Marking Veterans Day
Niles ceremony remembers the deceased, thanks all who served. Page 6

Since Veterans Day is not a day of mourning, Jac Charlier explained why the flag is not flown at half-staff during a Veterans Day ceremony he helped to coordinate, where the names of deceased veterans were called out. People gathered near the Edgebrook flag at Lehigh, Caldwell and Devon avenues Nov. 12 as part of the special commemoration.

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Susan Dove Lempke, Niles librarian

Susan Dove Lempke, library director for Niles Public Library District in Niles, talked recently with Pioneer Press about what patrons have been saying and looking for in the days leading up to and following last week's presidential election.

Q: What genre are library visitors looking for as the nation processes the recent presidential election?
A: They're coming for different things, which is the nature of the library. There's definitely a lot of passion surrounding it, but the staff tries to stay professional and help people with whatever they ask for. We did have a political display, but it was political fiction.

Q: You mentioned that teens have told your staff they are afraid they could be discriminated against for different reasons since Donald Trump's election. How has staff responded?
A: Some of the staff are wearing safety pins to show that we're a safe place. The teen librarian is wearing one, I'm wearing one. I don't know who else is. I'm glad we have someone they could express that to too.

Q: Tell me about the new library patrons you signed up on Election Day.
A: We knew that anyone coming through (to vote) was in our district. Seventeen new library cards were issued that day.

Q: How was the response to the library's first Maker Fest, which was held over the weekend?
A: We got a huge turnout ... The vibe in the building was just buzzing.
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Veterans named, honored at special ceremony

Veterans were honored Nov. 11 during a special ceremony at which some of their names were called in gratitude for their service to the nation.

People gathered at the base of the Edgebrook flag, at the intersection of Lehigh, Devon and Caldwell avenues near several towns, including Niles. One by one, friends and family of living and fallen soldiers, from all branches of the U.S. military, called out names in honor of Veterans Day.

"Taps" was played as Jac Charlier, who helped organize the event, lowered the flag to half staff. The hour-long ceremony included several military-related readings, and acknowledgment of family members, friends and others in the community who support veterans.

The idea of officially commemorating war soldiers was first established following World War I, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website. But after the Second World War, the national legislation was changed and the current version of Veterans Day was enacted. On Oct. 8, 1954, Dwight Eisenhower became the nation's first president to issue a Veterans Day Proclamation.

"Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen are part of an unbroken chain of brave patriots who have served our country with honor and made tremendous sacrifices so that we may live free," President Barack Obama wrote in his final Veterans Day proclamation. "On Veterans Day, we salute the women and men who have proudly worn the uniform of the United States of America and the families who have served alongside them, and we affirm our sacred duty as citizens to express our enduring gratitude, both in words and in actions, for their service."

— Pioneer Press staff report

Dennis Paterka, at left, lowers the Edgebrook flag at Lehigh, Caldwell and Devon avenues to half staff. Matthew and Joseph Matuszak, right, watch as the flag is lowered during the playing of "Taps."
Lincolnwood students get a visit from WWII veteran

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

Youngsters at Lincolnwood's Rutledge Hall School sang "America the Beautiful" and read poems of thanks for a small group of veterans who gathered there on Nov. 11 as guests of the school's annual Veterans Day assembly.

Staff Sgt. Al Mampre, 94, was one of about 10 veterans who attended the ceremony at Rutledge Hall, but was the only World War II veteran.

"Many young people don't know our history," he told the group of third, fourth and fifth graders who decked themselves out in red, white and blue to show their patriotism. "A lot of the (vets) I used to see (on Veterans Day) I don't see anymore."

While many schools across the U.S. take Veterans Day off, Lincolnwood School District 74 stopped doing about a decade ago. Rutledge Hall has welcomed veterans on the holiday for many years since former Principal Jean Weiss first started the tradition. Lincoln Hall Middle School hosted a similar ceremony during the same time on Nov. 11, where Lincolnwood Mayor Jerry Turry recognized another group of veterans who gathered at the school.

Groups of students at Rutledge Hall lined up for their turn at the microphone to read patriotic poems they wrote for the vets, and the entire school sang together.

A medic stationed in the Netherlands during the German invasion, Mampre said seeing the sea of support from the kids was joyful. He shared brief stories with them about the time spent abroad during the war, and about a fondness he developed for the Dutch people while stationed in Holland.

The Oak Park native was a non-commissioned officer with Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, in the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army. Since retiring from a career as a psychologist in 1978, he's been touring schools all over the U.S. and abroad to share his experiences with younger generations.

He offered the students his thoughts about modern technology. "People are losing skills for communicating with each other," he said. "Even when you're surrounded by other people, you're really in isolation if you're on the phone."

The key to longevity, he said, is having a sense of humor and spending time with "a lot of good people."

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Skokie to hire four in preparation for merging 911 services with Lincolnwood

By Mike Isaacs
Pioneer Press

Skokie plans to hire four new communications operators and a supervisor to accommodate absorbing Lincolnwood's 911 dispatch services, according to Skokie Assistant Village Manager Jason Wicha.

The additional personnel will be paid for by Lincolnwood under an intergovernmental agreement approved this month by village boards from both municipalities. According to the parties, negotiations over the merger were triggered by new state legislation requiring towns with fewer than 25,000 residents to combine their 911 operations or risk losing state-allocated funds. Lincolnwood's population falls well under 25,000.

"Both communities identified it as a potential opportunity to provide both operational and financial benefits," Wicha said of the agreement. "While Lincolnwood did its due diligence in looking at a variety of options that may work best for them, I think we were always sort of natural partners."

Wicha cited the close proximity of the villages and that the police and fire departments have already worked well together as reasons the agreement makes sense.

"We've already been good partners with the village of Lincolnwood historically, and I think this was just an opportunity to further strengthen that relationship," he said.

Emergency services for Skokie will not be reduced, Wicha said.

"When we talk about taking on this level of service provision for another community," he said, "it's important ... that the public understands that in no way will this represent any degradation in service for the residents and businesses in our community."

Under the agreement, all 911 calls originating from Lincolnwood will come to Skokie's communications center and then get dispatched to Lincolnwood emergency personnel. Wicha said Skokie has studied historical data and determined that Lincolnwood receives about 9,300 911 calls a year. He estimated a 22 percent annual hike in Skokie's call volume because of the merger.

Although the agreement calls for Lincolnwood to pay for salaries and benefits for the new 911 dispatch operators and supervisor, Skokie could benefit from the additional personnel, Wicha said.

"What that will do is allow for an increased dispatcher to be on shift throughout all of the three shifts in a given day," he said. "I think it's important to highlight that as a part of this process, we will have an additional body 24/7 in our communications center."

Dispatch calls will be taken as they come in, according to Wicha, and no one dispatcher will be specifically allocated to Lincolnwood. He said the agreement could also reduce some of Skokie's overtime cost related to dispatch services.

Under the agreement, Lincolnwood also will be responsible for about 22 percent of operational and overhead costs in running the center. The savings for Skokie are estimated at $200,000 to $225,000 a year, Wicha said.

The agreement extends for five years, although Wicha said Lincolnwood had wanted a longer term.

"It was important for us to limit the term of the agreement to five years," he said, noting that the village has a five-year capital improvement plan. Lincolnwood Village Manager Tim Wiberg has said Lincolnwood could lose about $200,000 a year in state funding if it does not consolidate its dispatch services.

The neighboring village is among the last North Shore-area communities to make the switch, according to officials, and follows other smaller communities like Glencoe, Kenilworth, Northfield and Winnetka. Those towns are planning to move their operations to Glenview. Lincolnwood officials said seven full-time dispatchers and one part-time dispatcher who staff the village's call center will lose their jobs when the switch is made, which is expected by next summer. But the employees will be able to reapply for positions at the Skokie Police Department, they said.

Cleveland Street work in Niles to wrap up this month

By Brian L. Cox
Pioneer Press

Thanks to good weather and the addition of extra construction crews, the $9 million Cleveland corridor sewer project in Niles is coming in on budget and ahead of schedule, officials said.

The construction project was started in May as part of the Niles sewer master plan developed to address severe rainwater flooding that has affected more than 140 homes in the suburb for years, said Mary Anderson, Niles Public Services director.

"It is way ahead of schedule," Anderson said of the project. "We benefited from good weather, and the contractor was able to bring in additional crews." Initially, the project was expected to wrap up around mid-December. But officials said the work should be done by Nov. 30, save for some landscaping that is scheduled to be completed next spring.

"We had, at times, three crews working out there at any given time which allows us to make a lot of progress and finish up faster and impact the neighborhoods much less than we would have," Anderson said.

The project calls for the installation of a new storm sewer with a 72-inch main line along Cleveland Street and Monroe Street, branch- ing out to the adjacent side thoroughfares of Kenney Street, Oconto Avenue, Odel Avenue and Oconto Avenue.

It consists of the installation of a relief sewer to capture stormwater runoff and convey it to a new outfall to the North Branch of the Chicago River, according to information about the project on the village's website.

In total, about 11,200 feet of new storm sewer is expected to be installed, the website information indicates.

"It dates back to the startup of the sewer master plan and is a stormwater improvement project that included a lot of other infrastructure," Anderson said.

"It was open trench construction," she added. "In addition there were connections to adjacent streets and some sanitary sewer work done; new curb, gutter and sidewalks in some areas. All of the streets that were impacted by the construction -- that are Niles roads -- are being completely resurfaced from curb to curb."

The Public Services director also said the project, which was forecast to cost $9 million, has largely come in on budget. The village got $2 million from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and some funding from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for the project, according to village data on the project.

"We did have some change orders, which is not unusual, given the scope of a project like this," she explained. "With more than two miles of roadways being impacted, you find some unforeseen conditions. We crossed three state roads. You find things that maybe you didn't expect to be there."

She also said that initial indications are that the flood relief effort is working.

"There were some heavy rains (recently) in a short period of time and everything performed very well," she said. "We're very pleased with it so far. We think it's going to be a tremendous relief for that area for quite awhile to come."

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

Erie Health clinic gets $1.9 million to expand

NorthShore University Health System has announced a grant for a community health center in Evanston to help the clinic expand its services to more low-income patients.

NorthShore is giving a total of $900,000 to the Erie Family Health Center, including a $700,000 capital grant, according to a news release from NorthShore. The money is expected to help the health center add 7,000 square feet to its clinic in Evanston, and the expansion would help the clinic go from having 15 exam rooms to 30, the release said.

"We know there is still a great unmet need for primary care services," said Dr. Lee Frances, CEO and president of Erie Family Health Center, in the release.

According to the Erie Family Health Center website, the center serves some 70,000 patients at 13 clinics in Chicago and suburban areas, including an Evanston location at 1285 Hartley Avenue that also serves Skokie. Services are provided to patients with health insurance, as well as on a sliding scale to those who don't, according to the website. The latest grant comes three years after NorthShore gave $1.2 million toward construction of the Evanston clinic, and another $600,000 to aid in costs in the facilities first few years, according to a story on the city of Evanston's website. The clinic also received $1 million from the Finnegan Family Foundation for the expansion, the release said.

The NorthShore health care network is affiliated with the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine and includes Evanston, Skokie, Glenbrook and Highland Park hospitals.

-- Staff report
District 207 pays $1 million to settle hazing lawsuit

BY ROBERT MCCOPPIN
Chicago Tribune

A northwest suburban high school district has agreed to pay $1 million to settle a lawsuit by five former student athletes who said they were physically assaulted in hazing rituals.

The payment of $200,000 to each of the five former students is meant to bring closure to an incident that put a national spotlight on Maine West High School in Des Plaines and the problem of school hazing.

The Maine Township High School District 207 board voted Nov. 14 to approve the settlement, which will be paid by its insurers, but the school system admitted no wrongdoing.

The suit related to an incident in the fall of 2012 in which players on the boys soccer and baseball teams at Maine West said teammates initiated them by assaulting them at practice, in at least one case by poking them in the rear with fingers and a stick.

Other players then came forward to say they had been assaulted by teammates that summer and in 2007 and 2008, one alleging that they tore off his pants and underwear, following a longstanding custom.

After interviews with the victims, authorities charged six students in juvenile court with misdemeanor assault.

Two coaches were fired.

Cook County prosecutors later dropped charges against the students and instead charged former soccer coach Michael DiVincenzo with misdemeanor hazing, battery and failure to report abuse. After a trial, a judge acquitted the coach of all charges, stating that no one testified that the coach knew what was happening.

The district issued a statement that officials entered the agreement in part to avoid the cost of further litigation, and so as not to have to call former students and staff to testify at trial.

"The settlement will bring to a closure a matter that has weighed heavily on the entire community since 2012 and is, in the judgment of the Board, in the best of interests of all involved," the statement read.

The suit alleged that one victim's teammates tore his pants off, pushed him to the ground, shoved his face in the dirt, held him so he could not resist, struck him about the body, grabbed his genitalia and sodomized him with fingers and foreign objects. Police had said earlier that they concluded there was inappropriate touching by perpetrators but no penetration.

The complaint accused the district and its officials of allowing a culture of hazing that led to younger players being beaten and sexually abused by upperclassmen.

Attorney Antonio Romano, who filed the suit, applauded the board for taking the hazing allegations seriously from the beginning.

"The children involved in this experience, along with their families, are happy that they have been able to put this chapter of their lives behind them," he said. "As they are now all adults, they are concentrating on their college studies, careers and bright futures."

Morton Grove to consider pot fines

BY PHIL ROCKROHR
Pioneer Press

A proposed ordinance change will align Morton Grove's fines for possession of small amounts of marijuana with the new state law and allow the village to issue local citations for possession of drug paraphernalia, according to police Chief Michael Simo.

The Village Board is expected to vote at its Nov. 28 meeting.

"We never really had an ordinance against paraphernalia that officers could enforce," he said. "(Since the state legislature changed the rules about possessing under 10 and over 10 grams and the paraphernalia associated with that, it seemed like a good time to do it all at once.)"

Trustees could set fines at $100 to $200 for possessing up to 10 grams of marijuana, according to the proposal. Fines for possession of 10-30 grams would be between $200 and $750; having 30-100 grams could carry a $500-$750 penalty.

Meanwhile, fines for illegal possession of drug paraphernalia in conjunction with 10 grams or less of marijuana and other illegal drugs would be $100. The cost could rise to $200 for drug paraphernalia possession along with more than 10 grams of marijuana, according to the revised ordinance.

As of this past summer, the state lessened the severity of penalties for 10 grams or less in order to keep more minor cases out of the court system, Simo said.

The new ordinance, including illegal possession of marijuana or drug paraphernalia, will be prosecuted in local administrative court, Simo said. Previous fines for 10 grams or less ranged from $100 to $750.

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

**Niles**

**BATTERY**
- Monica Youkhana, 28, of the 1900 block of West Sunnyside Avenue, Chicago, was charged with battery and criminal damage to property Nov. 1. According to police, surveillance video from a business in the 9000 block of Milwaukee Avenue showed Youkhana hitting two men with glass bottles during a fight. Both men reportedly told police they were trying to stop the fight when they were hit. Police said Youkhana is also accused of kicking one of the men and breaking his headphones. She is scheduled to appear in court Dec. 13.

**BURGLARY**
- Power tools were reported stolen Oct. 29 from an unsecured garage in the 7700 block of Oriole Avenue, police said.
- A backpack containing an electric shaver and prescription medications was reported stolen Oct. 31 from an unlocked car, parked overnight at the shopping center in the 800 block of Civic Center Drive. Three silver coins were reported stolen.
- A disabled parking placard was reported stolen Nov. 2 from an unlocked car parked in a lot in the 8700 block of Dempster Street.

**DUI**
- Matthew Broy, 22, of the 700 block of North Skokie Boulevard, Northbrook, was charged Oct. 30 with driving under the influence after he was reportedly involved in a crash in the 8900 block of Washington Street. He is scheduled to appear in court Nov. 29.
- Ismael Roldan, 46, of the 3300 block of North Byron, Chicago, was charged Oct. 29 with driving under the influence of alcohol and driving on a suspended license. According to police, Roldan was stopped at Caldwell and Touhy Avenues for allegedly speeding. He is scheduled to appear in court Dec. 9.

**THEFT**
- Poziya Nursumar, 43, of the 6200 block of Mozart, Chicago, was charged with theft Oct. 28 on the 5400 block of Touhy Avenue.
- Ignacio Fernandez, 20, of the 4700 block of South 47th Street, Chicago, was charged Oct. 29 with theft Nov. 2 on an outstanding warrant.
- Aysa Ainarin, 27, of the 2900 block of East 72nd Street, Chicago, was charged Nov. 1 with theft.

