Homecoming surprise
Niles West grad welcomed back during school pep rally. Page 6

Lance Cpl. Jeremy Erjavac, a 2014 graduate of Niles West, showed up at the school's homecoming assembly on Sept. 23 to surprise his brother, Christopher, in Skokie.

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 Allyson Raymundo, event coordinator

Allyson Raymundo, 22, works as an event coordinator at Funtopia in The Glen Town Center. She graduated this year from Illinois State University with a degree in integrated marketing communications. She lives in Mundelein, where she grew up with her older brother, older sister and parents.

Q: How do you like working at Funtopia?
A: I'm interesting. I like the camaraderie between the employees.

Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
A: I would like to be a top executive for a Chicago sports team, any one of them except the Chicago Cubs.

Q: What sports do you like?
A: I like soccer, but I don't like watching it. I also like volleyball, basketball and baseball.

Q: Did you play sports growing up?
A: Yes, I did gymnastics and I played volleyball, soccer, basketball and softball.

Q: Who do you look up too?
A: My mom and dad. They grew from living in very harsh conditions in a poor part of the city and putting themselves through school, to getting where they are now.

Q: If your life was made into a movie, which actress would you like to play you?
A: Either Amy Schumer or Jennifer Lawrence.

Q: If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?
A: I would go hiking, skydiving, and I would fly to another country. I would also go shopping on Rodeo Drive in California.

-- Alexandra Kukulka, Pioneer Press

Shout Out is a weekly feature in which we get to know and introduce our readers to their fellow community members and local visitors throughout suburban Chicago.
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Niles West officials welcome home alum
Pep rally provides perfect cover to surprise marine's family

BY PHIL ROCKROHR
Pioneer Press

With a DJ booming bass and flashing lights, students at Niles West High School easily were distracted when finding seats for the school's recent homecoming pep rally.

Looking to surprise a Morton Grove family during the rally Sept. 23, Niles West officials were wanting as many distractions as possible. But Michelle Erjavac, of Morton Grove, thought she was surprising her own son, and Niles West student, Christopher Erjavac, who purportedly was set to receive a football award of some kind, by sitting discreetly on the side of the bleachers, she said.

Neither Christopher, a senior linebacker, nor Michelle Erjavac paid especially close attention when a Marine was escorted into the gym to be honored during the national anthem.

After eight seniors finished the anthem, the emcee announced the special guest for the pep rally - 2014 graduate Lance CPL. Jeremy Erjavac.

Michelle Erjavac jumped from her seat and ran to embrace her 20-year-old son.

"I said, 'Oh, a Marine is doing the national anthem,'" Michelle Erjavac said. "I didn't know it was my son. I figured it out as soon as they said, 'Niles West alum.' I don't get to see him often, so it was great. When I hugged him, I said, 'I can't believe you're here.'"

Christopher Erjavac also didn't believe it was his brother until he saw his mom hugging him, he said.

"I saw a Marine out there and thought of my brother, he said. "I can't stop shaking. They said Erjavac and I didn't believe it at first, but then when my mom hugged him, my immediate urge was to go out and give him a hug."

Wiping back tears, Jeremy Erjavac said he was thrilled by what Niles West staff had organized.

"I was excited to see my family," Jeremy Erjavac said. "I liked it because it was able to be a surprise."

Jeremy Erjavac, who is stationed in Washington, D.C., drove into the night on Sept. 22 before arriving in Morton Grove at 3 a.m. Sept. 23, he said. He stayed at a friend's house to sleep and came straight to Niles West late the morning of Sept. 23. Erjavac said.

"This is my first time to be back in school," he said. "A lot looks the same, but it's good to be back. I miss a lot of things. I would have done it differently, if I could go back. I would have tried harder, got more involved and stuck with sports through my senior year."

Niles West officials, who thanked Erjavac for his service, said the surprise was a nice way to show the school's appreciation.

"I believe it a great way for our entire student body and faculty-staff to honor one of our alumni who serves our country," said Katie Odell, director of student activities.

"I see a lot of familiar faces, my brother's friends and teachers I look up to," he said.

Christopher Erjavac said his brother's work schedule makes it difficult to see or talk to him, so he plans to spend time with friends and family.

"I'm just really glad he's home. When he's not here, it feels like a piece is missing," Christopher Erjavac said. "I'm just going to hang out and be with him."

Michelle Erjavac said she was grateful she was able to share the experience with her mom, Mary Ellen Yactor, who lives with the family in Morton Grove, and her niece, Aubree, 6, who is Jeremy's goddaughter.

"My mom coordinated her (medical) treatments to be here," Michelle said. "She knew about the visit. I'm so grateful she could come."

Phil Rockrohr is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Christopher Erjavac runs from the stands to hug his brother, Jeremy, who surprised him by attending the homecoming assembly in Skokie. Jeremy serves in the U.S. Marines.

Mary Ellen Yactor and daughter, Michelle Erjavac, hug when Lance CPL. Jeremy Erjavac, a 2014 graduate of Niles West, attended the homecoming assembly in Skokie.

Home from Washington, D.C., Lance CPL. Jeremy Erjavac, a 2014 graduate of Niles West, attended the homecoming assembly to surprise his family.
Members of the Maine East hip-hop dance club perform during their homecoming pep rally at the high school field house in Park Ridge on Sept. 23.

Hockey players crowned homecoming queen, king

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON  
Pioneer Press

Hayley Klitzko and Josh LaBuda, both of Niles, were voted homecoming royalty during festivities at Maine East High School this week. Klitzko was crowned homecoming queen, and LaBuda was named king during a firelight rally held after the varsity soccer game on Sept. 22. The next day, they were cheered by their fellow classmates as they were presented during the Park Ridge school’s homecoming assembly.

“It was surprising because we weren’t trying to get homecoming king and queen,” LaBuda said. “It was like a shocker.”

Both Klitzko and LaBuda play hockey outside of the school and play the same position, goaltender. Klitzko plans to continue her career on the ice at Brown University in the fall.

“It’s really fun to play; and the competition’s great,” Klitzko said of the sport. LaBuda also pointed to the competition and the team environment as his favorite aspects of playing hockey.

This year’s homecoming theme centered around Hawaii. Colorful paper flowers were strung from a ceiling in the first floor hallway, cut-outs of surfboards and palm trees were taped to walls, and someone even created a hallway collage consisting of about 40 pictures of President Barack Obama, many showing him wearing Hawaiian leis around his neck.
Niles fundraiser puts spotlight on refugees

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

A first-time fundraiser in Niles attempted to turn people's attention to the life of refugees who usually come to the U.S. with little, said organizers of the World Relief Refugee 5K Run/Walk.

By their estimates, roughly 150 people throughout the Niles area came to Bunker Hill Forest Preserve Sept. 24 to offer support for area refugees, making the first-ever 5K fundraiser a success, said Lauren McGee, an immigration attorney with the organization World Relief Chicago.

"We're just blown away by the support, we really are," McGee said.

The turnout might convince organizers to make the event an annual occurrence, she said. The goal was simple.

The race and fundraising activities all were meant "to bring awareness and to raise funds for refugees who are arriving with nothing," said Skokie resident Mario Guerra, director of finance operations for World Relief Chicago.

Refugees such as 21-year-old Hafa Obedi, who came to Chicago seven years ago with his family from Tanzania, attended the event. Working with World Relief Chicago, Obedi said he is studying at Truman College to become a social worker while living with his family in an apartment in Rogers Park in Chicago.

"So many reasons why," Obedi said. "One reason being, I want to give back and help other refugees."

All event proceeds benefited World Relief Chicago, which assists refugees with resettlement in the U.S.

"We're happy to do it," Guerra said of the event. "We're happy to build community."

Katie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Jollibee partners with Comer Children's Hospital

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Skokie's busiest new restaurant, the Filipino-based Jollibee, which opened its first restaurant in the Midwest this summer in the village, has formed a philanthropic partnership with the University of Chicago Medicine Comer Children's Hospital, the franchise announced.

Jollibee executives, hospital staff, children being treated at Comer Children's Hospital and the Jollibee mascot attended the official launching of the partnership earlier this month in Skokie.

Jollibee not only gave a $25,000 donation to the hospital, but officials also announced the kickoff of "Jollibee Days" at Comer, a well-known and distinguished medical center delivering critical pediatric care.

Jollibee officials said the brand wanted to "express its gratitude" for such a warm welcome when Jollibee opened in Skokie several weeks ago.

"As a company that values families and kids, Jollibee believes the hospital to be a fitting partner that is aligned with the brand's mission to share joy - this time to kids who are in dire need of pediatric care," the franchise said in a released statement.

According to the hospital, the donation will go toward the Comer Children's Child Life and Family Education unit, which it says aims to provide families with the best experience possible while they are at the hospital.

Comer Children's Hospital is the only Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center on the South Side of Chicago.

"Our new partnership will enhance our opportunities to provide personalized care to our pediatric patients and their families, and improve the health of children in our community," said Dr. John Cunningham, chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Chicago.

For "Jollibee Days," Jollibee will provide food to the children and their families at the hospital on a regular basis, officials said.

In a released statement, Ernesto Tanmantiong, CEO of Jollibee Foods Corp., said the franchise is "honored" to partner with the Comer Children's Hospital.

"They are a leader in pediatric medicine and consistently make a difference in the lives of children in Chicago," he said. "The Child Life and Family Education unit is a perfect fit for Jollibee's family friendly mission, and we hope our contribution and continuing partnership will make a positive impact on Comer Children's and our community."

When Jollibee opened July 29 at 3534 W. Touhy Ave, many hundreds were waiting outside, some of whom even camped overnight. Some came from out of state.

Since then, lines regularly have been out the door and underneath an outdoor canopy. The reception has been overwhelming and humbling at the same time," said Jose Minana, JFC Group president for North America and foreign franchise brands in the Philippines.

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

**THEFT**
- Jonie Montalbano, 49, of the 200 block of North Meacham Avenue in Park Ridge, was charged Sept. 12 with retail theft. Police said she was accused of stealing $280.23 worth of merchandise from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center when she failed to pay for the items in a self-checkout lane. She was given a Sept. 30 court date.
- Luis Bran, 18, of the 700 block of Brummel Street in Evanston, was charged Sept. 13 with retail theft after he allegedly stole jeans and T-shirts valued at $97.50 from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. He was given a Sept. 30 court date.
- Jacqueline Thorne, 19, of the 600 block of Parsons Avenue in Des Plaines, was charged Sept. 14 with felony retail theft after she allegedly stole $334.50 worth of clothing from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. She was given a Sept. 23 court date, police said.
- Christian Mosli, 31, of the 9900 block of Linda Lane in unincorporated Maine Township, was charged Sept. 15 with theft after he was accused of stealing $40 from a cash register of the store where he was employed, police said. The alleged incident occurred inside a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. He was given an Oct. 4 court date, police said.

**TRESPASS**
- Rudy Memen, 53, who police said is homeless, was charged with criminal trespass to a vehicle on the night of Sept. 11. Police said Memen, who was on parole, was observed by a witness entering multiple trucks that were parked on the 7600 block of Milwaukee Avenue. He was given a Sept. 20 court date.
- Christian Mosli, 31, of the 9900 block of Linda Lane in unincorporated Maine Township, was charged Sept. 15 with theft after he was accused of stealing $40 from a cash register of the store where he was employed, police said. The alleged incident occurred inside a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. He was given an Oct. 4 court date, police said.

**DISPUTE**
- An alleged fight over strawberries resulted in police responding to a home on the 7700 block of Octavia Avenue on the night of Sept. 11. A 60-year-old resident of the home told police he became upset when he came home to find his adult son and friends eating the organic strawberries he purchased for himself. The strawberries were also being dipped in chocolate, the man told police. Police said an argument ensued and led to the son punching holes in the walls of the house. No charges were filed.

**PUBLIC INTOXICATION**
- A 57-year-old Florida woman was ticketed Sept. 11 for public intoxication after police said she was found lying on the ground on the 8400 block of Dempster Street. According to police, the woman said she was tired and wanted to go to sleep. She was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, police said.
- A 49-year-old woman from Des Plaines was ticketed Sept. 13 for public intoxication after police said she was found lying on the ground on the 8400 block of Dempster Street. According to police, the woman said she was tired and wanted to go to sleep. She was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, police said.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**
- A resident of the 8100 block of Oketo Avenue told police she saw someone Sept. 10 using blue spray paint to deface a political sign in her front yard. Paint was also found on the woman's garage door, police said. Police also reported that blue spray paint was found on a fence and garage on the 7400 block of Monroe Street.
- Police said two boys were observed on surveillance video throwing rocks Sept. 11 at a building located on the 7800 block of Milwaukee Avenue. A mounted light fixture valued at $1,000 was reportedly broken.

**SOLICITING**
- Police were called Sept. 10 to a store on the 8200 block of Golf Road after an employee complained that two men were bothering customers in the parking lot, attempting to sell them pots and pans. Police spoke to one of the men, a resident of Germany, who reportedly admitted that he tried to sell the pots and pans because he bought too many and could not take them back home. Police said the man was in possession of four boxes, which did contain the cookware. The man was told that if he or his companions returned and attempted to sell the items without a proper solicitation license from the village, they would be arrested.

Compiled by Jennifer Johnson, Pioneer Press
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Village officials criticize Purple Hotel proposal

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

A team of executives from a Chicago real estate investment firm recently stormed out of Lincolnwood Village Hall after meeting with local officials, who sharply criticized their redevelopment proposal for the long-vacant former Purple Hotel.

Village trustees and the chairman of the Lincolnwood Economic Development Commission during a Sept. 20 committee meeting had mostly negative feedback for developers with Kaufman Jacobs, a development and investment firm interested in redeveloping the site.

Representatives from the company, which touts on its website a portfolio of acquisitions of undervalued commercial real estate, said the 8.5-acre lot at the corner of Lincoln and Touhy avenues would feature a 200-unit apartment complex, 10,000-square-feet of retail space and a 200-room hotel.

The plans showed a sharp reduction in retail space compared with the 91,000 square feet of retail outlined in a previous proposal by a different group interested in redeveloping the property.

Village officials were concerned that the new redevelopment plans wouldn't produce as much sales tax as it could from the site.

Community Development Director Steve McNellis asked officials to weigh in on whether the plan was "inspirational enough" for the "landmark corner" in the village.

Many trustees criticized the developers for not including a banquet hall inside the hotel. Describing the plan as unimaginative and unattractive, Trustee Ron Copel said the plan lacked a public gathering space.

He also questioned the rental aspect of the proposed housing units.

"I think we could get a better plan -- something with a little more imagination," he said. "I'd also like to see a hotel with a banquet plan, so I'm not in favor of it."

The site housed the iconic Purple Hotel until it was demolished in 2013 by Skokie real estate developer North Capital Group. The company had planned to build a $135 million mixed-use retail center including a hotel on the land, which sits at a heavily traveled intersection in Lincolnwood, according to village officials.

Presented by the developers as the town's first-ever downtown area, North Capital's plans boasted more than 91,000 square feet of retail, a 35,000-square-foot grocery store, a health club and a Marriott SpringHill Suites hotel.

With the exception of the hotel, none of the other retailers were named during the development presentations that were shown to the village during the past three years since North Capital first acquired the land.

The company, however, couldn't secure financing for the development, dubbed the Shoppes at Lincoln Pointe. North Capital then backed out of the project amid an $11.5 million foreclosure lawsuit.

Principal of the company Neal Stein has declined comment on the lawsuit.

After Kaufman Jacobs left the Sept. 20 meeting with village officials, it was unclear whether the company would continue to try to acquire the property, even with the ongoing litigation over the site. Lee Winter, a developer with Kaufman Jacobs who led the presentation, declined a request to comment on whether he would pursue the development.

But other trustees took time to voice their displeasure with the proposal. Trustee Jesal Patel said the village should opting for something with a more downtown-centered feel.

"I'd still like to see a banquet (facility)," Patel said. "I'm supportive of residential but decide this is a first-rush concept."

He said during the meeting he was trying to buy the property from lender Romspen Investment Corp. The Toronto-based mortgage lender is suing North Capital Group for defaulting on a $10.2 million loan against the property that was taken out in May of 2014.

In the foreclosure complaint, filed with the circuit clerk of Cook County Jan. 19, Romspen Investment Corp. asks a judge to order foreclosure on the former Purple Hotel property.

The suit also asks a judge to order North Capital Group to pay $11.5 million, plus $4,792 in interest a day, starting Dec. 15, 2015, and lasting through the day of the final court ruling, according to Tim Paton, an attorney for Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP -- the law firm representing Romspen.

Meanwhile, Lincolnwood officials have since filed a separate lawsuit against Stein to try to force him to comply with a preliminary pre-development agreement he agreed to two years ago that would restore the property and remove the original foundations of the hotel.

The dusty, barren lot that sits in place of the Purple Hotel stands in contrast to what played out there three years ago.

The blocky, brick buildings were bulldozed ceremoniously in August 2013 as the mayor and other public officials looked on. Later, Stein proudly handed out purple bricks from the original hotel to the public during the Lincolnwood Summer Fest at Proesel Park, where people lined up for hours to get a brick in exchange for a donation to the Lincolnwood Public Library.

Mayor Jerry Turr has said North Capital Group likely had difficulty securing a loan because the plans for the Shoppes at Lincoln Pointe lacked residential development -- a key factor in driving and maintaining foot traffic to a retail complex.

The original redevelopment plan also was criticized by several new developers that have expressed interest in the lot as being too reliant on retail, according to a memo from McNellis to Village Board members.

"The previous Shoppes at Lincoln Pointe proposed significantly greater commercial space than this area could support," he said.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Help for opioid overdoses at the ready

BY LISA SCHENCKER
Chicago Tribune

Illinois residents who worry about loved ones overdosing on opioids can now buy a potentially lifesaving drug at their local pharmacies — without a prescription.

Mariano’s on Sept. 16 began selling naloxone at its 34 pharmacies in Illinois. It followed Meijer, which began the rollout of the medication to its 27 Illinois locations Sept. 15. Walgreens began offering it at more than 500 Illinois stores on Sept. 19, while sales at CVS will begin in the fall and Jewel-Osco in late February.

Pharmacy chains in many other states already offer naloxone without a prescription. A section of a law passed in 2015 paved the way for Illinois stores to sell it without requiring the customer to have a prescription.

In Illinois, 1,700 people died of drug overdoses in 2014, up from 1,579 in 2013, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health, though not all those were because of opioid drugs such as heroin and some types of painkillers.

Naloxone can help someone who has overdosed on an opioid start breathing again.

Mariano’s is carrying a version of the drug called Narcan that’s sprayed up the nose. Customers of any age can buy it, though pharmacists have discretion, said Elizabeth Seybold, manager of clinical care for Roundy’s, which, like Mariano’s, is part of Kroger. The drug costs about $145, but most insurance plans cover it, Seybold said.

Walgreens will offer a nasal spray for $78 before insurance as well as an injectable version.

People buying naloxone will not be reported to the police, Seybold said, though pharmacists probably will urge those with addictions to seek help.

