Honoring veterans

Morton Grove event remembers those who served. Page 6

LIVING

A tribute to the takeout queens

In honor of the Chinese food sure to be a part of the "Gilmore Girls" revival on Netflix this month, Pioneer Press shares a recipe for egg rolls with sweet and sour sauce. Inside

ELECTION 2016

Race results

For voting maps and complete election results in local, regional and national races from Tuesday, go to our Election Center at elections.chicagotribune.com.

OPINION

Cubs too strong for any 108-year curse

After more than a century of heartbreak, the Cubs "finally won it all in the most unbelievably spectacular way," writes Randy Blaser on the team's historic World Series victory last week. Page 19

SPORTS

Final Four

Niles West advances to the Class 4A girls volleyball state tournament. Page 45
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SHOUT OUT

Jess Alexander, youth librarian

Jess Alexander answered a few questions as she got ready for Morton Grove Public Library's Tuesday celebration of the release of "Wimpy Kid" author Jeff Kinney's latest installment, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Double Down." Alexander is the youth services librarian.

Q: Tell me more about the 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' launch party.
A: You're not allowed to be cool there. You're only allowed to be wimpy.

Q: Were these parties inspired by the popular Harry Potter series book release parties?
A: These are slightly less high brow, because our protagonist is a wimpy kid. We're in the midst of finding the most wimpy things we can. We'll have an 'eeto' table, with Cheetos, Fritos and Doritos.

Q: What kind of prizes will you have?
A: You could have a cardboard magic wand from off the back of a DVD. For one night only, it's the best stuff ever. In addition, we're giving out five free copies of the book.

Q: What number in the series is 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Double Down'?
A: We're in book 11 of the series now.

Q: Along with the wimpy games you described, like giving everyone a number and asking them to get in line, what else do you have planned?
A: If we run out of stuff to do there will probably be a sing-along. It's weird, and wild, and wimpy.

Q: What should kids do who can't make the party?
A: They can always check out the book at the library.

—— Genevieve Bookwalter, Pioneer Press
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metromix.com
American Legion honors living, fallen soldiers

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

A local military veterans organization this year swapped its usual parade and high-spirited revelry for a more subdued homage to those who've served this country's military.

Amid blue skies and balmy temperatures Nov. 6, the Morton Grove American Legion Post 134 hosted its Veterans Day Remembrance event at its headquarters on Dempster Street.

More than 200 people attended the ceremony, including local Boy and Girl Scout troops, living veterans and friends and family of fallen soldiers.

"It's just a day of remembrance, for all of us," said (Ret.) Col. Thomas Mann, the post commander and veteran who served in the Army from 1971 to 1998.

The 45-minute event was the first of its kind for the post, which usually rolled a parade through the streets of Morton Grove in honor of veterans.

Post leaders said the format change was more conducive to the veterans and others who attend annually, and also helps showcase the memorial installed there last year.

An Eagle Scout initiated the memorial as part of a special project.

This was the first of two events Morton Grove American Legion Post 134 will host in November. For Thanksgiving, the post will feed dozens of veterans as part of its Navy Day celebration.

Capt. Jim Hawkins, commander of the Naval Station Great Lakes, spoke Nov. 6 as part of the program. Navy Band Great Lakes blared horns and there was a rifle salute.

Also in attendance were village trustees and members of the Morton Grove fire and police departments.

"Thank you isn't enough," said Morton Grove Village President

Joseph Piento of Niles performs "Taps," the military's bugle rendition that honors solders, during the Morton Grove American Legion Post 134's Veterans Day Remembrance event Nov. 6 in Morton Grove.

Dan DiMarla, who spoke about honoring veterans and those serving in the U.S. military.

Hawkins said more than 20 million veterans are living in U.S. communities.

"To us, Veterans Day is not just a day off from work. It's a serious occasion. It's a day set aside for memories, reflection, introspection and prayer," he said.

"It is important to remember, that our way of life, the freedom, the prosperity, the security that we enjoy as Americans, is not a gift that was just handed to us. It has been earned ... by every generation."

Karie Angell Luc is a free-lance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Ed Marshall, left, of Northbrook, and Ron Sheirio, of Skokie, participate in a rifle salute.

Morton Grove residents Marie Dynek, left, and Noble Lehew listen as a soloist sings the National Anthem.
Lincolnwood trustees approve merging 911 dispatch with Skokie

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

The Lincolnwood Village Board approved an agreement at its meeting last week that will advance plans for the town's 911 dispatch center to merge with Skokie's.

Trustees say the move could improve dispatch service and save money.

The decision to shutter Lincolnwood's dispatch center was triggered by legislation passed last year creating a statewide emergency system. The changes require towns with fewer than 25,000 residents to combine their 911 operations with nearby communities by next summer.

Communities that don't consolidate would lose funding from a state-allocated 911 fund that provided funding toward Lincolnwood's emergency dispatch operations last year, according to village officials.

"If we did not consolidate, we'd lose approximately $200,000 per year," Village Manager Tim Wiberg said. "We are very doubtful that if we wanted to try to opt out of the legislation that we would be successful in being exempt."

Lincolnwood is among the last North Shore-area communities to make the switch, according to village officials, and follows behind other smaller communities like Glencoe, Kenilworth, Northfield and Winnetka. Those towns are planning to move their operations to Glenview.

The village of Glenview was also considered by Lincolnwood staff, but Skokie was chosen because of its proximity to the village and because five-year cost estimates from Skokie were nearly $1 million less than

Glenview's proposal, according to a memo discussed by the Village Board. Also, Skokie already serves as dispatch backup for Lincolnwood.

"We had very significant meetings with both villages," Wiberg said. "(Lincolnwood and Skokie) have long enjoyed a collaborative arrangement with our police services, and because we share a border, our communities have shared a radio frequency for many years."

Consolidating with Skokie would cost Lincolnwood $406,791 the first year, which includes $330,000 in savings because of grant funding and other service modifications, and each year the cost would increase 5 percent, according to the plan trustees unanimously approved. The consolidation agreement would last for five years.

Lincolnwood staff estimate the village will save more than $600,000 over a five-year period by outsourcing dispatch services to Skokie. The savings comes from personnel reductions and moving fire and paramedics dispatch to be part of the Skokie consolidation. Currently, the village sources handling of fire and paramedics dispatch to be part of the regional dispatch center, according to village data.

The closure of the dispatch center is not expected to have a negative impact on emergency responders' response time, police Chief Robert LaMantia told the Village Board Nov. 1.

"There should be no impact," LaMantia said. "Skokie should provide the same or a higher level of service."

The outsourcing of Lincolnwood's dispatch services means calls will be answered by Skokie personnel, but the Lincolnwood Police and Fire departments would continue to respond to emergencies.

"We're not switching to Skokie's emergency personnel," Trustee Ron Cope said. "It's just a matter of the communication system, and that system will work just as expeditiously as it works presently to get an emergency vehicle to your home."

When the center closes, the seven full-time and one part-time dispatchers who staff the call center will lose their jobs, but those employees will be able to reapply for positions with the Skokie Police Department, officials said.

Lincolnwood plans to employ one full-time and one part-time employee to take on some of the non-emergency administrative tasks currently handled by dispatch staff, according to the agreement approved by the Village Board.

Skokie spokeswoman Ann Tenues confirmed the Police Department plans to hire new dispatchers when the merger takes effect, but declined to state how many.

As for when Lincolnwood's dispatch operations will close, Wiberg said the timeline is dependent upon when a vendor contracted by the village to provide records management and other emergency dispatch services would be available to update the system to a newer version to sync with software already in use in Skokie.

Skokie's end of this intergovernmental agreement was scheduled to be considered Nov. 7 during its Village Board meeting.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
ELECTION 2016

Niles Village Hall sees strong early voting turnout

By Phil Rockrohr
Pioneer Press

Thousands of voters opted to vote early this election cycle, including at Niles Village Hall, according to election officials.

By late afternoon Nov. 7, 6,196 votes had been cast at Niles Village Hall, the only early voting site in Lincolnwood, Morton Grove and Niles.

In total, Cook County Clerk David Orr said about 26 percent of the more than 1.5 million registered voters in suburban Cook County had voted by Nov. 7, the last day of the early voting period that started Oct. 24. According to Orr, the 2016 voter registration count set a record for a presidential election.

Early voters are pictured the morning of Nov. 7 at Niles Village Hall in Niles.

In suburban Cook County, 315,875 early votes had been cast through mid-afternoon Nov. 6, Orr said. That compares to 228,695 early ballots cast in 2012, the 2012 presidential election and 226,084 for the one in 2008, he said.

At the end of early voting for the Nov. 6, 2012, election, only 3,478 votes had been cast at Niles Village Hall.

In the Niles, Morton Grove and Lincolnwood area as of late morning Nov. 7, a steady flow of early voters trickled in to the Niles Village Hall, the only early voting location available in the three communities.

Many who voted early said they did so to beat anticipated crowds on Election Day.

"It's going to be too crazy [Tuesday]," said Velko Sirasica of Niles. "I would have to vote on Touhy Avenue, and Touhy is hard for traffic. This is easy and this is early."

"We all came for the same reason," said Alice Son of Morton Grove. "We want to beat the rush."

Gul Jamal of Niles said early voting fits her work schedule.

"I'm here because of the time," she said. "I'm working [Tuesday]. I don't want to be late for work."

Despite a relatively short line most of the morning in Niles, a handful of voters came but walked away from the opportunity to vote early because they wanted paper ballots. Alexandra Conis of Morton Grove said the paper ballots are easier to navigate and prevent voter fraud.

"It's important to me because I want to see what I'm doing and not make a mistake," Conis said. "I don't trust the machines. That's my belief."

Conis, who sat in the Village Hall lobby while others voted, said she does not trust that electronic ballots will accurately reflect her votes.

"It's been known they've been going around with votes," she said.

The machines used for early voting store all of the ballots used throughout the county and allow any voter who lives in suburban Cook County to vote at any location, according to the Cook County Clerk's website.

Phil Rockrohr is a freelancer.

Maine East students choose Hillary Clinton in mock election

By Jennifer Johnson
Pioneer Press

Like their counterparts at Maine South High School, Maine East students chose Park Ridge-native Hillary Clinton as their preferred candidate for president during recent a mock election.

But a big difference between the two schools, both of which were attended by Clinton as a teenager, was the vote margin between Clinton and Republican opponent Donald Trump.

According to Maine East social science teacher Jennifer Conlon, Clinton received 59.2 percent of the student vote to Trump's 18.6 percent. At Maine South, the margin was closer, with Clinton favored by 36 percent of students and Trump favored by 40 percent, the school reported.

When asked if Trump's comments about immigrants, which have included promises to build a wall along the Mexican border and a suggestion that Muslims be barred from entering the country — had an impact on students at the ethnically and racially diverse Maine East, Conlon acknowledged that for some, these could be deciding factors. According to the 2016 Illinois School Report Card, Maine East is 45.2 percent white, 26.8 percent Asian, 21.2 percent Hispanic and 46 percent black. Also, 11.5 percent of students have limited English language proficiency, according to the data.

"I'm sure students are savvy — and they listen," Conlon said. "They know what their interests are and what their interests aren't. I think they're able to assess what's been said [during the campaign]. Are there people who haven't gotten beyond Trump's initial comments about Muslim bans or the wall because no matter what he says on other issues it's not going to undo what he said about those other things? I'm sure that's the case, but we haven't discussed it."

Just over 6 percent of Maine East students voted for Green Party candidate Jill Stein, while 5.2 percent voted for Libertarian Party candidate Gary Johnson, Conlon said. Nearly 11 percent of East students who voted chose to write in a candidate, with 17 votes going to Democrat Sen. Bernie Sanders and six going to rapper Kanye West, Conlon said.

Students participated in Maine East's mock election — the first open to all students in a number of years — by email, Conlon said. A total of 559 students out of 1,913 volunteered to participate, representing about 29 percent of the school population, according to Conlon.

Maine South's mock election, also the first in many years to be open to students of all grade levels enrolled in social science classes, saw a higher participation rate than East, with 1,573 students voting in the presidential race.

Conlon said.

"I think as teachers it brings home the idea that you could have future presidents, senators and representatives in your classroom," she explained. "It makes you want to give students the skills they need to develop their voice, to be heard, to advocate and to make a difference. That impacts teachers because it keeps reminding us what is possible."
Trustees mull plans to ease traffic at two intersections

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

Lincolnwood is considering applying for grants to help improve two of the town's most heavily-trafficked intersections - the corners of Touhy and Lincoln and Touhy and Cicero avenues.

Village officials say the village received a $2.36 million CMAQ grant in 2017, according to Andrew Letson, assistant to the public works director.

The grants program funds projects that could be eligible for the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement grant program.

The village plans to apply for funding for both intersection improvement projects, but would have to foot the bill for engineering design costs before any applications are submitted.

The village can apply for funding for both intersection improvement projects, but would have to foot the bill for engineering design costs before any applications are submitted. In order to be eligible for funding, CMAQ requires projects to have the preliminary engineering phases completed.

Village officials support the two least-expensive projects of the three options presented:

- $3.25 million in improvements at the Lincoln and Touhy intersection and another project for the same cost to widen the Touhy Avenue Edens expressway ramp for traffic exiting northbound to allow for an additional stacking lane to reduce traffic from backing up onto the highway.

- A second part of that project would widen Cicero Avenue between the northbound Edens exit ramp and Touhy Avenue to allow for a dedicated right turn lane for traffic heading east on Touhy. A modernized traffic control system and new light poles would also be installed, according toconcept plans provided by the Public Works Department.

- A third project, to install an underpass or an overpass that would connect the Union Pacific bike path across Lincoln Avenue for an estimated $5.2 million, was turned down by trustees who said it was too expensive.

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The following items were taken from local police department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.

**Niles**

**THEFT**
- Mikhail Alkhovsky, 67, of the 9700 block of Huber Lane, Niles, was charged with retail theft Oct. 24. Police said he returned items to a store on the 8600 block of Dempster Street that he did not purchase and received $554.86 in store credit. He was given a Dec. 9 court date.

**PUBLIC INTOXICATION**
- A 42-year-old Des Plaines man was ticketed for public intoxication Oct. 24 after police said he was found sleeping in a dumpster on the 8200 block of Golf Road. He was taken home by police.

**BATTERY**
- On Oct. 27, a man allegedly struck a female co-worker in the face with his elbow inside a business on the 6800 block of Touhy Avenue. The victim did not wish to sign complaints, police said.

**THEFT**
- The owner of a business on the 5600 block of Howard Street paid $997.40 to a caller who said he was with ComEd and demanded past due payments, police said. The payments were made with pre-paid credit cards, police said. When the man suspected he had been scammed, he called ComEd and learned his payments were up to the date, police said.
- Police said a man tried to pay for $5 worth of merchandise Oct. 27 inside a store on the 5700 block of Touhy Avenue using a fake $20 bill. No charges were filed, according to police.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**
- Power lines to an electric meter on an apartment building on the 8200 block of Oak Avenue were cut Oct. 24, police said.

**DRUG POSSESSION**
- A 20-year-old woman was cited for possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia Oct. 28 following a traffic stop on the 9200 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

**BURGLARY TO VEHICLE**
- Two purses were reported stolen from a car parked in a lot on the 7700 block of Milwaukee Avenue Oct. 28. Another car parked in the same lot was also forcibly entered and a purse containing $2,389 worth of checks was stolen, police said.

**THEFT**
- Nancy Sanchez, 36, of the 2100 block of West Crescent Avenue, Waukegan, was charged with retail theft Oct. 28 on the 5400 block of Touhy Avenue.
- Van Halen Caberte Subrean, 29, of the 1200 block of Harding Avenue, Des Plaines, was charged with retail theft Oct. 26 at Westfield Old Orchard, 4963 Old Orchard Center.

**RESISTING**
- Daryle Lamont Houston, of the 9100 block of Niles Center Road, Skokie, was charged with resisting, obstructing or disarming an officer Oct. 21 on the 3200 Howard Street.

**RECKLESS CONDUCT**
- A man in a Chevy Silverado truck struck a bicyclist on his elbow with the passenger side mirror Oct. 21 on the 7600 block of Frontage Road. Police said the driver and victim became involved in an argument when the driver entered his vehicle and ran over the victim's bicycle.

**CRIMINAL DAMAGE**
- George R. Seaberry of the 500 block of Mulford Street, Evanston, was charged with criminal damage to property Oct. 24 on the 8500 block of Monticello Avenue.

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Wednesday, Nov. 16 @ 7 pm*
SPACE, 1245 Chicago Avenue, Evanston
$10

Thursday, Nov. 10 @ 7 pm*
Israeli Author, Meir Shalev
"Two She-Bears: Reflections on Israeli Society"
McCormick Foundation Center at Northwestern
1870 Campus Drive, Evanston
Free

Friday, Nov. 11 @ 11:30 am
The Hebrew Book Club Presents:
Meir Shalev (in Hebrew)
Wilmette Park District
3000 Glenview Road, Wilmette
$10 (includes lunch)

Thursday, Nov. 10 @ 7 pm
The Shabbat Project:
The Great Big Challah Bake
Bernard Weinger JCC and Lake County JCC
$18 per Challah Baker

Sunday, Nov. 13 @ 10:30 am
A Conversation with Israeli Filmmaker, Eran Riklis
Bernard Weinger JCC
300 Revere Drive, Northbrook
Free

Learn more at jccchicago.org/story
All aboard for Cubs

Lake County fans eager to greet World Series champs

BY IRV LEAVITT, ALEXANDRA KUKULKA, TODD SHIELDS, RICK KAMBIC AND DENYS BUCKSTEN

Chicago Cubs fans from across the north suburbs made their way into the city Friday morning to celebrate a moment 108 years in the making.

Boarding crowded Metra trains, the blue-clad masses were eager to catch a glimpse of their team as the Cubs proceeded down a parade route starting at Wrigley Field and ending at Grant Park's Hutchinson Field for a rally to celebrate the World Series victory.

At the Northbrook station, a train already filled and converted to an express train zoomed past, sending one fan's Cubs cap flying into the air. When the next train stopped, it was filled to the doors with passengers.

Joe Sperber, a high school student from Northbrook, climbed on with two friends and about 100 other people. He was wearing a "McFly 15" Cubs jersey, a nod to the movie character who foreshadowed a 21st-century Cubs win decades ago.

Briefcase-toting attorney Marty Snow climbed aboard while taking in the crowd.

