

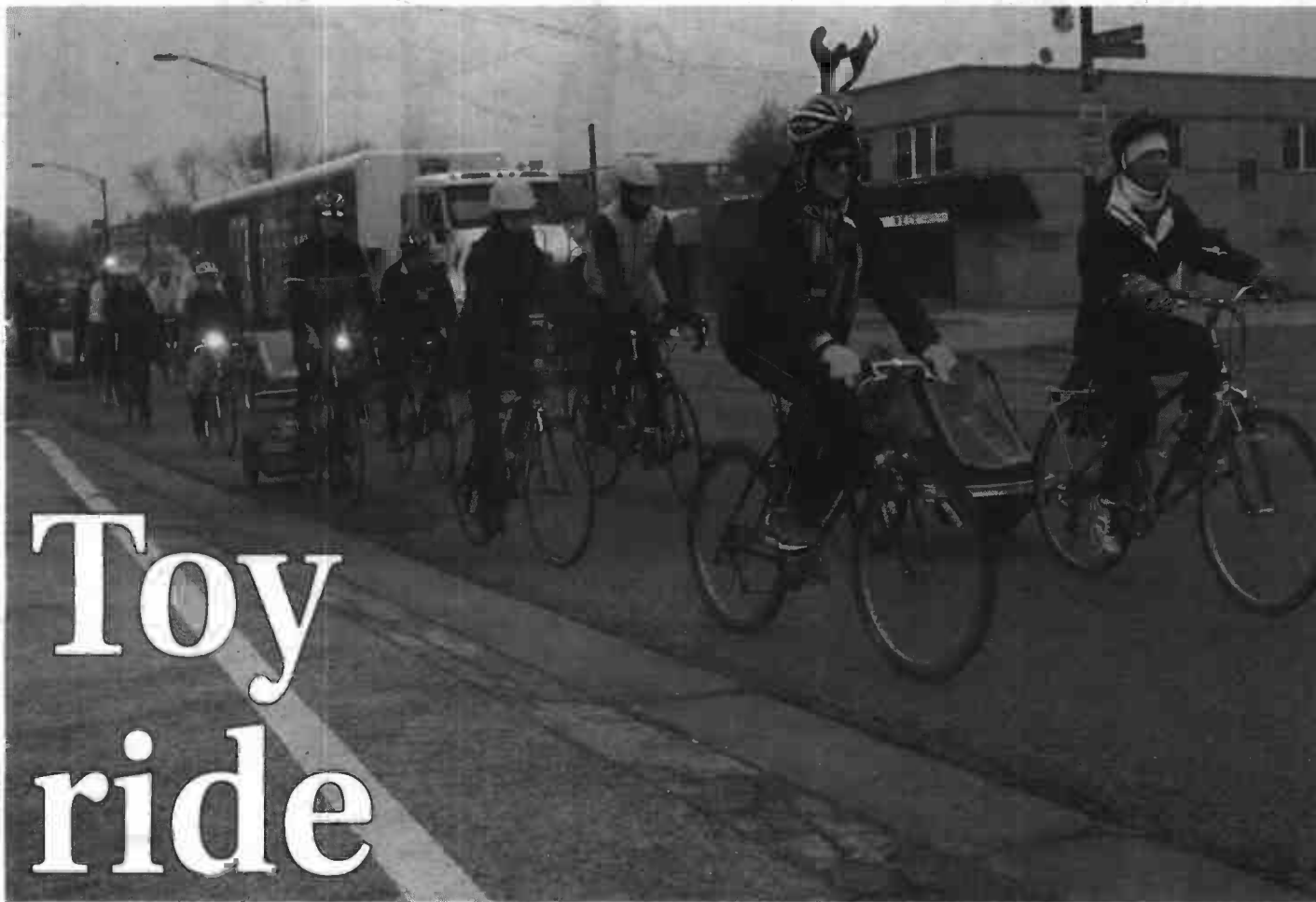
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Toy ride

Annual bike ride brings more than 1,000 toys. | PAGE 6



GO

Sixty top Chicago-area chefs name their best meal of the year.

**Inside!
Education
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SPECIAL
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PUBLICATION INFORMATION Niles Herald-Spectator (USPS 390-680) Vol. 65, No. 52. Published 52 issues per year by Sun-Times Media, LLC, © 2014, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago IL 60654. Single copy: \$1.50. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago IL 60607 and additional mailing offices. One-year subscription: \$52.00. In-county only. Call (877) 855-7722 to subscribe. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Niles Herald-Spectator, c/o Pioneer Newspapers Inc., 350 N. Orleans, Chicago IL 60654. New subscriber starts require email address. If for some reason you choose to cancel please note that a refund processing fee may apply, currently \$6.



GO Mommy on a Shoestring

New Year's Eve fun with the kids
PAGE 36

CORRECTION

The village of Niles spent a total of \$4,310.28 on postage to mail out fliers related to a referendum that eventually stripped the city's mayor of the power to fill trustee vacancies, according to records. This was incorrectly reported in the Dec. 11 edition. The Niles Herald Spectator regrets the error.

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Annual Toys for Tots bike ride delivers more than 1,000 toys

NATALIE HAYES
Special for Pioneer Press

Santa's sleigh was no match for a pack of determined bikers on a mission from Niles early Friday morning to deliver thousands of toys to kids in need this holiday season.

A group of 140 bikers gathered at Amling's Cycle on the 8100 block of Milwaukee Avenue early Friday morning to continue a long-running tradition that was started by shop owner Joe Reichert more than a decade ago.

The annual Toys for Tots ride helps deliver thousands of toys for the Salvation Army-run program, which hopes to make sure every kid has a toy to open on Christmas.

The tradition resumes each year during the second week of December, when a group of volunteers bikes nearly 15 miles in the cold weather to the Mystic Celt bar on Southport Avenue in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood.

When the bikers arrive, a pair of Marines are standing in a big empty truck stationed in front of the bar, ready to load the toys.

Sgt. Clayton Gilbert helped pack the truck with the more than 1,200 toys delivered by the bikers.

The 28-year-old, who has spent Christmas in Iraq, said he'll never forget how loved he felt when he received packages from strangers during the holidays.

"I remember getting a pair of socks — which I still have — and it made me incredibly happy," Gilbert said. "Now I can be on the other side of it and help kids have a good Christmas."

While Gilbert and his Marine colleague stood by patiently waiting for the toys to arrive, the pack of bikers collected plenty of attention as they cruised through morning rush hour traffic.

With lime-green-colored bike trailers towing behind them, many drivers cheered them on as they cruised down the main streets in Niles, Skokie, and finally Chicago, stopping traffic as they went.



Bikers start their Toys for Tots ride into Chicago from Amling's Cycle in Niles Dec. 12. | KEVIN TANAKA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE MEDIA GROUP

When they arrived at Mystic Celt about an hour later, the riders helped load the trucks before they headed inside the bar to fill up on a celebratory brunch and take down a few morning Irish cocktails.

Steve Schermerhorn of Park Ridge joined Amling's Cycle's Toys for Tots ride during its second year in 2003, and said he hasn't missed a year since.

"It's a way to help the kids in need during Christmas, and it's also a lot of fun because it turns into a pub crawl," Schermerhorn said.

At 8:30 a.m. shortly after the bikers had arrived at Mystic Celt, the mood in the bar was jovial as the crowd caught up with old friends and chatted with the Marines.

Waitress Caroline Clark has worked at the Mystic Celt for more than a decade, and said she never misses the Toys for Tots ride.

"I come in at 7 (a.m.) every year to get ready for them, and everyone is very excited when they arrive," Clark said.

For Reichert, who started delivering toys on a tandem bike to the WGN studios 15 years ago with wife Julia, the Toys for Tots ride has ballooned into a bigger event than he could have ever imagined.

In 2002, about 35 riders joined the Reicherts on their first group bike trip to the city, and word of mouth has helped ridership grow to nearly 200 bikers during some years, he said.

Although the riders enjoy plenty of free brunch and a relaxing time catching up



Trailers filled with toys are ready for bikers to start their Toys for Tots ride into Chicago from Amling's Cycle in Niles Dec. 12. | KEVIN TANAKA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE MEDIA GROUP

with friends when they finally reach the bar, it takes a thick skin to stick through a freezing-cold early-morning bike ride.

Lake Zurich resident Connor Schemansky, 13, found that out the hard way.

Schemansky, who joined the ride for the

first time this year with his dad, said his hands went numb for about 25 minutes.

"It was cold, but my favorite part was hearing the people cheering as we rode by," Grainger said. "The bacon was also really good."



ABOVE: Gayle Smith of Oak Park hauls a trailer for the Toys for Tots ride into Chicago from Amling's Cycle in Niles Dec. 12. | KEVIN TANAKA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE MEDIA GROUP



RIGHT: Fred Rodriguez of Niles, left, and Arnold Horm of Elgin, load toys into a trailer for the Toys for Tots ride into Chicago from Amling's Cycle in Niles Dec. 12. | KEVIN TANAKA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE MEDIA GROUP

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Jilted Niles Public Library chooses staffing consultant

IGOR STUDENKOV

Special for Pioneer Press | @istudenkov

After five months of searching, the Niles Public Library finally contracted a staffing and operations consultant.

The library Board of Trustees began the search in July. It originally chose NextLevelNPO in September, but the Chicago-based consultant dropped out without explanation less than two weeks later, forcing the board to look at the remaining candidates.

After interviewing two of the remaining candidates in October and one remaining candidate in November, the board voted during its Nov. 19 meeting to select Matrix Consulting Group, based in Mountain View, Calif.

During the first half of 2014, library Financial Manager Greg Pritz, then-Director Linda Weiss, and then-Assistant Directors Susan Lempke and Barbara Kruser came up with a proposal to significantly change the library's organizational chart. The goal was to create a more modern and more efficient operation.

Some aspects of their proposal,

such as merging the Page Services Department into Patron Services Department — were implemented. But during the summer, other aspects — most notably the creation of the new Digital Services Department — stalled.

During the June meeting, Board President Morgan Dubiel said that he felt that the proposed changes were too confusing and urged the board to hire a staffing consultant before approving further changes.

After NextLevelNPO dropped out, the board interviewed the remaining candidates. During the Oct. 17 meeting, the board interviewed representatives of the Dallas-based Godfrey's Associates and the Washington-based Kaizen Institute Consulting Group. During the Nov. 15 meeting, it interviewed Richard Brady, president of the Matrix Consulting Group.

According to the proposal submitted to the board, Matrix's staffing and operations study will be divided into five stages. During the first stage, the group will meet with Dubiel and now-Interim Director Lempke to discuss the scope of the study and

how the study will be conducted. During the second phase, Matrix will research library services, its administrative structure, what the staff does and how much money the library spends in those areas.

During the third phase, Matrix will work to identify issues with the library's current services, gathering input from library board and staff, as well as patrons, Friends of the Niles Library and any other community groups that want to contribute. During the fourth phase, the consultants will develop objectives that will allow Matrix and the library to evaluate potential changes to the current library staffing and service practices.

During the fifth phase, Matrix will bring the objectives to the board and the library staff. Depending on their input, the objectives may be tweaked. The consultants will then use that information and their research to develop a plan for potential changes to the library's organizational structure, services, operations and the ways the library spends its money. The last part includes

potential changes to the way staff members are paid.

Matrix estimates that the study will take a total of 12 weeks. It is charging \$32,500 for its services, with \$28,800 covering payments to Matrix staff and \$3,700 covering expenses.

By comparison, Godfrey would have charged a minimum of \$84,073 for its services, while Kaizen would have charged \$36,000, plus a flexible amount for expenses, officials said. NextLevel would have charged \$42,000 for its services, plus about \$1,500 in expenses, they said.

Dubiel originally expressed preference for Kaizen. But Trustee Chris Ball argued that Kaizen was offering to focus on only one staffing practice at a time, which wouldn't be a good value for the cost of its services. Dubiel said he found Ball's argument convincing and that he was leaning toward Matrix.

"It's going to give us everything Godfrey would give us for the third of the cost," he said.

As the board set out to vote on whether to approve the contract

with Matrix, some trustees expressed reservations about the entire vote.

During previous meetings, Trustee Karen Dimond argued that hiring a staffing consultant should wait until the library has a permanent director. She reiterated her position during the Nov. 15 meeting.

"I think we're putting the cart before the horse," said Dimond. "I think that we should really be focusing on and turn our attention to finding a director, and then turn our attention to this."

Trustee Linda Ryan agreed. "I think it would be a better fit with a new director, hand in hand, working together," she said.

Ball argued that the fact the library doesn't have a permanent director yet isn't a problem.

"I feel comfortable with the motion [to approve the contract with Matrix]," he said. "And the fact that we don't have a director in place, we can work around that."

The board wound up approving a contract with Matrix 4-3, with Dimond, Ryan and Trustee Barbara Naganishi voting against.

Niles hires attorneys to handle gun shop lawsuit

IGOR STUDENKOV

Special for Pioneer Press | @istudenkov

The Niles Village Board has hired Nolan Law Group to handle the village's defense against a lawsuit filed by gun control activists People for a Safer Society.

On Oct. 17, the Skokie-based group filed a lawsuit arguing that the village should not have granted a special use permit to the Sportsman's Club gun shop and firing range. The board granted the permit on July 29 amid charges that the gun shop would make the area less safe.

People for a Safer Society were among the most prominent opponents of the decision, and has continued to argue that the village should rescind the permit since the decision was made.

The lawsuit contends that the special use permit should not have been approved because the business doesn't fit the area's land uses, adversely affects nearby property values and poses a danger to safety of area residents. The lawsuit seeks to not only revoke Sportsman's Club's permit, but to prohibit any other gun shop from getting a special use permit on the parcel on which it's located.

The board voted 5-0 on Dec. 9 to approve the contract with Nolan, with Trustee Rosemary Palicki abstaining. After the meeting, Palicki said she abstained in an effort to be neutral.

She opposed granting the special use permit to Sportsman's Club as a member of the board, and is one of the defendants in the lawsuit, Palicki said.



Gun control advocates People For a Safer Society (left) tried to convince the Niles Village Board not only to put a moratorium on gun shops in their town, but also to retroactively ban a gun shop approved earlier this year. | IGOR STUDENKOV/FOR PIONEER PRESS

Niles library provides free remote access to video, audio with Hoopla

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
Special for Pioneer Press | @istudenkov

Niles Public Library has teamed up with Hoopla online media delivery service, allowing patrons to stream or download movies, TV shows, audiobooks and music albums for free.

The library unveiled the new service on Dec 1. To access Hoopla, patrons can either download an app or visit its website at hoopladigital.com. While streaming is unlimited, the downloads come with built-in time limits, and patrons can only download 10 titles per month.

Niles Public Library joins 42 libraries throughout Illinois that partnered up with Hoopla. Some of the other nearby libraries that partnered with the service include Skokie Public Library, Morton Grove Public Library and Park Ridge Public Library.

Only patrons that have valid library cards with partner libraries can use the service. Hoopla can be accessed through its website, and it offers apps for Apple and Android devices, as well as Kindle Fire. Patrons can access Hoopla 24/7.

When a patron downloads a title from Hoopla, the file comes with a built-in time limit. Once the limit expires, the file is automatically erased. The limits are set at seven days for music, three days for movies and TV shows, and three weeks for audiobooks.

While patrons can't renew items on Hoopla, they can re-download them again after they expire. However, patrons are limited to 10 downloads a month, and every re-download counts toward that limit.

In a press release, Niles Library Interim Director Susan Lempke said that the partnership was established in response to patrons' needs. A growing number of Niles residents use mobile devices and movies, TV shows and music. The library wanted to figure out a way to meet those needs.

"We're always trying to find new ways to meet the needs and wants of our community members," said Lempke. "Our new partnership with Hoopla digital gives our patrons instant access to a broad collection of movies, TV shows, music and audiobooks in a format that they never had before."

Sue Wilsey, the library's marketing and publicity supervisor, said in an interview that the partnership with Hoopla is just one of the many online resources the library has available to its patrons.

"We also have Flipster, where patrons can download the latest issues of popular magazines," she said. "We have Rosetta Stone and Mango language learning resources. We have Ancestry.com library version for genealogy research, Consumer Reports, Tutor



Sign advertising the new Hoopla media streaming service went up in the Niles Public Library's front lobby after it was introduced Dec. 1. | IGOR STUDENKOV/FOR PIONEER PRESS

com and much more."

While not all titles that are available at Niles Library are available on Hoopla, its selection is extensive.

As previously reported, the service offers over 10,000 titles overall. And Wilsey indicated that if there's something that's not available on Hoopla, patrons can request it.

"There is a contact link on the bottom of each Hoopla page a patron can send [a request] to Hoopla," she said.

In a press release, Hoopla founder and owner Jeff Jankowski said that the service is constantly working on expanding its selection of titles.

"We've worked for years to create a best-in-breed service that is fun, fast and reliable," he said. "And we continue to secure content deals to expand the offering of movies, TV shows, music and audiobooks."

Lempke emphasized that Hoopla has a number of advantages. The fact that it's accessible 24/7 means that patrons aren't limited by library hours. The built-in time limit means that patrons who download Hoopla titles would never have to pay late fees.

Because the titles are digital, there's no worry that a popular movie or a TV show won't be in stock because all available copies are already checked out.

When contacted last week, Wilsey said that it was too early to tell how patrons feel about Hoopla.

"We just launched it on [Dec 1], so we will see," she said. "Our staff is enthusiastic about offering it."



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|| CRIME BRIEFS

BURGLARY

A construction site on the 5900 block of Howard Street was entered overnight between Dec. 5 and Dec. 6 and a window was broken on a construction trailer. Once inside the trailer, someone reportedly stole candy from a candy dish. Fire extinguishers inside another building were also used, police said.

BURGLARY TO VEHICLE

Tools valued at approximately \$3,000 were stolen on the afternoon of Dec. 7 from a truck parked on the 8900 block of Greenwood Avenue. A satellite radio controller was stolen between Dec. 3 and Dec. 10 from a vehicle parked on the 8700 block of Park Lane.

THEFT

A 2000 Pontiac was stolen between Dec. 7 and Dec. 8 from the 8200 block of Oketo Avenue.

On Nov. 29, someone rented a van from a business on the 7600 block of Milwaukee Avenue using another person's identity and never returned the vehicle, police said.

A man told police on Dec. 9 that someone obtained a credit card in his name after he filled out a credit card application at a store on the 5700 block of Touhy Avenue back in August.

||| POLICE BLOTTER

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

NILES

RETAIL THEFT

John Strickland, 42, of I W. Acorn, Lake in the Hills, was charged with felony retail theft on Dec. 9 after he allegedly stole three plumbing ball valves valued at \$95.71 from a store on the 8600 block of Dempster Street. Police said Strickland is currently on parole for an undisclosed offense. He has a Jan. 14 court date.

DUI

Andriy Vyksyuk, 23, of 2627 N. Sayre Ave., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence on Dec. 7 after he was reportedly stopped for speeding on the 7000 block of Milwaukee Avenue at 3:45 a.m. He has a Dec. 31 court date.

James Lane, 21, of 8301 Mango Ave., Morton Grove, was charged with driving under the influence on Dec. 5 after he was stopped just after midnight for allegedly making a left turn on a red light at the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Oakton Street.

He has a Jan. 7 court date.

DRUG POSSESSION

Daniel C. Brown, 32, whose last known address was 9666 Golf Road, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with possession of a controlled substance on Dec. 8. Police encountered Brown in the lobby of a condominium complex on the 9000 block of Terrace Drive after responding to a complaint that he had been repeatedly sleeping in the stairwells of the building. According to police, Brown had in his hand a plastic baggie containing .6 grams of suspected cocaine and identified himself as "a cokehead." Police also reportedly found a bottle of brandy inside Brown's sweatshirt. He has a Jan. 6 court date.

MORTON GROVE

DRUGS

James Gelderman, 34, of Glenview, was charged with possession of a controlled substance after he was arrested on Emerson Street and Harlem Avenue on Dec. 5. Police said Gelderman was stopped for "improper lane use" and driving with expired registration. Police allegedly found a small amount of cocaine, marijuana, more than 20 Vicodin pills,

and open alcohol in his vehicle. He is scheduled to appear in court on Dec. 24.

Derrick Dumwicki, 22, of Glenview, was charged with possession of cannabis after he was arrested on Golf Road and Washington Street on Dec. 10. Police said he was pulled over for an unknown traffic violation and officers allegedly found an undisclosed amount of marijuana in his vehicle. Dumwicki is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 8.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Police said the rear window of a vehicle was shattered while it was parked on the 7800 block of Merrimac Avenue on Dec. 4. The car's owner told police he thinks the damage might have been accidental, according to police reports.

SCAMS

Police said a Morton Grove resident was the victim of a scam on Dec. 4. A man received a check in the mail with instructions on how to be a mystery shopper, police said. He deposited a check enclosed in the envelope into his bank account, and purchased one Money Pak card for \$500, police said. He emailed the security code on the Money Pak card to an email address provided in the instructions. The next day, his bank notified him that the check was fraudulent, according to police.

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Education

Three fine arts leaders among District 207's Best December students

NATALIE HAYES
Special for Pioneer Press

A longtime tradition maintained for many years at Maine Township High School District 207 honors three high-achieving students each month in the 207's Best program, which spotlights teens for achieving outside of the classroom.

December's three honorees — Rhys Bakulinski of Maine West, Julia Koza of Maine South, and Rachel Stan of Maine East — were recognized during the December school board meeting for notoriety in their respective school's fine arts department.

Each month, teachers nominate students for a different rotating achievement category, including community service, improved performance, and this month's category, performing /fine arts.

Then an executive committee at each of the three high schools selects the final winners, who are later commended by school board members, parents and friends at the monthly board meetings.

The three young women honored this month cover three major aspects of fine arts programming: drama, music, and television production.

Bakulinski, who was nominated by her fine arts teachers for being "intellectually inquisitive, witty, and willing to help others grow in their artistic endeavors" (according to Maine West principal Audrey Hagan), is a leader in the school's drama and photography programs.

The future musical theater major at Columbia College in Chicago has submerged herself in acting and broadcasting during high school by performing in school musicals and the variety show, and by managing the Maine West student radio station.



From left to right: Rhys Bakulinski, Rachel Stan, and Julia Koza | PROVIDED

Maine South's Koza, who told the school board she plans to attend either DePaul University or North Park University and major in music education, has a passion for "everything music," according to school Principal Shawn Messmer.

In between fulfilling her role as the school's marching band drum major, Koza also stays active in the Italian and Polish clubs, and sings in the Maine South choir. She was

recently selected for the Illinois Music Education Association District 7 Honor Choir.

Messmer said Koza is a "consistent leader in the Fine Arts Department who was nominated by her teachers for being hardworking, consistent, curious, friendly, relaxed, and respectful."

While Bakulinski and Koza prefer the spotlight of the stage, Stan shines behind the scenes as the manager of Maine East's TV

station, a position she's held for the past two years.

Described by her broadcasting teacher Phil Ash as having a "natural gift for storytelling," Stan has received two awards at the Chicago Television Educators Council film festival and was honored with second place recognition in the "exceptional work" category at this year's Northbrook Youth Film Festival.

Maine East principal Michael

Pressler commended Stan for being successful in using video "as a vehicle to communicate her insights and as a means to evoke thoughtful reflection from her viewers."

Stan plans to continue her TV broadcasting studies at Liberty University in Virginia after she graduates high school in the spring. She intends to major in cinematic arts, according to a press release from School District 207.

Creative use of space on Park Ridge library's 2015 agenda

JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com | @jen_pioneer

Space has, for years, been a topic of discussion at the Park Ridge Public Library.

Now, fresh from a referendum that will bring more revenue to the library's coffers, finding new ways to use space is back on the agenda.

Library Executive Director Janet Van De Carr said 2015 will be a year of exploring how to meet some of the library's "serious needs" on the second floor — primarily making room for group study and seating for patrons who drop in to work on their own computers.

"We plan to install new carpet sometime in the next few years, so that's an ideal time to look at how we use our space," Van De Carr said.

Under review is adding more study rooms and "flexible space," the latter of which involves lightweight furniture on wheels that can be moved around.

"Unfortunately, because our

building is about half the size it should be to serve a community this size, if we add something, something has to be taken away," Van De Carr said. "We don't have the luxury of extra space."

Areas to free up space might include the second floor reference desk, which Van De Carr admits may be larger than needed, or cutting down collections that are being replaced by digital streaming, like CDs and DVDs.

The best way of adding more electrical outlets will also be a key component of the study.

"With all of the students in Park Ridge having electronic devices, even in the elementary schools, a lot of kids are coming here after school and they need a place to recharge their equipment," Van De Carr said. "Libraries are becoming more and more community spaces for people to do work and have access to Wi-Fi, so we need a variety of different seating with power outlets."

The Park Ridge Public Library

was built in 1958, with the southern addition added in 1977.

At the recently remodeled Niles Public Library, new public seating areas are among the additions. Comfortable chairs and tables dot the library, including a series of eight chairs on the third floor that are each situated next to an outlet.

Private work and study spaces were also added as part of the \$5.5 million renovation project.

"When we remodeled our library we had heard from our patrons that they wanted more study rooms, small spaces for working in," said Susan Lempke, interim library director in Niles. "Work might be a student studying or someone signing real estate documents — it's all kinds of things."

The Niles library was constructed in 1998.

Last year, the Des Plaines Public Library, which was built in 2000, added more space for patrons to sit and plug in their computers on the fourth floor, and similar space is

planned for the third floor as part of a \$2.2 million renovation set to begin next year, said Library Director Holly Sorensen.

The renovation also includes a new teen center with expanded work, social and media areas; a youth computer learning center and adult digital learning center; and a "digital e-bar," offering patrons assistance with a variety of devices.

The 2014 State of America's Libraries Report, compiled by the American Library Association, identifies current trends in library renovation as building a flexible, open-space plan; adding more "semi-private space" for patrons; and creating space that is heavy in technology.

A quote from Les Watson, a consultant on learning spaces in libraries, is included in this section of the report.

"Furniture has emerged as a key factor in creating variety in the library experience," Watson says. "It can easily be rearranged to change

the look and feel of a space."

The report also describes how the downtown branch of the Chattanooga, Tenn., library created a 14,000-square-foot "community collaboration space" last year on a floor that had once been used for storage. New equipment, like 3D printers and video production software on computers, was added, as was a coffee shop.

Van De Carr said surveying Park Ridge Library patrons on their needs and wants will be a part of the coming year's planning. An online survey was conducted earlier this year, but it focused almost primarily on programming and charging participants for it.

The group the library especially wants to hear from is teens, Van De Carr said.

"We think we know [their needs], but we want to hear directly from them, to make sure the changes we make are thoughtfully done and anticipate the needs into the future," Van De Carr said.



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LEFT: A crowd of over 900 enjoyed the stirring sounds of a full choir of 38 professional singers and parish members accompanied by an outstanding 16-piece orchestra under the baton of Marek Rachelski, SJB's Music Director.

| PROVIDED
BOTTOM LEFT: Marek Rachelski, SJB's Music Director, conducted the orchestra. | PROVIDED
BOTTOM RIGHT: Among the featured soloists were, from left, Todd von Felker (bass), Elise LaBarge (soprano), Scott Brunscheen (tenor), John Eckhardt (violinist), Jennifer Kosharsky (mezzo-soprano), and Marek Rachelski (conductor and keyboard artist). | PROVIDED

Do-It-Yourself 'Messiah' concert draws 900

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
 Special for Pioneer Press | @istudenkov

St. John Brebeuf Parish's second annual Do-It-Yourself performance of Handel's "Messiah" proved to be a huge success, according to organizers.

The concert was held on Dec. 2 at 7 p.m., at the parish church in Niles. The admission was free, and visitors were encouraged to sing along. According to parish spokesman Dick Barton, about 900 people attended.

"Messiah" is an oratorio, or opera that doesn't involve any acting, that was composed by the German-born composer George Frideric Handel. It follows the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and details the prophecies about his return. The parish has organized performances a way to introduce the community to Handel's work, showcase great performances and tell the story of



Jesus Christ.

The oratorio was performed by Niles Metropolitan Chorus members, with the Musica Lumina Chamber Orchestra providing the musical accompaniment.

This year, the Do-It-Yourself concert doubled as a part of a tribute to the Rev. Stanley Rudcki, founder of the Niles Symphony Orchestra and the Niles Concert Choir. Throughout his life, he

worked to bring classical music to members of the community that would otherwise never be exposed to it.

To honor his legacy, St. John Brebeuf launched a series of eight free concerts that will run through March 2015. The Do-It-Yourself concert was the fifth in the series. The next concert, a performance by classical guitarist Jack Cimo,



Niles approves final phase of Milwaukee Avenue streetscape

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
Special for Pioneer Press | @istudenkov

The Niles Village Board unanimously approved a series of resolutions that will make the final phase of the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Improvement project a reality.

The resolutions authorized streetscape improvements for the segment of Milwaukee Avenue between Oakton and Monroe streets. The plan calls for more green spaces, repaved sidewalks, new decorative details and the removal of sidewalks between the driving lanes and the parking lots.

The improvements represent the last phase of the ongoing effort to improve the stretch of Milwaukee Avenue that runs through Niles. The project is expected to be completed within the next two years.

The final phase will cost \$934,500 overall. The Illinois Transportation Enhancement

Program will cover 80 percent of the costs, while Niles will cover the remaining 20 percent.

In 2008, Niles launched the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Improvement project in an effort to improve the section of the village's main thoroughfare that runs between Albion Avenue and Monroe Street. The project was divided into four phases.

The first three phases covered the section between Albion Avenue and Oakton Street. While some aspects of each phase changed between planning and construction, the broad outlines remained the same. The segments got new sidewalks, new crosswalks, streetlight repairs and small plazas near major intersections.

The section of Milwaukee Avenue between Oakton and Monroe is largely commercial, with local businesses and restaurants lining the street on both sides. Closer to Monroe, many parcels have two sidewalks — one alongside build-

ings and one between building parking lots and driving lanes.

On the west side of Milwaukee, phase four will include small, landscaped areas with planter boxes and decorative brick borders between parking lots and driving lanes, with several entryways to allow cars through. At Ceilli's Beef restaurant, there will be larger green spaces in what is now largely concrete.

Plazas will be created on both sides of the site where Oriole Avenue merges with Milwaukee Avenue. Between Oriole and Monroe, the street will receive a landscape design similar to the section farther southeast. Both Oriole and Ottawa avenues will get new crosswalks.

On the east side of Milwaukee, phase four calls for new sidewalks with a few trees between Oakton and Keeney streets. There will be plazas on both sides of the spot where Keeney merges into Milwaukee Avenue.

Between Kenney and Cleve-

land streets, there will be landscaping improvements similar to those on the other side, with a larger green space at the corner of Milwaukee and Cleveland. The section between Kenney and Monroe will follow a similar design, with larger green spaces at the corners and near Booby's restaurant.

During its Dec. 9 meeting, the board approved a series of resolutions that will allow for the construction to begin. Niles contracted HR Green, Inc. to handle the construction engineering services.