**OBSTRUCTION**
- Aysa Ainarin, 27, of the 2900 block of West Giddings Street, Chicago, was charged Oct. 29 with obstruction and driving on a suspended license. According to police, Ainarin was stopped at Caldwell and Touhy Avenues for allegedly stealing a man's backpack.
- Matthew Broy, 22, of the 700 block of North Skokie Boulevard, Northbrook, was charged Oct. 30 with obstruction and driving on a suspended license. According to police, Broy was stopped at Golf Mill Shopping Center. He was given a Dec. 9 court date.
- Jeremy Grayson, 25, of the 1300 block of North Howard Street, Chicago, was charged Oct. 29 with battery Nov. 3 after police were investigating a report of a suspicious person in the 6900 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

**Skokie**

**ROBBERY**
- An armed robbery occurred Nov. 7 at Subway, 4925 Dempster St. Police said a man entered the store and displayed a handgun to an employee. The suspect forced him to open the register to hand over money, police said. Police said the victim was then locked in the freezer for a few minutes.

**BATTERY**
- April L. Maupins, 49, of Chicago, was charged with battery Oct. 29 on the 5300 block of Touhy Avenue.

**OBSTRUCTION**
- Narcellus Taylor, 21, of Chicago, was charged with obstructing identification Nov. 4 on the 7400 block of the Edens Expressway.

**THEFT**
- Alejandro Negrete-Najera, 39, of Chicago, was charged with retail theft Nov. 5 on the 5500 block of Touhy Avenue.
- 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.

**DUI**
- Jose D. Tejada, 24, of the 200 block of Keating Avenue, Skokie, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a suspended and revoked driver's license Oct. 29 on the 4900 block of Dempster Street.

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Scores of runners expected to ‘trot the course’ in annual race

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

The Nov. 20 Turkey Trot races will continue the annual tradition of welcoming thousands of runners to Lincolnwood each November to celebrate America’s love of the Thanksgiving bird while bringing people together for a day of outdoor enjoyment.

The 5K and 10K races also serve as the fitness event that helps to kick-start burning off those extra pounds people often pick up from lavish holiday dinner spreads.

Every year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, Lincolnwood closes down some of its major roadways, including parts of Pratt and Lincoln avenues, to make way for thousands of runners who flood the streets to race toward the finish line near Proesel Park.

Enrollment for the Nov. 20 Turkey Trot is expected to reach capacity for 2,000 participants before race day, organizers predict, when thousands more spectators are anticipated to head to Proesel Park to cheer on friends and family competing in the races.

To mark the milestone 40th anniversary of the race, Linda Vering, of the Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Department, said participants will be treated with cider and pumpkin pie at the finish line, which will be near the aquatic center at 7055 Kostner Ave.

Also, she said, participants who finish the race will receive 1970s-inspired medals. Headbands adorned with a plush turkey on top will be handed out to the first 1,500 runners who arrive on race day.

“IT will be funny to see the sea of turkeys running by,” Vering said. “It’s always fun and this year we’re trying to make it an even bigger celebration.”

To pay homage to the premiere year of the Turkey Trot in 1976, oldies from the 70’s spun by a live DJ stationed near a disco ball will greet runners as they cross the finish line.

Last year, registration reached capacity a few days ahead of the race, Vering said. About a week ahead of this year’s race, 1,600 runners had already signed up, with more participants expected to commit to the event before race day, she added.

Additionally, the growing popularity of the Drumstick Dash, where kids chase an adult dressed up as a turkey down a race course, prompted race organizers to lower the age range for participants from 10 to 6 this year, Vering said.

According to the Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Department, runners from 13 states, including from as far away as Idaho and Florida, and three countries, including Finland, Israel and the U.K., are expected to participate.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Lincolnwood Town Center gets new shops

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

With Black Friday soon to trigger the start of the 2016 holiday shopping season, Lincolnwood Town Center mall is gearing up for the influx of shoppers and has four new retailers that recently opened for business.

The new additions to the mall’s mix of 80-plus retailers — which are anchored by big-name department stores Kohl’s and Carson’s — are Gamers World, women’s plus-size clothing chain Torrid, jewelry retailer Zales and Leo’s Tacos in the second-floor food court.

All four newcomers opened in September and October, according to Lincolnwood Town Center spokeswoman Tasha Yohan.

Also, Lincolnwood Town Center is preparing for the busiest shopping time of the year by planning for Santa’s Nov. 18 arrival. He’ll ride a sleigh into the mall’s center court area. Pet photos with Santa and a holiday-themed train ride for kids will also open the same week, said Yohan.

“We encourage shoppers to follow us on social media, visit our website or call us to keep up with our holiday happenings, promotions and retailer sales,” she said in an email.

Even with the ease of online shopping and Internet retailers enticing shoppers with heavy discounts and free shipping during the holiday season, department stores are still faring well, according to data from the National Retail Federation.

According to the organization’s spokeswoman Tracy Reynolds, a survey of consumers conducted by the National Retail Federation showed shoppers will split their time almost evenly between three top destinations: department stores (57 percent), online (also 57 percent) and discount stores (56 percent).

The survey also found that 45 percent of holiday shoppers plan to visit a grocery store this season, 34 percent said they would shop at clothing stores, 27 percent would spend money at electronics stores and 23 percent said they would visit a small or local business. Ten percent of shoppers said they planned to visit outlet stores, which was a new category added to the annual survey this year.

The many conveniences of online shopping won’t be overlooked by shoppers, however.

More than 90 percent of respondents in the survey said they planned to take advantage of free shipping offers from online retailers, and other out-of-store shopping conveniences like buying online and picking up in the store and store-to-store shipping. The latter two were popular among 47 percent of respondents.

In addition, 17 percent will take advantage of expedited shipping and 10 percent will use same-day delivery.

Despite the appeal of cyber-shopping, Yohan said brick and mortar stores offer a social gathering place that consumer’s can’t get online.

And by hosting community events like a health fair for seniors and a fashion show staged by local high school students, for example, the mall offers more than just a place to go shopping, she said.

“Malls provide all kinds of retail experiences and entertainment,” Yohan said. “People still enjoy a hands-on experience with a diversified retail mix, and we are optimistic that we will have a successful holiday shopping season based on what we’re seeing and hearing from our retailers at Lincolnwood Town Center.”

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Lincolnwood Village Hall's art gallery is hosting artist Laurie Walker's collection of animal-inspired works for the gallery's final exhibit of the year.

The exhibition will be open through the end of December and captures wild animals in a series of realistic-looking paintings and pet portraits Walker creates using acrylic paints on canvas and stone.

Working out of her Glenview home, Walker uses photos of wild animals to recreate their appearance on smooth canvas by dipping very fine paintbrushes into thinned paint and building up the textures of their fur starting with light colors at the base and gradually adding dark pigments at the surface, she said.

The result is a very realistic-looking portrait of the animal, which she said helps her connect with nature and raise awareness about wildlife.

Standing in the village hall lobby where the walls are now lined with Walker's images, she described her fascination with wildlife during the Nov. 9 artist's reception the village held for her.

"I think people sometimes overlook how beautiful wild animals are, so I hope my work helps bring out that beauty," Walker said.

Walker recently caught the eye of gallery curator Shirley Engelstein, who selects six artists each year to exhibit their art collections in village hall. The two met at the Wilmette Arts Guild, where Walker chairs a scholarship program and runs a student art show.

"I saw a rabbit she painted and I couldn't take my eyes off it -- the animals practically look real," Engelstein said. "The incredible detail in which she executes her paintings is something special."

After spending several decades focusing on making wildlife come alive on paper, Walker added pets and beach scenes to her scope of work as an artist, she said.

She said animal lovers who lose their pets sometimes commission her to paint portraits of their dogs and cats to preserve their memory.

Born in Port Washington, New York, Walker graduated from Trinity University in San Antonio, where she met her husband Scott, and later moved to Wilmette, where she lived for 28 years before recently moving to Glenview.

Glenview-based artist Laurie Walker at an open house at Lincolnwood Village Hall Nov. 9 to mark the start of her two-month art exhibition. The display is open for public viewing.

Walker said her works have appeared in shows in Houston, Memphis, Wilmette, New York, Puerto Rico and Palm Beach, Florida.

She also teaches art classes for schools and churches in the North Shore area, and she runs a summer art programs for kids called "Backyard Art."

Natalie Hayes is a freelancer.

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Tiny Cubs fans celebrate World Series win

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

The "Fly the W" flag flew under sunny skies on Nov. 8, thanks to both breezy conditions and the enthusiasm of some of the North Shore's youngest fans of the Chicago Cubs.

"The Cubs have brought everyone together," said Fouzia Khan, of Lincolnwood, child care services manager for the Skokie Park District's Tot Learning Center at 3701 Howard St.

A group of nearly 90 children enrolled in the learning center were escorted by faculty and family members during a parade along the school's parking lot celebrating the Cubs' World Series win.

"There is no age barrier, from the littlest to the newborn to more than 100 years old," Khan said. "The Cubs have brought so much love and affection among people."

The children had been working on projects connected with the Cubs' win, facility officials said, and the lobby featured posters with Cubs themes and music classes included the "Go Cubs Go" song.

Khan said teaching about the Chicago Cubs helps to encourage youth sportsmanship and a lifetime of fitness.

"That's what our learning is all about," Khan said. "We bring in learning for what the children can grasp, what children are interested in. And this is what they are talking about."

Carol Arkin, of Skokie, who works in customer service at the center, was raised in Chicago.

"My parents took us to the ball game," said Arkin, who said she had the chance to attend a World Series game on Nov. 4 at Wrigley Field.

She said from her childhood, she's been instilled with team spirit for the Cubs.

"It's just there," she said.

While "Go Cubs Go" played on a portable speaker, children, from infants in strollers to 5-year-olds, participated in a slow-moving parade. Some of the kids sang the song and drivers passing by honked at the sight of the children on the sidewalk.

"All of these memories are great memories," said Al Jagutis, of Niles, who escorted his grandchild, Carson Hamilton, 2, of Chicago, with his wife. "We're part of breaking the curse!"

"All of these memories are great memories. We're part of breaking the curse!"

- Al Jagutis, of Niles

Fouzia Khan, of Lincolnwood, child care services manager for the Tot Learning Center welcomes parade participants.

Anna Khoshaba, a teacher's aide from Skokie, tries to get drivers to honk while she holds a "Fly the W" sign.

"All of these memories are great memories. We're part of breaking the curse!"

- Al Jagutis, of Niles

Childs Hamilton, 2, of Chicago, is in the arms of her grandfather, Al Jagutis, of Niles.

Katie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Northbrook Cubs fan, 108, dies after World Series win

BY Irv Leavitt
Pioneer Press

A Northbrook woman who waited a 108-year lifetime for a Cubs championship died after it finally happened.

Mabel Ball, born the year the Cubs had last won the World Series, died Nov. 8 at Covenant Village of Northbrook, died after it finally happened.

"The cruel irony, the almost unbelievable irony, is that the person who waits and waits and waits, after it happens, says, 'I've done what I've got to do, and I'm out of here,'" her son Rich, 75, of Oak Park, said. "It ain't out of here:" her son Rich, says, "It's a lot of nonsense," he laughed. "She was always a Cubs fan, which surprises me," said another son, Don, 72, also of Oak Park.

He said that the interviews didn't add any stress to her life. She seemed fine.

"But it was the beginning of her last days as one of the Cubs' oldest fans."

As she rested in bed a few days after her heart attack, he said he told her, "Mom, you know, you've become a little bit of a low-level celebrity. Your story was in the newspaper, and it was on TV, coast-to-coast. A friend of mine even saw it in Berlin."

"What do you think about being a celebrity?" he asked her.

"I've done that's worthy of writing down. It's who you are." she said.

"But it was the beginning of her last days as one of the Cubs' oldest fans."

"I guess it tickled her a little bit," he said.

Though she followed the Cubs on the radio, she only went to one game, on her 90th birthday, Rich Ball said.

"She was such a sweetie," Preis said. "One of the nicest people."

"She didn't see the deciding seventh game, and the Cubs eventual Nov. 2 triumph was not much of a world-changer for her, unsurprisingly, Rich Ball said.

"She taught me something important," Rich Ball said. "She had no resume. It's not as important what you've done that's worthy of writing down. It's who you are."
Soda pop tax approved as Preckwinkle breaks tie vote

BY HAL DARDICK
Chicago Tribune

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle personally ensured her controversial new penny-announced pop tax passed last week by breaking a rare tie vote among commissioners. The two-term board president stepped further into the glare of a spotlight because she's counting on the $224 million a year the beverage tax is expected to bring in to balance the books.

"Raising revenue was never my first choice," Preckwinkle said. "This measure provides important revenue, not only to avoid damaging cuts for public health and public safety systems, but also to expand our community-based interventions in both arenas. It also puts us on a stable financial footing for the next three fiscal years, during which we will not have to approve any additional tax increases."

 Asked after the vote why the county could not make further spending cuts, Preckwinkle defended her six-year record, saying she had reduced the workforce by 10 percent and overall debt by a slightly greater percentage.

Along with the new beverage tax, the county also passed an ordinance barring further sales tax increases, or property tax increases beyond the rate of inflation, before 2020 - a measure proposed by Commissioner John Fritchey, D-Chicago, who voted against the beverage tax. That has the political advantage of pushing off further major tax increases until after the 2018 elections, when Preckwinkle's office and those of 17 commissioners are on the ballot.

The new tax on sugary and artificially sweetened beverages goes into effect July 1. The tax also will be imposed on fountain drinks at a penny an ounce, bringing the tax on a 7-Eleven Gulp to 32 cents and on a Double Gulp to 50 cents. It won't apply to drinks bought with a Link card issued to families in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program because additional consumer taxes can't be added under the federal program.

It's the latest tax increase Preckwinkle pushed through a divided County Board. Last year, Preckwinkle approved a 1-quarter sales tax increase.

She was elected in 2010 on a pledge to eliminate the remaining portion of the sales tax increase enacted under her one-term predecessor, Todd Stroger. In the past 16 months, she's restored the Stroger tax, slapped a new tax on sweetened beverages and approved a new 1 percent tax on hotel stays.

The pop tax vote came after nearly three hours of public testimony, with retailiers saying it will harm their bottom lines and health advocates saying it would help reduce rates of diabetes, obesity, heart disease and tooth decay.

Representatives from the beverage industry said it was a regressive tax that would hit low-income people hardest and worsen already declining sales of products that create many well-paying union jobs in the region.

Tanya Trich of the Illinois Retail Merchants Association suggested a legal challenge could be coming on the basis of double taxation, given that sales taxes already are applied to beverage purchases.

The beverage tax would apply throughout the county, including Chicago, where there's already a 3 percent tax on retail sales of soft drinks in cans or bottles and a 9 percent tax on the wholesale price of fountain drink syrup.

Commissioner Jesus "Chuy" Garcia, D-Chicago, chafed at suggestions from some opponents that the tax was needed because of county mismanagement, noting that under Preckwinkle the county had increased the sales tax to shore up a long-underfunded worker pension system and significantly reduced the size of the jail population.

Commissioner Timothy Schneider, R-Bartlett, said, "When will they learn that people have choices, and they're choosing to leave?" He voted against the tax.

Absent was Commissioner Robert Steele, D-Chicago, a Preckwinkle ally who was hospitalized earlier in the week.
Metra board votes to increase fares by 5.8 percent in 2017

By Mary Wisniewski
Chicago Tribune

Metra's board voted Nov. 11 to approve its third rate increase in three years, which would raise fares in 2017 by $11.75 for a monthly pass.

Under a $1.06 billion budget for 2017 approved by the board, fares for the commuter rail service's 150,000 daily commuters will increase by an average of 5.8 percent, starting Feb. 1. This follows a 2 percent increase approved for this year and an 11 percent increase that went into effect in 2015. The increase is part of a 10-year, $2.4 billion modernization plan put forward in 2014 that will raise fares annually to help pay for modernizing the agency's rail fleet.

The fare increase would mean a 25-cent jump in adult one-way tickets, a $2.25 increase for 10 rides and an $11.75 increase on monthly passes, which are used for most of the trips on the system. Reduced-fare riders will pay an extra 25 cents for one-way tickets, $1.50 more on 10-ride passes and $7.50 more on monthly passes.

Hardest hit will be commuters within the city and inner-ring suburbs in zones A through D. They will see pass prices increase 7.4 percent to 12.3 percent.

