Three names added
Museum honors non-Jews who saved Jewish lives during Holocaust. Page 4

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center CEO Susan Abrams speaks about non-Jews who saved Jewish lives in peril at a ceremony Sept. 1 at the museum’s Fountain of the Righteous.

Lana Wood comes to town
Actress appearing at the Pickwick Theatre for a screening of “The Searchers.” Page 19

Next level
Pioneer Press catches up with area athletes who are excelling in college sports. Page 34

MEET THE MAN CHANGING HOLOCAUST HISTORY
Father Patrick Desbois
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2:00 - 3:30 PM
at Niles North High School Auditorium | 9800 Lawler Ave, Skokie, 60077
Reservations required: ihholocaustmuseum.org/desbois
Chela Huss, veteran police secretary

Chela Huss, popular support services secretary at the Skokie Police Department — and avid Cubs fan to put it mildly — recently celebrated her 30th year at the department. Pioneer Press recently asked her a series of questions.

Q: Where did you grow up?
A: I grew up in Texas. We lived in Brownsville, which is close to the border, and then we moved to Edinburg, Texas.

Q: How long have you lived in Skokie?
A: We moved to Skokie in 1985. We've been in our current home for 26 years.

Q: What book are you currently reading, and what book would you like to read next?
A: I'm reading "Bone Box." I love spy books and mysteries. I love to read Robert Ludlum's books and books by Tom Clancy.

Q: What was your first job?
A: I used to work in a movie theater in Texas and do the books for the manager and check inventory and pay his bills.

Q: As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?
A: A nurse. But I used to pass out when I saw blood, so that was the end of that. Later on, I wanted to work for the CIA. Then I came here, and they sent my fingerprints to the FBI and they came back and said "not wanted" and I felt rejected.

Q: What is a movie you'd recommend?
A: I like "Titanic." Don't ask me how many times I've seen it. I also love the Jason Bourne movies.

Q: Do you have children?
A: Yes, three boys, and I have six grandchildren now.

Q: What is your favorite charity?
A: It's anything to do with the veterans — USO, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Q: Do you have any words of wisdom?
A: Knowledge is wisdom. I also like the quote, "an idle mind is the devil's workshop."

Q: What is your favorite local restaurant?
A: Suddenly, I've become allergic to peanuts, so I'm more limited. I like El Tipico.

Q: What is an interesting factoid about yourself?
A: I'm a workaholic. I'm always active and exercise a lot. I keep being busy all the time. I don't like being a bump on a log.

— Staff report
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Names added to Fountain of the Righteous

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Three-quarters of a century or so after the Holocaust, extraordinary stories continue to emerge, little-known heroes identified.

The names on the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center’s Ferro Fountain of the Righteous wall, a monument honoring non-Jews who risked their own lives to save Jews from the Nazis, now extends to the other side, joining existing names of previously-celebrated heroes.

"I think what's so incredible is that some 75-plus years after the Holocaust in 2016," said Kelley Szany, museum director of education, "we're still able to add names."

New names from Poland, Belgium and Hungary were unveiled in a ceremony Sept. 1 under a late-afternoon sun at the museum’s Fountain of the Righteous. Honorees had first been named Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Authority, in Israel.

Illinois Holocaust Museum CEO Susan Abrams acknowledged that the Skokie museum tells "a very dark and challenging story," but she said these heroes represent "spots of light."

"It is really an opportunity to thank you, to honor strength and dignity, and to recognize that human beings do have that opportunity to make these moral choices," she said.

According to Szany, plaques on the museum wall now total 74 and represent 22 countries.

Families of those saved during the Holocaust and those who protected Jews in grave peril attended the museum ceremony along with consul generals from countries where courage and bravery occurred.

"If my step-grandfather had not saved my mother's life," said Robert Englander looking at his step-father's plaque, "I would not be standing here in front of you. Nor would I have met Laura, and we would not have had our two children."

Behind each plaque on the fountain wall is such a reality, without an everyday hero taking the risk to protect Jews, family members say, entire family branches would never have existed.

Those recently added to the wall include Mieczyslaw Ciolko of Poland, who the museum says saved Jewish sisters Enia and Reizel Kozuchowicz.

Ciolko obtained false papers with Polish identities for the sisters and secured work for Reizel. Later, when Enia was captured by a "hostile band of partisans," he rescued her again, according to the museum.

"I heard stories about him all my life," said Monica Snyder who never got to meet her grandfather. "It was normal growing up hearing about it. When you actually learn about the war and what happened, that's when you realize how amazing what he did was."

Jeanne Duchet and Adele Pensis of Belgium helped save two cousins; their family attempted to escape from the Nazis but only got as far as Brussels, the museum says.

Beatrice, 9, along with her cousin Henri, were taken to a town in the countryside and left with two sisters for safekeeping. Eventually, both parents were killed. Beatrice and Henri remained with the sisters, learned to pass for Catholics, and were baptized, according to the museum.

"Every single person in this village knew that we were Jewish children, and no one ever gave us up," said Beatrice who went on to write a book about her upbringing and safekeeping.

In 1944, according to the museum, Lajos Gruber of Hungary convinced his Jewish friends, the Spitz family - parents and two sons - that they must leave their home immediately and come with him to a hiding place in the basement of the building where he lived.

Gruber eventually erected a barrier in the basement to better protect the Spitz family's hiding place, and saw to it that the family had food. More than 70 years later, Luis Spitz, who was saved by the Grubers as a boy, and Luis Gruber, the son of the parents, attended the Holocaust Museum ceremony to honor the newly named heroes.

Lajos and Maria are the first from Hungary added to the wall, they said.

"I really appreciate the museum here and my parents being recognized," said Luis Gruber, "but more than anything else, I appreciate that you make the effort to let the young people know what happened, and that it should never, ever happen again."

Polish shop owner Czeslaw Zalek saved the lives of mother and daughter Lea and Sabina Lasko, according to the museum.

They fled to his home during the liquidation of the ghetto in Lomza, Poland and stayed with Zalek for several weeks. He then moved them to the home of a friend, where they were sheltered until 1944.

"To me today, meeting people that stood up for what they thought was right during that particular time, when everyone else was running away from it, truly, truly honor them as do all the survivors," she said.
Longtime village employee says new role ‘aligns both his interests’

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

Scot Neukirch recently started as finance director of the Niles Park District.

Orthopaedic care for what’s next.

At NorthShore Orthopaedic Institute, we know you’ve never taken life sitting down. So we’re advancing hip and knee replacement to help you conquer the wall again. From innovative approaches to arthritis treatment to computer- and robot-assisted technology to customizing your knee surgery. From precisely tailoring your pain management to getting you moving the first day for quicker recovery. At NorthShore, we’re helping you keep pace with what’s next.
Library's $5.2M renovation almost complete

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

Visitors at the Lincolnwood Public Library have dealt with a noisy summer as construction crews continued to work on a month-long renovation to add a cafe and other amenities meant to revive interest in the facility.

Piercing the usual peace of quiet study areas and the computer room, construction work began in April on the $5.2 million project with a timeline to finish all renovations by the end of the year, according to library spokeswoman Deb Keegan.

“We have the first of three phases almost complete, and it is open to the public,” Keegan said in an email. “The construction manager is targeting the complete project to be done end of the year.”

While some parts of the building were closed during the initial construction phase, the library remained open all summer as work continued. Patrons, who were bothered by the noise, have been invited to pick up a pair of free earplugs.

Library board members have been planning the modernization project since 2012, when they evaluated how many people in the community use the library and found less than 30 percent of Lincolnwood residents had a library card.

People thought the library was outdated, library officials learned from a public opinion survey and a series of in-person interviews and focus groups.

At the same time, staff and board members brought up concerns about the mechanical, electrical, plumbing and other structural parts of the facility, including a leaky roof and outdated technology.

The board responded by approving an initiative they named “Visit a Comfortable Space,” a building plan to provide residents with a “modern, comfortable and inviting library” that offers working, walking, playing, talking, and engaging with one another collaboratively,” according to wording in the library's strategic plan.

Library director Su Bochenski even tried to motivate people to use the library by coloring her hair a bright shade of blue following the end of a summer contest last year. “Punk the Director” challenged more than 500 new patrons to sign up for library cards in exchange for a promise from Bochenski to color her naturally bright blonde hair.

The sign-up goal was met, and Bochenski sported a wild new hairdo.

The modernization project started last spring with the first phase wrapping up during late July. Walls were painted, duct and steelwork were installed, and gas piping for a fireplace was laid.

A coffee counter and new drinking fountains were also installed.

When the full project wraps up later this year, the library will unveil a long list of new amenities, including a new energy-efficient heating and air-conditioning system, more public space, and new collaborative study and meeting spaces.

The first phase wrapped up Aug. 8 with the opening of a remodeled lobby, a coffeehouse-style cafe, a re-finished men's restroom and a new youth area. During that week, the library also debuted a “Hot Picks” collection, a selection of new materials reserved for Lincolnwood residents only.

The next part of the project encompasses the roof replacement, installation of a new window in the lobby area, new plumbing and refinished walls.

By next year, library guests will notice a modernized interior with new furniture, LED lighting and faster internet speeds, according to library staff. Patrons will also be able to reserve individual study rooms and enjoy new areas to read and relax outside, library officials have said.

The names of people who donated money to the library over the years have been preserved on a wall of more than 500 bricks, which will not survive the modernization project, according to Keegan, who said the names would be transferred onto a new glass wall in the same location.

“We are going to try and take down the tile bricks without breaking them, and we will make them available for owners to pick up if they like,” she said in an email.

“We can't guarantee that your brick tile will be unbroken, but we are going to do our best.”

As for the costs of the project, about 60 percent is being funded by the library, with financing covering the remaining 40 percent, according to Bochenski. Staff has said it does not plan to levy any special taxes to fund the renovation.

“At the conclusion of this process, we will have a library that can satisfy the growing demand for access to resources, educational programs, improved technology infrastructure, and a space for everyone in our community to gather and learn,” according to a web page on the library's website meant to update patrons on the progress.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Lincolnwood to host annual Sept. 11 ceremony remembering victims

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

The arrival of September this year brings a reminder that 15 years have passed since the 9/11 terrorist attacks claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 people.

Although Lincolnwood is hundreds of miles away from Manhattan, the community keeps New York City in mind every year on the 9/11 anniversary by hosting a public ceremony to honor the victims and first responders who died as a result of the terrorist attacks.

Keeping in line with a tradition that started in 2002, the village will start the 9/11 ceremony at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 12 outside at the promenade area, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., located between village hall and the police and fire departments, according to village officials.

The event is open to the public. Village officials only opened it to the public in 2011 after the police and fire departments held a private memorial every year since 2002, according to information from Lincolnwood.

An honor guard from American Legion Post 1226 will lead a display of the American flag. Lincolnwood School District 74 students also are scheduled to read poems to mark the anniversary.

The memorial will proceed as scheduled, rain or shine. Last year, wet weather pushed the ceremony indoors to the Lincolnwood Community Center, where Mayor Turry and members of the police and fire departments led guests through a moment of silence and a bell-ringing ceremony in honor of the victims of 9/11.

This year's memorial will follow the same itinerary as past years, village officials said.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Craft brewery Une Annee planning move to Niles

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

The first craft brewery in Niles is expected to open later this fall.

Chicago brewery Une Annee - a three-year-old venture known for its Belgian- and French-style brews - is moving to a 2,500 square-foot space inside a shopping mall at 9082 West Golf Road, according to the brewery's founder, Jerry Nelson. The new site will house the brewery's operations and a tasting room for patrons who want to try the beer onsite.

At a Village Board meeting in late August, officials pulled a proposed new class of liquor license off the agenda to tweak the language of the new classification. Village Manager Steve Vinezeano said the item was rescinded so staff could reach out to representatives from the craft brewery industry to solicit their feedback.

Nelson said he also requested that staff pull the item and rework the ordinance.

Vinezeano, who said he personally enjoys visiting breweries in the region, said he noticed some inconsistencies with wording.

Language was included in the proposed rule about glass bottles, but the ordinance made no mention of cans.

"I just think (the ordinance) wasn't as fine-tuned as it should have been in terms of making sure it was an ordinance built on reality," Vinezeano said.

Ross Klicker, economic development coordinator for Niles, said the village began contemplating a craft brewery ordinance even before Une Annee expressed interest in Niles.

"It is no secret that this segment of the industry is growing extremely fast," he wrote in an email. "As we began our exploration, Une Annee came to the village with a concept to open a new brewery in town. So, we began to work with Une Annee on finding an appropriate location while, at the same time, the liquor commissioner began to formalize their work on creating a license type."

A reworked version of the craft brewery ordinance is expected to appear on the Village Board agenda next month, officials said.

Nelson said he decided late last year that he needed to find a new space for his brewery, which is currently located in the area of Grand and Ashland avenues in Chicago, to accommodate a tasting room.

Nelson, who lives in Chicago near the border of Niles, said the village was the first place he looked at after struggling to find an appropriate location within Chicago limits.

He said he also explored options in Evanston, Morton Grove, Skokie and Lincolnwood but nothing served his needs as well as the Golf Road space in Niles.

Nelson, a Chicago native who began home brewing beer while serving in the Marines in 1995, said he's not concerned that the new location isn't in a high foot traffic area.

He said craft breweries don't necessarily need to be highly visible to be successful since many avid consumers will visit destination breweries no matter where they're located.

"We have a good amount of people that buy our beers on a consistent basis," Nelson said. "As our popularity grows, we'd like to have a place for them to come purchase the beers directly from us and see what we're doing. I think it will be fun."

Klicker anticipates the brewery will have a positive effect on surrounding businesses and village coffers in the form of increased sales tax revenue.

"My wife and I, what we do is when we travel we look for these kinds of places," Vinezeano said, referring to craft breweries.

He said he's excited to have a novel business in town where both residents and those from out of town can try something new and unique.

"Who knows if it will spread. I think it's a healthy opportunity for us to diversify our retail sales tax base. We certainly don't have these kinds of places," he said. "And if they write this ordinance correctly, maybe more (breweries) will come to Niles."

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

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Guitar festival
September 16 and 17

Enjoy evening concerts on both days, and bring your guitar for free afternoon technique workshops with world-class recording artists, teachers, and performers: Don Ross, Marcos Rios, Tom Clippert, Larry Pilotto, and Faraz Chaudry.

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October 6 - 16

A senate unites against the nation's leader. Name calling and suspicion, patriotism and dishonesty all done in the name of righteous government. Sound familiar? No it's not the nightly news, it is Shakespeare's famous play - Julius Caesar - about the political intrigue of ancient Rome. See this version performed with modern references.

Friday, October 28

Jump and jive with select members of the Oakton Jazz Band. Under the direction of Robert Evans, the Jazz Combo also features impressive improvisation skills.

November 10 - 20

Dear Diary: Veronica Sawyer just wants life to be beautiful—but at what cost? This high school musical is based on the campy 1988 cult classic starring Winona Ryder and Christian Slater. It immerses the audience in the trauma of the high school social scene.

November 20

Return to the golden age of Hollywood glamor with classic songs performed by master vocalist Eileen Berman and her accompanist Jane Kena Heller. Enjoy this afternoon of song with a buffet-style brunch.

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Hollywood Brunch

The season concludes with Oakton music performances. For details, visit www.oakton.edu/showtime.

Oakton Community College
1600 Egl Golf Rd., Des Plaines
Police Report

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

Retail Theft
• Brian E. Walker, 49, of the 2000 block of West Touhy Avenue in Chicago, was charged Aug. 22 with felony retail theft after allegedly stealing seven boxes of cologne, valued at $383.93, from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center on Aug. 19. Walker also was charged with taking $504 worth of cologne from a Golf Mill store on Aug. 22. He was given a Sept. 8 court date, police said.

• Roman Surowka, 52, of the 9200 block of Emerson Street in unincorporated Maine Township, was charged Aug. 18 with felony retail theft after he allegedly stole a bicycle, valued at $256.49, from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. He was given a Sept. 8 court date, police said.

Theft
• Multiple deposits of an undisclosed value were reported stolen Aug. 13 from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center, police said.

Public Intoxication
• A 51-year-old man was charged with public intoxication on the night of Aug. 15 after police responded to a call of suspicious people in a parking lot in the 9000 block of Milwaukee Avenue. Police said the man claimed to be homeless and was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

• A 50-year-old Des Plaines man was charged with public intoxication on the afternoon of Aug. 18 after police responded to the 8000 block of Milwaukee Avenue. He was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge for an evaluation, police said.

DUI
• Roberto Cuevas-Gomez, 56, of the 3000 block of Major Avenue in Chicago, was charged Aug. 14 with driving under the influence and driving without a valid license following a traffic stop in the 7900 block of Milwaukee Avenue. He was given an Aug. 29 court date, police said.

Public Theft
• Multiple deposits of an undisclosed value were reported stolen Aug. 13 from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center, police said.

Public Intoxication
• A man told police his cellphone was stolen from his unlocked car while he went inside a gas station in the 6900 block of Milwaukee Avenue at 10:30 a.m., Aug. 16.
• A resident of the 7900 block of Milwaukee Avenue told police the driver's side mirror of her car had been stolen three times between Aug. 3 and 15.
• A fog lamp grille was reported stolen Aug. 16 from a car parked in a lot in the 8200 block of Golf Road.
• A man told police his cellphone was stolen from his unlocked car while he walked near Mango Avenue and Cleveland Street at about 9:55 p.m., Aug. 16.
• A resident of the 7900 block of Milwaukee Avenue told police the driver's side mirror of her car had been stolen three times between Aug. 3 and 15.

Morton Grove police working to identify armed robbery suspects

BY PHIL ROCKROHR
Pioneer Press

Morton Grove police are investigating the armed robbery Aug. 29 of two residents, who were walking in a quiet area in the southeast corner of the village, authorities said.

