Paying tribute
American Legion Post 134 in Morton Grove honors veterans. Page 4

Morton Grove resident and U.S. Army veteran John Slate salutes during the tribute to veterans held Nov. 5 at the American Legion Post 134 in Morton Grove. About two dozen people attended the ceremony.

LIVING
After maternity leave, emotional challenge awaits

"Bad mom." It's the most terrifying of labels. It's the fear at the heart of the working mom/stay-at-home mom conflict. Lauren Chval reflects on her experience as a new mother heading back to work. Inside

WHAT TO DO
Harmonic duo
Folk musicians to perform original songs at Grayslake Heritage Center. Page 25

HELP SQUAD
Is small claims court an option?
Legal experts weigh in on how to proceed with a lawsuit that concerns only a few thousand dollars without incurring exorbitant legal fees. Page 19

SPORTS
The final miles
The boys and girls cross country season ends at the state meet in Peoria. Page 35
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CLARIFICATIONS
■ In the Nov. 2 issue of Pioneer Press, a photo with the column “We’ve know the truth about JFK all along” should have shown Lee Harvey Oswald in custody at a Dallas police station on Nov. 23, 1963. He was mistakenly cropped out of the photo.
■ The front page of the Nov. 2 preprinted Living section has incorrect information in an item about where the “Love Essentially” column is published. It is not in Living but in the Pioneer Press Opinion section.

Pioneer Press regrets the errors.

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Paying tribute

American Legion Post 134 in Morton Grove honors veterans

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

John Slater insisted on standing during the ceremony Nov. 5 that was designed to honor veterans like him, despite a stranger offering him a seat.

Slater, a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1946, said he has lived in Morton Grove since 1960. He was among the approximately two dozen people who attended the Veterans Day ceremony at the American Legion Post 134 in Morton Grove.

"I think it's appropriate to continue the tradition and I would like to see more support for the Veterans Day event from average citizens," Slater said, with one hand on a damp bench at the event to maintain steady footing.

Ron Sheirok, a Skokie resident of nearly 50 years, serves as Morton Grove's post commander.

"Our post is the center point of the legion, in general, and also of the village," Sheirok said.

Sheirok served in the U.S. Army from 1964 to 1967, stationed in the United States and Munich, Germany — where he was in the signal corps.

"This year we were very fortunate," he said. "We became the largest post in Illinois."

Sheirok said the Morton Grove post has more than 1,200 members.

"They're spread all over the nation but we still are the hub," he said of the membership.

Morton Grove Historical Society President Mark V. Matz said he attended the ceremony out of gratitude for the military personnel. He did not serve in the military.

"Thank you for all that you've done," Matz said, in a shout out to veterans and those currently serving.

"We appreciate it and we honor and respect you."

Joe Gesicki, a Morton Grove resident since 1968, served as chaplain during the event and was part of the rifle salute squad.

Gesicki served in the U.S. Army signal corps from 1956 to 1958, he said.

"I think it's marvelous to honor our veterans in any way or form," Gesicki said.

The event's keynote speaker was Bud Jones, a 32-year Park Ridge resident.

Jones enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1955 and retired 23 years later.

He's a writer and appears on television as a commercial and union actor. After retiring from the military in 1978, Jones worked in public relations for the McDonald's corporation, he said.

Now 83, Jones said, "it's hard to put into words," about the privilege to be a keynote speaker after many years of military service.

"I would much rather hear their stories than telling mine," he said.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter.
Police: Natural gas line struck at Westfield Old Orchard mall

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Construction workers accidentally hit a natural gas line Oct. 31 while working on the southeast side of Westfield Old Orchard mall, according to Skokie police.

Skokie police told of the situation mostly using social media. The Police Department first reported on Twitter just before noon that the gas line had been struck, and called for people to “use caution in the area.”

The Skokie Fire Department and gas utility company Nicor were also called to the scene.

