

# NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY

# MOST

[MOST: *The Bridge*]

Volume 22 • Number 2

Fall 2012



*Smiling after the ribbon cutting are, (L-R): Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley; Mr. Peter Zelenák, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. Embassy of the Slovak Republic; Gail Naughton, NCSML President/CEO; His Excellency Petr Gandalovič, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States; and Iowa Senator Tom Harkin.*

## Applause, Cheers, Celebration How Grand It Was

**“W**e Are Back!” exclaimed Gail Naughton, president/CEO, amid applause and cheers at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library’s Grand Opening.

After four years of moving between interim locations, the Museum and Library is now open in its original and now expanded home at 1400 Inspiration Place SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. With a facility three times larger than pre-Flood, staff offices, galleries, the library and event spaces are all united under one red roof with room to grow.

One festive weekend began on Saturday, July 14 with a parade from New Bohemia to Czech Village. Eighteen states showed their support in the Parade of States Pageant, with additional parade floats and entries including Czech and Slovak dignitaries and Alphonse Mucha’s grandson. Czech and Slovak pageant royalty tossed candy to the crowds lining 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Crowds shifted to the recently named Inspiration Place to watch the opening

ceremony. Speakers praised the accomplishments of Cedar Rapids and wished the Museum and Library the best of luck. Two pageant queens presented customary bread and salt to welcome the officials. Scissors snipped the red and blue ribbons.

Gail led the way into the relocated and expanded building. Within the first fifteen minutes, more than 5,000 curious and eager guests flowed into Rozek Grand Hall, marveling at the new Museum and Library.

Visitors from all over Iowa and across the nation lined up for tickets to the exhibitions. Hemphill Theater, featuring films about the Monumental Move and Alphonse Mucha’s life and works, was standing-room-only. WFLA/ZCJB Heritage Hall was packed for all five Lecture Series presentations.

Outside, more people gathered for food and fun. Smiles spread across the spectators watching Czech and Slovak folk dancers swirling in their *kroje* (folk costumes) to traditional folk music. A concert stage stood

*Continued on page 9*

SPECIAL GRAND OPENING EDITION

# NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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The NCSML is funded in part by a grant from the Cultural Enrichment Partnership Program administered by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT



“A museum is not just a building, it’s really the hearts and souls of the community and we still have those intact.” My son Greg sent those words with flowers the day after the 2008 Flood. They sustained me through four long years of recovery but their meaning was never more evident than during the Grand Opening. The NCSML community—friends, members, Czechs, Slovaks, people of all backgrounds, from near and far—shared their hearts and souls with us that weekend. We were touched and overwhelmed by the joy and enthusiasm for the new Museum and Library. Yes, we were celebrating a building, but it was so much more.

It was a celebration of an expanded beginning when all things are possible. We’ve proven that we can rise to any challenge and not only survive but excel beyond all expectations. We’ve shown the world that adversity can be turned into victory.

Today, the NCSML looks on a bright future, a future as a place where anyone from anywhere can appreciate the stories, experiences and contributions of Czechs and Slovaks. Because in learning about others, we learn about ourselves. After all, the Czech and Slovak peoples’ search for freedom is a story we all share. It’s a human story.

On Saturday night of Grand Opening, as everyone sat outside watching the fun and entertaining Caravan of Thieves, I looked around and saw people sitting in chairs in front of the stage; there were people in the beer tent, people sitting on the grass, on the curb, on the steps and on the planters. This scene captured my hopes and dreams for the new NCSML as no other that day. The silence at the end of the light show moved me as I know it did many others. I felt that we had finally come home. And all of our hearts and souls were not only intact but glowing.

Enjoy this special issue of *MOST* with highlights of the opening. Plan on returning often to the Museum and Library. It’s your home.

All my best,

Gail Naughton



Miss Czech-Slovak USA 2001-2002 Lisa Volesky (center) and Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2009-2010 Amanda De Hoedt present bread and salt to Senator Tomáš Grulich, Parliament of the Czech Republic.