Three or four men approached a 21-year-old man and a 20-year-old woman while they were walking near Mango Avenue and Cleveland Street at about 9:55 p.m., said Morton Grove police Cmdr. Paul Yaras. At least two of the robbers were carrying guns and a third was carrying a knife, he said.

They stole a cellphone from the woman before she screamed for help and witnesses arrived at the scene, Yaras said.

"The only information we got was they approached them on the street," Yaras said. "We did not get that it was from the front or back. They confronted them and pulled their weapons on them."

Witnesses and the victims provided descriptions of the robbers, but not enough to create sketches, he said. All were described as black males, "scrawny" and in their teens or early 20s, Yaras said.

One robber was tall and skinny, and another was short, he said. One wore a red shirt, another a white shirt and a third person wore a green shirt, Yaras said.

Morton Grove police are trying to see if recent armed robberies and vehicle thefts committed by men with similar descriptions in other communities are connected, he said.

"Our description is so vague and broad that it could fit any number of crime patterns," Yaras said. "The incident is definitely random. We have not had anything similar before in our town."

Yaras called it "highly unlikely" that such a crime would occur in the area near Mango and Cleveland.

"That area is quiet," he said. "North of Oakton over there is not a high crime area."

Phil Rockrohr is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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A year after cop’s suicide, fallout isn’t over

Joseph Gliniewicz staged his own ‘murder’ in 2015

BY TONY BRISCOE
Chicago Tribune

Summer was winding down in the quiet boating community of Fox Lake on the morning of Sept. 1, 2015. Local schools had opened for the new year, but the weather was still idyllic, and many local residents were getting ready for the season’s last big fling: Labor Day weekend.

All that peaceful normalcy would be shattered with a few words uttered into a police radio about 8 o’clock that morning.

“Send everybody you possibly can,” the officer said. “Officer is down.”

July 31, 2015.

Within a matter of minutes, hundreds of heavily armed law-enforcement officials were deployed to the area. Soon the village of about 10,000 would be declared a no-fly zone and the whole community was effectively locked down. And suddenly Fox Lake would be the center of national attention.

Longtime Fox Lake police Lt. Charles Joseph Gliniewicz had been found by fellow officers shot to death in a remote, wooded area near an abandoned cement factory. Moments earlier, he had radioed a dispatcher to say he was chasing three men on foot. No one knew it then, but that would turn out to be a lie.

On Labor Day, thousands of people lined the streets and officers flew in from throughout the country to honor Gliniewicz — the 30-year department veteran known for his military bearing and his nickname “G.L. Joe” — as a fallen hero. The arrangements included an 18-mile procession, a helicopter flyover and a rifle volley. People tied ribbons around their trees and posted signs throughout town in his honor. Candlelight vigils were held.

Stephanie Altman, a Fox Lake resident since childhood, was at home that morning when she and her family heard the news. She glued it to the television and stayed glued to it for the rest of the day as the news unfolded.

“As the day went on, the more intense it got,” she recalled. “The paranoia set in that there was a cop killer on the loose, and it was hyped up by the news reports and the helicopters. Nothing like this had ever happened in little old Fox Lake, and everybody knew Gliniewicz.”

Yet the biggest bombshells — unimaginable to most local residents that day — were yet to come.

Within months, authorities would announce that Gliniewicz took his own life, carefully staging the scene to make it appear to be a homicide. They said he did it to try to cover up the thousands of dollars he had stolen from the Explorers youth policing program he had run in town for years. A text later recovered from his phone showed he inquired about meeting with a gang member to discuss putting a hit on the village administrator. Personal and court records that were released indicated he had turned up drunk in public and had sexual relations with a police department subordinate who later sued for sexual harassment, though the case was dropped.

And Melodie Gliniewicz, the widow who publicly grieved over her husband’s death, would be charged with a felony, with authorities alleging she participated in the couple’s fund scheme. She awaits trial and has pleaded not guilty.

The fallout didn’t end there. The Explorers program was disbanded. Melodie Gliniewicz’s request for her husband’s pension might prompt a change in state law. Three men who said they were harassed by police in the early days of the investigation — two black and one Hispanic — have sued the village, which has settled with one of the plaintiffs for $65,000. Other payouts are being negotiated, officials confirmed.

And in the realm of forensic investigators, Gliniewicz’s suicide, carried out in the same area he had set up fake crime scenes for his Explorers, would become a textbook example of crime-scene staging.

“This was a one-of-a-kind type of case,” said George Fileno, who led the investigation as commander of the Lake County Major Crime Task Force. “With the staging of a crime scene, you usually have someone who tried to make a homicide look like a suicide. This was just the opposite.”

Fileno, who was the public face of the investigation and gave several media briefings prior to announcing the suicide conclusion, stepped down as the head of the task force in March but has said the move had nothing to do with the Fox Lake case. He remains police chief in nearby Round Lake Park.

The day Gliniewicz died, Fox Lake Village Administrator Anne Martin was in the midst of a comprehensive audit of village finances. She had asked Gliniewicz to present financial records to the Explorers program fund, Gliniewicz’s private donations, in the case. He had been giving her the runaround, she said. She told him she wanted to see the paperwork by 2 p.m. that day.

“If I had questions, they weren’t answered,” Martin said. “He would say, ‘Don’t worry about that,’ or ‘Oh, stop asking me questions!’ They were all little red flags that wound up being bigger red flags.”

Yet Martin acknowledged that when she learned of the shooting, she did not immediately share this with investigators — information that might have clued them in earlier to the possibility that all was not what it appeared to be.

Like others in leadership roles who seemed hesitant to publicly acknowledge or consider the suicide theory, Martin said Gliniewicz’s death left her more stunned than suspicious as she and other village officials coordinated the emergency response.

“It was highly charged,” Martin said. “I had threatening phone calls. Social media blew up with very negative things about me. I was the bad guy for two months.”

Though rumors and speculation that Gliniewicz committed suicide were circulating even at his funeral, weeks would go by before authorities acknowledged he was shot with his own gun. More than two months elapsed before Fileno announced Gliniewicz died in a “carefully staged suicide” designed to look like a homicide to cover his “extensive criminal acts.”

In a recent interview with the Tribune, Fileno defended the way the investigation was handled, saying he stressed accuracy over speed.

There were numerous indications early on that a cop killing had occurred, so investigators needed to follow every lead, Fileno said.

Besides the staging of the scene and Gliniewicz’s communication with the dispatcher, investigators recovered multiple DNA profiles from his firearm and pepper spray, Fileno said.

Law enforcement learned Gliniewicz was 52, often allowed his police Explorers fund, which was later verified because all members were asked to submit DNA swabs.

The picture became clearer as officials learned more about the Explorers program fund, Gliniewicz’s own financial situation, the black marks in his personal file and the fact that he had seemingly tried to cover his tracks by deleting thousands of text messages.

“Several weeks into the investigation, once all of the phone records, advanced ballistics testing and financials came together ... oh my God,” Fileno said. “You would think after 11 years with the task force nothing would surprise me. That was one of those benchmark moments in your life, when you never forget where you were ... like when President Kennedy was assassinated.”

For many who were close to the action that day, or who grieved for Gliniewicz and prayed for his family, the determination that he took his own life left a bitter taste.

Carlos Sanchez, a resident of neighboring Round Lake, was among those who turned out to watch Gliniewicz’s funeral cortège.

When he learned the officer killed himself, “it was very deceitful,” Sanchez said. “We were really sorry about the family. They were saying he was a good man ... Then, we find out what really happened and it was just unbelievable. He put people’s lives and freedom in danger.”

Even a year later, some trees in Fox Lake still display the signs and lights put up in honor of the officer. Some residents said they still don’t know what to believe, and still aren’t sure the whole story has come out.

Others, such as Manuel Vargas, had a personal stake in the case. He had been eyed as one of the three original “suspects” Gliniewicz said he was chasing that morning.

And Vargas might have been charged with killing a police officer had a receipt from a local eatery, where he and two friends had breakfast that morning, not provided their alibi.

Vargas said he was homeless at the time. He would squat in a ramshackle house without electricity on Nippersink Boulevard or sleep under bridges or at train stations.

“We went for breakfast like any American,” Vargas said. “Next thing you know, we’re being (accused of) killing a cop.”
Animal advocates seek justice in death

BY BRIAN L. COX
Pioneer Press

Animal advocates, pet lovers and an international animals rights organization have joined with Forest Park police to find and bring to justice anyone responsible for an attack on a kitten that ultimately led to its death.

The kitten, Sprouts, was found badly burned in a Forest Park alley in mid-July. Sprouts was taken to a Chicago shelter and received treatment for his wounds, but he died less than a week later. Since the discovery the story of the injured kitten has spread throughout Forest Park and beyond.

The story has moved people to anger, disgust and action, said Fleur Dawes, communications director with an animal rights organization called In Defense of Animals. She said the organization is offering a $2,500 reward for information leading to charges in the crime.

“Rewards do often result in tips and spur authorities to action and draw attention to egregious cases of animal cruelty where everything else has been tried,” Dawes said.

Anyone with information can contact In Defense of Animals anonymously at 415-448-0048, Lisa Levinson at 215-620-2130 or Forest Park police at 708-615-6299.

Forest Park police are investigating the case and said that Sprouts was found badly burned in an alley on July 13. Sprouts was taken to the Felines & Canines Shelter in Chicago, but died July 19.

Authorities said they believe Sprout’s injuries were the result of being hit on fire or from having fireworks strapped to his body.

“I have detectives working on it as we speak,” Forest Park Deputy Police Chief Mike Keating said. “If somebody deliberately set a cat on fire, that’s animal torture. It’s a class 3 felony. It’s a pretty serious charge.”

He said the case can be frustrating because it has been difficult determining whether Sprouts was set on fire in Forest Park or in a neighboring community.

“We have detectives working on that, trying to contact the person who originally turned the cat in to get to the bottom of the story,” Keating said. “It’s like any legwork. We want to be able to verify. If it’s not our jurisdiction, we have to turn it over to the proper jurisdiction.”

Sprout’s story caught the attention of Gail Panici and other animal lovers around the Chicago area, who said they are campaigning for justice for the 3-month-old kitten.

“I keep thinking we’re in a Third World country,” said Panici, who lives in Monee and works with an organization that traps and neuters feral cats.

“I can’t believe anybody would do something like that,” she added. “I would like them arrested and to go before a judge. This is not right. Fine them or put them in jail.”

Dawes said that In Defense of Animals has put out eight rewards in the United States this year asking for information leading to arrest in animal cruelty cases. The organization’s website says it was founded in 1983 and that it is “an international animal rights and rescue organization dedicated to protecting the rights, welfare and habitats of animals.”

“One of the big things for us is justice for animals,” Dawes said. “We’re constantly trying to highlight that animals should be respected and that when they’re abused, there should be penalties in place to prevent the same thing happening to other animals.”

Keating said there are many questions remaining.

“Everyone here who has a pet thinks it’s horrifying, unless it was an accident, and that’s one of the things we have to figure out — whether the animal was accidentally burned,” Keating said. “Could it have gotten up on a stove? That’s one of the millions of questions we have.”

Brian Cox is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS

A $2,500 reward has been offered for information leading to charges against anyone involved in the burning of Sprouts, a kitten found in an alley in July.

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Hundreds mourn murdered Oak Park teen

OPRF student had been with friends in Austin area

BY STEVE SCHERING
Pioneer Press

On a day when Elijah Sims should have been celebrating his 17th birthday, his family and friends were instead attending a vigil Aug. 31 for the late Oak Park teen.

Just two days earlier, Sims and a 15-year-old boy were shot in the 5500 block of West Quincy Street in Chicago's Austin neighborhood. Sims was shot in the head. The 15-year-old was shot in the back.

Both boys were taken to Stroger Hospital, where the younger boy's condition was stabilized, but Sims died overnight.

The vigil drew a crowd of hundreds to Scoville Park in downtown Oak Park. Sims' mother, Sharita Galloway, was grateful for the turnout.

"It's nice to feel support," Galloway said. "Oak Park, thank you so much. I want to thank everyone for coming out."

Sims, who was entering his senior year at Oak Park and River Forest High School, grew up in Austin and was visiting friends the night he was shot.

Galloway, and many speakers in attendance, urged the shooter or shooters to come forward, and asked anybody with information to speak up.

"Please stop the shooting," Galloway said. "You're killing innocent people. He was my baby boy. I felt my baby's last heartbeat."

Organizing the vigil was OPRF teacher Anthony Clark, who founded the Suburban Unity Alliance earlier this year to raise awareness of racism and discrimination in Chicago's suburbs.

"We're here to celebrate a young man's life on his birthday," Clark said. "This tragedy took a special young man from our community. I saw myself in Elijah. I thank [Galloway] for allowing me to meet a special young man. Knowing him was our gain."

Several OPRF classmates and friends, including Charles Donaldson, spoke at the vigil, with many reminiscing about Sims' smile and his ability to make others laugh.

"The only thing I could think about was the last time that we spoke, and he told me to be safe and 'You too' flew out of my mouth too fast," Donaldson said. "Yesterday, I feel like I lost a brother because we all lost a brother. When I had bad days, I went to class that we had together looking up knowing you can't be sad around him because he'll make you laugh too quick."

Sims' family asked the group to sing "Happy Birthday" to Elijah during the event, and the vigil concluded with one last birthday request as balloons were released into the sky.

Funeral services for Sims were scheduled for Sept. 7.

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Union continues fight to restore police officer's job

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

The labor union representing a Park Ridge police officer who was fired last year is seeking to have an arbitrator's ruling against him thrown out.

According to a July Cook County Circuit Court filing, Teamsters Local 700 is asking a judge to vacate arbitrator Donald Cohen's June 22 decision, which denied Mark Vallejo's grievance against the city of Park Ridge.

Vallejo filed a grievance against the city of Park Ridge and upheld the former police officer's termination.

Vallejo was fired by police Chief Frank Kaminski in October 2015, accused by the chief of lying to his superiors and during a formal interrogation about a high-speed pursuit of a vehicle that ended with a serious crash on June 3, 2015.

Vallejo filed a grievance against the city of Park Ridge, alleging his firing was without cause. The matter went to arbitration and, in his ruling, Cohen found that the claims made against Vallejo allowed for his dismissal.

Kaminski also said Vallejo, who was employed by the department for nine years, had taken part in an "unauthorized pursuit" and violated department guidelines related to such pursuits.

In the latest court filing, Teamsters Local 700 argues that "the arbitrator exceeded his contractual authority" by basing his decision on laws and policies that were out of the scope of the police officers' labor contract.

The union also argues that the arbitrator "erroneously (read) the transcript out of context."

Cohen, who is not named as a party to the litigation, said he has not seen the Teamsters legal filing and could not comment on it.

The city of Park Ridge is named as the defendant in the complaint.

"The city is vigorously contesting the union's effort to set aside an award by a neutral arbitrator (who) was jointly agreed upon by (both) parties," said Bob Smith, an attorney representing the city of Park Ridge.

According to the testimony, after reviewing the Police Department's policy on high-speed pursuits and other information related to the case, Vallejo agreed that he had been involved in a pursuit. He testified that he began following the SUV once he clocked its speed at 85 mph in the 1300 block of Higgins Road, where he was conducting radar.

"At the time, you denied that it was a pursuit, correct?" the city's attorney asked.

"I never denied it," Vallejo answered.

He testified to telling dispatch that a red SUV was traveling at high speeds and inquiring if there were other police officers in the area.

When asked why he did not turn on his emergency lights and siren until shortly before the crash occurred, Vallejo said he was "trying to get in position to stop the vehicle," according to the transcript.

Three occupants of the SUV and the driver of a second car were injured in the crash, which investigators said occurred when the driver of the SUV violated the red light on eastbound Devon at Cumberland while traveling between 79 and 90 mph.

All four individuals have filed their own lawsuits against the city, blaming the crash on Vallejo. Each suit claims Vallejo distracted the SUV's driver when he activated his lights and siren in an attempt to stop the vehicle.

The then-20-year-old driver of the SUV pleaded guilty to aggravated reckless driving earlier this year and was sentenced to 30 months probation, authorities said.

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History reveals Sept. 11 date filled with tragedy, triumph

BY IRV LEAVITT
Pioneer Press

As long as there are Americans alive to remember what happened on Sept. 11, 2001, it will probably never be just another day. And that date has been significant — often in dark and terrifying ways — for centuries.

The deadliest civilian attack of Americans on Americans — until the Oklahoma City bombing of 1995 — culminated on Sept. 11, 1857. Mormons, aided by Native Americans in their employ, murdered at least 120 men, women and children in a California-bound wagon train at Mountain Meadows, Utah. The motivation for the "Mountain Meadows Massacre" remains unclear.

Several times in recent years, residents of Darmstadt, Germany, have gathered on Sept. 11 with American servicemen based nearby to mark both the U.S. deaths of 2001 and German deaths of 1944. It was on that night 72 years ago when Royal Air Force bombers used a new technique, bombing in a fan shape, around the mostly wooden center of the city, creating a firestorm that would kill about 12,000 people and leave about 60,000 homeless, according to contemporary accounts. Germans referred to the attack as "terror bombing," a claim that would be reiterated soon with the more well-known fire-bombing of Dresden.

That same night, a furious air battle between American and German forces took place over the Ore Mountains, on the German border with Czechoslovakia. More than 50 planes were shot down.

Sept. 11 was key in every year of World War II. In 1941, after attacks on U.S. shipping by German U-boats, President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke Sept. 11 of a German "act of piracy," then ordered the Navy to fire on the subs.

