Celebrating veterans

Area vets gather in Morton Grove for annual parade, service. Page 4

Bugler Joseph Piento of Niles plays “Taps” as the American flag is lowered on Veteran’s Day in Morton Grove to honor those who gave their lives.

Novel tips

For National Novel Writing Month, local authors share their best advice for writing. Page 23

Season of firsts

Niles North advances to state quarterfinals. Page 45

The perfect card for every holiday.
Joseph Piento, a Niles veteran

Joseph Piento, of Niles, is a bugler for the Morton Grove American Legion Post 134, who said he served 14 years with the United States Marine Corps during the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Q: What did you do during your time of service?

A: I was a naval gunfire spotter. I used to direct gunfire from cruisers to targets on the shore. Unfortunately for me, I never got boots on the ground because they signed the armistice at Korea and then when Vietnam came in, there were no landings so there was nothing to soften up the shoreline, so I spent a lot of time at sea, but I never fired a mean shot.

Q: What do you do now that you're out of the service?

A: I am very active in the American Legion. I've been a member for 30 years and I've been through the ranks. I've been commander and everything else.

Q: Why is it important to celebrate Veterans Day?

A: It's heartening for me to be able to do whatever I can to let people know that we appreciate our veterans wherever they are in the world and make sure they're supported. To me, it's important because we all too often take our men and women overseas who are in harms way all over the world for granted and we don't appreciate how much they put their lives on the line every day.

– Alicia Ramirez, for Pioneer Press

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

CORRECTION

A Pioneer Press story published in the Nov. 5 edition incorrectly stated the terms of the contract for Niles Township High School District 219 Assistant Superintendent for Operations John Heintz. His contract does include a provision for tuition reimbursement. The Pioneer Press regrets the error.

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During the singing of the National Anthem, the color guard from the Legion stood with that of the military academy, the JROTC and the scouts Nov. 8 at the Morton Grove Public Library as part of the annual Veterans Day Parade hosted by the Morton Grove American Legion Post 134.

Morton Grove Veterans Day parade marches on

BY ALICIA RAMIREZ
Pioneer Press

Dozens of residents took to the streets of Morton Grove Nov. 8 for the annual Veterans Day parade that marched from the doors of the American Legion Post 134 Hall to the Morton Grove Public Library for a brief service.

The group of Legion members, JROTC students, military academy students, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts walked their way through the streets as Morton Grove Police cordoned off sections of road. A few gathered on the parade route to thank those who have served in the armed forces.

According to Post 134 Adjutant Ken Trumbull, the Legion has been making this walk since 1931, when Veterans Day was still celebrated as Armistice Day, as declared by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919 after the end of World War I.

“In 1931, we were the Niles Township American Legion, but then we split up into the Niles, Morton Grove and Skokie American Legion Posts in the 1950s,” he said. “Now Morton Grove has 977 members now and we have the largest post in Cook County.”

The American Legion Post 134 gives the men and women who served a chance to talk with one another, share stories and connect with people in the community who experienced the same things they did.

“The Legion is veterans serving veterans,” Trumbull said. “It’s just a camaraderie that we have between each other and we can just talk about things that we can’t talk about with other people.”

Mayor Dan DiMaria was also in attendance.

“Thanksgiving is a day where we pause to give thanks for the things that we have,” DiMaria said. “Veterans Day is a day where we pause to give thanks to the people who fought for the things that we have.”

Alicia Ramirez is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Tom Mann, a retired Army colonel, presents Casey Bachara with the medal he said he earned during his service in the Korean War.
Niles Public Library trustees and officials at a meeting last month.

Niles library board to hold hearing on tax levy increase

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

A majority of Niles Public Library District trustees agreed at a Nov. 5 special meeting to increase the 2015 property tax levy by $800,000, according to library officials.

Library Board President Linda Ryan described the meeting as a “tough” one and the decision to increase the levy by a little more than 13 percent over last year's property tax levy was “not a celebrated event,” but she said something was needed to keep the district out of the red in the coming years.

Trustees Carolyn Drblik and Danette Matyas disagreed with the decision to increase the levy, with Ryan saying the district could have levied for as much as $7.2 million.

Taxing bodies that increase their levy by more than 5 percent are required to hold a truth in taxation hearing prior to a vote on the figure. A hearing is scheduled for Nov. 18, said Ryan, who is a board member of the coming year, she said, and a lower levy would prevent officials from even considering spending services.

“I don’t want to go into a strategic plan saying, ‘no, we can’t do anything,’” Ryan said. “I want to be able to have wiggle room to get the services to the community that they expect.”

Once staff and the board know the cost of the items and services they decide to include in the library’s new strategic plan, and the figures included in the fiscal 2017 budget, Ryan said, she is “hoping and praying, honestly, we can lower this levy to where it was.”

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American Legion prepares to host another batch of recruits

By Natalie Hayes
Pioneer Press

A group of naval recruits spending Thanksgiving away from their families for the first time this year will find some respite from the daily rigors of boot camp when they visit American Legion Post 134 for a Thanksgiving celebration hosted in Morton Grove.

On Thanksgiving morning at 6 a.m., school buses donated by Golf School District 67 will pick up about 70 young naval trainees from the Naval Station Great Lakes. The recruits will be taken to the American Legion Post 135 building on Dempster Avenue, where for the next 10 hours or so they’ll be pampered with a full-scale Thanksgiving feast and unlimited access to phones and television.

During the nine-week long boot camp period—which serves as the entry point to joining the U.S. Navy—the trainees endure long days designed to push the limits of their physical and mental endurance. Those who have access to phones, television, or computers.

The “Adopt-a-Sailor” program began in the World War II era as a way to provide a home-away-from-home for recruits on Thanksgiving, and it continues today at American Legion posts all over Illinois, including Morton Grove’s Post 134.

Veteran Casey Bachara brought the “Adopt-a-Sailor” program to Morton Grove in 2007, and each year he works with the community to pull together all the things needed to create a memorable home-away-from-home for the recruits.

That includes 16 phone lines, six computers, and about 20 turkeys with all the fixings.

Besides providing the recruits—most of whom are two weeks away from graduation—with the rare opportunity to call home, Bachara said the event bridges the gap between the young servicemen and older veterans, many of whom stop by throughout the day to chat and sing songs.

“Us old fogies went through different scenarios that were less welcoming when we came back from war,” Bachara said. “We know these young men haven’t had any outside contact since they started boot camp, so we make sure to show them a magical time.”

After calling or Skypeing with their families and enjoying a little time in front of the TV, Bachara said he only has one request of his guests—that they get together and sing “Anchors Aweigh,” which is the fight song for the U.S. Navy Academy.

“It’s about the old vets taking care of our future veterans,” Bachara said. “We know what it is for these young kids to have this day.”

Morton Grove’s Kappy’s Restaurant and Pancake House is one of about 15 businesses that pitch in to help put the event together each year. Kappy’s supplies all 20 turkeys, along with the other sides to make a complete Thanksgiving meal.

Kappy’s owner George Alpogianis has turned the prep work that goes into the meal into a tradition of its own. Each year, a cooking frenzy starts at 6 a.m. on the night before Thanksgiving, when Alpogianis and a group of about 20 volunteers start preparing turkeys in the kitchen of the restaurant’s longtime location on the 7200 block of Dempster Street in Morton Grove.

They work late into the night and return the next morning at about 6 a.m. to start cooking the green beans, mashed potatoes, and other sides. “We’ve got it down to a science,” Alpogianis said. “My mom always taught us to have an empty seat at the table, so I think it’s nice to be able to put a little bit of good out there into the world.”

Alpogianis drives the food over to the American Legion in a catering truck, and he sticks around for a few hours to spend time with the recruits.

“When the sailors start signing, it’s just amazing,” he said. “I really like to go out there and talk with them and just wish them good luck.”

American Legion Post 134 is seeking donations for their annual “Adopt-a-Sailor” program and for the Wounded Warrior Project. For more information call 847-965-9503.

Natalie Hayes is a freelancer.

Veteran, 87, recalls his Korean War experience

By Brian L. Cox
Pioneer Press

When Gerry Deppe was drafted into the Army in 1950, he was handed one of the newest weapons in the U.S. arsenal: a typewriter.

Deppe, who lived in Winnetka for many years before moving with his wife to Evanston, said he was assigned to a new division in the Army called the First RB and L Group.

After receiving training in the District of Columbia, Deppe said he was shipped to Tokyo where he wrote propaganda leaflets, which were dropped from an aircraft over enemy territory during the Korean War.

Deppe said he had some experience at an advertising agency before being drafted in his mid-20s. He said after submitting a few writing samples to the military, he was assigned to write propaganda. He wrote leaflets and radio scripts, both of which were translated into Korean and Chinese, he said.

“They explained to us this was the ‘newest weapon to be used,’” he said. “We wanted to get the enemy troops to lose heart [and] throw down their weapons. We played on their hearts with your sweetheart is waiting for you. The old cornball stuff. They had evidence it was working.”

Deppe, now 87, also wrote a “slanted side of the news” in phony newspapers as a way to convince the enemy they were losing the war. In addition, on the side he said he wrote movie reviews for the military newspaper, Stars and Stripes.

“We had expert interpreters,” he said. “What I wrote sounded credible. They printed them and sent them to an airfield and they were dropped from aircraft over enemy territory.”

“The radio broadcast worked along the same lines. It was an audio version of what the leaflets were trying to do,” he said. “We had evidence the enemy did surrender or at least drop out. There were a lot of troops that just disappeared.

We did this over China, too, because China was supporting North Korea.”

He also said he was thankful that he did not have to pick up a weapon and meet the enemy face-to-face.

“I though it was great because I didn’t want to become cannon fodder,” he said. “I was a bit too old and I had a girlfriend. I had a mother and sister. I wanted to come back, and this was certainly a safer way to get through the four years than going to the front.”

Deppe said he went on to work for an advertising agency and eventually opened his own agency in 1962 in St. Louis where his wife also worked as an art director.

Deppe said he is proud of his military service because writing propaganda “was a means of making war less violent.”

“Even today we see it in the news occasionally,” he said. “They’re still dropping leaflets.”

BRIAN L. COX/PIONEER PRESS

Army veteran, Gerry Deppe, served in the Korean War writing propaganda that would be air-dropped over enemy territory. Deppe went on to have a career in advertising in St. Louis before moving with his wife to Evanston, he said.

“I wasn’t going to bother about it, but my wife got it all together,” he said.

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BRIAN L. COX/PIONEER PRESS
Drug charges filed in death of NIU student

BY CLIFFORD WARD
Chicago Tribune

Three west suburban men have been charged with selling the drugs that played a role in the death of a Northern Illinois University student killed in a September fall from his dormitory, according to the university.

Late last week, NIU said its campus police arrested the three men, two of whom were NIU students when Timi Okedina, 19, died in September after falling 11 stories from a residence hall.

The three charged are Michael Kielhack, 20, of Elgin; Michael Montgomery, 19, of Naperville; and Thomas Quirke, 19, of Aurora. All three were charged with two counts of unlawful delivery of a controlled substance by NIU police, according to the university.

Kielhack, who was arrested Nov. 6 at his dormitory, and Montgomery, who was arrested Nov. 5 at his home, were NIU students at the time of Okedina's death, NIU said. Quirke, who turned himself in to NIU police Nov. 7, was never a student at the school, according to the university.

Authorities said the three played a role in supplying the LSD that led in part to the accidental death of Okedina.

The sophomore geology student fell 11 stories from one of the Stevenson Towers residence halls on the night of Sept. 26, and an autopsy later showed the presence of LSD and marijuana in his system. His death was ruled accidental.

Okedina, who came to the U.S. as a child from Nigeria, was a former Des Plaines resident and a graduate of Maine East High School in Park Ridge.

All three of the men charged have posted bond and were released, an officer at the DeKalb County Jail said Nov. 9.

Niles Historical Society set to host Afternoon Tea event

BY ALICIA RAMIREZ
Pioneer Press

After not hosting the annual Afternoon Tea event last year, the Niles Historical Society is back at it again this year with the event set for 2 p.m. Nov. 21.

The event will have small sandwiches, cookies, biscuits and tea samplings with a talk by Sheila Duda, owner of Tea Lula in Park Ridge.

"She will share her knowledge of tea in a presentation," LaVern Koza, social events coordinator of the Niles Historical Society said. "Tea Lula will also be providing the teas."

Her topic for the afternoon will be, "Steeped in History: Tea's Journey to America," according to a release from the historical society.

The cost to attend the event is $20 per person, and seating is limited. Gloves and other such clothing are encouraged for the event.

"I'm not really a big tea drinker, but it's fun to try the different little cookies, sandwiches and learning more about the tea," Koza said.

Alicia Ramirez is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
The following items were taken from Niles Police Department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.

BATTERY
- Luis Hernandez, 22, of the 8800 block of Carleah Street, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with domestic battery on Nov. 1. Hernandez has a Nov. 17 court date.

RESISTING
- Chad Peplinski, 30, of the 200 block of North 91st Street, Milwaukee, was charged with four counts of resisting a police officer and one count of possession of drug paraphernalia on the night of Nov. 3. According to police, officers came into contact with Peplinski after leaving an unrelated call in the 7100 block of Milwaukee Avenue at 8 p.m. Peplinski was “acting suspicious” and parked in a fire lane. Officers later reportedly observed him throw items over a fence, but when Peplinski was told to place his hands on the hood of a squad car, he allegedly tried to run from police and was accused of physically struggling with officers. Police said a stun gun was used on Peplinski’s back and he was then taken into custody. According to police, a search of the area where Peplinski had been seen throwing items revealed nothing, but during a search of Peplinski's car, “items commonly used to ingest controlled substances” were found. Peplinski had a scheduled Nov. 20 court date.

WARRANT
- Salvatore Arnold, 64, of the 7000 block of Newark Avenue, Niles, was taken into custody Nov. 2 on an unlawful use of a weapon warrant out of Chicago. Police came into contact with Arnold after responding to a call of a person who had fallen out of a wheelchair in the 7200 block of Harlem Avenue. Arnold reportedly told police that he fell out of his chair while going up a small incline and that he was waiting for a taxi to take him home. He has a Dec. 3 court date.

UNATTENDED CHILD
- Police responded to Golf Mill Shopping Center Nov. 4 after receiving a report of a young child crying and walking around the parking lot between Shop 'N Save and the Showplace theater. According to police, the child's 39-year-old mother said she left her sleeping 5-year-old daughter in the car while she went into the grocery store. A witness and a member of Golf Mill security both told police they had been with the child for at least 10 to 12 minutes. The child's mother was ticketed under a local ordinance and was not named by police.

THEFT
- An unknown man reportedly stole a case of whiskey, valued at $178.69, from a store in the 8700 block of Dempster Street Oct. 31.

SCAM
- Police said a “self-proclaimed gypsy” admitted to scamming a 60-year-old woman out of $10 in cash on Nov. 2 after pretending to be a domestic violence victim with no place to live. According to police, the suspect was asking customers for money outside a gas station in the 7600 block of Milwaukee Avenue. The woman who had given the suspect cash did not want to sign a criminal complaint, but did ask for her money to be returned, police said. The suspect, who reportedly told police that she has no job and “only knows how to scam for money,” was issued a local ordinance citation for soliciting without a permit and was not named by police.

THEFT
- A woman told police that $1,115 in cash, as well as a debit card and credit cards, were stolen from her purse Nov. 3 while she was working in a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center.

THEFT
- Police said a woman's wallet was stolen by a customer while she was inside a store in the 8500 block of Golf Road on the evening of Nov. 3. The woman had reportedly left the wallet on the store counter before it was taken.

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DARLENE LOVE
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One of Rolling Stone’s 100 Greatest Singers of All Time

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Sun., Dec. 6 2:00 and 6:30 PM

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ORT graduates hear a message of forgiveness

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Karen Kaplan doesn't believe that making the sometimes difficult decision to forgive and move on in life is restricted to any one experience or geographic area.

That's why she was asked to speak to a recent graduating class of Skokie's Chicago ORT Technical Institute. At first glance, Kaplan may seem an unusual choice to be the keynote speaker at a school populated with students of diverse backgrounds and ages trying set a new course for themselves in life.

In her self-published book, "Descendants of Rajgod," she talks about her father's horrific experiences as a Holocaust survivor and how that contributed to him being abusive to her. Before he died, however, Kaplan said she was able to forgive, which helped her successfully move on with her life.

Some of the students at ORT have had their own painful and difficult experiences with which to deal, Kaplan said before speaking at the school's 29th commencement ceremonies. Students have come to ORT from different parts of the world.

Chicago ORT Technical Institute is affiliated with World ORT, which trains more than 300,000 students worldwide each year, according to the nonprofit school. The school in Skokie operates in an unlikely location — in a small industrial area on Fargo Avenue just to the west of Niles Center Road.

Executive Director Michelle Movitz said about 100 students graduated from the Skokie school last month, one of two ceremonies held during the year.

ORT has an enrollment of about 300 students, she said.

Most of the Oct. 28 graduates earned English as a second language certificates. Degrees or certificates in applied science in accounting, computer and networking technology, digital graphics and web design, pharmacy technician study and medical assistant study were also handed out.

"We all have had wonderful and terrible childhood memories," Movitz told the graduating class. "However, it's undeniable that your experiences at home and at school impact who you are and how you deal with situations. In either case, remembering where we came from, building on the positives and discarding the negatives is a key for future success and happiness."

A Highland Park resident, Kaplan said she believes the message in her memoir resonates with these students — some of whom were even refugees from war-torn areas.

"Life provides us with people and experiences that challenge us," she told the graduates. "My father was brought into my life to teach me one of the most valuable lessons — the lesson of forgiveness. He became the greatest teacher in my life, and for that, I am indebted to him."

To Kaplan, forgiveness is "letting go of my past, not forgetting, not overlooking, but emotionally freeing myself from the anger, disappointment and resentment that permeated my being."

She hopes to inspire students along the same path, she said.

"For those of you who have been victims of war, for those of you who have been abandoned, rejected, abused and wronged by relatives, friends and strangers, understand that we cannot change our past," Kaplan said. "What can be changed is our way of thinking, feeling and behaving. If we cling to life's bitter experiences, we will suffer."

Graduates last month adopted a similar philosophy, speaking more about the potential of a bright future than the memory of a difficult past.

"Life is hard my friends," said Noel Herrera who came from the Philippines four years ago and earned an English as a second language certificate from ORT. "Believe in yourselves and be positive."

Herrera's family sought "a better life" when they came to the United States, he said. He and his wife now work as caregivers and both have good employers. They have a 2-year-old child, he said, and their life is not always easy.

But Herrera also said it's important to remember that there are others who suffer, are hungry and face war.

"Continue to persevere, be patient and be persistent," he said. "Some day, somehow, we can all make it."

Mayra Barajas Zavala earned a degree as a medical assistant at Chicago ORT Technical Institute.

