Getting in the spirit
Niles Park District hosts annual Halloween Parade and Party. Page 4

Siblings Nora, 2, and John Smyth, 4, take a break from the other games to make a scary Halloween craft.

Bazaars and boutiques
Get in the spirit with our guide to upcoming holiday boutiques and craft fairs. Page 24

Breaking it down
Pioneer Press previews the first round of the high school football playoffs. Page 40

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Lloyd Davidson, Evanston photographer

Retired Northwestern University librarian Lloyd Davidson captures stunning photographs of natural life, sometimes venturing no further than the garden behind his home on the 400 block of Dewey Avenue.

For certain situations, he uses special lenses.

“When you are doing insects that can be useful,” he explained, “because when you get too close you can scare them.”

From Evanston to Patagonia, from a six-person plane in Alaska (“everyone has a window seat”) to a not so dormant volcano in New Zealand, Davidson along with his wife, Arden, have combined travel with craft.

The two recently gave a seminar at the Evanston Public Library on how to take quality nature photographs, whether using a Nikon D810 or a 5-megapixel point-and-shoot.

Q: Can you tell us about your life journey?
A: I’m originally from the Bay Area in California. I went to U.C. Berkeley back during the time of the Free Speech movement and the anti-war demonstrations. It was quite a wonderful time to be there.

Q: What do you do or what did you do for a living?
A: I worked at Northwestern University for about 35 years. I was the life sciences librarian.

Q: Do you have any hobbies?
A: I do a lot of scenic nature photography and macro-photography.

Q: What’s macro photography?
A: You can see things down to an eighth of an inch and get very useful photographs of details with very small objects.

Q: Tell us about one?
A: One that I posted was a picture of an ‘ambush bug’ that hides in plants and waits to capture insects when they land nearby. The picture is of an ambush bug that tried to capture a fly. The fly escaped but left its leg behind.

To learn more: some of Davidson’s photographs can be found on bugguide.net. He can also be reached through email at lloydadavidsongmail.com.

Bob Seidenberg, Pioneer Press

Shout Out is a weekly feature where we get to know and introduce our readers to their fellow community members and local visitors throughout suburban Chicago.

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Weather will not stop their parade

Niles Halloween event marches out display of unique, homemade costumes

By Alicia Ramirez
Pioneer Press

Rain or shine, the Halloween Parade and Party hosted by the Niles Park District would carry on, and carry on it did, with a parade that marched on from Oak Park to Grennan Heights Park on Oct. 24.

Maddux Aguilar, 2, was just one of the more than 100 kids who came out for the day. Dressed as a firefighter, his parents decorated a wagon to look like a firetruck with a flashing light on top and ladders made out of poster board taped to the sides.

“We saw some ideas online and took it from there,” Zosielyn Aguilar, his mom, said. “It wasn’t too bad and it didn’t take too long.”

Mariah Kessler, 2, looks around before deciding what to do for her project.

Another homemade costume was that of Fox Villalobos, 2, who was the Man in the Yellow Hat from the Curious George books, complete with a plush monkey. “He is 2 years old and currently in love with George,” said mom Alma Villalobos. “I didn’t think that he’d really want to wear a monkey costume since this is kind of his first Halloween that he understands. I just had to show him a photo of the Man in the Yellow Hat and put his hat on him in the mirror. He was all about it.”

Decked out from head to toe in yellow — yellow jeans, yellow shirt, yellow tie and signature yellow hat — Fox looked happy to take part in all of the activities offered at the event, which included arts and crafts, balloon animals, snacks, face painting, pumpkin picking and a magic show.

“This year has been great, minus the rain, but everyone is still enjoying themselves,” Robin Brey, Niles Park District program supervisor, said. “We usually do everything outside and hope for good weather, but that didn’t work this year, so we brought all of the games and everything inside, but we did get the parade in before the rain started.”

Despite the rain, Mayor Andrew Przybylo made his way out to see how it was all going.

“I’m very fond of the witches, friendly witches,” he said of the costumes. “They’re all very nice and colorful.”

Alicia Ramirez is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Niles library board mulls property tax levy options

BY LEE V. GAINE

Niles Public Library District officials are debating whether they should reduce, maintain or increase the district's 2015 property tax levy.

Greg Pritz, the library district's business manager, laid out four options regarding the annual property tax levy during a board of trustees meeting Oct. 21. Last year, he said, the board filed a levy request of just under $6 million, which represents more than a $200,000 decrease from the 2013 levy.

Pritz outlined the possible effects on the library's budget if the board voted to further cut the levy by $500,000, keep it level, increase it slightly by $300,000 or dramatically by $1 million.

Assuming the library's expenses increase 2.7 percent annually over the next five years, he said, a reduction of $500,000 would result in a budget deficit of about $380,000 by next year, while maintaining the current levy would push the deficit to about $40,000 in 2017. A slight increase would keep a deficit at bay until 2019, Pritz said, a $1 million increase to the levy provides a deficit-free forecast for at least the next five years.

Trustee Carolyn Drblik appeared not to favor any increase in the levy. "I would like to know if there is also a way to look at this in terms of decreasing spending... We never consider cutting expenses," Drblik said.

Pritz noted that he did provide the board a scenario in which the property tax levy was reduced, and he said it's the board's responsibility to determine how much to levy for in any given year.

He urged the district's elected officials to consider several factors that could affect future revenue and funding needs when making their decision, including the recently established Gross-Point-Touhy tax increment financing district in Niles.

Niles village officials voted in August to create the new district, which encompasses an area known as the Touhy Triangle and several lots to the north and west. Establishment of the new district, Pritz said, could cost the library district up to about $360,000 in property tax revenue over the TIF's 23-year life span.

Additionally, Pritz said, the popularity of the library's new Creative Studio and Wonder Ground spaces - newly debuted amenities that include educational activities for children and equipment, including a 3-D printer, available for use by adults and teens - might generate a demand for more library services.

He urged the board to adopt a property tax levy by the first Tuesday in December, Pritz said.

State law requires the board to adopt a property tax levy by the first Tuesday in December. Lee V. Gaines is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Library board: Retirement offerings to be elevated

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

President Linda Ryan, of the Niles Public Library Board, said at a meeting Oct. 21 that it was the board's intention to "elevate" the library's retirement offerings to employees.

Several residents in attendance expressed concern to the board that making changes to the current system might affect their tax bills.

Library district officials announced a plan last month to study alternative retirement options, including pension plans offered through the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund.

Susan Lemple, the library's director, said the board would also probably consider increasing the amount of money the district contributes to employee retirement plans.

Library officials have said the current retirement offerings fall short of what 114 other libraries in northern Illinois provide their employees and have made it a challenge to hire and retain qualified staff members.

Niles resident Bob Zalesny said a transition to a pension plan through the IMRF would increase residents' taxes.

"I don't believe the pension program would be a good program for the library and the people of Niles," he said. "These (pensions) are falling left and right. They raise people's taxes. People are on the brink of what they can afford living here."

Jerry Szczechanski, also a Niles resident, said the pension would be underfunded like several public pension plans offered by Chicago and Illinois.

Greg Pritz, the library district's business manager, said IMRF financial statements indicate its pension plans were about 93 percent funded at the end of 2014 and 96 percent funded at the end of 2013.

The library district currently offers full-time employees 7.5 percent of their salary to be saved in a defined contribution plan. Employees also have the option to take part or all of that contribution as additional salary.

Pritz said a total of 44 employees are eligible for the contribution plan program, and 28 actually use it to save money for retirement. Of the nearly $168,000 paid by employees as part of the retirement plan last fiscal year, two-thirds was deposited in the plan while the remainder was taken home by employees, he said.

George Fantazis, a retirement plan specialist for ICMA-RC - the company that manages and administers the library district's defined contribution program - said during a presentation at the meeting that the village of Niles, Park Ridge and the Niles Park District participate in the IMRF while also allowing employees to voluntarily put an additional portion of their salary into defined contribution plans.

The current system, in which the library voluntarily contributes 7.5 percent of an employee's salary to the defined contribution plan or as additional salary, serves as a substitute for a pension plan, Fantazis said.

If the district chose to switch over to the IMRF, employees would no longer be able to take home any contributions as part of their salaries, Pritz said. District employees would instead be required to contribute 4.5 percent of their salary to the pension, he said, while the library district would provide an estimated 10 percent. The exact amount the district would be required to pitch in is undetermined, Pritz said, and if the board chooses to go the IMRF route, the district's future liability would be reassessed on a periodic basis.

Ryan said an IMRF representative would provide more information about the pension program at a future board meeting.

She said the board probably will vote on the issue sometime after the end of this year and any changes to the retirement offerings would be implemented at the beginning of July.

Lee V. Gaines is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

'Senior-driven' Kemnitz Center to close by end of year

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

The Kemnitz Center for Active Adults in Niles will shut its doors at the end of this year, marking nearly a year and a half in operation as an alternative senior center in the area, representatives of the organization confirmed.

Ken Butterly, chairman of the board for Senior Services Inc., the nonprofit organization that owns and operates the Kemnitz Center, said the group has been unable to secure the financing needed to keep the center up and running beyond Dec. 31.

"It's been a great run," he said.

The center first opened last September with an official debut in January of this year in the north wing of the former Our Lady of Ransom's school, 8350 N. Greenwood Ave. Butterly said the center boasts a membership of about 250, which includes residents aged 55 to 90 from Niles, Park Ridge, Des Plaines, Rosemont and Chicago.

"We broke a barrier in the region, which was basically, if you didn't live here you couldn't belong (to the municipality's senior center)," he said.

Butterly said other senior centers in the area have since followed suit, opening their doors to residents outside their city or village borders.

Margaret Holler, manager of marketing and public relations for the Park Ridge Park District, said the district's Centennial Activity Center, formerly known as the Park Ridge Senior Center, welcomes members from outside the city. She said membership rates for Park Ridge residents and non-residents differ.

The park district's superintendent for recreation, April Armer, said any Kemnitz Center members are welcome to become a member of the district's Seniors Together at Recreation (STAR) program.

The roots of the Kemnitz Center date back to Senior Services Inc.'s relationship with the Park Ridge Park District, Armer said. She said SSI previously served as the fundraising branch for the district's senior center.

The agreement between the two agencies expired in 2010, she said, and a legal dispute over a $300,000 bequest to the Park Ridge Senior Center from Niles resident Betty Kemnitz, the center's namesake, followed.

SSI eventually prevailed, she said. Butterly said Kemnitz's bequest was being used to fund programming for the Kemnitz Center and renovations to the north wing of the Our Lady of Ransom school.

Butterly praised the work the Kemnitz Center's directors, Carla Owen, accomplished, given the organization's limited budget, before she left the position last month.

"That you can have a senior center and make it operate and you don't have to go ahead and spend gobs of money, to me, if there is a positive, that is the positive out of this," Butterly said.

He also commended the center's volunteers, including the Senior Senate, a few dozen elected members who Butterly said have guided the vision and direction of the Kemnitz Center during its short time in operation.

"This was senior-driven," he said. "That's what we always wanted."

The Kemnitz Center's online calendar includes a list of activities ranging from luncheons to bingo to computer, art, dance and tai chi classes.

Butterly said the center plans to continue operating in full force through the end of this year.

"Let's press on and have a good time until the last day," he said. "And that's what we're going to do."

Lee V. Gaines is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Author's visit helps encourage Maine East 'reluctant readers'

BY ALICIA RAMIREZ
Pioneer Press

Maine East high schoolers were given the chance to talk with one of the many authors whose books are available in the library Oct. 14.

Katie McGarry, author of the young adult novel series Pushing the Limits and Thunder Road, started her career at the age of 33 shopping her first book around to publishers before Harlequin Books picked it up.

"There's no vampires or werewolves or sparkly fairies hanging out in my books," she said. "There's nothing wrong with that, but I write young adult contemporary."

The books McGarry writes deal with tough issues such as the foster-care system, homelessness, anxiety and the drug addiction of a family member. Her characters, along with dealing with these situations, are all searching for normalcy in their hectic day-to-day lives while finding love with one another, she said.

McGarry, who grew up on the south end of Louisville, Ky., never had someone on her side to cheer her on as a high schooler, she told the class.

"I had nothing and I was told I would be nothing," she said. "And I had these teachers who would tell me that I was a great writer, and I told them they didn't understand because writing happens to special people and I'm not special!"

That's why she makes such a point to come out to schools all across the nation like Maine East in Park Ridge to tell kids from all backgrounds that they can do it.

"You guys are a hundred times more special than I will ever be," she said. "I am here to visit any high school I can, so you will not be me. Do not wait until you're 33." One student, Adrian Sanchez, a freshman at Maine East, took her lesson to heart.

"We probably had the same experience because I've been through hard stuff and I could tell that she's been through hard stuff and she was giving me some feedback on how to keep my head up," he said. "She told me not to give up and that I have more opportunities than she did and that's true."

Alicia Ramirez is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Woman dies on Niles bus, police say

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

A 53-year-old Chicago woman died while on a bus traveling in Niles on Oct. 20.

Paramedics were unable to revive the woman after the driver contacted 911 about an hour after she took her seat on the bus, according to police.

Niles Sgt. Robert Tornabene said the Cook County medical examiner's initial autopsy did not reveal a cause of death and police are still waiting on the results of a toxicology report.

The bus driver told police he picked up the woman at 10 a.m. at the West Touhy Avenue and North Lehigh Avenue bus stop. She sat down near the front of the bus and about 25 minutes later the driver told police he noticed that she was slumped over as if she were sleeping.

The driver told officers he didn't check on her because passengers routinely fall asleep on the bus. But he said he contacted his supervisor when he noticed she was still slumped over near the end of the route. He told officers he then heard the woman gasping, and he subsequently pulled over in the 6800 block of West Touhy Avenue and called 911.

Pace suburban bus spokesman Patrick Wilmot said the Pace bus the woman died on was on a Niles Free bus route and was operated by a driver employed by the village.

All village bus drivers are trained in CPR, said Hayley Garard, communications coordinator for Niles.

Lee V. Gaines is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
The following items were taken from the Niles Police Department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt, only a court of law can make that determination.

**Niles**

**TRESPASS**
- Nicholas Goebel, 29, of the 8200 block of Golf Road, Niles, was charged with criminal trespass on Oct. 18. Police said Goebel was accused of causing a disturbance inside a store on the 8200 block of Golf Road and had been ordered on previous occasions not to return. The manager of the store said that Goebel had been coming to the store every day and eating nearly all the customer food samples, sometimes multiple times per day. The manager also told police that Goebel tried to charge his cell phone using a store outlet. Goebel has a Nov. 4 court date.

**FORGERY**
- Deshae Crumbley, 28, of Lauderhill, Florida, was charged with felony forgery, possession of a fraudulent license and resisting a police officer on Oct. 19. Police said Crumbley attempted to cash a fraudulent $7,500 check at a bank on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue using a fake Illinois driver's license. He then ran from police, but was caught near Touhy and Central Avenues, police said. He has a Nov. 2 court date.

**THEFT**
- A woman told police that her purse was stolen out of her purses at Golf Mill shopping center. She has a Nov. 17 court date.

**RETAIL THEFT**
- Khrystyna Sadova, 26, address not given, was charged with felony retail theft on Oct. 17 after she allegedly stole clothing from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. She has a Nov. 17 court date.

**SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT**
- An 82-year-old man told police that a man came to his door on the afternoon of Oct. 20, claiming to be a landscaper. The visitor offered to take the resident into the backyard to show him some of the landscaping work he could do, but when the resident noticed the man was not wearing appropriate clothing for such work, he told him to leave, police said.

**DISPUTE**
- Police said a dispute erupted on Oct. 19 among a group of 15 to 20 family members on the 7100 block of Carol Avenue. According to police, the family had just returned from a funeral and the dispute involved a shouting and “shoving match” between two of the family members at the residence.

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**THEFT**
- A woman told police that her purse was stolen out of her purse on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue on Oct. 17. Police said the woman told police that she shared personal information with an unknown caller on Sept. 25 after the caller informed her that she had won a $300 gift card. The caller also reportedly told the woman to send $3,95 for shipping and handling, which the woman did through purchasing a debit card from a store, police said.

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Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center offers early look at upcoming Skokie location

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center, often referred to as ZCenter, is a social service organization that has been helping sexual abuse survivors and their families for more than 30 years in Gurnee. Soon, it will be opening a second location in Skokie.

An unfinished room filled with supporters of ZCenter, representatives of other social service agencies and elected local leaders listened Oct. 26, at an early open house in Skokie. Although there is no furniture yet and rooms are still being finished, leaders say the facility will be ready to go at 4232 Dempster St. in early 2016.

“We’re in the business of healing,” said Amy Junge, the organization’s CEO.

The gathering was a sneak preview of sorts, an opportunity for guests to hear about services to be offered in Skokie and to tour the spaces that make up about 5,100 square feet - half the size of the Gurnee center.

Among those in attendance were Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen as well as State Reps. Laura Fine (D-17), Robyn Gabel (D-18) and Lou Lang (D-16).

According to ZCenter, one in four girls and one in six boys are sexually abused and assaulted before they turn 18.

“There is healing after sexual violence, and ZCenter is here to support survivors on their individual healing journeys in a beautiful, holistic space,” Junge said.

Whether sexual abuse is on the rise or whether victims simply feel more comfortable reporting abuse, no one knows for sure, ZCenter leaders say.

But what they do say they know through their work is that there has been an increasing number of sexual abuse victims seeking help in recent years. The Skokie location is necessary, they say, noting that there are regular waiting lines for the Gurnee facility’s free services.

According to ZCenter, it served more than 40,000 people last year in different ways at its flagship Gurnee location.

“Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center seeks to provide quality, comprehensive, client-centered services to survivors of sexual assault and abuse,” its published mission states. “These services are provided in partnership with the survivor in the spirit of equality, free from judgment or oppression.”

The organization traces its history back to 1981 when the Advisory Board and Coordinating Council of Lake County Health Department formed the Rape Victim Advocacy Task Force.

Lake County’s first rape crisis center began in 1983 as a nonprofit organization - the Lake County Council Against Sexual Assault. That organization eventually became the Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center.

Director of Stewardship & Engagement Stephanie Garrity said ZCenter seeks to raise awareness and to reduce stigmatization around sexual abuse.

“We want people to be driving down the road and say, ‘Sexual abuse center? That’s that’,” she said. “People drive by the library and they know what goes on there. It’s about awareness, but also taking away some of the shame and quietness that surrounds this issue.”

Executive director of the ZCenter Skokie site, Adam Robinson, provided a “virtual tour” of the new facility and its future amenities so the first visitors could sense how the center will be laid out.

The room in which visitors looked at a displayed floor plan Oct. 26 will become an art therapy space for clients, he said. Robinson showcased a self-portrait drawn by girl who was a victim of abuse, her head bowed and her face hidden. A later self-portrait by the same girl gave off an entirely different feeling with her face fully exposed.

Very often, he said, victims can express themselves artistically better than they can verbally. Abuse sometimes takes place before children have language skills.

ZCenter’s new home used to be occupied by Shore Community Services Inc., a social service agency. It has undertaken a significant interior renovation.

“Environment isn’t just something we show up and do this important work in,” Robinson said. “Environment is as important as the work.”

Many of the sexual abuse victims that ZCenter helps, Robinson said, were abused in an environment where they expected and deserved to feel safe and were not.

“Part of the intention is that we create space that we can fill with relationship and healing,” he said.

The facility includes play rooms and space for therapy, art and training as well as administrative offices. The Skokie team will include four staff members, as well as interns and volunteers, and leaders say there are plans to increase staff down the line.

ZCenter helps not only victims of sexual abuse, but survivors’ families, too. Jon Mills, a long-time supporter of ZCenter who was in the audience, told about discovering that a grandfather he knew abused his two granddaughters.

“It destroyed the entire family’s life,” he said. “(This) I never expected. I’m so grateful for all of you for being here because you’re helping to keep my grandkids safe, too.”

