Health of the community
Niles Family and Wellness Resource Fair brings out crowd. Page 4

Vendor booths were set up in the Niles Senior Center Oct. 10 to help residents find resources available to them.

Feeling brave?
Area haunted houses amp up the scares with new attractions. Page 21

Victorious
The Notre Dame football team earned a big win over St. Patrick in Week Seven. Page 41

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Mike Lynch, Aw Yeah Comics salesman

When customers visit the popular Aw Yeah Comics in downtown Skokie, they often run into Mike Lynch behind the counter. Lynch steers them to the right comic and might have a good word with them along the way. Pioneer Press recently asked him a series of questions.

What do you do for a living?
I've worked at Aw Yeah Comics for about two-and-a-half years now.

Where did you grow up?
I grew up in Norwood Park. I currently live near Harlem and Touhy - not far away from here.

Do you have any pets?
I have one dog. Doby, a mutt. She's a little bit of everything.

What book are you currently reading and what book would you like to read next?
I'm sometimes reading "Black Science." It's like a sci-fi comic. It's probably one of my favorite ones out there right now. I'm looking forward to reading the Harper Lee book, "Go Set A Watchman," the follow-up to "To Kill A Mockingbird." That's next on my list.

What's your favorite charity?
St. Jude's because they help so many kids.

Do you have any words of wisdom?
I'm still trying to figure out my whole path in life, but I guess it's don't be afraid to fail.

What is your favorite local restaurant?
Fogo's Peri Peri or Annie's.

What is an interesting fact about yourself?
I've had a Stanley Cup on my front lawn...because John McDonough (president and CEO of the Blackhawks) - one his childhood homes is right next to where I live now. He came by with the Cup in 2010. He did it again in 2013, but I, unfortunately, was out of town.

What's a movie you'd recommend?
Star Wars.
WANTED TO BUY!
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Resource fair brings community together

By Alicia Ramirez
Pioneer Press

A bounce house, reptile show and cooking demonstration were just a few of the highlights from the third annual Niles Family and Wellness Resource Fair held Oct. 10 at the Niles Senior Center.

"I think it's one of those community events that Niles is really stepping out to the forefront with," Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo said. "This is our third one and it's getting bigger and better attended and that to me says that the community is coming together for health and wellness."

The fair offered a way for families to get together, enjoy the day and see what resources are available to them. Along with the entertainment, there were wellness booths that offered flu shots, oral cancer screenings and more. Athletico, the Cook County Health and Hospital System, the North Shore Health Care System and Presence Health were all on hand as well to hand out information to those wanting it.

"All of this is to bring awareness to the residents of Niles and the community in general," Brigitte Povidzki, village nurse, said. "That's why we have flu shots and screenings: We've got to protect ourselves and each other."

There were also booths set up by various departments within the village - such as the mayor's office, chamber of commerce, fitness center, family services, the fire and police departments, the library and food pantry - offering advice to residents on a variety of topics.

Representatives were also there on behalf of state Sen. John Mulroe, state Rep. Michael P. McAuliffe and Secretary of State Jesse White reaching out to constituents about different programs.

"I like the health screenings because I find that very helpful and I like the information provided by the local fire and police departments on carbon monoxide poisoning and different scams and things like that," Dennis DeZur, who splits his time between Niles and San Marcos, Calif., said. "There's always something you can learn by attending exhibits like this."

But when it came to the kids, the biggest hits were safety town, put on by the Niles Police Department and the reptile show put on by Jon Heidler of Dave DiNaso's Traveling World of Reptiles. Heidler even got Przybylo to hold a boa constrictor.

"It was interesting," Przybylo said of the experience. "The snake, because it doesn't want to be dropped and it doesn't see me as food, was very affectionate. It kind of just wraps around you and cuddles you."

As for safety town, kids got the chance to "drive" around a town made for them, complete with stop signs, lane markings and a remote-controlled police car.

"When we noticed that they had the (fair) especially all the activities for the kids, we brought my brother, his wife and three kids," Holly Jurek, of Niles, said. "It's been a hit with the kids, especially the police car."

Alicia Ramirez is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
The 2013 Cops for Coats campaign saw 130 individuals and families receive gently used or new coats, winter hats, gloves and scarves. Above are Park Ridge Officer Julie Genualdi, left, and Maine Township Supervisor Carol A. Teschky.

Niles, Park Ridge and Des Plaines officers collecting coats, winter clothing

BY ALICIA RAMIREZ
Pioneer Press

The fourth annual Cops for Coats campaign put on by the Niles, Park Ridge and Des Plaines police departments is underway with all three collecting gently used, clean winter coats.

“Originally the program was a suggestion brought up by a Park Ridge police officer and she was kind of the catalyst for it and all three of our agencies - Park Ridge, Niles and Des Plaines - are all doing it as a joint effort to benefit residents of Maine Township,” Sgt. Robert Tornabene, of the Niles Police Department, said.

The departments are seeking donations of winter coats for all ages, from infant to adult, that can be utilized by those less fortunate during the cold winter months.

“We can use a lot of kids stuff because it always seems like we don't have enough and if people would like to donate hats, gloves or scarves that are in good condition, that would be welcome as well,” Tornabene said.

Between Oct. 5 and Nov. 12, residents are asked to bring in items to any police station for distribution later in November.

“People in need, sometimes they can’t afford to get a new coat or they have a damaged coat and, as a result, it always becomes an issue to keep protected from the elements,” Tornabene said. “They’re always susceptible to frostbite and injuries from the cold, so if we’re able to get them a good coat, one that somebody else isn’t using, it’s always a good thing.”

One year, Tornabene said, there were more than 900 pieces donated and at the end of the distribution, roughly 100 pieces remained. “It’s the community itself giving back to members in need in the community,” he said. “Everything is local so it benefits everyone here.”

Distribution is scheduled for Nov. 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Maine Township Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge.

Alicia Ramirez is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Activists ask for stronger support against gun shop

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

People For a Safer Society, a local anti-gun advocacy group, is urging Skokie to take a stronger position to support the group's legal fight to keep a planned gun shop and range from opening in nearby Niles.

The Niles Village Board last year approved a special use permit that would pave the way for Sportman's Club and Firearms Training to open at 6143 Howard St. The board subsequently approved an extension for the special use permit to allow the facility to be built by the company 6143 Howard Partners.

Attempts to reach Adam Finkel, one of the members of the corporation behind the yet-to-be-built gun shop and range, were unsuccessful.

Last June, an attorney for the village of Niles, Mike Connelly, said the village could again file a motion to dismiss the new suit, in addition to filing other motions, including whether or not People For a Safer Society have the right to file such a lawsuit in the first place.

From the beginning, People For a Safer Society has opposed the facility, taking legal action on the grounds that it would be located only a short distance away from several schools — including ones in Skokie.

Denise Stoneback, president of the nonprofit group, presented Skokie with petition containing hundreds of signatures on them.

"The petitions started organically," Stoneback told the Skokie Village Board at its Oct. 7 meeting. "When Skokie residents were made aware of the Niles gun shop and range, they kept asking, 'What can we do to help stop it?' So we put together the petition."

Several local members of the group spoke out against the gun range at the Skokie meeting and asked the village to do anything it can to help support their cause. Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen said that the village has taken significant action against gun violence and will continue to help if possible. But the village, he said, can't directly take a position on a decision made by the Niles Village Board.

Representatives of the anti-gun group recently met with Corporation Counsel Michael Lorge to discuss the issue.

Stoneback has appeared regularly at Village Board meetings following national tragedies involving mass shootings.

"The Oregon shootings is on all of our minds," she said. "This shooting is from last week... nine students dead and nine more injured. A troubled young man in possession of 14 guns took all of these lives before committing suicide. There's just one mass shooting after another."

A victim of one of those mass shootings — the highly publicized 2007 killing spree on the campus of Virginia Tech — also spoke out against the Niles gun shop. Garrett Evans was one of 17 victims who survived the shootings while 32 others lost their lives that day.

"We do have a really big problem in this country," said Evans of Chicago, adding that he has become increasingly disturbed by what he believes are more and more deaths by firearms in the United States.

"I'm telling you," he said. "You all do not want this gun range over one or two towns from you."

Evans also gave powerful and vivid testimony regarding his experience of being the victim of a mass shooting — of waking up and going to class when an unthinkable tragedy suddenly occurs.

He heard a loud noise that day, he said, but Virginia Tech had been doing renovation on the building he was in so alarm didn't set in at first. But then the sounds came again.

"Then all of a sudden, door opens and the first thing you see is a .22 unloading rounds — pop, pop, pop, pop," he recounted. "Girl you see falls out of her chair. Guy gets shot in his neck, blood spurting like a faucet. Then guy gets shot right in his face, falls right down."

He spoke about "feeling a weird sensation in his legs" and not knowing exactly what happened to him. He said he was in so alarm didn't set in until the shooter was told he had become part of the pattern and that the shooter would not kill him.

"If I tell you, anybody can shoot anybody," he told the Village Board. "This gun range is so close to you."

Skokie has certainly not ignored gun violence, Van Dusen said.

"I think it's fair to say that the village has had a record of having deep concerns about the proliferation of weapons across the country," the mayor said. "We were one of only three municipalities in the entire country that filed an amicus brief in the Heller case."

"The U.S. Supreme Court in that case ruled that the Second Amendment protects people's rights to own and possess firearms for lawful purposes.

"We urged the Supreme Court to uphold the city of Chicago's gun regulations," the mayor said.

Skokie also passed controversial legislation that laid out restrictions regarding owning or possessing assault weapons. Many Second Amendment advocates attended the Village Board meeting to oppose the legislation, Van Dusen noted.

But he said the village has always argued that municipalities — especially those with home rule powers — are in the best position to decide gun regulations for themselves.

"Now we can't possibly go back to the court and say, well, we believe in home rule except when somebody is passing something we don't like," Van Dusen said.

He added that the village has a history of cooperating with fellow municipalities on a regional basis.

"There's a whole range of issues we cooperate on whether transportation, water — you name it, we take a regional approach through the various bodies," he said.

People For A Safer Society amended a lawsuit against the village of Niles this summer, seeking to annul the special use permit that would allow the gun facility to be built on Howard Street. The initial lawsuit, previously reported by Pioneer Press, was dismissed without prejudice in June by the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Van Dusen said that the village would meet with Tony Hind, the attorney for People For a Safer Society, to find a way, if possible, to be of help under certain constraints.

"I don't know quite what that route is right now," he said.

Passion for percussion: Niles Historical Society to start local drum circle

ALICIA RAMIREZ
Pioneer Press

The Niles Historical Society is trying to get a monthly drum circle started with the first meeting tentatively set for 1 p.m. Oct. 17 at the Niles Historical Museum, 8970 N. Milwaukee Ave., depending on the turnout.

"I have 25 drums at home and I am looking for 25 people," Michael Crisci, of the Niles Historical Society, said. "These are drums that I used to use and I purchased all of the drums back when I was a teacher in 2002 and we used them at the school."

Crisci was previously a teacher at a Catholic school and was approached by the principal of the school and asked if he wanted to do a drumming course with some of the students. Crisci then studied up on the basics of drumming techniques, theories and types of drums, before acquiring the instruments and taking them to the school.

"It's a team-builder and it works by having people play different rhythms on different drums but it all comes together because we're in the same room," he said. "You're part of the pattern when the pattern comes together and runs, oh my goodness."

Along with allowing people to work together to create a beat, Crisci said the drum circle also allows people to feel their emotions throughout the process.

"It's almost like meditation," Crisci said. "Your body becomes part of the rhythm."

While the classes are free, Crisci said a $5 donation is suggested to help with the cost of storing the drums at the Niles Historical Museum and Cultural Center.

Those interested in attending the class are asked to call 847-350-0600 before the event.

Alicia Ramirez is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Niles police assist in investigation at Gemini

BY NATAILY HAYES
Pioneer Press

Two students at Gemini Junior High School in Niles were apprehended by school officials for bringing knives to school during two separate incidents reported to parents last week, according to East Maine School District 63.

The incidents happened within three days of each other during the week of Oct. 5, and both times students had brought knives onto their school buses. No threats were made to anyone in the school, according to Janel Spector-Bishop, communications director for School District 63.

In one of the cases, a student was shown the knife on the bus and then told a teacher as soon as he arrived at school. The bus company notified the school of the other incident, according to Spector-Bishop.

"In neither case were the knives brought to school with intent to harm," she said. "It was more a way for these students to ‘show-off’ to their classmates."

School officials notified parents of both incidents via email on Oct. 9.

In the email to parents, Principal Richard Groeling wrote, "Please be aware that your child may have seen a knife on the bus or heard about a knife during the school day. No one was hurt, threatened in any way or in danger at any point in time."

District 63's policy on bringing weapons to school requires a minimum one-year suspension from school, but the superintendent has the authority to adjust the policy.

A school liaison from the Niles Police Department was assisting with the investigation this week, but police did not comment further on the incident.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Investigation into suspicious activity in Skokie concludes

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

After alerting schools about similar "suspicious activity" at two locations in Skokie, Skokie police have reported that the man involved in the incidents has been identified.

"He has strong ties to the area which explains his behavior on that day," police said in a statement released Oct. 7.

"The subject committed no criminal acts."

Skokie police alerted all schools last week that a man described as white or Middle Eastern was seen taking pictures at 2:48 p.m. on Oct. 3 at the Iran Hebrew Congregation, also known as the Persian Hebrew Congregation, 3820 Main St.

He then went to Niles North High School, police said, and unsuccessfully tried to enter the school before taking photos there.

He had encounters at both locations, police said, before leaving in a vehicle, whose description was reported in the alert by police.

Police said the investigation has now been concluded.

"The public is reminded to remain vigilant in reporting suspicious activity or circumstances without delay by calling 911," police said in its statement. "If you see something, say something.

misaacs@pioneerlocal.com
Twitter @SKReview_Mike

Chicago man charged with sexual assault on Niles spa customer

BY GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER
Chicago Tribune

A Chicago man was arrested Oct. 9 on felony charges of criminal sexual assault after a customer in a Niles spa woke up after a treatment and allegedly found the suspect performing a sex act on him.

Tran Nguyen, 25, of Chicago, appeared in Cook County court Oct. 11 and was ordered held on $75,000 bail by Judge James Brown. Prosecutors said a customer in the spa allegedly woke up to find Nguyen performing oral sex on him.

County court Oct. 11 and was ordered held on $75,000 bail by Judge James Brown. Prosecutors said a customer in the spa allegedly woke up to find Nguyen performing oral sex on him.

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POLICE REPORT

The following items were taken from the Niles Police Department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.

DISPUTE
A 23-year-old man told police he began fighting with a man outside his home on the 9000 block of Grace Avenue on the night of Oct. 2 after discovering three flat tires on his car. Police said the victim alleged that his ex-girlfriend, who was also present, then “jumped” on him and began choking him. The suspects then left the area, police said.

SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT
A 69-year-old woman told police on Oct. 1 that she gave an unknown man her credit card number after the man telephoned her and offered to remotely check her laptop and desktop computers. No charges were made to the card because the credit card company blocked the purchase after determining it was an “unusual transaction,” police said.

THEFT
- A bag of loose change was stolen overnight between Oct. 1-2 from an unlocked car parked in the driveway of a home on the 8200 block of Odell Avenue.
- A pair of designer sunglasses were reported stolen overnight between Oct. 1-2 from an unlocked car parked on the 8000 block of Odell Avenue.
- A car was stolen between 1 p.m., Oct. 2 and 2:30 a.m., Oct. 3 from the 8200 block of Octavia Avenue.
- Someone stole a pair of glasses, valued at $800, from a counter at King Spa, 809 Civic Center Drive, between 1:45-2 a.m., Oct. 5.
- The manager of a store on the 7100 block of Milwaukee Avenue told police that a man stole between 10 and 12 boxes of Prilosec heartburn medication on Oct. 3.
- A laptop computer was stolen from an unlocked car parked overnight between Oct. 4-5 on the 8900 block of Heathwood Circle.

Chicago man sentenced in 2014 beating

BRIAN L. COX
Pioneer Press

A Chicago man found guilty in the beating of a 60-year-old man riding on the CTA Skokie Swift Yellow Line last year has been sentenced to five years in prison.

Ganaa Otgoo, 33, of the 1400 block of South Canal Street, was found guilty of aggravated battery last month in the April, 2014 attack. Otgoo was arrested after police released security video of him on the train to the public, authorities said.

On Oct. 7 at the Skokie courthouse, Cook County Circuit Court Judge Lauren Edidin sentenced Otgoo to five years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

"I am happy that the perpetrator of this vicious attack on a 60-year-old man was brought to justice," said Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Michelle Gemakie.

During the sentencing hearing, Otgoo denied he was the man in the CTA security video released by police shortly after the crime. The victim, however, said Otgoo was his attacker, and though the victim was ill and could not be in court on Oct. 6, he asked prosecutors to read aloud a "victim impact statement" on his behalf.

"The defendant pulled my hooded sweatshirt over my head and punched and kicked me in the face and body even as I lay on the floor of the train curled up to defend myself," the statement read. "I now suffer from migraine headaches and have lost several teeth due to this vicious attack. It is rare that I go out at night anymore. I do not take any trains or buses."

He went on to say that he suffers from depression and anxiety, that he is on medication for both and that he does not visit with friends like he did before the attack.

He also said he cares for his sick 82-year-old mother and asked the judge to give Otgoo "a heavy consequence for beating an elderly man."

"It is hard living this new life," the victim said in the statement. "It can be lonely and frustrating at times just trying to cope day to day and do ordinary things."

Brian L. Cox is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
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Niles Township D219 to re-examine budget

BY BRIAN L. COX
Pioneer Press

Less than a month after approving a $163 million budget, members of the Niles Township High School District 219 school board, on Oct. 9, bowed to pressure from the community and ordered staff to go back to the drawing board and do a line-by-line review of the financial document with an eye to restoring funding to programs that had been cut.

At the same time, the school board dipped into taxpayers pockets with their approval of a three percent increase in the district's portion of the tax bill.