"Believe me, if I didn't have to be in court, I wouldn't go," he said.

Dan Bishop, of Northbrook, said he was going to stop at work and then attempt to find a place to stand for the parade. A longtime Cubs fan, he said, he had also attended the 2005 White Sox parade.

"I expect this one to be a lot more populated," he said.

Celeste Wehrmeister, decked out in Cubs regalia, watched the train go past. "Not with all those people on it," she said.

She planned to venture to the parade and work downtown, or, if that didn't work out, go back home and telecommute.

"I'm super happy about the championship, but if the next one's still crowded, I'm not going," she said.

She looked at her phone. "That was the 8:32," she said. "The next one's the 9:33. I'm going home."

The trains were actually running late, and at 8:37 a.m. another arrived, and a handful of riders strolled leisurely on.

At the downtown Libertyville Metra station, Ted Schwartz said he couldn't miss what he saw as a once-in-a-lifetime event.

"You hope this is the start of a dynasty, but nothing is guaranteed, so I'm enjoying the here and now," Schwartz said. "Everyone thought the '85 Bears were going to be a dynasty, but it didn't turn out that way. I'm sure there are still Bears fans kicking themselves for not going to that rally."

Schwartz said he was going to try to navigate the crowds to meet up with his 18-year-old son Ian, who left earlier with his friends.

"I'm not worried," he said. "There will be a few million friends of mine down there that I can talk to and high-five."

Schwartz also made a call to Vernon Hills High School to let them know his son wouldn't be in class today.

"I don't remember what's considered acceptable or not, but I won't lie, so I told them the truth, and at least they know not to expect him," he said.

James Tan, of Gurnee, brought his guitar and started a singalong of "Go, Cubs, Go" with the crowd waiting to board.

"It's not my normal tune, but right now it's all about spreading cheer and enjoying a common love," Tan said.

Crowds gather Nov. 4 at the Metra station in downtown Libertyville on their way to Chicago to watch the parade and rally at Grant Park celebrating the first Cubs World Series championship in 108 years.

At the Glen of North Glenview station, Jim Murphy, 59, a Glenview resident, said he was a lifelong Cubs fan, grew up on the North Side of Chicago and saw many Cubs games with his dad.

Murphy said he remembers attending the game when Ernie Banks hit his 500th home run, when he sat in the right field bleachers with his father and Banks hit the home run into left field.

Like many of the Cubs fans waiting for the train, Murphy said he was attending the rally and parade to show support for the team.

"This is the biggest sports event in Chicago. This is the one we've been waiting on," he said.

Marsia Doeden, 60, of Glenview said she grew up on the South Side of Chicago, but when she moved to the North Side as a teenager, she immediately became a Cubs fan.

"We support them on the field, so we have to support them when they have a parade," Doeden said.

Luca Pedrelli, 13, of Glenview, said he skipped school to attend the parade with his family. He said he attended the parade and rally to see Anthony Rizzo, Ben Zobrist and Javier Baez.

"It's been a long time since they won a World Series, so it'll be fun to see them," Pedrelli said. "A lot of fans waited a lot longer than me."

A large predawn crowd of Cubs fans climbed aboard Metra trains in Waukegan. Among them were Todd and Lina Schmitz.

Todd, a retired Waukegan police officer, said he has followed the team through the lean years. He's further connected to the Cubs because his cousin, the late Johnny Schmitz, pitched in the majors for 13 seasons, including a stint in Chicago.

"It's great. All Cubs fans in Cubs gear. It's going to be one huge wave of blue in Chicago today," said

Turn to Cubs, Page 13
Schmitz once he made it downtown. “I love the moment.”

At the Lake Forest Metra station, as fans in Cubs gear clamored aboard, conductor Mike Brandt said through the closing doors, “By the time we get to Chicago, it will be crazy.”

Highland Park was another big stop for the Cubby Express, with waves of fans taking trains that arrived every few minutes.

Highland Park High School juniors Shai Ben-Dror, Jake Whitehead, Ezra Miller and Ignacio Saps decided on Thursday night to join the celebration downtown.

“It's going to be absolutely amazing, the spirit there, especially after 108 years,” Whitehead said. “Everything that’s going on, especially how loyal the fans are, it’s going to be one of the biggest celebrations of all time. I want to be a part of history.”

Milling around the Barrington Metra station were a few hundred commuters ready to head downtown. Delayed trains chugged into the station where Bridget Tessarolo and her son, Robert, were getting ready to board.

“I’ve been a Cubs fan since a little girl. I predicted in April they would win the series,” she said.

“The students are really into it. They’re all wearing jerseys, and the teachers (were), too,” Robert Tessarolo said of his Barrington High School classmates.

Lake Zurich resident Mike Kuehn said his two children, Cassie and Connor, drove six hours to see the parade.

“My kids came home from the University of Missouri to see this,” Kuehn said. The ticket line stretched across the indoor station, and fans drank hot coffee and exchanged Cubs stories.

Bob Albrecht, 87, said he attended two World Series games in Chicago this season.

“Game 7 started out good, but the Indians tied it up. I got worried and thought, ‘Wait until next year, again,'” he said.

Rick Garcia, a Metra engineer from Homer Glen, sports a Cubs hat and waves at patrons after his train stops at the downtown Libertyville station Friday morning.

Bob Albrecht, of East Dundee, waits for the Metra train in Barrington to see the Cubs victory parade.

Ivy Leavitt, Alexandra Kulikov, Todd Shields and Rick Kambic are Pioneer Press reporters. Denys Bucksten is a freelance reporter.

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Cubs fans celebrate historic win

Skokie's Village Inn hosts World Series party for locals

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

No one packed into the Village Inn in downtown Skokie the night of Nov. 2 was as old as 108, but they all seemed to have the year 1908 in mind when the moment of a lifetime came.

Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant fielded a slow-rolling ground ball and threw to first baseman Anthony Rizzo for the final out, and then there was bedlam in downtown Skokie's popular bar.

The Cubs had won the World Series for the first time since 1908.

Hugs, hollers, high-fives and a loud horn created an unhinged celebration - although a few fans had left after the game's 17-minute rain delay broke up the unrelenting tension of the late innings.

Village Inn owner Randy Miles said business had been "fabulous" since the Cubs began their historic postseason run - up as much as 20 to 25 percent on each game day.

"It's been stressful for us and a lot of work by the staff, too," he said. "They're pretty wiped out now. But it's been great."

Miles said the spike in business was on par with when the Bulls and Blackhawks made their respective championship runs. But fans at the Village Inn Nov. 2 - even younger ones - said they recognize the unique historic significance of the Cubs' championship above all others.

Some shed tears below television sets displaying the Cubs crowded on the mound in Cleveland and mobbing each other for the last time this season.

Miles had placed a replica mini-scoreboard over the Village Inn entrance on Lincoln Avenue during the entire Cubs' playoff run. By the time fans left, a sign was perched above the scoreboard declaring the Cubs as World Series champs.

Even leaving the Village Inn more than an hour after the game ended, the celebration could still be heard on Lincoln Avenue.

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Emotions ran high when the Cubs won the World Series in an epic nail-biting game seen by a packed house Nov. 2 at the Village Inn in Skokie.

Cubs fans staked out the Village Inn to get a good seat for the game. Cubs fans celebrated the team's first World Series win since 1908.
Business owner: Officials are ‘out of their minds’

By Lee V. Gaines
Pioneer Press

Niles Village Board trustee and Morton Grove business owner George Alpogianis said the recent passage of a minimum wage hike in Cook County will “push businesses like ours into bankruptcy and/or shutting our doors.”

Alpogianis, who owns Kappy’s American Grill in Morton Grove, said Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners are “out of their minds.”

He called the passage by the board last month of a county-wide minimum wage hike “a ludicrous anti-business initiative.”

The result of the wage hike will be the demise of family-owned businesses like his restaurant, Alpogianis said.

Only fast food restaurants and big chain stores and eateries will be able to weather the increase in labor costs, he said.

Beginning July 1, 2017, the minimum wage in Cook County will jump to $10 per hour from the current $8.25 rate.

It will be the first hike in a series of incremental increases to the minimum wage, which will reach $13 by July 2020 and align the county’s mandatory minimum wage with the city of Chicago’s.

The city’s first phase of wage increases began a year ago.

Alpogianis said he currently pays his staff “above and beyond” minimum wage. Once the minimum wage rises, however, “it will force the rest of the wages to go up” and he’ll have to pay all of his employees more per hour to retain them.

To survive the increase in labor costs, Alpogianis said he’ll have to increase menu prices.

“We’ve built ourselves on loyal customers, repeat business and we’ve stood the test of time,” he said, referring to his restaurant. “And I don’t believe our clientele would be willing to pay another 15 or 20 percent increase on menu prices to make up this difference.”

The lead sponsor of the wage increase proposal, Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin, D-Evanston, said in a previous interview that the wage hike is an issue of fairness for workers in the county.

He said passing the increase “was an important position on the wage hike.”

Laura Jackson, general manager of HoneyBaked Ham stores in Morton Grove and Bloomingdale, said the wage increase “drastically affects us.”

She said she already pays her employees above the current mandatory minimum wage.

She said employees with no experience start at $9.50 and her highest-paid workers receive $13 per hour.

HoneyBaked Ham is a national deli company with 300 branches and 200 franchise stores across the country, Jackson said.

“My regional director, who oversees Louisiana and Georgia, they don’t have the problem we do in the Chicago market where it’s hard to staff and people are saying we want more for minimum wage. Down south in the Louisiana stores, they pay $7 or $8 an hour because the cost of living is different,” she said.

Jackson said she’s sympathetic to workers who have demanded a higher wage because she knows the cost of living is higher in the Chicago area. But, she said, “on a professional level, this will drastically affect hiring practices.”

With only six full-time employees year-round, Jackson said she relies on seasonal workers to get through the busy holiday season.

“To pay someone who is only going to work in your store seven days a year and you have to pay them $13 an hour – that’s huge,” she said.

Though she’s not yet sure how she’ll manage the increase in labor costs, Jackson said it’s not something that took her by surprise.

“We’ve been here in the Chicago market waiting for it,” she said.

Lee V. Gaines is a freelancer.

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Cat missing for three years reunited with owner in Skokie

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Samantha Krieger thought she had seen her favorite cat, Theodore, for the last time three years ago, she said.

"Truthfully, I thought he was deceased," Krieger said after making a nearly five-hour drive to a reunion in Skokie she never thought was possible.

Within hours of getting a great-news call at her downstate Caseyville home from Skokie Animal Control, Krieger rented a car and headed to Skokie, 300 miles away from where she lives.

"I didn't think this would ever happen," she said Nov. 1 as she waited for her gray cat to appear. An animal lover, she has more cats than she wanted to say (along with one dog), but Theodore was her favorite, she said.

When Theodore went missing, Krieger said, she found another stray cat - also gray - which she rescued and added to her family.

"His name is Ivan. I said, 'you're not going to be my favorite anymore, Ivan, because Theodore is back,'" she said, laughing.

Theodore's reappearance raises questions that Krieger and Skokie Animal Control can only speculate about.

Skokie officials first became aware of the cat after a resident reported to Skokie Animal Control that Theodore was in her yard every day.

Lori Kaplan of Skokie Animal Control said she believes Theodore was well taken care of because he was in good shape when recovered. It's possible, she said, that someone found the missing cat near where Krieger lives and moved here with him, thinking he or she had done a good thing.

"Someone was taking care of this cat," Kaplan said.

When Kaplan collected the cat, she said, she scanned him and learned he had a microchip that pointed to an owner living near St. Louis.

Once workers at Skokie Animal Control recovered Theodore, they brought him to Animal Medical Center of Skokie where the reunion took place.

Nicole Strasirowski, who works there, said Theodore had a flea collar on and looked healthy when he arrived.

"It really looked like someone was taking very good care of him," she said.

Skokie Director of Health Dr. Catherine Counard said the heartwarming story provides a perfect example of why having your pet implanted with a microchip is so important.

"We can only speculate as to how he arrived in Skokie," she said. "Too far to walk, but we are glad for the happy ending. This could be an excellent opportunity to encourage pet owners to have their pets microchipped."

Counard said she also believes the quick response of Skokie Animal Control and its partnership with Animal Medical Center of Skokie helped quickly return Theodore to his original owner.

Late in the afternoon of Nov. 1, Krieger pulled Theodore from his carrier before the cat nuzzled against her body for the first time in three years.

"Do you remember me?" she asked him. "I've been looking for you. Do you remember me?"

Inside a separate room, she held him up, quickly looked him over and, other than a little ear-cleaning she believed Theodore needed, proclaimed him in healthy shape.

Krieger said this was the second scare she has had with Theodore, whom she originally found as a stray cat comfortable in the outdoors. Theodore went missing once before and was even nearly euthanized - undergoing an initial injection - before his microchip was discovered, she said.

"I have him back now,' she said. "I'm so surprised. I didn't think he was even alive."

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Fourth-generation firefighter retires

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Skokie fire officials say when a popular Skokie firefighter retires after nearly three decades in the department, it's always a momentous occasion.

But in the case of David Nellessen, who is leaving his job this week just short of three decades, it is something more. Nellessen is a fourth-generation firefighter to work for Skokie, once called Nues Centre when his great-grandfather began there, the department said.

"I worked with Dave for nearly 30 years and never realized this," Skokie Fire Chief Jim Walters said. "I knew his father worked here, but his great-grandfather? I had no idea."

Nellessen said even he didn't know it at first. It was only while on the job that the Skokie Fire Department's historian, Lt. Ron Smith, discovered Nellessen's great-grandfather worked for the volunteer fire department for what is now Skokie.

Smith learned the information after he and the Skokie Historical Society researched the history of the department for an August cover article in The Gong, a newsletter distributed by the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association.

No one knows exactly when his great-grandfather served, the department said, but Smith told his colleague that it was early on. A fire company formed in Skokie on May 6, 1881, according to Smith. That company became "Nues Centre Volunteer Fire Company 3," he said in the article.

The first equipment in that company consisted of a used 1865 Rumsey pumper, a hook and ladder truck, a water wagon and a hose reel with 250 feet of two-inch hose, the article said. The pumper was capable of pumping 60 gallons per minute with 12 men at the levers providing power, according to Smith.

Skokie Fire Department officials say the Nellessens have marked history from the beginning of the Skokie Fire Department through its evolution.

David Nellessen's grandfather, Edward Nellessen, was a fireman in Skokie in the 1920s and '30s, according to the department. His father, Donald Nellessen, now 84, served in Skokie from 1960 to 1984. The younger Nellessen said he began his career in Skokie three years after his dad retired. While growing up, Nellessen said, his father used to bring him to calls in Skokie, and he was always surrounded by the culture of the Fire Department. His brothers have also served as firefighters in other towns, he said.

At age 14, Nellessen said he joined a cadet program. After that, there was no question what he would do with his life.

"I've always been a hands-on guy and I've wanted to help people," he said. "I knew that this business would give you some gratitude and you'd be making a difference in people's lives."

Still, it was never a certainty that Skokie would become his workplace. He took and passed a civil service test and then was put on a waiting list, part of the hiring process, he said. His number finally came up and

David Nellessen, a fourth-generation Skokie fireman, is retiring after nearly 30 years. He holds up certificates from the Skokie Heritage Museum in reference to the different Nellessen firefighters in Skokie.

Skokie called. Nellessen said his only regret was that he did not get to work with his father — although he initially worked with the same equipment his dad used.

Battalion Chief Steven Ludkowski said the youngest Nellessen is one of the best rig drivers in the department.

"When you see an extrication, when you see a car overturned, these are the guys that are getting out and doing the extrication," Ludkowski said. "The heavy rescue equipment is on this rig and he is an excellent driver and teacher."

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Yanni's opens new location in Glenview

BY JACKIE PILOSSOPH
Pioneer Press

First it was seafood, then it was steak, and now the restaurant space at 2601 Navy Blvd. in The Glen Town Center is featuring Greek cuisine. Yanni's made its debut last month, replacing Jameson's Original Charhouse, which closed last summer. "We felt like there was a large demand for more Greek options on the North Shore," said Andy Kalyviaris, general manager and part owner. "There really isn't anything out there like what we are offering — a menu that consists of authentic Greek dishes as well as modern cuisine."

Yanni's is a familiar name to those who have lived on the North Shore for awhile. Originally opened in the late 1990s in Arlington Heights, the owners sold the restaurant four years later. After changing hands a couple more times, Yanni's closed a few years ago.

Kalyviaris, along with some of the original Yanni's owners, wanted to bring back the Greek restaurant, this time to Glenview. For the new location, the owners hired chef Kostas Anyfantis, a graduate of Le Cote Basque, River Cafe and Periyali.

"I moved back here from New York to take this position," said Bowman, who has worked in New York City restaurants including La Cote Basque, River Cafe and Periyali.

The Yanni's menu includes traditional Greek dishes, such as spanakopita, and other chef's favorites including roasted cauliflower with couscous, chilled marinated octopus, fennel salad with pomegranate, pine nuts, tarragon and dill, thin cut lamb chops and fresh fish dishes.

"You're getting real, true ethnic food using fresh ingredients, most that are imported from Greece, Spain and other Mediterranean countries," said chef Charles Bowman, left, shown here with general manager Andy Kalyviaris, center, and chef Kostas Anyfantis, right. Yanni's recently opened at 2601 Navy Blvd. in The Glen Town Center.

"Everything is made to order and made fresh daily, using the best quality ingredients we can find," Kalyviaris said. "That includes organic chicken, hormone- and antibiotic-free pork, octopus imported from Spain, cold water shrimp from the Gulf of Mexico and herbs and oils imported from Greece."

Yanni's, which is named after Kalyviaris' wife's grandfather, Yanni Angelos, also offers an extensive Greek wine list and a large selection of Greek liquors.

The restaurant's decor is bright and modern, and includes light wood furniture, white painted wood walls, chic lighting and what Kalyviaris described as "a comfortable, yet elegant, feel." The restaurant seats around 200 and has a private dining area for 40.

"This is a really special place," said Kalyviaris, who lives in Glenview with his wife and daughter. "Everyone here takes a heck of a lot of pride in what we're doing."

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

'Minor addition' recommended for Aldi in downtown Skokie

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Aldi supermarket officials are looking to add on to the store the company operates on the 4800 block of Oakton Street.

The Skokie Plan Commission unanimously recommended on Nov. 3 a site plan for what is being called "a relatively minor addition" by Aldi within the existing loading dock area of the store.

