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Yellow Line runs again

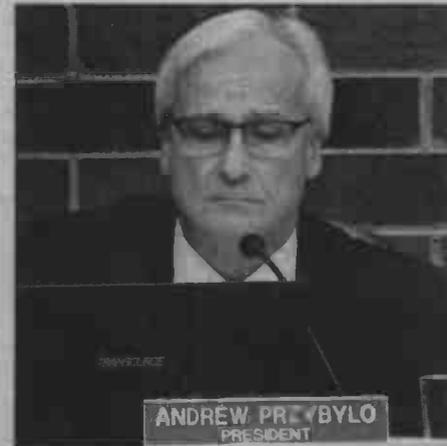
Skokie Swift makes first trip since embankment collapse in May. **Page 4**



MIKE ISAACS/PIONEER PRESS

Yellow Line trains were back and running in Skokie Oct. 30 after five-plus months of disrupted service due to an embankment collapse along the route. This train pulled into the downtown Skokie station before dawn.

NEWS



ALICIA RAMIREZ/PIONEER PRESS

Water consultant hired by Niles

Village seeking information about Skokie, Evanston water purchase. **Page 6**

SPORTS

Wet conditions

Area cross country runners had to fight through cool, rainy weather to reach state. **Page 39**



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SHOUT OUT

Matt LaFleur, local illustrator

Matt LaFleur recently finished illustrating a children's book called "The Toothless Fairy." It has a Halloween theme (the holiday is about more than candy) but it can be read any time with a story line of a lonely fairy who is looking for friendship but is afraid she is too scary.

Q: What else are you up to?

A: Besides promoting "The Toothless Fairy," a children's book I illustrated, I am talking to a few folks about local commercial beer labels, more books, T-shirts and drawings of 20 people on a Navy Surgical Team. I can't make this up. And I love variety.

Q: What led you to become an illustrator?

A: I have always loved drawing, and I have always enjoyed showing my art to people. In high school, when the art teacher told me about illustration, I was astonished: "Wait, people will call me and ask me to draw them stuff, and when it's finished, they'll pay me? Where do I sign up?" I also like drawing other people's conclusions.



MATT LAFLEUR

Matt LaFleur

Q: Are there artists/illustrators you admire?

A: Peter de Seve, Maurice Sendak, Edward Gorey, Al Hirschfeld, Arthur Rackham; comic book artists like Arthur Adams, Dave McKean, Bernie Wrightson, Geof Darrow, Brian Bolland, Frank Miller; and Jim Henson.

Q: Do you have any early Halloween memories?

A: My mother sent me to the kindergarten Halloween parade dressed as "Mr. Carrot." And I still came out relatively OK with a healthy love of the color orange.

Q: What are your hobbies/other interests?

A: Homebrewing, photography, travel, hats (I wear many), charcoal grilling, being outside in the fall, all flavors of music, riding my bicycle, making refrigerator pickles, exploring Evanston and creating moments of art with my two daughters.

Q: What is your next project?

A: I want to do a funny coloring book that adults would enjoy. Not to be confused with an adult coloring book. That's something else entirely.

— Bob Seidenberg

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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54913

All aboard — again

CTA's Yellow Line resumes service in Skokie

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

It takes relatively short time to travel from downtown Skokie's Yellow Line CTA station to the Howard Street station just over the border in Chicago.

But dignitaries and others invited to take that ceremonial ride Oct. 30 would tell you this one didn't feel short at all. Everyone on board knew it was five months in the making.

Yellow Line CTA service returned to Skokie and Chicago last week for the first time since May — ever since an embankment collapsed along the route disrupting service all summer long and beyond.

The repairs were no easy fix, CTA engineers said, and it required cooperation from four different parties — the CTA, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Skokie and Walsh Construction.

"It has been our priority since the beginning to resume service as quickly as possible with the safety of our customers and employees top of the line," CTA President Dorval Carter Jr. said in a brief ceremony before the ride.

Carter confirmed that it was his first day on the job when he learned of the embankment collapse and that the CTA's Yellow Line would have to go down.

"We are absolutely thrilled to be able to restore Yellow Line service to our customers today," he said.

Three years ago, Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen stood in the same location to celebrate the opening of the downtown Yellow Line station. His address last week, though, was interrupted by the loud noise of the gates going down and a train pulling into the station. He didn't seem to mind.

"Isn't that a wonderful



CTA President Dorval Carter Jr. takes a ceremonial ride on a Yellow Line train Oct. 30 heading from downtown Skokie to Howard Street in Chicago. Yellow Line trains had been down since May because of an embankment collapse.

sound?" he said after the noise died down.

Van Dusen called the Yellow Line "an integral part of the village's history," as well as "an economic engine for our downtown revitalization and our continuing growth of the Illinois Science + Technology Park."

U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., emphasized the importance of bringing riders back to the Yellow Line. The CTA has reported that only half of its regular Yellow Line customers used shuttle buses made available during the service outage.

"It's not only a celebration but a great relief — to hear those sounds and to see people getting on," Schakowsky said. "Our challenge really is to make sure the ridership comes back."

The embankment collapse was the result of a Metropolitan Water Reclamation District construc-

tion project between Oakton and Howard streets along the line. It required building a new and stable embankment from scratch, CTA engineers said.

"Nobody really wants a crisis, but if you're going to have a crisis, you want some things to fall in place," said Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Executive Director David St. Pierre. "You want everybody to be safe. We had nobody injured in this crisis."

Before the early morning ceremony and ceremonial ride Oct. 30 — and well before even the sun came out — the first Yellow Line trains bustled through Skokie in both directions. The CTA made sure new and top-of-the-line trains were running along Yellow Line tracks.

A large banner outside the downtown Skokie CTA train station welcomed riders back. On the CTA's website, a clock counted down until the first train



MIKE ISAACS/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen speaks joyfully about the return of Yellow Line CTA service in Skokie Oct. 30 during a ceremony. The Yellow Line had been down for more than five months because of an embankment collapse along the route.

departed the Howard Street station heading north into Skokie at 4:45 a.m. Oct. 30. The first southbound train to Howard was scheduled for 5 a.m.

Only a handful of commuters were on hand at that time of morning, but CTA employees said they knew a healthy crowd would return at rush hour.

"They'll be here," said CTA employee Renardo Hamilton, who was working at the downtown Skokie CTA station for the first time since May. Hamilton said he believed the crowd was a little slower than before the shutdown, possibly because people had to readjust to the idea that the Yellow Line is back in business.

The scattered commuters who made their way into the station pre-dawn on Oct. 30 were greeted by CTA employees telling them that they would ride free that day. Some commuters instinctively pulled

out their cards to swipe, but the CTA is offering free Yellow Line rides through the end of this week.

Free or not, commuters were just happy to have Yellow Line service again.

Jose Palmeno bounded off of a northbound train in downtown Skokie and began making his way to his job at a bakery.

"I had been taking the shuttle bus, but it took longer that way," he said. "It was especially longer in the afternoon leaving work to go home, but you get used to it. But I'm just very glad the train is back."

That seemed to sum up the feelings of most of the commuters who were back to their normal routines.

David Corroa, a restaurant kitchen worker in downtown Chicago, said he took the Yellow Line service shutdown in stride.

"The shuttle bus was good and it worked OK," he said. "But it took longer. It's good to have this back."

Skokie resident Kim Cheond waited for a train as part of her journey to Wheaton. "I've been using the bus, but I think this is better," she said.

Hina Zahiad, also a Skokie resident, was awaiting an "L" train to Chicago for her baby-sitting job. She said taking the shuttle bus added 15 to 20 minutes to her commute.

"It wasn't so bad, but, of course, I would prefer this," she said.

Asked whether she was glad the Yellow Line is back in business, Skokie resident Najma Sundarni exclaimed, "Oh my God."

An employee at a downtown Chicago candy store, Sundarni said the shuttle bus added 30 to 45 minutes to her regular commute. "We are so glad to have this back," she said. "I'm very happy. We have been waiting for this day."

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Riding the Yellow Line again: CTA holds pre-opening runs

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

More than five months and some \$3.5 million later, according to the CTA's own estimate, Yellow Line trains are ready to roll along Skokie tracks again.

Two days before the return of the Yellow Line, slated for Oct. 30, CTA technicians were making test runs aboard trains between the large Skokie Shops on Oakton Street and the end of the line on Howard Street in Chicago.

Service was shut down in mid-May when an embankment collapsed near a bridge along the Yellow Line tracks during a construction project overseen by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and performed by Walsh Construction. The line runs between stations at Howard Street in Chicago and Dempster Street in Skokie with one stop in downtown Skokie along the way.

During a test run Oct. 28, a shiny new train, heading south toward Howard, pulled up to that bridge, providing a train's-eye view of where the unexpected problem occurred last spring. On the right was the ongoing water district's construction project near its plant at McCormick Boulevard and Howard Street.

Multiple trains rolled along the Yellow Line tracks in both directions on the rainy afternoon — occupied only by CTA staff or invited guests for the time being.

New pink rods protruded from the ground alongside the tracks, a part of the massive job that went into restoring the line.

"These were installed as part of the reconstruction of the embankment," said Jim Harper, CTA's chief engineer of infrastructure. "The purpose is to provide a reference point for monitoring the settlement of the embankment going forward."

The embankment had stood up for 90 years until the collapse, Harper said. Other embankments supporting CTA tracks have survived the same amount of time or more, he said.

The estimated \$3.5 million includes loss of revenue from service, the cost of the free shuttle buses and the loss of access to Skokie Shops, CTA spokesman Jeff Tolman said. Because of the latter, he said, newer trains had to be transported to Skokie by truck rather than by rail.

Tolman said the CTA is seeking reimbursement for the monetary loss, but the parties remain in negotiations. An exact cause of the embankment collapse has not officially been identified.

"We don't have the full root cause or the full investigation completed yet to understand what could or could not have been avoided," Harper said.

While some Yellow Line commuters expressed frustration that the service shutdown extended into three seasons, CTA officials maintain that the best of repair options was selected.

"We looked at several options for restoring service, but the way we ended up restoring service was as comprehensively and quickly as possible while keeping safety as a priority for our customers," Tolman said.

There were initial differences between agencies over which option to choose, officials said, but the parties came together to perform the job. That job, Harper said, was the equivalent of building an embankment from scratch had a new line been put into service.

The CTA worked with Walsh Construction to bring in a consultant specializing in embankment design, Harper said, adding that the embankment is sturdy and meets all safety standards.

"It required a lot of work — a lot of steps to make sure

that embankment would be stable for the next hundred years," Harper said. "We're very comfortable now that we have an embankment that will give us that kind of performance."

That was the message the CTA wanted to deliver as the eve of the Yellow Line reopening approached: The Yellow Line is safe and steady, and it's built to last.

How quickly customers return to the Yellow Line, though, remains to be seen. The CTA provided service by shuttle bus throughout the long shutdown, but only about half of its regular Yellow Line customers took advantage of it, Tolman acknowledged.

The CTA has begun an aggressive campaign to inform people that the Yellow Line is open for business again and is safer than ever, he said.

Harper said the CTA has load-tested the tracks. Operators are being re-acclimated to a normal service level, he said, running the trains one shift a day without passengers.

The CTA said it took over Yellow Line operations again from Walsh Construction just last week. It immediately ran heavy equipment with water tanks to the embankment site and made sure any rust on the tracks from sitting unused for more than five months was eliminated, Harper said.

CTA officials say the test trains have been running smoothly and without slippage or any other problems. Two new cars were expected to be operational when the CTA opened the line for business again Oct. 30. Harper said he has been out to the embankment site a few times a week since the collapse first occurred. "We're looking forward to having this service restored again," he said.

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Niles officials mull money withheld by state

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

A lobbyist painted a grim picture for Niles officials of the state budget crisis and its impact on local communities, including the village, during a board meeting Oct. 27.

Al Ronan, a lobbyist for a slew of Illinois municipalities, Niles among them, said that as the state enters into its fifth month without a budget, there's "chaos in every level of government."

In the midst of the budget impasse, Gov. Bruce Rauner, Ronan said, "has decided that his new plan is to withhold dollars that absolutely should be under the purview of municipalities and other entities."

Rauner's administration cited the budget stalemate as a reason to withhold the revenue, which includes motor fuel tax, gaming tax funds and 911 funds, from municipalities entitled to the money, in addition to limiting state lottery payments to \$600, according to a press release from Marty Moylan, D-Des Plaines.



ALICIA RAMIREZ/PIONEER PRESS

Lobbyist Al Ronan discusses the impact of the state budget crisis with Niles officials during a village board meeting Oct. 27.

Finance director for Niles, Scot Neukirch, said in an interview following the meeting that the village receives monthly payments from the state totaling roughly \$50,000 in motor fuel tax funds and \$15,000 in 911 funds. Those payments have not come through for the past two

months, he said, which means the village is missing approximately \$130,000 in revenue it otherwise would have received.

Ronan, a former Democratic state representative, said Moylan introduced House Bill 4305 to issue those payments to municipalities and allow state-lot-

tery winners to collect their full prizes.

The bill passed the House Executive Committee last week, according to a press release from Moylan. Ronan said the bill is due to be voted on by the House of Representatives next month. If it moves beyond the House, he said Sen.

Laura Murphy, D-Des Plaines, who was recently appointed to replace Dan Kotowski of Park Ridge, would sponsor the legislation in the Senate.

"The overriding problem is that we don't have a budget and that really has to be dealt with now and that's really my assessment of where we're at in the process," Ronan said.

When asked what the impact would be if a full fiscal year passed without a budget, Ronan said an entire year without a state budget would be "unconscionable."

"You have to provide those services, the people elected you to do that, and if the state takes a huge chunk of your ability to do that, what's your alternative? And that's what municipalities are grappling with," he said.

Neukirch said Niles is in a good position to take the revenue hit because of the its healthy reserve levels. The total amount of uncommitted dollars in the village's general fund reserve is about \$15 million, he said.

Neukirch said Niles would fill the gaps in state funding with reserve money "to get through this time."

Trustee George Alpogianis said he was impressed by lobbyists' ability to take on "the role of trouble shooters" in the General Assembly, and he thanked Ronan for his services.

Ronan said his staff is in "communication with village personnel "almost on a weekly basis" and together they try to do "what is hopefully in the best interest of Niles (and other municipalities)."

He stopped short of directly criticizing Rauner, and said instead that the multi-millionaire businessman turned governor didn't make his fortune "being stupid."

"But the way he made it was making deals on all the projects he worked on," Ronan said. "There is a deal that can be made here that will get Illinois moving back in the right direction."

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

Morton Grove, Niles to split cost of Skokie water source consultant

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

Niles will pay a consultant more than \$22,000 to determine whether it's possible to use Skokie's existing water infrastructure as a means to ultimately purchase water for the village from Evanston.

The Niles Village Board recently voted to approve the expenditure. The total cost of the more than \$45,000 study by Chicago-based Stanley Consultants will be split between Niles and Morton Grove, the village's partner on the alternative water project, according to village documents.

The two municipalities recently announced their

intention in a joint press release to study the issue as part of their ultimate goal to purchase Lake Michigan water from Evanston rather than Chicago. According to Niles documents, preliminary work conducted by Stanley Consultants suggests it might be possible for the two villages to tap into Skokie's water lines as an alternative to building a pipeline that would send water flowing from Evanston to the two communities.

Village Manager Steve Vinezeano said the question is whether Skokie's system can support the additional water flow and whether improvements can be made that would cost less than the creation of a

new major pipeline.

Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo said during a recent board meeting that it behooves the village to examine all ways water could be brought from Evanston to Niles and Morton Grove. He cited steep water rate increases by Chicago as a reason to move forward on the study and the entire project.

"This kind of expenditure will come to an end," he said, citing the cost of the most recent study. Przybylo said the village is "making every effort to save taxpayers' money."

The Village Board voted in June to begin negotiations alongside Morton Grove officials with Evanston for the purchase of

water. In August, the board voted to spend nearly \$70,000 on a financial consultant to aid in the negotiations.

In addition to the thousands already spent on studies and consultants, the municipalities will also be on the hook to cover the cost to build a new water line. Recent estimates place the cost of building a new line directly to Evanston between \$92 million and \$200 million.

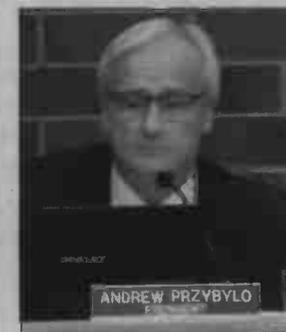
There's a potential for the two municipalities to save money on the project if the Skokie option proves viable, Vinezeano said, because less infrastructure probably would be needed.

He also said Skokie officials will have the ultimate

say as to whether or not Morton Grove and Niles can use the village's water system as vehicle for their own water needs.

Going the Skokie route might preclude Park Ridge from signing onto the project and possibly cutting costs further for Morton Grove and Niles. The city has previously expressed interest in joining the multimillion-dollar endeavor, but according to the press release from Morton Grove and Niles, Park Ridge officials have not committed to the project.

The release also states that "the new potential delivery method we are exploring may not support the needs of Park Ridge and including them in this ef-



LEE V. GAINES/PIONEER PRESS

Mayor Andrew Przybylo of Niles

fort would not seem appropriate at this time."

Vinezeano said the project is still a possibility for all three municipalities.

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



MAINE TOWNSHIP

In this file photo, from left at the lighting ceremony last November, are Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano, Supervisor Carol Teschky, Clerk Gary K. Warner, Collector Mary Rohde and Trustee Peter Gialamas.

Golf Mill Shopping Center ready for Festival of Trees

BY ALICIA RAMIREZ
Pioneer Press

Golf Mill Shopping Center in Niles is getting ready for its annual Festival of Trees, but this year is a little different than years past.

"In previous years, we've worked with local organizations in the community and the neighborhoods, such as the police, firefighters and local stores," Kyle Burcar, marketing and events manager for the Sterling Organization, which owns the mall, said. "This year, we're trying to work exclusively with nonprofits."

Burcar said the event will work basically the same way

this year — the organizations will decorate the trees, people will vote on their favorite tree starting Nov. 16 and a winner will be crowned Dec. 12.

"On Dec. 12 we'll have a final tally of all of the votes and that winning charity or nonprofit will get all of the proceeds from our breakfast with Santa event, which is held the week before," he said.

The mall is looking for eight nonprofit organizations and, as of Oct. 30, has a couple confirmed and a few more that are working through the paperwork to ensure the organizations are both local and nonprofit.

"We're just trying to change things up a little bit," Burcar said. "We want to keep the same vibe from the previous events that we've had here because there's a lot of nostalgia around Golf Mill, so people like having events that have been here before, but we want to add a touch of our own."

For nonprofit organizations interested in participating in the Festival of Trees, contact Burcar at 847-699-1070 or by email at kburcar@sterlingorganization.com. The deadline for nonprofits to reach out is Nov. 9.

Alicia Ramirez is a freelancer.

Police: NIU student's deadly fall from window was accidental

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEKALB, Ill. (AP) — Northern Illinois University police say their investigation has concluded that a student's death after a fall from a residence hall window was an accident.

Police say Oluwarotimi Okedina, a Maine East High School alumnus, had LSD

and marijuana in his system, impairing his judgment when he fell from Stevenson Towers and died on Sept. 26. NIU Police Chief Thomas Phillips says evidence points to Okedina being alone in the room at the time he died.

Police say after Okedina died they did extensive interviews with those who

were with him that night.

Phillips said in an Oct. 26 news release that investigators also analyzed physical evidence at the scene and have corroborated the coroner's report that Okedina's death was an accident.

Police say they're separately investigating the source of the drugs Okedina ingested.

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POLICE REPORT

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

BATTERY

■ Calvin Crayton, 57, of the 7900 block of Caldwell Avenue, Niles, was charged with domestic battery on Oct. 28. He has a Nov. 10 court date.

RETAIL THEFT

■ Bhavikaben Soni, 27, of the 9000 block of Federal Court, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with retail theft on Oct. 26 after she allegedly stole \$214 worth of items from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. She has a Nov. 17 court date.

■ Dominique Dawson, 22, of the 8700 block of Prairie Road, Skokie, was charged with felony retail theft on Oct. 26 after she allegedly stole \$189.70 worth of merchandise from a store on the 8500 block of Golf Road. She has a Nov. 4 court date.

THEFT

■ A GPS device, binoculars and a small pocket knife were reported stolen between Oct. 21-22 from a car parked on the 8000 block of Foster Lane. Police said there were no signs of forced entry.

■ A purse valued at \$400 and containing \$100 in cash was reported stolen Oct. 23

from a car parked in a lot on the 9200 block of Milwaukee Avenue. A window was broken to gain entry.

■ A mailbox cover was stolen overnight between Oct. 23 and Oct. 24 from the 7300 block of Carol Street.

■ An 83-year-old man told police that he discovered his wallet missing from his pocket on Oct. 24 shortly after he was approached by a man in a parking lot on the 7900 block of Milwaukee Avenue. The stranger reportedly said hello to the victim, but because he didn't know him, the victim turned away and got into his car, police said.

■ An iPad was stolen Oct. 24 from a car parked on the 6800 block of Lexington Lane.

■ Between Oct. 26-27, four tires and rims were stolen off a car parked at a dealership on the 5700 block of Touhy Avenue. Bags of rock salt were used to prop up the car after the tires were taken off, police said.

■ A gym bag containing a wallet with \$60 in cash was reported stolen Oct. 28 from a locker inside a fitness center on the 9200 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

■ A large rock was thrown through the front window of a home on the 8700 block of Ozark Avenue on the night of Oct. 25, police said.

Chicago man found guilty of trying to abduct girl, 13, in Skokie last January

BY BRIAN L. COX

Pioneer Press

A Chicago man was found guilty at the Skokie courthouse Oct. 27 of child abduction after he tried to kidnap a 13-year-old girl earlier this year while she was walking in Skokie, authorities said.

Cook County Circuit Court Judge Lauren Edidin found Gabino Torres, 36, of the 7200 block of North Bell Avenue guilty following a bench trial.

Torres stopped his SUV vehicle in a parking lot in the 4800 block of Golf Road on Jan. 20, then stepped from the vehicle and asked the girl for directions, authorities said. They said the girl was walking from Old Orchard Junior High School to Niles North High School at the time of the incident.

They said Torres tried to pull the girl into his vehicle but she was able to retrieve

a string of padlocks from her backpack and strike Torres in the face. They said Torres then fled the scene but said the victim was able to give authorities a detailed description of the man and his vehicle, including the fact that her



Torres

attacker was missing two fingers. Police said information provided by the public and good detective work helped lead investigators to Torres.

Torres, who has been held in jail in lieu of \$750,000 bond since his arrest, is scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 1.

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

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Legislators gather to hear importance of Holocaust education

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

This year marks two milestones in teaching children in Illinois about the Holocaust and genocide.

It is the 25th anniversary of Illinois becoming the first state in the country to require the teaching of the Holocaust in all public elementary and high schools. It is also the 10th anniversary of the expansion of that mandate to include study of other modern genocide.

For the first time, state legislators — some from well beyond the immediate area — came to the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center Oct. 19 to better understand the significance of teaching the Holocaust and genocide to Illinois children. The legislators spoke with docents and Holocaust survivors and toured the museum during their time there.

Holocaust Museum CEO Susan Abrams told the legislators that 60,000 kids and educators work with docents and sometimes survivors at the museum every year.

"You will learn how we work using history of the Holocaust to teach about the dangers of hatred, of prejudice and of indifference," Abrams said.

With Illinois legislators wrangling over a state budget in the face of critical financial challenges, Holocaust Museum officials said it was important to underline the necessity of continuing to teach the Holocaust and genocide to children.

"We believe that the mandate that requires all schools in our state to teach about the Holocaust and genocide has really been crucial for educating other people about the Holocaust and the importance of standing up and speaking out throughout their lives," Abrams said.

Continuing the policy, she said,

is "imperative" to connecting students not only to history but to present-day accountability and giving them a sense of civic responsibility.

There was no disagreement from local legislators who underscored the importance of the museum and of Holocaust and genocide education to their colleagues.

State Sen. Daniel Biss (D-9) said that the museum, located in his district, has great personal meaning for him.

His parents survived the Holocaust, he said, and his cousins — survivors and long-time Skokie residents — have volunteered at the Holocaust Museum ever since it was housed in a small storefront on Main Street.

"To see what this institution has become — for the community, for the state, for the educational infrastructure for the state is really, really incredibly meaningful to me," he said.

"This is the gem in my district," echoed State Rep. Laura Fine (D-17). "It has so much meaning to everybody here and we need to make sure it has (that meaning) for everyone around the state."

Fine relayed a recent experience visiting Auschwitz with her husband and seeing Israeli students draped in Israeli flags and singing.

"This is a group of students saying this could never happen again and the only reason it can't is because we can't forget that it happened in the first place," she said.

Jim Durkin (R-82), the House Republican leader in Springfield, also made a case for the importance of the museum — not just to remember the past, he said, but to address the present and future as well.

"After the Holocaust, the world has experienced repeated genocide since the end of World War II

including the tragedies of Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia," he said. "The Holocaust illustrates the consequences of prejudice, racism and stereotypes."

Recent events, he said, "show us how important it is...to teach young people the importance of standing up in the face of hatred, prejudice and speaking out."

Local educators did not weigh in at the gathering, but several of those who have used the museum as a critical educational tool for their students were in attendance.

Anne Hoversen of St. Paul of the Cross Catholic School in Park Ridge regularly brings her junior high school students to the museum.

"I've been spending years here because it's more than a museum," she said. "There is no better place for learning."

Hoversen teaches American history and includes a month-long unit on the Holocaust. As part of her instruction, she brings kids to the museum every year.

Long-time Glenbrook South High School teacher Matthew Whipple teaches world history and international relations. Whipple even used the museum as a resource when it was located on Main Street and now regularly schedules field trips for his students.

"One of the beauties of this museum is that we don't just memorialize and remember the past," he said. "This museum encourages us to make a difference as we move forward out of this community and into the greater world."

Eighth grade teacher Kristin Gottschalk of Iroquois Community School in Des Plaines says that her regular field trips to the museum make the Holocaust much more real for her students.

"Getting to talk with survivors is so integral to understanding the Holocaust," said Gottschalk.



MIKE ISAACS/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Illinois Holocaust Museum CEO Susan Abrams and Vice President Aaron Elster, a survivor, speak to legislators at the museum about the importance of the museum as an educational resource and of teaching the Holocaust and genocides to new generations of students.



Illinois Holocaust Museum Director of Education Kelley Szany shows off some of the learning opportunities for educators at the museum to State Rep. Terri Bryant (R-115) with survivor and Museum Vice President Aaron Elster looking on.

"There's six million stories, but hearing just one story makes it so unforgettable and real to those who hear it first-hand."

The visiting legislators Oct. 19 didn't have to take anyone's word for that. The formal discussion ended with Holocaust Museum Vice President Aaron Elster telling the story of how he lost most of his family during the Holocaust, how he ran away at his father's directive, how he went into hiding with the help of "upstanders" and

how he managed to survive when his parents and sister did not.

"So ladies and gentlemen, that's why I feel with all my heart we as a museum must exist," he said after recounting his history. "That our museum is so important — for if we lose the ability to tell our stories — it opens the doors for all the haters and deniers — and they will flourish and multiply."

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D219 investigation results might take 'a couple of months'

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

Niles Township taxpayers could wait months to find out the results of an ongoing investigation into two top administrators who were placed on leave by the Niles Township High School District 219 Board of Education three months ago, according to one school board member.

When asked on Oct. 28 whether the board has a timeline for completing the investigation, the board's president, Mark Sproat, declined to comment. Board member Linda Lampert said it could be "a couple of months" until any results of the investigation are made public.

Taxpayers who reside in the communities served by the school district remain in the dark about why Superintendent Nanciann Gatta and Assistant Superintendent of Operations John Heintz were put on leave last August pending a sudden, unspecified investigation launched



NUCCIO DINUZZO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

In this file photo, from left, are Niles Township High School District 219 President Mark Sproat and board members Ruth Klint and Linda Lampert, during a board meeting last September.

by the School Board just days before the 2015-16 school year began.

A team of investigators was hired by the board, including a

law firm, a forensic technology company, an accountant and a crisis management public relations firm.

District 219 has yet to disclose

the costs it has incurred thus far for the investigation, and Pioneer Press was awaiting a response to a Freedom of Information Act request for expenses paid to businesses including Chicago law firm Greensfelder, Hemker and Gale and digital forensic investigation firm 4Discovery.

On top of the cash District 219 will shell out for the investigation, taxpayers could also potentially end up paying for more than \$1.7 million to buy out Gatta's and Heinz's salary and benefits packages, which are under contract through 2018, according to a report from the Chicago Tribune.