“Our line was cut by a third party contractor doing construction work. Our crews responded to the area, and repaired the damage,” said Nicor spokeswoman Jennifer Golz.

Police said the situation was contained to the parking lot, and there were no road closures.

Skokie village officials said the construction crew was working on an electrical upgrade project when they drilled into the gas line. There were no injuries reported, police said.

Still, some mall customers reported inconveniences because of the incident.

A woman posted on Skokie police’s Facebook page that she tried to enter Nordstrom, one of the anchor retail stores at the mall, but it was blocked off. Other mall customers said they could not return to their vehicles right away.

Police said the parking lot was back to normal by later in the afternoon. Just before 5 p.m. Oct. 31, police tweeted an all-clear message.

“The incident involving the struck gas line at Old Orchard Mall is now concluding,” the Police Department posted on Twitter.

Representatives from Westfield Old Orchard mall did not respond to requests for comments on the incident.

Board repeals moratorium on hiking elected officials’ pay

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

The Niles Village Board voted recently to repeal a moratorium on raising salaries for trustees and the mayor because of recognition that terms limits made the freeze unfair, Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo said.

The nod came during the Oct. 24 Village Board meeting.

Just over a year after the Niles Village Board voted in favor of the moratorium—that was to be in effect through April 30, 2019—the board voted to do away with the freeze and allow increases to take effect.

In September 2016, the board voted to delay approved salary increases after a survey showed the mayor and board made far below what others in the area make, officials said. At that time, the mayor was making $4,000 and trustees

$2,500, according to village records.

The approved increase in salary last year called for boosting the mayor’s salary to $11,400 and trustees’ salaries to $5,500, according to village records. But the board decided that everyone should receive the increase at the same time so it approved the moratorium along with the salary increases.

State law mandates that salary increases can’t begin until the end of an elected official’s term. Without the moratorium, Przybylo said, some on the board would have seen an increase right away as they began new terms and others would have had to wait two years.

“The moratorium was put in place in the first place so that all the trustees would get the increase in pay at the end of the next election cycle and then everyone would be uniform and get the pay raise together,” he said.

The Village Board Oct. 24 did not discuss its reasoning in voting to repeal the moratorium, but the mayor later said it had to do with recognition that term limits in Niles also made the moratorium unfair.

Niles limits the mayor to two terms and trustees to three terms, which means that some on the board would be cut out from higher compensation because they could not be re-elected, he said.

Under the measure that was passed Oct. 24, the mayor and trustees can now receive the increase in pay that was approved last year.

“We tried to say to ourselves which way do you want it, which way is most fair,” Przybylo said. “Obviously, the board voted to make it fair this way in view of the term limits.”

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Niles Township schools best state PARCC results

By Mike Isaacs
Pioneer Press

Some administrators at school districts within Niles Township say they are still assessing the latest scores from the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers exam, as even results released Oct. 31 indicate that area schools performed higher than the state averages on the standardized test.

Statewide, students in third to eighth grades were tested in spring of the 2016-17 school year in math and English language arts, as part of the annual PARCC testing. The results were publicly released Oct. 31 by the Illinois State Board of Education.

The spring testing marked the third year the PARCC assessment was administered in Illinois, after it replaced the Illinois Standards Achievement Test.

"After the first year, they did a lot of major revisions," said Skokie School District 68 Supt. Jim Garwood. "Between the second year, they made some changes as well although not as dramatic as the first year changes."

But some administrators say that the changes made to the test — especially from year one to year two — still make it difficult to establish a reliable baseline.

The PARCC scores are provided as part of the Illinois Report Card for the state's public schools and the information is provided for school districts and the individual schools that comprise them. School district and single school data is compared to overall state scores.

There are 10 elementary school districts — which include 21 elementary and junior high schools — serving the township towns of Skokie, Niles, Morton Grove and Lincolnwood.