The 2017 operating budget increases costs by $214 million, due in part to increases in employee health care costs and an average 3 percent wage boost.
Parent: There's no hate message here

Mothers and children rally at Wilmette Village Hall over election results

BY KATHY ROUTLIFFE
Pioneer Press

Under a faded blue sky lit by the late afternoon sun, a group of about 50 mothers and children from McKenzie and Romona schools gathered Nov. 9 on Wilmette Village Hall's front lawn for what organizers called a demonstration against hate.

The reason for the hastily-called event, co-organizer Sarah Lahey said, was to do something positive for — and with — their children, one day after the election of Donald Trump to the presidency signaled a seismic change in America's political landscape.

"Some of us were despondent and sad; some of us felt we didn't do enough (to help elect failed presidential candidate Hillary Clinton)," said McKenzie School mother Stephanie Zehender, who helped spread word of the demonstration via emails and social media. "When Sarah said she was surprised there weren't demonstrations about what happened, I looked at her and said we could do it!"

Lahey acknowledged that most of the 25 or so moms who met shortly before 4 p.m. were Clinton supporters. But she said the gathering was not just a way to address their own sorrows; it was a way parents could remind their children that America's political process is more than vitriol and negative sound bites.

It was also a way to give some of the kids a sense of hope, one mother said. McKenzie School mother Emily Paris, whose son Jason turned eight on Election Day, had wanted only one thing for his birthday, she said: a Clinton presidency.

"He told me he's scared, and he doesn't know why we elected a bully," Paris said. "This is a way to tell him that the things we talk about, being nice, sharing, being kind, are still important."

"Regardless of the outcome, we need a feel-good moment," mom Bonnie Kim said. "There's no hate message here, just the message that love trumps hate."

Children and parents at the demonstration, which lasted just over half an hour, carried more than a few "Love Trumps Hate" signs, a familiar message among opponents of Donald Trump's campaign.

But several children carried simpler signs, showing only big red or blue hearts. Others had heart-shaped signs with written messages about why love was important.

Together with parents and the occasional nanny, the children trooped across the Village Hall lawn, down Wilmette and Central avenues and back, chanting "Love trumps hate."

"We believe that hate isn't right," 7-year-old Romona student Owen Petersen said. His mother, Rebecca Petersen, nodded.

"This election didn't feel like it was about one ideology competing against another," Romona School parent Tanya Henry said. "There was so much hate. Our message to our children is that we'll take a stand together against that."

"I'm thinking of my kids years from now," McKenzie mother Laura Keslosky said. "I want them to take at least one memory of this (election) that was a memory of everyone coming together."

As the impromptu demonstration wound down, one man stopped a participant and asked what the "love trumps hate" message meant.

"That makes sense," he said, before disappearing into Village Hall.

McKenzie and Romona School students who came Nov. 9 with their mothers to Wilmette Village Hall hold up signs in a swiftly organized "Demonstration Against Hate" billed by organizers as a post-election showing against hate. Roughly 50 Wilmette mothers and children took part in the event.

Mothers and children — including Auden Zehender, right, who holds a sign with a heart — from McKenzie and Romona elementary schools marched around Wilmette's Village Hall.
Making sense of this new path forward

Randy Blaser
In the wake of Tuesday's presidential election, two immediate questions remain: What did it mean and where do we go from here? I did not like the choices offered us, but if you are looking for an election rant, or name-calling of candidates or the voters, please go to Facebook. The country will go on, so I will try to give reasoned answers to those two immediate questions now facing us.

First, this election was Hillary Clinton's to lose and I believe she lost it for two reasons.

First, Clinton never gave a clear picture of what she wanted to accomplish or where she wanted to take the country. She fell back on the same old themes and the same mud-slinging we always see, only intensified.

Second, she was a bad candidate in that she was not good at campaigning. She admitted as much many times. But guess what? John F. Kennedy was bad at it too, but he worked at becoming good at it. That's how you become president.

Why did Donald Trump win? That's a mystery to be analyzed and debated over the next few months. I don't believe that in the last eight years, the American people have become a more racist and less tolerant country. And I don't believe we've suddenly become more xenophobic or sexist. Those explanations are too simplistic for a nation as diverse as we are.

Trump connected with a certain lingering anger and frustration that has been festering in the country for some time. "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore" first became a catch phrase 40 years ago. Where does the anger and frustration come from?

The economy is weak and opportunity seems scarce. The college graduate living in his parent's basement is a sweeping generalization, but one that rings true.

Immigration law needs reform. I've always viewed Trump's call for a wall as the antithesis to Obama's thesis of open borders. Americans want synthesis on this issue.

The health care crisis is still a crisis, just in a different way. Yes, more people are insured than before, but wrecking insurance for everyone else to provide it is a bad answer.

The Iraq War was a tragic mistake, but what's happening in the Middle East now - with the rise of ISIS and Russia becoming the dominant player thanks to our exit - will not lead to a more just peace.

In the African-American community in our cities, the jobless rate is too high. The schools are underperforming. Quality housing is scarce.

Where do we go from here?

A lot will depend on what Trump does during the transition and the first few months of his presidency.

There are serious issues that need to be addressed and I do believe Americans want to see government -

executive, legislative and judicial - come to reasonable and fair solutions to the issues facing the country.

Compromise has been our genius. When did we forget it?

For whatever reason, President Barack Obama and the Congress refused to work together. It takes two to tango, and there is plenty of blame to pass around on either side when government breaks down.

Now Trump will call the tune. Will those responsible to do what is best for America actually do so?

Near the end of the 1960 election, Sen. John F. Kennedy acknowledged that in the final analysis - as he so often phrased it - both he and Vice President Richard Nixon wanted what's best for the country, they just had different ideas on how to get there.

So now we are on a different path. If you haven't noticed, that's been our story as a nation for the past 240 years.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Soft drink tax questions lead to ferret search

Paul Sassone
I was searching the Cook County website for information on the county's tax on soft drinks and - you know how it is - one Google search led to another.

And before I knew how, I found ferrets.

You may well ask: What does Cook County have in common with ferrets? It seems the county will inoculate pet ferrets against rabies. Each year during warm-weather months, the county gives rabies vaccinations to dogs, cats and ferrets. Cost for a one-year inoculation is $7 for dogs and cats, $9 for ferrets.

I don't get it, myself. Ferrets look kind of bitey to me. Then again, I probably don't look so hot to a ferret.

The American Ferret Association - you heard me right, the American Ferret Association - says ferrets don't bite any more than dogs and cats. Ferrets and humans have gone together for thousands of years, back to ancient Egypt even.

Ferrets are a domesticated polecat. And if you think ferrets look kind of weasely, you are right. Ferrets belong to the weasel family Mustelidae. The family includes mink, skunks, weasels, otters, badgers and ferrets.

Not everyone views ferrets so benignly. In 1999, the city of New York banned the sale of ferrets as dangerous animals, along with lions and other dangerous animals.

But millions of Americans disagree and like the little codgers. And it doesn't seem as if Cook County officials view ferrets as a danger since they are willing to inoculate ferrets against rabies.

Ferrets can cost anywhere between $100 and $200. And there are many ferret accouterments - ferret chow, ferret toys, etc. Ferret fanciers might be able to recoup some of these costs from the county, which has a rebate program for neutering some pets.

Check with your veterinarian to see if he or she is participating. The rebates are for up to $40. For details, call the Cook County Department of Animal Control at 708-974-6140.

Remember, this program is just for dogs, cats and ferrets. You are on your own with boa constrictors, which may or may not need neutering. I refuse even to contemplate that question.

Well, where was I? Guess I was sidetracked. Back to looking for information on that soft drink tax.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
FROM THE EDITOR

After the election, an appeal to our readers

My family moved around a lot when I was a kid. We lived in six different towns before I was 15 - in Indiana, Connecticut, New York, suburban Chicago, across the country we moved, meeting and mixing with all kinds of different people. As different as all these places and people were, we, always found community that made us feel at home. I didn't realize as a kid what a gift it was to learn at such a young age that what bonds us as Americans is far stronger than any differences that might otherwise divide us.

I've been thinking about this these last few days since Donald Trump was elected to be our next president. Emotions are running high, and it seems clear there are cultural differences in our country that have been underestimated, or even ignored. Across the country, it seems like these cultural differences have grown stronger than what unites us as Americans.

This election season also has me wondering if I've been thinking about America in too big and impersonal a way. As I've followed the campaigns of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, I've increasingly felt like the America these candidates fought so bitterly over is not the America I know in the local communities that form the foundation of our great country. They say all politics is local, and now seems like a great time to recommit to that notion, as we reflect on last week's election and look ahead to local elections next February and April.

In all those different places we lived as a kid, my parents subscribed to the local newspaper. They turned to local journalists to inform them and help assimilate our family in every new community we adopted. I can still hear the rattle and shake of my mom and dad turning the pages of the local newspaper as we sat around the TV after dinner.

In recent weeks, I've had positive interactions with plenty of readers about the election, where our differences seemed (to me at least) less significant than our ability to communicate with one another. My hope is to see that continue, and to show readers that I will listen to them with an open mind and earnest interest. I hope they'll come to believe that above all else, I value their thoughts and interests, and feel privileged to do the local journalism we do.

When I think about these readers I've engaged with, the feeling I've been left with is the great appreciation I have for someone who's spent time reading our work being moved to reach out to me about it. The actual tone or content of that communication matters much less than the simple act of it. I hope that has come across to these readers.

Whatever your thoughts and opinions on the media might be, I believe our local papers have a very clear and simple mission: to inform, entertain and look out for our readers, and even those residents who might not be our readers. We as local journalists in your community should have no higher calling than to do it alone. The more we hear from and engage with our readers, the better feel we'll have for where we should be putting our journalistic energy in your community. I want you to read and share our work, and to question it. But I also want to ask you to help, by reaching out to share your thoughts, concerns and questions about what's going on in your community, or about something we've published.

And I have a few questions of my own: Why do you read your local newspaper (or news website)? Is there anything you wish we wrote more about? Anything we write too much about? What concerns do you have about your community, our state or even our country as we look forward to a new year around the corner?

What should we know about our readers that we might not realize? How can we help strengthen and enrich your community? I hope you don't take these as rhetorical questions. I'd honestly love to hear from you. And beyond these questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me any other time, simply to talk on the phone, exchange emails or submit a letter to the editor.

There will always be differences with the potential to divide us, but I hope to serve nothing above the interests that unite us. Thanks for reading, and for choosing us as a local news resource worth your time.

Twitter @John_Puterbaugh

John Puterbaugh is the editor of Chicago Tribune's Pioneer Press local news network. You can reach him at jputerbaugh@chicagotribune.com or 312-222-3331.

My encounter with Nancy Faust, longtime White Sox organist

Imagine a day at the ballpark, watching baseball - What do you hear? Maybe it is high-pitched hot dog vendors, the crisp crack of a baseball bat, or booming announcers.

Hmm, what else comes to mind? Why, organ music, of course!

The extra, yet somehow vital, sports enhancement just seems to round out perfectly a day at the ballpark. For Chicago White Sox fans, the organ first was used during games in the early 1960s when owner Bill Veeck, known for his quirky baseball promotions, hired Shy Torrent to play the instrument.

Bob Creed eventually took over the organ at White Sox games until 1970, when a young Nancy Faust was hired as the official White Sox organist. Nancy Faust, who played the organ at White Sox games for 40 years, plays on the instrument at her home in Hawthorne Woods.

Nancy Faust, who played the organ at White Sox games for 40 years, plays on the instrument at her home in Hawthorne Woods.

Kimberly Albrecht

Kimberly Albrecht is a freelance columnist.

kimproductions@sbcglobal.net.
Always something new in Salt Creek’s ‘Nutcracker’

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN
Pioneer Press

Salt Creek Ballet performs the holiday classic, Tchaikovsky’s “The Nutcracker” Nov. 26-27 in Hinsdale, Dec. 3 at Governor’s State University and Dec. 10-11 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie.

“This year’s performance will be spectacular,” said Christine Salerno, Salt Creek Ballet Executive Director and former company member. “I'm thrilled because we'll be having a live orchestra for the third year in a row. And it is always the same story. However, Salerno said, every time you see it, it can be somewhat different with different casts every year. Salerno recommends trying to follow a particular character around the stage throughout the performance.

Drosselmeyer is a great character to follow, she said, because Ricardo Garcia — who is reprising his role — is in different places around the stage. Under Salt Creek Ballet Artistic Director and Choreographer Sergey Kozadayev’s guidance, the performer is lurking in the shadows or making things happen that you might not realize because he is not front and center.

“Once you get to know a production, you can kind of spend some time following those characters around and seeing how the whole production is woven in multi-layers,” Salerno said. “What you see the first time is not necessarily what you have to see the second time or even the 32nd time. I think after we debuted it in 2014, which was really exciting with the new costumes and sets and a couple of changes that Sergey had made to some of the choreography, it’s nice because we’ve gotten to a place where it really feels like home for us again, this new production.”

Zhanna Dubrovskaya, Artistic Director and choreographer, said her inspiration comes from Tchaikovsky’s music and “Nutcracker” author E.T.A. Hoffman. “It is connected so wonderfully, the music and the story,” Dubrovskaya said. “Each step that we create inspired us through Tchaikovsky’s music and that story. We try to keep the story of the ballet, even if we change some technique or steps, we really focus to save the original story.”

Internationally recognized guest dancers Ilya Kozadayev and Yumelia Garcia will join this year’s cast in the Hinsdale performances, while Gillian Murphy will join for the shows at the Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University. Other renowned guest performers are to be announced.

Sophie Palo of Clarendon Hills has been dancing with Salt Creek Ballet since she was 3 years old. Now, she is 17, a senior in high school and she will be dancing the part of Princess Clara, Arabian Solo and Waltz Solo understudy.

“I love how every year you get some of the same parts, but most of the time you get at least one new part. So, you get to learn a new part and it’s a whole different experience depending on what part you have,” Palo said. “It’s just a lot of fun with Christmas and everything.”

The cast of Salt Creek Ballet’s production of “The Nutcracker”
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Father Zamboni is back in James Downing's hit show

BY MYRNA PEHLICKI

Pioneer Press

A clever playwright and an actor who spends most of his stage time in priestly garb are combining their talents in "Father Zamboni's Holiday Telethon" for James Downing Theatre.

This is the second time that husband and wife Jane Allyson and Mark D'Arienzo have shared a tale of the troubles at Our Lady of the Unclean Church. Two years ago, Allyson's production of "Father Tony Zamboni's Christmas Shorts," a short play festival for which she wrote the framework about a church fire started by undetermined means, was a big hit at James Downing Theatre. So was D'Arienzo as the good priest.

"This year, they're having a Christmas telethon," Allyson said. "There was a big tornado that came by and lifted the roof off of the Our Lady of the Unclean Church. The 40-foot steeple with a cross on top was thrown across the street and impaled the car of a rabbi." Until the roof is repaired, Father Zamboni is conducting Sunday services at the synagogue across the street.

Once again, this scenario will surround six, 10-minute holiday plays chosen from submissions by a play selection committee. Two of the plays are remounts of shows that were hits two years ago.

Allyson's favorite short play is "The New Christmas Morning." "Two older people are opening their gifts with their children. They have an iPad and a mobile phone," she said. "They don't know what it is or how it works so the kids are trying to show them how these tech devices actually work. It is just adorable."

As for the priest in the show, Allyson revealed that Father Zamboni "is a sweet guy but he's kind of bumbling. He means well but there's always something that's defeating him and he has to overcome it."

The role of Father Zamboni is a comfortable fit for D'Arienzo.

"I first donned the sacramental garments on September 17 in the year 2000 when I became the priest for "Tony and Tina's Wedding,"" D'Arienzo said. After that, he was a priest in "Johnny Boy's Graduation," followed by "We Gotta Bingo."

When questioned why he keeps getting priest roles, D'Arienzo said, "Apparently I missed my calling. People will walk up to me and start telling me just about anything."

That personality trait works well for Father Zamboni who is generally hoping to get audience members to join his flock. "Father Zamboni is part priest and - I won't say con man - but he definitely has a way about him that he's always looking for an opportunity to raise money, either for the church or himself," D'Arienzo said.

The fundraising telethon puts Father Zamboni in the spotlight. "He's comfortable with that but it's in a medium that he hasn't explored previously," D'Arienzo said. "Although, he was dabbling in the prayer-for-view for a while. He realizes there's a number of invalids, shut-ins and people who would rather sleep in on Sunday. For $21.95, they'll come into your home and absolve you of your sins."
Don't think of it as a holiday light display exactly—it's more of a trek through an interactive winter wonderland. And trees, fittingly, play a starring role.

“Illumination: Tree Lights at The Morton Arboretum” returns for its fourth year Nov. 18 and glows nightly through Jan. 2.