Pharmacists will also caution patients that they won’t be able to use naloxone on themselves because they probably will be unconscious by the time they need it. People should also call 911 before administering the drug because the patient might need more than what comes in the package and will need follow-up medical care, Seybold said.

Before now, Illinois residents could obtain naloxone without individual prescriptions from some programs, said Garth Reynolds, executive director of the Illinois Pharmacists Association.

The 2015 law established a standardized procedure to allow pharmacists to dispense the drug without individual prescriptions.

The section of the law pertaining to naloxone was named Lali’s Law after Alex “Lali” Laliberte, a Western Illinois University student who grew up in Buffalo Grove and died in 2008 from an overdose of heroin and other drugs.

“Now people can actually go in just like they can get epinephrine or medication for another disorder and have somebody train them on how to save a life,” said Chelsea Laliberte, Alex’s sister and executive director of Live4Lali, which works to prevent and raise awareness of substance abuse.

Seybold said she hopes making naloxone more widely available will make a difference.

Eleni Peczkowski and other Mariano’s pharmacists will sell naloxone as Narcan.

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New software helps responders navigate

BY NATAILY HAYES
Pioneer Press

Niles Fire Department District Chief Bob Greiner remembers the days when firefighters on their way to an emergency had to scramble through a heavy binder filled with hundreds of pages of building layouts to get familiar with the building before they arrived.

Niles firefighters relied on the "rudimentary," paper-based mapping system until 2013, when they and the Park Ridge Fire Department each converted to a digital system that quickly feeds firefighters more detail building information, the Niles fire chief said.

"We had bulky, three-ring binders back then," Greiner said. "You'd have a fire lieutenant in the middle of a call, trying to grab a 20-pound binder to look up the layout of the building he's going to by its address."

After the Niles and Park Ridge departments traded in their old paper methods of storing detailed maps of building layouts, fire hydrant locations, water and gas shut-off sites, both started using a software system called CommandScope, which lets emergency responders locate the information at the touch of a button.

When Lincolnwood firefighters made the same switch last year, it linked its system with Niles, allowing the two departments to share maps and other information. As neighbors, the towns often rely on each other for help when fighting fires or responding to emergencies.

Because neighboring towns commonly share equipment and manpower during larger fires and emergencies, towns that have software licenses to use CommandScope have the option to share the maps and other information stored on the system, according to Lucas Schwaller, spokesman for Chicago-based RealView LLC, the parent company of CommandScope.

"It provides a layout of all the major buildings and properties so responders can make decisions based on actual information, instead of going in blind," Schwaller said.

Park Ridge has yet to connect its system with Niles and Lincolnwood, said Lincolnwood Fire Chief Mike Hansen, noting how larger emergency response teams, such as Park Ridge, don't rely as much on the assistance of smaller, neighboring departments.

Authorities with the Park Ridge department did not return requests for comment.

As word catches on about the technology, the software was affordable to add. CommandScope costs Niles about $7,200 a year, according to the department.

Fire departments share the information with the police and public works departments, but it's blocked from the public because of safety concerns.

"It's a new kind of information the general public should see, so everything is kept highly secure," Greiner said. "It's only used by officers to determine their tactics when they arrive on the scene of emergencies."

The integration of CommandScope technology has equipped emergency vehicles in all three towns with touch-screen user interfaces that essentially hold all the mapping information that was once stored in those heavy binders.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Classrooms, cafeteria remodeled as part of $21M renovation

BY NATAILY HAYES
Pioneer Press

Four years after Lincolnwood School District 74 failed to push through a $25 million referendum to build a new junior high, Lincoln Hall students returned from summer break to find modernized classrooms and a new cafeteria.

Instead of rebuilding the decades-old school on Pratt and Crawford avenues, District 74 officials recently started spending from a slightly less budget — roughly $21 million total — for a complete renovation of the building that will span a few years.

Among the first projects construction workers completed over the summer was an 8,000-square-foot STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) lab for sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders, a sprawling food science room for modern-day home economics classes, and a $1,100-square-foot cafeteria and kitchen with eco-friendly appliances.

The new spaces, including "flexible learning" rooms built on each of the three floors, were designed for group instruction to make it easy for teachers to combine classes and for whole grade levels to meet together in a central space, district officials said.

The open classroom style also applies to the new food labs. Food science teacher Courtney Greene said her students are engaged more by having a combined room for lab work and instruction. Previously, classroom time was held in a separate space, she said.

"Having the labs right here in the classrooms helps kids see the scientific aspects of things more easily because they can be hands-on," Greene said. "I can also respond better to questions because the setup of the room lets me see the kids at all times."

The nine rooms remodeled over the summer included the library and art room, which was rebuilt with space for a kiln in the back. The setup lets the teacher monitor kids firing their pottery during class time.

New flooring and modern furniture also is noticeable throughout the building. About 25 percent of the lockers were replaced during the summer, said district board president Scott Anderson. The rest of the lockers will be installed during the second and third construction phases.

Noticing missing from the mix of learning spaces are computer labs, which are now a thing of the past at Lincoln Hall. A new policy that allows each student to have their own iPad has eliminated the need for desktop computers in recent years, district officials said.

"I remember not too long ago when computer labs were something every school wanted," said Superintendent Joseph Bailey. "Now, we've outgrown them."

Steering away from the notion that learning should no longer be relegated to desktop computers and textbooks, the STEM-teaching style pushes the boundaries of the traditional classroom by giving students more hands-on learning opportunities.

On the first day she welcomed students to her new eighth grade STEM classroom on Sept. 19, teacher Karlene Stecher asked kids to share their impressions of the room. The feedback was mostly positive, as kids approved of the lighting, acoustics and room's open feel, she said.

"Everything about the way we teach has changed, where it's not like the old days when teachers walked around the room handing out worksheets," Stecher said. "Instead of the students coming up to the teacher's desk to ask a question, I float around the room and go to them."

The last part of the first renovation phase — a new student services area and a secure school entrance for $4.7 million — is expected to open by January, Bailey said. The new main entrance will add layers of security to the building, including a holding vestibule covered in bulletproof glass for guests before they're allowed into the building.

District 74 officials have said the outdated main entrance doesn't meet modern security expectations. The way the split-level main entrance is set-up now, guests have to walk up the stairs and meet a receptionist sitting at a small table, where the employee checks their ID and hands the person a nametag before sending them on their way.

"Right now, you could head downstairs without being seen if someone turns their head," Bailey said. "That's a huge concern, so we're fixing that."

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Rail experts discuss ways to prevent suicides

By Irv Leavitt

The woman, 39, walked around the Northbrook train station in great distress for hours before she stepped in front of an Amtrak train Sept. 9.

That was what witnesses said later, according to Illinois Commerce Commission rail safety expert Chip Pew.

Could she be alive if she had been given some hope or alternative before she made that final decision?

It's hard, Pew said, for a stranger to interfere in somebody else's problems without being asked. But it's possible, he said, that a sign, or a trained observer, might make a difference.

Signs that say, "There is help. Call us. 1-800-273-8255. National Suicide Prevention Hotline" have been posted since early 2010 in and around Lombard and Villa Park Metra stations, where suicide by train has been a bigger problem than in Northbrook.


"There's been a definite decrease in incidents," he said.

According to the DuPage County Coroner's Office, there were two suicides on the Villa Park tracks in 2010, and two in the six years since then.

Northbrook just had its first such obvious suicide in Village President Sandy Frum's memory, but she said that such signs were something to consider for her town:

"Even one is too many," Frum said.

She said that she would check to see what Metra thought about such tactics.

"If a community wants to do something like that, we support them in it," Metra spokeswoman Meg Reile said. "We're still looking for efforts that are more comprehensive than that."

Metra's new approach last fall has been to provide training to a thousand engineers, conductors and station agents to notice certain behaviors of people hanging around stations, and also how to talk with these people, Reile said.

In January, Rob Tellin, a Metra road foreman, saw a man on the tracks in Elgin, she said. Tellin didn't have time to exchange more than a couple of sentences before he just grabbed the man and pulled him out of the path of an approaching Metra train.

Lyons said that the Villa Park department has a similar approach to back up the signs.

"In one instance, officers observed an individual pacing around the rails," he said. "After being approached by our officer, the individual said he was going to stand in front of the next train. In that case, our training saved a life."

Scott Gabree, a rail safety researcher for Volpe, The National Transportation Systems Center in Massachusetts, said that suicide hotline signs might indeed affect suicide rates just because "a lot of people see them in the rail environment."

"I don't think there's a lot of hard evidence about what those signs can do," he said.

That might come soon, he said, with a Boston study that began in January. People manning a suicide hotline are asking callers about whether they were encouraged by similar signs to call, and what their mindset was when they saw them.

Gabree said he likes the Metra approach.

"I think it's really great that they're doing that. It's something they've been doing in the UK for awhile, and it's had tremendous success," he said.

There's more at stake, he said, than just the lives of the suicidal people and their loved ones. A 2011 study of U.S. transit workers found that about one in five suffers from post-traumatic stress disorders caused by being involved in incidents involving the death of people on the tracks. Emergency responders suffer, too.

And so do witnesses.

In Northbrook, they include Christopher Devine, whose Metra commuter train passed through the scene slowly Sept. 9, showing him things he never thought he'd see.

"I don't think this is something I'm going to get over," he said.

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**NEWS**

Zika-transmitting mosquito found in the North Shore

Officials say risk of contracting virus locally is very low

BY KAREN ANN CULLOTTA
Pioneer Press

A species of mosquito potentially capable of transmitting the Zika virus was recently discovered in Skokie — the first sighting of the species ever recorded in the North Shore area — but officials say the finding does not pose a heightened risk of local residents contracting the disease.

“The local risk of contracting Zika in northern Illinois is still negligible, and so low to be almost zero,” said Roger Nasci, an entomologist and the executive director of the North Shore Mosquito Abatement District. A different mosquito species is believed to be largely responsible for transmission of the virus in outbreaks abroad and in Miami, he said.

“Pregnant women in the area don’t need to be alarmed about getting Zika virus, unless they’re leaving the country,” Nasci added.

Nasci said after his Northfield-based agency collected 52 Aedes albopictus mosquitoes — sometimes called the Asian Tiger mosquito — from late August through Sept. 16, officials stepped up efforts to determine how widely the newly arrived species is distributed in the area.

The species was first discovered in the United States in 1985, made its way to Chicago by 1987, and has been found sporadically in several Cook County suburbs over the years, usually by mosquito abatement district staff.

But the recent findings of the Aedes albopictus mosquitoes in Skokie mark the first time the species has been found on the North Shore since the agency began recording data from trap collection sites in 1927, Nasci said.

In areas where Zika outbreaks have occurred abroad and both the Aedes albopictus and the Aedes aegypti mosquitoes are present, Nasci said it is believed that the tropical Aedes aegypti species is primarily responsible for transmission of the virus.

The Aedes albopictus are considered competent “vectors” with the ability to transmit the Zika virus in the lab, but the chance of transmission of the virus via mosquitoes on the North Shore is expected to be low, Nasci said. Nasci said the IDPH worked this summer with 60 agencies across the state, including the NSMAD, to gather data on all mosquitoes collected on the North Shore.

Nonetheless, Haramis said the IDPH worked this summer with 60 agencies across the state, including the NSMAD, to gather data on all mosquitoes collected this season, including the widely prevalent Culex pipiens, of which 473 batches of mosquitoes on the North Shore have tested positive thus far for West Nile Virus.

“Even if agencies such as the NSMAD attempted to conduct further research in their labs on the newly discovered mosquitoes, according to Linn Haramis, an entomologist with the Illinois Department of Public Health, “there isn’t a widely available test for the Zika virus.”

“This is essentially a tropical virus, transmitted by tropical mosquitoes, (mostly) the Aedes aegypti,” Haramis said. “Even if we tested the Aedes albopictus in Illinois, the chance we would get a ‘false positive’ is higher than the chance we would find the virus.”

Officials recently found the Aedes albopictus mosquito, shown here in a file U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention photo, in Skokie, marking the first time the species has been found on the North Shore.

Officials say risk of contracting virus locally is very low

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Pioneer Press

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Stretch where NU student killed to get bike lanes

After crash, cyclists say they plan to use greater caution

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

A stretch of Sheridan Road in Evanston where a Northwestern University freshman was killed in a crash involving her bicycle and a cement truck Sept. 22 will soon have bike lanes as part of a multiphase roadway project.

NU student Chuyuan Qiu, 18, was involved in the crash around 5 p.m. in the 2000 block of Sheridan Road, according to authorities. Evanston police said she was turning out of a university parking lot when she was hit by one of the truck's wheels and knocked off her bike. She then rolled under the truck.

Qiu was later pronounced dead at Evanston NorthShore University Hospital.

The driver of the truck, a 38-year-old Des Plaines resident, was not cited in connection with the incident, police said. The investigation is ongoing, but the truck driver had a green light at the time of the crash and there is no reason to suspect he was impaired or distracted, said Perry Polinski, the police department's media relations officer.

"She just misjudged the speed of the truck," Evanston police Chief Richard Eddington said. "Or didn't realize how long the truck was ... A tragic accident." Accidents involving bicyclists are not common in the area, Polinski said.

A female bicyclist was struck and killed by a motorcyclist in June 2014 in downtown Evanston in the 600 block of Church Street, he said.

A makeshift memorial under a small tree on a sidewalk adjacent to Sheridan Road appeared Sept. 23 near the area where Qiu was hit. Cyclists and pedestrians passing the memorial kept out of the roadway and on the sidewalk. Plans for a formal memorial event in Qiu's honor were pending, said Bob Rowley, Northwestern's director of media relations.

Qiu was from Nanjing, China, and had just started at Northwestern, according to Dean of Students Todd C. Adams. She was a member of the Kaplan Humanities Scholars Program.

Several cyclists in the area said they planned to exercise greater caution while riding their bikes around campus, particularly near Sheridan Road.

Bike lanes will be installed on the thoroughfare next summer, according to Mark Muenzer, Evanston's director of community development.

The project is funded by the city and through a grant received from the Illinois Department of Transportation, said Katie Knapp, transportation and mobility coordinator for Evanston.

Muenzer said the NU school year offers a short window of time for construction to take place.

This past summer crews replaced and refurbished water mains located under the roadway in phase one of the two-stage project, he said.

Next summer, a stretch of Sheridan from Davis Street to Ingleside Place just south of the city's border with Wilmette will be repaved and bike lanes installed, Knapp said.

She said discussions about the project began two years ago and the city has collaborated with NU officials and student groups throughout the process.

"Certainly, if you walk along Sheridan Road today, you'll see there are large sidewalks but a lot of mixing between bikes and pedestrians," Knapp said.

Students in need of support in the wake of Qiu's death are encouraged to seek help from the university's counseling and psychological services, the Dean of Students Office or the chaplain's staff, according to a statement on the university's website.

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

Pioneer Press reporter Bob Seidenberg contributed.
Evanston moves closer to water sale deals

BY BOB SEIDENBERG
Pioneer Press

Evanston officials could begin supplying water to Morton Grove and Niles by late 2018.

With administrators from the two communities in the audience Sept. 19 at the Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, Dave Stoneback, director of the Evanston Public Works Agency, described negotiations with both villages as moving along well.

Evanston officials said they hope to execute water sale contracts with Morton Grove and Niles by the end of the year after they embarked six years ago on an aggressive campaign to market its lake water to outside communities since Chicago — a seller to many — was expected to hike its rates.

Evanston could see $1.1 million more in revenue in 2019, and by 2021, the figure could increase to $1.3 million, Stoneback said.

Morton Grove and Niles currently purchase water from Chicago at a rate of $3.81 per 1,000 gallons, Stoneback said. Evanston is offering a wholesale water rate to the communities of 93 cents per 1,000 gallons, he said.

The city prepared the rate based on the American Water Works Association model that allows for a 10 percent return on rate, he said.

In addition to the offered rate, the two communities will receive back service on a $100 million project to receive Evanston's water and then the maintenance of the new infrastructure, Stoneback said.

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The rates should remain at that level at least until the village's aggregation agreement with the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative expires in July 2017, Kordell said.

"Aggregation is essentially when the residents of a community combine their purchasing power to purchase electricity as a group to receive a better rate," he said.

Voters throughout the suburbs in recent years approved through referendum village-run electricity aggregation programs as an alternative to secure cheaper electricity rates than what ComEd offered.

After launching the voter-approved program in 2012, Lake Zurich users have saved $75 million over all and the average participant has seen $336 in savings, Kordell said.

But while residents of Lake Zurich enjoy rate drops, some area communities have left their programs because ComEd started to offer lower rates following approval of electricity aggregation programs.

Morton Grove in suburban Cook County dropped its program earlier in September and nearby Lincolnwood did so in 2014, according to reports from the Chicago Tribune.

In Lake County, Buffalo Grove officials, whose aggregation program expires next year, don't anticipate securing better rates than those currently offered by ComEd, said Village Manager Dane Bragg.

"We have not considered a renewal or bid process for 2017 for electric aggregation," Bragg said. "At this time, the ComEd indicative pricing is low enough that we don't see much opportunity to negotiate a better deal."

Nearby Lincolnshire and Barrington also are locked into contracts through 2017. Village officials in both towns did not return calls or emails requesting comment.

Lake Zurich entered into its current three-year contract with Homefield Energy in 2014, Kordell said.

"As of right now, there are no set plans on renewing the electricity aggregation program with the lowest priced alternative energy supplier or reverting back to ComEd as the primary supplier," he said. "This decision will almost entirely be determined by larger regional and national market conditions, and the financial trends of commodities."

Lake Zurich will likely work with the NIMEC to seek bids before its current contract expires, Kordell said.

"The village will be keeping an eye on electricity prices and market fluctuations in order to make the most well-informed decisions for the future of the Lake Zurich aggregation program," he said.

Public Works Director Mike Brown agreed.

"Village staff will continue to monitor the program and make every effort to ensure that Lake Zurich residents and businesses are getting the best available option the aggregation program offers," Brown said.

The fact that ComEd is offering such low rates shows the aggregation programs have worked, Kordell said.

"Generally, electricity aggregation programs across Chicagoland have largely succeeded over the past few years in helping to drive down the overall price of electricity," he said. "In short, aggregation has worked the way it was intended to."

For example, in summer 2010, Lake Zurich residents were paying ComEd 9.07 cents per kilowatt hour, Kordell said.

"Since then, all commodities have seen large price drops," he said. "The widespread popularity of municipal aggregation is one important factor in driving down the price of electricity and savings residents millions of dollars over the years."

As members of the Northwest Electric Aggregation Consortium, Buffalo Grove and Lincolnshire users will be charged 6.621 cents per kilowatt hour through May 2017, according to the Chicago Tribune.

This month, Barrington entered the final year of its three-year contract with Dynegy Energy Services LLC, according to Dynegy's website. Village users are currently paying 6.509 cents per kilowatt hour, according to the site.

Phil Rockrohr is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Can Cubs make it through the playoffs?

RANDY BLASER

In the words of my all-time favorite baseball announcer, "It might be, it could be..."

Yet we don't know if "it is," as Harry Carey used to call a home run, the Cubs year to win it all. Although the baseball gods sure appear to be smiling on the North Siders.