For the most part, smaller elementary school districts in the area — some with only one school — performed better than the larger districts, which some school administrators say doesn't surprise them. The larger districts have more newly arrived students from other countries, which presents some unique challenges, administrators say.

Of the area schools, School District 68 and Skokie Morton Grove School District 69 had the fewest percentage of students who met or exceeded state standards while students from smaller districts exceeded state standards at a higher percentage, the data shows.

School District 68 includes Old Orchard Junior High School, and Devonshire, Jane Stenson and Highland elementary schools and serves over 1,851 students, according to the school district's report card.

In general, the statewide scores for public school districts remained consistent with the previous school year's results, according to the data ISBE provided.

Statewide, 34 percent of students tested across all grade levels met or exceeded the state standard in math and ELA combined, according to the report card data.

According to Illinois State Board of Education officials, the score included an increase — from 36.5 percent to 37 percent — in ELA, but a decrease in math of 31.6 percent in 2015-2016 versus 31.2 for 2016-2017 school years.

School District 68 dropped a few percentage points in 2015-2016 when 39.7 percent of students overall met or exceeded state standards in combined math and ELA compared to 36.3 percent in the 2016-2017 results. That still bested the state average, according to the school district's report card data.

Garwood said the district wants to focus on making sure all of its students succeed. He said the district hired reading consultants for the first time this year and has an English language learning team focusing on children who have come from other countries.

"I think we are being very, very proactive in looking at our achievement and trying to address ways in which we can improve," he said.

Ten years ago, Garwood said, 7 percent of District 68's student population spoke English as a second language while this year it's almost 20 percent — and nearly double the state average in public schools.

"We love our kids. We love all of our kids regardless of race, ethnicity, whatever backgrounds they come from," he said. "But I do think it sets up an unfortunate dynamic when these kids are expected to take the test and pass it at the same rate as kids who speak the language fluently already."

Students in Skokie Morton Grove School District 69 met or exceeded state standards at a rate of 36.3 percent, the same as last year, and slightly above the state average, according to report card data.

Among the top-scoring districts in the township was Fairview South School District 72, a one-school district, where 61.8 percent of students met or exceeded state standards, a jump from 58.3 percent last year.

The school district's Fairview South Elementary School serves over 700 students, according to the report card.

Golf School District 67 in Morton Grove saw a drop this time of more than 5 percent in students who met or exceeded state standards over last year. Still, the 62.7 of its students who met or exceed state standards, as reported Tuesday, topped any other district in the township, the data shows.

Skokie School District 73.5 may have recorded the most consistent scores in the township as 52.5 percent of students met or exceeded state standards, according to report card data.

The 2017 PARCC results indicate: Lincolnwood School District 74 saw one of the biggest gains in scores in the township with 33.4 percent of students meeting state standards at a rate of 36.3 percent, according to the school's report card.

Area administrators have said that blips occur from year to year so comparisons are made carefully. The assessment of this most recent PARCC results is just beginning, Garwood said.

He said the state recently sent out a statement that the PARCC test scores are now stable enough that they can be regarded as a reliable baseline, but educators are not so sure yet.

"We still have a lot of questions as to whether PARCC will even continue to be the assessment we use," he said.

Pioneer Press reporter Geneviève Bookwalter contributed to this report.

Dist. 219 hosts 5K run as part of dance marathon fundraiser

Staff report

Niles Township High School District 219’s Dance Marathon team hosted a 5K race Nov. 5 to benefit A Better Life For Kids, an organization dedicated to helping orphaned children in Ghana.

The school district's dance marathon is a student-run nonprofit organization that chooses a new primary beneficiary every school year and raises money and awareness about the charity throughout the year, culminating with a dance marathon.

Niles West and Niles North high school students participate in the project, which raised $80,000 for last year school year for Marillac St. Vincent's Project Hope, a neighborhood youth program, according to dance marathon organizers.

