarterback on and off the field.

"Having a stable family life at home and the joy of a newborn baby boy has been therapeutic for Jay," a source said. "Their lifestyle has changed for the better. Their lives are low key

now and focused around the baby."

That hasn't always been the case for Kristen and Jay. Before the couple temporarily split up in July 2011, they were fighting all the time. "They would go out and party super late all the time and end up getting into

huge screaming matches," the source said. "Their tumultuous relationship affected Jay's performance on the field. However, the baby has brought tranquility to their relationship and now they rarely go out and party as. much. They seem very happy together."

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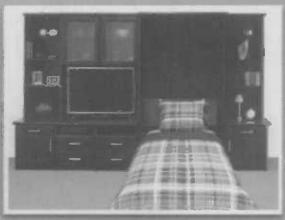
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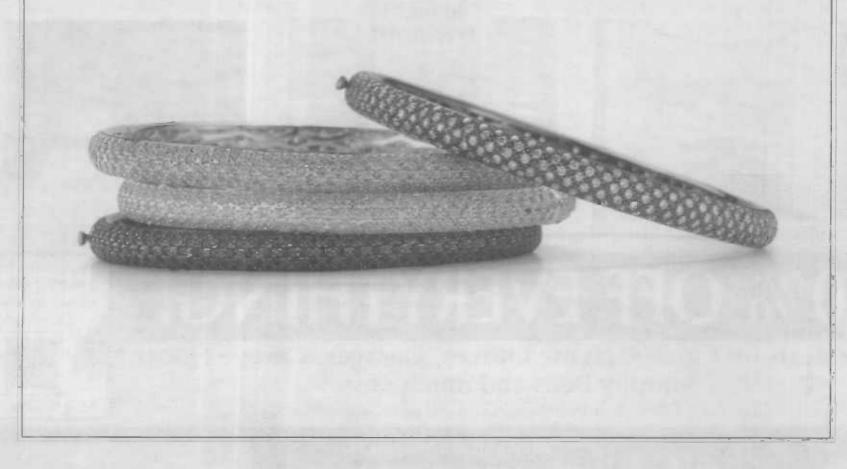
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Luxury, lifestyle, nature make Prairie Park a favorite



Natural lifestyle: Fountains, native plantings and Prairiestyle architecture combine to make Prairie Park in Wheeling a special place to live. The condo community also includes a clubhouse with indoor pool, exercise room, party room with kitchen, and an expansive terrace with views of a lake with fountains. Twelve distinct floor plans are offered ranging from 1,289 to 2,254 square feet, with one to three bedrooms. Homes of Prairie Park are priced from \$229,900 to \$455,000, but developer Smith Family Construction is offering bonuses and discounts on second parking spaces, upgrades and association fees. I SUPPLIED PHOTO

See the full story in the Today's Homes section inside

NEW CRASH TEST

'Small overlap' test could save 10,000 motorists

For Sun-Times Media

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has added a new frontal crash test to its list. It's the new, more severe "small overlap" test, designed to replicate what happens when the front corner of a vehicle collides with another vehicle or an object such as a tree or a utility pole.

This test is unlike any the institute - or the federal government's National **Highway Traffic Safety** Administration — has used before, although NHTSA has been studying such a test.

While most automakers have been routinely getting the insurance institute's highest rating of good on current tests, it did not happen this time when the agency, financed by the insurance industry, conducted the new test on 11 midsize luxury and near-luxury vehicles. Luxury cars were chosen for the small overlap test because they are generally the first available with all the advanced safety technologies.

Only two of the 11 (all 2012 models) received the coveted good rating: the Acura TL and Volvo S60.

One, the Infiniti G, was

BY CHERYL JENSEN rated acceptable. Four were rated marginal; they were the Acura TSX, BMW 3 Series, Lincoln MKZ and Volkswagen CC. Four models receiving the lowest rating of poor were the Audi A4, Lexus ES 350, Lexus IS 250/350 and Mercedes-Benz C-Class.

> Interestingly, all of these vehicles had received a good rating in the frontal offset crash test, which the institute has been conducting since 1995. That test involves 40 percent of a vehicle's total width striking a barrier on the driver's side at 40 mph. It will now be called a "moderate overlap" frontal test.

The small overlap frontal test involves 25 percent of a vehicle's front end striking a 5-foot-tall rigid barrier on the driver's side at 40 mph.

The test is trying to determine why 10,000 people still die each year in frontal crashes, despite seat belts, airbags and vehicles that get top ratings in current frontal crash tests.

A 2009 institute study of newer vehicles that got good frontal crash test ratings found that these small overlap type crashes accounted for approximately 20 to 25 percent of these fatalities.

In the new test, the edge

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of a vehicle hits a barrier at the inside corner of the headlights. It misses the main crush zone structures that help manage crash energy and reduce the forces on the occupant compartment. These structures are located in the middle 50 percent of the car, which is where the *current frontal crash test hits.

In this new test, the crash forces are concentrated on the front wheel, suspension and firewall, the partition between the engine and passenger compartment.

This means that the wheel can be forced back into the foot well, causing more intrusion into the interior and resulting in serious leg and foot injuries.

Also, when the vehicle hits the barrier it rotates, moving sideways and away from it. The dummy

heads toward the A pillar, the pillar that supports the windshield, and the A pillar heads toward the dummy.

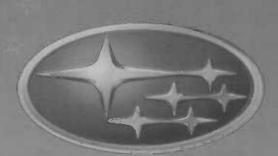
In some cases the airbag doesn't protect the dummy because the steering wheel. which houses the driver airbag, moves so far to the right the airbag misses the dummy. Even if a side curtain airbag is set to deploy in a frontal crash, it may not extend far enough forward to provide head protection. In this case, the head of the test dummy falls in between the two airbags.

In the past, the power of bad publicity from doing poorly in insurance institute tests has prompted automakers to make, the changes necessary to get a good rating. The good news is the same thing is likely to occur with this new round of crash test studies.



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Comprising four midrise buildings artfully arranged around eighteen landscape acres and a large lake, Prairie Park offers a choice of views and locations.

"Buyers in our 115 Building will receive a second indoor parking space, a \$20,000 value, plus a \$15,000 credit towards upgrades and a year of free association fees," said Jamie Smith of Smith Family Construction, builder of Prairie Park. "In the other buildings, a \$10,000 credit toward upgrades is currently being offered."

Buyers also choose from twelve distinct floor plans, ranging from 1,289 to 2,254 square feet, with one to three bedrooms. All offer bright, open living areas and large expanses of windows in buildings that are beautifully designed in a sophisticated prairie style. Each home includes a private terrace with gas line for outdoor grilling. Stylish kitchens include top-of-the-line appliances and



Natural lifestyle: Fountains, native plantings and Prairie-style architecture combine to make Prairie Park in Wheeling a special place to live. The condo community also includes a clubhouse with indoor pool, exercise room, party room with kitchen, and an expansive terrace with views of a lake with fountains. I SUPPLIED PHOTO

fixtures, and nearly three feet of insulation between floors ensure peace and quiet.

"In many of our plans, such as the Kenilworth, the master bedroom and the secondary bedroom are on opposite sides of the home, providing maximum privacy for family members and guests," Smith said.

The 1,573-square-foot Kenilworth has

two bedrooms and two baths, including a luxurious master suite with multiple closets and a bath with dual sinks and separate shower and tub.

Both the living/dining room and the open kitchen are exceptionally spacious, and the balcony is large enough for al fresco dining. A convenient storage space holds outdoor accessories in the off season.

With three bedrooms and two baths, the 2,254-square-foot Falling Water is popular among empty-nesters, according to Smith.

"The large master bedroom and bath, the 3rd bedroom which can be used as a den, the separate breakfast area, the double-size balcony ... these are

SEE PRAIRIE PARK, PAGE 3



Buyers at Lake Chapin Shores share words of wisdom about custom luxury

Lake Chapin Shores
property owners have some
advice for families considering a second home in the
Midwest: if you are looking
for someplace special, this
could be it.

Lake Chapin Shores is a quiet community of waterfront and woodland homes located on a 600-acre allsports lake, just 90 minutes from downtown Chicago in southwest Michigan, Each homeowner selected their homesite and one of 12 different models as the foundation for their vision. They then worked with the builder to customize their home for maximum benefit from the open space and spectacular views to meet their individual needs and lifestyle require-

Here's a sampling of what they had to say about their personal experiences building their dream home at Lake Chapin Shores.

(A) 15255 S. 94th Ave, Orland Park, IL 60462



Customized life: Depending on lifestyle, home buyers at Lake Chapin Shores can choose hilltop, woodland or lakeside homesites. In any case, they have access to ther 600-acre all-sports lake, community features and the amenities of surrounding southwest Michigan. 1 SUPPLIED PHOTO

"We chose a hilltop setting overlooking Lake Chapin and the builder helped us take complete advantage of the expansive views of lake and woods by designing the home with lots of large windows and wraparound

deck space," said owners
Barb and Ken, who live high
on the hill. "Wherever we are
in the home, we can see the
colors and seasonal be auty
that surrounds us here. It's
peaceful. We're having the
best time together in this
relaxed setting."

Their advice: "Find a winning location, one that makes you comfortable and that you are proud to share with family and friends. For us, it was the combination of water access and views at Lake Chapin Shores that won us over."

There there are Carole and

Gary, who chose a homesite on the shore.

"We enjoy views of the water on three different levels, with enough indoor and outdoor space to accommodate our large family and entertain comfortably. We worked with the builder on a regular basis to make adjustments that we knew would work well, but couldn't have known until we began building."

The builder, Greg Fenner of Fenner Homes, was thoughtful about his response to their requests, applying his 30-plus years of construction knowledge to their desire for open spaces within a private setting

Their advice: "Make sure you're working with a builder who listens to your needs and ideas and maintains tight communication throughout the building process. It is so critical to the finished product and to the final cost of your project."

Betsy and Paul chose a woodland getaway.

"We appreciate quiet privacy, surrounded by mature trees, and living in a community where we can readily socialize with other couples and families, just by walking down the road to the lake or pool. The views from every

room are absolutely rejuvenating and make the home more inviting for everyone who visits."

Their advice: "Do your homework on the community and surrounding area to make sure it's a place that offers what you want in terms of social setting, access to activities that interest you and easy proximity to the shopping and services you'll need. We chose Lake Chapin Shores because it is a quiet country setting with all of the advantages and amenities of the city."

A lakeside hill site was chosen by Cheryl and Gary.

"Being on top of a hill overlooking the lake and the pool, just steps down to the gazebo and private dock, and having several levels of living space make our home the setting for non-stop family fun. We live very busy business lives, so our lakeside home gives us a chance to exhale and take in the breathtaking beauty of the lake. And our small children seem to be just as happy playing at the heated pool."

Their advice: "Make a list of all of the wants and needs you have for your perfect family getaway and choose a setting where you can work with the developer and the builder to make it happen. At Lake Chapin Shores, we were impressed by the cooperation, communication and respect for our wishes we experienced through the entire process."

Homes at Lake Chapin Shores are built to accommodate any size family, ranging from 1,300 to 3,200 square feet of contemporary living space (not including decks and porches). Homeowners enjoy boating and water sports, nearby golf and vineyards, antique shops and quaint small communities and great restaurants as well as the convenience of community services, including year-round maintenance of a heated pool, docks and roadways, common area landscaping and a concierge option to prepare the home and/or boat for each visit or special event.

Visit the Website at www. Lake Chapin Shores.com for a look at each of 12 model home options, photos and video of Lake Chapin Shores living or call 888-TO-MICH-IGAN (888-866-4244) for an appointment to tour the available model home and take an up-close look at the Lake Chapin Shores community.

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'474' condos offer stellar views, location

In today's real estate market, condominiums generally come as they are. New construction virtually stopped in 2008 and very few new condominiums have entered the market. In most residential buildings, the developer completed the interiors of the unsold homes with basic, standard finishes.

The ability to customize a home for a new buyer in an existing building is a rare opportunity. This benefit was generally only available for buyers during the pre-construction phase of the development.

One developer of a high rise in the Streeterville

neighborhood understood the wants and needs of condominium buyers and has continued to allow customization of the homes that are currently on the market. The development is 474 North Lake Shore Drive, commonly known as "474."

Buyers at 474 have the opportunity to choose from a variety of kitchen cabinets, granite countertops, hardwood flooring and stainless steel appliances to create homes that suit their tastes.

One option at 474 is residence 5108. This home on the southwest corner has three bedrooms, three bathrooms plus a spacious kitchen

and dining area. There are amazing views from every vista. All the boats in Monroe Harbor and the renowned architecture of the Museum Campus and Soldier Field can be seen from the master bedroom. The living room features a bird's eye view down the Chicago River, while the second and third bedrooms showcase the city skyline. With 1,590 square feet, 5108 is a spacious home and the price is definitely right at \$599,900.