According to the village, the addition would occupy about 1,380 square feet and provide for "retail-related activity."

The Plan Commission not only recommended the site plan for the project but also a special-use permit for adjoining Market Place on Oakton, which shares the building with Aldi.

The special use permit would allow Market Place to sell outdoor seasonal and garden items outside in front of the store.

The owners of Market Place on Oakton said they have no objections to the Aldi addition.

The back room addition on the Aldi side of the building would provide more storage, resulting in "a wider diversity in product," according to store officials.

Aldi officials said the space currently is used for loading and some storage, so the store's interior would not dramatically change because of the addition.

Some tweaks to the La Crosse Avenue driveway leading to an Aldi entrance would provide smoother transition coming in and out of the store, according to store officials.

Village and store officials said the changes would improve pedestrian traffic and the visibility of signs. Skokie planner Carrie Haberstich said Aldi and Market Place have also been discussing resurfacing the entire parking lot.

Haberstich said that under village code, the parking lot must provide at least 59 spaces for both store uses while 201 spaces are currently provided on the site.

"From the village's perspective, there's more than enough parking," she said.

In fact, she said, some nearby downtown businesses more hard-pressed for parking have asked to be able to use some of the parking available at the two stores.

Arrangements for accommodations are being discussed, she said.

"The proposed improvements will result in a new look for the building and parking lot, and a more efficient operation within the Aldi store," village planners said in a report to the Plan Commission.

"The improvements will have a positive impact on the character of the neighborhood and surrounding property values."

The Skokie Village Board will have a final vote on the site plan and special use permit at a future meeting, officials said.

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Cubs too strong for any 108-year curse

The Chicago Cubs celebrate an 8-7 victory over the Cleveland Indians to win Major League Baseball’s World Series title on Nov. 2 in Cleveland.

He swung and ripped a pitch down the line. I could almost hear Ron Santo screaming, “Oh no!” But it went foul. And then, Kipnis struck out.

Maybe, just maybe, this team was just too good to be beat by curses, by legend and by myth.

As it turned out, this 2016 Cubs team was so good that even their guru genius manager, who made mistake after mistake in the sixth and seventh games, couldn’t blow it for them.

Sometimes, the smart thing to do is to do nothing, especially when your starting pitcher is cruising with a 5-1 lead.

But the managerial hijinks, on both sides of the field, are just a couple of aspects of this 2016 World Series, which will go down in baseball history as one of the best ever. And the culminating game 7 will be one of the best World Series games ever, ranking right up there with the previous gold standards of World Series games, game 6 of the 1975 series between the Red Sox and the Reds. The Carlton Fisk home run game has become part of legend and even Hollywood.

But this game had it all, too.

The Cubs took an early lead and seemed to have the game well in hand. The first questionable manager move led to a wild pitch and the Indians got back in the game.

Then the Cubs held on in the ninth after the Kipnis foul ball. And then there was a rain delay.

Could anyone in their Hollywood dreams have written a better script? Yes, Jason Heyward, who has been the lone disappointment in this special Cubs year, came through with a clutch rain delay pop talk.

In the end, however, it may have been the overlooked great base running that won this game, this World Series for the Cubs.

Kris Bryant tagged up and scored from third on one of the shallowest (is that a word) sacrifice flies we’ll ever see. In the bottom of the 10th, he drove one to the wall in center field, almost a homer but really an easy out. But wait, pinch runner Albert Almora tagged up at first base and advanced to second, putting the lead run in scoring position.

To save the game, the Cubs brought in this tall, skinny rookie. Carl Edwards Jr. is so young he looks like the Little League kid who got stuck with the oversized uniform. Even his hat seems too big for his head.

But somehow, while Cubs fans were losing theirs, this Cubs team kept their heads.

After all these years, after so many spectacular and almost unbelievably disappointing ways to lose, the Cubs finally won it all in the most unbelievably spectacular way.

Thanks for a great season, a great postseason and World Series. If this is what you get after 108 years, maybe the wait was worth it.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

I choose to be the kind of person who helps

I’m hoping it will wear off after a while. But, being exposed to Donald Trump for these many months has made me more sensitive to, and wary of, being conned.

When you are exposed for so long to so much that is false and dark in humanity, your view of fellow humans becomes darker. At least that is what has happened to me.

So, I was more annoyed than sympathetic when a man approached me as I was loading groceries into the trunk of my car. “Excuse me, sir,” he said. “But could you help us out?”

He was a small, thin man about 40 in a faded red jacket and a scrunched black cap. “We need to get to the El. Can you help us out?”

The “us” was a woman, equally small and thin, who held a baby in her arms. She and the baby looked at me. I looked back in annoyance. Maybe the deep selfishness of Trump and his supporters had — subconsciously perhaps — infected me, made me more callous, more me-centric.

How much did he need? “Could you let us have $3?”

Three dollars? How did I know these people were poor? Maybe they were con artists. If they got $3 from 33 people every day that would be almost $100. Pretty sweet racket.

But, I could foil their nefarious scheme by withholding my $3.

But, what if it wasn’t a scheme? I didn’t know what to do.

But, it turned out I did know what to do. The worthiness of a cause is only part of giving, and maybe not the most important part.

What right then was important to me was whether I was the kind of person who judged others and their needs — and usually found them not up to my standards — or whether I was the kind of person who helped someone when I could.

Though I had been bombarded for months by Trump’s gospel of who is on a long list of the unworthy, I decided I wanted to be the kind of person who sought to include rather than exclude.

So, in a way, it didn’t matter if the man who asked me for money really needed my $3. What mattered was that I wanted to help, that I wanted to give him $3. Which I did.

Thanks to that man, I was able to re-affirm to myself that helping others is an American value.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
La Grange columnist Lynn Petrak's father and grandfather attended a 1945 World Series game at Wrigley Field. In Game 5, umpire Jocko Conlan called Detroit's Skeeter Webb safe at third base with Cubs Stan Hack.

Baseball saved my grandfather's life

Every family has its surprises. Contrary to things like Lifetime television movies and paternity tests on raucous, raunchy daytime shows, some of those family surprises can be quite pleasant.

Take, for example, my conversation with my dad a few weeks ago. While I rooted for the Cubs in the World Series and spent some time in the Wrigley bleachers in my 20s, I have always leaned toward the White Sox.

Like many people who live in the Chicago area, I didn't give it much thought. It's just the way it is, because it's just the way it was. So when I saw a “W” flag on my dad's car, I gave him grief about being a bandwagon fan. You know, like the ones who came late to the Chicago Blackhawks fan base, unlike those of us who spent time back in the old stadium, wandering around smoke-filled hallways, the soles of our shoes sticking to the beer-coated floor.

He reminded me that his father was a Cubs fan, despite growing up on the far South Side. He remembered, then, visiting my grandpa and sitting next to him as he watched the Cubs game, getting up every so often to mess with the foil-wrapped antennae, Jack Brickhouse droning in the background.

My dad also noted that he was at the last World Series game at Wrigley, not long after the war ended in 1945.

Excuse me?

"You went to the World Series? Why didn't you mention it before?"

My dad shrugged in reply, saying that he was 13 years old and remembered the game being kind of slow.

"I actually fell asleep for a while and my dad knocked me in the arm to wake up, because it was the World Series," he recalled.

I peppered him with some more questions, about ticket prices, the mood of the postwar crowd, the seats they had, the players on the field. We talked about how my grandfather loved baseball.

Another surprise: my grandfather was on the Army baseball team when the First World War was breaking out. Because he was playing in a series of games for the Army, he missed his unit's deployment overseas.

"Ninety percent of his unit died over there," my dad told me. He thought it might have been mustard gas. Whatever it was, it was brutal, because my grandpa would get real quiet when talking about it. Baseball saved his life, and he felt both grateful and guilty because of it.

Baseball metaphors are always plenty, but for many families and in different ways, it sure is a game that brings it home.
What's with that pinball time machine in 'Timeless' on NBC?

ERIC SCOTT

Sometimes, you come across a new TV show that mostly is ridiculous but opens up a small window of intrigue that keeps you coming back.

It's like watching "Dancing with the Stars" just to see if Olympic swimmer and favorite person of the Brazilian legal system - Ryan Lochte can sashay his way to the next round or watching another unhinged "Real Housewives" attention seeker flip over a restaurant table before dessert arrives. Pineapple-upside-down-drama cake, anyone?

"Timeless," a new NBC series that airs Mondays at 9 p.m., falls into this category for me.

The best way I can describe the premise of each show is if "Back to the Future" met "Scooby-Doo." Instead of teens and a dog hopping in a 1970s conversion van to go solve mysteries, we have a time-traveling trio, including college professor and historian Lucy Preston (played by Abigail Spencer), to chase down time-traveling villain Garcia Flynn (played by Goran Visnjic, who also starred as Dr. Luka from the show "ER") from altering history.

I want to talk about the show's time machine for a moment.

The vehicle chosen for whisking Team Timeless back through the calendar looks nothing like Doc's cool DeLorean from the movie "Back to the Future." And it doesn't look as practical as the transporter room from "Star Trek."

Instead, the producers decided on a goofy, gigantic steel-pinball-looking time machine with two enormous tractor tires that whirl around it at high speed. The centrifuge-like contraption then disappears in a paper-flying whoosh, sending the big pinball and passengers into a time warp.

Frankly, Sherman and Mr. Peabody's cartoonish Wayback Machine looks jazier than the "Timeless" pinball. I can't believe Michelin Tires didn't jump at this great opportunity for product placement.

But "Timeless" does score points for bringing important moments in history to life and introducing viewers to historical figures who influenced the future. Younger viewers definitely would appreciate seeing people in places that they've studied for social studies and history tests weave their way into the show's plotlines.

The best part of "Timeless" happens when the time-traveling crew returns back in the big pinball to the present day. In each episode, the historical events on their time-travel trips undergo changes, which affects the personal lives of the time-traveling characters when they go back to the future.

In one early episode where the team went to the site of the Hindenburg disaster, the massive passenger airship ended up safely landing in New Jersey, instead of exploding in a fireball.

After returning to the present and learning of the changes to history that followed, Lucy returns home to find her previously ill, bed-ridden mother healthy, energetic and coherent.

After realizing how events in her own life have changed since her trip back in time, Lucy asks where her sister Amy is, only to hear her own mother reply, "Who is Amy?"

With each trip Lucy Preston and her two companions take back in time to chase down the time bandit named Garcia Flynn, viewers see how history slightly changes after their return home and the effect their adventures have had on Lucy's life. For that angle alone, I feel like I have to keep watching to see how history changes then and now.

You also can throw in a little taste from "It's a Wonderful Life" into "Timeless." But maybe the show can borrow Clarence's wings and duct tape them to the big pinball for a more hi-tech look for the time machine?

Eric Scott is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
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The North Shore Choral Society begins its new season with a concert of holiday music on Nov. 20.

North Shore Choral Society's 'New and Familiar Holiday Music for Choir Bells and Organ'

When: 3 p.m. Nov. 20
Where: Saint John Brebeuf Catholic Church, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., Niles
Tickets: $25, $22 for seniors, $15 for students.
Contact: 773-956-8400; www.northshorechoral.org

North Shore Choral Society Director Julia Davids.

North Shore Choral Society is back to its customarily high level of business as usual for the 2016-17 season — though its concert calendar does include several special features.

The 140-member musical group's annual holiday concert, for example, will include collaboration with the Chicago Bronze English Handbell Ensemble. Its March program of "Psalms Old and New" will feature a harpist and solo performance by the group's director, Dr. Julia Davids. And, for its season finale, the group has responded to popular demand to include harpist Ben Melsky treble soloist (soprano Felicia Patton), instrumental accompaniment featuring Jim Galloreto on soprano saxophone and jazz piano by Thomas W. Jefferson and the recorded calls of wolves, whales and loons. The performance will also feature The Dance Center of Evanston, directed by Gary Geiger.

"It will be another year of our usual: a versatile and gorgeous repertoire, outstanding musicians and soloists, beautiful singing and collaboration with multiple music and arts groups," Linda Faller, vice president of communications, said.

Faller also noted that the group's director, Dr. Julia Davids, has organized the post-anniversary season around the theme of renewal.

Faller also couldn't resist a backward glance at the 80th anniversary season, which included highlights such as an instrumented edition of "Resurrection." "It will be another year of special concerts," Faller said. "Especially the 'Requiem for Peace,' which I think was one of the most moving pieces we've ever performed."

The group will perform its own program of holiday music Nov. 20 at Saint John Brebeuf Catholic Church in Niles, contrasted by a concert of more traditional and popular holiday music with the Evanston Symphony Orchestra Dec. 4 at Evanston Township High School. The NSCS concert, "New and Familiar Holiday Music for Choir Bells and Organ," will feature John Rutter's "GBMissa Gaia" (Earth Mass). The chorus will also perform its own March 5 program, "Psalms Old and New," also performed at Saint John Brebeuf Church, will feature Leonard Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms" and Tarik O'Regan's "Dorchester Canticles." Solo performers will include harpist Ben Melsky, treble soloist Andrea Handley, baritone soloist William Lewis and Donald Chen Award winner Nathan Ward. The Donald Chen Award is an annual competitive prize given in honor of the longtime North Shore Choral Society director.

For its season finale, the chorus will reprise its 2014 performance of Winter's contemporary "Missa Gaia" in honor of Earth Day April 22 at the Unitarian Church of Evanston. An environmental liturgy of contemporary music, "Missa Gaia" requires a choir, a soloist (soprano Felicia Patton), instrumental accompaniment featuring Jim Galloreto on soprano saxophone and jazz piano by Thomas W. Jefferson and the recorded calls of wolves, whales and loons. The performance will also feature The Dance Center of Evanston, directed by Gary Geiger.

After the close of its official season, the chorus will also perform for a second time with the Evanston Symphony Orchestra June 11 at Northwestern University's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall. The group will sing the choral finale to Mahler's second symphony, "Resurrection."

"One of the things I love about the choir is that we're very collaborative," said Faller. "We're always stretching ourselves, we're always growing, musically.

"We're unusual in that we do a wide variety of music—from the classic repertoire to gospel to swing and so on. Although some people would rather stick to the classical repertoire, I think many of us really enjoy new challenges."

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Go

Theater

Jane Austen's world lives on in 'Christmas at Pemberley'

19th century play has modern ramifications

By Catey Sullivan
Pioneer Press

History is on something of a collision course with Shakespeare's Skokie's Northlight Theatre. While actors dig into a sequel to Jane Austen's indisputably feminist novel "Pride and Prejudice," the ultimate glass ceiling—that of the Oval Office—seems to be cracking. Austen would surely be gobsmacked.

That ceiling was almost inconceivably closer to the floor in the early 19th century world of "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley," opening in previews Nov. 10. Margot Melcon and Lauren Gunderson's drama begins three years post-"Pride and Prejudice," a time when, happy marriages notwithstanding, women aren't fully people, legally speaking. Those judicially codified restrictions play large in "Miss Bennet" when women couldn't vote, inherit property or even open a bank account.

And while Austen gave the beloved Elizabeth Bennet a happily-ever-after with Fitzwilliam Darcy, the author left Lizzie's sisters in less certain straits. As "Miss Bennet" picks up the story, middle sister Mary (played by Emily Berman) is unmarried and struggling to reconcile her dreams with society's misogynistic rules. Youngest sister Lydia (Jennifer Latimore) is married to a tosser and isn't exactly living in a world of domestic bliss. As for Elizabeth, she's 22 and suddenly in charge of a household with a staff of close to 100.

"Here's what makes this sequel a great, feminist play," Director Jessica Thebus says. "It's a story about choices, the ones the women have and the ones they don't. It imagines situations where women can make independent choices while still acknowledging the rules that they're bound by."

The piece is also about how your place in a family can shape your place in the wider world, Thebus adds. "What happens to the sister who doesn't get the witty, charming, kind and caring husband?" Thebus says. "There's a really poignant line that Mary has: 'I have the most charming older sisters in the nation. I have the prettiest younger sisters in the nation. And me? I lack definition.'"

The oldest Bennet sister is, of course, Elizabeth, famously married to Darcy at the close of "Pride and Prejudice." Samantha Beach takes on the role for Northlight while Alex Goodrich plays Darcy.

"What I love about this show is the way we see a tribe of women helping each other," Beach says. "And it's three women choosing to redefine their next steps in life, even within a very narrow set of circumstances. Everyone is examining their options — limited as they are — and figuring out what's to pursue lives of substance."
Cargo bikes carry the load

Parents are turning to big Dutch-style cargo bikes that can haul $200 in groceries, or up to 5 small children.
Chef puts a French twist on brunch

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

Brunch is ideal on those glorious days when you’re able to turn off the alarm clock and enjoy a few extra hours of sleep. As you rise, your stomach grumbles for the purity of eggs but also for something hearty and flavorful with something sweet tossed in. This moment of appetite indecision is what Michael LaPidus wants to address with a new weekend brunch menu at Q-BBQ, the fast-casual restaurant with locations in Naperville, LaGrange, Oak Park and Schererville, Ind.

“We are constantly innovating, and we’re looking for a new way to shake things up,” LaPidus said. “There are no rules when it comes to brunch, so we decided to see what we could do.”

Everything from pork to beef to chicken can be part of brunch when mixed with other breakfast favorites. For example, LaPidus’ new menu has a dish that begins with familiar hash brown potatoes. Then corn, black beans, chopped red onion and pan-fried Brussels sprouts are tossed into the mix.

The next ingredient added to the potatoes are burnt ends. “If you don’t know brisket, you don’t know burnt ends,” said Adam Chellberg, part of Q-BBQ’s staff. “They are kept secret by pit masters.”

To make burnt ends at Q-BBQ, a brisket is rubbed with herbs and spices, smoked for 22 hours and then cut into small chunks. These tender chunks are rubbed with a mix of paprika, brown sugar and other ingredients and tossed into the smoker for another couple hours until the edges are crispy and caramelized.

“I like to think of it as beef jerky meets a grilled filet,” LaPidus said. The potato and burnt end mixture is seasoned, piled onto a plate and then topped with two sunny side up eggs.

LaPidus said there are many ways that meat can be paired with breakfast foods like eggs and potatoes to create great brunch dishes.

“My aunt is from lower Alabama – we used to say she was from L.A. – and she used to make a poor man’s eggs Benedict that was biscuits topped with sausage links and eggs and covered with gravy,” he said. He created a menu item called Alabama Benedict similar to this childhood dish in her honor.