It also approved the way phase four will be funded. ITEP will provide \$747,600 in funds, and Niles will pay the remaining \$186,900. The village's portion will come from Motor Fuel Tax revenue. Because the project is expected to stretch over the next two years, the village will not have to pay the entire amount at once.

During the meeting, Trustee Joe LoVerde noted that the village

contracted HR Green for previous phases of the project.

"Have we gone and and looked at other engineering firms?" he asked.

Village Manager Steve Vinez-eano said that Niles didn't want to switch contractors part of the way through the project.

"This is the last leg of those projects," he said. "Following this, as we move up north, we'll re-evaluate."

For Trustee John Jekot, the launch of the final phase of the project was an important milestone. As a chair of the Milwaukee Avenue Corridor Committee, Jekot oversaw the project from beginning to end.

He acknowledged that there have been a number of delays along the way — phase four, for example, was supposed to start in the fall of 2014.

"I'm just happy to see this project move forward," Jekot told the board. "There have been delays, but it's been worth it."

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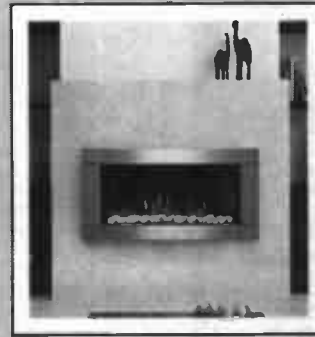
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Niles creates 11-member Arts and Culture Advisory Council

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
Special for Pioneer Press | @istudenkov

The Niles Village Board approved Dec. 9 the creation of the Arts and Culture Advisory Council, an advisory body that will work to encourage art, culture and public events in Niles.

The council will be made up of 11 members, five of whom will be appointed by the Niles mayor and six by cultural, commercial and civic organizations and institutions throughout the village. It will be responsible for advising the Village Board on issues related to the arts, culture and public events.

It will also help the board decide how to spend money created through the newly created Appearance and Art Fee. The fee will be charged for building permits for projects that cost more than \$10,000.

The creation of the Art and Culture Advisory Council was one of the recommendations included in Niles 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Village Manager Steve Vinezeano and Trustee George Alpoianis worked together to make it a reality.

Vinezeano said he isn't sure how long the idea was in the works, since it went through several iterations over the last three years. The resolution authorizing the creation of the council and the new fee went before the Finance Committee three months ago.

The idea went through the Finance Committee because the new fee was a financial matter, according to Trustee Joe LoVerde, who chairs the committee. After some changes, it received final approval during the Finance Committee's Nov. 19 meeting.

The council was originally called the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission. But Alpoianis requested the name change during the Dec. 9 meeting.

"I believe that the way it sounds is that we're actually going to be running it," he said. "I think [the village of Niles] is going to be more of a facilitator."

The council will advise the Village Board on ways to bring more art, cultural programs and special events to Niles. It will also look for ways to fund public art projects, figure out where public art pieces will be set up, and promote arts and cultural events. Finally, it will be responsible for developing the Niles Arts and Culture Master Plan.

Under the ordinance approved by the board, the mayor will choose the council chair from one of the five members he appoints. The members must have professional experience "in the various facets of the duties of the council, by virtue of their training and/or employment."

Those facets may include experience with or background in "business, nonprofit management, arts, social or artistic events, village

heritage, diversity, and culture." The members must live or work in Niles. While the mayor can appoint village employees, he can only appoint one such employee at any given time.

The remaining six members will be representatives of the Niles Public Library, Niles Park District, Niles Historical Society, Niles Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Niles Sister Cities, Culver Elementary School and Veterans of Foreign Wars' Post 7712. While the resolution doesn't specify how those representatives will be selected, Mayor Andrew Przybylo told the board that they will be chosen by their respective organizations.

The ordinance also created a new fee that will be used to help fund art projects, cultural amenities and special events. The fee will be levied when an owner of a non-residential building gets a permit for projects that cost more than \$100,000. The fee is set at .1 percent of the cost.

The council will advise the Village Board on how the funds generated through the fee will be spent.

Alpoianis said that he sees the ordinance as a foundation that the council will build on over time.

"[The resolution] may seem a little simple at first look," he said. "We wanted to start simple and grow it."

While all trustees expressed support for the council, Trustees Chris Hanusiak and Rosemary Palicki also expressed concerns about the resolution's language regarding the appointment process.

"The way it's written, it seems that the mayor appoints [all commission members]," said Hanusiak.

He is concerned that there aren't enough opportunities for ordinary citizens to participate, he said.

"Residents should have an opportunity to be a part of it, if they're not part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the Niles Chamber of Commerce and Industry," Hanusiak said.

Palicki said that while she was "98 percent for" the resolution, she wanted to table it for a month to give the village time to clarify the language on the appointment process before voting. She made a motion to table, but it was defeated 4-2, with she and Hanusiak voting in favor.

Przybylo said that while he understood concerns about the language, he wanted to get the Arts and Culture Advisory Council created as soon as possible. The bugs could be worked out later, he said.

"Folks, what we have here is a good first step forward to start promoting culture and community in our village," he said. "I'd like to get a move on."

The board approved the resolution 4-1, with Hanusiak voting against and Palicki abstaining.

Opinion

Letters

'Holidays' bring us together like no other time of year

Something unique, almost immortal, is about to happen over the next few weeks. Oh sure, it's generally known as the "holidays," but really there is much more at work than that. There is a subtle but persistent togetherness about to be imposed upon us, adult and child alike.

It comes from at least two annual realities: [1] the bunching together that comes from staying home during the brutal December days and [2] the gathering together that comes from returning families and students.

These social experiences are not only planned; they are inevitable. They are not only wholesome; they are necessary. Unlike the other 11 months of the year, this is that exotic time whose togetherness has been ordained by the gods — both the pagan gods and the Abrahamic God.

So compelling is this bunching and gathering, even stoic non-believers concede this magical time only with other names. And here is the ancient message that accompanies this year-end time: "It is not good for man to be alone."

Jack Spatafora, Park Ridge

Judy Baar Topinka was one of a kind

BY RANDY BLASER



I first met Judy Baar Topinka in the late summer of 1979.

I was a rookie reporter who didn't know anybody. Judy was a former reporter at my paper, The Life Newspapers in Berywn, and seemed to know everybody.

She was beginning her career in government, deciding to take a run for the state legislature and against the power structure of a male-dominated Republican Party that ran Berwyn and Cicero.

She definitely wasn't one of the fellas, and that summer and fall was busy lining up support among her many contacts for the March 1980 Republican Primary.

Back then a candidate needed to finish first or second in the primary to be on the November ballot, where three representatives would be elected per district from four candidates.

She won easily.

I saw her a lot those days as she would stop in the office and talk to her old friends from newspapering days.

She was loud, brash and spoke her mind. To my young mind, she was selling out by trading journalism for politics.

But I was wrong. She would never be accepted by the political class. She

"She was blunt. She spoke her mind and talked fast and loud. She said what a lot of us reporters actually thought, like when she described her opponents for governor as morons. Who could argue with that?"

would forever be one of the people who knew she could do the job better than the people she was writing about.

About the time she moved to the state Senate, I joined Pioneer Press, and hardly ever saw her.

Then she ran for state treasurer and I sat on Pioneer's endorsement committees. The other editors badgered me about her. "What's she like?"

"You'll see," was all I could say, still unsure on how to describe this seemingly crazy woman, who was pretty unbelievable as far as politicians go.

She was blunt. She spoke her mind and talked fast and loud. She said what a lot of us reporters actually thought, like when she described her opponents for governor as morons. Who could argue with that?

She gave me a fruitcake once for Christmas. It figures, right? But it was the best damn fruitcake I've ever had before or since.

Over the years I'd run into Judy every so often, here and in Springfield. I'd call and ask for an interview. She'd get right back to me and knew exactly what I was asking about it and tell it as she saw it. Between questions, she'd offer advice on where to shop for bargains in the western suburbs.

I'd be having dinner at a restaurant and Judy would come in leading an entourage, waving and saying "Hi" to friends already there, and suddenly the place was livelier, happier and a lot more fun.

Once when leaving our office after a campaign interview, she stopped at the water cooler to get a drink, and saw a pen on the floor. "Oh, look, a pen," she said, picked it up and put it in her purse. I wanted to say, "But that's the company pen," as I stood there empty-handed. Instead I said, "Good luck, Judy." She didn't need it.

She just worked hard.

I last saw her a couple of years ago in Westchester. I was coming out of a Bohemian restaurant and she was coming out of a pef store. She looked thinner and not in good health. We talked for a while the way old reporters who had seen all the old campaigns and political battles do.

Out of all the politicians I've met and covered, and that includes the current president, she was the real deal. She loved people, always was herself and worked tirelessly to make life better for the people of her community and her state.

We need a lot more like her, but, alas, she was one of kind.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

Send your letters to the editor to News Editor Phil Rockrohr at prockrohr@pioneerlocal.com or mail to Niles Herald-Spectator, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago, IL 60654. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. Niles Herald-Spectator reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and content. All letters must be signed to be published.

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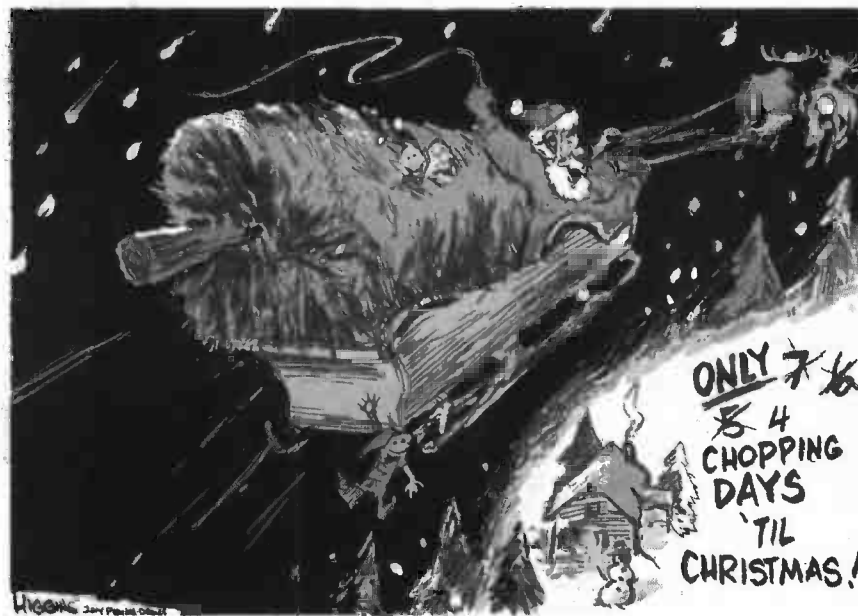
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1,000 WORDS BY JACK HIGGINS



Don't be so quick to blame older drivers

Uh oh. My driver's license expires in March. So, I was apprehensive when an envelope arrived from the secretary of state about renewing my license. I figured that since I have been driving for 50 years I would have to take a road test, an eye test and do 25 push-ups.

Because we all know that older drivers are unsafe drivers. Just ask anyone who is not an older driver.

But to my surprise, the letter from Jesse White said I was a safe driver: "You pay attention to your driving, and so does the Secretary of State."

I haven't had a ticket or an accident this century, and darn few in the last century. So, because I am such an exemplary driver, I don't have to take any test at all. I can renew my driver's license by mail or online.

I must be a fluke, right? Wrong again, not-older driver!

A recent study by the

BY PAUL SASSONE



AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that older drivers are safe drivers. The accident rate for drivers over age 65 is falling. And there are 31 percent fewer fatalities for older drivers than in 2012.

Older drivers are more careful and less distracted. They use seatbelts. They don't drive drunk.

Older drivers don't use cell phones or computers while driving.

Thirty-four percent of older drivers in the survey said they had talked on a cell phone while driving, as opposed to 82 percent for drivers aged 25 to 39.

The result? Safe drivers. Ninety-nine percent of older drivers in the study said they hadn't had an accident or ticket in the last two years. Once again, perception is not reality.

A few weeks ago I wrote a column rebutting the common belief that older people are most often the victims of scammers and con artists. Police departments and others are always issuing warnings to senior citizens to be wary of scams.

Whereas, a new study shows that middle-aged people are much more likely to be scammed than older people. Scam warnings should cast a wider net than just seniors. They might be more effective.

The reason for these misconceptions is not hard to find. Except for being rich, youth is the national obsession, the only good. The opposite of youth is age. So age, aging and the elderly must be bad.

It follows then that older people must be bad drivers, bad workers, bad companions, bad at everything.

It's not true, of course. Just one more area in which too many of us think and act out of our prejudices.

Let's talk about sex ... or lack of it

LOVE ESSENTIALLY
BY
JACKIE PILOSSOPH



LOVE essentially

It is impossible to make a blanket statement (no pun intended) about married couples and sex. No two couples have the same sex life, and the spectrum of what goes on in a couple's bedroom can range from snoring and boring, to wild and crazy passion every night.

But with work, kids, chores, and the pure exhaustion life can cause, finding time and interest in sex, especially for women, can be challenging.

So, I reached out to Northbrook-based therapist, Dr. Sarah Allen, Psy.D., to ask for some tips to help couples who might want to improve their sex lives.

Allen told me that when couples come to see her, it is almost always the case that they haven't had good sex in a long time, often because other issues in the relationship, such as anger and resentment, prevent physical desire.

But let's say things are pretty peachy around your house with the exception of what's happening under the covers. Here are Allen's five tips that might help spice things up:

1). For women: make time to de-stress and unwind. Women need time to get into the sex frame of mind. "Men and women are very different in that women need an emotional connection to get interested in sex, whereas men are more visual," said Allen, who is also a licensed clinical professional counselor. "Women are constantly doing doing, especially during this time of year, and they aren't thinking about sex."

2). Plan dates that are exciting and outside your comfort zone. "Feelings of being scared are similar to feelings of excitement," said Allen. In other words, instead of dinner and a movie, try rock climbing or parasailing, something you wouldn't normally do with your partner. The charge and the high you get might carry over into the bedroom.

3). Do things together that bring you back to being the people you were when you first met. Before you were married, before you had kids, and during the times you were first getting to know each other, you probably did things together that you don't have time for anymore. Maybe you had picnics, maybe you listened to music together, or maybe

you went to art galleries or museums. Doing those things might bring back memories and ignite a spark.

4). Treat yourself to things that make you feel sexy. "Sexy is all in the mind," Allen said. Buying a new dress or a new pair of shoes or a new bottle of cologne might help you feel more confident, and as a result, sexier. Even something as simple as a manicure or a yoga class helps boost self-image which again, can translate into feeling sexy.

5). Read. Allen recommended reading "The Sex-Starved Marriage: Boosting Your Marriage Libido: A Couple's Guide," by Michele Weiner-Davis, and "It's Not Him, It's You!: How to Take Charge of Your Life and Create the Love and Intimacy You Deserve," by Laura Berman. The two have very different philosophies, but both are among her favorites.

I have two tips I'd like to add:

1). After Nine Tonight. This is a website for men and women that offers helpful tips for a couple's lacking sex drive, as well as a series of short, romantic movies to help busy moms get in the mood. www.afterninetonight.com.

2). Kind gestures make a difference. When a woman receives flowers from her husband on no particular occasion, it causes her to fall in love, which then translates into physical desire. I'm not saying a dozen roses will solve all your issues, but, a kind gesture — a nice card, offering to do the dishes, a backrub, an inexpensive gift—makes a man or woman feel loved, appreciated, respected and cherished. And that is a huge turn-on. The flipside is, no one wants to have sex with a spouse who is rude, mean, dismissive, or disrespectful. Just sayin' ...

Allen did mention that if a woman feels she has little or no sex drive, she should see her OB/GYN to rule out any medical conditions that might be the cause, such as hormonal changes during and post pregnancy, and perimenopause. There are also many psychological causes of low sex drive, including anxiety, depression, stress, poor body image and lack of self-esteem.

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435 DIGITAL
BY CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Kids hear colorful story behind Hanukkah

MIKE ISAACS
 misaacs@pioneerlocal.com | @SKReview_Mike

It's hard to imagine the story of Hanukkah being told more exuberantly or with more infectious zeal than what was rendered on the eve of the Jewish holiday in Skokie.

In the children's area at the rear of Barnes and Noble in Village Crossing, Zeesy Posner of Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie took her young guests through Hanukkah's history using storytelling, puppetry, acting and music.

She moved her way through the small crowd, interacting with children and bringing the story to vivid life.

"We're going to dance because we're happy that Hanukkah is coming tomorrow night," Posner said at the end of her Monday, Dec. 15 presentation.

Hanukkah music suddenly filled the room, and children twirled around to this zesty song.

*It's Honeyka Hanukkah 'round and around,
 Honeycake Hanukkah, eat them down,
 Latkes and gody things all over town,*

*It's Honeyky Hanukkah time.
 It's Honeyky Hanukkah, shaky my hand,
 My candles are burning all over this land,
 To light the dark road for the man passing*

by,
It's Honeyky Hanukkah time.

The Jewish holiday is celebrated for eight days and nights starting this year on Dec. 16.

In Hebrew, the word "hanukkah" means "dedication," a reminder of the re-dedication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem following the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greeks in 165 B.C.E.

In an effort to purify the temple after it had been in foreign hands, Jewish troops burned oil in the temple's menorah. Even though there was oil for only one day of burning, the flames miraculously lasted a full eight days.

Posner, a popular preschool teacher at Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie, displayed her gift for connecting with young children while educating them at the same time.

Following her telling of the Jews' triumphant retaking of the temple, she had the children help make pretend-latkes.



Families with young children came to Barnes and Noble Monday, Dec. 15 — on the eve of Hanukkah — to learn about the celebratory Jewish holiday. Zeesy Posner, who teaches preschool at Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie, entertained children by using puppets, books, toys and music to make Jewish history come to life.

MIKE ISAACS/PIONEER PRESS

"Put an onion in the processor," Posner told the kids, who mimicked such action. "In the processor, an egg. Crack it. In the processor, another egg. Crack it. In the processor, a little bit of salt. Throw in the pepper. No flour."

By the end, the children had learned how to make latkes even if they only had miniature toy props as the result.

Still, they wouldn't have to wait long for the real deal. Hanukkah was just a night away.



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NILES

7317 W Crain St, Niles 60714-2105: Katherine M Peterson sold the property to Sang U Wood & Sang H Woo for \$274,000 on December 2

7841 N Oconto Ave, Niles 60714-2905: Nahida Shakro sold the property to Lukasz Grochal for \$590,000 on December 2

8513 W Crain St, Niles 60714-1846: Fannie Mae sold the property to Lukasz Spadlo for \$207,500 on December 2

8522 W Madison Dr, Niles 60714-2320: Fannie Mae sold the property to Jennifer R Pomagier & John J Pomagier for \$312,000 on December 1

8530 W Roseview Dr, Niles 60714-1856: Michael Paul Klita sold the property to Siji B Koshy & Sabitha R Mathew for \$287,000 on December 2

8809 W Golf Rd 71, Niles 60714-5707: Blue Onionz Llc sold the property to Amanouel

Sawa & Noora Adam for \$146,500 on December 2

8821 N Washington St E, Niles 60714-3603: Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp sold the property to Rameshchandra Mody for \$125,500 on December 3

MORTON GROVE

7113 Enfield Ave, Morton Grove 60053-2055: Robert Santiago sold the property to Arthur B Asucion for \$262,500 on December 3

7309 Palma Ln, Morton Grove 60053-1136: Seta G Hovsepian sold the property to Richard Ramos & Julita Ramos for \$265,000 on December 1

7635 Greenwood St, Morton Grove 60053-1836: Pnc Bank Na sold the property to Ilie C Tiron for \$250,000 on December 2

8630 Ferris Ave 301, Morton Grove 60053-2866: Dmitriy Gindush sold the property to

Dawid K Wojcik for \$129,000 on December 2

8905 Belleforte Ave, Morton Grove 60053-2018: Us Bank Na Trustee sold the property to An-toaneta Galabova for \$176,000 on December 1

NORRIDGE

4033 N Ozark Ave, Norridge 60706-7218: Gianfranco Della Santina sold the property to Justin M Oliva for \$278,000 on November 26

4329 N Ozanam Ave, Norridge 60706-1055: Bayview Loan Servicing Llc sold the property to Dariusz Chwalek for \$178,000 on December 3

4609 N Ozark Ave, Norridge 60706-4526: Weber Trust sold the property to Michael B Drosos & Bernadette M Drosos for \$276,000 on November 26

4913 N Ozark Ave, Norridge 60706-3311: Porazinski Trust sold the property to Mariusz

Potepa & Joanna Potepa for \$238,000 on December 3

5041 N Leonard Dr, Norridge 60706-2824: Lucky Investments I Llc sold the property to Bina Kumari A Patel & Amit Kumar T Patel for \$319,000 on December 3

HARWOOD HEIGHTS

7444 W Strong St, Harwood Heights 60706-3418: Tadeusz Wolniewicz sold the property to Victor Hugo Ayala & Gladys Genoveva Salazar for \$145,000 on December 3

PARK RIDGE

1015 Frances Pkwy, Park Ridge 60068-5187: Julia Zaborowski sold the property to Michael E Holden & Erin Holden for \$321,000 on December 3

1620 S Crescent Ave, Park Ridge 60068-5374: Gary J Altobelli sold the property to Trisha Holub for \$300,000 on December 2

1709 Marvin Pkwy, Park Ridge 60068-2424: Ark Lachiw sold the property to Jovan Jevtic & Sandra Jevtic for \$335,000 on December 2

1815 W Oakton St Id, Park Ridge 60068-1980: Fannie Mae sold the property to Nataliya Farion for \$170,000 on December 1

2150 Bouterse St 106, Park Ridge 60068-2368: Filippini Trust sold the property to Margaret W Mistak for \$255,000 on December 3

2913 Scottlynne Dr, Park Ridge 60068-2854: Louis L Kenyeri Jr sold the property to Curtis W Manning & Sarah J Manning for \$543,500 on November 26

2917 Lahon St, Park Ridge 60068-2126: Schoenberg Trust sold the property to Jason B Mann & Karen Mann for \$300,000 on November 26

617 S Vine Ave, Park Ridge 60068-4149: Muehling Trust sold the property to Lauren B Nagel & Reid D Tokarz for \$550,000 on November 26

705 N Western Ave 2a, Park Ridge 60068-2574: Dorothy A Stocker Estate sold the property to Dmytro Dmytrush & Yehor Shpak for \$117,500 on November 26

722 N Northwest Hwy C, Park Ridge 60068-2582: Diane M Kedziora sold the property to Parsh Chaudhari for \$359,000 on December 1

729 N Seminary Ave, Park Ridge 60068-2426: Milord Designer Inc sold the property to Analiza Austria Keefe & Michael D Keefe for \$745,000 on November 26

929 Oakton St, Park Ridge 60068-2011: Johnsen Trust sold the property to Armando Ruiz & Araceli Ruiz for \$252,500 on December

FRANKLIN PARK

2539 Westbrook Dr, Franklin Park 60131-3237: Duanne J Garrett sold the property to Jennifer S Darling for \$146,000 on December 1

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NILES

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

Toddler Time

10 a.m.: Stories, songs and rhymes for children ages 1-3 with a caregiver. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-6625.

FRIDAY, DEC. 19

Rise and Shine Story Time

10 a.m.: A 30-minute story time for children ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

MONDAY, DEC. 22

Baby Time

11 a.m.: A short program of stories, songs, rhymes and playtime for children 2 and younger with a caregiver. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

TUESDAY, DEC. 23

Family Story Time

7 p.m.: Stories, songs and activities for families with children ages 2-6. Attendees are welcome to wear pajamas. Niles Public Library District, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles. Call 847-663-1234.

HAPPENING NEARBY

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

Story Time for 2s

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

Story Time for 3s

10:15 a.m.: Stories and songs for 3-year-olds with an adult. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Humanities Discussion

10:15 a.m.: The group meets each Thursday to discuss some of the classics. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-5127.

Holiday Book Signing

1 p.m.: Local author, F. Michel Smith, hosts a book signing at the salon. The holiday-themed table book, "The Christmas Butterfly" is also illustrated by award winning artist, Carolyn Lombardo. Stop by and enjoy complimentary wine and cheese. Lauren Roberts Hair Salon, 632 N. Busse Hwy.,

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Park Ridge. Call 847-823-8377.

German Stammtisch

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

Do More with PowerPoint 2010

7 p.m.: For the follow-up to Introduction to PowerPoint 2010. This covers transitions and animations. Registration limited to six. Morton Grove residents have priority. Prerequisite: Must be experienced and comfortable with computer, keyboard and mouse. Registration for all classes in this series opens: 9 a.m. Nov. 28. For more information or to register, go to calendar.mgpl.org or call 847-929-5101. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove.

Skokie Photographic Society

7:30 p.m.: The group meets on the third Thursday of each month. All levels of photographic skill are welcome. Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton St., Skokie. Call 847-677-8324.

FRIDAY, DEC. 19

Duplicate Bridge

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

Share the Warmth

9 a.m.: Volunteers wanted. Join a group of warm, friendly, supportive women (men welcome) to prepare one-of-a-kind fleece blankets for chemo patients. We add a crochet edge to fleece and send these free blankets to new adult chemotherapy patients. We can teach you a basic crochet stitch if needed. Bring lunch. We often gather until 2 or 3 p.m. Donations are welcome to this 501(c)3 non-profit organization. North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield. Call 847-784-6030.

Caregivers of Children with Mental Illness Support Group

9:30 a.m.: Sessions facilitated by a volunteer from the National Alliance on Mental Illness. For more information, call 847-716-2252 or visit www.nam-iccns.org. Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette.

STEAM Starts

10 a.m.: A self-guided exploration of science, technology, engineering, art, math and reading for kids ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-825-3123.

Handicrafters

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

Toddler Art

10 a.m.: Join in stories and hands-on activities to nourish the creative toddler within. Ages 2-4-years-old with caregiver. Franklin Park Public Library, 10311 Grand Ave., Franklin Park. Call 847-455-6016.

Shabbat with a Twist

11 a.m.: Challah making, stories and song for families with children up to PreK. Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook. Call 847-498-4100.

'The Merry Widow' at Light Opera Works

12:30 p.m.: Enjoy this final dress rehearsal performance of "The Merry Widow." Fee includes bus and general admission ticket. Departs from the Morton Grove location. Call 847-470-5223 to register. North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield. Call 847-470-5223. \$45 for members; \$59 for nonmembers..

Gamers

1 p.m.: The group meets every Friday. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Call 847-692-5127.

Write Your Socks Off Writers Group

2 p.m.: Aspiring authors in their 20s and 30s are invited to join this new writers group. Meet in Fannie Schmoes Bakery on the third Friday of each month, with writing to share. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 708-867-7828.

Hot Chocolate for Charity

3 p.m.: Stop by the lobby to enjoy some Christmas carols and buy a cup of hot chocolate for \$1. All proceeds go to Teen Living Program, a charity devoted to helping homeless teenagers get off the streets. This event is sponsored by the Library's Young Adult Council. Elmwood Park Public Library, 1 W. Conti Parkway, Elmwood Park. Call 708-453-7645.

"Congregational Dinner Celebrating

Shabbat Hanukkah"

6 p.m.: Temple Beth Israel presents a "Congregational Dinner Celebrating Shabbat Hanukkah" for the whole congregation and their guests. The event is open to synagogue members and nonmembers who may be interested in learning about Temple Beth Israel. Shabbat Hanukkah Dinner, 6 p.m. and Shabbat Hanukkah Service, 7:30 p.m. For more information or reservations call. Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. Call 847-675-0951. Dinner: \$20 adult, \$9.50, child. Register for dinner by Dec. 17.

Anime Club

6 p.m.: Watch one's favorite anime and draw one's own manga while feasting on Japanese snacks. Ages 12-17-years-old. Franklin Park Public Library, 10311 Grand Ave., Franklin Park. Call 847-455-6016.

SATURDAY, DEC. 20

Shabbat Children's Program

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

Special Family Open Class

9 a.m.: Join us for stretching and opening of your body and mind with relaxation techniques and meditation. Members and non-members are welcome. It is an open class. Call to RSVP. Dahn Yoga, 1947 Cherry Lane, Northbrook. Call 847-562-9642.

AI-Anon

9:30 a.m.: Details at 708-867-5044. St. Paul Lutheran Church, 5650 N. Canfield Ave., Chicago.

Congregation Beth Judea Men's Club assists at Lieberman Center

9:30 a.m.: The Men's Club of Congregation Beth Judea assists once a month for Shabbat service. Volunteers needed to assist in taking the residents to and from service. This is a rewarding experience for individuals who feel they may want to participate in this wonderful mitzvah. Please arrive at the Lieberman Center by 9:30 a.m. Contact Jerry Sakol (fivepie@aol.com) or Ron Friedman (r.friedman@sbcglobal.net) with questions or directly to the Synagogue office at 847-634-0777. Lieberman Center, 9700 Gross Point Road, Skokie.

Stories Wrapped in Strings

9:30 a.m.: Parents and caregivers of young children are invited to join once a month for a free new story time series, Stories Wrapped in String, at the Chicago showroom on Thursdays and at the Wilmette shop on Saturdays. William Harris Lee & Co. staff and special guest artists from local

◀ FROM PREVIOUS PAGE
CALENDAR

strings studios and music schools will perform classical and improvised music accompanying stories read by actress, Deirdre Harrison. William Harris Lee & Co., 1138 Central Ave., Wilmette. Call 847-920-9445.

Skokie Art Guild

9:30 a.m.: The group offers figure drawing workshops every Saturday. There are live models but no instructor. Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie. Call 847-673-4450. \$20 per session; \$12 for guild members.

Fundraiser Helps Youth to Develop Entrepreneurial Skills

10 a.m.: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Evanston North Shore Alumnae Chapter (ENSA), hosts Santa's Gift Shoppe until 3 p.m., at Family Focus in Norwood Hall. In addition to fundraising efforts, Santa's Gift Shoppe allows children to purchase inexpensive gifts for their friends and families. Money raised for the event directly benefits the three youth initiative programs run by the local sorority: Delta Academy, Delta GEMS, and E.M.B.O.D.I. The children and teens are responsible for pricing, packaging, and selling merchandise. Items range in price from 10 cents to \$15. Shoppers and visitors are able to take free pictures with Santa (from noon until close) and give him last minute gift requests. Parents can enjoy light music and refreshments in the waiting area while their children shop. Family Focus Evanston, 2010 Dewey Ave., Evanston. Call 847-475-7570.

Overeaters Anonymous

10:30 a.m.: Meeting held each Saturday. St. Giles Episcopal Church, 3025 Walters Ave., Northbrook. Call 847-272-6622.

Shabbat/Chanukah lunch & learn

Noon: Shabbat/Chanukah lunch & learn with Rabbi Leonard Kravitz — after Shabbat services on Dec. 20, 2014, join in for a delicious Shabbat Chanukah lunch. After lunch, member Rabbi Leonard Kravitz, will lead a discussion about Miracles of Eight: Differing Theories about Chanukah. Call or visit the website for reservations. Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. Call 847-675-0951. \$ 5.