ZCenter would not have been able to be here, Junge said, without significant help from the North Suburban Healthcare Foundation.

The Foundation isn’t expected to be around much longer, said Jeff Greenspan, a member of the Foundation Board, and decided to allocate money to six different organizations. ZCenter was one of them.

According to Greenspan, the Foundation provided $1 million for purchase of the building and then more recently another $300,000 to help with operations.

The North Suburban Healthcare Foundation has also provided funding for other key area social service agencies including Turning Point Behavioral Health Care Center, the Chicago Lighthouse and Erie Family Health Center in Evanston.

“The whole idea is to choose programs that we can help fund and that people need and can use,” he said. “A day like this makes me feel great.”
Niles, Morton Grove look to Skokie for alternate water supply

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Village officials from Niles and Morton Grove have unveiled their newest plan to get Lake Michigan water from Evanston instead of the city of Chicago. Piggyback off of Skokie’s existing water lines.

In a joint press release issued on Oct. 21, Niles Village Manager Steve Vinezeano and Morton Grove Village Administrator Ralph Czerwinski announced that the two communities are considering an engineering study that would explore whether it’s possible to tap into Skokie’s existing water system.

Skokie has been purchasing lake water from Evanston since 1944, according to the village’s website. The connection to Evanston water through one new water pipe is part of an ongoing study undertaken by the two municipalities. Connecting through Skokie is the latest option under consideration, Vinezeano said.

“The question will be, can [Skokie’s] system support that and, if not, are there improvements that can be made that would cost less than building one major pipe?” he said.

The Skokie study, if approved by Niles and Morton Grove elected officials, is estimated to cost about $40,000, Vinezeano said.

Tapping into Skokie’s water lines is an alternative to an older idea: building an entirely new water main from Evanston. That original plan could also have fed Evanston water to Park Ridge, something that may not be an option with the new concept.

“If there’s a possibility, we’d only want [Park Ridge] involved because it makes it a more favorable project financially,” Vinezeano said.

Vinezeano said “there’s a potential for savings” under the new idea, because less infrastructure would likely be required compared to building a new water main. But ultimately it will be the village of Skokie that must review any plan and agree to it, Vinezeano added.

“We want to do our due diligence,” Vinezeano added. “If there’s an opportunity for a project that may provide water cheaper than Chicago and the construction is much less than building a line from Evanston, we see it as our responsibility to pursue it.”

Skokie Village Manager John Lockerby stated only that the village is “cooperating in the feasibility study.”

If Niles and Morton Grove were to pursue a Skokie option, it is questionable whether Park Ridge could come on board as well. Vinezeano said studies would determine if this is possible, but the joint press release issued last week said otherwise.

“Preliminary information indicates that the new potential delivery method we are exploring may not support the needs of Park Ridge and including them in this effort would not seem appropriate at this time,” according to the press release from Niles and Morton Grove.

The release also indicates that since January, 11 meetings have taken place with Park Ridge officials to discuss the Evanston water main option, but Park Ridge has not committed to the project.

The project still remains an option for all three municipalities, Vinezeano said.

With Niles’ current water agreement with the city of Chicago expiring in 2019 and Morton Grove’s ending in 2018, the communities need to determine if an alternative option is available as quickly as they can, Vinezeano said.

“We’ve got a deadline to meet and we’ve got to get things done,” he said.

The cost of building the water main has been a concern expressed by Park Ridge’s elected officials, who have also questioned the estimated figures provided to the city.

The most recent estimates put the project cost between $92 million and $200 million, with each municipality sharing in the cost.

Vinezeano acknowl-
Northlight interest boosts Evanston project

BY BOB SEIDENBERG
Pioneer Press

With Northlight Theatre in Skokie officially declaring interest in joining the development, Evanston's vision of a performing arts center for downtown — once considered a long shot — is beginning to look like a stronger possibility.

At the Monday Evanston City Council meeting, Tim Evans, executive director of the theater company, confirmed the Northlight board of trustees' interest in exploring Evanston's proposed downtown performing arts center as a new home for the organization.

"Today we find ourselves in a growth pattern," Evans told City Council members.

"We are currently producing three productions, simultaneously, and thus we are seeking a long-range opportunity that will embrace and foster our growth."

Evanston Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl, who formed a performing arts committee which began meeting in early 2014 to explore the idea of a downtown performing arts center, said the city would welcome the theater company with open arms.

"We'd be very happy to have you here too," she said to audience applause.

The theater company started out in Evanston in 1974, Evans told aldermen, and moved from the city to Skokie as the resident theater company at the North Shore Center for Performing Arts in 1991. The move occurred after Evanston's efforts to find a permanent home for the theater company broke down.

"Northlight is the fourth largest theater company in Chicago," Evans told council members. He said nearly 60,000 patrons walk through its doors in a season.

"Although we are exploring other locations, moving back to Evanston is one of the most exciting opportunities before us," Evans said.

"Besides our wish to return to the community where we began, we also seek an active urban location with access to public transportation, plentiful parking and pre- and post-dining opportunities and access to young audiences."

Evans said the theater company, in addition to a main theater, would like to have use of an intimate second stage, where it could hold workshops and produce plays, small musicals, readings, lectures and classes.

"Our goal is to fund the construction of a main stage theater ourselves," he said. "Support would come mostly from corporate, foundation and private contributions, and we are very pleased to do it."

The paintings now on display at New Trier's Ann Northlight Theatre Executive Director Tim Evans, at the speaker's podium, tells the Evanston City Council on Oct. 19 that Northlight is interested in exploring Evanston's proposed downtown performing arts center as a new home.

"We thought it would be a good opportunity because of her connections to New Trier and to the community," said Mark Bowers, an art instructor at New Trier.

"We're honored to have the work here in our gallery," Nathan said.

"It's timely because it's so far-reaching," Nathan said.


"We thought it would be a very proud to be part of an institution that recognizes the importance of the arts and supports ongoing curricular enrichment opportunities," said Alicia Landes, chairperson for New Trier's art department. "Through visiting artists and professional gallery exhibits like this, we are able to make real-life curricular connections with professional artists' work, allowing for rich conversation and continued growth in the classroom."

Visitors can view the work on display at New Trier's Winnetka campus any time during school hours. The show runs through Nov. 13.

Surrealist Images by Washington, D.C.-based artist Christopher A. Klein are currently on display at New Trier High School's Winnetka campus.
Skokie, CTA offer free parking, ceremony for Yellow Line's return

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

When the CTA's Yellow Line train service resumes Oct. 30, riders who get on at the Dempster Street Skokie Swift station will not have to worry about parking fees - at least not for awhile.

Providing free parking at the Dempster station for the rest of the year is one of the "significant outreach efforts" to be undertaken by the village and the CTA to induce riders back to the Yellow Line, both parties say.

A ceremonial first ride with dignitaries Oct. 30 and free Yellow Line rides for a week following the return of service are also being planned, according to the CTA.

Van Dusen thanked the community for its patience throughout nearly six months of the Yellow Line being down.

"The village monitored the CTA and MWRD's handling of this system failure and we are reassured that our concern for local riders was heard," he said.

"We appreciate the continued community support for the numerous businesses near the Yellow Line stations that rely on commuters as customers, and we hope that ridership will quickly return to the levels attained before the unfortunate service interruption," Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen said last week in a prepared statement.

Van Dusen thanked the community for its patience throughout nearly six months of the Yellow Line being down.

"The village monitored the CTA and MWRD's handling of this system failure and we are reassured that our concern for local riders was heard," he said.

A ceremonial first ride - or at least a first return ride - has been scheduled for the morning of Oct. 30 at the Yellow Line downtown Skokie station on Oakton Street.

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Finished Des Plaines River Trail connects bikers to Wisconsin

By Ronnie Wachter
Pioneer Press

The Cook and Lake trails are technically separate, but share one name and adjoin on a bridge that spans Lake Cook Road in Wheeling's Potawatomi Woods. The northern edge of the trail is at Russell Road in Wadsworth's Van Patten Woods; the southern edge is just north of North Avenue in River Forest.

On the Lake County side, the first pieces of the trail began appearing in the early 1960s, according to a statement from the forest preserve districts of Lake County and Cook County that was 54 years in the making.

“Our customers have been talking about it,” said Lisa Strong, who works at the Runner's Edge store in Libertyville. “They've been working on connecting trails ever since we moved here. All the work they've done on it for the past couple of years has really been phenomenal for the outdoor community.”

The Cook and Lake trails are technically separate, but share one name and adjoin on a bridge that spans Lake Cook Road in Wheeling's Potawatomi Woods. The northern edge of the trail is at Russell Road in Wadsworth's Van Patten Woods; the southern edge is just north of North Avenue in River Forest.

The board of commissioners of that time saw it as a way to “protect the Des Plaines River floodplain and to preserve land along the river corridor,” the statement said.

At 31.4 miles, Lake County's path is about two-thirds of the total trail. According to the statement, it took 142 land acquisitions of nearly 5,000 acres over 54 years to get the Lake County portion done.

Randy Seebach, the forest preserve's director of planning and land preservation, said the last purchase came in December, when the district bought 4.4 acres from the Par-King Skill Golf course along Milwaukee Avenue in Lincolnshire for around $220,000. He said his crews started working on the last section in June.

“It's been going on for so long, it feels great to have it finished,” Seebach said Friday.

The final 1,600 feet is paved. In Cook County, the majority of the trail is dirt, but the Lake County side has segments with gravel or asphalt. At one point, the trail criss-crosses with the cart path of the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort's golf course.

The trail is open to horse riders, dog walkers and cross-country skiers, and includes six canoe launching points on the Lake County side.
MG Fire Dept. hosts state fire marshal

**BY NATALIE HAYES**
Pioneer Press

Fire prevention was the focus of a discussion led by Illinois' new fire marshal, Matt Perez, when he stopped by the Morton Grove Fire Department Oct. 22 to help draw attention to National Fire Prevention Month.

Perez, who was appointed as the top fire official in the state by Gov. Bruce Rauner in April after serving 27 years with the Aurora Fire Department, stopped by the Morton Grove Fire Department to get acquainted with local officials and highlight the importance of this year's fire prevention theme, "Hear the Beep When You Sleep."

Perez, who said his lifelong career goal has been public safety, said preventing fires can be as simple as taking a few seconds to evaluate your surroundings.

"The simplest tips are to be attentive about cooking and to be careful about space heaters and candles, but the most important thing you can do is to make sure there are working smoke detectors in your home," Perez said. "People have good intentions, but they get busy and problems arise when they forget to change the batteries."

The Morton Grove Fire Department was chosen for the reception, Morton Grove fire Chief Tom Friel said, because of its proximity to Glenview's Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy, where Perez attended a meeting with 17 local fire chiefs that afternoon.

"We were able to snag him for a little alone time, so we took the opportunity to recognize Fire Prevention Month with our own private ceremony," Friel said. "It's nice to get come face to face and have better familiarity with the new state fire marshal."

Fire departments across the U.S. typically mark Fire Prevention Month by hosting open houses and other public events. Friel said the reception was a special way for fire officials to mark the month privately among fellow firefighters.

"We're all family, and we wanted to have our little family together to recognize fire prevention month," Friel said.

About half of residential fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Perez said this year's fire prevention month theme should serve as a reminder that having functional smoke and fire detectors installed near bedrooms is crucial to escaping a burning home.

The state fire marshal is charged with essentially the same responsibilities as a municipal fire chief—arson investigation and enforcement; public education for fire prevention, code development and investigation. In his new role, Perez said his responsibilities have shifted more toward spreading public awareness.

"When I was riding on fire trucks in Aurora, I thought the best fires were when everything else (besides the fire starting in the first place) went well," Perez said. "As I moved on to fire prevention, I realized the best ones are the ones that never happen."

The reception was attended by Morton Grove Mayor Dan DiMaria, state Rep. Laura Fine and a large group of Morton Grove firefighters. Also attending was Joe Ahern, CEO of the 100 Club of Chicago, a nonprofit that provides financial assistance and college tuition to families of first responders killed in the line of duty.

The privately funded organization has helped 258 families since 1966, Ahern said, and covers approximately 45,000 police and firefighters in Cook and Lake counties.

"The 100 Club is the first responder to the first responders," Ahern said. "If, God forbid, anything happens to our firefighters, we're able to step in and help pick up the pieces."

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Buona Beef eatery opens to crowds

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

A promotion promising free beef for a year to the first 100 customers to enter the new Buona Beef restaurant that opened in Harwood Heights Oct. 20 drew throngs of people — some of whom showed up at 1 a.m. to start waiting in line.

The line had already reached its limit by 6 a.m., according to co-owner Joe Buonavolanto, whose family started Buona Beef in 1981 and has since grown the fast-casual chain to 16 total locations in the Chicago area.

"We always seem to have a lot of excitement surrounding our openings," Buonavolanto said. "We see the Italian beef giveaway as an opportunity to give back to the community that supports us, while making new friends and greeting the old."

The 3,950-square-foot restaurant opened on schedule last week — the village of Harwood Heights had required the Buonavolantos to open before Nov. 1. That deal also gives Buona Beef $200,000 in sales tax rebates if it meets the terms of a financial incentive agreement.

The restaurant sits on the corner of Lawrence and Oketo avenues, a property that's been vacant since the Harwood Heights Village Hall moved to Wilson Avenue more than 10 years ago.

The restaurant has a 120-seat indoor dining room, as well as an outdoor patio facing Lawrence with seating for 40.

The menu, led by Buona's signature Italian beef, also includes Chicago-style classics like pepper and egg sandwiches and hand-rolled pizzas.

Acknowledging an increasing desire for healthier food choices, Buonavolanto said he manages to keep his Italian beef tasty without packing in preservatives or artificial ingredients.

He says his lean, all-natural beef recipe has 440 calories in each 7-inch sandwich, and that the calorie-conscious recipe has been generally well-received since the chain started using it several years ago.

Buona Beef's 32-space parking lot overflowed Oct. 20, and more than 140 people hoping to take part in the free beef promotion were turned away shortly after the sun rose that morning.

The menu, led by Buona's signature Italian beef, also includes Chicago-style classics like pepper and egg sandwiches and hand-rolled pizzas.

Buona Beef staff started distributing orange wristbands at about 6 a.m. to release the first 100 guests from the rest of the crowd, according to Matt Hensler, a public relations representative for Buona Beef.

Among the lucky ones to win free beef for a year were friends Anthony Amato of Norridge, Nicky Petrovic of Harwood Heights, Andrzej Taraska of Norridge and Rafał Wieczek of Chicago, who waited outside in line for eight hours after arriving at 1:30 am.

Some people brought blankets to stay warm, and Petrovic's group of friends passed the time by talking and smoking cigarettes, according to Petrovic.

"We got excited while we were out there in line, because we started realizing how great it is to get free beef sandwiches for a year — that's a lot of money," he said.

The promotion, explained Buonavolanto, is good for one Italian beef sandwich per week for 52 weeks. At about $8.50 per sandwich, winners scored about $440 worth of free food.

Despite having worked an overnight shift at nearby FCL Graphics Inc. that ended at 6:30 a.m., Michael Sickels of Chicago was full of energy as he waited to get into Buona Beef shortly before it opened at 10:30 a.m.

"I love to eat and I love beef, so I had to be here," Sickels said loudly as he entered the restaurant ready to claim his year of free beef.

"I'm Cindy's dad," he said proudly as he greeted the restaurant ready to claim his year of free beef.

The village of Harwood Heights is hoping Buona Beef will bring more than sandwiches to town.

The property has been tax-exempt since 2010, when the village lost $310,000 on the site.

That year, it repurchased the property for $990,000 from a developer who had bought it for $1.3 million in 2006 but failed to build anything.

Under the development agreement between Buona Beef and Harwood Heights, the village will share half of the local sales taxes generated by the restaurant for the first 12 years of operation, or until the developer has received a total of $200,000, whichever comes first.

Buona Beef is open from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Readers share their favorite scary movies

Randy Blaser
Prepare to get scared.
With Halloween nearly upon us, many readers responded to my column a couple weeks ago asking for scary movie recommendations. Now that fright night is nearly here, I’d like to share some suggestions so we can all be properly filled with terror on the scariest night of the year.

So turn out the lights, make some popcorn, get under a blanket and prepare to enjoy these classics from our readers.

Margaret Goss agreed with my assessment of "The Exorcist," but also likes "Alien" and "The Others" with Nicole Kidman. "It has a great twist at the end and stayed with me a long time," she said.

Her other recommendations include "Let the Right One In," "28 Days Later," and "28 Weeks Later."

Evelyn Geran recommends "House of Wax" (the 1953 original, not the 2005 remake) starring Vincent Price, the dean of horror film stars. She also recommends the original "House on Haunted Hill" (1959).

"There will be times when you will be snuggling into the couch pillows and peeking through your fingers."

Although only 28, Andrew Schulenburg of Lake Bluff likes classic horror films and his favorite is "The Shining." But he also had some modern recommendations for me, including "Insidious," "The Ring," "The Strangers," "The Hills Have Eyes," "H10" and "The Exorcism of Emily Rose."

About "The Hills Have Eyes," Andrew says: "Do not watch this one with kids. Disturbing movie to the point where I don’t always want to watch it, but damn, it’s just good."

Anton Ondrus of Highland Park likes a couple of classics: "The Bad Seed," which is "scary for all parents," and "Freaks."

"The Haunting" with Julie Harris and Claire Bloom is a favorite of Kaye Aurigemma of Westchester, Gloria Dittmann of Lake Zurich and Georgette Richter.

"No matter how many times I watch it, I still get goose bumps during certain scenes," Kaye said. "It will scare the you-know-what out of you," added Georgette. And Gloria gives it 10 stars out of five.

Like many of us parents, Nancy Meyer said she shared her love of classic horror films with her kids, and found a classic film that isn’t associated with Halloween to be a winner.

"My children were completely riveted when Scout and Jem were attacked coming through the woods. That was perfect — real terror that was resolved satisfactorily enough that it didn’t cause nightmares."

She’s talking about "To Kill A Mockingbird," of course.

So there you have it. If you like scary movies, this list should be enough to keep you going.

And if we’re lucky, maybe we can get Boo Radley to come out.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Paul Sassone
How long must we fight the Civil War?
First, it was secession. Now, it’s biscuits.
And it looks as if the South is winning this time.

On Oct. 6, the burger behemoth started selling breakfast all day. Which was good news for those of us who would pull into a McDonald’s drive-thru at 10:30 a.m. only to be told we were too late for the bacon egg and cheese biscuit we craved.

I do, indeed, love the Bacon Egg and Cheese Biscuit. Best thing on the menu, I think.

So, I was happy to learn I could order the sandwich any time of the day.

What I didn’t initially know was that if I wanted a Bacon Egg and Cheese Biscuit in the afternoon or evening, I’d have to go to Kentucky to get one.

Turns out, not all breakfast items are available in all states at non-breakfast times.

What McDonald’s has done is created a new Mason-Dixon Line based on English muffins versus biscuits. The restaurant claims it decided what to sell where based on customer preference.

The results were generally the Egg McMuffin for the North and the Bacon Egg and Cheese Biscuit for the South.

States in which Bacon Egg and Cheese Biscuits can be purchased all day are Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky. They are available in parts of Arkansas, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

The rest of the U.S., including Illinois, gets Egg McMuffins — bad news for those of us who don’t like Canadian bacon and who love biscuits.

Nobody ever asked me if I preferred muffins to biscuits. And it seems like stereotyping to assume southerners prefer biscuits to muffins.

But that isn’t the point. McDonald’s said it was going to serve breakfast all day. Then it waffled.

Not all breakfast stuff is available — including the one breakfast item I want.

On its website, McDonald’s says of all-day breakfast: "Menu items vary by location. Deliciousness doesn’t."

Maybe so.

But McDonald’s halfway all-day breakfast has left a bad taste in this Bacon Egg and Cheese Biscuit lover’s mouth.