Presentation of bread and salt is a Czech and Slovak tradition for welcoming important, respected or admired guests. It is also a housewarming tradition for happiness and luck.

## FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

**W**e did it! The Museum and Library has come back from the 2008 Flood stronger and bigger than before.



We began our celebration with a Black Tie Gala on Friday evening. Then, on Saturday, July 14, we continued with a two-day festival complete with a parade and floats; the Czech Plus Band; and a ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring the Czech

Ambassador Petr Gandalovič, Peter Zeleňák, Slovak Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Senator Harkin and Senator Grassley along with other dignitaries. Saturday morning was hot, but we still had an overflow crowd of supporters. And it was certainly grand!

I greeted visitors at the front door for two hours, and, with the steady stream of people coming and going, the door never closed. People came from 38 states to help us celebrate this historic event. I want to thank the NCSML Board of Directors for volunteering to greet people, to give tours of the newly relocated and expanded building and to pour

Czech beer. The staff was busy organizing dancers, puppets, face painting, musicians, food vendors, beer tasting and exhibit tours.

If you haven't visited the new Museum and Library yet, please make plans to do so. You will be amazed at the stunning appearance and all we have accomplished. And if you have visited us, thank you! We hope you will come back soon. The unique Alphonse Mucha exhibit is a once-in-a-lifetime event and is a must-see for anyone interested in the Art Nouveau movement. While you're there, check out the lovely new Store filled with incredible merchandise directly from the Czech Republic and Slovakia. If you're looking for a place to host a wedding, a service club meeting or just a party, be sure to contact the Museum and Library for the hottest venue in town.

Most of all, please visit and bring your friends and family. This is your Museum and Library and we hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Lu Barta Barron

## Light Up Gift Giving in the Museum Stores



### Ornament

### Personalization by Master Folk Artist Marj Nejd

All dates 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the  
New Museum Store

Saturday, Nov. 17; Friday, Nov. 23

Saturdays, Nov. 24, Dec. 1, Dec. 8 & Dec. 15

### Member & Volunteer Preview Night

5-8 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 15

Members and volunteers receive a 25%  
discount in the New Museum Store

*(One night only. No other discounts apply.  
Books and stationery not included.)*

### Museum Store Open House

Friday, Nov. 16 – Monday, Dec. 24

Enjoy free cookies and cider

*(Members receive member discount.)*

### Buy three ornaments get the fourth free (of equal or lesser value)

Friday, Nov. 16 – Monday, Dec. 24

### Corporate Days

Monday, Nov. 26 – Saturday, Dec. 8

Corporate Members receive 25% off  
regular-priced merchandise

*(Books and stationery not included. No other  
discounts apply. Excludes Kosek Museum Store.)*

**Q:** What's one thing you  
can give to the NCSML  
that costs you  
**NOTHING?**

**A:** Your email  
address!



In return, you'll get timely information about the NCSML  
...and the NCSML won't have to slap a stamp on it!

If you haven't already provided us with your email  
address, please do so by sending us an email at  
eschlegel@NCSML.org. Put your name and your postal  
address in the body of the email (just so we can make  
sure it is you!).

*If you need an incentive, we have one!*

We'll enter every email we receive in response to this request into a drawing for a  
**\$50 gift certificate** that can be spent on anything in the NCSML Museum Store. But, you need to  
send us your email address by Nov. 1, 2012. The drawing will be held on Nov. 2, 2012.



## COUNTDOWN TO RECOVERY

### Eight Weeks Until Grand Opening



Rinderknecht Associates presents the key to the building on May 8, 2012. (L to R) Tom Amosson, president of Rinderknecht; Gail Naughton, president/CEO and Lu Barta Barron, chair of the NCSML board of directors.



NCSML staff toss their hard hats in celebration of receiving the key to 1400 Inspiration Place SW.