Contracts, personnel records, employee benefits and other financial records from Niles Township High School District 219 previously acquired by the Tribune through an open records request showed Heintz and Gatta reaped financial perks from the school district that weren't in their contracts, including \$296,000 worth of tuition payments made on their behalf to the

University of Chicago, where the two earned MBAs.

The school district, however, hasn't said whether that spending is related to the investigation.

A special meeting, held Oct. 28 at the District 219 administration building in Skokie, was the fifth such meeting that has been called in recent months in which the board has held closed-door discussions about pending litigation and employment matters.

Each meeting is preceded by an open session for public comment. No more than five people have shown up at any of the meetings, and no one from the public has opted to speak to the board.

In her second lawsuit filed against the district, Gatta last month filed a civil rights lawsuit alleging free speech violations by district officials. The lawsuit seeks punitive damages and attorney's fees.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Holocaust survivor shares story with students

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Four years ago, Steen Metz stood before a group of students for the first time to publicly share his memories of childhood in a Nazi concentration camp.

It was at his daughter Annalise Herman's request, he said — an opportunity to address his grandson Alex's eighth-grade class at Lincoln Middle School in Park Ridge and put a face to the history they were studying in class.

"I didn't know whether I would like it or not, because I'd never talked to students before," said Metz, of Lincolnshire. "I didn't know how they would react. I didn't know whether they would be on their iPhones. But they were amazing. They were very, very respectful."

The experience, Metz said, proved inspiring.

The soft-spoken Denmark native felt a need to continue sharing his personal story as a Holocaust survivor, a desire that led to a position with the Speakers' Bureau at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie and numerous other presentations before students and other groups, including churches and synagogues alike.

Today, at the age of 80, Metz averages about one speech per week. One of those speeches took place Oct. 27, again before eighth-graders at Lincoln Middle School, this time with granddaughter Olivia Herman in the audience.

Metz spoke of growing up in the town of Odense, Denmark, about 100 miles west of Copenhagen, the son of non-practicing Jewish parents. Jews made up only 0.2 percent of the country's population, Metz said, and were well-integrated into Danish society at the time.

Then, on Oct. 2, 1943, after more than three years of Nazi occupation in Denmark, Metz says his family — 8-year-old Steen, his parents and his grandmother — were arrested at their home, loaded into a crowded cattle car without food, water, light or a working toilet for three days, and sent to the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp in what is today the Czech Republic.

So began Metz's "18 months in hell," as he calls it, in which he said he saw his father die of starvation, his friends sent away to their deaths, and his mother forced into slave labor.

The winter was cold and the food little, Metz recalled. Each day consisted of bread for breakfast and soups, mostly consisting of hot water, for lunch and dinner. The potato soup, he says, contained only potato peels.

"How could we survive on those meager rations?" Metz asked. "We couldn't."

Disease and starvation was everywhere in the crowded camp, he said.



JENNIFER JOHNSON/PIONEER PRESS

Holocaust survivor Steen Metz speaks before a group of eighth-grade students at Lincoln Middle School in Park Ridge on Oct. 27.

"Even though Terezin [as Theresienstadt was also called] wasn't considered a 'death camp,' about 35,000 inmates died, mostly from illness, like typhus, and starvation and malnutrition," Metz said. "Whether it was a death camp or not, I think that's probably questionable."

Without school to attend and with his mother working in a factory at the camp, Metz said he took on the duties of a messenger in order to fill the long hours.

"I was taking German documents from one office to another," he said.

Some days, Metz said he would sneak into the camp kitchen.

"At the end of the kitchen building they had two sacks of raw potatoes. I would look around to make sure that nobody saw me and I helped myself," Metz said. "Technically it was stealing, but I didn't consider it stealing at that time. I put a potato in my pocket, a potato in the other pocket and shared them with my mother when I got back to the barracks."

The children in Terezin tried to live as normally as they could. Metz recalled playing soccer games with some of the Czech children in the camp, using a bundle of clothes tied together for the ball. Metz

even learned to communicate with them in Czech, he said.

"Then one day, my friends didn't show up," Metz said.

They had been boarded into a rail car and taken to an extermination camp, he said later learned.

Metz said his goal of speaking to school children is to encourage them — as well as their teachers — to be witnesses and ambassadors, continuing the stories of Holocaust so that the event is not forgotten. He told the Lincoln Middle School students to tell at least four people about his speech.

"It hurts a great deal when I hear about Holocaust deniers in the United States and all around the world," he said.

Metz also wants his speeches to inspire.

"I hope they can see that even if you have some very difficult times, you can be successful," he said. "I hope also they learn to respect each other and treat other people the way they want to be treated themselves."

Metz, his mother and his grandmother all survived their time in the concentration camp, which was liberated in May of 1945. They returned to their hometown and resumed their lives, with Metz even

returning to his old school.

As an adult, Metz left Denmark for England and later moved to Canada before settling in the United States. He is a retired business executive within the food industry, working for companies like Sara Lee and Kraft. He and his wife, Eileen, have two daughters and four grandchildren, all of whom live in Park Ridge.

Metz and his wife spend part of the year in Florida, where he also gives speeches through Holocaust museums in Naples and Fort Myers.

Metz, who self-published his memoir "A Danish Boy in Theresienstadt," is planning a return to Odense, Denmark next year at the invitation of some of the residents who read his book. He will be speaking there as well.

"For the first time I'll have to do it in Danish," Metz said with a smile. "It will be fantastic. I expect that will be the highlight of my life."

Metz is also preparing for his first trip to Israel.

"It's well overdue," he said.

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Science Festival makes learning fun

ALICIA RAMIREZ
Pioneer Press

Science should be hands on, according to Golf Middle School science teacher Danielle Maldonado, and that's exactly what the Oct. 28 Science Festival and Golf Middle School was all about.

"I think that's the core of it all, allowing the kids to feel like they need to participate in it rather than just putting pencil to paper, opening a book and watching a video," she said. "It has to be, because that's what science is."

The gym was taken over by dozens of projects, from the popular Mentos and Coke geyser, caused by a reaction in the mints with the carbonation of the soda, to a glass of water that seemed to defy gravity by not spilling when flipped over, due to the pressure on the piece of cardboard covering the opening.

"It was just very interesting to see this and I just really like the way it turned out and the way you just have to take your hand out from under it and let it go," Tom Henry, 13, said of his water project. "I like when people go, 'Whoa, that's cool.'"

All of the seventh and eighth graders of

Golf took part in the 28 demonstrations going on in the gym, but that was not the only show of the night.

"The sixth graders this year are doing a more traditional science fair where they picked a topic they thought was fun," she said. "They didn't do all of the in depth research of a real science project because we wanted to let everyone keep that excitement for science alive, and when you go in (the room), you can feel the excitement."

One of those sixth graders was Adam Sykurski, 11, who wanted to find out the best method for making the largest and purest crystals using baking soda (or borax), boiled water, a freezer and an ice bath.

As he found out, putting the crystal mixture in the freezer created the largest crystal, although the purest crystal was created using the ice bath.

According to Maldonado, the school has been in the process of aligning with the Next Generation Science Standards, with testing happening at the end of the eighth grade. The goal of the new standards, according to the Next Generation website, is to help students understand not only scientific concepts, but also the scientific process and be able to evaluate scientific evidence.

One part of the new standards is to have more hands-on components that allow for students to fully understand the scientific method.

This year's festival not only gave students and visitors a chance to engage in science projects, but fostered a greater interest from everyone in attendance.

"One of my favorite scientists, Neil DeGrasse Tyson, says that we should never allow people to use the word science as if it were a subject," Maldonado said. "People should not be allowed to say, 'I don't like science,' because then that allows them to walk away from it. We really wanted to get everyone excited about science."

The festival offered a "science passport" to younger kids that allowed them to collect stickers after participating in the science projects. Those stickers could then be turned in for a prize and a raffle entry for later in the week.

But one of the longer lasting components of the event was the "What do you want to know?" wall, which allowed anyone who had a science question to post it on the wall for it to be answered later on the classes' blogs.

"They'll be doing that themselves to really



ALICIA RAMIREZ/PIONEER PRESS

Tom Henry, 13, explains his gravity defying water during the Golf Middle School Science Festival Oct. 28.

reach out to the community so anyone from a young kid to an adult who wants to know about science, we'll be able to answer that for them," Maldonado said.

Alicia Ramirez is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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EDUCATION

Maine Township high schools providing Wi-Fi to students without home Internet

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Students without regular, reliable access to the Internet at home can now get online with Wi-Fi hotspots provided by Maine Township High School District 207.

All three high schools currently have hotspots available for short-term checkout, but beginning in January, the devices will be provided to an estimated 200 and 250 students who, through school surveys, have indicated they do not have access to the Internet in their homes, according to Henry Thiele, the school's assistant superintendent of technology and learning.

At \$100 per device, the district is looking to pay for the hotspots through community donations in the form of sponsorships. Donors can choose to be recognized for their contribution on the district's website, www.maine207.org, the district said.

Donations of \$100 will be used to sponsor four years of Internet access per student, according to the district.

Ensuring reliable Internet is available to the roughly 6,400 students in District 207 is the latest step in the district's "1-to-1 technology initiative," said District 207 spokesman David Beery. Beginning in the fall of 2013, students began buying Chromebook computers from the district for both classroom instruction and homework assignments. This is the first school year that all four high school grade levels are using Chromebooks, the district said.

"This is a way to close the loop so all of our students enjoy the same access away from campus and at home when they are doing school work on their Chromebooks," Beery said.



JENNIFER JOHNSON/PIONEER PRESS

Maine Township High School District 207's offices at 1177 S. Dee Road in Park Ridge.

Though the hotspots come with a cost, the data used will not, according to district officials. Through a federal program called ConnectED, District 207 was the recipient of a grant from Sprint in which the wireless company is providing 3 GB of filtered data per month per device free of charge, the district said. This free data will be offered for four years for a total of 350 devices, Beery said.

When the four-year period is up, "we will keep an eye on changing trends with Wi-Fi and develop a (new) plan as that time gets closer," Beery added.

Those who receive a hotspot to use for the entire school year will be selected based on need, he said.

A screen on the hotspots will help students track their available data, Thiele said. Because there is a monthly data limit, using the hotspot to stream movies, television shows or music is discouraged.

"If a student decided to stream Netflix or Amazon Prime nonstop, they would go through their data," Thiele said.

Once the data limit is reached, devices will reportedly still work, though at a slower pace.

"Once they hit three GB,

it throttles the data speed. So they would drop from a four GB speed down to dial-up speeds," Thiele said. "They could still get online and open a Google-doc and do a Google search, but streaming would be difficult."

The Internet will be filtered by Sprint in the same way it's filtered when students go online at school, Beery said.

There are 30 hotspot devices available for overnight checkout at the Chrome Depot inside each of District 207's three schools, Beery said. Thiele suggested these devices will be useful for students who might be unable to get online if they are at an off-campus, school-related event or riding a bus to the destination.

District 214, which serves Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights, Rolling Meadows and Wheeling, is also providing students with Internet access through the program, Thiele said.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the Wi-Fi hotspots, go to <http://tinyurl.com/207Hotspot>.

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Lincolnshire closes in on ban of Airbnb rentals

By **RONNIE WACHTER**
Pioneer Press

The village of Lincolnshire is poised to outlaw short-term home rentals, and officials say they will visit Airbnb's site from time to time, looking for violators.

If the trustees give final approval to a new set of rules, no one in Lincolnshire will be able to rent their house for less than three months — effectively eliminating the short-term vacations that Airbnb specializes in. Mayor Liz Brandt spelled it out: Sites like that, and the questions they bring to quiet suburbs, are not wanted in Lincolnshire.

"That was our original objective," Brandt said.

Village Hall officials first started receiving complaints about short-term

rentals early in the summer, Brandt said. Community development director Steve McNellis said that, after getting a few tips, they started checking the site themselves, looking for postings.

McNellis said officials will not make a regular habit of patrolling airbnb.com for Lincolnshire listings, and they will continue to rely on complaints from neighbors. But he said they may still check the site on occasion.

Glenview, Wilmette and Evanston are among the other municipalities who spent the summer looking at how, if at all, they want to regulate the modern-day bed and breakfast that Airbnb has become.

Lincolnshire's new rules will affect every kind of living space in Lincolnshire, beginning with single-fami-

ly dwellings, but also covering multi-family buildings. Lincolnshire has only a few of those — but the law would also cover new multi-family dwellings that could be built in the coming years.

The new code leaves little to chance: it specifies that homeowners cannot rent out treehouses, or even space in the backyard for someone to pitch a tent. It does, however, permit month-to-month leases after an initial three-month lease agreement is completed.

The trustees gave the new rules unanimous first-round approval during their Oct. 26 meeting. The measure will go on the consent agenda for a final vote Nov. 9.

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The Airbnb app is displayed on an iPhone 4s in 2014.

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY

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BUSINESS

Burt Katz on closing his legendary pizza house

Burt's Place an icon to Morton Grove residents

BY KEVIN PANG
Chicago Tribune

Burt's Place, the beloved and idiosyncratic Morton Grove pizza house open since 1989, has closed for good.

The restaurant has been closed since July 8, when owner Burt Katz was admitted to a hospital. His last day of work was on his 78th birthday.

"I can't call it a retirement," Katz told the Tribune on Oct. 29. "I wish I could still be there and do it. Retirement would've been when I turn 80. If it weren't for my health, I'd still be in the store."

Though close friends had known for a while that Katz was closing his restaurant, it was first publicly acknowledged on the local food message board LTHForum. Katz said it took him several months to contemplate closing and that he finally came to his difficult decision a month ago.

Perhaps not since Ike Sewell and Rudy Malnati has there been a figure in Chicago pizza as towering as Burt Katz. He opened Gulliver's on Howard Street in 1965 but gained his reputation at

Pequod's, which he opened in 1971. There, he developed a style of pizza that's not quite deep dish — a deeply charred crust encircled with a ring of caramelized cheese one shade lighter than black. The ingredients are less toppings, but (let's call them) middlings, that is they are baked inside an amber of tomato sauce.

"I can't call it a retirement. ... If it weren't for my health, I'd still be in the store."

— Burt Katz

Burt's Place opened 26 years ago. It was a restaurant you couldn't just show up and dine in on a Friday night. You had to call ahead of time and know exactly what you want (there's no website, and the restaurant's number isn't listed.) You'd reach Sharon — Katz's wife of 53 years — on their rotary phone, and she would try to accommodate your order.

When you showed up at the prescribed time, your pizza would be hot and waiting.

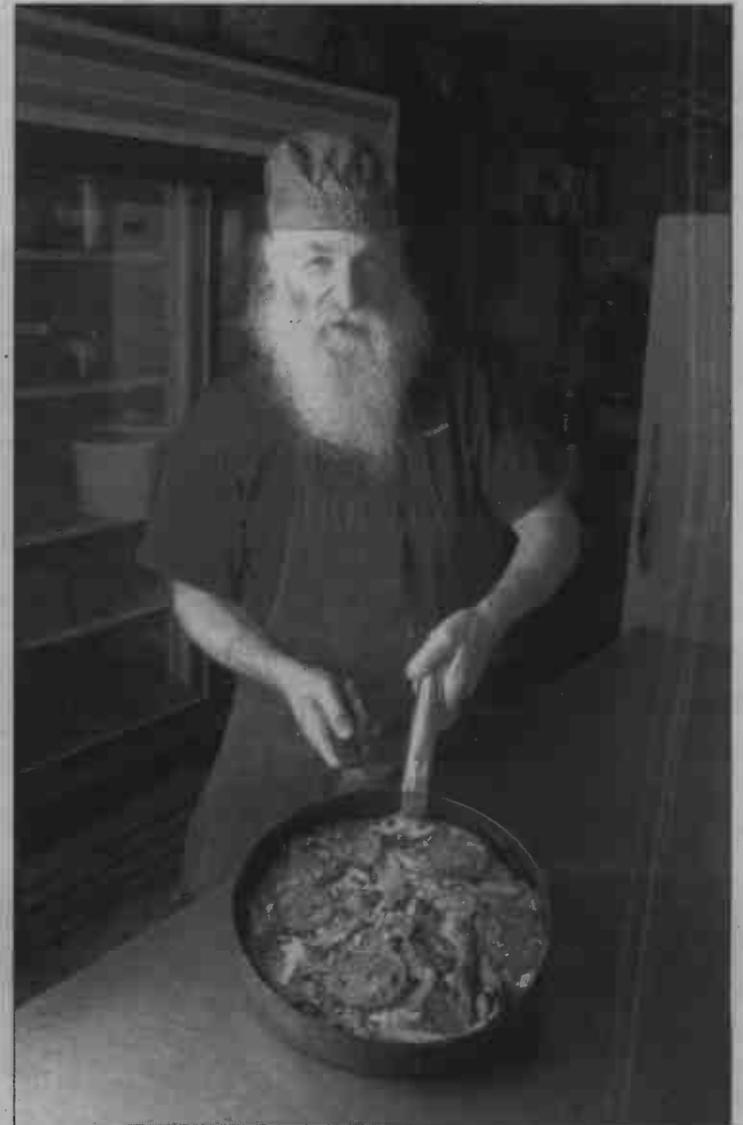
Katz said he wants the restaurant to continue under new ownership.

"I'd like to find somebody that has the heart to run a store like that. It would be an opportunity for someone who wanted a place that's had a reputation of 50 years. If someone wanted the name 'Burt's Place,' that's the draw. It would be the recipes, the location, a bundle situation."

If a motivated pizza-maker wants to continue Katz's work, he or she will inherit a legion of fans. Especially after Anthony Bourdain filmed an episode here in 2009, Katz's guest book overflowed with visitors from abroad.

"I want people to know that I'm genuinely very appreciative of my customers over the years. They've been great to my wife and myself. We tried to do our best by giving people fresh food and value for their money. And I feel a little bad I can't continue doing it"

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NUCCIO DINUZZO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Burt Katz is one of the storied names in Chicago pizza history.

Giordano's, Binny's Beverage Depot to open in Lincolnwood

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

Fans of Chicago-style pizza will soon have another deep-dish option in Lincolnwood when Giordano's opens early next year in the currently vacant building that was home to the short-lived Original Maxwell Street Style Grill that closed last year.

The new restaurant, which will open on Lincoln Avenue between Arthur and North Monticello avenues, will be just a few blocks away from Lou Malnati's flagship location in the 6600 block of Lincoln Avenue. It is the second retail-based business scheduled to open in coming months on Lincoln Avenue, along with liquor

store chain Binny's, which will open in the former Lincolnwood Produce building.

The franchisee-operated Giordano's location will be run by Steve Gelousis, according to Tim Clarke, community development director for Lincolnwood. Gelousis didn't respond to a request for comment, but Giordano's marketing director Jessica Wenson confirmed the restaurant was on schedule to open in early 2016.

Lou Malnati's has maintained its presence as a well-known Chicago-style pizza chain since it opened its first restaurant in Lincolnwood more than 50 years ago, but Lincolnwood Mayor Jerry Turry said there's plenty of room in the local pizza market for

another big chain.

"Lincolnwood welcomes Giordano's to our village," Turry said in an email. "In the early '60s, we welcomed Malnati's first store to our midst, and I hope (Giordano's) is as successful in their run here, but not at the expense of Lou's!"

Giordano's acquired a lease for the property several months ago from Oberweis, which owns the former Maxwell Street Grill building in addition to the Oberweis store the dairy chain operates across the street, according to Clarke.

While it seems there will be no shortage of deep-dish pizza to go around on Lincoln Avenue by next year, customers will have to

look elsewhere for dine-in service because the new Giordano's location will offer carryout and delivery service only, according to the village.

"No plans have been submitted to the village yet," Clarke said, "but from what I understand they're planning to do a renovation."

The property is already zoned for a restaurant to move in, so Gelousis would just need to apply for a business permit and assure parking on the property falls in line with the village's parking regulations for that area of the village.

"He (Gelousis) hasn't given us a timeline, but we expect the process to move quickly," Clarke said.

As the village's pizza offerings expand next year, so will liquor store options.

Binny's Beverage Depot, a Chicago-based chain of 31 liquor stores known to stock thousands of beer, wine and liquor brands; has acquired the 28,000-square-foot property in the 7100 block of Lincoln Avenue from former Lincolnwood Produce owner Gus Dimas, according to the village.

Clarke said an opening date for the store hasn't been set. The Plan Commission was scheduled to review Binny's development plans on Nov. 4.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Obama's missed chance for courtside politics

Who attended the Bulls opener with President Obama?

I ask that question because it occurred to me that a sporting

event might be a great place to get some executive work done, outside the beltway where the air is so tainted with partisan politics.

So who did Obama spend the night with at the Bulls game? Was it Sen. Mark Kirk, who Obama could woo on defense issues while sharing a beer and a hot dog? Or was it John Boehner, the outgoing speaker of the House.

Boehner is from Ohio, where the Cleveland Cavaliers play.

Perhaps the two could've made a friendly wager over the results of the game. If Cleveland wins, Boehner agrees to admit the Benghazi hearings were a bunch of crap. If the Bulls win, Obama keeps the government going by raising taxes for Bill Gates and Warren Buffet.

It was hard to find out, but Obama attended the game with a guy named Marty Nesbitt, who is a longtime presidential pal, and founder and CEO of a Chicago-based airport parking company. He's also the point person for



RANDY BLASER

Obama's presidential library.

I hope they had a good time, but I think it might have been a missed opportunity.

The president, or any president, needs to take a lesson from Michael Corleone, who learned from his father that you keep your friends close, but your enemies closer.

Why not use sporting events as a venue to glad-hand the political opposition? Wouldn't that be more productive than just demonizing your political opponents at every turn?

What if Obama and Sen. Mitch McConnell were seen at a Mets game having a beer and a hot dog? If they could come to an agreement about something on the field — like the designated hitter — maybe Americans would begin to think that real progress is possible in Washington.

We don't see that. Which is a real shame, because everyday Americans don't operate the way our politicians do in Washington.

Every day, Americans of different political persuasions and points of view on myriad issues — sometimes the most complex and



JEFF HAYNES/AP

President Barack Obama walks into the United Center during an NBA basketball game between the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Chicago Bulls in Chicago on Tuesday, Oct. 27.

perplexing issues or our time — get together and manage to get things done.

Why can't the politicians in Washington do the same? Even at the family dinner table, political discussions get heated, but the

family goes on.

I think deep down, Americans know that when they work together, they can solve many problems. But in Washington, they refuse to do it.

I think that's why Americans

are turning to outsiders. They've had it with the business-as-usual nonsense of the political class.

So the only option is to get someone who seems like a regular guy, a guy who can get things done.

So we see Republicans turning to a guy like Donald Trump. He's someone who identifies the problem and gets it done, regardless of politics or political correctness. If the first idea doesn't work, he'll junk it and try something else.

And maybe that's why Democrats are turning to Bernie Sanders. He's the old family uncle who tells it like he sees it. Where politicians like Obama and Hillary Clinton and Boehner and McConnell flip flop on just about every issue, Sanders actually believes the stuff he talks about.

Who better to get things done than a true believer?

Let's face it. If you're going to go to a baseball game with someone, who would be more fun — Clinton or Trump? Sanders or Marco Rubio? Ply those politicians with a few beers and we can solve minimum wage and really make sure Iran never gets nukes by the seventh inning.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

What happened to customer service?

"In God we trust."

That has been the official motto of the United States since 1956.

Do we perhaps need a new motto, one which better describes the way we live today?

I propose: "To improve service, we will serve you less."

I suggest this because the only constant I detect in our lives these days is that whatever we used to have, we won't have it soon.

Try, just try to get in-person service from a business, a utility, even the government. First you are shunted to the Internet, which millions of Americans don't have and can't afford. Oh, you might finally talk to someone. But



PAUL SASSONE

chances are you won't be able to understand that someone and he or she can't understand you.

And the sad thing is that like Pavlov's dogs, we

have been conditioned, in this case conditioned to no longer expect service to include human interaction.

And day by day, we are less and less served amid all the connectivity we supposedly have through a welter of electronic gizmos.

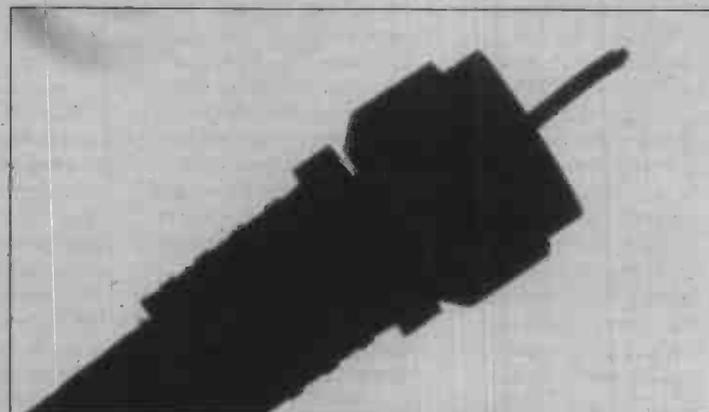
Just the other day, my bank closed the drive-thru facility I use every week because I no longer walk well and I don't have a fancy, — and expensive — phone, to do online mobile banking. I imagine

other people are similarly situated.

But tellers cost money. Yes, humans are quite the financial nuisance what with wanting to be paid, needing to eat, sometimes getting sick. Machines are certainly more cost-efficient.

More alleged service: How did you like the way Major League Baseball served up Cubs postseason play? I wouldn't know. I didn't see any of the games because I don't have pay TV. A 2013 survey by GfK Media & Entertainment found that 19.3 percent of all homes with a TV (22 million) watch only free broadcast TV. More than 60 percent of those surveyed cited cost as the reason they didn't have some form of pay TV.

So, millions of fans of the coun-



MATT ROURKE/AP

This 2008 file photo shows a silhouetted coaxial cable in Philadelphia.

try's National Pastime were just cast aside. Cubs fan? Tough. Listen to them on the radio.

Customer service? McDonald's now offers breakfast all day. I love the Bacon Egg and Cheese Biscuits. Be nice to have one for

lunch.

Oh, sorry, those are only available all day in the South.

To better serve me, no doubt.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

HEART OF THE HOME

Do Realtors still have a role in digital world?



FELICIA DECHTER

Even though more people are turning to the Internet during their home search, buyers are increasingly seeing the value in the knowledge and expertise of a real estate agent, according to a recent report by the National Association of Realtors, "Real Estate in a Digital Age."

Hard to imagine, but yes, even in these days of online shopping being available for pretty much anything, real people are often still needed in real estate.

Clients, "are like your own little best friends, because you have to watch out for them, care for them," said Michael Rickert, a Franklin Park resident who owns the Franklin Park and Des Plaines-based Rickert Realtors.

"We keep everything running smooth, that's our job," Rickert said. "When it comes down to the end, you see your clients ... you're with your clients. You still have that one-on-one personal touch."

The report examines the process home buyers go through in their initial online search and how Realtors are connecting with customers in the digital space. While not all people use the Internet in their home search, a growing number are finding their future home online.

Forty-three percent of buyers in 2014 first found the home they ended up purchasing on the web, while 33 percent of buyers first found their new home



WILFREDO LEE/AP

In this file photo, a "sale pending" sits atop a realty sign outside a home for sale in Surfside, Fla.

through a real estate agent. In 2001, nearly half (48 percent) of buyers found their home through a real estate agent, while only 8 percent first found the house they bought through the web.

It's amazing how Internet use has grown in the last 14 years, isn't it?

It allows anyone to check out properties by location and other various criteria. You can also take a virtual tour and even see virtual staging, saving time by looking at a bunch of places while narrowing down your search. Online searching maximizes the ability to compare and contrast homes by whatever specific features you're looking for, all in the comfort of your own home.

The report also said that when it comes to online listings, features like photos and online property information were more important for millennials. For baby boomers, virtual tours and direct contact with a real estate agent were more important.

"The millennials go heavy on the computer," Rickert said. "Quite often they use different sites — they like the ease of other

sites out there. Some like to sit, pull up a bunch, and then call me."

But Rickert believes online listings don't tell the whole story.

"You can have all the pictures in the world and they're not really going to show the defects in the property," Rickert said. "You need an experienced person. You can run into problems."

For example, is the property on a flood plain? If so, you'd better consider the hefty price tag for flood insurance, Rickert said.

In addition to home buyers, real estate agents also use technology in their everyday business practices. Staying up to date with new technology is important, but it's also cited in the study as one of the biggest challenges for firms in the next two years.

More than 90 percent of real estate firms have web-sites, the report says.

"The digital age is here and it's going to affect everybody," Rickert said.