“Fifty acres of the Arboretum's trees are transformed for visitors as they walk a one-mile walking path,” said Anamari Dorgan, director of education for The Morton Arboretum. “The event features 10 experiences woven throughout the journey.”

From Meadow Lake Magic and Tinsel Harmony to Ornament Hill and Symphonic Woods, there's a lot to take in: trees that react to touch and sound, colorful LED lights synced to music and chandeliers hanging in trees are some examples.

Created in partnership with lighting design firm Lightswitch, the event plies some of the latest lighting technology to conjure a multisensory experience showcasing the elegance of trees in winter.

“Illumination encourages people to see trees in a different light,” Dorgan said. “This event not only illuminates the Arboretum's trees but highlights their forms in ways invisible during other seasons.”

More than 350,000 people have visited the event since its debut in 2013. This year offers two new experiences.

“Our hemlock trees will be transformed as projections of abstract designs splash over them,” Dorgan said. “One effect will make it seem as though the trees are gently breathing, reinforcing to visitors that the trees surrounding them are living things.”

There's also a fresh grand finale dubbed Fantasy Forest.

“Visitors can watch the play of lights synchronized to a one-of-a-kind musical score, creating the illusion of a forest in the Arboretum's elegant formal hedge garden,” she said.

Planning for the annual spectacle requires considerable commitment.

“To install Illumination requires more than 20 miles of cables, and a team of 25 designers, technicians and crew work for more than a month to install the thousands of lights featured throughout the event,” Dorgan said. “Illumination's new finale took six months of design time and testing to perfect and more than two weeks to program.”

That's a rather complicated, albeit stunning, walk in the woods, she said.

“We encourage people to dress for the weather as the entire Illumination pathway is outdoors and only accessible on foot,” Dorgan said. “Visitors can take advantage of warming areas along the Illumination path.”

Illumination runs Nov. 18 to Jan. 2, but will be closed Nov. 21, Nov. 24, Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec. 12, Dec. 24 and Dec. 25. The event is open from 5 to 8:30 p.m. with lights out at 9:30 p.m. On some days, admission is offered at different times in the evening so be sure to check the schedule.

The Ginkgo Restaurant at the Visitor Center will be open for dining as well as hot chocolate. On weekends, live musical performances will be featured in the Ginkgo Room from 5:45 to 9 p.m., while roaming carolers will be on the trail from 5 to 8 p.m. on certain nights.
Adopting the right attitude

It's vital to know how to deal with and adjust to uncertainties of adding a new family member.
Turkey time

Farmers offer tips for star of Thanksgiving meal

By Judy Buchenot
Pioneer Press

Starting on May 1 each year, husband and wife Ann and Rick Undesser, of Undesser Turkey Farm in Bristol, start getting ready for Thanksgiving. The family picks up their first batch of around 700 turkey chicks from a hatchery in Michigan. They repeat the process on June 1 and July 1 to have a total of around 2,000 turkeys on their farm.

“We usually get around 400 males or toms and about 1,600 females or hens,” said Ann Undesser, 58. “The toms usually get to be 25 pounds or more but we find that most people want turkeys that are between 18 to 22 pounds, which are the size of the hens. Not as many people want the big turkeys.” By starting the turkeys a month apart, they are assured a range of sizes to fill customer requests.

Rick Undesser, 62, has been raising turkeys for 43 years and also shares in farming crops with his brother John. He has seen a lot of turkeys over the years. “The biggest one so far this year has been 35 pounds but in the past, we had one that was 45 pounds,” he said. “The size doesn’t make a difference. They all taste the same. I think you need to have at least a 16-pound turkey because when the turkey is only 10 or 12 pounds, there isn’t much meat — just bones.”

Rick said that his turkeys really don’t need to be brined because they are so fresh. “These turkeys here are all turkey. We don’t put anything in the turkey,” he said while looking over a pen filled with turkeys strutting around freely, unaware of their looming future.

Although we teach children that turkeys say “gobble, gobble,” in reality, only the tom turkeys make that sound. The hens have white feathers and make a chirping or cackle sound. To get the tom turkeys to sound off, Rick simply has to shout out “gobble, gobble” and hundreds of Tom turkeys immediately respond.

The Undesser family begins the task of processing the turkeys about two weeks before Thanksgiving. It takes about 18 people each day to humanely kill and clean the turkeys. Since the average turkey has between 5,000 to 6,000 feathers, this is not an easy task. The processing team is able to prepare about 200 to 250 turkeys each day. Some extended family members pitch in, including 7-year-old Alexa Undesser, the couple’s granddaughter, who lives in nearby Yorkville. “I come after school and put the heart, liver and gizzards into bags,” she said. “I like to help.”

Ann said that many people are unnecessarily intimidated by cooking a turkey. “The biggest mistake people make is cooking them too long,” she said. “Get a good thermometer and put it between the leg and breast. It is done at 165 degrees.” Ann believes in the no-nonsense preparation of seasoning the turkey, placing a full stick of butter on top of it, tenting foil over it and “then I put it in the oven and say ‘bye bye’ for a few hours,” she said. “You don’t need to baste it. I take the foil off for the last hour or half hour to let it brown up.”

Over the years, she has learned about many other tips including an interesting method of starting the turkey breast side down so that the juices flow down into the breast. After an hour, the turkey is flipped breast side up to finish roasting. Turning the turkey is not easy but wads of paper towels can be used as disposable potholders for the process. Having a sturdy pan for roasting is also important. She suggests using a pan with sides that are about two inches high to allow the bird to brown nicely. Dark, nonstick pans are easy to clean, but the turkey drippings might burn in them.

People start picking up turkeys at Undesser Turkey Farm — one of just two turkey farms in Northern Illinois — on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Order turkeys by calling 630-553-5888. Close to 2,000 turkeys will be picked up from Sunday through Tuesday thanks to an organized delivery system at the farm.

Ann shares a few of her favorite turkey leftover recipes for others to try.

Judy Buchenot is a freelancer.
Beyond pumpkin pie | Carve out a new dessert tradition this Thanksgiving

By Veronica Hinke
Pioneer Press

Pumpkin pie is amazing, but that doesn’t mean you have to be tied to the classic dessert every Thanksgiving. There are plenty of fun and new ways to think outside the pie plate.

At restaurant Terra and Vine in Evanston, Executive Pastry Chef Rebecca Zuckerman has a pumpkin sundae on her menu. “I love sundaes and it’s a different play on a pumpkin dessert,” she said. “Typically, pumpkin desserts are pie or muffins, but a sundae seems a little out of left field to me. Sorry, I guess I’m still a little hung up on the World Series.”

Zuckerman’s sundae is made with pumpkin ice cream with spiced pumpkin seeds, praline caramel, gingerbread biscotti and whipped cream. “The sundae has all of the fall flavors that we all love just done a little bit differently,” she said. “The spiced seeds have a little cayenne in them to give the guest a ‘Mmm, what is that?’ moment.”

To make the spiced pumpkin seeds, Zuckerman uses 3 and 1/2 cups of green seeds (the ones without shells). She uses three large egg whites, 1/4 cup of sugar, one teaspoon of salt, 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper and two teaspoons cinnamon. She whisks the egg whites until they are broken up just a little bit. Then, she adds the seeds and stirrs thoroughly. She mixes the sugar and spices together and adds them into the pumpkin seeds. She pours everything onto a parchment-lined baking sheet and bakes at 350 degrees for five minutes. She gives the seeds a little stir and lets them bake until they are brown and toasted. She lets them cool completely before sprinkling them on desserts.

For a whimsical touch to your Thanksgiving dinner table, try pumpkin whoopie pies. “They’re a fun, easy-to-eat treat that are nostalgic for some folks and a new treat for others,” said Chad Kruger, a co-owner of family-run Sweety Pies Bakery in Skokie.

“The smell of the whoopie pies is heavenly; it has that delicious pumpkin pie flavor and smooth cream cheese frosting that pair up so well,” Kruger said.

The pumpkin swirl cheesecake at Sugar Fixe in Oak Park is made with a traditional pumpkin cheesecake filling, but the crust is extra flavorful because it’s made with crushed gingersnap cookies. “This is a cheesecake that is creamy, spicy and smells like fall,” owner Cindy Summers said.

At Vie in Western Springs, Angelyne Canicosa is doctoring up her sugared doughnut holes with smoked honey, bourbon toffee sauce, spiced pumpkin ice cream, toasted pumpkin seeds and that quintessential creamy fall treat — pumpkin butter.

“The flavors are mostly very familiar,” Canicosa said, “but the addition of smoked honey and browned butter in the pumpkin butter definitely give the dessert more complexity. We fry the doughnuts to order, so the warm doughnuts against the cold ice cream complement each other.

We drizzle the bourbon toffee sauce on the doughnuts right before serving, so the salt in the sauce is also great with the sweetness of the doughnut sugar.”

Executive Pastry Chef Theophile Gallon is making a dessert of pumpkin ganache sandwiched in a light, fluffy pate a choux pastry at Patisserie Coralie in Evanston. “It has a rich texture and taste once you bite into the maple brown butter caramel at the bottom,” he said.
MY PET WORLD

Is it all right to give a dog fruit?

By Marc Morrone
Tribune Content Agency

Q: My dachshund loves fruit! She will beg for just about any fruit that we have in the fridge — her favorite is apples and melon and bananas. I thought that since dogs were carnivores they did not like fruit and I was worried that giving it to her would be harmful in some manner? — Bob Nolan, Las Vegas, NV

A: The ancestor of the dog is the wolf and a wolf is an obligate carnivore and must have meat to survive. However, in the process of domestication from wolf to dog we also changed the dog into an omnivorous mammal that can digest meat, fruit and vegetables like a bear or a raccoon can.

So fruit for your dog to snack on as a treat is fine as long as it is just a treat — too much of anything is not a good idea. The only precautionary advice I will give you is to stay away from grapes and raisins — grapes actually can be toxic to dogs and should be avoided.

Q: I am hoping you can help me identify a small dark colored bird about the size of a canary. My neighbor put in some bamboo, and a large flock of these birds congregate in the bamboo starting about an hour before dusk and begin to chirp. (He is removing it in the spring as it turned out to be an invasive species.) The sound is very similar to the chirp of a parakeet. They continue to chirp until it is really dark. At this time of year when bird sounds are seldom heard it is really delightful to listen to. I live across the street from an industrial park and we do not have many birds here. Do you know what kind of bird it is? Thank you for any help you can give me. — Jennifer Small, Allen-town, PA

A: It is nice to get a letter from a reader who says that the sound a group of birds makes is delightful. When I first read your letter I thought you were going to complain about the birds.

Those birds are sparrows — not our native sparrows but an English sparrow that was introduced to North America from Europe many years ago. They are sparrow in name only. Actually they are more closely related to the weaver finches that we keep as pets indoors and like the bamboo also are considered an invasive species.

They are very successful as they all work together to ensure the survival of each one and since there is safety in numbers at night they co-operate by bunching together like that in a low group of shrubs.

In my backyard they roost like this in a thicket of Mountain Laurel before sunset as you noticed and they all chirp together to confirm each bird's status in the group.

At any rate do not worry about them when your neighbor gets rid of the bamboo — in spring the flock splits into pairs to breed and by next winter the new flock will find another thicket to sleep in at night.

Q: My daughter won a goldfish in the school fair and fell in love with it, so we bought him a 20 gallon tank to live in with two more goldfish companions to keep him or her company and all three fish seem to be just fine. However we keep the room the tank is in on the cooler side, so we went to the pet store to buy a heater for the tank and they seem quite expensive. We read that goldfish can do fine in cool water but my daughter is one of your devoted fans and she wants to hear it from you if her fish will be OK without a heater. — Gwen Thomson, Baltimore, MD

A: Thank you very much for your kind words and I want to congratulate you on providing that little fish your daughter won with a proper home. Too many of these carnival fish languish away in small bowls until they die a horrible death.

Your facts are correct about the heater though — you do not need a heated tank for goldfish — they will do just fine in cool water as long as it is properly filtered. Goldfish are pretty messy and even though you do have a filter on the tank, the fish would appreciate it if you changed two gallons of the tank water each week in addition to the other care you are giving them.

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.

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Visit us daily for the latest pet and animal news from the suburbs, city and beyond, plus:
- Our adoptable animals blog featuring photos and descriptions of Chicagoland pets in need of homes.
- Our suburban and city pet events calendar
- Photo galleries, videos, more
Customers still impacted by WeDeal’s collapse

Dear Help Squad,

I look forward to reading your weekly column but never thought I would need to avail myself of your services.

In December 2011, I purchased Ultimate Car Wash vouchers through We Deal for Crossroads Car Wash, in Highland Park. I had no trouble using two vouchers, but when my husband tried to use another recently, he was told that they were no longer accepting them, either for the promotional value or the paid value. The manager advised my husband to contact WeDeal.

I have since learned that WeDeal is no longer in business; however, the three remaining vouchers clearly state that they expire Dec. 8, 2021.

With more people taking advantage of these types of purchases, what recourse does the purchaser have when the seller or vendor is not willing to honor the voucher? Helen, Highland Park

WeDeal was a small, Deerfield-based, internet “daily deals” company that failed for much of 2014, then, without notice, went out of business sometime before mid-2015 according to an internet search of articles and an alert on the Better Business Bureau site. My first question upon learning all of this was: Who ultimately is responsible for honoring or refunding the value of a WeDeal voucher? For an answer, I spoke with Darrin Bairn, attorney at Chicago law firm Golan Christie Taglia LLP.

Bairn first provided me some background on how WeDeal, Groupon and other daily deals typically are structured. The paid value of a coupon never expires and the vendor is obligated to honor the full promotional value up to the stated expiration date.

Bairn explained: “That is not by virtue of some coupon law, rather it is pursuant to the contract that WeDeal or Groupon has entered into with the business... If [I don’t receive] the promotional amount up to the expiration date, and they don’t give me the value paid thereafter, WeDeal/Groupon has breached the contract with me. It is called privy of contract.”

Bairn said in this case, WeDeal has clearly breached that contract, but the problem is WeDeal is out of business. “Helen could go after them, but you can’t get blood from a stone.”

Bairn shared another interesting fact: If Crossroads was owed payment by WeDeal but never got paid, the car wash would not be in breach of the WeDeal contract.

After gathering this background information, I spoke with Earl Slavin, owner and manager of Crossroads Car Wash. When asked about the WeDeal vouchers, he was quick to state: “They are not being honored and I’ll tell you why. WeDeal went out of business, so we can’t go to their website to verify whether the certificates have been used or not. When WeDeal let the offer go, people were able to print as many certificates (with the same serial number) as they wanted. That was a problem. When WeDeal’s website was up, we could cross-check the serial numbers with their system.”

He added Crossroads no longer offers coupons of any sort; instead, the car wash has introduced a monthly subscription service. For a fee of $14.95 to $39.95 a month, customers can have their cars washed as many times as they like.

“Daily deals promote no customer loyalty whatsoever,” Slavin said. “Now we’ve got customers who are continuously coming here, and while they’re here they’re buying merchandise. The men are doing much better with tips. The business stays busier. So now you’ve got a good deal for the customer and it works out well for the merchant, as well.”

After sharing all of this with Helen, she said, “I appreciate your efforts on my behalf. Although I am disappointed in the outcome, at least I now understand the situation.”

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

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.

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youth to stay in school, succeed and graduate

**PROTECT**
children and families from domestic abuse

**EMPOWER**
unemployed individuals with job training and literacy skills

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CTCH16E-20H
Keeping our faith with written word

By John Warner
Chicago Tribune

Early on in his memoir, "Avid Reader," Robert Gottlieb, legendary editor at both Knopf and The New Yorker, says, "I’ve simply always lacked even the slightest religious impulse — when people talk about their faith, I can’t connect with what they’re talking about. This isn’t a decision I came to, or a deep belief or principle; I’m just religion-deaf, the way tone-deaf people hear sounds but not music. I suppose my religion is reading."

Gottlieb isn’t kidding. In the early chapters he recounts his voracious reading as a child, including what he calls the “key books of my childhood,” or even his “entire life,” the "Swallows and Amazons" adventure novels of Arthur Ransome. Later, he would devour every volume of Marcel Proust’s “Remembrance of Things Past,” over the course of a week, reading for 15 hours every day, his friends bringing him sustenance.

I consider myself a good reader, an “avid” one even, though I am not in Gottlieb’s league.

I have always been “religion-deaf” not through any animosity or lack of exposure. As punishment for a speeding ticket (10 over in a school zone) when I was in graduate school, I was sentenced to attend church once a week for a year. Yes, it turns out that this isn’t constitutional, but it beat the nearly $400 fine that was the alternative.