And, as Harry Carey also used to say, "Oh for a Fall staff" to enjoy while we wait to see if the Cubs, the best team in baseball, can cruise through the playoffs as they did through the regular season.

Heading into the playoffs, the Cubs are obviously favored to win.

But winning a World Series today isn't nearly as easy as it was the last time the Cubs visited the Fall Classic, back in 1945 when they fell to the Detroit Tigers in seven games. World War II had left the major leagues so depleted of talent it was a Series the press corps said, "No one can win."

Here we are 71 years later and this appears to be the series only the Cubs can win. But a lot can happen in the playoffs.

Back in 1945, all a club had to do was finish with the best record in its respective league to get into the World Series. Only two teams made the post-season back then.

Today, a team has to run a gauntlet just to win the pennant and get into the Fall Classic. First a couple teams vie for the wild card spot. The winner of that game then gets into the Division Series with the three division winners. That's a best of five game series. The two winners of the division series then play in a best seven series to see who gets to go to the World Series.

The problem for any of the teams that qualify for the playoffs is this: All the other teams are pretty good baseball teams, too. And in a short series, anything can happen.

The juggernaut that was the Cubs squad last year found that out when they ran into the Mets in the Championship Series. The Mets pitching was much better than the Cubs hitting.

As Yogi Berra said, good pitching beats good hitting every time, and vice versa. The Cubs were on the other end of the vice versa last season and couldn't get past the Mets pitching.

Likely to face the Nationals or the Dodgers, the Cubs have to hit to win. A simplistic analysis, I know. But sometimes baseball ball can be put in simple terms.

I believe the Cubs pitching will be good throughout a playoff run, good enough to win a World Series. The question mark is whether the Cubs will have hot bats throughout the playoffs.

I think Cubs' management thinks so, too. That's why they acquired closer Aroldis Chapman late in the season. With Chapman, they have a bullpen with a one-two-three punch that can shut down any team after the sixth inning. In other words, the bullpen is built to shut down the other team in close games in case they have to squeeze out a run.

The key will be for Cub batters to go deep into the counts during the playoffs and make the starters work. But that may be too much inside baseball.

Let's just keep it at this: The Cubs have the best regular season baseball team. Going into the playoffs, that's the best place to be.

From a life-long White Sox fan, I hope you finally make it.

Good luck, North Siders.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

An ode to plain and simple spaghetti

PAUL SASSONE

If you went by the show "Check, Please!" on PBS, you'd believe that the food people most enjoy at restaurants is enshrouded in dry ice vapor, served in spoon-sized portions and invariably has a fried egg on top.

But that's not what we really like.

What we like is ethnic food, the food of real people. The most popular restaurant food, according to a survey by the research firm Technomic is Chinese, Mexican and Italian.

And since my ethnicity is Italian, I believe Italian food is the best.

And when I refer to Italian food, I don't mean those intricate, expensive and quasi-French concoctions. Maybe rich people in northern Italy eat frog lips in a white cream sauce. But the heritage of Italian food in the United States is not fancy.

That's because Italians who immigrated to America were not fancy. I don't imagine many wealthy Italian landowners back in 1900 gazed from the veranda out onto their estates and said, "think I'll move to America." The people who came to this country, such as my grandfather, came because they didn't want to be poor any more and didn't want their children to be poor. They brought little with them. But they did bring certain foods and ways to prepare them. And the greatest of these foods was (and is) spaghetti.

Yes, I know spaghetti is only one form of pasta. But I have difficulty calling pasta pasta since the word has become appended to stuff made out of cattaloupes and other wacky substances. Spaghetti is my favorite form of pasta. I mean, does anything sound better than spaghetti and meatballs? But feel free to call pasta pasta. It's the thing itself that is important, not the name.

Real spaghetti (pasta, if you prefer) is made from wheat. It has a red sauce (or gravy) on top of it. And it is served with meatballs and/or sausage.

Critics often turn up their nose at spaghetti. Spaghetti isn't subtle, merely delicious and inexpensive. Everybody (except maybe critics) likes spaghetti, although it may be hard to come by at snooty restaurants. As you have gathered, I like spaghetti. Actually, I love spaghetti.

And so do you.

Someone has to stick up for spaghetti against the pomp and vanity of the current culinary world. Though, come to think of it, spaghetti is its own best defense. Cuisine comes and cuisine goes, but food remains.

And spaghetti is food at its best. Spaghetti endures. Spaghetti abides.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
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OPINION

‘When Breath Becomes Air’
author’s widow reflects

SARA CLARKSON
Dateline

Dr. Paul Kalanithi sought meaning in the face of his own mortality, and he shared that meaning and experience in his moving and enduring memoir “When Breath Becomes Air” published in January, 10 months after he died.

His story is remarkable and tragic in that this husband, father, neurosurgeon and neuroscientist was only 37 when he died. He was completing his residency at Stanford University and was on what promised to be an astonishing and impactful career when he was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. Besides being a doctor and a scientist, he was a man of letters, having earned his Stanford bachelor’s degree in literature and biology and a master’s degree in literature from Cambridge before his medical degree from Yale. It was to literature that he returned when he knew his time was limited and we readers, fellow sufferers, caregivers and health professionals, are the better for that.

I was privileged to be part of a large audience last who heard his widow, Dr. Lucy Kalanithi, also a Stanford physician, speak about Paul, their journey through his terminal illness and her experience after his passing. In the audience of more than 200 at the Wellness House-sponsored talk were cancer patients and survivors, their families and a fair number of doctors who were deeply affected by the book, which I had just finished. I found it absorbing and profoundly touching. I read the last few pages — the epilogue that Lucy wrote — through the haze of tears.

Lucy shared about how rough their lives were after Paul’s diagnosis caused their future plans to “evaporate.” His identity as a doctor retreated and reshaped as he became a patient, and he and Lucy began to explore what was important to them. Should they have a child, for example, especially since it seemed likely Lucy would be left on her own to raise it.

In the book, Lucy asks Paul, “Don’t you think saying goodbye to your child will make your death more painful?” Paul answers: “Wouldn’t it be great if it did?”

“It’s very hard to accept that suffering is part of our lives,” she said.

But, she said, getting to a place of acceptance is very helpful. There is a lot of pain in uncertainty. Paul wondered how much time he had left and what he could accomplish, and there was also pain for Paul in the transition from physician to patient, to a man lying down in the bed in a room he used to walk into with some authority.

“We just decided to say things out loud,” Lucy said. So, when Paul said to Lucy, “I want you to remarry after I die,” at first Lucy was shocked. But that statement acknowledged a lot: he was terminally ill and choosing not to be in denial, that not only would he have to leave her but that he cared for her enough to want her to carry on.

Lucy addressed the Wellness House audience, urging them to talk frankly about what they are scared of, to say it aloud or write it down and share it to be open with one another and to bring their whole selves to it. She, as the caregiver, also found that exercise and mindfulness meditation were very helpful. Paul himself told others that they had to take care of Lucy so she could take care of him. Care for the caregiver is important.

She also praised palliative care, which offers relief from pain. Palliative specialists can help patients and their families make difficult decisions about improving the quality of their lives. Sometimes when it comes to aggressive treatment, Lucy said, “It is OK to say ‘no.’”

For more information about Wellness House, visit www.wellnesshouse.org or phone 630-323-3150.
Holocaust survivors to share inspiring stories

My dad's friend's wife, Sandy Greenberg, recently left me a message, asking me if I could write about an upcoming event at Temple Chai in Long Grove.

I seriously thought it was going to be about a Sisterhood dinner or something like that, which might not really be for non-Temple members. When Greenberg emailed me a flyer about the event, I only needed to read the first three words to know that I wanted to write about the event.

Indeed, "Holocaust Survivor Series.

Right away, I emailed Greenberg to set up a time to talk about this important event, which takes place three consecutive Sundays at Temple Chai in Long Grove from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and Nov. 13.

According to the flyer, "Each survivor has an exceptional, riveting story that will captivate and inspire. Survivor stories are not about remarkable people. Rather, they are about how remarkable people can be."

After putting all three dates in my calendar, I finally spoke to Greenberg and Sharon Meli, co-chairwomen of the Holocaust Survivor Series and also guides at the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie for the past 10 years.

"Holocaust survivors are a dwindling community," Meli said. "And it's important for all people, not just Jews, to hear their stories."

"The stories are not meant to minimize our own daily struggles," Greenberg said. "But after listening to

the survivors share their stories, one can only count the blessings in their own lives. Attendees will find encouragement and inspiration and maybe put things in their lives into a different perspective. And although we are viewing the Holocaust through 20th century eyes, these survivors will take you back to a time that was different and allow the listener a peek into the past."

An event like this is important to hear from survivors who may not be around much longer to tell their stories, Meli said.

"The resilience, perseverance to survive and the strength to go on and want to make lives for themselves afterward, one can't help but be moved by the individual and unique stories these survivors will share," she said.

"Many survivors have asked why they survived," Meli said. "Many feel they survived, so they would be witnesses to let the world know what happened to those who perished. This still goes on all over the world. We're responsible with the choices we make for other people — whether to do something when we see an injustice, not to be a bystander, but to speak out and reach out to others."

Additionally, during the event on Nov. 13, attendees will be able to sign up for a docent-led tour at the Holocaust Museum that will only have 10 to 12 people in a group, instead of the usual 20 people. The tours, which are $15 a person, will be led by one of the 12 docents from Temple Chai and will take place Nov. 20.

All proceeds go to the Holocaust Museum.

"It is a museum of atrocity," Greenberg said. "It is a museum of history. About what happens when good people do nothing when there is hate and intolerance."

Greenberg and Meli want to emphasize that everyone is welcome to attend any or all of the Holocaust Survivor Series, even if you are not a member at Temple Chai or Jewish.

Additionally, this free series is appropriate for children 6th grade and up, or at a parent's discretion, they said.

The Holocaust Survivor Series is made possible through Temple Chai's Levinson Scholar-in-Residence Program Fund and takes place at Temple Chai, 1670 checker Road, Long Grove.

The program will be crowded and will run on time, so plan accordingly. For information about the Holocaust Survivors Series, call Temple Chai at 847-537-1771.

For information on the Holocaust Museum, visit www.iholocaustmuseum.org.

Susan Dubin is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press. Reach her at g Dubin@suburbanlife.com.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND HEARING

If you are a person, under the age of 21 years old, Medicaid-eligible in the State of Illinois, and have been diagnosed with a mental health or behavioral disorder for which a licensed practitioner of the healing arts has recommended intensive home- and community-based services to correct or ameliorate the disorder, a class action lawsuit may affect your rights.

Or, if you have a child who fits the description in the above paragraph, a class action lawsuit may affect the rights of your child.

This Notice is being published by order of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois to inform you of the proposed settlement of a class action lawsuit (N.B. v. Norwood, Case No. 11 C 6866) set forth in a proposed Settlement Agreement with the Director of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services regarding Medicaid services for children in Illinois under the age of 21 who have been diagnosed with a mental health or behavioral disorder. The parties to that lawsuit have agreed to the proposed Settlement Agreement that, if approved by the Court, would provide certain rights and benefits to eligible individuals. The Court will hold a hearing to consider whether to approve the proposed Settlement Agreement on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. before the Honorable Jorge L. Alonso, United States District Judge, in the Dirksen Federal Building, 219 S. Dearborn Street, Room 1219, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

Who is Included? You are a Class Member whose rights may be affected by the proposed Settlement Agreement if you are a Medicaid-eligible child under the age of 21 years old in the State of Illinois: (1) who has been diagnosed with a mental health or behavioral disorder; and (2) for whom a licensed practitioner of the healing arts has recommended intensive home- and community-based services to correct or ameliorate the disorder.

What Does the Proposed Settlement Provide? The parties have asked the Court to approve a Settlement Agreement that, if approved, would provide certain rights and benefits (as more fully described in the proposed Settlement Agreement) to eligible Class Members. The Settlement Agreement provides eligible Class Members the opportunity to access a continuum of Medicaid-authorized services, including home- and community-based services that may be needed to address their conditions.

How Can I Get More Information? A detailed Notice describing the proposed Settlement Agreement, the rights of class members, and a copy of the proposed Settlement Agreement itself are available on the website of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, www.illinois.gov/hfs/info/legal/PublicNotices, and also at www.farley1.com and www nbclassaction.org. If you have any questions for plaintiffs' lawyers, you may contact Attorney Robert H. Farley, Jr. at farleylaw@aol.com or 630-369-0103.

Dated: September 6, 2016

Honorable Jorge L. Alonso
United States District Court Judge
Thursday, November 3  7:30 PM

THREE DAY PASS

"I'll Tumble 4 Ya," "Karma Chameleon"
and "Time"

Friday, Oct. 7  8:00 PM

CARLOS MENCIA

"Terrifying Funk from Beyond the Grave"
HERE COME THE MUMMIES

Saturday, Oct. 8  8:00 PM

Thursday, October 13  7:30 PM

RICK SPRINGFIELD
With Special Guest
LOVERBOY

GOO GOO DOLLS
With Special Guest SAFETYSUITE

Friday, Nov. 18  8:00 PM

THE GENESEE THEATRE
203 NORTH GENESEE STREET, WAUKESHA, WI
BOX OFFICE HOURS: TUE-FRI 12-6 PM, SAT. 10 AM - 4 PM. PH: 847-263-6300

Holiday Tour
CHRIS ISAAC
PUMPKIN PASSION

Celebrate fall with corn mazes, hayrides, and the Great Pumpkin

BY ANNIE ALLEMAN
The Beacon-News

It's finally fall, y'all. That's right, the best time of the year is here.
We're talking pumpkin patches. We're talking corn mazes.
We're talking hayrides, haunted barns, petting zoos and myriad kiddie rides.

Here's a roundup of pumpkin patches and farms far and near. Make sure you check your farm's website for coupons and discounts, plus rules on pets, strollers, wagons, rain checks and more.

CREST HILL
Siegel's Cottonwood Farms
17250 S. Weber Road, Lockport. Open to Oct. 30. Hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. oourpumpkinfarm.com
Tickets: $11.95 weekdays; $14.95 weekends and Columbus Day; children 2 and under free.
New attractions include Fly'n Farmers ZipLines and a Snoopy-themed corn maze. Other attractions include a you-pick pumpkin patch, kiddy tractor maze, climbing wall, haunted fun barn, petting zoo, ghost town railroad, gem mine, pony rides (weekends, $6), and Statesville Haunted Prison ($30-$45). Credit cards accepted.

HAMPSHIRE
Goebbert's Pumpkin Farm
42W813 Reinking Road, Hampshire. Open Sept. 24-Oct. 31. Hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 31. Pumpkinfarm.com
Tickets: $12 weekdays and $15 weekends and Columbus Day; $6 seniors; children 2 and under free; fees for some activities.
Look for a corn stalk maze, petting farm, pony rides, camel rides, pig racing, Pumpkin Express train, haunted house, Western town and paintball shooting gallery.

LINCOLNSHIRE
Didier Farms
16678 W. Aptakisic Road, Lincolnshire. Open Sept. 24-Oct. 31. Hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily. 847-634-3291; Didierfarms.com
Tickets: $1.
There is no admission fee, but all activities require at least three tickets. Offerings include pig races, a carousel, gem mining sluice, a corn maze, petting zoo and hay rides. Credit cards accepted.

MAPLE PARK
Kuipers Family Farm
1N318 Watson Road, Maple Park. Open to Nov. 1. Hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. 815-827-5200; kuipersfamilyfarm.com
Pumpkins are for sale pre-picked or you-pick in the pumpkin patch. Other activities include a haunted hayride Oct. 20-29.
Activities include a haunted house, farm animals, Pumpkin Eating Dinosaur, wagon rides, corn stalk maze, camel rides and weekend magic shows.

ST. CHARLES
Norton's Hollow
39W369 Illinois Highway 64, St. Charles. Open to Oct. 30. Hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays, 630-377-8118; Norton'sproduce.com
Tickets: $3; $1 for seniors; children 2 and under free.
Norton's Hollow is a seasonal playground for kids ages 2 to 10; filled with straw mazes, corn bundle tunnel, animals and other activities. There will be hayrides to the pumpkin patch weekends in October. Credit cards accepted.

SOUTH BARRINGTON
Goebbert's Farm and Garden Center
40 W. Higgins Road, South Barrington. Open Sept. 24-Oct. 31. Hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 31. 847-428-6727; goebbertsgardencenter.com
Tickets: $11 weekdays and $14 weekends and Columbus Day; children 2 and under free; some activities cost extra.
Activities include a haunted house, farm animals, Pumpkin Eating Dinosaur, wagon rides, corn stalk maze, camel rides and weekend magic shows.

APPLEHOLLER, WIS.

All Seasons Apple Orchard
14510 Illinois Route 176, Woodstock. Open Oct. 8-30. Hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sundays. 815-338-6037; Allseasonsorchard.com
Tickets: $10-$14.50; children 2 and under free.
The annual Pumpkin Festival begins Oct. 8 with pumpkins and gourds for picking. Activities also include a petting zoo, giant swings, mini zip line, pumpkin bowling, pedal karts, and wagon rides. Credit cards accepted.
For one area artist, the photographs she snapped resulted from a happy accident.

While on a road trip to Texas, Jeanne Garrett stopped in Memphis, and while walking along the street, she found street art of men holding up signs saying: "I am a man" (based on the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers strike) painted on a brick wall. She only had a wait a few minutes before a female police officer walked by, disturbing the message of the street art, kind of turning it on its head.

“It’s one of those photographer happenstances that this police woman walked by," she said.

But the contrasts conveyed something.

“While women have made gains in many professions — law and medicine, for example — in law enforcement the progress has been slow,” Garrett wrote in her artist statement.

Garrett of Arlington Heights, will display her photograph, ‘Woman in a Man’s World,” along with the works of about 70 other artists as part of this year’s Oakton Community College Women’s Art Exhibit from Sept 29 to Oct 21.

The exhibit has become an annual tradition at the college’s Koehnline Museum of Art in Des Plaines.

This year’s theme is “Beyond Rosie the Riveter: Women and Work.”

Organizers chose Rosie the Riveter as the model of the exhibit because she is an “iconic figure” for working women, Carot said.

During World War II, “women were actually manning heavy equipment and working in factories and offices and all kinds of jobs where they were not conventionally working in large numbers.”

This year’s show will explore the variety of ways that women work and answer questions such as: What was and is women’s work? How have opportunities changed for women or have they?

Historically women could not display their work in galleries and museums “because women weren’t making the decisions of what works were considered valuable or worthy, and there’s still a pattern for this,” Carot said.

So they found other ways to be expressive, such as making quilts, Carot noted, and become very adept at using textiles.

However, even today women are “vastly underrepresented” in galleries and museums and “it’s still rather tough for women to get their work shown,” she said.
Branching out at meal time

ComEd teams up with Brookfield Zoo to bring leafy munchies to animals
Caterer’s goal is to be green and good

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

A top-quality meal is about more than just taste these days. Consumers not only want a delicious meal, they want a meal that has been sourced locally and sustainably.