"The district administration had identified what appear to be some intentional line item errors and or reductions that were implemented with inadvertent adverse impact to our schools and students," board President Mark Sproat told the standing-room-only crowd during the district's regular meeting in Skokie.

The 2015-16 budget passed by the board last month rings in at an approximate 10 percent increase over last year's budget, officials said. But the new budget included across-the-board cuts to various educational programs and other items, creating a backlash from the community.

Much of the spending increase in the original budget is caused by the district's purchase of 55 new school busses for $4.9 million and a recent acquisition of three parcels of land in Niles for approximately $2.5 million, officials said.

They said the land purchase encompasses three pieces of adjoining property that will eventually house a bus terminal in the 6100 block of Howard Street and the 6000 and 6100 blocks of Gross Point Road for the new bus fleet.

Approximately $15 million in capital projects is also planned for this year, according to Eric Trimberger, assistant superintendent for business for School District 219.

The district also cut spending in some areas, including its supply budget, which at about $5 million for fiscal year 2016 was reduced by about $487,000 from last year.

"The school board had reduced the field trip budget by 50 percent, cut $100,000 in funding for the Green Council for School Improvement organization and $50,000 for the Technology Council for School Improvement. Other items cut in the budget included the purchase of certain textbooks, arts programs, cuts to district team spending and travel expenses among other things," officials said.

"I'm very happy we have an opportunity to go back and take another stab at it," said board member Brian Novak.

Trimberger, one of the budget's chief architects, told the board that it is late in the budget cycle to make significant changes, but said staff will take a close look at everything with an eye to restoring funding for key programs and services.

"There is substantial increase in capital accounts for both campuses," he explained. "So that did result in an overall increase in their budgets. So while there was an overall increase there were some significant reductions to line items."

Trimberger also said staff will prepare the new budget and bring it back to the board in coming weeks.

"I'm glad we'll go back and look," board member Ruth Klint said. "I do know there were unintended consequences."

"I for one am not willing to see the bottom number increase," she added. "I may be the only one on the board, but that's where I am coming from. What can we do? Do we have to limit the hospitality at the administrative level? Do we have to limit travel at the administrative level? There has got to be some movement or some tightening up somewhere else where it doesn't impact students."

The board's decision to revisit the budget did little to stem anger from some in the community. One-time District 219 board member, Karen Johnson, scolded the board for what she said were their irresponsible actions.

"I have had grave concerns on the budgetary actions of this board eliminating and slashing budgets that have held students of this district hostage," Johnson said. "It's despicable."

"You may vote to approve the bottom line numbers but as board members it's your responsibility to understand how and where those monies are distributed and allocated," she added. "You did not do your due diligence in this matter. None of you have a good understanding of the budget, how it works, what you can and can't do. Are you asking questions that should have been asked long before you approved a budget, not a month after the fact when the public is up in arms."

The school board on Oct. 6 also approved an overall increase of three percent in the district's tax levy.

Trimberger said the increase includes eight-tenths of one percent, or about $1 million, for the CPI increase on the operating side of the budget. He said the remaining 2.2 percent will be used for debt payments.

He said the tax increase means residents living in a home valued at $300,000 will see their tax bill increase by $80.

Brian L. Cox is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

D64: Park Ridge teacher suspended for special-education law violation

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

A local teacher has been suspended following allegations of "unprofessional conduct" and violation of special-education law, but officials are releasing few details on what happened.

The Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 Board of Education voted Sept. 28 to suspend Sean Masterton, a Washington Elementary School special education teacher, for two days without pay.

Masterton was also issued a notice of remedial warning saying that he violated a board policy related to ethics and conduct.

It also accuses Masterton of disregarding federal regulations concerning the "determination of student eligibility for special education services and prior parental notice of changes." But what, if not corrected immediately, Masterton did not respond to a request from the Park Ridge Herald-Advocate seeking comment. Erin Breen, president of the union representing District 64 teachers, also did not respond.

Board President Anthony Borrelli declined to provide specifics of the allegations against Masterton, citing advice from the district's lawyers.

Masterton spoke to the board on Sept. 28 during a closed-door session before the start of the regular school board meeting. Borrelli said during the public portion of the meeting.

Voting against Masterton's suspension was board member Tom Sotos. Scott Zimmerman, who was participating in the meeting via phone, voted "present."

Sotos said he was happy to have had the chance to hear from Masterton.

"It gave us an ability to hear his side of what happened and gauge his sincerity," Sotos said during the Sept. 28 meeting. "I would like to say that the conduct in question, in my opinion, should not be construed by anybody as a purposeful act or acts done maliciously by Mr. Masterton to negatively affect any of his students. On the contrary, in my opinion Mr. Masterton had good intentions and had his students' best interests at heart."

Sotos went on to acknowledge that "certain policies and rules were violated."

The Park Ridge Herald-Advocate is awaiting a response from the Illinois Attorney General's Office, asking that District 64 be directed to release the redacted portions of Masterton's warning.

This is the second time in a month that District 64 officials have heavily redacted information about alleged teacher misconduct, arguing that it could identify students.

District officials declined to provide details in September on a $16,500 fine that was issued to Kate and Victor De La Pasqua. Kate De La Pasqua is listed as a teacher at Lincoln Middle School in Park Ridge, according to the school website.

At the time, Borrelli would only say that matter involved a "residency" issue. The De La Pasquas did not respond to emailed requests for comment.

The Park Ridge Herald-Advocate is also awaiting a response from the Illinois Attorney General's Office on that case.

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D219 annual review prompts school day structure talks

BY ALICIA RAMIREZ
Pioneer Press

Niles Township High School District 219 held its annual review of programs Oct. 7 at Niles North with two items on the agenda: online/blended learning and changes to the school day.

For Niles North Principal Ryan McTague, the two issues go hand in hand. Optional online learning could allow students to take more courses outside of the classroom, he said, freeing up time to take a variety of courses during the school day. Most parents and teachers at the town hall seemed in favor of offering online classes to students, as long as they were not mandatory.

While online learning was one of the two topics covered, parents, teachers and students at the town hall meeting all reacted more strongly to proposed changes in the school day.

"I've been in the district for 13 years and I think I've talked about the school day for all 13 of those years and it has been a journey," McTague said to the parents. "This is a big decision for our district. We're talking about how we educate our kids."

Currently, the district uses nine 42-minute periods with a 10-minute homeroom each day and a double period for science, which McTague said 90 percent of students take.

"There is no perfect school day," McTague said. "We're never going to make everybody happy. There is no magic school day pill that's going to solve all of our problems."

The options presented to the parents at the meeting, which will be presented to the board in November with feedback from parents, teachers and students, included a nine-period schedule, an eight-period schedule and a block schedule with eight periods spread over two alternating days.

All options offered two 20-minute homeroom periods per week and a one-hour teacher collaboration period on a weekly basis. The block schedule was the only proposed schedule with a built-in lunch period.

McTague said the eight-period school day offered the most instruction time.

For parents, one major problem with the proposed schedules was the deficiency in elective periods for their students with the eight-period day and the block schedule.

As for the teachers, to switch to a block schedule would necessitate training to learn how to teach for 90 straight minutes and how to structure lessons in a way that is both engaging and covers the necessary material in two or three days of instruction per week. This also brought up the problem of attendance, McTague said.

"If I'm on a two-day week and I miss a day, then I haven't touched base with that teacher for the full week, but only one day," he said.

While parent and student comments focused mainly on the perceived problems of the block schedule, many said that the system is fine as it stands.

"The schedule that we have, I am very accustomed to and that's something I'm very used to," Niles North math teacher Ankur Joshi said. "I have colleagues in other districts that can find positives and negatives in almost any type of schedule, but I'm kind of biased for the schedule that we have now."

I just don't see a need."

The proposals will go before the Niles Township High School District school board Nov. 3, along with recommendations and feedback from the community.

The board is scheduled to present its final choice at the Dec. 1 school board meeting.

Alicia Ramirez is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Focus on risks of distracted driving

New Trier driver's ed students get real-life warning

BY DANIEL I. DORFMAN
Pioneer Press

Philadelphia attorney Joel Feldman has been on a multistate journey educating and informing people about the dangers of distracted driving.

The work is personal: Feldman's daughter Casey was killed in an accident in which distracted driving was a factor.

"I wanted Casey to make a difference in the world, her life and her death," Feldman said. "I can't say I came to it out of the blue. I came to it because my daughter was killed."

Feldman said he has been to 36 states, plus two Canadian provinces stressing the need for drivers to keep their eyes on the road at all times.

On Oct. 9, Feldman entered New Trier High School — his first stop at an Illinois school — emphasizing his point. He believes the easiest way to prevent distracted driving is to not allow it to become a habit, so making stops at driver education classes is a natural place to start.

"You don't have to drive like your mom and dad because as parents, we are setting terrible examples for our children," Feldman told 14 students. "That is what has to change. Even if it doesn't, I'm so optimistic that the teens will get the message and they will change the way they drive."

Casey Feldman, 21, was an aspiring journalist at Fordham University, who was killed in 2009 in Ocean City, N.J., when a car and his daughter's death are hardly isolated. The circumstances that led to Casey's death are not that important. "She is just as dead," Feldman said.

He said the exact circumstances that led to Casey's death are not that important. "She is just as dead," Feldman said.

Feldman was brought to New Trier by personal injury attorney Matthew Passen, who also represents clients injured due to distracted driving crashes, and Feldman said the numbers could be even higher because unlike drunken driving, there is no test to see if someone was driving distracted.

Passen and Feldman met at a trial lawyers conference and arranged for him to appear locally as part of a yearlong initiative in which attorneys will be going to high schools throughout the Chicago area to discuss the dangers of distracted driving.

"This program seemed like something everyone could get behind, and we have been getting a lot of great interest with attorney volunteers, as well as from schools that want to participate," Passen said. "I knew I wanted to come to New Trier because I love the school and I care about the school. I live in the area and I have two kids who are coming to the school and so it would be an obvious place to start."

As his 50-minute presentation was winding down, Feldman encouraged the New Trier students to say something to drivers — even if it is their parents — if they are paying full attention to the road.

"Don't look at this as you are criticizing someone and they are going to get angry with you; there's a really good chance they are going to appreciate it," Feldman said. "You have a right to be nervous if you are in a car and your driver is looking at the cellphone and not looking at the road."

Feldman showed a video that depicted examples of careless driving interspersed with first-person messages from victims' families and the distracted drivers themselves.

For at least one student learning about driving, it was an attention grabber.

"That was pretty scary," said sophomore David Rosin. "You can't put words on it."

Daniel I. Dorfman is a freelancer for Pioneer Press.
JCC Chicago looks to close Mayer Kaplan Jewish Community Center

**BY MIKE ISAACS**  
Pioneer Press

JCC Chicago is looking to close the Mayer Kaplan Jewish Community Center, which has been offering programming and services for decades on Skokie's west side, the organization recently confirmed.

No closing date has been announced, and registration is under way for next year's camps there.

"We do intend, and we have communicated with our community, that we plan to retire the building at some point," said Addie Goodman, chief advancement officer at JCC Chicago. "But we do not have a firm timeline or definitive plans at this point."

In an August newsletter to its community, JCC Chicago stated that it is seeking a new site for its early childhood program, which is run out of Mayer Kaplan at 5050 Church St.

"The new facility will exemplify JCC Chicago's commitment to hands-on learning and embrace the whole child throughout the learning years," it stated.

A final location has not been determined, according to JCC Chicago.

Goodman, however, promised that JCC Chicago will "maintain a presence in Skokie."

"We're not looking to move away from Skokie or transfer to an entirely different community," she said. "Our primary goal is to provide those families of that community with the very best program and facility as possible."

Some parents said they will feel relieved if JCC programming remains in Skokie and is not transported too far away.

"It would be a loss for the Jewish community because for many people, they're not going to go attend synagogues or join synagogues," said Susan Kaplan-Toch of Skokie, the parent of three kids who have attended Mayer Kaplan. "This might be the only Jewish thing that they do."

Kaplan-Toch said she was "shocked" that plans call for closing Mayer Kaplan because the camps always seemed to be filled.

"I always thought it was such a nice facility," she said. "There's a huge park and a pool right there. I felt it was a pretty JCC, too. It didn't appear to be run down."

Goodman said the facility is no longer state of the art on the level of some of its other venues that run children's programming - even if attendance there is solid.

Roughly 100 children are part of the Early Childhood Program and 400 children are in the day camp program at Mayer Kaplan, she said. There are also other programs for children that are run out of the center.

According to Goodman, it would cost millions of dollars to renovate the Mayer Kaplan JCC.

"It's an older, dated facility," she said.

Goodman pointed to JCC Chicago's Lake County JCC Community Campus built in 2014, a venue where children's programming is held in a new facility.

"That's an example where we retired a store-front base in Buffalo Grove and we moved just a couple miles away in Lake County," Goodman said. "We have a beautiful new facility there that is really reflective of JCC's philosophy and pedagogy and early childhood learning and care."

The Mayer Kaplan JCC was originally home to a robust variety of programming for children and adults, including the National Jewish Theater.

In 2004, it announced that the facility would only house programming for children, including its early childhood program.

All adult programming was finally eliminated at Mayer Kaplan by 2006.

Like others, parent Andrea Garland said her children came to love Mayer Kaplan JCC programs.

"We never thought there was a problem with the building," she said. "It seemed like a nice facility. There was always plenty of space and plenty of people there so we never thought this was going to close any time soon."

How soon is still unknown, as is what will happen to the Mayer Kaplan JCC building, Goodman said.

"We really don't have definitive plans," she said. "At this point, anything can happen. We're not 100 percent sure at this point where direction things will go."

It's possible that the building could be put up for sale, but it's also possible that another community agency can form a partnership with the JCC, she said.

"Any number of things can happen," Goodman said.

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Alzheimer's walk raises close to $200,000

BY JIM NEWTON

The bright fall colors at Independence Grove Forest Preserve in Libertyville were joined by a sea of purple Oct. 11, as a record crowd walked to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's disease.

"This is a record-breaking year. We're over 300 more (participants) than last year," said Cassie Petoskey, event manager for the Greater Chicago Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association's ninth annual Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Petoskey said more than 1,200 people walked the 3.2 miles Oct. 11, and almost all of them have a connection to the disease, whether it is through a relative or friend. The effort had raised $175,000 in online donations as of mid-morning Oct. 11, and another $15,000 to $20,000 was expected to be raised before the end of the day.

"We are walking on behalf of my two parents, who both had dementia and passed away," Bob Blake said, adding that "it looks like a good turnout. It's a good family thing."

Blake said he and his wife plan to make the walk an annual event in the future. "Absolutely. For sure," he said.

Holly Chin of Prairie View said she was walking in the event for the third year, and for the first time with her husband, Lee, and 4-month-old son, Samuel, who hitched a ride with dad in a baby carrier.

Chin said she has known her boss 14 years and both of his parents developed Alzheimer's.

"I knew his parents. His father passed away and that really touched me," she said. "That kind of lit the fire."

Debbie Shandling of Highland Park said her sister, Laura Laney, died of the disease in 2009.

Alongside her mother, Bernice Krizhevsky of Chicago, and other family members, Shandling was walking to raise money and honor her sister.

"One of the last things she said to me was, 'Don't forget me'. So I do this for her," Shandling said. "I sent out just one email and raised over $1,500. People don't have to donate big amounts. Even if it's smaller, it all adds up. It's so important."

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Tombstone stroll honors those who served

Cemetery tour reveals stories of those who died

BY SHERYL DEVORE
News-Sun

Maddie Milton stooped to look more closely at the tombstones of seamen buried in a secluded cemetery surrounded by oak and maple trees at Naval Station Great Lakes.

Her boyfriend, Seth Beaubien, is currently in boot camp at the North Chicago Navy base.

Milton said she participated in the public tour on Oct. 10 with her mother, Maggie, and brother, Theo, thinking it would be a cool activity around Halloween.

But hearing the stories of those who died in a secluded cemetery Oct. 10 with boot camp at the North Chicago Navy base.

Tombstone stroll honors those who served during World War I, Alice Lea and Emma Kotte, are also buried at the base's cemetery.

Two nurses who served during World War I, Alice Lea and Emma Kotte, are also buried at the base's cemetery.

Maddie Milton's mother, Maggie, said the most difficult to tell stories were of those buried there. Bendel came with his wife, Betty. He completed two tours in Vietnam and lost one at the naval base.

Maggie Milton's cousin, Maggie, was buried at the base, Bender said.

Maggie Milton's son, Theo, who's in sixth grade, said that particular story made him "feel bad."

"They did good stuff for the world," he said of the service members buried at the cemetery.

Sheryl DeVore is a freelancer for the News-Sun.
T.L. Fritts to close in downtown Winnetka

BY BRIDGET O'SHEA
Pioneer Press

T.L. Fritts Sporting Goods, the downtown fixture that has supplied local families with everything from bicycles to local school spirit clothing, is closing after 37 years.

"I started this store from scratch," said store owner Tom Fritts, who said he bought what had been a hardware store in the late 1970s to start T.L. Fritts.

Fritts said he posted the "store closing" signs in the front windows on Oct. 6, which he said actually marks a happy milestone in his life.

"We're retiring," he said. "It's a wonderful thing. We're just going to have fun now. It's all good."

The North Shore Scuba Center, adjacent to T.L. Fritts, has been a scuba training center since 1987. Fritts, who also owns the scuba center, said it will remain in the downtown Winnetka location and the center's current instructors are taking over that portion of the business.

Fritts said he plans to officially close the store in December.

Fritts, a 52-year Winnetka resident, said he plans to stay in Winnetka after retirement so he can continue to do volunteer work in the community. He said he has enjoyed serving the Winnetka community, where he reared a family and got to know countless members of the community over the decades of T.L. Fritts' time in business.

"It's a great community," Fritts said. "You meet a lot of friends. It's been a great run."

While Fritts is looking forward to retirement, the closing of this chapter for his business is bittersweet for longtime customers.