The fundraiser to benefit A Better Life for Kids took place at 9 a.m. at Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton St., in Skokie. The event included music, snacks, face painting, prizes, and event T-shirts, organizers said.

The seeds for A Better Life for Kids were planted when Shelley Nizynski Reese, then a teacher at Middleton School in Skokie, went to Ghana alone to help children there, she said. She continued to return every year, she said, and later developed the charitable A Better Life for Kids.
Meyer School shows off major addition at open house

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

The new and improved Elizabeth Meyer School was finally ready to show off last month.

An Oct. 14 open house celebration of the new space was attended by Skokie School District 73.5 and Meyer School educators and families. U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Illinois, state Rep. Laura Fine, D-Glenview, and Skokie mayor George Van Dusen were among other dignitaries who also attended.

The school for kindergartners and pre-schoolers doubled its size this year, growing to 23,000 square feet with the addition of a new gym, library, playground and more, according to school officials.

The cost of the new addition was about $9 million, School District 73.5 officials said.

The district is paying for the construction, along with a more modest one-room expansion at Middleton School, by selling $10.3 million in bonds. Taxpayers will not pay more in taxes each year, school district leaders said, because of how the bonds are structured.

Meyer's one-story new construction created seven new classrooms, including a room for art and music, a gross motor room for special education students and three small instructional offices as well as a modern playground.

Students' families and members of the community were able to tour the classrooms and play areas during the open house.

Enrollment at School District 73.5 is not expected to increase significantly, officials have said. However, the addition does allow more special education students attending Molloy Education Center in Morton Grove to be taught at Meyer, Supt. Kate Donegan said.

Some students have been educated out of district due to limited space, she said.

Donegan estimated that 16 such students will ultimately return to Meyer now that the addition is in place.

misacs@pioneerlocal.com

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ARTIFICIAL DECORATIONS

AA - POTTED POINSETTIA FOR GARDEN CRYPTS AND NICHES (not suitable for graves)
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PCE-WIFES Date
The following items were taken from area police department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

Niles

THEFT

- Fahimeh Tooski-Malayeri, 64, and Farah Tooski-Malayeri, 60, both of the 6200 block of Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, were each charged with retail theft on Oct. 20 after police said they allegedly stole groceries from a store in the 5700 block of West Touhy Avenue. Farah Tooski-Malayeri was also charged with battery after police said she scratched an employee's arm in an apparent attempt to break free and run away.
- Two 16-year-old boys from Skokie were arrested on Oct. 28 after police said they stole gloves and a sweatshirt from a retailer in the 200 block of Golf Mill Center and gave false names to officers. The boys were petitioned for juvenile court review.

LEAVING THE SCENE

- Christal A. Marshall, 21, of the 7000 block of West Kenney Street, was charged with leaving the scene of an accident, driving without a license and damage to village property on Oct. 24. Marshall is scheduled to appear in court Dec. 6.

BATTERY

- Miguel Angel Martinez-Alvarez, 31, of the 7900 block of Caldwell Avenue, was charged with battery, criminal damage to property and possession of marijuana on Oct. 21. According to police, Martinez-Alvarez was involved in an altercation with an employee of a Niles business.
- Natalie Maria Kozak, 35, of the 7300 block of Conard Avenue, was charged with domestic battery on Oct. 22. Kozak was scheduled to appear in court Oct. 26.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

- Parma N. Chaudhry, 36, of the 6000 block of Carol Avenue, Morton Grove, was charged with disorderly conduct on Oct. 20.

LEAVING THE SCENE

Asim Sukur, 50, of the 2200 block of Morse Avenue, Chicago, was charged with leaving the scene of an accident, driving without the influence of alcohol on Oct. 28. According to police, Sukur is scheduled to appear in court Dec. 11.

DUI

- Maryah S. Gonzalez, 19, of the 1900 block of Parkside Drive, Park Ridge, was charged with driving under the influence, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia on Oct. 28. According to police, a officer pulled over Gonzalez's car in the 7300 block of North Milwaukee Avenue because she was driving with a shredded tire that was causing the rim to create sparks on the road. A glass pipe and a small bag containing suspected marijuana was found inside his vehicle.