Judi Lynch, from Paulson Electric (right), secures a wire cover to the chandelier. There are 48 environmentally-friendly light bulbs in the chandelier. Three-watt LED bulbs will draw a total of 144 watts compared to the previous 1,920 watts of electricity. Nine people worked on the chandelier over four days. Fully assembled, the chandelier weighs about 500 pounds and is eight feet tall.



The Czech-made chandelier, donated by siblings Leora and Edwin Zahorik, hangs in the newly relocated and renovated building. It is a tradition for couples wedded at the Museum and Library to kiss underneath the crystal chandelier.

### Six Weeks Until Grand Opening



A worker from Roger Gwinnup Construction paints the exterior of the Sleger Immigrant Home its original color. Layers of paint were stripped from the house, both outside and inside, to find the true 1800s colors.



Grant Smith, facilities director, guides Ashley Swore, a mover from T & M Services Inc., to the room he needs inside of 1400 Inspiration Place SW. Movers made the transition from the Kosek building (87 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue) smoother and simpler.



## COUNTDOWN TO RECOVERY

### Just Four Weeks to Go



In the Petrik Gallery, Collections Manager Tricia Bender arranges a woman's *kroj* from Domažlice, Bohemia. Tricia curated the *"It All Comes Out in the Wash"* exhibition featuring textiles and 26 *kroje* painstakingly restored after the 2008 Flood.



The grandest delivery arrives four weeks before the Grand Opening: a Yamaha grand piano dedicated in honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Bev & Gene Kadlec from their son and his family, Thomas, Le Ann, Carleen and Chase Kadlec.



Interns John Szymanek and Mariah Cook work with Cataloging Librarian Leroy Bradway to prepare books for cataloging in the Skala Bartizal Library. The new Library, now six times larger, features 5,400 sq. ft., complete with books, periodicals, A/V and archival materials. It also contains media and research rooms.



Stephanie Russell, a visitor services intern, hands out maps to guests from the National Railway Historical Society Convention. The group had access to portions of the building and acted as a test tour group for staff and volunteers on June 20.



Volunteers Mel and Carolyn Holubar label crystal for the Museum Store. Dedicated volunteers, many of whom helped after the 2008 Flood, assisted in opening preparations. During Grand Opening weekend, 191 volunteers gave nearly 800 hours.

### Two Weeks and Counting . . .

President of the American Alliance of Museums, Ford Bell, tours the Kosek building's *"Rising Above: the Story of a People and the Flood"* exhibit on July 2 with President/CEO Gail Naughton. The NCSML is one of 778 accredited museums out of 17,500 in the United States.



Susan Sokolsky, executive assistant, answered calls from across the nation. She coordinated visits of dignitaries and kept the staff and office organized.



## COUNTDOWN TO RECOVERY

### One Week Until the Big Day



George Szlemp, experienced art installer, prepares to hang a piece of the exhibit *"Alphonse Mucha: Inspirations of Art Nouveau"* in the Jiruska Gallery. With only two weeks between the arrival of the 230-piece collection and Grand Opening, installation efforts were intense yet careful.



Mucha Trust Curator Tomoko Sato looks through diagrams of the Mucha exhibit. Sato oversaw the entire installation inside the 7,232 sq. ft. exhibition space—the Museum and Library's largest gallery.

### Final Days Until Opening



Volunteer Chloe Colgan takes a play break with Detoa wooden toys from the Czech Republic while stocking shelves in the Museum Store.



Donors toast the new Museum and Library in Rozek Grand Hall. A President's Luncheon was held to honor and thank each naming donor for supporting and contributing to the new Museum and Library.



Iowa Senator Tom Harkin, left, talks with Jack Evans of The Hall-Perrine Foundation at the July 13 Gala. Donors and contributors were thanked for their support and generosity.



Felicia Vera, assistant facility rental manager, (right) pours wine at the pre-Grand Opening tour for construction crews. The Museum and Library hosted several tours to thank construction crews, members, sponsors, media and neighbors from Czech Village and New Bohemia.