FUSE: Studio

Noon: Drop in with friends to wire LEDs, compose a ringtone, build an amp, mix chemicals to make gel beads, navigate a robot obstacle course and more. For grades six to 12. Evanston Public Library - Main Branch, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston. Call 847-448-8600.

Gaming in the Loft

4 p.m.: Join a Wii and Xbox 360 (with Kinect) gaming session; first come first serve. For grades

six to 12. Meet in the third floor lot. Evanston Public Library - Main Branch, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston. Call 847-448-8630.

Franklin Park Lions Club

7 p.m.: Franklin Park Community Center, 9560 Franklin Ave., Franklin Park. Call 847-288-1921.

North Shore Jewish Community Hanukka Concert

7:30 p.m.: Join The North Shore, Skokie and Chicago Jewish communities for an unforgettable evening of song and story, schmooze and blues featuring Chicago's newest Jewish folk rock band and YouTube sensation "Rogers Park." The two lead singers - Yosef Peysin and Mordy Kurtz have been performing together as "Rogers Park" since 2011. Doors open at 7 p.m. General Admission: VIP - \$36, Adults - \$18, Student/Child - \$10; At the door: VIP - \$40, Adults - \$20, Student/Child - \$12. Purchase tickets online at: www.orsimcha.com or call 847-999-9001. Sponsorships available. Reservations: 847-410-2066 or info@orsimcha.com. Wilmette Community Recreation Center, 3000 Glenview Road, Wilmette.

SUNDAY, DEC. 21

"Gift of God's Grace"

10:45 a.m.: As part of the morning worship service, the Adult Sanctuary Choir presents a Christmas choral music program entitled "Gift of God's Grace." A reception follows in the church narthex. Winnetka Covenant Church, 1200 Hibbard Road, Winnetka. Call 847-446-4300.

Author Michael Willian Presents "It's A Wonderful Life" Talk-back

4 p.m.: Don't miss this special talk-back with Michael Willian, author of "The Essential It's a Wonderful Life: A Scene-By-Scene Guide to the Classic Film," prior to showing. Willian's breaks down this masterpiece and shares with audience-goers interesting facts, tidbits, film and cast anecdotes. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit: www.wilmettetheatre.com Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette. Call 847-251-7424. \$7.50.

Mike Ditka "Da Coach"

7 p.m.: Join North Shore Senior Center for the 18th Annual Joan Golder Distinguished Senior Lecture Featuring Mike Ditka. Mike Ditka, also known as "Da Coach," boasts an illustrious football career as a Pro Football Hall of Fame player, Super Bowl-winning coach and NFL analyst. Named "Coach of the Year" twice for the Chicago Bears, he is the second person to win the Super Bowl as a player, assistant coach and head coach. He will discuss his "Observations on Life." North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield. Call 847-784-6000. \$10 members, \$12 nonmembers.

MONDAY, DEC. 22

MGPL Kids: Monday Morning Playgroup

10:30 a.m.: Drop-in play time for preschoolers with

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BY
CATHY CUNNINGHAM



HELP SQUAD

Dear Help Squad,
I have the strangest situation. I keep getting this small business AT&T bill that I thought I cancelled years ago. When I try to call to inquire why it was not cancelled and why I am still being charged both from a business invoice and a personal invoice for the same number, they cannot locate my account. My account doesn't exist in their system, yet I continue to get this bill month after month that I cannot stop paying because of penalties. What in the world do I do now? I was literally on the phone with AT&T for three hours yesterday and nobody could tell me anything. No one could find any record of my account. With an account number that they say doesn't exist, I can't get past go. I'm so mad that I have let this go on for so long.

Libby, Glenview

The cause of this particular AT&T issue (and Help Squad has seen its fair share) was actually a confluence of unclear billing information combined with a phone tree the size of a sequoia.

Anyone who calls AT&T Small Business Customer Care must carefully press buttons and say the correct words in order to conquer its automated phone tree. For Libby to successfully reach a human, she first had to get through 10 different options. That's a lot of phone tree branches! And if an error was made in selecting any of those options — incorrect account number, incorrect phone number, unrecognized voice command — she was either sent back to a previous menu or disconnected. As far as either Libby or Help Squad was able to discern, it was not possible to request a customer service representative until you got to the phone tree's eighth option — at which point there were still two more selections to be made prior to achieving human contact.

Fortunately, Help Squad was able to press all buttons correctly and hang in there through the 10th option. For our steadfast focus, we were rewarded with the assistance of a very helpful AT&T Small Business

Customer Service representative. What we learned upon reaching this CSR was that the number in question — a toll-free business line — was a "virtual line" that only accepted incoming calls via Libby's cell phone. This CSR took the time to look through Libby's account notes — all the way back to 2002, when the line was first activated — but was unable to find documentation of a termination request. She said it would be no problem for Libby to terminate service now, however, as the toll-free line was not on a contract.

What Help Squad learned when Libby attempted to duplicate our phone tree steps was that instead of plugging in the toll-free business number at step eight, she was keying in her cell phone number. Though this seems logical — after all, her AT&T business bill clearly states "Long Distance Service Billed Number: 773-XXX-XXXX," (her cell number) — the account was linked only to the virtual toll-free number. This was why Libby kept being disconnected or told her account couldn't be located!

And though her cell phone number appeared on both the AT&T small business statement and her family's AT&T wireless statement, she was not being double-billed after all. The small business statement contained only those charges resulting from calls to the virtual toll-free line, while the wireless statement contained charges associated directly with her cell phone number.

After getting all of the above straightened out, Libby was able to successfully cancel the long-overdue toll-free business account. The only outstanding question now is, will the friends and family who have been calling toll-free continue to call once free long distance is gone? Libby is now officially on her own!

Need help?

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

MOBILE
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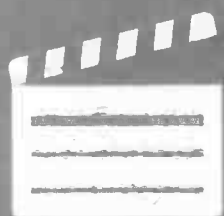
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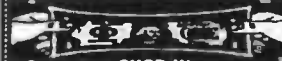
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BIZ NOTES

• **Gregory Gertz**, a North-western Mutual McTigue Financial Group Financial Representative based in Northbrook, is receiving the company's Emerald award based on an outstanding year of helping clients achieve financial security.

• **John Prunskis, MD**, FIPP, was invited by the Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society to speak at the 2014 Winter Scientific Seminar in Lombard. The meeting was attended by osteopathic physicians from throughout the Midwest.

• **Ellen Atlas, Bonnie Wilson**, and **Theresa Anderson** of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices KoenigRubloff Realty Group have been appointed to leadership positions for the Women's Council of Realtors regional chapters. Ellen Atlas of their Northbrook office will serve as president of the North Shore Chapter, Bonnie Wilson of the Evanston office will serve as president-elect of the North Shore Chapter, and Theresa Anderson of the Glenview office will serve as the 2015 treasurer for the State of Illinois Chapter.

• **Gould & Ratner LLP** announced that **Scott D. Wolf** has joined the firm as an associate. Joining the Business Counseling and Transactional group, Scott Wolf's practice involves advising private equity firms and public and private companies in connection with complex business transactions, including structuring and negotiating mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, leveraged buyouts, equity and debt financings, recapitalizations and restructurings, executive compensation and incentive equity matters.

• The law firm of **Schiller DuCanto & Fleck LLP** announces **Joshua M. Jackson** as a new partner in the Lake Forest office. Joining the firm in 2003 as a law clerk, he later began practicing law as an attorney within the firm in 2005.

Business

Niles periodontist leads patients to Love the Gums You're With

JACKIE PILOSSOPH
For Pioneer Press

Sore, sensitive gums that would bleed when she brushed her teeth is what led Deb Gaffney to seek help a few years ago for what she said she knew was periodontal disease.

"I knew this wasn't a dental issue," said Gaffney of Park Ridge, who at the time had been a smoker for almost two decades. "I said to God, 'God, if you let me keep my teeth, I will never smoke again.'"

Gaffney is hardly alone when it comes to those who suffer from periodontal disease (also known as gum disease.)

According to the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP), one in every two adults over the age of 30 suffers from the inflammatory condition, which if left untreated can lead not only to tooth

loss, but to more serious chronic illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, cancer and Alzheimer's Disease.

These startling statistics are what led the AAP, an 8300-member organization to launch their new Love The Gums You're With campaign to raise awareness about the disease. It's a campaign, that Niles-based periodontist Dr. Dorothy Anasinski supports enthusiastically.

"The potential repercussions of periodontal disease upon an individual's oral and physical well-being is a very serious but often overlooked health issue," said Anasinski, D.D.S., who is the founder of Dental Specialists of Niles. "My practice both prevents and treats periodontal disease, but unfortunately all too often a new patient doesn't arrive until the condition has worsened."



"The potential repercussions of periodontal disease upon an individual's oral and physical well-being is a very serious but often overlooked health issue," said Dr. Dorothy Anasinski, who is the founder of Dental Specialists of Niles. | JACKIE PILOSSOPH/FOR CHICAGO TRIBUNE MEDIA GROUP

Anasinski, who has been in practice for two decades and who is also the vice president of the North Suburban Branch of the Chicago Dental Society, said a large portion of people who suffer from periodontal disease don't feel pain until the teeth are about to be lost.

"When they start having symptoms and warning signs like bleeding or tender gums, bad breath, gums that have pulled away from the teeth or loose teeth, they don't do anything about it because they think it is occurring due to aging," said Anasinski, a Loyola University Dental School graduate who completed her residency in periodontics at Northwestern University.

She said the good news is, periodontal disease can be prevented.

"Quitting smoking, eliminating sugary drinks, and practicing good oral hygiene habits including brushing at least twice a day, flossing daily, and discussing gum health with a dental professional are all ways to prevent gum disease," Anasinski said.

"We discussed hygiene, diet, and of course, smoking," said Gaffney, who is a patient of Anasinski's. "She said, 'Do you want to quit smoking?' She prescribed Chantix and I never smoked again."

Gaffney also endured multiple cleaning treatments and antibiotics to get rid of the bacteria which had spread throughout her body, causing flu-like symptoms, she said.

FIGHTING GUM DISEASE

Dental Specialists of Niles

8216 W. Oakton St.

(847) 685-6686

"Now I go twice a year and I really take care of my teeth and gums," she said. "They are healthy and I no longer smoke. I feel wonderful."

"Just like personal relationships with people need care and attention, so do your gums," said Anasinski. "I've always enjoyed helping people improve their health, which also improves confidence and makes them happier, in general."



Dr. Dorothy Anasinski, who has been in practice in her Niles office for almost two decades, said a large portion of people who suffer from periodontal disease don't feel pain until their teeth are about to be lost. | JACKIE PILOSSOPH/FOR CHICAGO TRIBUNE MEDIA GROUP

Trend



Dick Bruce of Park Ridge | PHOTOS KARIE ANGELL LUC/FOR PIONEER PRESS



Lorie Bartel and Carol Benz, both of Park Ridge



Eileen Byrne of Park Ridge



Andrea Thomas of Niles

United Methodist Women host Cookie Walk and Bake Sale

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
For Pioneer Press

To help everyone get a jump on the holiday crunch, the United Methodist Women held their Cookie Walk and Bake Sale Dec. 6 at the First United Methodist Church of Park Ridge.

Baggies filled with cookies of various

kinds were thoughtfully arranged, including notations for those with allergies. Other home-baked goods and gift items were available.

The event, which ran 9 a.m.-noon, was a fundraiser. Proceeds will help support the church's programs.

More information at parkridgeumc.org.



Leah Cozad of Niles and Katy Hansen of Park Ridge

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A place to start



Nissan Versa works as entry-level sedan

BY FRANK A. AUKOFER
Motor Matters

The 2015 Nissan Versa is proof that even people of modest means can buy a brand-new, decent family sedan.

It starts at just \$12,800, less than the cost of many used cars — likely one reason it has been the best-selling entry-level car in the United States for the last four years.

The Versa should not be confused with its garage mate, the Versa Note four-door hatchback, which is about a foot shorter but offers more cargo space and costs a couple of thousand dollars more.

Labeled the S, the \$12,800 base model of the 2015 Versa four-door sedan arrives with a full complement of safety equipment, including tire pressure monitoring, as well as air conditioning, Bluetooth telephone connectiv-

ity, AM-FM-CD audio system and a five-speed manual gearbox.

If you want a four-speed conventional automatic transmission, add \$1,500. If you can afford to spend or finance a bit more, then there are the SV and the tested SL trim levels, which come with Nissan's new and more efficient Xtronic automatic continuously variable transmission (CVT). Its fuel economy rating of 31/40/35 mpg on the EPA's city/highway/

combined cycles is better than that of both the five-speed manual gearbox and the four-speed automatic transmission.

With a starting price of \$17,700, the tested Versa SL arrives with the Xtronic transmission as well as alloy wheels, pushbutton starting, cruise control, a premium audio system with CD player, the Nissan Connect system with mobile apps and power outside mirrors with turn-signal indicators. Our test car also had an \$800 technology package that included satellite radio and a navigation system. In short, it's about everything most customers look for in a modern automobile.

With 90 cubic feet of passenger space, the Versa SL is a roomy car. Although the front seats are a tad small, they provide decent support and comfort. In back, there's a surprising amount of knee and head room for 6-foot passengers. The center-rear position is almost habitable but is marred by intrusive front cupholders and a small floor hump.

The upholstery is a sturdy and comfortable cloth, and the instruments and controls are simply designed and intuitive to use. Most of the interior surfaces are made of hard plastic — remember, this is an economy car — and the hard plastic is nicely done and assembled to prevent obvious creaks or squeaks. Unfortunately, the steering wheel tilts but does not telescope, so some drivers might have trouble getting their feet and arm space correctly matched.

All Versa sedans are equipped with a 109-horsepower, 1.6-liter four-cylinder engine that is adequate for most driving situations. But don't expect to win many drag races or stoplight sprints.

On the other hand, the Versa's CVT delivers at least the impression of sprightly acceleration. It gets a good jump off the line, and the transmission shifts smartly for passing and freeway merging. Cruising, if not as serene as in a high-end luxury car, is pleasant. There's little mechanical or wind noise, and road noise is mostly muted, except where the surfaces are choppy and rough.

Editor: Howie Raddatz • hraddatz@suntimes.com | Design: Gina Galinis | Director Automotive Advertising: Terry Boyle • tboyle@suntimes.com

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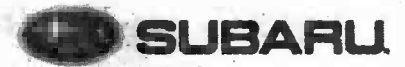
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RAM
 1-touch down, Tilt steering wheel, Power windows, Air conditioning, Remote keyless entry, Illuminated entry, Speed control, Sirius XM & More!
 MSRP: \$31,235
59 AVAILABLE AT VARYING PRICES!
SHERMAN PRICE... \$25,569* 25% OFF MSRP

NEW 2015 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT
Jeep
 1-touch down, Tilt steering wheel, Air conditioning, Speed control, Illuminated entry, Telescoping steering wheel, Power windows, Overhead console, Remote keyless entry, Wireless phone connectivity, Disconnect for Bluetooth, 1st row LCD monitors & More!
 MSRP: \$23,990
95 AVAILABLE AT VARYING PRICES!
SHERMAN PRICE... \$18,990* 31% OFF MSRP

NEW 2015 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT 4X4
Jeep
 Air conditioning, Speed control, Tilt steering wheel, MP3 decoder, CD player, Radio data system, Steering wheel mounted audio controls & More! MSRP: \$27,525
16 AVAILABLE AT VARYING PRICES!
SHERMAN PRICE... \$22,525* 31% OFF MSRP

NEW 2015 CHRYSLER 200 LIMITED
 1-touch down, Tilt steering wheel, Air conditioning, Speed control, Illuminated entry, Telescoping steering wheel, Power windows, Remote keyless entry, Wireless phone connectivity, Disconnect for Bluetooth, MP3 decoder, Steering wheel mounted audio controls & More! MSRP: \$24,250
53 AVAILABLE AT VARYING PRICES!
SHERMAN PRICE... \$18,750* 36% OFF MSRP

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RAM
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 MSRP: \$22,190
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SHERMAN PRICE... \$17,190* 25% OFF MSRP

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 We buy pre-drive mobility vans - any condition or year. We are willing to pay top dollar!
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SHERMAN PRICE... \$23,999*

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 MSRP: \$27,490
29 AVAILABLE AT VARYING PRICES!
SHERMAN PRICE... \$21,490* 27% OFF MSRP

NEW 2015 DODGE DART
DODGE
 1-touch down, Tilt steering wheel, Air conditioning, Speed control, Illuminated entry, Telescoping steering wheel, Power windows, Overhead console, Remote keyless entry, Wireless phone connectivity, Disconnect for Bluetooth, 1st row LCD monitors & More!
 MSRP: \$19,515
23 AVAILABLE AT VARYING PRICES!
SHERMAN PRICE... \$14,515* 34% OFF MSRP

NEW 2015 DODGE JOURNEY
DODGE
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97 AVAILABLE AT VARYING PRICES!
SHERMAN PRICE... \$15,904* 26% OFF MSRP

NEW 2014 CHRYSLER 300
 1-touch down, Tilt steering wheel, Air conditioning, Speed control, Illuminated entry, Telescoping steering wheel, Power windows, Overhead console, Remote keyless entry, 16" alloy wheels, Wireless phone connectivity, Disconnect for Bluetooth, MP3 decoder, Steering wheel mounted audio controls, CD player & More! MSRP: \$31,890
28 AVAILABLE AT VARYING PRICES!
SHERMAN PRICE... \$23,140* 31% OFF MSRP

NEW 2015 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4
Jeep
 1-touch down, Tilt steering wheel, Air conditioning, Speed control, Illuminated entry, Front dual zone A/C, Telescoping steering wheel, Remote keyless entry, Wireless phone connectivity, Disconnect for Bluetooth, MP3 decoder, Steering wheel mounted audio controls, CD player & More! MSRP: \$34,490
93 AVAILABLE AT VARYING PRICES!
SHERMAN PRICE... \$28,990* 24% OFF MSRP

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 <p>#H40467A 2008 MINI COOPER CLUBMAN \$10,990*</p>	 <p>#HY1455 2013 VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE \$11,990*</p>	 <p>#HY1546 2013 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GLS \$11,990*</p>	 <p>#HY1499 2014 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS \$13,490*</p>
 <p>#H40155A 2012 HYUNDAI ACCENT GLS</p>	 <p>#H40506A 2010 HONDA CIVIC EX-L</p>	 <p>#HY1520 2014 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE</p>	
 <p>#H40594A 2011 CHEVY MALIBU LT</p>	 <p>#HY1530 2012 KIA RIO LX</p>	 <p>#H40275A 2012 NISSAN SENTRA 2.0</p>	

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- '02 Chrysler 300M H50211A.....\$3,990*
- '04 Cadillac CTS H50156A.....\$8,990*
- '09 Hyundai Sonata GLS H40648A.....\$8,990*
- '08 Honda Civic EX H50215A.....\$9,990*
- '06 GMC Yukon XL Denali H40236A.....\$9,990*
- '10 Hyundai Elantra GLS H50084A.....\$10,990*
- '06 Volvo S40 2.5L Turbo HY1458.....\$11,990*
- '13 Hyundai Elantra GT HY1410A.....\$14,990*
- '08 Volkswagen EOS VR6 H31513A.....\$14,990*

- '12 Jeep Patriot Latitude H40123A.....\$15,490*
- '13 Kia Optima Hybrid LX HY1559.....\$15,990*
- '14 Chrysler Tn. & Country TOURING HY1568.....\$16,990*
- '13 Volkswagen Beetle 2.5L HY1490.....\$16,990*
- '11 Toyota Prius III HY1486.....\$16,990*
- '09 Hyundai Genesis 3.8L V6 H31382A.....\$17,490*
- '14 Kia Forte Koup EX HY1531.....\$17,990*
- '11 Kia Sportage EX HY1535.....\$18,990*
- '10 Audi A4 2.0T HY1502.....\$18,990*

- '12 Hyundai Tucson Limited H50176A.....\$18,990*
- '11 Toyota RAV4 Ltd. H40303A.....\$19,490*
- '11 Infiniti G37 Sedan HY1425.....\$20,990*
- '11 BMW 335i xDrive HY1461.....\$21,990*
- '12 Lexus CT 200h Premium H40693A.....\$21,990*
- '15 Volkswagen GTI G1195.....\$24,995*
- '12 Subaru Outback 2.5i Ltd. H50122A.....\$25,990*
- '10 BMW X5 35d H50091A.....\$28,990*
- '13 Mercedes-Benz C300 HY1514.....\$31,990*



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NO

Payments Til March, 2015!#

We Will NOT Be Undersold!



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STK # K15061 MSRP: \$15,670

LYNCH PRICE

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STK # K15083 MSRP: \$18,795

LYNCH PRICE

\$13,565*



2015 CHEVROLET EQUINOX

STK # K15025 MSRP: \$25,530

LYNCH PRICE

\$19,415*



2015 CHEVROLET MALIBU

STK # K15040 MSRP: \$23,765

LYNCH PRICE

\$16,595*



2015 CHEVROLET SILVERADO

STK # K14470 MSRP: \$31,170

LYNCH PRICE

\$25,995*

*All manufacturer rebates and incentives applied, plus tax, title, lic and doc fee. +0% APR financing for 75 months is available to qualified buyers with approved credit. 0% for 75 is \$13.33 per thousand borrowed. This is a dealer buy down rate and not a manufacturer program and may affect the final selling price. \$10,000 maximum balance financed, plus tax, title, lic & doc fees. May not be combined with any other offers. #To qualified buyers with approved credit. All prices listed are plus tax, title, license and doc fee. Offers expire 1/3/15. Dealer will not honor errors in this advertisement



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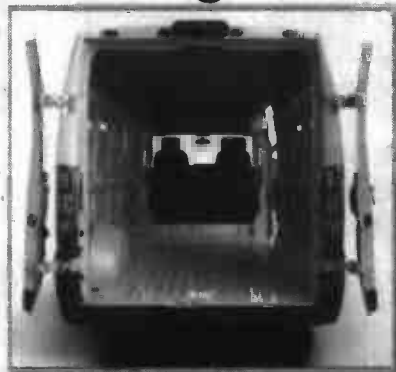


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RAM

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New 2014
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Now In Stock!**WE OVERSHADOW
The COMPETITION!****New 2014 Ram
1500 Promaster Cargo Van****303.7 Cu. Ft. Cargo Space**

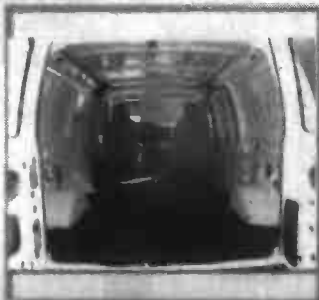
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- Hill Start Assist
- All Speed Traction Control
- Electronic Roll Mitigation
- Trailer Sway Damping
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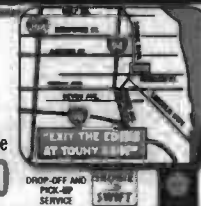
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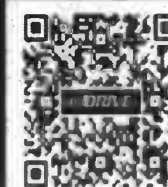


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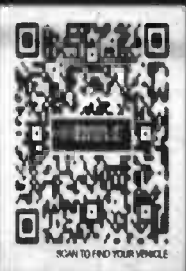
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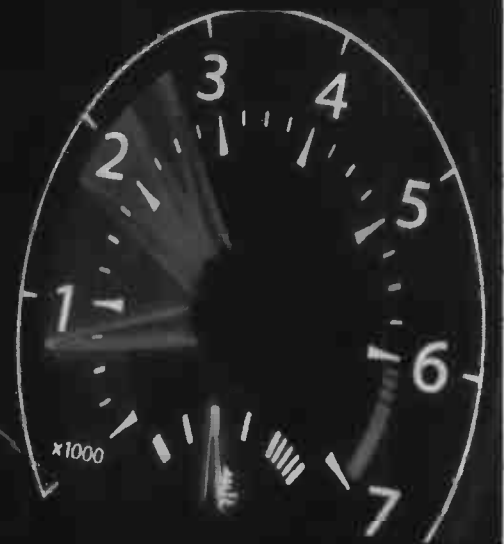
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Take the Test: Is your Work Environment Healthy or Toxic?

By: Roberta Matuson

Those who are fortunate enough to work in businesses where morale is high generally feel good about their work. These employees are often referred to as highly engaged. This type of magnetism pays off substantially. These employees are willing to go above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of their employers.

According to Gallup, engaged employees are more productive and profitable than those with workforces that consist of people who are moderately engaged or disengaged.

They also tend to provide high levels of customer service and are less likely to leave the company when tempted by generous offers from other firms.

An organization with engaged workforce is generally more profitable than those whose workforce consists of people who are moderately engaged or disengaged.

To see how your company fares on candidate attraction and employee retention, answer the 16 questions below -- or download the Workplace Assessment form.

Rate your answers on a 1-4 scale, with 4 being "great." Be honest in your assessment -- no sugar-coating! Consider asking your management team complete this assessment -- and then pool your results.

Any question that results in a score of 2 or less requires immediate attention!

Talent Magnetism Assessment:

1. We have a pool of well-qualified candidates waiting to come work for us. [Rating: 1-2-3-4]
2. There are more qualified applicants than we can process. [Rating: 1-2-3-4]
3. The people who apply are a good fit. [Rating: 1-2-3-4]
4. When we invite candidates in for an interview, more often than not they say "yes." [Rating: 1-2-3-4]
5. Our top-choice candidates accept our job offers. [Rating: 1-2-3-4]
6. When we have a job opening, employees don't hesitate to refer friends and colleagues to our company. [Rating: 1-2-3-4]
7. People outside the company regularly recommend top people to our firm. [Rating: 1-2-3-4]

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8. We are able to fill job openings without the help of agencies or search firms. [Rating: 1-2-3-4]
9. Our top employees choose to stay with our firm. [Rating: 1-2-3-4]
10. Employees consider our company to be a great place to work. [Rating: 1-2-3-4]
11. We know who our top performers are and we support their growth. [Rating: 1-2-3-4]
12. Employees would rate their managers as being great to work for. [Rating: 1-2-3-4]
13. Our managers are trained to select, identify, guide, coach, reward and retain their people. [Rating: 1-2-3-4]
14. Employees know exactly what is expected of them and they have the tools and skills to perform their jobs satisfactorily. [Rating: 1-2-3-4]
15. Employees feel they are compensated fairly for their contribution to our firm. [Rating: 1-2-3-4-5]
16. We regularly ask our employees what we can do to improve our workplace. [Rating: 1-2-3-4-5]

How did your company do? No matter your score, there's always room for improvement in this age of the talent poach.

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This paper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR WAMU MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2005-AR8 G1 Plaintiff,
vs.
NASIM FAROOQI AKA NASIM F. FAROOQI, TARIQ M. KHAWAJA, HARRIS, NA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PENTECH FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. Defendants
10 CH 018779
7001 N. KARLOV AVENUE LINCOLNWOOD, IL 60712
NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 10, 2014, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation will at 10:30 AM on January 9, 2015, at the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive - 24th Floor, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 7001 N. KARLOV AVENUE, LINCOLNWOOD, IL 60712 Property Index No. 10-34-213-059. The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

LINCOLNWOOD
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
WILMINGTON TRUST COMPANY Plaintiff,
vs.
MANTAS KISEVICIUS; ELENA KISEVICIUS; FIFTH THIRD BANK (WESTERN MICHIGAN) Defendants
13 CH 7012
NOTICE OF SALE

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

MORTON GROVE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
WILMINGTON TRUST COMPANY Plaintiff,
vs.
MANTAS KISEVICIUS; ELENA KISEVICIUS; FIFTH THIRD BANK (WESTERN MICHIGAN) Defendants
13 CH 7012
NOTICE OF SALE

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**ORDINANCE #14-7
 NORWOOD PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
 SPILLER PAYS ORDINANCE**

WHEREAS, the Norwood Park Fire Protection District (the "District") is a fire protection district duly organized under the laws of the State of Illinois; and **WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the District has full power pursuant to Section 6 of the Fire Protection District Act to pass all necessary ordinances, and rules and regulations for the proper management and conduct of the business of the Board for carrying into effect the objects for which the District was formed (70 ILCS 705/6); and **WHEREAS**, the Board desires to create an ordinance that addresses the financial responsibilities of persons or entities that cause hazardous materials to be spilled in the District, requiring emergency response by District personnel.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Trustees of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District as follows:

SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS : As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

COSTS: All expenses incurred by the District or by another authorized emergency response agency for any removal or remedial action.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

AGENCY: A unit of local government, volunteer organization or other support agency including licensed hazardous waste contractors that provide one or more of the following services: (1) firefighting services; (2) emergency medical services; (3) emergency medical treatment or transportation; (4) hazardous materials response teams; (5) emergency service, disaster response or civil defense services; (6) public works or maintenance; (7) police agencies (federal, state or local); or (8) remediation, mitigation or disposal of hazardous materials by a hazardous waste contractor.

FACILITY: Any building, structure, installation, equipment, pipe or pipeline including but not limited to any pipe into a sewer or publicly owned treatment works, well, pond, lagoon, impoundment, ditch, landfill, storage container, tank, motor vehicle, truck trailer, rolling stock or aircraft. Also, any site or area where a hazardous material has been deposited, stored, disposed of, abandoned, placed, or otherwise come to be located.

HAZARDOUS

MATERIALS Any material, substance or mixture of materials or substances which are toxic, flammable, corrosive, explosive, carcinogenic or radioactive including, but not limited to, any substance or material which is designated a hazardous material pursuant to the "Hazardous Materials Transportation Act" (49 U.S.C. §5101 et seq.) in a quantity and form which may pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, property or the environment when improperly released, treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed.

MATERIALS INCIDENT: A situation involving an actual, suspected or possible hazardous material for which the Fire District or other emergency response agency must respond in order to ensure the safety of personnel or property.

MUTUAL AID Any action taken by the Fire District or any public agency pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement, including, but not limited agreements made as part of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS).

PERSON Any individual, business, firm, partnership, corporation, association, trust, estate, joint venture or other legal entity, or their legal representative, agent or assign.

RELEASE Any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, escaping, emptying, discharging, injecting, leaching, dumping or disposing of a hazardous material into or on any land, air, water, well, stream, sewer or pipe so that such hazardous material or any constituent thereof may enter the environment.

REMEDIAL ACTION Any action consistent with permanent, remedy taken instead of, or in addition to, removal actions in the event of a release or threatened release of a hazardous material into the environment, to prevent or minimize the release of hazardous materials so that they do not migrate to cause a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, property or the environment. The term includes, but is not limited to, such actions at the location of the release as storage, confinement, perimeter protection using dikes, trenches, or ditches, clay cover, neutralization, cleanup of released hazardous materials or contaminated materials, recycling or reuse, diversion, destruction, segregation of reactive wastes, repair or replacement of leaking containers, collection of leachate and runoff, onsite treatment or incineration, provision of alternate water supplies, and any monitoring reasonably required to assure that such actions protect the public health and welfare and the environment.

REMOVAL The cleanup or removal of released hazardous materials from the environment, such actions as may be necessary or appropriate to monitor, assess, and evaluate the release or threat of release of hazardous materials, the disposal of removed material, or the taking of such action as may be necessary to prevent, minimize, or mitigate damage to the public health or welfare of the environment.