DRUGS

- Ramiro Rosales Jr., 27, of the 400 block of Stella Street, was charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia stemming from an incident Oct. 29 near Lincoln and Devon avenues. Police said marijuana and a glass pipe were found inside his vehicle.

BURGLARY

- A resident of the 8900 block of North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, was charged with burglary on Oct. 20. The suspects were seen loading the items into the back of a truck, which was last seen heading west on Touhy Avenue, according to police.

THEFT

- A woman reported Oct. 26 that someone struck her with a shopping cart three or four times while in the checkout line in a store in the 7200 block of Dempster Street. The woman didn't report any injuries.
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NEWS

A 15-year-old boy was arrested last week after Park Ridge police said he stole money belonging to Maine East High School’s National Honor Society chapter.

The teen, of Niles, is accused of stealing a container of monetary donations collected during an event hosted by the National Honor Society on the night of Oct. 27 at the Park Ridge school, 2601 W. Dempster St., said Deputy Police Chief Lou Jogmen.

Maine East Principal Michael Pressler said a donation bucket was on a table just feet from where the National Honor Society’s faculty adviser and other members were standing.

"Literally, a kid ran up, grabbed it and took off," Pressler said.

Surveillance video helped police identify the boy, leading to his arrest at his home later that night, Jogmen said.

Pressler also credited school staff and security for helping in the identification, which he said occurred "in a matter of minutes."

On one side, Holzmueller and his parents say that failing to give para-ambulatic means would allow athletes like him to qualify for the state track meet.

For two years, the IHSA has said no, even after Holzmueller’s request turned into a lawsuit.

On Nov. 6, in what could be the final legal skirmish, the federal appellate court in Chicago was due to hear the arguments.

Neither side would comment before the hearing, but lengthy and sometimes rancorous legal filings give a view of the dispute.

Aaron Holzmueller is a teenage runner who has made a name for himself at the national level, but what he wants most is a chance to compete in the Illinois High School Association championships.

Holzmueller, 17, a senior at Evanston Township High School, has cerebral palsy, a condition that affects his balance, coordination and muscular control.

Though he's an elite runner in Paralympic competitions, he can't keep up with his able-bodied peers, so he has asked the IHSA to create a path that would allow athletes like him to qualify for the state track meet.

The theft occurred while the function was taking place, police said.

Pressler estimated that Haunted Hallways drew between 200 and 300 members of the community, and more than 100 Maine East students.

"The joy of the night was not overshadowed by the theft," she said.

Pressler estimated that Haunted Hallways drew between 200 and 300 members of the community, and more than 100 Maine East students.

jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com
Twitter @Jen_Tribune
in 2012, the organization created championship races for disabled swimmers and wheelchair track athletes — changes it said were in the works before the lawsuit.

The IHSA declined to clarify why it wouldn’t make such an accommodation for para-ambulatory track athletes. But the organization’s legal arguments suggest it fears an onslaught of never-ending demands.

“Although (Holzmueller) may be satisfied with the result he achieves, students with more severe disabilities, or those with different disabilities such as dwarfism or obesity, may demand further accommodation to ensure they too receive a ‘meaningful opportunity’ to succeed,” its lawyers wrote in a brief.

Even then, if granted, what is to stop students with various intellectual disabilities from requesting accommodations specific to their individual needs? Such a result could certainly place an undue burden upon entities such as the IHSA.

Other states, though, have already made the change Holzmueller is seeking, and officials in those states say they have encountered no problems.

Brian Seymour, who oversees track and field for the California Interscholastic Federation, said the state formed an ambulatory division for all disabled athletes who can still use their legs; their disabilities run from cerebral palsy to blindness to autism.