“Actually, leftovers from dinner are great for brunch,” LaPidus said. “Cut up leftover meat and mix it with eggs and potatoes and you have brunch. Just use the eggs and potatoes to pull it all together.”

LaPidus said that although the ingredients are piled together, each one should still have its own flavor and texture in a brunch dish. Instead of a stew-like quality where everything melds together, the different components should each bring their own textures and flavors. For example, Q-BBQ offers a chicken and waffle combination that begins with a sugar encrusted Belgian waffle that is sweet and crispy. Next, there is a layer of smooth and creamy buttermilk mashed potatoes. Then, at the very top, there are savory, crispy chicken strips. “And then, you can add the smoked maple syrup,” said LaPidus, who takes pride in adding smoke to as many dishes as possible from sauces to syrup.

Another interesting brunch item is cornbread French toast. LaPidus noted many kinds of bread can be dipped into a batter and fried until crispy and brown to make French toast.

“When we were testing things for the menus, we had some leftover cornbread and decided to try it. We all tasted it and said, ‘Wow, this is really good.’ The cornbread is sort of savory and sweet with the crispy edges from browning it.”

Cornbread is more challenging to dip and fry than other breads. Chef Luis Najera carefully lowers the cornbread into the batter with a spatula, pulls it back up and then gently slides it into the frying pan. He carefully holds the top as he slides the spatula under the cornbread to flip it. The naturally crumbly bread remains intact due to his gentle methods.

While Q-BBQ is “smoking” brunch on Saturdays and Sundays, LaPidus offers recipes for two of their brunch specialties for people to try at home.

### Cornbread French toast

1. cup milk
2. teaspoons cinnamon
1. teaspoon vanilla
1. egg
2. pieces of day-old cornbread
1. tablespoon butter

To make batter, whisk together milk, cinnamon, vanilla and egg in a shallow dish wide enough to fit cornbread slice. Heat butter in a pan over medium heat.

2. Carefully set one piece of cornbread into the batter and allow to set about 10 seconds to soak up batter. Flip over and dip other side. With a spatula, lift cornbread out of batter and slide into heated pan. Repeat for second piece of cornbread.

3. Cook 2 to 3 minutes on each side or until golden brown and crispy on the outside. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and drizzle with maple syrup.

### Alabama Benedict

1. buttermilk biscuit
3. ounces pulled pork
4. ounces white sausage gravy
1. egg

1. Cut buttermilk biscuit in half, lengthwise. Pile pulled pork on halved biscuits. Start heating your favorite white sausage gravy (one seasoned with sage is preferred).

2. Fry or poach an egg to your desired hardness. Ladle gravy over biscuits. Place cooked egg on top and enjoy.

### Michael’s Culinary Cue

When making French toast, use bread that is at least a day old for the best results because it is firmer and will soak up the batter better without becoming soggy. Try different types of bread such as raisin bread or brioche for interesting variations.
My egg roll ode to take-out queens the ‘Gilmore Girls’

An egg roll with pork, carrots, cabbage, serrano chili, wood ear mushrooms and homemade sweet and sour sauce is the perfect dish to serve for your next viewing of “Gilmore Girls.”

Take-Out, Take-Down

Dried wood ear or tree ear mushrooms can be found at finer grocery stores or Asian markets. To rehydrate, place them in a bowl and cover with boiling water. Allow them to sit for several minutes before draining.

- 2 tablespoons canola or peanut oil
- 2 tablespoons, fresh minced ginger
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 serrano chili, seeded and minced
- ½ pound ground pork or chicken
- 1 cup shredded napa cabbage
- 1 cup shredded carrots
- ½ cup rehydrated wood ear or tree ear mushrooms, chopped
- ½ cup bamboo shoots, cut into thin strips
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons rice wine
- 1 tablespoon corn starch mixed with 2 tablespoons water
- 12 egg roll wrappers (preferably Twin Marquis brand)
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- Canola or peanut oil for frying
- Spicy brown or Chinese mustard
- Sweet and sour sauce (recipe follows)

1. Heat the canola oil over medium heat in a large nonstick skillet. Add the ginger, garlic and serrano chili and sauté until just fragrant (about 30 seconds). Add the pork and cook, stirring frequently, until cooked through and slightly browned (about 6 minutes). Stir in the cabbage and carrots to the pan, reduce heat to medium low and cook, stirring occasionally until wilted and soft (about 5 minutes). Add in the mushrooms and bamboo shoots; mix well. Season with salt and add the soy sauce and vinegar to the pan. Increase the heat to medium-high and mix in the cornstarch slurry and cook until mixture thickens (about 1 minute). Remove from heat and mix in the scallions. Allow the filling to cool before proceeding. Egg roll filling can be made 2 days ahead and refrigerated until ready to use.

2. Lay an egg roll wrapper on a work surface so it looks like a diamond. Place a quarter cup of filling in the bottom 1/3 of the wrapper. Pull the bottom corner up over the filling and pull back slightly to tuck in the corner. Fold in the sides like an envelope. Using your finger tip brush the exposed corner of the wrapper with the beaten egg. With a gentle yet firm hand roll up the egg roll taking care to prevent gaps at the edges. Repeat with the remaining wrappers.

3. Pour canola oil to the depth of 2 inches in a high-sided skillet. Heat the oil over medium high heat until the oil reaches 325 degrees or a bread cube sizzles gently on contact (if the oil is too hot the egg roll skins will brown and burn before the filling warms through; slow and steady is the key). Gently drop the egg rolls seam side down into the hot oil. Allow them to fry for 5 to 7 minutes, turning once or twice, until golden brown and crispy. Drain on paper towels and season with salt. Serve at once with mustard and sweet and sour sauces for dipping.

SWEET AND SOUR SAUCE:

- 1 cup pineapple juice
- ½ cup rice vinegar
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch mixed with 2 tablespoons water
- 1 tablespoon chili garlic sauce
- 1 tablespoon diced fresh pineapple
- 1 tablespoon diced green pepper
- ½ cup diced red pepper
- 1 tablespoon minced serrano chili

1. Combine the pineapple juice, vinegar, sugar, soy sauce and salt in a medium saucepan. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to a simmer, stirring frequently until sugar dissolves. Stir in the chili-garlic sauce, pineapple and diced peppers and return to a boil. Stir in the cornstarch slurry and cook until sauce is thickened.
MY PET WORLD

Positive reinforcement can help with a dog that bites

By Marc Morrone
Tribune Content Agency

Q: We have a 5-year-old male cockapoo dog that bites. We do not hit him. We got him at 8 weeks from a family breeder. We can't remove anything from his mouth or groom him without concern. If we pet him he can snap. He growls and attacks at times. He also barks in an attack stance at any dogs and people walking by. I think it is the breed mixture of the dog and my husband thinks he was traumatized. What's your thought? — Sarah Richards, Chicago, IL

A: I am the first one to admit that I do not always have the answer and this is one of those cases. You had him since he was 8 weeks old, so he was obviously not traumatized — he is just not quite right in the head.

I never can understand how one dog will never, ever bite no matter what the circumstances are and yet another will bite you without any hesitation and then expect you to forget all about it. I have had both kinds of dogs.

You see the problem here is that you can change the way the dog acts, but you cannot change the way it "thinks:"

Here is a perfect example: If you want to teach a dog not to be possessive about things in its mouth then you have to show it that when you ask it to drop an object it is holding then that object can be replaced with something better.

If your dog has something that you want then instead of being confrontational about it, just give it a piece of chicken or cheese. Offer it to the dog while giving it some kind of command such as "trade." In most cases the dog will drop whatever it is carrying and run to you for the treat. You tell the dog to sit and then give it the treat from your hand and then pick up the object in question. In no time he will be bringing you all sorts of items to trade with you willingly.

However, even though you may have changed the dog's behavior you have not changed the way he thinks. He would still cheerfully bite you if he thought it was justified or to his advantage.

I had a dog like yours. He was a very smart Cairn Terrier named Buddy and I got suckered into taking him in at a year old. He would bite me or any other human and offered no apologies for it. Fortunately at this point in my life there were no small children toddling about in my house.

I always admired the Cairn Terrier Toto in "The Wizard of Oz." I figured I would see what I could do to try and get him rehabilitated. Using various positive reinforcement training methods, I was able to trick him into being fairly polite with us. However, we basically had to work on eggshells around him for the 10 years he lived with us until he died.

You have had this dog now for 5 years, and it sounds to me as if you have resigned yourself to having to tiptoe around him for the rest of his life as I did with Buddy. However, if you work on using positive reinforcement reward training with him as I described briefly, then things will be a lot better than they are now. There are a number of resources out there that are more detailed than I can in explain in this column. You just have to be realistic about the situation. Your dog just views humans in a different manner than most other dogs do and you have to make the best of it.

Q: We have just gotten a corn snake as a pet a month ago and the pet store that sold him fed him a mouse once a week except when he is going to shed his skin, as he will not eat while he is shedding. So a week ago his eyes turned white and we knew that meant he was going to shed so we did not offer him anything. Today we saw that his eyes were clear again but he did not eat when we offered him a mouse and we also see that there is no shed skin in his vivarium. Can you tell us what is going on? — Greg Medina, Las Vegas, NV

A: By the time you read this your problem will have most likely solved itself. Snakes do have to shed their skins to allow their bodies to grow and when the process starts their eyes do become a milky white color. This is because snakes do not have eyelids and their eyes are protected by a clear scale that covers it like a contact lens.

When the shedding process starts, the eyes become cloudy and the snakes whole color goes off as the outer skin is starting to separate from the new skin forming underneath. This normally takes a few days and the snake will just curl up in a corner or sometimes soak in its water dish and patiently wait for the process to do finish — they will never eat while this is going on.

When the process is finished the eyes clear up, meaning their old skin is now separate from the new and usually the snake will then peel it off. Sometimes this happens in a few hours, sometimes a day later. This is the in-between stage that your snake is in right now — most likely by the time you sent this, your snake will have shed its skin and the snake is eagerly looking for its next meal.

Like other snakes, corn snakes have to shed their skins in order to grow. They do not eat while shedding.

Marc Morrone has kept almost every kind of animal as a pet for the last half-century and he is happy to share his knowledge with others. Although he cannot answer every question, he will publish many of those that have a general interest. You can contact him at petexperts2@aol.com; please include your name, city and state.
Dear Help Squad,

I had leg pain and numbness in my right foot. A doctor at DuPage Medical Group referred me to physical therapy for treatment of my sciatica.

I had five visits, then the bills started to come in. There was one charge that showed up on the first two appointments but not the last three appointments. When I questioned what the "neuromuscular re-education" cost was, I was very surprised with the answer.

Can DuPage Medical Group really charge a patient $79 for suggesting to roll up a towel and place it behind my back when I sit? Or place a piece of tape down my back to remind me to sit up right?

Please advise on these charges by DuPage Medical Group.

Gretchen, Naperville

To appreciate just what Gretchen was questioning, it is helpful to understand that physical therapists bill using Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes, a standard for coding medical procedures created by the American Medical Association (AMA), that breaks out into two categories: time-based and service-based. All time-based codes must be billed in 15-minute increments. A service-based unit — for services like an examination, applying ice or electrical stimulation — can only be billed as a single unit, regardless of how much time it takes.

Four of Gretchen's 30-minute physical therapy sessions contained three time-based (15-minute) billing units. As such, Gretchen was charged 45 minutes worth of PT services at each of her 30-minute sessions. That was absurd — right?

Per Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the AMA, Medicare and a very helpful website called WebPT, it apparently was not. I first contacted DuPage Medical Group, where I talked to spokesperson Maria McGowan. She explained that all of DuPage Medical Group's billing is based on universal CPT codes. As for why Gretchen might have been charged three 15-minute billing units for one 30-minute session?

McGowan said different types of treatment require different CPT codes. She requested I email her Gretchen's invoice so she could better answer my questions. This I did, followed by two voicemails. I never heard back.

Next, I reached out to Colleen Miller, senior communications manager at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois. She explained via email that, "(A) unit of billable time is attained when the midpoint has passed, based on the guidelines of the AMA and CMS (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services). (0)ne 15-minute billed session must be at least eight minutes."

I asked: If three separate services are performed during one visit, a provider can charge for a unit of care for each service. Miller replied: "If three separate services are performed for eight minutes each at a 30-minute session, can a patient be charged for a total of 45 minutes worth of therapy?"

Miller added: "If three separate services are performed during one visit, a provider can charge for a unit of care for each service."

The WebPT blog post, "The 8-Minute Rule: What It Is and How it Works in WebPT," offers a detailed explanation of this rather complex billing system, and adds one more caveat: Medicare billing guidelines apply to all insurance companies that accept federal funding. AMA guidelines apply to the rest. Per Medicare, as long as the sum of any incomplete billing units equals at least eight minutes, a therapist can bill for the service with the largest time total, even if that total is less than eight minutes. Under AMA guidelines, "leftover" minutes can be billed only if an individual service totals at least eight minutes.

The short answer to Gretchen's question is yes, DuPage Medical Group can charge a patient $79 for towel rolling advice and tape application — if it takes a minimum of eight minutes to do it.

Need help?
Send your questions and injustices to HelpSquad@pioneerlocal.com.

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.
Hounded by doubts

By John Warner
Chicago Tribune

Snoopy has been fired.
Perhaps you saw the news blurb from a few weeks past, that after 30 years, insurer MetLife has parted ways with its spokesdog, Snoopy.

A MetLife representative expressed appreciation for the company's long association with the "iconic" Peanuts character but also said it's time for a new direction for the MetLife brand, which now will be represented by the letter "M."

I suppose the Aflac goose and Geico gecko were already tied up contractually and not available for a switch of teams. I don't know why I should find this news so distressing.

Wait, yes I do. From the ages of too-young-to-remember to too-old-to-admit-without-embarrassing-myself, I was a Snoopy fanatic. I slept with a stuffed Snoopy doll, and my room was decorated in a Snoopy theme (bedspread and curtains) at my request, which was more like a demand that may or may not have involved a minor tantrum.

I was an obsessive devourer of all things Peanuts, but Snoopy was a particular favorite. Before we got a family dog, I dreamed of having one like Snoopy, a loyal pal who also could play shortstop in our pickup baseball games. Rather than a clever beagle who walks on his hind legs, we wound up with Melvin, a lab/shepherd mix who was a whiz at catching a ball but also routinely stole my lunch.

When I tried to hug him, unlike Snoopy, who'd collapse into Charlie Brown's arms, Melvin would squirm free.

In the world of Peanuts, Snoopy is a unique character, an optimist as opposed to Charlie Brown's pessimist, with a rich fantasy life, conjuring adventures for himself as his alter ego, Joe Cool. Like his owner, that "round-headed kid" Charlie Brown, Snoopy almost always fails — the Red Baron routinely bests him in dogfights — but Snoopy remains positive about whatever is next, a yin to Charlie Brown's yang.

Snoopy also was a writer, pounding out purple prose-laden novels while sitting on top of his doghouse.

And oh, how I cried when watching "Snoopy, Come Home," as Snoopy feels he must leave Charlie Brown and the gang behind in order to be with Lila, his original owner who has been sick in the hospital. I may even have gotten something in my eye thinking about it just now.

Snoopy was the first character for whom I created stories, imagining adventures for him as I played in my room. Woodstock was there too. How many hours must I have passed this way?

Normally, I'm not hugely enthusiastic about iconic characters being yoked to corporate brands, but I am concerned that the MetLife decision is an indicator of the fading potency of Snoopy and the rest of the Peanuts characters.

"The Peanuts Movie" did do what seems like a very solid $130 million at the box office last year, though the "Minions" movie did nearly that amount in its opening week, eventually grossing over $336 million.

It's not as though Snoopy is going to disappear entirely. Once truly iconic status is achieved, you are eternal. My 20-year-old college students know who Lucille Ball is, even though they've not seen one second of her work, the same way I know who Charlie Chaplin is, even though I've only experienced him in documentaries and the "Chaplin" biopic.

I suppose I thought that Snoopy would remain eternally current, but it seems that he's starting to enter his legacy phase. This is what time does. Forty years from now, some middle-aged writer will be lamenting how youngsters don't appreciate the genius of the Minions.

Good grief!