The same day, Charles Lindbergh, then one of the most popular men in America, assailed Roosevelt, Britain and the world's Jews for trying to get the U.S. into World War II: "We cannot blame them for looking out for what they believe to be their own interests, but we also must look out for ours. We cannot allow the natural passions and prejudices of other peoples to lead our country to destruction," he told an America First rally in Des Moines, Iowa.

Sept. 11 was a big day symbolically in that war. In 1943, the Germans occupied Rome, and restored Benito Mussolini to power. A year later, American ground forces entered Germany. And a year after that, American troops occupied Nagasaki, Japan.

Sept. 11 was also a significant date during the American Revolutionary War. In 1777, the Battle of Brandywine began. Historians say multiple U.S. mistakes led to the stunning defeat, but the orderly retreat of Gen. "Mad Anthony" Wayne protected ammunition the British might otherwise have captured, keeping the revolution alive.

Exactly two years later, Polish patriot Casimir Pulaski died from wounds sustained during the Siege of Savannah.

The British attacked Fort Henry in the war's final battle, on Sept. 11, 1822.

U.S. forces turned back the British in the Battle of Lake Champlain on Sept. 11, 1814. Since it took place just before the armistice that ended the War of 1812, it probably prevented a considerable portion of northern New York from winding up in Canada.

The date is very important in the history of Chile. On Sept. 11, 1973, Chilean President Salvador Allende's government was overthrown by the Chilean military, reportedly with help from the U.S. By the end of the day, Allende was dead, officially a suicide.

Sept. 11 is a red-letter day in religion. The World's Parliament of Religions — the first time the Earth's faiths joined for talks — opened at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago on Sept. 11, 1893.

That meeting is still haled as a major triumph, but the Colloquy of Worms, which began Sept. 11, 1557, is not. It was said to be the last great attempt by Catholics and Protestants to settle their more thorny issues, but when the Protestants failed to agree among themselves, it collapsed.

On a lighter note, Sept. 11 might be viewed differently by Pete Rose than by any other person. On Sept. 11, 1985, he broke Ty Cobb's base hit record.

Lee Meriwether was crowned Miss America on that date in 1955. That was the first time the pageant was televised. This year's pageant also is on Sept. 11.

Historical information for this article was derived from historical websites, including History.com, Wikipedia, pbs.org, HistoryNet, Museum of the Air Battle over the Ore Mountains, the U.S. Army, The Pluralism Project (Harvard University).

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Glencoe's Am Shalom hosts first SNAP Talent Show

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

An estimated 65 people attended the first ever Special Needs Adult Pals, or SNAP Talent Show at Am Shalom in Glencoe on Aug. 31.

“This is an amazing project, and it fills my heart with great joy,” said Am Shalom Rabbi Steven Stark Lowenstein. “There’s a quote that says, ‘My house shall be a house of prayer,’ and programs like these enable us to fulfill our mission.”

The Wednesday evening showcase featured the talents of SNAP participants who meet on Tuesdays at Glencoe Youth Services. The Tuesday night three-hour events draw about 25 people weekly and include dinner.

The talent show was a fundraiser, with an entry fee and homemade baked goods for sale. An estimated $250 was raised to benefit SNAP programming.

“The community really cares about all of the people in it,” he said.

Before the talent show, Simon talked about the benefits of SNAP.

“This program is the only free social outlet for adults with disabilities on the North Shore,” Simon said. “We’re really open to everyone.”

“Our community really cares about all of the people in it,” he said.

For more information about SNAP, see www.glencoeyouthservices.org.

Kane Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Solution sought for shrinking shoreline

Without long-term erosion fix, North Shore towns may suffer

BY MARWA ELTAGOURI
Chicago Tribune

If a more permanent solution isn’t found to address Lake Michigan’s eroding shoreline and shrinking beaches, the leaders of coastal communities fear their economies and tourism may suffer — particularly in towns along the North Shore.

Cities in the region have traditionally relied on a piecemeal approach, from trucking in sand to building erosion prevention structures in the lake on a beach-by-beach basis. But experts say those methods have had mixed results, and that if suburbs are left to manage the lakefront on their own, they’ll drain their finances or have to stop providing residents and visitors the sand-filled summers they have come to expect.

While Chicago has for decades armored its lakefront with artificial structures to minimize sand loss, some North Shore towns say they don’t have the same financial resources.

“It may not have hit us now. However, if we continue to experience significant erosion, it will 100 percent impact us,” said Ron Salski, executive director of the Lake Bluff Park District. “If we keep spending $20,000 on sand a year, the impact is on other capital projects, which are not being completed.”

The sand loss is mostly a result of man-made structures that put into the lake, like breakwaters that trap sediment from moving along the coast. The structures have been built over two centuries and have been effective at safeguarding certain beaches. However, they have also disturbed the natural southward drift of sand — the geological phenomenon that created the Indiana Dunes — and have starved other beaches.

A similar pattern of erosion is mirrored on the east side of the lake, along the coast of some Michigan towns, where tourists flock for vacation, experts say.

Record-high lake levels compound the issue as they eat away at the shoreline, submerging beaches and blunting the effectiveness of breakwaters. In Evanston, the summer’s high lake levels wiped out its dog beach and reduced other beaches, park officials said.

Lake Michigan has risen about 4 feet since January 2013, when it hit a record low.

Of the five Great Lakes, Lake Michigan has the sandiest shores, and therefore draws the most visitors, experts say.

Tourists are at times startled to discover the dozens of miles of beaches along the coast. Germans Saskia Nembach and Ines Hoffmann, both 24, said their trip to Ohio Street Beach on a recent afternoon was spontaneous.

“The weather’s beautiful, and our feet are hurting,” Nembach said. The women’s ankles were sunk deep into the warm sand, and a Chicago map was stretched across their laps. “It’s beautiful. It’s nice to calm down after walking so much and after sightseeing.”

The Illinois coast is also home to some of the highest valued real estate in the Great Lakes region, so any loss of coastal land by erosion comes at a high cost. Illinois is one of the most intensely engineered coastlines across the Great Lakes, experts say.

After completing a $14.5 million renovation project in 2015, Highland Park’s Park District may no longer have to replenish sand at Rosewood Beach, said Joel Brammeier, president and CEO of the nonprofit Alliance for the Great Lakes. The Park District in collaboration with the Army Corps of Engineers implemented a five-year sand-monitoring program to detect future erosion and make necessary adjustments.

The ecological portion of the project helped restore the shoreline, bluffs and ravines and included the installation of breakwaters offshore to keep the sand in place, Park District officials said.

The Park District was responsible for 25 percent of the cost of those improvements, or about $2.5 million.

“These are very expensive projects,” Brammeier said. “They can help an individual place or individual community but are not designed as a system for the entire Lake Michigan shoreline.”

Over the past year and a half, public officials have joined together to develop a regional plan to manage the 32-mile stretch of lakefront from Evanston north to the Wisconsin state line, home to more than two dozen beaches. The initiative, called the Illinois North Shore Sand Management Strategy, formed through the Alliance for the Great Lakes and funded through a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, aims to use more cost-effective strategies to manage shorelines.

The northern beach at Illinois State Beach Park in Zion has lost more than 100 acres of coastal habitat over the past century and is expected to continue to erode by an acre each year, according to Army Corps reports. And in Waukegan, a breakwater offshore unintentionally created sand dunes at the local North Beach Park and starved the beaches to its south.

Through the sand-management initiative, one town’s problem could be another town’s solution. The buildup of sand in Waukegan’s harbors that requires annual dredging for example, could perhaps be cleaned, decontaminated and used for beach nourishment in other areas, Brammeier said.

“These are the kinds of conversations we’re starting to have. Communities looking at their problem and thinking, ‘Can my problem be someone else’s solution?’” he said.

The group last met in July. Members planned to outline specific solutions to long-term erosion, but decided they needed to gather more data before they could draft concrete plans, and will readdress those issues this fall.

Members also hope that a master plan could protect natural areas, like Illinois Beach State Park, which are vulnerable.

“It’s a tremendous resource, but if we don’t restore the sand flow, we’re going to lose it,” he said. “It’s really fundamental to whether all these beaches can be elevated in terms of tourism.”

Studies show that the area’s beaches are a powerful draw to out-of-town guests.

In a survey of more than 3,800 people who visited Cook and Lake counties in Illinois and Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties in Indiana in 2015, about 11 percent said they participated in beach or waterfront activities, according to data compiled by D.K. Shifflet and Associates, a Virginia-based tourism research firm. It is not clear whether those activities occurred along Lake Michigan, however, as surveys did not ask respondents to specify the location of their activities.

In 2015, about 7.6 million travelers visited Michigan’s beaches, accounting for 8.3 percent of the state’s 91.2 million travelers yearly, according to data compiled by D.K. Shifflet and Associates.

Lake Bluff’s beach received 1,622 out-of-town visitors and 22,323 total visitors between this May and July, and Salski, the Park District’s executive director, said that was the highest attendance in at least five years.

He said the district has spent $10,000 to $20,000 in sand replenishment in each of the last three to five years. Part of those costs is offset by the beach’s $10 fee for nonresidents.

Lake Bluff saw its greatest erosion in recent years in October 2014, when a storm caused significant destruction to its beach. Before the Park District could plan ways to prevent future destruction, a second storm hit in October 2015, Salski said.

Erosion hasn’t adversely affected Lake Bluff’s beach attendance yet, and the costs associated with maintaining the beach are simply a line item on the annual budget.

“But if we start seeing more challenges with erosion and it’s costing us too much and we can’t keep up, 1 do anticipate economic challenges,” he said.

Tribune reporter Tony Briscoe contributed.
QB protest opportunity to consider U.S. values

As a nation, the United States has had some glorious days and deeds. It also has a dark past and has participated in shameful actions. Which one does the national anthem celebrate — the glory or the shame? I think that's the key question to ask as we all now take sides in the Colin Kaepernick controversy.

By now, most everyone has heard of Kaepernick, the San Francisco 49ers quarterback who refuses to stand for the national anthem because he refuses to honor a nation that oppresses blacks and other people of color. In doing so, Kaepernick is being hailed as a brave hero by some and a childish leech by others. And that's kind of how the country is divided these days.

And although race relations are much better now than before, we still have work to do. The good work we've done on race relations is part of the glorious past. Remember, we fought a war in which more Americans died than any war before or since to erase that stain of slavery. And there is the civil rights movement. Yes, blacks led the movement. They forced the hand of a nearly all-white Congress to pass the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.

So when the strains of "The Star-Spangled Banner" begin at a sporting event, why do you choose to stand? Do you stand for the glorious past, for the times when we lived up to our ideals? Or would you rather sit? Do you see an America that has oppressed, stole and butchered its way to greatness?

Or is there a third way to respond, another reason to stand? Not for what we've done, but what we are called to do?

For all its faults, and there are many, America is the only nation trying to make one land of freedom and opportunity for all who seek it, no matter their creed, color, gender, sexual orientation or national origin. And in that nation, we all have the right and the opportunity to sit when the national anthem is played, if we so choose.

I'll take that nation every time. I will always grant that Kaepernick and any other American who so chooses has the right to sit during "The Star-Spangled Banner." And I will defend that right. But for me, I will always stand for a nation whose citizens believe all are created equal, and, despite our human frailty and continued failure to live up to that sacred credo, continue to work to achieve that beautiful ideal.

Kaepernick may be right or he may be wrong, but the fact that he is free to be whatever he chooses is what makes America great.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Getting 'The Last Laugh' in Netflix showdown

Inactivity has a momentum all its own. Often when we aren't doing something we continue to not do it. We've all kept that library book until it was overdue. We should take it back, but we just neglect to do so. After a while, we are ashamed to take back the book and are afraid of how much we will have to pay in overdue fines.

We can never use the library again unless the library holds an amnesty day. Or, occasionally, it makes the news that someone returned a library book they had kept for 29 years and with the library's blessing donated the fine to charity.

I found myself in a similar dilemma with a DVD from Netflix. I rented the film "The Last Laugh," a grim silent German film from 1924 in which the doorman of a swanky hotel is demoted to washroom attendant, after which he is mocked and rejected by family and friends.

It's a classic. Too depressing, said my wife, so we didn't watch it. We didn't watch it a lot. And pretty soon it was weeks. Then weeks turned into months. Then it was a year.

I feared. What would Netflix do to me? How much would I have to pay for keeping it so long? Would I have to buy the movie? Finally, I screwed my courage to the sticking place and attempted to email Netflix.

You know how they say that after a while pets and pet owners come to resemble each other? Well, that's what happened with my computer. It has become elderly and arthritic and no longer is able to do some of the things it used to do. One of the things it can't do is access Netflix.

Now what? I missed watching movies. And Netflix won't send a movie until the previous movie is returned, which I hadn't done for more than a year.

Oh, all right. I've had enough. I dropped "The Last Laugh" in the mailbox and awaited whatever punishment Netflix decreed.

A few days later, Netflix replied by sending me what I supposed was the next DVD on my watch list, just as if I hadn't kept one of their movies for more than a year. I opened the envelope in happy anticipation.

It was "Lincoln," a movie I had already seen. Should I watch it again? I'll just put it aside for now until I decide.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
Hey fancy restaurants, what's with the foam?

There is a cosmic spot in the universe where trendy dining and Dr. Seuss intersect, I discovered it.

Let's start with a few basics. I'm a gal who likes quantity in my food as much as quality. When I order moules frites (mussels and fries), having the server clear the table to accommodate the giant portion adds to my enjoyment. In food as in other endeavors, size matters.

Returning from a week in Europe, I confess to worshipping their breakfasts. Those tables filled with fruit, cheese, breads and pastries still make my heart flutter. So much food, and all of it divine.

That wasn't the case for my first dinner in Amsterdam. Looking at my "winkelier bon" (that's Dutch for "you've been ripped off"), I'm still foaming at the mouth.

It's not that I blame my daughter Nessa for the failed dining experience, although in fact I do. But she was in charge of researching where to eat on our first night in Amsterdam, while I was in charge of paying. Our respective jobs fit our respective qualifications.

Nessa made reservations before I had time to remind her of my own particular restaurant caveats: No foam. No architecture. Froth is not filling, and entrees should rest flat on the plate. Remember my meal mantra: quality and quantity. I like to enter a restaurant hungry and leave feeling full.

Approaching Wolve Atelier, a large glass boxcar resting atop a 1920s industrial railway bridge, I maintained a sense of optimism. Online reviewers had given it five stars for the food and the atmosphere. For a moment, I felt really cool. Then I read the menu. "Expect small, fine cuisine full of passion, details and flavors." Shall I decode that? In chef parlance, "passion" stands for experimentation, "details" suggests presenting food as architecture, and "flavors" means teeny, tiny portions.

I knew I was going to leave hungry, yet nothing prepared me for what their Caesar salad. With apologies to Dr. Seuss, I submit the following review.

I do not like my food as foam.

Eating here or when I roam, it would not, could not, fill me up.

It makes me angry when I sup.

Frothy lettuce in a swipe, I'm supposed to eat this hype?

Since when did parma come as whip?

I do not care that I'm not hip.

Tiny quail with tiny yolk, your silly egg should be a joke.

But on my plate that's all I see.

Save for foam of anchovy.

Would I, could I, while abroad?

Pay in Euros for this fraud?

This ain't salad, this ain't food.

It goes against my tipping mood.

With Euros gone, my lesson's clear:

I like my foam atop my beer.

Sally Higginson is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

This foamy Caesar's salad prepared in Amsterdam violates Sally Higginson's food mantra.

Willpower vs. mindfulness

NICOLE RADZISZEWSKI
Mama's Gotta Move

It's that time of year when many of us put beer and barbecues behind us, pull out our fall clothes and are struck with new motivation to get in shape. We get excited because summer shandy is less likely to sabotage our efforts, yet we have a few months before pumpkin pie makes an appearance. Maybe we even psych ourselves up to cut out sugar or give up bread or swap out cereal for morning smoothies full of greens.

The fitness industry knows this. Just as in January, you'll probably notice social media is saturated with promos for cleanses, challenges, detoxes and fixes this time of year. And after you pay your $199.99 a month to get started, it all comes down to willpower.

Willpower receives the utmost respect in the fitness world. Willpower is making good on your New Year's resolutions, getting to the gym when your alarm goes off and turning down cake at a friend's birthday celebration. Willpower is what we all want, right?

But willpower can be a jerk.

I'm actually really good at willpower. The times in my life that I've let willpower take over, I've done an awesome job.

From Atkins to calorie counting to mileage tracking to paleo, I've been quite successful with willpower on my side. So successful that I didn't realize how trapped I was at the time.

As soon as I'd commit to a set of rules, I was afraid that if I broke one, I'd fall completely off the wagon. If I ate one bite of bread at a restaurant, I might revert back to eating sandwiches every day. If I skipped a run more than two days in a row, my legs might get slow and sluggish. So I held on tight to my willpower and refused to look anywhere but straight ahead.

Friends of mine have had more intense experiences with willpower. What started as "clean" eating for one friend devolved into disorderly eating and ultimately anorexia. I've witnessed runner friends' training programs morph into exercise addiction and overdose injuries.

But if not willpower, then what?

Willpower was the only way I thought I could be successful until I discovered mindfulness. Where willpower is black-or-white, yes-or-no, rule-based living, mindfulness is about finding balance and moderation. It's much harder to be mindful than it is to follow a set of rules. But it's much freer, too.

Willpower is turning down your grandma's cookies because you "don't eat sugar." Mindfulness is eating one cookie and savoring it while you enjoy the bonding moment with your grandma.

Willpower is waking up at 5 a.m. to run when you were up all night with a sick kid. Mindfulness is deciding you need sleep more than a workout and staying in bed.

Willpower is easy to teach, package and sell. Eat this, Don't eat that. Done. Mindfulness is challenging and personal. It requires you to be in tune with your needs, desires and intuition.