RESPONSE Any removal or remedial action to a materials incident or other incident.

SECTION 3: PROHIBITED ACTS: No person shall cause, threaten or allow the release of hazardous materials into the environment unless such release is in accordance with an appropriate permit granted by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency or other State or Federal agency having primary jurisdiction over the release and such release is in such place and manner as will not create a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, property or the environment.

SECTION 4: RESPONSE AUTHORITY

A. The Fire Chief or his authorized representative shall have authority to respond to any release or threatened release of hazardous materials within the District or affecting the public water supply, wells or sewage treatment works located within the District. This authority includes, but is not limited to, remedial action and removal.

B. The Fire Chief shall have primary authority to respond to any release or threatened release of hazardous materials as described above. The Fire Chief shall report any release or threatened release of hazardous materials to all appropriate Federal, State and local public health, safety and emergency agencies within twenty-four (24) hours of any substantial release of hazardous materials. The Fire Chief shall relinquish his response authority at such time, if any, as the Federal, State or local emergency response agency having primary jurisdiction over the release or threatened release has assumed responsibility for response to the release or threatened release.

C. The Fire Chief, during such time as response authority is vested in him, shall be authorized to utilize all District personnel and equipment and he may, in his sole discretion, take such remedial or removal action as he may deem necessary or appropriate to respond to the release or threatened release of hazardous material including the use of material and in accordance with any Mutual Aid Box Alarm System ("MABAS") agreements.

D. All responding personnel shall cooperate with and operate under the direction of the Fire Chief or other person then exercising response authority under this Ordinance until such time as the person exercising such response authority has determined that the response is complete or responsibility for response is assumed by the Federal, State or local emergency response agency having primary jurisdiction over the release or threatened release.

E. The person exercising response authority under this Ordinance shall coordinate and/or cooperate with other Federal, State or local emergency response agencies involved in response to the release or threatened release of hazardous materials.

SECTION 5: LIABILITY FOR COSTS

A. Notwithstanding any other provision or rule of law, and subject only to the defenses set forth in this Ordinance, the following persons shall be jointly and severally liable for all costs of removal and remedial action incurred by the District as a result of a release or threatened release of a hazardous material:

1. The owner and operator of a facility or vessel from which there is a release or substantial threat of release of a hazardous material.
2. Any person who, at the time of disposal, transport, storage or treatment of a hazardous material, owned or operated the facility or vessel used for such disposal, transport, treatment or storage from which there was a release or substantial threat of a release of any such hazardous material.
3. Any person who by contract, agreement, or otherwise has arranged with another party or entity for transport, storage, disposal or treatment of hazardous materials owned, controlled or possessed by such person at a facility owned or operated by another party or entity from which facility there is a release or substantial threat of a release of such hazardous materials.
4. Any person who accepts or accepted any hazardous materials for transport to disposal, storage or treatment facilities or sites from which there is a release or a substantial threat of release of such hazardous substances.

SECTION 6: DEFENSES: There shall be no liability under this Ordinance for a person otherwise liable who can establish by a preponderance of the evidence that the release or substantial threat of release of a hazardous material and the resulting damages occurred under one of the permitted defenses set forth in 415 ILCS 5/22.2(j).

SECTION 7: COSTS AND PENALTIES

A. Any person who is liable for the release or threatened release of a hazardous material who fails without sufficient cause to pay for or provide removal or remedial action upon or in accordance with a notice and request of the District, or in accordance with any order of any court having jurisdiction on the matter, shall be liable to the District for any costs incurred by the District as a result of such failure to provide or take such removal or remedial action, together with the cost of any removal or remedial action taken by the District in accordance with the ordinance, and all attorney's fees and related legal costs incurred in connection therewith.

B. In addition, any such person shall be guilty of a violation of this Ordinance and shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) nor more than seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) for each offense. A separate offense shall be deemed committed for each day on which a violation occurs or continues. Where such violation is found to be the result of willful and/or wanton conduct or gross negligence, or the person committing such violation attempts to evade responsibility hereunder by leaving the scene of the occurrence or by other means, that person shall be subject to a fine as provided for above or a fine in an amount equal to three times the costs, including attorneys' fees and legal costs, for which it is liable under Paragraph A, whichever is greater.

- C. Charges for removal or remedial action when rendered by the District or any agency in accordance with any mutual aid agreement shall be as follows:
- 1) The cost of vehicles as determined by the responding agency, but in no case less than \$250.00 per hour per vehicle; and
 - 2) The cost of all personnel including any overtime cost to the Norwood Park Fire Protection District or to any responding agency, incurred as a result of the removal or remedial action, but in no case less than \$70.00 per hour; and
 - 3) The cost of all materials and equipment used, expended, depleted, destroyed or removed from service in accordance with federal, state or local ordinance as a result of the mitigation or containment operations or at the request of the District or any responding agency; and
 - 4) The costs of service and/or goods provided by a private or public entity which are used, expended, depleted or destroyed as a result of the response.

SECTION 8: This Ordinance shall supersede any ordinances or motions or parts of ordinances or motions in conflict with any part herein, and any such ordinances or motions or parts of such ordinances are hereby repealed.

SECTION 9: If any section, paragraph or provisions of the Ordinance shall be held invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 10: The Secretary of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District is hereby directed to publish this Ordinance in full at least once in a newspaper published in the District. Publication shall take place at least ten (10) days prior to implementation of this Ordinance. The provisions of this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect ten (10) days after publication as provided by law (70 ILCS 705/7).

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District this 9th day of December, 2014, by a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Skyba, Martell, Strempek, Jarosz, Szczurek, Lymperopoulos, Romano

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

/s/Douglas Strempek
 President, Board of Trustees
 Norwood Park Fire Protection District

ATTEST:
 /s/Andrew Skyba
 Secretary, Board of Trustees

Norwood Park Fire Protection District 12/18/14 #891368

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DECEMBER



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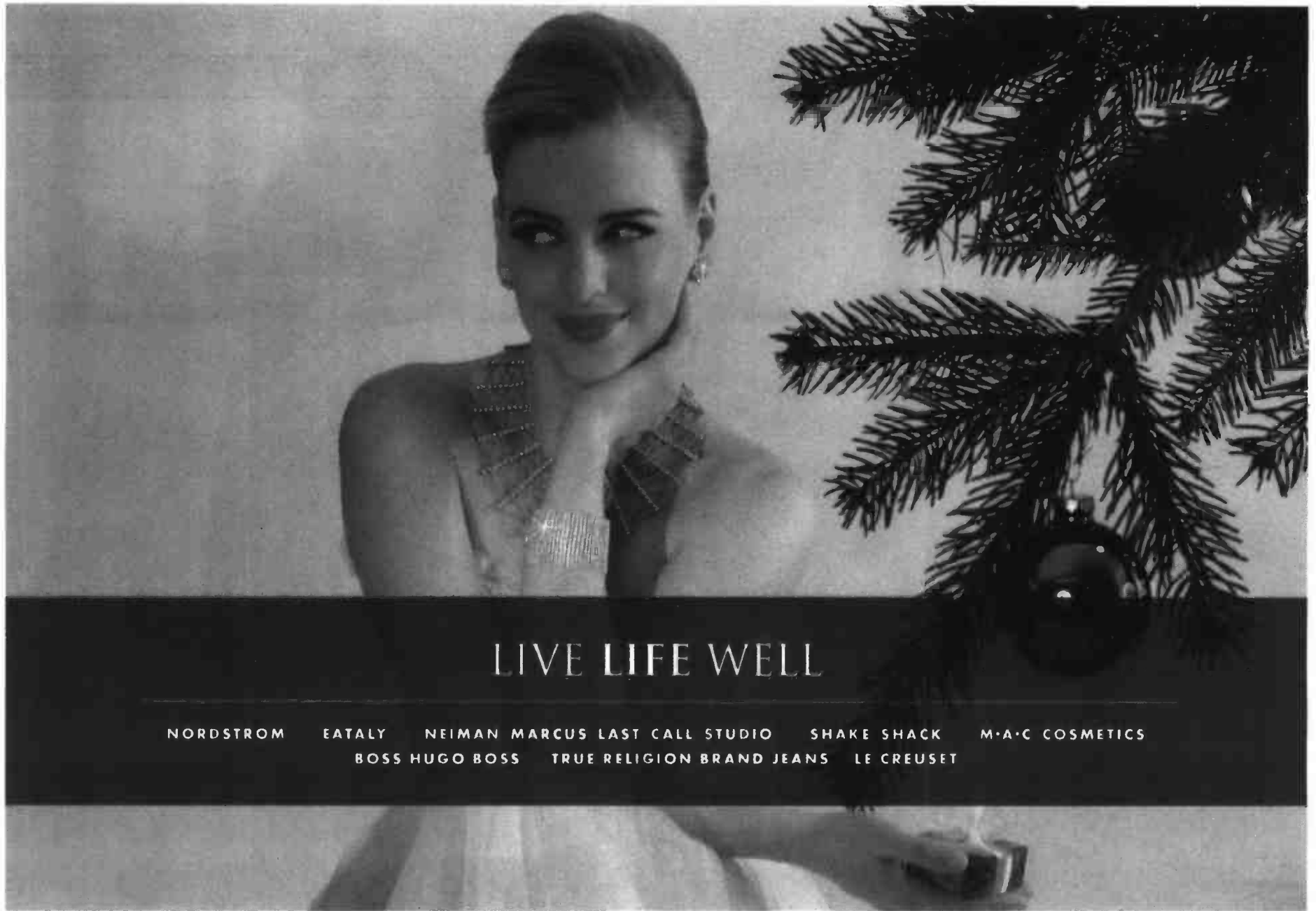
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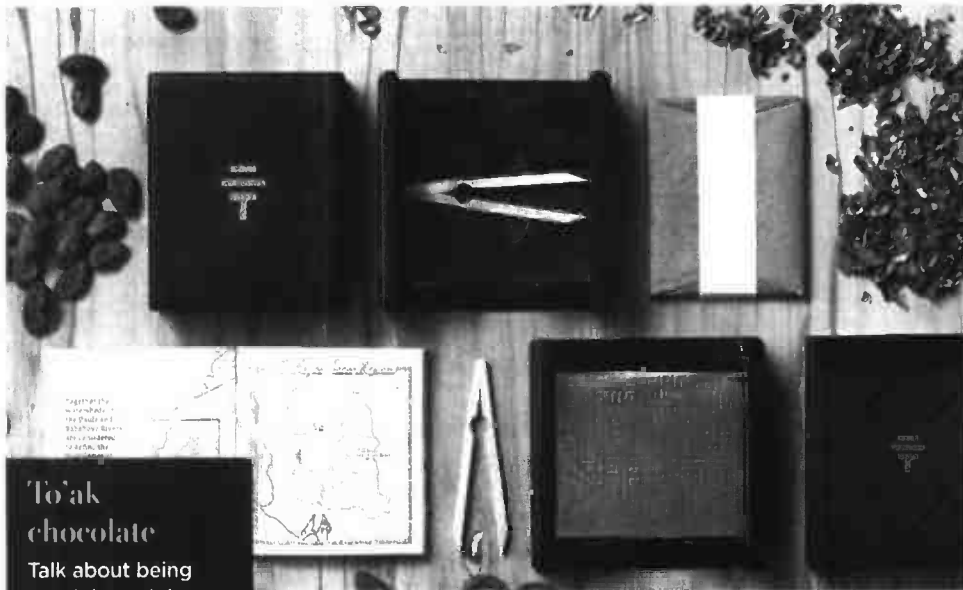
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THINGS WE LOVE

THIS WEEK



To'ak chocolate

Talk about being worth its weight in gold: These rare Ecuadorian chocolate bars — only 574 were made — were created by Winnetka native **Jerry Toth** with only two ingredients (cacao and cane sugar) and are the ultimate, luxurious sweet treat. \$260, available at Lush Wine & Spirits locations citywide; Toakchocolate.com



Meli Café

Beat the winter woes with belly-warming, seasonally inspired dishes from the breakfast hot spot — we're obsessed with the varieties of French toast (pumpkin, sweet potato, nutmeg/gingerbread and carrot). They even have homemade marmalade in flavors like quince, grapefruit-kiwi and bacon. French toast starting at \$10, 301 S. Halsted; Melicafe.com



MTailor

This new men's clothing app uses your phone's camera to take your measurements — 20 percent more accurately than a professional tailor — and create a perfect custom shirt. Shirts start at \$69, app free on the iTunes App Store; Mtailor.com

Zadig-et-Voltaire pediatric cancer benefit

The French clothier is giving back this holiday season with a Parisian-style shopping soirée to benefit the Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation. Guests can shop for a cure while sipping bubbles and snacking on light bites. Dec. 17, 6-8 p.m., 114 E. Oak; Us.zadig-et-voltaire.com

SPLASH

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION?

Publisher and Editor
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jsedgwick@suntimes.com

Managing Editor
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rhandler@suntimes.com

"Celebrating Christmas with my Jewish family in the suburbs — my mom nukes an eggnog with approximately 14 different liquors in it and we eat things like potatoes covered in cheese."

Senior Editor
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"Watching from the warmth of a car as my dad and brother take a lit Christmas tree out to the island of our neighborhood pond via rowboat."

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Zak Stemer,
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"My mom's brisket. It might be her best dish. This year, I'm asking that she make an extra one just for me."

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"Spending the holidays in Miami visiting my family and escaping the winter chill!"

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Rachel Bogo, Spencer Ebach, Aileen McGraw and Jack Nuelle

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

Founder
Michael Ferro

Splash is distributed weekly inside Sun-Times Media publications.

AT THE SHOOT

Kendall and Kylie Jenner rocked looks from their line for PacSun during a store appearance at Woodfield Mall (5 Woodfield Mall, Schaumburg). Before the doors opened to the thousands of fans who came out to see them, the sisters posed for our camera and talked candidly about growing up in the spotlight.

CREDITS

Photographer: Kirsten Miccoli
Shoot Producer: Katerina Bizios



Pretty please

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THE BY MOLLY EACH CALENDAR

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this week



Meghan Norton, Rita Canning, Anna Bilton, Rebecca Darr and Jackie Tilton at last year's benefit | WALDEMAR REICHERT

SPLASH PICK!

December 14

● 11TH ANNUAL 'SWEET HOME CHICAGO'

Join co-chairs **Anna Bilton** and **Meghan Norton**, plus WINGS board chair **Rita Canning** and honorary chairs **Greg** and **Anna Brown**, for WINGS's (Women In Need Growing Stronger) holiday event. The festive afternoon includes a visit with **Santa Claus**, gingerbread house decorating, entertainment from **Ralph's World**, family portraits and the chance to visit with comfort dogs from Lutheran Church Charities. Proceeds help provide resources to families who experience domestic violence.

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, 120 E. Delaware

Cost: Sponsorships start at \$5,000. For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, call (847) 519-7820, or visit Wingsprogram.com/11th-annual-sweet-home-chicago.

December 17-21

● CIRQUE DREAMS HOLIDAZE

This touring Christmas spectacular features more than 20 acts — think aerial stunts, acrobatics, illusions and musical numbers — from 30 artists from across the globe decked as snowmen, angels, toy soldiers, gingerbread men and other seasonal characters. The show comes from the creators of *Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy*, and heads to New York after its Chicago debut.

Time: Wednesday-Saturday 7:30 p.m., Saturday-Sunday 2 p.m.

Place: Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State

Cost: \$25-\$75. For tickets, visit Cirqueproductions.com.

December 20

● **HANDEL'S 'MESSIAH'**

The city's oldest musical organization, **Apollo Chorus**, keeps tradition alive by performing Handel's "Messiah" for the 135th year. Led by conductor **Stephen Alltop**, the organization's signature performance features music from the 125-member chorus, plus soloists **Elisabeth Marshall, J'nal Bridges, Samuel Levine** and **David Govertsen**.

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph

Cost: \$30-\$60. For tickets, call (312) 427-5620 or visit Apollochorus.com.

December 20-21

● **TSUKASA TAIKO: 'TAIKO LEGACY 11' AND 'REDUCTION'**

Take in the classical art of Japanese drumming, or taiko. Featuring artists from

Chicago, San Francisco and Tokyo, the program showcases traditional dance-drum works performed by three generations of drummers of Asian descent in two different shows: "Taiko Legacy 11," a family-friendly afternoon rendition, and "Reduction," an evening show Dec. 21.

Time: 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Place: Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago

Cost: \$16 members, \$20 non-members, \$10 students. For tickets, call (312) 397-4010 or visit Mcchicago.org.

next week

December 21

● **HANUKKAH CONCERT**

Rabbi Joe Black and the **Maxwell Street Klezmer Band** perform two one-hour concerts in honor of the holiday in the Alsdorf Auditorium at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Tickets to the concert include access to the Wonderland Express, the organization's festive, train-centric holiday exhibit.

Time: 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Place: Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook, Glencoe

Cost: \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door for members, or \$17 in advance and \$20 at the door, children 2 and under free. For tickets, visit Chicagobotanic.org/wonderland/special.

December 21

● **FABIO VIVIANI WINE TASTING**

"Top Chef" fan favorite and the chef behind Siena Tavern in River North swings through Mariano's Westchester to debut his new wine brand, Fabio Viviani Wine Collection. Grab a bottle of the California-made vino — he's kicking off the line with a 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon and a 2012 Chardonnay — greet the chef, and get the



Fabio Viviani

bottle signed.

Time: 3-4 p.m.

Place: Mariano's Westchester, 3020 S. Wolf, Westchester

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

December 24

● **FEAST OF THE SEVEN FISHES**

Let someone else do the cooking this Christmas Eve and celebrate the Feast of the Seven Fishes, a centuries-old tradition in Southern Italy, at acclaimed restaurant Nico Osteria. Chef de cuisine **Erling Wu-Bower's** seafood-centric, four-course meal includes dishes such as salt-crusted branzino, roasted razor clams and plenty of caviar and oysters. (Standard menu is also available.)

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: Nico Osteria, 1015 N. Rush

Cost: \$100. For reservations, call (312) 994-7100.

December 26-31

● **KWANZAA CANDLE LIGHTING CELEBRATION**

Mark the seven-day festival of Kwanzaa at the DuSable Museum of African-American History. Each day celebrates one of the seven principles, known as Nguzo Saba, including Unity, Self-Determination and Purpose. Drop by to light a candle and commemorate the festival, celebrated throughout the African diaspora.

Time: Noon-1 p.m.

Place: DuSable Museum of African-American History, 740 E. 56th

Cost: Free. For more information, visit Dusablemuseum.org/events/details/kwanzaa-candle-lighting-celebration.

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SLIT DECISIONS

CAROLYN FROST

in Vera Wang at the Field Museum

XERIAN EATON

in For Love & Lemons at Harris Theater

JOVANNE SMITH

in Mac Duggal at the Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park

SARAH TYLER-PHIPPS

in Nicholas at the Field Museum

JESSE SLACK

in BCBG at the Hyatt Regency Chicago

ROSIE BAHCHENOVA

in BCBG at A. Finkl & Sons

At the 84th Academy Awards in 2012, Angelina Jolie made a style splash when she showed off her lengthy leg with a thigh-high slit. Ripples of the trend still remain in the fashion world. Even two years later, provocative slits are still the gold standard for making a sexy statement (just look at the recent American Music Awards looks donned by stars like Fergie and Julianne Hough). Grab your own stem-showing gown from labels like Fendi, Burberry Prorsum or Nina Ricci, but heed this warning: While the lovely Mrs. Jolie-Pitt can go sky-high with her slits, we mere mortals would be wise to keep it demure to avoid risking any wardrobe malfunctions. In short: The thigh's the limit.



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Countdown to Christmas

STORIES BY CHIARA MILIOULIS

Partygoers merrily sang "The Twelve Days of Christmas" while wrapping gifts for children in need at the Service Club of Chicago's annual Holiday Luncheon Dec. 4. Chairs **Diane Freeman** and **Bonnie Rickard** and an animated toy soldier welcomed attendees to The University Club of Chicago (76 E. Monroe) for a "sip and shop," featuring holiday items from vendors including Elements Chicago, Alioto Gift Shop, Jo Malone and Lulu's on the Avenue. Each guest wrapped gifts for the boys and girls served by charity partner Hephzibah Children's Association — which assists at-risk youth by providing them a safe environment and promising future — while listening to festive tunes from **Chicago Hope Academy's** choir.

Splash was the media sponsor of this event.



Above: Bunky Cushing and Mamie Walton

Right: Sheree Valukas and Sherrill Bodine with a toy soldier

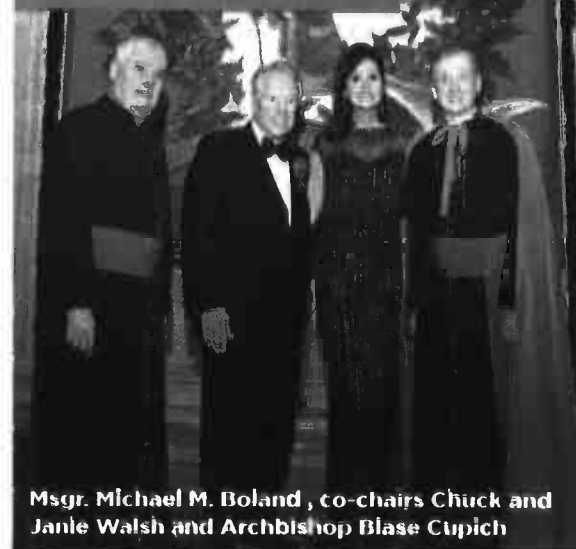
PHOTOS BY RAMZI DREESSEN-SPLASH



Cookie Cohen and Vonita Reeser



CATHOLIC CHARITIES' SPIRIT OF SAINT NICHOLAS BALL



Msgr. Michael M. Boland, co-chairs Chuck and Janie Walsh and Archbishop Blase Cupich

Yuletide cheer

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago celebrated its silver anniversary at its annual Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball Dec. 5 at the Hilton Chicago (720 S. Michigan). The black-tie affair attracted 1,370 guests, all of whom danced to the sounds of the **Ken Arlen Orchestra**. **Cardinal Francis George** and the President of Catholic Charities **Monsignor Michael M. Boland** hosted the event alongside **Janie and Chuck Walsh**, and helped raise \$1.15 million for the children served by the network's nine child development centers, after-school programs, counseling services and teen parenting centers.

Splash was the media sponsor of this event.

PHOTOS BY RAMZI DREESSEN-SPLASH AND JOHN REILLY



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Dazzling gems

Chicago-based jewelry designer **Maria Ress** added some sparkle to The Ritz-Carlton Chicago's deca Restaurant + Bar (160 E. Pearson) with the launch of her jewelry line **Kastel Jewelry Collection**. Hosted by **Eleni Bousis**, the Dec. 3 Splash-sponsored event brought guests to the restaurant's festive lobby, where they sipped wine and sampled new modern brasserie-inspired menu items by Chef **Martin Knaubert** while browsing the collection, as well as fashions by **Barbara Bates Designs**.

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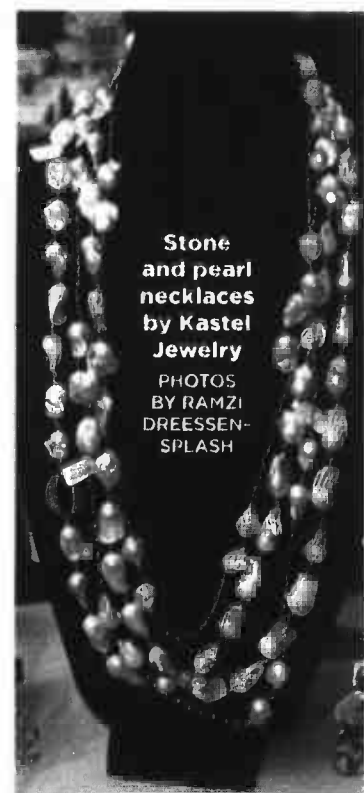
PHOTOS
BY RAMZI
DRESSEN-
SPLASH



Melissa Kelz and
Sheila Arway



Yana Feygan and
Barry Elrod



making a splash

'ODD' JOBS

Oak Park native **THOMAS LENNON** talks 'The Odd Couple,' 'Night at the Museum' and always being 'that guy'

BY ZAK STEMER

Oh that guy! is the general reaction people have when they see Thomas Lennon — and he's totally fine with that. The actor/comedian, an Oak Park native, has 102 acting credits under his belt — Meryl Streep has just 74. "Here's the thing. It was never my goal to be her," Lennon laughs. "The joy of [being] 'Oh, That Guy,' which I am, is that you can work forever."

Lennon, 41, has been in showbiz for more than two decades, starting in cult shows like "The State" and "Reno 911!" and doing bit parts in movies like "I Love You, Man," "The Dark Knight Rises" and "Bad Teacher." But now he's hitting a career high: Next year, he'll star opposite Matthew Perry in the highly anticipated reboot of "The Odd Couple," and he's the co-writer of the "Night at the Museum" franchise, which premieres its third installment Dec. 19.

The film series follows Ben Stiller (a longtime friend of Lennon's since he appeared on the very first episode of "Viva Variety," Lennon's sketch show, in 1997) as a security guard in a museum where, each night, all the exhibits come to life. In this month's sequel, the magic that animates the exhibits starts to slip out, and Stiller — along with historical heroes like Teddy Roosevelt and Lancelot — must hurry to save it.

As for Lennon's other upcoming project, he'll portray the upright Felix Unger in "The Odd Couple," Feb. 19. "I'll be honest, I lost sleep thinking about was it a good idea [to take such a well-known part] or not

From failure to franchise

"We wrote a movie called 'Taxi' that starred Queen Latifah and Jimmy Fallon. Everyone in the entire world seemed to agree that it was the worst movie ever made — at least by human beings," laughs Lennon. "But the test screenings had been so good that we had already signed a deal to write 'Taxi 2.' The Monday morning after 'Taxi' came out, we got called into the principal's office at 20th Century Fox. They said, 'OK, you're in big trouble. You wrote the worst movie made by humans. So now, to fulfill your contract, you have to pick one of these three children's books to make into a movie.' They put a couple of things in front of us, one of them was *Night at the Museum*."

Most recognized role

"'17 Again' without a doubt — [unless] I go places where there's either law enforcement personnel or recreational drug users, [then] 'Reno 911!'"

Family life

Lennon's chaotic worklife is only exceed by his equally chaotic home life, which he shares with his wife Jenny and their 5-year-old son Oliver. "I look at people who have two, three or four kids and I'm like, 'That's amazing, because one is almost impossible,'" he laughs. "A 5-year-old is literally like they've always had a couple of Red Bulls."

a good idea for a very long time," he admits. "I grew up watching Tony Randall on 'The Odd Couple.' I was obsessed with him. I thought he was one of the funniest people I'd ever seen in my entire life."

So Lennon is determined to do his childhood idol justice by bringing something new to the role. "There are a lot of my own, very lachrymose aspects of personality in the character," says Lennon. "For example, bringing my own cello. As a kid I was in the orchestra and the band in elementary school. I played the cello until junior high, and then didn't play the cello again until the pilot of 'The Odd Couple.'"

It turns out Lennon may have slightly embellished his personal resume for the role: "I told the writers that I was really good at yoga, so I spend a lot of the show upside down or in pretzel-y things," he laughs. "I don't know if I lied so much as fudged. My mouth wrote a lot of cliche's that [now] I have to cash."

Fortunately, it seems like everything is working out for Lennon. He recalls a recent moment on set when Garry Marshall, who originally adapted "The Odd Couple" for TV, approached him. "He just gave me a big hug before I walked out on set and said, 'You're killing it,'" says Lennon, then laughs. "And I think he meant it in a good way, as opposed to, 'You're killing the franchise.'" But if all pans out (which it usually does for Lennon), he'll join the ranks of Tony Randall and leave "Oh, That Guy" in the dust.

cover story





K two of a KIND

KENDALL & KYLIE JENNER
have grown up in the spotlight
— but now they're stepping out
on their own

BY ELLE EICHINGER
PHOTOS BY KIRSTEN MICCOLI

The Woodfield Mall isn't open yet, but a single unlocked door on the east side has been open since 5 a.m., allowing thousands of teenage fans in to line up outside the gated stores, winding through the mall. The line culminates at PacSun, where Kendall and Kylie Jenner — the teenaged younger sisters of the Kardashian clan — pose for our cover shoot alongside their latest collaborative collection for the beachy brand.

At only 19 and 17 years old respectively, Kendall and Kylie are seasoned media pros: While the crowd outside chants their names (“KEN-DALL, KY-LIE”), the sisters pose perfectly, barely batting an eyelash. “It’s something that we’ve grown up with,” says Kylie. “It’s kind of normal for us — as normal as it can be.”

She's not exaggerating: Since the ages of 11 and 9, the sisters have been reality-TV regulars on E! Network's "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" and its spinoff series "Kourtney & Kim Take Miami," "Kloé and Lamar" and, most recently, "Kourtney and Khloé Take the Hamptons." The show has followed them through their most transformative years, documenting everything from hitting puberty to learning to drive to butting heads with their parents.

Of course, it hasn't always been all fun and games. "We love doing these meet-and-greets," says Kylie; but, like any celeb, they're approached by their share of fanatics. "You got chased in Miami, didn't you?" remembers Kendall. "We were really young, and [Kylie] had to run and escape them. She came to me and was like, 'Kendall, that wasn't normal.'" They're bashed on social media as much as they're praised (they each have more than 15 million Instagram followers), but they take it in stride: Earlier this month, the elder Jenner posted a "Mean Girls"-inspired video poking fun at all the nasty things people have said about her from behind their computer screens, while Kylie tweeted, "Let's talk about something new at least. I'm bored," showing a coolheaded indifference to the plastic-surgery rumors swirling about her. "We have an amazing family surrounding us," Kylie explains. "They taught us so much about growing up in [the spotlight]."

Though they learned a lot from their older siblings, Kendall and Kylie have recently found plenty of success in their own right. Kendall is the new face of cosmetics brand Estée Lauder and has a modeling career that would make even the most veteran catwalker envious — during New York Fashion Week, she strutted for labels like Diane von Furstenberg, Givenchy, Chanel and Marc Jacobs — and Kylie has a just-launched line of hair extensions with Bellami Hair dubbed Kylie Hair Kouture. Together, they've penned a sci-fi young adult novel, *Rebels: City of Indra*, starred in a commercial for Beats by Dre headphones and created a line of shoes for Steve Madden. Their 2014 holiday line for PacSun is the duo's 12th collection for the brand.

"We were definitely admiring what Kendall and Kylie were becoming," says PacSun CEO Gary Schoenfeld of the collaboration. "We thought it would be really interesting to take these two girls from California and create a [line] around their unique fashions and sensibilities. ... We talk about the 'Golden State of Mind.' It's not just girls and guys at the beach; we're inspired by beaches, by mountains, by social causes, by technology, by the entertainment industry. Part of our mission is to capture that in different ways, and Kendall and Kylie bring a great dimension to that."