Felicia Dechter is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press. Got a real estate-related story idea? Email write12@comcast.net.

Schools smarten up about letting kids sleep longer



DAVID RUTTER

Dawn shouts you awake, and no matter your age now, you remember what mornings meant when you were 12. We are a country that makes its young share the dawn from August to May.

We've always done it this way. Farmers got up at dawn; they survived just fine. Plus, rising early fulfills the ancient Protestant work ethic that suffering is good for you and makes you stronger. School is work and work should test your mettle. Buck up. Life is hard. You must toil harder.

That, plus unchallenged habit, is why schools start at 8 a.m. and even earlier.

And that's why, aside from the fact that every ounce of recent science shows none of that is true, we stick to weak ancient rules that never quite worked the way we thought.

But smart schools in smart school districts are figuring out a better way.

You probably were raised under these early-to-rise strictures, too. If you suffered, naturally you must make your child suffer, too. When you say it that way, of course, the idea seems even more ludicrous.

Get up, someone yells from another room. Or maybe someone rattles your shoulders. The art of waking someone who does not wish to be conscious is a delicate, imprecise art.

Eventually the school bus comes by at 7 or you start walking in the dark and head off to immerse yourself in the Great American Educational Experience. By 10 you're

still tired, by 2 p.m. you are exhausted.

Then the school bus delivers you home to await dinner, homework, television, Internet, cellphone, shower and ... eventually sleep ... again only to repeat the experience. Wash, rinse, repeat.

That scenario defines American teen life during the school year, for at least millions of them.

Until very recently, no one much wondered whether any of those rhythms made sense. School starting times were only functions of history (grandma did it), logistics (bus/driver cost management), parent convenience (they have jobs to attend) and workforce contracts (teacher preference).

Kids were merely the victims of a bad idea.

Some of the nation's most thoughtful school districts now are seeing why early start times should be ditched. After intense study by dozens of school districts and dozens of scientists, they can't find good reasons for the early bell.

Good schools will change.

In Lake County, Stevenson High in Lincolnshire will launch days at 8:30 when next year starts. Stevenson's planning is simplified because the school manages only its own transportation. Feeder middle schools and elementary are separate.

The planning team at Barrington 220 has the biggest challenge because Barrington 220 is a unified district that spans 72 square mostly rural miles, four counties, 12 villages, 12 schools, and 9,000 students.

If Barrington has found a financially manageable way to change — that appears likely — no other school system will be left with complexity as a defense.

Though 220's team of 35 parents and stakeholders has yet to settle, all signs indicate the entire district's starting bell likely will shift closer to 9 a.m. and launch next fall.

"The best test of this theory is that five districts in Illinois have adopted it, and none of them have gone back to the old time," says Jeff Arnett, the district's assistant superintendent of Operations and Outreach.

Medical, psychiatric and psychological science data now hammer relentlessly at the same result: Younger kids need at least 8 hours of sleep a night. Teenagers need more to survive puberty — 8.5 to 9.25 hours of sleep per night.

Sorry, but it's scientifically proven.

When they get enough sleep, students are quantifiably better, more alert in virtually every academic situation because sleep-deprived students function as well in classes as sleep-deprived drivers do behind the wheel.

It gets even better.

"What all the numbers show is that even some bad behaviors are reduced: drinking, smoking for example," Arnett said. "It even shows up in improvement in a school's sports teams."

A Centers for Disease Control national study says two out of three high school students fail the school-night sleep threshold. They'll fix that in Lincolnshire and Barrington.

The Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia, a district of 186,785 students, took the challenge. Planners there did it for 27 cents a student.

Great public schools produce better ideas. Later starting times are their smartest ideas yet.

David.Rutter@live.com

Eccentric Sycamore clans' enthusiasm hard to resist

BY CATEY SULLIVAN
Pioneer Press

When Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman penned "You Can't Take It With You," they came up with a plot that paved the way for everything from "The Addams Family" to "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." Take a family of eccentrics and insert a "normal" group in their midst. And make sure that if the eccentrics fail to pass muster with the normals, dire consequences will ensue.

For the Pulitzer Prize-winning, 1936 drama "You Can't Take it With You," the loveable crazy people are all members of the Sycamore family. When daughter Alice (Lucy Carapetyan) brings home her buttoned-up boyfriend (Bernie Balbot) and his snooty, high society parents (Patrick Clear, Jennifer Avery) for dinner, the evening explodes out of control. Alice wants to impress her future in-laws with her suitability, but Alice's family isn't exactly a bastion of propriety.

Opening this week at Skokie's Northlight Theatre, "You Can't Take it With You" is a rom-com that celebrates not just the young lovebirds, but also the zany, individualistic Sycamore clan.

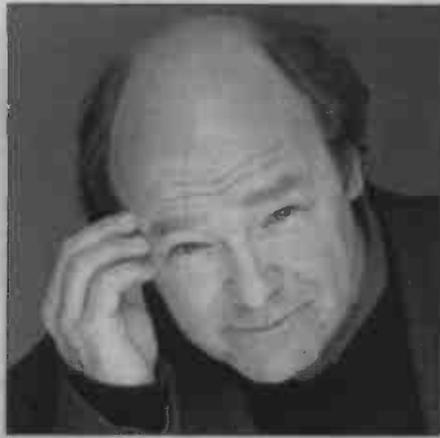
As Penny and Paul Sycamore, Penny Slusher and Brad Armacost are the loving parents who oversee an on-stage brood of aspiring ballet dancers, xylophone players, fireworks manufacturers and a motley assortment of visitors and permanent houseguests, including a couple of G-Men determined to haul at least one member of the Sycamore family off to the hoosegow.

Armacost initially approached the play like a lot of people do, viewing it as a well-worn chestnut that's usually trotted out for high school productions.

"Yeah, I was calling it a chestnut when we started working on it," he said. "It's easy to underestimate just how deeply intuitive it is. It might seem on the surface like this simple, zany comedy full of easy laughs. But look deeper into it. Kauffman and Hart wrote a family living between two monumentally difficult times.

"I think that Kauffman and Hart gave us a play that let the country kind of catch its breath. The first World War was over. The Depression was everywhere. The events that led up to World War II were unfolding all over Europe. And then there's the Sycamores with all their love and all their comedy, reassuring us that things could be OK."

As Paul's wife Penny, Slusher plays a woman completely in love with her husband and fervently devoted to her career as a painter and a playwright, even though it's



BRAD ARMACOST PHOTO

Brad Armacost



PENNY SLUSHER PHOTO

Penny Slusher

'You Can't Take it With You'

When: Nov. 6-Dec. 13

Cost: \$25-\$79

Where: Northlight Theatre, 9501 N. Skokie Blvd., Skokie

Information: 847-673-6300;
www.northlight.org

understood that she's absolutely terrible at both and will never have a career in either. Like the rest of the Sycamores, her "vive la difference" design for living helps create a household bursting with vibrance.

"Acceptance is a big theme here," says Slusher.

"The Sycamores embrace their own way of living, but they don't necessarily think it's the only way of living."



PARK RIDGE CHORALE

Members of the Park Ridge Chorale (from left) Kyle Cartwright, Jim Gnaster, Amy Sara and Rhet O'Neill at a recent concert.

Chorale goes into cabaret mode for first fundraiser

BY SHERYL DEVORE
Pioneer Press

The Park Ridge Chorale's first fundraiser in its more than 30-year history, "Come to The Cabaret," will be like "those old MGM musicals with Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland," said chorale member and vice-president Kyle Cartwright. "When they needed money, they put on a show. So that's what we are going to do.

Cartwright, a founding member of the choir when it was called The Maine South Alumni Choir in 1984, will perform at the event scheduled for 5 p.m. Nov. 7 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge.

"There are so many wonderfully entertaining songs that just don't fit into the theme of a choral concert," said Cartwright, who teaches voice and piano at Palatine High School. "The program for this cabaret is full of humorous show-stoppers, classic popular hits and toe-tapping solos and group numbers."

Cartwright will sing "A Song Like This" from "Spamalot" with a fellow chorus member, Jamie Arvizu. "I love the fun and goofy song where I can act and play with the audience," Arvizu said.

The \$25 ticket price includes wine, beer, appetizers and desserts, many homemade from the chorale members.

"Our hope is that everyone will be able to put our cabaret between any daytime and evening plans," Cartwright said.

Show and stage manager Adrienne Dimopoulos, who has been singing with the group for 20 years, said fundraisers are necessary now.

"Times have changed drastically. Arts funding is very scarce today. Arts organizations are struggling to make ends meet," she said.

The chorale pays member dues to

Park Ridge Chorale's 'Come to the Cabaret'

When: 5 p.m. Nov. 7

Where: St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 205 N. Prospect, Park Ridge

Tickets: \$25 at the door or online

Information: www.parkridgechorale.com

purchase music and pay for its director, she said. But they want to raise money to produce more special shows like the recent one they did to commemorate the anniversary of the end of World War II. "We had fabulous narration, interviewed war veterans, all the music was historically accurate and it was one of our best."

"We realized if we raised more funds we could put on more shows like that," Dimopoulos said.

"We brainstormed and went to our in-house talent where we could highlight people within the group who don't often get solo opportunities. We had auditions and the singers were so excited. They brought their ideas to us — there are a lot of funny Broadway numbers and some beautiful moving songs.

"Two of our best vocalists are singing 'Lily's Eyes,' about two men in love with the same woman. It's just beautiful, it's romantic, it's emotional."

The group's director, Ed Zelnis, will sing "Night and Day" with his wife, Jan Zelnis.

"We never get to hear him sing," Dimopoulos said.

The director is not working on this concert, but rather, the choir members themselves are putting it together and rehearsing, she said.

We remember when you
partied like it was 1999



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THEATER

Years later, couple fulfills goal to play royal pair

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

A royal battle is brewing at the Skokie Theatre. MadKap Productions' Artistic Director Wayne Mell is playing England's King Henry II in "The Lion in Winter." His wife, Debra Criche Mell, portrays Henry's wife, Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine. Edward Kuffert directs.

James Goldman's witty, Tony Award-winning comedy/drama is set during Christmas in 1183, when the aging king contemplates the selection of an heir to the throne. Henry's choice is their youngest son, John. His tough-minded wife is equally adamant that their oldest, Richard, is a better choice. Eleanor has had time to think this through because Henry has had her imprisoned in a tower for a decade.

Wayne said that when he chose "The Lion in Winter" for MadKap's season, it was his intention that he and Debra would play the battling couple.

"I've been planning this for 30 years," he joked. "It's a favorite show of mine. I played John when I was in college and it was always my intention to grow through the different roles. Those opportunities never presented themselves."

However, he promised Debra that when they were old enough, they would play the royal pair.

It's a rare theatrical pairing for the Mells, a Deerfield couple who met onstage some 30 years ago.

Debra has performed throughout the years, including most recently playing Marmie in "Little Women" at Lake Forest College. Wayne, who has focused on directing in recent years, hasn't had a significant onstage role in



KEVIN MELL PHOTO

Wayne Mell and Debra Criche Mell in "The Lion in Winter" at the Skokie Theatre.

MadKap Productions presents "The Lion in Winter"

When: 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays, Nov. 6-22

Where: Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie

Tickets: \$34; \$29 seniors; \$24 students

Information: 847-677-7761; www.skokie theatre.org

25 years.

Reuniting onstage has been a positive experience for both Mells. "It's fun to work with him," Debra said. "It's nice to spend this much time together because he's here a lot and I work a lot."

Wayne is managing director of the Skokie Theatre. Debra is the volunteer coordinator for Midwest Hospice in Glenview.

Wayne said this is one of his favorite shows because, "They've taken a modern dysfunctional family and

put them back in the 1183. You see these people acting out their lives kind of by today's values. You've got your patriarch and his wife, who is a very competent woman in her own right. You've got the oldest son who in today's world would be the sports hero. You've got the youngest son who's the spoiled one and gets everything handed to him. And you have the middle son who is completely invisible."

"This play could be set in the Bronx and they could be fighting over grandma's will," Debra added. "What I love about it is the language and the humor. And Eleanor is a wonderful character. How do you not like a woman that's that smart and that clever who still rules over her husband? As much as they battle, they still love each other very much. They just can't live together."

Wayne concludes that this show is "very accessible to modern audiences. These happen to be kings and queens but they're dealing with the same issues in life that we all deal with."

PEOPLE

Spotlight: What people in the arts are up to

BY JENNIFER THOMAS
Pioneer Press

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

Hope triumphs: An etching by Skokie resident Hope Salmanoff won a special award for artistic excellence in Later Impressions 2015. The exhibit at the Renaissance Court Gallery at the Chicago Cultural Center that ran through October was organized by the Chicago Alliance of Visual Artists, a nonprofit organization for artists 50 and over. Salmanoff's piece, "Maddie and Sascha," was described by the prize presenter as "a lighthearted, whimsical piece that involves a very laborious process."

Awarding work: Highland Park High School grads (class of 1997) Daniel Kullman and Nicolas DeGrazia have multiple reasons to celebrate. Their 15-year-old production company, Bitter Jester Creative, received eight Emmy nominations — six of them for their film, "Full Circle," about the Barack Obama Presidential Library. In addition to DeGrazia and Kullman, Emmy nominations were received by Tracy Bruhn and Charles Turck for a series of spoofs and sketches aired at the TV Academy Emmy broadcast last year. These featured The Comic Thread sketch comedy troupe, which started in Highland Park and currently tours the country.

Forward thinking: "Elijah, Elijah," a video by Highland Park resident Lilach Schrag, is featured in the Jerusalem Biennale for Contemporary Jewish Art which runs through Nov. 5. Schrag journeyed to Jerusalem for the Sept. 24 opening of the exhibit. Her



CAROLYN RIKJE

Highland Park High School alumni Daniel Kullman and Nicolas DeGrazia's production company, Bitter Jester Creative, received eight nominations for the 2015 Chicago/Midwest Emmy Awards.

piece is part of Schrag's "Shiviti" series. These are inspired by the text in which Jews profess, "I have God always in front of me." For details, visit www.lilachschrag.com or www.jerusalembiennale.org.

Berman behind the scenes: Highland Park resident Laura Berman is one of three partners in RPM Productions, producers of "Day of the Gypsy," a new full-scale contemporary ballet. This piece, created by choreographer Gordon Peirce Schmidt and multi Grammy Award winner John Jorgenson, will be performed at the Harris Theater in Chicago on Nov. 21 and 22. The ballet features music composed by Jorgenson and performed live by his John Jorgenson Quintet. For tickets, visit harristheaterchicago.org.

Divine production: A widowed farmer raises his water-fearing son during the Great Depression in

rural Indiana in "The Diviners." The College of Lake County Theatre Department is presenting the Jim Leonard Jr. play, Nov. 13-21 at the James Lumber Center for the Performing Arts in Grayslake. The cast includes Avi Kritzman of Buffalo Grove, Ryan McNeil of Mundelein and Sam Retzky of Lake Forest. For tickets, visit www.clcilinois.edu/tickets.

Best books: Three suburban residents are among ten finalists in the Chicago Writers Association's 2015 Book of the Year Awards. Evanston resident Peter Ferry's "Old Heart" is one of three traditional fiction finalists. Libby Fischer Hellmann of Northbrook's "Nobody's Child" is in the nontraditional fiction category. Deer Park resident Jim Proebstle's "Unintended Impact" is nontraditional nonfiction. Awards will be presented on Jan. 23 at the Book Cellar in Chicago's Lincoln Square.

Devonshire Playhouse presents: JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Lyrics By Tim Rice
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Directed by Jessica Sawyer
Music Direction by Christie Chiles Twille

Presented through
special arrangement with
Rodgers and Hammerstein
Theatricals, Inc.

Saturdays November 7, 14, & 21 at 7 p.m.
Sundays, November 8, 15, & 22 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are available at the Devonshire Cultural Center
and online at www.skokieparks.org/devtickets.html



www.SkokieParks.org

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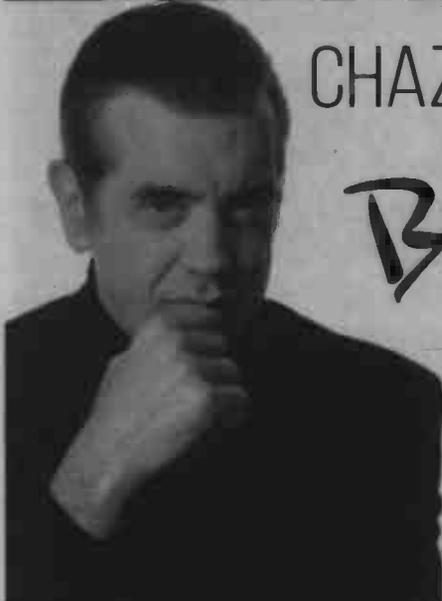
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GO

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Hoppy times for BFFs in 'A Year with Frog and Toad'

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Two animals share a special friendship in "A Year with Frog and Toad," Nov. 6-22 at Northwestern University's Wallis Theater, 1949 Campus Drive, Evanston.

"Frog is mischievous but he's grounded. He's kind of the driving force in the relationship. Frog is always looking forward," said Jerrell L. Henderson, who directs Northwestern University's Imagine U family production.

"Toad is that other energy. Toad is a little more reserved, a little more cautious," Henderson said. "Frog takes a giant leap into the river. Toad takes his time and wades in."

Despite their differences, the two animals strongly bond in the Willie Reale (book and lyrics) and Robert Reale (music) musical based on Arnold Lobel's beloved children's books.

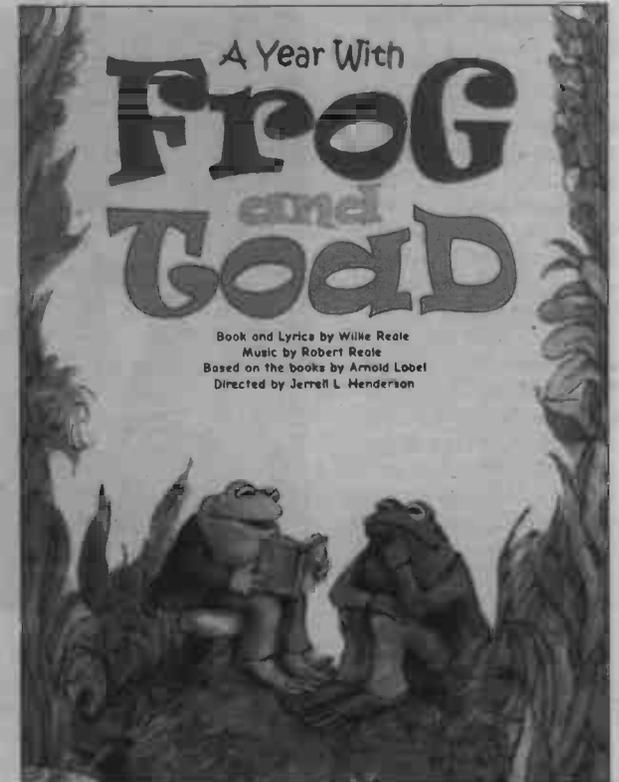
"They have a lot of things in common but it's those things they don't have in common that force them to grow," Henderson observed.

The director indicated that the musical beautifully balances joyful, music-filled moments with quiet ones.

Tickets are \$10.
For details, call 847-491-7282 or go to wirtz.northwestern.edu.

It's a toss up

There will be juggling, escape artistry, balancing, lasso spinning and visual effects during a Second Sunday Family Program: Brad Weston, Juggling Magic Man, 2-3 p.m. Nov. 8 at Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. Weston will even walk barefoot on the edge of a sword while juggling machetes. Pick up



Book and Lyrics by Willie Reale
Music by Robert Reale
Based on the books by Arnold Lobel
Directed by Jerrell L. Henderson

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

"A Year with Frog and Toad," runs Nov. 6-22 at Northwestern University's Wallis Theater, 1949 Campus Drive, Evanston.

free tickets in KidSpace at 1:30 p.m. show day.

For details, call 847-663-1234 or go to nileslibrary.org.

Heed the call

You and your children will have a fun Friday night at Family Bingo, 7-8 p.m. Nov. 6 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Winners will have a choice of prizes at this drop-in event for pre-kindergartners through fifth graders and their parents.
For details, call 847-673-7774 or go to skokie.library.info.

Tiny troupe

An old folktale will be performed by kids ages 5-7 when Tater Tot Theatre Company presents "Why

Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears," 3 p.m. Nov. 14 at Fleetwood-Jourdain Center, 1655 Foster St., Evanston. Kids will learn, as the mosquito does, that it's not good to spread lies and rumors. Tickets are \$7.

For details, call 847-866-5915 or go to cityofevanston.org.

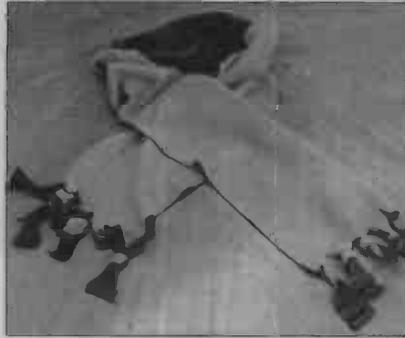
A smashing time

Pumpkins will roll — down the Centennial Sled Hill at 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge — during Pumpkin Smash & Bash, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Nov. 7. Pumpkins will also be bashed and launched into compost piles. Registration is required for this free "green" event.

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

Living

Thursday, November 5, 2015



Mommy on a Shoestring: Kids can create warm and fun gifts for a good cause

◀ Page 3

2



GEORGE FREY/GETTY

Taking a shot at anti-immunization parents

In wake of Disneyland measles outbreak, doctors under pressure to reject unvaccinated kids. Page 17

SUBURBAN COOKS

'Iron Chef' contestant Todd Stein recommends Champagne with food

By Judy Buchenot
Beacon-News

Ever wonder what it would be like to be on "Iron Chef," the Food Network show where two chefs square off by creating five dishes incorporating a challenging ingredient?

Chef Todd Stein, corporate chef for Chicagoland's 4-star Restaurant Group, competed on the show in 2011 and did very well.

"As a chef, I was honored to be asked to be on the show," Stein said. "It was a very long process to get there. I was confident in my staff and my ability. We knew we would be working with one of three ingredients, but we didn't know what the ingredient would be until the show. The hour for cooking is real.

"My goal was to cook good food without anyone getting hurt," the chef said with a laugh. "Our ingredient was mussels and I was cooking against Bobby Flay."

Chef Stein held his own against Flay and ended up losing, but by just one point. He enjoyed the whole experience and said, "Bobby Flay is a good guy and he deserves all the recognition he gets."

Thinking creatively has landed Stein top positions in notable restaurants across the country. In Chicago where he now lives, Stein is known for being executive chef at MK, Cibo Matto, The Florentine and Piccolo Sogno Due, all in Chicago.

Last December, he took over as corporate chef for the 4-Star Restaurant Group, which is a group of nine Chicagoland restaurants, including the D.O.C. Wine Bar in Lombard. Stein recently put together an interesting pairing menu at the Lombard restaurant for a unique event. Pairing wines with food is usually a crowd pleaser, but Stein took another direction by pairing the meal's courses with a variety of Champagnes.

"Champagne goes with everything," said Stein, 44. "It is not just for celebrations. It can be utilized

with food more than you may think. There are different depths of flavor for champagne and it can be treated like wine. The carbonation gets the taste buds moving and helps bring out the flavors in food."

For the event, Stein chose five Champagnes first and then built a menu to complement them. During the dinner, Patrick Mangan, an Aurora resident and senior director of marketing for Moët Hennessy USA, introduced each Champagne and shared information about its history and producers. He began the evening by pointing out that long ago, efforts were made to eliminate the bubbles in wine because it was not a desirable attribute. But after tasting the bubbly, wine producers realized it was a unique beverage.

"Dom Perignon was instrumental in coming up with the practices for making Champagne," he said.

Stein chose to start the Champagne pairing with non-vintage Ruinart blanc de blancs. Ruinart is the oldest Champagne producer in the world, and blanc de blancs is white Champagne from white grapes.

"Non-vintage wine means that it is made from a blend of grapes from different years instead of just one year," Stein said. He paired the fresh crisp Champagne with a serving of Arctic char crudo accented with dollops of lemon curd and strips of zucchini. Char is a cold water fish, similar to salmon but with a more delicate flavor.

"The raw fish and lemon get the flavors moving and make your mouth feel alive," Stein said.

The second course featured pan-seared duck breast paired with NV Moët & Chandon Rose.

"This Champagne is a rose with more body and a berry flavor that pairs well with the rich fat of the duck," said Stein. The duck breast was served with a blackberry sauce and salsify, a root vegetable with a briny, oyster quality. The salsify was served both pureed and pan roasted.

Dover Sole, braised cabbage



Chef Todd Stein

and lemon butter made up the third course that was paired with 2005 Dom Perignon.

"This course is simple and light, yet decadent," said Stein. "It has a gorgeous butter sauce that the Dom Perignon can hold up."

The fourth course featured veal tenderloin with black pepper bearnaise paired with non-vintage Krug Grand Cuvee. "This is a subtle meat with a wonderful sauce served with Krug, which is as good as it gets," Stein said.

The final course revolved around seasonally fresh Anjou pears in a deconstructed tart with pear mousse spread on roast pear slices and salt-roasted pear on a delicate crust with cream anjou Anglaise. The course was paired with non-vintage Veuve Clicquot Demi-Sec.

"For the fifth course, I tone it back a little. The Veuve, which is semi-dry, goes very well with the flavors of the pear," said Stein.

Stein plans to continue offering wine-paired meals quarterly at the D.O.C. Wine Bar in Lombard. He is pleased that the events draw a mix of young and old, wine novices and wine connoisseurs. He offers some simple advice to home cooks who might want to pair wine and food.

"Ask for help at a good wine

4-STAR RESTAURANT GROUP



JUDY BUCHENOT/BEACON-NEWS

The second course in Stein's Champagne-paired dinner was pan-seared duck breast with salsify and blackberry jus.

store. Tell them what you are making and listen to their suggestions. There is no wrong wine and food pairing," Stein said. "It is all about things you know and like." Stein offers a great fall recipe for red wine braised short ribs for others to try.

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

Red Wine Braised Short Ribs

- 7 pounds boneless short ribs
- 3 tablespoons cracked black pepper
- 3 tablespoons kosher salt
- 4 ounces canola oil
- 4 onions
- 3 carrots
- 3 ribs celery
- 3 tablespoons tomato paste
- 8 cups red wine
- 1 gallon chicken stock
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme
- 8 bay leaves
- 2 tablespoons peppercorns

1. Season the ribs with cracked black pepper and salt. Add half of the oil to an extremely hot pan. Sear all sides of the short ribs and stack in a deep pot. Discard used oil from frying pan and add remaining fresh oil. Dice onion, carrots and celery and cook until soft. Add tomato paste. Stir to incorporate. Cook for two to three minutes.

2. Add red wine and cook until reduced by one-third. Add chicken stock and bring to a boil. Pour over short ribs and add thyme, bay leaves and peppercorns. Cover with plastic wrap and foil. Bake at 325 degrees for 3 1/2 hours or until ribs are tender. Remove from oven and cool ribs in the braising liquid.

3. When cool, remove ribs and skim off fat from braising liquid. Strain braising liquid and cook to reduce by one-half. To serve, portion ribs into six-ounce servings. Heat through with braising liquid. Drizzle ribs with braising liquid to serve.

4. Can be served with bleu cheese mashed potatoes and glazed carrots. Can be paired with Gruet Blancs de Noir out of New Mexico. It is a very meat-worthy sparkler made from pinot noir with a toasty aroma, red berry flavors and aggressive bubbles. The grapes come from some of the highest vineyards in America.

Find more suburban cooks on Page 4.

Crafting for charity

Kids can create warm and fun gifts for others in need



BETH ENGELMAN
Mommy on a Shoestring

Have fun and “do good” with these crafty projects that are designed to be given away.

Capes for kids

Empower children living in shelters with these decorative capes. Though they don't wield actual power, they will bring joy to the children who receive them. How about organizing a cape-making party with your kids and their friends? Encourage your kids to come up with a list of “super-powers” that accompany each cape.

You can drop off the capes at a shelter of your choice or send them to Enchanted Makeovers (see www.enchantedmakeovers.org in the project section), which will deliver the capes for you. The Peyton Manning Children's Hospital also accepts capes for their patients. See www.peytonmanning.stvincent.org and search for Capes for Kids.