"I'm very sad," said Glencoe resident Wendy Averman, who said she'd been a patron for decades. "They've always been an easy-to-go-to store. You come in and they know your kids. We've come here for skates, bikes and bike repairs. It's been our go-to place."

La Grange florist sees plenty of room for growth

BY JANE MICHAELS
Pioneer Press

La Grange Park resident Kim Lesher stumbled upon floral design quite by accident. But it's a talent she's cultivated to launch a second floral and gift shop in La Grange after 18 successful years in Evanston.

Lesher said she opened Bloom 3 La Grange in December at 104 W. Burlington Ave, while maintaining a one-third interest in the Evanston store with two other partners.

It was a risk to start over, she admits, but worth the chance to bike to work on occasion, pick up her two children from grade school and attend all their events.

"Everyone here has been such a great support, knowing I'm local," she said. "My best advertising has been word of mouth. People see the arrangements when I deliver or at a party, and they like it."

Lesher said she thrived on the constantly shifting challenges of Neiman Marcus' visual design department in Northbrook, where she started working more than 20 years ago. She said she was surprised when asked to do the store's floral arrangements for parties and events without any experience or training.

"They gave me a budget and sent me to floral wholesalers. I had no idea," she remembered. "They had high expectations for the types of florals they wanted, orchids and novelty things. They liked what was unique and different."

Lesher said she knew very little about flowers but had to learn in a hurry, especially that first year, once her go-to blossom, tulips, were no longer in season.

"That forced me to look around, and I started going after the textures of flowers," she said. "I never learned how to design how people are taught. I guess I just learned the hard way."

Lesher now incorporates an interesting array of colors and textures, from the fuzzy Green Trick in the carnation family to frilly pink asphodel, snowberry, blushing bride protea and calla lilies with the deep purple centers, known as Picasso.

"I like the super green roses. They're long lasting and a staple," she said.

Lesher said she frequently orders from the Netherlands for a ready supply of orchids, hydrangeas and unusual flowers.

During the summers, she said she cut various blooms from her own garden to fill out arrangements.

The price of arrangements varies but averages $20 to $30, she said. A number of commuters stop by from the train station across the street to bring home a smaller bouquet for $20 to $30, she said.

After getting positive feedback on her floral designs, Lesher said she and two co-workers started Bloom 3, first in a garage and then in an Evanston shop. Lesher had planned on pursing a master's degree in architecture, but said she stuck with her partners in their budding business.

Over the years, the trio added gift items to the shop, mostly vintage and repurposed finds from estate sales, antique shops and various travels, Lesher said. They also showcase area artists' home furnishings and fashions.

"We love to go hunting for those kinds of things, so we figured why not sell it," she said. "We do a lot of road trips during the slow periods. We like barn hopping."

Lesher has polished up a radiator, hung bedsprings on the wall and made hanging lamps out of fishing baskets. She and her partners maintain a customer wish list and keep an eye out for unusual items.

"Nothing ever stays the same here," she said. "I always have to keep it fresh, inventive, intriguing and exciting."

Lesher said she is also branching out to host flower-arranging workshops and parties at her shop and envisions art shows in the future.

Peter Moran, chief executive officer with the Society of American Florists in Alexandria, Va., said new retailers need to have a strong online presence and find that business niche in their communities. Moran noted that 42 percent of floral customers order online.

Moran said some florists are combining ventures, such as Lesher offering gift items. A Baltimore florist has a partnership with a local bakery to pair flowers and baked goods, and a Seattle florist also runs a coffee shop, he said.

"Those retailers who survived the recession have come out stronger," he said. "With the economy coming back, there's a strong demand for flowers."
In search of good scary movies

Randy Blaser

My mom liked horror movies. Not the slasher, blood-everywhere scary movies that we have today, but the classic horror films. This time of year, when I was a kid, my mom would make a bowl of popcorn and settle in front of the TV to watch a classic horror movie - the original "Frankenstein" or "Bride of Frankenstein." She especially liked vampire movies, and would talk about which great actor played the better vampire - Bela Lugosi or Christopher Lee. She was partial to Lee's Dracula.

Some of my scariest moments as a kid occurred at the drive-in movies. Imagine going to a double feature at a drive-in on a cool October night to see "Night of the Living Dead" followed by something called "The Black Cat." Pretty scary stuff, right? But at least you're in the car.

Now imagine having to go to the bathroom during the key scene in "Night of the Living Dead" and not being sure you can find your way back to the car.

One of the scariest films I've ever seen in person in a crowded theater was "The Exorcist." It's hard to relate to someone today just how scary an experience it was if they haven't experienced it for the first time on the big screen. I suppose by today's standards, the film is pretty tame. But I had many sleepless nights after seeing that movie. After 12 years of Catholic school, the devil was a very real thing to me.

One of my favorite fall horror films is "Sleepy Hollow" starring Johnny Depp, who I think plays an inspired Ichabod Crane in this Halloween classic. It has some scary moments, but I also enjoy the story.

Every October, I like to purchase a few more scary movies for my collection. But over the last few years, I really haven't kept up on the latest in terror. It's easy to get out of touch, which means the kids have another opportunity to laugh at the old man.

One year, I made them watch Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds," which terrified me as a kid. Alas, the scariest part for them was when an older gentleman, who was drinking and smoking at a bar in a restaurant during a lull in the bird attack, promised to take a woman back to the city after having "one more for the road." Yes, the 1960s were very frightening.

So I have to ask you: Can you recommend your favorite scary movies to me? Remember, I'm not talking slasher, ax-murdering, Freddy Krueger-type films. I'm talking about real horror.

Robert Englund stars in "Freddy vs. Jason." You can email me at rjblaser@comcast.net. Tell me what you like and why. And if they are good, or scary enough, I can share some reader suggestions in time for Halloween.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Should Realtors get parking restriction exceptions?

Paul Sassone

You would think that parking laws would apply to all of us. But you just might be wrong.

Chicago City Clerk Susana Mendoza is floating a proposal that would allow registered Realtors to buy universal permits to park in parking zones restricted to neighborhood residents. Why single out real estate agents for this exception? Because they want it.

Real estate agents are always out and about showing properties to prospective buyers. Too often, they have trouble finding places to park because of restrictions on nonresident would-be parkers.

The Chicago Association of Realtors has sought a "Professional Parking Permit" plan for years, as the group calls it. The professionals, though, would only be real estate professionals. Here's how the plan would work:

Real estate agents would be able to park in these restricted areas from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The yearly fee to Chicago real estate agents would be $500. The fee to suburban, non-Chicago real estate agents would be $800.

The real problem with the proposal - as you already have figured out - is why there should be parking exemptions for real estate agents alone.

Chicago City Clerk Susana Mendoza, shown Aug. 19, wants to create special parking permits for real estate agents.

Or should they receive an exemption? Should anyone? Why have parking laws in the first place if there are to be exemptions merely because some group wants them? You'll have to ask the Chicago city clerk, I guess. Funny thing, though. There already are de facto exemptions to parking laws.

While not exempted by law, delivery trucks seem to park anywhere and not be ticketed.

The real problem with the proposal - as you already have figured out - is why there should be parking exemptions for real estate agents alone.

So, if Chicago officials decide not to adopt the Professional Parking Permit plan, I suggest real estate agents drive clients to view houses in, say, a beer truck. Beer trucks can park anywhere unmonitored.

Or, real estate agents might try affixing a pizzeria sign to the top of their Lexus. That might work, too.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
The Martian' and the cellphone

Last weekend, I realized that the movie-du-jour, "The Martian," was overrated. I'd done the research, sitting with the rest of the world, watching Matt Damon survive on Mars in this science fiction version of "Home Alone." When the rest of his astronaut buddies flee a little windstorm on Mars, poor Matt gets left in the dust.

For the next 15 hours (which is what it felt like to me), the audience witnesses a series of science projects well beyond the scope of the erupting paper mache volcanoes of America's collective youth. Anyone formerly proud of capturing the inherent energy reserves within a potato will bow before the brilliance of Mark Watney, Damon's character.

As engaging as Damon is, I totally get that some life was like before Lululemon existed, wearing my standard night driving uniform: a flannel nightgown and winter boots. Remember, this was before Lululemon existed, and I was just making an airport pickup. Why not drive in my comfy floral Lanz? Unfortunatel, I can answer that question. The trauma of driving on a rim pales in comparison to the trauma of waiting in the airport for a newscast while wearing a nightwear, which didn't even exist a month ago, instead of waiting 500+ days on Mars for a rescue.

At least Astronaut Watney was wearing the right outfit for his emergency. If I'd gone to see "The Martian" wearing my nightgown, then at least sleeping through the movie would have been more comfortable.

FLYING UNDER THE RADAR

Forecasts and followers reveal who's watching Chicago TV news

My first job in TV news was a daily pressure-cooker, producing the 6 p.m. news in the early 1990s at WIFR-TV, the CBS affiliate in Rockford. Despite furious script typing, crunch-time video editing and racing every day to meet an inmovable deadline ("Good evening, this is the 6:00 news"), I didn't like it that my hard fought newscast was regularly getting beat in the ratings by competing newscasts on the other network affiliates in town and by re-runs of "Hee Haw" on the local independent station.

Yes, I was getting beat by "Hee Haw" and I wasn't exactly "Hee Happy" about it.

That's what I first thought of after reading a recent blog post from veteran Chicago media reporter Robert Feder about WGN-TV's debut 10 p.m. newscast jumping ahead of CBS 2, in the ratings in only its first week on the air. More late night newscast viewers checked out channel 9's newscast, which didn't even exist a month ago, instead of watching a decades-old newscast on channel 2. You know, the show once billed as "The Ten O'clock News" featuring the most iconic Chicago TV news anchor team of all time - Bill Kurtis and Walter Jacobson. Ouch. Times have changed.

So what's the reason for WGN's sudden surge at 10?

Many are pointing to the "Skilling factor." Basically, when mega-popular meteorologist Tom Skilling talks, people listen. Even though Skilling's atmospheric insights are a prominent part of this new newscast, it has to be more than his multi-colored radar blobs and five-day forecasts that are (forgive me) "Skilling it."

So what are how scientific way can we measure a weathercaster's impact on local TV news ratings? Should we compare temperature prediction accuracy or who was closest to forecasting the actual snowfall inch totals for our last blizzard?

"Nah, forget all that. We're going with Twitter followers. As of this writing:

- Tom Skilling WGN 9, 56.4K
- Cheryl Scott ABC 7, 32.4K
- Paul Konrad WGN 9, 22.4K
- Jerry Taft ABC 7, 21.5K
- Megan Glaros CBS 2, 16.5K
- Tracy Butler ABC 7, 14.0K
- Tammie Souza, FOX 32, 9.2K
- Ed Curran CBS2, 8.7K
- Alicia Roman NBC 5, 6.9K
- Demetrius Ivory WGN 9, 55.4K
- Steve Baskerville CBS 2, 1,753
- Mary Kay Kleist CBS 2, 1,966
- Bill Bells FOX 32, 1,443
- Demetrius Ivory WGN 9, 55.4K
- Steve Baskerville CBS 2, 1,753
- Mary Kay Kleist CBS 2, 1,966
- Bill Bells FOX 32, 1,443
- Demetrius Ivory WGN 9, 55.4K
- Steve Baskerville CBS 2, 1,753
- Mary Kay Kleist CBS 2, 1,966
- Bill Bells FOX 32, 1,443
- Demetrius Ivory WGN 9, 55.4K
- Steve Baskerville CBS 2, 1,753
- Mary Kay Kleist CBS 2, 1,966
- Bill Bells FOX 32, 1,443

WGN Meteorologist Tom Skilling does the weather forecast at the WGN television studios in this 2013 file photo.

Eric Scott is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
*VIEWS OF THE GOLF COURSE!*

Skokie...New Listing! Immaculate 2 br-2 bath end unit located at “Siena” overlooking the golf course! 2,021 sq ft unit built in 2006. 1 garage space. Breathtaking Great rm. Fabulous kitchen w/Granite island + counters, SS apps & 42” cabinets + eating area & balcony overlooking golf course. Kitchen opens to den could be 3rd br. Mas br w/WIC+12x12 bath w/Jacuzzi, & sep shower. In-unit laundry with large washer & dryer. Radiant heat in firs. Great location...$359,900

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*OUTSTANDING LOCATION!*

Morton Grove...Brand New Listing! Super quality built & well maintained 7 room brick Ranch on quiet dead-end street! Numerous updates include Pella windows, roof, gutters, furnace & central air. 18’ custom oak cabinet kitchen w/sep dining area. Huge “L” shaped finished family room w/bar, laundry room & storage room + extra closets. Hardwood firs under carpet in living rm & 3 brs. Garage. Near Prairie View, forest preserves, schools...$259,900

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*SUPER SHARP CONDO!*


---

*PEAK OF PERFECTION!*

Glenview...Beautifully maintained 9 room Split-level with sub-basement on huge corner lot! Cathedral ceilings in living rm/dining rm. Hardwood firs. 4 brs & 3 full baths. Updated eat-in kitchen. Formal dining rm w/sliding doors to brick paver patio. Master br with bath. LL family rm, br & bath + bonus rec rm in finished sub bsmt. 2 car detached garage + 1 car attached garage. Beautifully landscaped corner lot. Newer appliances, furnace & C/A...$389,500
Find Yourself @ North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie

BRITBEAT
John Lennon's 75th Birthday Concert
Oct 17

JESSE COOK
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Oct 22

CHRISTINE EBERSOLE
Big Noise from Winnetka
Oct 24

BÉLA FLECK & ABIGAIL WASHBURN
"The first family of the banjo" - NPR
Oct 25

DIANNE REEVES
Winner of 2015 Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Album
Oct 28

Matisyahu
Oct 29

More Shows!
Indian Ink Theatre Company
The Elephant Wrestler | Oct 24

Duo Amal: Pianists, Yaron Kohlberg and Bishara Haroni | Nov 01

Maz Jobrani | Nov 13

Chazz Palminteri in A Bronx Tale | Nov 21

NBC's Last Comic Standing Live Tour | Dec 03

847.673.6300
NorthShoreCenter.org
Enter these haunted houses if you dare

BY ANNIE ALLEMAN
Pioneer Press

"We're going to be overly in your face," said haunted house producer Steve Kopeland. "A lot bigger, a lot more actors, a lot more blood and gore. It will be a lot more disgusting this year I think, because that's what the people want. And we're going to give it to them."

Rob Zombie's Great American Nightmare returns to Odeum Expo Center in Villa Park through Nov. 1 with three new attractions, rock concerts and a carnival on a strip called the Bloody Boulevard.

Last year, the response organizers got was that people had to wait hours in line to go through the haunted house. To combat this, visitors will receive a number so can go on the rides, play games or eat until their numbers are up (so to speak).

The new attractions are based on Rob Zombie horror movies; including Captain Spaulding's Clown School In 3D, The Devil's Rejects and 31, which is based on the movie Zombie has coming out in January.

"With technology, everything is more real," Kopeland said. "We're going to put the patron right in the middle of Rob's movies and make them the victim."

13th Floor Haunted House

13th Floor Haunted House is back in Melrose Park with two upgraded attractions — Feral Moon and Dead End District: Wrong Turn. The haunt will be open weekends and other select dates through Nov. 14. The weekend of Nov. 13 and 14 is a "blackout" event done entirely in the dark; no lights whatsoever except for a glow stick.

"Feral Moon is kind of like classic Halloween monsters with a twist," said Chris Stafford, one of the Thirteenth Floor Entertainment Group partners. "It focuses on werewolves and a modern interpretation of the Wolfman. The other show is Dead End District: Wrong Turn. That's a post-apocalyptic theme, after the zombie apocalypse. The story centers on a character that was a clown that got infected by the virus, and now he's a zombie clown."

He think zombies and clowns are still really popular in haunted houses.

"I think clowns are going to be hot this season. The 'American Horror Story' TV show introduced a clown character that was quite iconic, and a really good interpretation of a clown, and I think the nature of that show, the 'American Horror Story: Freak Show,' was a throwback to some of the vintage Halloween characters, and I know that's something we're paying attention to at our attractions."
steppenwolf

“This is an important Steppenwolf show... a significant achievement and, for fans of this great artist and this company, not to be missed”
- Chicago Tribune

“Witness the implosion of one of the more feverishly emotional, deeply dysfunctional families on the American literary landscape”
- Chicago Sun-Times

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The great American saga about sibling rivalry, family secrets—and the struggle to be good.

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Directed by co-founder Terry Kinney

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GO

SHOW

Ebersole comes home with 'Big Noise from Winnetka'

BY Sheryl DeVore
Pioneer Press

Christine Ebersole left for New York City from her hometown of Winnetka when she was 20 years old to pursue her dream of being in show business. The two-time Tony-award winning actress and singer has been back to visit her stomping grounds often — she still has family here — but this time she's performing.

Ebersole will bring her show “Big Noise From Winnetka,” to the North Shore Center for Performing Arts in Skokie Oct. 24. The show features songs and stories about her life's journey, beginning with her taking violin and piano lessons and appearing in high school musicals at New Trier High School, where she graduated in 1971.

Those who come to the show will hear Ebersole's tale of planning to run away from home so she wouldn't have to take piano lessons anymore. She took them for six years and quit, but continued with violin lessons, singing, acting and enjoying the many opportunities she had growing up.

“I'm grateful for that,” she said.

“Big Noise from Winnetka” is a jazz song written in the 1930s — and the name fits her, Ebersole said.

For example, she's been called a rebellious youth from the North Shore, but actually she said, she was just “adventurous. I wasn't robbing liquor stores or anything.”

Though her parents supported her, leaving for New York City at a young age was indeed adventurous, and it led Ebersole to multiple experiences on and off Broadway, in movies and on television.

One of the highlights was when she appeared in the Academy Award-winning 1984 movie “Amadeus,” as an opera singer who took voice lessons from court composer Antonio Salieri who was jealous of a new composer named Mozart.

“That was a big highlight of my career,” Ebersole said. “It was an amazing time.”

Other highlights include her winning a Tony Award as best leading actress in the Broadway musical “42nd Street” and another for her role in the musical “Grey Gardens.”