If you are going to do it, then do it — all of it.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
The Music Box Theatres new lounge will be open for cocktails and mingling. Books may be sold on site. Attendees may preorder copies of “Find a Way” with their ticket, and books also will be signed.

An audience Q&A and book-signing will follow the program. Attendees will want to hear her story.

Diana Nyad’s book “Find a Way” chronicles the triumphs, trials and lessons she and her team faced in her world record-setting swim from Cuba to Miami in 2013. Nyad will be joined by Blue Sky reporter Amina Elahi for a discussion about her book at Chicago’s iconic Music Box Theatre. Nyad’s achievements in and out of the water required vision, perseverance, teamwork and leadership. Anyone striving to reach a big goal — from entrepreneurs to weekend warriors — will want to hear her story.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4
6:30 P.M.

MUSIC BOX THEATRE, 3733 N. SOUTHPORT AVE., CHICAGO

Diana Nyad’s book “Find a Way” chronicles the triumphs, trials and lessons she and her team faced in her world record-setting swim from Cuba to Miami in 2013. Nyad will be joined by Blue Sky reporter Amina Elahi for a discussion about her book at Chicago’s iconic Music Box Theatre. Nyad’s achievements in and out of the water required vision, perseverance, teamwork and leadership. Anyone striving to reach a big goal — from entrepreneurs to weekend warriors — will want to hear her story.

An audience Q&A and book-signing will follow the program. Attendees may preorder copies of “Find a Way” with their ticket, and books also will be sold onsite.

The Music Box Theatre’s new lounge will be open for cocktails and mingling.

$25 ticket / $51 ticket + book in advance, $27 at the door

GO TO TRIBNATION.COM FOR TICKETS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you to U.S. private forest owners

After celebrating National Forest Products Week (Oct. 19-25), we should be proud that, according to Forest America, the U.S. is the world’s largest supplier of forest products. Our forestland has remained constant at 755 million acres for the past century. We have 20 percent more trees today than we did on the first Earth Day in 1970. The volume of wood on U.S. forestland has doubled since 1953.

This success has required generations of forest landowners who are devoted to the best management and stewardship of their lands, in order to sustain their production for the long term. That’s one of the reasons why today, the volume of annual net timber growth is 36 percent higher than the volume of annual timber removals. It’s no accident that private forest landowners plant more than 4 million trees per day — or more than 2.5 billion trees per year.

Following our celebration of National Forest Products Week, let’s recognize the contributions of the millions of private forest landowners and their sustainable practices that ensure that our forests remain national treasures.

—Frank Beidler, Lake Forest
A Vernon Hills businessman brought his decked-out DeLorean to Stevenson High School on Oct. 21.

**Hello McFly...**

Anybody home in 2015?

Eric Scott

I'm driving home on Oct. 21, and from out of nowhere this silver DeLorean flies by me pushing about 90 miles per hour before jumping a curb and plowing into a row of bushes to finally slow down. Then the driver jumps out wearing an orange-colored down vest screaming for some guy named "Doc" and wanting to know where he can get a Pepsi Free.

What am I the only one who posted a Facebook photo of this guy who looks like Alex from "Family Ties" and his robotics club contraption-looking car on Oct. 21, 201... wait a minute, I've seen this movie! Right when the new Star Wars blockbuster starts cranking up the hype machine with a trailer debuting on Monday Night Football — along with frantic fans jamming Fandango phone lines for advanced opening day tickets — "Back to the Future" steals its thunder with a promotional plan hatched 30 years ago to the day. Take that Skywalker!

All of us who waited for the sequel to 1985's "Back to the Future" to hit movie screens can now look back on Hollywood's version of what the future would look like on Oct. 21, 2015, and compare it to the real deal. No hover boards just yet, but I bet today's mobile devices are way beyond anything that could be imagined back when Milli Vanilli still had us convinced they could sing. Many teens are still trying to wrap their brains around the idea going anywhere without a cellphone and being able to function.

Flash forward to the real Oct. 21, 2015, and a quick 1.21 gigawatt-powered trip to Stevenson High School, where a "Back to the Future" DeLorean mock-up popped into the parking lot. Students who know the movie through their parents or have checked out Marty McFly on Netflix got an up-close look at the time-traveling car that supposedly visited 2015 before high-tailing it back to the 20th century.

Does it look as cool to 2015 teens as it did to Gen-X'ers in 1989? How do those who remember seeing "Back to the Future Part II" during the first Bush administration think 2015 back then measures up with present day 2015?

Well, the part about the Cubs in the World Series was nearly right on the money.

Maybe Doc and McFly were just a year off on that one?

Eric Scott is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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847-616-5942
Rooms in miniature
Kupjack family craft continues

BY SHERYL DEVORE
Pioneer Press

Henry Kupjack

When: 12:45 p.m., Nov. 1
Where: lannelli Studios Heritage Center, 255 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge
Cost: Free
Information: www.kupjack.com

Henry Kupjack admits when he was growing up in Park Ridge, he didn't like telling his friends what his dad did for a living.

"It was not exactly a good idea to tell people on the grade school playground that your dad made doll houses," said Kupjack.

But it was more than doll-houses. In fact, his father, Eugene J. Kupjack, who died in 1991, was a renowned miniature artist who worked on at least 30 American rooms in the well-known Thorne collection at the Art Institute of Chicago. His sons, Henry and Jay, continue the tradition today as well-known miniaturists themselves.

Henry will speak about his and his father's work Nov. 1 at the The Kalo Foundation's lannelli Studios Heritage Center in Park Ridge. A slide show will reveal some of Henry Kupjack's famous miniature rooms.

Miniature lovers also can visit two exhibitions in Chicago featuring Henry Kupjack's creations: a miniature Pullman railroad car now on display at the Art Institute until the end of December, and four miniatures in the second floor lobby of the new Chicago Athletic Hotel, 12 S. Michigan Ave. Featured there are miniatures he created of an old diner, a 17th century pirate captain's cabin and two Alexander the Great 333 B.C.-era tents.

Kupjack said his father designed the colonial-style Park Ridge home where he grew up.

"I used to go to the Thorne studios as a child," Henry said. "My father would take me to visit customers. They were billionaires and lived in these big palatial places."

The miniature rooms Eugene Kupjack created were commissioned by Narcissa Niblack Thorne, a founding member of the Art Institute. The rooms are primarily of wood, paper and metal on a scale of an inch to a foot — and scale that Henry Kupjack still uses to create them today.

"In the 1920s, it was all the fashion for museums to have full-sized period rooms," Kupjack said. "But they were expensive to make, so Thorne suggested creating miniature versions to supplant the full-sized period rooms."

Thorne commissioned his father to help with the project.

"These days miniatures have taken on a whole other popularity than what they were intended for," he said. "It's an art form where you can recreate interiors that no longer exist.

"Everyone from childhood is preprogrammed to like miniatures, because all toys are miniature versions of full-size things — ships, lead soldiers, even dinosaurs are all miniature models."

People also have a fascination with miniature rooms because "you can stand in front of them and project yourself into the images," he said.

Kupjack, who has created about 70 miniature rooms, said some of his favorites include scenes that can no longer be found in their original form, such as the Pullman railroad car on exhibit at the Art Institute.

Art Institute Thorne rooms curator Lindsay Mican Morgan, said when she first saw Henry Kupjack's Pullman railroad car, she thought "it was stunning and amazing. I showed it to the board and the museum director and the CEO and they all agreed to show it in the Thorne room gallery."

Morgan said the Art Institute has borrowed rooms from Kupjack before, including one he made for the Marshall Field family to depict their home in Lake Forest.

"We find the Kupjacks' work spectacular," she said. "They've been generous with donating the materials that Mrs. Thorne had left to the Kupjacks when she died. We also really love that the Kupjacks are really into history as Mrs. Thorne was."
Six must-try apple pies

BY VERONICA HINKE
Pioneer Press

From cornelian cherry-apple pies to apple pies baked in paper bags, these stellar pies are some of the tastiest ways to get your apple a day.

Sack Apple Pie

BENNISON'S BAKERY, EVANSTON
Bakers at Bennison's Bakery in Evanston use the paper bag technique for their sack apple pie. "The theory is that the steam from the apples gets trapped in the bag and melts the top, and softens the apples as it bakes," owner Jory Downer said.

What's more, the team invested in an apple peeling machine a few years ago, so now all the apple treats made there are made with fresh apples. "We pile in sliced fresh apples - a blend of Fuji and Granny Smith - with cinnamon, sugar and a special top made with loads of butter." Visit www.BennisonsCakes.com.

Caramel Apple Pie Baked in a Paper Bag

THE ELEGANT FARMER, MUKWONAGO, WIS.
Inside a yellow barn with a smiley face on its side, Elegant Farmer owner John Bauer and his team make their signature caramel apple pie baked in a paper bag.

Bauer explained that baking the pie in a brown paper bag helps keep the apples as slices while they bake, rather than the applesauce-like filling of most. After the apples are cooked, a hole is cut out of the bag and the pie is returned to the oven for the crust to get crisp. Visit www.ElegantFarmer.com.

Apple Pie Crisp

SWEETY PIE BAKERY, SKOKIE
The popular apple pie crisp at Sweety Pies Bakery in Skokie is a recipe co-owner Arden Kruger tucked away some 36 years ago after receiving it from a co-worker. Now, Kruger has perfectly nailed the apple crisp.

"We bake our pies so there is just a tender bite to the apple, but they have not lost their integrity — no mushy, pre-made apple filling here!" said co-owner Jason Davidson.

The topping is made with oats, cinnamon, brown sugar, a bit of coconut, chopped walnuts and butter that bakes up and browns on top. Visit www.SweetyPiesBakery.com.

Double Crust Apple Pie

WINDY CITY PIE COMPANY, WILMETTE
Sara Montmorency's double crust apple pie celebrates one of her Grandma Sylvia's recipes.

Montmorency creates both savory and sweet pies at Windy City Pie Company in Wilmette. Among the savory pies are pulled pork, smoked salmon with sweet potato and Irish stew. Other sweet pies are honey maple pecan and apple crunch top, which is topped with a crunchy oat and brown sugar crumble. Visit www.WindyCityPieCo.com.

Honeycrisp Apple Pie with Cornelian Cherries and Fennel

PATCHWORK PIES, CHICAGO
Kate Albing and Patrick McGuan, co-founders of Chicago-based Patchwork Pies, discovered a rare treat on a trip in northeastern Michigan: cornelian cherries.

They decided to showcase the bright red, tangy-flavored berries in an apple pie. "Cooked cornelian cherries have the texture of cranberry sauce, which balances the apple's snap," Albing said. Visit www.facebook.com/PatchworkPies.

Apple Pie

ELSIE MAE'S CANNING, KENOSHA, WIS.
Kelly Deem's apple pie, based on her Grandma Alta's recipe, is the cornerstone of her popular business.

Deem starts with a buttery, flaky crust, and then slow cooks a variety of sugars and butter, to develop notes of caramel, which creates a balance between the sweet and tart flavors of the apples. Visit www.facebook.com/elsiemaescanning.
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Theater

'Awake and Sing' has a message for hard times

By Myrna Petlicki
Pioneer Press

"Awake and Sing!" is set in the Bronx in 1933, but William Raffeld thinks that Clifford Odets' Depression Era drama has a universal message for dealing with hard times: "Get up, get out and find something to do," he said.

That's one of the reasons the Old World Theatre Company's artistic director decided to launch the company's sixth season with this show. It opens Nov. 7 at Congregation Kol Emeth in Skokie.

"Odets is one of my favorite playwrights," Raffeld said. "So much of his language is written in metaphor — and it works." He also relates to the story of an impoverished 1930s Jewish family because he is Jewish and was born in 1936.

Joan Rinchisen plays Bessie Berger, the matriarch of a family that includes her husband Myron, their adult children Hennie and Ralph, her father Jacob and Moe, a family friend who becomes a boarder.

"Bessie is a complicated woman," Rinchisen noted. "She's strong although she says at one point she's not. I think she's referring to physical problems she has. She's a very nervous, volatile, outspoken, energetic woman. It's her way or the highway when it comes to her family. She doesn't mind getting in her family's face and telling them the rights and wrongs and how it should be done."

She may be rough on her family but Bessie will not tolerate anyone else saying anything negative about them. "She will defend them to her death," Rinchisen said.

Keeping up appearances is important to Bessie, so she prepares a lavish meal when her wealthy brother Morty visits, even though the Bergers have very little money. "She knows how to take care of people and make them comfortable," Rinchisen said. "However, it comes at a cost."

Renardo Johnson, a social worker who has performed with Old World Theatre Company since it was founded, plays Bessie's father Jacob.

"Jacob is a sentimentalist, he's an idealist," Johnson said. "Jacob is the protector of the grandchildren because the house is in chaos. The mother's always working to get money for the family. She's a little hard on everybody in the family. She's very hard on Jacob because he's not had a very successful life."

While Bessie wants her children to focus on making money, their grandfather has other goals for Hennie and Ralph. "He's against capitalism," Johnson explained. "He's always trying to instill something positive in them, encourage them to try and change the world in some way."

"It's a wonderful play," Johnson concluded. "I feel especially blessed to play this part."

Artistic Director Raffeld, who taught theater courses at the University of Illinois at Chicago for over 50 years, founded the Old World Theatre Company for UIC theater alumni. Congregation Kol Emeth has provided a welcoming home base for the company since its inception.

Old World Theatre Company presents, 'Awake and Sing!'
When: 8 p.m. Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Nov. 7-15
Where: Congregation Kol Emeth, 5130 Touhy Ave., Skokie
Tickets: $25; $23 for Congregation Kol Emeth members; $10 for students
Contact: 312-857-8487; www.oldworldtheatre.com

(From left) Joseph Garcia, Mark Anthony Gonzalez and Joan Rinchisen in Old World Theatre Company's production of "Awake and Sing!"
Balancing dreams with financial realities

Retirement, renovation and college savings plans may be too much. Page 15
Aurora historian cherishes tea time

By Judy Buchenot
Beacon-News

As Aurora resident Jo Fredell Higgins researches local communities for her series of local history books, she often learns about traditions and events that are no longer celebrated.

One fading tradition that she wishes would return is serving a proper tea, a simple repast served with attention to detail. She explains that there should be a lovely tablecloth on the table, a vase of fresh flowers, charming pieces, a small fruit compote, tea sandwiches and a few sweets.

"I have met some people who have invited me for tea," Higgins said. "Ruth Dietrich Wagner from Montgomery invited me to tea and it was lovely. She passed away a while ago just shy of 103."

Since she has written six books for Arcadia Publishing that focus on local and regional information, Higgins often spends time in people's living rooms hearing their oral histories. "The best part of doing this is the people I meet. I sit with them and listen to their stories and look through their scrapbooks," she said.

She has researched and written books on Aurora, Geneva, DeKalb, Montgomery and Naperville for Arcadia. She also has written a novel based in Peoria titled "A Song for Cecilia," a memoir of a year spent in Belfast Northern Ireland titled "Souls: A Portrait of Belfast," and will soon be releasing a book of photographs and poetry.

Higgins considers it an honor to be able to chronicle these personal stories and photos. She is currently working on a book about Naperville for Arcadia Publishing for its modern America series. "I am looking for people who lived in Naperville mainly during the 60s through the 90s who might be willing to share photos of key people in the community and important events," Higgins said.

"I am using a very broad brush to paint a picture of life during that time and want to cover as many aspects of life as I can." Anyone interested in contributing color photos to the project can contact Higgins at poetrylady45@yahoo.com or call her at 630-851-4401.

Higgins has a few stories to share of her own, including tales of her Aunt Helen Scherer. "Aunt Helen was the oldest of 10 children and my mother was the youngest. Aunt Helen mothered all of the younger children and they all adored her."

Scherer was an inspired baker and Higgins is pleased to have copies of her Aunt Helen's recipes. "She made an angel food cake with 12 egg whites, and every taste was ambrosia."

When asked what Aunt Helen's best dish was, Higgins said, "everything. Everything she made was wonderful. I used to cook with her in the kitchen."

Aunt Helen was always making cookies and one of Higgin's favorites was her lebkuchen. "They have honey, ginger, allspice - they are almost like mini-fruitcakes," Higgins said. "They look pretty plain but they have a wonderful flavor. They are crisp when they first are baked but then I place them in a tin with a slice of apple and they ripen to a wonderful texture. The batch I just made will be good through Christmas," she said. "They are not overly sweet and are perfect for serving with tea or coffee or hot chocolate."

Higgins rolls out the dough and cuts her cookies into rectangles like Aunt Helen used to do but said that the dough can also be cut into shapes with cookie cutters.

"You can also mix together powdered sugar, milk and vanilla to make a thin glaze to put on the cookies if you want."

Higgins shares her Aunt Helen's lebkuchen recipe for others to try for a simple, flavorful cookie that keeps well. Keeping a batch on hand is a great idea for serving unexpected guests who may drop by during the holiday season.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer for the Beacon-News.

Find more suburban cooks on Page 4.

Aunt Helen's Lebkuchen

1/2 cup honey
3/4 cup light corn syrup
1 egg, beaten
1 teaspoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon lemon rind
2 1/2 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground cloves
1 teaspoon ground allspice
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/4 cup chopped citron
1/2 cup chopped nuts

1. Mix honey and corn syrup in a saucepan. Bring to a boil and cool.
2. Add brown sugar, well-beaten egg, lemon juice and lemon rind. Mix and set aside.
3. Sift flour into a bowl before measuring. Measure and sift flour together with baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, allspice and nutmeg. Stir flour mixture into the honey mixture and mix well.
4. Stir in citron and nuts. Cover dough and refrigerate several hours or overnight until firm. On a lightly floured surface, roll dough out to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut into rectangles or use cookie cutters to cut shapes.
5. Grease cookie sheet and place cookies on the sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for about 10 to 15 minutes or until cookies lose their gloss and brown on the edges. Cool cookies on the sheet before removing. Store in an airtight container with a slice of apple so that cookies ripen. Can be stored for several weeks.

Jo's Culinary Cue

Check to be sure you have all of the ingredients before you start the recipe. Finding out you only have one egg instead of three needed for the recipe can ruin your baking adventure.
Through the cooking glass

Chefs tip their hats to ‘Alice in Wonderland’ anniversary

By Veronica Hinke
Pioneer Press

It's been 150 years since Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" was published, and the beloved story still inspires. Many chefs are tipping their hats to the classic series with foods the Mad Hatter might have served at his tea party.

At Bobby's in Deerfield and Café Lucci in Glenview, a sticky toffee bread pudding is on the dessert menu. Chef Augie Arifi got a hankering for sticky toffee pudding after sampling a similar dessert while traveling in California. "I started doing some research, and with the help of my wife Selvi, who is an amazing baker, came up with this recipe. As chefs we think of fantasy, and bring that fantasy to reality using our imagination, ingredients and skill."

Drenched with unending flavor and decadence, sticky toffee pudding makes every minute in the kitchen worthwhile.

"It's a flavor that makes you crave more and you don't really know why. Just like toffee. It's velvety and moist to the point of 'gooeyness,' but not to where it sticks to the roof of your mouth," Arifi said.

As a native of Liverpool, England, Chef Deborah Evans has made her fair share of sticky toffee pudding. The dessert is on the menu at her family's restaurant, The Peckish Pig in Evanston. But she also has another very special recipe for the scones her Grandma "Nanna Pop" used to make.

"She was a fantastic cook," Evans said. "It's a recipe that is a couple of generations with a little variation, of course. The scones have a slightly sweet, deep buttery flavor. They're a cross between a cake and bread that crumbles in your mouth."

Evans grates the butter, just like grating cheese. The process helps the butter incorporate better with the other ingredients. She suggested using good quality butter and freezing the butter before grating it.

Scones make her think of happy days growing up in England. "On my birthdays, as a special treat we would be taken down to the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool where they would serve afternoon tea," she recalled.