Willpower is punishable. If your willpower fails, you feel like a failure. Mindfulness is forgiving. You don't expect perfection, so there is no such thing as "falling off the wagon."

Willpower is the stuff disordered eating and exercise addiction are made of. Mindfulness is the stuff healthy, sustainable habits are made of. Mindfulness is sheep-like. Willpower is human.

If you've only ever succeeded with willpower, letting go of it can be a scary thing. And I'm not suggesting that you abandon all self-discipline and give in to every desire. But if you find that you're living life by jumping from one "challenge" or diet to another, I promise there is a better way.

Nicole Radziszewski is a freelance columnist. She lives in River Forest and is a certified personal trainer and mother of two. Check Nicole out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mamagottamove.
Lana Wood coming to the Pickwick

Theatre will be screening classic film 'Searchers' 

BY BRUCE INGRAM

Pickwick Theatre Classic Film Series founder Matthew Hoffman doesn't need much of an excuse to open his fourth season Sept. 15 with a 60th-anniversary screening of John Ford's classic western "The Searchers."

"It doesn't hurt, though, that he's been able to secure the presence of one of the film's stars - Lana Wood, who appears as the younger version of Debbie Edwards, a character also played by her sister Natalie Wood. When young Debbie is kidnapped by Comanches, her uncle Ethan (John Wayne) sets out on a five-year search for her, only to find she has assimilated the tribal ways of the Indians he hates.

"Obviously, the 60th anniversary was a big part of choosing 'The Searchers,' but what really sealed the deal for me was knowing Lana Wood is in the film," said Hoffman, noting that she had access to the actress through the Ian Fleming Foundation because of her appearance as Bond girl Plenty O'Toole in "Diamonds are Forever."

"I thought if we could get her as a guest, that would really clinch it as an event - and, fortunately, she was really excited by the idea. As a result, not only are we showing one of the greatest movies of all time, but we have one of the stars as a guest."

Since making her 1956 debut in "The Searchers," Wood has kept busy as an actress, with appearances in films and TV series as recent as this year's sci-fi thriller "Subconscious Reality" - though she's busier these days as a producer. She also wrote the biography "Natalie, a Memoir by Her Sister" after Natalie Wood's tragic 1981 death by drowning.

"The knowledge she's going to be able to share will be terrific," said Hoffman, noting that she had a relationship with Sean Connery during the filming of "Diamonds are Forever." "She told me she has some great John Wayne stories. How many people can say that as a first-hand witness?"

Hoffman is starting the screening at 7 p.m., a half-hour earlier than usual, to allow time for him to interview Wood on stage for 30 minutes or so. Woodward will also meet with fans and sign autographs (for a $20 fee) in the lobby of the Pickwick at 6:30 p.m., while organist Jay Warren performs in the auditorium.

The evening will also feature a special program including an introduction to "The Searchers" by John Ford biographer Scott Eyman. And Hoffman has chosen this film to begin his new policy of making lower-priced 2 p.m. matinees available for his films - without the extras of the evening screening.

Of course, the opportunity to see "The Searchers" (which was shot in wide-screen Vista Vision), on a big screen is a remarkable opportunity in itself. Especially since Hoffman expects the new digital restoration of the film to come as close as possible to replicating the experience of watching the film when it was originally released. "The Searchers" is widely considered to be director Ford's masterpiece. That's an opinion that's certainly held at the American Film Institute, which ranks it No. 1 among westerns and No. 12 among American films overall.

"I've always been an admirer of John Ford and I've always believed 'The Searchers' is one of his greatest films, if not the greatest," Hoffman said. "He had the ability to tell stories that could last forever and this one certainly still resonates today, given its attitude toward racism - and its emphasis on forgiveness. It's one of my personal favorite Westerns and a lot of people believe John Wayne gave his best acting performance in it. Also, it's one of the classic films I'm pretty sure younger people haven't seen and I want to give them the opportunity to see it on a big screen."

Hoffman added that he will announce the upcoming fourth-season films he has already booked (some dates are still open in case of special opportunities) including "The Creature from the Black Lagoon" in October, Bruce Lee's "Enter the Dragon" in November, a Kirk Douglas centennial screening in December (most likely "Spartacus"), Hitchcock's "Vertigo" for Valentine's Day and a 50th-anniversary screening of the James Bond film "You Only Live Twice" in May.
Lots of laughs, but you can't succeed without love

By Chris Jones
Chicago Tribune

The most interesting character in "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" is the 1961 musical with the boffo score by Frank Loesser, not J. Pierrepont Finch, the proto-millennial, ambitious corporate climber with the helpful little book, the cheeky smile and the kind of charm that previously has attracted such boyish stars as Matthew Broderick and Daniel Radcliffe. It's actually Rosemary Pilgrim, a member of the secretarial pool at the World Wide Wicket Company, and a woman whose sights are set not, like Finch, on the boardroom, but on the seduction of Finch himself.

She's so determined to woo her man that she even sings about how she'll be "happy to keep his dinner warm." But whereas "Mad Men" was a dark satire, "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" is a peppy musical comedy with a fleet of such exuberant, energetic songs that I actually find it hard to believe comedic masterwork in Act 1, but it goes off the rails halfway through Act 2, only to be saved by Loesser with "Brotherhood of Man," a number so brilliant it always sends the audience out on a high. Still, I remain convinced the show really has to make it abundant for love, otherwise Finch will rise to the top.

The book — by Abe Burrows, Jack Weinstock and Willie Gilbert — is a veritable comedic masterpiece, a true comedy of manners, a satire of the corporate world. It's about how she sees the world, how she shares some traits with Sophie.

"It's been a joy to be able to bring myself to her and see how much we're similar," the actor said. "She's 20; I'm 23. We both have a similar mindset, a similar philosophy, a similar way of thinking."

But as much as "Mad Men" was about the characters and the story, "How to Succeed" is about the characters and the songs, as well as the dash and fearlessness of the performers. Michael Gillis, a Barrington native, plays Sophie, is a longtimen ABBA fan. "I love the music so much," she declared. "I love how it's used to tell the story in this show."

"Brotherhood of Man," a number so brilliant it always sends the audience out on a high. Still, I remain convinced the show really has to make it abundant for love, otherwise Finch will rise to the top. We know that those five minutes into the show.

All that said, "How to Succeed" is, of course, top-drawer comic writing and this production often is extremely funny. I laughed loud and often at Angela Ingersoll's Hedy, a deliciously broad and fearless characterization, at Felicia F. Fields' dry Miss Jones, and at Derek Hasenstab's very rich double act as Mr. Twimble of the mailroom and Mr. Womper of the boardroom.

It all moves at lightning speed, which is perfectly fine, given that one of the central themes of the work is neurosis and that Finch's ambition waits for no man, or woman. But "How to Succeed" cannot be too fast for love, otherwise Finch might just as well have kept his squeegee.
Marriage and imbibing

Most people drink less after their wedding, but some men binge-drink more.
Invent recipes with ingredient creativity

By Judy Buchenot
The Beacon-News

Cooking should be an adventure, according to Aurora resident Amanda Fox. "It's all about trying something new. "The worst thing that could happen is that you make something that doesn't taste too good, but you just might come up with something that is great."

As one might guess, Fox, 31, doesn't follow recipes very often. She prefers to start with a basic idea and then see what happens.

For example, one of her go-to meals is stir-fry. "I start with either strips of chicken or steak and brown them in olive oil," she said. Once the meat is sizzling, she adds a variety of vegetables for some crunch, such as peppers, onion or water chestnuts. Once these ingredients start to get tender, she adds tomatoes and a clove or two of crushed garlic and cooks it until everything is warmed through.

"It doesn't have to be the same every time. Use what you have," she said. Vegetables that take longer to cook such as carrots, broccoli or beans might need to be parboiled before being tossed into the mix with the tomatoes.

"Or if you have leftover cooked vegetables, add those with the tomatoes," she said. Seasoning is up to personal taste. Keep it simple with salt and pepper or make it spicy with something like Sriracha sauce.

Pasta salad is one of her favorite side dishes to take to parties or picnics. "I like to use bow tie pasta because it holds more dressing than smaller noodles."

"Like her stir-fry, she begins with a few basic ingredients such as red onion, mozzarella pearls and tomatoes and then adds whatever she thinks might be fun to try."

"It is important to cut whatever you use into bite size pieces," she said. Cherry tomatoes and mozzarella pearls are cut in half even though they are small. Having the pieces small allows for a better mix of ingredients in every bite, she said.

"The great thing about pasta salad is that it can be made as a serving for one or two or however many you want," Fox said. "Pasta salad can become a main dish too if you add pepperoni, chicken or ham to it. Any meat added to the salad should be precooked and chopped into bite-sized chunks.

Fox likes to keep her meals simple, but noted that a lot can be done with just a few ingredients. "I like Sriracha sauce," she said. "One of my favorites things to make is roasted Brussels sprouts with Sriracha sauce and honey. You just wash the Brussels sprouts and cut them in half. Then mix 3 tablespoons of honey and about 1 teaspoon of Sriracha sauce in a plastic bag. Toss in the Brussels sprouts and shake it around to coat all the Brussels sprouts. Then you line a cookie sheet with foil and place the Brussels sprouts, cut side down, on the sheet. Bake them at about 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes until they are brown and crispy.

Brussels sprouts, cut side down, on the sheet. Bake them at about 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes until they are brown and crispy. They are so good — sort of spicy and sweet at once."

Fox grew up in Aurora and is a West Aurora High School graduate. She also graduated from Columbia College with a degree in mass communication. She worked for an area radio station and currently is a writer for DinoStrong, a nonprofit foundation for auto-immune disease awareness based in West Chicago.

The one thing Fox is sure about is enjoying fresh and natural foods. One of her favorite breakfast or brunch dishes is an interesting use of an avocado. After cutting an avocado in half, she scoops the hole a little larger and then cracks an egg in it. The egg and avocado are baked together until the egg sets.

For pasta salad, Amanda Fox likes "bow tie pasta because it holds more dressing than smaller noodles."

Amanda's Culinary Cue

To check if an avocado is ripe, first gently squeeze it. There should be a slight amount of softness to the avocado. Then, pop off the stem. If the area under the stem is deep brown, the avocado is too ripe. If it is green, the avocado is not ripe. If it is greenish brown, the avocado is at just the right ripeness.

Baked eggs in avocado

Basic Pasta Salad For One or Two

2 cups bow tie pasta
1/4 cup chopped red onion
1/2 cup mozzarella pearls
1/2 cup cherry tomatoes
Italian vinaigrette dressing

1. Cook pasta in boiling salted water until tender. Drain and refrigerate until well chilled. Cut mozzarella pearls and cherry tomatoes in half. Place all ingredients in a bowl and toss.

2. Pour on your choice of prepared dressing, using enough to moisten the mixture. Any dressing can be used but if your salad is going to be served outdoors or taken to a picnic, it is better to use dressing with an oil base rather than a mayonnaise base. Add additional vegetables or chunks of ham, turkey or pepperoni as desired.

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Slice avocados in half and remove pit. Do not peel. Scoop out about 2 tablespoons of flesh to create a deeper hole. Place avocados in a small dish, placing them close together so they don't tip over. Crack an egg into each hole. Try to put the yolk in first and then the white. Gently poke the yolk so it blends with the white.

2. Place in oven and bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until the egg is set as desired. is enjoying fresh and natural foods. One of her favorite breakfast or brunch dishes is an interesting use of an avocado. After cutting an avocado in half, she scoops the hole a little larger and then cracks an egg in it.

Eggs baked in avocados is a quick and easy, protein rich breakfast option.

Judy Buchenot is a freelancer.
Back-to-school breakfast sandwiches a timesaver

**Get to School on Time Breakfast Sandwiches**

**Ingredients**
- 4 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 6-8 ounces baby spinach
- 8 ounces sliced mushrooms
- 1/2 small sweet onion, minced
- 9 eggs
- 1/4 cup milk
- Kosher salt and coarse black pepper
- Cheese of your choice (I used sharp cheddar and mozzarella)
- Cooked sausage patties, pepperoni, ham, bacon or breakfast meat alternative (optional)

**Instructions**
1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Spray a 9-inch by 13-inch glass baking dish liberally with non-stick spray and set aside. Heat 2 tablespoons of the olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. When it is hot, add the spinach and season with salt (about 1/2 teaspoon) and pepper. Toss until the spinach is wilted, about 2 minutes before transferring to a colander to drain and cool.
2. Wipe out the skillet and add the remaining 2 tablespoons of olive oil and place over medium-high heat. When hot, add the mushrooms and onions. Season with salt (about 1/4 teaspoon) and pepper and allow the mushrooms to cook, stirring occasionally, until well browned and softened. Transfer the mushrooms to the bottom of the prepared baking dish.
3. Wrap the cooked spinach in paper towel and squeeze out the excess water. Unwrap and roughly chop the spinach before adding it to the pan with the mushrooms.
4. Crack the eggs into a large mixing bowl, add 1 teaspoon of salt and pepper. Add the milk and hot sauce if using and whisk until eggs are thoroughly combined. Pour the egg mixture over the spinach and mushrooms and shake the pan gently to distribute the eggs evenly. Place the pan in the oven and bake for 30 minutes or until just set. Remove the baked eggs from the oven, run a knife around the edges, turn the eggs out onto a work surface and allow to cool.
5. When the eggs are cool, use a 2 1/2- to 3-inch round cookie cutter or a glass of similar size to cut 8 rounds from the baked eggs. Split the English muffins, spread each side with some of the pesto or butter. Place a slice of cheese on the top and bottom of each English muffin. Add the meat of your choosing to the bottom of each sandwich and top with a cut egg round. Place the top of each sandwich in a storage bag and freeze for up to 2 months.
6. When ready to eat a sandwich, take one out of the freezer and remove the foil. Wrap in a paper towel and microwave for 1 1/2 to 2 minutes until hot. Alternatively, the sandwich can be unwrapped and placed in a 325 degree oven for 15 minutes.
Q: I have two red eared slider turtles. I got them last year when they were the size of half-dollars. Now in a 75-gallon tank with a sunning rock and two different lights, they are 5 inches and 6 inches, each. But I can’t keep the tank clean for more than four days even with a filter. I’ve heard that some people feed their turtles in a separate tank, but as soon as I take mine out, they “clam” up. How can I train them to eat outside their usual environment? What type of tank, and should it have water in it?

- Stewart Williams, Las Vegas, NV

A: I think you need a stronger filter than what you have, but feeding the turtles in a separate container will keep their habitat much cleaner no matter what the filter.

The feeding tank does need to have water because water turtles cannot swallow their food unless their heads are under water. Even if they grab a piece of food on land they still need to carry it into the water and swallow it with their head under water. I don’t have an answer to why this is, despite researching it.

I feed my turtles in a plastic kitty litter pan with just enough water to cover their shells. After I put them in it and feed them, I leave them to their own devices for 20 minutes or so to allow them time to eat and poop in the pan. Then I put the turtles back into their vivarium and use the messy water in the feeding pan to water my houseplants.

If your turtles are too shy right now to eat out of their habitat, then just put them into the feeding pan a few times a day to swim for about 20 minutes, so they can grow feel comfortable in it — just be sure that the water in the feeding pan is the same temperature as in their vivarium.

Q: Years back we all had Iguanas as pets, and I had a very clever one named “Iggy,” who actually lived loose in my studio apartment for many years. However you never see them offered as pets anymore.

— Richard Grant, Chicago, IL

A: Keeping reptiles as pets has come a long way in the last few decades. Years back, the iguana was so popular as a pet only because it was the only lizard that was available as a pet.

In Central America, the green iguana is a popular food source. The animal is commercially bred on farms for this purpose, so there are many babies that are available to be sold in the pet trade, and years back every pet store had them.

The problem, though, is that baby iguanas need a lot of specialized care that not all pet keepers are capable of providing. Because of this, most of them died in infancy.

So many adult iguanas ended up dumped in parks and other areas by those people who could not keep them and many municipalities made them not legal as pets. In parts of Florida, pet iguanas that got dumped have taken over as an invasive species.

While all this was going on, dedicated reptile enthusiasts started to breed and domesticate other lizards, such as bearded dragons and geckos. Those animals are much smaller than a 6-foot, 15-pound iguana, thus easier to keep as a pet. That is the main reason you seldom see baby iguanas offered for sale as pets.

If you do find one to purchase, you must be sure you are capable of keeping one as a pet before you purchase it.

Marc Morrone has kept almost every kind of animal as a pet for the last half-century, and he is happy to share his knowledge with others. Although he cannot answer every question, he will publish many of those that have a general interest. You can contact him at petexperts2@aol.com.
After identity theft, man’s credit repaired

When we left off last week, Jeff, a CPA, former banker and current bank consultant, was in the midst of inventorying all the damage he’d incurred as a result of his identity being stolen: responsibility for $159,000 in auto loans, a visit from a collections agent and severely damaged credit.

After days spent reporting the fraud and placing freezes on numerous accounts, Jeff had one last protection to put in place, one with which most individuals outside the banking industry are unfamiliar.

Said Jeff: “When I went to my bank, I said, ‘Shouldn’t I file [a security freeze] with ChexSystems?’ I was told, ‘Yes, but it will make things more complicated if you open bank accounts elsewhere.’

“When they run my name through ChexSystems — which [almost] every bank uses — it will bounce back and instantly tell the banker this person is a fraud. If it’s me sitting there, I’ll provide documentation to prove I am who I say I am. It will make opening new bank accounts more difficult for me, yes, but also for anyone wanting to use my identity. The freeze can be removed at my request.”

Jeff also knew he was entitled to the documentation the banks had received for the loans taken out in his name.