You need:

- Fabric (soft fleece or nylon work well and won't fray)
- Felt
- Ribbon
- Fabric glue
- Velcro
- Sharp scissors

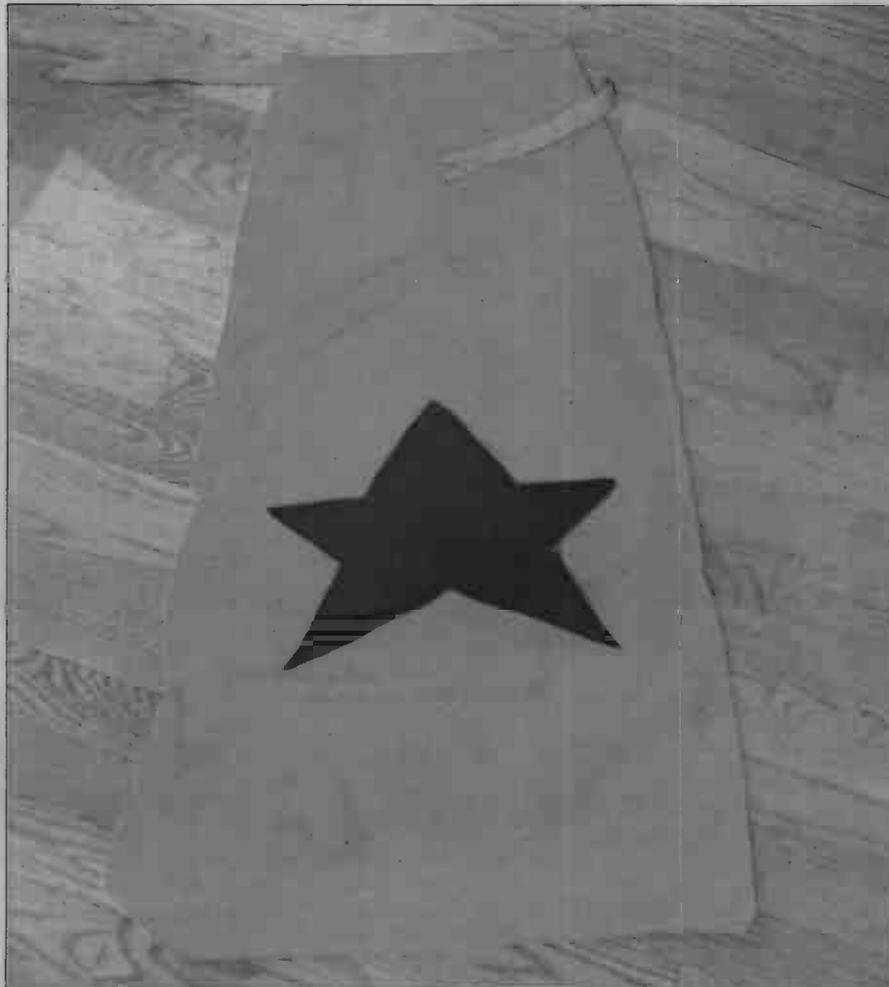
Directions:

- Cut fabric into a 27x30-inch rectangle.
- Place fabric on a flat surface and lay ribbon along the top of the rectangle, about 1½ inches from the edge. Run a line of fabric glue about ¼ inch below ribbon and carefully fold the fabric over the ribbon. Set aside until dry.
- Use scissors or pinking shears to trim the ribbon so there is about 4-5 inches on each end. Place Velcro on the ends of the ribbon, which will help keep the cape in place when worn.
- Now comes the fun part, decorating the cape. Cut an emblem out of felt and glue it to the cape. You can also skip the felt and use stencils and fabric paint.

Thank you to Family Fun Magazine for sharing this idea.

Warm reversible scarves

Keep kids warm with these easy to make scarves so cute and snuggly, you might



BETH ENGELMAN/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Easy to make capes are fun for kids to make, and give a lift to kids who need it.

want to make a few for yourself. Most elementary schools and community centers will welcome these donated scarves to distribute to families in need. See Scarves with a Purpose website for more organizations that accept handmade scarves.

You need:

- Fleece (2 different patterns or colors)
- Sharp scissors
- Fabric glue

Directions:

- Cut fabric into two 1x5-foot rectangles.
- Cut fringe (approximately 6 inches long and 1½ inches wide) at the ends of each rectangle.
- Use fabric glue to fuse the rectangles together, be sure to avoid gluing the fringe. Set aside to dry.
- Working left to right, tie the fringe pieces together, which will inevitably keep the fabric in place, making the scarf extra warm and reversible.

Teddy bear hugs

Fire and floods are scary for everyone, but especially for young children who find themselves displaced without their toys and books. Although these bears are small, they offer great comfort to children who are forced to evacuate their homes during an emergency. When making your bears, keep things simple (no buttons or beads) to ensure they are safe for children of all ages. This project comes courtesy of the folks at Sewing.org who recommend donating teddy bears to local firehouses and police stations.

You need:

- Fabric
- Pillow stuffing or batting
- Needle and thread
- Teddy Bear template; a free pattern is available at www.sewing.org in the Charitable Sewing section.

Directions:



Warm, colorful scarves are much in need during winter.



Soft Teddy Bears can provide a measure of comfort to kids in crisis.

Be a volunteer

Looking for more ways to give back to your community? Check out www.publicgood.com a website that lets you find organizations and volunteer opportunities to fit your interests. This holiday season, discover these (and more) Chicago-area charities on Public Good that can use volunteers to help in their efforts.

- Print and cut out teddy bear template.
- Trace template on two pieces of fabric.
- Cut fabric and place teddy bear forms back to back so the print sides are facing out.
- With a needle and thread, sew the fabric together, being sure to leave a small opening at the foot for stuffing.
- Lightly stuff the bear and sew the opening closed.

Leftover turkey recipes make Thanksgiving last

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

Linda Strugalla has never had to ponder how to get everything on the table for Thanksgiving dinner.

"I have always gone to my parents' home or my in-laws' homes for Thanksgiving," said the 71-year-old Naperville resident. She and her husband, Ken, along with their two grown children and their families, have always been fortunate to be the guests rather than the hosts for the traditional meal.

This convenient meal plan has made it possible for Strugalla and her husband to volunteer for the annual Turkey Trot, the Naperville Noon Lions' annual 5K run. "I think this will be our sixth time volunteering but the 18th Turkey Trot," Strugalla said.

The run begins at 8 a.m. Thanksgiving morning and attracts runners from Naperville and beyond. "We have sold out some years," she said. "We have a 7,500-person limit." She said some accomplished runners finish the course well before other runners have departed.

When they have finished walking or running the course, participants are treated to a complimentary breakfast provided by Belgio's Catering.

The funds raised at the event go to the many different charities the Lions support, including funds for senior programs, assistance for people who are blind or deaf, support for diabetes and many local social service organizations.

This year there will be a blind runner and a blind walker participating in the Turkey Trot. The Strugallas have a deaf grandchild and they are pleased to be a part of an organization that also provides assistance to people with hearing loss.

Although she doesn't have to prepare the Thanksgiving dinner, Strugalla always brings a dish to share for the meal. One of her favorites is a sweet potato casserole topped with apples.

"It can be made the day before and refrigerated until you are ready to bake it the next day, which is perfect for me," she said. The family has Polish roots so polish sausage and sauerkraut as well as pierogi are on the table for the Strugalla Thanksgiving feast.

Strugalla takes her turn hosting the family on the day after Thanksgiving. "My sister-in-law makes a lot of food so we can't eat it all. We take all of the leftovers to our house. Several family members go shopping all day on the day after Thanksgiving.

"Then everyone comes here for leftovers. It is very informal. We use paper plates and just heat everything up," said Strugalla. "We started doing this years ago



JUDY BUCHENOT/NAPERVILLE SUN

Linda Strugalla peels apples to make her sweet potatoes and apples casserole, a perfect Thanksgiving side dish which can be made in advance.

Linda's Culinary Cue

For a tasty side dish to accompany grilled pork chops or chicken, cut a fresh peach in half and remove the pit. Fill the center with a premium whiskey and sprinkle with brown sugar. Grill a few minutes until peach is warm and serve with grilled pork or chicken.

Turkey Trot

Who: Naperville Noon Lions

When: Thanksgiving morning beginning at 8 a.m.

Where: Naperville Central High School, 440 W. Aurora Avenue, Naperville

Information: NapervilleTurkeyTrot.com

and just continued." Strugalla enjoys hosting part two of Thanksgiving in her home.

As Thanksgiving plans are being made, Strugalla encourages others to consider the Turkey Trot, which is a family-oriented event. She reminds everyone that completing the 5K course does burn calories to make room for Thanksgiving feasting. "Our slogan is 'Run fast. Eat later. No penalty,'" she said.

She is not a runner but enjoys joining

her fellow Lions Club members to help with the event. Her membership in Lions has brought her many great friendships and occasionally some new recipes.

She shares her recipe for sweet potatoes and apples and a recipe for turkey apple quinoa salad from fellow club member Dr. Nadia Esmail. The salad recipe is a creative and delicious way to use up leftover turkey.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer.

Sweet Potatoes and Apples

- 5 medium sweet potatoes
- 5 medium tart apples, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 cup cold water
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/4 cup butter, cubed
- 1/4 cup ground cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon salt

1. Place sweet potatoes in a large pot, cover with water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and cook for 20 minutes or until tender. Drain and cool potatoes. Peel sweet potatoes and cut into 1/4-inch slices. Grease a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.

2. Make a layer of half of the apples and a layer of half the sweet potatoes. Repeat. In a small saucepan, combine sugar, cornstarch, water and lemon juice and stir until smooth. Bring to a boil. Cook and stir for two minutes or until thickened. Remove from heat.

3. Stir in butter, cinnamon and salt. Pour over layered sweet potatoes and apples. Dish can be covered and refrigerated at this point if desired. When ready to bake, place covered dish in a 350-degree oven for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake 10 minutes longer or until apples are tender.

Turkey Apple Quinoa Salad

- 1 large Granny Smith apple
- 3 cups cooked and cooled quinoa
- 1 1/2 cups diced turkey
- 1 cup thinly sliced celery
- 1/2 cup packed sliced celery leaves
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 1 1/2 tablespoons Dijon mustard (unsweetened)
- sea salt and ground pepper to taste

1. Peel, core and dice apple. In a large bowl, combine apple, quinoa, turkey, celery and celery leaves. In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar and mustard. Add to quinoa mixture and gently mix to coat. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Refrigerate for 30 minutes until chilled.

Jeep seat-panel issue resolved with FCA help

Dear Help Squad,

I had occasion to read your article about the person who had problems with their Jeep's air conditioning.

I have been having some difficulty with the panel on the side of the driver's seat in my 2012 Jeep Liberty Jet. It has been repaired twice by Sherman Dodge in Skokie under warranty. Now it is out of warranty and is broken again. It will cost \$282 to repair. That was the estimate I received from Sherman in July. However, now the electrical portion of this panel is not working, so I can't move the seat up/down, back/forward, and the heating element in the seat doesn't work either. I believe this is a design flaw and that Jeep should be responsible for the repair or replacement. By the way, there is no problem with the passenger seat where my disabled sister, who weighs 220 pounds, is a frequent passenger.

I contacted Jeep in early August and explained the problem. I contacted them again in early September. I still have received no response. So I'm wondering if there is anything you can do to help me get this fixed.

Thank you.
Mary Ann, Chicago

Because he was very helpful with the above-referenced Jeep air conditioning issue, I started by calling Doug Morris, service director at Fields Jeep in Glenview. I wanted to know if Doug thought Mary Ann might have recourse with Jeep now that her Jeep Liberty was no longer under warranty. He explained that every dealership has the power to comp parts and/or services as a gesture of goodwill. Said Doug: "If she was one of our customers, we would simply make it go away."

Considering the number of times Mary Ann's seat panel had



CATHY CUNNINGHAM
Help Squad

broken and the fact that she never received a response from Chrysler Group LLC (now FCA US LLC - Fiat Chrysler Automobiles), Doug suggested I contact FCA customer relations to open a case. I did on Mary Ann's behalf. Upon introducing myself as the Help Squad columnist, however, I was transferred to FCA media relations, where I left a message. Within minutes, I received a call from spokesperson Berj Alexanian, whose immediate response to Mary Ann's plight was: "We can definitely help her out. We're going to make sure this gets

solved ASAP." He even went so far as to say that if the continually breaking seat panel merited it, FCA would fly someone out to investigate the issue.

The next morning, Mary Ann received an email and a phone call from an FCA customer care executive who Mary Ann reported, "called to request I get an estimate from Sherman on what it will cost to repair the electrical portion of the seat. She told me she has no problem with reimbursing me \$282 to repair the panel, but needs to know about the electrical issue."

The following week, Mary Ann took her Jeep to Sherman and was told there was no issue with her seat's electrical components; it was not working due to the broken seat panel. So she scheduled a service appointment to get it repaired. Upon completion, Mary Ann submitted her \$282 invoice to FCA customer care,

then contacted me to say: "Mission accomplished! Thanks for all your help. I couldn't have done it without you."

When I asked Alexanian if the broken front seat panel was a problem common to the Jeep Liberty Jet, he sent the following statement: "FCA US is aware of some front seat trim panel issues that are generally isolated to older vehicles outside the warranty period. There are a variety of factors which may impact the front seat trim panel's durability... As with all out-of-warranty customer claims, FCA reviews each case on an individual basis with the goal of satisfying our customer."

Send your questions to HelpSquad@pioneerlocal.com.

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

GREAT STORY- TELLER?

Build some character: start a blog

chicagonow.com/pitch



Good 'n' Fun treats recalled

Company cites possible salmonella contamination

By William Hageman
Chicago Tribune

Salix Animal Health is expanding its September recall of Good 'n' Fun Beefhide Chicken Sticks because of possible salmonella contamination.

Sampling conducted by the Georgia Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of salmonella in an additional lot of the product. The Deerfield, Fla., company decided to expand the original recall to include the tested lot as well as others made around the same time.

The recall is only for Good 'n' Fun Beefhide Chicken Sticks; no other product is affected.

The recalled chicken sticks were distributed nationwide to Dollar General, Dollar Tree and Family Dollar retail stores. The recalled product is packaged in a 2.8-ounce bag that has an item code number of 82247 on the side and an expiration date ranging from 02/2018 to 07/2018. The UPC code is 0 91093 82247 1.

Customers should check the item code number and expiration date on any product they've purchased to determine if it is covered by the recall. Customers who have the affected product should dispose of it or return it for a full refund by calling 800-338-4896 during business hours



MICHAEL PATRICK/AP

The return of North American beavers could benefit rivers in the Northeast.

Monday through Friday.

Leave it to beavers

The North American beaver, hunted nearly to extinction a century ago, is coming back. And that rebound means good news for rivers in the Northeast, according to a new study.

When beavers build dams and create ponds, they slow the

movement of water, which helps remove nitrogen from the water.

Unchecked, nitrogen-filled water can reach estuaries, where the rivers meet the sea. High levels of nitrogen in those sensitive areas can stimulate algae blooms, which eventually can lead to fish kills.

Researcher Arthur Gold from the University of Rhode Island and his colleagues studied how

the presence of beavers affects nitrogen levels. The researchers realized that water retention and organic-matter buildup within beavers' ponds creates ideal conditions for nitrogen dissipation.

The population of the North American beaver (*Castor canadensis*) is estimated to have been between 60 million and 400 million during pre-Colonial

times. But by 1900, trapping had largely wiped beavers out. In the second half of the 20th century, trapping regulations, a decrease in predators and favorable habitat helped the beaver population flourish. It's now estimated at 30 million.

Read more about the research in the *Journal of Environmental Quality* at dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/jeq/pdfs/44/5/1684.

Wildlife Gift Guide

The National Wildlife Federation has released a new online catalog with merchandise aimed at creating wildlife-friendly gardens. The Garden for Wildlife Gift Guide provides everything needed to create a thriving wildlife habitat in any backyard, garden or landscape.

The merchandise has been personally reviewed, tested and selected by National Wildlife Federation naturalist David Mizejewski, an expert on creating natural gardens for wildlife.

Items in the guide are divided into four components of habitat: food, water, cover and places to raise young. The catalog also includes other wildlife-garden themed merchandise designed to help observe wildlife in a yard, to decorate wildlife habitat or simply to celebrate the idea of "backyard habitat."

Check out the catalog at NWF.org/GardenForWildlife.

bhageman@tribpub.com

PET OF THE WEEK



Lousha

Meet Lousha. She is a 2-year-old spayed female dilute calico. She is very calm, gentle and a little shy. She loves sitting in the window and watching the outside world. She has beautiful green eyes. Please help this sweet girl find a loving home. NAWS cats are spayed/neutered, microchipped, and up-to-date on vaccines. For more information, contact NAWS at 708-478-5102 or email wendy@nawsus.org.

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



Can Lamar and Khloe's marriage survive?



JACKIE PIROSSOPH
Love Essentially

"There is a very long road ahead of him, and he has to walk that road by himself. But I'll be there supporting him every step of the way."

That's what Khloe Kardashian told People magazine with regard to her husband, Lamar Odom, who authorities suspect overdosed on cocaine and other drugs before being found unconscious at a Nevada brothel.

The reality TV star, who in conjunction with Odom recently filed a petition to dismiss their divorce filing, said they decided to put the divorce on hold for medical and other reasons, but that by no means does this action mean they are back together.

While Odom and Kardashian will have to confront this situation together, millions of other Americans deal with their own challenges balancing relationships with substance abuse.

According to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration an estimated 22.7 million Americans needed treatment for a drug or alcohol problem in 2013, leaving so many spouses with a tough choice: Should I stay or should I go?

David Cohen is a Chicago-based licensed clinical social worker and certified alcohol drug counselor, who describes addiction as a chronic, progressive and often fatal disease that requires treatment and ongoing maintenance for remission.

"The only way to sustain recovery is to get treatment through a 30-day residential or intensive outpatient therapy program, along with individual therapy, which is an important ingredient in sustainable recovery," said Cohen, a 15-year veteran in the field, who said he is personally in long-term recovery from addiction.

Cohen said addiction is characterized by denial, minimization, manipulation, rationalization and blaming others alongside the chemical use, and that what ends up happening is the spouse begins to exhibit these same traits, becoming codependent.

"A codependent will say things like, 'Oh, it's just beer,' or 'He is still able to work and bring home a paycheck,' or 'He's never been arrested,'" Cohen said. "It's the same minimizing and rationalizing that the addict does."



EVAN AGOSTINI/AP 2012

Khloe Kardashian Odom and Lamar Odom from "Keeping Up With The Kardashians."

Cohen said codependents often do things like hide alcohol, hide money, talk to the spouse's co-workers and friends about the addictive behavior, and become "obsessed with trying to fix the problem."

"The addict is obsessing over the chemical and the codependent is obsessing over the addict," he said. "None of it helps. The addict has to want recovery for him or herself. You can't force the person. It's that person's journey."

Another extremely difficult aspect of being married to an addict, according to Cohen, is that if the addict decides to get help, the spouse and family often go untreated. In other words, the spouse and family doesn't experience rehab, and therefore they don't get the emotional support they need to understand the disease, heal and move forward.

Cohen suggests Al-Anon and Families Anonymous, which he said are both great programs for spouses and families of substance abusers, whether the addict is in recovery or not.

"There are three 'C's' they talk about in Families Anonymous: 'I didn't cause it, I cannot control it and I cannot cure it,'" Cohen said. "You can't fix him or her, but you can help by helping yourself. That's something you have control over."

I can't judge any man or woman living with a substance abuser when it comes to deciding whether or not they will stand by the loved one. Either decision surely takes immense courage and strength.

And, just as I would for any married couple facing challenges, I truly hope they are able to sustain the challenge and that they end up happy and healthy.

"I love Lamar and I'll always be there for him like I promised," Kardashian told People magazine.

But the reality is Odom is the one who needs to be there for himself by finding the guts to step up, get help and sustain long-term recovery.

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ROUNDUP | CHILDREN'S BOOKS



Why Is This Night Different from All Other Nights?

By Lemony Snicket with art by Seth, Little, Brown and Company, \$16, ages 8 and up.

The impeccably acerbic Lemony Snicket is in fine form in the fourth and final installment of the "All the Wrong Questions" series. Our 12-year-old hero is a noir detective tormented by many things: the fate of his dear sister Kit, the green eyes of his estranged pal Ellington Feint and the evil machinations of Hangfire, the villain who has brought the beleaguered town of Stain'd-by-the-Sea to its knees, and would like to bring it yet a little lower. A thrilling action sequence involving a fast-moving train and a rickety side railing delivers Snicket to shadowy passenger cars where someone has been murdered, many have been silenced and Hangfire may or may not suddenly appear to claim what he wants most of all: a missing statue of the mythical monster known as the Bombinating Beast. Our hero has to distinguish between friend and foe, which, as in any true noir detective story — or American middle school, for that matter — can prove incredibly difficult. Snicket tosses off so many world-weary gems it's hard to know which to quote, although I

did especially like, "So many unexpected appearances, I thought. It's like a haunted house or a surprise party, two things I've never enjoyed." But while the verbal pyrotechnics are impressive, the book's most remarkable accomplishment is in delivering a noir finale that's at once soul-shattering and age-appropriate. A great book for young cynics, rebels and philosophers.



Naughty Mabel

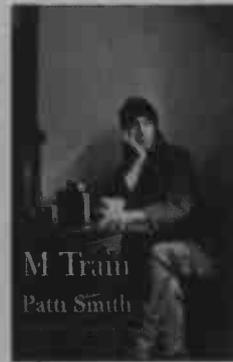
By Nathan Lane and Devlin Elliott and illustrated by Dan Krall, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, \$17.99, ages 4-8.

Celebrities! When the rest of us fantasize about writing children's books about our oh-so-unique and adorable pets, we know we're just kidding ourselves. But when the stars are struck with the exact same fit of whimsy, they go out and get book deal. I was all set to ignore this theoretically obnoxious book, written by Nathan Lane and his partner Devlin Elliott, and dedicated — I kid you not — to their French bulldog Mabel, but then the pup on the cover transfixed me with her big Lane-like eyes, her arched Lanesque browline, and yes, her hot pink tutu. Surely, I thought, it wouldn't hurt to just check out a page or two? Alas, I regret to inform you that Mabel is a delightful confection, all Hollywood self-love and little girl naughtiness.

I loved the way she channeled the over-the-top "Birdcage" persona of her actor dad, fixing her big brown eyes on me and declaring, "But I digress, back to me." It doesn't hurt that a top-notch illustrator has signed onto the project; Krall gives us a houndlet with just the right balance of naughty and nice. The first half of the book is a virtuoso performance, fresh, hilarious, beautifully paced. The second half relies too heavily on a hug and a fart joke, but by that point you're hooked. More Mabel, please.

CHICAGOLAND BEST-SELLERS

1. "The Martian" by Andy Weir (Broadway, \$15).
2. "M Train" by Patti Smith (Knopf, \$25).
3. "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing" by Marie Kondo (Ten Speed, \$16.99).
4. "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates (Spiegel & Grau, \$24).
5. "A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms" by George R.R. Martin (Bantam, \$30).



Participating bookstores: Barbara's Bookstores (Chicago), The Book Cellar (Chicago), Seminary Co-op Bookstore and 57th Street Books (Chicago), Anderson's Bookshop (Naperville), The Book Stall at Chestnut Court (Winnetka), Women & Children First Bookstore (Chicago), The Book Table (Oak Park), The Bookstore (Glen Ellyn), The Book Bin (Northbrook).

NEW IN PAPERBACK



Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America

By Jill Leovy, Spiegel & Grau, 367 pages, \$16
Leovy examines the South Central Los Angeles murder of Bryant Tennelle, an 18-year-old African-American son of an L.A. policeman, and how black-on-black murder cases frequently go cold. Leovy looks at the determined work of Det. John Skaggs and others who relentlessly pursued the case, and the frequency of murder in low-policed districts.



Mermaids in Paradise: A Novel

By Lydia Millet, W.W. Norton, 290 pages, \$15.95

During their honeymoon, Deb and her overly friendly jock husband Chip meet a marine biologist who claims to have spotted mermaids near their resort. As the resort's marketing arm swoops in to capitalize, Deb and Chip join forces with an ex-Navy SEAL and a Tokyo DJ to save the mermaids from being used as a theme park attraction.



Brief Encounters: Conversations, Magic Moments, and Assorted Hijinks

By Dick Cavett, St. Martin's Griffin, 269 pages, \$15.99

Cavett reflects on the cultural icons and politicians he's interacted with during his career, from John Lennon and Yoko Ono to Mel Brooks, a young Steve Jobs and Nora Ephron. Cavett also offers commentary on contemporary politics, the nature of comedy writing and the various hassles of being alive.



The Invisible History of the Human Race

By Christine Kenneally, Penguin, 356 pages, \$17

An exploration into the role DNA has played in history and its role in determining the future, "The Invisible History of the Human Race" looks at how DNA and other intangibles, such as emotions, names and local history, shape individuals and determine the future of nations.



The Unsubstantial Air

By Samuel Hynes, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 322 pages, \$16

"The Unsubstantial Air" traces the lives of American World War I fighter pilots. Hynes looks at the backgrounds of the young men — from privileged, Ivy League upbringing to college athletes and farmers — and their fates. Hynes makes use of letters, journals and memoirs to offer their perspectives on the thrill of battle and the heartbreak of losing friends in combat.