With 493 out of 505 residences sold, 474 North Lake Shore Drive is 98 percent sold. The 12 remaining homes range from a 741-square-foot one-bedroom with spacious bedroom and walk-in closet to a three-bedroom penthouse that is over 2,000 square feet with three large walk-in closets and stunning skyline and lake views.

In addition to the beautiful interiors offered at 474, it is a full-amenity building. Amenities include a state-of-the art fitness center with professional equipment, an indoor pool, steam room and sauna.

The building also offers indoor and outdoor entertaining options on the 16th floor sundeck. An indoor 1,200-square-foot party room and catering kitchen, opens out to the impressively furnished sundeck with gas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

grills and awe-inspiring views. This entertainment suite is the perfect place to host friends all year round.

474 is a highly desirable development at the intersection of Lake Shore Drive and Illinois Street. The building sits just west of Navy Pier, allowing for stunning views:of the lake and the city.

The development is located in the heart of Streeterville. The neighborhood includes some of Chicago's best restaurants. Residents can walk from 474 to a breakfast hotspot like Yolk, lunch at RL or dinner at Maison overlooking Lakeshore East Park. For gourmet groceries, Fox and Obel is located on the same block and worldrenowned shopping on the Magnificent Mile is minutes away. Nearby are a 21-screen AMC theater and Chicago

Shakespeare Theatre on Navy Pier. The lakefront path, for biking or jogging, is across the street, while The Art Institute and other museums are in walking distance.

474 is also located near Millennium Park, where the very popular ice-skating rink recently opened for the season. People from around the world come to Chicago to experience all of the culture, which is always available to the fortunate residents of the downtown area.

The central location of the building is particularly attractive for commuting to work. There are many ways to get to multiple destinations in Chicago from Streeterville. The various bus routes and the "L" make public transportation a breeze. Access to the highways via Lake Shore Drive or through the north

side of downtown is also easy for those traveling to the suburbs or outside the center of

With the floor plan options still available, the ability to customize a new home and the unbeatable location in the Streeterville neighborhood, 474 is a great place to own a home, however since only a dozen residences remain, those interested should act quickly for the best selection.

The on-site sales center is open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. The prices start at \$299,900 for one-bedrooms, \$529,900 for two-bedrooms and \$599.900 for three-bedrooms and penthouses.

Call the sales center at (312) 245-7200 or visit the Website at www.474lsdcondo.com for additional information.

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PRAIRIE PARK I

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

all features that appeal to people who are downsizing from a single-family home."

When it comes to activities, Prairie Park offers still more choices, Residents can swim. exercise and meet their neighbors for parties and special events at the stylish clubhouse. They can stroll the landscaped grounds, enjoying the tranquil beauty

of the lake and the prairiestyle plantings of flowers and native grasses. Or they can enjoy the many shopping, dining and recreation choices - many within walking distance — that the Wheeling area has to offer.

The homes of Prairie Park are priced from \$229,900 to \$455,000.

To learn more, contact

Smith Family Construction at (847) 229-0100, or visit the on-site Information Center, located at 700 North Wolf Road in Wheeling, just south of the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road. The center is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

More information and floor plans are available on the Website at www.prairie parkatwheeling.com.

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www.PrairieParkatWheeling.com

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847-229-0100 Open 11am to 5pm Daily



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*Offers available for building 115 only, and is subject to change without notice. See Sales Associate for details?

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Choice of 12 floor plans with up to 3 bedrooms.

9' ceilings, 6' Andersen windows and 42" premium cabinets

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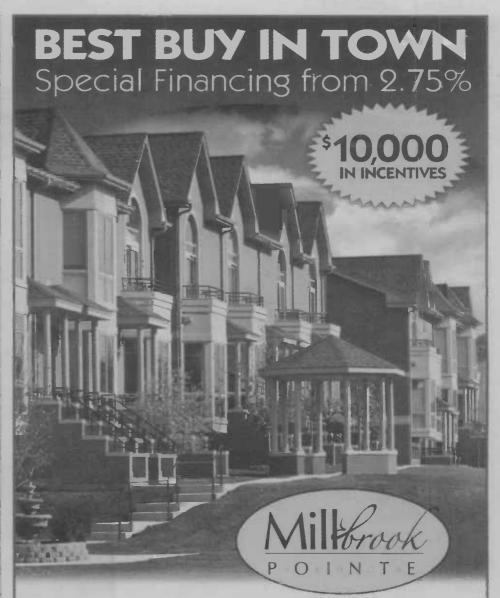
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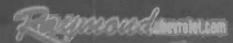


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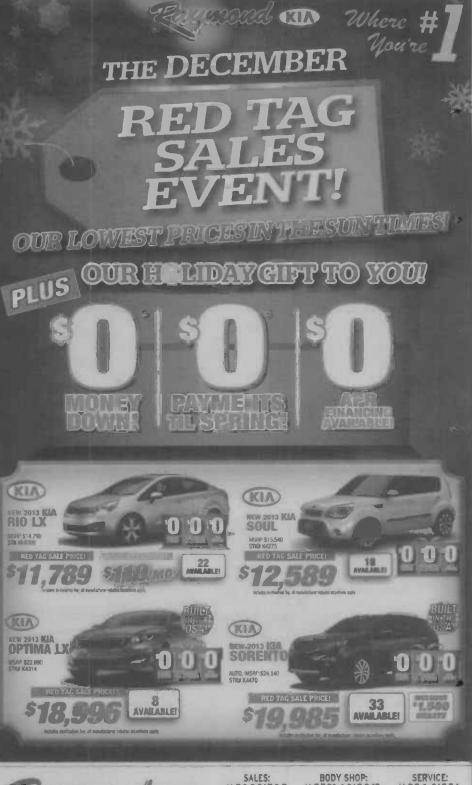
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by the Lira Ensemble takes place at 3 p.m. Dec. 9 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. Visit northshorecenter. org.

'A Christmas Carol'

will be peformed as a one-man show with music at 3 p.m. Dec. 9 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge. See stlukespr.org.

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Opera comes with dinner at La Tavola

BY LEE A. LITAS | Dining Columnist

Juan Carlos, Eddy and Mario Montiel insist they are just simple folks, proud of what they do.

The brothers, proprietors of four area eateries, are grateful for their success and say so. "When you open (a new business), you open with all your dreams and you don't know really how long it will take for people to get to know you and love you," explains oldest brother Juan Carlos.

The family's most recent baby, La Tavola in Niles, opened this spring and offers Italian, trattoria-style fare. "If you have ever been in a trattoria (you know that) it's noisy, full of life, full of ambience. The music is a bit loud and the food

is still gourmet but not as fancy, and it's moderately-priced and has a larger menu," said Juan Carlos.

While he and middle brother, Mario, are front-of-the-house, the youngest brother, Eddy, mans the kitchen. "Mario and I, we love to serve, we love to see people happy. That is our calling," said Juan Carlos. He stresses that Eddy's cooking comes from his heart. "He blends herbs and spices with such a delicate touch that it's very difficult not to understand that he enjoys what he does for a living."

Try Tavola's succulent filet mignon, cooked to order and finished with Béarnaise sauce, then topped with jumbo lump crab meat au gratin (\$27) and you'll agree.

Every Friday and Saturday at La Tavola, Chef Montiel emerges from his kitchen to treat guests to opera selections. No surprise he's been nicknamed "the singing

Patrons come from as far away as Park Ridge, Glencoe and Highland Park to soak up the atmosphere and enjoy the food and the value. "Here we give you a great portion for a fair price," said Montiel.

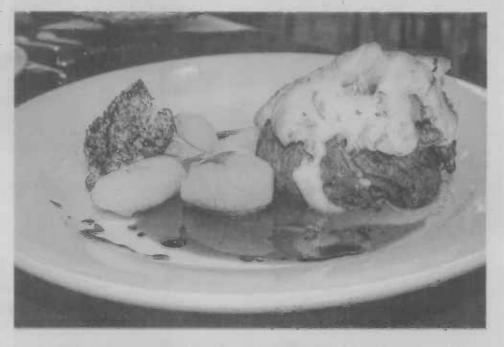
All the pasta is made in-house. Order the Gnocchi con Carne y Rapini and you get a plate filled with the soft potato mini-dumplings mingled with chunks of filet mignon, fresh spinach, garlic and splashed with olive oil (\$17).

Don't hesitate to go off-menu here.

Salmon Genovesse offers a moist filet of salmon topped with prawns and cherry tomatoes. It's drizzled with white wine, a touch of lemon, and a sprig of fresh basil adds a burst of flavor (\$21). It's a special, so just ask the chef and he'll be glad to make it for you.

"We try to give terrific food, great services and good atmosphere," said Montiel.

Follow Table Hopping on Facebook.



A standout dish is the succulent Filet Mignon alla Tavola finished with Bernaise sauce and topped with jumbo lump crab meat au gratin (\$27). | PHOTOS BY LEE A. LITAS-for Sun-



La Tavola's brain trust includes: veteran server Nick Montiel (top), Eddy Montiel, executive chef (bottom, from left), Juan Carlos Montiel and Mario Montiel, general managers.



All martinis are \$9 at La Tavola. Try the Pretty in Pink made with Malibu rum. a bit of Grand Marnier, cranberry and pineapple juices; or The Ultimate with Belvedere vodka, blue Curacao, Grand Marnier and a bit of orange juice; both created by mixologist Amanda Luikaart.



Penne alla Farcita is a mix of chicken chunks, pancetta and a white wine cream sauce with fresh tomatoes and spinach



Father, son share talent and a stage

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Andre' Teamer's relationship with his 13-yearold son Destin changes when the two actors are in a play together.

"When we're in rehearsal, I'm not 'Dad,'" Andre' said. "We're actually peers and we have to work together. I have to give him the same respect 1 give the other actors. It's not my place to tell him what to do."

Andre' and Destin share the stage for the second time in Theatre Seven of Chicago's world premiere of Carter W. Lewis' "American Storm," through Dec. 16.

The play is set in 1962 in a small Ohio town and centers around Weldon Downs, a racetrack where a prize thoroughbred has been discovered. It chronicles the struggle of the track workers when big business gets involved, changing the small town

Andre' plays Arthur Figgets, whom he described as a facilitator sent in by the government to assist in the merger of the racetrack and its new corporate sponsor. "I come in with the best of intentions, to work for the government." Andre' said, "but I slowly come to realize that business can be kind of dirty."

Destin plays Martin, "an outgoing and outspoken 12-year-old boy who really wants to share his knowledge with the world. He adds comedy to the play;" Destin said. "Martin is goofy, silly and mischievous."

Andre', who grew up in Evanston, first stepped on the stage when he was in fourth grade and was hooked. He was active in theater during his years at Evanston Township High School. A company member of MPAACT (Ma'at Production

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Destin Teamer and his dad. Andre' Teamer, in "American Storm."

Association of Afrikan Centered Theatre), Andre' has performed with numerous local theater companies.

Destin, an eighth-grader at North Shore Country Day School in Winnetka, has performed with Bowen Park Theatre and is cast as Mowgli in Diller Street Theatre's 2013 production of "The Jungle Book."

Destin particularly enjoys being in shows with his father. "It's really fun," Destin said, "because my dad is always there to give me some advice whenever I need it."

Andre' is impressed with Destin's professionalism. "He's really good at taking direction," he said. "He has really good instincts and makes interesting acting choices."



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Members of the Normennenes Singing Society of Chicago are holding their next concert/party in Northbrook Dec. 7.

Singing society seeks new members to carry on tradition

BY JOANNA BRODER | Contributor

It's not often a singing society stands the test of time for nearly 150 years.

But the all-male Normennenes Singing Society of Chicago — a chorus where most of the singers have roots in Norway — recently celebrated its 142nd anniversary.

"We're a continuous singing organization, in other words we never stop during the wars or the depression or anything else," Society President Thor Fjell said.

A group of Norwegian immigrants founded the Society in 1870. Normennenes means North men in Norwegian. "In Norway, all male choirs are a big, heavy, very old tradition," said 78-year-old Jerry Jensen, the society's membership chair who lives in Mount Prospect. Like most of the other 14 singers, Jensen has family ties to Norway. His grandparents emigrated from the country.

This kind of chorus in America is rare, Fjell noted. "Not too many ethnic choruses are around anymore because of lack of immigration." So it has become important to recruit new members. "We have a lot of fun at our choir and we're very strong and very serious about our

Normennenes Singing Society of Chicago concert/party

7 p.m. Dec. 7; cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 8 p.m.