Though Jeff had submitted the “universal” FTC Identity Theft Victim’s Complaint and Affidavit to the credit reporting agencies and banks, the banks required their own additional affidavit of fraud. So Jeff completed the Alabama bank’s form and submitted it, along with his police report, in exchange for a copy of the thief’s forged driver’s license and insurance card and the dealership’s sale documents.

There were errors on all. The address wasn’t Jeff’s, the address provided didn’t have the correct ZIP code and Jeff’s signature was consistently misspelled. Regardless, the other “Jeff” put $500 down, bought a car over the internet, requested delivery to a Chicago Heights address and walked away with an $80,000 car.

When Jeff asked why no one caught these errors, the Alabama banker replied if a loan is under $100,000, loan officers don’t look at the accompanying documentation. The car dealership has the fiduciary responsibility to check everything.

So what was next?

“Once you file all the documents to get the bad loans removed, then you have to go in and clean up your credit report,” Jeff said. “Just getting the loans removed doesn’t repair your credit.”

He explained: “When companies ask to see your credit report, that counts against you if it’s done too many times.” That’s because credit history inquiries reveal not only the number of times your credit was checked, but also the number of times it was denied.

“Over the course of 11 days, the guy [who stole my identity] bought two cars then tried 22 more times to borrow money or obtain more credit. I had to call the credit agencies to talk them through all these fraudulent items. They were willing to remove the inquiries because the car loans had been expunged by the banks.”

Even though Jeff didn’t experience IRS fraud, the thief did have his Social Security number, so he filed IRS Form 14039 (Identity Theft Affidavit), which makes it very difficult for anyone using his identity to file taxes electronically. It’s more steps for him as well, but Jeff considers the protection worth it.

“The police said after an identity is stolen, a thief has about a two-week window until something goes awry,” Jeff said. “This guy knew if he kept trying and failing, every failure would create a red flag. Once you get too many red flags, an alert gets posted to your credit report for potential fraud.”

Jeff concluded: “I stayed on this every day [for a month] until everything got resolved. I’m definitely going to sign up for a credit protection service like LifeLock.”

Need help?

Send your questions and injustices to HelpSquad@pioneerlocal.com.

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.

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September 29th pub, September 9th space
October 27th pub, October 14th space
The case for Colson Whitehead

By John Warner

When it comes to books and reading and writers and readers, I steadfastly refuse to declare something the "best." "Best" is fun and provocative and can lead to spirited debate, but for me, "best" is a lie. When we read, we conjure a relationship between the reader and the text, and the quality and experience of that relationship is as variable as humans themselves.

But as I read Colson Whitehead's "The Underground Railroad," I couldn't help but think: This is the best living American novelist. You have no doubt been hearing a lot about "The Underground Railroad," (She Who Can Get People to Read — you may know her as Oprah — anointed it) and for good reason. It is a kind of thriller about Cora, a slave attempting to journey north toward freedom on the Underground Railroad (which takes the literal railroad form in this story), but because this is Colson Whitehead, the novel brims with deep empathy for every character, even "evil" ones. Rather than a lesson in history or morality, we are immersed in humanity in all its terrible beauty.

This is a novel you must read, but I want to also make it clear why you should not stop with "The Underground Railroad"; you need to become a Whitehead completist.

I fell for Whitehead as an author with his first novel, "The Intuitionist," published in 1999 when he was just shy of 30. It's the story of Lila Mae Watson, the first black, female elevator inspector in a city that must be New York, but is never named. Watson is of the "intuitionist" school, inspectors who ride the elevators and "intuit" the state of the machine. They're locked in an internecine battle with the "empiricist" inspectors, who use tools and instruments to measure the elevator's operations.

The novel combines elements of Thomas Pynchon, Ralph Ellison and Patricia Highsmith. It is driven by the central mystery of an elevator accident, but layers in speculative fantasy and metaphysical explorations. It is a novel of race and labor and the way these things intersect in America, and it is challenging and brilliant.

His next two books, "John Henry Days" and "Apex Hides the Hurt," both concern out-of-towners thrust into somewhat strange situations: a journalist covering a festival in honor of the last "steel drivin' man" in the former, and a "nomenclature consultant" who is asked to weigh in on a town's desire to change its name in the latter. Both books examine American myths — industrialization and progress in "John Henry Days," and commercialism in "Apex Hides the Hurt." "Apex" especially feels like a dark comedy and brings to mind Don DeLillo.

In all three of his early novels, Whitehead seeks a diagno-

s for what ails our society, long on promise, but empty for so many.

"Sag Harbor" is a change of pace, a coming-of-age story featuring Benji Cooper, a "black boy with a beach house," in a place surrounded by wealthy whites. It is funny and intimate in ways the early books don't quite reach. "Zone One" is a zombie apocalypse novel meshing genre and literary fiction that is maybe not always successful, but is never uninteresting.

Perhaps that's a better word than "best" for Colson Whitehead as a novelist. He's the most interesting novelist writing today. His book's all share telltale Whitehead writing DNA — most notably a both sensual and precise prose style, not to mention an intimacy with characters — but each novel is also different from the last.

The novels are not "flawless" or "exquisite" abstractions that don't seem to mean anything, anyway. Even in my favorites ("The Intuitionist," "The Underground Railroad"), there are moves I question.

The effect of reading all of his novels is to experience a deep and dedicated artist trying to work stuff out. They are novels that ask questions of the world, and rather than providing simplistic or pat answers, require us to ask questions in return.

They are conversations of the best kind — surprising, free-ranging.

Once you're done with what's been Oprah-approved, go back to the start.

John Warner's latest book is "Tough Day for the Army." Follow him on Twitter @Biblioracle.

The Biblioracle offers his recommendation

1. "A Wrinkle In Time" by Madeleine L'Engle
2. "A Wind In the Door" by Madeleine L'Engle
3. "A Swiftly Tilting Planet" by Madeleine L'Engle
4. "Many Waters" by Madeleine L'Engle
5. "An Acceptable Time" by Madeleine L'Engle

— Bea P, Winnetka

As classic as it is, I think a lot of readers either don't know or have forgotten that "A Wrinkle in Time" is part of a quartet. Unfortunately, this list doesn't give me a ton to go on. Perhaps the dreamlike quality of Haruki Murakami's "Hard-Boiled Wonderland and the End of the World."
See You in September:
Fourteen times today

BY S.N.  EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN
(stanwords.com)

ACROSS
1  Rounds of wrestling
2  Dot on a globe
10  French painting of dancers
15  Close associates
19  Once more
20  Vivid type of crayon
21  To-the-letter
22  Casablanca woman
23  Butcher's special orders
25  Course of study
27  Certain seaboard setting
29  Borrowings
30  Stallone character
31  Pop singer Demi
33  Rival of 17 Down
35  Upward movements
38  Troop group
39  Lowest-acceptable
40  Fancy feathers
41  Messy ones
42  Sector
43  Ending for percent
44  Supreme Court attire
45  Thoroughly
46  Karaoke number
47  Lasting mark
48  Saudi Arabia neighbor
49  Japanese national sport
50  Swindler
52  Organize, as an attack
53  Renée’s refusal
54  Speaking platform
55  Pompeii, today
56  Port Sudan’s water

DOWN
1  Public persona
2  Juan’s water
3  Young miss
4  Alcott sequel
5  Shaved-ice treats
6  How 90 Down is sold
7  Sam-I-Am’s creator
8  Former Mississippi senator
9  USN rank
10  Flees
11  Commuter communities
12  Iconic star from Stockholm
13  Developer’s measure
14  Shutting up
15  Pope when the Bastille was stormed
16  Fully
17  SEC school
18  Casablanca man
24  Trenches in 42 Down
26  Genetic double
28  What roving pitmasters travel
30  Ultimate cause
32  Possible legal-brief source
33  Rival of 17 Down
34  Puzo novel
35  It might say “Kiss the chef”
36  Sports cast feature
37  Little Havana fare
38  Muse of history
39  Gregor Mendel’s day job
41  Basic arithmetic
42  Animal parks
45  Step down
46  Electronics giant
47  Bartender’s mixer
49  Smooth, as a plunk
51  Winter Olympics venue
52  Become slush
54  Club member’s cost
55  Recite rapidly, with “off”
56  Potential for loss
58  Second-largest Scandinavian city
59  Small jazz group
60  Unpartnered
61  State strongly
62  Clams or dough
63  Fillmore’s party
64  Plays on words
66  How soy sauce tastes
67  What “endless” ends with
69  Bok—(Chinese cabbage)
70  Morsels
71  Replenish one’s stock
73  He was a House doctor
75  Symbol of purity
76  Contrary
78  Hard smacks
79  French painter of dancers
80  City on the Arkansas
82  Nonsensical
83  Noriega of Panama
84  Very nicely
86  Stallone character
87  Police protection
89  Couple creator
90  Sandwich staple
91  Rights org.
92  Sell at any price
93  Minor wrangle
94  All the rage
95  89 Down’s tribute
96  Deceive
97  Uber alternative

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

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Quote-Acrostic

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

Clues Words

A. Cud chews __ 55 106 158 72 130 22 10 88
B. Best wishes! __ 68 166 48 157 93 78 113 136
C. Defender __ 79 100 159 145 73 42 137 34 61
D. Transient laborer __ 124 52 66 38 83 15 144 154 2 107
E. Beginning for talk __ 169 99 46 35 132 14
F. Verdi opera __ 74 82 105 36 11 51 129
G. McGovern running mate, briefly __ 123 90 67 80 8 17 163 149
H. Transfers: 2 wds. __ 85 31 115 50 140 5 76
I. Happy excursion: 2 wds. __ 58 146 4 103 128 18 12
J. Make very clear: 2 wds. __ 109 135 40 63 75 21 7

K. Fun and pun __ 147 94 19 1 101 167 126 116
L. Of note, for sure __ 98 27 65 117 9 134 45 87
M. Reverse __ 86 16 138 168 33 118 156 70 139 104
N. He did the largest known canvas painting __ 127 24 160 62 142 2 6
O. Father of modern China __ 112 59 32 162 151 96 47 69 125
P. Eloquent and expressive __ 81 122 171 153 148 97 3 49 29
Q. Planner of Central and Jackson Parks __ 30 152 13 89 133 64 57
R. Secure state __ 143 131 111 71 44 161 28 60
S. Cool star, relatively: 2 wds. __ 95 43 114 150 91 170 121 23
T. Tempter __ 54 164 37 120 25 110 92
U. Just __ 102 53 119 141

Across
1. Informal discussion
5. Our: Fr.
10. Sack
13. Time of day
14. A narcotic
15. Novelist Victor
16. The A in A.D.
17. Free-for-all
18. Seed covering
19. Peevishly ill-humored
21. Object used to clean a pistol
23. Offers
24. Serene
25. Dark brown furs
28. Schools of higher learning
32. Kind of wrench
33. Attired
34. Wander
35. Untruths
36. The fourth estate
37. Jason's ship
38. Airy fabric
39. Makeshift boat
40. Carroll's nonsense creature
41. Grossly disrespectful
43. Group of songs played together
44. French river
45. Money factory
46. Nebraska river
49. Twists out of shape
53. Country road
54. Swiss river
56. Catch, as a thief
57. Affirm
58. Bravery
59. Type of monster
60. Steer wildly
61. Corundum
62. Twist about

Down
1. Guy
2. Sharpen
3. A relative
4. Emergency repairman
5. Desert wanderers
6. Takes the cover away
7. Cant
8. Bitter herb
9. Green jewels
10. Irish brogue
11. Exchange premium
12. Precious metal
15. With great force and violence
20. Legal claim
22. Everybody
24. Land along the sea
25. Ragout of game
26. A foreigner
27. Consecrate
28. Divided, split
29. Goat antelope
30. Tidabor bore
31. Great Mountains
33. Lifting device
36. Keep from destruction
40. Dispatched
42. Kindled
43. Wretchedness
45. Juvenile
46. Drama
47. Molten rock
48. Afresh
49. Distribute
50. Train track
51. Slate
52. Type of salad
55. Amateur radio operator

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Fitting Jobs

BY MARK McCLAIN

EDITED BY RICH Norris AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS.

ACROSS
1 Places for reps
5 Texter's "Mercy me!"
8 National park near Bar Harbor
14 Make the grade
18 Eat month
19 By way of
20 Hard work
21 Official order
23 Bit of trickery
24 Some urban commuter lines
25 Fitting job for Will?
27 Would rather
30 Pipe piece
31 Anchor in a race
32 Strange craft
33 2001 Audrey
35 Warble
36 White-coated critter
38 Time lines, perhaps
39 Value of a Benjamin
40 "Sesame Street" network
43 Fennel-like herb
44 Hasselblad product
46 Fitting job for Stu?
49 "Parlez-vous"?
51 Whitman's
53 Makes a choice
54 Promising
57 Birdhouse creation
58 Stinging remarks
59 Sign of life
60 Create a new look for
61 Georgia, for one
64 Notable periods
66 Darken, say
67 Fitting job for Sue?
70 Fed. power agency.
73 Spotted
74 Gothic cathedral feature
75 Not for the masses
77 Long accounts
80 Tournament pass
81 Seesaw sitter of song
83 Beneficial
84 Bit of physics
85 Hayride perch
87 Inveterate critic
89 Entom. and geol.
90 Fitting job for Roger?
93 Archaeologist's project
95 Colorful pond fish

DOWN
1 Williams title role
2 The Isley Brothers' "It's a Thing"
3 Fitting job for Art?
4 She kept Martina from winning a seventh straight Wimbledon in 1988
5 Pitch too eagerly
6 Ill-tempered
7 Apron
81 Hockey rink area
85 Scruffy couple?
86 Tarzan's foster family
87 Places for prices
88 Lightly wash
89 1970 self-titled pop album
92 "Anne of Green Gables" town
94 Becomes
95 Produced
96 Numbers in a race
98 Workbench
99 Produced
100 "You... worry"
101 One with a fiat to
102 Eponymous chair maker
103 Like most people
104 University lecturer
105 Dallas Cowboys logo
106 One with a flat to fix, maybe
107 Icky stuff
108 Body art, slangily
109 Is more efficient
110 Mouselike critter
111 Ticker tapes, for
112 "I must not think there are / Evils to darken all his goodness": Shak.
113 Fitting job for Art?
114 Dopey comrade
115 Former filly
116 Reuben basic

Jumble

Unscramble the six Jumbles, one letter per square, to form six words. Then arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by this cartoon.

Sudoku

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.
ACROSS
1 Group of eight
6 Large kitchen appliance
10 Compact CD
14 Complain childishly
15 Cowboy Autry
16 Hang ___ grap
17 Soup-serving implement
18 Cincinnati team
19 Calico's cry
20 Less wobbly
22 Baseball batter's delight
24 Pros and ___
25 Sower
26 ___ of, lacking
29 Portion
30 Certain vote
31 Wild
33 Shouts
37 Rosary piece
39 Fight off
41 Hilarious person
42 WWI flying ace
44 Touch ___ with; talk to briefly
46 J. Edgar Hoover's agcy.
47 Bank vaults

Solutions

13 Crouch in fear
14 Prefix for net or national
15 ___ Stack
16 Baseball's Ruth
17 Open ___ alert
18 ___ my lips
19 The Mamas and the ___
20 ___ flowers
21 ___ in fear
22 Prefix for net or national
23 Risky
24 ___ Finish
25 Stack
26 Baseball's Ruth
27 Open ___ alert
28 ___ my lips
29 The Mamas and the ___
30 ___ flowers
31 ___ in fear
32 ___ an exclamation
33 ___ flowers
34 ___ in fear
35 ___ flowers
36 ___ flowers
37 ___ flowers
38 ___ flowers
39 ___ flowers
40 ___ flowers
41 ___ flowers
42 ___ flowers
43 ___ flowers
44 ___ flowers
45 ___ flowers
46 ___ flowers
47 ___ flowers

DOWN
1 Nightbird
2 Informal talk
3 Movement of the waves
4 Intertwine
5 Very annoyed
6 Means
7 Swerve
8 Finish
9 Settle in snugly
10 Tower over
11 Bumbling
12 Took without permission
13 Crouch in fear
14 Prefix for net or national
15 ___ Stack
16 Baseball's Ruth
17 Open ___ alert
18 ___ my lips
19 The Mamas and the ___
20 ___ flowers
21 ___ in fear
22 Prefix for net or national
23 Risky
24 ___ Finish
25 Stack
26 Baseball's Ruth
27 Open ___ alert
28 ___ my lips
29 The Mamas and the ___
30 ___ flowers
31 ___ in fear
32 ___ an exclamation
33 ___ flowers
34 ___ in fear
35 ___ flowers
36 ___ flowers
37 ___ flowers
38 ___ flowers
39 ___ flowers
40 ___ flowers
41 ___ flowers
42 ___ flowers
43 ___ flowers
44 ___ flowers
45 ___ flowers
46 ___ flowers
47 ___ flowers

By Jacqueline E. Mathews.
Celebrate Labor Day by working on your love life

Labor Day is a day that honors contributions made by hardworking Americans. Whether your work is a labor of love, a job you do strictly for a paycheck or something in between, you are contributing to our country's productivity in some way.

But there's something else that should be celebrated each Labor Day: the work you put into your love life and relationships. Whether you're single, in a relationship, divorced, widowed or married, love can sometimes feel like a job. That's not a bad thing. Even the happiest of couples will tell you they work at sustaining their strong connection.

In the spirit of Labor Day, which was a Monday, here are some tips for working on your love life:

1. Single people who want to meet someone

Network. Just as you would if you were looking for a job, contact people you think might know single people and ask them to set you up. You might feel like you appear desperate, but I think just the opposite holds true. You will be surprised at how many people didn't even realize you were interested.

Take advantage of being single. Not being in a committed relationship has its benefits. They include being able to travel and enjoy the things you might not be able to do if you were married and/or had children. Think of it like this: It's only a matter of time until you meet someone and find yourself in a relationship. This attitude takes all the pressure off and will allow you to live for today.