For their part in the design process, the duo brainstorms inspirations for each collection based on their own fashion influences — namely, their stylish sibs. "My family has a lot to do with my style," Kylie says, calling out older sister Kim and



her husband, rapper Kanye West, especially. "I also look on Tumblr a lot [for inspiration]." The girls then work with the design teams on everything from choosing fabrics to sharing ideas for the campaign creative. The second wave of their holiday collection is in stores now, comprising more than 50 pieces, from embellished vests and babydoll dressed to cardigans and denim (pieces start at \$22.50).

As they wrap the collection launch, the Jenners will head back to Los Angeles, where they'll briefly escape the media to celebrate the holidays like the rest of us — only with a little more glitz and glam. "My mom is the holiday queen," says Kylie of momager Kris. Adds Kendall: "She decorates the house for every single holiday, but at this time of year [the décor] is obviously bigger. It's really fun. [The holidays] are the time we spend with family."

Until then, though, they're on the job. As we wrap our interview, the gates to the store open and Kendall and Kylie get comfortable in their seats — they've got a staggering number of autographs to sign.

SISTER, SISTER

We asked the Jenner sibs to answer questions about each other in a "Newlywed Game"-style quiz.

Splash: Can you each name your sister's pet peeves?

Kendall: She has so many.

Kylie: Really? I can't think of any.

Kendall: No, you have SO many. Like if I tell her I don't like something she's wearing or her hair color or whatever, she's like [mimicking voice], "I don't care."

Kylie: Well when you're a Negative Nancy, that's a

big pet peeve.

Kendall: I'm not negative, I'm your sister.

Kylie: I don't want an opinion from anybody, just myself.

S: Kylie, what's Kendall's?

Kylie: Probably that [she] hates messiness.

Kendall: I need everything clean. My house is clean and I'm still cleaning.

S: What songs are on each other's playlists?

Kendall: What were we just listening to? You were playing Drake but that's on everybody's playlist.

Kylie: Spooky Black.

S: What's on Kendall's?

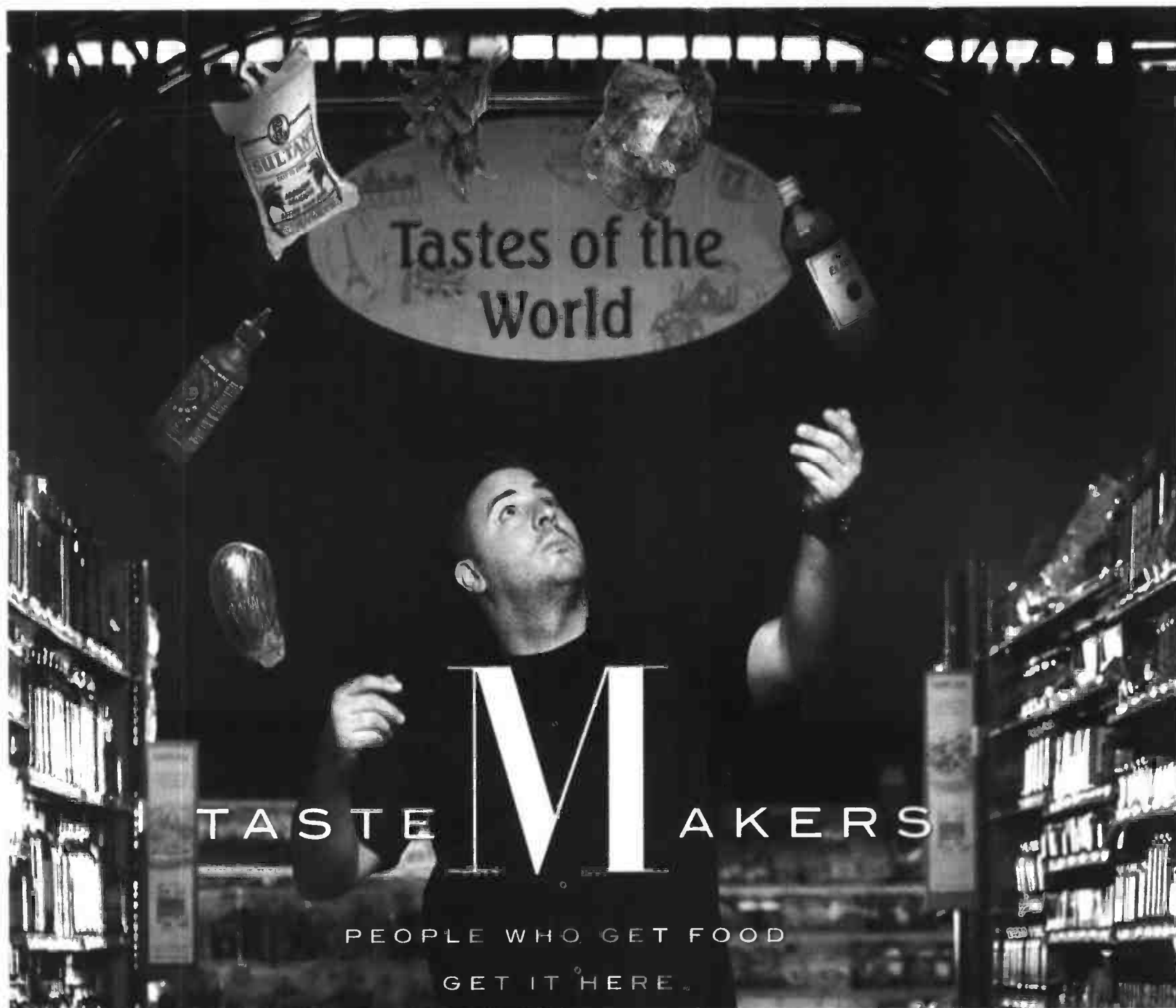
Kylie: Coachella stuff.

Kendall: That's not true! I have, like, everything.

S: How would you describe your sister's style?

Kendall: [Kylie is] cool, edgy, stylish, different.

Kylie: [Kendall is] model-y, sophisticated, simple.



— *Doug Psaltis*

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Above: Nicole Lorenz, manager for the Hoffmann Company from Dresden in Germany, sells nutcrackers at Chicago's Christkindlmarket. | ASHLEE REZIN-FOR STM

The *12 deals* of Christmas

Savor the rest of the season with these festive local finds

BY SELENA FRAGASSI

Lords-a-leaping and maids-a-milking are so 18th century. These days, the 12 days of Christmas are filled with last-minute shopping, eating, drinking, entertaining — did we mention last-minute shopping? To help you catch a quick breath before the big day arrives, we've created a day-by-day breakdown of the best upcoming local deals and services.

DEC. 14: Find a unique craft fair

Still need gifts to wow the more discernable folks on your list? These unique holiday bazaars are your best bet. Randolph Street Holiday Market (below, \$10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Plumbers Hall, 1340 W. Washington; Randolphstreetmarket.com) is a modern-day block sale with a huge assortment of antique keepsakes and vintage and indie jewelry and art (plus free furniture delivery in downtown Chicago if you're going big). You'll also want to leave time today for The Chicago Art Girls holiday pop-up shop (11 a.m.-5 p.m., Bell Elementary School, 3730 N. Oakley; Chicagoartgirls.com) and the Bucktown Holiday Art Show (free admission pass online, noon-5 p.m., Holstein Park Fieldhouse, 2200 N. Oakley; Bucktownpromotions.com), where you can find goods from a variety of local artisans — think humorous snow globes from Red-Belly and Jason Thomas' carved treasures.



DEC. 15: Get a taste of Chicago at Christmas

Shop and eat simultaneously with a new promotion called "Unwrap Lincoln Square and Ravenswood." The first 150 shoppers who spend \$300 on goods, services and gift certificates at a minimum of three neighborhood businesses before Dec. 24 will receive a \$50 gift certificate to try an area restaurant in the new year. Save your receipts and mail copies — along with your contact info — to the Chamber of Commerce (2611 W. Lawrence) before the cutoff date. The applicable area is Foster to the north, Ashland to the east, Montrose to the south and the Chicago River to the west — meaning shops like Merz Apothecary (pictured), Architectural Artifacts Inc. and Enjoy, An Urban General Store are all up for grabs (visit Lincolnsquare.org/pages/unwrapcampaign1 for more info).

DEC. 16: Snap a winning photo with Santa

Today's the last day to enter the #SantaSnapshot contest at the 900 North Michigan Shops (900 N. Michigan; Shop900.com/holiday). Get your candid with Kris Kringle on level 3, then tweet or Instagram the photo using the official hashtag #SantaSnapshot for your chance to win up to a \$1,000 shopping spree. While you're there, take advantage of the Wrap & Recharge Holiday Lounge, which boasts a complimentary coat check, charging stations and wrapping services. And be sure to enter the "Posh Giveaway" raffle at the concierge desk — you get one ticket for every \$50 you spend at the Shops — and win items for your family and friends from Azeeza, L'Occitane en Provence, Lulu's on the Avenue and others.





DEC. 17: Tap into Christmas brews

Now that we're finally over pumpkin brews, gift your palette with hints of ginger, cinnamon and chestnuts — and learn how to know the difference between them all with a special holiday-themed Beer Academy at Goose Island Brewpub (\$25, 6:30 p.m., 1800 N. Clybourn; Gooseislandbrewpubs.com). Tonight's tasting will offer a lineup of presents from various craft breweries (although none have been officially named yet, possibilities include Great Lakes Christmas Ale, Berghoff Germaniac and Goose Island's own Christmas Ale) along with instructions on how to impress your family by pairing the beers with your holiday dishes at home.

DEC. 18: Check off Christmas cards

If you're dreading the annual assembly line of Christmas cards, there's an easier option to get them in the mail. Two friends from Highland Park developed the free Cardmento app (Cardmento.com), which lets you design, print and pick up your cards all in the same day using your iPhone. Choose a template from 20 designs, take or select a picture from your phone's photo library and send your order to your local Walgreens for same-day pick-up. Each order includes 20 cards and envelopes, and the app offers convenient reordering options. Get on it today and you still have one week to get cards delivered on time.



DEC. 19: Stay up late

Andersonville's popular Later-er Night gets going tonight — boutiques along Clark like Moda Boutique, The Wooden Spoon and Landmark Century Centre Cinema are open past their bedtimes (visit Andersonville.org for more participating shops). Shop from 6-10 p.m., then get your items wrapped for free with recycled paper goods at George's Ice Cream and Sweets (pictured). There's also the chance for Santa photo ops, sweet treats and drinks and even a kid drop-off at the First Free Church.



DEC. 20: Start your Holiday cookie-thon

Holiday cookies are as good a gift as any — and the preparation can be a party in itself, if you know what you're doing. If not, sign up for today's "Fun 'n' Fancy Holiday Cookie" class at The Chopping Block, open to all skill levels (\$75, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 4747 N. Lincoln; Thechoppingblock.net). On the day's agenda are ginger molasses spice cookies with festive sprinkles, buckeyes, cranberry-plantain bars with apricot glaze, red-and-green holiday elephant ears and chocolate peppermint sandwich cookies. In groups of three to five, you'll learn how to make the cookie dough and work with fresh ingredients, then take the treats (and recipes) home with you to start your cookie exchange.



DEC. 21: Pop into pop-ups

Only four days left to wrap up Christmas shopping! Look outside the big box for some one-of-a-kind collections at a selection of one-off holiday pop-up shops. For him: The Tie Bar (918 W. Armitage) has its first-ever retail destination with neckties, skinny ties, bow ties and pocket squares starting at \$10 — some even designed by former Splash cover stars Jesse Ferguson and NBA star Dwyane Wade. For her: Andersonville boutique Milk Handmade (pictured) won Block 37's inaugural pop-up contest, giving the store downtown exposure for its independent handmade goods, including cocktail dresses, jewelry and other accessories from 50 designers starting at \$20 (108 N. State).



DEC. 22: Treat family to holiday tea and a movie

Want a way to wow the out-of-town guests starting to trickle in this week? Take them to The Drake (\$20 for children, \$42 for adults, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m., 140 E. Walton; TheDrakehotel.com). The hotel's Palm Court offers special afternoon tea service with holiday pastries, beautiful winter wonderland décor and entertainment, including a harpist and Christmas carolers. Stick around for free Movie Mondays at 7 p.m. — tonight's feature is a showing of "It's A Wonderful Life" (pictured). Grab a themed cocktail like the Drake Eggnog or Caramel Appletini and enjoy complimentary popcorn while you snuggle up to your loved ones.



DEC. 23: Find the perfect ugly Christmas sweater

With reindeers clashing, snowmen drinking and trees blinking with colored bulbs, there's no limit to what you can wear — or force your loved ones to wear — on Christmas Day. Turn it into a family or office contest and get a step up on the competition by visiting one of two Christmas Sweater Depot locations (4268 W. Irving Park or 5644 W. Dempster, Morton Grove; Christmassweaterdepot.com). Each island of misfit apparel is stocked with 3-D sweaters, bedazzled T-shirts, holiday leggings, vests and more.



DEC. 24: Take a quick trip to Europe

One of the best imports Chicago gets all year is the annual Christkindlmarket (free, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington; Christkindlmarket.com), which brings in authentic vendors from Bavaria, Germany to set up red-and-white striped huts. The festival is inspired by a centuries-old tradition in Nuremberg — revelers sip on hot mulled wine (glühwein); nosh on bratwurst, potato pancakes, hot pretzels and crepes; shop for handcrafted ornaments, steins and cuckoo clocks; and take their kids to see Santa and admire the city's official Christmas tree.



DEC. 25: Celebrate at Sixteen

Sometimes the best holiday meals are far, far away from the family kitchen, and the Trump Hotel's Sixteen restaurant has an idyllic menu for Christmas Day (brunch is \$45 for kids and \$155 for adults and dinner is \$125 for prix fixe or \$185 for the tasting menu, 401 N. Wabash; Trumpotelcollection.com/chicago). Start with a wholesome spread for brunch or make reservations for dinner with prix fixe and tasting menus prepared by executive chef Thomas Lentz. The festivities begin with a ride up to the restaurant in the Gingerbread Express, a special elevator decorated with more than 1,000 gingerbread bricks (and other candied décor) crafted by the pastry team. If you want a place to crash for the night, consider the hotel's "Home for the Holidays" suite, decorated with a Christmas tree, stockings hung by the fireplace, holiday DVDs to rent and special milk-and-cookies turndown service (\$859).



Sugarplums and snowflakes



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE JOFFREY BALLET

The Joffrey Ballet makes holiday magic with 'The Nutcracker'

BY THOMAS CONNORS

There are as many ways of getting into the spirit of the season as there are needles on a 6-foot Fraser fir. For some, it's shopping on North Michigan. For others, it's stringing lights outside the house, or perhaps strapping on skates and cutting a figure eight. For plenty of people, the Yuletide wouldn't be complete without taking in a performance of "The Nutcracker." And The Joffrey Ballet's production — now in full swing at the Auditorium Theatre — hits the spot like a hot chocolate garnished with a candy cane.

While the ballet is as much a tradition as "Messiah" and "A Christmas Carol," it's a relative newcomer as holiday entertainment in the U.S. First performed at St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre in

1892, it didn't hit these shores until 1940, in an abbreviated production by the Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo. Robert Joffrey, who'd been an extra in that production, first offered his own version in 1987.

Joffrey, whose vision of American dancing converted many to what had previously been seen as effete European art form, set his ballet in a 19th century American home. The original decor, by Oliver Smith, took its cues from Joffrey's personal collection of Americana. "Robert Joffrey loved the Christmas holiday, and poured his heart into this production," notes the company's artistic director Ashley Wheater. "I have seen many 'Nutcrackers' through the years, but Joffrey's first-act party scene is the

best of them all. The staging and choreography is incredibly complicated, but feels like a real holiday party in the home of a family you or I might know."

Assisting Joffrey in this effort was his partner and colleague, the late Gerald Arpino, who choreographed various passages, including the "Waltz of the Snowflakes." Arpino wasn't keen on the project, but, as he remarked some years back, Joffrey insisted, saying "You must do it, but do it your way." His way, Arpino related, combined neoclassicism with a distinctly "American aspect of rhythm and form."

Naturally, most audience members won't be parsing the choreographic nuances of the ballet. Instead, they'll be lost in the Christmas Eve-set story of a little girl and her dreams. As Wheater observes, "We share a desire for families to gather at the holidays. And Clara may represent the classic American child: curious, independent, adventurous and open to a world of possibilities."

'THE NUTCRACKER'

Through Dec. 28. Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress. Tickets (\$32-\$134) are available at Joffrey.org/nutcracker.

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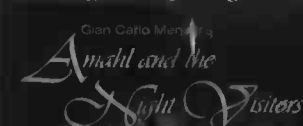
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FIVE MINUTES WITH...

SIMON DOONAN

The Barneys New York creative ambassador is all style and satire **BY ELLE EICHINGER**



Simon Doonan is something of a caricature, with his loud patterned shirts (paired with a sleek suit, of course), wild hair and goatee and charming British accent. He's been with Barneys New York for three decades — his current post is as creative ambassador — written seven books, decorated the White House for the holidays and earned endless fashion accolades. Last month, while in town for a shopping event to benefit Children's Research Foundation, the lovably eccentric Doonan gave Splash a slice of his stylish life.

Personal style

"I'm not a hit-or-miss person, I've never been that way. I was on 'Fashion Police' once and I was just hopeless! They wanted me to say 'this was good' or 'that was bad.' I think people should wear things that bring them pleasure, just wear them with conviction. Because at the end of the day it's all subjective — like, I think I look great, but I'm well aware of the fact that a lot of people think I look stupid. I don't care. People are entitled to their opinions."

Best gift ever

"The best gifts are always

the ones I give myself, because I really know what I want. Like I once gave myself a Goyard bag with my initials oversized on it, and I liked that. You can really knock it out of the park [when] giving a gift to yourself."

Star-struck

"I saw the David Bowie exhibit [when it was] in London; it's so amazing. ... I think he's the most creative performer, because with him it wasn't just strange costumes, it was strange music, too. It was innovative music; it was a total way of thinking. It makes you realize a lot of performers today that are very dressed up, their music isn't [aligned with that], whereas with him it was all innovation. I would have gone to the exhibit [in Chicago], but I thought, 'If I go around it again, it's almost like I'm a stalker.'"

Travel time

"My husband Jonathan Adler and I just celebrated our 20th anniversary. ... We went to Amangiri in Utah. It's an incredible resort in the middle of the Utah landscape. It's off-the-chizzies — I highly recommend it for an anniversary getaway. We went rock climbing and did all these [manly] things."

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To Rome, *with love*

My entire upbringing is based in Italian-American food,"

says chef **Tony Quartaro**. "My grandma is a major inspiration for me, and there are pictures of me when I was 8 years old making gnocchi with my dad." Quartaro is poised to bring that traditional Italian family cooking — with a few twists — to Chicago's dining scene when Formento's opens in January.

From the team behind The Bristol and Balena, Formento's is inspired by Italian red-sauce joints of the 1950s and 1960s — think saltimbocca (\$33), chicken Vesuvio (\$58, serves two) and a killer classic relish tray made using modern techniques and the highest quality ingredients (\$14). The West Loop spot is almost finished, and a series of preview tastings have been hot tickets. Clearly, Chicago is still in love with Italian.

Here's what else to expect at Formento's:

Chef stats: Quartaro never went to culinary school (except, perhaps, at his father's knee), but he started his culinary career after college at Nopa in San

Tony Quartaro pays homage to his family's Italian kitchen at Formento's

BY ANTHONY TODD

Francisco. He moved on to A16 before returning to Chicago to start work at the Bristol. As the team opened Balena, he was "holding down the fort" at Bristol; now that he's been with the group for a year and a half, it's time for Quartaro to get his own kitchen.

Upscale Italian: The dishes at Formento's may be familiar, but don't expect huge plates and carb comas. "The plating will be modern — no giant plates brimming with sauce," laughs Quartaro. "We're going to make the food modern only in the sense that we're applying the best techniques we know how. What's staying? The flavors and the robust quality of the food — nothing delicate." Consider a staple of every Chicago-Italian pantry: giardiniera. Formento's will be making it in-house with cauliflower, carrots, Serrano chilies, oregano, garlic and vinegar and frying it up tempura style. It'll be served with Meyer lemon

Top: chicken Vesuvio, \$58, serves two
Inset: relish tray, \$14

crème fraiche and basil — not exactly a plastic cup of spicy mush in a diner.

Family favorites: Canestri with Sunday gravy, an old recipe from Quartaro's grandma, is sure to be a hit (\$15). "It's an homage to traditional Chicago neckbone gravy," he explains. It includes braised pork neck, Italian sausage, meatballs and salt-and-pepper whipped ricotta (\$15). And don't miss the Timpano, a version of a macaroni pie: Sausage, meatballs, mozzarella, ricotta and sauce all go into a huge drum made of pasta, baked for an hour and fifteen minutes (\$19). "You end up with these wonderful slices — it's almost like a quiche," says Quartaro.

Breaking bread: One awesome addition to Formento's will be Nonna's (another tribute to Grandma), a separate sandwich shop run out of the restaurant. "It's a passion project for us," says Quartaro. "We'll be doing things like chicken Parmesan, eggplant Parmesan, meatballs." He'll also be revising some old recipes, like the Florentine Street sandwich made with tripe, hard-boiled eggs and red peppers (\$9).

925 W. Randolph, (312) 690-7285; Formentos.com

SHOW ME LOVE

BY JENNY MCCARTHY

On my radio show last week, we talked about the different ways to say "I love you." It's one of the most important things in a relationship — anyone can simply say the words "I love you," but it's when someone goes out of the way to actually make you *feel* loved that you get that warm-and-fuzzy feeling. For example, I brought up how whenever I take a nap, I can feel Donnie putting a blanket over me — it instantly brings a smile to my face and gives me a sense of peace. It doesn't matter how simple something might seem to be, it's guaranteed to make you feel loved when the thought and effort are there.

Here are a couple ways to show your love:

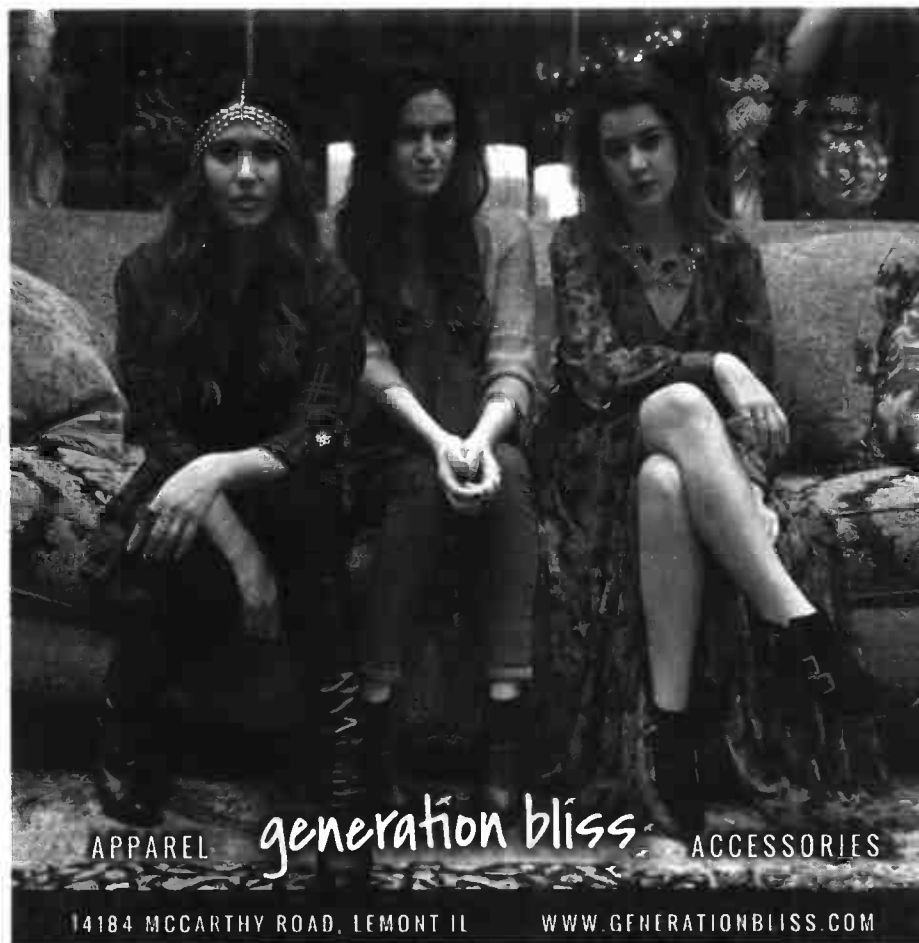
- Flirt with your partner. Flirting is fun and used to give us those exciting butterflies, so why not do it on a regular basis, no matter how long you've been together?
- Cut your partner some slack. We all have bad days and we all make mistakes. Being understanding and compassionate can go a long way.
- Always show up when it counts. When someone is upset or needs to vent, giving him or her your full, undivided attention shows that you



really do care and want to help.

- Send a midday text or email just letting them know you're thinking about them.
 - Compromise, compromise, compromise — it's your best friend. Everyone wins when you compromise.
 - Know when to give someone space. If your partner is in a mood where nothing you say can help, just give him a little "me time" and let him know you're there when he feels like talking.
- I'd love to hear your unique ways of showing your love!

Read Jenny's blog at ChicagoSplash.com.



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STYLE SIREN

BY CHIARA MILIOULIS
PHOTO BY RAMZI DRESSEN

Woodfield Mall's style setter shares this season's shopping must-haves

“

Shake it like a Polaroid picture — and satisfy your need for instant gratification.

Fujifilm: Instax Mini 8 instant camera, \$100, Urban Outfitters locations citywide; Urbanoutfitters.com

ZAHRA SANDBERG

AGE: 33. **TITLE:** Style setter for Woodfield Mall and owner of style blog Love Zahra. **LIVES IN:** Streamwood. **DAY-TO-DAY:** My role with Woodfield Mall focuses on blogging about fashion for the Style Setter blog, and creating fashion segments that have aired on [TV news shows]. I really enjoy coming up with the concepts and doing everything from working with retailers to styling the looks and from pulling the merchandise to sometimes even finding the models. I also help organize mall events and host new store openings. **IN HER WORDS:** I was in a job I wasn't passionate about, I was married, I just had a baby and I felt like my life revolved around everyone but me. I started doing outfit photo collages on my blog — then one day I was watching a fashion segment on TV and I told my husband I could do a way better job. Just a few months later, Woodfield Mall [asked me] to do a New Year's Eve fashion

show that aired on [TV]. I had no idea when I started that the blog would grow into an actual business. **FESTIVE TREND:** I'm really into faux fur. It just elevates the entire outfit. I just bought a gorgeous oxblood faux-fur stole from Anthropologie and I can't stop wearing it (\$98; Anthropologie.com). **GIFT IDEA:** There's a book by Malene Birger called *Move and Work*. It's a beautiful coffee table book curated with gorgeous images of rooms she lived in and decorated herself with items she acquired through her lifetime of travels (\$59.85; Barnesandnoble.com). **HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS:** I'm Muslim but my husband's family is Christian. My parents are from Pakistan but I grew up here and I love Christmas — the music, the decorations. We spend Christmas with my husband's family and we do a special dinner at my mother-in-law's for Christmas Eve.

To see Sandberg's favorite holiday shopping ideas, visit Splash.suntimes.com. For more information on Sandberg, visit Stylesetter.simon.com and Lovezahra.com.

“

I'm always looking for the perfect statement necklace, and Chicago-based Bella Colletta is an amazing source for unique and edgy handmade pieces.

Bella Colletta: crystal bib (Champagne), \$198; Bellacolletta.com

“

The pretty pink-and-purple palette in this jacket, along with the ruffles, makes this classic tweed style super feminine.

Diane von Furstenberg: ruffle trim tweed crop jacket, \$498, Bloomingdale's, 900 N. Michigan; Bloomingdales.com

“

The hexagonal pattern on this dress is reminiscent of the mesmerizing magic-eye posters of the '90s.

Diane von Furstenberg: print silk blend A-line dress, \$448, Nordstrom, 6 Woodfield Shopping Center, Schaumburg; Nordstrom.com






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|| PARTY



Joanna Fakhouri of Roselle (from left), Victor Meunzer, Park Ridge Civic Orchestra music director, Joanne Johnson of Park Ridge, Dr. Lisa Palivos of Northfield, Eleni Bousis of Northbrook, violinist Rachel Barton Pine of Chicago, Maria Ress of Glenview, Eleni Tzotzolis of Bannockburn, and Paula Francis of Park Ridge

PHOTOS KARIE ANGELL LUC/FOR PIONEER PRESS

Tea and music with Rachel Barton Pine

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
For Pioneer Press

The Park Ridge Civic Orchestra welcomed Rachel Barton Pine to tea at the Park Ridge Country Club on Nov. 15.

Guests watched Barton Pine, a master violinist, tune up a tableful of instruments. "This is really fun," she noted. One violin was made in 1742 and has a spruce top, maple body and boxwood pegs. The security detail nearby said the violin is worth "10 figures."

The company also enjoyed music by Barton Pine at the fundraiser. A particular delight was her duet with her daughter Sylvia, 3. Sylvia had brought her own instrument and plucked along with her mother in a dual rendition of "Three Blind Mice."



Helen Krok of Norridge, McKenna Thaharne, 12, of Park Ridge and McKenna's great-grandmother June Schmidt of Norridge

The PRCO concert season continues at Park Ridge's historic Pickwick Theatre with "Americana with Wayne Messmer" on Feb. 11; "A Taste of France: Saint-Saens and Les Miserables" on March 18; and "A Little Night Music: Mozart and Mahler," on May 6. Tickets and information at parkridgecivicorchestra.org.

Get your event in Trend

Have a philanthropic cause or event, or a party to share? Email Deborah Hoppe at dhoppe@pioneerlocal.com. She can send you guidelines for submitting information for Trend.