"A tea party is a wonderful, special event, a festive occasion for friends to get together and have a relaxed conversation which can lead anywhere," Evans said. "That's why Lewis Carroll described the tea party so effectively in the book. As a chef, I strive to help in creating that special occasion that brings people together."

Chef Iliana Regan has even come up with a special mushroom tea in honor of "Alice in Wonderland." It's a highlight of her new menu celebrating fairy tales at her Chicago restaurant, Elizabeth. "We are doing a fairy tale menu through the rest of the fall and could not do it without 'Alice in Wonderland' references," Regan said. The mushroom tea is Regan's salute to the White Rabbit. She makes the tea with Hen of the Woods (Maitake) mushrooms. "It's silky, rich and earthy with chamomile and cocoa nibs," she said.

For more recipes, visit http://trib.in/1LPQ29K.

Scones

10 Servings

1. Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. In a large mixing bowl, combine 2 cups flour, 1/2 cup sugar, 1/2 teaspoon baking powder, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 1/4 sticks of butter, 1 egg, 1 cup heavy whipping cream

2. In a separate bowl, mix together eggs and whipping cream. Add the wet mixture to the dry mixture and fold, careful not to over mix.

3. Shape into two-ounce scone shapes and bake on an ungreased cookie sheet for 20 minutes or until slightly brown.

The Peckish Pig, Evanston
Cook honors brother with special dishes

Relatives’ favorite meals prepared for Day of the Dead

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

Author George Eliot once wrote, “The dead are never dead to us until we have forgotten them.”

Naperville resident Teresa Reskala keeps alive the memory of her brother by celebrating the Day of the Dead, a Mexican holiday tradition, on Nov. 1 and 2.

“It is a day we honor loved ones we have lost and show we care about them. It is celebrating the relationship between the dead and alive,” she said.

Reskala said that the holiday is celebrated more in central and south Mexico than in northern regions.

“There are two kinds of celebrations. One is an offering placed in the home. The other is more of a parade to decorate the tombs at the cemetery and then staying and having a feast with the relatives at the cemetery,” she said.

Both traditions include a culinary element of making and enjoying the favorite dishes of the lost relatives.

Reskala, 52, puts up a table in her home where she puts together an offering for her brother. There are several important components of a proper offering. Bright orange flowers, usually marigolds, are used to provide both a bright color and scent to guide the dead to the altar. Candles are also lit to attract the dead. There is water to quench the relatives’ thirst and food to feed them including a special bread called pan de muerto, fruit, tequila or other dishes the relatives enjoyed.

Catrinas, which are decorated skeleton figures, along with chocolate or sugar candy skulls, are included on the table. Incense is added for purification and pictures or statues of saints are also on display. It is important to have a photo of the deceased relative or relatives as part of the display. The items are arranged on three levels to symbolize the underworld, earth and heaven.

One of the foods that Reskala is sure to make each year to honor her brother is puerco en salsa verde, which are pork chops cooked in a green salsa. She is sure to include nopales in the dish, another of her brother’s favorites.

“Nopalitos are cactus pieces,” Reskala said. The pads or leaves of the prickly pear cactus known as nopales or nopalitos are sold in many grocery stores selling ethnic foods. Reskala prefers to buy nopalitos that have been cleaned with all spikes removed.

“Nopalitos are very good for your health and are delicious in smoothies. I put nopalitos, pineapple, celery, apple, parsley, oranges, almonds and amaranth in the blender. I mix it all up and it is very good!”

She said the nopalitos can be added to many different dishes for a unique flavor and texture.

Her brother’s favorite dish requires salsa verde, a very common Mexican sauce.

“I make a batch and keep it in the refrigerator to have on lots of things,” she said. “We put it on fried eggs or any meat dish.”

The salsa verde is made with tomatillos, which look like green tomatoes with husks. They are sold in most supermarkets.

Reskala is pleased that she can find most of the ingredients for Mexican recipes here in the United States. She has also found that some area restaurants prepare fairly authentic Mexican dishes.

“One thing that is different is that in Mexico, there are more fresh cheeses and very few cheeses that melt like cheddar. We use more queso fresco or queso panela, which don’t melt. The one thing I haven’t found here is queso de Chiapas. It is a cheese that is a little sour. I also can’t find romeritos. It’s an herb that looks like rosemary but it has a different flavor. We use it for a very traditional dish that we serve during Lent and Christmas.”

Reskala has lived in Naperville nine years and volunteers at Naperville Central High School and other organizations. She is a member of the Naperville Newcomers and Neighbors and enjoys many activities with them.

Although celebrating the day of the dead is becoming less common, Reskala keeps the tradition going to pass along to her two children who are now 20 and 18.

Season pork chops with salt and pepper. Brown in vegetable oil in frying pan. Pour in one recipe of salsa verde (about 3 cups). Simmer over low heat for 20 to 25 minutes. Add greens and continue to cook until tender. For a full meal, serve pork chops over white rice with warmed black beans and corn tortillas.

**Salsa verde**

- 1/4 pound tomatillos (about 10)
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 chili pepper (either jalapeno or serrano)

1. Peel husk off the tomatillos. Wash them carefully and cut into chunks. Place in food processor. Add cilantro, onion and garlic. Slice pepper. Remove seeds for a mild salsa or leave them in for a hotter salsa. Add to blender. Blend until chopped.

2. Add 1/2 cup water if mixture is too thick. Pour mixture into a pan and bring to a boil. Cook until mixture changes color and becomes more clear. Cool and place in a container. Refrigerate until ready to use. Makes about 3 cups.

**Puerco en salsa verde**

3 boneless center cut pork chops
salt and pepper to taste
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 recipe salsa verde (above)
1 cup chopped spinach, kale or nopalitos

1. Season pork chops with salt and pepper. Brown in vegetable oil in frying pan. Pour in one recipe of salsa verde (about 3 cups). Simmer over low heat for 20 to 25 minutes. Add greens and continue to cook until tender. For a full meal, serve pork chops over white rice with warmed black beans and corn tortillas.

**Teresa’s Culinary Cue**

When cleaning jalapenos or other potent hot peppers, hold the pepper by the stem and use a knife to slice it open and pop out the seeds. By holding the pepper by the stem, you are less likely to get the oils on your hands, which can sting, especially if you then touch your face or eyes.
Dear Help Squad,

I read the column where you were able to get satisfaction for a reader from Fields Jeep, which has encouraged me, with your help, to tackle my problem with United Airlines and US Airways.

I purchased two round-trip United Airlines tickets, Chicago to Vancouver, for my wife and me, on Aug. 4, 2014. I canceled them on Sept. 13, 2014 - far in advance of the travel date. I also purchased two round-trip US Airways tickets, Phoenix to Kona, Hawaii, on May 12, 2014, and canceled them that same day - also far in advance of the travel date.

Although both airlines offered an opportunity to use these tickets under a set of almost impossible conditions, due to my wife's chemotherapy, it was impossible to use the tickets. I am sure the seats did not go empty. The airlines most probably resold them, thereby selling the same seats twice and keeping the money for both. Unconscionable.

The conclusion to the story of these two cancellations - which neither airline would honor or refund - is that in the end my wife died of her disease on Aug. 20, 2015, as accurately predicted by her oncologist in a letter dated Nov. 3, 2014. This letter was sent to both US Airways and United Airlines.

I know this is a big dog to fight but in light of the facts, maybe you have a chance. Thank you for your effort.

Al, Long Grove

Help Squad reached out to both United Airlines and US Airways/American Airlines to see if there was anything they could do for Al in light of his extenuating circumstances. We emailed to each of their media relations departments Al's refund request, his canceled tickets, the doctor's letter and copies of the letters he received from both airlines denying him a refund.

The next day, we received the following response from United spokesperson Mary Clark: "We're reaching out to Mr. Weinberg today to let him know we'll be refunding both tickets in full to his original form of payment. We apologize to Mr. Weinberg for the delay in responding to his request."

When asked if United has a policy that specifically addresses Al's situation, Mary responded: "If the doctor's letter states the passenger cannot travel for an undetermined period, then the policy calls for a refund to the original form of payment, less a $50 service fee. We waived the fee in consideration of the circumstances and the delay handling [Al's] request."

She added: "There was some initial confusion on our end regarding the doctor's letter."

That same day, Al received a call from a United customer care representative who told him that not only would he receive a refund for his tickets, but the representative would also contact US Air/American on his behalf to request a similar refund from that airline.

The next day, we heard from American Airlines spokesperson Leslie Scott: "We will provide Mr. Weinberg a full refund for the tickets. Our customer relations team will reach out to him today. Unused tickets are refundable upon the death of the ticketed passenger."

When we asked Scott why Al's refund request had initially been denied, she said: "We have been trying to run that down and have not yet come to a definitive conclusion, so I'd rather not speculate...

Al received email confirmation of his refunds from both airlines and will be receiving a $3,045.80 credit to his credit card as a result.

I could never have done this without [Help Squad]. I sincerely appreciate your help. Can't wait to see those credits show up on my credit card!"

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

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM
Help Squad

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ALL DRIVE. No drama.
O'Hare opens room for indoor pet relief

Terminal 3's new area has artificial grass, mini fire hydrants

By Grace Wong
Chicago Tribune

Purry traveling companions now officially have their own indoor bathroom at O'Hare International Airport.

The room is designed to accommodate passengers traveling with service animals or pets and is complete with artificial grass, mini fire hydrants and a pop-up sprinkler system to wash away liquid waste, officials said.

Located past security checkpoints in the Rotunda area of Terminal 3, travelers will no longer have to pass back through security to let their animals relieve themselves. Officials said that any animal traveling with its owner is able to use the room.

“We are pleased to offer this new amenity for passengers, especially those who depend on the assistance of service animals when they travel through our airport,” said Ginger Evans, Chicago Department of Aviation commissioner, in a news release.

“This is another way we are making O'Hare International Airport more accessible to the traveling public and creating a more welcoming environment for visitors to Chicago.”

The room, which has a door with a glass pane that opens and closes automatically, will have two, 2-foot-by-4-foot pet relief areas and a mounted hose bib and reel is available for manual spraying. Plastic bags are also available to owners. The room is also wheelchair accessible and includes two sinks for passenger use. Owners are responsible for their pets, officials said.

The indoor room will complement the three outdoor relief areas near the lower level curb in front of Terminals 1, 2, and 5. The outdoor areas have real grass, gravel or wood chips, are fenced in and have plastic bags and garbage cans.

PET OF THE WEEK

Scappy is a giant dog in a tiny body. He is full of personality. He is a bit slow to warm and trust new people, but once he does, watch out, you will not be able to resist. Making him part of your family. Scappy does not show well at the adoption center, and we are looking for someone to work with him in a home setting. The Rescue Team Members and Volunteers that care for Scappy see the loving side of him. We have both Rescue Team members and a trainer that will work with you to blend him into your home. Text Kim at 708-712-4455 to set up a meeting.

Scappy is around 2 and is a small terrier mix. He loves to go for walks and will love curling up in your lap. For more information, visit alsiptotherescue.org.

Buy a T-shirt, help an animal

By William Hageman
Chicago Tribune

AJ Brooks, a former WWE Divas champion, has teamed up with Beautiful Disaster Clothing and launched a new line of clothing that will benefit PAWS Chicago.

Brooks (whose ring name is AJ Lee) is a longtime animal advocate. She adopted a dog from PAWS earlier this year while she was recovering from surgery.

“I’ve been a rescue dog mom several times and occasionally found comfort in scrolling through pictures of animals on various adoption center websites, just to fantasize about adding to the family. Then I found my guy on pawsschicago.org,” she said in a release.

“The second I saw his face — pointy batlike ears, soulful eyes, pronounced underbite, hilariously messy hair, with a bit of an attitude problem to boot – I knew I had found the one.”

Brooks and her husband, UFC fighter CM Punk, named the dog Larry Talbot. Brooks incorporated Larry into the new AJ’s Animal Avenger clothing line.

Christie DuVarney, owner of Beautiful Disaster Clothing, said the company would donate all proceeds to PAWS.

For more information or to make a purchase, visit bdrocks.com/aj-s-collection.html.

ALIVE Rescue is holding its fifth annual holiday wreath sale. Wreaths are available in 24-, 30- and 36-inch sizes, priced at $19, $32 and $29, respectively. There's also a 25-foot balsam street rope ($32). Orders must be received by Nov. 1. Wreaths will be available for pickup 7-9 p.m. Nov. 23 and Dec. 4 at 2227 W. Belmont Ave. in Chicago. Delivery is also available. Email ALWE at info@alive-rescue.org to receive copy of the order form.

chicagotribune.com/pets

Visit us daily for the latest pet and animal news from the suburbs, city and beyond, plus:

- Our adoptable animals blog featuring photos and descriptions of Chicagoland pets in need of homes.
- Our suburban and city pet events calendar
- Photo galleries, videos, more
30 questions to ask yourself before you pop the question

I know a couple who has been happily married for 15 years and who have three children. What I recently found out about the husband was my inspiration for this column. He told me while sitting in the stands at our son's basketball game that he was engaged a couple years before he met his now-wife, and that he broke it off because he knew in his heart it wasn't right.

When I asked how he came to the realization, he said, "I didn't ask myself the right questions before I proposed."

So, what are the right questions? Here are 30 I think anyone who is considering a lifetime commitment should ask:

1. Why am I getting engaged now? In other words, is it because I don't want to be single? Perhaps I am getting married because I want kids? Or, is it because I am ready to make this commitment and this is the right person for me?
2. How does this person handle a crisis? Does he/she fail apart or can they deal with pressure?
3. Does this person truly love me or does he/she just want to be married?
4. Do we have fun together? Can we sit in a room with only another and do nothing and still feel comfortable and happy?
5. Do we share similar goals and dreams? Do we want the same things long-term?
6. How is his/her family? Do they feel like family to me already? Do I want to spend time with them? Do they want to spend time with me?
7. Did my future wife/husband have a happy childhood? If not, has he/she gotten help for issues that might present a problem in the future?
8. Are we both on the same page as far as if we want kids and how many? If so, have we talked about religion in raising them?
9. Is my future husband/wife motivated professionally? Does he/she enjoy their career?
10. When we fight, are we able to talk things through constructively? Do we scream and shout and/or have long periods of silence afterward?
11. How are we together in bed? Are we both satisfied and happy with our sex life?
12. What is his/her favorite food? Is he or her family nearby?
13. Does he/she have addictive tendencies? A little too much wine at night or excessive gambling can turn into something larger later.
14. Does he/she make me laugh?
15. Do we enjoy similar books, movies, hobbies, tourist spots, sporting events, etc?
16. Is he/she my best friend? Do I feel comfortable confiding in this person no matter what?
17. If it's a second marriage, does this man/woman love my children? Does he/she have the desire to offer them warmth and support?
18. Is my gut telling me he/she is the right one, or am I convincing myself of it?
19. If I get sick, will he/she take care of me? Will I do the same for him/her?
20. If we have a difference in opinion, is he or she open to hearing my side or are they defensive and closed-minded?
21. Does this person have good values? Any red flags on their opinions of anything we've ever discussed?
22. Does he/she have a social life outside of me?
23. How do I feel about the friends that he or she has chosen?
24. How is his or her personal hygiene?
25. Is his or her home clean?
26. How responsible is he or she with finances and handling money? Investing? Real estate? Do I respect him/her in this regard?
27. Do I respect him or her, in general?
28. Do I trust this person with all my heart?
29. How well do I really know this person? Have I known him/her long enough to commit to a lifetime together?
30. Maybe the most important: Is he or she happy with their own life?

Believe me, these aren't easy questions. But, if you have the guts to ask yourself these and other questions that put all the important issues on the table, I promise you will have a far better chance of the one thing all married couples want: a lifetime of happiness together.
**ROUNDUP | AUDIOBOOKS**

**Locke & Key**

By Joe Hill and Gabriel Rodriguez; narrators Haley Joel Osment, Tatiana Maslany, Kate Mulgrew and 50 others; Audible Studios; 13:26, free until Nov. 4.

What happens when a story written for a visual medium—a graphic novel—becomes an audiobook? Can an audiobook make up for the loss of the illustrator's contribution? "Locke & Key," a full-cast performance produced by Amazon's Audible Studio, is a bold attempt to find that answer. It's based on the best-selling six-volume comic series by Joe Hill and illustrator Gabriel Rodriguez, sans the artwork. And that's a problem. Despite plenty of sound effects, an all-star cast— including a cameo from Hill's father, Stephen King—and a specially composed musical score running through every scene, the story feels flattened, stripped of an essential component. Hill's plot almost makes up for it with its intriguing magical keys (who knew opening up brains could be so useful?), an evil character who's both male and female, and a narrative stocked with ample hairpin turns taken at high speed. But the sharp performances of Haley Joel Osment ("The Sixth Sense"), Tatiana Maslany ("Orphan Black"), and Kate Mulgrew ("Orange Is the New Black") add less than you might expect, even with all the evil laughter thrown in. Several of the voices are similar, leaving the listener guessing at the speaker's identity at the start of several scenes. The musical score can feel obtrusive, taking up too much time between scenes, and occasionally giving the production the sound of an old radio drama. But the story remains compelling. There's plenty of gore along the way as the Locke children find the keys that could spell their doom or salvation. That makes this unsuitable for children. But it's just creepy enough for adults.

**Dead Boy**

By Laurel Gale; narrated by Robbie Daymond; Listening Library; 5:59; $35-$44.

Being dead is inconvenient. Your hair falls out. Body parts come loose. And if the air conditioning breaks? Forget it. Crow Darlington's personal reckoned drove the neighbors away. Crow, an 11-year-old boy who has been dead since fourth grade, spends his days locked up with his overprotective mother. He's lonely, and the elaborate school assignments she assigns aren't filling the gap. But in "Dead Boy" by Laurel Gale, Crow's stench turns out to be lucky when feisty Melody Plympton, a girl his age, replaces the fleeing neighbors next door. Finally, Crow falls from Crow's nose, he hopes Melody thinks it's a booger—and the children's quest to vanquish a monster known as the Meera. If they can meet the Meera's challenge, it will grant them a wish. But its gifts are barbed, as Crow's parents learned when they wished their dead son would come back to them. Narrator Robbie Daymond does a terrific job bringing the Dead Boy to life. Daymond, an actor and voice artist, not only delivers a cast of distinctive characters, but he catches the tone of Gale's story without stopping to wink at the reader.

**CHICAGOLAND BEST-SELLERS**

1. "The Martian" by Andy Weir (Broadway, $15).
2. "Killing Reagan: The Violent Assault That Changed a Presidency" by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard (Henry Holt, $30).
3. "M Train" by Patti Smith (Knopf, $25).

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 Book Table (Oak Park), The Bookstore (Glen Ellyn), The Book Bin (Northbrook).

**NEW IN PAPERBACK**

**Without You, There Is No Us**

By Suki Kim, Broadway, 309 pages, $15.

Kim details her time teaching upper-class boys in North Korea during the last six months of Kim Jong-un's reign. Kim looks at the structured nature of the boys' lives, the songs they're required to sing about the dictator and whether the gulf between North Korea and the outside world can ever really be bridged.

**10:04: A Novel**

By Ben Lerner, Picador, 245 pages, $16.

In the past year of his life, the 33-year-old narrator of "10:04" has achieved unlikely literary success and been diagnosed with a potentially fatal medical condition. Even stranger, his best friend has asked him to help her conceive via in vitro fertilization.

In a New York City undergoing large unrest, he must reconcile the prospects of mortality with that of fatherhood.

**Boy on Ice**

By John Branch, W.W. Norton, 371 pages, $18.95.

Branch explores the life and death of hockey enforcer Derek Boogaard, who died at the age of 28 from an overdose of alcohol and painkillers. Branch examines Boogaard's unlikely rise to hockey, the contrast between his friendly nature off the ice with his fist-fighting prowess on it, and the deep impact injuries and concussions had on his life.