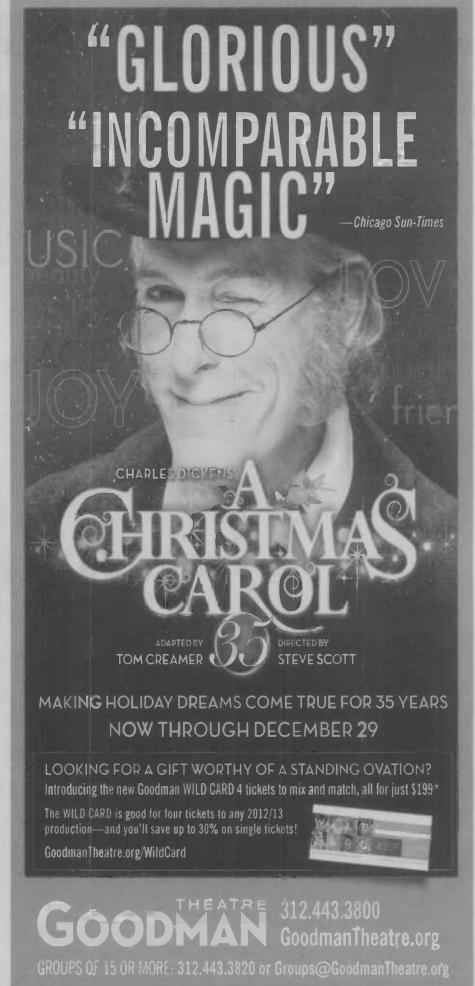
Allgauer's Restaurant, 2855 N. Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook

For reservations, call Hazel Peterson at (847) 675-2086 or visit www.norway-sings.org

heritage," said Jensen.

The society generally holds two to three big parties each year with a 45-minute concert followed by a dinner. The next one takes place Dec. 7 at Allgauer's Restaurant in Northbrook. The repertoire includes Norwegian folk songs and good old-fashioned American tunes.

The group tries to perform monthly, September through May, at nursing homes and churches. To join, you don't need to be Norwegian, no audition is required. You don't even need a singing background. "With people's time being so short, if they have an interest, we'll teach them," Fjell said.



Family Friendly



Concert to feature Hanukkah, Christmas songs

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Terran Doehrer thinks Holiday Music with Jutta and the Hi-Dukes is perfect family entertainment.

"The band is a family," said Doehrer, guitarist for the trio which includes his wife Jutta Distler on mandolin and their daughter Zoï on percussion. The Evanston residents will perform an eclectic

seasonal concert, 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9 at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave.

"We are presenting a blend of Hanukkah and Christmas music done through an ethnic lens." Doehrer said. "For instance we'll do a Hanukkah song from Bosnia in Ladino. We try to get

everybody to sing along on the chorus because it's pretty simple and a lot of fun. Then we might follow it by a French-Medieval Christmas song. 'Noel.' The idea is to present a different kind of Christmas music experience."

If there's room, audience members are

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Keep up songs & albums in the Listen section.

Get up and

Your guide to the weekend and beyond **Every Thursday**

Family Friendly



Jutta and the Hi-Dukes. | PHOTO BY BETINA DISTLER

encouraged to dance. You can learn more about this group at www.facebook.com/hidukes.

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

PRETTY PAPER PROJECT

Kids will learn to create a Victorian paper doily

Family Friendly [Page 52]



Get up and

Your guide to the weekend and beyond **Every Thursday**



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC- Fun for All Ages! Skokie Valley Kennel Club – All Breed Dog Show

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Family Friendly Continued from page 51

cornucopia, which can be filled with small gifts, 12 to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9 at the Skokie Heritage Museum, 8031 Floral Ave. They make great Christmas tree ornaments.

This Sunday Craft Series event is for ages 5 and older accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$2 for residents, \$3 for nonresidents. Registration is encouraged.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 3000 or go www.tbiskokie.org. to www.skokieparks.org.

FRANKEL-LY SPEAKING

Children's entertainer Joel Frankel will sing his original songs at Temple Beth Israel's Chanukah Party, noon Sunday, Dec. 9 at 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie.

Come at 11 a.m. for latkes, lunch and games. Cost is \$5 for lunch, \$5 for the concert. For details, call (847) 675-0951 or go to

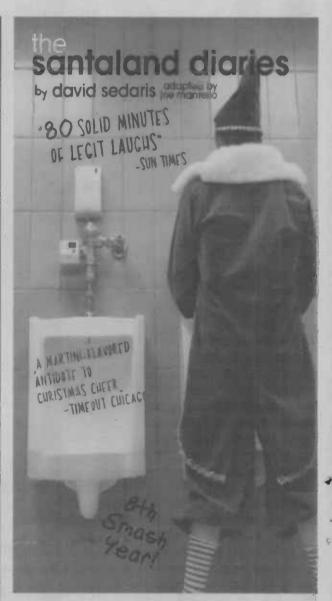
COTTAGE INDUSTRY

Gumdrops, candy canes and icing will make great decorations at the Holiday Gingerbread House Workshop for ages 6-10 with an adult, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15 at Brickton Art Center, 306 Busse Hwy., Park Ridge.

The cost is \$35 per couple, \$29 for members. For details, call (847) 823-6611 or go to www. bricktonartcenter.org.







Performing through December 30th 1229 W Belmont Tickets at 773-975-8150 or theaterwit.org



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BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

OPENING FRIDAY

Rated

PG-13 for some sexual situations, language and a brief, intense image

Gerard Butler, Jessica Biel, Dennis Quaid, Uma Thurman

A former sports star (Butler) who's a fallen on hard times tries to regain his relationship with his wife and son by coaching the boy's soccer team. Gabriele Muccino ("The Pursuit of Happyness") directed the comedy romance.

STILL PLAYING

$\star\star\star$ Rated

R for violence, sexual references, pervasive language and some drug use Stars

Brad Pitt, James Gandolfini, Richard Jenkins, Ray Liotta

The standard moral that crime doesn't pay certainly applies to this ultrastylish, ultra-savage, utterly downbeat crime drama, but director Andrew Dominik ("The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford") stretches out to suggest that nothing

else pays either — and to draw a fairly * strained comparison between life in the underworld and America in general. Against a backdrop of woeful news reports about the economic meltdown in 2008 and ironic sound bites from the Obama/McCain election, amiable yet entirely ruthless hit man Jackie Cogan (Pitt) quietly goes about his business, whacking all the participants in a heist of a mob-controlled card game in Philadelphia. Dominik makes a show of several flashy set pieces involving exceedingly brutal violence, but it's Pitt who provides the dramatic ballast



Jessica Biel and Gerard Butler star in "Playing for Keeps."

that makes it work as well as it does.

Rated

R for strong, bloody violence, grisly images, language and brief nudity Stars

Josh Stewart, Emma Fitzpatrick, Christopher McDonald

A man who has escaped from the serial killer known as The Collector is blackmailed into returning to the killer's booby-trapped warehouse to rescue an innocent girl. Marcus Dunstan wrote and directed the horror.

Rated

PG for emotional thematic content throughout, and some scary action sequences and peril

Irrfan Khan, Gérard Depardieu, Suraj Sharma

Yann Martel's international best seller has been brought to the screen with breathtaking beauty thanks to recent advances in digital special effects. Director Ang Lee's most sumptuous film since "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" tells the story of a spiritually minded Indian teenager named Pi (Sharma) who finds himself adrift on a lifeboat after a shipwreck with only a hungry Bengal tiger for company. On one level, "Life of Pi" functions nicely as a fairly standard survival at sea story. Its larger purpose, though, is to function allegorically as "a story

that could make you believe in God," celebrating the wonders of life with grand-scale visual splendor and its most severe challenges with the always threatening presence of the tiger.

Rated

PG-13 for sequences of intense war violence and action, and for language

Chris Hemsworth, Isabel Lucas, Josh Hutcherson, Josh Peck

If you can get over the fact that it's entirely preposterous and you happen to be in desperate need of a macho fantasy fix, "Red Dawn" might not be a complete drag to sit through. But don't count on it. There are two major problems with this weak remake of director John Milius' 1984 Cold Warera hit. First, full-scale armed invasions probably don't rank high any longer on most people's lists of nail-biting anxieties. Second, the producers changed the attacking nation in the new "Red Dawn" from China to North Korea, Iraq vet Hemsworth and his commando squad of high schoolers confront the ambitious North Koreans.

****1/2

Rated

R for language and some sexual content/nudity

Stars

Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence, Robert De Niro, Jacki Weaver Writer/director David O. Russell has returned to the source of his early love-crazy successes with this heavily medicated screwball romance. "Silver Linings Playbook," which does have its funny moments, is swept along by darker currents. After doing time in a mental institution, unnaturally optimistic Pat (Cooper) plots a campaign to regain his life and his wife. He makes the acquaintance of dark, glowering Tiffany (Lawrence). Despite their

instant attraction. Pat stays away until Tiffany makes him an offer he can't refuse. Though it's occasionally uncomfortable and never a rosy-cozy depiction of mental illness, "Silver Linings" does work its way toward a fairly conventional, yet still satisfying, romantic-comedy conclusion.

Rated

PG-13 for some violent images, sexual content and thematic material

Anthony Hopkins, Helen Mirren, Scarlett Johansson

At the height of his success, director Alfred Hitchcock (Hopkins) has to struggle, with the help of his wife Alma (Mirren), to film the alarming script for "Psycho." Sacha Gervasi ("The Terminal") directed the drama.

Rated

PG for thematic elements and some mildly scary action

Stars

Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin, Isla Fisher, Jude Law

When an evil spirit (Law) attempts to take over the world, guardians including Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and Jack Frost join forces to defeat him. Veteran storyboard artist Peter Ramsey directed the animated adventure for his theatrical feature debut.

PG-13 for sequences of violence including disturbing images, some sensuality and partial nudity

Stars

Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner

When Edward and Bella's child is born, vampire clans gather to protect her from the governing Vulturi. Bill Condon ("Breaking Dawn - Part One," "Kinsey") directed the drama.

New releases on DVD, Blu-ray

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

NEW THIS WEEK

***/2

Rated

PG-13 for mature thematic content involving sexuality

Tommy Lee Jones, Meryl Streep, Steve Carell

Dour, grumbling hubby Arnold (Jones) would probably be content to ride out his all-but-dead 31-year marriage to his grave but desperately lonely, under-appreciated wife Kay (Streep). She has a different plan: to drag Arnold into a week of intensive couples therapy. The best thing about this is the way Jones and Streep and Carell work their way through the often-excruciating therapeutic process. Special features include commentary with director David Frankel, a gag reel, featurettes, and alternate takes.



Tom Hardy as Bane and Christian Bale as Batman grapple in "The Dark Knight Rises."

intense sequences of violence and action, some sensuality and language

Rated

PG-13 for

Stars

Christian Bale. Tom Hardy, Anne

Hathaway

The final installment in director Christopher Nolan's billion-dollar "Batman" trilogy has all the spectacle a \$250-million budget can buy. Unfortunately, though, a soul-weary superhero (Bale) and an equally impassive and phlegmatic super-villain (Hardy) keep the bat-drama from clicking until the final act, which concludes the

film and the series on a fairly satisfy-

ALSO NEW THIS WEEK

This three-disc set features five episodes of the PBS series, featuring the facts about a Fender Stratocaster that may have been used by Bob Dylan at the '65 Newport Folk Festival, autographs supposedly signed by The Beatles during their 1964 US tour, and a Woolworth sign that may have been an onlooker during the 1960 Winston-Salem lunch counter sit-ins and more.

RECENT RELEASES

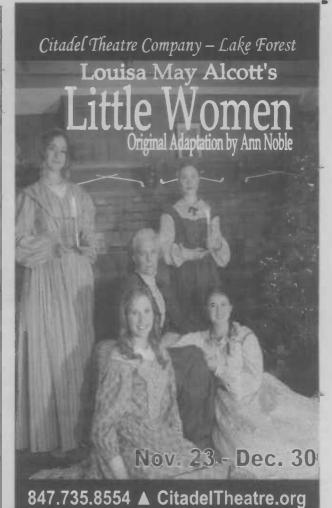
Rated

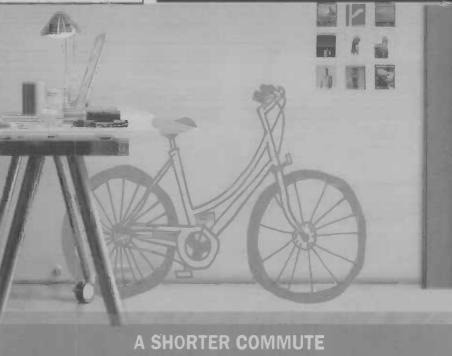
PG-13 for sci-fi action violence, and brief suggestive content

Stars

Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones, Josh Brolin, Jemaine Clement Smith and Jones return as bickering feds charged with keeping unruly alien visitors in line, including recent lunar prison escapee Boris the Animal (Clement), who plans to jump back to the '60s and kill young K (Brolin), who previously prevented Boris's relatives from invading — thus re-setting history. The best thing about it, though? Smith's wise-guy reaction to '60s scenes like Andy Warhol's Factory - and old-school racism. Extras include numerous featurettes including "The Evolution of Cool," four scene progressions, five progression reels, a gag reel, commentary with director Frankel, and an alternate-takes gallery.