2. Divorced people

Accepting the past and coming to peace with what happened in your marriage isn’t easy. I can attest to the fact that it takes a long, long time, but that doesn't mean life can't be enjoyed while on that journey. Many divorced people find therapy helpful. Other avenues for coping with divorce include yoga, meditation and faith.

Dating after divorce can be very scary and uncomfortable, and can seem unnatural at first. The key is not to put pressure on yourself to fall in love so fast. Date for fun, for companionship, to meet interesting people, to make new friends and to take your mind off your divorce. If you try not to expect anything beyond friendship and instead focus on having a good time, you won't ever be disappointed.

3. Married people or those in relationships

Have you stopped dating your spouse? If so, start again. Date night is very important in staying connected romantically.

Never forget the importance of open, honest communication. If you married your best friend, you should feel comfortable talking about anything. If you don't, it's OK to tell your spouse that what you are about to say is uncomfortable, but you are going to say it anyway.

A little kindness goes a long way in a marriage. Offering to do the dishes or taking the kids for an afternoon to let your spouse have some alone time are great ways to let your spouse know how much you appreciate him or her.

4. Widows/widowers

I don't know firsthand what it is like to be a widow, but I can say that from the ones I know, there can be a tremendous guilt factor that comes into play in dating, which is completely unwarranted. It must be extremely difficult to date after a spouse has passed, but try to think of dating as something that he or she would have wanted you to do, as you would have wanted for him or her had you been the one who died.

If you want companionship and romantic love again, you deserve it. But when dating, make sure certain things are in place so your dates don't feel uncomfortable. For example, if you are still wearing your wedding ring, that might be an issue for your dates. If there are photos of your spouse all over your house, it might show your dates that you are not really ready to move on. I'm not saying you shouldn't keep your ring, or that you can't keep any photos of your spouse in your home, but just know that if you really want a chance at a healthy romantic relationship, these are sensitive things could make it challenging.

Happy Labor Day and remember, a labor of love is defined as a task done for pleasure, not reward. I think that phrase is somewhat of an oxymoron, since giving in a relationship is almost always rewarded, not necessarily by the thanks you might get from the other person, but by the satisfaction of giving just because you wanted to. Isn't that a reward?

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.
Alzheimer's caregivers can find their own peace

By Joe Graedon and Teresa Graedon
King Features Syndicate

Q: I drive my family and co-workers crazy with my ice addiction. I'm 47 and have craved chewing ice since I was a teenager.

I've always had heavy periods and low energy. A Red Cross nurse told me I was too anemic to give blood, but I never made the connection between iron deficiency and craving ice.

Recently, I started consuming molasses (as a home remedy for a different ailment), and almost overnight I no longer had the ice cravings. It was a pleasant side benefit. I put molasses in my almond milk — very tasty, and a good source of iron.

A: Craving nonfood items such as cornstarch, baking soda, clay or ice is called pica. This can be a signal of iron or zinc insufficiency. Correcting the deficiency may calm the craving.

Blackstrap molasses is rich in iron, with 3.5 mg per tablespoon. It also is a good source of zinc. Keep in mind, however, that molasses also is high in sugar. Other foods that are good sources of iron include liver, clams, oysters, mussels and other shellfish. If such foods don't appeal, you may want to consider a multivitamin and mineral supplement.

Q: My thyroid was removed 38 years ago. I did very well on Armour Thyroid replacement all of those years.

Recently, my endocrinologist insisted that I take Synthroid instead. It made me feel awful.

Finally, he put me back on Armour but kept reducing the dosage. He insisted that the bloodwork showed that I was getting too much.

I reached a point where I was so fatigued that I could do nothing.

When I saw another specialist, she said that my thyroid dosage was too low. In three weeks on the higher dose she prescribed, I have begun to feel better. Quality of life is important!

A: For many people, levothyroxine (Levothroid, Levoxyl, Synthroid, Unithroid) is an effective treatment to replace missing thyroid hormone. Up to 15 percent, though, may have a genetic variation that makes them less efficient at converting levothyroxine (T4) to the active form, triiodothyronine (T3).

Many of these individuals feel better taking a desiccated thyroid preparation such as Armour, Nature-Throid or Westhroid.

We agree that quality of life is an important consideration. You can learn much more about levothyroxine, desiccated thyroid and getting the best treatment for your thyroid condition in our "Guide to Thyroid Hormones," at www.peoplespharmacy.com.

Q: As a doctor with 35 years in practice, I did not realize withdrawal from the antihistamine cetirizine caused severe itching until I had the problem myself. I have been taking cetirizine for more than three years.

Like many others, I experienced severe itching and hives all over my body when I stopped taking it.

I tried to wean off it three times but failed due to unbearable itching. My lips and eyelids swelled, too. I am afraid my epiglottis or throat might swell someday so that I could not breathe.

I checked the medical literature and found, to my surprise, there are no reports of cetirizine withdrawal symptoms. Doctors should know about this.

A: We have received hundreds of reports of unbearable itching resulting from sudden discontinuation of the allergy drug cetirizine (Zyrtec). We have alerted the Food and Drug Administration about this reaction, but as far as we know, no such warnings have been issued.

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via www.peoplespharmacy.com.
For our new rankings of the Chicago area’s public elementary and high schools, we plunged deeper into the data than ever before—and got some surprising results.

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Marriage and imbibing

Most people drink less after their wedding, but some men binge-drink more

By Jeff Guo
The Washington Post

Those who sing the praises of married life, take note. Most of the studies claiming that marriage makes people happier or healthier or less crazy or whatever are garbage.

This is not to blame anyone. Of course we wonder about the curses and blessings of this institution so many Americans cycle in and out of. The problem is that our questions are near-impossible to answer conclusively.

The ideal marriage experiment would involve some kind of love potion or aphrodisiacal arrow you could randomly chuck at people. Lacking that superpower, the best that researchers can do is to observe how people's lives change before and after marriage, or to make comparisons between married couples and similar people who are single.

Both these approaches are flawed. The problem with the first idea is that it mixes up the effects of marriage and the effects of getting older. The problem with the second idea is that married and unmarried people are just too different to compare without reams and reams of psychological, biological, environmental and genetic data.

But wait. What if you studied twins?

There's actually a delightful body of research using twins to answer really tricky questions about the human condition. One of these papers, which will soon be published in the Journal of Family Psychology, provides some of the best evidence we have so far on a real question pondered in real bars all across America: Are we all just drinking because we're lonely and single?

The researchers looked at nearly 2,500 pairs of male and female twins from the state of Washington, who answered questions about how often and how much they usually drink.

The most surprising finding? In some cases, marriage causes people to drink more!

Studies usually show a correlation between being married and drinking less, but it's hard to say what that really means. We suspect that heavy drinkers are less likely to get married, while straight-arrow teetotalers are probably more likely to tie the knot. That messes up the comparison.

The researchers focused on pairs of twins in which one twin happened to be married and the other twin wasn't. Since the twins grew up together and were genetically identical, any differences in their drinking habits were probably caused by the difference in their marital statuses.

Compared with being single, getting married causes both men and women to drink less often. Marriage also causes both men and women to cut down on the number of drinks they have in a single sitting — men in particular.

The impact of marriage was not huge. The study was not precise enough to say exactly how much marriage made people cut down on their drinking habits, but we can make a rough estimate. Typically, the single twin was drinking a few times a week, usually 1-3 drinks each time. The married ones were drinking slightly less on average, perhaps one fewer drinking session a month, and one fewer drink per session.

To understand the effects of a divorce, researchers also compared pairs of twins where one was married and the other wasn't married anymore. Getting a divorce doesn't seem to make people drink more often, but both men and women have more drinks in each sitting.

It's important to look separately at the questions of how often people drink and how much they drink, said co-lead researcher Diana Dinescu, a Ph.D. candidate in clinical psychology at the University of Virginia.

"They're such different behaviors, both socially and biologically," she said. "We know that binge drinking is very harmful, but some studies say drinking a little every day might even have health benefits."

There are a lot of reasons you might expect marriage to make people drink less: Married people tend to have more responsibilities, or they might have children, they might go out to bars less than they used to, they might nag each other not to drink so much. Most of these circumstances are not exclusive to marriage. The researchers find that cohabitation and marriage are pretty much indistinguishable in their effects on people's drinking habits.

In fact, married male twins seem to be more likely to binge drink than their cohabiting counterparts. It's unclear why that is. It could be that couples who are cohabiting are more likely to be in the earlier stages of their relationship, when people are on their best behavior. Or, it could be that married couples are more likely to have children, and that children drive people to drink. (Kidding — that's, uh, totally implausible, right?)

No study is perfect, and there are two problems with twin studies in general.

One crucial assumption is that random factors caused one twin to get married but not the other, and that these random factors were unrelated to their drinking habits. But you could imagine, for instance, that incidental differences in their upbringings — maybe a wild summer camp experience — nudged one toward alcohol, causing that same twin to stay single while the other got married. This would cause us to give too much credit to marriage for the differences in the twins' drinking habits.

The other major problem with twin studies is that twins might not be representative of the general public. This study in particular looked at twins from Washington State, and the subjects were over 90 percent white. Not every twin responded to the survey either, so there might be some systematic response biases there.

These are minor concerns though. On the whole, the study offers some very convincing data confirming that being in a relationship does make you less likely to drink. We've suspected this for a long time, of course.

"From my clinical judgment, marriage causes shift in attitudes, a sense of a greater degree of responsibility," Dinescu said.

Now we have more facts to back up our anecdotal hunches.
Contemporary home in Burr Ridge: $1.025M

ADDRESS: 6919 Fieldstone Dr. in Burr Ridge
ASKING PRICE: $1,025,000
Listed on August 25, 2016
Soaring ceilings and an open floor plan welcome visitors to this 4-bedroom home in Burr Ridge. The kitchen features granite countertops, marble flooring, stainless steel appliances, a double oven and an adjoining walk-in pantry. Highlights include Brazilian cherry wood flooring throughout and an updated infrastructure, including a generator and surge protector. Upstairs, the master bedroom offers two walk-in closets and a spacious master bathroom. The fully-finished basement has a wet bar, a second kitchen and a media room, while the back patio allows for outdoor entertaining. A three-car garage and easy highway access round out the home.
Agent: Laura Garcia of Redfin, 630-352-0769

At press time, this home was still for sale.

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The money raised provides life-changing programs that offer tutoring and mentoring for kids, a supportive place to go when coping with domestic abuse, and job training and literacy classes so the unemployed can find jobs. It’s a great way to help those in Chicagoland who need it most.

Offer valid online only through 5/31/17 at participating Papa John’s locations. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts. Limited delivery area. Delivery fee may apply and is not subject to discount offer. Taxes extra. ©2016 Papa John's International, Inc. All rights reserved.
Kids can check out Touch-a-Truck 9:30-11 a.m. Sept. 10 at Skokie Park District's Oakton Community Center Parking Lot, 4701 Oakton St., or 10 a.m.-noon Sept. 10 at Proesel Park behind Lincolnwood's Village Hall, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave.

**FAMILY FRIENDLY**

**Explore wheel power at 'Touch a Truck' events**

**BY MYRNA PETLICKI**
**Pioneer Press**

Kids have their pick of places to explore vehicles Sept. 10. They can Touch-a-Truck 9:30-11 a.m. at Skokie Park District's Oakton Community Center Parking Lot, 4701 Oakton St., or 10 a.m.-noon at Proesel Park behind Lincolnwood's Village Hall, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave. Both events are free.

"We usually get a pretty big crowd," said Andrea Bilsky who works at Skokie's Exploritorium. She said that children get the rare opportunity to not only look inside vehicles but climb aboard them.

Skokie Park District vehicles, police vehicles and a variety of other community vehicles will stir children's imaginations in Skokie.

The assortment will be as diverse in Lincolnwood with fire trucks, police cars and Village equipment. The goal of this event is to have kids and their parents see how big rigs help keep Lincolnwood running smoothly.

For details, call 847-676-2230 or go to www.barnesandnoble.com.

**Park after dark**

Explore Gilson Park after dark at the Family Flashlight Quest, 6:45-8:30 p.m., 7-8:30 p.m. or 7:15-8:30 p.m. Sept. 10 at Sheridan Road and Michigan Ave., Wilmette. Bring a flashlight. You will be given a set of clues to guide you through the park and to an ice cream treat. The cost is $5 for residents; $7 for nonresidents. Preregistration is required.

For details, call 847-256-6100 or go to www.wilmettepark.org.

**Career counseling**

Yes, a girl can be an engineer, architect or scientist. That's the lesson in Andrea Beaty's series of books. Kids will hear "Ada Twist, Scientist" during a story time, 11 a.m. Sept. 10 at Barnes and Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. There will be related activities.

For details, call 847-825-3123 or go to www.parkridgedlibrary.org.
ST. JOHN BREBEUF NAMES ITS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women Vicariate II President Judi Stephens and ACCW President Marcella Herndon congratulated Alice Koppensteiner recently on her selection as St. John Brebeuf Woman of the Year 2016 at a celebration at the White Eagle Banquets By Victoria. As a member of the St. John Brebeuf Catholic Women’s Club, Koppensteiner invites all parish women to attend the Club’s first meeting of the year at 7 p.m. Sept. 13 at the Parish Ministry Center, 8301 N. Harlem Ave., Niles. For more Information call 847-967-1172.

GOLF DAY RAISES $150,000 FOR LAMBS FARM

Lou Tazloli of Park Ridge, from left, Craig Sipich of Orland Park, Tim Street of Elk Grove and Phil McMahon of Elmhurst were among 177 golfers at the 32nd Annual Lambs Farm Golf Day in Memory of Jack Stein, benefiting programs at Lambs Farm, Libertyville. Held at the ThunderHawk Golf Club in Beach Park July 12, the event raised $150,000 for Lambs Farm. More at www.lambsfarm.org.

JEANMARIE BROWNSON BOOK SIGNING IN PARK RIDGE

JeanMarie Brownson, chef, food writer, and author of “Dinner at Home: 140 Recipes to Enjoy with Family and Friends” (Agate Publishing, 2015), will sign her book 9-11 a.m. Sept. 10 at the Park Ridge Farmers Market, 15 Prairie Ave. Brownson, a Park Ridge resident, is best known for her work at the Chicago Tribune, including the column for which the book was named. The book features recipes for weekday family dinners as well as dishes for parties. More at parkridgefarmersmarket.com.

BLU 2016 RAISES $450,000 FOR SHEDD AQUARIUM

Chris and Angela Carli of Niles were among 1,070 supporters at the 2016 BLU party benefiting Shedd Aquarium’s Shedd’s animal rescue and rehab, conservation and education initiatives. Held at Shedd Aquarium in Chicago Aug. 6, the festivities raised $450,000 that will go toward animal support and aquarium programs. See more at sheddaquarium.org.

Send us your holiday bazaar info

Pioneer Press is preparing a roundup of holiday bazaars and craft shows. If you would like your organization’s information included in the holiday bazaar listings, send your information to Deborah Hoppe at dhoppe@pioneerlocal.com by Oct. 10. Please include event details, address, email and website, with a phone number and/or email for us to contact if we need more information.
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CHICAGOLAND THEATRE DIRECTORY
6 ways to get the most out of your clothes dryer

By Jura Koncius
The Washington Post

Today's dryers are loaded with sophisticated features such as moisture sensors, wrinkle shields and steam cycles. But many consumers are making very basic mistakes that affect how they work. So start by reading your appliance user manual. Don't just plug in your dryer and start using it, says Chris Granger, vice president of Sears Home Services. There are many features and settings to help you dry your pants and shirts without shrinking or fading them and to have them come out virtually wrinkle-free.

Check the fabric care labels on your clothes, says Corinne Gorenchan, Whirlpool's product development manager for fabric care. They will tell you whether the garment can be machine-dried and at what temperature. The pros say you really shouldn't fill it more than halfway full. Otherwise, your clothes won't be able to move around, will take a really long time to dry and will come out wrinkled.

We spoke to Granger and Gorenchan about what other mistakes people make when it comes to dryers. Several of their suggestions address the need to monitor that pesky dryer byproduct: lint.

- **Not preparing clothes for drying:** Check pockets and remove everything. Pens, crayons and lip balms could melt or leak. Paper clips or other metal objects might cause damage to the inside of the dryer. Zip up any zippers. The teeth on an open zipper can snag clothes, Gorenchan says.

- **Neglecting to sort:** Sorting is as important in drying as it is in washing. Don't dry sweaters or lingerie with rough fabrics such as jeans, as the rubbing could cause pilling, Granger says. A black cotton T-shirt may shrink and fade if you choose high heat; it's better to dry things like that at cooler temperatures.

- **Giving your dryer lint brush the brushoff:** Don't know what a dryer lint brush is? Shame on you. Of course, you should all be cleaning your lint traps between each and every dryer use. But it is recommended that you periodically use a lint brush to dislodge and remove lint that the screen may not have removed. The lint trap and use a long, thin flexible brush to dislodge stray lint, and follow up with a vacuuming, Granger says.

- **Not paying attention to your dryer vent pipe:** Monitor your dryer vent pipe for accumulation of lint. Buildup will affect airflow and prevent your dryer from operating at maximum efficiency, and may create a risk for dryer fires. Granger recommends having pipes cleaned every six to 12 months, depending on how frequently you use the dryer. Flexible piping can accumulate lint more rapidly and is more difficult to clean.

- **Not cleaning your lint screen and moisture sensors:** The frequent use of dryer sheets can cause a chemical coating to build up on your lint screen and on moisture sensors in the dryer drum. Wipe down the sensors, the two metal bar strips inside the dryer drum, with a towel and a bit of mild soap. Granger says it's important to regularly wash the lint screen under a faucet, scrubbing gently with a little mild dishwashing soap on a cloth or toothbrush. Air-dry before you reinstall it.