"Most of us are looking at the future and wondering what life may hold for us," she said, looking out over her fellow graduates. "But whether we continue to extend our education or we go a different direction, the satisfaction will derive from the life's work we choose."

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D219 employees express concern over "outsourced workers"

By Brian L. Cox
Pioneer Press

The use by Niles Township High School District 219 of "outsourced workers" is having a negative impact on everything from the classroom to the boiler room, unionized district employees told the school board during a recent meeting.

Dozens of teachers and district support staff were at the Nov. 3 School Board meeting in Skokie asking that the district rethink its use of "outsourced workers" to the forefront.

"Come talk to us," Sproat said. "We're human beings. We want to know what's going on in the community. We want to know what's going on with the teachers. We want to know what's going on with the support staff, everybody. Do not hesitate to speak!"

Although teacher positions are not being outsourced, maintenance, secretarial and tech positions have been and that is becoming a problem, said Cameron Sweeney, president of support staff at Niles Township Federation of Teachers and Support Staff.

"Our goal is that we want to start a conversation," Sweeney said.

She said the union mobilized its members to attend the Nov. 3 meeting as a non-confrontational way to bring the issue of the district's use of "outsourced employees" to the forefront.

"We basically asked our members who had concerns throughout their departments," she explained. "We asked them to come forward to speak about how outsourcing has impacted their departments."

"We polled our membership and these were the people who felt their departments were impacted by outsourcing," she added. "Our members are always eager to get involved. They're so passionate about District 219 and serving the students. Everybody in our membership wants what's best for our schools, what's best for the students and what's best for the learning environment."

Like many school districts across the country, District 219 has turned to the outsourcing of some jobs as a potential way to save money. But many of the district employees who addressed the School Board on Nov. 3 pointed out that the district pays a lot of money to the companies that supply the "outsourced workers" and said that the workers themselves are usually not well paid and are often not given any benefits.

"Our end goal is to make sure all the employees in the district are being treated fairly," Sweeney said. "We want what's best for each department to stay as productive as possible."

The exact number of "outsourced employees" working in the district was not made available but Hugh Flack, the lead maintenance mechanic at Niles North High School, said his department has been impacted.

He told the board that over the last several years the district has chipped away at the size of the maintenance staff in an effort to save money and streamline the department even as the total square footage of the district has increased. He also said the district has failed to replace retiring employees and that "outsourced workers" are filling maintenance positions that were once held by fulltime district employees.

"As it turns out these outsourced employees have a lack of skills," said Flack. "The district's response was to try and train these people in the basics. These basics should already have been known by these people."

"This created a drop in productivity as well as an increased safety risk to the students and staff," he added. "It is because of this outsourcing that we have unlicensed people working in our electrical, mechanical and life safety systems. Would you want an accountant fixing your new car?"

He also said that a "contract employee" recently botched a repair which ended up costing the district $2,500 in new equipment and the cost of labor to fix the mistake.

"There are quite a few of these examples," Flack said. "If the district wants to make more with less, the answer is simple. Get the right people in the first place and make them district employees."

Sweeney said union representatives will be meeting with the board president on a monthly basis "to continue the conversation."

"I know the principals will be having these conversations with departments in their buildings," she said. "We will continue to have our biweekly meetings with administration. We're really hoping that we can start working some of this out."

Brian L. Cox is a freelancer.

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Books and brews

Morton Grove Public Library raises a glass at Flight Nite

BY ALICIA RAMIREZ | Pioneer Press

Kevin Zimmermann, beer manager of Durty Nellie's in Palatine, talks the group through the tasting of a cider at the Nov. 7 Flight Nite at the Morton Grove Public Library.

The Morton Grove Public Library offered more than just its normal array of services this past weekend at Flight Nite hosted by the Morton Grove Public Library Foundation.

The library was transformed with shelves that normally feature best-sellers now featuring books about craft beer, home brewing and the history of craft beer in America. The service desk that is normally staffed to help people find their way around was instead manned by a bartender serving up beer and wine. The tops of shelves and tables were filled with pizza, fruit and veggie dishes and small snacks. And the meeting room in the library was transformed into a tasting room where guests were able to sample six beers and one cider while hearing from beer expert Kevin Zimmermann, of Schaumburg, the beer manager at Durty Nellie's in Palatine.

"Even if you don't know anything about beer, hopefully you will learn something tonight," Brenda Ross, librarian, said at the beginning of the tasting. "It is a library and we need to learn."

With Zimmermann at the helm, the group learned about different beer types such as porters, stouts, India pale ales and an ESB and what makes each of these beers what they are.

"I had certain things that I wanted to do because I knew this was going to be more entry-level, so I wanted to show off just some of the starter parts of craft beer," he said of the flight. "I wanted to focus on those three major players in the ingredients that when you change them just a little bit, it changes the entire experience and that allows people an opportunity to try some new things."

For Morton Grove Trustee John Thill, he learned that he is not a fan of beer. "The cider was definitely more my taste," he said. "I came out to support the library. It's just a great thing to have people backing the library."

The event, while getting more people into the library who wouldn't usually come out, was also a fundraiser to help the library pay for the matching part to a $50,000 grant it received for renovation work.

"The work has already been done," Ross said. "We got a wheelchair lift in (the auditorium) and some other cosmetic improvements, so the bills are coming due for that, and we redid the entire first and second floor of the library, too."

Ross was pleased with the turnout noting roughly 80 tickets were sold before the event and even more sold at the event. Maria DeLeon, of Morton Grove, was one of the many people at the library that night enjoying the unique event and learning more about craft beer.

"It's never been done, especially at the library," she said. "It brings the community together, and what brings people together better than alcohol."

Alicia Ramirez is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Prospective patients tour Evanston's soon-to-open pot dispensary

BY BOB SEIDENBERG
Pioneer Press

Evanston resident Nancy Schwartz had talked to a friend in Colorado before attending an open house Nov. 9 for the Evanston's first medical marijuana dispensary, which is slated to open soon.

A mixture of residents, including some potential patients like Schwartz, who said she suffers from lupus, checked out PharmaCannis, a co-CEO of PharmaCannis, at the open house after receiving a notice in the mail.

She had talked to a friend in Colorado before Schwartz told Francello, an Evanston resident who serves as the general manager of the new facility, said the Oak Park-based company that runs the facility, PharmaCannis, intended it to look like a pharmacy.

"It's definitely a change of perception of how we want it here," Francello told Schwartz. "It's all about medicine and care for the patient!"

The dispensary is not yet open for business, said Teddy Scott, co-CEO of PharmaCannis, at the open house. He said the facility passed its final inspection on Nov. 7 but still has a few minor permit signoffs needed from the city.

Once the dispensary is open, access will be limited to those with state registration cards, "so this is the one opportunity for the public to see it," he said.

The facility is laid out so that patients have to progress through several checkpoints before they receive their product.

Patients progress from the front desk to a waiting room, to a special consultation area. Francello hands the product, contained in an opaque package, from the dispensary room through a window to the patient.

The opaque bag is placed in another a zipped bag that the patient can keep and in another opaque bag that the patient can bring in the next time, she said. "It's very efficient," she added.

Some patients at the open house spoke of their journey to this long-awaited moment in a medical marijuana facility.

Jeffrey Allen, a 69-year-old Evanston resident, said he has been waiting for months for the dispensary to open after being diagnosed with prostate cancer in August of last year.

"I went through a stage just before I was diagnosed — I was taking a pound of aspirin a day and it didn't work," said Allen.

He said he's been keeping track of the program online and decided to come to the open house after receiving a notice in the mail.

"I can go to another (dispensary) that is on the list, there are five to seven," he said. "I don't drive. This is my place, this is where I'll be".

Schwartz told Francello she has been frustrated with the state program's signup process. She said she has had to resubmit her photographs and fingerprints multiple times.

She also said she has received help from a small company in Chicago, Good Intentions Medical Marijuana Services, in filling out the papers and documentation needed for the program.

As of Nov. 7, she said, she is still waiting for the state to accept her registration.

As to whether medical marijuana will help in her case, "I have no clue," she responded.

"I have taken all kinds of medications prescribed for pain and the symptoms of lupus. However, I have extreme reactions to all the medications. Any indications on any medicine I get to the extreme."

"I don't want to get high," she stressed. "I just want some relief."
Children chase their pumpkins down the sled hill during the annual Pumpkin Smash Nov. 7 at Centennial Park.

Park Ridge pumpkin event a smash hit

By Jennifer Johnson
Pioneer Press

With hammers, baseball bats and even a slingshot in hand, area children found a new use for their old Halloween pumpkins last weekend.

The Park Ridge Park District's Pumpkin Smash and Bash drew a crowd of families to Centennial Park Saturday for what has become a community tradition. The event, now in its fifth year, began with a contest to see whose pumpkin could make it to the bottom of the Centennial Sled Hill first, with ribbons awarded for first, second and third place, said Jenny Clausen, supervisor of the Park District's Wildwood Nature Center, which hosts the Pumpkin Smash.

Once the competition was done, the smashing began. Hammers, baseball bats, mallets and even some foot stomping reduced former jack-o-lanterns to pieces that will be turned into compost, Clausen said.

Some kids had a chance to fling pieces of their smashed pumpkins back up the sled hill using a slingshot held by staff.

“It's basically a fun way to recycle your pumpkin,” Clausen said.

Each year, the compost formed by the smashed pumpkins is delivered to a local garden center, she added.

“It's just a fun family event and the parents have as much fun smashing the pumpkins as the kids do,” Clausen said. “It's something they don't get to do all the time.”

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Donated painting captures Holocaust sculpture

Like many people, Skokie artist Michael Latala felt the power of the Holocaust monument that is seen every day in Village Green between Skokie Village Hall and the Skokie Public Library.

The monument, which captures a Jewish family during the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto uprising, was installed in 1987, a gift to the village by the Sheerit Hapleitah of Metropolitan Chicago on behalf of the local community of Holocaust survivors.

According to the village, Skokie has been home to 7,000 such survivors.

Latala said he wanted to donate his own gift, a painting of the sculpture that will hang in a prominent yet-to-be-determined place, Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen assured.

Latala, a member of the Skokie Art Guild along with his wife, said he has always been taken with the monument.

"I always liked that structure being bronze and granite against the trees," he said. "From an artistic standpoint, I always wanted to do a painting of it."

This summer, Latala submitted his painting in a show at the Skokie Festival of Cultures and it won first place. "I just thought it was a beautiful piece of sculpture," he said about his reason for drawing it.

The Holocaust monument was designed by Bert J. Gast; sculpted by Edward Chesney, a Detroit-based artist, and the contractor was Fred Kornick of Kornick Monuments of Chicago.

Latala works in oils and pastel, including landscapes, figures and still life. According to his biography, he studied at the American Academy of Art in Chicago, the Palette and Chisel Academy.

In addition to the Skokie Art Guild, he is a member of the Chicago Pastel Painters and the Wilmette Arts Guild.

"Courage" by Michael Latala

"I enjoy trying to capture the beauty of the world around me as I see it, whether it be a landscape, figure or still life," he said in a statement on his website. "Painting my subject in oils or pastels from life has become my passion."

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3 Students get perfect score on ACT exam

BY BRIAN L. COX
Pioneer Press

Niles North High School students Emi Kanda, Martin Wiviott and Meital Hoffman all scored a perfect score on their ACT.

The three students were each presented with a plaque during the Nov. 3 Niles Township High Schools District 219 board meeting. Niles North principal, Ryan McTague said that less than 0.1 percent of students who take the test nationally earn a perfect composite score of 36.

"What's truly remarkable is that...we have three students in the same year do it at Niles North," McTague said. "This is an amazing individual accomplishment. All three students worked so hard academically in all of their classes."

He commended the students accomplishments as a service to the school and the community.

"They make our classes stronger. They lead by example. They're always there to help their teachers and fellow students," McTague said.

Brian L. Cox is a freelancer.
Possible e-cigarette tax worries vape businesses

BY LEE V. GAINES

Pioneer Press

Ben Ventura is worried about his business.

Ventura owns VapeCity Chicago, a small chain of stores specializing in e-cigarettes and the liquids that fuel them, with locations in Skokie, Mount Prospect and Lincoln Park in Chicago. He said he's concerned about the impact a possible 20-cent per milliliter tax on e-cigarette liquid included as part of Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle's proposed 2016 budget may have on the health of his business. The tax, if approved, is estimated to generate about $1.5 million in revenue for the county.

"We're all pretty upset about it," Ventura said, referencing other vape shop owners he's spoken to about the proposed tax.

He said his business in Lincoln Park may be hardest hit by the tax. Chicago aldermen recently passed a budget that included an e-cigarette tax estimated to generate $1 million in revenue for the city, and Ventura said a Cook County tax on top of that would increase the cost of e-cigarette liquid so much that it would be in line with what customers could expect to pay for traditional cigarettes in the city.

Vape shop owners and users alike have criticized the proposed tax during a series of public hearings on the budget.

Opponents to the tax claim e-cigarettes, which contain a battery, a heating element, and a cartridge holding nicotine, other liquids and flavorings, are a healthy alternative to traditional cigarettes.

But experts say the long-term health effects of e-cigarettes are still unknown and data indicate adolescents using the devices are more likely to eventually smoke traditional cigarettes than those who don't.

Ben Reyes, owner of Colossal Vape in Des Plaines, told Cook County commissioners at a hearing in Skokie late last month that he'd move his business out of the county if the tax was approved as part of next year's budget. Reyes told commissioners he was "a sick, degenerate smoker" before he opened his business and switched entirely to inhaling only the nicotine vapor produced by e-cigarettes, and his physical health has improved as a result.

"I think you're argument about people moving to vaping and moving away from cigarettes, we haven't heard enough about that," said Cook County Commissioner Timothy Schneider, 19th.

Ventura said e-cigarettes have also helped him avoid using traditional cigarettes for the past three years, and he said the majority of his customers have similarly made the switch.

But Andrea King, a professor of psychiatry and director of the Clinical Addictions Research Laboratory at the University of Chicago, said only about 5 or 6 percent of e-cigarette users avoid smoking traditional cigarettes altogether.

"Most people who use e-cigarettes are dual users," said King. "They'll go back and forth between e-cigarettes and combustible cigarettes."

She said an experienced e-cigarette users' exposure to nicotine can be two to five times higher than with a regular cigarette.

The higher nicotine consumption, she said, continues the addiction rather than curbs it and increases the risk for liquid nicotine poisoning.

"We can say e-cigarettes are almost certainly lower risk than traditional cigarettes, but you can say that about just about anything because combustible cigarettes are the leading cause of preventable death worldwide," said Amanda Mathew, a postdoctoral research fellow at Northwestern University's Department of Preventive Medicine.

Both King and Mathew said one of the biggest concerns is the devices' appeal to adolescents, especially given the variety of fruity and sweet e-cigarette liquid flavors available for purchase.

A study funded by the National Institutes of Health recently concluded that adolescents who have used e-cigarettes before ninth grade are more likely than those who haven't to start smoking traditional cigarettes within a year.

"The concern is, it is hooking people who otherwise would not be e-cigarette or tobacco users," Mathew said.

Another worry stems from a current lack of regulation of e-cigarette products by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Without regulation, consumers have "no way of knowing for sure what (they're) going to get — the products are highly variable," Mathew said.

Ventura said he welcomes regulation by the FDA, but he says adolescent use of e-cigarettes as a justification for taxing the products "is a lame excuse." He said local laws prevent sales of the product to anyone under the age of 18.

If county commissioners ultimately vote to tax e-cigarette liquid, Ventura said moving his business out of the county and Chicago is "the last thing we'd want to see happen."

"There's really not much we can do at this point except to see what happens and how it's going to affect our customers," he said. "At the end of the day it's our customers who keep us alive."

Lee V. Gaines is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
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Tough to tell good guys from bad guys anymore

Randy Blaser

Last week, I saw the excellent new movie “Bridge of Spies,” which tells the story of the lawyer who brokered a deal in the early 1960s with the Soviet Union trading a Russian spy for captured U2 pilot Francis Gary Powers.

One scene in the film was a scene very recognizable to me. Young school kids were watching a movie about how to survive an atomic blast and were told to “duck and cover.”

It was a maneuver I had learned back in those crazy Cold War days. We practiced ducking under our desks and covering up. We practiced going into the hallway and sitting cross-legged against the wall with our hands behind our heads. We were told not to look up because the brightness of the blast would blind us.

All that remembering made me think: That’s a crazy way for a kid to grow up, thinking that you could be vaporized in an instant at any moment.

In a way, it explains a lot about the Baby Boomer generation and why we seem so hedonistic, so “anything goes,” so “going for the gusto.”

Carpe diem isn’t just a slogan; it’s a way of life.

What other way is there to behave when you could be blown away with little or no warning and there was nothing you could do about it?

It made me miss those good-old days of the early 1960s, when the battle lines were so clearly drawn and it was so easy to distinguish the good guys from the bad guys.

Americans were the good guys. The godless commies were the bad guys.

Life was never that simple. But it is lovely to think so.

After all, today you just can’t tell the good guys from the bad guys.

The shifting sands of today’s politics often paint America as the land of the bad guys and everyone else as a potential good guy, no matter how bad their behavior.

The Middle East is awash in violence and injustice, but who are the good guys and who are the bad guys? Israel? The Syrians? The Palestinian refugees pouring into Europe? The Muslim Brotherhood? Hezbollah, or Iran?

What about our old nemesis, the Russians? In the film, the character played by Tom Hanks asks that, in order to save time, they just be called the Russians rather than the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Are today’s Russians, quickly displacing the United States on the world stage, our friends or our enemies?

Does it make any difference whether they’re godless commies, or just our adversaries?

These questions seemed so simple during the Cold War.

Our engagement in the world back then was difficult and full of danger. But today, Berliners are not shot trying to get over a wall.

The question today, as we examine the lessons of history, is this: In a more complex and dangerous world, does our engagement or withdrawal make it less so?

Perhaps that is the complexity that drives our Cold War nostalgia.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Should Oak Park get noise walls along I-290?

Paul Sassone

In his poem, “Mending Wall,” Robert Frost wrote: “Good fences make good neighbors.”

Some Oak Parkers are being asked to vote on erecting a fence along portions on the Eisenhower Expressway that would reduce traffic noise.

The Oak Leaves reports that the Illinois Department of Transportation will send ballots to certain residents who live near the expressway, asking them to vote on whether they think these noise-muffling walls should be built.

Bill McKenna, Oak Park village engineer, told the village board recently that Oak Park could receive up to 12 sections of noise walls along the Ike. The walls could be between 11 and 17 feet high, and could reduce noise by up to eight decibels.

The noise wall proposal is part of IDOT’s project to widen the expressway and move Oak Park exit and entrance ramps to the highway’s right side.

Only those homes and businesses along the Ike that IDOT believes could benefit from noise walls will be able to vote when ballots are mailed, which should be soon.