**Napoleon: A Life**


Roberts fleshes out Napoleon's life by using 33,000 recently published letters and by traveling to 53 of 60 battle sites as well as St. Helena, the site of Napoleon's exile. Roberts shows Napoleon as a decisive leader who was surprisingly willing to forgive friends and foes, and as someone who understood the importance of spinning his own narrative through his memoirs.

**Mighty, Mighty: A Novel**

By Wally Rudolph, Soft Skull, 286 pages, $15.95.

Chicago tattoo artist Stefy is trying to provide for her ailing grandfather and sister, Amanda, a woman with a drug-addicted past and an abusive relationship with Georgie. When Georgie violently confronts Amanda one night, he ends up dead, and now the sisters are in the crosshairs of Georgie's vengeful father, a corrupt ex-cop bent on revenge.

—Jeremy Mikula
Puzzle Island

For interactive puzzles and games go to chicagotribune.com/games

Net Losses: Explained at 107 Across

BY CHARLES DEBER | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN

ACROSS
1 Make parallel
6 Behaves
10 Fluffy scarf
13 Soup thickener
17 Keyboard shortcuts
19 Show contempt for
21 Subject to doubts
23 Rare plants not found online?
25 Coffee bean holders not found online?
26 More peevish
27 Pragmatic person
29 AFL partner
30 Poe story not found online?
32 It shines on Spain
33 Legal claim
35 In (stuck)
37 Fam. member
38 Wt. watchers woes
39 Luaus, often
40 Highly haughty
41 One from Wagga
42 Hard candies not found online?
43 Frat letters
44 Do not mean
45 "-_frutti"
46 Mislead
47 HP printer rival
48 "No ifs, ___ or buts!"
50 Tie at anchor
51 NBA teabreakers
52 Charitable ones
53 Prefix for conference
54 Stitch pattern not found online?
55 Have credit from
56 More current
57 Beethoven's "Für ___"
60 "___ was saying ___"
63 FDR successor
64 Archer, at times
65 Have a yen for
66 Wrote software
67 Realistic-looking
68 Soldier's station
69 Wryly funny
70 Pitances
71 Typical billing period
72 Grp. promoting road safety
73 Weather report not found online?
76 Electrical measures
78 More peevish
80 Ceaselessly
81 Art Deco designer
82 Sports card stat.
83 Exertion, so to speak
84 In the midst of a makeover
85 Oscar actor Alan
86 Skiers' hangouts
87 "No ifs, _ or buts!"
88 Misconduct mark
89 College sr's test
90 Extremely small
92 Coraline author
93 Start of Popeye's credo
95 Noisy bird
96 "If I Were __ Man"
97 Egypt's Asian region
98 Show the ropes to
99 Canadian skating champ Brian
100 Allegro (very fast)
104 Sloping walks
105 Rink group not found online?
107 Why nine answers here aren't found online?
109 "If ___ told you once __"
110 One-time wax rabbit
112 Former Warsaw Pact mem.
113 Professor's domain
115 Covered, as some candy
116 Blender setting
117 Roadhouse
118 Management level
119 Fertilizer ingredient
124 Base great Gehrig
125 Elaborate residence
126 Eyepiece
127 Eroded
128 Magazine designer
129 En - (as a group)
130 Art Deco designer
131 Sports card stat.
132 It shines on Spain
133 Legal claim
134 Baseball great Gehrig
135 Poetry preposition
136 Old theater
137 Authoritative
138 Wt. watchers woes
139 Luaus, often
140 “That's fantastic!”
141 Sushi tuna
142 Hard candies not found online?
143 A proverb
144 Hard candies not found online?
145 ___-frutti
146 Mislead
147 HP printer rival
148 "No ifs, ___ or buts!"
149 “That's fantastic!”
150 Lay"-down
151 NBA teabreakers
152 Charitable ones
153 Prefix for conference
154 Stitch pattern not found online?
155 To Nero
156 More current
157 Beethoven's "Für ___"
158 Hard candies not found online?
159 "___ was saying ___"
160 "If ___ told you once __"
161 Rink group not found online?
162 It shines on Spain
163 Legal claim
164 Baseball great Gehrig
165 Poetry preposition
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167 Authoritative
168 Wt. watchers woes
169 Luaus, often
170 “That's fantastic!”
171 Sushi tuna
172 Hard candies not found online?
173 A proverb
174 Hard candies not found online?
175 "___ was saying ___"
176 "If ___ told you once __"
177 Rink group not found online?
Animals Magnetism

BY CHARLES PRESTON

ACROSS
1 Author John Le...
6 Throat sound
10 Route
13 To right or left, at sea
14 Enamelware
15 Flo alone
16 Western scout and impresario
19 "Rds.
20 Dodger phenom Hideo
21 Obeah
22 Bombay dress
23 Football "pick"; abbr.
24 "What's My Line?" regular
30 Scientist Curie
31 --- pros
32 Conclude
34 Over, in Bonn
35 Adorable one
37 Spouse
38 Godfather
39 Bali ---
40 Bays
41 Ward's kid
46 Sea; Fr.
47 Farm measure
48 Lacking pigment
51 --- Disney
52 Besides
55 "Tec created by H.C.
McNeile
58 --- vera
59 Muscularity
60 Golf rarity
61 Ungainly ship
62 Ollie's partner
63 Wagons

DOWN
1 Members of the pack
2 Touch on
3 Grid zebras
4 British pilots: abbr.
5 Issue
6 Part of AEC
7 Tramp
8 Inventor Whitney
9 "Omoo" author
10 Lumber
11 Actor Ray
12 Stringed toy
15 Glasswagens
17 Australian parrot

18 Actress Anderson
22 --- fry
24 Skewed meat
25 Actress Dunne
26 Escapade
27 King; Fr.
28 Split
29 Come in
30 Strong java
32 Moines
35 Kentucky cigars
36 Mideast org.
37 Relocate
40 Rebounded
42 A miss is as good as ---
43 Peddle
44 Ralph of fashion
45 Tan
48 Blind as ---
49 Remarkable thing
50 Splotch
51 Author Ferber
52 Forum fashion
53 Merely
54 Lyric poems
56 Acquired
57 Blemish
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PUBLIC AUCTION Rescheduled for SAT. NOV. 7th 9am ILLINOIS VALLEY FABRICATION 1739 E. State 116, Fairview, IL. M&E (absolute) 15+ Acres & Building (reserve) Details at: www.auctionzip.com (ID#3641)

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION, PARK RIDGE, REAL ESTATE, JUDICIAL SALES - REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT, JUDICIAL SALES, PARK RIDGE, REAL ESTATE

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LEGAL

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to 765 ILCS 605/19c and 605/20c, for the hearing in this matter to be held at 9:00 a.m. on the 22nd day of October, 2015, in the Circuit Court of Cook County, 16th Judicial Circuit, 2nd District, 2nd Division, located at 500 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, Illinois 60603. The hearing will be held in the courtroom of Judge Lisa M. Mears. Advertise your rental units with us to get a jump on the competition! Call 866-399-0537 or visit placeanad.com.

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BID NOTICE
2015/2016 PROPOSED PARK MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

The Highwood Park Board of Commissioners hereby gives notice that a sealed proposal for the maintenance and operation of the facilities and grounds of the Highwood Park is solicited for the year 2015/2016. The proposal shall be submitted to the Highwood City Hall, 1015 W. Green Bay Avenue, Highwood, Illinois 60040. The proposal shall be opened in the presence of the bidders at 7:00 p.m. on the date and at the time designated, November 12, 2014.

The Highwood City Clerk shall keep a file of all bids submitted in response to this notice and shall make them available to the public upon request.

JIM O'BRIEN
President
Board of Park Commissioners

APARTMENT FOR RENT

11716 N. Broadway
2 bedroom - 1 bath
- $1,050 per month
- 2 blocks from Loyola University
- Available immediately

Call 866-399-0537 or visit placedon.tribune.com for more information.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School District/Agreement Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Office Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norridge SD # 80</td>
<td>8151 W. Lawrence Ave Norridge, IL 60705</td>
<td>708-523-2568</td>
<td>7:30 - 4:30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015**

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by December 1, 2015. Individuals wishing to review this Annual Statement of Affairs should contact:

**SUMMARY:** The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year:

**Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Sources</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>7,444,231</td>
<td>742,670</td>
<td>159,783</td>
<td>87,572</td>
<td>295,614</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17,457</td>
<td>46,912</td>
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<td>Flow-Through Receipts</td>
<td>2000</td>
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<td>Grant Sources</td>
<td>4000</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>Total Direct Receipts</td>
<td>1,134,977</td>
<td>742,670</td>
<td>159,783</td>
<td>87,572</td>
<td>295,614</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17,457</td>
<td>46,912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Direct Expenditures</td>
<td>1,046,595</td>
<td>1,130,675</td>
<td>159,783</td>
<td>317,210</td>
<td>294,149</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17,457</td>
<td>46,912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Sources/Uses of Funds</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning Fund Balances</td>
<td>1,566,680</td>
<td>897,245</td>
<td>278,660</td>
<td>300,444</td>
<td>(2,477)</td>
<td>2,579,340</td>
<td>207,890</td>
<td>232,753</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Changes in Fund Balances</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending Fund Balances as of June 30, 2015</td>
<td>934,405</td>
<td>530,232</td>
<td>230,223</td>
<td>150,016</td>
<td>(1,282)</td>
<td>2,569,797</td>
<td>207,890</td>
<td>235,356</td>
<td></td>
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**PAYMENTS OVER $2,500, EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES**

**Salary Range: Less Than $25,000**

- Brosnan, Kathleen
- Belestone
- Cattaneo
- Cianciarino, Rita
- Dicintio, Tummy
- LaRue, Judy
- Lubash, Patricia
- Pettis, Anna
- Streed, Sandra
- Work, Cynthia

**Salary Range: $25,000 - $39,999**

- Anderson, Wendy
- Balmes, Larry
- Bona, Shanna
- Barlow, Wilma
- Byer, Katherine
- Campbell, Matthew
- Gaziev, Patrick
- DeAngelis, Santa
- Giannini, Josie
- Molnar, Carmen
- Sarcona, Stephen
- Scarsella, Anna Marie
- Sunquist, Dawn
- Tryba, Claudia
- Tapisante, Michelle
- Withrow, Yolanda

**Salary Range: $40,000 - $49,999**

- Rodriguez, Judy
- Rosselin, David
- Bucaro, Harold
- Byer, John
- Campbell, Matthew
- Crepas, Ingrid
- Fahey, Meg
- Fountas, Vicki
- Gaplasione, Gino
- Hopkins, Erin
- John, Kelly
- Leiby, Kerry
- Molnar, Carmen
- Mostyn, Mary
- Murphy, Thomas
- Moscrib, Angela
- Nace, Catherine
- Radeke, Michelle
- Ross, Brandy
- Roseland, David
- Russell, JoAnn
- Saal, Jon
- Zarzolo, Leslie

**Salary Range: $50,000 - $59,999**

- Anderson, Jennifer
- Bergholtz, Jeffrey
- Bucaro, Harold
- Byer, John
- Campbell, Matthew
- Crepas, Ingrid
- Fahey, Meg
- Fountas, Vicki
- Gaplasione, Gino
- Hopkins, Erin
- John, Kelly
- Leiby, Kerry
- Molnar, Carmen
- Mostyn, Mary
- Murphy, Thomas
- Moscrib, Angela
- Nace, Catherine
- Radeke, Michelle
- Ross, Brandy
- Roseland, David
- Russell, JoAnn
- Saal, Jon
- Zarzolo, Leslie

**Salary Range: $60,000 - $89,999**

- Anderson, Wendy
- Balmes, Larry
- Bona, Shanna
- Barlow, Wilma
- Byer, Katherine
- Campbell, Matthew
- Gaziev, Patrick
- DeAngelis, Santa
- Giannini, Josie
- Molnar, Carmen
- Sarcona, Stephen
- Scarsella, Anna Marie
- Sunquist, Dawn
- Tryba, Claudia
- Tapisante, Michelle
- Withrow, Yolanda

**Salary Range: $90,000 and over**

- Anderson, Jennifer
- Bergholtz, Jeffrey
- Bucaro, Harold
- Byer, John
- Campbell, Matthew
- Crepas, Ingrid
- Fahey, Meg
- Fountas, Vicki
- Gaplasione, Gino
- Hopkins, Erin
- John, Kelly
- Leiby, Kerry
- Molnar, Carmen
- Mostyn, Mary
- Murphy, Thomas
- Moscrib, Angela
- Nace, Catherine
- Radeke, Michelle
- Ross, Brandy
- Roseland, David
- Russell, JoAnn
- Saal, Jon
- Zarzolo, Leslie

**GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL**

**Salary Range: Less Than $25,000**

- Anderson, Michael
- Antle, Teri
- Bambino, Phyllis
- Bono, Shanna
- Barlow, Wilma
- Byer, Katherine
- Campbell, Matthew
- Gaziev, Patrick
- DeAngelis, Santa
- Giannini, Josie
- Molnar, Carmen
- Mostyn, Mary
- Murphy, Thomas
- Moscrib, Angela
- Nace, Catherine
- Radeke, Michelle
- Ross, Brandy
- Roseland, David
- Russell, JoAnn
- Saal, Jon
- Zarzolo, Leslie

**Salary Range: $25,000 - $39,999**

- Alagna, Carmen
- Bambino, Phyllis
- Bono, Shanna
- Barlow, Wilma
- Byer, John
- Campbell, Matthew
- Gaziev, Patrick
- DeAngelis, Santa
- Giannini, Josie
- Molnar, Carmen
- Mostyn, Mary
- Murphy, Thomas
- Moscrib, Angela
- Nace, Catherine
- Radeke, Michelle
- Ross, Brandy
- Roseland, David
- Russell, JoAnn
- Saal, Jon
- Zarzolo, Leslie

**Salary Range: $40,000 - $49,999**

- Anderson, Wendy
- Balmes, Larry
- Bona, Shanna
- Barlow, Wilma
- Byer, Katherine
- Campbell, Matthew
- Gaziev, Patrick
- DeAngelis, Santa
- Giannini, Josie
- Molnar, Carmen
- Mostyn, Mary
- Murphy, Thomas
- Moscrib, Angela
- Nace, Catherine
- Radeke, Michelle
- Ross, Brandy
- Roseland, David
- Russell, JoAnn
- Saal, Jon
- Zarzolo, Leslie

**Salary Range: $50,000 - $59,999**

- Anderson, Jennifer
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- Hopkins, Erin
- John, Kelly
- Leiby, Kerry
- Molnar, Carmen
- Mostyn, Mary
- Murphy, Thomas
- Moscrib, Angela
- Nace, Catherine
- Radeke, Michelle
- Ross, Brandy
- Roseland, David
- Russell, JoAnn
- Saal, Jon
- Zarzolo, Leslie

**Salary Range: $90,000 and over**

- Anderson, Jennifer
- Bergholtz, Jeffrey
- Bucaro, Harold
- Byer, John
- Campbell, Matthew
- Crepas, Ingrid
- Fahey, Meg
- Fountas, Vicki
- Gaplasione, Gino
- Hopkins, Erin
- John, Kelly
- Leiby, Kerry
- Molnar, Carmen
- Mostyn, Mary
- Murphy, Thomas
- Moscrib, Angela
- Nace, Catherine
- Radeke, Michelle
- Ross, Brandy
- Roseland, David
- Russell, JoAnn
- Saal, Jon
- Zarzolo, Leslie

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Do you phub? Cellphone could be harming your love life, study finds

By Robert Preid
HealthDay

Spending too much time on your cellphone can take a toll on your love life, a new study finds.

Baylor University researchers surveyed more than 450 American adults to define and gauge the impact of what they called "phubbing" (partner phone snubbing). That's "the act of being distracted by someone else's cellphone, the less likely it is that the other individual is satisfied in the overall relationship," David said.

"When spending time with one's significant other, we encourage individuals to be cognizant of the interruptions caused by their cellphones, as these may well be harmful to their relationship," David added.

The findings are important given that cellphone use is so common, the researchers added.

"Our findings suggest that the more often a couple's time spent together is interrupted by one individual attending to his/her cellphone, the less likely it is that the other individual is satisfied in the overall relationship," David said.

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What new mortgage rules mean for rookie homebuyers

One of the most daunting parts of buying a home is wading through the reams of paperwork that come with securing a mortgage.

But the process just got a little simpler.

As of Oct. 3, lenders must provide borrowers with two new mortgage disclosures, replacing the four that were previously issued. The forms, created by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, are streamlined and easier to understand.

"The documents are designed to be more transparent and understandable, and I think they are really well done," said Holden Lewis, a mortgage analyst at Bankrate.com, which tracks loan rates.

Consumers, including first-time homebuyers, can now feel more confident about comparing mortgages and signing on the dotted line when buying a home. A survey published earlier this year by the CFPB found that nearly half of all homebuyers do not shop around for a mortgage.

If you're in the market for a home loan, here's what you can expect to get.

**When you close on a home.**

Once you've picked a lender, you must receive the second disclosure, known as the closing disclosure, three business days before your scheduled closing date.

Previously, lenders provided a similar disclosure just 24 hours in advance of closing, leaving you little time to spot potential errors.

The closing disclosure is five pages and contains much of the same information that you'll find on the loan estimate. "The closing disclosure is much clearer now," Lewis said. "You can compare it side by side with the loan estimate to see what's changed. And I think people will feel more confident and secure that nothing will sneak past them, that they got the loan that they were promised."

Keep in mind that if your lender makes any significant changes to your loan after the closing disclosure has been sent—say, your interest rate increases—a new disclosure has to be issued and the three-day waiting period resets, potentially pushing back your closing date.

As such, Lewis said buyers should be especially conscious about their credit profile.

"A lot of first-time homebuyers may be tempted to buy new appliances and tools for their home, opening a credit card to get a discount when you make the purchases," he said. "But a new credit account could push down your score, and consequently drive up your loan rate if the lender checks your credit score a day or two before closing."

"Just don't do it," he said.

**More help.** The CFPB has put together resources online that will help you better understand the new disclosure forms and the process of applying for a home loan. Go to consumerfinance.gov/knowbeforeyouowe

Claiming Social Security tests knowledge of most

**The right answer may not always be the right answer.**

It's easy to believe that the right answer is the only answer when it comes to Social Security. But the reality is this is a test that's vastly more complicated than others because of the labyrinth of Social Security rules.

"The right answer may not always be the right answer, which is why I shudder when I hear people give general advice," said Ed Gjertsen, president of the Financial Planning Association. Even if beneficiaries learned all of the millions of permutations involved in calculating benefits—think age gap and income gap between spouses, rules about survivors, and situations where a worker might have spent years in uncovered jobs—they still can't make a "correct" claiming decision because they lack one thing: knowledge of how long they'll live.

"Unless you can flip people on their heads and see an expiration date, you won't know until hindsight if it was the right choice," he said. "So you try to do what you know is the right decision at the right time, but because your neighbor does it, or you think the Social Security trust fund is running out."

Do-it-yourselfers can find benefit calculators online, but make sure it can handle your situation, and always double check your understanding with a local Social Security office. If you're getting advice from a professional, ask about the method used to come up with any strategy and run that by a Social Security rep as well.

And speaking of the right answer not being the right answer, that came through in another question asking consumers about the Social Security earnings test.

AARP said 42 percent of people (who know their benefits can be reduced by the earnings test) know that they will get those benefits back over time.

In fact, there are situations when that wouldn't happen, including when widows who switch at full retirement age or later to take benefits on their own work record.

"The details of any research report can be spun in any direction, but the overarching result is not a surprise," said Marc S. Freedman, a financial planner familiar with the surveys. "Way too many Americans are electing to take benefits at 62 and, a year or two in, regretting the decision."

Share your journey to or through retirement or pose a question at journey@janetkiddstewart.com.
Balancing dreams with financial realities

Retirement, renovation and college savings plans may be too much

By George Erb
The Seattle Times

Joel and Lisa Hamilton have steady jobs, a suburban Seattle home and three lively daughters that they worked very hard to bring into the world.