## COUNTDOWN TO RECOVERY

### Grand Opening Weekend



Lu Barta Barron, board of directors chair, Katie Naughton, Gail's daughter-in-law, and Gail Naughton, president/CEO, smile and wave in the Parade of States Pageant.



The *koláče* drill team brought smiles to the faces of many between New Bohemia and Czech Village during the Parade of States Pageant.



With everyone dressed in authentic folk costumes, the Hamous and Naxera families walk in the Parade of States down 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Cedar Rapids. In total, 19 members of the Hamous families gathered at the Grand Opening to walk in the parade and participate in other festivities.



Gail Naughton, president/CEO sums up the Grand Opening of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in three words: "We are back!"



Crowds pour into Rozek Grand Hall as soon as the front doors open. Staff, interns and volunteers were quick on their feet. During the two-day celebration, an estimated 12,000 – 14,000 people visited and participated in the activities.



## COUNTDOWN TO RECOVERY



St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers perform in the Rockwell Collins Amphitheater on Saturday, July 14.



A mother shows her son a photo of him wearing the crown he decorated in the Alliant Energy Classroom. Along with the Creation Station's make-and-take crafts, activities including face painting, balloon animals, caricatures and Czech & Slovak story time were for the young and the young-at-heart.



Joyce Kutin, Museum Guild member, packages *koláče* in the Paulson Electric Kitchen. Baked goodies were in high demand from Babi's Bakery on the Naxera Terrace and *koláče* sold out early.



John Mucha, Alphonse Mucha's grandson, answers questions from Clarice Marik Snokhous (wife of Raymond J. Snokhous, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic State of Texas) from West, Texas and Obediah O'Connor from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mucha also spoke in WFLA/ZCJB Heritage Hall about the Mucha Trust's efforts to preserve his grandfather's legacy.



A mother and her son look at an illustration inside the exhibit, "*Weird & Wonderful: Award Winning Art for Children's Books*," in the Smith Gallery. The exhibit features 76 Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava winners. The center of the exhibit is arranged with bean-bag chairs and copies of some of the books featured in the exhibit for interested readers.



A Building Blessing commences Sunday's activities. Several area churches and choirs united to bless the newly opened building.



## NEWS &amp; EVENTS

## Applause, Cheers, Celebration — How Grand It Was

*Continued from page 1*

atop the former location of the Museum and Library, where several musicians serenaded listeners. A light show that covered the face of the building topped off the evening.

Eager for more, groups returned Sunday. Beginning with a beautiful Building Blessing, the day held activities for all ages. Inside, children and parents gathered to create art in the Alliant Energy classroom and listen to folk tales in the Skala Bartizal Library. Audiences assembled for the Czechoslovak-American Marionette Theatre from New York City. Two sold-out performances of *The White Doe* captivated crowds.

Outside, tents buzzed with laughs, conversations and camera clicks. Face painters, a balloon artist, a caricaturists and the Brass Barn Polka Band entertained the young and the young-at-heart.

Inside, fingers pointed to the crystal chandelier in Rozek Grand Hall. Eyes explored the brick arch that marked the gateway into the building addition. Minds still fathoming

the life and work of Alphonse Mucha left the Jiruska Gallery amazed. Ears listened to Skala Bartizal Library staff informing them of ways to discover their hidden heritage. Hands covered gasps inside the Hemphill Theater as viewers watched footage of a flooded Czech Village, piles of debris and the muck-covered treasures. Those who witnessed the devastation of the 2008 Flood firsthand, and some seeing it for the first time, watched a Museum and Library truly rise above the heartbreak.

Grand Opening weekend was much more than a fun, action-packed weekend. July 14 and 15, 2012 commenced something greater: the renewal of a purpose reaching across the globe; the promise that the preservation of Czech and Slovak history and culture will not be dampened by any amount of water or cost. The promise that the same strength and freedom encapsulated by the very Czechs and Slovaks we represent and celebrate will be here to inspire people of all backgrounds.