I went to 30 places of worship covering just about every major world religion and quite a few minor ones. While I was often stirred by the feelings of fellowship when among the congregations, the messages of specific faith in a higher power simply never resonated.

But as with Gottlieb, books and reading have occupied something of a sacred space and have indeed filled a spiritual hole, helping me to believe in something more important than myself.

Don’t we all wish to find an animating force that cannot ever be fully known but is nonetheless tangible, omnipresent? For some, a religious faith meets this need. For Gottlieb, books are a bedrock on which the self can be created.

I worry. I worry that we’re creating a culture where that belief, that faith, whatever its form, is giving way to a utilitarian purpose to earn and to consume and then earn and consume — and more.

I worry because in a September editorial in The Daily Illini, the student paper of my alma mater, the University of Illinois, the Editorial Board advocated for less out-of-class work for students. Why? So they could have time for internships and part-time jobs that would help them relieve the burden of student loan debt more rapidly post-graduation.

They are, above all, worried about their ultimate success in the workforce.

Gottlieb’s tale of how he landed his first job as an editorial assistant at Simon & Schuster is a story of wild circumstances and luck that the most talented novelist couldn’t conjure. From that foothold, Gottlieb went on to edit books you may have heard of: “Catch-22,” “The Chosen” and “True Grit,” among hundreds of others.

Perhaps Gottlieb’s story is of another time, when young people could afford to put faith in their faiths, and that time is past. The competition is fierce, and those things that bind us together are gone.

I don’t believe that has to be the case. I despair at what school has become for the students I work with. They see it as a slog, a place to stow away their dreams while they prepare for “life.”

But “Avid Reader” reminds me that passion matters, that it is, in fact, everything.

John Warner is a freelance writer whose most recent book is "Tough Day for the Army."
By Jacqueline E. Mathews. © 2016 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

ACROSS
1 Hard work
2 Pretense
3 Hawaiian island
4 Lunch or dinner
5 First, second and third
6 Western book, film or TV show
7 Outer
8 Elmo or Kermit
9 Ashen-faced
10 Coarse-toothed
11 Which of Hawaii's islands
12 Pretense
13 Knob
14 Golf ball pegs
15 Golf ball pegs
16 Yellow-footed
17 Damp
18 Crabbed
19 Ashen-faced
20 Outer
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Solutions

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1 Citrus fruit
2 Strong as
3 Fishing worm, for example
4 Beginnings
5 Withdraw, as during a battle
6 Davenports
7 Corridor
8 "Caughtcha!"
9 Elmo or Kermit
10 Begged
11 Kingdom
12 TV's Couric
13 Toboggans
14 Tombstone
15 Toboggan
16_ boot; shoe for Phil Mahre
17 Miss America's former title holder
18 A newspaper is often longer than this crossword
19 Peepers
20 American actors
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This week's Jumble
CLEVER AGENDA INVEST SHODDY DUPLEX SICKEN
When he complained to his wife about how she ironed his shirt, he was...
PRESSING HIS LUCK

Last week's crosswords

"CLOTHING CONCERNS"

GLOBAL PILOT ACID SUP
YOKEL DRONE LONE ENAS
PEER ROYAL LATTICE OAS
SNAKE SEARS ALLA
EGO SLIPON TELL
TIMO LLOYNTY PRICE VAC
THOR EYAR HEADY SPA
TAW SPATS BELT SFA
TWEW ELTO TALON
CALIVER LEERAT GIDS
OGLAST EUGEN LAYS
RUMMA PROD LACTO
SLUGS SOD TO VENS
SOGGY BONS EDENS ARMY

Solutions

Last week's Quote-Acrossic

(W.G.) WODEHOUSE: RULE
BRITANNICA: The ordinary man paying instalments on his encyclopedia is apt to skip impatiently to Vol. "VET-ZYM" to see how it all came out in the end. Not Henry. He wasn't going to spoil his pleasure by peeping ahead.

Last week's Sudoku

This week's Jumble

CLEVER AGENDA INVEST SHODDY DUPLEX SICKEN
When he complained to his wife about how she ironed his shirt, he was...
PRESSING HIS LUCK

Interactive puzzles and games
8 ways to apply Cubs Rizzo's sentiments to relationships

Standing in front of more than 5 million Cubs fans, first baseman, power hitter and perhaps the most lovable Cub (he's definitely mine), Anthony Rizzo gave a speech that didn't leave a dry eye in the crowd at the team's World Series celebration on Nov. 4.

With tears brimming in his own eyes, Rizzo, 27, who hit 35 home runs this season, paid tribute to his teammate, mentor and good friend, David Ross, aka Grandpa Rossy.

"He taught me how to become a real winner," said Rizzo, who has been with the Cubs since 2012. "He's like a brother to me. He's taught me a lot on and off the field and how to be a better person. I'm forever grateful to him."

Rizzo's endearing words got me thinking. Isn't what he said about his friend applicable to romantic relationships? I believe that if you can say your spouse makes you a better person, then you have a key ingredient to relationship happiness. So, ask yourself: "Does my spouse bring out the best in me?"

In the past, I have been in relationships that didn't work because looking back, I answered no to that question. Why? Maybe it was bad timing. Maybe he wasn't a good match for me. The bottom line is, when you look in the mirror, the person you're with, like a flattering garment, should look good on you.

What I have learned — both in divorce and beyond — is the best, most fulfilling romantic relationships are the ones where you can say most or all of these eight things, all which foster the desire to be a better person.

1. He or she is interesting
   Do you realize how much you can learn from another person? Whether it's a museum he takes you to, a book she recommends, or a trip the two of you take, experiencing new things with your partner can only enrich your life and make you more interesting, experienced and wise.

2. I respect him or her
   If you have respect for your spouse, you will want that person to respect you, as well, which could make a difference in the way you live your life.

3. I like him or her
   When it comes to relationships, it is almost more important to like your spouse than it is to love him or her. Liking someone means you enjoy doing things together, talking to each other and spending large amounts of time alone with that person. With like comes the desire to make the other person happy, and to be the best person you can be.

4. I adore him or her
   It is easy to be madly in love with your spouse at the beginning of the relationship, but as years go by, those feelings of intense love could fade if the two of you let it happen. The key to keeping the sparks lit is to treat each other the same way you did when you were first falling in love. Don't stop holding hands, kissing in public and saying and doing things that make your spouse feel cherished, important and appreciated.

5. I trust him or her
   Having trust in someone feels really, really good, doesn't it? Trust renews faith and nurtures self-confidence.

6. My arms are wide open
   Fulfilling relationships are the ones that bring out the giver in us. Offering unlimited support, listening to his or her needs and doing what you can fosters not only a powerful connection, but also self-love, knowing you are making a difference.

7. I am unafraid of vulnerability with him or her
   Being vulnerable is perhaps the scariest part of being in a romantic relationship for some people. But if you have the courage to show your authenticity, you will be greatly rewarded. Showing vulnerability and then feeling accepted for exactly who you are makes you feel like you can fly.

8. He or she motivates and inspires me
   There is nothing like support and encouragement from the person you love most to keep you hard working, driven and determined to fulfill any goals and dreams you might have.

Rizzo isn't alone. The entire team brought out the best in each other this season, and that is probably the reason history's lovable losers ended up as the 2016 World Series champions. Romantic relationships are no different. If you think about it, a couple really is a team, working together to bring out the champion in each other, which ultimately means winning.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.
Artificial sweeteners may not decrease calories after all

While artificial sweeteners such as Equal and Splenda do not contain calories, they may cause more absorption of calories.

Dear Reader: Here's what's not confusing: More than a modest amount of sugar each day is not good for you. Nothing's changed there. The sweet tooth that many of us have (I plead guilty) leads us to eat too much sugar.

Sugar contains easily absorbed calories. That makes it harder to maintain or achieve a healthy weight. It also increases our risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, the most common form of diabetes. Sugar-sweetened soft drinks and fruit juices are particularly bad actors.

The development of no-calorie artificial sweeteners, like saccharin, sucralose and aspartame, seemed like a godsend. Like you, I switched from regular drinks to "diet" drinks and fruit juices are no-calorie artificial sweeteners, particularly bad actors.

Artificial sweeteners taste as sweet as (or sweeter than) sugar, but contain virtually no calories. What's not to like?

In previous columns, I've said that there was some evidence that consuming artificial sweeteners might increase our appetite for sugar-containing sweets. That is definitely not a good thing, if true. I still regard it as unproven.

But a scientific study published in the prestigious scientific journal Nature set me back on my heels. If other scientists confirm this work, it has important implications for all of us. To tell you what the study showed, I first need to explain a little biology.

Many foods contain carbohydrates ("carbs"). Carbohydrates resemble a chain with multiple links. When they enter our gut, the links in the chain are separated by digestion. Table sugar is a simple chain: just two links, easily separated. It's the single links that mainly are absorbed into our blood. The most common is called glucose. When your doctor measures your blood sugar, glucose is what is being measured.

Any food, say a slice of an orange, contains calories. But those calories add to our weight and influence whether we might develop diabetes, only if they are efficiently broken down into single links — glucose — and then are absorbed into our body.

Our intestines contain trillions of bacteria of different types. Some types are very good at breaking up carbohydrates into glucose; other types are not. If you're a person with lots of the first type of bacteria living inside you, every slice of orange you eat will lead to more calories getting into your blood.

The recent study presents evidence indicating that artificial sweeteners may encourage the growth of the types of bacteria that generate more glucose — and, hence, lead us to absorb more calories. In other words, while the sweeteners don't contain calories, they may cause us to absorb more calories.

If other scientific studies confirm these findings, I will be further lowering my modest consumption of artificial sweeteners.

(This column ran originally in November 2014.)

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

PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

Vicks VapoRub may stop a cough, from the feet up

By Joe Graedon and Teresa Graedon

Q. I was desperate last night for a way to help my child. He had a horrible hacking cough to the point of throwing up. I was afraid to put him to bed. I saw a suggestion on your website for Vicks on the soles of the feet and gave it a try. Within 10 minutes, he was sound asleep and slept right through the night. I have six kids and wish I'd read about this long ago.

A: Rubbing Vicks VapoRub on the soles of the feet seems like an improbable way to treat a cough. There are no studies to show that this works, but many readers have offered testimonials like yours. You might want to put on thick socks after applying the Vicks so the sheets don't get smeared with goo.

Q: I have a question regarding trigeminal neuralgia. My mother suffers from this very painful condition. Carbamazepine is effective in stopping the pain, but it has side effects that she doesn't tolerate, even at low doses. Surgery is not an option for her. Are there any other treatments that provide relief for the pain? I find myself wondering if medical marijuana might help because it has been noted to help with other types of nerve pain.

A: Trigeminal neuralgia is a disruption of the nerve to the face and head that causes excruciating pain. It may feel like an electric shock or burning sensation that can last from seconds to several minutes. This pain can be disabling and is hard to treat, though some patients get relief from anticonvulsants such as carbamazepine.

The possibility of using medical marijuana (cannabis) was suggested in a medical journal article (Current Drug Targets CNS and Neurological Disorders, December 2004). Research in rats indicates that cannabinoids (the compounds from marijuana) might be helpful for easing the pain of trigeminal neuralgia (Neuropharmacology, July 2007).

We also received this message on the use of a cannabinoid for pain:

"I need a shoulder replacement, but because I must use my arms to get on and off my power wheelchair, the operation would be risky. During physical therapy recently, I got a recommendation for something called CBD (cannabinoid). This is a compound in marijuana, but the THC has been removed so it does not make me high. I buy it online and have used two squirts of CBD oil in my mouth daily for four days. I can move my arms again and am looking forward to unfreezing my shoulder."

Q: I caught nail fungus at the gym, and I can't get rid of it. A prescription for Jublia didn't work. Neither did laser treatment. Now my podiatrist has suggested surgically removing the nail. That sounds scary. Is there any other way to get rid of this fungus?

A: Instead of surgery, your podiatrist could prescribe a urea paste that will dissolve the fungus-afflicted nail in about a week. There are also many home remedies that may be helpful at lower cost than Jublia. They include cornmeal, tea tree oil, oregano oil and Listerine-vinegar foot baths. You will find more details on nonsurgical nail removal and fungus fighters in our "Guide to Hair and Nail Care." 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: Graedons' People's Pharmacy, No. H-31, P.O. Box 52027, Durham, NC 27717-2027.

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

A reader reported having success stopping a coughing fit by rubbing Vicks VapoRub on the soles of sufferer's feet.
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Adopting the right attitude

It's vital to know how to deal with and adjust to uncertainties of adding a new family member.

By Danielle Braff
Chicago Tribune

In November 2014, Bethany and Jared Crain got a call saying that they were matched with an expectant mother. Although they were ecstatic that they could be adding to their family of three, they decided not to tell their 4-year-old that she could be getting a sibling.

"We weren't very certain that it wasn't going to fall through," said Bethany Crain, of Nashville, Tenn., who was hoping to adopt. The biological mother "could change her mind up until after the baby was born."

So while their only child knew that adoption was on the table, they didn't tell her that they were matched, even as they headed to the hospital to meet their new baby. The Crain family finally felt comfortable telling their daughter after the papers were signed and the baby was coming home.

While adoption is an option for growing a family, it's also difficult for parents to determine how and when to tell their children about their new sibling. They struggle with telling children too early because the adoption could fall through. But they don't want to wait until the last minute, as a child needs time to adjust.

There are few studies that looked at how many adoptions failed, but one from 2006 that examined administrative data from more than 15,000 children in Illinois who were placed between 1995 and 2000 found that about 10 percent of adoptions were disrupted.

Another study from 2001 found that 10 to 16 percent of adoptions in children over age 3 failed.

The reason the figures are so difficult to find, according to the studies, is that if a child is placed, the case is closed.

Given those odds and uncertainty, parents are struggling with how to be open and honest with their biological or already adopted children, so that the adjustment to having a new member of the family goes smoothly. While they don't want to be too open so that the kids aren't devastated if an adoption falls through.

"It can go quickly, or it can take a while," said Mandy Jones, adoption therapist with the Cradle in Evanston, Ill.

And even after a family thinks the adoption is going smoothly, the worst could happen. That was the case for Kristy Dougherty, of Waretown, N.J., who has four biological children and three adopted children from ages 4 to 21.

Dougherty said she was always open with her children about adoption, because her four kids were older when she and her husband started the process.

So everyone was excited when a child was placed with them, but 18 months later the child was taken away after his father's family got involved, and the state moved him to a paternal uncle.

"It was devastating," Dougherty said. "We didn't really expect there to be any other people involved, so we didn't anticipate that we were going to have this problem."

Dougherty said there was no way she could have anticipated what happened. She continued to adopt and believed in the process, and through adoption she was able to complete her family.

Carol Lawson, adoption case worker with Adoption Options, based in Aurora, Colo., suggested that parents don't start talking to their children about an adoption right away, as most adoptions take up to a year or 18 months.

"Maybe if it's a few months out, they can start talking to them about the fact that they could be getting a new brother or sister," Lawson said.

If a child is going to be switching bedrooms, it should be done sooner rather than later, so the child doesn't feel pushed out to make room for the adopted baby, she said.

When it's time to get the nursery ready for the adopted child, you can include your child in the preparation, said Nicole Witt, executive director of The Adoption Consultancy in Brandon, Fla.

Since the child won't see a growing belly, an adoption is a very intangible idea, so preparing in this way is helpful to show that a child will eventually come, Witt said.

Once the adoption is completed, it's important for the parents to help the siblings adjust.

Jill Pawlinski, of Plainfield, Ill., has four adopted children ages 4 to 11, and she's fostered many other kids, so she has a system for helping her family get accustomed to new children quickly.

"We have seven or eight books about adoption, and these books have always been in our rotation," Pawlinski said. "At the adoption court, we always include the whole family and make it a celebration about growing our family."

As soon as she brings the adopted or fostered child home, the entire family gives the new child a tour, making sure to emphasize that the new child gets his or her own bed or crib and dresser.

"I had one girl who never had hangers for her clothes, so she was very excited," Pawlinski said.

Next, she hangs a photo of the child on the wall so he or she is officially part of the family wall of photos.

This is a very important step, whether you're adopting an infant or an older child, said Valerie Fiorentino, program administrator for Adoption Foster Care and Birth Parent Counseling, based in Trenton, N.J.

Fiorentino suggested doing family pictures and making a family tree or putting together a scrapbook with the other siblings. Keep in mind that if the adopted child is older, he or she may still be emotionally attached to the birth mother or a former caretaker, Fiorentino said.