But their desire to pay for their children's college educations, save for retirement and maybe fix up the house collided with financial realities.

With the help of a volunteer financial planner, the Hamiltons made some hard choices that reduce the odds of them running out of money in their old age.

To do so, however, they had to give up something dear to the time being paying for their daughters' college degrees.

"We would like to put money away for our kids' college, but it's just not possible," Lisa Hamilton said.

The couple's story underscores the challenges that face many middle-class families. Parents must manage the expenses of raising children, saving for college and paying off mortgages while still socking away money for retirement. It doesn't always pencil out, no matter how hard they try.

Joel Hamilton, 42, earns $60,000 a year before taxes as customer-service manager at Full Circle Farm, a Seattle company that provides local, organic produce to customers in five Western states.

Lisa Hamilton, 39, is a part-time third-grade teacher. Last year she earned about $37,000 before taxes, although she expects to earn about $50,000 in the current school year by working more hours.

They both have retirement accounts. Lisa Hamilton has about $72,000 in her teachers pension and a 403(b) retirement savings plan. Joel Hamilton has about $60,000 in a 401(k) account. The Hamiltons also have about $7,000 in savings and no credit card debt.

"Debt is a larger issue. Like many others, the Hamiltons were swept up in the housing bubble and the problematic lending of the previous decade.

In 2006, near the peak of the housing bubble in the Seattle area, the Hamiltons sold their house and bought a home for $361,000. Property records show the couple were ready to start a family, and they wanted a larger home in a community with good schools.

The new house fit the bill, and the Hamiltons took out an additional home equity line of credit to replace the roof and windows, along with other projects.

Seattle-area home prices began collapsing the following year, however, and in 2008 a lender persuaded the Hamiltons to refinance with an interest-only loan.

They made only interest payments for nearly two years, until a friend in the mortgage business urged them to switch to a conventional 30-year mortgage.

They owe about $369,000 on their mortgage and the line of credit. Zillow estimates the home's value at $382,823, which would put the Hamiltons' equity in the property at about $13,800.

In addition to the housing debt, the Hamiltons have about $20,000 outstanding on a car loan. Payments on the home and car loans add up to about $26,270 a year.

Money is tight. They sometimes said their savings account to make ends meet.

"It's a constant struggle," Joel Hamilton said. "You think you get ahead, and the car breaks down."

Rachele Bouchand, director of financial planning at Clark Nuber, a Seattle-area accounting firm, volunteered to examine the Hamiltons' finances and offer advice.

Her cash-flow projections, based on the family's finances and plans, showed that the Hamiltons could finish three out of the next five years in the red. More worrisome, Bouchand's projections also showed that the couple could run out of cash in the early 80s, or sooner, although they would still have their home.

Clearly, the Hamiltons had to make some hard decisions.

Bouchand first urged the couple to begin tracking their expenses.

"If you know where you're spending the money, you can make choices about whether you want to spend or not," she said.

She also suggested ways for the Hamiltons to cut expenses, such as buying a car every nine years instead of every seven years.

Bouchand then focused on the couple's retirements. The Hamiltons are eligible for full Social Security benefits when they turn 67. Bouchand advised each of them to work until he or she is 68. That would give them more time to save and increase their Social Security benefits.

To protect the Hamiltons' retirements, Bouchand told the couple that they shouldn't try to pay for their daughters' college educations, although that could change if their financial picture brightens.

"They Hamiltons, who put a priority on college for their kids, are still coming to terms with that scenario."

In the meantime, the couple plan to begin itemizing all of their expenses and, as Lisa Hamilton said, face the truth of what we're spending our money on."

Despite the sobering advice, the Hamiltons say they are more confident about their household finances.

"We might as well do what we can today," Joel Hamilton said. "It's nice to have that road map."
We remember when you partied like it was 1999

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Don't worry your pretty little head about cancer

American Cancer Society's guideline uses faulty reasoning

By Marisa Bellack
The Washington Post

In an 1882 presentation to the New York Obstetrical Society, surgeon Theodore Gaillard Thomas defended the removal of benign breast tumors by invoking the emotional fragility of the weaker sex. "I have found that the mere presence of a tumor in the breast usually concentrates upon it the thoughts and attention of the patient, impairs her happiness, and renders her apprehensive, nervous and often gloomy," Thomas said. "A great deal of her weakness, and renders her apprehensive, nervous and often gloomy."

It is the thoughts and attention of the weaker sex. "I have found that the weak breast tumors by invoking the thoughts and attention of the patient, impairs her happiness, and renders her apprehensive, nervous and often gloomy."

Whereas anxiety was once a century echo in the American Cancer Society's stance, it is now invoked to bring female patients more credit. They don't have cancer! And when even our options, instead of launching straight into suits and weigh our options, they even wake us up after our biopsies, allowing us to hear there is another breast cancer diagnosis, and sometimes it finds something suspicious that turns out to be harmless. The PSA test often produces false-positive results that lead to more testing, including biopsies, which can have their own side effects.

News reports amplified the suggestion that some women might prefer to chance an avoidable death for a reduced chance of being recalled for a few extra pictures or an ultrasound," he said.

The American Cancer Society's Richard Wender spoke to multiple outlets about how patients can remain anxious long after receiving false-positive results and how that can deter them from getting future screenings. As a typical story framed the debate: "Which is the greater risk: suffering the anxiety of a false positive or not catching breast cancer at the earliest possible stage?"

There doesn't seem to be as much concern about a hysterical response to a prostate cancer screening. About the limitations of the prostate-specific antigen test, the American Cancer Society says: "Sometimes screening misses cancer, and sometimes it finds something suspicious that turns out to be harmless. The PSA test often produces false-positive results that lead to more testing, including biopsies, which can have their own side effects."

"They seem to have wanted to suggest that some women might prefer to chance an avoidable death for a reduced chance of being recalled for a few extra pictures or an ultrasound," he said.

News reports amplified the suggestion that some women might prefer to chance an avoidable death for a reduced chance of being recalled for a few extra pictures or an ultrasound," he said.

Anxiety shouldn't influence screening guidelines.

AI reduces breast cancer mortality, there are a number of potential harms, including false-positive results, which result in both unnecessary biopsies and increased distress and anxiety related to a possible diagnosis of cancer.

But the idea that anxiety is a major harm doesn't have much scientific support. Daniel Kopans, a professor of radiology at Harvard Medical School and the director of breast imaging at Massachusetts General Hospital, told The Washington Post that the cancer association's panel of experts ("none of whom are experts in breast cancer care, by the way") introduced its own bias.

"They seem to have wanted to suggest that some women might prefer to chance an avoidable death for a reduced chance of being recalled for a few extra pictures or an ultrasound," he said.

News reports amplified the suggestion that some women might prefer to chance an avoidable death for a reduced chance of being recalled for a few extra pictures or an ultrasound," he said.

Anxiety shouldn't influence screening guidelines.

Internal Medicine found that false-positive mammograms only briefly elevated anxiety. And that, rather than scaring women off, the experience of a false positive made them more inclined to get mammograms in the future. Perhaps it serves as a motivating reminder of our mortality.

Another study, one published in the BMJ, found that U.S. women were "highly tolerant of false-positives." About two-thirds of respondents said 500 or more false positives were acceptable for each life saved, while about a third were OK with 10,000 false positives or more. (The actual number is estimated to be much lower: somewhere between 30 and 200 per life saved.) The results were similar for women who'd experienced a false positive and for those considering the question in the abstract, leading the researchers to conclude that "women seemed to think that false positives are worth the reassurance of being told they do not have cancer" and that clinicians "should spend less time reviewing what most women know and accept — that is, that false positives are part of screening."

When Wender talked to reporters about long-term anxiety after false-positive mammograms, he may have been referring to a Danish study that identified evidence of negative psychological effects three years after a false-positive result. But that finding has yet to be replicated among women in the United States, so it's hard to argue that it should influence U.S. guidelines.

Yes, many people — women and men — are frightened by news that they might have cancer. I admit to being an emotional mess after an abnormal Pap smear. My mind quickly leapt to worst-case scenarios. And when subsequent tests confirmed that I had cervical cancer, I went into my oncologist's office with a reporter's notebook filled with questions. I appreciated his matter-of-fact responses: Yes, I would need surgery. No, it appeared to be localized — an MRI was unnecessary. No, this shouldn't get in the way of having kids. Six years later, I have two little girls. And I don't spend a lot of time worrying about cancer.

There will always be uncertainty in cancer screening. And that uncertainty understandably fuels anxiety. But most false-positive mammograms are quickly resolved by additional imaging. Among the cases that progress to biopsies, 9 out of 10 show no sign of cancer. And even when there is a breast cancer diagnosis, that's not equivalent to a death sentence. Doctors should be able to respond to anxiety rationally, putting fears in context and explaining follow-up testing and results to limit what can be an agonizing wait.

And when it comes to screening guidelines, medical professionals and policymakers should be honest about the relevant factors. Among the good reasons to delay the age when women should begin getting regular mammograms: The United States spends an estimated $4 billion each year on follow-up tests and treatments resulting from false-positive mammogram results and breast cancer overdiagnosis. But suggesting to women that doctors are doing them a favor by shielding them from the imagined toll of false positives isn't the best way to address those costs.
Updated Wilmette home in prime spot: $2.349M

ADDRESS: 1045 Romona Road in Wilmette
ASKING PRICE: $2,349,000
Listed on June 5, 2014

Elegant newer home with recent redesign and loads of improvements on 0.6 acre. Desirable open floor plan, beautifully scaled rooms, many exceptional features and a long list of improvements. Highlights include a 2-story foyer with circular staircase, 2-story great room with dramatic 2-story stone fireplace, fabulous kitchen with new appliances, library, sun room and much more. Private and serene master suite. In-ground pool, hot tub, patio and deck.
Agent: Julie Bradbury Miller of The Hudson Co., 847-751-2619

At press time this home was still for sale.

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Design recipes for affordable kitchen renovations, updates

By Cathy Hobbs
Tribune News Service

When it comes to investing renovation dollars, updating the kitchen remains at the top of the list. Kitchen renovations can be large or small and set you back a little or a lot. The good news is you don't necessarily have to spend a lot of money in order to have a large impact.

How to start

When starting a kitchen renovation the key is to think function first, how you need and want the kitchen to function.

Ask yourself the following questions:
- What features do I need in my kitchen?
- What do I like/don't like about my current kitchen?
- What is my budget?
- If I had a dream kitchen, what would it look like?

Before making any purchases

You may be eager to start buying items for your new kitchen, but before you make a single purchase, plan, plan and plan.

Planning out your kitchen — either on your own or with the help of a designer — will help to prevent a number of mistakes. Professional designers will likely charge by the hour and are a costlier option than using an in-house designer at a kitchen showroom.

During the planning phase, also take the opportunity to shop. Shopping is not only the fun part, it will also be a great opportunity for you to learn about as well as touch and feel the latest products.

Finding a contractor

After you plan your kitchen, you will need to find a contractor to help you with the renovation. An affordable option may also be to use a contractor recommended by a kitchen showroom or a big-box store.

When making your selection, obtain bids from at least three contractors and don't necessarily take the lowest bid. Pay close attention to the services the contractor is providing as well as how the project will be managed along the various phases of your renovation.

Ways to save big

The great part about a kitchen renovation, especially if you are on a budget, is that in most cases you can perform the work in phases as opposed to having to perform the work all at once.

Further, relating to some aspects of your renovation, you can play the "high/low" game: You can splurge while there are other areas where you can save — big.

Here are some of my top cost saving kitchen renovation tips:
- Replace just a countertop. I prefer stone or quartz surfaces to laminate, not only for aesthetic reasons but also for durability purposes.
- Purchase good quality appliances. They don't necessarily have to be the most expensive, but read consumer ratings and reviews.
- Comparison shop when it comes to cabinets. This can either be where you spend the bulk of your budget or where you can save big.

Cathy Hobbs is an Emmy Award-winning television host and a nationally known interior design and home staging expert.

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Kick Halloween up a notch at Ex-Scare-itorium

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Skokie's Exploritorium will turn into an Ex-Scare-itorium, 10 a.m.-noon Oct. 31. Kids are encouraged to wear costumes for this Halloween event at 4701 Oakton St.

"This year, we've got carnival games, a frame craft and a few Halloween crafts," said Exploritorium Supervisor Mary Amato. "We also have two pumpkin houses indoors for the day."

Costumed characters Alice in Wonderland and the Mad Hatter will visit the event and a balloon artist will make creations for the kids to keep.

The cost is $10 per child for residents, $13 for non-resident children; $2 for adults; free for children under 1. The event fee includes use of the Exploritorium.

Amato said this is a great event for young children because "we give out candy and children's prizes. It's a little bit better than what trick-or-treat houses will give you."

For details, call 847-674-1500, ext. 2700 or go to skokieparks.org/exploritorium.

His tricks are a treat

Magic Randy will amaze kids and grownups at his Halloween Family Magic Show, 7-8:30 p.m. Oct. 31 at Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 W. Sibley St. Randy's tricks will have a ghoulish twist for the holiday. The cost is $5 per person. Registration is required.

For details, call 847-692-5127 or go to prparks.org.

Tales and treats

That's what you'll get when popular storyteller Chris Fascione presents Campfire Stories, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Oct. 30 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. The energetic entertainer will offer not-too-scary stories. Afterwards, s'mores will be served at this outdoor drop-in family event.

For details, call 847-673-7774 or go to skokielibrary.info.

Parables for preschoolers

Improv Playhouse will present Aesop's Fables in a musical format at the next Flight-to-Fun Kids Club meeting, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Nov. 7 at the Book Market at Hangar One, 2651 Navy Blvd., Glen Town Center, Glenview. Reservations are required for this event for ages 2-6 with family members.

For details, call 847-729-7500 or go to glenviewpl.org.

Kids can enjoy Halloween carnival games, crafts and candy in costume Oct. 31 when Skokie's Exploritorium turns into an Ex-Scare-itorium.

Experience Earth's most perfect water

The legend began on the remote island of Iceland over 5,000 years ago when a colossal volcanic eruption created a miraculous resource beneath the Earth's crust. The legendary Ólfus Spring was born and has been constantly replenished by snowmelt and rainfall ever since. Cherished by generations, this is the source of Icelandic Glacial. This pristine natural spring water is filtered through ancient lava rock, creating remarkable purity and optimal mineral balance. Clean, crisp and untouched, celebrate nature's perfection with every sip, Icelandic Glacial.
How bazaar: A look at upcoming holiday boutiques

BY DEBORAH HOPPE
Pioneer Press

With the beginning of November comes the start of the holiday bazaar and boutique season, offering plenty of opportunities to shop for handmade gifts and homemade treats.

Holiday Bazaar

7th Annual International Holiday Bazaar
Takes place 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 7 and 8, at the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. Bazaar features local artisans and international fair trade goods, designer jewelry and purses, third world artisan-made homewares and books, and one-of-a-kind Judaica from around the world. Visit www.ilholocaustmuseum.org or call 847-967-4800.

43rd Annual Holiday Craft and Bake Sale
A craft and bake sale takes place 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Nov. 7 and 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Nov. 8 in Our Lady of Ransom Church's Paluch Hall, 8300 Greenwood Ave., Niles. Featuring handmade crafts, ornaments, wreaths, gift baskets, needlepoint, afghans, dolls, home decorations and jewelry. Free admission. Call 847-823-2550.

Holiday Bazaar
Held 10 a.m. Nov. 7 at the Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Free admission. Visit www.parkridge.us.

Holiday Shopping Spree
Held noon to 4 p.m. Nov. 8 at Queen of All Saints Basilica Gymnasium, 6230 N. Lemont, Chicago. Sponsored by The Queen of All Saints Women's Auxiliary. Handmade items, jewelry, clothing, accessories, holiday decor and more, 40 custom raffle baskets. $5 entry fee.

Holiday Bazaar

Craft Fair
Held 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 14 at Resurrection College Prep High School, 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. Over 175 displays will feature hand-crafted items, gifts, seasonal items, housewares, jewelry and treats. Admission: $5; $2 seniors; free for children under 10. Lunch will be served in the cafeteria. Visit www.reshs.org or call 773-775-6616.

Empty Bowls
Held 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 5 at Ten-Hove Center, Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. Local artists create handmade bowls and other gift items. Choose your favorite bowl, $15 donation, then share in a meal as a reminder of those in need around the world, and keep the bowl. Raffle of unique artwork, tickets are $3 each, four for $10. Other original art pieces also be available for purchase. Admission is free. All proceeds go to local food banks. Call 847-635-1600.

Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale
The Ladies Philoptochos Society of the St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church host their annual bazaar, "Christmas Time Is Here," 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Nov. 20 and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 21 at the church, 7373 N. Caldwell Ave., Niles. The bazaar will feature jewelry, a petting zoo and Niles Christmas Market featuring holiday ornaments, roasted nuts, poinsettias, and more. Admission is free. Cash only for food and beer. Visit www.niles.com/824/Holly-Jolly-Market or call 847-588-8000.

St. Rosalie Craft & Bake Sale
Held 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 6 at St. Rosalie's Conrad Hall, 6740 W. Montrose Ave., Harwood Heights. Lots of holiday gifts, crafts, homemade baked goods and activities for kids. Free admission. Call 708-867-4588.