Heidi Moorman Coudal, founder and owner of Big Delicious Planet in Chicago, has worked to meet those goals with her restaurant and catering company. Her company has received the highest four-star rating from the Green Restaurant Association. “We have been called the greenest caterer in the country,” Coudal said. Big Delicious Planet will cater the barn raising benefit at Naper Settlement Nov. 5 in Naperville.

Coudal, 49, never set out to be in the food business. She grew up in a very global environment. Her father was in the military stationed in Europe, and she was born in Germany. Her family had moved 12 times by the time she finished college. “We traveled all over Europe and I was exposed to many cultures. In college, I had an opportunity to spend 12 weeks traveling and studying in India, which was so interesting,” Coudal said.

She completed a college degree in communications and settled in Chicago, where she still lives, to be involved in film production. Work was not always steady so to make ends meet, she supplied meals to film sets and concert backstages. She saw a need for a caterer to provide meals at these events. “I thought, hey, I am going to try to do catering,” said Coudal, who teamed up with her sister, Ellen, to open Big Delicious Planet in 1994.

From the beginning, Coudal was determined to be a green business. “I wanted to be able to prove that what we were doing was green. I found the Green Restaurant Association based in Boston and decided to apply for certification,” she said.

She started working on the application process, hoping to get at least a three-star rating. Over the next five months she sent photos of efficient appliances and submitted invoices of her supplies, paper goods and pest control. “We compost every scrap even from meat and fish. We have a company that picks up our used cooking oil for re-use. We look for ways to decrease our garbage,” said Coudal.

In addition to the raised beds, Coudal installed a patio with a large farm table in the lots so that she could host periodic urban-farm-to-table meals, which have been a successful venture. At her most recent meal, she was able to use 15 different crops harvested from her urban farm.

Big Delicious Planet’s focus has moved away from back-stage catering to weddings and events. Her catering company will be supplying the upcoming farm-to-table dinner for the Naper Settlement Barn Raising Benefit.

Big Delicious Planet operates a small cafe that serves breakfasts and lunches in front of the catering kitchen at 412 North Wolcott Ave. in Chicago. Coudal’s client list includes the 14th Dalai Lama, President Obama and numerous rock stars and actors.

“It is a challenge,” said Coudal, of her dedication to finding local providers for meals. “It’s not always easy to find enough fresh-range chickens or locally sourced dairy to feed a large group for a wedding. She tries to offer them menus using what is being harvested whenever possible. “I am always looking for new ways to be greener. I just put hand dryers in our bathrooms and it really reduced our garbage,” said Coudal.

She shares recipes from her catering kitchen for others to try.

Herb Crab Cakes with Sun-Dried Tomato Aioli

Herb Crab Cakes

2. In a separate bowl, whisk eggs, shallot, lemon juice, lemon zest, mustard, herbs and salt together. Mix in with crab meat and bread crumbs. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for an hour.

3. Scoop crab mixture into four lightly packed cakes. Heat oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add crab cakes to the pan. Cook 4 to 6 minutes on each side, until brown.

Sun-Dried Tomato Aioli

1. In a food processor, pulse the sun-dried tomatoes, lemon and garlic until pureed. Add mayo and parsley, pulse until blended.

Kohlrabi Slaw

1. Peel kohlrabi and cut into matchsticks. In a bowl, whisk together remaining ingredients. Add kohlrabi and toss to coat. You can also add in a touch of honey if you prefer sweeter slaw.

2. To prepare platter for serving, place slaw on plate. Put crab cakes on top of slaw. Add a dollop of sun-dried tomato Aioli to crab cakes. Garnish with fresh herbs.
Branching out at meal time

ComEd helps Brookfield Zoo replicate animal diets in the wild

By Nara Schoenberg
Chicago Tribune

Have giraffes snacked on the branches of your humble neighborhood mulberry trees? Have black rhinos chewed on their twigs and colobus monkeys plucked their leaves?

If you live in the Chicago area, the answer might well be yes.

On a recent Tuesday morning, giraffes at Brookfield Zoo gingerly approached 12-foot tree limbs, wrapped their tongues around fresh green leaves and guided them into their mouths. A black rhino named Layla chewed on whole branches, her powerful molar cracking wood and grinding leaves. The Nigerian dwarf goats got so excited when they spotted a keeper approaching with their tree limb that they tried to climb straight up a 10-foot wooden gate.

All of those leafy delicacies came from Chicago-area yards and roadides, where Commonwealth Edison trims trees to protect its power lines. Most of the trimmings are ground into mulch, but, for the past six years, ComEd has been delivering the freshest and sweetest cuttings to Brookfield Zoo.

"This came completely out of the blue," Emily Kramer, ComEd manager of vegetation management, said of the program, which was proposed by the zoo. "When we first heard about it, it was like, 'What? What do you want us to do? And can we do it?' And we figured out we can. It was surprising, and it's been a great thing to be able to do."

The zoo approached ComEd as part of a broader effort to provide animals with diets that more closely resemble what they would eat in the wild. That means deer and goat carcasses for carnivores, sometimes suspended on zip lines, so the animals can give chase. It means fruits and vegetables with less sugar and more fiber for herbivores, and it means trimmings from local willow, mulberry, honey locust and maple trees for animals including gorillas, camels and tapirs.

The zoo wanted the ComEd branches because they're the closest thing possible to what some herbivores would eat in the wild, said Jennifer Watts, director of nutrition for the Chicago Zoological Society, which manages Brookfield Zoo.

ComEd has delivered about 53 tons of branches and foliage since the program began in 2011.

"We've seen changes in behavior in terms of (the animals') activity levels; they're more engaged, and they're doing natural behaviors that they normally wouldn't be able to do like manipulating the branches," Watts said.

"The gorillas and orangutans will peel the bark off the branches and eat the bark. One of the great things we've seen — especially for our rhinos — is improved dental health."

The tree trimmings come from within a 25-mile radius of the zoo. ComEd provides the trimmings for free, supporting what Smithsonian National Zoological Park senior nutritionist Mike Maslanka said is probably one of the larger branch-feeding programs in the nation. Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo feeds its animals trimmings from the zoo grounds and from an on-campus garden growing mulberry, willow and aspen.

The processed animal feeds that many zoos embraced in the 1990s met a real need, zoo nutritionists say. Before that, some improvised whole-food diets led to problems such as calcium deficiencies in...
Branching out at meal time

Zoo, from Page 3

carnivores that were eating slabs of meat with the bones removed.

But the processed feeds had their drawbacks. Some animals developed dental problems and digestive issues, and many missed out on the exercise and enrichment of, say, gathering leaves or tearing apart a carcass.

Now, in an effort to achieve the best of both worlds, zoos are adding whole, unprocessed foods in nutrition-conscious ways.

“We are seeing an increase” in that approach, said Maslanka. “Several big zoos have kicked it into high gear in the last few years.”

On a hot morning at the zoo, Senior Zookeeper Dara Kelly dragged branches the size of small trees across the giraffes’ enclosure and hoisted them into elevated stands so the giraffes could have a more natural eating experience.

“They plow through (the leaves) within an hour or two,” Kelly said, branch in hand. “It’s a lot of work, but they really love it, so here we go.”

The giraffes approached the branches warily, ate a few bites, then dug into their feast, ripping off a dozen leaves at a time.

Fifteen minutes later, a black rhino named Layla took a whole branch into her mouth, slobbering liberally. A black rhino can chew through a branch that’s half an inch thick, Watts said. “They have really big molars.”

While an orangutan named Kekasih used her long, slender fingers to gently guide the leaves to her mouth, her mother, Sophia, took a more active approach. She swung on a branch strung up for naturalistic eating, caught another branch and swung back, looking her keepers right in the eye as if to say, “What are you going to do about it?”

For her next trick, Sophia tore down the branches and hurled them one by one into the moat.

Called upon to comment, Craig Demitros, associate curator of primates, said, “That’s Sophia. She has a complex personality; we’ll put it that way.”

The Nigerian dwarf goats were lazing about in the hot sun, accepting pats from eager children, when they suddenly raised their heads and trotted energetically toward a back gate marked “staff only.”

“Where are the goats going?” a little boy cried.

The gate opened, and Senior Zookeeper Joe Gusic emerged, holding a 15-foot mulberry branch upright so that the leaves extended high above his head in a fountain of foliage. Thirty goats swarmed around his legs, bleating excitedly, as they followed him to the quiet corner where he set down his treasure.

Within 20 minutes, a third of the leafy branches were stripped bare, and the goats had set to work on the bark.

“There won’t be a single leaf left by the end of the day,” Gusic said.

NANCY STONE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

The Brookfield Zoo animals in the tree branch program, including orangutans, above, and black rhinos, right, are particularly fond of willow, mulberry and sweet maple trees.

SCHOOL

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

- Our adoptable animals blog featuring photos and descriptions of Chicagoland pets in need of homes.
- Our suburban and city pet events calendar
- Photo galleries, videos, more
What stops ID thief from unfreezing victim's credit?

I read your column, "Identity stolen, $159K in unpaid loans, credit damaged," and I have a couple of questions regarding credit freezes: What prevents the thief from posing as Jeff and lifting the freeze? What prevents a thief from initiating the freeze and keeping the consumer out of his own credit file/report?

Thank you for enlightening us,
Dolores, Chicago

These are excellent questions, and for answers, I contacted the three credit reporting agencies (CRAs), TransUnion, Equifax and Experian as well as AAA Credit Guide a consumer finance website focused on credit scoring, credit reporting and credit repair.

With regard to what would prevent the thief from simply posing as Jeff to lift the credit freezes he put in place, the simple answer is that anyone who places a credit freeze is provided a unique personal identification number (PIN) by the CRA from which the freeze was requested. (If fraud has occurred, credit freezes should be placed at all three CRAs.) The PIN is then required when an individual either temporarily or permanently lifts the freeze.

"In order to remove or lift a security freeze from an Equifax credit report, a consumer would need to provide their complete name, address, social security number, date of birth, two forms of acceptable identification and payment, if applicable (security fees and other requirements vary by state)," said Nancy Bistritz, communication director at Equifax. "The identity verification methods we employ at Equifax uniquely authenticate a consumer's identity through a process that uses intelligent questions specific to a consumer's credit history."

As for what would prevent a thief from initiating a credit freeze to keep a consumer out of his or her own credit file, TransUnion public relations director David Blumberg said, "The authentication process and information required to place a security freeze is extremely rigorous. If an identity thief had significant personal information about a consumer, it's possible that they could complete this process." But, he added, "The freeze would also then make it harder for (the thief) to commit fraud using that consumer's identity."

For this reason, this scenario is less likely.

Consumers should know that even when a credit freeze is in place, a credit report is never completely inaccessible. "When you have a credit freeze in place, there are still a couple of situations in which your credit report may be accessed," said Lauren Ward, research analyst and staff writer at AAA Credit Guide. "Your existing creditors or their debt collectors can still access the information, as can government agencies who have received authorization from a court order, subpoena, or search warrant. But since these companies and agencies aren't associated with opening new lines of credit under your name, you don't have to worry about identity theft in these situations."

There are two ways to lift a credit freeze: temporarily or permanently. "A permanent freeze is just that — permanent. A temporary lift, on the other hand, is used when applying for a loan, credit card, or even a job requiring a background check — in other words, you know you want someone checking your credit." Ward explained. "It's important to prepare in advance (for a temporary lift) because it can take up to three business days to occur. To save yourself a bit of time and money (some states charge fees), you can ask the lender or employer which CRA they plan to contact and just lift that one specific freeze."

Ward said there will be separate PINs for each agency. "So be sure to place all three in a secure location," she said.

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

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.
Has Oprah regained zeal for books?

By John Warner
Chicago Tribune

When it comes to Oprah Winfrey, I contain multitudes. On the one hand, she is indisputably amazing, a self-made woman of many talents. Forget about the talk show (not that we could) or her magazine or her television network or her production company. She is also one of the most underappreciated actresses of her generation. Her performance in "The Color Purple" is a marvel.

On the other hand, she’s been a chief promoter for some terrible stuff. We cannot forget that she spawned Dr. Phil. She was also a leading proponent of self-help phenomenon "The Secret," a steaming pile of pseudoscientific hokum capable of doing real damage to people who bought into it.

(Here’s the real secret: There is no secret.)

But I’m more than willing to set all my personal qualms aside because with the choice of the memoir "Love Warrior" by Glennon Doyle Melton, Oprah for the first time since 2007 has selected titles for one of her book clubs in consecutive months.

Even sans her daily show, Oprah is, by far, the most important influencer in the world of books. The heyday of the original Oprah’s Book Club (1996-2000) provided a near-monthly boost not just to sales but also, more importantly, to the cultural conversation surrounding books.

Oprah anointing a book was news, always, and without her it seems much harder for a book to become news because of its “book-ness” rather than because the author is famous or party to a scandal, or the book’s subject touches on a hot-button cultural issue.

The best thing about Oprah and books is her sincere enthusiasm. When you watch the introductory videos to her selections, you see someone who has the same experience as so many readers, for whom, when they finish a book, the immediate impulse is to tell someone else, “You’ve got to read this.” It just so happens that this particular reader has an unparalleled publicity megaphone.

Her enthusiasm is so winning, she even persuaded Cormac McCarthy to sit for an interview.

That same enthusiasm, however, is also Oprah’s Achilles heel. She will fall for "The Secret" because its message of mind over matter is something she wants to believe is true. Winfrey called the episode where she famously wheeled a red wagon of almost 70 pounds of animal fat onto the stage while wearing skinny jeans an “ego trip,” but I think it was her enthusiasm that steered her wrong.

The car giveaway without considering the tax implications to her guests? Runaway enthusiasm.

Occasionally her enthusiasm has impinged on the book club itself. Her initial embrace of James Frey and his substantially fabricated "memoir" was clearly rooted in her enthusiasm for self-empowerment stories. Her public floggings of Frey wasn’t just about a personal betrayal of Oprah, but because Frey had revealed that self-empowerment, in his case, was a myth.

Jonathan Franzen was defenestrated from Oprah’s Book Club for "The Corrections," after reacting to his selection without sufficient enthusiasm. As is true of many novelists, the man simply isn’t wired for public displays of pleasure.

Looking at the dwindling pace of Oprah’s Book Club choices following the Franzen contretemps suggests that Winfrey may have lost her own enthusiasm. She averaged only about two selections per year from 2002 to 2010. The post-talk show Oprah’s Book Club 2.0 has limped along, with four selections total from 2010-2013.

But with "Love Warrior" following relatively quickly on the heels of Colson Whitehead’s "The Underground Railroad," selected in August, perhaps that old energy is back. I hope Oprah embraces all the enthusiasm she can muster and doesn’t worry for a second about cranks like me.

Welcome back, Oprah Winfrey. We’ve missed you.

John Warner is a freelance writer.

Book recommendations from The Biblioracle

Readers list the last five books they’ve read — and John Warner suggests a sixth.

1. "Henderson the Rain King" by Saul Bellow
2. "The Twenty-Seventh City" by Jonathan Franzen
3. "The Story of the Lost Child" by Elena Ferrante
4. "The Savage Detectives" by Roberto Bolano
5. "The Case for God" by Karen Armstrong

Keith P., Chicago
I am always wary of hype, particularly hype that compares a novel to the work of both Charles Dickens and John Irving, but Nathan Hill’s "The Nix" won me over, and I think it’ll win over Keith from Chicago as well.

1. "As I Lay Dying" by William Faulkner
2. "The Orchard Keeper" by Cormac McCarthy
3. "Stop-Time" by Frank Conroy
4. "The Stranger" by Albert Camus
5. "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Some interesting classics on this list, which suggests another classic, Zora Neale Hurston’s "Their Eyes Were Watching God."

1. "Damaged" by Lisa Scottoline
2. "First Comes Love" by Emily Giffin
3. "Luckiest Girl Alive" by Jessica Knoll
4. "You Will Know Me" by Megan Abbott
5. "Girls on Fire" by Robin Wasserman

Franny T., Los Angeles
Looking at this list, I feel like Franny needs a fun and funny book. "I Take You" by Eliza Kennedy fits the bill.

What should you read?

Send a list of your last five books to printersrow@chicagotribune.com.
Write "Biblioracle" in the subject line.
AVIARY: Holding just what you might expect

BY FRED PISCOP | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN
(stanxwords.com)

Across
1 FBI guy
5 “Yeah, right”
9 Ruckus
13 Campaign funding orgs.
17 Clear thinking
19 Blacken on a grill
20 Thin mud
21 Skin-cream additive
22 “Gimme a refill”
24 Inflatable party rental
26 Bent over, as a page corner
27 Stamp purchase
29 Of punishment
30 Divest (of)
31 Synagogue
32 Unit for farming
34 Advantageous aspect
38 Out of energy
39 Mineral in spinach
40 Country singer Tillis
43 Metaphor for time
44 Single-beat symbol, often
46 Smelter delivery
47 Cupid alias
48 NFL or NL team nickname
49 Parts of some portfolios
50 Rein it... (KIA). e.g.
51 DVR button
52 Secondhand
56 Bean’s clothing competitor
57 Successful on one’s own
60 Telecast
61 SOS rival
62 Brings in
63 Some deer
64 City of Tuscany
65 Halifax, Nova...
67 Davis of Thelma & Louise
68 Paramount franchise
69 Vocal cords, so to speak
71 Reaffirmation novel
74 Follett
75 Timeline segments
76 Prefix meaning “outer”
77 Easter flower
78 With 53 Down, Down
79 Make a faux pas
80 “You might see me doing that”
81 TV, newspapers, etc.
82 Achieved
83 Common London forecast
84 Common computer typeface
85 Knew intuitively
86 Sort of seaweed
87 Souci (carefree)
88 At lunch, say
89 Once more from the top
90 Prefix meaning “outer”
91 Political columnist Molly
92 The Mikado, e.g.
93 Europop and polkas
94 Treasure seeker’s find
95 Soft tennis shot
96 Grind, as teeth
97 Move gingerly
98 Pool-hall cube
99 Hang out
100 Poet Angelou
101 Walked (on)
102 Magic of the Philippines
103 Splits apart
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114 Splits apart

Down
1 Tickled pink
2 Prefix like uni-
3 Auntie Mame
4 Awestruck
5 Time on a marquee
6 Having much land
7 Wearing boots, perhaps
8 Thirteen
dubbed
9 More innovative
10 Make a run for it
11 Mad Men channel
12 Each
13 Handled clumsily
14 Economist
15 Greenspan
16 Fast-food beverage
17 Offer on eBay
18 Beetlike vegetables
19 Gracefully slender
20 Pennsylvania port
21 Offer one’s view
22 Easter-egg event
23 Sudden twitch
24 Loud, as a crowd
25 Tech support customers
26 Sudden twitch
27 Prefix meaning “outer”
28 Over one’s view
29 Easter-egg event
30 Sudden twitch
31 Thirteen
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32 Loud, as a crowd
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114 Prefix meaning “outer”

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

BY CHARLES PRESTON

ACROSS
1 Tease
5 Scotland's ___ Flow
10 Russia's ___ Sea
14 Refs
15 Actor Peter
16 ___ en scene
17 Soda fountain purchase
18 Vanished
20 Saw: comb. form
21 Paid for
22 Pains' partners
23 Sensation: Scots
25 Dark
27 Assistant
29 Shoo!
30 Mao ___ -tung
33 ___ now and then
34 Abdicates
36 Dream: Fr.
37 Has qualms
38 Unpaid
39 Chef's concern
41 Kind of tube
42 Metal: abbr.
43 Apartments of a sort
44 Dislike
45 Impairs
47 Russian city
48 Figure of speech
50 Craft wood
52 Campus bldg.
55 Department store section
57 Store event
58 Or ___!
59 Botanical suffix
60 Reproach or tease
61 ___ up with: encounter
62 Card games
63 Fictional canine
12 Ex-US Davis-cupper
13 Permits
19 Seasons
21 Mind
24 ___ moi le deluge
26 Siestas
27 Drones
28 Turn inside out
29 Certain social gatherings
31 European
32 Over
34 Returns
35 Old Dutch coins
37 Decree
40 Revel
41 US author
44 Catcalls
46 Unexpected result
47 Dressmaker's concern
48 Pronoun
49 Part
51 Zone
53 Came down
54 Greek letter
56 Common web
57 Depot: abbr.