— Jeremy Mikula



puzzle island

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

11/1

All Saints Day: Sorry, not quite all

By S.N. | Edited by Stanley Newman
(stanxwords.com)

Across

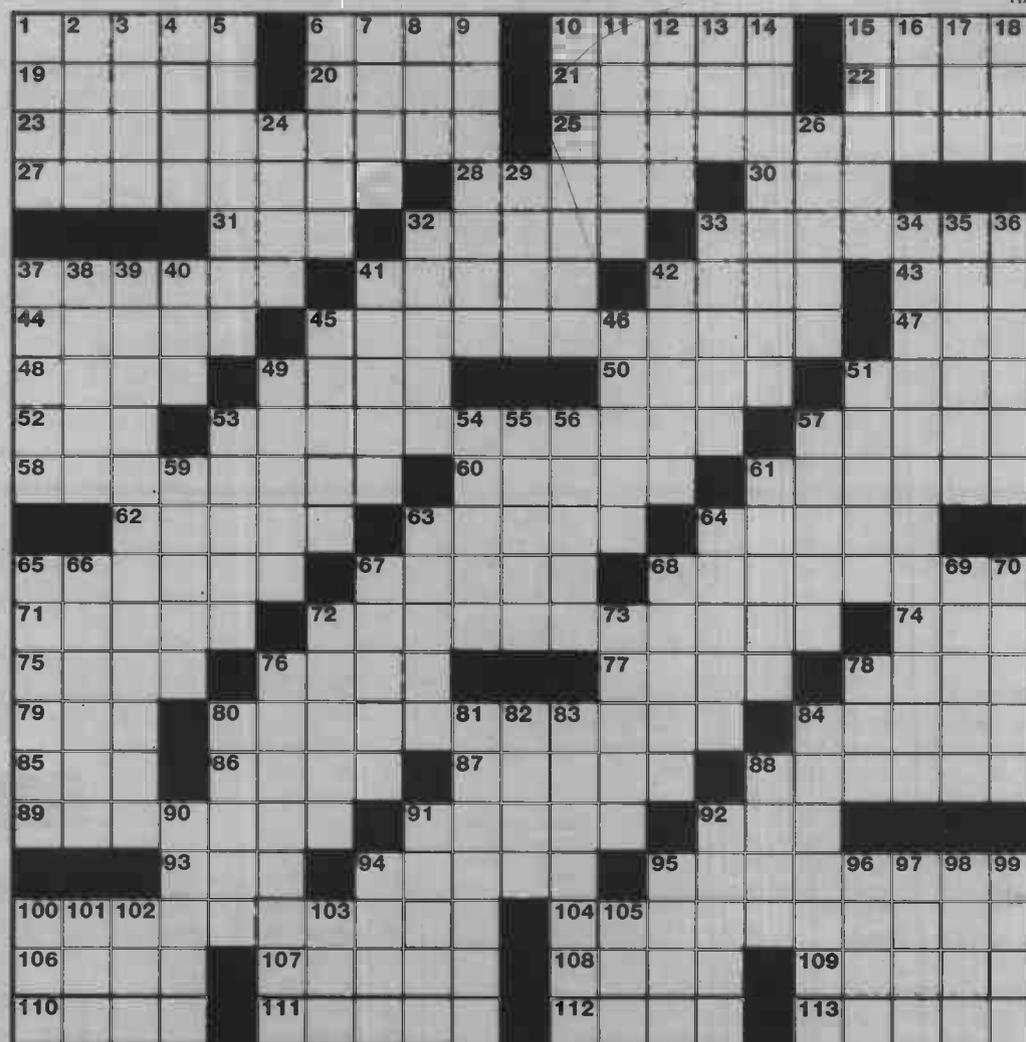
- 1 *Taras Bulba* author
6 Folk singer Joan
10 — a clue (does not know)
15 Finish last, perhaps
19 Justice Kagan
20 Scandinavian capital
21 Mexican *LPGA* great
22 Means of escape
23 Pollock contemporary
25 Former *Newsweek* columnist
27 Compassion
28 Authentic, so to speak
30 WWII general — Arnold
31 Hamm of soccer
32 Specifically
33 "Could be"
37 Regional dialect
41 Salary
42 Aretha's music
43 "Vamoosel"
44 2011 hurricane
45 Author in the *Young Frankenstein* credits
47 Hunters' org.
48 Infamous emperor
49 Eye-opener
50 Monarch of the Bard
51 Ground grain
52 French article
53 Letterman's bandleader
57 Attach, in a way
58 Dice shooter's strip
60 Detach

- 61 Not as timid
62 Get — of (reach)
63 Dramatist Chekhov
64 Price estimate
65 Fixes firmly
67 Sedate
68 Greenhouse array
71 Some Parliament members
72 Actress made a Dame in 2015
74 Keogh alternative
75 Big name in rural lithography
76 Sign of approval
77 Not unlike granola
78 Move a muscle
79 Half of a vise
80 Empire State governor
84 Mob scene
85 Ending for block
86 *Family Guy* mom
87 Handfuls of hair
88 Quite a few
89 "This is terrible!"
91 Places for houseplants
92 128 fl. oz.
93 Arctic bird
94 Open courtyards
95 Master's degree specialty
100 Writer of a Colorado state song
104 *Utopia* author
106 Very impressed
107 France's longest river
108 Sedate
109 Cone-shaped tent
110 Become well
111 Lectern

- 112 Evil alter ego
113 Derisive look

Down

- 1 Prized possessions
2 Nivea rival
3 Idea's genesis
4 Doing mess prep
5 University of Wyoming site
6 '80s South African leader
7 Looking pale
8 Yellowstone grazer
9 One of Darwin's fields
10 Averse to sharing
11 Make short work of a test
12 Irreparable
13 Clause connector
14 Swiss watchmaker
15 Highly acidic
16 Antoine's assent
17 Largest MO airport
18 YMCA class
24 Elevator pioneer
26 Premature
29 Ricotta sources
32 Small pastries
33 Of global extremes
34 *Oklahoma!* choreographer
35 Maritime marauder
36 More corny
37 Prepare to hem
38 Rock concert venue
39 '50s pop song star
40 John — Lennon
41 Pixar blockbuster of '08
42 Hypnotist's order
45 Pitcher's place



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

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- 46 Small and impish
49 Holds before trial
51 Sicily neighbor
53 Walks slowly
54 Chinese cuisine
55 Escapade
56 Tolkien hero
57 Combines, as resources
59 Casts off
61 Easter symbol
63 Dickens title starter
64 South American capital
65 56 Down in films
66 Swiss watchmaker
67 Reaches new heights
68 Tears into
69 Fuss at the mirror
70 Jazz instruments
72 *Star Wars* combatants
73 Glimpses
76 Scuba gear
78 Turkish topper
80 Viva voce
81 Moved like a top
82 Columbian city
83 Open, as a gate
84 Harasses
88 *X-Files* agent
90 New products dept.
91 Stringent
92 10 Down demand
94 Adidas alternative
95 Throw in one's hand
96 Solemn agreement
97 Something to skip
98 Sloth's home
99 Clairvoyant
100 Sticky spread or situation
101 Run a tab
102 Roost resident
103 Commandments word
105 Bale material

Quote-Acrossic

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

Clues	Words
A. Get going!	50 82 74 144 28 104 58
B. Improving: 3 wds.	135 2 113 154 143 64 40 87 51
C. Cool star: 2 wds.	12 21 106 44 142 72 157 122
D. Like rotary phones and analog TV: 2 wds.	133 123 80 92 71 108 152 8 159 26 55
E. Out of	78 48 141 114 147 101
F. Blended	134 35 94 121 124 172 23 164 62 73
G. Farthest	158 7 81 149 171 95 67
H. Liking	25 65 38 46 10 86 105 162
I. Ponderous	1 49 153 68 96 31 170 129

J. Really well	130 75 16 103 57 30 43 89 5 111
K. Under supervision: 2 wds.	140 173 166 60 29
L. Dentist's aid?	27 14 126 109 41 88 150 138 56
M. Mary Beth Lacey	47 61 136 11 117 100 32 155
N. Wrote 'Tulips and Chimneys'	18 77 161 45 24 85 4 119 70 132
O. Flinch	128 84 17 34 165 54
P. Collect	148 112 168 102 63
Q. 'Texaco Star Theater' star	39 13 22 79 115 83 98 59 146 163 131
R. Bossman	156 42 3 66 151 15 107 139 90
S. Kid complaint	36 137 97 91 167 118 120 20 145
T. Expression	160 9 19 127 110 52 93 33 76
U. We Ourselves Irish party: 2 wds.	169 37 116 99 6 125 53 69

1	2	B3	R4	N5	J	6	U7	G8	D9	T		
10	H11	M12	C		13	Q14	L15	R16	J17	O18	N	
	19	T20	S21	C		22	Q23	F24	N25	H26	D	
27	L28	A		29	K30	J31	32	M		34	O	
35	F36	S37	U38	H39	Q40	B		41	L42	R43	J	
44	C45	N46	H47	M48	E49	50	A		51	B52	T	
53	U54	O55	D		56	L57	J58	A59	Q60	K61	M	
62	F63	P		64	B65	H66	R67	G68	I69	U70	N	
71	D		72	C73	F74	A		75	J76	T77	N78	E
79	Q80	D		81	G82	A83	Q84	O		85	N86	H
87	B88	L89	J90	R91	S92	D93	T94	F		95	G	
96	I97	S98	Q99	U100	M101	E102	P		103	J104	A	
105	H106	C107	R108	D109	L110	T111	J		112	P113	B	
114	E115	Q116	U117	M118	S119	N120	S121	F		122	C	
123	D124	F		125	U126	L127	T128	O129	I		130	J
131	Q132	N133	D134	F135	B136	M		137	S138	L139	R	
140	K141	E		142	C143	B		144	A145	S146	Q147	E
148	P149	G150	L151	R152	D		153	I154	B155	M		
156	R157	C158	G159	D160	T161	N162	H163	Q164	F165	O		
166	K167	S		168	P169	U		170	I171	G172	F173	K

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

By Robert
O'Neill.
Edited by
Linda and
Charles
Preston.
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Puritanical

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Across

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Frosh, next year | 44 Diego Rivera creations | 12 Classic car |
| 5 Dancer's sidekick | 45 Meat pie | 13 Gaelic |
| 10 Blue-green pigment | 46 — America | 19 Algerian port |
| 14 Hodgepodge | 47 Sew a hem | 24 Exec's extra |
| 15 Fanon | 50 Proscription | 25 Weighty |
| 16 Nose twitcher | 51 Modified plant species | 26 — Marleen |
| 17 Pellicle | 54 Drill command | 27 Mother: prefix |
| 18 April rain brings these | 57 Mouse's cousin | 28 Enlightened Buddhist |
| 20 Seraph, to René | 58 Music's Clapton | 29 Complain |
| 21 Swimsuit part | 59 Asian weasel | 30 Plymouth Colony crop |
| 22 English novelist of yore | 60 A Gardner | 31 Dobbin's digs |
| 23 World bridge champion
George | 61 Edna of TV | 32 Our 19th president |
| 25 Cheerful | 62 Watchful | 34 Pointed arch |
| 27 Writer Norman | 63 Go berserk | 35 Distresses |
| 29 Show delight | | 37 Primer pooch |
| 30 Somewhat: suffix | | 38 Argo suffix |
| 33 Gawain's topcoat | | 43 Program |
| 34 Kind of history | | 44 Slugger Mickey |
| 35 Former US theater org. | | 45 Silence |
| 36 Time of first harvest
meal | | 46 Type of beam |
| 39 Fashion flip-out? | | 47 Mimic |
| 40 Native peacemaker | | 48 Zhivago's love |
| 41 Athletic | | 49 Svelte |
| 42 Adherent: suffix | | 50 Key letter |
| 43 Protected inlet | | 52 Actress Nazimova |
| | | 53 Word with six or sea |
| | | 55 Clemens' stat |
| | | 56 Unpurified |

Down

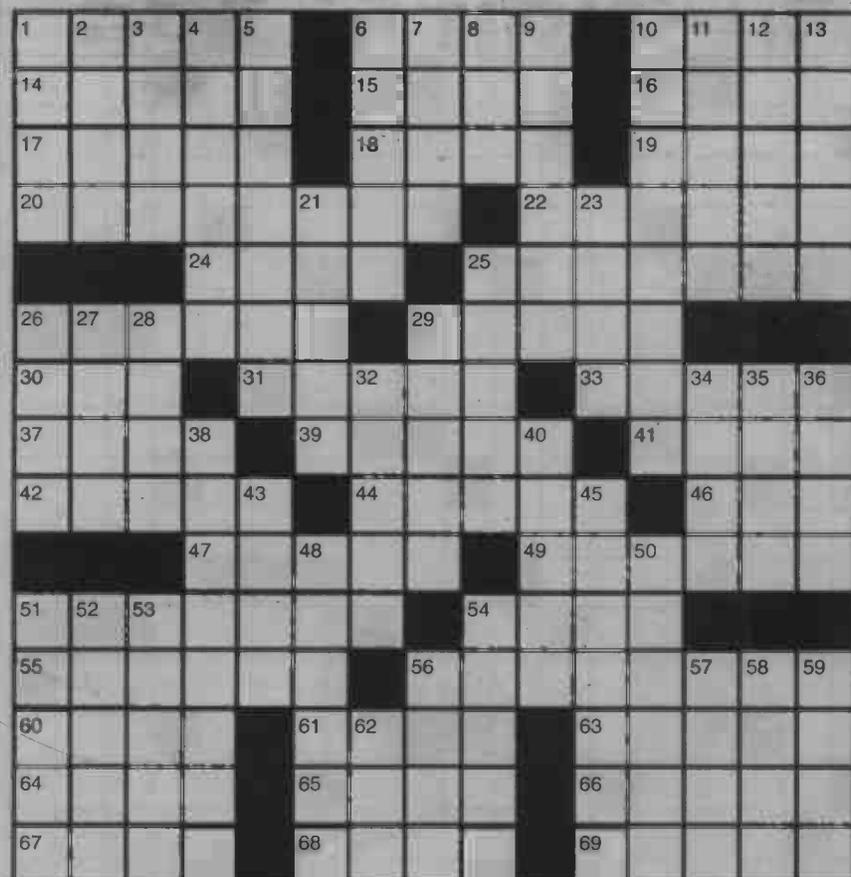
- | |
|-------------------------------|
| 1 Couch |
| 2 Actress Lena |
| 3 Holy trek |
| 4 Modern Xmas film
classic |
| 5 Surfer's big one |
| 6 "— Ben Jonson!" |
| 7 Yucatec |
| 8 Impish one |
| 9 Prefix meaning distant |
| 10 Did obeisance |
| 11 What's the big —? |

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21						22			
		23		24				25	26					
27	28						29					30	31	32
33						34					35			
36					37						38			
39					40						41			
42					43					44				
				45					46					
47	48	49					50				51		52	53
54						55	56				57			
58						59					60			
61						62					63			

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

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Crossword



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11/4/15

ACROSS

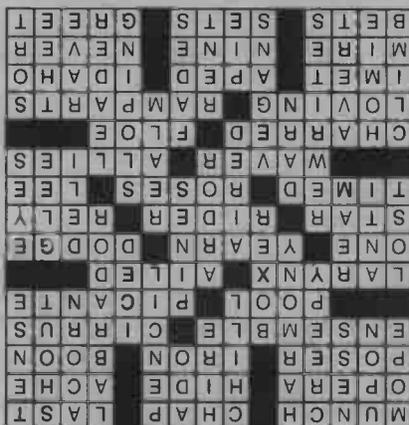
- 1 Have a snack
6 Fellow
10 Go on and on
14 "The Phantom of the ___"
15 Conceal
16 Muscle pain
17 Puzzling question
18 Reasonable material
19 Godsend
20 Musical group
22 Wispy cloud
24 Swimming spot
25 ___ sauce; spicy condiment
26 Voice box
29 Had a bug
30 Half and half
31 ___ for; desire strongly
33 Avoid
37 Actor with the lead role
39 "Easy ___"; film for Peter Fonda
41 ___ on; trust
42 Two-___; was unfaithful
44 Pete & Charlie
46 Mr. Iacocca
47 Be unable to decide; waffle
49 Axis' WWII foe
51 Scorched

- 54 Sheet of ice on the ocean
55 Affectionate
56 "...o'er the ___ we watched..."
60 TV's "How ___ Your Mother"
61 Made fun of
63 Tater exporter
64 Deep mud
65 Reasonable bedtime
66 Firm refusal
67 Wagers
68 Swing
___; playground items for kids
69 Say hello to

DOWN

- 1 Sulk
2 Come ___; find
3 Scottish monster's lake
4 Eerie
5 Peace
6 ___ out; relax
7 Brng on board
8 Fuss & bother
9 Writing instrument
10 ___ retriever; popular dog
11 ___ squash; winter veggie
12 Yell
13 Not relaxed

Solutions



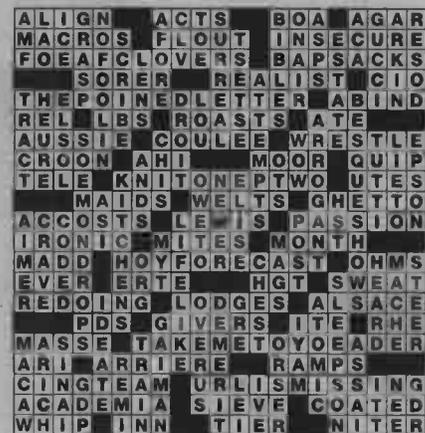
- 21 Ali or Spinks
23 Like gooey cinnamon rolls
25 Evergreens
26 Unable to find one's way
27 Prefix for biotics or toxins
28 Paper quantity
29 Zeal
32 Showed on TV
34 Sandwich shop
35 Merriment
36 Facial features
38 Begins a letter all over again
40 Kingdom
43 Word of disgust
45 On an incline
48 Meat shunners
50 Guide; head
51 Scale
52 Friend, in slang
53 Turn aside, as one's eyes
54 Loses color
56 Torn in two
57 Talk wildly
58 You, biblically
59 Put in order
62 Bakery dessert



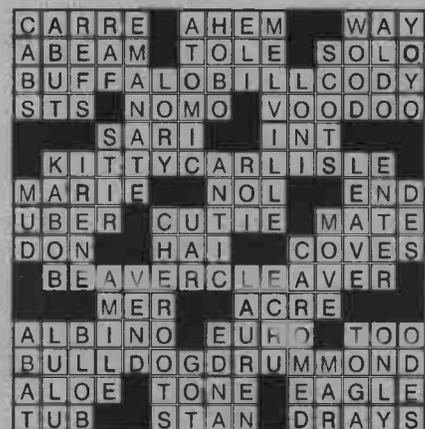
puzzle island solutions

Last week's crosswords

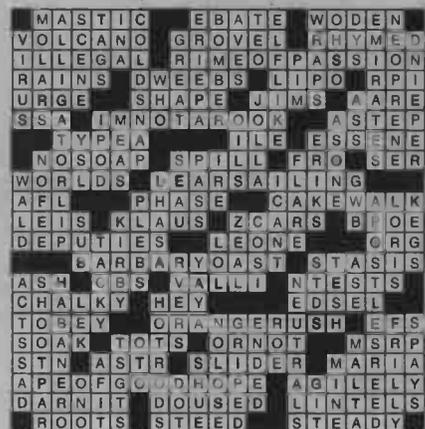
"Net Losses"



"Animal Magnetism"



"Now You See It ..."



Last week's Quote-Acrostic

(Cleveland) AMORY: THE NERVOUS TWITCH: In the old days, chess was confined to the oddball, the eccentric, the boy with the long hair and the nervous twitch. It wasn't so much that he didn't like girls, girls didn't like him. So he learned chess.

Last week's Sudoku

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

This week's Jumble

SPRAIN SAFETY DRAGON
EMBODY LOATHE SQUARE

The surgery center's new computer was going to enhance their —

OPERATING
SYSTEM

chicago
tribune.com
/games

Interactive
puzzles and
games

Child rearing in the digital age

Tips for parents, on dealing with kids, technology

By Adam Pletter
The Washington Post

Why is my 6-year-old twerking? How do I limit what my 10-year-old can see on his phone?

These are common questions with complicated answers, but as a parent and child psychologist, I have some basics to help you and your children navigate the digital world safely (with a little help from the engineers at Apple). Many of my strategies are based on the built-in settings of your or your child's device.

These devices have the basics to help us, the first generation of parents in the digital age. However, most product owners don't know how to find and use these basic tools. With technical changes and some basic behavior modifications, you and your child will be more empowered to use technology safely.

I focus on Apple products simply because they are the most common devices about which I'm asked. However, nearly all of the following suggestions can be adapted to Android.

1. Write a contract. Step one is to think about your expectations and rules for your children in the digital world. Out of the box, all of these devices are set up for adults, not children or teens, so some thinking and prep are necessary before handing over a device. You would never drop your kids off in Times Square and say, "Have fun! Don't get in trouble."

Make the list simple, and start with the basics: "To have access to this amazing device, this is what we (your parents) are responsible for, and, in return, this is what is expected of you." The written list of rules will



HERO IMAGES

To raise responsible children in the digital age, parents need to learn how to safely navigate this brave new world and be willing to set firm boundaries on the use of smartphones and other devices.

evolve over time, so don't worry if it's incomplete. Parents and kids sign it and date it. Revisit the contract at least once a year to make sure it's still on point. Communicate about your child's experience online and adjust the contract to have limits while still supporting their developing digital skills.

Many examples of these contracts are found online. Find one and make it your own by editing it and adding in your family's values and personal examples (e.g., parents should always know the pass code to their child's device).

2. Enable restrictions, and have a conversation. Whenever possible, you should enable restrictions on the adult device before

your child has ever used it. By using built-in parental controls, found under Settings, then General and then Restrictions, you have the power to set limits and supervise what your child can see and do on the device. Play around and get familiar with the controls.

If the restrictions are initially set too high, even better. That way your child will come to you, and you can have a great dialogue about what she wants to do. Then you can explain whether that's OK and why or why not. That conversation with your child, whether you grant permission or not, is the key.

Consistent restrictions force the child to pause and then find you to talk about the request. By doing so, you are teaching your child to

think about his actions online — a necessary and invaluable skill for all digital users.

3. Turn off/delete YouTube. If you are concerned about the time spent or videos viewed, I suggest turning off (or temporarily deleting) the YouTube app and blocking YouTube in the Web browser. Imagine the learning experiences possible when your child is motivated to behave appropriately to keep YouTube on the device. This type of learning is essential as she grows older in the digital world. I don't promote "Just say no," but rather "Yes, when ..." such as: "Yes, you can have YouTube when you behave appropriately (e.g., no twerking at the dinner

table)."

4. Guided access. iPhones are all-in-one devices, which is pretty incredible but also incredibly problematic for our children. Want your kid to practice math facts, but every time you leave the room he switches from the educational app to "Minecraft"? After a brief setup, again under Settings, look for Guided Access. There, you can lock the device on one app until you (the parents) put in a code or release it with your fingerprint. This is a powerful tool for parents as it allows for some flexibility. No longer is the device either off limits in a drawer or free access.

She wants to listen to music? OK. But not texting

and watching videos at the same time. (By the way, off limits in a drawer is a fine and sometimes necessary strategy to limit usage.)

5. Be a model for your child. Remember the Partnership for a Drug Free America ad campaign? You know, the one in which the father confronts his son after finding marijuana, and the son looks up and replies, "I learned it by watching you!" Well, it's true. Your children are learning about the world by watching you, and that's a good thing. You helped them learn to talk, walk, eat with a fork. Pretty much everything they now do, you directly influenced.

So, at a minimum, be mindful of how often the phone is in your hands. How often are you reading work emails or texting when your children are present? Be aware that they are learning and being shaped by what they perceive around them. Work toward being the good influence that you ideally want your child to be around.

Your kids will quickly know more than you do. However, for now you are in charge, and, therefore, you must use the tools available. Thankfully, we have the basic tools built into the devices. It's our obligation as parents to set reasonable limits and consistently follow through so our children learn how to safely navigate the digital world independently.

Adam Pletter is a licensed clinical psychologist. He specializes in the treatment of children, adolescents and young adults. Based in Bethesda, Md., he runs a workshop about parenting and technology called iParent 101. You can find more information at iParent101 on Facebook or by emailing iparent101workshop@gmail.com.

MONEY

Why you should consider holiday travel insurance



CAROLYN BIGDA
Getting Started

Holiday travel can be rife with mishaps.

Two years ago, for example, a storm that struck the Northeast the day before Thanksgiving caused more than 700 flight cancellations and thousands of flight delays.

Airlines have to rebook you when a flight is canceled, but they don't necessarily have to cover other expenses such as a hotel stay or food.

For those and other unexpected costs, you may want to consider buying travel insurance. Here's what to do.

Check your credit card. Many credit cards offer some kind of protection if your travel plans get upended.

In fact, 63 percent reimburse you if your bag is lost or delayed, according to CardHub, a credit card search engine. And in some cases, you may be covered for as much as \$5,000 in nonrefundable travel expenses if your trip is canceled or interrupted, or as much as \$500 if you're delayed more than six hours.

So before you book, check what travel protections your card offers (you'll find most policies online). Examples of cards with robust benefits include Chase Sapphire Preferred, Chase Freedom Signature and Citi Prestige.

The card's coverage applies not only to you but also to a spouse or domestic partner, as well as children. But to make a claim all of your travel has



ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS

to be booked on the card.

Shop around. If your credit card is lacking in travel benefits, it may be worth buying a travel insurance policy, especially if you're splurging on a pricey getaway, heading overseas or worried that an illness will cause you to cancel your trip.

Skip the policies sold by airlines or travel-booking websites.

"The insurance offered by airlines is just not good," said George Hobica, founder of Airfarewatchdog, a website that tracks fare deals and airline trends. "There are usually too many exclusions, and pre-existing medical conditions are not covered."

Instead, search for policies on sites like www.insuremytrip.com, which allows you to compare hundreds of policies. Costs will range from 4 to 8 percent of the total amount of your nonrefundable travel expenses and "are based on the length of the trip, destination and age of the policyholder," said Carol Walsh, executive director of the U.S. Travel Insurance Association.

Keep in mind, too, that if you want insurance to cover a pre-existing medical condition, you'll need to buy a policy within 10 to 30 days of booking

your trip.

The same applies if you want to add a cancel-for-any-reason benefit, which reimburses you even if the cause for your trip's cancellation is not on the usual list of approved reasons.

"If you're fighting with your girlfriend, and you're worried that you may break up before you go on a trip together, you need a cancel-for-any-reason policy," Hobica said.

What if you have a tight connection or you're worried that bad weather could interrupt your air travel?

Hobica recommends AirCare, a policy offered by Berkshire Hathaway Travel Protection. Your flights are tracked in real time, and if your flight is canceled or you miss a connection, the service automatically helps rebook you on another flight.

It also deposits cash into your bank account. For example, if your flight is delayed two hours or longer, you receive \$50. If you miss a connection, you get \$100. And if your bag is delayed more than 12 hours during your trip, you're paid \$500.

Said Hobica, "It covers a lot of annoyances that no one else covers."

AirCare policies start at \$34 for domestic trips.

yourmoney@tribpub.com

Lessons to help teachers with retirement planning



JANET KIDD STEWART
The Journey

As teachers head back to class this fall, they may want to brush up on their own retirement picture.

A report by the National Council on Teacher Quality found some grim financial statistics behind the \$499 billion teacher pension system debt:

- Pension funding ratios have declined in all but seven states since 2008.
- In 29 states, teachers have been required to boost their pension contribution rates since 2008.
- In 15 states, it takes 10

years for teachers to vest in their pension plans. Across all states, fewer than half of teachers stay in their districts long enough to vest, and just 20 percent stay long enough to achieve full retirement benefits.

So let's recap: Despite the financial recovery, teacher pension systems are on shaky financial footing, teachers are paying more into them, and most won't see those coveted defined benefit paychecks at the end of their careers.

Dave Grant, a financial planner and founder of Finance for Teachers, has been telling clients to prepare for retroactive cuts in retirement benefits, even after they are retired.

"Be mindful of potential cutbacks and make sure you're not spending the entire pension" on living expenses, said Grant, who is married to a middle school math teacher.

For teachers still on the job, he recommends saving 15 percent of pay, including employer contributions to retirement plans.

Here are a few other items to consider:



IMAGE SOURCE

That summer job is more important now. Those extra funds are critical given the shaky hiring outlook and pension funding shortfalls.

Melissa Scott, a 48-year-old private school teacher in Charlottesville, Va., has worked as a tutor on the side for several years but recently signed on to a new service, Moonlighting (www.moonlightingapp.com), which she says makes the payment system smoother and helps get her name out to a broad swath of potential clients.

The extra income helps her afford a 5 percent-of-pay contribution in a 403(b) plan at work, which her employer matches.

She doesn't have a traditional pension, and she's playing catch-up after depleting her retirement account more than 15 years ago to pay for medical expenses for her daughter.

"My friends in public school are closer to being able to retire, but I love what I do," she said.

You still need to scrutinize your 403(b) plan. Despite federal regulations in place since 2010 that were supposed to tighten standards on these workplace retirement plans in which many teachers participate, there are still many plans offering annuities that charge expenses of 2.5 percent annually and carry 10-year surrender charges, said Dan

Otter, founder of 403bwise, a website specializing in these accounts. The website offers a fiduciary pledge savers can copy and ask their advisers to sign.

Calculate your Social Security income. This is more complicated for some teachers and other government workers because of the windfall elimination provision, which adjusts Social Security benefits if workers spent time in a public system in which they and their employers didn't contribute. Knowing your benefits will help you make more informed decisions about how much income your savings will need to generate in retirement.

Finally, Grant said, consider your teaching career in context with the rest of your life. Married to someone who works in a corporate environment? Choose among the best benefits at each employer, he said.

Married to another teacher and you both have traditional defined benefit pensions? Think critically about whether you need any more annuities in your 403(b) plan, he said.

Divorced or widowed? Social Security could be a major component of your retirement income, so be sure to study your best claiming strategies.

Share your journey to or through retirement or pose a question at journey@janetkiddstewart.com.

Saving for an emergency vs. retirement

Experts suggest first building up 6-months' stash

By Cameron Huddleston
GoBankingRates.com

You know you need to save for retirement. But you also know that you need to have a stash of cash for emergencies. However, numerous studies and surveys show that Americans aren't doing a good job of saving for either.

In fact, a 2015 GOBankingRates survey found that planning for retirement and saving for an emergency are among the top financial challenges Americans said they are facing.

Nearly 20 percent of the more than 10,000 U.S. adults surveyed said their biggest money challenge was retirement planning, while almost 13 percent ranked saving up an emergency fund as their top struggle.

Saving for retirement requires a bigger sum of money, so perhaps that is why a greater percentage of Americans consider funding retirement a bigger challenge than saving for an emergency. Or perhaps they view a rainy day fund to be a lower priority than saving for retirement. But should an emergency fund take a back seat to retirement saving?

If you're struggling to find room in your budget to set aside money, here's what you need to know about whether you should prioritize saving for retirement or an emergency fund.

The emergency fund takes precedence. "As sure as the day is long, there will be emergencies," said John Lindsey, a financial planner and founder and CEO of Lindsey & Lindsey. Yet, 1 in 3 adults in America has no emergency savings, according to a recent survey by NeighborWorks



KATARZYNA BIALASIEWICZ/ISTOCK

To save money for an emergency fund, bring your lunch to work and skip restaurant meals, financial experts advise.

America, a nonprofit community development organization. That means their financial stability could be threatened by any unexpected expenses.

To cover major emergencies such as a significant medical issue, long-term disability or the death of a household's breadwinner, you need insurance.

"Any one of these risks can single-handedly ruin the best financial plan," said Rich Arzaga, a financial planner and founder and CEO of Cornerstone Wealth Management. But you need a pool of money in addition to insurance for short-term emergencies or losses that aren't covered by insurance, he said.

"People who do not maintain reserves run the risk of being forced to borrow or withdraw from their retirement funds to cover short-term needs," Arzaga said. "Without insurance and a reserve strategy, retirement savings could be short-sighted and a moot point."