While he understands the slippery slope argument, he said, “We haven’t found in California that we’ve had people asking for something more.”

The state of Washington has had a similar experience.

Brian Smith, assistant executive director of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association, said the organization added an ambulatory division to its championships two years ago to get more kids involved.

Since then, he said, some have gone from nonparticipants to medalists at international competitions.

“Not only have we seen the quality of these athletes go up, but it’s also a very diverse group of kids who are excited to be involved in high school sports,” Smith said.

Louisiana and Alabama also allow para-ambulatory athletes to compete at state track meets.

Philip Galli of Adaptive Track & Field USA, a rule-making and record-keeping organization for disabled athletes, said medical care for children with cerebral palsy, spina bifida and amputated limbs has greatly improved in recent years, allowing them to develop their athletic abilities as never before.

“The population is definitely there,” he said. “We’ve also got parents and organizations now that are pushing for those athletes to be able to participate in sports.”

Holzmueller lost his case at the federal district level in July when Judge John Tharp ruled in favor of the IHSA. Tharp noted that the state track meet is highly selective — 90 percent of athletes don’t make it — and said that Holzmueller failed to prove he would have qualified if not for his disability.

The judge also drew a distinction between swimming and track, saying swimming naturally accommodates athletes with a wide range of disabilities. And para-ambulatory runners, he said, are closer to able-bodied peers than they are to competitors who race in wheelchairs.

“In a track competition, it is hardly irrational to group those who can run separately from those who cannot,” he said.

Even as Tharp ruled in favor of the IHSA, he urged the group to reconsider Holzmueller’s request.

“As the IHSA has already recognized in some other contexts, enabling the full participation of disabled athletes alongside (as closely as possible) their able-bodied peers ... will devalue the meaning of ‘state champion’ for no one,” he said.

The judge said “(Holzmueller’s) participation in the state finals won’t diminish anyone else’s success, or highlight anyone else’s failure. It will simply give us all another reason to cheer.”

Holzmueller appealed, claiming Tharp erred in making his decision.

Illinois’ track and field championships begin May 24.
Chicago actor Martin Hanna said the high point of his life in the theater world was when he was a student at Niles North High School in Skokie learning from theater director Tim Ortmann.

"In the professional business of acting you are marketed for your skin color and your hair color," said Hanna, who was born in Iraq but grew up in Skokie. "The best and most challenging stuff I did was in high school because Tim never treated me as anyone different or treated us as high school students. He gave me my voice. He was a parent to me. He was a mentor. I was a young brown boy who was just learning English, just trying to fit in. He also taught me almost everything that I knew about acting."

Now Hanna is helping Ortmann inspire a new generation of Niles North students. They visited the Goodman Theatre in Chicago on Oct. 26 to see Hanna perform in "Yasmina's Necklace," a play written by fellow Niles North alumna Rohina Malik.

"This has been an amazing experience," Hanna said. "I hope I can make any high school student, let alone a high school student of color, feel like they can do this."

Hanna plays the role of Amir, an Iraqi doctor seen only in flashbacks with the title character. He decides to stay in Iraq sacrificing his life and freedom, but encourages Yasmina to flee to America where she struggles with her past and an arranged marriage.

"It's the first play I read in English that really told an Iraqi story in a respectful way," Hanna said. "Yasmina's not a victim. She's a very strong character. She's a normal character dealing with getting married and trying to find the one. I don't feel like I'm the token Iraqi."

That respect is important to Hanna in real life, who says he's struggled with finding roles he feels he can relate to.

Malik, who lives in Skokie, says she was actively trying to change those stereotypes when she wrote "Yasmina's Necklace."

"One of the things for me that's really frustrating is the representation of Muslims in television and media," she said. "Muslims aren't really characters and if they are, they're villains. They're never regular people. They can't just be a mom, a daughter, a student, a doctor. That adds to the stereotyping. One of the things that has driven me as a writer is to tell stories from the Muslim community. We're just people."