She's also been in television sitcoms including a recurring role in the USA Network show “Royal Pains.”

Ebersole will be in a future episode of the CBS show “Madame Secretary,” portraying the First Lady, she said.

She'll perform “Big Noise from Winnetka” in Las Vegas and Los Angeles early next year, and then there are some other exciting times ahead, she said, though she can't reveal what she's doing next just yet.

For now, she's enjoying, as part of her show, singing the tunes she heard when she was growing up.

“There's Joni Mitchell and Fleetwood Mac,” she said. “It's the music of my generation.”

When asked if she preferred singing or acting, Ebersole said, “They are unrelated.

“You really can't do one without the other. What is acting? It's being authentic. A pretty voice will only take you so far — you need to have something to say”

Ebersole is happy she has the chance to say it in her hometown, she said.

“I'm very excited to come back home and perform for my fellow townspeople,” she said. “It was a great place to grow up.”

Actor-singer Christine Ebersole returns home to perform at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts.

Christine Ebersole presents 'Big Noise from Winnetka'

When: 8 p.m. Oct. 24
Where: North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie
Cost: $38-$68
Information: www.northshoerecenter.org
Carnivals and corn mazes
A guide to Chicagoland pumpkin patches

Page 15

Tricks to their treats: Chefs share steps for a Halloween menu

Page 3
Canning, freezing makes garden bounty last

St. Charles grower learns how to preserve fresh produce for all seasons

By Judy Buchenot
Beacon-News

When the garden in your life gives you tomatoes, you start canning, according to St. Charles resident Karin Roberts.

When her garden is bountiful, she cans or freezes produce to enjoy all winter long. Her garden experiences began about five years ago.

"My undergraduate degree was in botany," Roberts said. Although she loved the field, she realized there were limited options for employment and got her masters in marketing and began a busy 20-plus year career with IBM. Her passion for plants was put on hold for several years.

Then came a moment when Roberts and her husband grew concerned about the quality of the food they were eating.

"I really believe in sharing your knowledge," she said referring to a community supported agriculture program where she purchased a share of farm produce. "But I kept getting things I didn't really like so I planted a garden in my backyard about five years ago. It turned out to be a buffet for deer. They ate everything," she said.

The next year she installed a motion-activated sprinkler designed to scare off deer and other garden invaders with a quick blast of water.

"It worked very well and the second year, I had a lot of produce," she said. "I had so much produce that I started giving it away but then I thought, 'wait a minute. I should use this produce.' So I started canning." Roberts, 55, volunteers at Primrose Farm, the St. Charles park district working farm, and learned a few canning tricks from the staff there. She also has an aunt who cans everything who gave her advice.

"I had tomatoes, peppers, garlic, onions and zucchini — all the things I like. I ate the zucchini as they ripened but had to come up with something to do with the rest." Among her first canning successes was salsa.

"The first time I made it, I chopped the jalapeno peppers by hand and my hands tingled for days from the oils," she said. "I then started using a food processor. Salsa is really easy with a food processor. You just toss everything in and turn it on."

Over the years, she has experimented with many different ways to use produce.

"Last year I made spaghetti sauce that I froze in containers instead of canned. When you can tomatoes, you have to add vinegar and I didn’t like that flavor in my sauce so I tried freezing instead. I could then take the container out of the freezer, let it thaw, add a little tomato paste and it was really good spaghetti sauce," she said.

Roberts has also tried drying her tomatoes. After coring and cutting the tomatoes into chunks and removing some of the seeds, she dried the tomatoes in a 175-degree oven for several hours.

"I put them in a plastic bag in the refrigerator to use on pizza but they can be frozen for later use," she said. "I tried doing a CSA," she said referring to a community supported agriculture program that provides families in need with gardens.

"Garden Works Project, a nonprofit that provides families in need with gardens, "who cans everything" who gave her advice," Roberts said. "I had tomatoes, peppers, garlic, onions and zucchini — all the things I like. I ate the zucchini as they ripened but had to come up with something to do with the rest." Among her first canning successes was salsa.

Karin Roberts enjoys using her garden produce to make giardiniera and salsa, which she then cans.

Karin Roberts enjoys using her garden produce to make giardiniera and salsa, which she then cans.

Salsa is really easy with a food processor. You just toss everything in and turn it on.

"I put them in the freezer for a few days to marinate before using for the best flavor." For example, Roberts makes the pickled vegetable mix known as giardiniera but leaves out carrots because she doesn't like them in her mix.

"We put it on chili, on pizza, on all kinds of meat. It is really good," she said.

The recipe makes a small batch, which is ideal for a beginner. She shares her recipe for others to try.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer.

Find more suburban cooks on Page 4.
TRICKS TO THEIR TREATS

Chefs share simple steps to a festive Halloween menu

By Veronica Hinke
Pioneer Press

For treats without tricks this Halloween, we asked area chefs for simple steps for a festive dinner table. Here are some no-fuss ways to dress up your Halloween menu.

At Mon Ami Gabi in Oak Brook, executive chef Bruce Williams is getting ready for a Halloween dinner party. The restaurant will host Oct. 28.

Williams will make flavorful, seasonal purees with ingredients like pork sausages and butternut squash to showcase Halloween party menu items like horseradish-crusted braised short ribs. The purees add color and balance with a subtlety of earthy, seasonal flavors.

And making purees is simple: To make a parsnip puree, for example, combine 1 pound of peeled, thinly sliced parsnips with a tiny handful of thinly sliced garlic. Add 1/2 cup of cream, 1/2 cup of milk, and 2 tablespoons of butter to it all to a boil in a saucepan over the stovetop. Lower the heat, cover the saucepan and simmer until the parsnips are soft (10-15 minutes). Remove the saucepan cover and reduce the liquid in half by continuing to cook. Season with a pinch of salt. Puree in a blender until smooth. Plate the puree and top with a pinch of salt. Puree in a blender until smooth. Plate the puree and top with a pinch of salt.

For a costume party at Autre Monde in Berwyn on Oct. 31, the menu features a ten-course meal dedicated to a different screen siren. Executive Chef Luis Mendoza Sr., Cine Modern Taqueria will pay homage to the spirits of Oaxaca’s seven varieties of different moles. His favorite food was pork and mole verde.

“Mole verde is the lightest and freshest-tasting of Oaxaca’s seven varieties of different moles,” Mendoza said. “His favorite food was pork and mole verde.”

Mendoza will also tip his hat on Halloween to Mexican actor Pedro Armendariz, who loved mole poblano, a chocolate-laced sauce that originated in the Mexican mountain town of Puebla.

And his Halloween dinner will end on a sweet note in honor of Mexican movie star Dolores del Río’s favorite dessert, which was tamales dulces or capulin black cherry.

“She was the first Mexican movie star with international appeal and had a meteoric career in 1920s Hollywood, which was an extraordinary accomplishment for a Hispanic female in those years,” Mendoza said.

To make a Ghost cocktail, West blends 1 1/2 ounces of vodka with 1/2 ounce Kahlua and 1 ounce of a grappa-based aperitif. She mixes it all together with ice, straws and pour.
Cook learns how to handle making recipes vegan-friendly

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

Finding out your dinner guests are vegan might send many people into a panic, but Naperville resident Wendy Hayum Gross found the prospect of altering a recipe to be an interesting challenge.

"I don't think I have ever really followed a recipe from start to finish," she said with a quick laugh. "I look at the ingredients and decide to change things and add things that I like. I often take recipes that my husband and I love and try to make them healthier, so cooking a vegan meal was just another new recipe."

Gross decided to make a hearty fall meal of chili and cornbread.

"I looked at several vegan recipes for chili," she said. "I liked one recipe but it used bulgur wheat and I didn't want to use that. I thought it would make it too grainy. I knew the wheat was to add protein so I decided to use soy chorizo instead, which you can get at Trader Joe's. And I didn't want it to be just a pot of beans so I added a lot of seasoning for flavor."

The cornbread was also an interesting challenge.

"I took out the eggs and added a little canola oil. In place of milk, I used unsweetened almond milk. It turned out so well that I think it will be my go-to recipe. It is really very light and fluffy," Gross said.

Gross enjoys baking and cooking.

"My mom and grandma were fabulous bakers, and I love to bake but I am not as much into sweets as I am into savory."

Many years ago, Gross ran a small catering venture for a short time where she provided dinners for two. She is a licensed clinical professional counselor but has placed most of her energy into being a Mary Kay sales director for 31 years.

"Mary Kay [Ash] trained me. She told me 'you can do it' and got me started."

The Rotary Club of Naperville takes up another big part of Gross' life. She is the president and is busy getting ready for the farewell food tour of Soup's On, the club's annual charity event.

Guests who attend this event are invited to sample soups, stews, sandwiches, sliders, wings and desserts.

"It is the eighth Soup's On," she said. "We have supported DuPage PADS, Hesed House and Loaves and Fishes and now they are all grown so much we felt it was time to try something new."

Gross said efforts are being made to make this final event memorable.

"There will be over 20 restaurants there and lots of great food and great desserts," she said. "The high school kids who provide the entertainment know it's the last one and they are all trying to give it their best."

Although the food is plentiful and delicious, Gross said the best dish offered at Soup's On is a heaping helping of hometown friendliness.

"The whole community is there. I always see people that I haven't seen in a long time and we catch up and talk. There are volunteers, students, neighbors, club members — it is like being with family."

Tickets for the Oct. 18 event are still available and can be purchased at the door.

Gross has been a rotary club member for 15 years.

"I joined Rotary because a friend asked me to join, but I have found that I love being part of a group that encourages me to be a better person," she said. "The

Wendy Hayum Gross spoons up a serving of her vegan chili into a souvenir cup from Soup's On. This will be the final year for Soup's On, the Rotary fundraiser for charity.

Wendy's culinary cue

Do not throw out those wine corks. They are heat resistant and very light. Wine corks can be used to make trivets, wreaths, placecard holders and bulletin boards. Wendy even created a whimsical backsplash from hundreds of wine corks glued in a tidy design.

Soup's On

When: 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Oct. 18
Where: Naperville Central High School, 440 Aurora Ave.
Tickets: Adults $45, Seniors $35, Children 6-12 $10, Under 6 free
Information: www.soupsonrotary.com

Vegan Chili

1. In a Dutch oven, saute chorizo until slightly crispy. Peel and chop onion and garlic. Chop peppers. Add onion, garlic, peppers and carrots to chorizo. Cook until onion is transparent. Add chili powders and cumin and mix. Add tomatoes and tomato sauce. Mix. Drain and rinse beans. Add to mixture.

2. Cook down until mixture reaches desirable consistency. Add salt to taste. If mixture becomes too thick, thin with wine. If desired, serve with cilantro and green onions as a garnish. For a vegetarian meal, serve with sour cream or grated cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese.

Vegan Cornbread

1. Mix cider vinegar, almond milk and canola oil in a bowl and set aside. Mix corn meal, flour, baking soda, salt and sugar in a large bowl. Mix liquid ingredients with the dry ingredients and stir until blended. Pour into an 8-inch baking dish. Bake at 400 degrees for 35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean. Cool and cut into squares to serve.
Perhaps you recall the plight of Janice, whose issue was featured in Help Squad in August when she learned two Novus Serum trial products she ordered were not actually free but instead cost just under $100 each. In response to her request for assistance, Help Squad called Novus on her behalf.

Following a lengthy wait, we were informed that the trial was just that, a trial, but not free. After some discussion, the agent agreed to take the products back and refund Janice her money within 10 days of its receipt. That was on July 24.

In mid-August, Janice received a return receipt confirming Novus' acceptance of her returned product. However, when Help Squad contacted Janice on Sept. 1 to see if her refund had yet posted, the answer, unfortunately, was no. So for a second time, Help Squad called Novus and waited ... and waited ... for “a live agent to be with [us] shortly.” When an agent eventually took our call and accessed Janice’s record, she informed us there was no entry indicating Novus’ receipt of Janice’s return. When we explained that Janice had actually received a signed return receipt, the representative confessed, “I’ve been doing this job for less than a week now and I’m afraid I don’t have good news for you. I’ve been taking one call after another from people wanting to return product and get a refund, or saying they can’t locate the company online to place an order.”

When we asked to speak to a supervisor, the agent told us they were all tied up with calls. When we asked if we could leave our number for a supervisor to call us back, she said simply, “I don’t think that would be useful.” She offered to make a note in Janice’s account that the products had been returned and no refund had been received, but wasn’t willing to issue a refund herself. When pushed for a manager’s contact information, the agent told us that Novus’ customer service center was staffed by third-party agency LiveOps and she provided the company’s 800 number. We called LiveOps and left a detailed voicemail message for the vice president of human resources. Not surprisingly, we never heard back.

Help Squad was about ready to throw in the towel.

Then on Sept. 24 - a full two months after our first encounter with Novus - Help Squad decided to give it one final try. Surprisingly, on this day we waited for an agent for less than two minutes, and the individual we spoke with was helpful. He pulled up Janice’s record and saw all of her transactions, including the return of her products to the Novus warehouse on Sept. 1. (This entry was actually the note posted to her account by the agent Help Squad spoke with on Sept. 1, but we weren’t going to argue.)

He promptly issued Janice her two credits for $98.41 and $97.41. Confirmation was emailed to Janice, and two business days later she received her refunds. Janice emailed us to say, “I received the refund into my account yesterday! THANK YOU SO MUCH for all your help! Whew! I feel so much better. It hurt to know [a company] could do that to an innocent victim.”

Even though this Novus story ultimately has a happy ending, simply conducting an Internet search or checking the Better Business Bureau’s website for Novus Serum likely would have resulted in avoidance of this company. Red flags and negative reviews are plentiful.

Before purchasing any product online from a new or unfamiliar company, consumers should ALWAYS do a quick Internet search and check to see if the Better Business Bureau has record of any consumer complaints against the firm.

Need help?
Send your questions, complaints, injustices and column ideas to HelpSquad@pioneerlocal.com.

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
Curtis skewered by his own appetite

By William Hageman
Chicago Tribune

The public has spoken. Curtis the boxer is the winner of the 2015 Hambone Award.

The prestigious piece of hardware goes to the most unusual pet insurance claim of the year, as determined by Nationwide, the nation's oldest and largest pet health insurance company.

Nationwide picks a monthly winner, then lets the public vote. And Curtis came home a winner.

Curtis gets the trophy, and the veterinary team from Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, who saved his life, will receive a $10,000 award to treat pets whose owners could otherwise not afford treatment.

The 5-year-old Curtis made it to the final round after an extended encounter with a wooden barbecue skewer.

Valerie Mould of Princeton, WVa., is accustomed to Curtis' appetite for things he's not supposed to eat. He downed a Frisbee once. She says that, more than a year ago at a family barbecue, Curtis purloined a skewer of chicken and beef shish-kebabs.

"I saw him grab it and chased him outside," she said. "When I caught up to him, I yelled for him to drop it and grabbed the end sticking out of his mouth, but the skewer snapped right as I got my hands on it, and Curtis swallowed it in one bite."

She called a veterinarian, who told her to watch to see if the skewer broke down and passed from the dog's system. The next evening Curtis vomited and collapsed, and he was taken to Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.

Neither an ultrasound nor an endoscopy could locate the skewer. Curtis stayed in the ICU for a couple of days, then was sent home.

All was well until a few months later, when the dog became lethargic and lost his appetite. Several visits to his local vet didn't solve the problem, and after Curtis' condition deteriorated, he was taken back to Virginia Tech. There, vets found a large mass near his liver. When they performed surgery to remove the mass, they found it was a large area of scar tissue surrounding the skewer that Curtis had eaten more than a year earlier. It had gone through his intestines and traveled through his body until adhering to his stomach and pancreas.

With the skewer removed, Curtis is slowly returning to his old self and has a great story for his pals at the dog park.

His tale of woe won over voters, helping him edge out runner-up Charm, a Persian cat from Woodbridge, Va., who swallowed more than 3 feet of packaging tape. After treatment at Animal Hospital in Frederickburg, Va., Charm eventually passed 19 inches of tape and regurgitated the rest.

The third-place finisher was Rocky, a miniature dachshund from San Diego who fought off a rattlesnake that was threatening his siblings. Rocky suffered multiple rattlesnake bites, but the team at Veterinary Specialty Hospital in San Diego was able to save him.

Bhageman@tribpub.com

PET OF THE WEEK

It is very sad, my family is losing their home and they could no longer keep me. I lived with kids of all ages and did great with all of them. While I lived with a dog and we pretty much did our own things, I would prefer to be your only dog. I love long walks, playing and basking in the sun. I also know a bunch of commands and I am a well behaved dog. My friends here are also very proud since I am a graduate of the doggie etiquette 101 class. No one is ever too old to learn new tricks.

This Lab/Great Dane mix is about 13 years old, neutered, up-to-date on routine shots and rabies, heartworm negative and on preventative and microchipped.

For additional information, visit www.saveapetil.org.
Survey reveals top 20 deal-breakers

In every romantic relationship, there are things about the other person that bother us, annoy us and even drive us a little crazy. He leaves his dirty socks on the floor. She takes two hours to get ready for a party. He is glued to the couch during football season with the exception of answering the door for the pizza delivery guy.

Perfection in any relationship is impossible, but if we love someone enough, we are willing to overlook certain things and instead appreciate all the wonderful attributes that make it work.

But what happens when you discover something about him or her and you know in your heart you just can't live with it? Often described as a deal-breaker, his or her behavior can be horrifying, extremely disappointing, really scary or gut-wrenchingly sad. A deal-breaker is the realization that your only choice is to break up because you know the person won't or can't change.