If you tap a 401(k) for an emergency, you'll pay

income taxes on the amount you withdraw plus a 10 percent early withdrawal penalty if you're younger than 59 1/2. For those in the top income tax bracket, taxes and penalties could consume 50 percent of the amount you withdraw, forcing you to pull out even more to cover your emergency and leaving you with even less for retirement.

You can't rely on credit cards, either, to cover emergency expenses, Lindsey said. For starters, if you can't afford to pay for an emergency with cash, how will you be able to pay your credit card bill? Yes, you can spread out payments over time. But interest will accrue, and you'll end up paying significantly more than the cost of the emergency, leaving you with less money to set aside for things such as retirement.

There's another problem with relying on credit cards for rainy day expenses: As Lindsey points out, your line of credit might not be enough to cover the cost of an emergency.

"If you don't save for an

emergency, the resultant chaos could cause enough credit issues that it would take perhaps several years to be in a position to recover enough to save for retirement," Lindsey said. That's why the emergency fund has to take priority.

How much you need to save for emergencies? Lindsey recommends saving enough to cover six months' worth of expenses in case of a job loss, maternity leave, or medical or other emergency. Given that the average length of unemployment is about 28 weeks, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, you might need more than six months' of expenses saved if your job is tenuous.

However, if you manage to set aside only three months' worth of expenses, you're still "miles ahead of most people," Lindsey said. The key is to start somewhere and make saving a discipline.

Look for leaks in your budget that quickly add up but can be easily eliminated, so you'll have spare cash for an emergency fund.

Looking for a great place to start? Lindsey suggests you stop ordering sodas with fast-food or restaurant meals. You can easily save as much as \$30 a month if you dine out daily for lunch and order water instead of soda, he said. For that matter, you can save even more if you bring your lunch from home and skip restaurant meals entirely.

For more ways to save, you can cut unnecessary expenses and lower your monthly bills.

The money in your emergency fund needs to be easily accessible, Lindsey said. Look for an interest-bearing savings account or money market account. The rate you get won't be high — 1 percent is a good yield now — but you won't run the risk of losing your money. And you won't have to pay penalties to withdraw it, as you would for early withdrawals from certificates of deposit.

When to start saving for retirement. Once you've saved enough to cover six months' worth of expenses, "everything from that point

on goes into retirement savings," Lindsey said. You should set aside at least 10 percent of your pay, he said. The best way to do this is to take advantage of a workplace retirement account and have contributions automatically deducted from your paycheck.

And, remember, if you don't need to tap your rainy day fund for an emergency, you can use it in retirement to supplement your savings, Arzaga said.

Note that there is one strategy that allows you to save for retirement and an emergency simultaneously: saving in a Roth IRA. It's not ideal, but it is an option for people who are discouraged with the idea of taking a few years to build cash reserves before investing for retirement, said Vincent Wagner, a financial planner and president of Guide Tower Financial Planning.

"Psychologically it can help accomplish the emergency fund goal but also have a retirement savings component," he said.

The purpose of a Roth IRA is to save for retirement. But if you need money and don't have an emergency fund, you can tap your Roth without the same consequences that you'd have if you took money out of other retirement accounts. You can withdraw your original contributions, not the earnings, to a Roth at any time without having to pay taxes or a 10 percent early withdrawal penalty.

When Wagner has used this strategy for clients, half of their contributions were put into cash or conservative bond funds and the other half was invested in stocks. After they had six months' worth of expenses saved in the conservative bucket, 100 percent of their Roth contributions went toward the longer-term investment strategy, he said.



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1 in 5 pediatricians reject unvaccinated patients

Survey finds doctors using controversial safeguard in practice

By Dennis Thompson
HealthDay

One of every five U.S. pediatricians regularly drop families who refuse to have their children vaccinated, a new survey shows.

Doctors in the South and Northeast were more likely to take this hard-line stance, said study lead author Dr. Sean O'Leary, a pediatric infectious disease specialist at Children's Hospital Colorado in Denver.

But O'Leary said he's heard anecdotally that pediatricians across the nation have come under pressure to refuse to take on unvaccinated children, following the Disneyland measles outbreak earlier this year.

"I'm hearing the practice has become more common, particularly in California, following the outbreak," O'Leary said. "Parents say, 'I don't want to take my child to a clinic with nonvaccinators and expose them to risk,' so there is parental pressure on some pediatricians."

An ongoing medical debate continues to simmer over a doctor's right to refuse treatment for children whose parents are against vaccination, O'Leary added.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention both discourage this strategy, the study authors said in background information. The survey was published online Nov. 2 in the journal *Pediatrics*, an academy publication.

These organizations urge physicians to keep treating the children of vaccine-reluctant parents and to build a relationship of trust that could lead to convincing the parents of the safety of and need for childhood vaccinations.

To see how widespread the practice of dismissing anti-vaccine families has become, the researchers conducted a survey of 815 pediatricians and family physicians in 2012. About 66 percent of the doctors responded to the survey.

Those surveyed said it's generally rare for a parent to refuse a



TOBY TALBOT/AP

There are two schools of thought: Rejecting families who don't vaccinate sends a strong message, but keeping them in the fold might help change their minds.

vaccination for a child. Overall, 83 percent of doctors reported that 1 percent or fewer parents refuse one or more infant vaccines in a typical month.

When that happens, 21 percent of pediatricians and 4 percent of family physicians said they "always" or "often" dismiss families, according to the survey results.

Pediatricians likely to dismiss

families over vaccination are nearly five times more likely to be in private practice and four times more likely to be from the South or a state that does not allow philosophical exemptions from vaccination.

There are a number of reasons why pediatricians take this tack, said O'Leary and Dr. H. Dele Davies, a member of the American

Academy of Pediatrics' committee on infectious diseases.

"For these physicians, what I'm hearing them say is they strongly feel not immunizing their children is such a great risk that they're taking a stand," said Davies, an expert on pediatric infectious diseases and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, in

Omaha.

Because pediatricians treat only children, they are likely to be much more concerned with the safety of clientele who have not yet been immunized, Davies said.

"They may be reflecting their sense that, if you don't want to do this, I don't want to expose my other patients to potential risk," he said.

Pediatricians also may feel that they won't be able to establish a relationship with parents if they can't see eye to eye on vaccination, O'Leary said.

"The pediatrician might feel that the physician/patient relationship may not be a productive one if they're so far apart in terms of a core concept like vaccination," O'Leary said. "Pediatricians consider vaccination one of the most important things they do."

Finally, pediatricians sometimes use the threat of dropping a family to persuade parents to agree to vaccination, O'Leary said.

"It really convinces a lot of parents to go ahead and get their child vaccinated, because it's such a strong message about the importance of vaccination," he said.

No one knows what happens to families who are dropped for vaccination refusal, which demonstrates the need for further research on this topic, O'Leary said.

"This practice is pretty common, and we don't know what happens to those families," he said. "We don't know how often they make the decision to go ahead and vaccinate, despite their concerns. We don't know where they go if they do leave their pediatrician."

Dr. Wanda Filer, president of the American Academy of Family Physicians, said her group also discourages dropping families over the issue of vaccination.

Family physicians are much less likely to drop families, according to the survey results. Filer said that's probably because these doctors treat the entire family, and not just the kids.

In fact, Filer said the Disneyland measles outbreak has made parents in her York, Pa.-based practice more interested in making sure kids are properly immunized.

"There's more opportunity for family physicians to double down on conversations about the importance of vaccines," she said.

DREAM HOME



LARRY MALVIN PHOTOS

Historic Italianate home in Highland Park: \$850,000

ADDRESS: 326 Central Ave. in Highland Park

ASKING PRICE: \$850,000

Listed on Sept. 28

This historic Italianate Victorian home is on a tree-lined street three blocks from Lake Michigan and steps from Highland Park's downtown and public transit. Highlights include well-preserved original details, 15-foot ceilings, wide moldings, quarter-sawn oak floors, an original sweeping staircase and a widow's walk with lake views. The home was built with distinctive yellow-clay brick made in Highland Park's brickyards. Built in 1871 by the Highland Park Building Co., the house has gone through three extensive renovations around 1890s, in 1910 and in the 1970s. Jean Butz James, who became an owner in 1968, donated the property to the Highland Park Historical Society the following year. It has served as a history museum since. The home needs extensive renovation and is sold as is. Locally and nationally landmarked, it qualifies for the property tax assessment freeze program.

Agent: Eve Tarm of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's Glencoe office, 847-716-0063

At press time this home was still for sale.



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Building a home worth talking about

Couple looks to start a conversation on green building — using their home as a talking point

By Debbie Arrington
The Sacramento Bee

Gabriel Taylor and Sarah Karliner wanted more than a “green” place to live. They wanted a home to get people talking.

So when the couple practically rebuilt their East Sacramento, Calif., house, they included plenty of conversation starters. Check out that floor-to-ceiling spiral of copper pipe and tubing in the downstairs powder room. What about those mysterious green buttons in the kitchen and master bath? Or the slim white boxes mounted near the ceiling in every room? What do they do?

Taylor and Karliner will gladly explain.

Their house serves as more than an inviting, comfortable home for their soon-to-be-growing family. In one of Sacramento's older neighborhoods, it's a cutting-edge example of efficiency.

And that could provide new answers for neighbors looking for more ways to save energy, water, time and money.

“Our whole design concept was built predominantly on energy efficiency,” explained Taylor, an engineer and public policy adviser to the California Energy Commission. “I work on energy policy and trying to come up with efficient solutions; that's what I do. I've had this plan in my head for 20 years.”

Located in a 1940s housing tract originally dubbed Meister Terrace, the Taylor-Karliner house is totally modern but looks like it's always been there.

This project started small: The original one-story 1947 tract house, which they bought in 2002, measured less than 1,200 square feet.

“It had no insulation, no air conditioning; the furnace was a steel box in the



RANDALL BENTON/TNS

Gabriel Taylor and his dog, Watson, in the kitchen of their California home, left, a cutting-edge example of efficiency.



floor,” recalled Karliner, a music teacher and professional musician who is expecting the couple's first child in February. “Windows didn't open. The place had been a rental, with a junk car parked on the front lawn. We got a great deal on the property because the house had been trashed.”

“We wanted a fixer-upper and we got it,” added Taylor. “Then we spent our life savings making it into our dream home.”

A decade passed between purchase and the start of that makeover.

Putting together the right team is the secret to remodeling success, he said. A longtime specialist in green design and construction, Susan Prang of Creative Eye Design + Build became their renovation quarterback. She brought in architect Ted Smith, and they worked with the couple to create a home that lived up to their expectations.

The couple laid out their ideas, including several unusual energy-saving concepts that Taylor wanted to try. Over several informal meetings with

their design and construction team, the new-old house took shape. The original nondescript bungalow was taken down to its foundation, to be replaced by a two-story, four-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath Craftsman-style family home with 2,250 square feet of living space. Their remodeling budget: \$475,000.

Completed in October, reconstruction took 10 months. During that time, Taylor and Karliner rented a cozy apartment downtown.

“Plus a gigantic storage unit,” Karliner added.

As a musician, Karliner demanded good acoustics in her remodeled home. An assortment of instruments, — including her drum set at the top of the stairs, are part of the furnishings.

“I wanted a place where I can give lessons without students trekking through the whole house,” she said.

“I also needed a place where people could feel relaxed.”

She teaches piano and flute to students ages 5 to 82 in the comfort of the new great room. Nine-foot ceilings let the room, which looks out over the front porch, feel extra spacious as the music soars. But insulation in the walls and double-pane windows keep the sound indoors.

The open floor plan wraps around into a spacious kitchen. The counters look like marble but are actually easy-to-clean Silestone. Throughout, the floors are walnut-stained bamboo. Every light in the bright space is LED.

“We both really, really love to cook, and this is the perfect kitchen,” Karliner said. “The counters are completely nonporous, so they won't stain even with red wine. We tested it.”

With two pets — Watson the dog and Jack the cat —

plus a baby girl on the way, the couple made easy-clean surfaces a priority along with energy efficiency.

“Everything is scrubbable,” Karliner said with a smile.

Perched on the kitchen wall is a white box that serves as climate control. It's the visible part of the home's unusual heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. Each room has its own small, wall-mounted blower in this ductless “mini-split” system.

“Normal HVAC systems use air ducts, which are horrible for heat transfer,” Taylor said. “They leak like a sieve and they also take up a lot of space. Instead of air, this system uses liquid in quarter-inch copper tubes in the walls. Each room has its own control head, which can be individually adjusted.”

“The great thing: Every room is heated or cooled individually,” Karliner said. “You can heat one room downstairs while keeping the upstairs cool.”

Those magic green buttons turn on the home's tankless hot water system. It delivers hot water to the master shower in six seconds. “I've timed it probably a hundred times,” Taylor said.

That sculpted, twisting copper in the downstairs bath? That's a heat-exchanging “power pipe.”

“It lets us recapture most of the heat from the hot water used in the master shower instead of just letting it go down the drain,” Taylor said. “Usually, those pipes are hidden inside the wall, but they looked so cool, we kept it exposed.”

“We're early adopters,” he added. “We wanted to test things and find out exactly what works. I also wanted a conversation piece to talk about plumbing and efficiency, and I got that with this power pipe.”

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Alumni inducted into Ridgewood Hall of Fame

BY MARYANN PISANO
Pioneer Press

Heather Holdway Ritter, who graduated from Ridgewood High School in 1990, still remembers her teachers and classes at Ridgewood.

"The teachers made me a well-rounded person, and challenged me academically," she said.

Ritter, along with Richard Massaro (class of '69) and John Kovalcik (class of '82) were inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame at the Ridgewood Foundation's Eleventh Annual Alumni Hall of Fame Brunch, held at the high school Sept. 26.

"They are all Ridgewood graduates and they've been successful in their lives," said Ridgewood Foundation Director Jackie Gregorio, of the organization's decision to induct the three.

Ritter serves on the board of the Countryside Association for People with Disabilities, an organization that helps adults with disabilities find jobs, and works in human resources for the Daily Herald newspaper.

John Kovalcik, who lives in Barrington, recently retired from a 28-year-long career as deputy chief of the Norwood Park Fire Department.

Richard Massaro was recognized for his commitment to the school board, on which he served for 36 years.

Money raised from the event will fund several \$4,000 scholarships for graduating seniors. Students who applied for the scholarships will find out if they received one at graduation.

"We do this for the kids," Gregorio said. "That's what's important."



MARYANN PISANO/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Steve Ranis of Norridge, Bill Papish of Norridge, and Jim Kelly of Chicago



Top row: Brian Cohen of Lombard, Mark Ritter of Elk Grove, honored alumni Heather Holdway Ritter of Elk Grove, Nell and Michelle Holdway of Schaumburg, and Grace Ritter of Elk Grove. Bottom: Laretta Coyne of Lombard and Sam Ritter of Elk Grove



Mary Massaro, honored alumni Richard Massaro, Tommy Coyle, Tara Coyle, and Maegan Pettit, all of Norridge



AVENUES TO INDEPENDENCE PHOTOS

Peggy Flanagan of Park Ridge, from left, Cristine Hulse of Chicago and Barclay Marcell of Park Ridge

Avenues Fashion show raises \$21,000 for job training

Event: 4th Annual "Beyond the Runway" Afternoon Tea and Fashion Show

Benefiting: Avenues to Independence, Park Ridge

Featuring: Volunteers modeling fashions from Avenues Thrift Shoppe, and crafters selling handmade greeting cards, ornaments and home décor

Attended: 250

Location: Hilton Chicago/Northbrook

Date: Sept. 20

Raised: \$21,000 to support Avenues Thrift Shoppe AveVenture Employment Training Program for people with disabilities

Website: avenuestoindependence.org



Jean Smith of Vernon Hills displays the gift bags created by an Avenues to Independence program participant.



Michelle of United Hair Line Inc. in Niles styles Avenues to Independence fashion show model Kelly Doheny's hair. Kelly is from Park Ridge.

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REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
1117 S Old Wilke Rd, # 409, Arlington Heights	Lorraine A Furmanski	Lydia B Liffick	09-28-15	\$115,000
2315 S Goebbert Rd, # 209, Arlington Heights	Klaudia Dzedzic	Rouslan Iovtchev	09-28-15	\$140,000
1417 W Crane St, # 1, Arlington Heights	Konstantine Kanoles & Helene Kanoles	Tonya Hansen	09-29-15	\$160,000
1515 E Central Rd, # 166B, Arlington Heights	Brett K Sullivan	Frank Paul Soprano	10-01-15	\$164,000
225 E Wing St, # 303, Arlington Heights	Mary Lennon	CAP 1 Llc	10-01-15	\$195,000
1204 N Hickory Ave, Arlington Heights	Caitlin Faith Vanella	Paul J Lobue	10-01-15	\$220,000
317 W Euclid Ave, Arlington Heights	Jeffrey A Madden	Church Of Christian Liberty	09-30-15	\$240,000
21 N Regency Dr W, Arlington Heights	George Hatzis & Tami L Marsiglio	Rairdin Trust	10-02-15	\$250,000
916 S Mitchell Ave, Arlington Heights	Anna Brumer	Guenther H Klaus	09-29-15	\$275,000
415 W Braeside Dr, Arlington Heights	Brian D Salzman	Braeside Llc	09-28-15	\$323,500
208 E Euclid Ave, Arlington Heights	Anna E Lenoach	James S Feddor	09-30-15	\$360,000
16 S Princeton Ct, Arlington Heights	Lito T Medalle & Katherine Medalle	Peter W Jackson	09-30-15	\$445,000
530 S Belmont Ave, Arlington Heights	Mark Sleron	George Stevenson	10-02-15	\$488,000
820 N Dunton Ave, Arlington Heights	Maryjane Bellock & Matthew Hall	Brian Eng	10-01-15	\$504,000
930 N Highland Ave, Arlington Heights	Robert L Rogers & Allison Rogers	Brian D Salzman	09-29-15	\$535,000
4028 N Harvard Ave, Arlington Heights	Jeffrey A Weinstein & Jamie L Thompson	Glenn E Eder	09-28-15	\$577,000
721 S Cleveland Ave, Arlington Heights	Debraj Basu	Matthew S Edelheit	09-30-15	\$710,000
1007 N Stratford Rd, Arlington Heights	Eric Lin & Nancy Tang	Douglas J Pogatetz	09-30-15	\$877,500
1333 N Race Ave, Arlington Heights	Corey M Leonard & So Young Leonard	Scott H Giller	10-01-15	\$890,000
396 S Buffalo Grove Rd, Buffalo Grove	Jose Elias Ramirez Jr & Alaina Jean Radnov	Jose Elias Ramirez	09-30-15	\$8,000
2 Oak Creek Dr, # 2201, Buffalo Grove	Tara Shilmon	Ravikumar Gandhavadi Raghunath	09-29-15	\$74,000
1044 Plnetree Cir N, Buffalo Grove	Christopher G Brown & Jaime M Swezey	Jill Marks	09-29-15	\$179,000
304 Indian Hill Dr, Buffalo Grove	Steve Kovacs	John Schram	10-01-15	\$185,000
585 Le Parc Cir, Buffalo Grove	Xiaodong Huang	Andre Kisliak	09-29-15	\$185,000
402 Diane Dr, Buffalo Grove	Patricio Marban	Junius Trust	10-02-15	\$200,000
1243 S Wellington Ct, Buffalo Grove	Aleksandr Volozhanin & Irina Nikerina	Alix Rucinski	09-28-15	\$209,000
685 Macarthur Dr, Buffalo Grove	Walter Ralph Frederick & Cindy Frederick	Binh H Pham	10-02-15	\$280,000
75 Chestnut Ter, Buffalo Grove	Vassill Altynikov & Anastassia Altynikov	Louis H Frydman	09-30-15	\$460,000
2862 White Oak Ln, Buffalo Grove	Rajeshkumar Pillai & Meena Rajesh Pillai	Pollina Gluzman	09-29-15	\$495,000
1939 Jordan Ter, Buffalo Grove	Yi Huang & Lillian Zhang	Pulte Home Corp	09-28-15	\$674,000
1109 Holiday Ln, # 10, Des Plaines	Joseph G Hauswirth & Ruth A Hauswirth	Loans 4 U Inc	09-30-15	\$48,500
8894 Knight Ave, # 203, Des Plaines	Emil Lukac & Danica Lukac	John P Barzditis	09-29-15	\$78,000
960 Des Plaines River Rd, # 104, Des Plaines	William Volling	Van Lysebettens Trust	09-29-15	\$85,500
9209 Potter Rd, # 1A, Des Plaines	Jayeshkumar Pathak & Chhaya-ben Pathak	Greg Martin	09-28-15	\$109,000
8940 Lyons St, Des Plaines	Rajendra Patel & Vasant Patel	Intercounty Judicial Sales Co	10-02-15	\$112,000
9375 Landings Ln, # 407, Des Plaines	Mohammed Yunoos Deriwala & Mohammed Saad	Robin Capuano	09-29-15	\$115,000
1600 E Thacker St, Des Plaines	Jay L Koeune & Lisa K Koeune	Michael Pawlik	10-02-15	\$135,000
2017 Pine St, # E, Des Plaines	Anju Satheesh Kumar Nair & Manish S Nair	Baikrushna Parikh	09-29-15	\$136,000
1635 Stockton Ave, Des Plaines	Kaitlin M Chagnon	Sheryl L Haste	09-28-15	\$145,000
1764 Stockton Ave, Des Plaines	Daniel Gutierrez & Vanessa Ramirez	Thomas J Dorsch	09-30-15	\$150,000
257 Dover Dr, # E, Des Plaines	Sharada Chandra Patel & Tejalben Patel	Elizabeth L Czarnik Estate	10-02-15	\$150,000
1068 Perda Ln, Des Plaines	Wojciech Raba	Nationstar Mortgage Llc	09-28-15	\$152,000
1610 Stockton Ave, Des Plaines	Stanislav Angelov	Fannie Mae	09-30-15	\$166,500
2241 Lee St, Des Plaines	Scott Sareny	Bank Of New York Mellon Ttee	09-28-15	\$208,000
1476 Perry St, # 603, Des Plaines	Susan L Degrazio	Michael Brouillette	10-02-15	\$220,000
962 Timothy Ln, Des Plaines	Suzie S Chung	Hae Ja Chung	09-30-15	\$220,000
430 S Western Ave, # 607, Des Plaines	Imran Hirani	Stone Gate Of Des Plaines Llc	09-30-15	\$221,000

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
1035 Alfini Dr, Des Plaines	Gary E Cuga Moylan & Leigh J Moylan	Valentin Pamoukov	10-01-15	\$250,000
1440 Whitcomb Ave, Des Plaines	Mark T Terrulli & Kristina Terrulli	Sarah J Kwiat	10-01-15	\$260,000
1225 Wayne Dr, Des Plaines	Kevin M Capps & Amy A Capps	Thomas Cecchin	10-02-15	\$260,000
770 E Golf Rd, Des Plaines	Gultekin Aytekin & Aynur Aytekin	Tsilipetros Trust	10-01-15	\$294,000
2281 Elmira Ave, Des Plaines	Joanna Sokolowska	US Bank Na	10-02-15	\$325,000
1653 E Forest Ave, Des Plaines	Steven J Burval	Fannie Mae	09-30-15	\$331,000
220 Bennett Ln, Des Plaines	Kevin Gondek & Cassandra Gondek	Paula R Castillo	10-02-15	\$335,000
2020 Berry Ln, Des Plaines	Peter Topolewicz	Pawel Andrzejewski	09-28-15	\$368,000
1316 Central St, # 1E, Evanston	Kelsea Llnney	Tiffany J Zens	09-28-15	\$120,000
601 Linden Pl, # 220, Evanston	John Basso & Christine Basso	Susan M Sleja	09-29-15	\$147,500
3500 Church St, # 309, Evanston	Charilly M Siasoyco	Harold Huss	09-29-15	\$159,000
2028 Emerson St, Evanston	Ricardo Gomez	Sa Properties I Llc	09-29-15	\$178,500
601 Linden Pl, # 206, Evanston	Patricia M Spellman	Daniel Carvajal	10-02-15	\$182,000
713 Brummel St, Evanston	Benjamin K Fong	Brinnsp Llc	09-29-15	\$195,000
600 South Blvd, # E, Evanston	Henry F Pettrash & Katherine Kurda	Michael D Travers	10-02-15	\$200,000
1211 Mulford St, # 1W, Evanston	Amanda Wolf & Mary G Wolf	Kimberly Moore	09-28-15	\$260,000
2132 Brummel St, Evanston	Danienell Albers	Vincent Francis Pernice	09-29-15	\$273,000
505 Sheridan Rd, # 1W, Evanston	Patricia A Finnell	Gabriel Bridger	10-02-15	\$292,500
1830 Ridge Ave, # 401, Evanston	Elizabeth Ransford & Galen W Burghardt	Sarah L Kaplan Moore	10-02-15	\$310,000
8630 Ferris Ave, # 506, Morton Grove	Ziad Hyder	Obaidul K Chowdhury	09-29-15	\$106,000
7820 Llnair Ave, Morton Grove	Gloria Cardona	Rose L Salkin	10-02-15	\$215,000
8443 Menard Ave, Morton Grove	Shaheen Akbar	Yong Bok Kim	10-02-15	\$254,000
8901 Osceola Ave, Morton Grove	Yogesh D Patel & Nita Y Patel	Brian Edward Rog	09-29-15	\$264,500
6157 Mayfair St, Morton Grove	Samuel J Chae & Candice Seon A Son	Mohammed Fouzan Hussain	09-30-15	\$290,000
5526 Washington St, Morton Grove	Justino S Penados & Jose M Penados	Ewa Iwanski	09-28-15	\$307,500
9000 Mcvicker Ave, Morton Grove	John F Gately & Faith V Gately	Gilbert R Gettes	09-29-15	\$310,000
7326 Davis St, Morton Grove	David Mendez & Jennifer Y Mendez	Gresham Trust	09-28-15	\$322,000
8332 Concord Dr, Morton Grove	Lisa Marie Kim	Lexington Station Llc	09-29-15	\$329,000
9731 N Fox Glen Dr, # 5E, Niles	Beata Bania	Jay N David	10-01-15	\$88,000
8435 N Harlem Ave, Niles	Zakauliah Khan & Rabia Begum	William Crissie	09-29-15	\$250,000
8033 N Oketo Ave, Niles	Stelia Georges	Karen Y Jensen	10-01-15	\$280,000
8326 N Caldwell Ave, Niles	Sythor Lep & Sony An	Sally J Burns	09-28-15	\$380,000
8528 N Overhill Ave, Niles	Gary Esrig	Mark Ioffe	09-29-15	\$435,000
8643 W Stolting Rd, Niles	Yogeshbhai Singaporl & Hemlata Singaporl	John J Diamond	09-28-15	\$500,000
1039 Busse Hwy, # 2A, Park Ridge	Wieslaw Mystkowski	Karen Kane Kirby	10-02-15	\$154,500
1508 Potter Rd, Park Ridge	Marta Druzbacka	Judith R Andrey Estate	09-29-15	\$239,000
103 N Hamlin Ave, Park Ridge	Jacek Tyszka	Briar Management Llc	09-29-15	\$280,000
1401 Garden St, Park Ridge	Robert Mcdarraah & Beth Mcdarraah	Pina Rigall	10-02-15	\$345,000
115 N Clifton Ave, # 204, Park Ridge	Henry Ospina & Sonja Ospina	Dyanne Bresler	09-29-15	\$355,000
50 N Northwest Hwy, # 212, Park Ridge	Theresa Shannon	Stephen Kunst	09-28-15	\$366,000
1800 W Sibley St, Park Ridge	James Bosco & Charlotte K Bosco	Carol R Kerrigan	09-28-15	\$372,000
222 S Vine Ave, # B, Park Ridge	Leo J Foley	Ronald F Harris	10-01-15	\$398,000
100 S Dee Rd, Park Ridge	Hiram Grau & Karen E Grau	Park Ridge Place Llc	09-29-15	\$399,500
819 Marvin Pkwy, Park Ridge	Charles H Barman & Lindsey Rodgers Barman	Dennis J Eslick	09-29-15	\$405,000
1344 Good Ave, Park Ridge	Scott Jager & Jolanta Jager	Piotr Ozymko	10-02-15	\$407,000
100 S Dee Rd, Park Ridge	Hazel C Alba	Park Ridge Place Llc	10-01-15	\$415,000
100 S Dee Rd, Park Ridge	Leeann Hollaway	Park Ridge Place Llc	10-01-15	\$422,000
108 N Merrill St, Park Ridge	Alice M Dobrinsky & Keith J Henneman	Larry Lazar	09-30-15	\$485,000
900 S Washington Ave, Park Ridge	Joseph Mazza	Private Ventures Inc	09-30-15	\$525,000
1012 S Vine Ave, Park Ridge	Neil Joseph Cox & Mary Cox	John David Foster	09-29-15	\$665,000
433 Meacham Ave, Park Ridge	Adam J Brown & Erin S Brown	James G Duff	10-01-15	\$720,000
730 S Fairview Ave, Park Ridge	Jeffrey A Bzdawka & Ann M Bzdawka	Mvey Trust	09-30-15	\$720,000
104 S Home Ave, Park Ridge	Gregory T Everts & Kimberly M Everts	John A Folan	09-29-15	\$1,000,000

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



MOUNT PROSPECT

This 5-bedroom, 2-bathroom bungalow is located close to Owen Park and downtown shopping, restaurants and Metra station. The main level features a living room with built-ins, stained glass windows, dining room, two bedrooms and a full bathroom. The kitchen has granite counters and stainless steel appliances. The second floor has three bedrooms, a full bathroom and a family room with fireplace.