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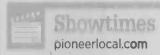
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Movié theaters



Suraj Sharma tries to stay afloat in "Life of Pi."

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WEEKEND & BEYOND

A list of regional events for you to go out and enjoy

"The Nutcracker"



Performed by Salt Creek Ballet at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Dec. 15 and 2 p.m. Dec. 16 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. \$31.50, \$39.50. www. northshorecenter.org.

"The Nutcracker: The Land of Sweets!"



Devonshire Dance Ensemble performs Act II of Tchaikovsky's ballet at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 15 and 3 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Devonshire Playhouse, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie. \$5.

Niles Public Library



6960 Oakton St., Niles. www.nileslibrary.org. Dec. 8, 2:30 p.m.: Teen Gingerbread House Workshop. Dec. 9, 2 p.m.: Holiday Storytelling with Chris Fascione, for ages 5 and up. Pick up tickets 30 minutes before the program in



An Evanston Symphony Christmas will be presented at 3 p.m. Dec. 9 in the Evanston Township High School auditorium, 1600 Dodge, Evanston. The event features the North Shore Choral Society, Evanston Dance Ensemble, Evanston Children's Choir and the ETHS Concert Choir and A Capella Singers. Tickets are \$25-\$40; \$10-\$15 children under 18; Family Package \$70-\$100. Visit www.evanstonsymphony.org.

the Youth Services department. Dec. 11, 10:30 a.m.: Senior Coffee Hour features a holiday concert, "The Merriest Songs of Christmas, Hanukkah and Broadway."

Santa's Breakfast



Dec. 8, 9-11 a.m., at Maggiano's Old Orchard, 4999 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. Featuring a visit from Santa, music by the Niles North High School Choir, face painting, and breakfast buffet. \$14.95. For reservations, call (847) 933-9572.

The Radio City Christmas Spectacular



Dec. 14-30 at the Akoo Theatre at Rosemont. 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. \$47.70-\$102.55. Tickets at www.ticketmaster.com.

Handel's "Messiah"



Performed by the Apollo Chorus of Chicago at 7 p.m. Dec. 8 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. \$45, \$55. Visit www. northshorecenter.org.

Bittersweet Christmas Band



Performing at 8 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Ethical Humanist Society Coffeehouse, 7574 N. Lincoln, Skokie. \$8. Visit www.ethicalhuman.org/ coffeehouse.

"The Lost Christmas Eve"



Performed by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 8 at Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. \$30, \$39.

\$49, \$59, \$69. Tickets at www.ticketmaster.com.

"Candles and Carols"





The Park Ridge Chorale presents its holiday concert at 7 p.m. Dec. 8 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 205 N. Prospect, Park Ridge. Advance tickets \$16, \$14 seniors; at the door \$18, \$16 seniors; free for children under 18. Call (847) 825-2216 or (847) 823-3958.

"Jingle Bell Express"



The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee presents a fast-paced holiday musical revue at 2 p.m. Dec. 9 at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave., Chicago. Free admission; donations welcome. Visit www.

carlsoncommunityservices.org.

Christmas concert



Chicago Grandstand Big Band will perform a Christmas concert. 4-6 p.m. Dec. 9 at the Edison Park Lutheran Church, 6626 N. Oliphant, Chicago. \$10. Call (773) 631-9131.

"Holiday Delights"



Presented by Bella Voce at 4 p.m. Dec. 9 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 939 Hinman Ave., Evanston. \$30-\$38; \$15 students. Visit http://bellavoce.tix.com.

Holiday concert



Second City Brass peforms Christmas and holiday music at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 22 at St. Paul of the Cross Church. 320 S. Washington St., Park Ridge. Free-will donations accepted. Call (847) 825-7605.

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre



7924 Lincoln Ave. Skokie. www.gorillatango. com. (773) 598-4549. Through Dec. 15, 6 p.m. Saturdays: "Sleeping Indoors," a play about

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Entries must be typed. GO listings are free. Include brief descriptions of the event, date, address, price and phone number. Email: Send submissions to gol@pioneerlocal.com Fax: 847-486-7451

a family that adopts a homeless man for the holidays. \$15. Through Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m. Fridays: "The Tale of Danny Tanner: A Full House Musical." \$15.

What to do [Page 58]

What to do
Continued from page 57

"The Odd Couple"



Northlight Theatre presents the Neil Simon comedy through Dec.
16 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie. \$25-\$72; \$15 students. Visit www.northlight.org.

"Up"



The dramatic comedy will be presented at 8 p.m. Dec. 6-8 and 2 p.m. Dec. 9 in Studio One at Oakton Community College, 1600 E.

Golf Road, Des Plaines. \$10; \$8 students and seniors. Call (847) 635-1900.

LASSICAL

Music Institute of Chicago

Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. www.musicinst.org. Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.: MIC's Community Symphony performs works by Strauss, Bruch and Dvorak. Free. Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.: New Horizons Band plays works by Reinhold Gliere and Julie Giroux-West, and holiday favorites. Free.

POP/FOLK/JAZZ

Akoo Theatre at Rosemont



5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets at www.ticketmaster. com. **Dec. 7**, 8 p.m.: Distant Worlds: Music from Final Fantasy. \$57.45-\$180.45. **Dec. 8**, 8 p.m.: Johnny Mathis. \$77.95-\$108.70. **Dec. 9**, 7 p.m.: Multi-platinum rock bands Daughtry and 3 Doors Down, with P.O.D. \$40, \$50, \$60.

Mullen's Bar & Grill



8313 W. Lawrence Ave., Norridge. (708) 452-3190. **Dec. 18,** 7-10 p.m.: Jazz Community Big Band plays the music of Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton and others. No cover.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts



9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.northshorecenter.org. **Dec. 6**, 8 p.m.: Jazz artists Chick Corea (piano) and Gary Burton (vibraphone) are joined by the Harlem String Quartet to present fused jazz and classical chamber music. \$60-\$80.

Oakton Community College



Footlik Theater, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 635-1900. Dec. 7, 8 p.m.: "Jazz Invasion." The Oakton Jazz Band performs classics by Duke Ellington, George Gershwin and others. \$5; \$3 students and seniors.

S.P.A.C.E.



1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. www.evanstonspace.com. Shows at 8 p.m., unless noted otherwise. **Dec. 6:** Melissa Ferrick (folk). \$25/\$30. **Dec. 7:** Bonnie Koloc (folk). \$20-\$40. Dec. 9. 3 p.m.: Christine Lavin and Uncle Bonsai (folk). \$15/\$18. Dec. 9. 7 p.m.: Raul Midon (Latin). \$18/\$20. Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.: Foiled Again (jazz/folk). \$15/\$20. Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.: Adrianne Gonzalez, Maia Sharp, Garrison Starr (pop/rock). \$12/\$14. Dec. 12: Dave Specter Holiday Blues Party with Tad Robinson. \$12/\$15. Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.: Mindy Smith (alt country). \$18/\$22.

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Lincolnwood Public Library

4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277, www. lincolnwoodlibrary:org. Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m.: Book reviewer Suzanne Hales discusses Blood, Bones, & Butter by Gabrielle Hamilton, Dec. 10, 11 a.m.: Discussion of A Grown-Up Kind of Pretty by Joshilyn Jackson.

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"Annie"



At 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 8; 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Dec. 9; 7 p.m. Dec. 14 and 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Youth Company Chicago Studios, 5340 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago (Jefferson Park). Visit www.youthcompanychicago.org.

Allstate Arena



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& SURPLUS

Tickets at www.ticketmaster.com. Parking is \$20, cash only. Dec. 27, 7:30 p.m.: Standup comedian Jeff Dunham - "Disorderly Conduct" World Tour. \$46.50.

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre



7924 Lincoln Ave. Skokie. www.gorillatango. com. (773) 598-4549. Through Dec. 29, 9 p.m. Saturdays, except show starts at 11 p.m. Dec. 15: "Holy Bouncing Boobies! A Batman Burlesque," 18 and over. \$20. Dec. 15, 9 p.m.: "The Meshuganas," a

What to do [Page 60]

Answer her letter to Santa



You can make a difference this holiday!

Annie may be one of the over 20,000 children who wrote her letter to Santa. As part of our Season of Sharing campaign, those letters to Santa have arrived at the Chicago Sun-Times. They are from our city's neediest kids - those living in shelters and attending schools in severely impoverished areas. Please help us in answering these simple holiday wishes.

Request a letter and send a \$25 present.

Simply call (312) 321-3114, request a letter online at suntimes.com/santa or mail in the coupon below. Then you purchase a gift and mail or deliver it to the address provided in the letter so your gift gets to the child in time for the holidays!

Send your donation and we'll do the rest.



Make a donation to the Empty Stocking Fund so we can help every child who sent a letter get a gift. Contributions will also help fund critical children's causes.



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What to Do pioneerlocal.com

What to do Continued from page 59

stand-up comedy revue featuring Hollie and Steve Himmelman. \$20.

Chicago Dance Chapter of USA Dance

"Jingle Bell Hop," Dec. 8 at The Centre at North Park, 10040 Addison, Franklin Park. Cha cha lesson at 7 p.m.; open dancing 8:15 -11 p.m. \$10; \$8 members; \$6 students. Visit www. usadancechicago.org.

Lincolnwood Public Library

4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www. lincolnwoodlibrary. org. Dec. 7, 1 p.m.: "The Queen of Versailles." Dec. 13, 10:30 a.m.: "People Like Us."

Off Campus Writers' Workshop

Members Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at Maggiano's Restaurant, Old Orchard Mall, Skokie. terrywohl@aol.com.

(847) 967-4889. Admission: \$12; \$8 for students and senior citizens: \$6 for children ages 5-11. Special exhibitions are free with museum admission. Through Jan. 6: "Spies, Traitors and Saboteurs: Fear and Freedom in America," a creation of the International Spy Museum. Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m.: Holocaust scholar and Northwestern University History Department chairman Peter Haves will discuss "What Took So Long? The Wrangle Over Holocaust Restitution Since 1945." Free with museum admission: reservations

Niles Public Library



6960 Oakton St., Niles. www.nileslibrary.org. Dec. 10, 7 p.m.: Lyric Opera Lecture Series -"Hansel and Gretel."

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center

9603 Woods Drive. Skokie. www.ilholocaustmuseum.org.

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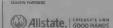


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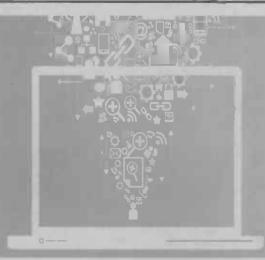
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NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR MORTON GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 70

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy for Morton Grove School District No. 70 for 2012 will be held on December 17, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Park View School, 6200 Lake Street, Morton Grove, Illinois.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Dr. Phil Collins (847/965-6200).

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for the year 2011 were \$10,381,824.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2012 are \$10,857,604. This represents a 4.58% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2011 were \$557,171.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2012 are \$525,000. This represents a -5.77% increase over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 20.11 were \$10,938,995.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2012 are \$11,382,604. This represents a 4.06% increase over the previous year.

AD#454948, Pub:12-6-12

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for the Morton Grove Park District for 2012 will be held on December 20, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at 6834 Dempster St. Morton Grove, IL 60053.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Richard Grodsky, Interim Executive Director, 6834 Dempster St. Morton Grove, IL 60053 at 847-965-1200.

II. The corporate, recreation, debt service and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2011 were \$3,149,785.

The proposed corporate, recreation, debt service and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2012 are \$3,286,780.

This represents a 4.4% increase over the previous year.

Dated: November 26, 2012

Secretary, Claudia Marren

Morton Grove Park District

AD#455046, Pub:12-6-12

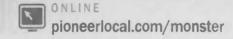
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A Look Ahead to 2012 Tax Changes for Small Business

By: John Rossheim, Monster Senior Contributing Writer

With the 2011 tax deadline behind us and special Recovery Act incentives phasing out, small businesses need to reassess their strategies for upcoming 2012 tax changes.

Here are five key 2012 tax changes of Federal tax law provisions for small businesses.

What a Boon: Small Business Health Care Tax Credit

With unemployment down substantially from its peak, even very small businesses should consider offering at least partially paid health insurance to retain high potential employees.