Everyone's deal-breakers are unique personal choices. I know what my deal-breakers are, but I was curious to hear what others had to say on the subject. So, I reached out to over 3,000 men and women on Facebook and asked. Here are the 20 most popular deal-breakers:

- Cheating
- Dishonesty
- Smoking
- Someone trying to change me
- Harsh critic
- Big drinker
- Lazy
- Someone who hasn't evolved or done the work on himself/herself
- Someone who lives with his mother
- A pot smoker
- Someone who thinks sex is an annoying obligation
- Abusive
- A guy who wears jean shorts
- Someone who values money over love
- Someone who is mean
- Someone who is dirty/slovenly
- Nutty family
- Arrogance
- Someone prone to addictions
- Someone unemployed for long periods of time

Some of these might seem silly. Others are serious issues. But all are qualities, habits, addictions, character flaws or circumstances that people just can't or simply don't want to live with.

So as not to dwell on negativity, I decided to ask this same group of people what their deal-sealers are - in other words, what factors would have them diving into a relationship?

Responses included:

- Someone who actually does what they say they are going to do
- Someone with quiet confidence who is happily self-reliant, present focused and sees the humor in being human
- Loyal, honest and willing to work through issues
- Confident
- Consistency
- Someone who likes me for who I am
- Someone who makes me feel loved and protected
- Someone I respect and look up to
- Someone I feel I can trust as much as I trust my own family
- A giver
- The thing about deal-breakers and deal-sealers is, we all think we know what ours are. However, the reality is, life is so unexpected that it's hard to predict if someone we meet might change our list.

I'm not saying that someday you could wake up and decide that living with a drug addict is acceptable, but rather that a special someone and the gifts he or she brings to the table might change your priorities, what you're willing to put up with and what you really can't live without.

The best thing I can say about deal-breakers is that they often define some of our standards and moral values. Deal-breakers offer us pride and self-love, because if you think about it, deal-breakers are the things we can't or won't accept, simply because we know we deserve better. I suppose that makes our deal-breakers gifts in a backhanded kind of way.

How? Because self-respect stems from the courage it takes to put your foot down and say "deal-breaker!"

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
**CHICAGOLAND BEST-SELLERS**

1. "The Martian" by Andy Weir (Broadway, $15).
2. "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr (Scribner, $27).
5. "Killing Reagan: The Violent Assault That Changed a Presidency" by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard (Henry Holt, $30).

Participating bookstores: Barbara's Bookstores (Chicago), The Book Cellar (Chicago), Seminary Co-op Bookstore and 57th Street Books (Chicago), Anderson's Bookshop (Naperville), The Book Stall at Chestnut Court (Winnetka), Women & Children First Bookstore (Chicago), The Bookstore (Glen Ellyn), The Book Bin (Northbrook).
Pre-Columbus Day Sails: Short cruises from Genoa

Across
1. Alarm bell sound
6. Tasty
11. Shot in the dark
19. Kindergarten
20. Exclusively
21. Greater number
22. Keep... (persevere)
23. Mediterranean
26. Prefix for tone
27. Env. contents
28. Oscillate
29. Be under the weather
30. Diamond sluggers
32. Irish actor Stephen
33. Turf
34. Nerve tissues
35. Ouzo flavoring
39. Brody of The Pianist
41. Mediterranean port
43. Casual pants, for short
44. Averse to activity
45. Talks nonsense
46. Personal angle: Abbr.
47. Hertz alternative
48. Subside
49. Compass dir.
50. Emotional intensity
51. Set eyes on
52. Bonnets and berets
53. Novel's coda
57. Dame ... Mirren
58. Go astray
59. Chop down

60. Cry of indignation
61. Surprisingly
62. Mediterranean port
65. Madcap comedies
68. Descendants
69. Pub order
70. Half a figure eight
73. Goodwill
74. NFL or NL team
75. Walkman
descendant
76. Deliberate
misstatement
77. Tach readings
78. Sweetie
79. Little bird with a big voice
80. Elton John musical
81. Hydrocarbon
sufffix
82. Brown paper
83. Pastoral sounds
86. Shows anger
87. Mediterranean
port
90. Start of a Descartes
declaration
91. Subsidied
92. Most rainy
93. Generous
94. Graduation gift
95. King in The
Tempest
97. Poetic preposition
98. Where many sohps
sleep
99. Cleo's snake
100. Drinks with scones
101. Mediterranean
port
103. Caesar's rebufke
104. A big fan of
109. Low-cost, in brand
names
110. Some racing
vehicles
111. Friends character
112. "All" or "nothing"
113. Crime and
Punishment
character
114. Subordinates

Down
1. Tourist accessory
2. Tried to hear better
3. Iberia or Olympic port
4. Phone bk. entries
5. Shots in the dark
6. Mixed greens
7. Compatriot
8. Detective story
pioneer
9. Weigh- (boutr
rituals)
10. Neutralize, as a
cobra
11. Less significant
12. Cargo measure
13. Crescent part
14. Pub order
16. Early nuclear
reactor
17. Inning-by-inning
recaps
18. Gourmet
appliances
24. Triumphant shout
25. Inflexible
26. "Rock Around the
Clock" soloist
27. Conclude with
28. Reform Party
founder
29. Columnist Molly
30. CSlsuccesses
31. A member of
32. Blast furnace
input
36. To some degree
37. A member of
38. Neutral colors
39. Neutral colors
40. "Scream!"
41. "Scram!"
42. Soccer cheer
43. Casual pants, for
Mediterranean
44. Balloon material
45. Surfboard
46. New Testament
book
47. Sensed
48. Preposterous
50. "Rock Around the
Clock" soloist
52. "Rock Around the
Clock" soloist
53. Conclude with
54. Reform Party
founder
55. Columnist Molly
56. Meadowlands
57. Was optimistic
58. Got rid of
59. All-year voucher
60. Peruvian of yore
61. Ballon material
62. New Testament
book
63. Preposterous
64. Betrays awe
65. Ship: 
66. Willing to try
67. Casino locales
68. Commerce
69. Battery
70. Got rid of
71. Laterally
72. All-year voucher
73. "Scram!"
74. "Scram!"
75. Country on the
Caspian
76. Country on the
Caspian
77. Actor Holbrook
78. Mo. with no legal
holidays
79. Cool one's heels
80. Most important
"numero"
81. Lithium-
82. Doc's prescriptions
83. Subsequently
84. Prefix for physicist
85. Relief sculpture
86. Taiwan alias
87. Mo. with no legal
holidays
88. Commerce
89. Annoyances
90. Novelist Caleb
91. Hot drink
92. Hot drink
93. Hot drink
94. Hot drink
95. Hot drink
96. Thor's father
97. Couture initials
98. Couture initials
99. Couture initials
100. Couture initials
101. Mediterranean
port
102. Country on the
Caspian
103. A/C measure
104. Sarge, for short
105. Lithium-
battery
106. Foe of Frazier and
Foreman

Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island
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Quote-Acrostic

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

Clues Words

A. Ooze 147 118 33 86 45
B. Rowdy person 73 46 153 81 143 113 9
C. Running a deficit: 3 wds. 120 37 99 54 74 112 129 144 1
D. Having ribs 106 88 64 139 48 149 122
E. Uncontrolled 86 134 47 65 75 4
F. State of mind 95 125 150 50 23 63 136 10
G. Look over 83 158 121 98 127 61
H. Having two purposes: 2 wds. 103 19 3 25 87 137 145 154 41 34
I. Develop favorably: 2 wds. 62 91 106 20 26 142 17

Words column:

J. Seeming; apparent 24 101 31 97 39 76 116 13 99 136
K. India's capital 11 69 115 138 44 58 78 108
L. Carolina cape 28 92 77 111 68 152 55 16
M. Devoted admirer 100 97 140 14 146 84 71 157
N. Make progress: 2 wds. 90 22 114 8 133
O. Preyed upon 32 72 156 52 128 102 2
P. Mint family plant: 2 wds. 67 27 148 15 107 141 57 124 40 94
Q. Candy or gin 35 82 53 6 105 96
R. Customary 126 12 38 79 155 93 29 117
S. Gets the better of 130 123 30 70 42 56 60
T. Greasy 60 21 151 36 119 7 89 51 104 132
U. Shed; hyph. 131 18 5 110 49 66

Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island

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By Leslie Mann
Tribune Newspapers

It was "clear from the start," Sade sings in "Kiss of Life." "I knew you were the one for me. I swear the whole world could feel my heartbeat."

How do you know when your true love is "The One"? As Sweetest Day approaches — it falls on Oct. 17 this year — we collected a variety of answers to that question.

"My body tingled every time he touched me," says TV exec Mona Scott-Young about her husband, Shawn Young.

"I was a bachelor living in the woods with a bunch of dogs," and here was a woman who loved me enough to give me a gift certificate for two llamas. (I always wanted a llama.) We got married in our backyard, with our new llamas, Larry and Louise, in the receiving line.

— Bill Berloni, "From Wags to Riches With Bill Berloni" (Discovery Family), about his wife, Dorothy

"I knew Steven was the one when he waited patiently while I went to an artists residency program for a year."

— Chelcie Porter, photographer, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

"My daughter, Mary, then 12, kept inviting a neighbor, David, for dinner because he was sad. (His wife had died.) I joke that I had to marry him because I couldn't afford to keep buying his dinners. But, really, it's because we shared the same values. We're both 91 now, and Mary still adores him."

— Mary Peck Stockton, retired college administrator,

Portland, Ore.

"While we were at Ikea, I told Sarah, "I know we just started dating, but I'm not going to spend $200 on this table if you don't want it in your house someday." She told me to get the table."

— Matt Paxton, host of "Hoarders," regarding Sarah, now his wife

"After our first date, Jake had to return home to Australia. I crazily-missed him so much I flew to Australia later that week. The rest is history."

— Paige Hemmis, DIY expert on "Home & Family" (Hallmark Channel), about her husband, Jason Short

"I knew it was love when my now-wife (Jude Medeiros) told me you can't get good bread or pizza outside of New York. (The fact that she was insanely cute didn't hurt.) During our wedding, the minister asked us what brought us together. We both said, "Carbs!"

— Jean-Marie Navetta, director of equality and diversity partnerships, PFLAG National

"When I met Jeff, he talked about family, dogs, love, careers. But I knew he was the one when the discussion turned to finances. You have to be able to freely discuss money matters."

— Cris Ruffolo, nonprofit development director, Kalspell, Mont.

"On the morning of 9/11, the madness of the attacks left me wanting to have a family with Stephanie. In an instant, everything else was meaningless."

— Brian Arbuckle, composer/producer based in Los Angeles, about his wife, Stephanie Richards

"When I met Sharon, I knew I had to spend the rest of my life with her. When you're young, you go with someone because they're attractive. You don't know that sharing values is really what's important. So I'm lucky to have found someone who is extremely attractive and shares my values too."

— Felix Munoz, retired sales representative, Tucson, Ariz.

"When I first met my wife, Molly Callaghan, I asked her, "Are you ready to get married?" She said, "Yes.""

— Jennifer Gallaher, Hunstville, Ala.

"I knew it was love when he asked me, for our first date, if we could go toy shopping with his daughter. Being willing to stand in long lines right after Christmas with his daughter said a lot about him. After that, we were inseparable."

— Brian Arbuckle, composer/producer based in Los Angeles, about his wife, Stephanie Richards

"I knew Scott was the one when he asked me, for our first date, if we could go toy shopping with his daughter. Being willing to stand in long lines right after Christmas with his daughter said a lot about him. After that, we were inseparable."

— Brian Arbuckle, composer/producer based in Los Angeles, about his wife, Stephanie Richards

"I knew Cathy was the one on our first date. She's unconventional, has a high degree of tolerance (necessary to put up with me) and never judges anyone negatively. And, she's pretty."

— Jim Stanek, retired transit system station manager, Novato, Calif.

"After I met Joan on a blind date, I wrote, 'Her very warm smile grabbed me right away, when I hugged and kissed her on that fateful day.'"

— Daniel Lavery, attorney and author, Granada Hills, Calif.

"When I first met my husband, Scott, I had a premonition, as if I already knew him. I felt like we went back a long time."

— Natalie Parus, musician, New York

Leslie Mann is a freelance reporter.
Why a sexy Cecil the lion costume this Halloween isn't a completely outrageous idea

By Adam Tschorn
Tribune News Service

Thanks to lingerie and costume website Yandy.com, lovers of wildlife and skimpier costumes will be able to pay homage to the late Cecil the lion this Halloween and raise some money for a good cause at the same time.

That's because the e-tailer has created a Cecil the lion costume — and pledged a portion of each sale to benefit wildlife conservation. This comes two months after the Zimbabwean lion was killed by trophy-hunting Minnesota dentist Walter Palmer.

The made-in-the-USA costume consists of a light brown crushed velvet stretch polyester bodysuit with long sleeves, a zip front and an attached tail. Also included is a faux-fur-trimmed hood accented with a pair of lion ears.

The limited-edition costume is priced at $118.95, which makes it considerably more expensive than the site's other lion-themed offerings, including the Courageous Lionness ($89.95) and Cozy Lioness ($59.95). But Yandy.com is promising to send 20 percent of the purchase price from the Cecil costume ($23.79) to the World Wildlife Foundation to support global conservation initiatives.

The higher price tag didn't seem to deter customers at all, as the initial run of sexy Cecil togs, which became available on the website last month, is sold out. But fear not: According to a representative for Yandy.com, more inventory is on its way, and customers will be able to start placing pre-orders. More sexy Cecil ones were expected to be in stock by the first week of October, with pre-orders shipping at that time, we're told.

Yandy.com joins a host of other efforts to raise money and awareness in the aftermath of Cecil's death. Last month, Ty Inc. announced it would be offering a Cecil Beanie Baby, with 100 percent of proceeds going to the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit of the University of Oxford. That same organization, which had been conducting a long-term study of Cecil's pride, is also the beneficiary of Stephanie Conrad's Cecil the lion tote bags. The Texas-based pet portrait artist, recently told us she'd raised $1,100 for the group.

We'll be interested to see if the outfit, which in our opinion could just as easily be a Snoop Lion costume as a Cecil the lion one, generates any controversy, or if the charitable element trumps the idea of selling skimpy costumes on the back of a dead lion.

With less than two months to go before Halloween, we're pretty sure we haven't seen the last of the pop culture costumes.

A crossbow-carrying Minnesota dentist costume, anyone?

By Wendy Donahue
Tribune News Service

What's more terrifying: Handing a child a knife to plunge into a pumpkin, or wielding a hot glue gun yourself? For me, it's a draw. But this Halloween, I decided to set aside my irrational fears of crafting — along with lethal weapons, including glue guns — to try out a few no-carve ideas on our family's pumpkins.

First-round research suggested that black is the new orange. Many of the most fashionable pumpkins are wearing it. (Black paint is always slimming.) Accessories include homemade wings, tails and whiskers for pumpkins masquerading as bats or cats. Day of the Dead motifs are also trendy.

Even rats find favor — craft experts at EasyArtStudio.com showed us how easy it was to draw the rodent, cut it out, trace it onto a pumpkin, then fill in with black paint. (Acrylic paint is even better than craft paint, but either works.)

Craft experts at OneStrangeBird Blog.com and SewCraftyStudio.com offered tactical tips to affix bat or cat appendages to a pumpkin. Coat the pumpkin in black or purple paint. Dry overnight. Draw, cut, then paint both sides of paper appendages. (If you paint only one side, the edges will curl.) Let dry. Then, for bat wings, poke three toothpicks in a row down each side of the pumpkin. Place the paper wing in front of each row. Run a strip of tape across the back of each toothpick onto the paper to secure. A cat tail could be secured with straight pins.

For cat whiskers, pierce the pumpkin with three pipe cleaners, cut in half, for each side. Slap on a heart-shaped sticker for a cat nose. Or cut facial features from felt. Glue or tape them on. Optional: Glue on yarn for a mouth.

If that sends Martha Stewart shivers down your back, Target sells many all-inclusive decorating kits.

My 8-year-old and I loved a Day of the Dead one, including white paint and foam applicator, stickers and adhesive gems, for a mere $5 (target.com).

Success with those experiments got me creative pumpkin juices flowing. I raided our pantry for stale sweets to produce a candy-faced pumpkin. Bug eyes consisted of leftover marshmallows from summer's smores, plus peppermint patties and Dot candies dating to Halloween 2013. Red and black Twizzlers became lips, hair and eyebrows, secured by straight pins.

Quicker still: A craft expert at GrowArtists.com proved that even common household objects can trick out a pumpkin. Just clap out and glue on facial features from magazines, varying the scale.

Whatever your method, if the results are more grotesque than intended — fantastically Hideous is in season.

See tinyurl.com/prune6fl for the results of all my no-carve experiments.
From carnivals to corn mazes
A guide to some of the larger Chicago-area pumpkin patches

BY KORI RUMORE AND GEOFF HING
 Tribune data visualization department

1. **ABBEMY FARMS**
   20855 Hart Road, Aurora
   Hours: Sun.-Fri., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-10 p.m.
   Admission: Free
   About: Old-fashioned theme including a learning farm, petting zoo, pony rides, crafts, craft beer tent, pumpkin catapult, tractor tire play area, ziplines and tepee.

2. **BEN'S GIANT PUMPKINS**
   43 Jericho Road, Sugar Grove
   Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily
   Admission: Free
   About: Small, quiet, family farm-style pick your own pumpkins from the field. Unique pumpkin selection from big to small, odd shapes and colors as well as giant pumpkins up to about 500 lbs.

3. **BENGSTON PUMPKIN FARM**
   13341 W. 151st St., Homer Glen
   Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily
   About: Activities include pig races, animatronic scenes, tractor-pulled wagon ride, petting zoo, camel and pony rides, corn jump and a free family photo barn.

4. **DIDIER FARMS**
   16678 W. Aptakisic Road, Lincolnshire
   Hours: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily
   Admission: Free, fee for some activities
   About: Family farm that has been in business at this location for 103 years. Activities include hayrides, corn maze, animals, camel and pony rides, carnival rides for kids, antique tractors and gem mining. There's a cafe with homemade apple cider and pumpkin doughnuts.

5. **GOEBBERT'S PUMPKIN FARM**
   40 W. Higgins Road, South Barrington
   Hours: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily
   Admission: Free, fee for some activities
   About: Farm grows and sells their own pumpkins and vegetables. Activities include a pumpkin-eating dinosaur, pig racing, giraffe barn, more than 50 types of animals, pony rides, haunted house, gem mining, several mazes and a new "MiniLoons" display. They also make their own caramel apples.