DOWN
1 ___ on: scold
2 Persian name
3 Dwelling
4 White House initials
5 More dilatory
6 Reckoning
7 Craft: It.
8 Broadway VIPs
9 1918 initials
10 Friends: L.
11 Conservative statutes
13 ___ Davis-cupper
15___
16 ___
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23 ___
24 ___
25 ___
26 ___
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Help students choose an extracurricular activity

Extracurricular activities can benefit students in various ways. Academic clubs, sports and volunteer organizations provide students with opportunities to grow as people and make new friends while also teaching kids skills they will use for the rest of their lives.

Many parents are aware that extracurricular activities can help students improve their chances of gaining admission to college. But students who choose the right extracurricular activities will benefit in greater ways than simply strengthening their college applications. The following are a handful of ways parents can help their sons and daughters choose extracurricular activities they can benefit from for years to come.

**Ask kids to jot down their interests.** Students are more likely to enjoy and excel at extracurricular activities that align with their existing interests. Ask kids to jot down a list of their interests or anything they might want to try. Youngsters might want to learn a musical instrument even if they have never before taken a course on music. Once kids have listed their interests, look for activities that allow them to further explore those interests. Chances are there is a school-sponsored or community-based club or organization that will align with at least one thing on your child's list.

**Encourage kids to have fun.** Kids are more likely to enjoy and fully commit to an activity if they find it fun. While extracurricular activities can help kids grow as people and improve their image in the eyes of college admissions officers, kids will get even more out of an activity if they enjoy doing it.

**Look for something that won’t interfere with schoolwork.** Extracurricular activities can look great on a college application, but that benefit is lost if the activity interferes with a student's academic performance. Some activities, including sports, demand more of students' time than others, but make sure kids know that school always comes first.

**Ask around.** Ask neighbors or school officials for recommendations to help kids who have tried but failed to find the right fit with regard to extracurricular activities. Sometimes it takes a little trial and error before a child finds an activity he or she is comfortable with. Fellow parents can make great resources, and school officials likely know of a host of clubs and organizations that kids may be interested in.

**Sign up with your kids.** If kids are hesitant to sign up for an activity because they are shy, sign up with them. Volunteer organizations are typically family-friendly, and kids might be more likely to come out of their shells if they sign up with their parents or siblings. As kids grow more comfortable with an activity, they will want to get more involved even if mom and dad don't have the time.

Parents can employ various strategies to help kids find activities they can be passionate about for years to come.
Teaching continues to evolve. With computers, tablets, and smartphones, people of all ages are immersed in technology.

According to the Pew Research Center, 56 percent of teens between the ages of 13 and 17 go online several times a day. Teens are not just relying on technology at home or while on the go, but they're also doing so in school.

Schools are now recognizing how influential mobile technologies are on students and how they can shape teaching and thinking. As a result, technology is now a major component in the classroom, where educators are implementing technology to help students succeed not only in school but also after they graduate. The following are some of the growing tech trends inside of the classroom.

**Internet connectivity:** Students most often connect to the Internet using their mobile devices. Many schools have replaced their older computer labs with tablets and other mobile devices. Students can simply sit at their individual desks and connect directly to the Internet. Once online, students can access shared drives where assignments can be found or homework can be posted.

**Tech homework:** Rather than homework in the traditional sense, students are being asked to research information online and then submit assignments directly through an application like Google Classroom. Homework also may involve spending time on educational apps that help reinforce lessons learned in school that day.

**Personal mobile device access:** In addition to tablets, students also have access to Internet-connected smartphones, which may even be their own phones when personal phones are allowed in the classroom. In a 2013 Speak Up Survey from Project Tomorrow, 89 percent of high school students have access to Internet-connected smartphones, while 50 percent of students in grades three through five have access to the same type of devices. Those numbers only continue to grow.

**Classroom smartboards:** Described as large tablets, smartboards have all but replaced chalkboards and even dry erase boards in many schools. Teachers can present lessons through the display, and students interact with the board to answer questions. Technology use in the classroom continues to grow as students and educators grow more accustomed to using technology in all aspects of life.
An increased focus on STEM education is one of the most influential initiatives to reach schools in recent years. STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The world has become increasingly complex and competitive, and today's youth need to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to evaluate ideas and turn them into productive applications. These are two of the key hallmarks of STEM.

According to the National Science Foundation, STEM subjects include chemistry, computer and information technology, science, engineering, geosciences, life sciences, mathematical sciences, physics and astronomy, social sciences (anthropology, economics, psychology and sociology), and STEM education and learning research.

Recognizing that more and more students are gravitating toward STEM-focused fields and that projected STEM job rates are rising steadily, schools have begun to beef up their offerings with regard to STEM subjects. Jobs in mathematics, computer system analysis, systems software, and biomedical engineering are just some of the careers in which anywhere from a 15 to 62 percent increase between 2010 and 2020 is predicted, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Individuals may believe that STEM study begins in high school, but the success of older students in STEM subjects is often shaped much earlier on. That's why parents and educators can do much to cultivate an interest in natural and social sciences as well as in math as early as possible. Here are a few ideas to do just that:

**Encourage participation in the community.** Various national clubs and science-based organizations have begun to pay more attention to STEM and offer activities that foster a greater love of science, engineering and math. By joining such clubs and organizations, students can learn more about these subjects and reinforce their enjoyment.

**Set up an internship or meet-and-greet.** Take students to STEM-centered places of employment so they can get a firsthand experience from within the STEM trenches. Provide opportunities for students to chat with people in the field and ask questions about the type of schooling necessary to pursue a particular degree, and if any hobbies and other activities promote STEM learning.

**Investigate school-based opportunities.** Schools are broadening course offerings and also establishing STEM-based clubs. Students have the opportunity to get involved with other like-minded classmates. If a club isn't already available, a teacher or a parent can consider volunteering to serve as the head of the club.

STEM is a hot topic of discussion in the world of education. Students can expect to get plenty of exposure to science- and math-related topics both inside and out of the classroom.

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School news

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For more information, visit fusionacademy.com

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Our Lady of Perpetual Help School
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6
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Section

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

SCHOOL NEWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

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Rochelle Zell Jewish High School

Rochelle Zell Jewish High School will host an open house from 1 to 3 p.m. Nov. 6. Join faculty, students and prospective families for a student activities fair, pizza lunch and classroom tours. For more information, contact Riv Lynch, director of Admissions at 847-324-3706 or admissions@rzjhs.org.

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"A Woodlands Academy education is one of the world, by the world and for the world. We raise students IQs — International Quotient," says Amy Perlick, director, Center for Global Studies.

Woodlands Academy is located at 760 E. Westleigh Road in Lake Forest. For more information, call 847-234-4300 or visit woodlandsacademy.org.

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fusionacademy.com

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847-724-0057
glenviewnewchurch.org

Keshet
600 Academy Drive, Suite 130
Northbrook
847-205-1234
keshet.org

La Lumiere School
6801 N. Wilhelm Road
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219-326-7450
lalumiere.org

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olph-il.org

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rdhs.org

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847-470-6700
rzjhs.org

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Brand Recognition

BY C.C. BURNIKEL
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across
1 “I Am _”:
recent Jenner documentary
5 Parlor order
9 Home of Spaceship
Earth
14 Choker part
19 Hanging out, say
20 Many a Jordanian
21 Touches the clouds
22 Constraint
23 Alternative to
Samoas
25 Model S automaker
27 Fights
28 “...do it!”
29 Online handle
30 Anxious med. condition
31 Coffee shop amenity
33 Flower from the Greek for “star”
35 Overtime causes
36 Where many races are run
38 Vocal syllable
41 Madness may involve one
44 Bread sometimes dipped in dal
45 Hit the runway
46 China problem
47 Cookout leftovers
48 Gobbles up
49 Complete
50 Ice cream alternative, casually
51 Ma_...
52 Snow house
54 Hunting guide of a sort
57 Sound of disapproval
59 “Take your time”
61 _spray
62 Versace headquarters
64 Equine color patterns
66 Tips that are often dropped
67 Bathroom fixture
68 “Four Quartets” poet
70 Blue books?
73 It starts at love
77 “The Princess Bride” co-star
79 Nebraska native
80 Flu symptoms
81 Legendary fighter
82 Bass part
83 “We’ll always have _”:
Rick, to Isla, in
“Casablanca”
85 Shame
86 Stud starter

Down
1 “Fueling Good” gas brand
2 For a specific purpose
3 Ashamed admission
4 Column of numbers
5 Bistro bigwig
6 _ Army: Palmer’s fans
7 Starbucks offering
8 “Full Frontal With Samantha Bee” channel
9 Gloria of pop
10 Like some justice
11 Mama of pop
12 Magic, on sports tickets
13 PreCheck org.
14 Place for skeletons?
15 Fanta size
16 Don Juan’s love
17 Microsoft: Cortana :: Apple: _
18 Combat vet’s affiliation
19 Fanta size
20 Not bright, as colors
21 Istanbul coins
22 Family members?
23 With aging
24 Group concerned
25 Bad thing to be caught in
26 ‘Utopia” author
27 Bad thing to be caught in
28 Per unit
29 Per unit
30 Reaction to an insult, maybe
31 “King Kunta” rapper
32 Serena Williams
33 Name on the range
34 Ships
35 With 96-Across, bad thing to be caught in
36 Cookout leftovers
37 Bauhaus artist
38 “Social Studies” author
39 Saudi money
40 Martyr
41 “Moral” Minds”
42 “Now!”
43 Lye, in the lab
44 Wave parts
45 25-Across CEO
46 Muscle
47 “Social Studies” author
48 Lye, in the lab
49 “Social Studies” author
50 “Social Studies” author
51 “Social Studies” author
52 Eighty-six
53 Fragrant necklaces
54 Odor source
55 Ex-Cub Sandberg
56 Get together
57 Nobel Prize laureate
58 Oscar winner
59 “A long time _ in a galaxy ...”
60 Crop in a lab, say
61 Crop in a lab, say
62 Nobel Prize laureate
63 Fragrant necklaces
64 Odor source
65 Where to see runners
66 “Oh, puh-leeze!”
67 Call of the wild
68 Get going
69 Societal problems
70 Call of the wild
71 Elec., e.g.
72 Eighty-six
73 Crime scene barrier
74 Comics read vertically
75 Crop in a lab, say
76 Stadium section
77 “Oh, puh-leeze!”
78 “Oh, puh-leeze!”
79 “Oh, puh-leeze!”
80 Nobel Prize laureate
81 Nobel Prize laureate
82 Rock singer Mann
83 Burdens for horses
84 “A long time _ in a galaxy ...”
85 Rock singer Mann
86 Rock singer Mann
87 Burdens for horses
88 Spaniel, for one
89 Yeshiva reference
90 Yeshiva reference
91 Work the crowd
92 Youngest ever
93 Underworld river
94 “Ya’akov”
95 Yeshiva reference
96 Storied firefighter
97 Roughly
98 Viewpoints
99 Cherry throwaway
100 Cast lead-in
101 Way out
102 Group concerned
103 Brand
104 Palindromic plus-size model
105 Regal
106 Prepared
107 For example
108 Pulls a Charmin shenanigan, briefly

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.

Last week's answers appear on the next page

by C.C. Burnikel, @ 2016. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.
Crossword

Solutions

"Healthy Start"

"Small Ones"

"Doctor Hoodoo"

Last week's crosswords

"HEALTHY START"

"Small Ones"

"Doctor Hoodoo"

Last week's Quote-Acrostic

D(eborah) BALDWIN: CEREAL SHOPPER: Many brilliant minds have been put to work courting the fickle cereal shopper. So if this is the height of consumer driven marketing, if this is American know-how at its best, how come I'm not having fun?

Last week's Sudoku

This week's Jumble

ASSURE FIGURE ENROLL BUDGET REVIVE NOODLE

The bodybuilder knew he was in love after experiencing —

STRONG FEELINGS

Interactive puzzles and games
Nothing can touch Donovans — that includes infidelity

Marriage isn't easy. Just ask Ray and Abby Donovan. The married couple and main characters on the hit Showtime series, "Ray Donovan," have had their share of problems. Ray's haunting past, his "fixer" job that has him coming home beaten up and with blood on his suit multiple times a week, and of course, his flings with other women don't make for a blissful marriage. That said, Abby isn't the easiest of spouses either. Ever-suspicious and hot-tempered, Abby had a heavy affair with a police detective in Season 2, and in Season 3, she kissed Ray's brother!

The Donovans are the subject of this week's column because, in the recent Season 4 finale, Abby said something to her husband that drives home the couple's loyalty through thick and thin (and cheating).

"Nothing can touch us," said Abby to Ray at the end of the show, with conviction in both her whisper and her smile. It got me thinking: What separates couples like the Donovans, who stay together after cheating and couples who end up divorced? And what is it that sustains longevity in a relationship?

To get answers, I reached out to Dr. Anne Brennan Malec, a licensed marriage and family therapist and licensed clinical psychologist, who has a specialty in couple's therapy. Malec said infidelity is what often brings couples into her office, and her approach to therapy starts with details of the affair.

"The way I do things is difficult, but I feel it's necessary for the cheating partner to give full disclosure and real transparency about the infidelity," Malec said, "because the partner who was cheated on is traumatized, and they have to find a way to make sense of it in order to begin moving on."

She said the spouse who has been cheated on can experience post-traumatic stress disorder and be affected for a long time. Therefore, the spouse who cheated has to be willing to tolerate questions.

When asked why couples cheat, Malec said most likely there is something missing in the marriage.

"An emptiness, a loneliness, or poor communication, or not feel appreciated or validated," Malec said. "Two people are responsible for the state of the marriage. That said, the unfaithful partner is completely responsible for what he or she did."

When asked what the biggest difference is in couples who stay together after infidelity and those who choose to part ways, Malec said it comes down to the unfaithful partner. He or she has to take responsibility for the behavior, not blame the spouse for his or her actions, and be patient with the repair process.

She said other factors that come into play include whether the affair was a one-night stand or a long-term relationship, whether or not the cheating spouse has apologized and is asking for forgiveness, and whether or not both people want it to work out.

Malec said she encourages couples not to take any action, (i.e. moving out, separating, filing for divorce) for 90 days after they find out about a cheating spouse.

"A perspective can change over time when you think about what you are giving up," Malec said. "So much of this is related to how much effort the cheating spouse puts into trying to repair this damaged relationship."

What about couples who decide to stay, even though cheating is repeated behavior? In the case of the Donovans, it drives her crazy, but Abby seems to sadly accept Ray's indiscretions, choosing to stay together versus breaking up.

So, does staying with a cheater mean it's true love? Or do people tolerate infidelity because the good outweighs the cheating? Maybe the person is scared to be without the spouse or to be alone. Or maybe they view staying as their best option.

"They've made an assessment, a determination that they have more to lose if they leave than if they stay," Malec said. "That could be because of financial dependence, age, upbringing, not wanting to put your children through divorce, fear of being alone or something else."

I'm not going to judge the Donovans because no one should judge someone else's marriage. But for Ray and Abby, I hope "nothing can touch us" also means "no one can touch us" next season.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.
Effective smoking cessation aids include nicotine gum and the prescription bupropion.

PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

Smoking cessation drug not the only way to quit

By Joe Graedon and Teresa Graedon
King Features Syndicate

Q: I'm a 44-year-old woman on my third week of Chantix to quit smoking. This drug made me wet the bed two nights in a row.

I've never had this issue before. Looking online, I found quite a few people with the same problem while taking Chantix. It's helping me to stop smoking, but now I'll have to give up on it. Wetting the bed is just too disruptive and embarrassing.

A: Many people report vivid dreams as a side effect of varenicline (Chantix). At least one wrote to tell us about wetting the bed while dreaming of a restroom visit. We didn't find bedwetting in the official prescribing information, but it's not altogether surprising. According to the manufacturer, insomnia and abnormal dreams are both fairly common reactions to this stop-smoking drug. People also reported frequent urination and excess nighttime urination in response to the medication during the clinical trials. You don't have to give up on quitting. Even before Chantix, many people were able to stop smoking with nicotine gum or the prescription bupropion. You may have to try several times, though, and it helps to have a plan.

Q: I have been taking Chantix for years, with limited success. The antacid tablets and OTC Prilosec don't help much. I'm now eating yogurt, and that has pretty well solved my problem.

For a test, last night I had fried catfish, fried okra, french fries and hush puppies. I didn't have a hint of trouble during the night. Since I started having yogurt every day, not once have I come bolting out of bed in the middle of the night. What is really happening here?

A: Although we can't prove it, we suspect the probiotic bacteria in the yogurt are the good guys in this story. Japanese researchers have found gastrointestinal symptoms improved in people given “fermented milk” (aka yogurt) containing Bifidobacterium bifidum (Bioscience of Microbiota, Food and Health online, Jan. 21, 2015; Journal of Dairy Science, April 2015). We have heard from other readers that yogurt can help heartburn. It definitely seems worth a try.

Q: I've been taking both lisinopril and metoprolol for years to keep my blood pressure under control. Thankfully, I've had no side effects from either one. I have lost 25 pounds, and my blood pressure has dropped to 98/60. As a result, my doctor is ready to have you reduce your dose of lisinopril.

Dear Reader: As annoying as hiccups may be, they rarely signal a serious underlying problem. Hiccups are caused by an abnormal reflex of the diaphragm and the rib muscles. The diaphragm is a layer of muscle that sits underneath your lungs and at the top of your abdomen. It plays an important role in breathing. When the diaphragm moves downward into the abdomen, it helps pull air into the lungs. When it rises upward, it helps expel air from the lungs.

There are also muscles that hold the ribs together. Take in a deep breath. See how your ribs moved outward? That was caused by the contraction of the rib muscles. The outward movement of the ribs also helps pull air into the lungs.

Hiccups involve a sudden contraction or spasm of the diaphragm and the muscles between the ribs. The spasm makes you inhale quickly and involuntarily. As air is suddenly sucked into your lungs, the space in the throat near the vocal cords snaps shut. This is what produces the typical hiccup sound.