At its Oct. 26, meeting, members of the village board said the walls looked too bland, going by the drawings IDOT submitted.

Aesthetics are nice. But that wouldn’t be my first concern. Physics would. I suppose IDOT could paint a facsimile of the Sistine Chapel on the proposed walls. But what I would want to know is whether noise-reducing walls reduce noise.

I know the village engineer was quoted in the Oak Leaves as saying the walls could reduce highway noise by eight decibels. How significant a reduction is that? To the common ear, will the walls reduce noise by a lot or a little?

It’s the aural aesthetics I would worry about. The level of noise a person must live with is an important quality-of-life issue.

Will the installation of noise-muffling walls improve the quality of life for those Oak Parkers who live along the Eisenhower Expressway?

That is the question.

But the village board should have an answer to the quality-of-life question and communicate it to Oak Parkers before those who can vote do vote.

Good fences make good neighborhoods.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
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OPINION

SCOTT STANTIS

No touch screen? No problem

LYNN PETRAK
Home on LaGrange

I saw someone doing a newspaper crossword puzzle the other day and I thought, "Isn't that cool?" I say "cool" and not "quaint" because in this age of mobile devices, I think it's pretty awesome that a printed copy of the newspaper still plays a role in both information and entertainment in daily life.

You may well be reading this column online. Many articles are posted on newspaper websites and on associated social media feeds, after all. I get a lot of my own news this way.

If you're reading a printed page right now, though, think about how a newspaper is really a microcosm of society.

Up front, you keep up-to-date with national, international and/or local news. In addition to a factual recounting of events and happenings, newspapers play a pivotal role in uncovering and investigating a host of truths and trends. From Watergate to local water quality, reporters find out and share things people want and need to know.

Beyond the big-print headlines, newspapers provide other crucial information. Should you take an umbrella today? What's it looking like for your vacation next week? The weather page lays it all out, and it won't freeze up on your device's screen.

Editorial pages are another bonus of newspapers, because even if it's the writer's opinion, it's an analysis worth reading for a point of view.

Those of us who follow sports also appreciate a newspaper's sports pages, not just for a reporting on the game or match, but for an analysis of strengths, weaknesses and potential. For entertainment, a newspaper is another treasure trove of information. I read the calendar section of this newspaper all the time to help find fun things to do on the weekend or in the month ahead, and I appreciate movie and theater reviews and roundups.

A local newspaper, to me, is particularly special. There is a genuine sense of excitement when you read about your friend's son or daughter in the sports pages after a good game or see a photo of your own child at a special event in town.

Newspapers are a rite of passage right up until the end. As with birth notices, death notices in a newspaper are a way to celebrate those who come into our lives and make an impact and show that in a community, we all matter.

A few pages of paper, printed with letters, photos and illustrations folded together into a neat rectangle.

A newspaper may not have a touch screen, but it sure as heck is a touchstone.
The kids in the class of 1985 are all right

ERIC SCOTT

Dear Mr. Vernon,

We accept the fact that we had to sacrifice a whole Saturday in detention for whatever it was we did wrong. But we think you're crazy to make us write an essay telling you who we think we are. You see us as you want to see us... in the simplest terms, in the most convenient definitions. But what we found out is that each one of us is a brain... and an athlete... and a basket case... a princess and a criminal. Does that answer your question?

Sincerely yours,
The Breakfast Club

Savvy teen defiance immersed in self-discovery wrapped a colorful bow around writer-director John Hughes' iconic film "The Breakfast Club." The movie debuted in February 1985, about three months before my Maine East High School classmates and I walked onto our football field stage and received our diplomas - not far from the former Maine North High School where John Bender (Judd Nelson) pumped his fist in a lonely walk across its empty football stadium to shoot the movie's final scene.

Fast forward to late last month when the Maine East Class of 1985 celebrated our 30-year reunion. Not a bad turnout, considering many of us hadn't seen each other since the Reagan administration. I knew that some familiar friends I've been fortunate to keep in touch with would be in the house, but it was the overall "inclusiveness vibe" that really made this Saturday night special.

This wasn't like those school reunions you see in the movies. Lisa Kudrow and Mira Sorvino didn't pop out of "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion" and try to convince everyone that they invented Post-its. No one-upping, no "I'm such a rock star" pronouncements and I didn't come across any group chatter that came anything close to accomplishment comparisons.

The party atmosphere was more like, "Hey you made it here to 'Checkpoint 30!' Great to see you and what's been going on?"

We've all followed separate paths after leaving our daily gathering point in Park Ridge, and every so often we find our way back through the maze we all keep building to reconnect at our planned pit stop for updates and feedback. It's more about comparing notes on the amazing journey - not so much seeing if you caught an earlier career flight than someone else on "The Amazing Race."

We '85ers are also part of a shrinking pool of high school classes that graduated before the Internet became a thing - Nintendo and the Sony Discman were about as high-tech as it got back in the day. Three decades later, this class reunion would pretty much come together through its own Facebook page and become a critical bond for tying us together. In fact, the post-reunion cyber traffic among the 260-plus members of the Maine East Class of 1985's Facebook page has been nothing short of explosive.

If Mark Zuckerberg only knew how many high school friendships he's played a part in strengthening and re-connecting - maybe he tracks "Liles" for those too?

So what would our reply to Mr. Vernon's Saturday detention essay be if it was due on reunion night? Sure, each one of us is also a brain, an athlete, and so on, in our own way. We also found out that many of us are fathers or mothers and even grandparents - I'm still trying to comprehend that one.

We've become professionals in dozens of different fields covering all corners of the world, and each of us is carving our own niche while riding this post-graduation bus together. And the best part? Everyone in the group respects how we're all making the most of our opportunities. Does that answer your question?

Eric Scott is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @viberider18
Dear Friends,

This winter, all across our wonderful city, there is great need – 22 percent of Chicagoans live in poverty. Nearly 14.2 percent aren’t sure where their next meal will come from. As temperatures drop, the streets become an even colder reality for thousands of homeless. And sadly, Chicago is a major hub for human trafficking.

That’s the bad news. But thanks to you, there is plenty of good news too.

The Salvation Army red kettles are set to hit the sidewalks tomorrow, which means your generous donations, as they do every Christmas, are about to make a major impact in the lives of those in desperate need.

We’re pleased to inform you that the iconic kettles and bell ringers won’t be the only place you’ll see The Salvation Army’s presence this year. All throughout the city, you will see fliers, posters, and other messages – not asking for donations, but reaching out directly to the most vulnerable people in Chicago, offering them help and hope.

These messages will invite the hungry to our feeding programs, the addicted to our alcohol and drug rehabilitation centers, the cold to our warming centers, and those enslaved by human trafficking to a safe place to get help. We are reaching out to them, directly, so they will know where to turn.

So as you give this Christmas and throughout the year – be assured that The Salvation Army is here to serve. For good.

Thank you for helping us as we continue Doing the Most Good.

God bless you,

Lt. Colonel Charles H. Smith
Divisional Commander

Mike Ditka
2016 Christmas Campaign Chair
Tips to writing a novel from local pros

BY PIONEER PRESS
Staff Report

November is National Novel Writing Month, a campaign that challenges would-be authors to write at least 50,000 words by Nov. 30. We asked local authors to share their No. 1 tip on writing a novel. For more information on NaNoWriMo, visit www.nanowrimo.org.

Raymond Benson
"Read a lot of other novels, especially the kind you want to write. Reading other works teaches you, almost subliminally, how to structure a plot, build suspense and tell a story. Sometimes it teaches you what not to do as well."

Raymond Benson of Buffalo Grove is the author of more than 30 books, including the "Black Stiletto" saga.

Jay Bonansinga
"I always tell fledgling writers to write for yourself, and I know it sounds like a cliche but it is the numero uno most important tip you can give, because if you don't please yourself you will please no one. If you chase a market or write like somebody else because you think it's cool... you're doomed. Tell yourself the story you've always wanted to hear. Write the book you would buy for yourself but can't find on the shelf. In fact, always ask yourself before you start, 'Would I buy this?' If the answer's a resounding yes... rock on!"


Meg Waite Clayton
"Continue to believe in yourself long beyond the point when any normal person would feel ridiculous, and even your own mother has given up on you. Most writers arrive at the publication of their first novel with thick, and often decades-old, writing scars, but we share in common that we keep writing."

Best-selling author Elizabeth Berg of Oak Park has written more than 20 books, including "Durable Goods," "Open House" and "The Last Time I Saw You."

Jennifer E. Smith
"Don't sit down. I don't have a single place I work. In fact, I don't want a single place to work. I would rather write at the kitchen table or on a park bench or a picnic table or a bar top or the arm of an easy chair in someone else's house. This is because what I need to write is movement. I walk, I jog, I ride my bike."

Jennifer E. Smith of Evanston is the author of five novels, including "Travel Writing" and "Old Heart."

Peter Ferry
"Don't be afraid to fail, because even failure can be useful when it comes to writing. Every word, every sentence, every chapter - it's all getting you to the next word or sentence or chapter, which might be the one that ends up working. Everything you write is a stepping stone. So for now, just focus on getting the words down on the page, and you'll find your way to the right ones eventually."

Peter Ferry of Evanston is the author of the novels "Travel Writing" and "Old Heart."

Libby Fischer Hellmann
"Join a writers group. You have to be careful to join the right one... where the members don't have an ax to grind, but if you can find the right group, it will raise your craft enormously. It did for me. I've been in the same group for 16 years. And they'll take me out of it feet first. In fact, we now meet at my house, every week."

Libby Fischer Hellmann is the author of 11 novels. "Jump Cut," her latest Ellie Foreman Mystery, will be out in the spring.

Jennifer E. Smith
"Don't be afraid to fail, because even failure can be useful when it comes to writing. Every word, every sentence, every chapter - it's all getting you to the next word or sentence or chapter, which might be the one that ends up working. Everything you write is a stepping stone. So for now, just focus on getting the words down on the page, and you'll find your way to the right ones eventually."

Jennifer E. Smith of Evanston is the author of five novels, including "The Geography of You and Me" and "This Is What Happy Looks Like."

Elizabeth Berg
"This may sound glib, but I'm utterly sincere in saying that I think you should let the book tell you, not vice versa. If I try to force something on what is a fragile, dreamy thing, it doesn't work. I work best when I get out of my own way, when I relax, when I feel like I'm just the typist, and the words are coming from elsewhere."

Elizabeth Berg Oak Park

Christine Sneed
"When writing a novel, don't give up if the story seems to be going somewhere you don't expect after the first chapter or two. If this happens, remind yourself that you can revise (and should). Often, the most interesting work occurs during the revision process."

Evanston resident Christine Sneed is the author of "Portraits of a Few of the People I've Made Cry," "Little Known Facts" and "Paris, He Said."

Scott Turow
"The No. 1 tip which I learned more than 40 years ago was from my teacher at Stanford, Wallace Stegner - you need to put your butt in the chair and try to write every day. It's true that there will be good days and bad days, but you can't wait for the muse. Instead you need to give her a chance to find you, planted in your writing space. Stegner used to make himself write two pages every day. At the end of a year, he said, you'd have 730 pages and there'd have to be something worth saving in there."

Evanston resident Scott Turow is the author of 10 bestselling works of fiction including "Innocent," "Presumed Innocent" and "The Burden of Proof."

Scott Turow

Wallace Stegner used to make himself write two pages every day. At the end of a year, he said, you'd have 730 pages and there'd have to be something worth saving in there."

Evanston resident Scott Turow is the author of 10 bestselling works of fiction including "Innocent," "Presumed Innocent" and "The Burden of Proof."
Playwright enters the mind of German psychic in 1930s Berlin

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Who was psychic Erik Jan Hanussen? Playwright Neil Tobin takes audiences back to 1933 Berlin in an attempt to answer that question in his one-person show, "Palace of the Occult." The Eclectic Full Contact Theatre production opens Nov. 20 at Prop Thtr.

Hanussen's feats were astonishing but some questioned whether his skills were genuine or if he was a charlatan. Other mysteries surrounding the man are whether he was a Nazi or a Jew, and whether he was a traitor or a martyr.

The play offers a unique interactive experience because Tobin, who grew up in Morton Grove and Skokie, is an award-winning member of the Society of American Magicians and the Psychic Entertainers Association.

Tobin said he created this piece to introduce audiences to "this incredible, larger-than-life, almost Barnum-like personality who has been inexplicably forgotten by popular history, and give them the opportunity to hear his stories, participate in examples of his psychic performance repertoire and decide for themselves how they feel about him."

"It's such a different and unique theatrical experience I couldn't pass up the opportunity to produce it," said David Belew, artistic director of Eclectic Full Contact Theatre, who is directing the show. "From reading about this guy, he was incredibly famous in Europe through the '20s and early '30s. The combination of his life story and the illusions that Neil is planning for this show makes a really exciting evening of theater."

The audience will be a part of the show, Belew stressed. "The entire audience are guests at the grand opening at the Palace of the Occult," he said. "(Tobin) will be using audience volunteers through the evening for several of the illusions."

In preparation for writing this play, Tobin read the two English language books that were written about Hanussen. "Both passed pretty harsh judgment on him," Tobin noted. He contacted each author "and found out information that didn't make it into publication," Tobin said.

He noted that, "Both of those books were written by people who were not psychic performers, so when they made assumptions about him and his method, their perspective might have been a little bit off base."

In addition, Tobin read material that Hanussen wrote, which had been translated into English.

Tobin worked on the piece for five years and finally had time to finish it when he ended his 10-year engagement of the show "Supernatural Chicago" at Excalibur in 2014.

"This is a part I've been in training to play my whole life," he said.

Eclectic Full Contact Theatre presents 'Palace of the Occult'

When: 8 p.m. Fridays, 4 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 7 p.m. Sundays, Nov. 20-Dec. 20; previews begin Nov. 13

Where: Prop Thtr, 3502 N. Elston, Chicago


Info: 800-838-3006; www.palaceoftheoccult.com
Rescued Peach

Shedd Aquarium has added a fourth dog to its program that rehabilitates shelter dogs. Page 6
Imagine cooking a turkey without your huge enamel roasting pan with nesting rack or your well-regulated oven or your tidy countertops.

It might sound impossible unless you are part of Boy Scout Troop 63 in Oswego. About 19 years ago, the leaders of the troop decided to get together for a campout featuring a Thanksgiving dinner.

“Some of the leaders in the troop are sportmen, and some are fishermen, and we were deep into living with the bare necessities while eating like kings,” explained Ed Haagenson, an Oswego resident who has been a Boy Scout leader for 24 years.

That first campout was at Waakee Shoo Park in Oswego. Seven families participated for a total of around 25 people. “We had moose, elk, venison, turkey, pickled fish. We had so much fun that year that we decided we should do it every year.”

The turkey campout became an annual event. After a few years, Troop 31 joined in the event and a friendly cooking competition between troops began. Over the years, other leaders and Webelos looking for a troop to join were invited to participate.

“We average between 80 and 100 people for dinner,” said Haagenson. For the past several years including this one, the event was at Maple Lane Farm in Yorkville.

Creativity is the king when cooking turkeys outdoors. The Scouts have cooked turkeys eight different ways over the years. Perhaps the most offbeat method is what Haagenson called “the garbage can turkey.”

Haagenson first fashioned a turkey stand that could be driven into the ground and hold a turkey vertically. The ground is covered with aluminum foil and the stand goes in the middle. The turkey is lowered onto the stand, wrapped in foil and a clean garbage can is then lowered over the turkey. Hot coals are then placed on top of and around the garbage can. “It becomes a large reflector oven,” said Haagenson.

“After about four hours, we put on welding gloves to take the garbage can off. We have to keep the foil on the turkey until we get it to a platter because the turkey just falls off the bone.”

Another unusual method used by the Scouts is the cardboard box turkey.

“We line a box with aluminum foil and then put the turkey in a roasting pan on a rack over charcoal. The box then goes over it. As long as the temperature doesn’t go above 451 degrees, the box doesn’t start on fire,” said Haagenson.

The Scouts have also buried a turkey to cook it.

“We dig a pit, line it with corn husks that have been soaked in water. Then we put in hot coals, more corn husks, a foil wrapped bird, more corn husks, coals and then bury the whole thing — sort of like a lua,” said Haagenson.

“We also bubble a turkey,” he said, referring to the use of a deep fryer. “I inject the bubble birds with garlic butter and sew them up. My wife is a surgical tech and she gets me sutures,” said Haagenson.

Deep fryers are very popular with the Scouts. “If you can dip it in pancake batter, we will bubble it,” Haagenson said, recalling bubbled candy bars, potatoes and vegetables.

Some leaders bring out smokers to make smoked turkeys while others set up rotisseries to slowly cook the birds over hot pits of coal. The group also has placed turkeys in Dutch ovens fitted with extensions. And finally, there are the emergency turkeys.

“We sometimes put a turkey in the oven at home just in case more people show up than we expected,” said Haagenson. “If there is a big crowd, we bring in the emergency turkey.”

The supporting cast for the turkey includes pumpkin pie, green bean casserole, corn bread, candied yams, mashed potatoes and desserts baked in Dutch ovens as well as various specialty items, including a bacon explosion.

“Get me some of that ham,” he called to a fellow leader. “It makes it a turkuck or maybe a duckuck,” he said. After stuffing the entire duck into the turkey, there was still some room. “Get me some of that ham,” he called to a fellow leader. The chunk of ham filled up the cavity completely to create a sort of turkuckam.
The World Health Organization dealt a mighty blow to bacon and sausage lovers all over the world last week. Their report detailing a possible link between the regular consumption of processed meats and a future cancer diagnosis, in particular colorectal cancer, might make even the most die-hard breakfast meat lovers rethink what's on their plate.

Sure, when you're blinded by the beauty of bacon — the supermodel of meats — it's easy to dismiss such unsavory news in favor of culinary bliss. Ignoring such a warning, however, seems silly when we all know anything that tastes as good as a greasy sausage link is bound to have ill effects on your long-term health. So why not explain away eating a smattering of cured pork now and then by indulging in a little moderation?

As a passionate pork lover, I have been known to snub my nose at flimsy turkey bacon and so-called “healthy” sausage alternatives, but I've always had a soft spot for chicken apple sausage.

Bursting with fruit, herbs and sweet spices, they may be lower in fat, but they never seem to be trying to be something they're not. And that makes me love them.

My simple version of chicken apple sausage comes together with ease and shaping them into uniform patties ensures they will be piping hot and on a plate in no time.

Freshly ground chicken breast is enhanced with gala apples, cinnamon and brown sugar for a touch of sweetness while the addition of rosemary, sage and fennel offer a savory balance in this breakfast side.

Serve these chicken patties with a drizzling of maple syrup, a sprinkling of raw fresh apple and a smile. After all, they are a delightful partner for eggs and serving them up on a regular basis will make room to savor a little bacon in your diet every so often.

### Cinnamon Sugar Chicken Apple Sausage Patties

This recipe can be cut in half for a lower yield or half of the chicken mixture can be frozen and thawed for cooking at a later date. Makes about 16-18 patties.