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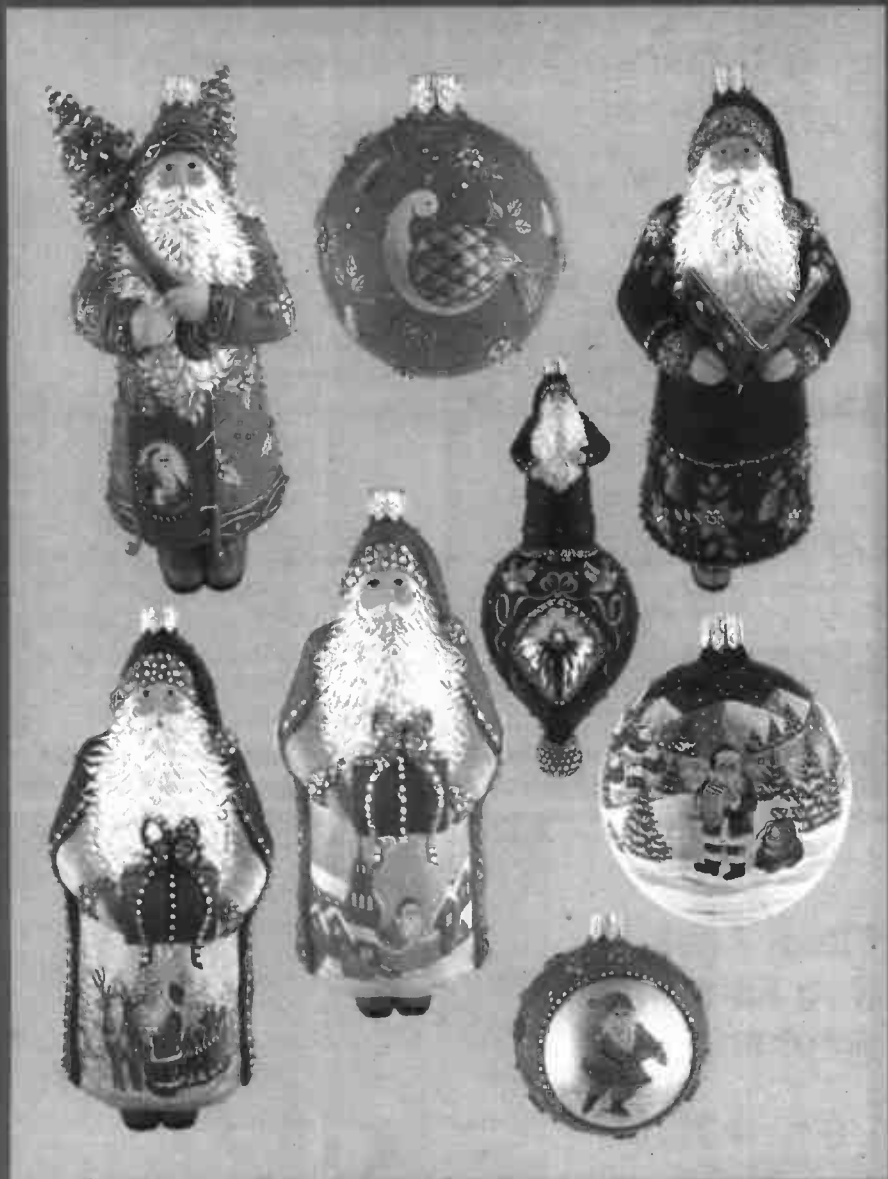
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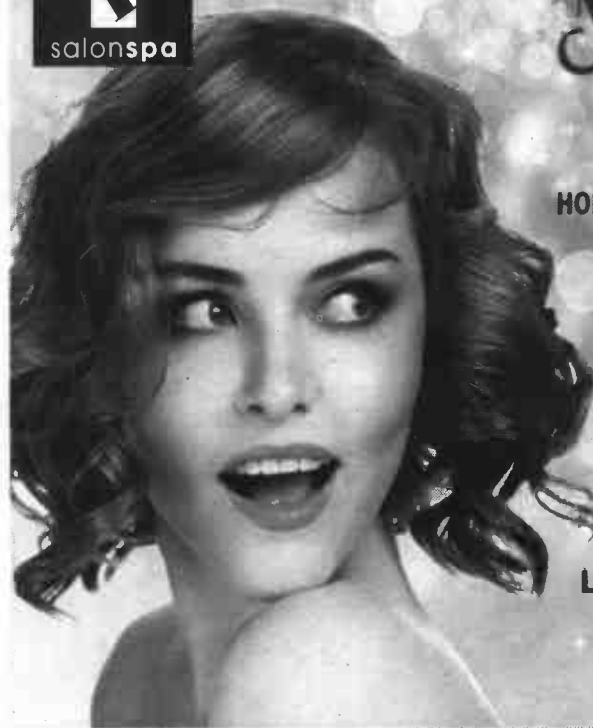
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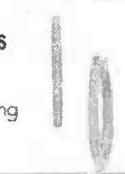


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Go

Chicago chefs give us the dish: 'The Best Meal I Ate This Year'

BY VERONICA HINKE
Food Writer

Want to get a chef talking? That's easy: Ask about the best meal they ate out this year. That's what we did — and we ended up with this roadmap that digs deep into the Chicago area food scene. Part II of our series, with more picks, will run in the paper Dec. 24.

Dominic Zumpano — PM Prime in Highwood
Best meal: Sweet Breads, Taro Root, Banana
Restaurant: Next, 953 W. Fulton Market, Chicago; NextRestaurant.com

The skinny: "I will never look at beef and broccoli the same way again. It was by far the best meal I have had all year and it didn't hurt that when I went it was for my birthday. The experience was unreal; it was such a brilliant take on Chinese food."

Takashi Yagihashi — Slurping Turtle in Chicago
Best meal: Japanese-style Barbecue; Pork Cheeks
Restaurant: Chicago Kalbi, 3752 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago; Chicago-Kalbi.com

The skinny: "They offer the highest quality Japanese-style barbecue in Chicago. It's a very interactive meal that you can enjoy as a family and share a variety of dishes. The flavor profile offered at Chicago Kalbi is more of a Japanese and Korean fusion, but the experience is still pretty authentic to Japan. My favorite thing to grill there is pork cheeks. The marinade keeps the pork moist and it's a very light texture."

Laura Frankel — Spertus Kosher Catering in Chicago



Bill Kurtis (Tallgrass Beef) keeps coming back for the Lemon-Ricotta Pancakes at Beatrix in Chicago. | PHOTO BY DONNA LA PIETRA

Best meal: Raw Tuna, Rocoto Cream

Restaurant: Tanta, 118 W. Grand Ave., Chicago; TantaChicago.com

The skinny: "I have had my share of raw tuna, but this version was not only beautiful but also had rocoto cream, which is fruity and spicy all at once. Awesome food!"

Art Smith — Table 52 in Chicago, LYFE Kitchen in Chicago and Evanston

Best Meal: Kimchee Fries; Yusho Sticky Fried Chicken Wings; Tofu Doughnuts and Cinnamon Ice Cream

Restaurant: Yusho — Hyde Park, 1301 E. 53rd St., Chicago; Yusho-Chicago.com

The skinny: "Love the new Hyde Park Yusho by Chef John Vermiglio. I am about promoting small local hard working folks and it's delicious and affordable hipster. Hyde Park is finally a dining destination — feeding the Nobel laureates and activists."



Chef Mark Hellyar's Momotaro in Chicago was the site of several Chicago chefs' favorite meal this year.

Bill Kurtis — Tallgrass Beef
Best meal: Lemon-Ricotta Pancakes with a side of Sugared Bacon

Restaurant: Beatrix, 519 N. Clark St. Chicago; BeatrixChicago.com

The skinny: "It's a new discovery that keeps calling me back — lemon ricotta pancakes. They whip up egg whites and fold them into the lemon-ricotta batter for a mix with lemon syrup. They peel the lemon rinds, boil them with water and then boil them in sugar water and cook them down to a syrup and pull the lemon zest to garnish the pancakes. I also order a side of sugared bacon. The combination is exquisite."

Stephanie Izard — Girl and the Goat, Little Goat in Chicago

Restaurant: The Izakaya at Momotaro, 820 W. Lake St., Chicago; MomotaroChicago.com

Best meal: The whole menu is really fun!

The skinny: "You actually feel like you're in the backstreets of Tokyo. The Izakaya is located just under the restaurant, and you can enter either through the restaurant, or its own side door entrance."

Alison Parker — Radical Root Farm in Libertyville

Best meal: Potato Kale Soup
Restaurant: Sauce and Bread Kitchen, 6338 N. Clark St., Chicago; SauceAndBread.com

The skinny: "Honestly, we rarely eat out, mostly because we are so busy and also because we grow so much food here, so we just end up cooking and eating at home. A farmer's life, I guess! Our favorite meal was cooked by Mike and Anne for one of their [The Stew] supper club events. They used their sauces and breads that they make in their restaurant. A co-op sauce, Oaxaca Chilhuacle Sauce, gave a new twist to the standard potato and kale soup. It had just the right amount of heat and flavor, which really complemented the vegetables and the rich, meaty broth. Anne and Mike really put their heart and soul into their cooking, and are devoted to using a lot of local and organic produce and using old world methods to make their food."

Fabio Viviani — Siena Tavern in Chicago

Best meal: Fried chicken
Restaurant: Bavette's, 218 W. Kinzie St., Chicago; BavettesChicago.com

The skinny: "The food is consistently good and comforting and the service is always spectacular. I had an amazing meal, but I think the stand-out was the fried chicken. Very unexpected for



The team at TETE Charcuterie got raves from several Chicago chefs.

a steak house, but it was amazing and the homemade hot sauce was insane."

Nathan Sears — The Radler in Chicago
Best meal: Prosciutto Fritto with Butternut Squash, Whipped Mortadella, Beet Bruschetta, Rabbit Casoncelli, Meatballs and Spaghettini, Budino

Restaurant: Charlatan, 1329 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago; CharlatanChicago.com

The skinny: "I am a simple man with simple tastes. At the end of the day I just want food that tastes good and fills my soul. If I had an Italian nonna I wish it could be Matt Troost. Everything was simple, executed perfectly and had a great little something thrown in to every dish for a personal stamp, but it didn't distract from the base of what it was supposed to be."

Timothy Benedict — Old Town Pour House in Oak Brook

Best meal: Dewey Burger — burger, bacon, fried egg, and Mercks cheddar with a fist full of fries.

Restaurant: Dewey's, 667 Vernon Ave., Glencoe; Deweys-Glencoe.com

The skinny: "I go for simple, uncomplicated comfort food. Recently, I stopped in to Dewey's in Glencoe when I was up there to see a performance at Writers Theatre. Perfect little burger joint for quiet little Glencoe. Burgers and fries done proper, how can you go wrong? Wasn't anything fancy, but exactly what was needed; paired with a rare evening with family, can't be beat."

Zoë Schor — Ada Street in Chicago

Best Meal: Millers Farm Roasted half chicken, dill spätzle, crunchy salad

Restaurant: The Bristol, 2152 N. Damen Ave. Chicago; TheBristolChicago.com

The skinny: "I'm a huge sucker for spätzle, and theirs was absolutely delicious. But

the chicken itself was so incredibly moist and well-seasoned, with a perfectly crispy skin — I have probably never had better roast chicken, besides my father's. I had a hard time choosing between this, and the fried chicken leg at TWO. I have to give it to the roasted chicken at The Bristol, though."

Mark Hellyar — Momotaro in Chicago
Best meal: Prawn tartare, marrow with abalone, clam with foie gras and salade gourmand

Restaurant: L20, 2300 N. Lincoln Park West, Chicago; Locu.com/places/l20-chicago-us

The skinny: "Chef [Matthew] Kirkley is at a level all his own that rivals any and all meals I have ever had. There were sincere moments of genius blended with a sense of humor, but mostly raw skill in restraint and strong quality. My girlfriend and I had the full out tasting menu with beverage pairing and it was worth every cent. We rarely dine this way as it is truly meant for a special occasion, but we felt at ease and left inspired and proud for what their kitchen could produce. All the dishes were standouts, but the prawn tartare, marrow with abalone, clam with foie gras and salade gourmand were mind-blowing to say the least. It is sad to say that they are closing so get there while you can!"

Giuseppe Tentori — GT Fish & Oyster in Chicago

Best meal: Fried avocado

Restaurant: mfk, 432 W. Diversey Pkwy.; MFKRestaurant.com

The skinny: "The hot, crunchy tempura mixed with the creamy, custardy avocado made for a perfect texture contrast."

SEE CHEFS, PAGE 34»

Skokie's Fitness First! HEALTH CLUB



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« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

CHEFS

Matt Troost — Three Aces in Chicago
Restaurant: The Brixton, 5420 N. Clark St., Chicago; TheBrixtonChicago.com
Best meal: "That chicken dish ..."

The skinny: "That chicken dish ... I don't remember the name! Biscuits and chicken sausage and old bay gravy sausage crispy skin something ... because Kevin [McMullen] is great. The whole meal was awesome but this dish hit every note and honestly it feels weird to list a chicken dish as my favorite from this year but it was outstanding."

Michael Richie — Deku in Wheeling
Best meal: Arctic char with mushrooms, forbidden rice and yellow tomato lemon-grass sauce

Restaurant: Les Nomades, 222 E. Ontario St., Chicago; LesNomades.net
The skinny: "We had high expectations, and they were completely met. The food was imaginative and well thought out. The staff was very friendly and knowledgeable. My toque's off to Les Nomades."

Cleetus Friedman — Fountainhead, The Bar on Buena, The Northman in Chicago
Best Meal: Tasting menu
Restaurant: Katsu, 2651 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago

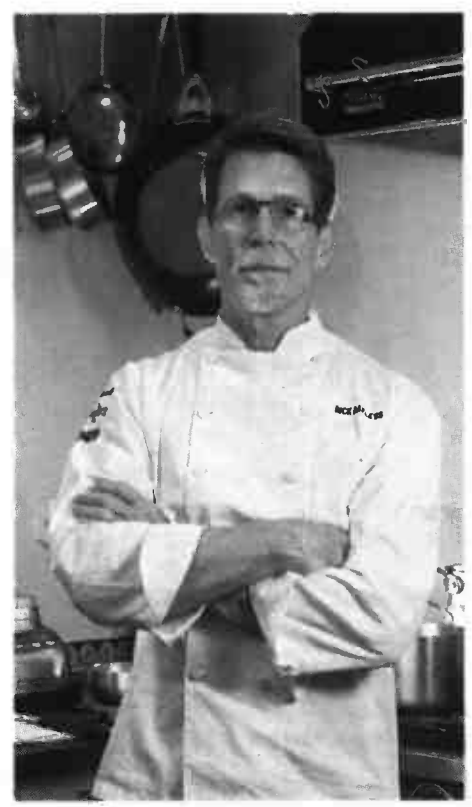
The skinny: "Chef does some remarkable things with what seems to be the best quality fish — all gorgeously and thoughtfully presented. The sake list is great, too, and is always a knockout."

Thai Dang — Embeya in Chicago
Best meal: Grand Charcuterie Board
Restaurant: TÊTE Charcuterie, 1114 W. Randolph St., Chicago; TETEChicago.com

The skinny: "I cook and eat Asian food most of my time, so when I have a chance to take my wife out for date night, we like to go and try other cuisine. And when we had dinner at TÊTE Charcuterie, it was amazing. The board is a tasting of some of the cured meats, terrines, and sausages they make in house. Along with house-made pickles and well-toasted bread, warm to the touch. It's charcuterie done with finesse — taking meat on a board to a new level of refinement."

Chris Pandel — Balena, The Bristol in Chicago
Best meal: Anything at Momotaro
Restaurant: Momotaro, 820 W. Lake St., Chicago; MomotaroChicago.com

The skinny: "After eating at Momotaro last month I can honestly say that it was the best meal of the year. The presentation, flavors and quality are unmatched in



Chef Rick Bayless named Acadia as the site of his favorite meal this year.

Chicago for Japanese cuisine."

Jeff Shapiro — Real Urban Barbecue in Highland Park, Vernon Hills and Oak Brook

Best meal: Special truffle egg toast, fontina cheese, shaved asparagus; over easy eggs, truffle oil, melted cheese; perfect toasted bread, fresh eggs, mild nutty cheese, garlic toast, shaved fresh asparagus prosciutto-veal meatballs, braised greens, shaved pecorino focaccia di Recco: Ligurian-style baked focaccia, fresh soft cow cheese, local honeycomb

Restaurant: Davanti Enoteca, 1359 W. Taylor St., Chicago and 800 Hillgrove Ave., Western Springs; DavantiEnoteca.com

The skinny: "Like nothing you have ever eaten in your life! Creamy, warm, sweet, crispy all in one. Served on its own cutting board. OMG. Perfect, blended veal, prosciutto, sweet and tender. Topped with fresh pecorino: a little salt, a little sharp. Yum."

Rick Bayless — Frontera Grill, Topolobampo, XOCO in Chicago

Best meal: Tasting menu
Restaurant: Acadia, 1639 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago; AcadiaChicago.com

The skinny: "I love that Ryan McCaskey's restaurant is so elegant but not at all stuffy. The room is modern, and so is the food: Every plate was subtle and sophisticated yet bold enough to make me sit up and pay attention. It was a meal that surprised me in all the right ways."

'Seasoned' cabaret singer gives her first holiday show

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
For Pioneer Press

She has opened for Tony Bennett, her cabaret shows have garnered acclaim across the country, and she has written and performed numerous customized cabaret shows for private parties and corporate events. Now Charlene Brooks is about to do something she has never done before — perform a holiday show.

"I have sung at holiday parties with bands and done a lot of Christmas music over the years but I've never done a holiday show," Brooks said. The talented performer will be sharing the joys of Hanukkah, Christmas and winter in "Highly Seasoned," Saturday, Dec. 20 at the Skokie Theatre.

Of course, Brooks will be doing this show in her unique style — songs in a variety of musical styles, including some surprising selections, and true stories that are both touching and funny.

The multitalented singer, lyricist and actress shared one of those tales over coffee at Starbucks. We don't want to give too much away but what would you think if you discovered on Christmas morning that everybody else had their name embroidered on a Christmas stocking but your new mother-in-law attached a piece of paper with your name printed on it to your stocking?

Brooks, who is Jewish, reminisced about her earliest performance of a holiday tune. "When I was a little girl, one of the first songs I ever sang on stage was 'Hanukkah,'" she said. "I grew up in Andersonville. There were two Jewish girls in the entire seventh grade."

That was a rare experience for Brooks who admitted, "I loved to go caroling. I sang all the Christmas songs. Sometimes when I got to some of the more religious ones and I felt a little awkward, I'd be singing, da-da-da-da, da-da-da-da."

There will be no "da-da-da-da-ing" at the Skokie Theatre, though. Just beautiful renditions of such numbers as "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas," "My Grown Up Christmas List," "White Christmas," "Chanukah Prayer," "Dreidl" and the playful tune,



Charlene Brooks brings her holiday show "Highly Seasoned" to the Skokie Theatre.

CHARLENE BROOKS IN 'HIGHLY SEASONED'

8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20; reception with food and beverages at 7 p.m.

Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave.

\$25

(847) 677-7761; Skokietheatre.com

"I'm Spending Hanukkah in Santa Monica."

In terms of the song selection, "Everything is brand spanking new," Brooks said, noting that audiences will have never heard her sing any of these songs before.

To create the show, Brooks gathered her favorite holiday tunes. "Every single song is something I love," she declared, and Brooks hopes that her choices are audience favorites, too. "People love to hear songs that they know," she said. "And we'll have a couple of sing-alongs."

Brooks has several gifts for the audience. She will be performing with a seven-piece band and there will be a holiday reception with complimentary food and beverages before the performance.

Her personal stories are another gift. "I love sharing honest things with people," she said. "There is nothing funnier and nothing more heart-rending than the truth."

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Rebecca Nelsen, soprano (Vienna)

Eduardo Aladrén, tenor (Madrid)

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Noise Maker to welcome the New Year | PHOTOS BY BETH ENGELMAN



New Year's Eve Edible Party Hats



Clock Cookies



New Year's Eve Party Poppers

No babysitter? No problem: New Year's Eve fun with the kids

MOMMY ON A SHOESTRING
BY BETH ENGELMAN



Make your New Year's Eve festive and fun with edible crafts, silly surprises and plenty of confetti!

Edible Hats

This is a sweet, creative craft that turns an ordinary ice cream cone into a work of art.

You need:

Ice cream cones
White chocolate or candy melts
Assorted candy and cake decorations, such as jimmies, colored sugar, nonpareils, and chocolate chips
Gel writer (Black seems to work best.)

Apples, pears and/or oranges

Directions:

Melt chocolate in the microwave at 30-second intervals.

Use a spatula to cover cone with chocolate. Be careful, the chocolate will be hot.

Invite kids to decorate the hats with sprinkles, jimmies, candies, etc.

Place hats on waxed paper until the chocolate hardens (about 1-2 hours).

To serve, place hat on your favorite fruit, use a black gel writer to add a face, and enjoy.

Clock Cookies

This simple recipe is a crowd-pleaser that celebrates an important New Year's Eve icon.

You need:

Sugar cookies — homemade or store-bought work equally well
Icing (any color)
Gel writer (black)
Sprinkles (optional)

Directions:

Cover cookie with icing and allow it to set for at least an hour.

Use gel writer to make the clock face. If desired, add sprin-

kles and candies.

Be sure to eat before midnight!

New Year's Eve Party Poppers

Party poppers have been a tradition in my family for many years. My mother, whom I often refer to as the original Mommy on a Shoestring, used to make them back when Ronald Reagan was president. These days, it's nice to know that even though many things have changed, DIY party poppers remain as "pop"ular as ever.

You need:

Toilet paper roll
Wrapping paper
Scissors and tape
Ribbon

Small goodies (such as candies, erasers or finger puppets)

Directions:

Use scissors to cut a diagonal

line through the toilet paper roll (note: you want to be sure the roll maintains its shape).

Cover the roll with wrapping paper, leaving 4-5 extra inches of paper on each side. Use ribbon to tie one side of the popper. Be sure to leave the other side open.

Use the open side to fill the popper with goodies. Then tie up this side with ribbon.

Trim ends if necessary and decorate as desired.

Noise Maker

What's New Year's Eve without a little noise? In my house, kids can make as many noisemakers as they please as long as they "retire" them after the clock strikes twelve.

You need:

Small empty box
Wrapping paper

Ribbon (cut into 4, 6-inch pieces)
Buttons and/or beads
Tape
Scissors
Tongue depressor or popsicle stick

Directions:

Wrap box with wrapping paper but leave the top opening of the box open and uncovered.

Use scissors to poke 5 holes in the box, 2 on each side and 1 on the bottom.

Thread a piece of ribbon through a side hole and secure it in place with a tight knot. Note: The knot should be large enough to ensure the end of the ribbon can't slide out of the box. Repeat this process until there are 4 pieces of ribbon hanging from the box.

Add beads and buttons to the ends of the ribbon, being sure to knot each end which will keep the buttons and beads in place. Cut excess ribbon (if needed).

Make a popsicle stick handle by sliding the stick through the bottom hole.

To use: Hold noisemaker by the handle and twist wrist quickly so that the buttons and beads hit the box.

Happy New Year!

GO CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

Classic Film Series: Gone With the Wind

1 p.m.: Celebrate the 75th anniversary of the classic film. Vivian Leigh and Clark Gable, directed by Victor Fleming and George Cukor. Film historian Ralph Amelio leads a discussion after the film. Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Call 708-867-7828.

Storytime with Santa!

6 p.m.: Get one's wish lists ready! Santa Claus is coming to the Library! Join in a special holiday storytime, milk and cookies, and photo opportunities with Santa. All Ages. Limit 75. Franklin Park Public Library, 10311 Grand Ave., Franklin Park. Call 847-455-6016.

Christmas at the White House

8 p.m.: It's that magical time of year when the world's most famous address, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, is aglow with decorations, celebrations and music. How did the First Families through the years bring their own unique style to the White House at Christmastime? And how were their celebrations and stories influenced by what was going on in the country and in the world? Join dynamic singing and acting duo, JENNY RIDDLE and ELIZABETH DOYLE, as they bring to life the public and private lives of the First Families in "Christmas at the White House." Call 847-677-7761 or order online at SkokieTheatre.org Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. \$20.

Holiday Brass and Choral Concert

8 p.m.: Celebrate the season in sounds joyful and profound. From solemn chant to ancient carols to brilliant works for brass, these glorious concerts offer up a pageant of musical colors, moods, and traditions. Call to order tickets Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 Division St., River Forest. Call 312-551-1414. \$38-\$62 (Call for \$30 Senior tickets).

FRIDAY, DEC. 19

Musikgarten

9:30 a.m.: Kids can sing and dance along to Wendy Morgan at her exciting Musikgarten classes. Wendy Morgan loves to get kids singing, wiggling, jumping, dancing and just having a great time. Her original songs encourage children to use their imaginations, teach

musical basics like melody and rhythm and show kids how to have fun with words. Wendy Morgan is the founder of The Vocal Gymnasium, where they serve the community through music education, live and recorded performances and vocal presentations, inspiring and enriching lives with a focus on the human voice. Wendy Morgan is also the host of KIDZSTATION on Evanston's ECTV6, a new TV show that introduces children to people in their community through original music. Catch KIDZSTATION on ECTV6 on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 8 a.m. Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette. Call 847-256-5025.

Handicrafters

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

Showing the movie, "A Most Wanted Man" (R)

2 p.m.: "A Most Wanted Man" (122 min. rated R, from 2014). A half-Chechen, half-Russian, brutally tortured immigrant turns up in Hamburg's Islamic community. Is he a victim or a destruction-bent extremist? What is this most wanted man's true identity? A tension-filled journey, based on a John le Carré novel. A casual audience-led discussion follows matinee screening. Just drop in. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Call 847-729-7500.

Middle School Gingerbread House Making

2:45 p.m.: Head to the library to make a gingerbread house that is both great to look at and tasty to eat! All materials provided. Space is limited so sign-up is encouraged. River Forest Public Library, 735 Lathrop Ave., River Forest. Call 7083665205.

Hot Chocolate for Charity

3 p.m.: Stop by the lobby to enjoy some Christmas carols and buy a cup of hot chocolate for \$1. All proceeds go to Teen Living Program, a charity devoted to helping homeless teenagers get off the streets. This event is sponsored by the Library's Young Adult Council. Elmwood Park Public Library, 1 W. Conti Parkway, Elmwood Park. Call 708-453-7645.

Celebrate Solstice!

3 p.m.: A fun-filled holiday bash for all! See Santa, enjoy cookies, create artwork, and view the current exhibitions

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

To submit an event for consideration in print, visit www.pioneerlocal.com/submit-content and click the "Events" tab on the left side of the screen. Please submit the event no later than 10 days before the desired publication date.

"Richard Koppe" and "In the House: Laura Davis" before they end. Elmhurst Art Museum, 150 S. Cottage Hill Ave., Elmhurst. Call 630-834-0202.

Santa is Coming to Leyden Credit Union

3 p.m.: Children can meet Santa and get their picture taken. Free and open to the public! Leyden Credit Union, 2714 Atlantic Street, Franklin Park, IL, Franklin Park. Call 847-451-9818.

"Congregational Dinner Celebrating Shabbat Hanukkah"

6 p.m.: Temple Beth Israel presents a "Congregational Dinner Celebrating Shabbat Hanukkah" for the whole congregation and their guests. The event is open to synagogue members and nonmembers who may be interested in learning about Temple Beth Israel. Shabbat Hanukkah Dinner, 6 p.m. and Shabbat Hanukkah Service, 7:30 p.m. For more information or reservations call. Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. Call 847-675-0951. Dinner: \$20 adult, \$9.50, child. Register for dinner by Dec. 17.

Evening showing of the movie, "A Most Wanted Man" (R)

6:30 p.m.: "A Most Wanted Man" (122 min. rated R from 2014) A half-Chechen, half-Russian, brutally tortured immigrant turns up in Hamburg's Islamic community. Is he a victim or a destruction-bent extremist? What is this most wanted man's true identity? A tension-filled journey, based on a John le Carré novel. A casual audience-led discussion follows matinee screening. Just drop in. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Call 847-729-7500.

Denny Diamond: A Cherry, Cherry Holiday

8 p.m.: Come sing along with Denny and

his sons Lucas and Spenser as they perform holiday selections from Neil Diamond's, "A Cherry, Cherry Christmas". Also performing favorite Neil Diamond chart toppers along with works from his latest releases "12 Songs", "Home Before Dark", and "Melody Road". Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call 847-677-7761. \$20.

SATURDAY, DEC. 20

Experience Holidays at the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio

9 a.m.: Youth volunteers lead tours and guide visitors through the home. See the home, decorated as it was when the Wright family lived there during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Hear stories of the Wright children pulling taffy in the kitchen and spying on their father as he readied gifts around the tree. A 12-foot tree decorated with Victorian-style ornaments is a highlight of the 30-minute tour. Froebel blocks – the same toys Wright played with as a child to learn about shapes and design – available in the architect's Drafting Room for children to enjoy. Free hot chocolate served outside in the Home and Studio courtyard. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust, 951 Chicago Ave., Oak Park. Call 708-848-1976.

Creative Creatures

9 a.m.: School-aged children are invited to join Miss Dana for a different art project each week. A variety of materials will be available to participants. Drop in for crafting at any time. Bensenville Community Library, 200 S. Church Road, Bensenville. Call 630-766-4642.

Fundraiser Helps Youth to Develop Entrepreneurial Skills

10 a.m.: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Evanston North Shore Alumnae Chapter (ENSA), hosts Santa's Gift Shoppe until 3 p.m., at Family Focus in Norwood Hall. In addition to fundraising efforts, Santa's Gift Shoppe allows children to purchase inexpensive gifts for their friends and families. Money raised for the event directly benefits the three youth initiative programs run by the local sorority: Delta Academy, Delta GEMS, and E.M.B.O.D.I. The children and teens are responsible for pricing, packaging, and selling merchandise. Items range in price from 10 cents to \$15. Shoppers and visitors are able to

take free pictures with Santa (from noon until close) and give him last minute gift requests. Parents can enjoy light music and refreshments in the waiting area while their children shop. Family Focus Evanston, 2010 Dewey Ave., Evanston. Call 847-475-7570.

Breakfast with Santa

10 a.m.: Breakfast with Santa is a great way to kick off the holiday season. Families enjoy a hot breakfast and receive a gingerbread house to decorate. Also, a Candy Lane table is provided, loaded with candies to create a special family decoration. Each child receives a gift from Santa. Bring a camera. Event also includes: Hot Cocoa table, Special Holiday mug for children. Visit with Santa preregistration is needed to guarantee a gingerbread house for each family. Out of District fees are slightly higher. Registration deadline is Dec. 12. Call or visit website. Veterans Park District Bulger Park, 1601 Hirsch St, Melrose Park. Call 708-343-5270. In district \$10, ages 3-10 and \$15, ages 11- adult. Kids under 3, free.

Shabbat/Chanukah lunch & learn

Noon: Shabbat/Chanukah lunch & learn with Rabbi Leonard Kravitz — after Shabbat services on Dec. 20, 2014, join in for a delicious Shabbat Chanukah lunch. After lunch, member Rabbi Leonard Kravitz, will lead a discussion about Miracles of Eight: Differing Theories about Chanukah. Call or visit the website for reservations. Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. Call 847-675-0951. \$5.

Lunch with Santa Claus

2 p.m.: Santa Claus [<http://santafrank.com/>] listens to children's requests and is available for photos in the party room on the second floor of The Butcher's Tap until 4 p.m. Each child also goes home with a Christmas goody bag. Walk-ins for Lunch with Santa accepted, however reservations are suggested. Phone 773-325-0123 or email thebutcherstap@gmail.com to make a reservation to have lunch with Santa Claus. The Butcher's Tap, 3553 North Southport, Chicago.

Chicago Artery

2 p.m.: Artists give free workshops. Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., Chicago. Call 773-472-6469.

SEE GO CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE >>

◀ FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

GO CALENDAR

Polar Express

2:30 p.m.: This December, experience the magic of Christmas on a holiday train to the North Pole. Enjoy Christmas caroling, cookies, milk and an interactive holiday story as the group makes its way to the North Pole, staged at the Elgin Train Station. Santa boards the train and greets each child with a special treat as they make their way back to Franklin Park. The Park District provides chocolate milk and a cookie to everyone. Registration required. Franklin Park Community Center, 9560 Franklin Ave., Franklin Park. Call 847-455-2852. \$10-\$21.