Address: 114 South Owen St.

Price: \$419,900

Schools: Prospect High School

Taxes: \$9,666

Agent: Laura Parisi/Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage



GRAYSLAKE

This 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bathroom home is located in the Prairie Crossing neighborhood on a cul-de-sac. Behind the home is a private preserve with full grown apple trees ready for picking. The first floor features hardwood floors, a butler pantry with granite, a cook's kitchen with custom cabinets, a laundry room and family room with fire place. The home features a finished third level and a detached two-car garage.

Address: 1270 Prairie Orchid Lane

Price: \$415,000

Schools: Grayslake Central High School

Taxes: \$13,590

Agent: John Worklan/Baird & Warner Libertyville



GLENVIEW

This 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom home features over 4,500 sq. ft. of interior space. The master suite features a walk-in closet with Elfa closet organizers, a spa bath with double sink, whirlpool tub and separate shower. First-floor and basement level baths recently renovated. Home has hardwood floors, a wood-burning fireplace, updated kitchen with granite counters, stainless steel appliances.

Address: 400 N. Branch Road

Price: \$850,000

Schools: Glenbrook South High School

Taxes: \$12,258

Agent: Aaron Share/Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices KoenigRubloff Realty Group



WINNETKA

This 6-bedroom, 4.5-bath Victorian-style home features hardwood floors throughout, high ceilings, large living and dining areas with a chef's kitchen that overlooks the brick patio. Master suite features spa bath with fine finishes. Home is located in east Winnetka close to parks, and train.

Address: 849 Lincoln Ave.

Price: \$995,000

Schools: New Trier Township High School

Taxes: \$20,062

Agent: Jody Brott/Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Glencoe

Listings from homefinder.com.

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Listings are subject to change.
Please call the venue in advance.

Thursday, Nov. 5

DOA Room Escape: 6 p.m. daily, D.O.A. Room Escape, 1450 W. Fullerton Ave., Unit A, Addison, \$29.50

Teachers' tea: Teachers are invited to a high tea so they can take a breather from the stressful classroom. All teachers are welcome. Call the History Center to RSVP. 3 p.m. Thursday, Des Plaines History Center, 781 Pearson St., Des Plaines, free, 847-391-5399

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

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

All-State Exhibition: Features art that has been created all across Illinois. 10 a.m. daily, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300

All My Relations: A Seneca History: In collaboration with visual artist and dancer Rosy Simas (Seneca), this exhibit introduces the history of the Seneca culture through milestones in the lives of Simas and her relations. 11 a.m. daily, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, Free-\$5; \$10-\$12 for talk, 847-475-1030

Native Haute Couture: The year-long exhibit celebrates the history of Native American high fashion from pre-contact to today. It features garments that showcase American Indian artistry and expertise in tanning, weaving, embroidery, beadwork and tailoring. 10 a.m. daily, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-1030

Evanston Legend: The Art of Peggy Lipschutz: A month-long show of the paintings and drawings of Peggy Lipschutz. 10 a.m. daily, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, free, 773-816-4716

Fine Art of Fiber: Quilts, knitted art wear and beadwork are among the abundant handcrafted items on view and for sale. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. Friday-Sunday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

150th Anniversary of the End of the Civil War: Oral histories are presented in authentic civil war era uniforms. 9 a.m. daily, Glenview History Center, 1121 Waukegan Road, Glenview, \$5 suggested donation, 847-724-2235

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

Art in the Library: My Museum Year: Glenview's own fine artist Elisa Boughner shares several of her museum-quality pieces. 9 a.m. daily, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Adult Literacy Classes: Fall Session: Native and non-native English speakers can improve their reading and writing skills. 9:15 a.m. Thursday and Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-635-1426

Battle of the Books: Glenview 4th & 5th Graders - Are You Ready to Read?: Registration through Nov. 11. Establish a team of four members, read the books and test knowledge with other teams at the library. 9 a.m. daily, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Online Job Searching: Look at databases you didn't know existed and conquer the hidden job market. Call to register. 2 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Free Women's Health Seminar: Healthy appetizers, table favors and giveaways are included. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Northwestern Medicine Glenview Outpatient Center, 2701 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, free, 847-535-7441

Teen Science Lab: Make and take your own Throwie, a cluster of tiny, multi-colored LED lights with magnetic bases that can be thrown on to metal surfaces to make them glow. Registration is required. 4 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Converting Your VHS Home Movies: Registration is limited to four and Morton Grove residents have priority. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

House of Torment: 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, House of Torment Chicago, 8240 Austin Ave., Morton Grove, \$25-\$30 general admission, 224-888-1031

Reading with Rover: Friendly Reading dogs are great listeners. For grades kindergarten and up. Call 847-663-6622 or drop by to sign up for a 20-minute slot. 7 p.m. Thursday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free

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

Book Discussion: 1 p.m. Thursday, Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-5127

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

Save A Star's Drug Disposal Program: Accepted are: prescription medications (including controlled substances), all over-the-counter and pet medications, vitamins, liquids and creams. Call 847-579-1300 ext. 146. 9 a.m. daily, Park Ridge Police Department, 200 Vine Ave., Park Ridge, free

Karaoke Thursdays: 7 p.m. Thursdays, Perry's Pizza and Ribs, 711 Devon Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-823-4422

Allngon Mitra: 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 10:30 p.m. Friday, Zanies Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont, \$22 plus a two-item food/drink minimum, 847-813-0484

Food Drive in Skokie: Requesting donations of canned goods and dry food products to fill the shelves of the Niles Township Food Pantry. All foods can be dropped off at Walgreens. Business hours daily, Walgreens, 3945 W. Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-4141

German Stammtisch: Practice German and learn about German culture. 1 p.m. Thursday, Oakton Park Community Center, 4701 Oakton St., Skokie, free

The Language of Business: All students must pass an English language test to enroll and must call to set up an appointment for an interview. 6 p.m. Thursday and Tuesday, JVS Chicago, 5150 Golf Road, Skokie, free, 855-463-6587

Meet Three YA Authors: Ally Condie, "The Matched Trilogy, Atlantia;" Jandy Nelson, "I'll Give You the Sun;" and Meg Wolitzer, "Belzhar." will present a panel discussion on their work. 7 p.m. Thursday, Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie, free, 847-673-7774

Special Exhibition: Three Years, Eight Months, and Twenty Days: The Cambodian Atrocities and the Search for Justice: 10 a.m. daily, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4835

Wilmette Fiber Arts Group: 10 a.m. Thursdays, Panera Bread, 1199 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-293-6755

North Shore Harmonizers Open House: This open house welcomes all interested female singers at any level of musical experience. 7 p.m. Thursday, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1235 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-454-7535

1960s Trivia Night: 1960s attire is welcome and snacks are provided. Space is limited and reservations are required. 7 p.m. Thursday, Wilmette Historical Museum, 609 Ridge Road, Wilmette, \$10 museum members; \$15 non-members, 847-853-7666

The Hadley School for the Blind Woman's Board Fall Wine Event: Twenty percent of wine sales from this event benefit The Hadley School for the Blind. 5 p.m. Thursday, Good Grapes, 821 Chestnut Court, Winnetka, \$25, 847-322-9122

Friday, Nov. 6

"Les Miserables": 7 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Prairie Lakes Community Center, 515 E. Thacker Street, Des Plaines, \$9-\$12, 847-516-2298

Nia: Hollistic dance fitness: 11 a.m. Friday, Monday and Wednesday, Ray-diant Day, 1400 Greenleaf St., Evanston, \$11 drop-in, 847-869-6477

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian free admission day: 10 a.m. Friday, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, 847-475-1030

SRhythms Dance: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Foster Dance Studios, 915 Foster St., Evanston, \$15; \$10 for students and seniors, 847-869-0250

"Boys in the Basement": An original play about men coping, badly, with divorce. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Piven Theatre Workshop, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, \$20, 847-571-0235

Turn to Calendar, Next Page



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Calendar, from Previous Page

Drop-In Chess Club (up to grade 8): Children under age eight must be accompanied by a parent. 7 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Word 2010 Basics: Registration and Glenview Library card required. Register by phone. 10 a.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

GLEnergy Presents Why Am I Feeling This Way? Is This Normal?: Renee Z. Dominguez, Ph.D., and Robin Lake, M.A., L.C.S.W., from Family Service Center present techniques on how to reduce your stress and anxiety through mindfulness activities. Call to register. 1 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Gentle Yoga: Exercises are done in a chair or standing, not on the floor. 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Fridays, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

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

Storybook and Ruach Shabbat: Join in welcoming Shabbat with music and dance, a Shabbat story, and more. Two parallel services and stories for children of all ages. 6:45 p.m. Friday, Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-498-4100

Share The Warmth: Prepare one-of-a-kind fleece blankets for chemo patients. 9 a.m. Fridays, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-293-6755

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

Brush with Nature Art Exhibition: Plein air painters display their artworks inside the gallery. This is a free family-friendly opening reception. 10 a.m. Friday, 7 p.m. daily, 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. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, \$24-\$34, 847-677-7761

"You Can't Take It With You": 8 p.m. Friday, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, \$15-\$68, 847-673-6300

Antiques + Modernism Winnetka Show: Preview Party on Nov. 5. This style and design event encompasses periods of design ranging from the seventeenth century to the mid-twentieth century. 10 a.m. Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m. Sunday, Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln Ave., Winnetka, \$16.74 before Nov. 3, \$20 three-day pass at the door, 847-446-0537

Saturday, Nov. 7

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

Split Single: With Cheap Girls and Eve's Twin Lover. 8 p.m. Saturday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$15-\$25, 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. Noon Saturdays, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston, free, 847-448-8600

Overeaters Anonymous: 9 a.m. Saturdays, St Matthews Episcopal Church, 2120 Lincoln St., Evanston, free, 773-996-0609

Hazzan Alberto Mizrahi: A Voice of the People: 7 p.m. Saturday, Beth Emet The Free Synagogue, 224 Dempster, Evanston, \$10 students, \$18 seniors, \$25 general, 847-869-4230

Signature Entertainment Presents: LOL Saturday: Adult Comedy. 9 p.m. Saturdays, Chicago's Home of Chicken & Waffles, 2424 W. Dempster St., Evanston, \$15-\$20, 847-521-6434

6-7-8 Stories, Play, Create (ages 6-8): Stories, poems, games and crafts especially for primary grades. 3 p.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Local Author Fair: Meet 21 local authors. Drop in. 11 a.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

"Aesop's Fables": 10:30 a.m. Saturday, The Book Market at Hangar One, 2651 Navy Blvd., Glenview, free, 847-904-7304

The Adoption Process From A to Z: Registration requested, drop-ins welcome. 1 p.m. Saturday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free.

Flight Nite at the Library: Support the library, sip samples and learn about craft beer and cider at this after-hours event. Featuring an expert presentation by Beer Expert Kevin Zimmermann, with appetizers and a commemorative pint glass. 7 p.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, \$25 advanced; \$30 at the door, 847-965-4220

Old Town Family Jam: Come for dynamic folk, pop and blues performances that kids of all ages will enjoy. 10 a.m. Saturday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7082

Alpha Krav Maga Compound: Grand Opening: 6 p.m. Saturday, Title Boxing Club of Northbrook, 573 S. Waukegan Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-2716

Battle of the Teen Chefs (Grades 9-12): Register with a team of up to four, or sign up as an individual and individuals can be placed on a team. Must attend a high school serving Glenview students to register. 1 p.m. Saturday, Whole Foods Market, 840 Willow Road, Northbrook, free, 847-729-7500

Treasures and Trinkets: 2015 Annual Holiday Bazaar: Handmade holiday crafts, sweaters, jewelry and afghans, baked goods, yesterday's treasures and much more. Lunch is available for purchase. 10 a.m. Saturday, Park Ridge Park District- Centennial Activity Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, \$1 admission, 847-692-3597

The Devonshire Playhouse: "Jesus Christ Superstar": 7 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Devonshire Playhouse, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie, \$13-\$16, 847-674-1500 ext. 2400

No Shame on U Inaugural Event features Kevin Briggs: Meet Kevin Briggs and participate in a book signing. 7 p.m. Saturday, JCC Chicago - Mayer Kaplan JCC, 5050 Church St., Skokie, \$10; donations accepted, 847-763-3500

Limmud Chicago 2015: Join in a celebration of Jewish culture, community and learning. The lineup includes: Joe Black, Yuri Lane, Lizzi Heydemann, Jane Shapiro, Michael Balinsky and many other Jewish scholars, educators, activists, artists and professionals. 6:30 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. Sunday, Double Tree Chicago North Shore Hotel, 9599 Skokie Boulevard, Skokie, \$90 adult full conference, 312-914-0155

Wintertanz: A Jewish dance party for all ages with the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band. A cash bar is available. 7 p.m. Saturday, Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah, 3220 Big Tree Lane, Wilmette, free, 847-256-1213

Wilmette Farmers Market: 8 a.m. Saturday, Wilmette Village Center, Along 12th Street and Wilmette, Central and Greenleaf avenues, Wilmette, free

Saturday Night Ballroom: This month, Vito teaches the Foxtrot. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Just Dance Studios at Georgetown West, 301 S. Prospect Ave., Wood Dale, \$10, 630-542-7644

Sunday, Nov. 8

Madeleine Peyroux Trio: 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Sunday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$31-\$91, 847-492-8860

Do Not Submit: A Storytelling Open Mic: Sign-Up 6 p.m. A pressure-free night for storytellers to connect, share stories and hone their craft. 5:30 p.m. Sunday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679

GlenVIEWINGS Fall Film Series: "Timbuktu" (97min/PG-13/2014): 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Film: "The Great Raid": In celebration of October's Filipino American History Month, the film "The Great Raid" is shown. This movie is rated R and runs a little over 2 hours. 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

National Novel Writing Month Weekly Write-In: Come write a novel. Snacks provided. No registration required. 2 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Fine Arts Fall: Concert: The Northbrook Public Library's 23rd season of Fine Arts Fall brings instrumentalists and vocalists to the Library's Auditorium. 2 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Holiday Boutique: Jewelry, clothing, craft items, toys, books and much more. There is shopping galore and free raffle prizes every half hour, along with food available for purchase. 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah, 3220 Big Tree Lane, Wilmette, free, 847-256-1213

Turn to Calendar, Next Page

Calendar, from Previous Page

Monday, Nov. 9

The Brothers Nazarov: Featuring Daniel Kahn, Psoy Korolenko and Jake Shulman-Ment. 7 p.m. Monday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$12-\$22, 847-492-8860

Book Bables: Songs, games, story time and free play for babies ages 2 and younger with a caregiver. 10:15 a.m. Monday, Evanston Public Library - North Branch, 2026 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-448-8600

Power of Attorney Workshop: Class size is limited, registration is required. 6:30 p.m. Monday, Evanston Public Library - North Branch, 2026 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-866-0330

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

hoopla, MyMediaMail and Zinio Individual Appointments: A Glenview Library card is required. Meet with trained library staff for a 45-minute one-on-one session. 10 a.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Community Service Club: For grades sixth through eighth. Each meeting counts for one volunteer hour. Registration is required. 4 p.m. Monday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free

Book Discussion: "Everything I Never Told You": 11 a.m. Monday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free

Digital Memories: Drop by the library and learn how you can use the scanner to preserve your photos, negatives and more. 2 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

MGPL Kids: Monday Morning Playgroup: Drop-in play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver to introduce young children to the library in a low-key, unstructured session. 10:30 a.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-929-5102

Knitting Roundtable for Adults: Ronnie Rund, an expert knitter, shows attendees how to knit or how to solve knitting challenges. Bring one's current project(s) and needles. 2 p.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

Minecraft Monday: Students in grades 3-5 are welcome to register to try their hand at this monthly MineCraft Monday challenge. 4:30 p.m. Monday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Green Scene: "Plastic Paradise": A film on the impact of plastic waste in everyday life. A discussion will follow. 7 p.m. Monday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Gold fitness class: Join Angie, one of Stay Fit's physical therapists, for a workout tailored to seniors. 1:30 p.m. Monday, Stay Fit Physical Therapy and Core Wellness, 235 N. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge, \$14, 847-518-5455

Tuesday, Nov. 10

Cas Haley: Performing with Collin Hauser. 8 p.m. Tuesday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$12-\$22, 847-492-8860

SRhythms Dance: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Raydiant Day, 1400 Greenleaf St., Evanston, \$15, \$10 students and seniors, 847-869-0250

Rotary Club of Evanston Light-house: This community leadership group boasts 80 members and meets every Tuesday. 7:15 a.m. Tuesday, Hilton Garden Inn Chicago North Shore/Evanston, 1818 Maple Ave., Evanston, free

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

Tuesday Morning Music: Free hour-long meditative musical performances on Tuesday mornings in the McGinley Pavilion. Music varies from string quartets to Native American flutes, and are focused toward an older crowd. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

Glen Oak Acres Garden Club Hosts Local Business Owner: Jeanne Nolan, author of "From the Ground Up," speaks at the Glen Oak Acres Garden Club November meeting. She'll share her Five Tips for Successful Organic Gardening. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Wagner Farm, 1510 Wagner Road, Glenview, free

WWII & The American Homefront North Suburban German P.O.W. Camps: James Meierhoff, Ph.D. candidate, UIC Department of Anthropology, presents the stories of three German POW camps including one in Glenview. Call to register. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

LEGO Club (grades 1-3): The library provides the LEGO, you supply the ideas. Space is limited. 4 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

PowerPoint 2010 Basics: Registration and Glenview Library card are required. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Still Acting Up: Presents HI-TECH: These singing seniors take on the information age. 2 p.m. Tuesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free

Come Write In: Registration requested, drop-ins welcome. Join aspiring writers to get creative by writing and sharing prompts. 11 a.m. Tuesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

MGPL Kids: Listen Up! Drop-in story and play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver. 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Movies, Munchies, and More: Film: "Love and Mercy": This movie is rated PG-13, and runs 2 hours. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

NaNoWriMo Write-In: Bring one's laptop to the library, check in at the Info Desk, then find a cozy spot and get writing. Use of any open spot in the library is fine. Contact Chad at ccomello@mgpl.org or call. 6 p.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Do More with Excel 2010: This follow-up to Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2010 covers performing calculations with formulas and functions. Registration is limited to six and Morton Grove residents have priority. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Great Books Discussion Group: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie, free, 847-673-1814

Wednesday, Nov. 11

Veterans Day Breakfast: Celebrate and honor our veterans as 2015 is the seventieth anniversary of the end of World War II. Includes a hearty breakfast buffet, and a presentation by Historian Jim Gibbons. 9 a.m. Wednesday, White Pines Golf Club, 500 W. Jefferson St., Bensenville, \$0-\$8, 630-766-7015

Vanessa Carlton: With Joshua Hyslop. 8 p.m. Wednesday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$20-\$40, 847-492-8860

Live Music Wednesdays with the Josh Rzepka Trio: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Found Kitchen & Social House, 1631 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 847-868-8945

Preschool Story Time: Stories and songs for children ages 3-5 and a caregiver. 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston, free, 847-448-8610

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. Register online. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Creative Coworking, 922 Davis St., Evanston, \$65 for six-week series

LEGO Club (grades 4-6): Space is limited, so register at 847-729-7500. 4 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free

HeritageQuest: HeritageQuest is a great basic database for beginning genealogists. Registration and Glenview Library card required. 10 a.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Meditation for Healthy Living: Join Michael Ribet as he discusses how meditation can improve physical, mental and spiritual health. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free

Chess Club: Chess sets and clocks provided. No registration required. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Classics on Wednesday Film Series: Free weekly screening of classic films. 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Turn to Calendar, Next Page

Calendar, from Previous Page

Power4Girls Veteran's Day Off

Event: For girls in kindergarten through fifth grades and features sports with Game On! Sports 4 Girls. 9 a.m. Wednesday, The Accelerated Center, 1900 Old Willow Road, Northbrook, \$40 full day; \$25 half day, 847-229-9959

Twenty-first Star Chapter NSDAR Meeting:

Larry Kantroski presents a program entitled, "Vietnam War-50th Anniversary Commemoration." 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, \$22, 847-328-6946

The TruTV Impractical Jokers Tour

Featuring The Tenderloins: Stars from truTV's hit show, "Impractical Jokers" will perform a live comedy show. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Rosemont Theater, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont, \$51.75-\$250, 800-745-3000

Greg Schwem: Join the comedian and writer for a night of laughs as he debuts his new book "The Road to Success Goes Through the Salad Bar." 8 p.m. Wednesday and Nov. 12, Zanies Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont, \$22 plus a two-item food/drink minimum, 847-813-0484

LitLounge features "Dept. of Speculation" by Jenny Offill: The unnamed narrator of this novel writes in short vignettes, starting with odd facts, memories of boys she loved and recollections from her travels. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, The Curragh Irish Pub Skokie, 8266 Lincoln Ave., Skokie, free, 847-675-9600

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. The evening starts with a tasty dinner. 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, First Congregational Church of Wilmette, 1125 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-6660

Thursday, Nov. 12

Ellen Jewell: 8 p.m. Nov. 12, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$22-\$32, 847-492-8860

Diabetes month by month: Learn how to prevent, manage and take care of your diabetes in order to prevent complications. 5 p.m. Nov. 12, Erie Family Health Center Evanston/Skokie, 1285 Hartrey Ave., free, 847-666-2346

Budgeting: A Mission Support Approach: Facilitator Tim O'Brien, PhD, Director of Financial Services at Lumity, speaks on the role of budgeting in addressing operational planning as well as planning for capital items, with an emphasis on technology. 9:30 a.m. Nov. 12, Rotary International, 1560 Sherman Ave., Evanston, \$40 per workshop; \$100 for three registrations, 847-492-0990

ETHS presents "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer": This play is appropriate for children of all ages. 4 p.m. Nov. 12-13, 7 p.m. Nov. 14, Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, \$3, \$5, \$7, 847-424-7130

Finding Your Ancestors is Easy: Mark Dunn talks about the changes in genealogical research that have taken place since he began working in this area about twenty years ago. Mr. Dunn discusses online resources, other resources available locally and in the greater Chicago areas, and how genealogical work can help achieve a better understanding of history in general. Includes refreshments. Call 847-456-2376 for program details and reservations. 7 p.m. Nov. 12, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, \$20, 847-456-2376

Alliance Francaise du North Shore: Participate in a showing and post-screening discussion in French of "La Haine." Send your RSVP to allian-cefn@yahoo.com. 1:30 p.m. Nov. 12, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-328-9516

Introduction to Windows 10: An overview of the new features and tools. 2 p.m. Nov. 12, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Niles Songwriters: Local songwriters meet on the Second Thursday of the month at the library's Lower Level to discuss their craft and play their music. Acoustic instruments are welcome. 7 p.m. Nov. 12, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Park Ridge Garden Club Meeting: Speaker Mari Mackenbach shares how to assemble one's own holiday arrangements using an array of materials. Mari is a well known flower arranger, teacher and horticulturist. 7 p.m. Nov. 12, Park Ridge Park District- Centennial Activity Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free

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MOVIES

Now playing



"The Martian" ★★★½

PG-13, 2:21, sci-fi

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



"Goosebumps" ★★★

PG, 1:43, fantasy

Silly, spooky monster mashup "Goosebumps" doesn't have to be as good as it is. 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*



"Bridge of Spies" ★★★½

PG-13, 2:15, drama

Tom Hanks stars as James Donovan, a Brooklyn insurance claims lawyer and former Nuremberg trials prosecutor. Donovan negotiated a tricky exchange of a Soviet and 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 Gillen-icke 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. — *M.P.*



"The Last Witch Hunter" ★½

PG-13, 1:38, fantasy

About 800 or so years ago, Kaulder (Vin Diesel) corners the Witch Queen, who is made up of tree roots and bees; she has brought a "black plague" upon humanity. He skewers her with his fire sword, but not before she curses him to live forever hunting witches. Kaulder has been at this witch-hunting game for a while, he can control the weather by fiddling around with "ancient runes," he's got a sick ride and an order of priests basically dedicated to being his personal assistants. The premise of "The Last Witch Hunter" itself, while definitely out there, could possibly work if the nonsensical screenplay didn't throw everything at it to see what sticks. Like that other witch hunter movie, "Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters," this is a film that is completely looney tunes, and it only half knows it. — *K.W.*



"Hotel Transylvania 2" ★★★

PG, 1:27, animation

There was nothing wrong with the 2012 "Hotel Transylvania." Adam Sandler voicing Dracula, a blood-drinking dad who is concerned about the love life of his daughter Mavis (Selena Gomez), was the only thing that stood out. The action picks up with Mavis making Dracula a new vampa (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. 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 DRIVING DEAD

Car models that won't be resurrected in 2016

By **ROBERT DUFFER**
Tribune Newspapers

As showrooms and dealer lots fill with the latest automotive glam for the 2016 model year, a shadow is cast over cars headed for the automotive grave.

Over a dozen discontinued models — the outcasts and underperformers, the models time passed and consumers forgot — will fade away in 2016. Some were cannibals that ate away at similar models in the family; some were Frankensteins too ugly and misunderstood to venture out into the vicious auto world. Some are quality cars that deserve resurrection on the used car market, where greater depreciation can lead to greater deals than a brand sibling, while other discontinued zombies need to be sealed in their graves for eternity.

Honda Crosstour

The bubble-shaped Honda Crosstour, which is an Accord station wagon being marketed as a crossover, launched in 2010 and quickly plummeted to irrelevance due to questionable marketing, questionable design and unimpressive performance and utility.

Honda alt-fuel line

The Accord hybrid sedan launched to much fuel-saving fanfare last year, but lower gas prices and more fuel-efficient engines have helped spur the market preference for crossovers and SUVs, while sales of hybrids have stagnated. Honda appears to be re-vamping its alternatively fueled vehicle program by discontinuing the Civic hybrid, though the CR-Z sports coupe hybrid gets another year. Honda has pulled the plug on the limited release Accord



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plug-in hybrid, Fit EV and stopped California sales of its fuel-cell car, the FCX Clarity.

"Honda will offer several next-generation, advanced powertrain vehicles, including a new fuel cell vehicle set to launch next year, followed by a new battery-electric model and a new plug-in hybrid model by 2018," said Marcos Frommer, spokesman for Honda.

Jaguar XK

With last year's launch of

the awesome F-Type performance sports coupe and convertible, Jaguar didn't have as much need for the stale XK coupe and convertible, which had two rear seats, unlike the F-Type. Produced since 1996, the XK was larger and more luxury leaning than the F-Type, whose 5-liter supercharged V-8 engine and stunning good looks make it a pure sports car.

Jeep Compass and Jeep Patriot

The crossover twins are

discontinued for 2016 on the 75th anniversary of the Jeep brand, but its five-year plan lists an undisclosed model coming in 2016 to replace the Compass/Patriot. The Cherokee was thought to have filled the space between the Grand Cherokee (E segment) and the smaller Compass (C segment), while the Renegade (B segment), introduced this year, represents the subcompact crossover slot in Jeep's lineup.

Mini Cooper convertible, coupe, roadster

In recent years, the Mini Cooper brand ballooned to seven models, but the market, like the mini, was too small for such segmentation. The Mini convertible, roadster and the coupe, the tiniest of minis, will be discontinued. The roadster and the coupe are two-seaters, and the roadster and the convertible are topless, but all of them are done for 2016.

Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution

It's easy to forget Mitsubishi's storied racing history because of the Japanese brand's vanishing presence in America, but the all-wheel-drive compact Evo is a rally legend still doted on by enthusiasts and gearheads. That won't change this year, as the 10th and final generation Evo gets a limited-run Final Edition with a 2-liter turbo inline four-cylinder engine that generates 303 horsepower and 305 pound-feet of torque. Only 1,600 models will be produced.