- **Ignoring the area under and around the dryer:** Dryers pull air from the surrounding area. Keep the floor around a dryer clear and clean, Gorenchan says.

**BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS**
For homeowners near golf courses, vinyl siding is vulnerable to damage from golf balls.

**HOME REMEDIES**

**Worried about golf balls? Try engineered wood**

**BY ANGIE HICKS**

**Angie’s List**

**Dear Angie:** We live on a golf course, and golf balls always hit our house. We need to replace the siding, but it doesn’t make sense to do it with the same product that’ll get damaged over and over again. Is there a product that won’t crack or show damage when hit by a golf ball?

— M. Doyle, Hagerstown, Md.

**Dear M.:** While golf course communities offer great views and home values, houses often find themselves in the crosshairs of hacks and pros alike. Many homeowners, especially those within range of tee boxes, spend their time constantly checking for and fixing golf ball damage. As for siding options, foam-backed vinyl offers more protection than standard vinyl, but it isn’t enough to eliminate cracks caused by golf balls. While fiber cement features increased durability, you’ll find another type of siding on an increasing number of golf course clubhouses: nationwide, engineered wood.

Considered a green building material, engineered wood brings the look of old-school wood, but it’s cheaper, easier to install and sometimes guaranteed up to 50 years. The composite product is designed to resist damage, moisture-based deterioration and pests.

Engineered wood consists of treated wood strands and a resin binder. One manufacturer adds zinc borate to combat fungal decay and termites. Siding comes in 16-foot boards, which means fewer seams and waste than common 12-foot varieties. You can buy unfinished or ready-to-paint siding, with an extensive selection of trim possibilities.

Installation costs $6 to $9 per square foot. That’s more than vinyl but less than fiber cement. The value isn’t limited to when you own the home. A 2016 report based on a national survey of real estate professionals found engineered wood had a 78.6 percent payday at home resale, the best of any siding type.

Angie’s List writer Brent Glasgow contributed.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Thursday, Sept. 8

Des Plaines Garden Club Meeting: This garden club meets at 11 a.m., where the business meeting starts at noon, followed by their 1 p.m. program: Shawn Ondel from Aquaponic Garden Show presents a brief introduction to the future of global garden spaces, including hydroponics, aquaponics and vertical garden systems. Also, explore future and current home indoor/outdoor garden spaces. 11 a.m. Fribbie Senior Center, 52 E. NW Highway, Des Plaines, free, 847-768-5944

Coffee Talk to track down history of Mexican railroad: The public is invited to the Coffee Talk, The History of Mexican railroad: Coffee Talk to track down history of 768-5944

Hydroponics, aquaponics and vertical garden systems. Also, explore future and current home indoor/outdoor garden spaces. 11 a.m. Fribbie Senior Center, 52 E. NW Highway, Des Plaines, free, 847-768-5944

Contemporary Native Women Opening Doors to Change: Join the Mitchell Museum for the opening of its latest exhibit, Contemporary Native Women Opening Doors to Change. Welcoming reception at 1 p.m., curator led tour at 2 p.m. and a panel discussion from 3-4:30 p.m. All week, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, $3 kids, $5 adults and Tribal members free, 847-413-1030

"Julius Caesar": 7:30 p.m. Sept. 8 and Sept. 9, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sept. 10, Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe, $35-$80, 847-242-6000

Fall Mum Sales at Wagner Farm: Add fall color to your yard with beautiful mums and dress up your house for the season with pumpkins, cornstalks, Indian corn, gourds and more. Call for more information, 10 a.m. All week, Wagner Farm, 1510 Wagner Road, Glenview, free, 847-657-1506

Learn How to Skate Intro to Developmental Hockey 1-3rd: Find out if ice hockey is the sport for your child without committing to a longer program. The fee includes professionally taught lessons and rental skates. Various times, depending on age. First- to third-graders on Sept. 7 to 11. Space is limited and registration is required. Register in person, by mail, via FAX or at glenview-parks.org, 9 a.m. Sept. 8 through 10, Glenview Ice Center, 1851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, Call for more details, 847-724-2800

Write Right: Suggested for grades 6-8. Drop in for an informal teen writing hour. Sit and write with your peers, share your work, or look for feedback. 3:30 p.m. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Niles Songwriters: Local songwriters meet on the Second Thursday of the month at the library's Lower Level to discuss their craft and play their music. Acoustic instruments are welcome. 7 p.m. Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Wonder Ground Open Lab: Look, touch, tinker and play with an intriguing array of science-oriented curiosities in this new space designed especially for kids. A drop-in visit is limited to about 30 minutes. Activities are repeated each week from Tuesday to Thursday. The Wonder Ground is a STEAM playground for kids. 4 p.m. Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Park Ridge Fly Tying Club Meetings: Chicago Fly Fishers Club meet at 7 p.m. Thursdays from October through May. Demonstrations of fly tying are performed by an experienced demonstrator. The members have an opportunity to tie the same pattern using tools and materials provided by the club. 7 p.m. Park Ridge Community Church, 100 S. Courtland Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-823-3164

Park Ridge Garden Club September Meeting: This Fall Thinks Spring to learn all about planting your spring bulbs now. All are welcome and this garden club is a member of the Garden Clubs of IL Inc., District IX and National Garden Clubs Inc., Central Region. 7 p.m. Park Ridge Park District- Centennial Activity Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-3597

Park Ridge Toastmasters Meeting: This is the Park Ridge Toastmasters Bi-Weekly meeting. All are welcome to join for impromptu speaking, prepared speeches, jokes and much more. 7:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 418 Touhy Ave., Park Ridge, free, 224-715-5128

Rockin in the Park Free Summer Concert Series: 7 p.m. Bub City, 5441 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 312-610-4200

Ozomatli: Mike Oquendo Events presents two-time Grammy and Latin Grammy award winner Ozomatli and their imaginative music. Tickets are available at www.joesliverosemont.com. 7 p.m. Joe's Live Rosemont, 5441 Park Place, Rosemont, $20-$40, 773-895-9876

Food Drive in Skokie: Requesting donations of canned goods and dry food products to fill the shelves of the Niles Township Food Pantry. These foods to be given to the hungry in the community. All foods can be dropped off at Walgreens. For further information, call Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation office at 847-675-4141. Midnight, All week, Walgreens, 3985 W. Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-4141

Free Walking Clinic: Learn to get the most benefit out of walking as exercise in Gillson Park. A certified, personal trainer teaches the class, which includes a warm-up, stretching, inclines, steps, balance and coordination. All fitness levels welcome. 5:30 p.m. Sept. 8 and 12, Gillson Park, Lake Ave & Michigan Ave, Wilmette, free, 847-251-6834

HIT180: A low-impact, high-intensity cardio and strength fitness class. Go to www.hit180fit.com for more information and to register. The first class is free, but please register three hours before the class. 5 a.m. All week, Hit 180 Fitness, 313 Northfield Road, Winnetka, 847-448-8260

Friday, Sept. 9

Des Plaines Farmers' Market: City of Des Plaines Farmers' Market is every Friday, open until 7 p.m. on Ellinwood Street starting at Lee Street. Available are fresh produce, olive oil, bird houses and birdseed, food storage containers, green products and more. 3 p.m. Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St., Des Plaines, free, 847-827-5551

2016 Wildkit Golf Outing and Happy Hour Bash: Hosted by the ETHS Educational Foundation, this event offers parents of current students, alumni and Evanston community members a time of camaraderie, hole contests, great food, music and entertainment. Lunch and registration are at noon, with shotgun start at 1 p.m. Noon, Canal Shores Golf Course, 1030 Central St., Evanston, $200 per golfer, $50 for Happy Hour Only, 847-424-7534

NRBO vs. Los Straightjackets: 8 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $20-$40, 847-492-8860

Parkinson Wellness Recovery Brain-Body Training: Brain-Body Training/ PWTR is Parkinson-specific exercise, scientifically designed to target symptoms of PD. It includes boxing training for endurance, agility and stability. The instructor is Drew Surinsky, an exercise physiologist. 10 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, $10-$15, 847-502-0630

Karaoke Bonfire Family Night: Join your friends at the North Suburban YMCA for a relaxed evening around a
CALENDAR

Cozy bonfire. Come to snack on s'mores, dance with glow sticks and sing along with some karaoke classics. The fun runs until 8 p.m. and the fee for nonmembers is $10 per family. 6 p.m. North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7250

**Movies Theater Museums and More**

**Join the Conversation:** Enjoy an informal monthly conversation about the arts and culture in and around Chicagoland. Share your interests, experience and knowledge about what's happening. Vivian Mitchell moderates the discussion. Center membership is required to participate. 1 p.m. North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-784-6030

**Hollywood's Golden Age Meet Louella Parsons:** Hear scintillating stories and scandals of the actors and studio moguls in Hollywood's Golden Age as Martina Mathisen portrays Louella Parsons, Hollywood's most dynamic and powerful gossip columnist. Attendees are transported to the old Hollywood insider's club while hearing about the triumphs and transgressions of the era's biggest stars. 1 p.m. North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10 NSSC member; $13 non member, 847-784-6030

**Share the Warmth:** Join a group of warm, friendly, supportive women (men welcome) to prepare one-of-a-kind warm, sweet loukoumades in the indoor comfort of the church community center, at Lake Ave., in Glenview. Especially for kids are: hot dogs and ice cream, a balloon artist (Sat., 5-8 p.m.) and a face painter (Sun., 5-8 p.m.) Free admission and parking are offered in the two lots along Wagner Road. 1 p.m. Sept. 10 and Sept. 11, Saints Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church, 1401 Wagner Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-2235

**Glenview Greek Fest:** Enjoy delicious Greek food, homemade pastries and warm, sweet loukoumades in the indoor comfort of the church community center, at Lake Ave., in Glenview. Especially for kids are: hot dogs and ice cream, a balloon artist (Sat., 5-8 p.m.) and a face painter (Sun., 5-8 p.m.) Free admission and parking are offered in the two lots along Wagner Road. 1 p.m. Sept. 10 and Sept. 11, Saints Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church, 1401 Wagner Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-2235

**Glenview Greek Fest**

**Opening of the Regenstein Learning Campus:** The Chicago Botanic Garden celebrates the opening of the Regenstein Learning Campus, a new 7-acre hub for plant-based community and civic engagement, intergenerational learning, hands-on coursework and health and wellness activities. Visitors can engage in a weekend full of mini-classes showcasing what the Garden's education programs have to offer. 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

**Glenview Greek Fest**

**Tisch Walks:** Guided trail walks are ideal for families and individuals and those who are interested in nature. 2 p.m. The Grove, 1421 Milwaukee Ave., Glenview, free, 847-299-6096

**Glenview Farmers Market**

**Glenview Greek Fest**

**Second Saturday Breakfast Bingo:** Kids and families are welcome to enjoy some breakfast treats as everyone plays Bingo. Enjoy a kickoff to one's weekend with a morning of family fun at the library. 9:30 a.m. Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St, Niles, free, 847-663-1234

**Village of Niles Block Party:** Join us for a fun-filled day with games, food, unique demonstrations, a scavenger hunt, a bubble show and a 50/50 raffle to benefit Farm on Franks, the Village of Niles public gardening program. 11 a.m. Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St, Niles, free, 847-663-1234

**Park Ridge Farmers Market:** Shop for fresh produce, soap, olive oils, flowers, pickles, pasta baked goods and meat.

**Country Night at Kings Bowl Rosemont:** Kings Bowl, an expansive bowling, dining and cocktail venue, hosts "Country Night." Guests can enjoy free mechanical bull rides, country music, drinks, dancing and bowling. Guests who RSVP are entered to win two tickets to Florida Georgia Line at Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre coming up on Sept. 17. 8 p.m. MB Financial Park at Rosemont, $501 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-233-0099

**Chicago Women's Expo:** Keynote celebrity speakers include: Brandy, Mariel Hemingway, Monica, and Caroline Manzo, plus awesome shopping, free makeovers, massages, beauty treatments, giveaways and discounts. 10 a.m. Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 9291 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont, free, 866-618-3434

**Preserving Survivor Stories:** Ask Holocaust Survivor Pinchas Gutter any question you would like, and natural language technology software will respond as if Pinchas were in the room. 10:30 a.m. Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4800

**Chicago Film Premiere:** "Repairing:* Winner of 11 film festival awards, this film is about a troubled Air Force veteran who finds clues to his lost memories in his daughter's art, while being confronted by a stranger looking for answers of his own. 7 p.m. Wilmette Theatre, 122 Central Ave, Wilmette, $10; $8.50 seniors & students, 847-251-7424

**Northfield Farmers Market:** Enjoy a casual morning shopping for vegetables and fruits, plants, flowers, cheeses, pastries, coffee and gourmet items. Cooking demonstrations are given by local chefs. Harvest Fest, Sept. 24. 7:30 a.m. Northfield Farmers' Market, 6 Happ Road, Winnetka, free, 847-446-4461

**9/11 Patriot Day Flag Memorial:** This is an annual, community-wide gathering of parents, children, seniors, veterans, first responders, neighbors and more who gather to plant flags to remember loved ones, friends, co-workers or fellow human beings who lost their lives. 3:30 p.m. Sept. 10, 12:01 a.m. Sept. 11, Winnetka Village Green, Elm St. and Maple St., Winnetka, free, 000-000-
Sunday, Sept. 12

Adult Book Discussion "Dead Wake": This book discussion at the Lincolnwood Community Center features "Dead Wake" by Erik Larson. 11 a.m. Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N Lincoln Ave, Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Monday, Sept. 12

High Holiday Patriot Blood Drive and Flu Shots: To schedule your appointment, go to www.lifesource.org. Choose make an appointment, and search by sponsor code: NBO5. All healthy adults over 17, weight at least 110 pounds may donate blood. Walgreens will also be sponsoring flu shots during the same time period. Flu shots cost determined by insurance and Walgreens. 8 a.m. Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave, Northbrook, free, 847-498-4100

Helene Hoffman Memorial Cantorial Concert: This Congregation Beth Shalom 18th Helene Hoffman Memorial Cantorial Concert, Praise Voices in Harmony, features Kol Zimrah Jewish Community Singers, Bright Star Church Choir, Host Cantor Steve Stoehr, with Heather Aranyi and special guest Pastor Chris Harris. This benefits Israel Cancer Research Fund and Bright Star Community Outreach. For tickets: call 847-498-4100 and sponsorships are also available. 4 p.m. Christian Heritage Academy, 315 Waukegan Road, Northfield, $25, 847-498-4100

Chicago Women's Expo: Keynote celebrity speakers include: Brandy, Mariel Hemingway, Monica, and Caroline Manzo, plus awesome shopping, free makeovers, massages, beauty treatments, giveaways and discounts. 10 a.m. Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 9291 Bryn Mawr Ave, Rosemont, free, 866-618-3434

Bake Sale: Sisterhood Temple Beth Israel presents its annual Bake Sale, but new this year, a cookie/brownie/cupcake walk, you purchase a container and fill it with goodies of your choice. Also for purchase are: mouth-watering berry pies, apple pies, chocolate cakes, bundt cakes, rugalsh and more. There are nut free and gluten free options available. 9 a.m. Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-0951

Skokie Farmers Market: Farmers and vendors from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin sell fresh-picked vegetables, fruits and flowers along with cheese, baked goods, coffee, sauces and spices. 7:30 a.m. Skokie Village Hall, 5177 Oakton St, Skokie, free, 847-673-0500

Monday, Sept. 12

MGPL Kids: Monday Morning Playgroup: Drop-in play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver to introduce young children to the library in a low-key, unstructured session. Call 847-929-5102 or go to www.mgpl.org for more information. 10:30 a.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave, Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

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

Knitting Roundtable for Adults: Ronnie Rundl, an expert knitter, shows attendees how to knit or how to solve knitting challenges. Bring one's current project(s) and needles. 2 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave, Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Freeze's Cryogenics: Second Sunday Family Program Mr. Freeze's Cryogenics: Cryogenics is the science of how you make things really cold and the amazing things that happen when you do. Join us for amazing surprises and lots of fun facts about the extreme cold. 2 p.m. Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

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

Knitting Roundtable for Adults: Ronnie Rundl, an expert knitter, shows attendees how to knit or how to solve knitting challenges. Bring one's current project(s) and needles. 2 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave, Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Coffee and Conversation Support Group for Holocaust Survivors: This weekly support group for Holocaust survivors addresses past and present experiences, the challenges of aging, health concerns, family, relationships, planning for the future, holidays and worldwide events. Led by Yonit Hoffman, Ph.D., Holocaust Community Services and Barbara Urbanska-Yeager, Jewish Child and Family Services. Open to Holocaust survivors; registration is required. Please call HCS at 847-679-3135 or go to www.hcsonline.org for more information. 10:30 a.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave, Morton Grove, free, 847-679-3135

Barocco's It's About Time: The Renaissance had an idealistic, timeless quality about it, but the period known as the Barocco was interested in capturing the "emotional moment." It was dramatic, and over a period of 150 years (1600-1750) the Modern World was born. 1 p.m. North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10 NSCC member; $13 non member, 847-784-6030

The Incredible Coast of Michigan: Ralph Danielsen takes you on a virtual fall journey along Michigan's coastline, highlighting miles of beaches, with towering sand dunes, sunsets and more lighthouses than any other state. Visit the impressive Soo Locks, Mackinac Island, Charlevoix and more. 1 p.m. North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10 NSCC member; $13 non member, 847-784-6030

Study The Torah For All It's Worth with Dr. Rydelnik: Join in welcoming back Dr. Michael Rydelnik, Professor of Jewish Studies at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and host of Open Line on the Moody Radio network, to the Keshet Forum. He speaks on how to get the most out of studying the Torah and all are welcome. 7 p.m. Willow Creek Community Church North Shore, 315 Waukegan Road, Northfield, free