"It's also important that your biological kids be aware of this, that there's another birth mother involved, and that's a part of your story. While bringing a new child into a home is a very hectic yet exciting time, Lawson suggested keeping the old routine as similar as possible for the sake of the older children.

"They don't want to see that their whole world has been turned upside down because a new baby has come into the family," Lawson said.

Also, don't expect the adjustment to be seamless.

"With kids and families, it's never seamless," Fiorentino said. "Expect that it's going to take a while to adjust and give everyone room to adjust, to work through some challenges."

Danielle Braff is a freelancer.
Winnetka home near Lake Michigan: $2.2M

ADDRESS: 1091 Fisher Lane in Winnetka
ASKING PRICE: $2,195,000
Listed on Oct. 17, 2016
Features include grand entertaining rooms with an open design that lead to dramatic decks, terraces and patios. Second floor has landing foyer, bedroom and baths, including master suite with private entrance hall, luxurious bath and tranquil deck. Lower, walk-out level has pool and lounge area and opens to ravine patio. Steps from Lake Michigan, town and train.
Agent: Joanne Hudson of The Hudson Company, 847-971-5024

At press time, this home was still for sale.

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Santa will be on hand for photos with kids at the Niles Park District's Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 10.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Santa Claus is coming to Niles— for breakfast

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

It may seem a little early to talk about that annual jolly visitor in red when you haven't even carved the Thanksgiving turkey but tickets sell out quickly for the Niles Park District's Breakfast with Santa. This year's event is Dec. 10 in the Howard Leisure Center Banquet Room, 6676 W. Howard St.

“We have three breakfast seatings available—8:30, 10 and 11:30,” said Julie Jentel, director of marketing. “Each one lasts an hour and within that time there will be a buffet breakfast served and the kids and families will be able to take photos in our lobby with Santa in his sleigh.”

The cost is $10 per resident, $12 per nonresident for every child and adult in attendance. Advance registration is required.

“We see many families that return year after year,” Jentel noted. “It's a good place to get the holiday spirit and the kids can all give their lists to Santa.”

For details, call 847-967-6633 or go to www.niles-parks.org.

Wide-eyed wonders

Several different species of native owls will visit Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, during Meet Illinois Owls, 10-11:30 a.m. Nov. 20. Staff from Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab and Education will bring the birds and talk about their lives and features. Cost is $10 for residents, $13 for nonresidents. Registration is required for this event for kids over five and adults.

For details, call 847-674-5129 or go to www.skokieparks.org/emily-oaks-nature-center.

Workout first, then feast

You and your kids can have a fun pre-turkey workout at the Jo Herzog Memorial Thanksgiving Day Family Exercise Class, 8-9 a.m. Nov. 24 at Centennial Fitness Center, 1515 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge. For free admission, bring nonperishable food items for the Maine Township Food Pantry.

For details, call 847-692-5129 or go to www.prparks.org.

They'll get a big head

...during Life-Size Hungry Hungry Hippos, 11:30 a.m.-noon Nov. 19 at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. Kids ages 8 and up will put on a giant hippo head to demonstrate their ball gobbling skill. This event is part of International Games Day.

For details, call 847-965-4220 or go to www.empl.org.
Chicago Gateway Green marks 25 years

The Event: Chicago Gateway Green, the non-profit, public-private partnership dedicated to the greening and beautification of Chicago's gateways and expressways, celebrated its 25th annual Green Tie Ball on Oct. 1 in the eclectic space of Architectural Artifacts in Chicago.

Emcees WGN radio's Roe Conn and Anna Davlantes presided over the "Starry Night" bash and led 1,000 attendees in lively fundraising efforts to further aid Chicago Gateway Green in its efforts to make a positive environmental and aesthetic impact on Chicago.

Cause célèbre: "We are beautifying and greening Chicago's expressways...to make sure that the city looks beautiful to our guests and to the people who are on the highways every single day," said Tony Abruscato, originally of Wheeling, executive director.

Founded in 1986 by Donald J. DePorter, Chicago Gateway Green efforts have facilitated the planting of 4,000 new trees, the clean-up of 1.5 million pounds of trash, and the addition of 150 acres of green space.

"There are a lot of studies that show that greening on the expressways and flowers and trees actually reduces people's anxiety while they're stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic," added Abruscato. "So it's important for that and, as we offset the carbon footprint, it's important that we help create this beautiful and healthy environment for Chicago."

Chicago Gateway Green directs its efforts to landscape enhancement, litter and graffiti removal, as well as the installation of public art.

"What's more beautiful than coming down the highway, seeing trees and plantings and flowers?" posited Sheldon Holzman of Glenview, treasurer and 20-year board member. "Either on the way to the city or on the way to the suburbs, you still want a view surrounded by green as...this is all still greater Chicagoland."

Bottom Line: On its 30th birthday and silver Green Tie Ball anniversary Chicago Gateway Green raised $400,000.

Share your event
We want to publish your photos. To submit, visit community.chicagotribune.com or email sburrows@pioneerlocal.com.
PARK RIDGE

Three-bedroom, two-bath Cape Cod design built in 1952. Concrete slab foundation, brick exterior, tile roof. Add-on or rehab options. Large first-floor family room with fireplace, first-floor bedroom with two more upstairs. Walk-in attic can be converted into fourth bedroom. Kitchen includes dishwasher, microwave, range and refrigerator. Living room/dining room combination and two-car garage.

Address: 716 Austin Ave.
Price: $399,900
Schools: Maine East High School
Taxes: $7,650
Agent: Danny McGovern, RE/MAX Properties Northwest

WILMETTE

Four-bedroom, 4.5-bath traditional design home built in 1996. Island kitchen, hardwood floors on both levels. Attached garage opens to first-floor laundry and mudroom. Family room and fenced backyard with brick patio, formal dining and living room, including fireplace. Master suite on second floor with renovated bathroom and walk-in closet, plus a separate office space.

Address: 427 Central Ave.
Price: $1,399,000
Schools: New Trier High School
Taxes: $22,979.81
Agent: Sara Brahm, Baird & Warner Winnetka

VERNON HILLS

Four-bedroom, 3.5-bath traditional design home built in 1990. Remodeled kitchen with custom cabinetry/glass, tile backsplash/granite and stainless appliances. Hardwood floors throughout; PELLA sliding doors in family room and kitchen. Second-floor loft and laundry room, granite bathroom counters, full basement.

Address: 936 Creek Bend Drive
Price: $659,500
Schools: Adlai E. Stevenson High School
Taxes: $17,738
Agent: Anne Stromayer, CENTURY 21 Kreuser & Seiler

LIBERTYVILLE


Address: 15730 W Birchwood Lane
Price: $335,000
Schools: Libertyville High School
Taxes: $5,637
Agent: Michael Kerrigan, CENTURY 21 Kreuser & Seiler

Listings from Homefinder

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HOME REMEDIES

Preparing power tools for a long winter storage

BY C. DWIGHT BARNETT
Tribune News Service

Temperatures are lower, trees are changing color and the first snows are expected soon. This means fall is in the air, and it's time to prepare our power tools for winter storage.

Lawn mowers, string trimmers, hedge trimmers and all outdoor equipment need to be cleaned of dirt and debris prior to winter storage. The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute offers the following tips to help home and business owners prepare.

"Drain and change engine oil and dispose of old/used oil safely. Service the air filter and perform other maintenance directed by the service manual. Check and do the same with all winter equipment too. Recharge the battery. If any equipment has a battery, remove and fully charge it before storing." Make sure batteries are charged and ready for any unexpected weather event. Keep charged batteries off of concrete floors where the battery's charge can be drained. Do not leave a battery charger turned "on" and unattended for long periods of time.

Handle fuel properly. When filling gas containers, always place the container on the concrete pad at the service station, where any stray static will be contained by the ground contact. Remember that gasoline left in tanks or gas cans can go stale over the winter, which can then damage equipment. Add a stabilizer such as Sta-Bil to gas storage containers. Also add Sta-Bil to the gas tanks and then run the equipment to distribute the stabilizer through the fuel systems. Turn the engine off and allow it to cool, then run the engine again until the gas tank is empty. For gasoline-powered equipment, be sure to use the appropriate fuel.

Note: Today's homeowners are turning more and more to battery-powered equipment that require less maintenance and are easy to store. I have tried both Black+Decker and Worx 20-volt string trimmers and blowers that sell a 40-volt string trimmer for larger projects. The 20-volt and 40-volt equipment come with a charger and a single lithium-ion battery. Battery-powered equipment are easy to maintain and will always be ready for use year-round.

C. Dwight Barnett is a certified master inspector with the American Society of Home Inspectors.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency
New book pays homage to beautiful bathrooms

BY JURA KONCIUS
The Washington Post

The era of the trophy kitchen being the most important room of the house appears to be fading, For Barbara Sallick, co-founder of Waterworks, bathrooms reflect a more personal style than the somewhat industrial rooms where we roast our turkeys.

Her new book, "The Perfect Bath," celebrates the best bathrooms she's encountered since the 1978 founding of the high-end bath and kitchen fittings and fixtures company, where she serves as senior vice president of design.

"Kitchens are all about the community, family and friends," Sallick says. "The bathroom is a little more indulgent, especially the master bath. It's all about you and relaxation and your favorite things and a place of privacy."

The book features numerous bath-design planning tips and interviews with top designers and architects as well as advice on materials, surfaces, color and decoration. The perfect bath, for Sallick, is timeless and classic.

The cover features one of her most beloved baths, her own 18th-century-style Connecticut home's hall bathroom, which includes a 1928 pedestal sink refitted with Waterworks faucets, plus a trifold mirror she picked up at a Paris flea market.

We asked Sallick to share five tips for anyone considering a bathroom construction project or a little freshening up.

Shop carefully. Research the style that is most appropriate for you or your family and house. Then align yourself with a knowledgeable sales associate. He or she can help you navigate endless choices, define priorities, manage the budget, select appropriate materials and assure on-time deliveries.

Install proper lighting. Regrettably, lighting often is not high enough on the priority list of bathroom essentials. The result is not enough light, annoying shadows and a lack of decorative scences. Plan for too much incandescent light and install a dimmer. There is much new technology in the market, it is important to do your homework on the type of lighting appropriate for the size of your space. Take advantage of natural light; it helps soften and warm the space.

Consider storage options. There is absolutely nothing that will derail your new bathroom faster than not planning for your "stuff": Extra towels, toilet paper, bath amenities, makeup, shaving tools and toothbrushes all need their own place. Early in the planning stage, lay out the bathroom with a closet or vanity to conveniently accommodate the rituals of daily life and keep the space neat.

Invest In Installation. Vet the contractor before signing a contract by asking for references and requesting a visit to completed projects. A good contractor can make the difference in how a bathroom looks, no matter the cost of the materials. A good contractor will measure carefully so there are no unsightly cuts in either the stone or tile, help select grout, make sure the placement of the shower valve is convenient, test every part of the installation with a level to ensure everything is straight and clean up the daily installation mess.

Make it your own. Bath accessories make the difference between a space that reflects your own taste and one that looks like it walked right out of a showroom. Personalize the space by shopping for vintage pieces, adding art, selecting the right color paint, finding a great rug, placing an orchid in a decorative container, displaying special items on a tray and adding a beautiful mirror and fabulous sconces.
Impacting Chicago through the Study of Urban Environmental Sciences
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Thursday, Nov. 17


A Podcast Listening Party: Come hear some of the podcasts that are capturing the imaginations of listeners everywhere - The Moth, Serial, Fresh Air, Reply All, The New Yorker Radio Hour, or Wormwood: A Serialized Mystery to name a few. After listening to one 30-minute podcast, discuss the show and talk about similar podcasts you can try. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Hot Ticket: "Ghostbusters": Thirty years after the beloved original franchise took the world by storm, director Paul Feig brings his fresh take to the supernatural comedy, joined by some of the funniest actors working today. Cast: Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig. 2 p.m. Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Wonder Ground Open Lab: Look, touch, tinker, and play with an intriguing array of science-oriented curiosities in this new space designed especially for kids. A drop-in visit is meant to last about 15 minutes. Activities are repeated each week from Tuesday to Thursday. The Wonder Ground is a STEAM playground for kids. 4 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-668-1234.

Scrapbooking: 2017 Calendar with Your Pictures: Create a 2017 Calendar with 12-24 pictures that you would like to see month by month. We can add important holidays and birthdays to your customized keepsake. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-668-1234.

Meditation for Stress Free Holidays and Beyond: Long time meditator Michael Ribet discusses the extraordinary effect of meditation, which can reduce stress-related responses, improve concentration, enhance clarity of thought and mental equilibrium. He presents a simple, powerful meditation technique. 7 p.m. Thursday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224.

The First Thanksgiving: What do we really know? Just in time for Thanksgiving, have fun while learning some factual history about this national holiday. In a true/false game format with historian Barbara Johnson, you will explore what really happened on the first Thanksgiving, using primary sources. Discover how a charming story became a national myth and what Abraham Lincoln had to do with it. 1 p.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10 (NSSC member), $13 (non-member), 847-784-6030.

Busy Bees Playgroup: Join us for a story, a song, and lots of playtime for kids newly-born to age 4. Siblings welcome. 11 a.m. Thursday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123.

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

Santa HQ at Fashion Outlets of Chicago: Fashion Outlets of Chicago has partnered with HGTV to introduce Santa HQ, a thoroughly modern, extraordinarily experiential visit with Santa for shoppers to enjoy this holiday season. The new Santa HQ invites families to experience the wonder of Santa's workshop utilizing digital tools to offer an augmented reality environment and a new and enhanced social media experience. 11 a.m. Thursday, Fashion Outlets of Chicago, 10 a.m. Friday-Sunday, 11 a.m. Monday-Wednesday, 5220 Fashion Outlets Way, Rosemont, $34.99, 847-928-7500.

Rockin' in the Park Free Summer Concert Series: 7 p.m. Thursday, Cub City, 3414 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 312-610-4200.

Brush with Nature 2016 Exhibition: Come to enjoy the artworks on display. Local artists include: Adrienne Corazon, Stephanie Rose Bird, Tiger Lily Cross, Jan Flapan, Steve Johnson, Mary Long, Debra Nichols, Fred Polito, Naomi Pollak, Amanda Roman and Ray Vlcek. 8 a.m. daily, Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, free, 847-674-1500.

Skokie Photographic Society: The group meets on the third Thursday of each month. All levels of photographic skill are welcome. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton St., Skokie, free, 847-677-8324.

Friday, Nov. 18

Carl Broomet: With Dave Simonett. 9 p.m. Friday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, Sold out, 847-492-8860.

Woman's Club of Evanston Holiday Bazaar: Peruse more than 50 artisans/vendors offering unique hand-made or hand-designed home decor, apparel, jewelry, accessories and gourmet foods, and more, that may make fine holiday gifts. Fees: $15 Friday Night Party; $10 one-day admission, $20 Multi-Day pass (including the Friday Night Party). 5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. Saturday, noon Sunday, Woman's Club of Evanston, 1702 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $10-$20, 847-475-3800.

"Eye in the Sky": This movie features Helen Mirren, as military officer Colon Katherine Powell. Rated R, just drop in. 2 p.m. Friday, 6:30 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

St. Haralambos Holiday Bake Sale and Mini Bazaar: The Ladies Philoptochos Society of the St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, offers this event, Be Merry! Be Happy! Be Jolly! Enjoy the homemade Greek pastries, or lunch served both days. Also, dinner available on Friday, coffee shop, raffle and various vendors. 9 a.m. Friday, Holy Transfiguration-St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 7373 North Caldwell Avenue, Niles, free, 847-647-8880.

Share The Warmth: Volunteers wanted — Join a group of warm, friendly, supportive women (men welcome) to prepare one-of-a-kind fleece blankets for chemo patients. Add a crocheted edge to fleece and send free blankets to patients with the help of a stuffed Snoopy doll and hers is a macho pig. They meet several times throughout the year, exploring of science, technology, engineering, art, math and, of course, reading. 10 a.m. Friday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123.

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

"Assassins": Petite Opera 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 psychological musical gives voice to the hopes, fears and furies of nine assassins by exposing the twisted thoughts that made them such intriguing figures. 7:30 p.m. Friday, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 4 p.m. Sunday, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 306 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, Adults $27; Seniors $25; Students (age 16+, full-time) $15, 847-553-4442.

George Lopez: George Lopez performs original stand-up comedy as part of his "That's True Comedy Tour. 8 p.m. Friday, Akoo Theatre at Rosemont, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont, $57+, 847-671-5100.

Bobby Slayton: Bobby Slayton performs original stand-up. 8 p.m. Friday, Zanies Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont, $25 plus two item food/beverage minimum, 847-813-0484.