John Warner is a freelance writer whose most recent book is "Tough Day for the Army."
Quote-Acrostic

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

**Clues**

**Words**

A. Pop artist Andy
   
B. Strange thing
   
C. Women, TV sitcom
   
D. Flash of insight
   
E. Cowboy Cassidy’s nickname
   
F. Earl’s wife in “Pickles”
   
G. Of the greatest degree
   
H. Like WWII
   
I. “Therese Raquin”
   
J. Memory-sans-thought process
   
K. High-class
   
L. Northern Scandinavians, e.g.
   
M. Elgar’s “Vanities”
   
N. Tammany Hall pol
   
O. Actual existence
   
P. Atmospheric layer
   
Q. “The Hobbit” author
   
R. Political pardon
   
S. Mussorgsky’s A—Bald Mountain
   
T. Creche subject
   
U. Mostly
   
V. Formal binding agreement
   
W. “—World Turns”

*Across*

1. Spheres
5. Bridge term: pl.
9. Little island
14. Regulation
15. Bumpkin
16. Unusual item
17. Cornucopia
19. Bloopers
20. The ___ Trap
21. Marble
23. Author Ayn
24. Superlative suffix
25. Bronze: L.
27. He’s got it ___!
29. Roadside bush
31. Convocate
35. Jump
38. Competed
40. Consumed
41. Delicate flower
42. East Indian island
43. Gill
44. Sleeping place
45. Spanish title
46. Versifier Edgar ___
47. Dots
49. Approaches
51. Singer ___ Coolidge

*Down*

1. Make a speech
2. Yokels
3. Not sharp
4. Transmit
5. Blew the trumpet
6. Positive particle
7. Conduit
8. Vapor
9. High card
10. Little tower
11. Extra: Scots
12. Simba
13. Earl
18. Distributed cards
22. Bet
26. Finch
28. Father
29. Longa...
30. Mr. Novarro
32. Hearty’s companion
33. Greek letters
34. Musical pause
35. Tastes
36. Lure
37. Helper
39. Hearts
42. Seed pod
43. Transportation
45. Travel on snow
46. Spring color
48. Believe
50. Greek capital
52. Poplar
54. Adjective for lettuce
55. Make up for
56. Power units
57. Tigers, e.g.
58. Cain’s brother
59. Philippine palm
61. Way out
63. Badly confused
65. Correctors: abbr.
67. Golf accessory
Follow Up

BY KEVIN DONOVAN
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across
1 Manchester
8 En-lai
12 Tool used in a box
15 Film add-on
19 Perform again
20 Next in line
21 U.N. workers' agcy.
22 The snakes in Indiana Jones' "Why do they have to be snakes?"
23 Profession for the principled?
25 Exit quietly, in a Dylan Thomas poem
26 Old anesthetics
28 Bill collector
29 Dr. Seuss, e.g.
31 Sask. neighbor
32 Can't abide
33 Compared to
34 Small cells
35 Jockey competitor
36 Code
37 Get together on a ranch
38 Juice for PCs
39 Catlike
40 Promising market indicators?
42 Bit
43 Reuters competitor
44 Personal
45 Grand Canal traveler
46 Celebrated
47 Knowable, in Nantes
50 "The Walking Dead" veterinarian
52 Come together
55 "The Piano" extras
56 Morning phenomenon
58 Wine choice
59 QB stats
60 Put down
62 Morning
63 Project Blue Book subj.
65 "The Librarians" Mauler
66 President
71 Phobias
74 No more than
75 Nissan Stadium player
77 "... 'tis not to me - speaks": Romeo
81 Friend of Yossarian in "Catch-22"...
85 Diamond surfaces
86 Tattoo's concern
91 What pillows may do, in a kids' room?
94 Newcomer
95 Nursery resident
96 Sun Tzu subject
97 Where to see stars
98 Pursue relentlessly
99 "The Piano" extras
103 Buck
107 Periods of distress?
110 What oaks may provide
111 Put back in
112 Outperform crew members in the ship play?
113 Put back in
114 “Man on the Moon” group
116 Love god
117 In the past
118 Biblical captain
119 Crown coatings
120 Holiday song closer
121 "Man on the Moon" group
122 Ring jinglers
123 Boxing's "Manassa"

Down
1 First word in the Beach Boys' "Kokomo"
2 Drive off
3 Lean-eater Jack
4 "Fear of Flying" author Jong
5 Close at hand
6 Mail
7 Mail
8 Easter Island's country
9 Pair for date night
10 It may be coiled on a saddle horn
11 Car nut
12 Settler?
13 Biblical captain
14 Senate garment
15 Tree that typically has paddle-shaped leaves
16 Baltic republic
17 Organs sometimes vented?
18 African menaces
19 Tailor's concern
20 Old anesthetics
21 Numbers to shoot for
22 "Forrest Gump" lieutenant
23 Compared to
24 Pop/country singer
25 Lee and others
26 Juice for PCs
27 Run ashore
28 Bill collector
29 Dr. Seuss, e.g.
30 Numbers to shoot
31 Piece of fiction
32 "Forrest Gump" lieutenant
33 Compared to
34 Small cells
35 Jockey competitor
36 Code
37 Get together on a ranch
38 Juice for PCs
39 Catlike
40 Promising market indicators?
42 Bit
43 Reuters competitor
44 Personal
45 Grand Canal traveler
46 Celebrated
47 Knowable, in Nantes
50 "The Walking Dead" veterinarian
55 "The Piano" extras
56 Morning phenomenon
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59 QB stats
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62 Morning
63 Project Blue Book subj.
65 "The Librarians" Mauler
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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

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

Last week's answers appear on the next page

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

This week's answers appear on the next page
Crossword

ACROSS
1 _ to; increases
5 _ crow flies; in a straight line
10 Baby's first word, perhaps
14 Swerve
15 Sand ridge under the water
16 Takes advantage of
17 Misfortunes
18 Sewer
21 Give a hoot
23 Vise
25 Relatives
26 Get older
28 Fireplace shelf
30 Olympics
31 Proverb
32 Alternative
36 Inner _ pool
37 Moby-Dick, e.g.
38 Scotia
39 Building annex
40 Bosom
41 Window pieces
42 Giggler's noise
43 Zsa Zsa & Eva
44 Reflective crystal
45 Dyer's tub
46 Cotton's tub
47 Moby-Dick, e.g.
48 Giggler's noise
49 Reflections
50 Dyer's tub
51 Reflective crystal

Solutions

A&B NETWORK

Champion Sleuth_ LMO
Baker Tube E X O T E NOIR
St. Elmo's Name_ Marble Cake
Sets As an Evade_ Becoming Relives
Alarms Senoridad of_ Speak Camewrens Are
Space Travel and_ Solitary Chaps Cares
Climb Grands Ames Ann
Inca Moccasins_ Jumbo
Pretend to Tody Fell
Animal Cose Joy Free
Takes Sands and_ Ones Using Toe Yield
Moat Suede Teens Soaks

Out of Town

Teem Tip Tee
Urine Nine Parse
Bondoocks Enate
Ass Low Stickler
Otho Stat

Bsa Herb Snored
Act Rees Wear
Rasa Earth Not
Alert Drei Den
Spaced Amps Ene
Anil Spee
Death Spot Inmate
Annie the Sticks
Midas The Tions
Ban Out Ese

EEKology 101

Hock Fares Charge Ear
Pore Tivities Larvae Ene
Toothbrush Squeak Ear
Shovel Lures Goodle
Earned Elephants Hidazo
Tea Stakes Wack Whend
Two Shackles With whend
Insect Club Puss Whend
Rump Umbrella Whend
Dust Mewed Whend
Epic Angle Tiler
Necktarine Howly Leed
Man at Alastar Doorwhend

Last week's crosswords

“A&E NETWORK”

Champion Sleuth_ LMO
Baker Tube E X O T E NOIR
St. Elmo's Name_ Marble Cake
Sets As an Evade_ Becoming Relives
Alarms Senoridad of_ Speak Camewrens Are
Space Travel and_ Solitary Chaps Cares
Climb Grands Ames Ann
Inca Moccasins_ Jumbo
Pretend to Tody Fell
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Insect Club Puss Whend
Rump Umbrella Whend
Dust Mewed Whend
Epic Angle Tiler
Necktarine Howly Leed
Man at Alastar Doorwhend

Last week's Quote-Acrostic

Adlai Stevenson: Speeches: The relationship of the toastmaster to the speaker should be the same as that of the fan to the fan dancer. It should call attention to the subject without making any particular effort to cover it.

Last week's Sudoku

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

This week's Jumble

Should Atrium Laptop
Forbid Impose Afraid
The coin was in such bad
condition, they couldn’t make —

Heads or
Tails of It

Interactive
games
Queries from married man mulling separation

Deciding whether to stay in a marriage is not only daunting, but also the tormenting dilemma can feel hopeless, since both options — leaving or staying — might seem depressing or wrong. Those thinking of separating have countless questions running through their minds and often no one to turn to for answers, mostly because the matter is so private. That’s why they sometimes turn to me — a divorced, single mom and a dating and relationship columnist.

Here are four questions I received from a married man with two teenagers regarding his contemplation of divorce:

Q: Is there ever a “right” time to do this (i.e. kids’ ages) or are all times bad? Every time I think I have a window to have “the conversation,” some issue crops up that would seem best addressed while a married couple. Or, am I simply afraid and making excuses?

A: First, here are what I’d consider the “wrong” times to ask for a divorce: the start of school, holidays, birthdays, graduations, or your anniversary. It is also wrong to ask for a divorce after a traumatic event that has affected you or your family, such as an illness, loss of a job or the death of a relative or close friend. These times will just magnify what could be a shocking, devastating conversation. The best answer I can provide about the “right time” is that you will know in your heart that this conversation needs to take place. Bringing it up is brutal. Divorced people often say asking for the divorce was the most difficult part of the whole divorce process. There could be a sense of guilt involved, and the stress of not knowing how the spouse is going to react is beyond unnerving. Just remember that there is always going to be something happening in the household, whether you just found out your child drinks or your kid is applying to colleges and you don’t want to spring your divorce on your family during the happy occasion. Furthermore, when the conversation takes place, things won’t be good, no matter what is going on.

The last thing I want to say in answer to this question is that issues with kids can still be addressed by a divorced couple in the same way they can as a married couple. The divorced couple must be willing to act in a selfless way by putting their personal feelings about their ex-spouse aside and co-parenting with that person as a team. It’s not easy, but staying on the same page when it comes to the kids, along with the willingness to communicate about the children, is the key to raising strong, healthy kids through a divorce.

Q: How does one balance the desire to do what’s best for yourself while maintaining the needs of and minimizing the pain caused to those you love by this decision?

A: This sounds like pure guilt, which I think is normal for those considering divorce. The answer is, you can let yourself be happy and take care of your family at the same time.

In my opinion, the first step in achieving this is to look into mediation and collaborative divorce. Both are divorce processes that help foster a friendly, noncombative divorce settlement with a post-divorce plan that works for both parties and ultimately achieves the best results for the children.

Q: How does a concerned parent convince him or herself that every failure the kids will face in the future isn’t the direct result of the divorce?

A: This feels like you are punishing yourself for wanting a divorce. It is unproductive and unhealthy. Your kid is going to have failures in life, from which they will hopefully learn and grow. Even kids with happily married parents will have failures. Additionally, the kids could have failures that are the result of you and your wife staying in an unhealthy or unhappy marriage.

Q: Why should I assume I will find love again?

You should not assume that. All you can do is hope, have faith and engage in behaviors that attract healthy, loving romantic relationships in your direction. If you are getting divorced because you feel you can do better, you should not be getting divorced. If you want a divorce because you absolutely do not want to be in the relationship with your spouse any longer — even if it means you will be alone forever, then you are doing the right thing. Finding love after divorce should be thought of not as something expected, but rather as a gift. A divorced person — like every person — will benefit most in life by finding peace, acceptance and happiness within.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.
Annual checkup is useful for catching disease early

Dear Doctor K: I'm 73 and in great health. Do I really need to have an annual physical?

Dear Reader: Let's start by defining "great health." I would define it as having no known chronic (ongoing) illnesses. However, most people your age have at least one chronic illness, such as high blood pressure. People with chronic illnesses need to be checked out at least once a year and usually more often.

Even if they don't have any chronic illnesses, I ask my patients to come in for a checkup every year. This includes asking and answering some questions, a physical examination and some screening tests.

The questions probably are the most important part of an annual checkup. For example, I remember a man in his 50s who had no chronic conditions and exercised every day. He had a healthy diet - he was a vegan. When I asked him if he had been having any bothersome symptoms, he answered "no," but hesitated just briefly before saying it. So I pushed him: "Even a mild symptom that's not very bothersome, but that is something new?"

He replied: "Well, sometimes I get this tingling sensation in my feet. It comes and goes."

That gave me an idea and influenced what I did on the physical examination.

There is not a lot of evidence that a complete physical examination is valuable. In fact, an analysis of 14 trials that included more than 180,000 patients did not find that a yearly general health checkup decreased the risk of death or illness.

I always examine the heart, lungs, abdomen and skin. Even this limited examination is of proven value. But I've discovered irregular heartbeat rhythms, mild asthma and the occasional skin cancer.

But when a person has a symptom, parts of the physical examination can be extremely valuable. In my patient with the tingling sensation, I took a tuning fork and whacked it to make it vibrate. I asked him to close his eyes and to tell me when he felt the vibrations touch his skin. When I placed the tuning fork on his ankles, he said nothing.

During an annual checkup, it is important for adults to get several types of immunizations every so often and a flu shot every year. I checked my patient's immunization record and gave him a flu shot.

Then it was time to order tests. The screening tests that I prescribed during an annual checkup didn't turn up any problems in this person, this year, but they are effective in catching (and sometimes curing) diseases in an early stage, such as various types of cancer and heart disease.

I added a blood test for vitamin B12 to the screening tests in my patient. His symptom of tingling, his inability to feel the vibration of the tuning fork, and the fact that he was a vegan made me suspect that his vitamin B12 levels were low — and they were sure. Fortunately, vitamin B12 pills prevented what could have been permanent damage to his spinal cord.

So, I'd advise you not to skip an annual visit to your doctor. You don't need to have every nook and cranny of your person probed every year. But you do need certain questions asked, screening tests performed and immunizations given.

(Please note: this column ran originally in October 2014.)

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

PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

Nicotine gum has a habit of curbing tobacco urge

By Joe Graedon and Teresa Graedon

Q: I chewed tobacco for 35 years, starting at age 25, when I quit smoking. My dentist back then cautioned that since chewing tobacco caused no smoke nor ash and needed no free hand, it could become an all-consuming habit. It did.

I tried several different ways to quit, to no avail. Then in 2013, I tried nicotine gum. It worked. My dentist says my gums look as good as anyone's. And, yes, I'm still chewing that gum.

A: We are delighted to learn that you were able to overcome your tobacco habit with nicotine gum. We have heard from many people that this approach is successful, though giving up the nicotine gum can become challenging in itself. One reader came up with a gradual withdrawal process that worked for her: "I stopped smoking using nicotine gum. After a month, I substituted a regular piece of gum for every second piece and then started to cut the nicotine gum in half. It didn't take me long to break away from it."

Some former cigarette smokers and tobacco chewers have found that giving up nicotine gum can be difficult.

BPPV (benign positional vertigo), then medications won't help very much. That's because little calcium crystals (canaliths) have moved out of their normal position within the ear canal. Rolling over in bed or changing head position can be very disorienting.

The Epley maneuver, named for ear surgeon John Epley, involves rotating the head through several positions to reorient the crystals. We encourage people to be evaluated by an otolaryngologist and have a skilled therapist perform the maneuver initially. An article in the journal Neurology (July 24, 2012) reported that YouTube videos can successfully assist patients with BPPV in learning how to manage the procedure at home.

Q: I suffered for more than a month with vertigo. My doctor prescribed Paxil and Ritalin for anxiety, depression and adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Ever since I started taking them, I sweat profusely at night and do not sleep well. My doctor took me off Ritalin and gave me Straterra. It has been more than a week on the new regimen, but my sweating and insomnia haven't subsided. Could Paxil be causing these side effects?

A: Paroxetine (Paxil), like many antidepressants (fluoxetine, sertraline), can cause insomnia and sweating. Consequently, the problem might lie with the Paxil.

Don't stop it on your own, but do get in touch with your doctor immediately. Paxil can increase blood levels of atomoxetine (Strattera) significantly (Journal of Clinical Pharmacology, November 2002; Clujul Medical, Vol. 88, No. 4, 2015). This could increase the possibility of the side effects you describe, such as sweating, sleep problems, fatigue, headache and dry mouth.

For more information on medications and nondrug approaches to depression, we are sending you our "Guide to Dealing With Depression." Anyone who would like a copy, please send $3 in check or money order with a long (No. 10), stamped (68 cents), self-addressed envelope to: Graedon's People's Pharmacy, No. E-7, P.O. Box 5207, Durham, NC 27717-5207.

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via www.peoplespharmacy.com.
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Cargo bikes carry the load

Oversize 2-wheelers used as alternative to family minivan

By Nara Schoenberg
Chicago Tribune

Her two little girls seated in padded comfort with legroom to spare, Elisabeth Cool pedals off to her local Costco at speeds of up to 18 miles per hour and pulls into an open parking spot just steps from the store entrance.

Half an hour later, she re-emerges with $90 in groceries, including a 10-pound bag of flour and five dozen eggs.

"You're really organized," an onlooker marvels as Cool fills the roomy front bin of her 8-foot-long Dutch cargo bike with children and groceries, straps a 1,000-pound capacity onto the back and, with an optional power boost from the bike's minature motor, pedals home fast enough to beat a car-driving reporter who used a less direct route suggested by Google Maps.

Cool, of Chicago, is one of a growing number of parents embracing cargo bikes - extra-long, with big front bins, hefty back racks or additional seats - as minivan alternatives.

"You're faster, you're quieter, you're not congesting, you're not polluting, you're having a great time with your family," she says.

"You're exercising! I mean, what parent has time to exercise, right? When people say, 'Your bike must be so expensive,' I say, 'Well, I don't pay money for a gym membership, so I save money there.'"

Family cargo biking is on the rise nationwide, with Benjamin Sarrazin, founder of U.S. cargo bike-maker Yuba Bicycles, estimating that 5,000 to 7,500 cargo bikes are sold annually for nonindustrial use, up from about 3,000 a year in 2010.

Filmmaker Liz Canning, who raised over $62,000 via Kickstarter for her upcoming cargo bike documentary, "Motherload," says about 30 cargo bikers drop kids off at their children's elementary school in Fairfax, Calif., up from maybe five in 2013: "Everywhere I look, I see a new cargo bike."

Chicago, with its harsh winters, has been slower to embrace the cargo bike as practical family transportation, but Dutch bike importer Jon Lind, owner of J.C. Lind Bike Co. in Chicago, says cargo bikes are an increasingly large portion of his business.

Family-friendly cargo bikes typically cost $1,500 to $6,000, and Sarrazin estimates that 25 percent are now sold with a battery-powered assist for hills or long rides. The bikes sometimes replace a second car or eliminate the need for a car, users say.

"Kids are happier, way happier, on the bike," Canning says. "You can interact with your community in a different way, you can interact with your environment in a different way and you can get endorphins. A lot of moms will say, it feels like 'me time.' You're taking your kids to soccer, but you're doing exercise along the way, and you get to stop and talk to a friend that you would never see in a car."

A small figure in a big gray bike helmet, Cool is in full command of her 100-pound bicycle, taking a 180-degree turn with ease as a reporter sits in the roomy front bin.

She says she worries when car drivers act irresponsibly, texting while driving or parking in bike lanes: "I'm a parent; it's my job to worry." But, for the most part, she feels safe when she cargo bikes. She favors off-peak hours and quiet streets, plans her routes for safety not speed, follows traffic laws and insists on bike helmets.

"There's a risk if you drive somewhere, there's a risk if you bike somewhere, there's a risk if you walk somewhere;" she says. "I'm not going to let other people's unsafe, selfish behavior make me live in fear and not do something that I love to do with my family."

Cool says she started slowly, when her older daughter, Madeleine, now 4, was 1/2. Cool's husband, Nathan, an architect and bike commuter, acted as her urban biking guide, pulling Madeleine in a bike trailer as Cool, riding solo, got used to city streets. Cool moved up to pulling the bike trailer but worried that it might not be visible enough to car drivers and soon switched to an Xtracycle FreeRadical cargo bike extension attached to a folding bike frame.

"Doing an errand here, a library trip there, she built up confidence and experience until she was cargo bike year-round."

In July, the Cool's, who were car-free, took the plunge and bought a state-of-the-art Urban Arrow Family electric cargo bike from Chicago Cargo.