Tuesday Morning Music: Garden visitors can enjoy free hour-long meditative musical performances on Tuesday mornings in the McGinley Pavilion overlooking Evening Island. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, fee, 847-835-5440

Beautiful Bavaria: Join avid European wanderer Ralph Danielsen on a journey to Beautiful Bavaria, which includes the gorgeous Alpine Road, lovely and lively Munich, northern Bavaria, and the
ancient towns along the Romantic Road. This photographic presentation is just in time to celebrate Oktoberfest. 7 p.m. Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Mozart's Requiem: Niles Metro Chorus performs Mozart's Requiem this spring. New singers are welcome, and for more information, please call. Rehearsals are weekly, every Tuesday. 7 p.m. St. John Brebeuf Parish Church, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., Niles, free, 702-806-8421

North Shore Dance Nil ses- sion registration: Dance training is provided to students ages five through adults. For information, email to: niles@northshoredanceandtheater.com. 4:30 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m. North Shore Dance & Theater, LTD at Rhythm & Beyond, 8746 N. Shermer Road, Niles, see website, 847-715-8690

Lehrhaus Confirmation Class: Post Bar/Bat Mitzvah teenagers are invited to participate in this program which teaches young people how to utilize Jewish resources when faced with making a decision. This is a fascinating three-year program. 7 p.m. Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, $420 for entire year plus book fees, 847-675-4141

Great Books Discussion Group: Meets on the second Tuesday of each month to discuss some of the best books in the English language. For more information on joining, call 847-673-1814. 7 p.m. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie, free, 847-673-7774

Ancient Egyptian Collection of the Oriental Institute: Fay Sealf, Ph.D. Head of Research Archives at the Oriental Institute, showcases the Ancient Egyptian Collection and highlights some of the more spectacular pieces in the collection which numbers over 25,000 artifacts. 2 p.m. Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-256-5025

Wednesday, Sept. 14

Barrence Whitfield & the Savages: 8 p.m. Wednesday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $12-$22, 847-492-8860

Harvest Cider Tasting In the Gar- den: Toast the season of blazing fall color and crisp days with a glass of hard cider at this new event. Try 2-ounce tastings of seasonal ciders; light fare and beer are available for purchase. Advance fees-$25 members; $30 non-members; Day-of fees-$28 members $33 non-members; 6 p.m. Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, $25-$33, 847-835-5440

GLENergy Senior Housing Fair: This open house provides an opportunity for older adults and their families to explore the various types of senior residences in the Glenview area. Representatives display materials and are available to talk about their facilities with Fair attendees, so just drop in. 3:30 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Kombucha This Secrets of Healthy Bacteria for Your Body: Chris Banerjee, Certified Healing Foods Specialist, demonstrates how to make fermented foods and discuss how they promote digestive and immunity health. 7 p.m. Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Northbrook Farmers Market: 7 a.m. Cherry Lane and Meadow Road, Cherry Lane and Meadow Road, Northbrook, free

Knitting Studio and Workshop: Each Wednesday afternoon, Certified Knitting Instructor Mary Staackmann provides personalized instruction, answers any questions about knitting, and perhaps gets you started on a new project. Bring your supplies or project in progress. Brush up on your skills, learn new techniques, or just spend an afternoon knitting with others. 1:30 p.m. North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-784-6060

Skokie Synagogue Book Club: The Book Club of the Sisterhood of Ezra-Habonim, presents "Thank You Jerry Stiller...My Life Among the Giants, A Memoir" by television personality Barry ZeVan. This program is open to the public and a discussion follows the presentation. The book tells the story of ZeVan, one of the first celebrity television weathermen. 10:30 a.m. Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-4141

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MOVIES

NOW PLAYING

“Don’t Breathe” ★★½:
R, 1:28, suspense/thriller
Written/directed by Fede Alvarez confines most of this film’s mayhem to the interior of an old, dark house on a virtually uninhabited block in Detroit. The homeowner is an Iraq war veteran played by Stephen Lang. Blind but hardy, the crusty shut-in has been pegged by a trio of young burglars as an easy, vulnerable mark with a large stash of cash. We know this will go poorly. Their prey becomes their tormentor, using an array of power tools and implements as weapons. He’s a beast. And then, we learn, he’s really a beast of a more disturbing variety. — Michael Phillips

“Suicide Squad” ★★½:
PG-13, 2:10, action/adventure
The new DC Comics movie “Suicide Squad” is a garish, overstuffed, blithely sadistic corporate directive that follows the familiar “Dirty Dozen” setup: A gaggle of surly sociopaths coupled with some “metahumans” must set aside their basic natures to work together fighting a common enemy. But folks, this is a lousy script, blooby like the endlessly beheaded minions of the squad’s chief adversary. It’s not satisfying storytelling. Will Smith takes top billing as Deadshot, the world’s most lethal hit man. Deadshot refers to the tornado-like doomsday machine being assembled, endlessly, by the evil Enchantress as “a swirling ring of trash.” That’s “Suicide Squad” in a nutshell. — MP

“Kubo and the Two Strings” ★★★★
PG, 1:41, animated
The adventure fantasy “Kubo and the Two Strings” is seamless stop-motion storytelling from Laika, the independent animation studio that gave us the darkly entertaining “Coraline” and “The Boxtrolls.” Yet it’s the endearing, playful, touching, cantankerous and sometimes frightening individuals who supply this spectacular story about friendship, courage and sacrifice with its life force. Set in feudal Japan, the story follows Kubo, a lonely, creative kid who sets off on a hero’s journey toward distant lands. The cinematic experience carries us to a world that is harsh yet stunningly beautiful. — Colin Covert, Star Tribune

“Sausage Party” ★★½:
R, 1:29, animated
Insanely raunchy and occasionally very funny, “Sausage Party” won’t be for everyone. But you could say that about any film featuring a vaginal douche as a villain; a talking used condom, with a tale of woe to tell; a tremendous amount of rough language and rough sex; and rough existential reckonings; and a climactic orgy, the foodstuffs of a store called Shopwell’s out of their packaging at last. The script by Seth Rogen, Evan Goldberg, Kyle Hunter and Ariel Shaffir has an inspired stupid idea, and boundless nerve, as well as a legitimate interest in theological debate. Truly, it does. I swear. I laughed a lot in the first half, before the movie’s repetitive jackhammer pacing began working against its better instincts. — M.P

“Mechanic: Resurrection” ★★½:
R, 1:39, action
Jason Statham stars in a down-and-gritty B-movie that’s as lean and mean and minimalist as he is. He reprises the role of Arthur Bishop, a retired hit man now living undercover in Brazil. His boyhood frenemy Craine (Sam Hazeldine) hunts him down and orders him to perform three kills. He has no desire to do any of them, but Craine holds a trump card: Gina (Jessica Alba), whom Bishop has rescued and fallen for. In “Mechanic,” he’s a mechanism of murder, of escape, of ingenuity, of combat. He’s too good to be true, but that’s why we like him. — Owen Gleiberman, Variety
Thomson, Donald R.
Donald R. Thomson, 86 of Huntley, a retired buyer for Material Service, passed away on Wednesday, August 31, 2016 in Elgin.
He is survived by his wife, Phyllis, his daughters, Katherine (Vincent) Quattrocchi, Diane (Kevin) McArdle, his grandchildren, Katherine, Julie, Charles, Teagan & Teia Chun-Hong. He was preceded in death by his son, Richard J.D. Brandt, his brother, James and his sister, JoAnn.
Visitation will be from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 1st at the DeFiore-Jorgensen Funeral & Cremation Service, 10763 Dundee Road, Huntley. A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. and the family will greet friends after 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 2nd at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church, 10805 Main Street, Huntley. Burial will be in All Saints Cemetery, Des Plaines. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Donald R. Thomson Family. For more information please call 847-515-8772 or online condolences can be directed to www.defiorejorgensen.com

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Glenview native Cronin nets hat trick for Valpo women's soccer

BY SAM BRIEF
Pioneer Press

April Cronin, a Glenbrook South alumnus and senior forward for Valparaiso's women's soccer team, recorded a hat trick Aug. 28 in a 3-2 overtime win against Loyola of Chicago.

Cronin became the fifth player in program history to record a hat trick for the Crusaders (2-2 as of Sept. 1). Cronin's final goal of the game came in the 105th minute to cap a comeback win for Valparaiso. Cronin was named Horizon League Offensive Player of the Week as a result of her performance.

Joining Cronin on the soccer team are Lily Chekosky from Hinsdale Central, Fenwick graduate Sydney Galvez-Daley, Lake Zurich alumna Vanessa Abad and South Barrington native Michelle Muttonen.

Elsewhere on the pitch, Sydney McGinnis, a junior forward on the Wisconsin women's soccer team and a graduate of Maine South, had one assist through the Badgers' first four games, in which they were 1-1-2. Also playing for Wisconsin is Evanston alumna Jamie Donohue and Highland Park grad Grace Quirk.

Madeline Walsh, another Evanston graduate, has caught on with Lehigh's women's soccer team. The Mountain Hawks (2-0-1) allowed zero goals through their first three games.

Deerfield alums make waves

Former Deerfield basketball standout Joey Lane announced via Twitter on Aug. 29 that Ohio State basketball coach Thad Matta had awarded him a full scholarship. Lane walked on to the program his freshman year and played in seven games off the bench. Lane is entering his sophomore season. He was an all-conference and all-area player for Deerfield his senior year of high school.

Former Deerfield and Northwestern soccer player Joey Calistri is in his first season with the Chicago Fire and has shown flashes of his goal-scoring prowess and speed. Calistri has played 11 games, starting two, with a goal and an assist for the Fire (5-12-8 through Sept. 1). He finished his four-year career at Northwestern as the program's second all-time scoring leader and played for the Fire's under-23 team as a freshman and announced on Aug. 29 that he had been awarded a scholarship.

Self, Davis among volleyball standouts

Layne Self, a 2013 graduate of Lake Zurich, has emerged as one of the leaders for Rhode Island's women's volleyball team. The 6-foot-1 senior co-captain has 32 kills and 13 total attacks for the Wolverines over the first three matches. She has also recorded seven blocks and 10 digs for the Rams (0-3 through Sept. 1).

Michigan's volleyball team started the season 3-0, with each win coming in straight sets. Former Hinsdale Central volleyball star Ally Davis, a senior outside hitter, recorded six kills and 13 total attacks for the Wolverines over the first three matches.

There's no course like home

Prep golf teams know the benefits of familiar fairways

BY STEVE SADIN
Pioneer Press

Competing at home is considered an advantage in most sports, but it might mean more in golf than anywhere else.

"If you consider the home crowd in basketball or football, it's nothing like the home-course advantage in golf," Lake Forest boys golf coach Jim Matheson said. "Every course has a few quirks, and you know what club to pick to make it work."

Each team chooses a home course for different reasons, but every team practices on home turf as frequently as possible to have the upper hand when hosting a meet.

The phenomenon is so strong the Central Suburban League requires a neutral course for its league championship. Deerfield girls coach Tim Bleck said, for example, the Highland Park girls golf team normally plays at Highland Park Country Club, but the league meet takes place at nearby Sunset Valley, the Giants' home course.

Deerfield, Highland Park and Lake Forest have long-time relationships with park district-owned municipal courses, and thus have a nearby course to call home. That's not the case for other CSL schools, such as Maine East, Maine South or Maine West.

Maine South, for example, has played at Chick Evans Golf Course in Morton Grove for the last 12 years under longtime boys coach Mike Godlewski. Sometimes visiting teams can get to Chick Evans faster than the host Warriors can.

"We've had to wait for them to show up," Highland Park boys coach Scott Leibfried said.

The Maine East and Maine South golf teams use nearby Park Ridge Country Club as their home course, but they are only permitted to play at the private club on Mondays, when the clubhouse is closed. Both schools must play elsewhere the other six days of the week, and each only scheduled one meet at the course this year. Maine East often practices at Golf Center Des Plaines, which has a nine-hole par-3 course, driving range and a short-game area.

Leibfried and Bleck said they are thrilled with the arrangement their schools have with their local courses. The Deerfield and Highland Park teams each practice twice blocked out after school.

Bleck said the Deerfield Park District and Township High School District 113, which operates both Deerfield and Highland Park, have a reciprocal facility arrangement and there is no charge for the school or individual players. Leibfried said there is no cost to his team as well.

"Sunset Valley is great to us," Leibfried said. "The kids don't have to worry about anything but playing, and I don't have to worry about anything but coaching. The athletic director takes care of everything else."

Highland Park's relationship with Sunset Valley dates to the 1950s. Leibfried said, and both Deerfield squads have played at the
Maine East struggles against Ridgewood

The Maine East football team suffered a 54-14 non-conference loss to Ridgewood on Sept. 2 in Park Ridge.

It was an abrupt turn of fortune for the Blue Demons, who were coming off a 16-13 win over Schurz in Week 1. It was Maine East's first victory since it won via forfeit in Week 2 of the 2014 season and snapped a 16-game losing streak. The Blue Demons' last win in regulation came in Week 2 of the 2013 season.

Maine East is back in action at 7 p.m. Sept. 9 at Rolling Meadows (2-0). The Mustangs are coming off a 48-7 win over Conant.

— Staff report

Above: Maine East's Julio Cabrales carries the ball.

Right: Maine East's Jusuf Zvizdic looks toward the bench to get the play.

Bottom: Maine East's Peter Szilagyi plays his trombone during the national anthem prior to the game.

Left: Maine East's Bradley Ezop looks for room to run during the game against Ridgewood.

TIM BOYLE/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS
Mihalic, Niles North nearly upset Lake Forest

BY DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

As Niles North junior kicker and punter Nick Mihalic made his way to the bus after his team's 29-26 overtime loss to Lake Forest, he encountered a group of approximately a dozen Lake Forest male students. Was there hostility? Nope. The group began a round of applause for Mihalic and a few of them even posed for selfies with Niles North's No. 19.

Mihalic had just kicked field goals of 21, 40, 44 and 47 yards, the latter tying his career best, and recovered his own onside kick in the fourth quarter as the Vikings (0-2) almost pulled off an upset on Sept. 2 on the road.

The night wasn't perfect for Mihalic, however. With the score tied 23-23 and 1:19 remaining in regulation, the righty had a chance to kick the go-ahead 32-yard field goal, but he missed wide left.

"I rushed it," Mihalic said. "I saw the defense coming and I rushed it. That's not what kickers are supposed to do. You just keep it cool and do your job. But (having a short memory) that's the life of a kicker and punter. You have to come back, bounce back and do your job."

That's what Mihalic did as he connected from 21 yards during Niles North's first overtime possession. However, Lake Forest (2-0) scored a touchdown on its first overtime possession to escape with the win.

Mihalic would not have been in the contest if not for Mihalic. He also played receiver during Week 1, but then asked coaches to allow him to concentrate exclusively on kicking.

"He's worked his butt off so much, and he's a consistent kicker."

— Coach Mike Garoppolo

In Week 2, the Vikings trailed Lake Forest 15-0 in the second quarter and 15-7 at halftime. But Mihalic's 40-yard field goal on his team's first possession of the second half clearly gave his team a lift.

"Having Mihalic is huge (psychologically)," Niles North senior offensive and defensive lineman Elmir Nikezic said. "If we can't get a score, but can get a field goal, it means so much."

In the fourth quarter, Mihalic's two field goals helped bring the Vikings back level after they had trailed 23-17 entering the final quarter.

"I think any high school coach would love to have (Mihalic) on the team," Niles North first-year coach Mike Garoppolo said. "I'll put him out there any day to hit the game-winning kick. He's worked his butt off so much, and he's a consistent kicker. I know he missed one, but next time I'll put him right back out there."

Mihalic, also a fine punter, already has caught the eye of Division I programs. After attending multiple Kohl's kicking showcases this past summer, the 6-foot, 175-pounder is rated the No. 6 punter and No. 20 kicker nationally in the Class of 2018 on lists of players who attended the camps.

"He's a Division I recruit," Garoppolo said. "He's going to all the big-time kicking camps. He's on the map, and after this game, teams will see him. Through the season, he'll keep progressing."

Mihalic, who said he dreams of kicking for the Wisconsin Badgers, is a former soccer player, but gave up that sport two years ago.

"I just stated focusing on (football) kicking. That's my job now," he said. "Like many in the football kicking fraternity, Mihalic has dedicated his season to two athletes who died this summer. Nebraska punter Sam Foltz and former Michigan State punter Mike Sadler were killed in a July 23 car accident in Wisconsin after working as staffers at a Kohl's kicking camp Mihalic attended."

As a tribute this season, Mihalic is writing a red "No. 27" (Foltz, Nebraska) and a green "No. 3" (Sadler, Michigan State) on his wristbands.

"I have (the numbers) here, and they're always in my heart," Mihalic said. "I was at that camp. I was with them. It was just a tragedy. It was so sad."

— Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

MEET YOUR SEPTEMBER NOMINEES

The polls are open for the first challenge of the year! Visit chicagotribune.com/athletes through noon on Sept. 15 to cast your vote.

John Pabst, Niles West senior
Sport: Football
Position: Quarterback
Best game: In the season-opening win against Buffalo Grove, Pabst completed 16-of-25 passes for 202 yards and one touchdown. He also carried the ball 17 times for 133 yards and two touchdowns.

Erika Christiansen, Maine East junior
Sport: Volleyball
Position: Setter

Fotis Kokosloulis, Maine South junior
Sport: Football
Position: Running back
Best game: Kokosloulis ran for 183 yards and two touchdowns on 20 carries in the Hawks' 44-13 win over Montini, the defending Class 6A state champion, in Week 1.
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AGONY OF DEFEAT

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