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<td>William J Shepard</td>
<td>09-23-15</td>
<td>$402,000</td>
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<td>116 E Rockwell St, Arlington Heights</td>
<td>Alan M Kanter &amp; Sarah J Willets Kanter</td>
<td>Robert A Stenberg</td>
<td>09-23-15</td>
<td>$407,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>103 N Donald Ave, Arlington Heights</td>
<td>Grecie Coyte &amp; Michelle Davies</td>
<td>Michael J Konksiwski</td>
<td>09-25-15</td>
<td>$465,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 N Lincoln Ln, Arlington Heights</td>
<td>John P Yoblick &amp; Carolyn T Yoblick</td>
<td>M I Homes Of Chicago Llc</td>
<td>09-25-15</td>
<td>$573,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>227 N Charter Point Dr, Arlington Heights</td>
<td>Gregory M Stasi &amp; Christina L Stasi</td>
<td>Leamanzchik Trust</td>
<td>09-25-15</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>816 S Cleveland Ave, Arlington Heights</td>
<td>Peter D Morton</td>
<td>Greenscape Homes Llc</td>
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<td>705 N Vail Ave, Arlington Heights</td>
<td>Jason Grubba</td>
<td>Shannon J Curley</td>
<td>09-23-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>159 Halsted Ln W, Arlington Heights</td>
<td>Sam &amp; Silk Kwok &amp; Im Soo Kwok</td>
<td>Silk Kwok</td>
<td>09-22-15</td>
<td>$553,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>371 Le Par Cirk, Buffalo Grove</td>
<td>Marilyn V Modl &amp; Vaillah Modl</td>
<td>Guila Li</td>
<td>09-25-15</td>
<td>$516,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>909 Pirene Ct S, Buffalo Grove</td>
<td>Mark F Comella &amp; Anneeta C Comella</td>
<td>Jeff Garrill</td>
<td>09-23-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>121 Franklin Ln, Buffalo Grove</td>
<td>Mike Zilocwier</td>
<td>Vicki Bany &amp;</td>
<td>09-22-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>431 Le Par Cirk, Buffalo Grove</td>
<td>Trevor Thaxer</td>
<td>Trevon Thaxer</td>
<td>09-22-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Buckingham Ln, Buffalo Grove</td>
<td>Sergo Volokilo &amp; Olga Abramstov</td>
<td>Angela Jourda</td>
<td>09-25-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>1123 Sandhurst Ct, Buffalo Grove</td>
<td>Leonid Khan</td>
<td>Kelly H Hammid</td>
<td>09-25-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>324 Clorico Ln, Buffalo Grove</td>
<td>Richard A Brut    &amp; Wendy E Brut &amp;</td>
<td>Michael L Raff</td>
<td>09-23-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>1700 Lookwood Dr, Buffalo Grove</td>
<td>Sara Jo Anderson &amp; Susan Chul Kim</td>
<td>Donna Mandell</td>
<td>09-18-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>85 Newtow, Buffalo Grove</td>
<td>Susan G Dighwa &amp; Nishu G Dighwa</td>
<td>Mary G North</td>
<td>09-24-15</td>
<td>$375,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1760 Larramway Dr, Buffalo Grove</td>
<td>Zhijun Guo</td>
<td>Mandy P Tamboe</td>
<td>09-24-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>220 Magnolia Ct W, Buffalo Grove</td>
<td>Taurus Buckrill &amp; Nicole A Buckrill &amp;</td>
<td>Jeff Baskerville</td>
<td>09-24-15</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>165 Dover Dr, # 11, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Ganesh Patel &amp; Neha Patel</td>
<td>Shree Investments Llc</td>
<td>09-21-15</td>
<td>$61,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>996 Kennedy Dr, # 1C, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Sivasubramanian Rajaram</td>
<td>Fannie Mae</td>
<td>09-23-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>156 Woodlawn Ave, # 8, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Kathleen Connely</td>
<td>Benjamin Shay</td>
<td>09-23-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>8616 Briar Cl # 30, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Leokadia Sebo</td>
<td>Anel de Fey</td>
<td>09-23-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>227 Magnolia St, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Juan Martin Diaz &amp; Brinda F Diaz &amp;</td>
<td>Ernesto Hernandez</td>
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<td>9358 Golf Rd, # 3A, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Antiguel Vinson</td>
<td>Fanny Vinsu</td>
<td>09-23-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>9386 Golf Rd # 7B, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Khushbu Shah &amp; Deval Shah</td>
<td>Ming Kang</td>
<td>09-21-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>970 Bay Colony Dr, # 35, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Michael Microwave</td>
<td>JI Real Estate Fund Llc</td>
<td>09-23-15</td>
<td>$105,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>937 Landings Ln, # 104, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Setlur Hure</td>
<td>Setlur Hure</td>
<td>09-23-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>8224 Robin Dr, # 8, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Mihai Iaghi</td>
<td>Zina Abbas</td>
<td>09-25-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>156 Oakwood Ave, # 207, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Frank Bas &amp; Antoinette Nina Bas &amp;</td>
<td>Christy L Babcock</td>
<td>09-24-15</td>
<td>$360,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>9155 Austin Dr, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Goche Treuc</td>
<td>Tadeusz Buci</td>
<td>09-24-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>1790 Sycamore St, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Michael Bourke</td>
<td>Michael Buday</td>
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<td>641 S 6th Ave, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Lawrence B Dalton</td>
<td>Angelina Heigen</td>
<td>09-25-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>1721 Campbell Ave, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Christopher J Barrissel</td>
<td>James W Motead</td>
<td>09-22-15</td>
<td>$195,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 N Oak Ave, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Hemant Sab &amp; Pratik N Tailor</td>
<td>Knil Patel</td>
<td>09-11-15</td>
<td>$210,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1378 Ferry St, # 395, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Kurt Schidl</td>
<td>Kurt Schidl</td>
<td>09-25-15</td>
<td>$215,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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
PALATINE
This custom-built 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath all-brick home features tray ceilings and a 23-foot vaulted ceiling in the great room that overlooks the wooded Palatine Trail. Kitchen features custom cabinets and a breakfast area. The home offers an unfinished basement, first-floor master suite, intercom and security system and walk-in attic storage area.
Address: 1523 N. Trailside Court
Price: $534,900
Schools: Palatine High School
Taxes: $12,141
Agent: Jenny Cincotta/Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

VERNON HILLS
This Gross Point subdivision home features a two-story foyer, hardwood floors throughout, a formal living room with French doors and a kitchen with an eat-in area that has access to the backyard. The second floor has four bedrooms, including the master room with walk-in closets and a master bath with dual sinks, soaking tub and shower. The basement is fully finished and the home has 2.5 bathrooms.
Address: 45 N. Fiore Parkway
Price: $359,900
Schools: Adlai E. Stevenson High School
Taxes: $11,231
Agent: Luigui Corral/RE/MAX United

MORTON GROVE
This 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom home offers hardwood floors throughout the main floor, which offers a separate living room, dining room and office. The kitchen has stainless steel appliances, double stack cabinets, granite countertops and a built-in wine cooler. The master bedroom has two walk-in closets, a marble bath with double vanity and jacuzzi tub.
Address: 7425 Arcadia St.
Price: $725,900
Schools: Maine East High School
Taxes: $13,595
Agent: Val Laborevitch/Unique Realty LLC

DEERFIELD
This 18,000-square-foot Ranch-style home offers 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths and a finished basement in a desirable Deerfield location. The home features an attached two-car garage. The lot offers the purchaser the ability to build with plans ready for a 5,000-square-foot home.
Address: 1321 Greenwood Ave.
Price: $359,000
Schools: Deerfield High School
Taxes: $8,176
Agent: Casey Rybaltowski/RE/MAX Allstars
Listings from homefinder.com.

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CHICAGO NOW
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, Oct. 29

Navy Jazz Band Concert: This premier jazz ensemble, is made up of 18 members and is led by Senior Chief Musician William C. Mulligan. 7 p.m. Thursday, Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, free, 847-424-7130

Live Music: The Josh Rzepka jazz trio performs. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Round Kitchen & Social House, 1631 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 847-868-8945

All-State Exhibition: selected works from across the state: This exhibition features art that has been collected across Illinois. 10 a.m. Daily, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-478-5300

Whole Foods One Dime at a Time: To reduce its impact on the environment, Whole Foods Market regularly offers a 10-cent credit for each reusable shopping bag customers use at the store. Now through December those credits can be donated directly to Kellogg Cancer Center. 8 a.m. Daily, Whole Foods Market, 2748 Green Bay Road, Evanston, free, 847-866-1030

My All Relations: A Seneca History: The exhibit created all across Illinois. 10 a.m. Daily, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 2927 Noyes St., Evanston, free, 847-816-4633

The American Legion, Post 134: The American Legion, Post 134, is seeking volunteers to raise funds for Poppy Days to help veterans. Suggested donations, 847-724-2235

Wonder Ground Open Lab: Look, touch, tinker and play with an intriguing array of science-oriented curiosities in this new space designed especially for kids. 4 p.m. Thursday and Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Reader's Theatre: This fun, new group, open to adults 18 and over, brings storytelling and radio theatre to life. 10 a.m. Thursday, Park Ridge Park District-Centennial Activity Center, 100 South Western Ave., Park Ridge, $55 member, $60 guest, 847-692-3597

Save A Star's Drug Disposal Program: Save a Star Drug Awareness Foundation's Drug Disposal Program box is in the lobby of the Park Ridge Police Department. 9 a.m. Daily, Park Ridge Police Department, 200 Vine Avenue, Park Ridge, free, 847-579-3500

Karaoke Thursdays: 7 p.m. Thursday, Perry's Pizza and Ribs, 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. These foods to be given to the hungry in the community. All foods can be dropped off at Walgreens. Daily, Walgreens, 3945 West Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-4141

The Language of Business: This new class helps attendees improve their reading, writing and math skills as they learn the language of business ownership and management. 6 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6410 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

The American Legion, Post 134: The American Legion, Post 134, is seeking volunteers to raise funds for Poppy Days to help veterans. Solicitor permits are available for Morton Grove and Niles on Dempster Street and Harlem Avenue. 6 a.m. Daily, The American Legion Post 134, 6144 West Dempster St., Morton Grove, Any amount helps, 847-663-0539

Jewish Humor: With Jeffery Mallow: Jeffery Mallow, professor and stand-up comic, offers witty and informative explanations, background and cultural context on the best Jewish jokes that date back to the Talmud and up to today. 7 p.m. Thursday, Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie, $10, 847-677-1566

Friday, Oct. 30

Les Miserables: Featuring top talent from seven different counties. Les Miserables is an epic tale about the struggles of 19th century France. 7 p.m., Friday 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday, 7 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday; 7 p.m. Nov. 6, Prairie Lakes Community Center, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines, $9-$12, 847-965-4220

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, Leela Arts Center, 620 Lee St., Des Plaines, $12, 847-516-2298

The Woman's Club of Evanston's 25th Anniversary of Fairy Tale Trail: The Woman's Club of Evanston creates an alternative to traditional trick or treating. Friday, Oct. 30

Trick or Treat at the Library: Come to the Library in costume and visit each service desk to collect fun Halloween treats. 9 a.m. Friday and Saturday, Evanston Township Library, 1225 Greenleaf St., Evanston, free, 847-475-3510

Open House: The American Legion, Post 134, is seeking volunteers to raise funds for Poppy Days to help veterans. Solicitor permits are available for Morton Grove and Niles on Dempster Street and Harlem Avenue. 6 a.m. Daily, The American Legion Post 134, 6144 West Dempster St., Morton Grove, Any amount helps, 847-663-0539

The Language of Business: This new class helps attendees improve their reading, writing and math skills as they learn the language of business ownership and management. 6 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6410 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220
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Saturday, Oct. 31

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

Billy Strings & Don Julian: 10 p.m. Saturday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $15-$27, 847-492-8860

Justin Roberts and The Not Ready for Naptime Player: Enjoy this family-friendly Halloweenshow. 11 a.m. Saturday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $10, 847-492-8860

FUSE: Studio: Drop in with friends to wire LEDs, compose a ringtone, build an amp, mix chemicals to make gel beads, navigate a robot obstacle course and more. For grades six to 12. 11 a.m. Saturday, Lincolnwood Town Center, 3333 W. Touhy, Lincolnwood, free, 847-582-1333

Wilmette Farmers Market: 8 a.m. Saturday, Wilmette Village Center, 1125 Skokie Boulevard, Wilmette, free

Monday, Nov. 2

Live Bluegrass, Roots and Folk: The Mudflaps perform. 8 p.m. Monday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679

Bingo Buddies (grades 1-4): Glenview senior citizens host the fun. Enjoy themed games and changing patterns while making new friends. Seniors assist children in navigating their cards and playing the game. 3 p.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Tech Talk: Just drop in and join in this Internet user discussion group—a monthly Q&A for exploring websites, social media, online searching, and the library's electronic resources. 7 p.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Page Turners: This month's selection is "Boy, Snow, Bird" by Helen Oyeyemi. New members are always welcome. 1 p.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

hoopla, MyMediaMail and Zinio: Individual Appointments: Meet with trained library staff for a 45-minute one-on-one session and learn how to download ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, movies, TV shows, or music to a portable device. 10 a.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Soon to be Famous Illinois Author Appearance: Come meet and greet 2015 Soon to Be Famous Illinois Author Project winner Michael Alan Peck and hear about his award-winning urban fantasy novel: Commons I: The Journeymen. 7 p.m. Monday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

MGPL Kids: Monday Morning Playgroup: 10:30 a.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Yarn Gang: Kids in grades one and up are invited to try their hand at knitting, crocheting or other yarn crafts. 4 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Knitting Roundtable for Adults: Ronnie Rund shows attendees how to knit or how to solve knitting challenges. 2 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
Tuesday Morning Music: Garden visitors can enjoy free hour-long meditative musical performances in the McGlinley Pavilion overlooking Evening Island. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, fee, 847-835-5440

Northern Lights Homework Help Center (grades 1-8): Thirty-minute sessions for homework, reading and math skills provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Children may be grouped by subject and grade level. 6 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

The Eastland Disaster: July 2015 commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Eastland disaster, the largest loss of lives from a single shipwreck on the Great Lakes. With the recent passing of the last known survivor of this maritime tragedy, there is greater responsibility to tell the story of this important piece of Chicago history. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

保健 Hack: Healthy Eating Workshop series: Nutritionist Michelle Gillespie leads this six-week, science-based, healthy eating workshop series about feeling better by eating better. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Creative Coworking, 922 Davie St., Evanston, $65 for six-week series

Opera Lecture Series: Lectures moderated by former Lyric Opera docents. These tales of intrigue, love, and death from the 2017 Lyric Opera of Chicago fall season: "The Merry Widow" by Franz Lehar. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

LinkedIn 101: Opened a LinkedIn account, but haven't posted anything to it? Join 'Very Smart People' and learn how to use the social networking site LinkedIn to connect with other professionals, find jobs and keep on top of business news. 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free

Health Hack: Healthy Eating Workshop series: Nutritionist Michelle Gillespie leads this six-week, science-based, healthy eating workshop series about feeling better by eating better. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Creative Coworking, 922 Davie St., Evanston, $65 for six-week series

Civil War: The United States is...:
The speaker is a member of the Illinois 64th Volunteer Infantry Regiment, and wears and discusses the uniforms and weapons of a Union soldier as he highlights several major battlefield sites via slides. 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Park District-Centennial Activity Center, 100 South Western Ave., Park Ridge, $17 member; $19 guest, 847-692-3597

Allington Mitra: The comedian, seen on "Last Comic Standing," performs standup. 8 p.m. Wednesday, Zanies Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont, $22 plus a two-item food/drink minimum, 847-813-0484

Senior High Youth Group: For all youth grades 9 to 12 to enjoy fun and friendship while engaging in meaningful discussions and service learning opportunities. 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, First Congregational Church of Wilmette, 1125 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-6660

Thursday, Nov. 5

Stained Radiance: Nels Cline and Norton Wisdom + Sam Amidon: 8 p.m. Nov. 5, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $18-$30, 847-492-8860

Fine Art of Fiber: Stunning quilts, lovely knitted artwear, woven wonders, and breathtaking beadwork are among the abundant handcrafted items on view for sale at the 2018 Fine Art of Fiber exhibition at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 6300 N. Lakeview Ave., Nov. 4. Free, 847-875-5440

BookBites: Reading Social: "Where'd You Go, Bernadette" by Marie Semple. 7 p.m. Nov. 5, Hackney's Glenview, 1514 E. Lake Ave., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Online Job Searching: Leave Monster.com and want ads behind. Look at databases you didn't know existed and conquer the hidden job market. 2 p.m. Nov. 5, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-835-5440

Free Women's Health Seminar: Free women's health event featuring Northwestern Medicine physicians who discuss the latest in women's health issues, including cancer prevention and risk factors, gynecological cancer screenings, symptoms and vaccines as well as cardiovascular health. 6:30 p.m. Nov. 5, Northwestern Medicine Glenview Outpatient Center, 2701 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, free, 847-535-7441
The Hadley School for the Blind Woman's Board Fall Wine Event:
Come for a sampling of wines, light hors d'oeuvres and great conversation. If unable to attend the event, shop during the day and mention Hadley. 5 p.m. Nov. 5, Good Grapes, 821 Chestnut Court, Winnetka, $25 per person Donation, 847-322-9122

Friday, Nov. 6

Boys in the Basement: An original play about men coping, badly, with divorce. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 6, Piven Theatre Workshop, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, $20, 847-571-0235

Drop-in Chess Club (up to grade 8): Volunteer chess instructor Steve Levenson teaches fundamentals and strategy. Children under age eight must be accompanied by a parent. 7 p.m. Nov. 6, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-272-7082

Storybook and Ruach Shabbat: Join in welcoming Shabbat with music and dance, a Shabbat story and more. 6:45 p.m. Nov. 6, Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-498-4100

Brush with Nature Art Exhibition: Plein air painters display their artworks inside the gallery. This is a free family-friendly opening reception for the public to enjoy these works. 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Nov. 6, Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, free, 847-674-1500

The Lion in Winter: Set in England during Christmas in 1183, aging King Henry II must choose an heir to the throne from among his three sons. He favors his youngest while his strong-willed wife, Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine, favors their eldest. Sparks fly as they try to outmaneuver each other in this wickedly clever examination of a dysfunctional family. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 6, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, $24-$34, 847-677-7761

Parisian Salon Concert: Dr. Jeeyoon Kim: Pianist Dr. Jeeyoon Kim performs in the Library's monthly Parisian Salon Concert, 7:30 p.m. Nov. 6, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7082

You Can't Take It With You: 8 p.m. Nov. 6, Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, $15-$68, 847-673-6300

Antiques + Modernism Winnetka Show: This style and design event encompasses periods of design ranging from the seventeenth century to the mid twentieth century. Esteemed dealers from across the country showcase American, European and Asian antiques, as well as pieces from the Arts and Crafts, Art Nouveau, Art Deco and Mid-Century design movements. 10 a.m. Nov. 6, Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln Ave, Winnetka, $16.74-$20, 847-446-0537

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MOVIES

Now playing

"Goosebumps" ***
PG, 1:43, fantasy
Silly, spooky monster mashup "Goosebumps" doesn't have to be as good as it is. It's slyly smarter and more entertaining than it appears; adults might have just as much fun as the kids, who will undoubtedly gobble up this Halloween treat. A sort of PG version of "Cabin in the Woods," this adaptation of R.L. Stine's series of young adult horror novels is bolstered by a stellar comedic cast, headed up by the inimitable Jack Black in the role of the author. — Katie Walsh

"The Martian" ***
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. — Michael Phillips

"Bridge of Spies" ***
PG-13, 2:15, drama
Adapted freely from the historical record, like any good fact-based but not fact-bound docudrama, "Bridge of Spies" honors the righteous underdog, triumphant. Tom Hanks stars as James Donovan, a Brooklyn insurance claims lawyer and former Nuremberg trials prosecutor. Not that many knew about it at the time, but Donovan negotiated a tricky exchange of a Soviet spy and an American spy. On his own initiative, Donovan rolled a third man into the trade. Could the right negotiator pull off such a lopsided trade? "Bridge of Spies," which takes its title from the Glienicke Bridge linking West Berlin with Potsdam, answers that question in due course. The movie plants one foot in Hollywood myth-making and the other in American history and American values. — MP.

"Crimson Peak" **
R, 1:59, thriller
You may come out of this 1901-set Gothic chiller humming the production design (by Thomas Sanders), or singing arias about the clothes (Kate Hawley, costume designer), or composing symphonies of praise for the mellow, honeyed menace of the cinematography (Dan Laustsen). If looks made the movie, this movie would be made. "Crimson Peak" represents not-quite-right circumstances. It's the latest from co-writer and director Guillermo del Toro, the fantasist best known for "Pan's Labyrinth," who works very close to his subconscious when his cinematic and storytelling instincts are serving him well. But "Crimson Peak" is frustrating from nearly every angle. It lets the audience race out ahead of the reveals, while struggling to put all that tantalizingly rich atmosphere to effective narrative use. — MP.

"Hotel Transylvania 2" ***
PG, 1:27, animation
There was nothing particularly wrong with the 2012 "Hotel Transylvania." Adam Sandier 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 vamp (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
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The luxury carmaker confronts its poor quality reputation with new models and long warranties

BY CHARLES FLEMING
Tribune Newspapers

It's not often auto executives speak frankly about their brand's long history of making "bad cars."

But the chiefs at Jaguar — now under new management — know they have a dubious legacy to overcome. The historically British brand, now owned by Indian giant Tata, had become known for building beautiful machines that never quite ran right, with high maintenance costs and low resale value.

Now the brand is addressing that problem head on, with price cuts, perks and long-term warranties.

"The times of bad cars are over," said Joe Eberhardt, president and CEO of Jaguar Land Rover North America. "This is the next generation of Jaguar. But we need customer confidence to get there."

Eberhardt acknowledged that the Jaguar side of the brand has suffered from lingering consumer doubts.

"We have been perceived as a low-volume, high-priced brand," the executive said. "Jaguar has the reputation that we build unreliable cars that are expensive to maintain."

To combat that, Jaguar announced an aggressive campaign to persuade prospective buyers to give Jaguar another look.

The company has turned expensive options into standard equipment on many models, lowered prices on many vehicles, and added extended warranties, while also introducing two new entry-level vehicles that it hopes will expand its reach to younger, more mainstream consumers.

A 2016 Jaguar XF, for example, will start at $52,895 — 9 percent lower than the comparable 2015 model. A 2016 Jaguar XJ will start at $75,395, about the same as a 2015, but will include as standard a set of options that the company values at $7,000.