Cool says the bike, which retails for $6,000, can carry five small children or two kids and $200 worth of groceries or two kids and a grown-up. With the help of the bike's battery-powered motor, she can take Madeleine and her sister, Alethia, 2, 9 miles to meet her husband, attend a concert and then ride home.

"What the bike can do is pretty amazing," Cool says. "And, Lord, I'm 5 foot 3 on a good day. I'm not some super-tall Amazon woman. I'm just me, and this is how we do it."
Colonial-style home in Barrington: $1.2M

ADDRESS: 10 Hubbell Ct. in Barrington
ASKING PRICE: $1,198,000
Listed on Oct. 4, 2016
Grand foyer opens to formal living and dining rooms with exquisite millwork. Chef's kitchen flows to eating area, den and family room with fireplace. Second level has spacious master suite with cathedral ceiling, his and hers walk-in closets and a spa bath with limestone, jetted tub and steam shower. Walkout lower level with rec room, game room and exercise room. Close to shopping, dining, Metra train and Barrington schools.
Agent: Tara Kelleher of @properties, 847-826-2178
At press time, this home was still for sale.

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CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM/ATHLETES
A look at locals in the arts

By Myrna Petlicki

Pioneer Press

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

Watch out, world: Skokie artist Jacqueline Moses is part of a two-person show, "Dystopian Creations," at Water Street Studios, 160 S. Water St., Batavia, with artist Mary Ellen Croteau. Moses' works frequently include buildings and impending threats. The show runs Nov. 11-Dec. 4 with an opening reception 6-9 p.m. Nov. 11. For details, call 630-761-9977 or go to www.jacquelinemoses.com.

Now you see it: It's a love story. It's a magic show. It's "The Magic Play" at Goodman Theatre through Nov. 21. Elmhurst native Francis Guinan plays the role of the father in Andrew Hinderaker's intriguing work. Guinan performs frequently with Steppenwolf Theatre Company, where he is an ensemble member, and has also appeared with Route 66 Theatre, American Blues Theater and on Broadway in "August: Osage County," "The Grapes of Wrath" and "As Is." For tickets to "The Magic Play," go to www.goodmantheatre.org.

Split personality: Ninos Baba plays 10 roles in "I Am My Own Wife" at About Face Theatre. The Skokie resident is well-prepared for juggling multiple parts. A recent University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign graduate, he just completed an apprenticeship program at American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wis., where he performed in a trio of productions — "King Lear," "Death of a Salesman" and "Comedy of Errors." "I Am My Own Wife," a Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winner, is based on the true story of a transgender woman in Nazi Germany. Performances run through Dec. 10 at Theater Wit. For tickets, call 773-975-8150 or visit www.aboutfacetheatre.org.

Garland's for Angela: Judy Garland is preparing to make a comeback again in "End of the Rainbow" at Porchlight Music Theatre, through Dec. 4, at Stage 773. Playing that iconic performer is Skokie resident Angela Ingersoll. Ingersoll comes to that role directly from performing in "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying," at the Marriott Theatre. She has also appeared in productions at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Drury Lane Theatre, Paramount Theatre and Northlight Theatre, among others. Ingersoll and her husband Michael Ingersoll produce the Artists Live Lounge Series. For tickets to "End of the Rainbow," go to www.porchlightmusictheatre.org.

Pod(cast) people: Three guys with north suburban roots are participating in the inaugural Chicago Podcast Festival, Nov. 17-19, which offers more than 30 podcasts at a variety of Chicago locations. Northbrook native Scott Adsit from "30 Rock" is a guest on the "Hello from the Magic Tavern" and "Improv Nerd" podcasts. Evanston resident Jimmy Carrane, a Chicago improviser, will be improvising and interviewing Adsit on "Improv Nerd." Evanston resident Gary Zabinski hosts "Booth One," in which he interviews Charissa Halpern, founder of the improv theater IO Chicago. For details about the festival, go to www.chicagopodcastfestival.org.
NILES PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Techniques for cutting vinyl are just one of the handy skills that will be explained at the Niles Public Library's Maker Fest, noon to 4 p.m. Nov. 12.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Do-it-yourself experts share know-how at Niles Library

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Do-it-yourselfers of all ages will have a field day at Niles Public Library's first Maker Fest, noon-4 p.m. Nov. 12 at 6960 W. Oakton St.

"It is a celebration of the Maker Movement, which has become more popular in recent years," said Suzy Wulf who heads the library's Maker Fest Committee. "It can range from making robots to making jewelry. It's celebrating the art of making."

Visitors will be able to view demonstrations of robotics, knitting, quilting, flower-arranging, jewelry-making, 3D printing, mosaics and more. Presentations will be by hobbyists, crafters, local businesses and other do-it-yourselfers in the community.

"There's a lot of hands-on activities for all ages," Wulf reported. These include a circuit board craft, modeling clay project, holiday wreaths, temporary tattoos, group coloring and mosaic projects, doing a scene on a green screen and other projects. Kids can even do a dance on a piano made with Makey Makey.

The drop-in event is free.

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

Don't neglect your pet

Drop by the Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. again 2-3 p.m. Nov. 13 for the Second Sunday performance of "The Care and Feeding of Your Pet Dinosaur." You can pick up free tickets for this event in KidSpace starting at 1:30 p.m. that day.

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

POP over

While your youngster is enjoying a storytime, you can learn some feeding tips at POP! Parents of Preschoolers: Picky Eaters, 1:30-2 p.m. Nov. 17 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Coffee and cookies will be served at this drop-in event for parents and caregivers of kids ages 3-5.

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

Saving grace

Families will learn the importance of recycling at America Recycles Day, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Nov. 12 at Fuller Air Station Prairie/Tyner Center, 2400 Compass Road, Glenview. You will tour the interpretive center, which showcases green technology, make recycled paper and go on an outdoor scavenger hunt at this free event.

For details, call 847-724-5670 or go to www.glenviewparks.org.

Alice's adventures

For another take on Lewis Carroll's curious character, see Evanston Children's Theatre's production of "Looking Glass Land" by James DeVita, at Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Ave., Evanston. Performances are 7 p.m. Nov. 18, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Nov. 19, and 3 p.m. Nov. 20. Tickets are $7.

For details, call 847-448-8263 or go to www.cityofevanston.org.
Party supports summer concerts

Benefiting: Free summer concerts of the Park Ridge Fine Arts Society in Hodges Park
Location: O'Connor Community Building, Prospect Park, Park Ridge
Date: Sept. 17
Attended: 200+
Goal: PRFAS goal was to raise $10,000. All funds raised to support the concerts, which cost about $10,000 each to present.
Website: prfas.org

Event entertainers, the Chancey Brothers band are: Back, from left, David Chancey of Northbrook, Bob Chancey of Park Ridge, Joel Chancey of Darien; front, from left, Kati Maloney of Jefferson Park, Colette Byrne of Bolingbrook

Event volunteers (clockwise): Quin Costello, Connor Costello, Grayson Poindexter and Christian Poindexter, all of Park Ridge

Joanne B. Johnson of Park Ridge, board member, left, Barbara Petrowski of Park Ridge, volunteer

Share your event
We want to publish your photos. To submit, visit http://community.chicagotribune.com or email sburrows@pioneerlocal.com.
COMMUNITY REAL ESTATE HOMES IN YOUR AREA

NORTHBROOK
Five-bedroom, three-bath brick exterior Colonial design built in 1980 on a cul-de-sac. Largely redone since 2012 with refurbished kitchen, with professional stove, and first-floor bedroom as an optional office. Dining room wall has been removed for increased space and flow. New landscaping, plumbing has first and second-floor laundry room options, new windows, siding, gutter, soffit and fascia.
Address: 4206 Devonshire Court
Price: $649,000
Schools: Glenbrook North High School
Taxes: $12,741.13
Agent: Barbara Hibnick, RE/MAX Showcase

PALATINE
Three-bedroom, 2.5-bath ranch-style home built in 1986. Newer air conditioner, water heater, washer, dryer, roof and siding. Walkout basement is over 1,300 square feet and includes in-law arrangement with kitchen, full bath and woodburning stove. Deck with underneath storage in private backyard. Generator, central humidifier, electronic air filter and water softener all included.
Address: 1300 N. Grove Ave.
Price: $339,000
Schools: Palatine High School
Taxes: $8,792
Agent: Jim Pfligler, RE/MAX Unlimited Northwest

MOUNT PROSPECT
Address: 711 S. Noah Terrace
Price: $439,900
Schools: Rolling Meadows High School
Taxes: $7,961
Agent: The Schwabe Group, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

WINNETKA
Four-bedroom, 4.5-bath traditional home with cedar exterior built in 1999 in a "tree street" location. Rooms have 10-foot ceilings. Dark-stained hardwood floors throughout main living, dining, family and kitchen rooms. Mudroom entrance with cubbies and storage off private fenced-in backyard with two-car detached garage. Near lakefront.
Address: 1025 Elm St
Price: $1,225,000
Schools: New Trier High School
Taxes: $27,077
Agent: Brant Booker, Jameson Sotheby's International Realty

Listings from Homefinder.com

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puzzle island
every Sunday in the Life+Style Section
COMMUNITY REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The cost of fixing a leaking dishwasher can vary considerably.

HOME REMEDIES

Bewildered by dark fluid leaking from dishwasher

BY ALAN J. HEAVENS
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Q: The other night, I turned the dishwasher on as I usually do, and after a while a little bit of dark liquid dripped out of the right bottom corner of the machine and onto the floor. I cleaned it up, thinking very little about it, but the same thing has happened every time I have used the dishwasher since. In fact, it is getting worse, and I now have to put a bowl at that corner to catch the goo.

What should I do? The dishwasher is about 10 years old and works perfectly otherwise.

What do you think the problem is? Is it expensive to fix? Whom should I call, or should I try to fix it myself?

A: The problem is, I don't make house calls, so I have to diagnose these things without visiting the patient.

My best guess is that the bottom door seal is worn out enough to have stopped performing properly and needs to be replaced. It happens.

The cost of repair, which includes ordering the correct seal for that model, can vary considerably. A new seal itself isn't usually expensive, and your dishwasher is new enough so you wouldn't need to do much searching for a replacement.

From what I see in online videos, some brands accommodate work by do-it-yourselfers who follow directions that include shutting off the power. Other brands seem to beg for a professional repair.

Using a pro typically guarantees a quick repair despite the cost of a service call, labor and parts needed. Look on the manufacturer's website to see what's involved.

I usually leave plumbing and electricity to the professionals, although if the job is simple and not risky clearing a jam in the garbage disposal, for instance — I'll do it.

The late Marcel Pallard, who was my plumber and the subject of many columns over the years, once spent hours correcting a sink repair I had tried to undertake myself. He gave my wife his cellphone number as he was leaving for his home in Hatfield, Pa.

"If he ever gets within 5 feet of a pipe again, call me immediately and sit on him until I get here," Pallard told her.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency
**Transform your home with right lighting**

BY CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

Lighting may be one of the most important selections you can make when designing and decorating your home. While adequate lighting truly helps brighten a space and makes it more appealing, choosing a signature piece or thoughtful selections that enhance your decor can transform an otherwise dull space into one that stands out.

**Ceiling lighting**

Overhead lighting comes in different types. Pendant, flush mount or semi-flush mount are just a few of the popular options. Which one you select may be dictated by your space.

Pendant lighting — those that hang — typically works best in an entry area or over a dining table or kitchen island. When hanging, be sure to hang high enough so a desired view is not obstructed, as well as ensuring it does not rest too low. Pendant fixtures possibly lend themselves best to making a bold statement in the home. Consider purchasing a signature pendant that will stand out and make a grand statement in your entry or dining space.

Flush mount lights are those that suspend or over a dining table or kitchen island. These are popular choices in entryways or hallways. However, they tend to blend into the ceiling and may not add much character or style to a space.

Flush mount fixtures are ideal for spaces in which you may have a low ceiling or which is that perhaps minimal or understated.

A semi-flush fixture is a popular choice in entryways or hallways where the desired effect is one in which you may want to make a design statement but don't have the height needed for a hanging fixture. Semi-flush fixtures are those that suspend away from the ceiling surface. Flush mount fixtures are ideal for those spaces in which you may have a low ceiling or which is that perhaps minimal or understated.

**Wall sconces**

Wall sconces are a popular choice in entryways or hallways where the desired effect is one in which you may want to make a design statement opportunity to bring creativity and color into your space.

When considering the type of lighting to bring into your home, consider these tips.

- **Select your lighting based on function,** whether you are looking for task lighting, ambient lighting or overall illumination.
- **Consider purchasing a signature lighting piece.**
- **Don't miss out on decor opportunities such as incorporating wall sconces into your space.**

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

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

Thursday, Nov. 10

Coffee Talk to Connect With Chicago Pedway: Amanda Scotese, founder of Chicago Detours, is the featured speaker. Scotese will share a historical overview of the development of the Chicago Pedway System, which connects downtown buildings, parking lots and train stations. 1:30 p.m. Des Plaines History Center, 781 Pearl St., Des Plaines, $3 (suggested donation), 847-391-5399

Diabetes month by month: Learn tips on how to prevent, manage and take care of your diabetes in order to prevent complications. Every month we will have a different topic, from weight management, stress management, to how to read food labels. Class is bilingual (English and Spanish). 5 p.m. Errie Evanston/Skokie Health Center, 1285 Hartrey Ave., Evanston, free, 847-666-2346

Amy Helm & the Handsome Strangers: 8 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $18-$32, 847-492-8860

Everybody Move: Everybody Move takes place on Thursdays, Sept. 22 to Nov. 10, for infants to 2-year-olds, with caregivers. Celeste Cifala Roy, from Evanston's early childhood education program Every Move, has planned an hour of activities and exploration. 9:30 a.m. Lincolnwood Community Center, 6000 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Indian Vegetarian Cooking with Ranjana Bhargava: Chef instructor, Ranjana Bhargava talks about delightful Indian street food dishes, such as bhel, chutney, samosas and chaat. They are rooted in India's age-old vegetarian culinary traditions and adapted to today's kitchen and lifestyle. 2 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

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

Karaoke: Karaoke Bar has karaoke every day from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. 8 p.m. Karaoke Bar, 8751 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, free, 224-534-7158

Park Ridge Garden Club Meeting: The Park Ridge Garden Club hosts designer Judy Wherly from Lurvey's. Designing And Making Your Own Winter Containers, learn how to use fresh cut greenery and decorative accents to create gorgeous winter arrangements for your porch that will last through the winter. 7 p.m. Park Ridge Park District-Centennial Activity Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-0993

S.T.A.R. Opera Arts Club: If you have a love for operas and/or musicals, come watch videos of different operas/musicals followed by a fascinating discussion. 8 p.m. Park Ridge Park District-Centennial Activity Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free to members; $2 guests, 847-692-3597

Celebrity Chef Tiffany Derry Comes to Advocate Lutheran: Join reality TV chef and entrepreneur Tiffany Derry, best known as a fan-favorite on Bravo TV’s “Top Chef,” and a Novo Nordisk diabetes educator when they visit for a healthy cooking demonstration and educational workshop. Call or go to the website to register. 6 p.m. Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge, free, 800-323-8222

Park Ridge Toastmasters Meeting: This is the Park Ridge Toastmasters Bi-Weekly meeting. All are welcome to join for impromptu speaking, prepared speeches, jokes and much more. 7:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 415 Touhy Ave., Park Ridge, free, 224-715-5128

Karaoke Thursdays: Enjoy some great pizza and sing a tune or two. 7 p.m. Perry's Pizza and Ribs, 711 Devon Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-823-4422

Free Kris Allen Concert at Fashion Outlets of Chicago: American Idol Season Eight winner Kris Allen performs his new Christmas album “Something” About Christmas” at Fashion Outlets of Chicago’s food court. The performance is part of a sneak-peek event for Fashion Outlets of Chicago’s all-new Santa HQ experience. 7:30 p.m. Fashion Outlets of Chicago, 5220 Fashion Outlets Way, Rosemont, free, 847-928-7500

Damon Williams: Damon Williams performs original stand-up. 8 p.m. Nov. 10, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Nov. 11, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Nov. 12, Zanies Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont, $22, two item minimum food/beverage purchase, 847-813-0484

Amy Schumer: Laugh and enjoy original stand-up comedy performed. 8 p.m. Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim Road, Rosemont, $39-$109, 847-635-6601

Chicago Wolves Professional Hockey: The four-time champion Chicago Wolves deliver top-flight hockey and top-notch, live entertainment from October through April at Allstate Arena. The fun starts with the pre-game show that features fireworks and pyro. Go to the website for the team's schedule. 7 p.m. All week, Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim Road, Rosemont, Tickets start at $11, 847-834-9658

Brush with Nature 2016 Exhibit: Come to enjoy the artwork on display. Local artists include: Adrienne Aaronson, Stephanie Rose Bird, Tiger Lily Cross, Jan Flapan, Mary Longe, Debra Nichols, Fred Polito, Naomi Pollak, Amanda Roman and Ray Vlcek. 8 a.m. All week. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. Free, 847-674-1500

Friday, Nov. 11

Richard Shindell: 7 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $18-$32, 847-492-8860

Seth Walker: 10 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $15-$25, 847-492-8860

The Institute, Coming of Age during the Vietnam War: World premiere of the two-act drama “The Institute,” which follows the lives of four students at a Catholic, military school during the height of the Vietnam War. Special veterans night, check website for details. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11 and Nov. 12, Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2515 Central Park Ave., Evanston, $22, 847-571-0235

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Video Game Night for Ages 13 to 18: Hang out with friends and play video games on big screens using the library's game systems and collections. Pizza is donated by Goode & Fresh Pizza Bakery. On Nov. 11, Eric Garneau of Pastimes Comics and Games makes a guest appearance and brings popular board games for additional play. Please register at glenviewlor/register or call 5 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Avoca School District 37 Veteran's Day Breakfast: Join in this 10th annual Veterans Day Breakfast where veterans are honored for all they have done for our country. Come and let the students serve you a tasty breakfast and listen to some enjoyable music from the student orchestra. The doors open at 8:30 a.m. and breakfast is served at 8:45 a.m. Please RSVP to Cecilia Beneda or Roxann Giovannini by calling or to: benceda@avoca37.org by Friday, Nov. 4. 8:30 a.m. Avoca West Elementary, 235 Beech Drive, Glenview, free, 847-724-6800.

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.