Holiday Brass and Choral Concert

3 p.m.: Celebrate the season in sounds joyful and profound. From solemn chant to ancient carols to brilliant works for brass, these glorious concerts offer up a pageant of musical colors, moods, and traditions. Order Tickets: 312-551-1414. Chapel of the Holy Spirit (Divine

Word), 2001 Waukegan Road, Techny, Northbrook. \$45-\$90; call for \$30 senior tickets..

The Second City's Incomplete Guide to Everything

4 p.m.: Performers guide the audience through comedic reenactments and explanations of historical events. UP Comedy Club, 230 W. North Ave., Chicago. Call 312-337-3992. \$24-\$29.

Multiplicity Jazz Ensemble Presents Jazz-Inspired Holiday Program at Chequers of LaGrange

7 p.m.: Multiplicity Jazz Ensemble presents a special holiday performance of jazz-inspired holiday music classics. The popular program includes: "Let It Snow, Let It Snow," "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm," "Silver Bells," "Jingle Bells," "Cool Yule," "The Christmas Song," "Wonderful Christmastime," "River," "Most Wonderful Time of the Year," "Run, Run, Rudolph," "Feliz Navidad," and many more. The band features recording artists: Barb Kalnes on vocals, Tom Kalnes on keyboards, Denny Murray on drums, and Gary Swiontek on bass. Make your reservation early to ensure seating. Come by for a truly memorable evening of live jazz for the

holidays! Visit Multiplicity's website at www.multiplicity.me/ for more information, music samples, and links to on-line CD sales outlets. Chequers of LaGrange, 100 W. Burlington, La Grange. Call 708-482-9570. Free.

North Shore Jewish Community Hanukka Concert

7:30 p.m.: Join The North Shore, Skokie and Chicago Jewish communities for an unforgettable evening of song and story, schmooze and blues featuring Chicago's newest Jewish folk rock band and YouTube sensation "Rogers Park." The two lead singers - Yosef Peysin and Mordy Kurtz have been performing together as "Rogers Park" since 2011. Doors open at 7 p.m. General Admission: VIP - \$36, Adults - \$18, Student/Child - \$10; At the door: VIP - \$40, Adults - \$20, Student/Child - \$12. Purchase tickets online at: www.orsimcha.com or call 847-999-9001. Sponsorships available. Reservations: 847-410-2066 or info@orsimcha.com. Wilmette Community Recreation Center, 3000 Glenview Road, Wilmette.

Third Annual Do-It-Yourself Messiah

7:30 p.m.: Join others in singing Handel's Messiah (Christmas portion). With the 45 voice Glenview Community

Church Chancel Choir, soloists, Waukegan Symphony Orchestra, and organist Gary Wendt. Conducted by Stephen Blackwelder. Music available. Visit www.gccmusic.org or call (847) 724-2210. Glenview Community Church, 1000 Elm St., Glenview.

Naughty and Nice! A Christmas-themed Ballroom Dance

7:30 p.m.: Admission includes a Waltz group class taught by experienced, professional instructor Vito Magrone at 7:30 p.m. and Holiday-themed ballroom dance from 8-11 p.m. with host Vito and DJ Sandia. Christmas goodies served and lots of festivities. Dancers of every skill level, beginner to advanced, and newcomers welcome. Popular dance music plays for Waltz, Tango, Cha Cha, Swing, Hustle, Salsa, Rumba, Foxtrot and more ... Free lot parking. Dance partner not required to attend. Ballroom City, 207 S. Villa Ave., Suite 250, Villa Park. Call 630-542-7644. Free.

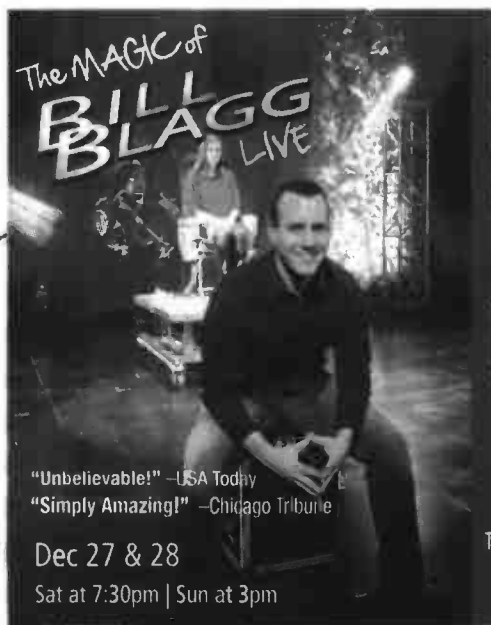
Naughty and Nice! A Holiday Ballroom Dance Party and Waltz Lesson

7:30 p.m.: Admission includes a Waltz group class taught by experienced, professional instructor Vito Magrone at 7:30 p.m. and Holiday-themed ballroom

dance from 8 to 11 p.m. with host Vito & DJ Sandia. Christmas goodies served and lots of festivities! Dancers of every skill level, beginner to advanced, and newcomers are all welcome. There will be popular dance music for Waltz, Tango, Cha Cha, Swing, Hustle, Salsa, Rumba, Foxtrot and more. Free lot parking. No dance partner needed. Ballroom City, 207 S. Villa Ave., Suite 250, Villa Park. Call 630-542-7644. \$10.

Charlene Brooks: Highly Seasoned


8 p.m.: Charlene Brooks returns to Skokie Theatre in an all-new show celebrating the holidays ... whichever ones you celebrate. Combining stories of her life with Chanukah, Christmas and winter songs, Charlene delivers all from well-known favorites to rare gems in a variety of original arrangements: Latin, swing, blues, rock, traditional and more, all in her own unique way. Selections include "What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?" "Cool Yule", "Winter Wonderland/ Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" with other seasonal favorites. Charlene's band features Dennis Luxion, piano; Jim Cox, bass; Jeff Thomas, drums and Jeff Jacobs, guitar. Tickets: \$25. Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call 847-677-7761. \$25.



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Family Friendly

Amazing juggling show that's educational too

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
For Pioneer Press

There's more to juggler Laura Ernst's act than tossing balls in the air. There will be an educational element when Ernst performs at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., 2-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27.

"I start out in a human-size hamster ball," Ernst revealed. "I make a little world inside there. We've got all the continents and the kids help me put the globe together. I show them a little bit of juggling and Chinese yo-yo, and explain where the different tops came from, and how to say hello in different languages."

One fact that Ernst shares with audiences is that juggling clubs used to be called Indian clubs. "In India, they used them to workout. They didn't actually toss them," she said.

Ernst began juggling as a child but it didn't become a serious pursuit until she was in college. After graduation, she won an international juggling competition. It has been her full-time career since 2008.

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

DIFFERENT STROKES

Mr. Claus will pause for a pre-Christmas rest at Swim with Santa, 6-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 at the Park Ridge Community Center Pool, 1515 W. Touhy Ave. Everyone ages 3 and older is invited to swim, sing holiday songs and join in reindeer games. Cost is \$6 for residents, \$9 for nonresidents.

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

RESOLUTION SOLUTION

You and your kids can Make Your Mantra for the New Year, 3-6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Drop in and create a stone bearing your personal mantra for 2015.

For details, call (847) 324-3149 or go to www.skokieliibrary.info.



Professional juggler Laura Ernst performs at the Morton Grove Library Dec. 27.

SEASONAL SOUNDS ABOUND

A Christmas Concert is paired with a visit to Wonderland Express, 2 p.m. or 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20 in the Alsdorf Auditorium at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. The cost is \$15 for members, \$17 for nonmembers, in advance; \$18 and \$20 at the event.

For details, call (847) 835-5440 or go to www.chicagobotanic.org/wonderland.

MORE MERRY MUSIC

Rabbi Joe Black and the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band will present a Hanukkah Concert, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 in the Alsdorf Auditorium at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. The cost is \$15 for members, \$17 for nonmembers, in advance; \$18 and \$20 at the event. Charge includes admission to the Wonderland Express.

For details, call (847) 835-5440 or go to www.chicagobotanic.org/wonderland.

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847-486-9200

Showtimes

Movie times are effective Friday, Dec. 19, through Thursday, Dec. 25. Please note that theater schedules are subject to change.

CENTURY 12 EVANSTON/ CINÉARTS 6 AND XD

1715 Maple Ave.
 Evanston
 (847) 491-9751
 www.cinemark.com

Contact theater for showtimes.

AMC SHOWPLACE NILES 12

301 Golf Mill Center
 Niles
 (888) AMC-4FUN
 www.amctheatres.com

Contact theater for showtimes.

PICKWICK THEATRE

5 S. Prospect Ave.
 Park Ridge
 (847) 604-2234
 www.pickwicktheatre.com

Contact theater for showtimes.

Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG)

Fri-Tue 2-4:30-7-9:15; Wed 2; Thu 6:30-8:45

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part I (PG-13)

Fri 4-6:30-9; Sat-Tue 1:15-4-6:30-9; Wed 1:15;

Penguins of Madagascar (PG)

Fri-Tue 1-3:30-6-8; Wed 1;

Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG-13)

Fri-Tue 1:30-5:30-8:30; Wed 1; Thu 7:30

Into the Woods (PG-13) Thu 7-9:15

Unbroken (PG-13) Thu 6:30-9

ROSEMONT 18

9701 Bryn Mawr Ave.
 Rosemont
 (847) 447-1030
 www.muvico.com

Contact theater for showtimes.

ROSEMONT PREMIER

9701 Bryn Mawr Ave.
 Rosemont
 (847) 447-1030
 www.muvico.com

Contact theater for showtimes.

REGAL GARDENS STADIUM 1-6

4999 Old Orchard Center
 Skokie
 (847) 673-4037



Too much of a good thing: Richard Armitage in "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies."

www.regmovies.com

Contact theater for showtimes.

REGAL GARDENS 7-13

4999 Old Orchard Center
 Skokie
 (847) 674-0184
 www.regmovies.com

Contact theater for showtimes.

AMC SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING 18

7000 Carpenter Road
 Skokie
 (888) AMC-4FUN
 www.amctheatres.com

Contact theater for showtimes.

Big Eyes (PG-13)

The Gambler (R)

The Interview (R)

Into the Woods (PG)

Unbroken (PG-13)

Annie (PG)

Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG)

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies in IMAX 3-D (PG-13)

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies in 3-D (PG-13)

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13)

The Imitation Game (PG-13)

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Illustration by Alex S. Sufman

YOUR Local Worship Guide



CHICAGO

Edison Park Lutheran Church

6626 N. Oliphant Ave. Chicago, IL
 (Across park from Edison Park Metra)
 773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com
 Saturday, 4:30 pm - Evensong
 Sunday, 8:00 am - Traditions
 Sunday, 9:15 am - Spirit Bridge
 Sunday, 10:30 am - New Song
 Sunday School - 9:15 am
 Adult Bible Study - 8:00 am
 Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor
 Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry
 Matt Haider, Worship / Music
 Michael Lyda, Children/Youth/Family

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

Norwood Park Lutheran Church

5917 N. Nina Ave Chicago, IL
 P: 773.631.2860
 F: 773.631.0142
 www.norwoodparklutheran.org
 Worship Services
Sundays
 At
 10:00 am

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

CHICAGO

United in Faith Lutheran Church

6525 W Irving Park Road
 773-283-2326 • www.unitedinfaith.org
 Sunday
 8:30 AM Traditional Worship
 9:30 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Praise &
 Worship Service
 Tuesday - 7:00 PM Bible Study
 Rev. Lester White
 Handicapped Accessible
 ALL ARE WELCOME!

GLENVIEW

Rohr Chabad Center of Glenview

701 Harlem Avenue, Glenview
 Shabbat morning services 9:30 am
NO membership required
 For all your Jewish needs call
 847-910-1738
 www.ChabadofGlenview.com

MORTON GROVE

St. Luke's Christian Community Church

9233 Shermer Rd., Morton Grove
 Sunday Worship & Sunday School - 10 AM
 http://www.stlukescc.org/
 Handicap Accessible
 Pastor Elizabeth Jones

Morton Grove Community Church Presbyterian Church (USA)

8944 Austin Ave., Morton Grove
 (Lake and Austin)
 (847) 965-2982
 www.mgcccpresbyterian.org
 Sunday Worship 10AM
 Fellowship 11AM
 Rev. Lolly Dominski
 Rev. Bunny Hughes
 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

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

NORTHFIELD

Willow Creek Community Church North Shore Campus

315 Waukegan Road
 847-441-6599
 Sunday Services: 8:30, 10 & 11:30am
 Promiseland (Infants-Gr5): 8:30, 10 & 11:30am
 Elevate (Grades 6-8): 10 & 11:30am
 Impact (Grades 9-12): 6pm
 For more information visit
 www.WillowNorthShore.org

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 stalbanschicago.org

PARK RIDGE

Park Ridge Presbyterian Church

1300 W. Crescent Ave.
 847-823-4135
 Sunday Service: 10:00 am
 Children's programming for pre-k - 7th grade
 Nursery service for younger children
 8:45 am Confirmation classes for 8th grade
 9:00 am High School
 Adult Education Bible Study Sunday 11:30 am
 Adult Education Bible Study Thursdays 6:30 pm
 "Open Forum" Adult Learning First Thursday
 every month 6:30 pm
 www.parkridgepresby.org
 Like us on Facebook
 Rev. Dr. Donald Dempsey Pastor
 Mr. Aaron Higashi Dir. of Youth &
 Family Ministries
 Mrs. Amy Schaetzlein Sunday School Dir.

SKOKIE

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
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 Check our website for service times

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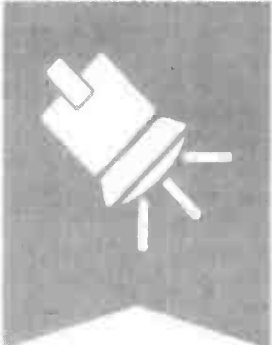
Church of Christ
 Oakton Street & Laramie Avenue
 847-673-8166
 www.stpeteruccskokie.org
 Sunday Worship 10AM
 Sunday School 9AM
 (Sept. thru May)
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 call 630-978-8277 or Worship@Pioneerlocal.com

YOUR Local Worship Guide



SKOKIE	SKOKIE	SKOKIE	SKOKIE	WILMETTE
<p>Temple Beth Israel 3601 W. Dempster St. Skokie, IL 60076 847-675-0951 www.tbiskokie.org</p>	<p>SKOKIE CENTRAL TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION Traditional Service – Mixed Seating Services led by: Rabbi Dr. Michael Gottesman Minyons: Mon. & Thurs. 8:00 AM Kabbala Shabbos-Sept. to June at candle lighting time Saturday 9:00 AM Followed by Kiddush Sunday 8:30 AM Followed by breakfast Sanctuary handicapped accessible! 4040 Main Street, Skokie, Illinois 847-674-4117 www.wix.com/skokiecentral/shul</p>	<p>Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076 847-675-4141, http://www.ehnt.org/ Shabbat: Fri 8PM & Sat 9:30AM Minyan Mon - Thurs 7PM Sat & Sun 6PM Religious School Tues & Sat Rabbi Jeffrey Weill Cantor Benjamin Warschawski Rabbi Neil Brief, Emeritus</p>	<p>KOL EMETH Conservative Congregation Rabbi Barry Schechter 5130 Touhy, Skokie • 847-673-3370 (1 block west of Eden's)</p>	<p>Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah 3220 Big Tree Lane, 847-256-1213 www.bhcbe.org Kabbalat Shabbat Fridays 6:00 PM. Shabbat Service – Saturdays 9:30 AM Jr. Congregation, Tot Shabbat, Torah Time 10:30 AM Followed by Kiddush Daily Minyan 7 AM and 7:30 PM Rabbi Annie Tucker Cantor Pavel Roytman Rabbi Michael Cohen, Ed. Dir.</p>
<p>Calvary Redemption Center 8256 Skokie Blvd. Skokie, IL 60077 847-674-1100 www.mycrc.tv office@calvaryredemptioncenter.org Sunday Service: 10 am Youth Group: 10 am Children's Church: 10 am Rev. Ebenezer Dei, Senior Pastor</p>	<p>KEHILLAT SHALOM An Egalitarian Conservative Congregation Lay Led Shabbat Service, 9:45AM 8610 Niles Center Rd, Skokie 847-679-6513 www.kehillatshalom.org</p>	<p>W.M. Temple Church of God in Christ, Inc. 5151 Church St., Skokie, IL (847) 966-1095 • www.wmtcogic.org pastorcranford@gmail.com Sunday Service: 11:30 AM Sunday School: 10 AM Bible Study: Wednesday, 7 PM Intercessory Prayer: Tuesday & Friday, 12 PM Dr. Clarence Cranford, Jr., Pastor Elizabeth W. Cranford, 1st Lady</p>	<p>Devar Emet Messianic Synagogue 7800 Niles Ave., Skokie • 847-674-9146 www.devaremet.org Join us for Shabbat Services at 10am "A Community of Jews who believe and teach that Yeshua (Jesus) is the Promised Jewish Messiah"</p>	<p>To showcase your House of Worship here call 630-978-8277 or worship@Pioneerlocal.com</p>



Use the **Stage** section to learn about local theater productions.

Get up and
go

Your guide to
the weekend
and beyond

Every Thursday

Holiday Worship

Come!
Experience the Heart of Christmas



Join us for Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24

4:00 pm Worship w/Children's Story
9:00 pm-Candlelight Worship
10:30 pm Prelude Concert with Caroling
11:00 pm Candlelight Worship

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25

10:00 am Festival Worship

Edison Park Lutheran Church

6626 N. Oliphant Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60631

773-631-9131 • www.edisonparkchurch.com

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Join us for a joyful celebration filled with fun, music, and a Christmas message from Lead Pastor Steve Gillen. Stay after services to grab a Christmas treat and some hot chocolate.

Mon 12/22	Tue 12/23	Wed 12/24
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Willow Creek Community Church | North Shore
315 Waukegan Road • Northfield, Illinois 60093
847-441-6599 • WillowNorthShore.org

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CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Christmas is NOT happy for everyone.

Lonely? Grieving? Sad?

Missing that special someone?

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7:00 pm, Monday, December 22, 2014

St. Luke's Church

9233 Shermer, Morton Grove, IL

Fully handicapped accessible

Christmas
Worship

Christmas Eve
Wednesday, Dec 24

5:00 PM - Family Service
10:30 PM - Musical Prelude
11:00 PM - Candlelight Service

Park Ridge Presbyterian Church
1300 West Crescent Ave.
Park Ridge, IL 60068
847-823-4135



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1775 Grove Street • Glenview, IL 60025 • 847.729.1525 • olpghlenview.org

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. - Church and McDonnell Hall
5:00 p.m. - Church and McDonnell Hall
8:00 p.m. - Church
Midnight - Church

Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day

7:30, 9:30, 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. - Church
9:30 a.m. - McDonnell Hall

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH



Invites You to Join Us for a

CHRISTMAS CAROLS SERVICE

SUNDAY, DEC. 21, 4:00 PM

Fellowship with Pie & Coffee immediately after service

You are also invited to join us for

DEC. 24 - CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 11:00 PM

DEC. 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 10:00 AM

6525 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago, IL 60634 • 773-283-2326

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**Holy Trinity
Lutheran Church**



2328 Central Road
Glenview, IL 60025
847-724-6060
Pastor Chris Neptun

Christmas Eve

4:00 & 10:00 pm

Candlelight Worship
with Holy Communion



**Zion
Lutheran Church**

8600 W Lawrence Avenue
Norridge, IL 60706
(708) 453-3514

Rev. Luther John Bajus, Pastor

Christmas Eve 7:00 pm
Holy Communion
Christmas Day 10:00 am
New Year's Day 10:00 am

Serving the Community
Sharing God's Promises

Holiday Worship



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Sermon "The Perfect Gift"

with beloved, traditional scripture readings

DECEMBER 24

5:00 p.m. Family Service With Candlelight & Carols

11:00 p.m. Traditional Service With Candlelight & Carols

All are Welcome!

www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org

**Park Ridge
Community Church**

100 S. Courtland Avenue
Park Ridge, IL 60068

(847) 823-3164

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service
Wednesday, December 24 at 7:30 pm
Everyone is Always Welcome
**Morton Grove Community
Church Presbyterian**
8944 Austin Avenue
(Lake and Austin)
Morton Grove, IL

(847) 965 2982 • www.mgcccpresbyterian.org
Rev. Lolly Dominski and Rev. Bunny Hughes

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with stories, carols and music
5 pm & 9 pm

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1330 Ridge Ave. — Parking lot on Greenwood St.
(847) 864-1330 - www.ucevanston.org

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING!

Christmas Eve

5:00-7:00-10:30 pm

Holy Communion is celebrated at all services

Christmas Day

10:00 am

with Holy Communion

ST. ANDREWS LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Church: 847-823-6656 • School: 847-823-9308

www.standrewsparkridge.org

Pastor Matt Hoffmann

Mary, Seat of Wisdom Catholic Church

920 W. Granville at Cumberland
in Park Ridge

Wednesday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve:

No morning Mass today
Early Evening Masses at 3:00 & 5:00 p.m.
11:00 p.m. Solemn Mass of Christmas
(Preceded by a special program at 10:30 p.m.)

Thursday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am

No 7 p.m. today

Thursday, January 1st

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Wednesday, Vigil Mass at 5 p.m.

Thursday, Masses 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.



**ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Wednesday, Dec. 24

Holy Communion at all services

7pm - Candlelight Service

11pm - Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Worship

Thursday, Dec. 25

10am Service - Holy Communion

5650 N. Canfield, 60631

708-867-5044

www.stpaulcanfield.org

NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC CHURCH

64 Norfolk Ave. • Clarendon Hills • 630.654.3365

CHRISTMAS EVE:

Wednesday, December 24

4:00 ★ 4:10 ★ 4:20 ★ 6:00 pm &
10:30 pm Mass during the Night

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Thursday, December 25

7:30 ★ 9:30 ★ 11:30 am

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Vigil Mass: Wednesday, December 24
4:00 pm

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Holy Day of Obligation
Thursday, January 1, 2015
8:00 ★ 10:00 am

COME CELEBRATE OUR SAVIOR'S BIRTH WITH US!

Saint Isaac Jogues Roman Catholic Church

306 W. Fourth Street at Clay ~ Hinsdale, Illinois
www.sij.net / (630)323-1248

Advent and Christmas Schedule

— 2014 —

Wednesday, December 24th: Christmas Eve
Daily Mass - 7:00 am

Christmas Vigil Mass: 4:00 pm (Church, Parish Center with the Children's Choir, Gym)

Mass at Midnight:

11:15 pm Carols and Blessing of Crib
followed by Midnight Mass.

Thursday, December 25th: Christmas Day

Christmas Day: 9:00, 10:30 am, and Noon

Friday, December 26th

Daily Masses: 7:00 am & 5:00 pm

Saturday, December 27th • Saturday morning Mass: 8:00 am

Saturday-evening Vigil of Sunday - 4:30 pm

*There are NO Confessions today

Thursday, January 1st - 2015: • Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

A Holy Day of Obligation

New Year's Eve / Wednesday, December 31st • 4:00 pm

New Year's Day / Thursday, January 1st • 9:00, 10:30 am; and Noon



Christmas Eve Worship Services

Wednesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Family-Friendly Worship
10:00 p.m. Full Choral Worship

Christmas Morning

Thursday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Simple Worship Service

CHURCH OF THE HOLY NATIVITY

275 S. Richmond Ave.
Clarendon Hills
www.HolyNativity-Church.org

The Episcopal Church
welcomes you



Come Celebrate Christmas at Redeemer Lutheran!

Sunday, Dec. 21
10 a.m. Festival of Lessons &
Carols with Gargoyle Brass

Christmas Eve:

5 p.m. Family Worship
7 p.m. Festival Worship
10:30 p.m. Concert
11 p.m. Candlelight Worship

Christmas Day:
10 a.m. Service of Carols

All services feature candles, communion,
carols, and instrumentalists.

Redeemer
LUTHERAN CHURCH
HINSDALE, ILL.

139 East First Street
630-323-5530
redeemerhinsdale.org

Death Notices

Morrison, William "Bill"

89, of Northbrook, formerly of Park Ridge, beloved husband of Dolores and loving father of Melody and Carol, died November 18, 2014. A graduate of Northwestern University, he served as a Gunnery Officer in the U.S. Navy.

At retirement, he was an electrical engineer at Western Electric, a patent holder and a hibiscus hybridizer.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Leukemia Research Foundation of Wilmette or donations to your local blood bank. Memorial visitation 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. on January 18 at **Glueckert Funeral Home Ltd.**, 1520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, with a service at 3:30 p.m.

Info: www.GlueckertFH.com or (847)253-0168. Springtime interment at Acacia Park Cemetery.

Glueckert
Funeral Home Ltd.

Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

Death Notices

Schackter, June G.

(nee Glickauf) Age 82, of Lincolnwood. Beloved wife of the late Paul; dear partner of Russell Mosny; cherished mother of Taryl "Tari" (Kevin) Spitalny; devoted grandmother of Jeremy and Cedee Sifuentes and Jake Spitalny; fond sister of the late Florence (Maurice "Moss") Reck, the late Harry (Marion) Glickauf. Special thanks to devoted caregiver, Monica Gentile.



Principal of Decatur Classical Magnet School in Chicago, which was the #1 school in the State of IL for over 18 years.

Funeral services Wednesday 11:00 a.m. at Ezra Habonim the Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster Street, Skokie. Entombment Memorial Park Cemetery-Skokie. Contributions in June's name to the Skokie Holocaust Museum would be appreciated. Info **Mitzvah Memorial Funerals** 630-MITZVAH (630-648-9824), or www.mitzvahfunerals.com.

Mitzvah
Memorial Funerals

Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

**General Information
Concerning The
Death Notice Page**

- A paid death notice may be ordered to appear in the Pioneer Press when funeral arrangements are made, and must be submitted in writing. Information about charges for death notices may be obtained from area funeral directors or by calling (847) 998-3400. A 24-hour fax service is offered at (847) 486-6836 or death notices may be e-mailed to deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com.
- 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 be 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.
- Family and friends may visit our website and sign a guest book at Pioneerlocal.com.

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Only one Heisman Trophy winner has gone on to become a head coach in the NFL. Any guesses? Here's a hint: an all-time great college coach, he was a bust at the NFL level. The answer is Steve Spurrier, who was awarded the Heisman in 1966 as a quarterback at Florida. As a coach, he led his alma mater to a national championship in 1996, but spent two disappointing seasons - 2002 and 2003 - at the helm of the Washington Redskins, going 12-20 overall, before returning to the college ranks at South Carolina.

Where did the phrase "Hail Mary" - for a desperation heave to the end zone - originate? The answer is from NFL Hall of Famer Roger Staubach, whose last-second bomb to Drew Pearson gave Dallas a win over Minnesota in a 1975 playoff game. Afterward, Staubach told reporters he shut his eyes and "said a Hail Mary." Staubach, a former Heisman Trophy winner and NFL MVP, was named by Forbes Magazine as the highest-paid retired NFL player in 2013 at \$12 million from his commercial real estate business.

San Diego State has developed a first-class basketball program under head coach Steve Fisher. In 15 years there, Fisher's overall record was 312-175 (a .641 winning percentage) entering the 2014-15 season. And lately, the Aztecs have been unbelievably tough when they've been ahead late in the game. How tough? When leading with five minutes left to play, they'd won an amazing 120 straight games as of the start of the 2014-15 campaign, last losing under those circumstances in January of 2010.



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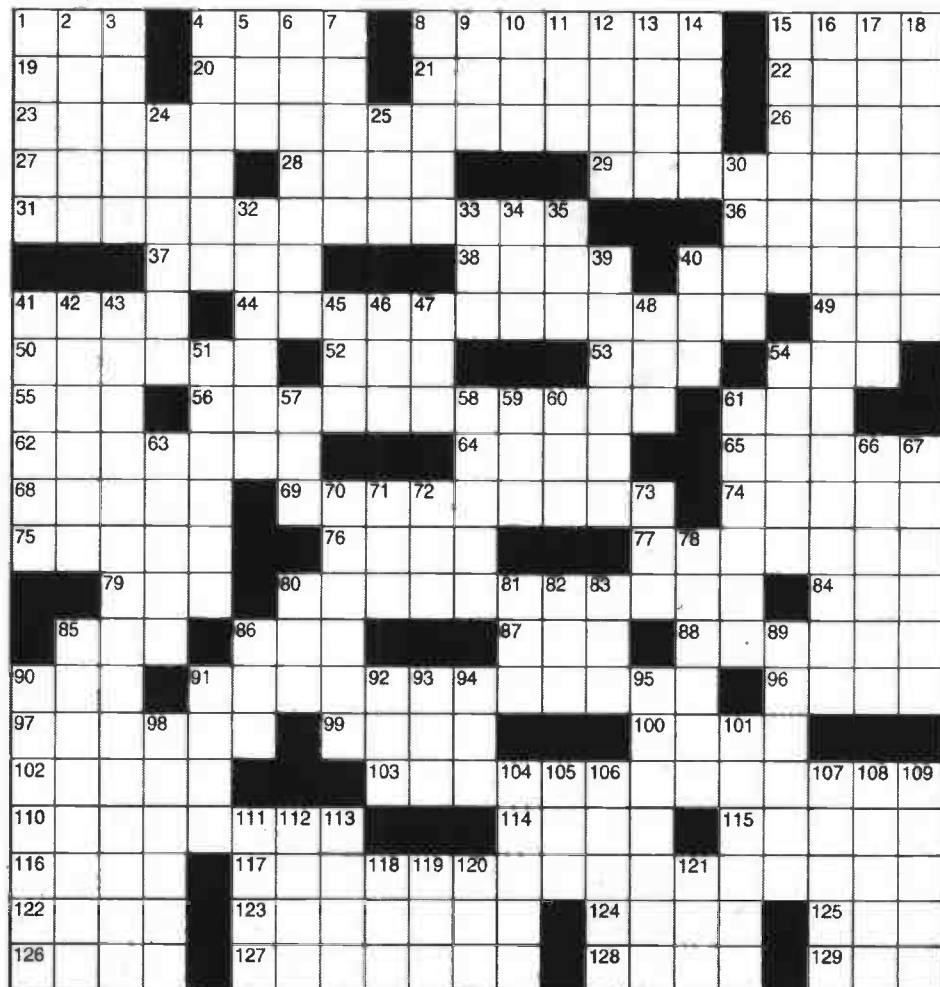
To submit a complaint for consideration, email HelpSquad@PioneerLocal.com with as much detail about your complaint as possible.