The good news is that, if conditions are met, small employers can claim a tax credit of up to 35% of the employee premiums they pay in 2012. Add in a deduction for the remaining 65% of employer-paid premiums and your company could get back in tax savings more than half of what you invest in this coveted employee benefit.

Even better news: the maximum Small Business Health Care Tax Credit is scheduled to rise to 50% on Jan. 1, 2014.

The Incredible Shrinking Section 179 Deduction

The Section 179 deduction for tax year 2012 should be filed under "half full, half empty." For tax year 2011, business could immediately deduct up to \$500,000 in certain business equipment purchases, rather than depreciate it over a period of years.

For 2012, the ceiling on this deduction drops to \$139,000 – still a generous amount for a very small business. And it's a brass ring to grab before the maximum deduction drops again, to \$25,000 in 2013.

A Smaller Bonus for Small Business

The bonus depreciation deduction is also taking a haircut in tax year 2012. This business deduction, which applies after you've maxed out your Section 179 deduction, enables you deduct up to 50% of certain equipment investments, up to a total of \$2 million for both Section 179 and bonus deductions. That's down from a 100% bonus deduction for tax year 2011.

Keep in mind that a big current-year deduction, however enticing, isn't always superior to depreciation over the long haul. Consult with a tax professional.

"The government is providing these generous incentives," says Mike D'Avolio, a senior tax analyst at Intuit in

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A New Reporting Requirement: Form 1099-K

Does your small business accept merchant credit or debit card payments or payments via online networks, such as PayPal? If so you may need to update your bookkeeping and accounting systems to keep on top of new IRS reporting requirements for these transactions. When you've gotten over your headache from trying to understand what the IRS has to say about the new 1099-K requirements, consult with your tax professional.

Keep an Eye on Perennial 'Tax Extenders'

Because of Congress's annoying habit of repeatedly renewing dozens of tax incentives for just one year at a time, small business owners need to keep an eye on these so-called tax extenders.

The largest of these tax savers, the research and development tax credit, has faced an up-or-down vote annually for about 30 years, creating economically destructive uncertainty among business owners.

"The R&D tax credit seems likely to be extended, but who knows," says Valerie Colin, senior vice president with accounting firm Gumbiner Savett in Santa Monica, Callf.

Tax extenders of particular interest to small business include a 15-year write-off period for restaurant and rental-property renovations and a \$1,000 credit for new hires and the 100% exclusion of gains on small business stock.

Keep up with legislative action on the tax extenders by subscribing to IRS newsletters or asking your tax professional. And don't forget to check on changes to state and local tax law.

Disclaimer: All tax laws are subject to change. None of the information provided herein constitutes legal or tax advice on behalf of the author or Monster.

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 Implement the many complexities of selling, scheduling and utilize competitive opportunities in the marketplace and develop an awareness of marketing trends.
 Coordinate administrative duties necessary to ensure proper ad placement and billing.
 Communicate relevant marketing, circulation and readership data to accounts in a "call to action" format.

- Related college degree preferred (advertising, marketing, communications).

- Experience:

 Minimum of two years of successful B-to-B newspaper and or digital sales experience in newspaper preferred.

 Successful track record in sales and customer service to an established client base and ability to prospect for and develop new business.

Resumes with cover letter should be emailed, mailed or fax'd to the following address:

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Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2012 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by December 1, 2012. Individuals wanting to review this Annual Statement of Affairs should contact:

Union Ridge School District 86

4600 N. Oak Park, IL 60706

708-867-5822

8:00am - 4:00pm

School District/Joint Agreement Name

Address

Office Hours

Also by January 15, 2013 the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2012, will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website@ www.isbe.net. SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.

Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2012

	Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Debt Services	Transportation	Municipal Retirement Social Security	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention & Safety
REVENUES	64 648 700	¢570.000	6450 504	\$EC 500	0407.507	000	800.000	200 400	000.040
Local Sources State Sources Federal Sources	\$4, 616 ,739 873,5 94 294,690	\$573,280	\$150,564	\$56,539 62 ,933 0	\$197,587	\$82	\$82,650	\$80,433	\$25,846
TOTAL DIRECT REVENUES	5,785,023	573,280	150,564	119,472	197,587	82	82,650	80,433	25,846
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENDITURES	5,354,218	565,601	136.000	80,755	231,164	152,801	0	76,554	22,350
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES & (USES)	0	90,000	0	0	90,000	0	(200,000)	20,000	0
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1, 2011	1,070,235	191,487	46,109	59,540	16,744	152,719	3,439,157	5,344	76,176
OTHER CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30 2012	\$1.501,040	\$289,166	\$60,673	\$98,257	\$73,167	\$0	\$3,521,807	\$29,223	\$79,672

Certified Salaries Under \$25,000: S. Battaglia; L. Bergstrom; G. DeSio; P. DiLalla; K. Oreyer; C. Forester; J. Funkhouser; E. Garcia; G. Giannini; J. Hanson J. Holmes; J. Howard; A. Marsh; A. Maclone; C. Mico; S. Monaco-Wenzel; M. Moy; S. Musial; K. Nicaslo; J. Pearson; A. Spiro; J. Steve; M. Timmers J. Verros; N. Wilk; \$25,000-\$39,999: N. Auclair; L. Mayfield; S. Pietrzyk; J. Schott; \$40,000-\$59,999: M. Aebly; I. Corrigan; M. Dufty; K. Ligas; M. Marth; A. Milner; P. Pukszta; J. Reiter, N. Swantek; A. Trowbridge; E. Zgardinski; \$60,000-\$89,999: J. Bergholtz; T. Bonfiglio; S. Brown; D. Chambers; L. DeLeonardis;

M. Grzeskiewicz, C. Haller, S. Jenkinson-Cope; K. Johnson-Russ; L. Kudert, M. Kyne; E. Malickl; K. Maciuba; G. Magnelli; N. Manning; S. McCormick; N. Musial; C. Panos; R. Plaza; J. Price; P. Richardson; J. Rooney; B. Rudel; I. Santana; E. Tengiln; J. Walsh; K. Whitely; J. Wilk; Over \$90,000: K. Dawson; J. Kosirog; D. Kubiniec; C. Lenzini; M. Maguire; S. Schoenfuhs

Nos-Certified Salaries Under \$25,000 J. Angilen; D. Bazzoli; J. Bilek; L. Bohman; K. Borgardt; E. Carrasquillo; J. D'Avanzo; L. Deceglie; J. Divito; J. Ejnik; D. Feldiorean; M. Feldiorean; A. Giannini; R

Grimaidi; R. Henry: P. Hinman; M. Kelly; D. Jorgenson; A. Lostumbo; T. Pazdan; M. Pawiak; A. Scarsella; E. Schmitz; M. Timmers; N. Veriti; \$25,000-\$39,999; L. Divito; M. Kaeprzynska; L. Kosydar; C. Martin; H. Mroski; M. Orrico; J. Petrocelli; \$40,000-\$59,999; D. Ayres; E. Constantin. M. Marsh; M. Trela; \$60,000 and over: C. Casteel; A. Feldiorean; J. Gilley; T. Simmons Vendorf; Over \$2,500.48, B BUS SERVICE 24,725.60; ADDISON SCHOOL DIST 418,100.00; ADVANCE ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO., INC 5,391.20; ALLIED PLUMBING & HEATING 2,947.02; AMALGAMATED BANK OF CHICAGO 4,100.00; AMEREN ENERGY MARKETING 49,101.00; AMS MECHANICAL SYSTEMS INC 8,907.57; ANDERSON LOCK 2,994.64; APPLE EDUCATION 15,754.27; ARLINGTON HEIGHTS DIST 25 18,100.00; AT & T 11,815.65; AXA EQUITABLE EQUI-VEST 119,581.33; BMO HARRIS BANK, N.A. 2,727.88; BOBS DAIRY SERVICE 14,852.70; CDW GOVERNMENT INC 6,201.78; CONSTELLATION NEW ENERGY GAS DIVISION, LLC 8,389.89; DE LAGE LANDEN PUBLIC FINANCE 3,201.12; DE LAGE LANDEN PUBLIC FINANCE 3,560.80; DIST 86 EDUCATION ASSOCIATION 25,875.00; E2 SERVICES, INC 6,555.00; EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT CO-OP 586,170.33; ELMWOOD PARK CUSD #401 15,334.87; FLOORING RESOURCES CORP 9,704.00; FOLLETT EDUCATIONAL SERVICES 4,760.05; FOOD SERVICE PROFESSIONALS 112,865.87; FRANKLIN PARK SCHOOL DIST. #84 10,929.37; GE CAPITAL 31,332.68; GMB CONSTRUCTION 5,085.00; GRAPHIC EDGE 3,602.44; GRAPHTECH SYSTEMS LLC 4,448.00; GROOT RECYCLING & WASTE SERV. 6,749.21; HARRIS BANK CORP 664,433.27; HARRIS TRUST & SAVINGS BANK 7,899.27; HARWOOD HEIGHTS WATER DEPT 5,334.42; IASB PUBLICATIONS 2,899.27; HARWOOD HEIGHTS WATER DEPT 5,334.42; IASB PUBLICATIONS 2,891.20; ILLIMOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE 181,012.23; ILLIMOIS MUNICIPAL RETRIEMENT 154,956.05; ILLIMOIS PAPER CO 11,890.00; ISDLAF 35,476.00; KNUTTE & ASSOCIATES 8,750.00; LEYDEN AREA SPEC ED COOPERATIV 60,522.86; LEYDEN CREDIT UNION 84,370.00; MANNHEIM DISTRICT 83 SCHOOLS 124,571.31; MAREK TRELA 2,673.38; MARIA GRZESKIEWICZ 4,035.00; MUNICIPAL RETRIEMENT 54,956.05; ILLIMOIS DEPARTMENT OF 6,522.86; LEYDEN CRE

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Divorce

PLACE YOUR AD

in NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PETITIONS FOR ELECTION To all voters who own or reside on land within the boundaries of the North Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District toound by Cook Co. line to the north, west and east and by Cermak Ave. / 22nd. St. to the south). Notice is given that a general election will be held of Feb. 14th, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the District office-899 Jay St. in Eighn. Three Directors will be elected to serve two year terms on the Board of Directors of the North Cook Co. SWCD of the State of IL. Directors perform on a voluntary basis. This is NOT a salary position.

Definition for school and school

MEETINGS.

POSTED AT: Norridge Recreation Center
Any individual requiring a reasonable accommodation to participate
in this meeting in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act
should contact the Director at the District's administrative office, 4631
North Overhill Avenue, Norridge, Illinois 60706 by mail, telephone
(708/457-1244), tax (708/457-8385), Monday through Friday 9:00
a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Requests should be made at least 48 hours prior
to the meeting if possible. Requests for a qualified interpreter require
at least five (5) working days advance notice.

Pub:12-6-12 448634

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COLLEGE ROUNDUP

Strickland named to defensive first team



Indianapolis' John Strickland was named to the All-Great Lakes Valley Conference First Team for his defensive play this season. | PHOTO COURTESY **RYAN THORPE**

Glenbrook South alumnus John Strickland, a defensive back for the Indianapolis football team, was named to the 2012 All-Great Lakes Valley Conference First Team. The sophomore from Glenview finished the season third on the team in total tackles with 98. He also finished with 19 tackles for a loss.

After winning the conference championship, Strickland's Greyhounds made it to the second round of the NCAA Division II Playoffs. They finished the season with a 10-3 record.

Illinois Wesleyan wide receiver Alex Garvey, also a Glenbrook South graduate, was named his team's offensive Most Valuable Player for the 2012 season. The junior from Glenview also won the team's Best Skill award, as he finished the season with team highs in catches (50), yards (751) and touchdowns (10). He was also named to the All-College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin Second Team.

Highland Park alumna Emily Feldman was recently named University Athletic Association Offensive Athlete of the Week for women's soccer.

The Emory sophomore forward scored two goals for the No. 16-ranked Eagles while helping the team reach the NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Championship semifinals for the first time in school

Hinsdale South alumnus and St. Cloud State hockey player Jimmy Murray led the Huskies to a 4-3 overtime win against Alaska Anchorage Nov. 30 in Anchorage. The freshman forward finished with two goals, including the game-winner.

The goals were Murray's second and third of the season. He also has three assists through 13 games, all of which he started for the Huskies.

Jewell Lloyd, a Niles West alumna and a freshman guard on the Notre Dame women's basketball team. was recently named Big East Conference Freshman

of the Week.

I'LL BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW.