- 2 tablespoons canola oil, plus extra for cooking sausage patties
- 1 cup minced yellow onion
- Pinch of salt
- 1 Gala apple, peeled, cored and finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon fennel seeds
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh sage
- 2 pounds raw chicken breast, diced into 1-inch cubes
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 cup chopped Italian parsley

Garnishes: Maple syrup, rosemary, sage and diced fresh apple

1. Heat the canola oil over medium heat until hot. Add the minced onion and a generous pinch of salt to the pan and allow the onion to cook until it begins to soften, but does not brown (about 5 minutes). Add the diced apple and fennel; cook stirring occasionally until onions and apple are soft (about 5 more minutes). Add the rosemary and sage to the pan and allow to cook until herbs are fragrant (about 1 minute). Remove the pan from the heat and allow the apple mixture to rest while you prep the chicken.

2. Place the diced chicken into the bowl of a food processor fitted with a metal blade. Process the chicken until just finely ground. Transfer the ground chicken to a large mixing bowl. Add the salt, pepper, brown sugar, cinnamon and parsley and mix thoroughly.

3. Fold the cooled apple mixture into the chicken mixture and make sure the onions and apples are evenly distributed throughout the chicken.

Shape 2 ounces (a scant 1/4 cup) of the chicken mixture into 3/4-inch thick rounds until all the chicken mixture is used up.

4. Heat about 2 tablespoons canola oil in a well-seasoned skillet over medium-high heat. Cook the sausage patties in batches for 4-5 minutes per side until well browned and cooked through. Serve as part of a full breakfast drizzled with maple syrup and diced fresh apple.
Weed Ladies share garden chores, food

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

Since 1967, there has been a group of women who manage to see beauty in all of nature's creation, including weeds. Dubbed the "Weed Ladies" by an anonymous husband, this creative group puts together floral arrangements using dried flowers, grasses, silk flowers and roadside beauties like cattails and milk weed pods to raise funds for educational and preservation programs at Napier Settlement.

"Originally the arrangements were sold at the annual antique show in Naper Settlement," said Naperville resident Nancy King, who said she is in charge of the garden and serves as the official mouse catcher for the group.

The group meets in the Daniels House on the grounds of Napier Settlement. "The garden is near the house and it is the source for nearly half of their dried flowers used in arrangements. The flowers are hung to dry in the basement of the Daniels House," she said.

As one might expect, a group of women who have the vision to see a milkweed pod as part of a stunning floral arrangement have an abundance of creativity that spills over into the kitchen. The group meets at the Daniels House every Monday and Wednesday to work on flower arrangements and enjoy a potluck lunch together.

Barb Smart, who has been part of the Weed Ladies since 1992, takes care of setting out a wonderful spread of food from the dishes that show up each meeting. "We have baked beans, soups, salads, crackers, hummus, fruit and desserts," she says. There is a sideboard on one wall of the tiny kitchen in the Daniels house that is used to set out the potluck lunch.

The group works for a few hours and enjoys the fellowship and food during lunch. They enjoy trying each other's dishes. "But everyone just wants a taste," said Barb. "If there is a doughnut, we cut it in eight pieces because everyone just wants a little bit."

One dish that is a favorite for all of the Weed Ladies is Smart's English Toffee. "It isn't my recipe," Smart said. "I got the recipe from Vera Boyer who used to live on the corner of Eagle and Jefferson in that stone house. We always had a church bazaar at our church, and Naperville Congregational Church, and I remember this toffee that was so good.

"I asked her for the recipe and she gave it to me. I made it but sometimes it turned out and sometimes it didn't. So I finally figured out that the key was to make sure that the sugar was fully incorporated into the melted butter. So what I started to do was to mix it together with the electric mixer until it looked like yellow cake batter. Then it turned out every time," she said.

Smart used to make several batches of toffee, popcorn balls and apple leather to send to her relatives for Christmas. "To make the apple leather, I made apple sauce and dehydrated it until it was dry but soft," she notes. "I made it all and sent it out for 46 years. But in 2004, I took everything to the post office and it cost almost $300 to mail the packages. I decided that was enough and I just sent everyone the recipes and told them to make their own."

Smart makes the toffee for her fellow Weed Ladies to snack on during busy sale days. "It helps the gals keep a good attitude during the sale," she said. "Sort of like an English Toffee Energy Bar."

A newcomer to the Weed Ladies potluck lunch table is King's miniature pumpkin cheesecakes. "I make these starting on Halloween and through the holidays. They are perfect little one-bite desserts," said King.

Instead of having to make a crumb crust, these mini-cheesecakes simply use a small ginger snap cookie on the bottom of a cupcake liner.

"I found ginger snaps at Trader Joe's that fit the bottom of a cupcake liner perfectly," said King. She noted that there are several variations of these bite-sized cheesecakes. "At Christmas, I make one that has a chocolate cookie on the bottom and a cannoli filling." King's mini-desserts transport easily and can be mixed with cookies to create a dessert tray.

King and Smart invite everyone to attend this year's Winter Floral Design Sale on Nov. 13-15. They share their recipes for sweet treats for others to try during the coming holiday season.

Best Ever English Toffee

1 pound butter
2 cups sugar
1 tablespoon vanilla
2-3 ounces silvered almonds
8 ounces milk chocolate
12 ounces semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 tablespoon liquid lecithin* finely ground walnuts or pecans

1. Melt butter over medium heat in a heavy saucepan. When hot and bubbly, remove from heat and add sugar. Beat with an electric mixer until mixture turns a creamy yellow and no melted butter is seen. You cannot over beat so be sure the sugar is dissolved and mixed into the butter. Return pan to medium heat and cook, stirring constantly.

2. Place a candy thermometer into the mixture and continue to heat and stir until the temperature reaches 250 degrees. Add vanilla. Break almonds slightly and add.

3. Continue cooking and stirring until mixture reaches 300 degrees. This can take up to 30 minutes. Divide mixture into four 8-by-8-inch flexible aluminum pans and spread evenly in each pan. Allow mixture to harden.

4. When mixture is firm, melt milk chocolate and semi-sweet chocolate chips in a double boiler. When melted, stir in lecithin. Carefully removed hardened candy from pans. Sprinkle ground nuts in the bottom of the pans.

5. Frost one side of each candy slab with chocolate mixture and place back into pan on ground nuts, pressing lightly so nuts will adhere to chocolate. Frost top side and sprinkle with nuts. Allow chocolate to harden. Break into bite-sized pieces and enjoy.

*Nlecithin is available at health food stores. It helps the chocolate spread more easily.

Find more of Nancy's recipes at http://trrln/110xAWZ.
Direct Auto reluctant to pay following car accident

Dear Help Squad,

I was involved in a car accident in February. A police officer came and completed an accident report where I was listed as "unit 2," deeming the woman who hit me "unit 1" and at fault. That same day (and for weeks after) I was in contact with the woman's insurance company, Direct Auto, to make a claim. They told me to fill out and return multiple sets of paperwork, which I did, along with the requested accident report and damage estimate.

Months later, I received a letter stating Direct Auto was unable to settle my claim. I called Direct Auto for an explanation. During these calls I was ignored, talked down to and hung up on by the representative handling my claim. I then filed a claim with the Illinois Department of Insurance and was eventually told Direct Auto could deny my claim because their client never reported the accident she caused. Through this frustrating process, I learned there is an Illinois law that states both parties involved in an accident must report it for the incident to be settled. My last resort was to file a civil lawsuit. I sent the woman two certified letters requesting she settle before I took her to court. Both were returned as undeliverable. At that point, I realized that without a valid address for a Cook County sheriff to serve court documentation to, I was unable to file suit.

I am asking for your help.

Nicole, Justice

My first call was to the Illinois Department of Insurance, where I was put in touch with Jim Stephens, the department's chief deputy director. Stephens explained: "She's dealing with a company that falls into the category of nonstandard auto, which means they are usually more reluctant to pay claims. They will argue they don't put much weight in police reports." Stephens suggested that Nicole "go under her own coverage and pay a deductible, then her company will go after Direct Auto. If they get reimbursed, they'll pay her back her deductible." But unfortunately, Nicole carried just basic liability coverage and so her insurer - State Farm - would only subrogate on her behalf if she incurred bodily injury or carried collision insurance.

Stephens said he would review Nicole's Illinois Department of Insurance complaint, then contact Direct Auto.

Next, I called Direct Auto and received a call back from claim manager Cary Loseau. His response when asked why Direct Auto was not paying Nicole's claim was "According to the police report, this was a lane change; more of a finger-pointer. There is a fact pattern dispute and it is my understanding that no one received a ticket." However, he agreed to look over all the documentation Nicole had sent.

Loseau called to say he would assign a field appraiser to assess the car's damage. This is when I learned from Nicole that her car had been sold for parts two months prior (for $200). Photos were sent to Loseau instead.

After the photos were reviewed, Loseau had this to say: "We never got any cooperation from our insured so we have just one version of how this loss occurred, but we will go with that statement. We'll take a look at everything, evaluate it and try to reach an amicable conclusion, and get rid of this thing."

A few days later, I heard from Loseau again. He told me that Direct Auto had determined the actual cash value of Nicole's car to be $1,550, and because she had already received $200, they would offer her a net payment of $1,350. "This was an effort to be of service to you, the Department of Insurance and Nicole," Loseau explained.

Nicole expressed her relief: "Thank you so much for your help! I appreciate it more than I can thank you."

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

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
One of the dogs gives the rescue team a wary look.

**Last dogs pulled from South Korean meat farm**

By William Hageman
Chicago Tribune

Back in September, Humane Society International rescued more than 100 dogs from a South Korean dog meat farm that the organization shut down.

Last week, the organization removed the last animals from the farm — nine puppies that had been too young to bring to the U.S. and their two mothers — and demolished the cages and bulldozed the land at the facility. That brought the number of dogs rescued and flown to the States to 114.

They're now in San Francisco, where the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is caring for them. The dogs will soon be available for adoption.

The farm where the dogs were being raised, in Chungcheongnam-do, is the third that Humane Society International has shut down as part of the group's campaign to stop the dog-meat trade in South Korea, China, Vietnam and other countries in Asia. South Korea is the only country where dogs are farmed for their meat. Elsewhere, many dogs that end up as food are stolen pets or strays picked up on the streets.

More information on Humane Society International's campaign is at www.hsi.org.

**PET OF THE WEEK**

Speckles

Speckles is an energetic pup who is always on the go. He would do best in an active household who could take him on daily walks and runs as well as fun activities such as agility courses. He will also need plenty of mental exercise such as treat puzzles and kongs to keep his mind busy. Speckles could also benefit from continued obedience training. Speckles is friendly and playful with most other dogs but is too exuberant for a cat. Children should be at least 12 years old because he is still learning his manners. It would be best if Speckles' new owners had experience with his breed.

For more information, go to www.napervilleareahumanesociety.org.

**Shedd Aquarium rescues another dog**

Peach getting daily training in rehab program

Shedd Aquarium has added a fourth dog to its program that rehabilitates shelter dogs.

Peach, a 20-pound, 10-month-old dachshund-terrier mix, was found tied to a dumpster in the South. She wound up in a shelter and eventually was brought to Chicago's Anti-Cruelty Society. Anti-Cruelty assessed her and thought she'd be a good fit for Shedd's program.

Peach joins Dory, a female shepherd mix; Marlin, a male Labrador mix; and Kobe, a 3-year-old male Dogo Argentino mix at the aquarium, which started rehabilitating dogs in 2013. Peach is the sixth dog to enter the program, and like her predecessors is named after a character in "Finding Nemo."

Peach has already shown promise. Despite large scars on her back, possibly from being underneath the hot dumpster, Peach is sweet and interactive with people and playful with toys. Like her three program mates, she hangs out at Shedd's dog lounge, where daily training occurs.

Shedd Aquarium trainer Lana Vanagesem greets Peach, a 10-month-old dachshund-terrier mix at The Anti-Cruelty Society in Chicago.

Shedd Aquarium has shown a fondness for squeak toys, chew bones and tennis balls and is being trained in basic commands such as "sit" and "stay" and name recognition and is walking nicely on a leash.

She could end up in Shedd's "One World" presentations, which focus on the connection between animals and humans and encourages people to become rescue families.

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Evanston play offers insight into the divorced man

Although it has been 22 years, John N. Frank still remembers how painful his divorce was.

“There’s a sense of failure, and ‘How do I ever come back from this?’” said Frank, a father of two who had been married for 16 years before he got divorced. “Everyone you know stops talking to you, married people distance themselves, and I felt invisible and rejected and lonely.”

Driven by the need to help other men and women facing divorce, Frank is telling his story in his new Evanston play, “Boys In The Basement,” which opened Friday.

I recently talked with Frank, a former business journalist turned playwright who remarried in 2007, about the “dramedy,” in which he is also playing a major role and co-producing.

Q: What is “Boys In The Basement” about?
A: It takes place in a suburban apartment building where mostly divorced guys live, and there’s a group that gets together at night in a storage room in the basement to drink and talk. Into the group comes this newly separated guy, and he is in denial, saying this is just temporary. He doesn’t know how to cope with the fact that his marriage is really over.

Q: In your opinion, what are some characteristics of divorced men?
A: The divorced man is in denial, and he doesn’t want to talk about it. He feels rejected and is trying to figure out how he is still a man. Often times, he is angry.

Divorced men are also struggling mightily with how to be a father when they don’t see their kids as much.

Q: How do men cope with divorce differently than women?
A: Men banter, and women talk about feelings. Men shut down. We have been trained all of our lives not to show emotion and not to cry. Men are pretty simple. They think, ‘I’ve been rejected, and I need to prove I’m a man.’ They might do that by drinking heavily, turning to casual sex or coping in other unhealthy ways.

Q: What advice do you have for men going through divorce?
A: There is hope, and you can rebuild your life and find happiness again. You do that by not pushing so hard. I went through a frenzy of dating for two years straight, and it was fun, but I realized I had to get used to being alone and just being me. You have to be comfortable with who you are and gain the courage to open yourself up again to someone. Therapy helped me.

Frank said he hopes the play — through humor and heartfelt dialogue — will give men hope and help them realize they can get through it. He also said he thinks “Boys In The Basement” will help women understand the mindset of a divorced man.

Funny he brought that up. I have been divorced for eight years and have met, dated or become friends with many divorced men. While every person is unique, I have my own take on most of the divorced men I’ve met through the years.

I think many are fragile and scared for a long time. They want to be loved, but not smothered, creating a fine line when it comes to the affection they crave. Divorced men almost have a look of being tired — tired of fighting with their ex, missing their children, going through the divorce process and stressing about finances. That is why they don’t want confrontation or any added anxiety producing stress and quickly end relationships that remotely cause these things. For example, I know a divorced man who just ended a relationship because he said the woman “picks a fight with me every two weeks.”

Newly separated men tend to date a lot of different women, but I will say this: When it comes to love, much like the divorced woman, the divorced man is very committal and loyal if the situation is right. When he feels loved, you can see true happiness and gratitude behind his genuine smile. In other words, life really does go on.

For more information on “Boys in the Basement,” visit www.evanston2ndactplayers.com.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.
A Borrowed Man
By Gene Wolfe, Tor, 302 pages, $25.99
Gene Wolfe novels are often like those ingenious Japanese puzzle boxes - familiar, elegant surfaces that slide apart in unexpected ways. "A Borrowed Man" begins like a conventional mystery, as a wealthy heiress checks out a former mystery writer to help solve her father's disappearance and the apparent murder of her brother. Only she literally checks him out — he's actually a clone of the long-dead writer and lives on a shelf in a public library, along with a few other such clones, who carry all the memories of the original but have no more civil rights than a book. As they search for clues in the heiress' family estate, with its mysterious locked rooms, they are attacked and tied up by tough guys apparently looking for the same thing. But as is common in a Wolfe novel, the tough guys aren't exactly who they first appear to be, and neither is anyone else.

As these revelations emerge, so does a tantalizing picture of the oddly dystopian future they live in. World population has somehow shrunk to less than a billion, the country of New America is dotted with ruined towns and starved children, and otherwise resembles the familiar Midwest, with bus stations, public libraries, and unpolluted skies — except for the many robots, clones, hovercabs and other signs of a high-tech tomorrow. Aided by a fellow library clone and a couple that the writer meets on a bus trip, they uncover layers of secrets about her family and those locked rooms. By this point the novel has spiraled outward into pure science fiction, and yet Wolfe knits it all together in the end with his characteristic grace and ingenuity — and his trademark sense that there is a good deal more lurking just outside the edges of the frame.

Weighing Shadows
By Lisa Goldstein, Night Shade, 318 pages, $15.99
Lisa Goldstein began her career winning a National Book Award (during the short time it was relabeled American Book Awards) for her 1982 Holocaust novel, "The Red Magician," and since has produced elegantly written novels ranging from literary magic realism to high fantasy. With "Weighing Shadows" she takes on the familiar science-fiction theme of time travel, and the novel's core appeal lies in showing us odd corners of history from the viewpoint of a contemporary visitor.
Ann Decker is rescued from her dead-end job in computer repair when she receives an offer from a well-funded company called Transformations, which seems to know a lot about her but which doesn't reveal its true purpose until she starts working there: They've developed time travel and have set about "fixing" the past by sending agents back at his most meaningful missions that included, among other things, moving a lamp, delaying someone from getting to work — which will supposedly lead to larger "butterfly effect" changes over time. What they really out to do, though, only becomes apparent later. While the time-travel thriller plot is clever enough, the novel's fascination derives from its evocation of the times and places Ann visits — ancient Crete, medieval France and classical Alexandria, where she befriends the legendary teacher Hypatia. A feminist subtext runs throughout these visits to the past, during which Ann discovers a secret society of women and, in a surprisingly poignant ending, sets out to find if it could possibly have survived into the present. In the end, it's her story of self-discovery that engages us even more than the time travel sequences.

CHICAGOLAND BEST-SELLERS
1. "The Martian" by Andy Weir (Broadway, $15).
2. "Career of Evil" by Robert Galbraith (Mulholland, $28).
3. "Rogue Lawyer" by John Grisham (Doubleday, $28.95).
4. "M Train" by Patti Smith (Knopf, $25).
5. "All the Light We Cannot See: A Novel" by Anthony Doerr (Scribner, $27).