6. **HEAP'S GIANT PUMPKIN FARM**
   4855 U.S. Highway 52, Minooka
   Hours: 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. daily
   Admission: Free, fee for some activities
   About: An affordable, family-run farm that grows all of the products sold on the farm. Over 90 different varieties of pumpkins, gourds and squash as well as beautiful mums and other fall decor. Activities include mazes, castle and pirate ship playgrounds, hayride to pumpkin patch and animals. Nighttime activities include mazes and moonlight hayrides.

7. **HONEY HILL ORCHARD**
   11783 Waterman Road, Waterman
   Hours: 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily
   Admission: Free
   About: Activities include hayride (weekends only), animal petting zoo, apple and raspberry picking, bakery with cider doughnuts and pies. Store sells cider, honey, food and crafts.

8. **JOHANSEN FARMS**
   710 W. Boughton Road, Bolingbrook
   Hours: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. daily
   Admission: Free
   About: Hosts more than 30 attractions including petting zoo, play areas, haunted barn, Chris Kyle "American Sniper" corn maze, tire mountain, sports play area, train rides, obstacle course and slides. For additional fees there is gem mining, zombie paintball, climbing wall and pony rides.

9. **KROLL'S FALL HARVEST FARM**
   13236 W. Town Line Road, Waukegan
   Hours: Mon.-Thurs., Noon-8 p.m.; Fri. Noon-10 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
   Admission: Free; fee for some activities
   About: Pumpkins are from a network of four family-owned farms. Activities include corn maze, hayrides, animals and picnic area.

10. **KUIJPERS FAMILY FARM**
    1N318 Watson Road, Maple Park
    Hours: Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
    Admission: Mon.-Wed., $11; Thurs.-Fri., $13; weekend $15.
    About: Farm and apple orchard offering 25 varieties of apples. Activities include pig and duck races, mazes, haunted forest, hayrides, animals, children's games, playgrounds and Uncle Jed's Scream Shed.

11. **ROYAL OAK FARM**
    15908 Hebron Road, Harvard
    Oct. hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
    Nov. hours: Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed Sundays
    Admission: Free, there are picking fees per pound or bag
    About: Farm is one of the largest apple orchards in northern Illinois and features apple tree maze. Activities include hayrides and wagon tours on weekends, bakery, restaurant, playground, petting zoo, carousel and trackless train.

12. **SIEGEL'S COTTONWOOD FARM**
    17250 Weber Road, Lockport
    Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily
    Admission: $14.95 weekends; $11.95 weekdays.
    About: Hosts more than 30 attractions including petting zoo, play areas, haunted barn, sports play area, train rides, obstacle course and slides. For additional fees there is gem mining, zombie paintball, climbing wall and pony rides.

13. **SONNY ACRES FARM**
    29W310 North Ave., West Chicago
    Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily; 7-9:30 p.m. weekends for the haunted wagon ride.
    Admission: Free
    About: Family-owned for over 130 years. Activities include hayride, haunted wagon ride, haunted barn, spooky shed, carnival rides, costume shop, photo booth and fun house.

14. **STADE'S FARM & MARKET**
    3709 Miller Road, McHenry
    Hours: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily (market); 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (fall festival)
    Admission: Free, theme park area cost $15 for activities
    About: Features a long hayride with antique tractors. Other activities include corn and pumpkin cannons, slides, climbing areas, corn and rope mazes, pedal cars, petting zoo, tractor tire play areas, ziplines, carousel, hamster wheels, tricycles, semi-truck experience and rope climbing hill.

15. **WINDY ACRES FARM**
    37W446 Fabyan Parkway, Geneva
    Hours: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. daily
    Admission: Free, range of $5-$12 costs for various activities
    About: Seasonal family farm selling produce and premium quality items. Activities include petting zoo, face painting, corn maze, life-size hamster wheel, slides, obstacle course, rubber-duck races, tractor rides, corn tunnels, pedal tractor truck and honey harvesting demonstrations and concessions.

SOURCES: Interviews with the pumpkin patches
We know your favorite spot better than your spouse

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metromix.com
6 cool Halloween treat containers for all ages

Trick-or-treaters can store their goodies in these cool Halloween bags and buckets

Light-up Jack O'Lantern Mickey Mouse trick or treat bucket, $16.95 at www.disney store.com

DISNEY STORE

Felt bat LED treat bag, $14.99 at www.kohls.com

KOHL'S

Plush Princess treat bucket, $9.99 at www.partycity.com

PARTY CITY

Hello Kitty plush Halloween pail, $12.99 at www.spirit halloween.com

SPIRIT HALLOWEEN

Rubie's Costume Co. Thomas & Friends 3-D trick-or-treat pail, $12.99 at www.sears.com

SEARS

Marvel's Avengers trick-or-treat bag, $12.95 at www.disneystore.com

DISNEY STORE
Classic Georgian home in Winnetka: $2,699M

ADDRESS: 790 Sumac Lane, Winnetka
ASKING PRICE: $2,699,000
Listed on Sept. 11, 2015
Stunning classic brick Georgian on a half acre in country-like setting. Built in 2004, the home has been cared for and lovingly maintained by the original owners, resulting in a brand-new feel. Gorgeous lot, lush mature landscaping and perennial gardens surround this sophisticated, comfortable home. Special features: Formal living room, dining room and library. Chef’s kitchen opens to family room, sunny breakfast room and bluestone patio/rear yard. Custom mudroom, two powder rooms on first floor. Second floor features five large, en-suite bedrooms, including master suite with separate sitting room, private dressing room and spa bath. Second-floor laundry room and back staircase. Lower level features sixth bedroom and bathroom, exercise room, large recreation room with bar/kitchenette, game area, homework/arts and crafts room, utility/storage room. Additional storage in attic (Bessler stairs). Also, four fireplaces, three-car attached heated garage, circular driveway, cedar shake roof, copper gutters, generator, alarm, sprinkler and sound systems.
Agent: Laura McCain of The Hudson Co., 847-347-4630

At press time this home was still for sale.
Designers consider entertaining, collecting needs

By Michele Lerner
The Washington Post

When Madelyn Smith moved to her newly built home in McLean, Va., she knew she couldn’t replicate the antique all-brick wine cellar tucked under a staircase in her previous home, but she needed specialized storage for the approximately 50 cases of wine she and her husband have purchased.

“We buy in bulk for entertaining, and we had gotten used to having a special place to keep it,” she says.

Like most people who want a wine cellar, Smith opted to convert a storage room on the lower level to accommodate their wine. Smith and her interior designer, Marika Meyer, owner of Marika Meyer Interiors in Bethesda, Md., wanted to incorporate a wood storage cabinet with interior lighting that Smith already owned into the wine cellar.

“We have an open-floor-plan home now, and that means there’s not a lot of solid wall space for things like our wood storage cabinet, so it was a great solution to put it in the bonus room as the starting point for the wine cellar,” says Smith.

Whether you are a wine connoisseur who buys wine to store for years, or you entertain often and need space to keep just a few cases for a year or two, the most cost-effective place for wine storage is a basement.

“The best place for a wine cellar is not only in the basement but at the front of the house, which is usually the area of the basement that’s the deepest underground,” says Jim Rill, principal of Rill Architects in Bethesda. “You need a cool, insulated space with its own cooling system and ventilation system.”

“The ideal temperature is 55 to 58 degrees, so the closer you can get to that, the less you have to spend for cooling,” says Doug Roberts, an architect with GTM Architects in Bethesda.

Wine cellars can be retrofitted into an existing home, but it’s easiest to design one for a custom home or newly built home, says Roberts.

Roberts says you can either connect the cellar to the home’s air handling system or buy a self-contained system. According to the Web site Wine Enthusiast, cooling units range from $1,000 to nearly $5,000, depending on the method of installation and the room size. Roberts recommends putting the wine cellar near a mechanical closet if possible in case the cooling system needs to run through the wall or needs a drainage area.

Meyer says that buyers who don’t plan to store their wine for more than a couple of years can opt for less costly storage systems.

Wine cellars need appropriate storage racks, which can range from costly custom-designed racks to mass market racks.

“We ordered inexpensive wine racks online so we could spend more money on the masonry and stone in our wine cellar,” says Smith.

Mike Johnson, senior designer with Lori Graham Designs in Washington, worked with Spence and Renata Patterson, homeowners in Chevy Chase, Md., on their $27,000 wine cellar, which holds about 1,000 bottles.

“We never thought of ourselves as ‘wine cellar people,’ but when we renovated our home, we had the opportunity to outfit one of the basement rooms that at the time looked like a medieval dungeon into a fantastic wine storage and entertainment space,” Spence Patterson says. “One of the more interesting challenges of renovating a home built in 1916 is that you get to renovate around something a little more modern and have some luxury. We added a lighting plan for the space, including sconces and ceiling lights in each stone alcove, and chose a light-gray paint for a modern look,” says Smith. “Right now the billiards room is a playroom with space for building forts and for Thomas the Tank Engine, but someday we’ll formalize the whole area, and the wine room will be ready for that phase.”

Johnson’s design for the Pattersons included retaining the stone wall on one side of their basement and putting in a slate floor to help keep the space cool.

“We added a Tongue-in-Groove wood-beamed ceiling and tongue-in-groove wood on two of the walls and stained it to match the color of the wine barrels that make up the storage racks and counters,” says Johnson.

Underneath the island is space for magnums of wine. The room has a glass door to allow the wine to be visible yet protected with climate and humidity control.

“We love to entertain in the wine room, especially since it’s a bit hidden,” Spence Patterson says. “We like the space during extremes. On a hot August day, we can retreat down to the cellar and you’d never know it’s 100 degrees outside. In the winter, it’s a cozy place to open a big bottle of red with friends.”

One of Rill’s clients opted to convert a home theater room to a wine room designed for entertaining and storage.

“It’s designed to look like it was carved out of a mountain, with stone walls, stone floors and stone niches,” says Rill. “The center island was built out of a couple of pieces of wood with the bark still on it for a rustic look.”

The wine room holds about 4,000 bottles of wine on custom-designed angled shelves so that the labels can be displayed but the cork never gets dry, says Rill.

“The room curves like a bay window and has decorative doors that make you feel like you’re going into a castle,” says Rill.

“There’s room to sit and taste wine in the room, or you can take bottles to the bar that’s nearby.”

Rill estimates that the cost of this wine room was more than $100,000 because of the quality of the materials used along with the installation of climate and humidity control systems.

Homeowners who opt for a wine room and have traditional tastes tend to want a room with primarily stone and wood, says Roberts, while those who want something a little more modern add glass and metal to the space.

“One way to make the wine cellar the focal point of your lower level is to put it behind a bar with panels of glass and a glass door so you and your guests can see inside to the stone walls and wine racks even when the door is closed,” says Roberts.

Roberts says more and more customers are opting for wine rooms, particularly in larger homes with 5,000 to 7,000 finished square feet since those homes have an abundance of storage.

“In smaller homes, it works well to tuck a wine storage space under the stairs with racks and an interesting light fixture,” says Roberts. “Most customers want wine storage above all.”

Michele Lerner is a freelancer.
We remember when you partied like it was 1999

Reintroducing Chicago's original entertainment guide

Experience the new Metromix.com, now on all of your devices. With entertainment listings that cover the city and the suburbs, we’re your go-to source so you can spend less time planning, and more time doing.
(Left to right) Rebecca Jordan, Linda Reiter and Deanna Dunagan star in Shattered Globe Theatre's production of "Marvin's Room."

PEOPLE

Spotlight: What people in the arts are up to this month

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Here's a look at the latest news on local authors, actors, artists, musicians and more.

Keyed up: Oak Park resident Toni Lynice Fountain is cast in Pegasus Theatre Chicago's world premiere of "For Her as a Piano" by Nambi E. Kelley. Kelley's play, infused with music and magic, is the tale of a woman's journey to learn her history. Fountain earned a Black Theater Alliance award in 2013 for Best Leading Actress in Musical for her portrayal of Gertrude Murphy Ward in "Clara" at Open Door Repertory. For tickets, call (866) 811-4111 or see www.OpenDoorTheatre.net.

Identity crisis: One dinosaur in a clan of females turns male in "Triassic Parq," receiving its Chicago premiere by Circle Theatre at Heartland Studio in Rogers Park. Appearing in the off-Broadway cult classic musical are Oak Park native Neala Barron and Park Ridge native Erin Daly. For tickets, visit www.circletheatrechicago.org.

Student featured directed by teacher: "Feathers and Teeth," Charis Castro Smith's horror comedy, at Goodman Theatre through Oct. 18, stars Olivia Cygan, who grew up in Evanston and now attends Northwestern University. Cygan is directed by another Evanston resident, Henry Godinez, an associate professor at Northwestern, who happens to be one of her current teachers. For tickets, see www.GoodmanTheatre.org.

Multitalented Memories: "Apples in October," a retrospective of work by River Grove artist Mary Blinn, who died in June, is on display through November in the Columbia College Library. It's a story: The winner of two Emmys as a writer for "The Colbert Report," Evanston native Peter Gwirm, has created a book and lyrics for a playfully-titled musical, "The Story of a Story (The Untold Story)." Underscore Theatre Company is producing the world premiere through Nov. 8 at Chopin Theatre. Skokie native Kirk Jackson is in the cast. For tickets, call (312) 646-0975.

Lucky exhibit: Faisal Mohyuddin, a Highland Park High School teacher, is one of three Pakistani American artists featured in Ta'weez Project No. 1, an exhibition at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center in Evanston through Oct. 18. Ta'weez is an amulet or locket that usually contains verses from the Quran. The other exhibiting artists are Sadia Uqaili and Zafar Malik.

Double milestone: Shattered Globe Theatre opens its 25th season with a 25th anniversary production of "Marvin's Room," by the late Chicago playwright Scott McPherson. Rebecca Jordan, an Evanston native, plays Lee in the show. Jordan is a founding ensemble member of the company and has performed in over 20 Joseph Jefferson award-winning Shattered Globe productions. Performances run through Nov. 14 at Theater Wit. For tickets, visit www.TheaterWit.org.
FAMILY FRIENDLY

Pumpkin Party returns to Proesel Park on Oct. 24

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Treat your kids to free fun at the Pumpkins in Proesel Park Halloween Party, 1-3 p.m. Oct. 24 at 6915 Kostner Ave., Lincolnwood.

“We had the Boo Bash last year at the Mall,” said Linda Vering, community outreach and marketing coordinator for the Village of Lincolnwood’s Parks and Recreation Department. “That was really fun and we had huge attendance, but we had a lot of feedback from residents saying they really preferred the smaller, local neighborhood event that we did in Proesel Park years ago.”

“It’s going to be a fun, low-key Halloween event,” Vering said.

In the event of inclement weather, the event will be held at the Lincolnwood Community Center.

For details and more information, call 847-677-9740 or go to www.linthookwood.org.

Going to market

While you’re shopping for fresh produce at the next-to-last Skokie Farmers’ Market of the season, your kids can meet the Animal Control Officer, watch RC Juggle perform and listen to music by Richard Northrop.

Market hours are 7:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Oct. 18 in the Village Hall Parking Lot, 5127 Oakton St.

For details, call 847-933-8257 or go to www.skokieparks.org/emily-oaks-nature-center.

Full STEAM ahead

Children ages 2-6 will get a STEAM Start, 10-11 a.m. Oct. 16 at Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave. You’ll work with them on a self-guided exploration of science, technology, engineering, art, math and reading at this drop in event.

For details, call 847-825-3123 or go to www.parkridgelibrary.org.

Sip and sum

There will be songs, stories, counting and, of course, lots of numbers at a Mathematics Tea Party for kids ages 3-5, with a parent or caregiver, 2-3 p.m. Oct. 18 at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. Reservations are required.

For details, call 847-965-4220 or go to www.mgpLorg.
Gershwin Tea raises $5,000 for Park Ridge Orchestra

Event: 'A Gershwin Tea'
Benefitting: Park Ridge Civic Orchestra
Special guests: Sarah Young, vocalist, Kent Wehman, piano
Location: Cafe La Cave, Des Plaines
Date: Sept. 26
Attended: 120
Raised: $5,000
Upcoming: "Berlioz to Batman," a Halloween 7 p.m. family concert at the Pickwick Theatre Building Oct. 28, in downtown Park Ridge, which starts with family activities at 5 p.m. in Hodges Park, and a 6:30 p.m. costume parade from Hodges Park to the Pickwick Theatre. More can be found at the "events" tab at www.parkridge-civicorchestra.org.

Jane Wagoner, from left, and Judy Bacon of Park Ridge, Harriet McCullough of Chicago and Mary Schaefer of Park Ridge

Kathy DiPietro of Park Ridge

From left, Nancy Meunzer, orchestra founder, and Kathy Hanson, both of Park Ridge and Pam Benitez of Des Plaines, president

Cathy DePrizio, left, and Gerie Meyer, both of Park Ridge

Sandy Lavelle of Chicago, left, and Kathleen Barton of Park Ridge

Robert and Susan Chennell of Chicago

Kimberly Rose of Chicago, left, and Deborah Oberschelp of Park Ridge and Park Ridge Civic Orchestra executive director
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<td>1470 Jefferson St, # 301, Des Plaines</td>
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This list is not intended to be a complete record of all real estate transactions.
Data compiled by Record Information Services • 630-557-1000 • public-record.com
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

A two-story colonial home in the Sherwood subdivision, the four-bedroom, 2.5-bath home offers over 3,200 square feet of space and attached 3.5-car garage. The home offers a dining room, eat-in kitchen with stainless steel appliances, hardwood floors throughout, remodeled bathrooms, master bedroom walk-in closet and a new hot water heater. Backyard access is from the family room.