## Gather the Family for a Holiday Tradition

**4-8 p.m., Friday, November 30 and  
9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, December 1**

Get ready for the third annual Old Prague Christmas Market. This popular event features festive holiday shopping at both NCSML locations and along 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Enjoy a unique shopping experience in an outdoor heated tent with a variety of vendors selling a host of handmade treasures, artwork and Christmas gifts.

Have brunch on Saturday with *Svatý Mikuláš, Anděl a Čert* (St. Nicholas, Angel and Devil) inside the Museum and Library. Call to make reservations for this new event.



Listen to Christmas carolers while enjoying tasty food and warm beverages. Ride in a horse-drawn wagon and watch the Czech Village tree lighting ceremony. Be entertained by Fire Juggler Dean Franzen and meet Jingles the Reindeer. Visit galleries during extended hours and create traditional holiday decorations at an all day make-and-take holiday craft workshop. The Skala Bartizal Library will host storyteller Jo Stone.

During the event, a trolley will transport shoppers to the Cherry Building, Czech Village and the New Bo City Market. Old Prague Christmas Market is sponsored by GreatAmerica Financial Services. For a full event schedule, visit [www.NCSML.org](http://www.NCSML.org).



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## NEWS &amp; EVENTS

## Upcoming Exhibitions

***St. Nicholas: Discovering  
the Truth About Santa Claus***  
Opening October 19



There is more to St. Nicholas than a jolly old man with eight flying reindeer. Learn how St. Nicholas is celebrated around the world including Czech and Slovak Christmas traditions. Artifacts and interactive activities will illustrate the life of St. Nicholas.

Photo courtesy of:  
St. Nicholas Center  
[www.stnicholascenter.org](http://www.stnicholascenter.org)



*Untitled,  
Otakar  
Slavík  
(1968)*

**Communist Era Art  
in New Exhibit**

*Artists Caught Behind the Iron Curtain: The Freeman Collection* opens Jan. 19, 2013. These paintings were collected by Lee Freeman, art-enthusiast and Honorary Consul to the Czech Republic State of Montana. Freeman began supporting Czechoslovakian artists, who were under oppressive rule, by selling their pieces in the U.S. He then sent the profit to the artists and supplied them with paints and other materials.

***Prague 1968: Photographs of Paul Goldsmith***  
Opening December 22

Captivating photographs of the Warsaw Pact invasion by a then 19-year old college student from the United States. Goldsmith, fleeing the Soviet soldiers who were confiscating and destroying cameras, captured the end of the Prague Spring. Some of these rare photos were sold to the Associated Press and distributed worldwide.



**Find Us Online**



Visit  
[www.NCSML.org](http://www.NCSML.org)



# Upcoming Programs and Events

## ***St. Nicholas: Discovering the Truth About Santa Claus Exhibit Opens***

**Opens Friday, Oct. 19**

Artifacts and interactive activities illustrate the life of St. Nicholas. Included with paid admission.

## ***Alphonse Mucha: Inspirations of Art Nouveau Guided Tour***

with Curator Stefanie Kohn

**All dates 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20, Thursday, Nov. 15 & Saturday, Dec. 1**

Free with paid admission to galleries.



## ***BrewNost! 2012 An International Beer Tasting***

**6-9:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26;**

Tickets \$60 in advance;

\$70 at the door.

## ***Museum and Library Closed for BrewNost! Preparations***

**Friday, Oct. 26**

Kosek building (87 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW) remains open.

## ***Mucha by Moonlight***

**5-8 p.m., Thursdays, Nov. 1 & Dec. 27**

Tour the exhibition, "*Alphonse Mucha: Inspirations of Art Nouveau*" during extended gallery hours.

Cash bar available. Please RSVP to aibisch@NCSML.org.

Free with paid admission to the galleries.



© Mucha Trust 2012

## ***Remembering World War II***

**2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, Free**

NCSML's Rosie Johnston and Katie Shaffer will show footage presenting the realities of life for Czechs and Slovaks during the War—forced labor, food shortages, bombings and encountering troops. Discussion will be moderated by Dr. Margaret Haupt, professor emerita of political science at Coe College.