Beyond Therapy by Christopher Durang: BEYOND THERAPY is a hilarious farce that tells the story of Bruce and Prudence, two failing 30-somebody who are deeply into therapy. Their therapist interacts with her patients with the help of a stuffed Snoopy doll and hers is a macho pig. They meet several times through multiple personal ads, but when they decide to try and have a serious relationship, both therapists and ex-lovers force their way between them. A hilarious satire on relationships, personal ads, and of course therapy. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave, Skokie, $24 - $34, 847-677-7761.

Saturday, Nov. 19

Opulent City: The second show of Angela Eve and Eve's Parlor Productions new show run Opulent City at Rivers Casino. Features a variety of burlesque acts, drag performers, provocative circus performances and vintage vaudeville entertainers. This is a lavish visual extravaganza delicately

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
**CALENDAR**

**Calendar, from Previous Page**

designed with passionate performances, tantalizing theatre and sensual serenades. 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Cube Lounge at Rivers Casino, 3000 S. River Road, Des Plaines, $15 adults 21 and up, 888-307-0777.

**Split Single with The Kickback:** 8 p.m. Saturday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $20-$35, 847-492-8860.

**E-Town Stomp Down:** Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Evanston North Shore Alumnae Chapter (ENSA), hosts its annual youth step competition, E-Town Stop Down. Come witness the hottest youth step teams, as they compete for the top prize. Tickets prices for students are $5 with a canned good and $6 without. For adults, ticket prices are $10 with a canned good $11 without. Children ages 5 and under are admitted for free. 6 p.m. Saturday, Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, $5-$11, 847-424-7000.

**FUSE! Studios:** Drop in with friends to wire LEDs, compose a ringtone, build an amp, mix chemicals to make gel beads, navigate a robot obstacle course and more. For grades six to 12. midnight Saturday, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston, free, 847-448-8600.

**Overeaters Anonymous:** Overeaters Anonymous meets Saturdays. Newcomer meeting on the last Saturday of the month. No dues, fees or weight-ins. For information, call Hannah. 9 a.m. Saturday, St Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2120 Lincoln St., Evanston, free, 773-996-0609.

**Signature Entertainment Presents:**

**LOL Saturday:** Adult Comedy every Saturday night hosted by Comedy legends Tony Scuiffeld and Mark Simmons. National Headliners with movie and television credits on stage. Awesome venue with full bar and dinner menu. 9 p.m. Saturday, Chicago’s Home of Chicken & Waffles, 2424 W. Dempster St., Evanston, $15 adult advance, $20 at the door, 847-521-6343.

**Animal Arts & 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. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Victorian Bed & Breakfast, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $15, 847-492-8860.

**Get Hooked Crafts Handmade Gifts:** Registration is required to join in this program of creating simple handmade gifts, perfect for the upcoming holiday season. Projects include a mini clay dish, marbling and bookmarks, with materials provided. 10 a.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

**Picture Theatre:** “The Snow Queen:** Piccolo’s 16th annual Panto brings back the magic of the season with friends Kai and Gerda are separated by the enchanted broken mirror of the fierce Snow Queen. With colorful costumes and riddles, the shy Gerda must find the hero within as she quests across a wintry wonderland to save Kai, facing trolls, pesky snowflakes, and other magical obstacles. This holiday classic will warm your heart, thaw your toes, and tickle your funny bone. 3 & 7:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday, Piccolo Theatre, 600 Main St., Evanston, $10-$25, 847-424-0089.

**Animals Happy Opening Party:** Eve Alfille’s new “Hellos” series will rise in a blaze of color, followed by champagne, treats, and a raffle. To RSVP, contact us at 847-869-7920 or by email at contact@evejewel.com. 1 p.m. Saturday, Eve J. Alfille Gallery and Studio, 623 Grove St., Evanston, free, 847-869-7920.

**Hands on Activities:** Hands on activities for children and information for parents. 10 a.m. Saturday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123.

**Bobby Slayton:** Bobby Slayton performs original stand-up. 7 p.m. Saturday, Zanies Rosemont, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont, $25 plus two item food/beverage minimum, 847-813-0484.

**A Little Night Music:** Sondheim creates a stunning tour de force when he takes Ingmar Bergman’s comedy of manners, Smiles of a Summer Night, and turns it into a musical of masterful execution and elegance. 7 p.m. Saturday, Devonshire Playhouse, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie, $15 (Students & Seniors); $17 (Adults), 847-674-1500.

**Beyond Therapy by Christopher Durang:** BEYOND THERAPY is a hilarious farce that tells the story of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, two flat-comedy characters who are deeply into therapy. This hilarious satire on relationships, personal ads, and of course comedy. 7 p.m. Saturday, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, $24-$34, 847-677-7761.

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

**Hockey How-To Weekend:** Learn how to decorate for the holidays. Chalet is offering 20-minute "how-to" demonstrations on topics including outdoor seasonal planters, customizing centerpieces with greens and plants, unplug-}

**Sunday, Nov. 20**

**Natalia Zukerman:** With Zoe Lewis, 7 p.m. Sunday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $15-$25, 847-492-8860.

**Animal Arts & 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. Sunday, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St.
CALENDAR

Calendar, from Previous Page

Evaston, $3 kids, $5 adults, 847-475-1030.

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

Mercy in the Scriptures: This lecture/discussion is with Fr. John Kartje, Rector/President of University of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Asst. Professor of Biblical Studies and Homiletics, on God's mercy as it unfolds in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures and in the person of Jesus. noon Sunday, St. Catherine Laboure, 3535 Thorndale Avenue, Glenview, free, 847-826-4704.

Lincolnwood Turkey Trot 5K 10K Race and Fitness Walk: The 40th Annual Lincolnwood Turkey Trot takes place with a CARA Certified 5K and 10K race featuring a flat, fast-timed course. The Turkey Trot also offers a 5K Fitness Walk and Drumstick Dash for kids. Finisher medals are given for all participants as they cross the finish line. Please register early, as this event sells out. 8 a.m. Sunday, Proesel Park, 7055 Kostner Avenue, Lincolnwood, Price varies depending on race, 847-677-9740.

My Name is Will: My Name is Will is a theatrical adaptation of thirty-five of Shakespeare's sonnets accompanied by songs from eight of his plays. The performance takes the audience on an intricate journey through the many dimensions of the sonnets, whereas the songs from Shakespeare's plays provide a counterpoint to the themes explored. 2 p.m. Sunday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6410 Lincoln Ave, Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Meera: Selkie from the Sea: Meera is a mystical seal who magically transforms into a woman and follows her heart. Linda Marie Smith presents this timeless love story told with original songs, spoken word, and stunning cinematic animation. 2 p.m. Sunday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234.

NaNoWriMo Weekly Write In: Write your novel at the Library! Join this weekly NaNoWriMo meeting each Sunday in November. Snacks are provided. 2 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224.

Fine Arts Fair: Estrella Duo: The Estrella Pianio Duet performs works by Mendelssohn, Debussy, and Mussorgsky. Elena Dubovitskaya and Svetlana Belsky share both their Russian heritage and training and their enthusiasm for playing together. 2 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois: Philip J. Costello, archivist with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, will describe the court's archival holdings at the meeting of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois. The JGSI help desk and library will be open at 12:30 p.m. Court records such as naturalizations, divorces and probate case files hold a virtual gold mine of historical and genealogical information. 2 p.m. Sunday, Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook, free, 312-666-0100.

Northwestern Settlement Bingo Bash and Brunch: The Northwestern Settlement Association helps approximately 8,000 low-income families and individuals. The annual benefit event features a brunch buffet, exciting bingo games with amazing prizes and more. 11 a.m. Sunday, Park Ridge Country Club, 636 North Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, $75 per person, 847-988-2574.

Artisan Faire at Temple Beth Israel: Sisterhood Temple Beth presents its annual "Artisan Faire," Sunday, Nov. 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., just in time for Hanukkah gift buying. Children's clothes, jewelry, dyed clothing, terrariums, scarves and mittens, cards, fused glass, pottery, prints, soaps, Judaica, cookbooks, wares, raffle tickets and also food for purchase. 9 a.m. Sunday, Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-0950.

A Little Night Music: Sondheim creates a stunning tour de force when he takes 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. Sunday, Devonshire Playhouse, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie, $15 (Students & Seniors); $17 (Adults), 847-674-1500.

Holiday Boutique: Shop for the upcoming holidays at the Holiday Boutique sponsored by the Sisterhood of Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation. See our unique and special gifts, personalized items, with more than 20 vendors offering children's books, hand-crafted jewelry, table runners and place mats. 10 a.m. Sunday, Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-674-1411.

Beyond Therapy by Christopher Durang: BEYOND THERAPY is a hilarious farce that tells the story of Bruce and Prudence, two flailing somethings who are deeply into therapy. His therapist interacts with her patients with the help of a stuffed Snoopy doll and hers is a macho pig. They meet several times through multiple personal ads, but when they decide to try and have a serious relationship, both therapists and ex-lovers force their way between them. A hilarious satire on relationships, personal ads, and of course therapy. 2 p.m. Sunday, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, $24 - $34, 847-677-7761.

Music of the Baroque: The Family Bach: Born into a musical dynasty that stretched over 250 years and six generations, three of J. S. Bach's sons were also noted composers. Jane Glover and the Music of the Baroque Orchestra explore their music in this program that also includes their father's E. Major violin concerto. 7:30 p.m. Sunday, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, $38-$75, 312-551-1414.

Monday, Nov. 21

The Chicago Moth StorySLAM: Nine to Five: Prepare a 5-minute story about the job. Punching the clock or punching your boss. Speak of gainful, painful, or just-to-pay-the-rent employment. Office gossip, worksite conditions, business attire and harassment suits. From babysitting to air-traffic control. Stories about the boss, the office romance, finicky customers or dream jobs. 8 p.m. Monday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, Tickets available 1 week before show, 847-492-8860.

Learn To Be A Shark: Come to the north shore's only coworking space and entrepreneur incubator. Visit us for stories about how to start your company, join investor networks and be a part of venture funds. 6:30 p.m. Monday, Callan Building, 1939 Waukegan Road, Glenview, free, 847-414-7342.

Yoga for kids: Stretch, Bend, Breathe: Kids ages four through eight can learn yoga poses and breathing techniques and feel relaxed and energized afterward. There is no experience needed. Bring a large bath towel or yoga mat and wear comfortable clothes. Parents need to stay in the room with children through second graders. 3:30 p.m. Monday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234.

Impressionism and the TwoClaudes: Monet and Debussy: Painters now had competition. While the camera could depict reality much better, the painter could concentrate on color and light. For Monet, the result was "Impressionism" and the critics hated it! Debussy had the same problem determining what to do after Wagner. His solution was to make his music sound like a Monet painting looks. The works of Monet and Debussy resulted in gorgeous art. But beware ... the floodgates to the 20th century were about to open. 10 a.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10 (NSSC member); $13 (non-member), 847-784-6030.

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

Tuesday, Nov. 22

Gaeilinn Lea: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $12-$22, 847-492-8860.

Tuesday Morning Music: Garden visitors can enjoy free hour-long meditative musical performances on Tuesday mornings in the McGinley Pavilion overlooking Evening Island. Music varies from string quartets to native American flutes, and are focused towards an older crowd. After the concert, visitors can board a 25-minute narrated tour on the Bright Encounters Tour, a close-up view of the garden on the main island, or the Grand Tram Tour, an overview of the Garden's history and highlights. Tram tickets may be purchased in the Heritage Garden or any ticket location. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440.

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
**CALENDAR**

**Calendar, from Previous Page**

**Niles Metropolitan Chorus:** This performance date for the annual sing-a-long of Handel’s “Messiah” is Dec. 6. The chorus begins weekly rehearsal days on Nov. 1 and the Tuesdays thereafter from 7-9 p.m. until the upcoming “Messiah.” Contact Marek Rachelski, Director of Music at SJB at 702-806-8421 or the Parish offices at 847-966-8145. 7 p.m. Tuesday, St. John Brebeuf Parish Church, 8307 North Harlem Avenue, Niles, free, 702-806-8421.

**Interfaith Thanksgiving Service:** The Winnetka Interfaith Council hosts its annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, featuring the Council’s Interfaith Choir, Children’s Choir, and the Council-member faith communities leading music and thanksgiving prayer. For more details, call or email: office@stphilipparishatt.net. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, 1962 Old Willow Road, Northfield, free, 847-466-8383.

**Camera Club:** The club meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-3597.

**Movie Day: Zootopia All Ages:** School's out so join us for a movie in the Library. Rated PG. 2 p.m. Tuesday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123.

**Life Transitions Group:** A support group for men and women who have been widowed for one to four years. The group is volunteer-facilitated and held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Park Ridge Nonprofit Center, 720 Garden Street, Park Ridge, $5 per session, 847-720-4170.

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

**Wednesday, Nov. 23**

**Marc Ford & The Neptune Blues Club:** With Joe George. 8 p.m. Wednesday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $15-$25, 847-492-8860.

**Live Music Wednesdays with the Josh Rzepka Trio:** Hear the music of Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Thelonious Monk and other classics of the era played by the Josh Rzepka Bebop trio. Reservations can be made online or by calling. 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Found Kitchen & Social House, 1631 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 847-860-8945.

**Erev Thanksgiving with The Jesse White Tumblers:** Come to Congregation Beth Shalom on Erev Thanksgiving, Wednesday, Nov. 23, for dinner and to see The Jesse White Tumblers, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. entertainment. For questions, contact Bob at 773-791-3314 or call Beth Shalom. 6 p.m. Wednesday, Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook, $8 per person, RSVP to CBS Men’s Club with payment by Nov. 22, 847-498-4100.

**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. Brush up on your skills, learn new techniques, or just spend an afternoon knitting with others. 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, 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. Wednesday, Park Ridge Community Church, 100 S. Courtland Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-823-3164.

**Park Ridge Community Emergency Response Team Class:** The City of Park Ridge hosts this class for the Winter/Spring 2016. The class is held Feb. 3 through March 16 on Wednesday nights until approximately 10 p.m. Interested persons should contact Phil Falson, Director Park Ridge CERT, who can be reached at parkridgecert@gmail.com or by calling, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Public Works Center, 400 Busse Hwy, Park Ridge, free, 847-774-4231.

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

"Doctor Strange" ★★★
PG-13, 1:55, action/adventure
"Doctor Strange," starring Benedict Cumberbatch as a neurosurgeon who learns to bend time, space and his workaholic, narcissistic ways, can't escape all its Marvel Universe corporate imperatives and generic third-act battles for control of the planet. But you know? This latest in the ever-broadening Marvel movie landscape is fun. For an effects-laden franchise launch it's light on its feet, pretty stylish, and full of tasty, classy performers enlivening the dull bits. I wish Rachel McAdams had a couple of additional scenes as Strange's fellow doctor, but some of her screen time, no doubt, went instead to sight gags featuring the Cloak of Levitation. — Michael Phillips

"Trolls" ★★½
PG-13, 1:32, animated
Branch (Justin Timberlake), a misanthropic and maudlin troll, just doesn't fit in with his dancing, singing troll brethren. It's easy to see where he's coming from. His foil, Princess Poppy (Anna Kendrick), bursts with a weaponized sense of joy, forcing her subjects into an oppressive regime of colorful, glittery glee. When Branch and Poppy team up to save some of their troll friends captured by the evil Bergen Chef (Christine Baranski), they have to meet in the middle. Once these two get on the same level, the joy outbursts become far more tolerable and a lot less grating. When "Trolls" finds its balance, universal if simple truths abound. — Katie Walsh, Tribune News Service

"Hacksaw Ridge" ★★½
R, 2:18, action/adventure
"Hacksaw Ridge" takes its name from a forbidding 350-foot cliff on the island of Okinawa, the 1945 scene of some of the worst carnage of World War II. The script creates a solemn, extraordinarily bloody account of the trials by fire met by real-life Medal of Honor recipient Desmond Doss (Andrew Garfield), a Seventh-day Adventist and medic who was the first conscientious objector to receive that honor. The limitation of "Hacksaw Ridge," for all its gut-punch viscera, comes from director Mel Gibson treating Doss not as exceptional, but as a messiah. The man at the heart of the story does not need this sort of grandiosity. It "works," but it's shameless. — M.P

"Boo! A Madea Halloween" ★★½
PG-13, 1:43, comedy
The premise of the latest Tyler Perry "Madea" flick 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. Some of the writing feels cheesy and overly dramatic. 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 have somehow turned out a third adventure featuring author Dan Brown's renowned symbologist and world-saving dullard Robert Langdon that is precisely on the beam, boringly, as "The Da Vinci Code" (2006) and "Angels and Demons" (2009). 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. — M.P
DEATH NOTICES

Krozel, Walter A.