Address: 1418 N. Salem Blvd.
Price: $649,900
Schools: John Hersey High School
Taxes: $15,488
Agent: Sheila Brunetti/RE/MAX Suburban

MUNDELEIN

The home is a custom modern Seville model in the Fields of Ambria neighborhood offering three bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms. The open floor plan model is recently updated with stainless steel appliances and granite countertops in the kitchen that opens to a family room with skylights and fireplace, newly installed roof and hardwood floors in all bedrooms throughout.

Address: 1621 Verde Lane
Price: $339,900
Schools: Mundelein Cons High School
Taxes: $11,173
Agent: Joanne Blessing/Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Libertyville

HIGHLAND PARK

A modernist home by Chicago architect Dennis Blair features original granite stone walls, slate floors and mahogany wood throughout the exterior. The floor plan offers five bedrooms, four full baths with those in the bedroom wing featuring mid-century architecture, three wood-burning fireplaces, a sunken living room, vaulted ceilings and sliding doors to the courtyard.

Address: 2070 Partridge Lane
Price: $675,000
Schools: Deerfield High School
Taxes: $13,685
Agent: Jude Offerle/Baird & Warner Winnetka

PARK RIDGE

This three-bedroom, three-bathroom brick bungalow home offers an open floor plan with three finished levels. The kitchen has stainless steel appliances and granite countertops, and there is a wood-burning fireplace in the living room. Outside, the backyard has a deck and in the front, there is a covered front porch.

Address: 2701 Oakton St.
Price: $379,900
Schools: Maine South High School
Taxes: $6,049
Agent: Michael Stangel/CENTURY 21 McMullen


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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Please call the venue in advance.

Thursday, Oct. 15

Natural Solutions to a Balanced, Pain-Free Life: Join in finding out how chiropractic can help you be pain-free and improve your health naturally. 6 p.m. Thursday, Golf Chiropractic, 1455 E Golf Road #206, Des Plaines, free, 224-567-8306

Found Launches Live Music Every Thursday: The Josh Rzepka jazz trio performs. 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Found Kitchen & Social House, 1631 Chicago Ave, Evanston, free, 847-868-8945

All-State Exhibition: selected works from across the state: 10 a.m. Daily, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St, Evanston, free, 847-475-5300

All My Relations: Seneca History: In collaboration with visual artist and dancer Rosy Simas (Seneca), this exhibit features traditional and modern Seneca artifacts. 11 a.m. Daily, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St, Evanston, free-$5; $10-$12 for talk, 847-475-1030

Native Haute Couture: The year long exhibit features garments that showcase American Indian artistry. 10 a.m. Daily, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, 847-475-1030

Evanston Legend: The Art of Peggy Lipschutz: 10 a.m. Daily, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, free, 773-816-4716

Model Railroad Garden: Landmarks of America: Features 18 G-scale trains chugging along 1,600 feet of track past replicas of American landmarks. 10 a.m. Daily, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glenview, free-$6, 847-835-5440

6 Wicket American Croquet: North Shore Croquet Club offers free coaching sessions and practice games to learn 6 Wicket American Croquet. 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Thursday, Saturday and Wednesday, Glenview Golf Club, 621 Wesley Road, Glenview, free, 847-409-5526

150th Anniversary of the End of the Civil War: Living history in an encampment with oral histories presented in authentic civil war era uniforms. 9 a.m. Daily, Glenview History Center, 1121 Waukegan Road, Glenview, $5 suggested donation, 847-728-2235


Adult Literacy Classes: Fall Session: For native and non-native English speakers to improve their reading and writing skills. 9:15 a.m. Thursday and Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, free, 847-729-7500

Battle of the Books: Glenview 4th & 5th Graders: Are You Ready to Read?: Establish a team of four members, read the books and test knowledge with other teams at the library. 9 a.m. Daily, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Twitter: Get acquainted with this online social networking service. 2 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

StoryWalk: The Little Red Hen by Mary Flinch: Stroll, bounce, hop or bike along the path to read this retelling of the classic tale. 9 a.m. Daily, Gallery Park, 2001 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Everybody Move: An hour of activities and exploration. 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Hot ticket: "Avengers: Age of Ultron": 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6160 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

"Mapping Morton Grove" Exhibition at the Morton Grove Historical Museum: 11 a.m. Thursday-Friday, 9 a.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Morton Grove Historical Museum, 6148 Dempster St., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-0203

Discussion with the Rabbi: Meet Rabbi Jeff Pivo, of Congregation Beth Judia, and Rabbi Aaron Melman of Congregation Beth Shalom, to discuss "Rebranding: What does the future hold for the Conservative Movement?" 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Pinstrapes, 1150 Willow Road, Northbrook, free, 847-634-0777

Reader's Theatre: Open to adults 18 and over. Brings storytelling and radio theater to life. 10 a.m. Thursday, Park Ridge Park District-Centennial Activity Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, $5 member, $60 guest, 847-692-3597

Chair Yoga: 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Park Ridge Park District-Centennial Activity Center, 100 South Western Ave., Park Ridge, $76 member, $84 guest, 847-692-3597

Save A Star's Drug Disposal Program: Accepted are prescription medications, all-over-the-counter and pet medications, vitamins, liquids, and creams. 9 a.m. Daily, Park Ridge Police Department, 200 Vine Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-579-1300

Karatko Thursdays: 7 p.m. Thursday, Perry's Pizza & Bikes, 711 Devon Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-823-4422

Food Drive In Skokie: Requesting donations of canned goods and dry food products to fill the shelves of the Niles Township Food Pantry. Daily, Walgreens, 3945 West Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-4141

Skolka Photographic Society: All levels of photographic skill are welcome. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton St., Skokie, free, 847-677-8324

The Language of Business: Helps attendees improve their reading, writing and math skills. 6 p.m. Thursday and Tuesday, JVS Chicago, 5150 Golf Road, Skokie, free, 847-456-2376

"Funnymen": 7:30 p.m. Thursday; 8:30 p.m. Friday, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, $15-$65, 847-673-6300

Special Exhibition Three Years, Eight Months, and Twenty Days: The Cambodian Atrocities and the Search for Justice: Learn about the Cambodian genocide and the current trials to bring the perpetrators to justice, 40 years later. 10 a.m. Daily, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4835

Author and Intuitive Dr. Therese Rowley at Wilmette Theatre: Long Beach Chicago Journalist Jennifer Weigel interviews Dr. Therese Rowley, Ph.D. as her guest for Weigel's ongoing series "Conversations With Weigel." 7 p.m. Thursday, Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette, $30 advance; $35 at door, 847-251-7424

Alliance Francaise du North Shore Social House, 1631 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 847-293-6755

Wilmette Fiber Arts Group: This group of people is interested in all aspects of fibers arts: knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, etc. 10 a.m. Thursday, Panera Bread, 1195 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-293-6755

Friday, Oct. 16

Des Plaines Farmers' Market: 3 p.m. Friday, Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St., Des Plaines, free, 847-827-5551

Stories of the Macabre: This is The Guild Theatre's original production of a concert of readings from the best writers of scary literature: Edgar Allen Poe, Washington Irving, Saki and more. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Lake Center, 620 Lee St., Des Plaines, $15-$25, 847-838-3006

YAMO, ETHS student revue: This student-run production involves over 100 students as writers, directors, actors, singers, musicians and stage crew. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, $12, 847-474-7130

Singer and Songwriter Al Day performs with jazz pianist Robert Long: 8 p.m. Friday, Found Kitchen & Social House, 1631 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $10, 847-868-8945

Ring 43 Magic Club Meeting: Present mental magic and explain how it was done. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Presence Saint Francis Hospital, 355 Ridge Ave., Evanston, $5, guests may be applied to Ring 43 membership, 847-272-3850

Meeting of the minecrafters (for grades 4-8): Build, craft, mine, farm and explore the mammoth world of minecraft. 6 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

"Woman In Gold": 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Halloween Spooktacular: The bash for kids ages 2-4 and their parents features a bounce house, games, crafts, face-painting and more. 5:30 p.m. Friday, Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, $5, 847-724-5670

Do more with Word 2010: page layouts, working with columns, bullet points and more. 2 p.m. Friday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6410 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
CALENDAR

Saturday, Oct. 17

Downtown Evanston Farmers Market: 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Oak Avenue and University Place, 1090 University Place, Evanston, free

Jewish Roots of Broadway: Chicago a cappella presents some of the best-loved American Songbook standards. 8 p.m. Saturday, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, $12-38, 773-224-8820

Food and Fundraising: 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. 10 a.m. Saturday, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston, free, 847-448-8600

Yoga and beer fundraiser: Learn about the local charity the brewery is supporting this month, Senior Connections. 8 p.m. Saturday, Temperance Beer Company, 2000 Dempster St., Evanston, $15 (includes a beer), 847-869-0682

The Mark Cleveland Band: World, Folk and Blues. 9:30 p.m. Saturday, The Celtic Knot Piblic House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679

Trains, Tricks & Treats: Families are invited to join in costume and trick-or-treat throughout the Model Railroad Garden. 10 a.m. Saturday-Sunday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glenview, free-$6, 847-835-5440

Experience Farm Life During Harvest Time: Join in wagon rides, farm activities, and fall arts and crafts. Harvest foods are available for purchase. 10 a.m. Saturday, Wagner Farm, 1510 Wagner Road, Glenview, $5 per person; free for children 2 and under, 847-657-1506

Russian Storytime with Miss Vlada (for ages 3 and up with adult): Just drop in to this new class, as Miss Vlada shares stories in Russian. Participants may make a craft, too. 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 330 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Friendship Club Interactive Movie: "The LEGO Movie": Trained Friendship Ambassadors, who are in fourth through 12th grades, host. 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 330 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Family Movie: "Aladdin" (1992): 2 p.m. Saturday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free

Get hooked: Adult Crafts: Expert needle artist Marilyn Salimi demonstrates needlepoint stitches in this series of three sessions and guides you through the steps of making a scissors case. 10 a.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Hoosier Mama Pie making: Paula Haney, author of the cookbook, "Hoosier Mama Book of Pie: Deluxe Recipes," and owner of two Hoosier Mama Pie Company restaurants, demonstrates how to make pies. 2 p.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Morton Grove Farmers Market: 8 a.m. Saturday, Dempster Street and Georgia Avenue, 6210 Dempster St., Morton Grove, free, 847-750-6436

Time Matters: A Woman's Retirement Outlook: This program shares perspectives on financial concerns facing women who are getting ready for or have recently transitioned to retirement. 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St, Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Anime and Manga Club: Gather with fellow fans to watch and discuss anime and manga, draw fan art and make cosplay costumes. 2 p.m. Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St, Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Wills and Trusts: Attorney Jacob Ehrensaft discusses estate planning, including issues of powers of attorney, living wills, probate, and guardianship. 10 a.m. Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St, Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Homeschool Book Swap: Bring old materials to the Northbrook Public Library and swap for new books and resources. 9 a.m. Saturday, Northbrook Public Library, 2101 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Skokie Farmers Market: 7:30 a.m. Sunday, Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oak St, Skokie, free, 847-673-0500

Music of the Baroque Presents: Krumenauer Conducts Bach: Music of the Baroque's 45th Anniversary Season begins with J.S. Bach. 7:30 p.m. Sunday, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 6210 Dempster St, Skokie, 847-926-9898

Lecture: Chicago's Sweet Candy History: Actress, scholar and author Leslie Goddard, presents an illustrated lecture based on her book "Chicago's Sweet Candy History." 2 p.m. Sunday, Wilmette Historical Museum, 609 Ridge Road, Wilmette, Free for members, $5 for nonmembers, 847-833-6666

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
Tuesday, Oct. 20

**Rotary Club of Evanston Light-houses:** 7:15 a.m. Tuesday, Hilton Garden Inn Chicago North Shore/Evanston, 1818 Maple Avenue, Evanston, free

**Community Giving Day:** Five percent of sales will be donated to The Kindness Connection, a local non-profit organization that teaches children about community service through age-appropriate activities. 8 a.m. Tuesday, Whole Foods Market, 2748 Green Bay Road, Evanston, free

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

**Tuesday Morning Music:** Garden visitors can enjoy free hour-long meditative musical performances on Tuesday mornings in the McGinley Pavilion overlooking Evening Island. Music varies from string quartets to Native American flutes. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

**Smile and Rhyme Storytime (for ages 2 and up with adult):** Miss Fran shares stories, rhymes, and songs in the cafe. 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Heinen's Grocery Store, 1020 Waukegan Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Design a Book Themed T-Shirt - Teen Read Week:** This is for anyone in seventh through 12th grades to celebrate Teen Read Week by designing a book-themed T-shirt. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, free, 847-729-7500

**Power Employment Workshop Secret Strategies to Land a Job:** Visit worknetncc.com to register. 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Evanston Township High School - Ruan Conference Room, 600 Foster St, Evanston, free, 212-679-6800

**Festive Floral Arrangement Demo:** The Twentieth Century Club of Park Ridge hosts Andy Zimmerman of Kiko's Flower and Gifts. Learn holiday floral arrangements. 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Park Ridge Presbyterian Church, 1300 W. Crescent Ave, Park Ridge, free, 312-391-6788

**eGain Digital Summit 2015:** The Digital Summit brings together thought leaders, analysts, clients, prospective customers and partners to exchange ideas, best practices and success stories in digital customer engagement. 8 a.m. Tuesday, Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 W. Bryn Mawr Ave, Rosemont, free, 408-636-4505

Wednesday, Oct. 21

**ETHS Booster Board Meeting:** 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave, Evanston, free, 847-424-7000

**Preschool Story Time:** 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave, Evanston, free, 847-448-8610

**Because Tomorrow Needs You:** Doctors Without Borders field worker, Rachel Seay, speaks on the challenges women and children face when accessing healthcare in many countries. 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Northwestern University - Ruan Conference Room, 600 Foster St, Evanston, free, 212-679-6800

**All Things Spanish:** This group invites both native and non-native Spanish speakers. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Halloween Cuisine (for grades 4-6):** 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, FlavorPot, 2041 Tower Drive, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**TedxLincolnwood Library:** TED Talks (short for Technology, Entertainment, and Design) are “devoted to ideas worth spreading” and inspire and entertain people around the world. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave, Lincolnwood, free

**Scrabble for Adults:** 2 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

**Photoshop CS6 Basics:** Learn the basic tools and functions of Photoshop CS6 to edit, retouch and manipulate photos. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave, Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

**Chess Club:** Whether you're a skilled player or a beginner interested in learning new skills, all are welcome. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1000 Sunset Drive, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224
Thursday, Oct. 22

Snap Shot Evanston: The program is designed to give local residents and Evanston-based employees an in-depth, one-day orientation into the community. 8:30 a.m. Oct. 22, Rotary International, 1560 Sherman Ave., Evanston, $75 per person; $125 for two people, 847-492-0990

5th Annual Buckthorn Barbecue: Evening proceeds will support the restoration of Glencoe's Green Bay Trail. 6 p.m. Oct. 22, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, $100/plate, 847-274-1789

Facebook Basics: Get started with the basics, including signing up, creating a profile and adding friends. A valid email account is required. 2 p.m. Oct. 22, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Computer Basics: At this class, attendees explore basic computer concepts and the Windows 7 operating system. 6:30 p.m. Oct. 22, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free

Lights Out, Everybody: Mystery and Horror During the Golden Age of Radio: Radio historian Steve Darnall returns with sound clips from radio's scariest shows. 1 p.m. Oct. 22, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free

Power Employment Workshop: Instructors from the Business and Career Services of the Illinois WorkNet Center in Arlington Heights discuss resumes and cover letters, online job applications, and interviewing to help attendees in their job search. 9:30 a.m. Oct. 22, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

World Language Storytime: Polish: Share stories and songs in Polish (with a bit of English). 10 a.m. Oct. 22, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Dramatic Program at Northbrook Community Synagogue: Northbrook Community Synagogue's Women Havura hosts a dramatic program, about Estee Lauder, cosmetics entrepreneur. 6:30 p.m. Oct. 22, Northbrook Community Synagogue, 2548 Jasper Court, Northbrook, $36, 847-809-9204

Say You Love Me: Fleetwood Mac Turns 40: Forty years after Fleetwood Mac's self-titled debut album was released, there are many stories to tell and hits to be sung. 8 p.m. Oct. 22, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, $25, 847-677-7761

Keeping Up With Today's Resume Development: Take advantage of this free job seminar on how to promote yourself in a competitive job market, with an effective cover letter and resume. 7 p.m. Oct. 22, WiFi Building, 8150 McCormick Blvd., Skokie, free, 847-271-3868

Have an event to submit? Go to chicagotribune.com/calendar
Now playing

**Hotel Transylvania 2** ★★★
PG, 1:27, animation
There was nothing particularly wrong with the 2012 "Hotel Transylvania." Adam Sandler voicing Dracula, a blood-drinking dad who is concerned about the love life of his daughter Mavis (Selena Gomez), was the only thing that stood out. The action picks up with Mavis making Dracula a new vampira (grandpa and vampire). Everyone is waiting to see if Dennis will be like his mom and sprout fangs or end up like his dad and be human. If Dennis doesn't get his fangs by the time he turns 5, it will be too late. Dracula plans to scare the monster into the infant. It's as rare as vampires on a beach to have a movie sequel be better than the original. But vampires might start looking for some sunglasses because the spookiest thing about "Hotel Transylvania 2" is how much funnier, colorful and more original it is this second time around. — Rick Bentley

**Sicario** ★★★
R, 2:01, action
For a gripping documentary about the U.S./Mexico border, the drug trade and a hornet's nest of sociopolitical nightmares, watch Matthew Heineman's "Cartel Land." For a commercial thriller on related themes, "Sicario" will do. The first hour of this latest film from French-Canadian director Denis Villeneuve is sleek, terrific pulp. The second half of "Sicario" (in Mexico, slang for "hitman") settles for more conventional bloodshed and storytelling. — Michael Phillips

**The Martian** ★★★½
PG-13, 2:21, sci-fi
A highly enjoyable, zestily acted team-building exercise, with Matt Damon playing the team of one, director Ridley Scott's "The Martian" throws a series of life-or-death scenarios at its resourceful botanist-astronaut, stranded on Mars but making the most of it. It's one of the most comforting science fiction films in years. — M.P

**The Intern** ★★½
PG-13, 1:59, comedy
Since his wife's passing, retiree Ben Whittaker, played by Robert De Niro, has lived a pleasantly routinized life alone until he is hired as a senior intern at a JackThreads-type online clothing company, assigned to the startup's founder and honcho, Jules Ostin, played by Anne Hathaway. Scene by scene, Jules comes to realize how much wisdom, experience, advice and class this man has to offer. Surprisingly, the biggest, broadest comic interlude clicks: a secret mission by Ben and his co-workers to retrieve a laptop from Jules' parents' house. In her best dialogue about the stresses of work/life balance, Meyers suggests a measure of ambivalence and complication in its treatment of Jules, although on the surface she's just another type-A workaholic out of a rom-com. — M.P

**Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials** ★★
PG-13, 2:11, action
A year ago the inaugural "Maze Runner" adaptation proved a pleasantly unpleasant surprise. Director Wes Ball's feature film debut delivered the first in author James Dashner's trilogy (he wrote two prequels as well) with an earnest, no-nonsense commitment to the protagonist's waking nightmare. Ball's workmanlike handling of the second in the trilogy, "The Scorch Trials," proves mainly that he can keep a franchise from running completely off the rails when the tracks have been laid perilously near a swamp of "dys-lit" cliches. — M.P
Sandvik, Thorsten

Torsten Sandvik, 93, of Niles; beloved husband of Mary Lou and the late Betty; loving father of Susan (Leo) Rakowski, Robert (Sherry) Sandvick, Timothy Gerdes, Heather (Steven) Martin, Rebecca (Jamin) Ejupi and Neal (Sarah) Gerdes; cherished grandfather of Brian, Wesley, Bradley, Adam, Kate, Lexi, Lauren, Logan and Spencer and great-grandfather of Ashley. Torsten was a proud WWII Veteran of the United States Army Air Corp.