Puzzles

III SUPER CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Tanning lotion bottle abbr.
- 4 Herringlike fish
- 8 More savory
- 15 1998 Apple debut
- 19 Confucian "way"
- 20 Undiluted
- 21 Qualified to join a payroll
- 22 One-billionth: Prefix
- 23 "Oklahoma!" lyricist
- 26 1982 Disney film
- 27 Ranch in the film "Giant"
- 28 Pear variety
- 29 Of a certain earth science
- 31 "Pretty in Pink" star
- 36 Silly
- 37 "Wait just —"
- 38 Thumbs-downs
- 40 Don's code of silence
- 41 Push-button bankers
- 44 19th-century chief justice
- 49 Snaky fish
- 50 Just so
- 52 Above, poetically
- 53 Cigar residue
- 54 From Jan. 1 until now
- 55 LAX landing
- 56 Explorer for whom a Colorado peak is named
- 61 "... — a puddy tat!"
- 62 Fall back
- 64 Irish coin
- 65 Really longs
- 68 "Three Sisters" sister
- 69 Member of 'N Sync
- 74 Hearty hot dog topping
- 75 Hymns, e.g.
- 76 Appliance plug-in
- 77 Terrier type, informally
- 79 Hi — (some stereos)
- 80 Classical guitarist and lutenist
- 84 B&B, e.g.
- 85 Move quickly
- 86 104, to Ovid
- 87 "— hool"
- 88 Cro — man
- 90 Unit for Lend!
- 91 1980-81 secretary of state
- 96 Setting of the Taj Mahal
- 97 Miatas and Millenias
- 99 Ireland, to its natives
- 100 Bus. get-togethers
- 102 In combat
- 103 "Tootsie" director
- 110 Item-trading place
- 114 Dip — in (try tentatively)
- 115 Vital artery
- 116 "What — God wrought!"
- 117 "More Than Human" sci-fi novelist
- 122 In a tie
- 123 Ill-fated ship
- 124 Philosopher David or newsman Brit
- 125 Stockholm loc.
- 126 Dried up
- 127 Doorways
- 128 "Stupid — stupid does"
- 129 Walk — (tiny roles)
- DOWN
- 1 Charge at
- 2 Old Toyota coupe
- 3 — point (center)
- 4 Hoses down
- 5 "How's that?"
- 6 Coffee bean variety
- 7 Evil one network
- 8 "90210" network
- 9 With 93-Down, put on a clothesline
- 10 Imminent alumni: Abbr.
- 11 Bit of body art, briefly
- 12 "— your pardon"
- 13 Wiesel with a Nobel
- 14 Western city on I-80
- 15 Perform plainsong
- 16 She sang "A Tree in the Meadow"
- 17 Divinely chosen
- 18 Hide
- 24 "Finally!"
- 25 Chinese soup additive
- 30 Tart fruit
- 32 Views anew
- 33 Wilson of Heart
- 34 Hack (off)
- 35 Nov. follower
- 39 Military hats
- 40 —Kosh B'Gosh
- 41 1980s video game systems
- 42 Bullfighter
- 43 Press secretary under Bush and Reagan
- 45 Costello of comedy
- 46 Gibson of film
- 47 Jorge's gold
- 48 Suffix for an enzyme
- 51 Northeast toll road
- 54 Luxury craft
- 57 "The Fresh Prince of — -Air"
- 58 "1 — hand"
- 59 Brit's bar
- 60 Gershwin or Glass
- 61 Washington port city
- 63 Actress Everhart
- 66 Novelist Glyn
- 67 "Raw" color
- 70 Contact lens brand
- 71 Dictator Lon —
- 72 Demier —
- 73 NNW's opposite
- 78 Revived
- 80 Singer Croce
- 81 Sch. in Manhattan
- 82 Red Sox, on scoreboards
- 83 Seoul soldier
- 85 Sweltering weather spell
- 86 IRA choices
- 89 Fake fireplace item
- 90 Huge hits
- 91 Aural pair
- 92 "— for Noose"
- 93 See 9-Down
- 94 Rx order
- 95 Moving force
- 98 "Frasier" role
- 101 Mean stares
- 104 Drug cops
- 105 Summer, to Michel
- 106 Dinosaur sidekick in Nintendo games
- 107 "You — Beautiful"
- 108 Home of baseball's Indians, informally
- 109 Welles' "Citizen" and others
- 111 URL start
- 112 Toledo locale
- 113 Korda of tennis
- 118 Grain staple
- 119 Cell material
- 120 "Black gold"
- 121 Hollywood's Thurman



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III PUZZLE ANSWERS



III HOROSCOPES: DECEMBER 24 — DECEMBER 30

BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE INC.



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The New Year brings challenges that can change many things in your life. You need to be prepared to confront them, and to deal with what happens afterward.



TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You have what it takes to set your goals quite a bit higher this year. Learn what you need to know and put what you learn into your efforts.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) In true Gemini Twin fashion, you're conflicted about a decision you know you'll have to make in this New Year. Best advice: Get the facts before you make any commitment.



CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A friend offers you an exciting opportunity for this New Year. Although your positive aspects are strong in most respects, caution is advised. Investigate before you invest.



LEO (July 23 to August 22) You can make this New Year a roaring success. Start by readjusting your goals to reflect the changes in the economy. Your den-mate offers both wise and loving support.



VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) The New Year brings new opportunities for change. But you need to be ready to move from the comfortable status quo to the challenging unknown.



LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your most important New Year's resolution should be to work out problems with a family member in order to avoid continuing misunderstandings.



SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) The New Year has much to offer the intensely determined Scorpion, who isn't afraid to take on challenges and stay with them until they surrender their rewards.



SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You'll have many fine opportunities in this New Year. Be warned: Reject offers of "help." You work best when free to be your own creative self.



CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The New Year offers changes that you might feel you're not quite ready for. Deal with them one step at a time, until you've built up your self-confidence.



AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Travel is a dominant aspect of the New Year. This could mean relocating to another city (or even another country) in connection with your education or career.



PISCES (February 19 to March 20) This New Year brings news about a change you've been anticipating. You might have a problem persuading a loved one about your new plans, but he or she will soon go along with them.



Natalie Busscher

MUNDELEIN HOLIDAY CLASSIC PREVIEW

5 PLAYERS TO WATCH

SARAH ELSTON

F, sr., Loyola

BECKY DEICHL

C, sr., Libertyville

ABBY PIRRON

G, jr., Lake Zurich

NATALIE BUSSCHER

G, sr., Mundelein

KASEY FIRNBACH

F, sr., Vernon Hills

3 STORYLINES

These girls can play

According to Mundelein girls basketball coach Brian Evans, only three of the Mundelein Holiday Classic's 16 teams had losing records when the brackets for the event were put together, which should make for some exciting competition. Though there will only be a few players who have committed to play Division I basketball — such as Loyola's Ivy League-bound, 6-2 forward Sarah Elston (Columbia) and 5-10 Cary-Grove guard/forward Katie Barker (Ohio) — don't be fooled. The quality of basketball here will be top-notch. "We love having the privilege of hosting our holiday tournament every year," Mundelein senior guard Maddie Zazas said.

Dark horses

The majority of coaches said they felt Loyola was the top contender to win the tournament, but there are other teams people should keep an eye on. Libertyville, led by 6-2 senior center Becky Deichl and 5-11 sophomore guard/forward Claire Keefe, is one of them. Deichl had a 22-point, 10-rebound effort against unbeaten Stevenson several weeks ago. Two other teams are Vernon Hills (8-2 record to start the week) and Lake Zurich. Neither team has a star player, but both have been playing team-oriented hoops. "This tournament gives a great opportunity to see teams we normally wouldn't," Loyola coach Jeremy Schoenecker said.

Holiday grind

Mundelein's Holiday Classic is unique in its scheduling because it basically has games beginning every hour-and-a-half from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. for four days over a seven-day span. Though all the kids playing will be off school, most teams aren't used to playing at such random — and often early — hours. This has proven to be a factor for some teams in the past, and the way players handle this unique circumstance can be the difference between winning and losing. "You never know how teams will react, because there are so many things going on that week, plus, this time of year kids will occasionally be sick, too," Vernon Hills coach Paul Brettner said.

— Tim Froehlig

COLLEGE NOTES

Niles North's Hirsh scores big for Grinnell

BY NICK BULLOCK

Special to the Tribune, @Pioneer_Press

Niles North graduate **Alissa Hirsh** was recently named the Midwest Conference Women's Basketball Performer of the Week. The Skokie native is a junior guard on the Grinnell women's basketball team.

Hirsh scored 33 points to go with 10 rebounds and six assists in an 89-80 victory over Monmouth on Nov. 25 in Grinnell, Iowa. She followed that with 24 points, six rebounds and five assists in a 64-62 win against visiting Lake Forest on Nov. 29 in Grinnell, and 19 points, seven rebounds and three assists in a 68-59 loss to Presentation College the next night in Grinnell.

Two other area athletes play for the Grinnell women's basketball team. **Kayla Morrissey** is a freshman forward from Lyons and **Haley El Mahassni** is a freshman guard from Hinsdale South.

Taylor Coleman, a junior linebacker for the Drake football team, was named one of two Pioneer Football League Scholar-Athletes of the Year on Dec. 3. The Lake Zurich graduate also was named to the Capital One Academic All-District Team and is a two-time Academic All-PFL team member.

Coleman helped the Bulldogs to a 7-4 record. He finished with 95 tackles, 8.5 tackles for loss and 1.5 sacks. He was an honorable mention All-PFL selection this season.

Other local athletes on the team include **Andrew Clifford**, a sophomore quarterback from Lake Forest; **Jeremy Kahen**, a sophomore offensive lineman from Glenbrook North; **Sean Lynch**, a freshman defensive back from Lake Zurich; **A.J. Spitz**, a freshman quarterback from Glenbrook North; and **Rocco Stefanini**, a sophomore offensive lineman from Fenwick.

Two area athletes recently concluded their senior seasons for the Yale women's soccer team, which finished 8-4-4.

Midfielder **Muriel Battaglia**, who hails from Hinsdale Central, was invited to play in the New England Women's Intercollegiate Soccer Association's annual Senior Bowl. She was named a first-team



Grinnell guard **Alissa Hirsh** (13) goes in for a layup during a game against Lake Forest College. | GRINNELL ATHLETICS

All-Ivy selection as well as Yale's Defensive MVP. Battaglia was named to the Capital One Academic All-District 1 first team for the second straight year.

Battaglia played in 15 of the team's 16 games, starting 14. She also played 700 of a possible 710 minutes in Ivy League games.

Forward **Georgiana Wagemann**, from Lake Forest Academy, played in 13 games for the Bulldogs this season.

Have a suggestion for the College Roundup? Email Nick Bullock at bullock-pioneerpress@gmail.com.



Joe Mooney

37TH WHEELING HARDWOOD CLASSIC PREVIEW

5 PLAYERS TO WATCH

- AMMAR BECAR**
F, jr., Notre Dame
- JOE BORCIA**
C, sr., Libertyville
- JIMMY MARTINELLI**
F, jr., Glenbrook South
- JOE MOONEY**
PG, sr., Notre Dame
- ROBBY NARDINI**
SG, sr., Vernon Hills

SCHEDULE ON MONDAY

- Lake Park vs. Maine West, 9 a.m.
- Vernon Hills vs. Libertyville, 10:30 a.m.
- Glenbrook South vs. Niles North, 12:15 p.m.
- Fremd vs. Dundee-Crown, 2 p.m.
- Notre Dame vs. Buffalo Grove, 3:45 p.m.
- Prospect vs. Streamwood, 5:30 p.m.
- Wheeling vs. Naperville Central, 7:15 p.m.
- Deerfield vs. Waukegan, 8:45 p.m.
- Championship: 8:45 p.m. Dec. 27

3 STORYLINES

How will Notre Dame handle expectations?

Notre Dame is the Wheeling Hardwood Classic's pretournament favorite. The Dons are led by senior guard Joe Mooney, a Division I prospect who made the Hardwood Classic's all-tournament team a year ago, and junior forward Ammar Becar. The pair guided Notre Dame to a 6-1 start to its season, including a victory over Evanston in the Lane Tech/DePaul Prep Thanksgiving Tournament's championship game.

"Seeding doesn't really matter," Becar said. "It's all about coming in with the right frame of mind and just playing hard — and winning."

Can Vernon Hills make a deep run with an exhilarating style?

Few teams are more exciting to watch than Vernon Hills when everything is clicking for the Cougars.

Vernon Hills is anchored by 6-5 jumping jack Lem Turner — the Ball State volleyball signee is averaging 3.1 blocks this year, as of Dec. 11 — and the Cougars feature senior guard Robby Nardini and senior wing Bo Manso, who can both light up the scoreboard when they're hitting shots.

Vernon Hills has a good chance of beating anybody in the tournament if Turner stays out of foul trouble and the Cougars are knocking down their shots from deep.

Can anybody nullify Libertyville's size?

Libertyville's biggest strength this year is its size. The Wildcats are anchored by 6-10 senior center Joe Borgia. Junior Ben Kimpler, who's 6-6, and 6-7 senior Peter Feely also play in the post.

"I think our offense really feeds off those guys," Libertyville coach Scott Bogumil said. "Conor Peterson, our small forward, is our leading scorer. But he gets so many looks because we throw it into the big guys and they do a nice job of finding him cutting to the basket or spotting up for 3s."

Like most teams, "we want to maximize our strength," Bogumil added. One of Bogumil's favorite aspects of the Hardwood Classic is that it's a great coaching tournament, he said. It's full of teams who play different styles — for example, Naperville Central typically plays zone defense and Niles North usually pressures all over the court — which provides a lot of teaching opportunities.

— Eric Van Dril



Alondra Chavarria

32ND ANNUAL ST. VIATOR SNOWFLAKE PREVIEW

5 PLAYERS TO WATCH

- JANELLE ALBAGARNER**
PG, jr., Maine East
- ALONDRA CHAVARRIA**
SG, sr., Leyden
- MAEVE DEGNAN**
SG, sr., Regina
- ARIANAKELLEY**
PG, sr., Elmwood Park
- MIRANDA WEBER**
C, jr., Glenbrook North

SCHEDULE ON MONDAY

- Glenbrook North vs. Maine East 5 p.m.
- Elmwood Park vs. Loyola JV, 5 p.m.
- Regina vs. Fenton, 6:30 p.m.
- St. Viator vs. Leyden 6:30 p.m.
- Championship: 1:30 p.m. Dec. 27

3 STORYLINES

Regina hoping for another title run

The Panthers (5-4) made it to the championship game last year and with four returning starters there's no reason to think they can't reach the final again this year.

Leading the way for Regina are two seniors averaging double digits in scoring: Maeve Degnan (14.8) and Maggie Palmer (13.8).

"We don't just have that one go-to kid," coach Kerry Durham said. "We have more options and that's great for our program."

Who will take on an increased role for Maine East?

The Blue Demons (2-7) are back at the St. Viator Tournament after a year off.

Maine East lost a lot from last year's team, which won the Central Suburban North, and it took a big hit when junior forward Kelli Lindberg tore her right Achilles tendon on Dec. 9 against Niles North.

"It's a really big setback, not just with what she was giving us offensively — six to 10 points a night — but what she did for us on defense," Blue Demons coach Karol Hanusiak said.

Lindberg's younger sister, sophomore Holly Lindberg, will try to step up and star junior guard Janelle Alba Garner may be asked to do even more.

Leyden coach comes back to her roots

First-year Eagles coach Stephanie Kuzmanic, who played at Wheeling, grew up right down the road from St. Viator. She has Leyden (4-4) pointed in the right direction and can show friends and family just what she's building in Franklin Park.

— Rob Valentin

III NOTRE DAME

Loss reveals room for improvement

Dons had trouble getting stops on defense against Hinsdale Central

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Special to the Tribune, @VanDrilSports

NILES — Notre Dame climbed into the Chicago Tribune's top-20 boys basketball rankings with six straight wins to start its season, but coach Tom Les continued to remind the Dons that there is another step for them to take.

The difference between where Notre Dame is currently and where it wants to be was evident to junior forward Ammar Becar after a 74-70 loss to Hinsdale Central on Saturday night.

"They're a great team, and we're a good team," Becar said. "Coach has been telling us that if we want to be on the next level, we have to play together. We have to execute."

The term execution was used by both Becar and Hinsdale Central coach Nick Latorre after the game.

The Red Devils rarely settled for bad shots. Senior forward Matt Rafferty — who was spectacular, finishing with 39 points on 15-of-18 shooting — was the source of much of Hinsdale Central's offense, yet the senior-laden squad's experience running its sets showed.

"I just thought our kids really executed," Latorre said. "We did a really good job of getting the ball inside. That's really our bread and butter, and our kids made a concerted effort to get the ball inside. It seems like when it goes inside, with the personnel we have, good things seem to happen."

The loss to Hinsdale Central highlighted an area where the Dons, who only have two seniors in their rotation, have room to improve.

"You've got to talk on defense," senior point guard Joe Mooney said. "We had miscommunications and they were getting wide-open layups. It's just little things like that."

The inability to get stops was a point of frustration for Notre Dame, especially given that Mooney played so well throughout the second half. The Division I prospect — he has offers from Air Force and UC Davis

— finished with 37 points on 20 shots, including seven made 3-pointers. Several of those 3s were difficult attempts Mooney created for himself off the dribble.

Mooney did his best to keep Notre Dame in the game after Hinsdale Central took a 48-37 lead with 3:44 remaining in the third quarter. He scored 18 points, and knocked down four 3-pointers, after that. Becar said that instilled both him and his teammates with energy, but the defense couldn't get the stops it needed to rally against a team of Hinsdale Central's experience and caliber.

"We couldn't recover from [the third-quarter deficit]," Mooney said. "We kept cutting it down from like 11 to six and 10 to four, but we could never really crack it."

LEFT: Notre Dame's Joe Mooney goes up for a layup in front of Hinsdale Central's Matt Rafferty (32) during Saturday's game in Niles. Mooney finished with 37 points in the loss. | NIC SUMMERS/FOR CHICAGO TRIBUNE MEDIA GROUP



Notre Dame's Ammar Becar guards Hinsdale Central's Matt Rafferty during Saturday's game in Niles. Rafferty finished with 39 points. | NIC SUMMERS/FOR CHICAGO TRIBUNE MEDIA GROUP



||| NILES NORTH

George helps Vikings win emotional game

Guard transferred from Maine East to Niles North before his senior season

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
For Sun-Times Media, @VanDrilSports

SKOKIE — Abby George wasn't sure how he should begin the Niles North boys basketball team's game against Maine East.

The Central Suburban North opener for both teams on Dec. 9, which the Vikings won 57-31, was the first time he played against his former team after transferring this summer.

"There were a lot of emotions going into the game because I've been playing [on varsity at Maine East] for three years," said George, a senior. "All my [former] teammates, they looked mad. I didn't know how I should come out — too aggressive, too passive. I just came out, played my game."

George didn't score in the first quarter, but he drained an open 3-pointer with about 5:00 left in the second quarter for his first points. The majority of Niles North's bench stood and cheered when George sank his shot. They continued to cheer on the 5-8 guard as he prepared to play a high-pressure defense that forced Maine East to commit 28 turnovers.

A second went by. Then George looked over to the bench and clapped enthusiastically to acknowledge the Vikings and their support of him.



ABOVE: Niles North's Abby George beats Maine East's Ezekia Omeke (12, left) and Nick Kanjou (21, right) to the ball for a steal on Dec. 9 in Skokie. | TRACY ALLEN/FOR CHICAGO TRIBUNE MEDIA GROUP

LEFT: In the Dec. 6 game against rival Niles West, Niles North's Abby George (right) scored 14 points in a 74-71 loss. | NIC SUMMERS/FOR CHICAGO TRIBUNE MEDIA GROUP

to Niles North has been emotional. He said on Dec. 9 that he did it for family reasons, but many in the Maine East program remain resentful.

George estimated that all but two of his former teammates have stopped talking to him since he transferred because the assumption is he switched schools in order to play for Niles North.

Tuesday night also was emotional for Maine East. Blue Demons coach Dave Genis addressed that before the game.

"I told them, 'This game is not about Maine East versus Abby George,'" Genis said of his pregame message.

George has adjusted very well to a new role and a new team. He was a point guard for Maine East, but he's been more of a shooting guard with the Vikings — a more natural position, he said — and he's fit in seamlessly, despite not playing with Niles North at all during the summer.

He scored 11 points and had three steals against the Blue Demons

on Dec. 9. George was the MVP of the Buffalo Grove Thanksgiving Tournament, and he contributed 14 points in a 74-71 loss to Niles West on Dec. 6.

George and Niles North coach Glenn Olson agreed that they were surprised by how quickly he's fit in, but it's been a welcome surprise.

"He's just buying in and he's not trying to do too much," Olson said. "He's just playing very well within our system. I think that's the biggest tribute I can say about him: He's not trying to be somebody he's not."

"My team, they said they've got my back," George said. "It felt like a family. It felt like I had older brothers in there. I felt like I never had that before. I had a lot of confidence."

The reaction to George's transfer

III MAINE EAST

Blue Demons strive to be mentally tougher

Maine East struggled to handle Niles North's defensive pressure

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Special to the Tribune, @VanDrilSports

SKOKIE — In preparation for its game against Niles North, the Maine East boys basketball team used part of its practice time to work on handling the Vikings' intense ball pressure.

Blue Demons coach Dave Genis said he tried to make the defensive pressure more difficult in practice than it would be in the game. Success against Niles North's defense requires confident guard play. If a team is lacking it even for a minute, the Vikings' defense can turn a game's momentum by overwhelming a backcourt and causing turnovers.

That's what happened to Maine East against the Vikings.

"We can't be weak with the ball. We were weak with the ball," Genis said after his team's 57-31

loss to the Vikings on Dec. 9.

The Blue Demons had just four field-goal attempts in the first quarter. They committed 10 turnovers during that time, including seven before Genis called a timeout with 3:18 remaining in the first.

Maine East managed to cut its 13-6 deficit to 22-19 in the second quarter, but senior forward Ezeka Omeke picked up his third foul with 1:59 remaining in the first half. Niles North then went on an 8-0 run before Maine East senior guard Nick Kanjou knocked down a 3-pointer right before the end of the second quarter.

The Vikings held the Blue Demons to nine points in the second half.

"I think we played scared. We weren't ready," Kanjou said. "No one knew what to do."

Junior point guard Milan Grover — who's one of the team's primary ball handlers, along with junior guard Franklin Orange — shouldered some of the responsibility for the struggles.

"Every team has a momentum change" during a game, Grover said. "As a captain, I don't think I did a good job of regrouping everybody. You're going to take a couple blows, but you're going to have to get back up."

Following the contest, Genis talked about the squad — especially the Blue Demons' juniors — and its need to grow up.

He and Grover were hopeful that the bad game against Niles North was an isolated event — one that would serve as a tool Maine East would use to get stronger.

"They were shell-shocked," Genis said. "Hopefully it's a learning experience for them and we're able to move forward. We've got some talented kids, but they're not mentally



ABOVE: Niles North's Tajai Armstead crashes into Maine East's Ezeka Omeke as Omeke prepares to go up for a shot in the Dec. 9 game in Skokie.

LEFT: Maine East's Philemon Philip glides in for a shot during the Dec. 9 game at Niles North. | PHOTOS BY TRACY ALLEN/FOR CHICAGO TRIBUNE MEDIA GROUP

tough like that yet."

Maine East fell to 0-2 in the Central Suburban North three nights later, but it played much

better in a 55-52 loss to Glenbrook North. That was a good sign for the Blue Demons as they prepare for their next confer-

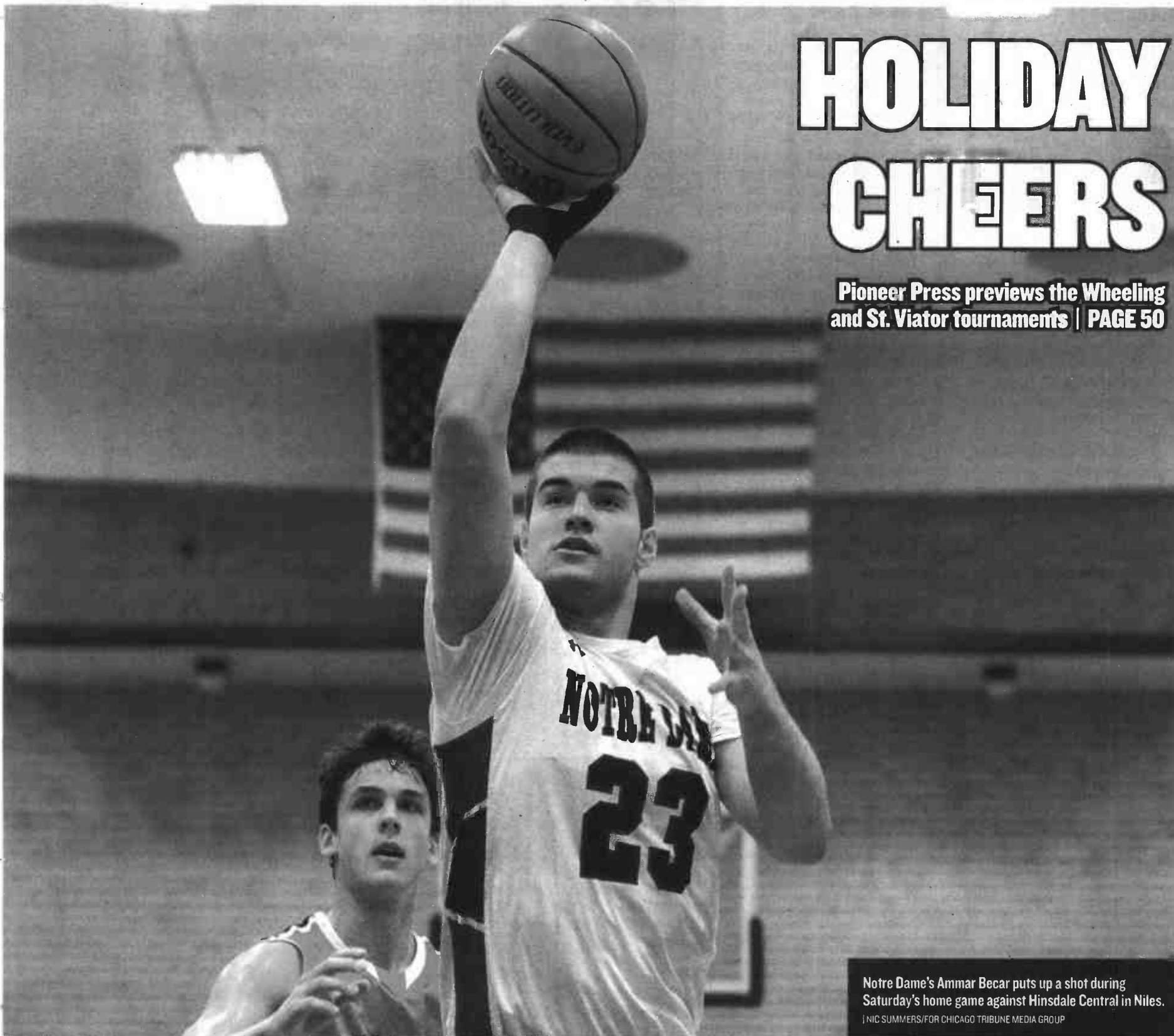
ence game — at home against Highland Park on Friday — and then the Luther North Holiday Tournament.

SPORTS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2014

HOLIDAY CHEERS

Pioneer Press previews the Wheeling
and St. Viator tournaments | PAGE 50

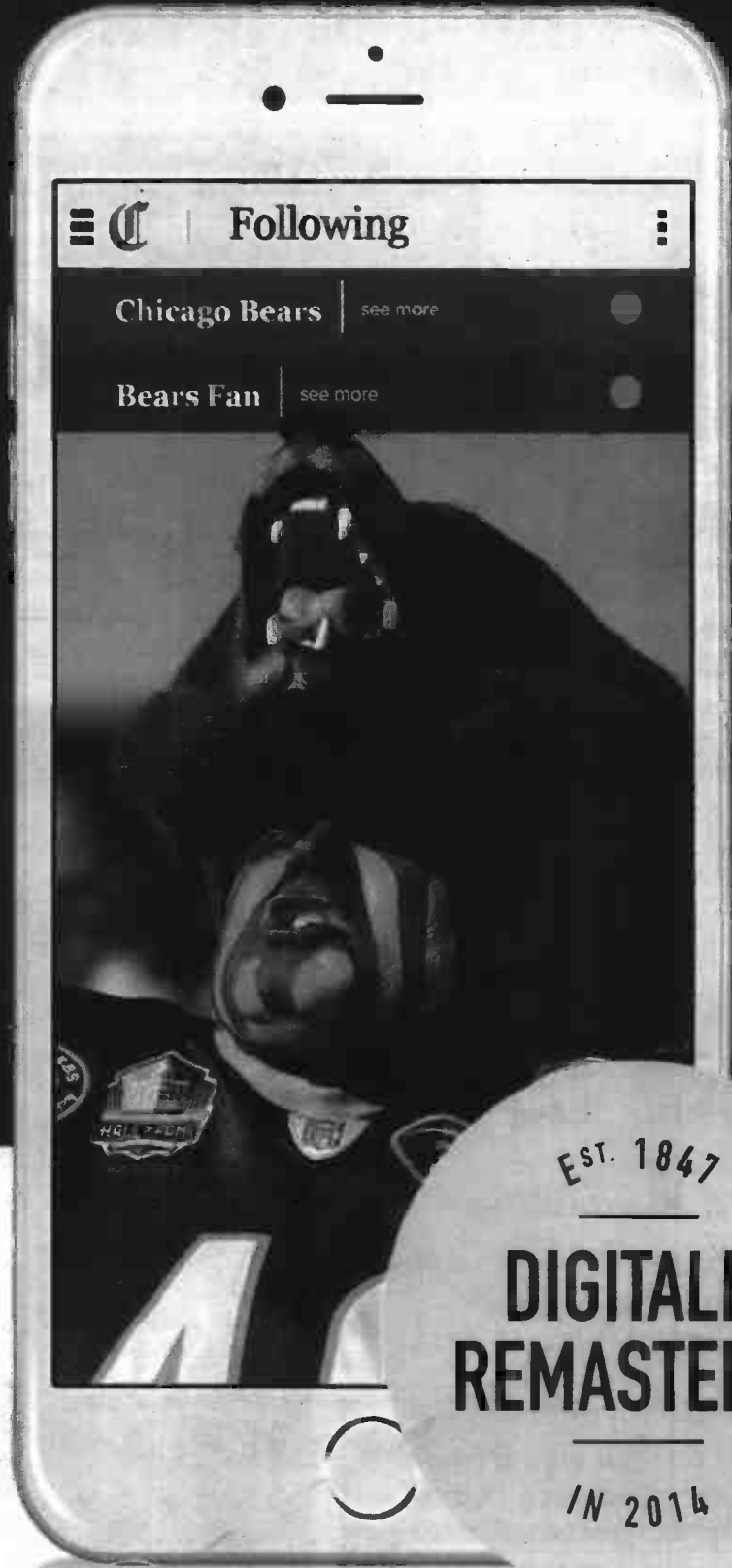


Notre Dame's Ammar Becar puts up a shot during Saturday's home game against Hinsdale Central in Niles.

BY NIC SUMMERS/FOR CHICAGO TRIBUNE MEDIA GROUP

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