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).
Small Caps: Per the 2010 census

BY MARK MCCLAIN | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN
(stanxwords.com)

Across
1 Prosecutors, for short
4 Needing a good airing
9 Roll of turf
12 Cut corners
13 Long fish
19 Pointless
20 Each, so to speak
22 And others: Lat.
23 Lucy of Elementary
24 7,855 people (50th place)
27 Deep role of 2013
29 Madison successor
30 River barrier
31 19,136 people (48th place)
32 Kin: Abbr.
34 Unprincipled guy
35 Formal negative
36 Part of a Santa costume
37 Signals one's arrival, perhaps
52 Opposite of COD
55 28,190 people (46th place)
59 Consent to
60 Wipe off
61 Cast off
62 Cast off
63 Tanks' exterior
65 "... matter of fact ...
66 Garden visitor
67 13,646 people (49th place)
73 CIA operative
74 Cologne
collection
75 Scared off
76 Scares off

77 Land north of Libya
80 City near the Blish Museum
83 - buddies (close pals)
85 "White Christmas" composer
86 36,047 people (44th place)
88 Rainy-season wind
89 Despicable
90 Before, in poems
91 Spots in la mer
93 GI hangout
94 Once had
96 Dome home
97 Sweet wine of Spain
98 Where dos are permitted
100 Ole Miss team, in headlines
102 Leaf of a lawn
103 Sequel title starter

104 Summertime
105 North and South novelist
106 Simmons alternative
107 In the public eye
108 Fancy scarf
110 Gumbo staple
111 Wetlands wader
112 About 6 trillion mi.
114 2013 had
116 Kind of can opener
118 Greek X
119 Beer holder

57 Hall of Fame manager Tony...
58 Southwest high spots
59 PGA legend's nickname
60 Ketchup-colored...n
61 Irish actor Stephen...
62 Mince morsels
63 PGA legend's nickname
64 "Smooth Operator" singer
65 "Mistaken for foot"
66 "Man (one of the Avengers)
67 "Low joint
68 "Operator" singer
69 "Mistaken for foot"
70 Joe Louis Arena, for the Red Wings
71 Sign from on high
72 Performs some road repair
73 Added details
74 London lockup
75 Part of AD
76 Some Winter Olympians
77 "Upward (raucous)
78 Comic Boosler
79 Water barrier
80 City near the Blish Museum
81 Irish actor Stephen...
82 Minestrone morsels
83 "Be liable to
84 "Be liable to
85 - nova (Brazilian dance)
86 36,047 people (44th place)
87 Downwind
88 Course listing
89 Grazing area
90 Lost fish of film
91 Sweet wine of Spain
92 Fairly shared
93 GI hangout
94 Once had
95 Fancy scarf
96 Dome home
97 Sweet wine of Spain
98 Where dos are permitted
99 Water barrier
100 Ole Miss team, in headlines
101 Wetlands wader
102 Leaf of a lawn
103 Sequel title starter

Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island © 2015 Creators Syndicate. All rights reserved.
Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews. © 2015 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

ACROSS
1 Broken-off part of a glacier
5 Juice flavor
10 Clippety-
14 Sore
15 Berth nearest the floor
16 Dubuque, ___
17 Those folks
18 Thinking too highly of
20 Old French coin
21 Was in the red
22 Wash off soapsuds
23 Ore seeker
25 HST’S follower
26 Came in second, in a horse race
28 Released; untied
31 Ceremonies
32 More devious
34 ___ rummy; card game
36 Surrounded by
37 House pets
38 Pull up stakes
39 Affirmative
40 Taste or sight
41 Colorful parrot
42 Hits hard
44 Regret
45 Thin stick
46 Hell’s ruler

Solutions

34 Rummy; card game
32 More devious
27 Citrus fruits
26 Cold cereal
25 Bucks’ mates
24 tea
23 Family member
22 Washoff
21 Was in the red
20 Old French coin

DOWN
1 Cave dwellers
2 Canyon sound
3 Ananth
4 P.E. building
5 Radiated
6 Classic name for a dog
7 Floored
8 Person; apiece
9 Blunder
10 Dallas, Seattle, Chicago, etc.
11 Cut of pork
12 Possesses
13 Leaf of a book
19 Passion
21 Dollar bills
24 tea
29 Focused only on oneself
30 Couch
31 Angeles, CA
32 Male children
33 ___ Angeles, CA
35 Mr. Ginger
37 Rex or Donna
40 ___ for symbolized
41 Partner
43 Pressed, as clothes
44 Second of two
45 Thin stick
46 Hell’s ruler

6 Say the rosary, for example
7 Floored
8 Person; apiece
9 Blunder
10 Dallas, Seattle, Chicago, etc.
11 Cut of pork
12 Possesses
13 Leaf of a book
19 Passion
21 Dollar bills
24 tea
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20 Old French coin

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11/11/15

Last week’s crosswords

“Puritanical”

SOE PH S C E B T I
OLIO O RALE ODOR
F ILM MAY FLOWERS
ANGEL B R A R E A D
RAP EE G R A D
MAILER GRIN LISH
ARMOR ORAL ANTA
THANKS GIVING DAY
RAGE PIPE A GOLE
ITE COVE MULLS
P A T E N AT I N
ALTER BAN E CAD
PARADISEST VOL F
ERIC RATEL LE E
DAME AWARE SNAP

“Repossessed”

E A C E L I A N S D I E
0 B O D Y M Y D O L U L
0 B O D Y M Y D O L U L
0 B O D Y M Y D O L U L
0 B O D Y M Y D O L U L
0 B O D Y M Y D O L U L

Last week’s Quote-Acrostic

(Elizabeth) GORSKI: OPUS INTERRUPTUS: Until further notice the company will continue conducting daily employee meetings and weekly time management seminars. Mandatory attendance for every session until we determine why productivity is down.

Last week’s Sudoku

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

This week’s Jumble

OXYGEN RADISH HIDDEN CELERY UNTOLD MOTION
They thought people would like the new coin with the queen’s portrait, and they were —
RIGHT ON THE MONEY

puzzle island solutions

Last week’s crosswords

“Puritanical”

S O E P H C O M E T B I C
O L I O O R A L E O D O R
F I L M M A Y F L O W E R S
A N G E L B R A R E A D
R A P P E E G R A D
M A I L E R G R I N L I S H
A R M O R O R A L A N T A
T H A N K S G I V I N G D A Y
R A G E P I P E A G O L E
I T E C O V E M U L L S
P A T E N A T I N
A L T E R B A N E C A D
P A R A D I S E S T V O L F
E R I C R A T E L E E
D A M E A W A R E S N A P

“Repossessed”

E A C E L I A N S D I E
0 B O D Y M Y D O L U L
0 B O D Y M Y D O L U L
0 B O D Y M Y D O L U L
0 B O D Y M Y D O L U L
0 B O D Y M Y D O L U L

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

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OXYGEN RADISH HIDDEN CELERY UNTOLD MOTION
They thought people would like the new coin with the queen’s portrait, and they were —
RIGHT ON THE MONEY

chicago

tribune.com/games

Interactive puzzles and games
Piecing together feelings through collage

Regular habit traces mom's life journey

By Megan Ritchie Jooste

The Philadelphia Inquirer

The glue stick rarely gets eaten anymore. These days, one or two tiny licks and the goo gets put to task, adhering a cut-out photo of a dog, a giggling baby or a posing celebrity onto a piece of paper taped to my daughter's high-chair tray.

My daughter now knows that the glue doesn't taste all that good anyway. It's more fun to juxtapose a photo of Vin Diesel with a toaster.

Many of our late afternoons are spent this way: me preparing dinner (sorting the takeout menus) and my daughter, in her high chair, assembling her next artistic oeuvre.

Collage has been my go-to artistic medium since I discovered at a very young age that my drawing skills didn't extend far beyond remembering the feet on a stick figure. But I still needed a creative outlet. We all do.

Soul-saving discovery: I stumbled on collage in a training weekend for residence assistants in college. I loved it from the get-go. I found each step of the process cathartic, therapeutic: the meditative browsing through catalogs, magazines and newspapers in search of a word or an image that caught my eye, the deliberate assembling process. My more intricate collages could take days to process. My more intricate collages could take days to process. My more intricate collages could take days to process.

Collage gave my feelings a voice. It helped me sort through them, package them, and move on with my life. Collage saves me from being mute, even when I have no words to describe how I'm feeling.

So it was natural that I would want to share this hobby with my developing child.

For now, puppies: We got past the glue-eating phase faster than I thought. Now, I begin our afternoon collage sessions by cutting out about two dozen images and placing them on the table next to her. She chooses the ones to stick onto a piece of paper.

Almost immediately, she started calling our sessions "puppy paper." That's because, while I enjoy collage because it allows me to choose from an almost infinite set of imagery and typography in order to express my most complicated emotions, I limit her options. I'm too afraid to let my daughter work with anything that I deem too sad, or too scary. So a lot of puppies make their way from my scissors to her tray.

A typical collection will include at least five dogs of varying ages, two or three smiling celebrities posing on the red carpet (full disclosure: I subscribe to People magazine), three or four babies from a Gerber or Pampers ad, and a few (only a few!) photos of smiling Prince William. (I am, after all, a product of my generation.)

The resulting collage reflects none of my daughter's budding personality. Nor mine. I am essentially asking her to choose one dog over another, and practice her fine-motor skills with a stick of glue while I figure out if we're having Chinese or pizza for dinner.

Certainly as a kid living on South Street in Philadelphia she is witness to a wider range of violent confrontation and drunken revelry than I ever was at her age, and I am certain she thinks nothing of it. It is just a part of her world, alongside her morning couch sessions with a bottle and Daniel the Tiger, and waving to the tourists in the double-decker buses as they drive past our window.

So while my maternal instincts implore me to protect, to hide, to bury the worst of what I see, I realize that too-aggresive censorship of the materials I set in front of her will do nothing but bore her, and perhaps even eventually lead her to lose interest altogether in our activity, which I want to rely on as sacred time together as she grows and matures.

Next time, I promise, I will include a scowling Robert De Niro among the images I give her. I will cut out a photo of a FEMA-tagged house in New Orleans. Next time, I'll replace at least two puppies with an alligator or a shark. I'll throw in a frowning Britney Spears, a Nick Jonas or a Duggar. Because, I realize, there is no keeping her from the world, or the world from her.

But as long as she's tucked safely into her high chair with a stick of nontoxic glue in her hand, I can be there as she negotiates her true feelings about her surroundings. The bad and the good will eventually weave together to become "just the way it is."

Besides, it's good she learned early that there's not much a photo of an adorable puppy won't make better.

Megan Ritchie Jooste is a freelance writer.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency
According to Vanguard, the 2007-09 bear market has you off stocks, and the risks they entail, for good. But a recent study by the Vanguard Center for Retirement Research finds that technology can help us overcome past experiences.

According to the report, the median allocation that millennials had in stocks in 2003 was 82 percent. In 2013, the allocation actually increased to 89 percent. Millennials are defined as those 18 to 34. Vanguard’s study was based on 393 employer-sponsored retirement plans that were available in 2003 and 2013, and encompassed as many as 1 million plan-eligible employees.

What if you’re automatically enrolled in your employer’s retirement plan? Here’s what you can expect.

Vanguard found that, typically, the default contribution rate for those who are automatically enrolled in a workplace retirement plan is 3 percent. While that’s better than not participating at all in your 401(k), it’s a long way from the 10 percent or more that most financial advisers suggest putting away for retirement each year.

The good news is that the majority of 401(k)s with auto-enrollment also have an auto-increase feature for contributions. In fact, according to Vanguard, 70 percent of auto-enrollment plans automatically raise workers’ contribution rates annually.

Keep in mind, too, that by starting to save early in your 401(k) you get to take advantage of any matching contributions from your employer. As such, in 2013, millennials who had automatically been enrolled in their company retirement plan were saving an average of 76 percent of their annual salary when the employer match was included.

Auto enrollment not only helps you get started saving for retirement, it can also lead you to smart investment choices. In many auto enrollment plans, target-date funds, which hold a balance of stocks, bonds and other age-appropriate investments, are the default investment option.

For 20-somethings, a target-date fund will invest mostly in stocks, which are riskier than cash and bonds but usually produce higher returns over long periods of time. So in 2013, the median allocation to stocks among millennials who had been automatically enrolled in their 401(k) was 89 percent. In 2003, the median allocation, whether a young person was auto-enrolled or not, was 82 percent.

And thanks to target-date funds, fewer young people now have portfolios with zero or 10 percent stocks. In 2003, 42 percent of millennials had extreme portfolios. A decade later, the percentage had dropped to just 3 percent for those auto-enrolled.

So what happened? According to Vanguard, the answer is automation.

In 2003, less than 1 percent of the plans in Vanguard’s study offered automatic enrollment, a feature in which employees are automatically enrolled in their workplace retirement plan, no signing up required.

A decade later, the figure had jumped to 40 percent. On top of that, more young people are taking advantage of all-in-one funds, like target-date funds, that hold a balance of stocks, bonds and other investments.

The good news is that when he transitioned away last year from directing a performing arts foundation, he might gravitate back to an urban center rich in cultural amenities. Instead, at 65, he’s teaching a course on arts management at the nearby state university extension campus and enjoying the performing arts center he helped create.

“I come up for tenure at 70, and I’m going for it,” the assistant professor said.

A survey of 3,638 adults by Merrill Lynch and Age Wave this year found that most pre-retirees (60 percent) intend to stay in their current state or region in retirement.

Transitioning to a “second act” career later in life using contacts from a previous career could be part of what’s keeping some baby boomers in their current cities (along with proximity to family), but O’Connell sees a larger trend playing out as rural areas begin to link together to attract local investment in public projects.

He was recently part of a panel discussion on civic vitality and special business improvement districts around his state. The districts are typically formed by coalitions of businesses that want to share costs for revitalization programs, such as downtown lighting or green space projects.

What keeps O’Connell from moving back to an urban area is a sense that he can have a voice in shaping what’s around him, he said.

“I love medium-sized cities,” he said. “In a medium-sized city, you have a good level of decision-making.”

“Having multiple uses was a catalyst in the development of the project,” O’Connell said. “Using facilities in nontraditional ways makes the whole space more vital.”

To be sure, not all baby boomers are picking up the mantle of civic engagement that the baby boomers foresaw for this generation as it heads into retirement. Plenty of retirees are still decamping for warmer climates and golf courses. Or they’re moving back to cities to enjoy the same cultural vibe that’s compelling companies to get out of the suburbs and create urban hangouts for young tech workers.

But for O’Connell — and others like him — there may be something to this quest for community building in later life.

“Creating space isn’t enough,” he said. “You have to continually populate spaces with activity and bring people together physically” to create the kind of vibrancy and mutual respect that gets all groups of people, not just retirees, excited about living in a particular place, he said.

“When we’re no longer coming together, our exchanges are mostly virtual, it leaves us with little in common.”

— Jim O’Connell

Share your journey to or through retirement or ask a question at journey@janetkiddstewart.com.
Money habits Americans struggle with most

Emergency savings, building a nest egg often shortchanged

By Jonelle Marte
The Washington Post

The rules that financial pros say you should follow if you want to build wealth are usually straightforward: pay your bills on time, have cash on hand for a rainy day and invest money for your future.

Sounds easy enough, but for many people these milestones can feel out of reach. The slow wage growth we've seen since the recession means that for many workers there isn't much left from the paycheck after covering essentials such as housing, child care and food. Then there are goals such as paying off debt and saving for retirement that can take a back seat, particularly for people struggling with student loans, day care expenses and high rent.

A slew of surveys and economic reports released recently shed light on how well Americans are handling their money. Wondering where you stand? Take a look.

Debt payments. Consumers have become much better about paying their bills on time since the recession, with delinquencies for major loan types dropping nearly across the board. This is good news because one of the easiest ways to improve your credit score is to pay your bills on time. The share of closed-end loans, such as car and personal loans, that were late by 30 days or more dropped dramatically in the second quarter to 1.36 percent of accounts, far below the 15-year average of 2.27 percent, according to new data from the American Bankers Association. Closed-end loans are for a set amount, unlike credit cards or lines of credit, which allow balances to change from month to month.

Credit card delinquencies rose slightly to 2.52 percent in the second quarter but were still below the long-term average of 3.74 percent. And the share of people with federal student loans who failed to make loan payments within three years of leaving school is down as more people take advantage of flexible payment options.

Housing costs. Financial advisers generally recommend that consumers not spend more than a third of their total pay on housing, to free up cash for saving, paying down debt and spending on other necessities. But whether you rent or own, chances are you are struggling to stay under that threshold. About 20.7 million rental households, or about half of all renters, spent more than 30 percent of their income on housing in 2013, according to a report from the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies. For about 11 million of those households, the rent bill ate up more than half of their paycheck.

The situation is a little different for people who own homes. For homeowners, monthly mortgage payments, including property taxes, mortgage insurance and home insurance, took up about 36.5 percent of the average national wage in the first quarter of 2015, down from 37.4 percent a year earlier, according to a report from RealtyTrac and Clear Capital.

Emergency savings. If you have any savings, you're ahead of the game. Some 62 percent of Americans have less than $1,000 in their savings account, according to a survey of 5,000 consumers by GoBankingRates. That includes 21 percent of those surveyed who said they didn't even have a savings account. The findings are in line with a similar study by Bankrate.com, which found that 29 percent of people don't have an emergency fund.

Despite the steady job growth of recent years, many Americans are struggling to save. Financial advisers and economists blame low wage growth, which might make it difficult for families to keep up with rising rent costs and child care expenses. Not surprisingly, people who make more money save a bigger percentage of their pay. People in the bottom 90 percent of the income scale save almost none of their pay each year, while those in the top 10 percent save close to 15 percent of their pay, according to an analysis by Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman, economists with the University of California at Berkeley.

But it's not too late to establish the habit. Financial advisers say people who save with a specific goal in mind — a vacation, a new car or to buy a home, for instance — may be more motivated to stick to their plan. Open a separate saving account and have the money funneled into the account automatically on a weekly or daily basis.

Retirement savings. People are getting better about saving for retirement. For the first time, the average amount that employees and employers contributed to 401(k)s topped $10,000 this year, according to Fidelity Investments. The numbers show that both sides are putting more funds toward retirement, an important shift as companies continue to move away from pensions and the future of Social Security remains uncertain.

But despite the improvement, many workers are not saving enough. Many young workers are putting off saving until they're older and making more money, a mistake that cuts down on how much time their savings have to grow and requires them to save much more later to catch up.

Some workers who were automatically enrolled into retirement plans also make the mistake of thinking that the default contribution amount chosen by their employer, which is often as low as 3 percent, is enough. The average worker saves 8 percent of their pay in a 401(k) plan, according to Fidelity. But financial advisers say people should strive to save up to 10 percent of pay in their 20s, about 15 percent in their 30s and make the maximum contribution, which is $18,000 this year for 401(k) plans, in their 40s.

If you aren't there yet, increase your saving rate as much as you can and then sign up to have your contributions increase automatically by one or two percentage points each year.
We know your favorite spot better than your spouse

Reintroducing Chicago's original entertainment guide

Experience the new Metromix.com, now on all of your devices. With entertainment listings that cover the city and the suburbs, we're your go-to source so you can spend less time planning, and more time doing.

metromix.com
Junk food isn’t to blame for obesity, researchers say

By Steven Reinberg

Despite their bad reputation, junk food, fast food and soda aren’t the root causes of America’s obesity epidemic, Cornell University researchers contend.