Memorial visitation Saturday, October 17 from 3:30 p.m. until time of service at 4:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 205 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068. Interment private. Memorial contributions can be made to the church. For more information 847.823.5122 or www.nelsonfunerals.com.
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2016 NEW CAR GUIDE

By brand, here's a list of new and refreshed cars and trucks

By Tom Krishner

AUDI

A3 SPORTBACK E-TRON: The five-seat wagon combines a 1.4-liter, four-cylinder gasoline engine and an electric motor. It's Audi's first plug-in hybrid to hit the market.

BMW

7 SERIES: The all-new flagship large sedan is up to 180 pounds lighter and comes with an improved ride and better handling.

BUICK

CASCADA: Buick goes for a little ragtop bing with the Cascada turbocharged four-seater, an American version of a stylish Opel convertible from Europe.

CADILLAC

ATS-V: High-performance version of Caddy's small sports sedan and coupe comes with a 3.6-liter twin-turbo engine that puts out 464 horsepower.

CTS-V: It's the most powerful car in Cadillac's 12-year history with a 640-horsepower supercharged 6.2-liter V8 mated to an eight-speed automatic tranny.

CHEVROLET

CAMARO: The classic Chevy muscle car slims to fit on the frame of a Cadillac ATS small sports sedan and gets a standard four-cylinder engine.

CRUZE: The 5-year-old compact is replaced with a more stylish, aerodynamic-look sedan that's longer and 250 pounds lighter.

MALIBU: If the sleeker and lighter new Malibu runs and handles as well as it looks, Chevy might make a dent in the market controlled mainly by Honda and Toyota.

SPARK: The Korean-made inexpensive minicar gets revamped with a more powerful 1.4-liter four-cylinder engine with 98 horsepower, 14 more than the current model.

VOLT: The gas-electric hybrid gets sleeker looks and increased battery range to 83 miles before a new 1.5-liter four-cylinder engine kicks in.

HONDA

CIVIC: The 2016, or 10th generation, is the sportiest Civic ever and comes with two new engines: a more powerful 1.4-liter four-cylinder that puts out 228 horsepower.

LAND ROVER

RANGE ROVER: The seven-seat SUV gets its first major redesign since 2010 with a bigger interior and three engine choices.

LYNX

MAZDA

CX-3: Mazda is entering the fast-growing subcompact SUV segment.

MX-5 MIATA: The sporty two-seater convertible from Europe.

LAND ROVER

RANGE ROVER: A new, 3.0-liter turbocharged diesel V6 engine is being offered for the first time in North America.

MINI

CLUBMAN: A complete redesign makes the Clubman longer and wider than any other car in the BMW mini-car lineup.

RENAULT

LUSSIS

NISSAN

MAXIMA: The full-size sedan has a chiseled surface, and a roof that looks like it's floating thanks to blacked-out pillars.

PORSCHE

911 GT3 RS/Targa 4 GTS: Porsche has reworked 90 percent of the components on the seventh-generation 911 sports car.

SCION

IM/A: The brand has a new entry point with the iA small car and its hatchback sibling, the iM.

TESLA

MODEL X: Tesla's third vehicle, the SUV will turn heads with its “falcon-wing” rear doors, which open out and upward.

TOYOTA

PRIUS: The new Prius has sportier, more emotional styling, with a lower hood and a sharp side crease that morphs into the rear spoiler, with 10 percent better fuel economy.

TACOMA: With its first full redesign in 12 years, the Tacoma has a 159-horsepower, 2.7-liter four-cylinder engine and an optional 3.5-liter V6 with 278 horsepower.

VOLKSWAGEN

JETTA GLI: The sporty version of this compact gets the 210-horsepower 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder that's also in the smaller Golf GTI.

PASSAT: Midsize sedan gets its first major refresh since it debuted in 2011.

VOLVO

XC90: The seven-seat SUV is all new, and it's loaded with luxury and safety features.
McCaffrey has his 15 minutes of fame

BY NICK BULLOCK
Pioneer Press

Sports website The Big Lead called it "probably the greatest catch in Division III football history." It led ESPN's "SportsCenter" in late September. And playing his part in the fanfare was Knox sophomore quarterback Matt McCaffrey, a New Trier product.

In the fourth quarter of the Prairie Fire's Sept. 26 game against Lawrence in Appleton, Wis., McCaffrey rolled to his right and heaved a pass deep into Lawrence territory. Teammate Ihr Emini, the intended receiver, went up for the ball and tipped it to his leg, where it ricocheted back into the air as he fell backward and bounced off the ground.

While Emini kept his eye on the ball and his hands up, the ball fell into his grasp for the first down and a 33-yard gain. The Prairie Fire scored seven plays later to cap the scoring in a 20-6 victory.

Knox followed with a 46-19 win against Macalester, when McCaffrey threw for 218 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for another 80 yards.

Through the team's 3-1 start, McCaffrey threw for 824 yards and five touchdowns, adding 250 yards and three touchdowns on the ground. Against Lawrence, fellow New Trier graduate Sam Coffey, a senior defensive back, recorded a team-high five solo tackles.

Mocogni drops her 5K time

Highland Park graduate Monica Mocogni continued her strong sophomore season for the Illinois Wesleyan women's cross country team.

She helped lead the team to a ninth-place finish at the 17-team Illinois Intercollegiates Oct. 2 in Bourbonnais. She came in 55th in 20 minutes, 56 seconds, and shaved 32 seconds off her 5K time from the Wisconsin-Parkside Midwest Open on Sept. 12 in Somers, Wis.

Hagermoser cruises to singles win

Yale tennis player Alex Hagermoser, from Hinsdale Central, topped off a dominant weekend at the Ivy Plus Invitational Sept. 18-20 in Princeton, N. J., sealing the singles title with a 6-4, 6-4 victory against his counterpart from Columbia. The junior from Hinsdale did not drop a set in four matches.

Deerfield graduate Jason Brown is a senior on the team.

Have a suggestion for the College Roundup? Email Nick Bullock at bullockpioneerpress@gmail.com.

Nick Bullock is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM/ATHLETES
Loyola, New Trier advance to state tourney

**BY ERIC VAN DRIL**
Pioneer Press

The Ramblers' girls golf team won the Glenbrook North Sectional by 13 strokes on Oct. 12 and looks to be one of few teams in Class AA with the talent, depth and experience needed to upset defending state champion Hinsdale Central.

One of Loyola's advantages at the state tournament will be its experience. The Ramblers' lineup includes five out of the six golfers who finished second in Class AA a year ago. Junior Kellie McCabe, who shot an 86 at the sectional at Sportsman's Country Club in Northbrook, is the lone first-time state qualifier on a team that features sophomore Nina Rutkowski (74), junior Margaret Hickey (77), and seniors Blake Vaccino (72), Nicole Wetroska (81) and Madison Banas (83).

"We're super excited," Wetroska said of playing at the state tournament on Oct. 16-17 at Hickory Point Golf Course in Decatur. "Our team's awesome this year. We're all best friends. We just want to win it so bad."

A key to doing so, Vaccino added, is for the Ramblers not to psyche themselves out during the round. It's imperative to go shot-by-shot, hole-by-hole.

Taking that approach at state helps deal with the nervousness that comes with playing at the biggest tournament of the season.

"Having experience at state eases your nerves a bit," Wetroska said. "You know everyone's nervous, but it's just another round of golf."

**New Trier**

New Trier freshman Penelope Tirm has played her best golf in the postseason over the last two weeks.

Tir fired a 73 at the Fremd Regional on Oct. 7, which at the time was her lowest round of the high school season. Tir followed that by earning medalist honors with an even-par 71 at the Glenbrook North Sectional on Oct. 12. The Trevians, who also received a 73 from senior captain Louise McCulloch, punched their ticket to state by tying for second place with Libertyville (317). Buffalo Grove (327) was fourth, and Glenbrook North (328) was fifth. The top three teams advanced.

There are several reasons why Tir has been able to play her best golf in high-stakes tournaments.

"I've been practicing a little bit more on the areas I need help with, versus areas that I kind of like," Tir said. "I've been chipping a lot more, which is still not fantastic, but it's improved. Also, it helps that I'm being more positive on the course, versus getting down on myself."

Another reason has been her fast starts. Tir was 3-under par on her first nine holes of the Fremd Regional. She was 1-under par after nine holes at the sectional.

"I usually start out really badly," Tir said. "I'm a little bit more focused in the beginning than I have been in previous tournaments. It's really the beginning that's different from most of my tournaments."

Tir and McCulloch are expected to be joined in New Trier's state lineup by senior Rayna Kwo, who shot an 89 at the sectional, as well as sophomore Rachel Rhee (84) and freshmen Abbie Kaestle (91) and Lizzie Kenter (91).

**Glenbrook North**

In previous seasons, Glenbrook North's Amy Hong said she always had her worst round of the season at sectionals.

That changed on Oct. 12. Hong and teammate Emma Vickery both qualified for the Class AA state tournament.

Hong played steady, consistent golf en route to a 2-over 73. She entered the sectional with confidence, she explained afterward, because she'd played well throughout her senior season.

Her mental approach was also different at the sectional.

"I'm not playing golf in college, so I came into today and I thought to myself, 'It's OK if I don't make it. Just have fun. Play comfortably,'" Hong said. "My parents kept telling me, 'Don't worry about making the cut. Play your game.' That's what I did. I had no pressure out there. I was a little stressed, but I was easy off the tee and I wasn't going crazy. Looking back at my previous rounds, during sectionals, I was so nervous and so tense. But I was more relaxed this year."

Hong and Vickery will both end their high school careers with a 77 at the sectional.

**Glenbrook South**

Senior Arina Kim (80) finished in a tie for the 10th and final individual berth to the state tournament. The playoff between Kim and Carmel's Alexa Amato was postponed to Oct. 13 due to darkness at Sportsman's Country Club.

**Niles West**

The Wolves finished with a 372 at the Class AA Oak Park-River Forest Sectional, tying Payton for seventh place. Only the top three teams advanced.

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
New Trier boys golf team trying to stay in the moment

BY MATT HARNES
Pioneer Press

Before this year, New Trier boys golf coach Pete Drevline said he would make hotel reservations in Bloomington, site of the Class 3A state tournament, sometimes as early as August.

When a program has nine state titles and a state-high 25 trophies, it's a good bet it will end its season on the final weekend. But Drevline wanted to shake up things this fall by not putting the emphasis on the state tournament during the regular season.

"I wanted them to take it shot by shot, round by round, day by day," he said. "It's been good."

Drevline broke down and booked the rooms in Bloomington following New Trier's Class 3A regional championship on Oct. 6. But planning ahead didn't jinx the Trevians, who took third place on Oct. 12 at the Conant Sectional tournament at Bridges of Poplar Creek Country Club. They were the final team to make the state cut. Loyola and Glenbrook North each finished with a 314 and tied for fourth.

New Trier carded a 31-over 311 on a windy and unseasonably warm day in Hoffman Estates. York finished first at 301, and St. Viator was second at 305.

"It doesn't matter the score we shot as long as we made it," said junior Justin Choi, who posted a team-best 75. "All you want is a chance to win a state title.

New Trier hasn't won a state championship since 2003. In the meantime, the Trevians have finished second four times in the last six seasons, including the last two.

Hinsdale Central will be chasing after its fourth consecutive Class 3A state title on Oct. 16-17, at The Den at Fox Creek Golf Course in Bloomington.

Other scores that counted for New Trier at Poplar Creek included senior Nick Iserloth's 78, junior Michael Adler's 78, senior Andrew Huber's 80 and senior Matt Murlick's 80.

Murlick wasn't ready to talk about a state title after his round on Oct. 12.

"I didn't have a great day, and I had been playing well," he said. "It's disappointing, but I am glad the team made it. I am not thinking about winning the state title. I just want us to play our own game and play the course.

But Choi, who tied for 12th as a sophomore, didn't shy away from the title talk.

"I've definitely been thinking about winning it," he said. "We've been close a lot, and we have a team that can do it."
Late scoring drive seals Notre Dame win

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

When the Notre Dame football team's offense got the ball back with 5:06 remaining against St. Patrick, the Dons held a 3-point lead and were in need of another touchdown.

The lead appeared far from safe for Notre Dame, which went on to win the East Suburban Catholic game 44-34 on Oct. 10 in Chicago.

St. Patrick's offense had amassed 34 points and more than 400 yards. The combination of senior quarterback Paddy Devlin (29-for-44, 424 yards, three touchdowns) and junior Andrew Edgar had torched the Dons' secondary throughout the second half, including a 42-yard reception that set up a 14-yard touchdown on the previous drive.

"Oh yeah," Notre Dame coach Mike Hennessey said when asked if he thought the Dons needed to score another touchdown. "We didn't want it to be a game where it's going to be the team [with] the ball last wins!"

Notre Dame's drive started at its 35-yard line.

Earlier in the season, the situation would have been tailor-made for junior Eric Harper. The bruising back is capable of wearing down defenses in the fourth quarter, and picking up hard-earned yards during a time in the game when each first down and every second run off the clock are vital.

Harper is likely out for the season with a fractured right ankle, however. He suffered the injury against Benet on Sept. 11.

In his absence, Notre Dame's offense turned to several different players on its most crucial drive of the game.

"Harper would be a very big help," Notre Dame senior quarterback Tyler Tsagalis said. "But people stepped up and have done a great job. That's been a big help for us."

Notre Dame's drive began with a handoff to senior Jimmy Topping (11 carries, 32 yards, one touchdown). The Dons' starting strong safety picked up 4 yards.

Instead of running on second-and-6, Notre Dame (6-1, 4-1) spread out St. Patrick (2-5, 0-5) and put the ball in Tsagalis' hands. The play call was a simple one.

The outside receivers ran hooks, Tsagalis said, and the slot receivers ran up the seams.

Tsagalis didn't spot anybody open initially, but he continued to look downfield as he scrambled to his right and saw Riley McAndrew.

McAndrew's defender had fallen down, and he was behind the Shamrocks' secondary.

Tsagalis flung a pass to the senior, who was near the St. Patrick sideline. It wasn't Tsagalis' most impressive throw of the game - he was on the move, and couldn't plant his back foot and step into it - but it was accurate. McAndrew caught the pass for a 42-yard gain.

"That was huge," senior wide receiver and free safety Tim Simon said. "[McAndrew] stepped up big for us. I'm proud of the kid ... He stepped up when we needed it."

The Dons ran more clock on the next play. Starting junior linebacker Jake Sarnecki (five carries, 16 yards, one touchdown) was stopped for no gain by St. Patrick's defense.

On second down, Notre Dame once again put the ball in Tsagalis' hands. Simon (six receptions, 145 yards, two touchdowns) was the Dons' standout receiver against the Shamrocks, yet Tsagalis looked to senior receiver Tom Dolis across the middle. Dolis plucked the pass out of the air for a 14-yard gain that resulted in another crucial first down.

Two runs by Topping - a 4-yard gain, then a 1-yard rush - followed. Topping brought Notre Dame to St. Patrick's 1-yard line, and Tsagalis finished off the drive with a 1-yard quarterback sneak with 1:47 remaining. Simon converted the extra point.

"We got a couple big plays," Hennessey said of the final drive. "Tyler came up with some big plays, and our line did a great job."

The Shamrocks' defense could not stop the Dons' momentum. A 10-point lead, the game was essentially over. Devlin completed a pair of passes to Edgar (25 catches, 231 yards, one touchdown) on the ensuing drive before Simon picked him off to ensure the victory.

Game notes

- Tsagalis was 14-for-20 for 227 yards, with two touchdowns and zero interceptions.
- Notre Dame wide receiver Ethan Jennings, a senior, scored on a 14-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.
- With its sixth win of the season, Notre Dame clinched a playoff berth.
- Notre Dame is tied for second in the conference with Marist (5-2, 4-1). Joliet Catholic (7-0, 5-0) is the only team with a better league record. The Dons play at Marian Catholic (1-6, 0-5) at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 16.

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter.
Rolling along
Notre Dame beats rival St. Patrick, clinches playoff berth.

Notre Dame's Ethan Jennings, left, stiff-arms St. Patrick's Ivan Gonzalez during the Dons' 44-34 win on Oct. 10 at Hanson Stadium in Chicago.
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