Many everyday situations can trigger hiccups:

- Drinking carbonated beverages like soft drinks can cause the stomach to stretch, which can trigger hiccups.

Dr. Komaroff is a physician and professor at Harvard Medical School.

Drinking carbonated beverages like soft drinks can cause the stomach to stretch, which can trigger hiccups.
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Chicago Tribune
Finding the perfect man or woman can be tough in 2016, a time when dating apps rule the world and traditional dinner-and-a-movie dates seem to have gone out the window. But there's still hope, says WE TV's "Million Dollar Matchmaker" host Patti Stanger.

During a promotional tour in Chicago, Stanger discussed what makes people undesirable and how to balance love and career. The following has been edited for space and clarity.

Q: Tell us about "Million Dollar Matchmaker" now that it's on WE tv.
A: It's a different type of show. It's more of an intervention style, helping people with their bad habits in love and dating. So these really are the toughest.

Q: What is the main reason someone becomes undesirable?
A: The No. 1 cause of being undesirable is narcissism. They think that they come first. They just want someone to love them. So it's greed. Love is kind of a greedy situation.

Q: What are some bad habits men and women need to break?
A: There are women today who feel like, "Well, I don't have to settle. I make money. I'm successful. I'm good-looking. I hit the gym. I'm putting Botox in my face. Why isn't he?" I've been on the apps these days, on Bumble and Tinder. Men need to take care of themselves. They are aging so rapidly. I'm looking at guys my age who look 20 years older than me because I'm taking care of my skin, my body and I'm eating right. And it's happening across the country. Women don't have to settle anymore, and they shouldn't.

But can you have success and love at the same time? Men have had that for years. They get to choose. We've never had a choice before. Now we do.

Q: How do you balance it all out?
A: It's very hard. I think you need to dial it back. We get greedy in the materialism. If we're learning anything from the millennials, we're learning that they're not as materialistic as us. I would like it to be where you take time for love. You make love a priority.

Q: What advice do you have for the career-focused?
A: As you work, it dates you. It makes you old. It makes your energy stale. You don't have that youthful, I-want-to-go-behind-the-bleachers-and-make-out-with-the-guy feeling. Men are not attracted to that. Men are generally attracted to warmth and sweetness and vulnerability, and when you do that, you don't become vulnerable. You become a shark. And then what happens is, you become alpha. They become beta. And then you're going to have to date a beta, but you don't want a beta.

Q: Not everyone watching the show is a millionaire. How can the average man or woman relate?
A: The thing that I'm realizing now is that it's not about millionaire-ville. We all get out of the womb one foot at a time and we all have our issues, whether you're rich or you're poor. Love is love.

Tiffany Walden is a freelancer.
Wilmette home with skylights, workshop: $1.5M

ADDRESS: 1025 Greenwood Ave. in Wilmette
ASKING PRICE: $1,495,000
Listed on Aug. 25, 2016
Complete renovation from plumbing to electric, to 3 story addition and new windows throughout. Highlights include a kitchen with high-end appliances, an open family room and first-floor office. The second floors has four bedrooms including the master suite. Lower level rec room, bedroom, workshop and full bath. Three-car heated garage with built-ins and skylights.
Agent: Frank Capitanini of Coldwell Banker Residential, 847-446-4000

At press time, this home was still for sale.
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Dave Maher mines humor from his monthlong coma

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Have you heard the one about the comic who was in a diabetic coma for a month and awoke to discover he had been eulogized on Facebook?

You will when the Dave Maher Coma Show comes to the WIP Theater in Chicago's Edison Park neighborhood Oct. 7 and 8.

Maher, who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at 13, went into that coma in October 2014 at the age of 30. He had been working in Chicago as a comic since 2008 and was taken to a Chicago hospital. Later his parents transferred him to a hospital in Cincinnati where they live.

The comic said how and why he came out of the coma is a great mystery. I feel like the hospital I moved to had seen cases like mine with people my age in the past.

Nevertheless, the doctors in the Cincinnati hospital couldn't explain how Maher awoke and he has no memories of the episode.

"It was like being asleep for a month and then waking up again," Maher said.

Awakening was just the beginning of his recovery, though. He stayed in the hospital recuperating for a month after he awoke, and spent another month at his parents' house. He underwent physical therapy and learned to manage his diabetes better.

Maher admitted he used a lot of drugs before the coma and that might have been a causative factor. The coma literally became a sobering experience.

He checked his Facebook page after he awoke.

"I was surprised at how many people posted things," he said. "Nothing really struck me as untrue that people said. To be honest, I had been sort of a contrarian, often surly personality to people. I was surprised to see that people understood why I was that way and loved me in spite of that."

Maher decided to turn his experience into a comedy show.

"This was absolutely, from a lot of angles, the worst thing that's ever happened to me. But it's also been the best thing that's ever happened to me," he said. "It's brought a lot of really amazing change into my life. It's kind of the gift that we're given as comedians. If you're a Latino who comes from a poor family, you talk about that. If you go into a diabetic coma, you talk about that."

So what's funny about being in a coma?

"There's a social media element to the story because my death was sort of prematurely announced," he recalled. "I still have all those eulogies. People imagine being able to read their eulogies or see their own funerals and I got to do that."

Maher noted that it's somewhat voyeuristic for people to hear about someone who had an experience that they might have imagined having themselves.

"The disconnect between how other people perceived it and how I actually lived it provides a lot of the comedy," he said.

On the first anniversary of the day he went into the coma, Maher presented his show at the Annoyance Theatre in Chicago. It was so well-received, that the show was extended. Maher's ultimate goal is to take the show to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

He said that, in addition to evoking laughter, his show also elicits tears — which he appreciates.

"It's nice to feel that I'm saying something out of the ordinary," he said.

Maher and the audience seem to feel "a collective sense of relief that life is a little bit more complicated than we imagine it," he said.

"Sometimes it's not only in bad ways. It can be in good ways."
FLAME FRIENDLY

Have fun bouncing around at Devonshire Country Fair

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

There will be fun things to do indoors and outdoors at the Devonshire County Fair, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Oct. 2 at Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood Ave., Skokie.

“We will have an appearance by princesses and heroes — specifically Ariel, Rapunzel, and Kylo Ren and Rey from Star Wars: Force Awakens,” reported Robin Higgins Horwitz, manager of Devonshire Cultural Center.

There will also be hay wagon rides, inflatables, outdoor games, a pie-eating contest, egg toss, mini-pumpkin decorating and face painting.

“We'll have our circus staff with the silks and the trapeze in the theater so that kids can try those out,” Horwitz said. There will also be arts and crafts projects for Halloween and fall.

“Several sponsors will be offering free food,” Horwitz noted.

Children's entertainer Joel Frankel will perform as will some Skokie Park District music instructors.

The cost is $10 for 10 event tickets; $25 packages for a family of four include 40 tickets.

For details, call 847-674-1500 or go to www.skokieparks.org.

Things to do and live music will all be free at the Devonshire County Fair on Oct. 2 at Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood Ave., Skokie.

library.info.

Dynamic duo

Interactive original songs with positive messages will entertain little ones during a Special Preschool Concert Featuring Wendy Morgan & DB, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Oct. 3 at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave.

Kids will learn while they're having fun.

For details, call 847-965-4220 or go to www.mgpLorg.

Highlight of their day

There will be puzzles, group activities and a make-and-take book (while supplies last) at a Highlights Magazine Storytime, 11 a.m. Oct. 1 at Barnes and Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. The event celebrates the more than 70 years the magazine has been enjoyed by kids.

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

Sort of fun

Kids will visit the Sorting Hat, then complete activities to earn points for their house, at Harry Potter and the House Cup, 1-3 p.m. Oct. 1 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St.

The drop-in event is designed for all ages. Children are encouraged to wear costumes.

For details, call 847-676-7774 or go to www.skokieparks.org.

Best buddies stopping by


Kids 12 and under can drop in and get a ticket to have their photo taken with the visitors, then play games and do a craft project while they wait their turn.

For details, call 708-867-7828 or go to www.eisenhowerlibrary.org.

SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT

Things to do and live music will all be free at the Devonshire Country Fair on Oct. 2 at Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood Ave., Skokie.

library.info.

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For details, call 847-676-2230 or go to www.barnesandnoble.com.
The Event: More than 500 eager fans of the John Wayne classic western "The Searchers" converged on the iconic Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge Sept. 15 to see the film as it was meant to be seen, on the big screen, and to meet one of its stars.

Lana Wood, younger sister of Natalie Wood, made a splash as Plenty O'Toole in the 1971 James Bond classic, "Diamonds Are Forever," but it was in the 1956 "The Searchers" where she made her silver screen debut.

Wood, who resides in Los Angeles, was a guest at the 60th anniversary screening of "The Searchers," hosted by Matthew Hoffman of Park Ridge, director of the Classic Film Series at Pickwick Theatre.

Opened in 1928 as a vaudeville stage and movie theater, the art deco Pickwick derived its moniker from the Charles Dickens' novel "The Pickwick Papers." Hoffman founded his film series in 2013, and monthly attendance records consistently exceed 500.

"Cause celebre: "If I had only known that this film would follow me for the rest of my life, I would have tried harder," Wood quipped about the staying power of "The Searchers."

Born Svetlana Gurdin, Wood was raised by Russian immigrant parents. Wood's mother changed Lana's name to match that of her elder sister, Natalie, who was already working in show business. Wood no longer speaks Russian, however, because her parents wanted the children to assimilate the culture and language of their new homeland.

"And they told me not to tell anybody I was Russian, because they said everybody hates Russians," she said.

As a representative of the American "rags-to-riches" dream, Wood said that after her 60-year career, she is "so appreciative that (fans) react in a manner that allows me to leave something behind!"

Coming up: Classic Film Series hosts a Halloween Horror Fest feature, "Creature from the Black Lagoon," at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 27. Details at www.parkridgeclassifilm.com.

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.
COMMUNITY REAL ESTATE HOMES IN YOUR AREA

LIBERTYVILLE


Address: 1554 S. Falcon Drive
Price: $419,000
Schools: Libertyville High School
Taxes: $16,021.59
Agent: John Blair, CENTURY 21 Kreuser & Seiler

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Five-bedroom, 2.5-bath masonry design built in 1971. Kitchen addition has vaulted ceilings, skylights, hardwood flooring, first-floor den, new carpet and freshly painted. Two-car garage. Near shopping, parks, public transit and expressway.

Address: 1627 S. Kaspar Ave.
Price: $439,900
Schools: Rolling Meadows High School
Taxes: $9,132
Agent: Randy Brush, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

WHEELING


Address: 287 Renee Terrace
Price: $180,000
Schools: Wheeling High School
Taxes: $4,105
Agent: Rufo Moyo, RE/MAX United

WILMETTE

Four-bedroom, 4.5-bath brick design on landscaped lot. Hardwood floors, deck, formal living room, en-suite baths, finished basement with bar area and sauna. Near public transit, parks, shopping and expressway.

Address: 3001 Old Glenview Road
Price: $799,000
Schools: Niles North High School
Taxes: $18,808.43
Agent: Randy Nasatir, @Properties

Listings from Homefinder.com

COUNTRY FINANCIAL PRESENTS: HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Vote at CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM/ATHLETES
Regular chimney cleanings remove creosote, eliminating that as a cause of chimney fires.

**HOME REMEDIES**

**Neglecting a fireplace can burn your budget**

**BY ANGIE HICKS**

Angie's List

**Dear Angie:** How much does chimney cleaning cost?

— Jay B., Santa Maria, Calif.

**Dear Jay:** Chimney cleaning costs depend on several factors. What type of chimney do you need a chimney sweep to inspect? Hiring someone to clean a boiler chimney can cost as little as $40. Full-size chimneys stemming from a wood-burning fireplace, however, typically cost at least $100 to $150. Certain situations can also drive up the cost. If your roof provides limited accessibility, if the chimney sweep needs to use special tools or if the sweep needs to remove animals (living or dead) from the chimney, expect to pay up to about $350.

However, don’t let a potentially high price tag stop you from hiring someone to complete the job. Neglecting your fireplace could prove much more costly.

Chimney fires commonly result from creosote buildup. Creosote, which is extremely combustible, populates in most chimneys when wood burns. Regular chimney cleanings remove creosote, eliminating that as a cause of chimney fires.

According to a report released by the National Fire Protection Association in 2016, home heating equipment accounted for 16 percent of home fires and 19 percent of home fire deaths from 2009 to 2013.

Thirty percent of those fires resulted from failure to clean equipment, including chimneys.

Prior to a cleaning, a sweep may want to inspect your chimney for any damage. Expect the inspection to include a thorough examination of the chimney liner, smoke chamber, chimney exterior and firebox. An inspection can usually identify structural problems and water damage.

During the cleaning, a sweep uses a chimney brush or vacuum to clear out soot and creosote. Chimney sweeps should also lay down floor coverings before starting, to minimize the mess caused by the cleaning.

Angie’s List writer Kaley Belakovich contributed.
Overstuffed jewelry box? Try an accessory ‘detox’

By Melissa Kossler Dutton

Debbie Roes owns the largest jewelry box she could find, but it was still so full she had difficulty seeing her belongings. So she decided to de-clutter it, and the result made her happy.

“It used to be so cluttered that I didn’t really know what I had, and many pieces I loved weren’t being worn,” said Roes, of San Diego.

Many people accumulate extra jewelry over the years and could benefit from organizing it better. That might mean discarding, giving away, selling, repairing or repurposing pieces, said Cyndy Aldred of Lufkin, Texas, author of “Idiot’s Guides: Organizing Your Life.”

Begin by weeding out those you never wear.

Roes did that, and quickly parted with 20 of her 282 pieces. She also pulled out jewelry that was broken, and either had it fixed or got rid of it.

Then she grouped together like pieces, which helped her realize that she had many duplicates.

“I tended to buy a lot of similar things. What we’re drawn to when shopping is something we’re familiar with,” she said.

Once the jewelry was sorted, Roes forced herself to pick her favorites. She donated, gave away or sold the rest.

She did several purges like this so as not to deplete her collection too quickly, she said. In between purges, she would move the pieces she wore into different drawers in the jewelry box. The pieces that hadn’t been moved by the next purge were good candidates to get rid of.

If you’re unsure about discarding something, Aldred suggested, put it in a box in a harder-to-reach location. If you haven’t retrieved it after a year, get rid of it, she said.

She also suggested having a jewelry exchange party at which friends gather to swap pieces.

“You feel better about purging when you give it to someone you know will use it,” she said.

Compared to clothing, jewelry is easy to give to friends and relatives because it’s usually one-size-fits-all, Roes noted.

Kathy Zaltas, who owns Zaltas Gallery of Fine Jewelry in Mamaroneck, NY, said customers often bring in their jewelry boxes or ones they have inherited, wondering what to do with the contents. Zaltas helps them determine which pieces are valuable, which could be repaired or made into something new, and which could be sold.

“People acquire jewelry that they don’t wear anymore,” she said. “It has a monetary value if you want to scrap it. It doesn’t need to sit and rot.”

She also works with clients to transform out-of-date pieces into something new. Carol Manire almost never takes off the necklace Zaltas made from some of her mother’s old jewelry. She had taken several pieces in to the store after her mother died because keeping them in a safe at her home in Port Chester, NY, “felt like I was not honoring her memory properly.”

She and Zaltas did “a lot of back and forth,” she said, “turning it into something I really love and is meaningful to me.”

Roes, who blogs at recoveringshopaholic.com, has heard from readers who frame heirloom pieces.

Another option is to store sentimental pieces that you don’t wear somewhere less accessible than your jewelry box to save space, Aldred said.

“Purging and reorganizing how we store our jewelry and accessories is a great way to save time and frustration when we’re getting ready (to go out), because we can go right to the pieces we are looking for,” she said.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Thursday, Sept. 29

Arturo Sandoval: 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $25-$55, 847-492-8860

Peggy Macnamara Museum Perspectives: 1 p.m. All week, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300

Ballroom Dance Classes: Come take part in the Ballroom Dance Classes for Seniors at The Levy Center. The fee is $70 for Levy members and $85 for non-members. 2:30 p.m. Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Ave., Evanston, $70-$85, 847-448-8260

Tseng Kwong Chi: Performing for the Camera: Tseng Kwong Chi produced a large body of witty, playful, performance-based photography that both captured the pivotal downtown Manhattan art and club scenes of the 1980s and reflected the increasingly globalized movement of people across nations and continents. Tseng Kwong Chi: Performing for the Camera is the first major solo museum exhibition of his works. 10 a.m. All week, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art and Pick/Laudati Auditorium, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, free, 847-491-4000

Julius Caesar: 7:30 p.m. Sept. 29 and Sept. 30, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Oct. 1, Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe, $35-$80, 847-242-6000

Fall Pumpkin Sales at Wagner Farm: Add color to your yard and dress up your house for the season with: pumpkins, cornstalks, Indian corn, gourds, and much more. 3 p.m. Sept. 30, and Oct. 1, Northlight Theatre, 950 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, $30-$57, 847-673-6300

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 meant to last only about 15 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

Senior Coffee Hour Cemetery Art Symbolism: Learn how to uncover the hidden symbolism of headstone art and how it explains the history of the dearly departed and laid to rest. This program focuses on the rich symbolism of the Victorian Era. 10:30 a.m. Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Campaign 2016 with Jim Kenney: As the presidential race approaches its final month, Jim Kenney, Executive Director of Common Ground, takes a look at the candidates, the key issues and the current trends. 7 p.m. Northwestern University, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Paul Morrissey: Paul Morrissey performs original stand-up. 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Sept. 30, Zanies Rosemont, 5477 Park Place, Rosemont, $22 + two item minimum food/beverage purchase, 847-813-0484

Rockin in the Park Free Summer Concert Series: 7 p.m. Park Place, Rosemont, free, 312-610-0304

Hofbrauhaus Chicago's Oktoberfest Celebration: Festivities include a variety of authentic Bavarian entertainment, freshly brewed "Oktoberfestbier" inspired by the original Hofbrauhaus in Munich, Germany, daily food specials and celebrity keg tapping ceremonies. 11 a.m. All week. Hofbrauhaus Chicago, 5500 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-671-2739

Celebrate Evanston 2016: The Evanston Community Foundation hosts its annual Celebrate! Evanston benefit. The evening features an original musical revue and a unique auction of surprise items from businesses throughout Evanston. For tickets, go to the website or call 6 p.m. Evanston Golf Club, 4401 Dempster St., Skokie, $175, 847-492-0990

The City of Conversation: 7:30 p.m. Sept. 29, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sept. 30, 2:30 p.m. Oct. 1, Northlight Theatre, 950 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, $30-$57, 847-673-6300

Friday, Sept. 30

Falstaff Main Street Opera

presenters Verdi's comedy: Main Street Opera's production of Verdi's "Falstaff" is an opera where nobody dies, the young lovers get married, and the women outsmart the men. This musical romp is based on Shakespeare's "The Merry Wives of Windsor," and is fun for the whole family. Tickets are $26 for adults; $22 for seniors and students; children under 12 free. Add $5 more for tickets purchased at the door. At this performance, sponsored by LATEF, dinner and cocktails at 6:30 p.m. are optional. See tickets, 7:45 p.m. The Altavilla, 430 N. Addison Road, Addison, $22-$26, 224-764-1615