While these sugary and salt-laden foods may not be good for your health, the scientists found no significant difference in how much of these foods either overweight or normal weight people consumed.

The real problem, according to the researchers: Too many Americans eat too much.

“These are foods that are clearly bad for you, and if you eat too much of them, they will make you fat, but it doesn’t appear to be the main driver that is making people overweight and obese,” said lead researcher David Just, co-director of the Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics, in Ithaca, N.Y.

“For 95 percent of the country, there is no relationship between how much fast food and junk food they’re eating and their weight,” Just said.

“Because of the bad habits we have, with all our food, just eliminating junk food is not going to do anything.”

But that doesn’t mean it’s OK to eat junk food.

“These foods aren’t good for you,” he said. “There is no good argument for soda in your diet.”

Just said a broader approach is needed to fight the obesity epidemic. “We are eating too much generally. We need to cut back on our total consumption. We need to be better about exercising,” he recommended.

Diet and exercise are the keys to losing weight, Just said. “There is nothing flashy about that advice,” he said. “It’s not magic; there is no silver bullet here.”

The report was published Nov. 5 in the journal Obesity Science & Practice. For the study, Just and his colleague Brian Wansink, director of the Cornell Food and Brand Lab, used the 2007-2008 National Household and Nutrition Examination Survey to analyze a sample of about 5,000 adults in the United States.

The researchers found that consumption of soda, candy and fast food was not linked to weight gain for 95 percent of the population. The exceptions were people who are on the extreme ends of the weight spectrum—that is, those who are very underweight and those who are severely obese. These folks ate more fast food and fewer fruits and vegetables, the study revealed.

Samantha Heller, a senior clinical nutritionist at New York University Medical Center in New York, said, “One must be careful not to misinterpret the findings of this study to mean that eating fast food, candy and soft drinks does not affect the health of children and adults.”

Research has linked fast food, candy and sugar-sweetened beverages with heart disease, weight gain, Type 2 diabetes and an increased risk of dying from heart disease, she said.

“Anecdotally, the diets of the patients I see who are struggling with being overweight or obese are often high in fast food and junk foods and sugar,” Heller said.

Highly processed foods tend to trigger cravings for more of the same because of their chemical makeup and the body’s physiological response, Heller explained. These kinds of diets can result in a vicious cycle of eating and craving less healthy foods, she added.

“As a registered dietitian, my goal is to encourage people to be healthy, not skinny,” Heller said.

“Instead of only recommending cutting calories, we want to also focus on making healthy and affordable food choices, creating strategies for eating out and on the go and enjoying less processed foods.”

Race gap in life expectancy narrows to less than 4 years

By Amy Norton

Race is no longer the single biggest contributor to improved life expectancy for black people, and especially for black women.

That was really striking,” Kochanek said. “Everyone knows that heart disease deaths have been going down in the U.S. But it looks like there’s been a big impact for African-Americans.”

The news was not all good, however. Black people saw faster increases in rates of death from certain other diseases—including Alzheimer’s disease, aortic aneurysm, high blood pressure and complications related to pregnancy, the study found.

Lauderdale noted another limitation of the study: It included deaths at any age. So it’s not clear whether black people of all ages, or only certain age groups, are seeing improvements, she said.
Naperville home on triple lot: $1.875M

ADDRESS: 745 S. Julian St. in Naperville
ASKING PRICE: $1,875,000
Listed on Oct. 7, 2015
Conveniently located just a mile east of downtown Naperville, this beautiful French provincial-style home provides more than 7,000 square feet of living space that is ideal for active families and entertaining. Featuring six bedrooms, five baths and two half-baths, the interiors boast high-end finishes, including travertine tile, walnut hardwood flooring, custom cabinetry, four gas fireplaces, expansive windows and 10-foot ceilings.
Agent: Ann de Vane of John Greene Realtor, 630-841-6443
At press time this home was still for sale.

chicagotribune.com/homes | Visit us online for exclusive Home of the Day photo galleries, plus views of other featured homes and real estate stories.
'Armello' brings a fantasy board game to your screen

By Joe Fourhman
Tribune Newspapers

Featuring animal clans warring over the fate of their poisoned king, "Armello" is the work of programmers who started by imagining the project as a board game before developing it for TV and computer screens.

Each game of "Armello" puts four players on a map of randomized forests, swamps and towns, with the king's castle at the center. The playable avatars - ranging from noble wolves to sneaky rats - all have various strengths and weaknesses that lean into the game's mechanics of die-rolling, card-playing and moving around the board. Zosha the rat is a ninja, so she can hide from others, for example, while Amber the rabbit is better at table talk to fill in the gaps, as you would while playing board games. The death of the king puts a white-knuckle flight back to your secret base in the Indian Ocean. A good portion of the game is spent sending jeeps, goats and prisoners up and away, and it never gets old.

But what does wear thin is the game's assortment of missions, which mostly boil down to "sneak into the base and sneak out with file A, operative B or prisoner C." The good news is that infiltrating enemy compounds is exactly where "Phantom Pain" excels, but when you're spending most of the game in only two environments, it can feel repetitive. It is often unclear exactly what you have to do next to move the story along, so you just putter around on sidebar missions - or listen to the game's many audio recordings - until something triggers it. By the game's end, "Phantom Pain" starts asking you to replay earlier storyline missions under more difficult conditions, which ought to be illegal for all video games.

Joe Fourhman is a freelance writer.

Gaming icon 'Metal Gear' marches back onto battlefield

By Joe Fourhman
Tribune Newspapers

Set in the 1980s, "Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain" sees legendary soldier Snake rebuilding his private army after spending nine years in a coma. Playing as either Snake or one of his agents, you can explore locations in enemy-occupied Africa or the Middle East while chasing the machinations of rival military commander Skull Face.

Unlike previous "Metal Gear" games, "Phantom Pain" offers an open world where you can take on smaller-scale missions or just wander at your leisure. Although both regions are emptied of civilians, there are plenty of enemy bases to infiltrate, animals to capture and equipment to steal. Snake's army, the Diamond Dogs, is primarily built by appropriating resources and kidnapping soldiers from the opposing forces.

Because "Metal Gear" is often as silly as it is serious, you snitch up people, animals and whatever else you want by attaching homing balloons to them. The balloons rocket your target into the sky for a white-knuckle flight back to your secret base in the Indian Ocean. A good portion of the game is spent sending jeeps, goats and prisoners up and away, and it never gets old.

But what does wear thin is the game's assortment of missions, which mostly boil down to "sneak into the base and sneak out with file A, operative B or prisoner C." The good news is that infiltrating enemy compounds is exactly where "Phantom Pain" excels, but when you're spending most of the game in only two environments, it can feel repetitive. It is often unclear exactly what you have to do next to move the story along, so you just putter around on sidebar missions - or listen to the game's many audio recordings - until something triggers it. By the game's end, "Phantom Pain" starts asking you to replay earlier storyline missions under more difficult conditions, which ought to be illegal for all video games.

"Phantom Pain" also allows you to go online and attack other players' Diamond Dogs bases to steal from their collected assets. It's another wrinkle to consider in the sub-game of micromanaging your private army, as your troops can automatically defend your base should you find yourself under attack. This mode can easily be switched off, however, if you are not interested in opening yourself up to those risks and rewards.

Despite a few disappointments, "Phantom Pain" remains impressive. This latest "Metal Gear" game is a master class combination of smart and stealthy, framed with a slightly-less-bonkers-than-usual storyline (goat balloons notwithstanding.) The open world sprawl is a blast to explore, despite the game's unnecessary padding.

Joe Fourhman is a freelance writer.

'Armello' is available for both PlayStation 4 and PC. If you have the choice, you might want to go with PC, since the game's reliance on tiny on-screen text makes playing on the PS4 somewhat less appealing.
We remember when you partied like it was 1999

Reintroducing Chicago's original entertainment guide

Experience the new Metromix.com, now on all of your devices. With entertainment listings that cover the city and the suburbs, we're your go-to source so you can spend less time planning, and more time doing.
Christmas 2015 arrived for me with a jolt, one day after Halloween, in the shape of Roger Mueller. As the actor and patriarch of a stable of musical theater stars barreled into the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire on a tricked-out golf cart in the guise of Santa Claus — despite it being close to 70 degrees outside — well, let’s just say I could feel the turning of the years.

Buddy the Elf is here for your holiday pleasure.

Since Christmas shows are like catnip for producers when they work, there’s a perennial interest in creating new traditions, as the oxymoronically immune marketing people like to say. Of all the movies-into-holiday-musicals rolled out over the last few years, I’ve only really liked "A Christmas Story" (which opens soon at the Paramount Theatre in Aurora) and, to a lesser but not inconsiderable extent, "Elf," a show that got mixed reviews on Broadway in 2010 but redeemed itself in my eyes during a 2013 national tour that was packed with crackling Broadway character actors who brought out the best in the witty book by Thom as Meehan and Bob Martin. The Marriott has snagged the first local rights to the show — and director Marc Robin has turned in a very genial and likable production that's fully competitive with that previous tour and, in places, rather more textured and warm.

Although based on the 2003 Will Ferrell movie and concerned with a human who grew up elf at the North Pole and has a certain emptiness inside,
We know your favorite spot better than your spouse.

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Everyone sings with Little Miss Ann!

BY MYRNA PETLICK
Pioneer Press

Make a plan to see Little Miss Ann! The popular children's entertainer will be at the Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., 10-10:45 a.m. Nov. 14.

“We are going to have a family-friendly, interactive concert,” Little Miss Ann said. “I will be joined by Carolyn Ou. She will be at keyboards and fiddle. There'll be lots of clapping, singing, dancing, jumping — general participation.”

Little Miss Ann will sing some audience favorites, including “Three Little Pumpkins” and “Clap for Love.” The long-time teacher at the Old Town School of Folk Music will also perform selections from the latest of her four children's CD's, “Follow Me.” Tunes on that recording include, “Can You Make a Circle” and “I Love the Mountains.”

“I try to teach about inner strength, individuality, hope and love,” the entertainer said. “Those are big themes but yet it's fun, uplifting and inspiring for both parents and kids.”

Registration is required.
For details, call 847-677-5277, ext. 234 or go to lincolnwoodlibrary.org.

Long time

Kids will dance the Croaky Pokey when they Meet the Author: Ethan Long, 7-8 p.m. Nov. 20 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Families will learn what it takes to create books for children. Light refreshments will be served at this drop-in event.

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

Turkey time craft

You and your children, ages 6 or older, will create something great at Family Thanksgiving, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Nov. 21 at Brickton Art Center, 306 Busse Highway, Park Ridge. The cost is $35 per family of up to four people for nonmembers, $29.75 for member families. Registration is required.
For details, call 847-823-6011 or go to bricktonartcenter.org.

Pop over

Life gets exciting for a financially challenged couple with the arrival of “Mr. Popper's Penguins.” Lifeline Theatre is present- ing the world premiere of Robert Kauzlaric’s adapta- tion of the Richard and Florence Atwater novel, with music and lyrics by George Howe, through Dec. 13. Performances are 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, plus 3 p.m.

For details, call 773-761-4477 or go to lifeline theatre.com.

Moving story

...moving snow that is at “The Little Snowplow” storytime, 11 a.m. Nov. 14 at Barnes and Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie.
Kids will hear Lora Koehler's new book and do related activities.
For details, call 847-676-2230 or go to barnesandnoble.com.
UNICEF honors local humanitarians at awards luncheon

UNICEF's aid stretches across 190 countries and territories, focusing on health, education, access to clean water, sanitation, child protection and a host of other critical relief efforts. More than 90 percent of the money the organization raises goes into active programs in the field, according to Charity Navigator.

Still, Casey Marsh of Chicago, UNICEF Midwest Regional Director stressed: "We can't do this work alone. "We need help, we need volunteers, we need donations."

Bottom Line: This year's luncheon raised more than $110,000 for UNICEF's programs first.

Glenview gala raises $700K for Kohl Museum

Event: An Evening to Imagine
Benefiting: Kohl Children's Museum, Glenview
Celebrating: 30th anniversary of the founding of Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago
Sponsored by: Women's Board
Co-chairs: Erin and Brandon Beavers of Hinsdale and Sarah Alshouse and Bethany Crocker, both of Winnetka
Honoring: Founders Circle, eight individuals and families whose passion and vision helped secure the success. They are: Thomas Donahoe, the Farley Family, Nancy Firfer, Dolores Kohl Kaplan, Diana Mendley Rauner, Fritz Souder, and Estelle Walgreen
Attended: 450
Raised: $700,000
Location: Kohl Museum, Glenview
Date: Oct. 17
Website: kohlchildrensmuseum.org

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This list is not intended to be a complete record of all real estate transactions. 
Data compiled by Record Information Services | 630-557-1000 | public-record.com
DOWNERS GROVE

This 5-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom home was built in 2006. The home offers a two-story entryway, open floor plan, formal living room and dining room. The kitchen has a breakfast bar that opens to a breakfast room and the family room, which has a fireplace. The home has Brazilian cherry hardwood floors, crown molding, high baseboards, and recessed lighting throughout.

Address: 225 8th St.
Price: $750,000
Schools: Downers Grove North High School
Taxes: $9,562.16
Agent: Julie Mara/Baird & Warner Downers Grove

HIGHLAND PARK

This Highland Park Victorian-style home has three bedrooms and three bathrooms in a location just steps away from the heart of town, the train station, schools, the beach and parks. The kitchen has newer Bosch stainless steel appliances and the living room has a custom fireplace. The home offers a separate dining room, family room with built-ins, hardwood floors, original stained glass, first-floor laundry, front porch and two-car garage.

Address: 385 Park Ave.
Price: $649,000
Schools: Highland Park High School
Taxes: $9,357
Agent: Debbie Scully/@Properties

MUNDELEN

This contemporary 5-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom home is located on almost 3-acres of land with a lake behind the home. The home features skylights, decks, and spacious closets. The family room opens to a grand patio that leads to a secluded backyard. The home offers two kitchens, two attached garages, a gazebo, walls of sliding windowed doors and a new roof installed in 2011.

Address: 26804 N. Countryside Lake Drive
Price: $720,000
Schools: Mundelein Cons High School
Taxes: $24,386
Agent: Margie Smigel/The Margie Smigel Group, Lic

PARK RIDGE

This brick and stucco 4-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom home offers a two-story foyer with open floor plan that leads to the living and dining room areas. The living room has a full floor to ceiling stone fireplace. Kitchen has cherry cabinets, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances and breakfast bar with butler's area. Open staircase leads to the second floor featuring a master suite.

Address: 2603 Woodland Ave.
Price: $699,900
Schools: Maine East High School
Taxes: $15,020
Agent: Sohail Salahuddin/@properties

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DOA Room Escape: See if you can escape criminal mastermind HH Holmes' basement using clues, riddles and codes to find your way out. 6 p.m. daily, D.O.A. Room Escape, 1450 W. Fullerton Ave., Unit A. Addison, $29.50

Musician's ghost songs: Entertainer and historian Lee Morden narrates a concert that features songs of supernatural legends and spooky tales of ghost ships and haunted lighthouses. 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Des Plaines History Center, 1717 Central St., Des Plaines, $3 suggested donation, 847-391-5399

Ellen Jeweli: 8.p.m. Thursday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $22-$32, 847-492-0990

Diabetes month by month: Learn how to prevent, manage and take care of your diabetes in order to prevent complications. Class is bilingual (English and Spanish). 6p.m. Thursday, Erie Family Health Center Evanston/Skokie, 1285 Hartrey Ave., Evanston, free, 847-666-2346

Art in the Library: My Museum Year: Glenview fine artist Elisa Boughner shares several of her museum-quality pieces. 9 a.m. daily, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Alliance Francaise du North Shore Club: Participate in a showing and post-screening discussion in French of "La Haine," a 1995 French drama. Send your RSVP to alliancefnyahoo.com. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 1500 Waukegan Rd, Morton Grove, free, 847-391-6450

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

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

All My Relations: A Seneca History: Introduces the history of the Seneca culture through milestones in the lives of visual artist and dancer Rosy 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: This exhibit celebrates the history of Native American fashion from pre-contact to today. 10 a.m. daily, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-1030

Evaston Legend: The Art of Peggy Lipschutz: The paintings and drawings of Peggy Lipschutz. 10 a.m. daily, Noyes Cultural Art Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, free, 773-816-4716

15th Anniversary of the End of the Civil War: Living history in an encampment with living Civil War soldiers on site. 9 a.m. daily, Glenview History Center, 121 Waukegan Road, Glenview, free

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 Rd, Glenview, free

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Community Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 24 at 7pm
Park Ridge Presbyterian Church
1300 West Crescent Ave., Park Ridge, IL
OPEN TO ALL!
www.parkridgepresby.org/thanksgivingservice

ARE YOU FULL OF IDEAS?