Walter A. Krozel, 85, former resident of Morton Grove, retired circulation driver for the Chicago Tribune for over 40 years, Army veteran, died on November 8 in Quincy IL, beloved husband of the late Irene; dear father of Reta (James Jr) Murphy, Joe (Angela Reiersen) Krozel, and Jimmy (Michelle Camarda) Krozel; cherished grandfather of Laura Murphy, James Murphy III, Andrei Krozel, Kyle Krozel and Julian Krozel. Memorial service in the spring.

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2016 GIRLS BASKETBALL SEASON PREVIEW

Scouting report

Pioneer Press previews the 2016-17 season for area teams

Niles North

Coach: Dan Paxson
2015-16 record: 17-11, lost to Oak Park-River Forest in Class 4A regional semifinal
Backcourt: Niles North will rely on a committee of guards to handle ballhandling duties, but junior Alyssa Aragon is the top returner. Aragon has been on varsity since her freshman year. "She's got a ton of experience," Paxson said. "She's a really good on-ball defender." Sophomore Lauren Deouza and senior Gina Loy can also play point guard, Paxson said.

Frontcourt: Senior Christina Moutidis and junior Theresa Akinboboye are the tallest players on Niles North's roster at 5-foot-11. Paxson, though, said that the team will primarily play small. "Collectively, we're a pretty small team, but we've got some kids ... that really go hard at the ball," Paxson said. He said rebounding in practice has been physical and that Niles North will have to do that as a team to be successful.

Did you know: Senior guard Teresa Knudson's primary sport is soccer. Paxson said that despite her limited experience, Knudson is a hard worker in practice and a leader. He said he expects a lot out of her this season.

Matthew Paras

Niles West

Coach: Tony Konsewicz
2015-16 record: 8-21 (2-8 Central Suburban South), lost to Glenbrook North in Class 4A regional semifinal
Backcourt: The Wolves plan to have a young starting five, with three sophomores and a freshman receiving regular playing time this season, according to Konsewicz. Sophomore Sam Galanopoulos will fill the point guard role vacated by the graduation of four-year varsity player Jalynn Estrada. "(Galanopoulos) would handle the point when Jalynn wasn't in the game," Konsewicz said. "She's a skilled ballhandler and she can shoot from the outside. We're looking at her to fill a void there.

Frontcourt: With such a young core of starters, Konsewicz said his team still has some things to learn. "I think the speed of the game is going to be the biggest adjustment," he said. "We've been working with the girls to speed up their footwork and really step into their shots to speed it up."

Did you know: Every year during Christmas, the team adopts a District 219 family in need and provides gifts and a dinner for the holiday. In the past, the team has worked with up to five families and Konsewicz said the girls look forward to it every season.

Lee Bosch

Maine East

Coach: Karol Hanusiak
2015-16 record: 19-9, lost to Maine West in Class 4A regional semifinal
Backcourt: Maine East lost three key seniors from last season and four players decided not to come back after playing summer basketball. That leaves guard Angie Apostolou as the Blue Demons' best player. "From a leadership standpoint, from a positivity standpoint, she'll probably be one of our top scorers," Hanusiak said. Apostolou is the only one of Maine East's six seniors, Angie Apostolou, who is 5-9, remains raw but talented. Hanusiak said, "I don't want to spin this totally negative because the kids are great kids and super hard working." Hanusiak said, "Their attitudes have been nothing but positive from the very beginning, but it's hard. They look around and go, 'Oh man, we're going to struggle.'"

Did you know: Of the team's six seniors, Angie Apostolou is the only one with significant varsity experience. The others either played in a limited role or were on JV last season. The lack of experience also has to do with four players unexpectedly not returning for the fall, which Hanusiak said was for a variety of reasons. "It was kind of like starting from square one again in the fall," Hanusiak said.

Matthew Paras

Matthew Paras and Lee Bosch are freelance reporters for Pioneer Press.
Evanston plans to pick up pace under new coach

BY DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

Fans of the Evanston girls basketball team will see several familiar faces on the court this season, but the pace could be noticeably faster for a squad considered to be among the state's elite.

First-year coach Brittany Johnson, who spent the last three seasons coaching the women's basketball team at Chicago's Kennedy-King junior college, has always preferred her teams to play up-tempo basketball. She believes the Wildkits have the talent and depth necessary to play this style for 36 minutes a game.

"I watched tapes of six or seven games from last year and was really surprised they didn't run and press more," said Johnson, who played at Fenwick and Boston College. "They were more of a halfcourt team. I don't think they should limit themselves. I think we can average 60 to 70 points per game and force a lot of turnovers, use our athleticism to our benefit."

Senior point guard Allysah Boothe said last year's team did play up-tempo at times, though former coach Elliot Whitefield often called for more halfcourt basketball when Evanston had a lead.

Whitefield had plenty of success, compiling a 110-44 record in five seasons, including last year's 23-6 mark. Johnson also talked about how her predecessor was "loved" by his players and said she believed the team's defense was very strong last season as the Wildkits reached the Class 4A New Trier Sectional semifinals.

Wildkits appear to have the pieces in place to reach the state tournament for just the second time in program history. Johnson believes turning up the tempo will be the key to getting there.

Boothe agreed and said the Wildkits are playing to their strengths.

"I feel like when we play at a faster pace, when we get up and down the floor, we're a better team," said Boothe, an Evanston resident who takes over as the floor leader after last year's starter Savannah Norfleet decided not to play her senior season.

Based on the evidence from this summer and fall, the Wildkits appear to be adapting well to their new system. Evanston went 20-1 in various shootouts and leagues, including the Loyola Summer Shootout and Montini Fall League. Now, they are looking to carry that form into the regular season.

"Everybody on the team and the staff was really excited to be able to do what we did this summer," Johnson said. "Since then, we've been building and building (in practice) and I know (our players) are ready to play somebody else and show they want to be the team to beat this year."

Forrester said the team has bought into Johnson's philosophy, though she admitted the players were nervous about this upcoming season when Whitefield resigned in March citing an inability to secure a teaching job in the school.

"Our biggest fear was that (the new coach) was going to change everything and make us a different team," said Forrester, who lives in Evanston. "To be honest, (Johnson) has made us a better team. She took what we had and added to it, gave us the extra stuff we needed."

Johnson has demanded a lot of the players in practices and especially off-season workouts, but Forrester said she and her teammates have been putting in the extra work, and they are no longer simply talking about what they want to accomplish.

"In previous years, we kept saying our goal was to go to state, but we never put forth the effort or did what it takes to get there," Forrester said. "(In the past) our preseason (weight room and conditioning) workouts were awful. But this year, we were working out two months in advance, going to the weight room, open gyms, conditioning, doing what it takes to get to the next level, not just saying it, but following through."

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
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Penelope Tir, New Trier sophomore

New Trier girls golfer Penelope Tir finished tied for fourth at the Class AA state tournament at Hickory Point Golf Club. Tir, a sophomore, carded a 1-over 145.

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Pehar leads Niles West to state volleyball tourney

BY STEVE REAVEN
Pioneer Press

Beaming smiles, hugs and rousing high-fives are in abundant supply when Natalia Pehar interacts with her Niles West girls volleyball teammates after points. But when the ball is put into play, the Niles West sophomore outside hitter becomes cloaked in intensity as she readies to do what she enjoys most.

"I just really like hitting," Pehar said. "When the timing is perfect and the ball bounces straight back up off the floor on a kill, it's the best feeling in the world."

Pehar has experienced that feeling a lot this year. Her team-high 353 kills through the supersectional and clutch play during the Wolves' playoff run are big reasons why Niles West advanced to the state tournament for the first time in program history. Niles West finished fourth in the state after losing to Mother McAuley on Friday and Stevenson on Saturday in Normal.

Pehar, a Lincolnwood resident, has been a mainstay in the starting lineup since the start of her freshman season. She was third on the team in kills last year. But her play has reached new levels of late, making her contributions even more integral in fueling Niles West's historic run.

Her three straight kills against New Trier clinched the Wolves' regional championship on Oct. 27 and avenged three regular-season losses to the Trevians.

In the supersectional win over Riverside-Brookfield on Nov. 5, Pehar won five straight service points after the Wolves trailed 24-20 in a back-and-forth third game. Niles West (28-8) went on to win the decisive game 31-29 to punch its ticket downtown.

"For her to serve those five straight points was a huge hurdle for her to overcome," Wolves coach Stacy Metoyer said. "She's always had the athletic ability but with her it's been striving to keep the focus for the whole match. She's shown that she can do that in the last few weeks."

Even on first glance, it's obvious that Pehar possesses prodigious athletic ability. An imposing vertical leap allows her to play taller than her 5-foot-10 frame and her smooth swing ends with the kind of quick snap that sets her apart from the vast majority of players her age.

She also has an unyielding work ethic and the intangibles that every coach welcomes.

"She has absolutely no fear, and you can't teach that," Metoyer said. "If her ball gets blocked, she says, 'Give me the ball again.' She's been like that since she came in as a freshman."

Pehar has been used almost exclusively at outside hitter on her club team, which left her without much experience on the back row. Playing on the back row has been an area of emphasis for Pehar as a sophomore and she's become a much more proficient passer as a result.

But it's her hitting that sets her apart.

"As a setter, the thing I look for most is having trust in my hitters," said senior tri-captain Eleni Balourdos, who also hails from Lincolnwood. "I know that if I set it to her, she's going to get a kill, no matter what the situation."

"We never thought we'd make it here," Pehar said. "We never thought we'd ever get this far."

Wolves make sure to have fun at state meet

BY BOB NARANG
Pioneer Press

NORMAL — The Niles West girls volleyball team made sure that the program's first trip to state would not be without a shortage of smiles and celebrations.

Throughout their two matches at the Class 4A state tournament at Redbird Arena over the weekend, the Wolves jumped around, hi-fived each other, did dances and, just generally, reveled in the experience of making program history.

"These girls have fought all season long, done some amazing things and beat some amazing teams and the experience of coming down to state was pretty cool," Niles West coach Stacy Metoyer said. "Our motto all season long was to relax and have fun. These girls play great when they do that. When they tense up or think too much or we get on them too much, they shut down. We told them to go out there and have fun. They played like a family, played relaxed and had fun."

The Wolves opened their state experience with a hard-fought 25-13, 25-15 loss to Mother McAuley in a Class 4A semifinal on Friday. The Mighty Macs, ranked No. 1 in the nation by prepvolleyball.com, lived up to their top status by defeating Minooka to win the program's state record 14th state title on Saturday.

Stevenson defeated Niles West 25-20, 21-25, 25-16 in Saturday's third-place match. Despite the pressures of playing in a collegiate arena in front of a large group of fans, the Wolves (28-10) never allowed the enormity of the moment to distract them from having fun.

"We're all goofy and fun and believe we can play with anybody," Niles West sophomore hitter Kaila Johanson said. "It's better when we play when we are not tense. We play better when we are goofy and having fun."

The Wolves followed their motto of "having fun" all the way to unchartered territory. Before Niles West left Doug Collins Court after their loss to Stevenson, the Wolves thanked their fans in the far corner of the arena.

"It's a big honor (to get to state) for the entire team," Niles West senior outside hitter Kaila Johanson said. "We never thought we would get here, and always joked about it. Now that it's reality, it was really special."

In Friday's semifinal, the 5-foot-10 Pehar battled Mother McAuley's tall blockers throughout a longer-than-expected match. She collected a team-high nine kills and Eleni Balourdos added 15 assists.

Against Stevenson, Johanson led the attack with 15 kills to go with eight digs and two aces. Pehar had 14 kills.

Pehar said the Wolves were playing loose at state in large part because they overcame many obstacles throughout the season. The Wolves lost three times to New Trier in the regular season. Niles West beat New Trier in the regional finals.

"We went through this point of the season where we were all depressed because we lost to New Trier," Pehar said. "I don't think anybody believed in us going to state. It's been an amazing experience."

The Wolves have to retool their roster next season as they'll lose seven of their top nine players to graduation.

Compiling 23 kills in two state matches, Pehar established herself as a building block for Niles West's program. She finished with a team-high 376 kills this season.

"We saw her in seventh grade and you could tell she was head and shoulders above everybody else," Metoyer said of Pehar. "She has that natural ability, especially in jumping. We'll keep building on her focus level. I think if she works hard in the offseason, she can be one of the best players in the conference."

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
'WE'RE GOING BACKWARDS'

Coaches warn of hazing risks, but psychologists note problem persists

BY STEVE REA
Pioneer Press

The Lake Zurich football team played its Class 7A second-round playoff game on Nov. 5 at Fenwick after an alleged hazing incident involving members of the squad took place in the locker room after that week's customary Thursday team dinner.

As a result, coach David Proffitt and assistant coach Chad Beaver were placed on paid administrative leave the day before Lake Zurich's loss to Fenwick.

Despite the "egregious" nature of the episode, as described in a document sent to parents by Lake Zurich Community Unit School District 95, no players were confirmed to have missed the game for disciplinary reasons. Players were allowed to compete provided each individual and a legal guardian signed the district-drafted document the morning of the game.

That document called for players to abide by five conditions, ranging from the completion of an online course on hazing prevention to participating in 10 hours of community service. Four of the five conditions are task-oriented and did not come with a firm deadline, but football players in the Bears' program are no longer allowed to hold team meetings without an adult staff member present.

District representatives did not respond to requests for comment for this story.

As of Monday, the Lake County state's attorney's office and Lake Zurich police were still investigating the incident.

The 1901 Illinois Hazing Act is the earliest known state legislation to address hazing. The law was amended in 1996 to add a felony component if the victim suffered grave bodily harm or died. Dr. Susan Lipkins, a New York-based psychologist who has written a book on hazing and is a frequent expert witness at hazing-related trials, is concerned about the direction that hazing is heading.

"Hazing is occurring with more frequency in high school athletics and becoming more aggressive in nature," Lipkins said. "I don't see any movement. In fact, we're going backwards."

Ramifications from hazing incidents often go far beyond what has thus far transpired in Lake Zurich. Maine Township High School District 207 announced an agreement on Nov. 7 to pay $1 million to settle a lawsuit by five former boys soccer and baseball players stemming from a 2012 hazing incident. Other high-profile cases involved Glenbrook North female students in 2003 and Glenbrook South boys lacrosse players in 2004.

Despite a long fight to eradicate the practice, hazing is still alive and well. "Within a unique social context of a team environment, it's easy to feel pressure to conform and sometimes do things that aren't normally within your value system," said Dr. Jeffrey Fishbein, a Deerfield-based clinical and sport psychologist who has consulted with several collegiate and professional sports teams.

"There's a rite of passage where those who are hazed when they're younger next become a bystander and eventually do the hazing. The excuse is that, 'If it happened to me and I survived, then you'll survive, too.'"

Hazing, while frowned upon, has taken a back seat to anti-bullying messages, Lipkins said. As a result, students aren't being taught about the dangers of hazing as much as the risks of bullying.

Whereas bullying involves threats of physical or emotional harm to an individual, hazing can include dangerous and embarrassing behavior within a team context and sometimes includes willing participants.

"There's a much higher awareness of bullying than hazing," Lipkins said. "Hazing is a public issue in terms of adults reading about it, but not in an educational sense for students."

One of the reasons for the prevalence of hazing, Fishbein said, is the powerful influence of peer pressure and social inclusion and the pressure one can feel to follow, rather than to lead. Athletes also are more likely to turn to hazing when adult leadership is occasionally absent.

"Part if it is a lack of constant supervision," Fishbein said. "When individuals are able to act by themselves without firm and stable leadership from within, it's more likely that they will operate in a way that deviates from societal norms."

Area football coaches agreed that they share a responsibility to teach their players that hazing is not tolerable.

Glenbrook North coach Bob Pieper said hazing should be more of a front-burner issue. "Everybody could talk about it more," Pieper said. "With hazing, there's usually thought put into it beforehand. Kids have to ask questions of themselves before they do something they might regret."

Fenwick coach Gene Nudo used the Lake Zurich situation as a backdrop to address hazing with his team before the Nov. 5 playoff game. He said his players' accountability to one another starts from within.

"It's an expectation for our older guys to take the younger players under their wings," Nudo said. "We try to communicate to them that character is what you see in the mirror."

Steve Reaven is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Evanston's Leighah-Amori Wool looks for an open teammate as she is triple-teamed by Trinity defenders during a sectional semifinal on Feb. 23.

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Pioneer Press turns its focus to the area girls basketball teams at the start of the season. Pages 38-39
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