Brought To You By

JENNINGS CHEVROLET JENNINGS VOLKSWAGEN

Here are some NFL Hall of Fame stats to win bets on as of the start of the 2012 season. The most popular jersey number - 22, worn for all of part of the career of 11 enshrinees. The state with the highest percentage of members - Pennslyvania at 10.6 percent, 29 natives. And how about the draft class that produced the most Hall of Famers? It was 1964, with an incredible 10 - Roger Staubach, Carl Eller, Paul Warfield, Bob Hayes, Charley Taylor, Mel Renfro, Paul Krause, Bob Brown, Leroy Kelly and Dave Wilcox.

The Monday blues can apply to athletes as well as the rest of us. Entering the 2012 season, the Atlanta Falcons had the NFL's worst winning percentage on Monday Night Football -- .273 (9-24). The 201.1-12 Montreal Canadiens were the first NHL team in four years to go winless on Mondays, contributing to their first last-place conference finish since 1940. In baseball, Atlanta went almost a year without a Monday win - 0-16 from mid-2011 to mid-2011. And in the NBA, J.R. Smith of the Knicks averaged 4.3 points per game on Mondays in 2011-12, 13.2 on other days, the largest margin in the league.

Can you name the only quarterback in NFL history to throw for at least 4,000 yards and rush for at least 500 in the same season? Incredibly, the player was a rookie - 2011 Rookie of the Year Cam Newton of Carolina. Despite a lockout-shortened preseason, the former Heisman Trophy winner opened the season with back-to-back 400-yard passing games, and went on to set the single-season record of 14 rushing touchdowns by a QB.





In victories against Mercer and No. 19/22 UCLA, the Lincolnwood native averaged 19 points, 6.5 rebounds, 5 assists and 2 steals per game. She also shot 72.7 percent from the field and 60 percent from beyond the three-point line.

- Nick Bullock



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MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

3 P.M.

MAGGIE LYON WILMETTE, IL

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Maine East

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/SportsPloneeri rese TWITTER Press

Don't Miss

Girls basketball: Maine West at Maine East, 6 p.m.

The teams were at opposite ends of the CSL North last season. Maine West won the North with a 9-1 record. Maine East finished 1-9. This season. Maine East won its league opener by 13 points over Glenbrook North.

Friday

Boys swimming: Lane, Notre Dame at Maine East, 5 p.m.

The strength of the Maine East swimming and diving program has been its divers in recent years. Maine East finished with 85 points at last year's meet against Notre Dame and Lane, finishing 55 points behind event-winner Lane.

Gonzalez has team playing at different speed

BY JONAH ROSENBLUM | Contributor | @Pioneer PrepsJR

NORTHBROOK

If the basketball appears to fly around the court a little quicker when the Maine East girls have possession, there's good reason for that.

"It's two words: Jazlene Gonzalez." Blue Demons coach Karol Hanusiak said. "She is probably one of the best point guards I've coached. She sees the court so well. She sees openings. and what we've told everyone on this team is you'd better be ready at any time to catch a pass, even if you don't think that pass is open, because she will find that spot."

It's something her teammates have grown used to, particularly Gonzalez's favorite target, Shaylee Sloan. The junior center acknowledged that she has been caught unaware a couple of times. Yet, Sloan's laughter-filled recollections aside, Gonzalez said that her teammates have nothing to fear, regardless of how much velocity she puts



Maine East's Jazlene Gonzalez passes the ball during Friday's game at Glenbrook North in Northbrook. Visit parkridge.suntimes.com/sports to view a photo gallery from the game. | CHANDLER WEST-For Sun-Times Media

on her passes.

"At first, I went easy on them and then little by little I kept forcing it and now they got the hand of grabbing it

and not being scared of the ball," Gonzalez said. "I tell them, look, I'm going to give it to your hands. Don't worry. I'm not going to hit your face.

Let's get in the motion of catching it, and I'll go easy."

Gonzalez, a junior, accounted for more than one-third of her team's points on Friday

night, finishing with 18 points in Maine East's 49-36 victory over Glenbrook North, but that's not what stood out about Gonzalez. Instead, it was the way she appeared to be on a different plain from everyone else on the court, calmly crossing the ball between her legs and maneuvering around the court - and firing passes in all different directions, of course.

Yet, if Gonzalez's game appears easy, it certainly didn't come easy, according to Hanusiak.

Take her impressive dribbling, which allowed her to maneuver around the defense for a spot-up jumper and allowed her to evade a double team on the left sideline.

That took something a little extra, something a little beyond her natural gifts.

Hanusiak said that she approached Gonzalez at the end of her sophomore season with a simple message. If the point guard didn't learn to dribble with her left hand, she'd be red meat.

"To her credit, she has worked and worked and worked and she's a completely different player from a skills standpoint and a confidence standpoint this year

This Week **Maine East**

Hosts Maine West, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL Friday Hosts Maine West, 6 p.m. Tuesday Hosts Waukegan, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS At Maine West, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday Hosts Niles North, 5:30 p.m. Thursday (12/13) At "A Star is Born", 6 p.m.

BOYS SWIM/DIVE Friday Hosts Triangular w/Lane Tech, Notre Dame, 5 p.m. Saturday At St. Patrick's Relays, noon

WRESTLING Friday Hosts Glenbrook North, 7 p.m. Hosts Maine East Quad, 9-a.m.

than she was last year," Hanusiak said. "That part doesn't come natural. That part was hard work."

As hard as the work was, the motive was simple.

"I wanted to be a better point guard," Gonzalez said. "I have a left. I wanted to go left so I worked hard on it."

Indeed, the Blue Demons' whole team dynamic is the result of hard work and experience. Such comfort wasn't created overnight. Such a seamless ability to fire hard passes all over the court isn't the result of one practice or even two. Sloan, Gonzalez. Elanta Slowek and Maria Protic, all starters, have been playing together since they were in grade school.

Occasionally, they miss, such as when Gonzalez



Maine East's Maria Protic yells to her teamates as she dribbles the ball against the Glenbrook North Spartans on Friday in Northbrook. | CHANDLER WEST-For Sun-Times Media

"zipped one in to Maria and Maria just wasn't ready," in Hanusiak's words. More often than not, they succeed. And when they do, it allows Maine East to exploit the

There's no bigger beneficiary of that than Sloan, who scored eight points in the first half against Glenbrook North and finished with 10.

"It's the guard's job to help me," Sloan said. "Since I'm bigger than them, it's easier for me. I don't know. I don't think about it. I just do it."



Maine East's Janelle Alba Garner gets her hands on a pass inteded for Glenbrook North's Rachel Dress during their game on Friday in Northbrook. CHANDLER **WEST-For** Sun-Times Media

Power Rankings

Pioneer Press Basketball Power Rankings

As voted on by the Pioneer Press/Doings sports staff. First place votes are worth 10 points, second place 9, etc.

1. St. Joseph 40 (4)

2. Notre Dame 36 3. Lake Forest 32

4. Fenwick 25

5. Maine Sourth 23

6. Niles West 21

7. Leyden 15

8. New Trier 9

9. Hinsdale Central 8 10. Carmel 3

Others receiving votes: Oak Park-River Forest 1

1. Trinity 39 (3) 2. Maine South 36 (1)

4. Vernon Hills 26

5. Evanston 25

6. Glenbrook South 22

7. Hinsdale Central 16 8. Lyons 12

9. Carmel 6

10. Nazareth 4

Others receiving votes: Bar-

Hìgh School **CUBE**

Watch live

Watch these local games HighSchoolCube.com:

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday Maine West at Maine East 7:30 p.m.

Saturday Libertyville at Lake Zurich 7 p.m.

Niles West vs Ridgewood in the Ridgewood Shoot-Out

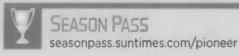
Carmel vs Gordon Tech in the Ridgewood Shoot-Out 12:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Maine West at Maine East 6 p.m.

HOCKEY

Saturday Loyola Gold at New Trier Green High School Hockey 7 p.m.



Notre Dame

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/SportsPioneerPress

TWITTER: @Pioneer Press

Don't Miss Friday

Boys Basketball: Marist at Notre Dame, 7:30 p.m.

The Dons lost 61-53 Sunday to Morgan Park, the Sun-Times' No. 3-ranked team. Seniors Justin Halloran (14 points), Matt Mooney (12) and Eddie Serrano (nine points, six boards) played well in defeat. Marist is ranked No. 6.

Saturday

Wrestling: Notre Dame at Hoffman Estates Tournament, 9 a.m.

Notre Dame defeated Conant 50-20 and Addison Trail 40-22 at Saturday's tri-meet. Eight Dons won both of their matches and sophomore Niko Portokalis (195 pounds) and senior Gino Orlandi (285) earned the full 12 points by pinning both their opponents.

Stephenson's defense disrupts opponents

BY MATT HARNESS | mharness@pioneerlocal.com | @harnesspreps

Notre Dame coach Tom Les said he has six starters on his team.

It's hard to argue with him. The five seniors and one junior have the Dons 6-1 and ranked No. 12 by the Sun-Times.

"All six deserve to start," said Les, who almost relies exclu-"sively on his small, veteran core. "It puts me in a tough spot, but the playing time generally evens out. It takes care of itself."

Donte Stephenson is among that collection of players. The senior guard came off the bench in the team's opener against Lane, but he played minutes like a starter.

"We are a team," he said. "We challenge each other in practice to get better every day."

On varsity since his sophomore season, Stephenson does his part on defense. He usually guards the other team's top perimeter player.

"I know (Les) expects a lot from me," Stephenson said. "There was a lot of pressure on me to get me here. He's been pushing me since I was a sophomore."

Les likes what Stephenson



Notre Dame's Donte Stephenson puts up a shot over Morgan Park defenders during Sunday's game in Niles. Visit seasonpass.suntimes.com/pioneer to view a photo gallery from the game. | PATRICK GLEASON-For Sun-Times Media

brings to the floor, especially on the defensive end.

"That's his best attribute," the coach said. "He's a great onball defender. He helps create problems for the other team and keeps players out of their comfort zone.

"When you put him on somebody, he doesn't lose him. His speed and quickness are awfully good." Stephenson also chipped in on offense Sunday against Morgan Park, which is ranked No. 3 by the Sun-Times. Stephenson's drive to the basket gave Notre Dame a nine-point lead with just over two minutes to play in the third quarter.

From there, Morgan Park's speed, athleticism and length exhausted the Dons and the Mustangs won 61-53 in the

Cyrus McGinnis Jump Ball Showcase in Niles.

"We are very team-oriented, and we have good chemistry," Les said. "They all look to do things like make the extra pass, anything that makes it exceedingly difficult on the other team.

"I do say I have six starters, all of whom are major contributors."

This Week Notre Dame

BOYS BASKETBALL Friday Hosts Marist, 7:30 p.m. Saturday At Crane, 3 p.m,

BOYS BOWLING
Today
At Habetler Bowl vs. Lyons
Twp., 4 p.m.
Saturday
At Stardust Bowl (Addison)
vs. South Division, 10 a.m.
Monday
At Habetler Bowl vs. Taft,
4 p.m.
Tuesday
At Habetler Bowl vs. St.
Patrick, 4 p.m.
Thursday (12/13)
At Glenbrook North, 4 p.m.

ICE HOCKEY Saturday At Ridgeland vs. Fenwick, 7:45 p.m. Monday Hosts Marist at Niles-Ballard, 8 p.m. Thursday (12/13) At Niles-Ballard vs. Maine, 8:15 p.m.

SWIM/DIVE Friday At Maine East, 5 p.m.

WRESTLING Today At Marion Cath. w/ St. Viator, 5:15 p.m. Saturday At Hoffman Estates Tourn., 9 a.m.



Niles North

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/SportsPioneerPress

TWITTER: @Pioneer Press

Don't Miss

Boys basketball: Highland Park at Niles North, 7:30 p.m.

The Vikings get another chance to integrate 6-foot-4 senior BJ Beckford into the lineup. He struggled at times in his first game of the season — a loss Saturday to Niles West - but also got to the rim and grabbed seven rebounds.

Saturday

Girls basketball: Niles North at Regina, 2:30 p.m.

After hosting Glenbrook North on Tuesday and traveling to Highland Park on Friday, the Vikings close a busy week with a trip to Wilmette. Niles North suffered a 44-35 loss Saturday to Niles West and dropped to 0-7. Like Niles North, Regina has battled waves of inconsistency so far,

Voitik embraces late-game situations

BY ERIC VAN DRIL | Contributor | @EricVanDril

SKOKIE

There's little debate regarding who's Niles North's most feared player in crunch time.

Malachi Nix, with a lightening-quick first step and the ability to score from anywhere on the court, has established himself as the star of the Niles North boys basketball team. The senior point guard is the player the Vikings regularly rely on to score in fourth quarters, but in Saturday's 67-63 loss to Niles West, Billy Voitik proved that he too isn't afraid of big moments.