Here's a thought: start a blog
chicagonow.com/pitch
“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-$54, 847-677-7761

Maz Jobrani: 8 p.m. Friday, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, $35-$60, 847-673-6300

Rock and Roll Kidz with Wendy Morgan: 10:30 a.m. Friday, Glencoe Public Library, 320 Park Ave., Glencoe, free, 847-835-5056

Game Night (Ages 13-18): Play with the library’s game systems and collections on big screens. Pizza is served. Register by calling. 5 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Family Reading Night: Camp Out With a Good Book: Stop in to check out books for Family Reading Night and enter the drawing for a gift pack of books. 9 a.m. Friday-Nov. 19, 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., Thursday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Share The Warmth: Prepare one-of-a-kind fleece blankets for chemo patients. A basic crochet stitch can be taught. Bring lunch. 9 a.m. Fridays, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-293-6755

Duplicate Bridge: 9 a.m. Fridays, Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-5127

“The Magic Flute: A Space Opera”: Suitable for all ages. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 4 p.m. Sunday, Petite Opera, 306 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, $5-$27, 847-553-4442

Bunko Parties to Benefit the Center of Concern: “Bunko and Lunch” for men and women will be held from 7:30 p.m. at Foster Dance Studios, 915 Foster St., Evanston, $15-$10 for students and seniors, 847-869-0250

“Music at the Methuselah”- The voice of Moses: 7:30 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. Saturday, First United Methodist Church of Oak Park, 250 N. Forest Ave., Oak Park, $15, 847-692-6600

LOL Saturday: Adult Comedy. 9 p.m. Saturday, Chicago's Home of Chicken & Waffles, 2424 W. Dempster St., Evanston, $15 adult advance, $20 at the door, 847-521-6434

Matisse Exhibit Opening Party with Eva J. Alfille: Includes a live musical performance and refreshments. 1 p.m. Saturday, Eva J. Alfille Gallery and Studio, 623 Grove St., Evanston, free, 847-869-7920

“Secrets, Lies, and Super Spies: Fall Youth Circus”: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, $15 adults, $12.50 students, seniors, children under 12, 847-328-2795

Glenview Community Church Nursery School Fall Fun Fair: This family-friendly event includes games, balloon artist, raffle, arts and crafts. All proceeds benefit the GCCS early childhood programs. 10 a.m. Saturday, Glenview Community Church, 1000 Elm St., Glenview, ages 2 and up, free for adults

Select the Right gadget to Buy: The resident gadget guru offers some tips and tricks. 2 p.m. Saturday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free

Saturday, Nov. 14

Making Miracles Happen: St. Mary's Services hosts its annual fundraising event with a cocktail hour, passed hors d'oeuvres, silent auctions, raffles, dinner and entertainment. 6 p.m. Saturday, Cafe le Cave, 2777 Mannheim Road, Des Plaines, $125, 847-870-8181

MUGS & Moustaches: A fundraising event for the Movember Foundation. Buy a mug for admission and fill it with beer from Sketchbook Brewing Company. Moustaches encouraged. 6 p.m. Saturday, The Pot Shop, 1224 Chicago Ave., Evanston, Most mugs are $25, 847-864-8778

Nellie McKay: 7 p.m. Saturday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $15-$35, 847-492-8860

FUSE: Studio: Drop in with friends to wire LEDs, compose a ringtone, build an amp, mix chemicals to make gel 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 Saturday, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston, free, 847-448-8600

Anxiety and Depression in Adopted Children: Learn how to recognize and begin to address anxiety or depression in your adopted child. 10 a.m. Saturday, The Therapy Institute, 1940 Oak Ave, #220, Evanston, $20, $10 for additional attendees; $5 child care fee, 847-256-7334

Overeaters Anonymous: 9 a.m. Saturday, St Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2120 Lincoln St., Evanston, free, 773-996-0609

American Girl Afternoon Tea: This is for ages six through eleven with a caregiver present with those children who are under eight. Proper tea etiquette is taught. Enjoy playing American Girl-themed crafts and games. Registration is required and favorite dolls or stuffed animals are welcome. 2 p.m. Sunday, Glenbrook Hospital, 2100 Pfingsten Road, Glenview, free, 800-888-6208

Ryan de Ryke and Brandon J Acker: "A Wanderer's Guitar": CD release. 8 p.m. Saturday, Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave. Skokie. $8-$12 suggested donation, 847-677-3334

Jazz Documentary Filmmaker: "Lady Be Good: Instrumental Women in Jazz" with a post-screening talkbacked by filmmaker Kay D. Ray. 3 p.m. Saturday, Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette, $10-$12, 847-251-7424

Light and Noir Film Festival — "Ninotchka": Screening discussion is led by Ron Falzone of Columbia College. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette, $10, 847-251-7424

Sunday, Nov. 15

Martin Sexton: 7 p.m. Sunday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $32-$68, 847-492-8860

Step Up for Recovery: PEER Services' charity stair climb. 8 a.m. Sunday, 1603 Orrington Ave. Plaza, Evanston, $25 for single climber

Chicago Philharmonic presents "Turning Points" — Schubert, Brahms, Kilar: 7 p.m. Sunday, Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $25-$75; $10 students, 847-467-4000

Le Titli de Paris: A Culinary Retrospective: Chef Michael Maddox demonstrates a selection of his favorite recipes. Tasting included. Call to register. 2 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Chicago North Suburbs Myasthenia Gravis Support Group: Learn about the neuromuscular disorder and find friendship and support. Friends and family are welcome. 1 p.m. Sunday, Glenbrook Hospital, 2100 Pfingsten Road, Glenview, free, 800-888-6208
CALENDAR

Calendar, from Previous Page

National Novel Writing Month
Weekly Write-In: Snacks provided. 2 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Fine Arts Fall: Concert: 2 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Mother and Daughter Book Club Tea for mothers: For mothers (or grandmothers or aunts) with daughters in kindergarten through third grades, to spend time together reading a Rebecca Rubin book in the “American Girl” series at home and join together for a discussion, craft and snack. 11 a.m. Sunday, Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave, Northbrook, free, 847-498-4100 ext. 34

Author Jessica Fechter: In honor of National Jewish Book Month, hear from Jessica Fechter, author of “Stir: My Broken Brain and the Meals that Brought Me Home” 11 a.m. Sunday, Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-0951

Transgender and Jewish: from Tradition to Today: Rabbi Becky Silverstein shares thoughts of the journey and teaching texts. 7 p.m. Sunday, Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie, free, 847-870-1656

Light and Noir Film Festival – “Hangmen Also Die” and “Mildred Pierce”: 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave, Wilmette, $10, 847-251-7424

Cantor’s Concert: Cantor Pavel Royzman joins Corky Siegel’s Chamber Blues. 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Beth Hillel Congregation B’nai Emunah, 3220 Big Tree Lane, Wilmette, $25 in advance, $29 at the door, 847-256-1213

Monday, Nov. 16

Book Babies: 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

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

Power of Attorney Workshop: Registration required. 6:30 p.m. Monday, Evanston Public Library CAMS Branch, 900 Chicago Ave, Evanston, free, 847-908-0764

Tuesday, Nov. 17

Rotary Club of Evanston Light- house: 7:15 a.m. Tuesday, Hilton Garden Inn Chicago North Shore/Evanston, 1818 Maple Ave, Evanston, free. 847-281-4727

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

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Tuesday Morning Music: Garden visitors can enjoy free hour-long meditative musical performances. 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

Smile and Rhyme Storytime: Miss Fran shares stories, rhymes, and songs. Stay for a snack and to chat after the program. Bring a towel or blanket for ages two and up with an adult. Just drop in! 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Heinen's Grocery Store, 1020 Waukegan Road, Glencoe, free, 847-729-7500

Financial Planning Appointments: Register by phone. 9 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Come Write In: Registration requested, drop-ins welcome. Join a small group of aspiring writers of all levels to get creative juices flowing by writing and sharing prompts. 11 a.m. Tuesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave, Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

An Introduction to QuickBooks Accounting: This lecture/demo gives participating a broad overview of what they can do with Intuit’s Quickbooks software program from an accounting and business management prospective. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave, Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

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

Yarn Gang: Kids in grades one and up are invited to try their hand at knitting, crocheting or other yarn crafts. 2 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave, Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Welcome to Writing: Drop-in play time for pre-schoolers with a parent or caregiver. Just drop in! 2 p.m. Wednesday, Heinen’s Grocery Store, 1020 Waukegan Road, Glencoe, free, 847-729-7500

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

EXCEL 2010 Basics: Learn the layout of the Excel spreadsheet, how to input data and the basics for writing formulas. Registration and Glenview Library card required. 10 a.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

All Things Spanish: Read a Spanish short story, watch a Spanish film, or discuss hot topics. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Baby Signs (ages birth-23 months): Pre-readers learn sign language with their families. 10 a.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
CALENDAR

BOOKIt! Nonfiction Book Group: "Same Kind of Different As Me: A Modern-Day Slave," by Ron Hall. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Hunger Games: For sixth through twelfth grades. Participate in a reaping and several activities. Registration is required. 6 p.m. Wednesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free

App Series: Travel Apps: Join in getting suggestions for apps on these fun themes. 2 p.m. Wednesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free

Scrabble for Adults: Exercise your brain and enjoy friendly games of Scrabble. 2 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

ESL Conversation Group: Practice speaking English in an informal and friendly group setting. 3 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Chess Club: Chess sets and clocks provided. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Classics on Wednesday Film Series: 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Storytime and Snacks: For those ages 2 and up with an adult to join Mrs. Schmitt for stories, fun, and a tasty snack in the Lifestyle Center. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Just drop in. 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Whole Foods Market, 840 Willow Road, Northbrook, free, 847-729-7500

Michael Somerville: The comedian performs standup. 8 p.m. Wednesday-Nov. 20, Zanes Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont, $22 plus a two-item food/drink minimum, 847-813-0484

Senior High Youth Group: For all youth grades 9 to 12 to enjoy fun and friendship while engaging in meaningful discussions and service learning opportunities. 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

World War II Veterans’ Roundtable: Vets gather for lively conversation and coffee. Newcomers are welcome. 10 a.m. Wednesday, Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free

Hot Ticket: "Jurassic World": Rated PG-13. 2 p.m. Nov. 19, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Between the Lines: "Me Before You" by Jojo Moyes: Taking a job as an assistant to extreme sports enthusiast Will, who is wheelchair bound after a motorcycle accident, Louisa struggles with her employer’s acerbic moods and learns of his shocking plans before demonstrating to him that life is still worth living. 10 a.m. Nov. 19, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Mythbusters: Jamie and Adam Unleashed: Watch on stage experiments, behind the scenes tales and lots of audience participation. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 19, Akoo Theatre at Rosemont, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont, $25-$150, 847-671-5100

Skokie Photographic Society: All levels of photographic skill are welcome. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 19, Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton St., Skokie, free, 847-677-8324

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

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MOVIES

Now playing

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

“Goosebumps” ★★★
PG, 1:43, fantasy
Silly, spooky monster mashup “Goosebumps” doesn’t have to be as good as it is. Silly 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” ★★★★
PG-13, 2:15, drama
Adapted freely from the historical record, like any good fact-based but not fact-bound docudrama, “Bridge of Spies” honors the righteous underdog, triumphant. Tom Hanks stars as James Donovan, a Brooklyn insurance claims lawyer and former Nuremberg trials prosecutor. Not that many knew about it at the time, but Donovan negotiated a tricky exchange of a Soviet 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 Glienicke Bridge linking West Berlin with Potsdam, answers that question in due course. The movie plants one foot in Hollywood myth-making and the other in American history and American values. — MP

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

“Burnt” ★★
R, 1:50, drama
In “Burnt,” playing a brilliant, tormented American chef clawing his way to the top of the London culinary scene, Bradley Cooper throws more tantrums than a season’s worth of “Rugrats.” The movie is devoted three ways: to the character’s reckless past as an apprentice in Paris, drink and drugs and women strewn in his wake; to his lust for the validation of a coveted third Michelin star rating; and to an artery-clogging number of close-ups, frenetically edited by Nick Moore, of the film’s real stars, potatoes and filets and mackerel sizzling in hot lakes of butter or lounging just so on an obscenely well-arranged dinner plate. — MP
DEATH NOTICES
We extend our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.
PLACEANAD.TRIBUNESUBURBS.COM

Delbel, Barbara Klein
Barbara Klein Deibel, nee Garland, of Skokie, died November 5, 2015 in Chicago, from complications following a stroke. She was 78. She was preceded by her beloved husband, Thomas Deibel and parents, Jerry and Hannah Garland. She is survived by sisters, Saralee (Wayne Phillips) Stark and Leslie (John) Jamieson; sons, David Klein and Richard (Debra) Delbel; and daughter, Cathy Deibel. Barbara was a lifelong Chicago area resident and lived the past 49 years in Skokie. She loved gardening, collecting carnival glass, and helping animals. She and Tom were avid supporters of animal welfare organizations, especially Dachshund rescues. Donations in their memory may be made to the Evanston Animal Shelter Association, 2310 Oakton St, Evanston, IL 60202, www.evanstonanimalshelter.net.

HABEN
Funeral Home & Crematory
Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Garrison, William George
William George Garrison, age 85, passed away October 30, 2015. He was born on March 2, 1930 in Lancaster, PA. Beloved husband of Barbara (nee Vursell), loving father of William Grant; fond brother of Jane Spackman, the late Helen Hostetter, the late Paul R. Garrison Jr., and the late Mary Roalman Betts; cherished uncle and cousin to many. Memorial service Saturday, November 21, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2515 Central Park Ave, Evanston, IL 60201. Info: 773-774-3333
Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Papienski, Lillian
Lillian Papienski (nee Kier), beloved mother, wife, and grandmother, passed away peacefully on Friday, September 4, 2015 in Des Plaines, IL. Born in Chicago, IL on February 26, 1931, she was the child of the late John and Helen Dadej Kier. Lillian graduated from Marie Sklodowska Curie Metro High School in Chicago. Lillian married Vernon Papienski on May 21, 1950, and celebrated 62 years of marriage. A consummate mother and homemaker, Lillian was an exceptional cook, dressmaker and cultivator of roses; she was also an avid fan of crime fiction. Lillian created a loving, welcoming home for family, neighbors and friends. Lillian is survived by her children, Patricia (William), Cheryl (Robert), Kathy (Ted) and Tim (Linda); grandchildren Eric and Lily Marie. Lillian is preceded in death by her husband Vernon, and first-born son Jeffrey. Lillian will be interred alongside Vernon at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, in Elwood, IL. Lillian will be remembered in prayer during worship service on Sunday November 15th, 9:00 am at All Saints Cathedral 9201 W Higgins Rd, Chicago, IL.
Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

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Story

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A case for diesel

New generation of pickup trucks handle towing and hauling more efficiently

BY ANDY MIKONIS | Tribune Newspapers

Diesel engines have never caught on in the U.S. like they have in other countries. Factors like a higher purchase price, fluctuating fuel costs and dirty reputations from a bygone era can make diesel a tough sell. It's only gotten worse by Volkswagen cheating U.S. emissions standards with diesel engines that were polluting up to 40 times the legal limit.

Despite the recent bad press, diesel engines are favored for towing and hauling due to their efficient nature and high torque characteristics. Diesel truck engines in particular tend to be built to more rugged standards, making them practical for high-mileage commercial applications.

There are several new diesel choices in light duty trucks for 2016. Heavy-duty buyers are not likely to be dissuaded from buying diesel by the VW situation, but shoppers who are new to the segment shouldn't be turned off either.

Recent and upcoming light duty models from Ram, General Motors and Nissan use a selective catalytic reduction system to control emissions, something the Volkswagen engines do not have.

Andy Mikonis is a freelance automotive writer.

Ram 1500 EcoDiesel

Ram started the light-duty diesel revival with the Ram 1500 EcoDiesel for the 2014 model year. Also offered in the Jeep Grand Cherokee, the EcoDiesel is a 3-liter V-6 engine producing 240 horsepower and 420 pound-feet of torque, coupled to an eight-speed automatic transmission.

The Ram 1500 EcoDiesel has captured the fuel mileage crown among pickups with up to 29 mpg, depending on equipment. Not just a boutique offering to rake in headline dollars, the EcoDiesel has proven quite popular, now comprising 15 to 20 percent of Ram 1500 production, according to Nick Cappa, Ram Truck spokesman. Cappa said the EcoDiesel is also driving a lot of luxury truck sales, though it is available right on down to the work truck Tradesman trim level.

The engine comes from VM Motori in Italy. Though the chain of ownership has changed on both ends, Chrysler has sourced engines for its European products from VM Motori since 1992.

A Ram 1500 with the diesel can tow up to 9,200 pounds. The EcoDiesel is 50-state emissions compliant, but will the VW debacle cast any doubt in the minds of light-duty truck buyers?

“The short answer is no,” said Cappa. “Our buyers are still looking for the best fuel economy and nothing gets better than Ram EcoDiesel — not even a smaller truck.”

Nissan Titan XD

Nissan has employed a different tactic with the Titan XD pickup with a diesel engine rolling out this December as part of the redesigned 2016 Titan lineup. Since Nissan does not offer heavy duty pickups, this truck is intended to increase the capability of the Titan with a higher towing capacity while promising a lower price point and better fuel economy than a typical heavy duty.

“We expect the buyers for Titan XD to be people looking for the middle ground between half-ton and three-quarter ton pickups,” said Wendy Payne, Nissan spokesperson. Nissan estimates 150,000 buyers per year are looking for this middle ground pickup.

Indiana-based Cummins will supply the 5-liter V-8 engine with 310 horsepower and 555 pound-feet of torque. Nissan promises a high level of refinement from this new engine featuring lightweight construction and a new two-stage turbocharger engineered to reduce turbo lag.

The frame of the Titan XD is strengthened compared to other Titans, and it has a longer wheelbase. Suspension components are reinforced and it rides on larger axles. Exact figures will be announced closer to launch, but Nissan speculates a towing capacity of over 12,000 pounds and 20 percent higher fuel economy over a gasoline V-8 while towing.

Sales of the Titan XD start in late 2015.

Chevrolet Colorado Diesel/GMC Canyon Diesel

Two smaller trucks hitting showrooms later this fall are the Chevrolet Colorado and sister GMC Canyon with a new Duramax diesel option for 2016. General Motors revived their midsize truck offerings with these all-new models that launched with gasoline engines for model year 2015.

The Duramax 2.8-liter turbocharged four-cylinder diesel is built in Thailand, according to Colorado chief engineer Anita Burke, and it has already been in service in the “global” version of this truck in overseas markets. With 181 horsepower and 369 pound-feet of torque, it bumps towing capacity up to 7,700 pounds from a high of 7,000 with the 3.6-liter gas V-6. Chevrolet spokesman Otie McKinley predicts a range of customers “from small business buyers looking for a more fuel efficient offering to those buyers that need the capability of a diesel engine to tow their toys, yet don’t have a need for a full-size truck.”

Environmental Protection Agency fuel economy estimates are not yet available as diesel vehicles will be subject to additional testing due to the VW scandal. “Diesel truck buyers are generally purpose-driven, and we don’t expect that to shift,” McKinley said about the potential impact of the VW scandal. “There continues to be strong early interest from both dealers and customers about this Colorado.”
The BMW i8 plug-in hybrid is a high-priced gas-electric sports coupe with scissor doors.

**BMW i8 hybrid passes, fails**

**BY ROBERT DUFFER**

**Tribune Newspapers**

They called it a Batmobile. A transformer. A mid-life crisis. Whatever you call it, the BMW i8 plug-in hybrid sports coupe with scissor doors was the most talked about car in the neighborhood. Kids pointed at, adults scoffed at and people took pictures of this futuristic-looking supercar out of central casting in the inevitable “Blade Runner” reboot.

But if BMW’s technology showcase portends the future of autos, then I’ll pass. The i8 is overpriced, impractical and outgunned by other performance vehicles.

On the upside, it looks like no other car on the road. The car is a bird of prey grounded by 20-inch alloy wheels.

The i8 is a contrast of opposing forces, a supercar made of lightweight materials meant to optimize fuel economy. The frame is made of aluminum, the tub is made of carbon fiber and the accent strips on the interior are made of recycled materials.

Yet fine light gray leather swaddles the seats, door panels and center consoles. Indulgences such as a bespoke sports steering wheel and BMW’s head-up display, a lower windshield projection of vehicle information so your eyes never stray from the road, is the clearest on the market. And the design screams speed.

At nearly $140,000, the selling point greater than the eco-mindedness of the i8 is the advanced powertrain. But as far as sports coupes go, its performance is not mind-blowing. It has the sudden pickup of electric cars, where the max torque is ever-present. From a stop it can lift you out of your seat and throw you back, but the Tesla Model S on the electric side, and the Chevy Corvette on the gas side, do it much better.

The i8 is remarkably stealthy for a car that is so flashy.