STEAM Starts Ages 2 to 6: Join in the children's department for a self-guided exploration of science, technology, engineering, art, and, of course, reading. 10 a.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123.

"Assassins": Petite Operas presents "Assassins," a musical by Stephen Sondheim. Delve into the darker side of politics as our nation's most notorious assassins gather on stage to violently pursue a twisted American Dream. This eerie and disturbing tour de force psycho-bio-psycho-musical gives voice to the hopes, fears, and frustrations of nine assassins by exposing the twisted thoughts that made them such intriguing figures. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11 and Nov. 12, 2:30 p.m. Nov. 13, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, $24 - $34, 847-677-7761.

Saturday, Nov. 12

Opulent City: Opulent City features a variety of burlesque stars, daring pro aerialists, provocative circus performances and vintage vaudeville entertainers. 6:30 p.m. Rivers Casino, 3000 S. River Road, Des Plaines, $15, 888-307-0777.

Bob Schneider: 8 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $20-$44, 847-492-8860.

Louis Armstrong Legacy Concert: Join the Music Institute of Chicago Jazz Studies faculty for a boisterous tribute to the legacy of Louis Armstrong, who spent some of his most formative years in Chicago, the starting point for this American musical genius. 7:30 p.m. Nichols Concert Hall, Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $30 adults; $20 seniors; $10 students, 847-905-1500.

Signature Entertainment Presents: LOL Saturday: Adult comedy every Saturday night hosted by Comedy legends Tony Sculfield and Mark Simmons. National headliners with movie and television credits on stage. Awesome venue with full bar and dinner menu. 9 p.m. Chicago's Home of Chicken & Waffles, 2424 W. Dempster St., Evanston, $15 adult advance, $20 at the door, 847-521-6434.

Garden Club of Evanston House Walk and Holiday Boutique: This house walk and holiday boutique tours four spectacular homes in Evanston's Lakeshore Historic District - including the landmarked Stone Porch by the Lake and Stone Terrace bed and breakfast properties - with decorative floral themes inspired by area topics from the early 1900's to the modern era. The Holiday Boutique features planted containers, home and garden decor, jewelry, holiday gifts and more. Costs: $65 advance online purchase through Nov. 5; $75 day of the walk. 10 a.m. Stone Porch by the Lake and breakfast, 300 Church St., Evanston, $65-$75, 847-525-2131.

Animal Arts and Seasonal Stories: "Animal Arts & Seasonal Stories" are recommended for children ages 5 and up, but there is no minimum age requirement. Activities are offered at varying levels of difficulty and interest to engage the entire family. An adult must accompany participants. 10:30 a.m. Nov. 12 and Nov. 13, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, $3 kids, $5 adults, 847-475-1030.

Chicago North Suburban Myasthenia Gravis Breakfast Chat: Share the ups and downs of the rare autoimmune disease myasthenia gravis with other "MGers" in Glenbrook Hospital's casual Atrium Cafe. Use the West (Green) parking lot and Ambulatory Care Center entrance. 9:30 a.m. Glenbrook Hospital, 2100 Farnington Road, Glenview, free, 800-888-6208.

America Recycles Day: Learn why recycling is important and how to increase your recycling habits at home and work. Please meet at the Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center at 2400 Compass Road 10 a.m. Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, free, 847-724-8670.

Care and Feeding of Healthy Corn: John Lorens, as he talks about general care and feeding of healthy corn, his perennial favorite. 847-553-4424.

Bunko Parties to Benefit the Center of Concern: The Bunko and Lunch for men and women is held from 12:15 to 2:45 p.m. Later, Ladies' Night is held from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. The ticket includes Bunko games and prizes, buffet with chicken strips, quiche, mini sliders, pinwheel sandwiches, rolls, dessert, coffee and tea and also a cash bar. 12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, $25; $30 after Nov 4, 847-823-0453.
Sunday, Nov. 13

Do Not Submit: A Storytelling Open Mic: Second Sundays of the Month. Sign-up 6 p.m. Local event that is pressure free night for storytellers from zero to decades of experience to connect, share stories and hone their craft. 8 p.m. The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679

John Williams' Sunday music session: 3 p.m. The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679

“Theeb” (2015): This film was Oscar-nominated for Best Foreign Language Film. 1:30 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Chicago Lighthouse International Show of 3D Photography: Through polarized glasses, audiences see breathtaking photographic slides and digital images taken with antique and modern 3-D photographic equipment. The Chicago Stereoc Camera Club is a local forum for 3-D photographic enthusiasts who present their work in juried photographic exhibitions. 3:15 p.m. The Chicago Lighthouse, 222 Waukegan Road, Glenview, $7, 773-871-4227

Blood Drive at Temple Beth Israel: Temple Beth Israel Brotherhood and Kol Sasson through LifeSource will host a Blood Drive at TBI. Healthy adults, ages 17 and older (16 with parental permission) weighing at least 110 pounds, may donate by showing their photo ID. Walk-ins are welcome, but advance registration by calling TBI is encouraged. 8 a.m. Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-674-1500

A Little Night Music: Sondheim creates a stunning tour de force when he sets Ingmar Bergman's comedy of manners, "Smiles of a Summer Night," and turns it into a musical of masterful execution and elegance. 3 p.m. Dev-
The True Story of Smoky the War Dog: Come hear this heartwarming and inspirational story of one of WWII's most unlikely heroes, a tiny Yorkshire terrier. The military chose Smoky as the No. 1 entertainer in the South Pacific, awarded her the Medal of Honor and eight battle stars for her bravery. 10:30 a.m. Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Nanowrimo Write-In: Set your own writing goal for the month and challenge yourself to write a little daily. Meet up with fellow writers in the Teen Underground biweekly to share your work and get constructive feedback. 4:30 p.m. Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

How Nutrition Impacts Type 2 Diabetes: The North Suburban YMCA presents Marlo Leaman, Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered, for an informative one-hour discussion of how nutrition affects type 2 diabetes. For more information about programs for adults at the Y, go to NSYMCA.org. 10:30 a.m. North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7250

Distinguished Speaker Bret Stephens: Congregation Beth Shalom welcomes Distinguished Speaker Bret Stephens. "The Elections are Over; Now What Happens?" This presentation is open to the community and free of charge. 8 p.m. Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-498-4100

The Chicago L in the Movies: The "L" has been featured in scores of films with funny, telling and historical results. Greg Borzo, author of The Chicago "L" shares more than a dozen of his favorite "L" scenes from "The Fugitive" to "The Blues Brothers" and from "While You Were Sleeping" to "Risky Business." 1 p.m. North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10 NSSC member; $13 non member, 847-784-6030

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

Park Ridge Fly Tying Club Meetings: Chicago Fly Fishers Club meet at 7 p.m. Wednesdays, from October through May. An experienced demonstrator does demonstrations of fly tying, with members tying the same pattern using tools and materials provided by the club. 7 p.m. Park Ridge Community Church, 100 S. Courtland Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-823-3164

Pokemon Club Grades K - 6: Bring your own cards and meet up with fellow Pokemon fans. 4:15 p.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Senior High Youth Group: For all youth grades 9 to 12 to enjoy fun and friendship while engaging in meaningful discussions and service learning opportunities. The evening starts with a tasty dinner, sometimes chicken, sometimes pasta or pizza. 6:45 p.m. First Congregational Church of Wilmette, 1125 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-6660

Wednesday Night Church Activities: Their Wednesday night all-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. Winnetka Covenant Church, 1200 Hibbard Road, Wilmette, $5-$12, 847-446-4300

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

Recycling Green Tea: In honor of America Recycles Day on Nov. 15, Go Green Winnetka is hosting a "Green Tea" on what may and may not be recycled in Winnetka. RSVP to Liz.Kunkle@gmail.com. 1 p.m. Winnetka Public Library, 768 Oak St., Winnetka, free, 847-212-8500

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NOW PLAYING

"Boo! A Madea Halloween" ★★ ½
PG-13, 1:43, comedy
This latest Tyler Perry "Madea" flick is all about the laughs, nothing less and nothing more. The premise here is that Madea's soft-parenting nephew Brian (Perry) needs someone to watch his teen daughter, Tiffany (Diamond White), on Halloween because he's afraid she'll sneak out to a frat party. He calls on his no-nonsense Aunt Madea (also Perry). At times, Perry's writing and his troupe's acting feel too big and stagy for cinema, as if they're trying too hard to capture the energy of a live play on film. With "Boo! A Madea Halloween," you'll laugh hard, even when the jokes feel too slapsticky, too vulgar or too over-the-top. — Sofiya Ballin, The Philadelphia Inquirer

"Inferno" ★½
PG-13, 2:01, suspense/thriller
Ron Howard and Tom Hanks, two exceptional craftsmen and born entertainers, have somehow turned out a third adventure featuring author Dan Brown's renowned symbologist and world-saving dufford Robert Langdon that is precisely on the beam, bongerwise, as "The Da Vinci Code" (2006) and "Angels and Demons" (2009). This is a franchise with lead weights tied around its ankles. The problem lies in Langdon himself, a character made up of a few telling details (that Mickey Mouse watch, for one) in search of some flesh and blood. At this point in his career, Hanks is ready and eager for challenges or, at the very least, diversions with a little more spark than this one. — Michael Phillips

"Jack Reacher: Never Go Back" ★★
PG-13, 1:58, action
The new "Jack Reacher" movie, subtitled "Never Go Back," arrives four years after Tom Cruise made his first Reacher movie, subtitled nothing. It wasn't a huge hit, but it was hit enough. Some franchises are born; some are made; others thrust themselves upon the public. The latest Reacher film is directed, with reasonable skill and no trace of personality, by Edward Zwick. Rooting out corruption and evil wherever he wanders, Reacher (Cruise) advises his old pals in the U.S. Army. Maj. Susan Turner is played by Cobie Smulders, the best thing in the movie and a terrific on-screen sprinter. Clearly, she trained with the best of the best: Tom Cruise, in running mode, remains a sight to behold. — M.P.

"The Accountant" ★★
R, 2:08, action
Geographically and otherwise, "The Accountant" is all over the place. It's an odd, thickly plotted, two-faced action movie. Screenwriter Bill Dubuque solemnly offers various statistics and symptomatic descriptions relating to autism, while building scenarios designed to let our hero, played by Ben Affleck, kill anonymous goon after anonymous goon. The character at the center of the story is treated with respect and admiration, but in dramatic terms he's about as real-world plausible as Batman: an assassin who can out-Bourne Bourne, and who can out-compute the entire cast of "The Imitation Game." — M.P.

"Ouija: Origin of Evil" ★★ ½
PG-13, 1:39, horror
For a horror sequel built around a foundation of genre trends, "Ouija: Origin of Evil" contains far more goofy-spooky fun than one might expect. This prequel to 2014's "Ouija" takes the retro approach that has made "The Conjuring" franchise so appealing and layers it on top of the classic little-girl-possessed narrative. The result isn't so original, but it sports plenty of stylized thrills and chills that might make you think twice about a night with the Ouija board. It's an entertaining and creepy ghost story that just might scratch that seasonal itch for scares. — Katie Walsh, Tribune News Service
DEATH NOTICES
We extend our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.
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Death Notices

Arntzen, Dorothea G.
Dorothea G. Arntzen; Born Dec. 10, 1930, At Peace Nov. 6, 2016; beloved wife of Kurt; loving mother of Karin (Tom) Comyn, Ingrid (Jim) Thompson, Jenny (Chet) Balder and Kurt; dearest grandmother of Kelly and Daniel Comyn, Kyle and Kevin Thompson, Hannah, Hailey and Hunter Balder, Helci and Gehret "Hans" Arntzen; dear sister of Carol (the late Reinhold) Blotsch; sister-in-law of the late Karl (Marla) Arntzen. Visitation Wednesday, November 9th from 4 to 8 p.m. Funeral Service Thursday, November 10th, 10 a.m. at Nelson Funeral Home 820 Talcott, Park Ridge. Interment Town of Maine Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donation to Camp Soar o Children's Research Triangle, Chicago, would be appreciated. For Information 847-823-5122 or www.nelsonfunerals.com

Zei, Rita Lorraine
Rita Lorraine Zei, nee Schatz, 91, of Libertyville. Rita was the beloved wife of the late Richard Zei; loving mother of Richard P. (Delcina) Zei, Mary (Daniel) Olson, Christine (Donald) Mangelsdorf, Michael (Eileen) Zei, Margaret (Jeffrey) Foerstel, Frederick (Carole) Zei, Martin (Susan) Zei, James (Aliene) Zei, Steven (Catherine) Zei, Kenneth (Lisa) Zei, Janet (James) Spencer, Joseph (Kathryn) Zei; grandmother of Richard, Aileen, Jean, Kristin, Jack, Kathryn, Jackyn, Lisa, Lori, Joseph, Meg, Michael, Kevin, Nora, Adam, Ben, Julie, Thomas, Michelle, Timothy, Charles, Markus, Emily, James, Jonathan, William, Steven, Jeffrey, Jessica, Kenneth, Collin, Raisa, David and Anna; great grandmother of 40. Visitation was held on Friday, August 19, 2016 from 3-9 p.m at Oehler Funeral Home, 2099 Miner St. (corner of Northwest Hwy / Rt. 14 and Rand Rd), Des Plaines, IL. The funeral mass was held on Saturday, August 20 at St. Paul of the Cross Church, 320 S. Washington St., Park Ridge, IL at 10 am. Interment followed at Maryhill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Greater Chicago Food Depository - chicagofoodbank.org. Funeral Info 847-824-5155 or oehlerfuneralhome.com

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Starting an auto company is near-impossible — just ask Fisker, Coda, and DeLorean. Making inroads into a near-trillion-dollar industry seems more possible if it includes a futuristic fastback sedan produced by an automotive P.T. Barnum bent on disrupting the industry.

This unlikely tale could be about Tesla ... or Tucker.

For 1948, Preston Tucker promised a car that would cruise at 100 mph, get 65 mpg, and innovate with a rear-mounted engine, fluid drive semi-automatic transmission and adaptive third-eye headlight.

"Preston Tucker became a household name," said Steve Lehto, author of "Preston Tucker and His Battle to Build the Car of Tomorrow." "People fell in love with the idea: A guy who will build a car that is different and remarkable."

This could describe Elon Musk, co-founder and CEO of Tesla, whose goal is to bring electric cars with uncompromising style and performance to the masses, along with a 300-mile range.

"Tesla's really doing a good job of creating evangelists for their brand," said Jessica Caldwell, senior analyst at Edmunds.com.

"They came out with an electric car and made it cool. When they announced the Model 3, people waited in line. They have a very determined CEO who says outlandish things but accomplishes things out of the norm."

**Revolutionary cars:** The production '48 Tucker, designed by Alex Tremulis, featured futuristic fastback styling, doors wrapped into the roof and a center headlamp that would follow the curves in the road, much like today's adaptive headlights. A pop-out windshield enhanced safety. The car employed a rear-mounted helicopter engine to run 0-60 mph in 10 seconds and reach a top speed of 120 mph, blistering for 1948. It cost $2,500 ($25,000 today), but Tucker's sell for up to $3 million today.

By comparison, Tesla has built three cars off of two platforms, including the discontinued Lotus-based Roadster.

The Tesla Model S is an electric performance sedan available with all-wheel drive. The top-of-the-line P90D uses a dual-motor setup to reach 0-60 mph in 2.5 seconds or travel up to 302 miles per charge. Like Tucker's car, it has adaptive headlamps and a somewhat fastback style. Prices range from $66,000 to $134,500.

The S-based Model X crossover boasts rear "falcon wing" doors, the ability to run 0-60 mph in 2.9 seconds or travel 289 miles per charge. Prices run $76,500 to $135,500.

Bringing Tesla to the masses in the near future is the $35,000 Model 3, with a 215-mile range.

**Capital growth:** Tucker Car Co. and Tesla Motors both have had problems.

After high-profile Model S fires in late 2013 caused by debris puncturing the battery pack, Tesla added titanium shields and increased highway ride height via a software update. Other fires were linked to battery chargers, but there's no evidence electric cars ignite more often than gas vehicles.

Tesla's Autopilot, which steers within a lane, changes lanes automatically and dynamically manages speed, came under scrutiny when a Chinese driver died in January and an American fatally crashed his Model S into a semi this May. Musk announced software upgrades that rely more on radar than cameras and require the driver to keep hands on the wheel.

"Perfect safety is an impossible goal," Musk said during the news conference. "We are increasing the probability of safety." Tesla's automotive operations bleed cash but keep raising capital from investors who either suspend reason or believe Musk's bet will pay off. Tesla raised $1.46 billion by selling stock, Fortune.com said in May. Tesla gave guidance it will sell up to $17 billion in new shares as part of $2.25 billion needed to produce the Model 3.

Tucker, too, rode a wave of positive postwar publicity to get customers to want to buy a car yet to be made. Dealerships, distributors and dollars followed.

In today's dollars, Tucker raised over $200 million, mostly spent initiating his Chicago factory. If Tesla is any indication, he was woefully underfunded.

Lehto offers a lesson from Tucker: "Is Tesla doing it on too large of a scale? It was a criticism of Tucker, who went out and got the largest factory in the world. How long can you expect investors to stay for a ride? We don't know yet; Tesla and Musk are in uncharted territory."

**Political problems:** On June 14, 1948, the Securities and Exchange Commission subpoenaed Preston Tucker for bilking investors. His company's stock crashed and credit ceased. He eventually beat the charges, but his car died. Tucker raised $28,491,652 and spent $28,309,280, primarily on salaries, rent and material. Despite earnest effort, Tucker built just 51 cars.

**Seeing photos of** Tucker's assembly line "stuns people," Lehto said. "Tucker was a car company prepared to build cars. People still think he is a criminal. His plan was to build a bunch of cars, put them out there, then approach banks again."

McDonald went out of his way to shut down Tucker.

"Musk also is battling government oversight. Tesla is suing Michigan for the right to sell directly to consumers and subvert dealer franchise laws. It has been unable to get dealer licenses in Texas, Connecticut and Utah."

"The real thing Tesla and Musk need to worry about is you can have more money than God and still be run out of business," Lehto said. "Tesla could get the reputation of 'Your cars are killing people on Autopilot.' If the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration investigates, they could have a Corvair on their hands."

Barring that, how does Tesla avoid Tucker's fate?

"By building a compelling product," Caldwell said. "Cool and trendy doesn't last forever. Tesla won't have to sell a product better than the competition. Electrified autonomous vehicles are the industry goal. I would be surprised if Tesla ends up like Tucker."