Nissan Xterra

Nissan is the next automaker exiting the shrinking wilderness of the rugged SUV segment, leaving it to the Jeep SUVs in Trailhawk trim, the Toyota 4Runner, and Land Rover's SUVs, which are almost too nice to go backwoods busting. Launched in 2000, the sport-marketed Xterra with trucklike body-on-frame construction has been pushed out by a wide, comparatively soft lineup of Nissan crossovers, including the Juke, Rogue, Murano and Pathfinder, as well as the full-size Armada.

Scion xB, xD, iQ

Scion may be going

through a midmake crisis. Launched in 2003 as the quirky, youthful alternative to staid parent Toyota, Scion is discontinuing its iconic toaster, the xB, as well as half its product line, including the iQ microcar and the xD subcompact hatch, which is a smaller, rounded version of the xB. Filling the absence will be two mainstream models, the iA four-door compact and its hatchback brother, the iM. Oddly, the i-brothers are more Mazda than Scion or Toyota, due to a long-term Toyota-Mazda partnership based on Toyota sharing its hybrid powertrains and Mazda sharing its Skyactiv gas engine system that is in iM and iA.

Toyota Venza

The Venza beat its lone competitor, Crosstour, to the grave by a month. Introduced in 2009, the Venza wasn't big enough to appeal to crossover buyers, functional enough to appeal to Camry buyers or distinct enough to draw away Subaru Outback buyers.

Volkswagen Eos

The compact convertible launched in 2006 and flew under the radar as the price climbed. The 2015 base model started at \$35,795. Owners praised its charms as a nimble compact more versatile than an MX-5, but mainstream convertibles are a tough sell. The Chrysler 200 convertible folded last year with the launch of the winning redesign of the 200 midsize sedan. Shoppers interested in a compact convertible should check out the new Buick Cascada.

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COLLEGE NOTES

Lake Zurich grad Self piles up kills for Rhode Island volleyball

BY NICK BULLOCK
Pioneer Press

Layne Self, a middle blocker for the Rhode Island volleyball team, continues to crank out impressive performances, recently helping the Rams to a 3-1 victory against George Mason on Oct. 24 in Fairfax, Va.

The junior from Lake Zurich played in all four sets and finished with 12 kills, three blocks and a team-high .450 kill percentage.

That followed a 12-kill effort in a win against George Washington on Oct. 23 in Washington, D.C., in which the Hawthorn Woods resident again led the Rams with a .450 kill percentage while adding three blocks.

The win against George Mason gave the Rams a four-game win streak, their second longest of the season.

Through 22 games, Self ranked tied for second on Rhode Island (16-6, 6-3 Atlantic

10) in kills (238), and second among regulars in kill percentage (.362), blocks (86) and points per set (3.3).

Pujals honored by Patriot League

Loyola's Peter Pujals, a junior quarterback for Holy Cross, was named Patriot League Offensive Player of the Week for his record-breaking performance against then-No. 10 Fordham Oct. 17 in the Bronx, N.Y.

He set single-game school records for passing yards (508), pass attempts (70) and total offense (526 yards), while tying his career high in touchdown passes (4). Holy Cross (3-4) took Fordham to overtime before falling 47-41.

The next week, the Glenview native turned in another stellar performance, this time netting the win in a 42-0 blowout of Lafayette on Oct. 24 in Worcester, Mass. He threw a career-high six touchdown passes

on 27 for 36 passing for 358 yards. Pujals was presented the Edward N. Anderson Award as the Most Valuable Player of the Crusaders' Family Weekend game.

Loyola's Luke Ford, a junior defensive back, recorded six tackles against Lafayette, while Hinsdale Central's Nick Piker, a junior offensive lineman, has started each of the Crusaders' first seven games at right guard.

Other members of the team include Lake Forest Academy alumnus Richard Barber, a senior defensive lineman; Glenbrook South's Brett Laurie, a sophomore running back; Loyola's James Murray, a junior offensive lineman; and Notre Dame's Dan Proano, a sophomore linebacker.

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

Nick Bullock is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.



MARK SELIGER/HOLY CROSS ATHLETICS

Peter Pujals, a former quarterback at Loyola, threw for a total of 10 touchdowns and 866 yards in back-to-back games for Holy Cross.

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It's time to vote for November Athlete of the Month! Visit chicagotribune.com/athletes through noon on Nov. 12 to make your pick.

Michelle Bacalla

Niles North sophomore
Sport: Tennis
Best game: Bacalla finished sixth at the girls tennis state tournament in singles. She advanced to the championship quarter-finals, before falling to Palatine's Asuka Kawai. Bacalla then beat Lyons' Jelly Bozovic 8-6 in the consolation draw. She finished with a 6-2 record.

Madeline Dingle

Maine South junior
Sport: Cross Country
Best game: Dingle placed 17th at the Class 3A girls cross country Lake Park Sectional with a time of 18 minutes, 26.6 seconds. She was the first Maine South runner to cross the finish line and she helped the Hawks advance to the state tournament as a team.

Tyler Tsagalis

Notre Dame senior
Sport: Football
Best game: Tsagalis helped the Dons win a conference title for coach Mike Hennessey. To do that, Notre Dame had to beat Carmel in the final game of the regular season. Tsagalis carried the ball 23 times for 129 yards and two touchdowns against the Corsairs. He also threw for 163 yards and another touchdown.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY SECTIONAL NOTEBOOK

Fagan leads New Trier to sectional title

BY MATT HARNES

Pioneer Press

Grace Fagan was one of the New Trier girls cross country team's most improved runners last season.

Now a junior and in her second varsity season, she's one of the team's best.

Fagan proved that on a cool and rainy day on Oct. 31, at Lake Park's East Campus course to lead the Trevians to the Class 3A sectional title. Fagan was New Trier's top finisher, placing sixth in 17 minutes, 54.72 seconds, as the Trevians totaled 50 points for their five runners.

"I was inexperienced last year, and I went in blindly to each race not really knowing anything," Fagan said. "This year, I am more aware of things and more focused."

New Trier coach John Burnside said Fagan made a statement by winning the Central Suburban South's meet on Oct. 17. She then took seventh at the Niles West Regional, which the Trevians won.

"She's been such a strong and consistent runner for us all year," Burnside said. "We knew of her as an eighth-grader, but she's really worked hard to get to where she is today."

Fagan comes from a family of runners. Both of her parents run, and her twin sister, Helen Fagan, is a varsity runner. Helen Fagan didn't run at the sectional.

"She's my biggest fan," Grace Fagan said of her sister.

The Class 3A state meet at Detweiller Park in Peoria starts at 1 p.m. Nov. 7.

Loyola

The Ramblers did not have their best day at Lake Park, according to Loyola coach Chris-Jon Simon.

Loyola finished sixth as a team with 208 points, missing the state cut for teams by one spot. York finished fifth with 200 points.

Senior Kathryn House was the team's lone state qualifier after she took eighth in 18:06.8.

The top seven runners not on qualifying teams advanced to the state meet.



STEVE JOHNSTON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Maine South's Maddle Dingle finishes 17th at the Class 3A Lake Park Sectional on Oct. 31 in Roselle.

Maine East

Rosie Perez wasn't one of the three Blue Demons to run at the Class 3A Lake Park Sectional, but the senior still received high marks from her coach.

Perez was the team's only senior on varsity and Maine East's top runner for most of the season until an issue with the IT band in her left leg kept Perez from surviving the regional cut at Niles West.

"She's been our leader by show-

ing her competitiveness and toughness all season," Maine East coach Scott Schultes said. "She tried her best [at the regional], but the [Central Suburban North] meet did her in."

For the three who ran at Lake Park, Schultes said it was good preparation for the future. Freshman Kayla Gregario was 103rd (20:21.46), junior Kajal Modi placed 116th (20:52.90) and junior Hannah Flood finished 129th (21:44.66).

"The sectional will set us up

well for next season," Schultes said.

Maine South

Maddie Dingle has been a model runner for the Hawks this season, Maine South coach Jeff Downing said.

"She never runs a bad race," he said of the junior. "Just always solid. She's exactly what we want."

Dingle led Maine South's tight pack at Lake Park by placing 17th

in 18:26.54 and helped the Hawks qualify for the state meet as a team for the second time in three years. Maine South's five scoring runners were separated by less than 11 seconds and the Hawks finished fourth with 115 points.

"I'm most proud of my consistency," Dingle said. "[Downing] tells us to worry about our own race."

Following Dingle were sophomore Olivia Niziolek (20th, 18:28.66), senior Casey Bomrad (21st, 18:28.78), senior Kalina Gardiner (29th, 18:36.80) and junior Olivia Holmes (30th, 18:37.18).

"That is what we do," Downing said. "It was one of our best races, if not our best race of the year. I'm ecstatic."

Added Dingle, "We didn't relax out there. It was all go. Nobody had a bad day."

Niles North

The Vikings two runners at the sectional meet ended their season at Lake Park.

Junior Teresa Knudson finished 130th (21:49.73) and senior Talia Neuhaus was 134th (22:04.76).

Niles West

Senior Nicole Camburn was the only Wolves runner who qualified for the Class 3A state meet. She placed 19th in 18:28.3 at the Lake Park Sectional and was the fifth individual to earn an at-large berth.

Niles West took 14th in the 18-team field with 393 points.

North Shore Country Day

Raiders junior Katie Glew qualified for the Class 1A state meet as an individual. She finished second in 19:55 at the Lisle Sectional.

Regina

Sophomore Helena Walo advanced to the Class 2A state meet. She took 22nd (20:28) at the U-High Sectional.

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BOYS CROSS COUNTRY SECTIONAL NOTEBOOK

Jordan returns to help Hawks reach state

BY MATT HARNESS
Pioneer Press

When Greg Nordahl watched Reese Jordan take the sharp left turn onto the track for the final stretch at the Class 3A cross country sectional meet at Lake Park, the Maine South coach couldn't hide his excitement.

Nordahl had good reason to jump up and down.

Not only was the sectional meet on Oct. 31, Jordan's first race in nearly one month, he competed on a still-injured right foot.

"The poor kid worked so hard to get back, and he deserved the opportunity to run," Nordahl said. "He put it all on the line for the team."

Running with what Nordahl called a stress reaction, Jordan finished 40th in 16 minutes, 3.89 seconds on the cool and rainy afternoon in Roselle. It was his first competitive race since Palatine's invitational on Sept. 26.

More importantly, he helped the Hawks finish fourth (162 points) and earn a trip to the state meet as a team for the second consecutive year. The state meet is scheduled for 2 p.m. Nov. 7 at Detweiller Park in Peoria. The top five teams advanced as well as the seven top individuals not on qualifying teams.

"I really wanted to run for the team," said Jordan, who was on last year's team that placed 12th at the state meet. "I was happy as long as the team got [to the state meet]."

In an effort to return to running, Jordan spent the last several weeks training in the pool, on a stationary bike and on an elliptical machine. He said his endurance was there at the sectional, but he was missing his speed.

But Nordahl wasn't about to critique Jordan's performance.

"He did everything he could, and that's all you can ask for," Nordahl said.

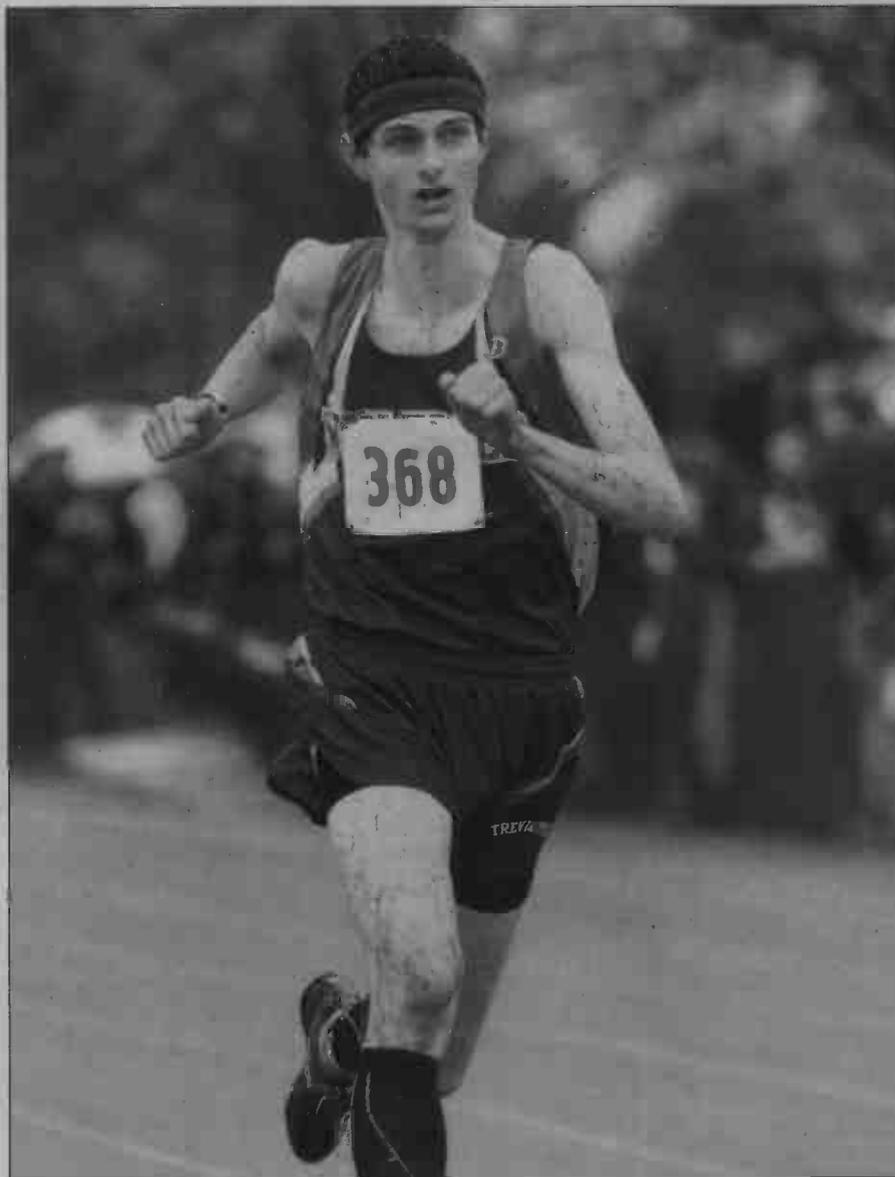
Loyola

In one of the surprises at Lake Park, according to several coaches, the Ramblers finished eighth as a team with 188 points and didn't advance any individuals to the state meet.

Junior Andrew Niewiarowski was the team's top finisher, placing 26th in 15:53.4. Oak Park-River Forest senior Henry Harper was the seventh and final at-large individual qualifier after taking 17th in 15:40.73.

Maine East

After taking eighth at the regional at Niles West, senior Torrain Haughton ended up 49th at Lake Park's sectional in 16:14.44.



STEVE JOHNSTON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

New Trier's Josh Derrick finishes second during the Class 3A Lake Park Sectional on Oct. 31.

New Trier

As a junior, Josh Derrick was buried on the varsity depth chart, a long way away from the top seven.

A lot has changed in one year.

Derrick had a blood test in June that revealed low iron levels. He changed his nutrition and sleeping habits, and became New Trier's top runner this fall. He finished second in 15 minutes, 18.97 seconds at the Class 3A Lake Park Sectional on Saturday, Oct. 31.

"The turnaround has been amazing," New Trier coach Dave Wisner said. "He was something like 15th or 16th on the team at one point last year. To be No. 1 as a senior

was completely unexpected at this time last year."

Derrick started taking a multi-vitamin with extra iron, began eating more red meat and slept at least eight hours a night. That enabled him to perform better during summer workouts and prepared him for the cross country season.

"Going into the first meet of the season, I was looking to be in the top five on the team," Derrick said. "After I ran pretty darn well in the second meet, I was the No. 1. I'm happy with what I've accomplished."

Behind Derrick's runner-up finish, the Trevians took third with 92 points and qualified for the state meet for the seventh season in a row.

But junior Warren Blood (fifth, 15:24.2) had the better day, according to both Derrick and Wisner.

"He runs his best at the end of the year when the lights are the brightest," Wisner said.

Niles North

Vikings coach Dave Shafron said he was confident senior Martin Barr could qualify for the state meet.

Shafron admitted he wasn't so sure about sophomore Conor Perreault.

"He was on the bubble," Shafron said. "I had at least 15 individuals fighting for the seven spots."

But according to Shafron, Perreault ran his best race of the season at the sectional, finishing 15th in 15:39.40. The team's No. 7 runner a year ago, Perreault will join Barr at Detweiller Park in Peoria.

"He's made a big leap," Shafron said.

Barr followed a similar path, Shafron said. The low runner as a sophomore, Barr now is the team's best. At Lake Park, he placed 12th in 15:33.77 and will make his first trip to the state meet.

"Conor likes to kid Martin that he's ahead of him, but they've both had very large increases in their performances from year to year," Shafron said.

As a team, the Vikings took 10th with 258 points.

Notre Dame

In the Class 3A sectionals for the first time and with only two seniors in the top seven, Notre Dame coach John Barrett said he managed his expectations for the meet at Lake Park.

As far as Barrett was concerned, the Dons did well by placing 17th out of 18 teams with 478 points. No individuals qualified for state.

"We were happy to be here, and it was a good learning experience for us," he said. "It was a good day."

Senior Matt Contreras was the low Dons runner after finishing 60th in 16:23.15. Sophomore Jeremy Ermilio (108th, 17:25.11), senior Travis Martin (113th, 17:32.24), junior Adam Sadko (116th, 17:39.89) and junior Braulio Alvarez (118th, 17:43.15) rounded out Notre Dame's scoring five.

Northridge

The Knights advanced to the Class 1A state meet as a team. Led by junior Peter Conroy (fifth, 17:20), Northridge finished second at the Lisle Sectional.

Niles North defense comes up big in upset win

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

During the week leading up to the Niles North football team's first playoff victory since 1992, coach Mark Egofske and his staff continued to tell the Vikings that this year was different.

Niles North just barely got into the Class 7A playoffs in 2014 and 2015. The Vikings were the No. 16 seed against top-seeded Cary-Grove a year ago. The Trojans, who finished second in Class 7A in 2014, scored 31 points in the first quarter of the teams' first-round game en route to a 52-14 victory.

Niles North needed a Week 9 victory against Highland Park to qualify for the postseason this year. As the No. 31 seed in Class 7A's 32-team field, the Vikings were once again matched up with an undefeated team in the first round. Their opponent was second-seeded Young, however, and all week Niles North's coaches assured the entire team that 2015 wouldn't be like 2014.

"Our mind-set was definitely different," Niles North senior linebacker Thomas Gaul said. "I think we didn't believe in ourselves as much last year, against Cary-Grove. Our coaches told us over and over again, 'This is not Cary-Grove. You guys have a real chance here.' We believed it."

Niles North proved that in its 39-14 victory on Friday, Oct. 30, at Lane, but also during its week of practice. On Oct. 28, practice was especially excellent, Gaul and senior corner back/running back Richard Azunna both said.

Wednesdays are dedicated to defense for Niles North, and "that practice really set the tone for the rest of the week," Gaul said. "We came ready to play Friday night."

Azunna added that the Vikings' win over Young was Niles North's best defensive performance of the year "by far."



PATRICK GORSKI/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Niles North's Richard Azunna (25) runs past Young defenders to score a touchdown during the Class 7A first-round playoff game on Oct. 30 in Chicago.

It was needed, too.

"I feel like our defense won us the football game because early on, we weren't moving the ball so well on offense," Azunna said. "Our defense rose to the occasion, and we played very, very well. ... Everybody came out

firing — flying around, gang tackling. It was just great."

The defense's focus, in practice and during the game, was to try to stop Ke'Vaughn Chappell, a junior running back. Chappell's value to the Dolphins (9-1) is similar to senior Barrington

Wade's value to Niles North.

Chappell amassed 1,773 rushing yards and 30 touchdowns during the regular season. He was the focal point of a run-heavy offense. Young quarterback Jordan Hall only completed seven passes during the regular

season.

"We thought that if we could stop [Chappell] we could shut down their offense," Azunna said.

That proved to be true. Young took a 14-8 lead in the first half on two passing touchdowns, but the Vi-

kings' secondary corrected its communication errors and the entire defense managed to slow down Chappell.

Chappell wasn't stopped completely — he finished with 111 yards on 20 carries — but Niles North's defense didn't allow Chappell to beat it. Most importantly, the Vikings also forced turnovers. Azunna and senior safety Romario Gayle both picked off Hall.

"That's our main job, just get the offense the ball," Gaul said. "We trust that they'll get the job done. That's what wins the games. Coach Egofske is always telling us, 'Defense, just three stops today. Three stops and we'll get the job done.'"

Niles North's offense managed to find its groove after a slow start. It closed the game with 31 unanswered points. Junior wide receiver Jordan LaBelle and Wade (24 carries, 169 yards) both had two touchdowns. Azunna (14 carries, 83 yards) scored one.

Winning the turnover battle also figures to be vital for Niles North against 15th-seeded Eisenhower (8-2). The two teams meet in the second round of the playoffs at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, in Skokie.

Even though Niles North (6-4) won the school's first playoff game since 1992, Gaul and Azunna agreed that the Vikings are hungry for more.

"The seniors aren't done, that's for sure," Gaul said. "We want to keep going."

Azunna added: "We just want to leave a legacy ... and go out as one of the greatest classes to come through this district. We feel like we're a very, very good group of seniors that does a lot of things well. Hopefully, the same things happen on Saturday afternoon — that we can play [well] and win."

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Dons have mixed emotions about 2015

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

Two days after their high school football careers ended, Notre Dame seniors Tyler Tsagalis, Ethan Jennings and Kyle Cummings were in a stage between mourning the end of an unforgettable season and gaining perspective on everything the Dons accomplished this year.

Tenth-seeded Notre Dame lost 17-14 to 23rd-seeded Marist on Oct. 30. The RedHawks (6-4) rallied in the second half to beat Notre Dame (8-2) for the second time this season.

"When it first happened, it's hard to think of anything good that came from [the season]," said Cummings, a defensive lineman. "But looking back, it was really an awesome season. [It was] a lot of fun, getting coach [Mike] Hennessey a share of the conference title, which he's never had. There's a lot of good things — a lot of things to be proud of, looking back now that it's had time to settle in. But when it first happened, and the day after, [losing] was pretty devastating."

Jennings felt similarly.

"It was [a pretty special season]. It was the best season of my life," the wide receiver said. "But right now, it's tough, especially just feeling you could have had a bigger impact down the road in the playoffs. If we got by Marist, I think we could have really made our run."

Notre Dame was unlucky to play fellow East Suburban Catholic school Marist in the first round of the playoffs.

Its four losses were to Joliet Catholic, Nazareth, Benet and Mount Carmel.

Despite that, the Dons were excited to play the RedHawks again — even after Marist's 49-42 victory in Niles in the fourth week of the season.

"We thought it was a great opportunity to avenge our loss," Jennings said. "I



Notre Dame quarterback Tyler Tsagalis releases the ball as he is hit in the end zone by Marist's Diata Drayton in the second half on Oct. 30 in Niles

CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

don't think we would actually have wanted any other team in Illinois, rather than Marist. We really wanted this game. We were really excited to play them. No question."

The RedHawks (6-4) are a dark horse to make a deep run Class 8A. They host seventh-seeded Barrington (9-1) on Nov. 7.

Notre Dame, meanwhile, figures to continue to gain

perspective on this season.

On Nov. 1, Cummings, Jennings and Tsagalis were each asked what they'll remember most about the last three months.

"I'm just going to remember all of the guys on this team," Cummings said. "We were brothers."

Jennings mentioned Notre Dame's 29-14 victory over Benet (8-2) on Sept. 11 because it was the night the

team realized its full potential. He also cited Notre Dame's 25-13 victory over Carmel in the final week of the regular season.

The Dons clinched a share of the East Suburban Catholic title by beating the Corsairs that night. It was the school's first conference championship since 1981 and Hennessey's first in his 29 years as Notre Dame's head coach. That victory

was also the Dons' first against Carmel in 17 years.

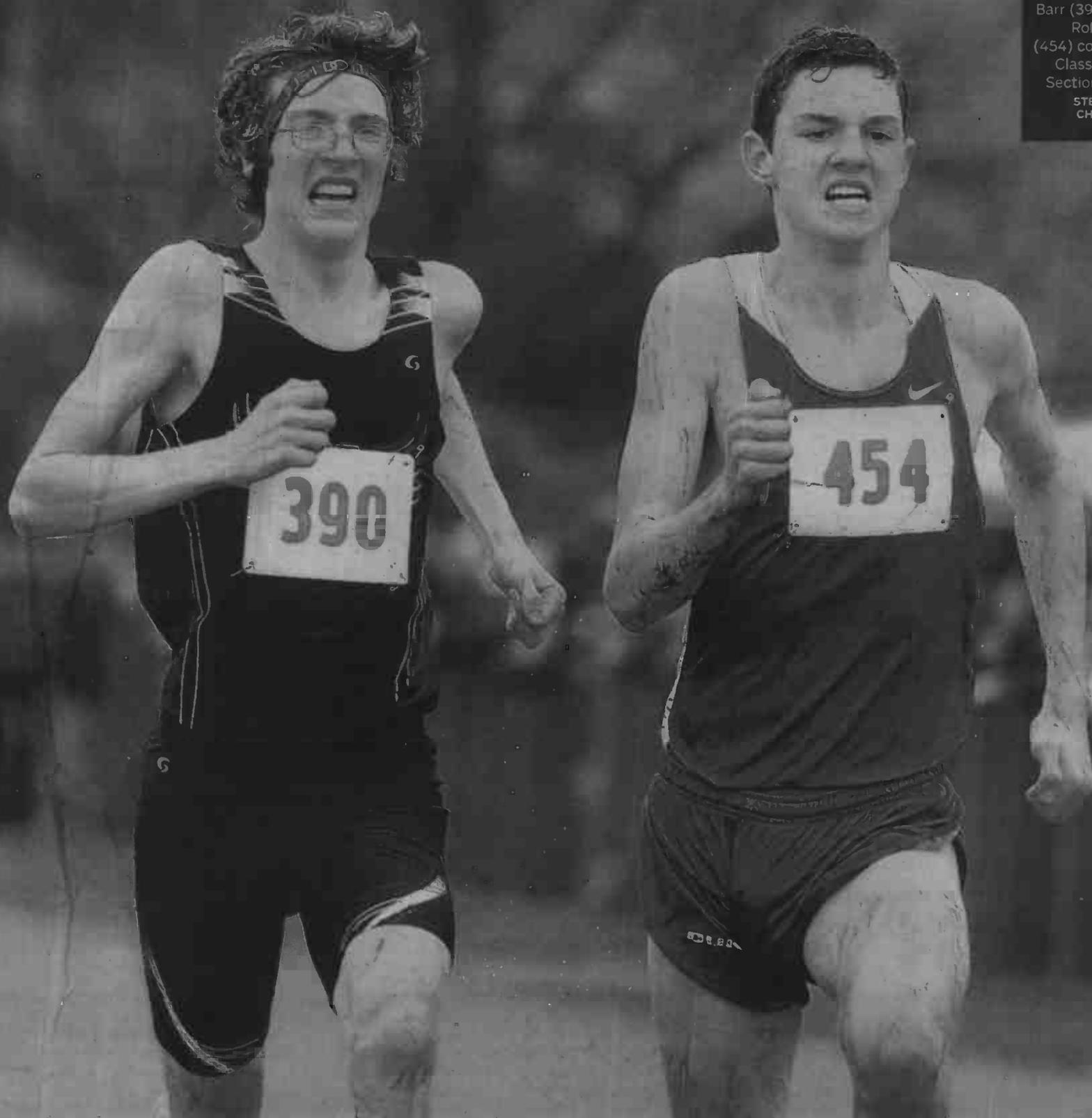
"I think that Carmel game was really something special," Jennings said. "We've always struggled with Carmel. Just to kind of get back those losses over the past [17] years and win a conference title, that was definitely special."

Tsagalis agreed. "The Carmel game, the last couple of drives [is what

I'll remember] — after I threw the interception, and then getting back out onto the field and throwing a touchdown to kind of seal the game," Tsagalis said. "To win the conference championship for coach Hen and finish [the regular season] 8-1, I don't think I'll ever forget that."

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Niles North's Martin Barr (390) and York's Robert Tomaska (454) compete at the Class 3A Lake Park Sectional on Oct. 31.
STEVE JOHNSTON/
CHICAGO TRIBUNE



BIG STRIDES

Progress, improvement evident at sectional meets as several area athletes, teams qualify for state in cross country. Inside



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