Until you notch the gear stick into sport mode. The dash lighting goes from cool blue to hot red. The three-cylinder engine begins to bark, and when the gas is hit it amplifies a strange but lovely melody of a warbling gas engine mixed with a turbo whirr, all underscored by the thrum of the electric motor. It is sonorous. It is the sound of the future. The i8 is more impressive from an intellectual than performance standpoint. There’s no doubt BMW has the capability to make a plug-in performance beast but the i8 is not it. It is more a halo car for its electrification program and, while undeniably cool, leaves $140,000 a bit unfulfilled.

Instead of the Batmobile, let’s call it the future, where there’s always room for improvement.

**2015 BMW i8**

**Plug-in hybrid sports coupe**

**Price as tested:** $139,500

- **Base price:** $136,500
- **MPG:** 28 mpg gas only combined, 76 miles gas and electric
- **Engine:** 1.5-liter turbo 3-cylinder with direct injection, paired to 129-horsepower electric motor
- **Transmission:** 6-speed automatic gas only; 2-speed automatic in electric only
- **Parting shot:** Stunning technological showcase looks far better than it performs.

**Xenon lights expensive to replace**

**BOB WEBER**

**Motormouth**

**Q:** My son bought a used 2010 Mazda CX-9 a year and a half ago. One of the headlights burned out, and the dealership wants $600 to replace it. Really? The bulb goes for about $200 online. What’s so special about this bulb? Can something else be used? I find it hard to believe that one light is out on a 5-year-old car. My 14-year-old Saturn hasn’t had a headlight bulb replaced yet. Can you shed some light on this replacement?

- **D.S., Chicago**

  **A:** Allow us to illuminate. The vehicle is equipped with high-intensity discharge headlamps using a D2S bulb. They are sometimes called xenon lights. About 25,000 volts passes through the bulb socket, making this a dangerous job for anyone unfamiliar with how to do it.

  Often, the headlight control module is replaced along with the bulb, since it is vulnerable to internal damage and may have to be replaced soon after bulb replacement. May as well have it replaced now. Yeah, it is expensive, so don’t buy cheap replacements. Maybe you should leave this one to a pro.

**Q:** I have a remote opener for a 2009 Toyota Camry that no longer works, and I assume that I need a new battery. I understand that it will also require expensive programming at the dealer. My question is, can I get both of my openers reprogrammed for one price?

- **T.M., Bethlehem, Pa.**

  **A:** Not only can you get all of your remote keyless entry fobs reprogrammed at once, it is advisable to do so. This will avoid the possible issue of the RKEs having differing settings.

**Q:** I am sure you are familiar with the smartphone app called Waze that informs drivers of police, traffic obstructions, detours to take and so on. Do you know if the navigation systems in the newest vehicles have this Waze technology? If so, could you please tell me which vehicles have it?

- **R.H., Chicago**

  **A:** For our readers who may be unfamiliar with Waze, it is a social network for motorists to post information for other members to see. It can be quite helpful in areas with lots of members, not so much out in the boonies. This is an app that you can download and install on your portable devices, but we know of no vehicles that come with the app preloaded.

**Q:** I am 82 years old and own a 2003 Honda sedan with 150,000 miles. Occasionally, when the transmission is in park, I am not able to move the gear shift to put it in drive or reverse. This past weekend it happened while I was at the ATM.

This has happened off and on in the past six months. My Honda dealer has not heard of the problem and did not have an answer for me. Do you?

- **E.M., Oglesby, Ill.**

  **A:** The shift interlock prevents the driver from moving out of park unless the break is engaged. Sometimes the problem is operator error because the brake pedal is not pushed far enough.

  Another cause is a bad brake light switch, which controls the interlock system. In descending order of probability are problems with the shift interlock solenoid, a bad neutral safety switch on the transmission or an electrical problem in one of the circuits.

Bob Weber is an ASE-certified master mechanic and freelance writer.

Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Tribune, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Fifth Floor, Chicago IL 60611 or motormouth@tribune.com.
Allen brothers pave the way for Michigan State’s offense

BY NICK BULLOCK
Pioneer Press

Two brothers from Hinsdale Central deserve a significant portion of the praise for the then No. 6-ranked Michigan State football team’s 8-0 start to the season. Brian and Jack Allen are both starting offensive linemen for the Spartans, helping pave the way for an offense that, through eight games, ranked second in the Big Ten in points per game (33.4), fourth in total offense (413 yards per game), fourth in sacks against (1.4 per game), third in first downs (22.8 per game) and first in third-down conversions (50 percent).

Chavez helps UIC win conference crown

Lake Forest Academy graduate Manny Chavez led the Illinois-Chicago men’s soccer team to its second regular season Horizon League title in three years. The senior midfielder scored his fifth goal of the season in the Flames’ 4-1 victory against Belmont to seal the conference crown. The win improved the Flames to 9-4-3 and 6-0-2 in the Horizon League.

Chavez’s goal kept him tied for the team lead in goals scored. His six assists through 16 games not only gave him the team lead in points (16), but also the Horizon League lead. He sports a phenomenal .185 shot percentage and a .444 shots-on-goal percentage, while also recording a team-high three game-winners.

Three other area athletes are also on the team. Niles West alumus Thomas Villamil is a redshirt senior back. He played in each of the team’s first 16 games, recording three goals. Oak Park-River Forest’s Elias El Metennani is a sophomore back who had appeared in 10 games. Maine South’s Stefan Magazin is a redshirt sophomore goalkeeper.

With one game remaining on the regular-season schedule, the Flames ranked second in the conference in goals scored (23). Villamil and El Metennani contributed to a solid defense, as well, holding opponents to...
**Niziolek helps Maine South finish 12th in 3A**

**BY MATT HARNES AND ERIC VAN DRIL**

Maine South girls cross country coach Jeff Downing said he started to see what sophomore Olivia Niziolek could do as a runner toward the end of the season.

A hip injury slowed Niziolek on the track last spring, and it wasn’t until the latter part of the fall that she was at full strength. At the Class 3A state meet on Nov. 7, she finished 69th in a personal-best time of 17 minutes, 53 seconds at Detweiller Park in Peoria.

“She had an awesome track season, but that hip problem derailed her,” Downing said. “She almost couldn’t run at sectionals and missed the [Class 3A] state meet. She just had to rest, and she took six to eight weeks off. She finally was pumping up the miles at the end of the cross country season.”

Despite her setbacks, Niziolek was one of the top runners for the Hawks during the state series. She finished third on the team at the Niles West Regional, second on the team at the Lake Park Sectional and second on the team at the state meet.

“It’s only a matter of time before she shines and becomes an all-stater,” Downing said.

Including Niziolek, six out the seven Maine South runners at the state meet set a career-best mark, helping the Hawks to 12th place with 334 points. It was the program’s best finish since taking 10th in 2012.

Four of Maine South’s seven runners from the state meet are expected to return, including junior Maddie Dingle, who placed 59th in 17:46 and paced the Hawks.

**New Trier**

This season could be considered one of John Burnside’s best coaching jobs.

Although the New Trier girls cross country coach didn’t have a superstar or even a true front runner, the Trevians finished fourth with 192 points at the Class 3A state meet on Nov. 7 at Detweiller Park in Peoria.

“There is such a group mentality with this team,” Burnside said after capturing the Lake Park Sectional title on Oct. 31. “There is no individual who is carrying all the weight. They all share the load.”

When the Trevians were first in 2011 and fourth in 2012, they had Courtney and Jessica Ackerman and Mimi Smith in the lineup. All three of them went on to run for Division I college programs. Smith won the state title in 2013 and led the Trevians to a third-place finish.

But the Trevians found a formula to get it done this fall.

New Trier’s Caroline Trunenbrod (1779) and Oona Jung-Beeman (1772) stick together while running at the girls cross country Class 3A state meet on Nov. 7 at Detweiller Park in Peoria.

Junior Caroline Fix was the lead runner for New Trier at Detweiller Park after placing 27th in 17 minutes, 18 seconds. Freshman Caroline Trunenbrod followed in 39th (17:36), senior Kelli Schmidt finished 56th (17:44), junior Molly Schmidt took 62nd (17:49) and senior Oona Jung-Beeman was 63rd (17:49).

The Trevians’ top runner from the Lake Park Sectional, junior Grace Fagan, came in 71st (17:55), but she was out of the scoring five. Sophomore Savannah Noethlich rounded out the top seven by finishing 119th (18:21).

**Loyola**

There aren’t scoreboards or clocks stationed across Detweiller Park for runners at the state cross country meet to monitor their times or positions, but Loyola senior Kathryn House knew she was near her goal of earning all-state honors in Class 3A.

“As she neared the finish line, House said she knew she was going to leave Peoria with an all-state medal. What she didn’t know, however, was that she was about to smash her personal-best time.”

House crossed the finish line in 17:16. Her previous personal best was the 17:40 she ran at the Class 3A state meet as a junior.

“I didn’t feel like I was going that fast,” House said. “I was definitely very tired, but I wasn’t thinking in my head that, ‘Oh, this is definitely a PR,’ until about [those] final 50 meters when I could see the clock. I was like, ‘Oh my gosh. I’m all-state, and I’m going to PR.’

“It was a great feeling, just knowing that all of my hard work has paid off.”

**North Shore Country Day**

The Class IA state meet was full of firsts for Katie Glew.

Glew crossed the finish line in 17:54, which is the first time she’s ever broken 18 minutes. The junior finished in eighth place overall, which was the first top-10 finish in the history of the North Shore Country Day girls cross country program, according to IHSA.org.

“I think it was pretty cool, just at the end of the season, to look back and say, ‘Wow, I accomplished my goals!’” Glew said.

The Class 1A state meet was also Glew’s first time competing at the state meet. A year ago, Glew was part of New Trier’s extremely deep cross country team.

But Glew transferred to North Shore Country Day because of its small-school environment, she said. That decision altered how Glew has raced this season. Her strategy — to start conservatively, and then pick off people during the second and third miles — was similar to the one she used when running for the Trevians, but the move to from Class 3A to Class 1A forced Glew to become more self-reliant.

“In a lot of 3A meets — when I was running with the pack and [with] a lot of girls on my team, it ended up being more in the middle of a group,” Glew said. “You were always running with around 50 other people. Now, at a 1A school, it’s kind of different, just because of where my times are. I'm usually at more of the front of the pack. It's harder because there's not a lot of people to race against.”

Glew said she also had to learn how to pace herself during a race this year, given that she was North Shore Country Day’s top cross country runner all season. She seemed to have figured it out, as evidenced by her postseason meets. Glew won an ISL championship, finished second at the sectional and finished in the top 10 in Class 1A.

**Evanston**

Junior Emma Dzwierzynski finished 77th overall (17:59) at the Class 3A state meet.

**Niles West**

Senior Nicole Camburn was 82nd (18:02) in the final cross country race of her high school career.

**Regina**

Sophomore Helena Walo finished in 174th (20:08) in Class 2A.
BOYS CROSS COUNTRY STATE NOTEBOOK

Blood poised to be top Trevians runner

BY MATT HARNESS AND ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

Warren Blood wouldn't come out and say it, but it's clear the New Trier junior is in line to take over the No. 1 spot on the school's boys cross country team.

With the impending graduation of senior Josh Derrick, who placed 15th with a time of 14 minutes, 42 seconds at the Class 3A state meet on Nov. 7 at Detweiller Park in Peoria, Blood is the logical replacement.

"He's the future of our program," New Trier coach Dave Wisner said. "We're always reloading, and Warren will be looked at to take that top spot next year."

Blood showed his potential by finishing 48th with a career-best time of 15:05 at the state meet. He was the team's second runner. New Trier took 10th with 280 points.

"I think I ran a good race," Blood said. "I went out aggressively, but I didn't finish as well as I wanted to. It was a good effort."

Wisner said the pace of the state meet doesn't suit Blood's strengths right now. It's a race that starts fast and never slows down. According to Wisner, Blood is more comfortable getting out at a gradual rate.

"Warren wasn't ready to handle a super fast pace," Wisner said. "It stung him, and he never quite recovered."

But with some extra strength training and more miles under his feet, Blood can be a factor at next season's state meet, Wisner said. While he was reluctant to claim he's in line for the No. 1 role, Blood said he accepts the challenge.

"I'm ready to step up," Blood said. "But I have a lot of ways I can improve. The best thing for me is to focus on each day and see what happens."

Maine South

If not for the encouragement of a neighbor, senior Brian Sodaro said he never would have been one of the best cross country runners in the state.

But Sodaro took the advice of classmate Vince Leonard — the younger brother of 2014 Maine South graduate Emily Leonard, a four-time all-state cross country runner — and joined the team as a sophomore. Prior to running, Sodaro played soccer in the fall, swam in the winter, and played baseball in the spring.

"He asked me during my freshman year about trying to build a team," Sodaro said of Vince Leonard's sales pitch. "He got a bunch of guys together."

At the Class 3A state meet on Nov. 7 at Detweiller Park in Peoria, Sodaro placed 35th in a career-best time of 14 minutes, 56 seconds. Sodaro, the team captain, was first Hawks runner to finish. The team took 13th with 382 points.

"He came to us as a sophomore, and I was convinced he had the potential to be a runner," Maine South coach Greg Nordahl said. "We had to get him running year-round."

Sodaro wasn't the only senior to run one of his best races of his prep career at state. Zack Fishman's time of 15:42 (133rd) was a career best, while Ralph Patejunas' 15:03 was his best at Detweiller Park.

"Looking back, I never would have guessed [cross country] would end up being my best sport," Sodaro said.

Niles North

There are two ways to view senior Martin Barr's 37th-place finish at the Class 3A state meet.

Barr, who emerged as one of the state's elite cross country runners this season, completed the course at Detweiller Park in 14:57 on Nov. 7. His time was slightly slower than the 14:42 he ran at the First to the Finish Invitational at Detweiller Park on Saturday, Sept. 12.

"He's the future of our team. He's the future of our program. He's the future of our school," Barr said. "I am ready to step up."

Barr continued to build on that success this summer by logging nearly 70 miles per week, Shafron said. At the First to the Finish Invitational this fall, he bettered his time from his junior year by 54 seconds. He also edged Highland Park senior Brett Davidson to finish first (14:46.53) at the Central Suburban North Championships on Oct. 17.

So even though Barr didn't run a season-best time at the Class 3A state meet, Shafron expects him to remain very motivated this winter.

"I can tell already without him saying it; I think he's pretty fired up [to train this winter]," Shafron said. "He's kind of looking at track now for a little bit of revenge here, for not ending the cross country season quite the way that he had envisioned."

Northridge

With six juniors and a sophomore, the Knights placed 21st with 470 points at the Class 1A state meet at Detweiller Park in Peoria. Junior Peter Conroy was the team's top runner, taking 56th in 16:07.

"I think what Martin understands is having one 70-mile week doesn't really do anything for you," Shafron said. "But having consistent weeks like that over a long period of time, spread out over multiple seasons, that's going to yield a lot of great results."

That's proved to be true. Barr trained throughout the winter of his junior year. He improved rapidly. For instance, Patel finished first (9:21.47) in the 3,200 meter run at the Class 3A Loyola Sectional and Barr was right behind him (second, 9:21.86).

With Shafron's view of Barr's first and only state cross country race shifts, however, when looking at the amount of progress Barr has made over the last 15 months, just last year, Barr's times were well behind 2015 graduate Dhruvil Patel's during the cross country season.

"That whole perspective has not been lost whatsoever," Shafron said. "He's made incredible growth over the past year, and he's done it through a lot of his own motivation and his own desire."

Barr has improved significantly, in large part due to his work ethic. He runs seven days a week, Shafron said. He logs high mileage during the summer. He also doesn't take weeks, months or seasons off.
Defense, Wade lead Vikings into state quarters

BY TODD MARVER
Pioneer Press

The Niles North football program added to its list of firsts with a 35-20 victory over Eisenhower in the second round of the Class 7A playoffs on Nov. 7 in Skokie.

The Vikings won two playoff games in the same season for the first time and advanced to their first state quarterfinal contest, which is scheduled for 5 p.m. Nov. 14 at 23rd-seeded Bradley-Bourbonnais. This came after 31st-seeded Niles North won its first playoff game since 1992 with a 39-14 victory over second-seeded Young on Oct. 30 at Lane Stadium in Chicago. The Vikings' playoff appearances in 2014 and 2015 mark the first time that the program has qualified for the postseason in consecutive seasons.

“We're just super excited to be playing another week in November,” Niles North coach Mark Egofske said. “When you can play this deep, it’s a validation that you are an elite program. We’re honored and we want to go down to Bradley and put it together.”

For the second consecutive week, the defense led the way for Niles North. The 20 points that Eisenhower put on the board were tied for the second-lowest total that the Vikings have allowed this season. Maine East, which finished 0-9, also scored 20 points against the Vikings this season. The Niles North defense picked off Eisenhower quarterback Cortez Jackson three times, and two of the interceptions were returned for touchdowns. Freshman Myles Davis recorded a third-quarter interception and senior Romano Gayle had two picks in the fourth quarter.

“Since the beginning of the season we were low on guys, so we had to bring someone up,” Gayle said. “So our coach told us we were going to bring up a freshman, Myles Davis. From day one and the first game, he’s been a big player for us. So him moving up has turned our team around a lot. He’s made a lot of big plays for us and we’re glad to have him.

“On my two interceptions, I was just doing my job, just reading what I had to read and the quarterback. I saw the pass was coming my way, so I was just doing what coach told me to do. In practice we worked all week, so I was just doing what I had to do to get the job done.”

Davis’ 50-yard interception return for a touchdown extended Niles North’s advantage to 21-0 with 9:58 left in the third quarter. Gayle’s 41-yard interception return for a score put the Vikings ahead 28-6 with 11:39 remaining in the contest.

Niles North senior running back and Iowa commit Barrington Wade (25 carries, 174 yards) accounted for the Vikings’ two other touchdowns on the afternoon. Wade’s 67-yard touchdown run and junior wide receiver Jordan Lavelle’s 2-point conversion catch gave Niles North an early 8-0 lead. Senior Matt Naranjo then kicked a pair of field goals to extend the Vikings’ lead to 14-0. Wade’s 8-yard run for a score put Niles North ahead 35-6 with 9:45 left in the game.

“Barrington has had quite a few injuries that he’s dealt with throughout his career,” Egofske said. “He’s beat up right now, but when game time comes, he’s a pro and he’s there and plays hard.”

The Cardinals rattled off 14 unanswered points at the end of the game as senior running back Rayshawn Graham scored a pair of rushing touchdowns (46 and 5 yards). Niles North has now won five out of its last six games after opening the season 2-3.

“The difference is we’ve been taking no days off by practicing and taking things seriously and focusing more on what we’re doing,” Wade said.

Todd Marver is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Niles North's Barrington Wade (22) holds off Eisenhower's Antonio Rankin during the Vikings' 35-20 win on Nov. 7 in Skokie.
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