## ***Mucha and Mocha***

**10 a.m. & 2 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 13**

Enjoy gourmet coffee bar, special treats, a presentation about Alphonse Mucha, the father of Art Nouveau, and conversation with Curator Stefanie Kohn. Then, tour the exhibition, "*Alphonse Mucha: Inspirations of Art Nouveau*." \$22 for general admission, \$20 for members (includes food, beverages, tour and admission to all galleries)

## ***Bobbin Lace-Making Demonstration***

with the Doris Southard Lace Guild.

**11-2 p.m. Third Tuesday of every month:**

**Nov. 20, Dec. 18, etc. Free**

## ***Finding St. Nicholas***

**10 a.m.-Noon, Friday, Nov. 23**

Christmas fun for the whole family including crafts, coloring and cookies.

Free with paid admission to the galleries.

## ***Pat Martin Book Signing***

**1 p.m., Friday, Nov. 23** in the Museum Store

Author Pat Martin signs her new book *Czech Touches* and her other published works.

Book contributors will also be available for autographs including Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2009-2012, Amanda De Hoedt.

## ***Old Prague Christmas Market***

at the NCSML and in Czech Village.

**9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, Nov. 30 &**

**4-8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1**



## ***Svatý Mikuláš (St. Nicholas) Celebration***

**10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 6**

Enjoy visiting with *Svatý Mikuláš, Anděl a Čert* (St. Nicholas, Angel and Devil), sugar cookies, braided fruit and nut breads and beverages. Listen to stories and see the exhibit, "*St. Nicholas: Discovering the Truth About Santa Claus*." Children of NCSML members \$5; children of non-members \$7.

One free adult with paid child. Each additional adult \$5. Children two and under are free.

Reservations required. Contact Abigail at aibisch@NCSML.org.



## ***Museum Guild Cookie Walk***

**9 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 8**

Pick out your favorite home-made Christmas cookies and pay by the pound.

## ***Prague 1968: Photos of Paul Goldsmith Exhibit Opens***

**Saturday, Dec. 22, 2012**

## ***Alphonse Mucha: Inspirations of Art Nouveau Exhibit Closes***

**Monday, Dec. 31, 2012**

## ***Artists Caught Behind the Iron Curtain: The Freeman Collection Exhibit Opens***

**Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013**

## ***Czech & Slovak History & Culture Conference***

**Friday, April 26 & Saturday, April 27, 2013**

All events at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library,  
1400 Inspiration Place SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 unless otherwise noted.  
Call (319) 362-8500 or visit [www.NCSML.org](http://www.NCSML.org) for more information and updates.  
Events subject to change.



### National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

1400 Inspiration Place SW  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

319-362-8500

319-363-2209 (fax)

[www.NCSML.org](http://www.NCSML.org)

#### Hours

Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, Noon – 4 p.m.

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas  
and New Year's Day.

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National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library  
1400 Inspiration Place SW  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

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Special Contributions by Trisha Spence



New staff members arrived at the NCSML with perfect timing. From calling each volunteer and assembling store shelving to correcting building glitches and arranging events, new staff took it all in stride. Front Row (L-R) Abigail Bourman, Volunteer & Program Coordinator; Sara Jacobmeyer, Visitor Services Assistant; Felicia Vera, Assistant Facility Rental Manager. Back Row: Catharine Otto, Assistant Store Manager; Grant Smith, Facilities Director; Don Jacobson, Visitor Services Associate.



Summer interns made a huge impact in their short time at the Museum and Library. From helping with exhibition installation, library cataloging and setting tables to organizing data, assisting the media and answering questions at the information desk, interns did it all. Front (L-R) Ali Winn, Mariah Cook. Middle: Ciera Minor, Trisha Spence, Kendall Kikuts. Back: Rachel Malecek, Stephanie Russell, Sam Crawford. Not pictured: John Szymanek, Natalie Schrader

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