Voitik collected 17 points in the second half of the back-and-forth game. including four field goals in the fourth quarter. While Voitik's second half scoring output wasn't enough to end the Wolves' recent dominance of the Vikings, the 6-foot-4 senior's performance showed that he shouldn't be overlooked

Voitik's willingness to accept the responsibility of leading his team to victory is something the he said he developed as a quarterback.

"The mentality to win is just toughness from football," said Voitik, who was Niles North's starting quarterback in 2011 and 2012. "A lot of guys, in the end of the games when we're down a couple points, they just want to give up and I keep trying to tell them that it's not over and they've just got to

fight until the end.

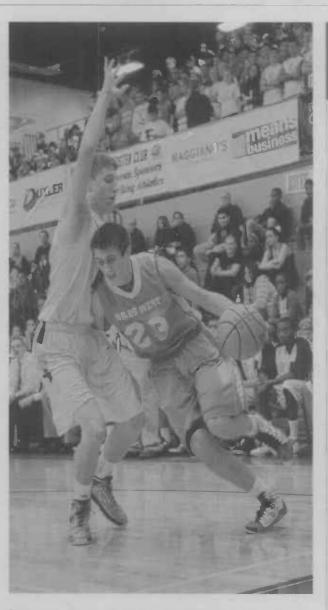
"I think I had a big leadership role on the football field. I had to pretty much lead our football team and ... that kind of (translates) to basketball. It helps me be more of a leader for basketball and help my teammates out because last year I didn't have the biggest leadership role for basketball and this vear I started to do that more."

While Voitik is a complementary player on the Vikings' basketball team, stepping up in crucial moments is something which Niles North coach Glenn Olson said is part of his personality.

"I think that's just who he is," Olson said. "He's never been one of the guys; when people talk about Niles North basketball, they talk about Malachi Nix and a lot of people talk about Lorenzo Dillard ... Billy gets it. Billy's been part of (last year's Sweet 16) team and he knows what he's doing."

Voitik not only has the mindset to step up in big situations, he also has skill set to do so. The senior scored a career-high 19 points against Niles West by using his length, quickness and a delicate touch at the rim to consistently score in the paint.

"Billy rebounds really well," said Niles West forward Alex Darville, who had to guard Voitik during stretches of Saturday's game. "He always hits the boards; you always have to put a body on him or else he's going to get it and score. He's strong and he's athletic:"



Niles West's Alex Darville is defended by Niles North's Billy Voitik during Saturda's game in Skokie. Visit skokie. suntimes.com/sports to view a photo gallery from the game. | DAVID BANKS-Sun-Times Media

This Week Niles North

BOYS BASKETBALL Friday Hosts Highland Park. 7:30 p.m. Saturday Hosts Highland Park, 9:30 a.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL At Highland Park, 7:30 p.m. Saturday At Regina, 2:30 p.m. Tuesday Hosts Crossover-Maine South, 7 p.m.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS Saturday At Glenbrook North Invite, 11 a.m. Tuesday At Maine East, 5:30 p.m. Thursday (12/13) At Niles West "Star Is Born", 6 p.m.

BOYS SWIM Friday At Niles West, 5 p.m.

WRESTLING Friday At Deerfield, 6 p.m. Saturday At Prospect Tourn., 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Hosts Meet, 6 p.m. Thursday (12/13) Hosts Maine West, 6 p.m. seasonpass.suntimes.com/pioneer

Niles West

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/SportsPioneerPress TWITTER: @Pioneer_Press

Don't Miss

Boys Swimming: Niles North at Niles West, 5:30 p.m.

The Wolves will try to improve upon last season's meet against the Vikings, which Niles North won 124-61. Niles North figures to once again be the class of the CSL North this season with seniors Karol Mlynarski and Javed Avdic back.

Friday

Boys Basketball: Niles West at Maine South, 7:30 p.m.

Although the boys basketball season is still in its early stages, both Niles West and Maine South seem to be viable candidates to win a seemingly wide-open CSL South. This game appears to be vital in providing either the Hawks or the red-hot Wolves an inside-track in reaching that goal.

In this Feb. 7 photo, Niles West's Molly Kleppin maneuvers around Lincoln Park's Donan Jackson during the Class 4A Niles West Regional final. Visit skokie.suntimes. com/sports to view a photo gallery from Niles West's game Saturday at Niles North. TRACY ALLEN-for Sun-Times Media

Kleppin fills leadership role for Wolves

BY ERIC VAN DRIL | Contributor | @Eric Van Dril

SKOKIE

The Niles West girls basketball team is in its first year of the post-Jewell Loyd era, a reality which has significantly altered players' roles and responsibilities on the court.

At the forefront of that transition is three-sport star Molly Kleppin, who has shifted from a defensive stopper to a player expected to score consistently and provide senior leadership.

But Kleppin's impact on her teammates and several members of the Niles West community has extended far beyond the court over the last two sity squad was able to raise enough

For the second consecutive year, Kleppin is the leader of a fundraiser in which the Niles West girls basketball program raises money to buy gifts for families in need. The members of the school's freshman, sophomore and varsity teams plan on raising \$25-\$30 apiece to buy presents for three separate families and send care packages to soldiers with ties to District 219 who are serving overseas.

Kleppin "pushes us to be better people," said Niles West sophomore Katherine De Lara. "She always pushes for us to do charity, for Christmas or for Thanksgiving. ... We're selling baked goods at school, enough to raise 25 to 30 dollars for a family. We're pushing to raise more (this year) because she has made us realize that we're very lucky to live in the area we live in, to have a house to live

Kleppin and Loyd came up with the idea to buy gifts for a less-fortunate family last year, and the Wolves' varto provide presents for each member of a 13-person family.

Kleppin has been working with fellow captain Alex Galanopoulos on the fundraising details this year. Once the



This Week **Niles West**

BOYS BASKETBALL Friday At Maine South, 6 p.m. Sunday At Ridgewood Invite, 11 a.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL Friday Hosts Maine South, 6 p.m. Tuesday At Maine West, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS At Evanston 5:30 p.m. Saturday At Glenbrook North, 11 a.m. Tuesday Hosts Glenbrook South, 5:30 p.mia Thursday (12/13) Hosts "A Starlis-Born", 6 p.m.

BOYS SWIM/DIVE Friday Hosts Niles North, 5:30 p.m.

WRESTLING Friday Hosts Maine South, 6 p.**m**. Saturday Hosts Quad, 9 a.m. Thursday (12/13) At Evanston Twp., 6 p.m.

required money is raised, Kleppin and Galanopoulos will buy the gifts and wrap them. Niles West coach Tony Konsewicz, who works with the school's counselors to identify which families are in need at Niles West, will deliver the presents.

Community service has been one of the pillars of the Niles West girls basketball program under Konsewicz, and Kleppin has helped take that to a new level over the last two years.

"She gives us so much more than stats on paper," Konsewicz said. "There are some intangibles



Niles West's Jasmine Townsend (left) battles Niles North's Keinya Jones (21) for the ball Saturday in Skokie. | DAVID BANKS-Sun-Times



Inside

Read about Niles West alumna Jewell Lloyd, who was named Big East Conference Frehman of the Week.

that she really lives up to:"

On the court, Kleppin said she has made it a point to help leave her team stronger than she found it. As the only returning starter from last year's team, she has embodied several positive characteristics - steady defense, poise under pressure and leadership - that also figure to have a lasting impact after she graduates.

"I think I've stepped in and taken a big role," said Kleppin, who scored five points in Saturday's 44-35 victory at Niles North. "We have a lot of young players that don't have a lot of experience, which is not exactly a bad thing. They'll build with time. I think it's my job to help them build experience for the coming years."



Niles West's Julia Easter (45) is defended by Niles North's Karime Assaf during Saturday's game in Skokie. | DAVID BANKS-Sun-Times Media

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Pioneer Press Boys Cross Country All-Area Team

RUNNER OF THE YEAR

Billy Bund didn't even run during the first three weeks of the 2012 season after missing last year's postseason because of a hip injury.

The Lake Forest senior made quite a comeback to not only reach the state meet, but finish fifth (in a school-record 14 minutes, 17 seconds) to become the first Scouts runner to medal in Class 3A He also became Lake Forest's first medalist since Jim Gibson won the Class AA title in

Bund started running as a sophomore, but as a

freshman, he was a wide receiver in football and a baseball outfielder.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU MISS ANYMORE **ABOUT FOOTBALL OR BASEBALL? "I miss a lot of** the players and coaches on both the football and baseball teams. I miss eating sunflower seeds with

the guys and listening to pump up music in the locker rooms before games

DID YOUR RELATIVE LACK OF WEIGHT (BUND IS 6-FOOT, 140 POUNDS) BECOME THE DECID-ING FACTOR IN YOU GIVING UP FOOTBALL AND BASEBALL? "Actually, I did a running camp at the high school the summer after my freshman

year and just fell in love with the sport. There is just something about running that makes me feel good. It never gets old. The thing that I really like about running is that if you put in the work and you are truly dedicated to the sport, it can be in-

credibly rewarding.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST KEY TO COACH NATE SWEET'S DEVELOPMENT OR TRANSITION FOR YOU TO BECOME AN ELITE CROSS COUN-TRY RUNNER? "Coach Sweet has been there for me through the entire process. From Day One, he was set on bringing out the best in me and the best in my teammates. Cross country runners are a long-term investment, from a coach's perspective. Since Coach Sweet is a very accomplished runner himself, it was easy for me to look to him for guldance.



Photo by JOEL LERNER - Sun-Times Media

The Niles North senior's first major win was a title at the seasonopening Hornet-Red Devil meet in Hinsdale. He also won at St. Charles North, the Niles

North quad, the Maine West quad and the Central Suburban North championship. His 10th-place finish at Class 3A state (14:38) was the second-fastest and secondbest finish in school history.

BURGOON

The Barrington senior saved his best for last, running a personal-record 14:40 to place 12th at the Class 3A state meet. Burgoon was 19th at Peoria's Spring

Invite Sept. 15 and 16th at the Palatine Invite Sept. 22, but took off late in the season with fourthplace finishes at Wheeling Oct. 6 and at the Schaumburg Sectional.



Matusiak, the leader of a Lyons team that placed third at Class 3A state, was a regular top finisher for Lyons this season. Matusiak struggled at the regional and

sectional, but was first again for Lyons at state, taking 11th (14:38). He won the season-opening Lyons Invite.



The Lake Zurich senior bounced back after finishing 14th at the Schaumburg Sectional to place 16th at the Class 3A state meet with a personal-best 14:42. He placed

25th at the Springs Invitational in Peoria Sept. 15 and was sixth at Wheeling Oct. 6. "Being able to achieve a goal I set four years ago (making the all-state team) is unbelievable, and the memory of being on that state stage will always be an amazing memory," Milner said.

Just a junior, Sal-



vano will return to run next year for Buffalo Grove coach Jamie Klotz. Salvano finished ninth at the Class 3A state meet with the second-fastest

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

time in school history (14:37). He was the Mid-Suburban League runner-up, second at the regional and third at the sectional



The Loyola Regional champion. Central Suburban League South champ and District 207 titleist carried his success into the Class 3A state meet, where

he finished 15th (14:41) for Maine South. "Jon displays an excellent work ethic year round," coach Greg Nordahl said.



of the year Q&A

SECOND

ALEX GOLD (Sr.) Deerfield
JONAH HANIG (Sr.) Highland Park TREVOR KUEHR (Sr.) Lake Zurich Dan Lupano (Jr.) Lyons
BILLY MAGNESEN (Jr.) RYAN SPEIR (Sr.) ROBERT TAYLOR (Sr.)



RUNNER OF THE YEAR

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

COURTNEY



player of the year Q&A



New Trier's next great runner has already earned back-to-

back all-state honors. finishing 12th at Class 3A state (16:56) this year and 10th in 2011. The sophomore was a back-to-back runnerup at Libertyville and Wheaton North in September



The twotime East Suburban Catholic champion became

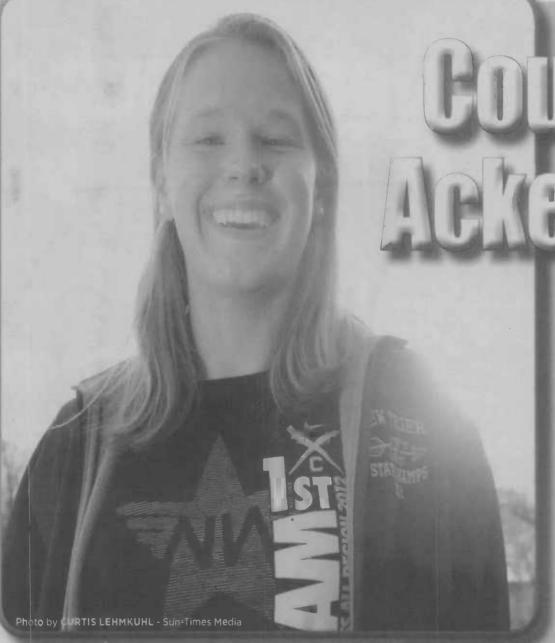
the highest finisher in Fenwick history at the Class 3A state meet by finishing fifth (16:43). The sophomore started the season with titles at Joliet, St. Ignatius and Oak Park-River Forest and took second at the Peoria Invite Sept. 29.