All vehicles in the 2016 model year lineup will include 5-year and 60,000-mile limited warranties, and free scheduled maintenance for the same period.

The company will also shortly unveil the 2017 XE, which — at a starting MSRP of $35,895 — will significantly lower the entry point for the brand, and the 2017 F-Pace, a crossover utility vehicle that will expand Jaguar's reach into a segment it has never occupied.

Jaguar Land Rover — at one time two independent brands, but later united and owned by BMW and by Ford — was acquired by the Indian automotive giant Tata in 2008. The parent company has invested roughly $30 billion into the brand, Eberhardt said, over the last five years.

The company reported earlier this week that Jaguar sales for August were down 3 percent from August of 2014, though sales of the F-type were up 15 percent for the same period. Jaguar year-to-date sales for 2015 are off 4 percent from 2014, the company said.

Sales at sister company Land Rover were better, up 12 percent for the month, over August 2014, for its 5-year ever. Year-to-date sales are up 20 percent, the company said.

Eberhardt said he believes the F-Pace and XE will sharply expand the brand's visibility, especially among younger buyers, and markedly increase sales — a point echoed by marketing vice president Kim McCullough.

"Starting this year, we will be reaching a far larger target audience that includes a significant number of affluent millennials customers," McCullough said. "This opens up a new segment to us, with vehicles that will make the brand more accessible."

The challenge, said Kelley Blue Book analyst Akshay Anand, will be overcoming the brand's reputation as a troubled prestige nameplate.

"The brand has had issues" with the perception that the cars are unreliable and unattainable, Anand said.

"But the cars have gotten better, and the XE and F-Pace are the cars that will get new people in the door," he said. "Those are the vehicles that will dictate Jaguar's near-term success."

Those cars may be key to Jaguar's long-term success, too, said Edmunds.com analyst Jeremy Acevedo. "Part of Jaguar's problem is they build cars we covet — but not cars we can buy," said Edmunds.com analyst Jeremy Acevedo. "They have the sizzle. With the XE and F-Pace, they have the steak to go along with it."

The warranties will help reassure some buyers. So will the brand's high marks in recent initial quality surveys from J.D. Power.

But the company will still have to establish a sustained track record of building high-quality cars, said Consumer Reports director of testing Jake Fisher. The warranties will help hold company engineers accountable, he said.

"Their sales have been low, so it's difficult to determine whether they really have turned the corner on reliability," Fisher said. "The warranty is a good policy from a consumer standpoint but also from an internal standpoint. They will need to engineer in the reliability for their own financial reasons."

For the XE to succeed, Anand said, it will have to be an attractive vehicle, and offer compelling options, in order to compete with the already successful Mercedes C-class, BMW 3-series and Audi A4 automobiles that share the segment.

Eberhardt said he knows Jaguar can't simply come to market with a mediocre machine.

"There are so many great car choices today," he said. "Just having the best looking car is not enough. Good pricing is not enough.

The long-term warranty, he said, is his company's best effort to reassure people they are not taking a gamble. "Because of issues in the past, people don't think of us as a reliable choice," he said. "That's where we face the biggest hurdle."
Local linebackers spark Illinois Wesleyan defense

BY NICK BULLOCK
Pioneer Press

The Illinois Wesleyan football team, stocked with local athletes, turned in a stunning 54-13 homecoming victory against Millikin Oct. 10 in Bloomington.

Led by junior linebackers Sean Garvey, from Glenbrook South, and Tyler Fahey, a Maine South graduate, on the defensive side of the ball, the Titans held Millikin to just 139 total yards of offense while also forcing three turnovers.

One of those turnovers was an interception made by Fahey. Garvey finished the game with a team-high four solo tackles.

Other area athletes helping IWTJ improve to 5-0 were: senior linebacker Sean Flaherty, a Notre Dame graduate; freshman defensive lineman Chris Hawthorne, a Fenwick graduate; sophomore offensive lineman Mike Mulcrone, a Notre Dame graduate; junior defensive lineman Don Nordstrom, from Maine South; freshman linebacker Andrew Ostrowski, from Lyons; freshman defensive back Trevor Staley, a Lake Zurich alumnus; and senior defensive back Zach Till, a Lake Zurich graduate.

Also on the Illinois Wesleyan football team are: Buffalo Grove alumnus Andrew Apel, a sophomore wide receiver; St. Joseph's Elijah Davis, a freshman running back; Niles North's James Edmond, a sophomore defensive lineman; Notre Dame's Kevin Flaherty, a freshman linebacker; Evanston's Xavier Hilliard, a freshman wideout; Hinsdale South's Andrew James, a freshman linebacker; Nazareth graduate Chris Kulnig, a freshman defensive lineman; and Oak Park-River Forest's Marty McAnree, a freshman linebacker.

DePaul women favored again

Led by senior guard/forward Megan Podkowa, the DePaul women's basketball team will open the season as the Big East preseason favorite for the third straight year, as selected by the conference's head basketball coaches.

Podkowa, a Trinity alumna from Glenview, was named to the Preseason All-Big East Team. Last season, Podkowa finished second on the team in points per game (14.2), first in rebounds per game (6.4) and first in total blocks (43), while shooting a team-high 52.6 percent.

Sophomore guard Lauren Prochaska, a fellow Trinity graduate, played in 26 games for the Blue Demons last season. Maine South's Jacqui Grant, a transfer from Illinois, is a junior forward for the Blue Demons. Vernon Hills graduate Meri Bennett-Swanson is a sophomore forward for 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.

DePaul women's basketball team will open the season as the Big East preseason favorite for the third straight year, as selected by the conference's head basketball coaches.

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HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Ready for the next challenge?

Check back next week to see the finalists for our November challenge.

Voting begins at 9 a.m. on Nov. 5 at chicagotribune.com/athletes.

Thank you to everyone who voted in October!
The Notre Dame boys soccer team elected to play a very defensive style in the Class 3A Loyola Regional semifinals against top-seeded Evanston, but the Dons couldn’t contain the Wildkits.

Evanston earned an 8-0 victory over the 17th-seeded Dons (8-11) on Oct 20 in Glenview.

The Dons reached the regional semifinals in dramatic fashion. They edged Taft 5-4 in penalty kicks to earn a 1-0 win in the quarterfinals on Oct 16.

While Notre Dame’s season ended with a lopsided loss, the program made big strides this season. After finishing 2-13 in 2014, the Dons quadrupled their win total in 2015.

—Pioneer Press staff report
Notre Dame wins first conference title since 1981

BY ERIC VAN DRI

Jimmy Topping had just picked up a game-clinching first down for Notre Dame when Dons coach Mike Hennessey called a timeout.

The scoreboard said it all. Notre Dame led Carmel 25-13 on Oct. 23 in Niles, and would win by the same score. The Corsairs were out of timeouts. The Dons were 46.7 seconds, and two Tyler Tsagalis kneel downs, away from winning a share of their first East Suburban Catholic title since 1981.

The offense gathered around Hennessey near Notre Dame's sideline during the timeout.

"I didn't want anything stupid to happen," Hennessey said when asked why he called the timeout. "And I just wanted an opportunity to congratulate them."

Hennessey did. And Notre Dame's offense tried to do the same. Tsagalis said. After all, this is Hennessey's 29th season as the Dons' head coach and he was just 46.7 seconds away from winning his first conference title.

Hennessey wanted no part of their congratulations, however.

"No, no, no," Hennessey said. "It isn't about me. I've had enough games. It's their game. They're the ones who play it. I just sit and watch them, and sometimes call a good play."

Although Hennessey was deferential, five different seniors talked about winning a share of the East Suburban Catholic championship — Joliet Catholic beat Marist 35-28 to also finish 6-1 in one of the state's best conferences — for Hennessey. Wide receiver Ethan Jennings, defensive tackle Marko Pehar and Topping all did so on Oct. 18 at the beginning of the Dons' week of practice.

Tsagalis and senior defensive lineman/linebacker Matt Szyska did the same after Notre Dame (8-1, 6-1) beat Carmel for the first time since 1998.

"This is all for coach Hennessey. We needed to get it for him," Szyska said. "It's outstanding [to have him as a coach]. He knows every single one of us personally. He keeps us all up when we're down. He's a great coach." Topping and Jennings (one reception, 45 yards, one touchdown) ran effectively behind Notre Dame's offensive line, which included left tackle Jackson Delfosse, left guard Matt Bernal, center Tom Simon, right guard Patrick Dwyer and right tackle David Sora.

All five offensive linemen are seniors.

The offensive line was "unbelievable," Tsagalis said. "We could run the ball whenever we wanted."

Tsagalis also found Jennings (one reception, 45 yards) and senior Tim Simon (three receptions; 71 yards, one touchdown) for big plays through the air, including a 15-yard touchdown pass to Simon that put Notre Dame ahead 25-13 with 3:25 remaining in the fourth quarter.

The run-dominant Corsairs, who Notre Dame limited to 133 rushing yards on 33 carries, were forced to throw after Simon scored. Junior cornerback Greg Burnett picked off junior Jeremy Strutzel's pass to end Carmel's comeback hopes.

"I feel like we were absolutely so focused throughout the week," Szyska said of the defense. "We knew what needed to be done. We studied their offense. They could not do anything against us."

But before Simon's score and Burnett's interception, Tsagalis (9-for-13, 163 yards, one touchdown, two interceptions) threw an interception that was returned 86 yards for a touchdown by senior linebacker Remy Chitwood. The interception return made it 18-13 with 8:17 remaining.

There was palpable tension in Notre Dame's crowd and on its sideline afterward, given the stakes of the game and the 17 years it had been since the Dons last beat Carmel.

Tsagalis returned to the sideline as the Corsairs went for two and then kicked off.

While there was, Hennessey acted as if he was in the aftermath of winning his first East Suburban Catholic championship. He was even keel. His expression didn't change.

"Anything I do — picks, fumbles... it's just, 'All right. Go get 'em next time!'" Tsagalis said. "There are coaches [at Notre Dame] that get in your face a little bit, but you've got to have that on a good team. I've been very good friends with [Hennessey] since my freshman year. Just knowing that I can look at him, and he won't yell at me, it means a lot."

Tsagalis responded to adversity by leading a 56-yard drive that ran 4:43 off of the clock. His touchdown pass to Simon put Notre Dame ahead 25-13 with 3:25 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

PLAYOFF PREVIEW

Notre Dame vs. Marist

BY MATT HARNESS
Pioneer Press

Matchup: First round Class 8A playoff, 23rd-seeded Marist (5-4) at 10th-seeded Notre Dame (8-1), 7 p.m. Oct. 30.

How they got here: Notre Dame clinched an automatic berth by winning six or more games, while Marist had five wins and earned 48 playoff points to qualify.

Notre Dame stat leaders:
QB: Sr. Tyler Tsagalis, 124-for-207 (59.9 percent), 1,717 Yds, 8.3 Yds/Att, 16 TD
RB: Sr. Jimmy Topping, 117 Att, 554 Yds, 4.7 Avg, 4 TD
WR: Sr. Tim Simon, 35 Rec, 706 Yds, 20.2 Avg, 10 TD

Defense: Sr. Tim Simon, 43 tackles, 4 INT

Telling number: 29
The number of seasons Mike Hennessey has been the coach of the Dons. After nearly three decades in charge of the program, he finally won his first conference championship after Notre Dame beat Carmel 25-13 on Friday, Oct. 23, in front of a home crowd in Niles. The Dons, who tied Joliet Catholic atop the standings at 6-1, last won a league title in 1981.

Behind the numbers:
Tsagalis, a Western Illinois recruit, averages 190.8 yards passing per game, but he also can beat teams with his feet. The 6-foot-3, 205-pounder shares the team lead in rushing yards with 554, averaging 8.9 yards per carry. He's also scored nine rushing touchdowns.

Under the radar player to watch: Sr. WR/DB Ethan Jennings - With a playmaker like Simon at receiver taking up most of the attention of opposing defenses, Jennings has racked up impressive numbers of his own. The 6-1, 190-pounder has 25 catches for 365 yards and two touchdowns during the regular season.

Sound bite: “We played a hell of a game against Marist (in Week 4), 49-42, we lost. I think it was in the back of their minds that they could [win the East Suburban Catholic]. We talked about running the table after the Marist game — knowing we had some tough teams, and it was going to be all physical play. What I'm proudest of is our guys played physical football throughout the winning streak.” — Hennessey

Freelance reporter Eric Van Dril contributed.

Niles North vs. Young

BY MATT HARNESS
Pioneer Press

Matchup: First round Class 7A playoffs, 31st-seeded Niles North (5-4) vs. second-seeded Young (9-0) at Lane, 7 p.m. Oct. 30.

How they got here: Niles North won five games and its 40 playoff points were enough to qualify, while Young won the Big North conference to capture an automatic berth.

Niles North stat leaders:
QB: Sr. Markhus Taylor, 101-for-173 (58.4 percent), 1,517 Yds, 8.8 Yds/Att, 19 TD, 8 INT
RB: Sr. Barrington Wade, 170 Att, 1,586 Yds, 9.3 Avg, 12 TD
WR: Jr. Jordan LaBelle, 36 Rec, 523 Yds, 14.5 Avg, 8 TD

Telling number: 1992 — That was the last season that Niles North won a playoff game, beating Senn 29-8. The Vikings, who lost 45-0 to Loyola in the second round of the Class 6A playoffs in 1992, then went 22 years without getting to the postseason until they qualified for the Class 7A playoffs last season. But Niles North suffered a 52-14 loss to Cary-Grove in the first round.

Behind the numbers:
Niles North earned its entrance into the playoffs with its 42-29 win over Highland Park in Week 9. It was the team's fourth victory against a team with a losing record. Niles North's lone win against a playoff-eligible team was a 63-32 victory over Shepard in the opening week. The Astros finished 5-4.

Under the radar player to watch: Sr. FB/DE Jerome Guy — He has only one carry all season and no catches, but Guy is an important cog in Niles North's high-powered offense, which averages 43.3 points a game. The 5-foot-9, 197-pound Guy is the lead blocker for Wade, senior Richard Azunna and senior Craig “Dutch” Dawkins. With Guy showing the way, the Vikings average 318 yards on the ground a game and 318 yards per attempt. Wade is an Iowa recruit.

Sound bite: “We are playing really well on the offensive side of the ball. Our defense has improved dramatically, but we're still giving up too many big plays.” — Niles North coach Mark Egofske

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Despite not having full team, New Trier takes third

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

State championships are won in the championship bracket of the girls tennis state tournament, but state trophies are often won in the consolation bracket.

That was true for New Trier this year.

The Trevians didn't have a full lineup (two singles and two doubles entries) at the state tournament, but they still finished third (27 points) in the team standings. Hinsdale Central was first (50), Stevenson took second (30) and Lyons was fourth (25).

"[Earning a state trophy] is pretty significant, considering the fact we don't have a full team," New Trier senior Cammy Frei said. "I didn't really think we could get third as a team, but all of our [doubles] teams did really well and made it to the last day, which was huge."


As the state semifinals were taking place at Buffalo Grove, all of the Trevians' state qualifiers — junior Michelle Buyer and senior Tess Lubin in doubles, Frei in singles, and senior Catherine McKinnon and freshman Michelle Capone in doubles — were playing in the consolation draw at Rolling Meadows.

New Trier began Oct 24 with 24 points.

Buyer and Lubin lost their consolation quarterfinal to Loyola's Maggie Hines and Caroline Witkowski, 8-2. Frei managed to defeat Barrington senior Michelle Linden 8-5, however, in an eight-game pro set format.

Frei's victory gave the Trevians 25 points. Minutes later, Niles North sophomore Michelle Bacalla defeated Lyons junior Jelly Bozovic, 8-6. Bacalla's victory ensured that New Trier would finish in at least a tie for third for the third time because the Lions' doubles team of Stefania Vicie and Lahari Yelamanchili could only earn two additional points by finishing in fifth place in the state, which they did.

After Bacalla's victory, Frei congratulated her with a two-handed high-five. Frei said she knew, by doing the math in her head, that Bacalla's victory meant New Trier would finish in at least a tie for third.

Capone and McKinnon then rallied to defeat Edwardsville's Morgan Colbert and Grace Deese, 9-7, to help New Trier clinch third place outright. Capone and McKinnon won their next match and finished sixth in the state in doubles. Frei tied for seventh in singles, Lubin and Buyer tied for ninth in doubles.

Niles North

Sophomore Michelle Bacalla reached the state quarterfinals by winning her first four matches at the state tournament, but she then lost to Palatine sophomore Asuka Kawai 8-7, 6-4, 6-2.

Kawai was able to elevate her play in the third set on Oct. 23. She seemed to hit winner after winner with the type of power and accuracy few in the state possess.

"She was playing ridiculously well," Bacalla said the following day.

Bacalla was clearly disappointed after her quarterfinal match, but she rallied on Oct. 24. The sophomore won two matches — an 8-6 victory over Lyons' Jelly Bozovic, and a win by default against Northside sophomore Nicole Roc — even though her right knee was aching.

"I think I had my knee a little bit during that match [Friday]," Bacalla said after beating Bozovic. "But it's no pain, no gain."

Bacalla's sore knee forced her to retire during her fifth-place match against Glenbard East sophomore Kollin Allen, however. Bacalla finished in sixth place, which is the best-ever finish for a Niles North girls tennis player at the state tournament, according to IHSA.org.

Maine South

Marti Wind and Kamila Czosnyka's 2015 state tournament largely mirrored their 2014 state tournament.

The juniors once again reached the quarterfinals in doubles, but lost in straight sets to a team from Hinsdale Central. Then, on the following day, they went 1-1 to finish in a tie for seventh in the state.

While they weren't able to advance deeper in the tournament, Wind and Czosnyka were pleased with how they performed in the state quarterfinals this year. They lost 7-5, 6-1 to Danielle Barich and Erika Olu, who wound up finishing fourth. Wind and Czosnyka played better than they did in a 6-4, 6-0 defeat in the state quarterfinals a year ago.

"I was kind of happy with the score, because I know they're a really good team," Wind said. "For us to win five games, I was really happy with that. I thought we'd be a little closer in the second set, but..."

Wind and Czosnyka helped Maine South finish in sixth place as a team (18 points). So too did freshman Jennifer Ptak and senior Leigh Friedman. Ptak lost her first match at state, but she won four straight consolation matches en route to a 4-2 finish. Friedman won her first two matches before losing to Palatine's Asuka Kawai, who took third in the state. Friedman finished 3-2.

Loyola

Sophomore Maggie Hines attended the state tournament when she was a freshman in 2014, but she was only able to cheer on Loyola's Caroline and Abby Witkowski.

This year, Hines was paired with junior Caroline Witkowski at doubles, and they finished in a tie for seventh. The experience of playing in the quarterfinals at Buffalo Grove was a completely new one for both players. There are bleachers next to the courts at quarterfinals, as well as a number of fans, high stakes and even a line judge.

"This is a lot different from our normal matches," Hines said. "We had a line judge, which is super cool. It was just very official."

Hines and Caroline Witkowski adapted well to the new environment. They lost 6-4, 6-1 to Glenbrook North's Colette and Catherine O'Regan, who were the tournament's No. 1 seed in doubles. But Hines and Caroline Witkowski both said they were happy with how they played in a match where many of the games went to deuce. The Loyola duo finished with a 5-2 record.

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Maine South's Matthew Schneider celebrates with teammates after the Hawks defeated Evanston on Oct. 23 in Park Ridge.

PATRICK GORSKI/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

SECOND SEASON

Area teams getting ready for first round of playoffs. Inside
Congratulations to Maine East High School senior Niki Ahlstrand who was awarded "HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE OF THE MONTH" for her performance in volleyball.

COUNTRY Financial representative Kurt Mass presented Niki with a $250 donation to Maine East High School. Congrats to Niki and her team from COUNTRY Financial!

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