**Competition will be fierce.** In September, Chevrolet announced its Bolt electric car with a 238-mile range and $37,995 sticker. Audi, BMW, and Mercedes-Benz have Tesla competitors under development.

Tesla has built about 70,000 cars — more than Tucker, Fisker, and DeLorean combined.

"It's tough to be as impossible, as Musk is learning from his predecessors, takes more than a cool car and the cult of personality."

Casey Williams is a freelance writer.
Preston leads Winona State’s rushing attack

BY SAM BRIEF
Pioneer Press

Paul Preston, a Maine South graduate and senior running back for the Winona State (Division II) football team, was second in the Northern Sun Conference with 919 yards rushing and also had nine touchdowns through the Warriors' first nine games. Preston, who stands at just 5-foot-4 and also returns kickoffs, racked up 198 yards and a score in Winona State's 21-20 loss to Augustana on Oct. 29.


Maine South, OPRF graduates honored by Concordia

Christina Kiotis, a Maine South graduate and defender on the Concordia women's soccer team, was named one of Concordia's athletes of the week for her stout defensive performances. On Oct. 29, Kiotis helped Concordia hold Aurora scoreless in a Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference tournament match, though Aurora would prevail on penalty kicks.

Oak Park-River Forest graduate Danielle McCormick, a junior on the Concordia cross country team, was also named an athlete of the week by the school. She received all-conference recognition at the Northern Athletics Collegiate Championships on Oct. 29th, finishing 14th in the 6K with a time of 25:31.3. Libertyville graduate Rebekah Hanagan and Lyons graduate Molly Miklosz join McCormick on the team.

Area athletes win conference volleyball title

The Wisconsin-Whitewater women's volleyball team won its second straight Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament title Saturday, qualifying for the NCAA Division III women's volleyball tournament. Angelika Pointer, from Evanston, Carmel's Elizabeth Tworek and Morgan Meade and Hinsdale South graduate Elizabeth Niestrom make up the Chigacoan contingent of the Warhawks' roster.

Entering the week, Niestrom, a sophomore, was second on the team in assists, and Tworek was second on the team in digs.

Lake Zurich grad contributes to UW-Whitewater soccer

In another UW-Whitewater conference title, Jordan Jackson, a Lake Zurich graduate, Emily Boyd, a Libertyville graduate, and Nina Yonan, a Niles North graduate, won the WIAC conference tournament championship Saturday for the UW-Whitewater women's soccer team. The Warhawks, ranked sixth entering the conference tournament in the Division III Coaches Association Top 25, are on a 19-game win streak and are 20-1 on the season.

Jackson, a junior forward, has three goals for the Warhawks in 20 games. Boyd, a freshman defender, has played in 10 games this season. Yonan, a freshman goalkeeper, has seen action in three games.

Locals to be inducted to Illinois Hockey Fall of Fame

The Amateur Hockey Association Illinois announced the 12th class to be inducted into the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame on Nov. 2, and four of the nine individuals have ties to Chicago's north and west suburbs.

The nine members include two players, Megan Bozek and Steve Konroyd. Bozek is an Arlington Heights native and Stevenson graduate and a member of the U.S. women's national team. She helped the Americans win gold at the 2013 and 2016 world championships and silver at the 2014 Sochi Olympics. She also plays for the Buffalo Beauts of the National Women's Hockey League.

Konroyd played for six NHL teams, including the Chicago Blackhawks, from 1980-1995. He now lives in Hinsdale and is a commentator for Blackhawk broadcasts on Comcast SportsNet and WGN.

Among the five to be inducted in the builders category are Myles Gottainer and Mike Rohdenburg. Gottainer is a former Wilmette resident who now lives in Arlington Heights and has coached youth hockey in the area for decades. He coached Bozek at Stevenson and also coached Loyola grad Al Montoya with the Glenview Stars.

Montoya is now a goalie for the Montreal Canadiens.

Rohdenburg is the coach for the Chicago Bruins midget major squad, which plays in Addison. He previously coached the Hinsdale Central Hockey Club from 2007-13.

The induction ceremony will take place Jan. 29 at Belvedere Events & Banquets in Elk Grove Village.

Michael Stainbrook contributed to this report.

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

Sam Brief is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
FRIDAY NIGHT SLIGHTS?

High school teams weigh in on Big Ten's Friday plans

BY BOB NARANG
Pioneer Press

Bryant most recently strolled the sidelines before Wisconsin's home victory against then-undefeated No. 7 Nebraska on Oct. 29 before settling down in his seat at the 50-yard line with other potential recruits.

All on Saturdays.

"It was crazy walking in there (for the Nebraska game), and I could feel the energy coming from the student section," Bryant said. "I've enjoyed my visits."

Bryant, who has offers from Wisconsin and Central Michigan, is one of the lucky recruits. Timing has worked out in his favor.

For most underclassmen and younger recruits, Saturday visits to Big Ten football games in September and October might not be as plentiful. The Big Ten announced Nov. 2 that it will begin playing six prime-time games on Fridays, starting next fall, as part of an agreement with ESPN and Fox that will last through 2022.

A schedule is slated to be released in the near future, with Friday games limited to September and October.

High schools in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan, in theory, would be most affected by the schedule change, as two Big Ten teams reside in each of those states. Michigan and Penn State have come out in opposition to hosting Friday-night games, while Michigan State and Wisconsin have indicated they'd be open to Friday games on a limited basis. The Spartans already play one Friday game per season and would not want to increase that number.

Illinois High School Association executive director Craig Anderson said Big Ten commissioner Jim Delany reached out to him and his counterparts in surrounding states before the announcement. He hopes to speak to Illinois athletic director Josh Whitman and Northwestern's Jim Phillips in the near future.

"We may not necessarily agree with the philosophy behind the Big Ten's decision, but we also understand that this was likely inevitable in the current college football landscape," Anderson said. "We know that the Big Ten is sensitive to the impact this decision will have on high school football in Illinois, and throughout the Big Ten footprint, and expect that will be reflected in their Friday scheduling."

New Trier football coach Brian Doll does not envision a player choosing to attend a Big Ten game on a Friday night over playing for his high school team. But Doll is worried how attendance will be affected at high school games when, for example, Illinois hosts a team such as Iowa.

"I was disappointed when I saw it," Doll said. "Friday night across the nation is a high school football night, and I don't want anything to take away from that.

"It looked to me to be more of a business decision. I don't think this decision is going to be received well from high school coaches. I'm not a fan of it. I would hope they would rethink it and talk to the high school association and coaches."

Doll said he allows players occasionally to miss Saturday-morning practices to visit college campuses. New Trier senior linebacker and tight end Max Rosenthal visited an Illinois game on a Saturday this fall. Rosenthal said some recruits might be worried about their futures when faced with a potential conflict.

"I think that's going to be a tough decision for recruits to make," Rosenthal said of choosing between playing on Fridays or focusing on future college opportunities. "I feel a lot of recruits will be in a bind there. I don't think anyone will walk out on their team and miss a Friday night game. For me, a power conference like the Big Ten playing on a Friday is pretty different and unique, but that's tough to understand."

Many local coaches and players in the north and west suburbs called the move a sign of the ever-changing times and pointed to numerous conferences, including the Mid-American Conference, which play games throughout the week.

Loyola coach and former Illinois and NFL linebacker John Holecek acknowledged Friday Big Ten games will be hard to digest at first, though he understands the reasoning behind the move.

"I'm glad that the Big Ten can change with the times. Hopefully, it will spotlight Illinois, and they get the spotlight on our schools and the Big Ten Conference."

Although the majority of high school varsity football games are played on Fridays, some local schools, such as Loyola and Lake Forest Academy, play all home games on Saturdays. After the first round, most IHSA football playoff games are played on Saturday.

Stevenson senior wide receiver Henry Marchese hails from a family of Big Ten athletes. His two older brothers currently play football — Joe at Maryland, Jimmy at Illinois — and his father played running back at Iowa, and two cousins played at Northwestern.

Marchese, who lives in Vernon Hills and has offers from Army and Bowling Green, said his family is not swayed by the news.

"The Big Ten is a money-making machine and it's weird, but whatever works, as long as football is being played," he said.

"The Big Ten is essentially catching up with the times. Michigan State has opened the last six seasons with a Friday-night game. In all, 36 FBS football games this season were played on Fridays in September and October. Schools such as Louisville, Clemson, Tennessee, Baylor, USC, Stanford and Washington have suited up on Fridays.

"I think it would be a cool experience," Eastern Michigan center and former Stevenson standout Jake Hurcombe said. Eastern Michigan has played two Friday games and a Tuesday game and will close with two more midweek games, a phenomenon affectionately called "MacTion" by fans of mid-major weekend football.

"It's kind of like the MACtion thing that has taken off," said Hurcombe, a redshirt senior. "I think it would be a cool thing to see the games on Friday nights."

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Chicago Tribune
chicagotribune.com/suburbs
Maine South senior Reese Jordan has proven he's one of the elite distance runners in the state.

But that's somewhat of a recent development, dating back only to the beginning of his breakout junior track season last winter.

Jordan said his lack of experience competing as one of the state's top-tier runners may have been responsible for his slightly disappointing showing at the Class 3A boys cross country state meet on Saturday at Peoria's Detweiller Park.

Jordan came in 11th (14 minutes, 36 seconds) easily earning all-state (top 25) honors. But the Park Ridge resident had entered the race hoping to finish among the leaders. Jordan was caught off guard by the fast pace of the lead pack during the first lap, and he eventually paid the price by fading down the stretch.

"It was the hardest race I've ever run. When I crossed the finish line, I just collapsed. I was really tired. I guess it was a good race for how bad I felt," Jordan said.

"Looking back, what would I do differently? I would have gone out a little slower. I don't think I was ready for the first mile."

This was Jordan's first state meet since 2014, when he finished 199th. He missed last year's event with a stress fracture in his right foot at a time when he was just starting to emerge as a top performer. Having that experience under his belt likely would have been beneficial this past weekend.

"I don't have too much experience being elite, and this year I've been an elite runner," he said. "Hopefully, I can learn from this and I definitely think I'll be able to carry my elite-runner ability into the track season."

Maine South had a successful afternoon, finishing ninth (301 points) as a team. It was the second-highest finish in program history after the Hawks' 2012 team, which came in fifth.

Sophomore Tommy Brady was 29th (14:53), junior Brandon Christopher was 52nd (15:04), senior Alex Ortwig finished 126th (15:36) and senior Brian Shanahan placed 164th (15:52).

New Trier

Though top runner Warren Blood, a senior, had some uncharacteristic struggles, New Trier had a memorable afternoon at the Class 3A boys cross country state meet on Saturday in Peoria.

The Trevians came in 14th (14 minutes, 38 seconds) at the Class 3A boys cross country state meet on Saturday in Peoria.

The Trevians came in 14th (346), only six points out of 12th, and their Nos. 2-7 runners all ran personal records.

Blood, who finished third at the previous week's sectional, ended up coming in 60th (15:19), senior Cooper Woolford was 88th (15:21), senior Matt Burke was 103rd (15:27) and junior Kiran Baakkonen finished 138th (15:41).

"It was kind of freaking out because I was at 4:40 (after the first mile) and I usually go out around 4:50," Tiongson said. "I slowed down after the first mile, tried to stay relaxed and save a good amount of energy for the last 300 meters. I had a good kick and I was able to pass a few guys (down the stretch)."

Loyola

Senior Paolo Tiongson finished 14th (14 minutes, 38 seconds) at the Class 3A boys cross country meet on Saturday in Peoria, eclipsing his previous best by 14 seconds.

The Skokie resident said he started the race at too rapid a pace. However, Tiongson said his spur-of-the-moment decision to slow down after the first mile was the key to a strong finish.

North Shore Country Day's Tommy McHugh (725) leads to the finish line at the Class 1A boys cross country meet on Saturday.

"I was kind of freaking out because I was at 4:40 (after the first mile) and I usually go out around 4:50," Tiongson said. "I slowed down after the first mile, tried to stay relaxed and save a good amount of energy for the last 300 meters. I had a good kick and I was able to pass a few guys (down the stretch)."

North Shore Country Day

Senior Tommy McHugh finished 40th at the Class 1A boys cross country meet on Saturday in Peoria, running a personal-best time of 15 minutes, 47 seconds. It was the Knights' second-highest finish in school history. The 2006 team took 16th in Class A, when the state still had a two-class system.

Senior Peter Conroy was Northridge's top runner, coming in 34th (15:41). His time was a personal best and the second-fastest time in school history.

"I was really excited about how I did," said Tommy McHugh, who lives in Winnetka. "This accomplishment has been four years in the making.

Niles North

Vikings junior Conor Perreault placed 80th in the Class 3A boys cross country state meet. He crossed the finish line in 15 minutes, 17 seconds on Saturday in Peoria.

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
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Improved focus helps Niles West make playoff run

Wolves to play in Class 4A state semifinals

BY STEVE REAVEN
Pioneer Press

With three standout seniors, including two four-year starters, and a budding sophomore star in its lineup, the Niles West girls volleyball team didn't skimp when it came to setting goals for the year. There wasn't much doubt that the Wolves had the necessary talent to set a school record for wins and earn the program's first sectional crown.

But there was still something that needed to emerge in order for Wolves to achieve those lofty aspirations.

"Being mentally prepared has become our strength," sophomore outside hitter Natalia Pehar said. "We have always had really good players but we learned that we have to stay focused and always be in the moment."

The refined mental approach paid off as the Wolves reached both objectives on the same night, beating 10th-seeded Fremd 20-25, 25-20, 25-23 in the Class 4A Glenbrook Sectional final on Oct 3 to pick up their 27th win.

Niles West then defeated Riverside-Brookfield 25-22, 25-22, 31-29 in the Schaumburg Supersectional on Saturday. The Wolves (28-8) advanced to Friday's state semifinals against Mother McAuley at Redbird Arena in Normal. That match is scheduled to begin at about 8:30 p.m.

The Wolves, the fifth seed, fell behind 22-16 in Game 3 against Fremd, equaling their biggest deficit of the match.

"Earlier in the year, they used to take me out before serving," said Tomuta, who hails from Lincolnwood. "I was really nervous on the first one. It was going through my head that if I miss that serve, we lose the match. But I realized that it was the time for me to be confident."

That sort of conviction surfaced after the season's turning point — the Wolves' three-game win over Central Suburban South rival New Trier in the Maine West Regional final on Oct 27.

The fourth-seeded Trevians had already handed Niles West losses in all three of the teams' regular-season meetings and had rallied from a 21-13 deficit in Game 3 to forge a 22-22 tie.

"After this year, with all of the seniors leaving, we might not have the same chance of doing something special," Pehar said. "We remind each other every day that this is the year."

Steve Reaven is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
THE FINISH LINE
Cross country season wraps up at state meet in Peoria.
Congratulations to Christiansen, Central Athlete of the Month for September

Ericka Christiansen, a junior at Maine East High School in Park Ridge, has been selected as the September Chicago Tribune Central Athlete of the Month, sponsored by Country Financial, and chosen online by Chicago Tribune voters.

Christiansen, a setter on the Maine East volleyball team, tallied seven assists in the Blue Demons’ 25-19, 25-13 win over Leyden on Aug. 26, and she recorded 10 assists in Maine East’s 25-19, 28-26 loss to rival Maine South on Aug. 30.

Christiansen is the daughter of Dave and Kathy Christiansen of Morton Grove. "It’s an honor,” says Erika, 16. "I was injured last year and I never thought I would get this (Country Financial recognition). I didn’t think I would come back this strong,” she says, of her season. "The lesson is, to never give up.”

Mary Jane Alagheband, a Country Financial representative in Evanston, presented a $250 donation from Country Financial to Maine East High School in recognition of Christiansen’s achievements.

Central Athlete of the Month for September Ericka Christiansen is honored on the 50-yard-line before the Blue Demons varsity football game at Maine East High School in Park Ridge. Pictured are (from left) Maine East High School Principal Dr. Mike Pressler; Maine East High School Athletic Director Steve Schanz; Christiansen, a Maine East High School junior and volleyball player; parents Dave and Kathy Christiansen; and Mary Jane Alagheband, Country Financial representative of Evanston.

"Country Financial is so pleased to support outstanding student athletes in the Chicago area,” says Alagheband. "It is so important to recognize the hard work and dedication that our athletes exemplify. Hopefully the athletes that we support will carry forth their contributions and formidable character into adulthood."

Alagheband’s office is located at 1015 Davis St., in Evanston. For more information about Country Financial services, call 847-733-7956.

For official Chicago Tribune Athlete of the Month rules and voting information, visit chicagotribune.com/suburbs/athletes.

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Alagheband can be reached at 847-733-7956.
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Morton Grove...Stunning Totally Renovated 2 Story - 10 room Colonial located across the street from Forest Preserves & Bike/Bridle Trails! 2 blocks from Park View School/Harrer Park/Pool! Sought-after open floor plan with 4 bedrooms & 3 ½ baths. Huge living room, separate dining room + eat-in kitchen. 24’ master bedroom with master bath. Full finished lower level with family room, game room, full bath & plenty of storage. Fabulous balcony from master bedroom overlooks forest preserve. Large yard with deck. 2 ½ car attached garage...... $511,000

**RARE “WOODLANDS” END UNIT!**

Morton Grove...2 PRIME PARKING SPACES & STORAGE UNITS! Meticulous 1800 sq ft 2 BR-2 bath end unit condo is fully upgraded. Large gourmet kitchen with breakfast bar & eating area, Granite counters, SS appliances, wine fridge & custom cabinets. Custom bar with custom cabinets & glass. Large master bed/bath suite with 2 walk in closets & custom shelving. New solid oak doors & trim. Hardwood flooring in kitchen, living & dining room. Remodeled bath w/spa like shower & marble tile. In unit laundry. Large balcony, Park View School Dist. Near Transportation!.............. $345,000

**HURRY BEFORE IT’S GONE!**

Morton Grove...Price SLASHED! Custom built 4 bedroom-2 bath Bi-level in super convenient to everything location! Living room/dining room “L” has stone wood burning fireplace. Updated eat-in kitchen with blond cabinets & white appliances. Entertainment size 21’ family room with bay window. Lower level 4th bedroom, full bath + laundry/utility room. Great back yard with partial fence. Quiet tree lined street. Award winning Niles West School District 219. Close to Edens Highway & Metra Train Station, Shopping & Entertainment. 2 car garage. Won’t Last at ...... $299,000