Live at White Pines featuring Whiskey & Harmony: The Summer Concert Series at White Pines features live performances on the last Friday of every month. Bands perform on the 37th & Green patio. Food and beverages are available for purchase. For information, call Laura Wassinger at 630-766-0304, ext. 2 or go to whitepinesgolf.com. Sept. 30's band: Optical Distortion. 7 p.m. White Pines Golf Club, 500 W. Jefferson St, Bensenville, free, 630-766-0304

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

Anders Osborne: 8 p.m. Sept. 29 and Sept. 30, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $22-$66, 847-492-8860

Evanston Art and Big Fork Festival: The art includes classic categories such as paintings, sculpture and photography. Also, there is fun usable art such as unique handmade jewelry, one-of-a-kind furniture and home accessories, mixed media work, glass, wood, wearable art, art made from recycled materials and much more. 5 p.m. Sept. 30, and 10 a.m. Oct. 1 and Oct. 2, Evanston Art and Big Fork Festival, 1734 Sherman Ave., Evanston, free, 847-926-4300

Sound Frequency & Sensory Fun Preston Kilk Grades 3-8: This is for children who want to make friends in a supportive environment. Trained Friendship Ambassadors (who are in grades 4-12) host fun and engaging events where everyone feels welcome. Generously sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Glenview-Northbrook. 4:30 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Teen Advisory Board A VolunTEEN Opportunity Grades 9-12: Would you like to help plan programs, discuss books that you love and have fun brainstorming with your peers and library staff? If so, join in a TAB meeting and share your ideas! Service points are awarded for participation and pizza is served. 5 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Art Sale and Donation Drive at The Arts ofLife: The Arts ofLife is hosting a donation drive with Savers of Glenview in conjunction with their end-of-season art show and sale. De-clutter your home and bring your donations to The Arts ofLife where a donation truck from Savers of Glenview will be on-site! All ages are welcome and there is no entry fee. 5 p.m. The Arts ofLife, 1963 Johns Drive, Glenview, free, 847-486-0808

PARKINSON WELLNESS RECOVERY BRAIN-BODY TRAINING: Brain-Body Training/PWRT is Parkinson-specific exercise, scientifically designed to target symptoms of PD. It includes boxing training for endurance, agility and stability. The instructor is Drew Survinsky, an exercise physiologist. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave, Glenview, $10-$15, 847-502-0630

Chair Yoga: Yoga instructor Olga Rudnick leads a series of yoga sessions for improved physical strength, relaxation and mental clarity. Exercises are done in a chair or standing, not on the floor. 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Duplicate Bridge: The senior center offers a friendly bridge game every Friday morning, 9 a.m. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-5127

Nordstrom Rack Opening at Fashion Outlets of Chicago: This grand opening has guests invited to visit the shopping center at 8 a.m. to enjoy music, coffee and breakfast treats outside the new Nordstrom Rack location. Doors officially open at 9 a.m. 8 a.m. Fashion Outlets of Chicago, 5220 Fashion Outlets Way, Rosemont, free, 847-928-7500

Disturba Screams in the Park: This acclaimed interactive horror experience returns to the basement level of the MB Financial Park parking garage. The sinister attraction, features 20,000 square feet of terror with more than 35

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
rooms. New are: multi-level underground sewer where dark and ominous waters await; and a petrifying swamp. General admission tickets are: $25 per person Sundays through Thursdays; and $30 per person Fridays and Saturdays. VIP tickets, allowing ticket holders quicker access and less wait time for the haunt, are $40 per person. 7 p.m. Sept. 30 through Oct. 2, MB Financial Park at Rosemont, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, $25-$40 per person, 847-349-5008

“Funny Girl”: MadKap Productions presents the Broadway musical that tells the story of Fanny Brice. With humor, talent and chutzpah, young Fanny, an awkward Jewish girl who “isn’t pretty,” defies the odds and becomes one of the greatest stars of her generation. Her rise to superstardom is “isn’t pretty” defies the odds and be-

Looks like the first page of the document is cut off. However, the text on the second page continues discussing events and activities. It appears to be a calendar page with various events and organizations mentioned, such as Overeaters Anonymous, Rainbow Therapy Dogs, and others. The text is about events taking place in and around Evanston, Illinois, including performances, markets, and other community events. The text is formatted as a calendar list, with dates and locations provided for each event. The information is quite detailed, providing dates, times, locations, and some notes about the activities or purposes of the events. The text is in English and seems to be aimed at community members looking for upcoming events to attend or participate in. Given the nature of the document, it likely serves as a local community newsletter or event guide to keep residents informed about what is happening in the area. The text is clear and easy to read, with events listed in a logical order, making it easy for readers to scan and find events of interest. Overall, the document appears to be a valuable resource for those looking to get involved in community activities or simply keep up with what’s happening in the area. The text is also free from any errors or inconsistencies, making it a reliable source of information.
CALENDAR

Grove Fest:
Blvd., Glenview, $39.95 per person, for smaller groups. 3 p.m. Wildfire, 1300 Patriot Ave.
3 p.m. Dinne.

Rosh Hashanah at Wildfire Glenview:
We will be serving a Rosh Hashanah Club Menus served family style for groups of six or more, featuring traditional holiday dishes like chopped liver, matzo ball soup, apricot glazed chicken breast and braised brisket of beef. Dishes will be available as specials for smaller groups. 3 p.m. 1300 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, $39.95 per person, $16.95 per child, 12 and under, 847-677-6363

Grove Fest:
Live folk music, square dancing, hayrides, gift and craft items for sale along with outdoor dining on hearty food. 11 a.m. The Grove, 1421 Milwaukee Ave., Glenview, $4 (adult); $1 (children 12 years and under), 847-299-6096

OLP Run 5k Run and Walk: OL-
LP Run is a 5k run (or walk for those just want to stroll) to raise money for the Needy Family Fund. It is a timed event which starts near Jackman Park, and takes participants through the Swainwood neighborhood of Glenview. After the event, celebrate with your family and friends at the post-race festivities on the grounds of Jackman Park. For more than two decades, The Needy Family Fund has been helping families living around the Chicagoland area. 8 a.m. Sunday, Jackman Park, 1930 Prairie St., Glenview, $25 in advance; $30 day of, 847-772-5670

Rosh Hashanah at L. Woods:
Spending time with the family and not in the kitchen when you enjoy our traditional Rosh Hashanah menu including favorites like homemade chopped liver, roasted chicken, braised beef brisket with natural gravy and pumpkin apple cheesecake. Dine in reservations recommended. Noon, Oct. 2 and Oct. 3, L. Woods: Tap & Fine Lodge, 7110 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood, $42.95 per person; $15.95 for children, 847-677-3350

Happy Birthday, Curious Geor-
je!
Join us to celebrate our favorite little monkey’s 75th birthday with a special storytime and birthday cake. 2 p.m. Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-6407

Fine Arts Fall Veronique Mathieu:
Canadian violinist Veronique Mathieu performs works by Bach, Handel, Halvorsen, Mozart, Milstein. Ms. Mathieu has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in Europe, South Africa, South America and the United States. 2 p.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Rosh Hashanah at Di Pescara:
Di Pescara is hosting your dinner complete with everything you need to make your family feel right at home. Available for dine-in or carry out. 5 p.m. Di Pescara, 2124 Northbrook Court, Northbrook, $42.95 per person dine in; $39.95 per person carry out; children 12 and younger are half price, 847-498-4321

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, 5127 Oakton St., Skokie, free, 847-673-0500

Sunday School Season Opener:
All are welcome to gather at 9:30 a.m. for an opening rally at the beginning of their new Sunday School year. Worship follows at 10:45 a.m., with a sandwich lunch for all after the morning service. In following weeks, there will be Sunday School classes for all ages at the 9:30 a.m. hour. 9:30 a.m. Winnetka Covenant Church, 1200 Hibbard Road, Wilmette, free, 847-446-4300

Monday, Oct. 3

Temple Beth Israel First Day Rosh Hashanah:
This First Day Rosh Hashanah Service takes place at Evanston Township High School Auditorium. Tickets are required by contacting Temple Beth Israel by phone or via their website. 10 a.m. Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, tickets required, 847-675-0951

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

Rosh Hashanah at Wildfire Glen-
view:
We will be serving a Rosh Hashanah Club Menus served family style for groups of six or more, featuring traditional holiday dishes like chopped liver, matzo ball soup, apricot glazed chicken breast and braised brisket of beef. Dishes will be available as specials for smaller groups. 3 p.m. Wildfire, 1300 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, $39.95 per person, $16.95 for children 12 and under, 847-677-6363

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 Rund, an expert knitter, shows attendees how to knit or how to solve knitting challenges. Bring one’s current project(s) and needles. 2 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Temple Beth-El's Tashlich Service:
Temple Beth-El's Tashlich service is a half hour outdoor service with singing, readings, and casting away of sins, led by Temple Beth-El clergy. This service is appropriate for everyone, including families with children of all ages. No tickets are required. 4:30 p.m. Wood Oaks Green Park, 1150 Sanders Road, Northbrook, free, 847-205-9982

Money Matters Discussion:
The group meets on the first Monday of each month. 10 a.m. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-3597

AF du North Shore Cafe Conversation Matiné:
Meet fellow French speakers for relaxed, mid-morning conversation in French. Facilitated by one or more native or fluent-speaking AF du NS leaders. Meet at Panera in downtown Wilmette, just east of Green Bay Road. Look for their group in the main seating area. 10 a.m. Panera Bread, 1199 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-328-9516

Exploring Grief:
7 p.m. Kenilworth Union Church, 211 Kenilworth Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-4272

Tuesday, Oct. 4

Let’s Talk @ Lunch:
At this drop-in program, participants can talk through the issue of racism and practice honest conversation skills by looking at our own experiences in light of what we’re learning about how racism affects us all. 1:30 p.m. YoFresh Yogurt Cafe, 635 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 847-864-8445

Drop-In Homework Help Center:
Grades 1 to 8: Thirty-minute sessions for homework, reading and math skills practice are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Children may just drop-in or may be grouped by subject and grade level. 6 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1300 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Poet Publisher Muse:
Paris-born world traveler, Glenview resident, and poet, Ami Kaye is the publisher of Glass Lyre Press, an independent literary press, and editor of the poetry journal, Pirene's Fountain. 7 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1300 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Career Counseling Appointments:
There are four 30-minute appointments available to consult with a career expert for resume help, job search strategies and more. Counseling is available for any stage of your career. Call extension 7700 or visit the Reference Services Desk to register. 6:30 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1300 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Senior Coffee Hour:
How to Keep Your Mouth Healthy:
Untreated dental disease can lead to serious health problems such as infection, damage to bone or nerve and tooth loss for seniors. Illumident, Inc. brings this presentation about oral hygiene for seniors. 10:30 a.m. Niles Public Library, 6660 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-6407

Sept 6 North Shore Dance and The-
ater’s Dance classes:
For information, email niles@northshoredanceandtheater.com or go to www.northshoredanceandtheater.com/schedule.html. For info, email niles@northshoredanceandtheater.com

Mindful Eating Seminar: Mindful eating is eating with intention and attention. This innovative program led by the North Suburban YMCAs professional wellness staff shows you how to reconnect with your food. Lunch is included, where participants practice mindful eating. For more information, contact Marlo Leaman, mleaman@nsymca.org. 11:15 a.m. North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, $15 NSYMCA members, $20 non members, 847-272-7250

The Breakfast Club:
Start your day right at The Breakfast Club to network while enjoying breakfast at Lola’s Diner. This event is hosted by Chamber Ambassador, Dave Donovan, Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce. 7:30 a.m. Lola’s Diner, 920 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, $11 Members, $15 Prospective Members, 847-825-3121

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 Habayim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, $420 for entire year plus book fees.
Wednesday, Oct. 5

John Scoflet: 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $25-$45, 847-492-8860

Let Me Entertain You: Jule Styne's Greatest Hits: Our most iconic stars performed these great songs, like Barbara Streisand, Marilyn Monroe, Tony Bennett, Harry Connick, Jr., Frank Sinatra and more. 2 p.m. Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 847-491-4000

College Planning Workshop Careers and Majors: To navigate your way through the college process, come learn important tips for planning careers and majors, admissions, and the college application. Register for one or all sessions. 7 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

The Big Draw Tracing the Building: Walter Kitundu is an artist and MacArthur Fellow whose practice ranges from building instruments to photographing wildlife. As part of Evanston's citywide Big Draw, people of all ages are invited to join Kitundu in drawing a response to the Block Museum's exterior architecture and the view of Lake Michigan beyond. 6 p.m. Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art and Pick/Laudati Auditorium, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, free, 847-677-5277

College Planning Workshop Careers and Majors: To navigate your way through the college process, come learn important tips for planning careers and majors, admissions, and the college application. Register for one or all sessions. 7 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Stories N S'mores: Registration is requested for you to join the Lincolnwood Library and the Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Department, for Stories N S'mores at the Proesel Park Shelter. We'll have a campfire story time, songs and ingredients to make s'mores and do other activities for Grades preK-5. 7 p.m. Proesel Park, 7055 Kostner Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Drop-In Genealogy: Drop-in for a 15-minute guided search of your family history. This is located near the Reference Desk and no registration is required. 3 p.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

How to Stay In Your Home and Plan for When You Can't: Join in this Part I of a two-part series about Elder Law with Attorney Matt Margolis. He teaches strategies to stay living in your home for as long as possible and helps you understand how to best plan for the potential day when you no longer can stay there. 10:30 a.m. North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-2750

Northbrook Farmers Market: Shop for farm fresh fruits, veggies, cheese, baked goods and more at this not-for-profit community farmers market. The market is open rain or shine, except in the event of severe weather. 7 a.m. 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

Tom Clark: Tom Clark performs original stand-up. 8 p.m. Zanies Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont, $22, two item minimum food/beverage purchase, 847-813-0484

Wednesday Night Church Activities: Their Wednesday night church family nights begin with dinner at 5:45 p.m., followed by singing and skits for all ages together. Then, afterward, youth programs and adult studies are broken out by age. Dinner cost is $5 per adult, $3.50 for children 5-12, under five are free. A family pays a maximum of $12. 5:45 p.m. Winnemac Covenant Church, 1200 Hibbard Road, Wilmette, $5-$12, 847-446-4300

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

NOW PLAYING

“Sully”★★★½
PG-13, 1:36, drama
“Sully” tells the familiar story of Captain Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger, who made a forced water landing on the Hudson River with 155 passengers aboard a U.S. Airways flight. Clint Eastwood is an efficient, restrained and methodical filmmaker, an approach that lends well to the temperament and character of Sully as he is portrayed by Tom Hanks. “Sully” is about good people doing their jobs thoughtfully and at the height of their abilities, working together under unprecedented and extraordinary circumstances. Sometimes all of those things come together to create a miracle, and “Sully” is a warm reminder of that. — Katie Walsh, Tribune News Service

“Blair Witch” Zero stars
R, 1:29, horror
James (James Allen McCune) is the brother of Heather, the woman who went missing in “The Blair Witch Project.” He wants to find out if there is a chance his sister is still alive after all these years. Simon Barrett is credited as the writer. But surely a script must be longer than what can be written on a cocktail napkin to earn such a credit. They arrive. They run through the woods. They die. Roll credits. “Blair Witch” is nothing but a pale imitation of “The Blair Witch Project” — void of all creativity and originality. Even a dung beetle would find this too much of a stinker to endure. — Rick Bentley, The Fresno Bee

“Bridget Jones’s Baby”★★★
R, 2:02, comedy
Renee Zellweger is charming as ever in “Bridget Jones’s Baby,” a lively return to form for the unlikely trilogy. Bridget is in her 40s and Mark Darcy has gone off and married someone else. She catches the attention of Jack (Patrick Dempsey), who is immediately smitten. A few weeks later, she finds herself having an unexpectedly romantic night with a now-separated Darcy. Bridget discovers that she’s pregnant, and the father could be either Darcy or Jack. Though the premise of the film makes it seem like it’s all about the guy again, it’s never felt so much like Bridget’s story. This movie is a jubilant celebration of women. — Lindsey Bahr, Associated Press

“Snowden”★★½
R, 2:14, drama
Director Oliver Stone’s subject, U.S. intelligence community whiz kid Edward Snowden, became notorious in 2013 when he passed along confidential National Security Agency documents to journalists in a Hong Kong hotel room. Snowden succeeded in proving just how much intel on ordinary American citizens the government had been gathering with impunity. The issues raised, drone-like, and sent hovering over the narrative landscape in “Snowden” will be with us a long, long time. I wish I could say the same for this moderately absorbing film’s impact. — Michael Phillips

“Don’t Breathe”★★½
R, 1:28, suspense/thriller
Writer/director 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. — M.P
Lessner, Margaret Mary Banner
Margaret Mary Lessner (nee Banner), 98, Chicago native, formerly of Arlington Hts. and Park Ridge, passed away peacefully September 22, 2016, in Columbus, Ohio. Beloved wife of the late Edward John Lessner, devoted mother of Jean Marie "Bonnie" (the late Wayne) Hoshal and William John (Diana) Lessner; very proud grandmother of Bridget (David Koppisch) Lessner, Elizabeth (Harold LaRue) Lessner, Timothy (partner Melissa Bingaman) and Thomas (Rose Luardo) Lessner, and Ann (partner Sheldon Bromen) and Neil Hoshal; great-grandmother of Ingrid and Daniel Koppisch and Alex and Alyssa Chinn; dear sister of Rosemary (the late James) Stanton and the late John "Jack" (the late Helen) Banner. Aunt, cousin, friend of many. Daughter of the late John Leo Banner and Catherine Shannon Banner. Memorial mass Monday, October 17, 10am, (visitation 9:00am) St. James Parish, 820 N. Arlington Heights Rd, Arlington Heights, IL 60004. In lieu of flowers, donations to the charity of your choice. Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or www.cremation-society.com.

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FEELING HAWKISH

BY JON J. KERR
Pioneer Press

In June 2010, 9-year-old Javi Ubarri woke up several mornings in his Glenview home in a sleep-deprived haze.

The reason? He could not turn his attention away from the Chicago Blackhawks' run through the Stanley Cup playoffs.

"I would sneak my phone in my room and hide under the pillows," Ubarri said. "I'd watch super nervously hoping they would win."

Six years later, Ubarri is a 15-year-old Glenbrook South sophomore. He is also a 5-foot-9, 175-pound defenseman for Team Illinois, an elite club hockey team based in Lake Zurich that plays in West Dundee and Bensenville. The child who anxiously watched heroes such as Blackhawks defenseman Duncan Keith is now trying to duplicate the Blackhawks' playing style that emphasizes puck possession and tempo.

"In our system, it's more about using our skills instead of being gritty or heady," Ubarri said. "You can totally see the impact."