The junior won the seasonopening District 207 meet and was

in the runner-up at the Central Suburban South meet and at the Class 3A Loyola Regional. She finished ninth (in a school-record 16:51) at the state meet. Leonard became the first Maine South runner to earn all-state in three seasons. "She has been very consistent, and it is quite impressive for her to have back-toback top 10 finishes (at state)," coach Jeffrey Downing said.

Pioneer Press Girls Cross Country All-Area Team



ES HARDI

Hinsdale Central runner to finish all-state for three years ended

her career with an eighth-place result at Class 3A state, finishing in 16:49 despite running with a stress fracture in her left foot. The senior won the Lyons Regional title, took fourth at Wheaton North Sept. 29 and was second at Peoria Woodruff Sept. 8.



rington freshman made quite a debut this season and

became the Mid-Suburban League champion. She was second at the Grant Regional and came back from a disappointing Schaumburg Sectional finish (11th) to take 19th at the Class 3A state meet in



Princetonbound senior the

decorated runner at New Trier - behind win sister Courtney at the Class 3A state meet (17:00). That made Jessica Ackerman a three-time allstate runner.



became second-

most

with a 16th-place finish

Illinois-bound New Trier senior Courtney Ackerman - who became the first Trevians cross country runner to earn four all-state honors at the Class 3A state meet - was named Pioneer Press' female Runner of the Year after taking third at state this year. Ackerman won four consecutive major

meets this season at Peoria Woodruff Sept. 8, Libertyville Sept. 15, Wheaton North Sept. 29 and the Central Suburban League Oct. 13. She finished fifth at the Nike Midwest Cross meet Nov. 11 in Terre Haute. Ind., and she placed sixth at the national meet in Portland, Ore, on Dec. 1 (finishing in 19 minutes, 43 seconds).

Her sister, Jessica, was there for every stride, but the twins will go their separate ways next season (Jessica will run at Princeton).

WHAT IS THE EARLIEST MEMORY YOU HAVE OF RUNNING CROSS COUNTRY WITH YOUR SISTER JESSICA? "The first time I ran cross country was the summer before my freshman year. Jess and I ran with the New Trier cross country team, and there was only one other freshman running in the group with us, so I was very intimidated by the older girls. I was a really shy freshman and did not know anyone, but the upperclassmen were so nice and welcoming to us right from the start."

ONE OF YOUR TRADEMARKS IS THE LONG PINK SOCKS YOU WEAR DURING A RACE. IS THERE SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THAT? "Since my sophomore year cross country season, I have had pretty consistent shin pain. My grandma bought me my first pair of pink compression socks to help minimize the stress on my shins. At first, I used to only wear them during practice, but she would ask me why I did not wear them during races and I could never come up with a response. Finally, I just started wearing them in all my races, and I think they really do help." One of your interests is downhill skiling. Is there any similarity between skling and long-distance running? "It's a tradition of my family to go snow skiing out in Colorado every year. Jess and I have gone since we were 8 (years old). Snow skiing is really different from running but it is fun to go out there and do something a little different for a change

- George M. Wilcox

SECOND TEAM

VALERIE BOBART (Sr.) MEGAN LEMERSAL (Sr.) Maine South
ELLIE PALACIOS (Sr.) BRIANA DALEY (Jr.) Fenwick KAITLYN KO (Fn) Buffalo Grove

HALEY PROKASKI (Sr.) CAROLINE REYNOLDS (Jr.)



SEASON PASS

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OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

CHRIS

RB

LAMMON

JAVIER

A workhorse runner,

ran for 2.089 yards

The Oak Park-River

Forest senior ran for

yards and 20 TDs.

300 yards against York

and finished with 1,605

breakout fall

the Notre Dame junior

and 29 TDs during his



See player of the year

GRANT RB

Rushing averaged more than a first down every handoff and ran for 1,662 yards and 24 TDs



The Lyons senior showed why he is slated to play football at Northwestern next year. In Week 2, he touched the ball nine times and

scored four TDs

SECOND TEAM

DEVIN BOEHM (Sr.) IAN BUNTING (Jr.) ANDREW CLIFFORD (Sr.) JACK DEICHL (Sr.) Libertyville, QB D.J. DEOLITSIS (Sr.) ZACHARY GURITZ (Sr.)

JOE MARCHESE (Sr.) JOSHUA MOORE (Sr.) DAN POULOS (Sr.) PETER PUJALS (Sr.) ROCCO STEFANINI (Sr.)

Pioneer Press Football Offensive All-Area Team



A three-year starter, the Maine South senior threw for 2,877 yards and 29 touchdowns this season. The North-western-bound signal-caller also ran for another 971 yards and 19 scores for the 11-1 CSL South champions. Alviti, a 2012 Class 8A all-state selection, finished his high school career 33-4 and won a state title as a sophomore

Alviti's favorite class right now is marketing. After spending so much time with Nike representatives throughout his playing career at Maine South, he said he considers working for the company to be a dream job. The Hawks were one of eight prep teams in the country to be issued the brand's Pro Combat uniforms this year for the playoffs. WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON STUDYING AT NORTHWEST-ERN? "There's no undergraduate business program, so I into the business world someday

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU WOULD WANT TO WORK FOR ONCE YOU'RE DONE WITH SCHOOL AND SPORTS? "Probably Nike. They've been around us so much, and I have liked all of the people who have been at

YOU WILL HAVE A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY WHILE AT NORTHWESTERN, WHICH ALWAYS HAS BEEN A TOP-NOTCH ACADEMIC SCHOOL AND NOW HAS A FOOTBALL PROGRAM RANKED AMONG THE COUNTRY'S BEST. WAS HAVING THAT BALANCE IM-PORTANT TO YOU? "Definitely. That was a big reason why I picked Northwestern. They are getting better and better each year. Plus, it's one of the best universities to get in education.



Rhoades, a senior, caught 10 passes for 290 yards and two TDs for Leyden.

ď

Maine South coach Dave Inserra called Maloney the "best lineman" he's coached in 12 seasons. The Ball State-bound, 6-3, 275-pounder senior had 31 pancake blocks and was a two-time lineman of the year in the CSL



The 6-4, 270-pound Lyons senior anchored the team's line and assisted in the Lions getting back to the state quarterfinals for a second consecutive season. He plans to play at Penn



The 6-5, 265-pound Stevenson junior tackle paved the way for an offense that averaged 136.2 yards on the ground and 219.4 yards through the air. The Patriots won at least one playoff game for a fourth year in a row



OL

The 6-2, 245-pound Evanston senior was a big part of the team's recent turnaround. which included three consecutive playoff appearances during his time on varsity.



OL The 6-4, 270 pound senior from Hinsdale Central started at left tackle and is receiving interest from several colleges, including those in the Big Ten



The Fenwick senior was a weapon both offense and defense. He finished 36-for-38 on PATs and 5-for-7 on field goals, including two gamewinners. He also notched 30 touchbacks



The Glenbrook South junior averaged 28.8 yards per return. Laurie scored 10 rushing TDs, four receiving TDs, returned two interceptions for TDs and scored on a punt return.

Pioneer Press Football Defensive All-Area Team

SEASON PASS

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

LUKE



DB See player of the year Q&A.

ROSENGUIST



The 6-3, 300-pound Lake Forest Academy senior finished with seven tackles for loss one sack and one forced fumble. Rosenquist was named the Catholic White's defensive player of the year.

TOM



DI The 6-5, 240-pound senior, and NSC Lake's defensive player of the year, finished with 19 tackles for loss and 14 1/2 sacks.





The 6-1, 225-pound Fenwick senior, and Catholic White's MVP. recorded 19 tackles for loss, three interceptions and two fumble recoveries. Hart scored three defensive TDs.

DARBY GOODWIN



The 6-0, 225-pound Loyola senior posted 10 sacks and was named the Catholic Blue's defensive MVP.

BRIAN



The Hinsdale Central junior has separated himself from older brother Jack Allen, now playing at Michigan State. The 6-2, 275-pounder was one of the most dominant linemen in WSC.

NOAH

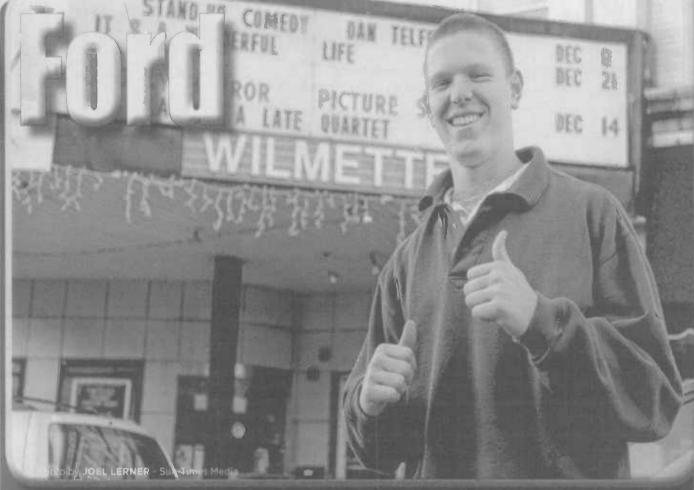


B The 5-10 195 pound senior was the CSL South's co-defensive player of the year and helped Maine South to 21 wins in two seasons



The 6-0, 220-pound Lovola senior averaged nearly eight tackles a game, finished with six picks on the 11-2 season.

ST. 10-119



in the Chicago area, the 6-foot-3, 200-pound Loyola safety was the Catholic Blue's MVP and headlined one of the best defenses in the state. Ford, who will play at Holy Cross, had four interceptions and also scored 11 offensive TDs on 35 catches to help the Ramblers advance to the state quarterfinals for a fourth

In his free time, Ford enjoys going out to see movies with family and friends.
WHEN DID YOUR LOVE OF CINEMA START? "My dad used to take me to the theater when I was younger, and it was — and is

Called

"heart

the

and

soul"

of the

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE? "I am a fan of the classics, and I like seeing the movies that won an Oscar for Best Picture. But I am all over the board. Sports movies also interest me. My favorite movie is 'Amadeus.' It was an award-winner in the 1980s."
WHAT ARE SOME CURRENT MOVIES YOU RECOMMEND AND/OR WANT TO SEE SOON? "I saw the new James Bond movie 'Skyfall' on Thanksgiving. Javier Bardem was one of the best Bond villians I've ever seen. I'm

Liber-

tyville

coach

Jones

said the

5-10 195

Σ

Mike

SECOND TEAM KEVIN VERKLER (Sr.)



defense DAM by Leyden coach Tom Cerasani, the 6-2, 225-pound senior was the WSC Gold's defensive player of the year. He is drawing interest from several Mid-

western colleges.



Wolves' first playoff team since 2004, the 6-0, 180-pound senior had 12 tackles for loss and earned the CSL South's co-defensive player of the year.

An im-

piece

of the

Niles

West

portant



pound senior was the "face of Wildcat football." On defense, Salata had three interceptions and two tackles for loss.



Patriots, the sophomore averaged nearly 37 yards per punt. The 6-3, 180-pounder caught 31 balls for 516 yards and six TDs.

Also a

receiver

for the

venson

Ste-



00

any time was in his the 6-2, 215-pound Fenwick junior finished

with 15 TDs on 140

touches and totaled

1,036 yards.



the ball hands,

A threat

to score

SEASON PASS

Niles Herald-Spectator

Thursday, December 6, 2012 seasonpass.suntimes.com/pioneer

BARRINGTON - BUFFALO GROVE - CARMEL - CHICAGOLAND JEWISH - DEERFIELD - ELMWOOD PARK - EVANSTON - FENWICK - GLENBROOK NORTH - GLENBROOK SOUTH - GUERIN





Four stars.

Pioneer Press chooses its Players of the Year and names its all-area teams.

Inside





NOTRE DAME - NORTH SHORE - NORTHRIDGE - NILES WEST - NILES NORTH - NEW TRIER - NAZARETH - MUNDELEIN - MAINE SOUTH - MAINE EAST - LYONS - LOYOLA

- ST. JOSEPH - TRINITY - WOODLANDS ACADEMY - VERNON HILLS