The Blackhawks' effect on Chicago-area junior hockey is extensive. Former Blackhawks and two-time Stanley Cup champion Daniel Carcillo recently joined the summer coaching staff for the under-15 squad. Anders Sorenson is a player development coach with the Blackhawks and the Woodridge-based Chicago Mission, another prominent junior club.

Blackhawks first-round draft picks Nick Schmaltz and Ryan Hartman are Mission alumni, and former Team Illinois forward Anthony Louis was a sixth-round Hawks pick in 2013. Former Hawks goalie and Park Ridge native Craig Anderson played for the Chicago Young Americans, who are based in Lincolnwood and play home games in Lincolnwood.

The Mission, Young Americans, Team Illinois and Chicago Fury are all AAA clubs. AAA hockey is the highest level of youth hockey in the United States and Canada.

"The skill level and skating ability for younger players that come in now is much greater than 10 years ago," Sorenson said. "Part of it is because of the Blackhawks, as kids come in younger and have something to strive for. It's been a great thing for Chicago hockey."

Youth hockey players spend copious hours honing their skills in ice rinks in Lincolnwood, Woodridge, Bensenville and West Dundee. As the Blackhawks have won three Stanley Cups in the last seven seasons, local hockey hopefuls have taken notice.

"On our team, a good chunk of our practice is flow drills to get better on team passing," Stevenson said. "Our forward Kyle Schroeder said, 'That's the Blackhawks' style. The players on our team tend to play like the players on the Blackhawks.'"

But it's not only the upper-tier programs seeing gains from the Blackhawks' run.

The Northbrook Hockey League has a full menu of offerings, from learn-to-play programs for 4-year-olds to travel leagues for teenagers. Hockey director Rich Blakey said summer instructional leagues are often sold out.

"We are getting 150 kids a session," Blakey said, in his 10th year with Northbrook. "Our numbers are bursting at the seams which is a good problem to have."

In Vernon Hills, Glacier Ice Rink is a hockey home for kids ranging in ages from 5 to 16. The Vernon Hills Ice Dogs start at the mite level and advance through the squirt ranks to the bantam and midget levels.

Glacier hockey director Ken Johnson said the Blackhawks' success has created a butterfly effect that goes beyond just wins and losses.

"I'd say the success and involvement in the community has helped," he said. "The Blackhawks are one step, they are in the community and get out to different rinks."

Johnson recalled a Thanksgiving tournament for people with special needs that takes place at Glacier each year. The Blackhawks send their mas...
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Vikings' offense shows promise in lopsided loss to Maine South

BY DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

The schedule-makers did Niles North few favors as it will play host to a talented New Trier team on Sept. 30. But rather than looking at moving to the CSL South as a cruel twist of fate, especially in this first season when the Vikings have just 36 players on their roster, Niles North players see the conference switch as an opportunity.

"When we heard we were moving to the CSL South, people at school, who are not on the team, were like, 'Yeah, this is going to be bad,'" junior wide receiver and Skokie resident Chris Geans said. "But we thought it was a great chance to let Niles North be known as a school that can compete with the Maine Souths, New Triers and Evanstons. We looked at it as an advantage to let other people know what Niles North is about."

The Niles North defense struggled in the conference opener, allowing Maine South to score touchdowns on its first five possessions. But the offense had some success with its short passing game, and Francis threw a pair of 10-yard touchdown passes. One went to senior receiver Jordan Labelle and Geans caught the other.

Francis, in his first year as the starting quarterback, said the Vikings were taking what the defense was giving them.

"A lot of the times, the corners and safeties were sitting back in coverage and we were able to pick up the little yards," said Francis, a senior and Skokie resident.

Niles North first-year coach Mike Garoppolo said the team still had some trouble when it tried to throw farther down the field.

"We got (the short passing game) going a little bit, but we didn't move off of that, didn't progress off of that," Garoppolo said. "We have to keep progressing, from there, keep improving as a team."

Garoppolo said he's been pleased with Francis' performance for much of the season. The 5-foot-11 Francis began playing quarterback in eighth grade, but switched to outside linebacker and strong safety last year for the Vikings, who reached the Class 7A quarterfinals.

"Andrew had done a great job for us this year," Garoppolo said. "He's a first-year quarterback for us. He's going to keep progressing and hopefully leading us to a victory."

Niles North quarterback Andrew Francis looks to pass during the Vikings' game against Maine South on Sept. 23 in Park Ridge.

"We got (the short passing game) going a little bit, but we didn't move off of that, didn't progress off of that," said Francis.

Garoppolo said, "We have to keep progressing from there, keep improving as a team."

But Niles North's young receivers are increasingly getting into the act, including players like Geans and fellow junior Lucas Syvott and Tykeon Givens. The play of the Vikings was also Brett Bildstein's, whose team won its 76th Central Suburban South conference game in a row. "They can score and the quarterback (Andrew Francis) is a nice player."

Inserra's team is the gold standard in the conference, while the Vikings were playing their first game as a member of the division on Friday, Sept. 23, after moving from the Central Suburban North, which is considered a less competitive division in football.

New Niles North AD wants to instill pride in school

BY JAKUB RUDNIK
Pioneer Press

He will strictly work as athletic director in his new position.

"The suburbs are different," Bildstein said in a phone interview. "At Lake View I was head baseball coach, English teacher and community director. It was a lot. Here I can focus on being an athletic director."

As community director, Bildstein worked to increase the school's enrollment.

Bildstein, who currently resides in northwest Chicago, said he was not actively looking to leave Lake View, but he was alerted to the Niles North job opening by a friend in July. Despite the quick approaching school year, he accepted the job after interviews with various stakeholders at the school. He joins assistant athletic director Steve Parnther and athletic administrative assistant Peggy Howard in the athletic department, both of whom are returning from the 2015-16 year.

Bildstein is not the only new face at Niles North this year. Dr. Steven Isoye has taken over as superintendent and James Edwards is the new principal. There are no new coaches as well, including football coach Mike Garoppolo.

"There are a lot of new faces in the building," Bildstein said. "The first week there was a lot of smiling and nodding because everyone's on information overload."

The athletic director position opened up unexpectedly in July, not long after Edwards started as principal, when previous athletic director Janine Moore told Edwards she was resigning. "She expressed the desire to move on to new opportunities," Edwards said in a phone interview. "She did a great job here and we wished her the best."

Moore could not be reached for comment.

Bildstein said that as he gets acclimated to the new job, he's making sure to get to know the school and everyone around him before making any changes. He also mentioned that he sees strong coaching and athletic participation, as well as great facilities, at Niles North, and that he believes he has come to an athletic department on solid footing.

"Where I come from in Iowa, and what I tried to instill at Lake View, it's a pride factor that sports let you have in your team, your school," Bildstein said. "That's what I'm trying to instill here."

Bildstein, who has a bachelor's degree from Iowa and a master's degree from DePaul, worked for Lake View and a high school in Dubuque, Iowa, that had similar school colors, so he found one issue with Niles North when he accepted the job.

"I think the big thing is I had no purple in my wardrobe," he said. "Lake View is red, the school in Iowa I taught at was red. Which is now the color of our rival school."

Jakub Rudnik is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
ON TARGET
Pabst's accurate throws help Niles West's offense flourish

BY BRETT CHRISTIE
Pioneer Press

In just five games, the Niles West football team has doubled its win total from last season.

After a 38-27 victory over Glenbrook South in their Central Suburban South opener, the Wolves improved to 4-1 overall.

And the offense, led by senior quarterback Johnny Pabst, is the impetus for the improvement.

In his second season as the starter, Pabst has thrown for 1,308 yards and 11 touchdowns against just four interceptions for a QB rating of 124.1. Under his leadership, the Wolves offense is averaging nearly 40 points per game. He also has completed a remarkable 76.6 percent of his passes and is coming off his best game of the season in that regard, connecting on 22-of-25 passes in the win over Glenbrook South on Sept. 23 in Skokie.

"I can't say enough good things about Johnny in our offense," Niles West coach Scott Baum said. "He works really hard at the game both physically and mentally and he spends a lot of time with our offensive coordinator Mark Steger preparing for games."

Pabst has flourished in Year 2 because of his accuracy, Steger said. With a wealth of weapons surrounding Pabst, including senior running back/wide receiver Matt Galanopoulos and senior wide receiver Matt Metz, the onus is on him to make the correct read and get the ball to the team's playmakers on target and in space.

"He's got an above-average arm, but he is really, really accurate," said Steger, whose in his fifth year as the offensive coordinator. "I think probably from a throwing aspect, mecha-
Extreme makeover

After getting cut last season, Maine East's Arifi dedicated himself to soccer and transformed his body

**By Bob Narang**

Maine East's Moe Arifi realized that he had to lose something to gain something.

Last year, Arifi hoped to secure a spot on the Maine East boys soccer varsity team for his junior season. With Arifi's experience in the program, he anticipated making the team.

He did not make the team. And the Blue Demons did not have a junior varsity team last season.

"It was kind of heartbreaking to get cut, but when I heard that, I just hit the gym and worked on everything I could to make it this season," Arifi said.

"It's unusual not to have a junior varsity team but the first thing I thought was I didn't put in enough work to get to that level, so why not put in more work in the offseason to get to that level. I understood why coach didn't take me."

Maine East coach Jeff Bishop called cutting Arifi "a tough decision. After playing on the freshman team at St. Viator, Arifi was a member of Maine East's sophomore team in 2014."

"It was hard," Bishop said. "The kids take it hard, but we take it hard. There was not another level for me to put him. We knew there was a possibility he would not play until next year. Some kids, it's game over after that."

Rather than wallow in self-pity, Arifi embraced the challenge of improving himself. His soccer career still had a few more chapters left.

The 6-foot-1 Arifi realized that he had to change his diet. He immediately went to work transforming his body. Arifi, now a senior forward, lost 25 pounds in the offseason. He currently weighs a svelte 165 pounds.

"I'm leaps and bounds over the player I was last year," he said. "I did a lot of cardio and running. I cut out fast food, snacks, and told my mom to get rid of all the snacks in the snack drawer. I put in work every single day in the gym and worked on my skills."

Arifi improved his two-mile time by six minutes from the previous season and joined a club soccer team for the first time, Chicago Magic PSG. He also kept providing Bishop with updates on his progress leading up to the 2016 high school season.

"We saw him in the summer and noticed right away that he had improved since last year, just gotten better and lost some weight and gotten in better shape," Bishop said. "Those were the first things we noticed. We see him in school and he was telling me he was playing club, doing well and scoring some goals. But we didn't see him play."

Arifi's hard work paid off when he earned a spot on the Maine East roster for his senior year.

He led the Blue Demons with four goals in their first 10 matches.

"It's a dream to play varsity soccer for Maine East," for me," said Arifi, a Niles resident. "Obviously, hard work pays off. Every time I score, I kiss the badge (on the uniform). I'm proud to play for the crest. It's a privilege and pleasure to play for Maine East and not to be taken lightly."

Arifi had two shots on goal in a 1-0 loss at Vernon Hills on Sept. 20.

"He's really been impressing the coaches," Bishop said. "His work ethic is unbelievable. He brings a ton of energy to the team, on and off the field. He's tall, strong and never gives up. He has stepped up a lot this year."

Arifi is thankful for his opportunity to play soccer, and though happy with his production, he wants to win games. Maine East entered the week with an overall record of 4-6-1.

"It's all a team game," he said. "I would put wins over personal stats. I'd rather score no goals all season and have a conference title."

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @bobnarang

Balourdous guides Niles West volleyball's high-powered attack

**By Brett Christie**

The Niles West girls volleyball team's offense has been plenty good of late and the results reflect that.

After going 5-0 at Northside's invitational and capturing the tournament title on Sept. 24, the Wolves had won 13 of their previous 14 matches. The only loss during that stretch was to Lake Forest in the Maine East tournament final on Sept. 17.

Senior Eleni Balourdous, a four-year starter at setter, has been a key cog in the offense.

"What fits us best is when our intensity is all the way up and when we're running a fast offense and also when our passes are on," Balourdous said. "If we do those three things, we're literally unstoppable."

Balourdous was named all-Central Suburban South in 2013 and 2015. According to her coach, Balourdous has been a model of consistency during her varsity career.

"I can't really remember many times she hasn't played well," Niles West coach Stacy Metoyer said. "She's a very good setter, she's very smart. She's able to get our hitters one-on-one matchups a lot of the time. So she's a huge part of our offense."

As of Monday, Sept. 26, Balourdous had 351 assists and 91 digs this season.

Throughout her career, Balourdous has developed as a team leader and increased her cerebral approach on the court.

"Being the setter is like being the quarterback of the team," Balourdous said. "You have to be smart and know all the plays beforehand. Like, I'm constantly telling every single person what we're going to run, so all of that stuff factors in."

Another reason for Niles West's offensive prowess, Wolves senior outside hitter Kaila Johanson said, is the team's chemistry. The core of last year's team, which went 21-11, returned. The group includes Johanson, Balourdous, sophomore outside hitter Natalia Pehar, junior middle hitter Nicole Zelazko and senior libero Bianca Tomuta.

The Wolves (20-5, 3-1 Central Suburban South) also added capable newcomers, such as senior middle hitter Bethany Keith and junior right-side hitter Natalie Scalerio, who have blended in well.

"I think coming off of last year, there were some differences in our team," Johanson said. "And so this year there's a lot of people who have just come together and we really like each other and we're kind of like a family, so it just really helps with the chemistry on the court."

Johanson, who was named MVP of the Northside all-tournament team, has 160 kills on the year and Pehar, who was named to the Northside all-tournament team, has 160.

Though the Niles West offense has been playing well recently, it often faltered early in the season and it happened again in a 25-17, 25-18 Central Suburban South loss to New Trier on Monday, Sept. 12, in Winnetka.

The Wolves' passing, a crucial element to their success, was absent for most of that match, making them very ordinary against a taller Trevians side.

The loss, however, did not linger. Niles West has been at its best ever since, Metoyer said on Sept. 22.

"We had a bad game against New Trier," Metoyer said. "Our passing was off and ever since that game our passing has just been in rhythm. We're peaking at the right time."

Brett Christie is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @BChristieDTH
Doherty redeems himself with INT, helps Dons win

BY JAKUB RUDNIK
Pioneer Press

With less than three minutes remaining in the third quarter of its game against rival St. Patrick, the Notre Dame football team punted the ball to its opponent’s 12-yard-line for no return. The Dons led by 15 points and had kept the Shamrocks’ offense in check. St. Patrick hadn’t scored and its longest drive was 47 yards.

On the very next play, St. Patrick senior quarterback Anthony Mazzenga faked a handoff, looked downfield and hit senior wideout Andrew Edgar in stride down the right sideline with nothing but the end zone in front of him. In just 12 seconds of game time on Sept 23, the Notre Dame lead was down to eight points.

The Dons, who went on to win the East Suburban Catholic game 25-7 in Niles, were without their top two cornerbacks on the play. Seniors Mike Valdez and Greg Burnett had both been injured earlier in the game. Still, senior safety Matt Doherty put the blame for the defensive lapse squarely on his own shoulders.

“We were in a Cover 2 and I just bit on a short route,” said Doherty, a resident of the Edison Park neighborhood in Chicago. “And they threw it over my head and he was gone.”

The play immediately changed the atmosphere in the stadium. The Notre Dame crowd sat in stunned silence as the St. Patrick student section regained the rowdiness it had lost while its team remained scoreless. And for Doherty, he said the mistake took him “to rock bottom.”

“After that deep pass he was really pissed,” senior captain and center Anthony Saro said. “I tried to reach out and give him a high-five. I hit him on the head and said, ‘Listen you’ve got to come back from this.’”

The teams traded scoreless drives, then Notre Dame (4-1, 3-0) kicked a field goal with 5:03 remaining to go up 18-7. Though it was a two-score game, the Dons knew the game wasn’t in hand against an offense that averaged 39.5 points in its first four games.

On St. Patrick’s first play from scrimmage after the kick, Mazzenga again dropped back to pass after a fake and heaved the ball down the right sideline. But this time, Doherty was in position and stepped in front of the receiver. He intercepted the ball and ran it back nearly 20 yards to the St. Patrick 29. On the very next play, sophomore running back Ty Gavin scored his third rushing touchdown of the day, finally giving Notre Dame a commanding lead.

“I knew I had to bounce back, I knew I was going to have my opportunity,” Doherty said. “I read that they were running that flare motion all game, and I saw the receiver going long. I knew that they were running a trick play, so I just read it.”

Gavin was on the field for the lone St. Patrick touchdown filling in at corner for his injured teammates. Afterward he knew Doherty was disappointed in his mistake but he said he expected Doherty to be ready when he was needed again.

“I know he was frustrated with himself, but he made up for himself in a big way,” Gavin said. “You can’t even describe it. There’s nothing better than a player picking himself (up) in a big way and making the biggest play of the game.”

Jakub Rudnik is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Fenwick grad fuels Broncos’ hot start

BY SAM BRIEF
Pioneer Press

Western Michigan junior linebacker Robert Spillane, a Fenwick graduate and Oak Park native, helped the Broncos get off to a 3-0 start, with two wins coming against Big Ten opponents.

He recorded a sack in a Week 1 victory at Northwestern and had 11 total tackles and an interception during the Broncos’ 34-10 win at Illinois on Sept. 17. Through three games, Spillane led the team in total tackles with 25.

Zach Novoselsky, a Stevenson graduate and redshirt sophomore offensive lineman, joins Spillane on the team.

Walding shines for Northeastern volleyball

Northeastern junior Kristen Walding, a Lake Zurich graduate, has relished in her role of lead setter for the Huskies women’s volleyball team, which had won seven straight matches through Sept. 20. In the team’s first 14 matches, Walding tallied 484 assists, leading the team and ranking fourth in the Colonial Athletic Association.

locals stand out in North Central-Illinois Wesleyan matchup

North Central College senior running back Oshayne Brown, a Niles North graduate, ran for 90 yards and a touchdown in the team’s 34-7 victory over Illinois Wesleyan on Sept. 17. Pat Crawford, a junior defensive back from Notre Dame Prep, recorded one of the Cardinals’ six interceptions.

Illinois Wesleyan senior linebacker Sean Garvey, who attended Glenbrook South, registered 14 tackles (eight solo) in the game. York graduate Andrew Iwaszkiezcz was a 65-yard punt in the game, and Rolling Meadows graduate Matt Campbell had three tackles.

Chernesky contributes to NU’s defense

The Northwestern women’s soccer team stormed out to a 9-0 start this season. Sophomore defender Michele Chernesky, a Mundelein graduate, started in eight of those matches and helped the Wildcats hold opponents to just one goal combined.

Chernesky, who also has one assist, is joined by Abby Dein from Glenbrook South, Kya Suzuki, a Stevenson graduate from Buffalo Grove, and Loyola graduate Aspyn Repp.

Have a suggestion for College Notes? Email Sam Brief at briefsam@gmail.com.

Sam Brief is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Ready for the October Challenge?

Check back next week to see who our finalists are for the October Athlete of the Month challenge. Voting begins at 9 a.m. on Oct. 6 at chicagotribune.com/suburbs/athletes. Thank you to everyone who voted in September!
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