"Yasmina's Necklace" made its world premiere last year at Berwyn's 16th Street Theater and while most of the original cast is also in the Goodman production, Hanna is one of the new additions.

"It's been a wild ride," he said. "The cast has been together for a while so they kind of have this chemistry. I was afraid of going into that because I'm the new guy and what if I don't fit in? But it's amazing. Everyone's been amazing."

Malik said she's really enjoyed working with Hanna.

"His family is from Iraq, so he definitely brings something authentic and beautiful to the production," she said. "He's an incredible actor. He's lived the refugee experience and I could feel that in his audition. I was just blown away. It's so special that both Martin and I come from Niles North and were impacted by Tim Ortmann. He's changed so many people's lives."

Having her work on stage at the Goodman is particularly meaningful to Malik, who saw her very first show there. She's thrilled that more young people will get that experience seeing her play.

"When I was that age, my teacher took me to church basements to see theater and to the Goodman," she said. "It's very important to the education of young students to be exposed to every kind of theater."
Area theater looking into claim of sex harassment

BY CHRIS JONES
Chicago Tribune

The board of directors of Writers Theatre said Sunday that it has engaged “an experienced human resources consultant” to investigate a claim of sexual harassment made against the Glencoe theater’s co-founder and artistic director, Michael Halberstam.

In the statement, the theater said Halberstam had agreed to “fully cooperate” with the investigation, which it said was made “in accordance with existing policies at Writers.” The statement further indicated that neither the staff nor the board of the theater would have any further comment on the matter.

Reached Sunday morning, Halberstam said he had “nothing further to add.”

The complaint was made against Halberstam, 51, by Tom Robson, an assistant director and dramaturg for the Writers Theatre production of “Crime and Punishment” in 2003 and now an associate professor in the School of Theatre & Dance at Millikin University in Decatur. In a series of more than a dozen tweets posted Thursday, Robson alleged inappropriate behavior during the rehearsal process for that production, which was directed by Halberstam.

“He spent much of that rehearsal process sexually harassing me, verbally and physically,” alleged one of Robson’s tweets. Robson said he was a “23-year-old unpaid intern” at the time.

Robson said Sunday he had “no further comment.” He added he was currently in rehearsal with his students and wanted “to focus his energies on them.”

Halberstam, a longtime presence in the Chicago theater community and the driving force behind the new Writers Theatre building in Glencoe, which opened with great fanfare in 2016, currently is directing the Writers Theatre production of “The Importance of Being Earnest,” which begins performances Wednesday.

A spokesperson for the theater said that production was continuing as scheduled.

Chris Jones is a Tribune critic.
cjones@chicagotribune.com
Starting new projects is easy, but finishing them is a whole other story

Randy Blaser

I guess it is about time I admit something. I have a problem finishing projects.

Right now in my house I have successfully dismantled my lawnmower and the downstairs powder room toilet.

I've purchased this week a combined smoke and carbon monoxide alarm and have taken it out of the box. It is ready to replace my old smoke alarm, an alarm that is probably as old as the house. It would be nice to have a new one. But where's that ladder?

Then there's the new towel bar I've been meaning to put up in the master bathroom. I've got a beautiful piece of mahogany all cut for it. It's all measured out. I've just got to drill the holes, sand it, stain it, varnish it and hang it up. But where are those dang drill bits?

And then there's the dog tie out. I just picked that up today. Maybe I'll get to it next week, or next spring if we get an early freeze.

I'm beginning to feel a bit like Mark Twain, who once said about giving up cigars that quitting smoking is easy. He's done it hundreds of times.

Starting a new project is easy. I've done it thousands of times. The problem seems to be finishing it.

Do you have this problem at home? Do you start numerous projects, only to leave them scattered about the house in various states of near completion?

If you do, why is it?

I've thought about why this is for a long time, figuring that if I could determine why I'm not finishing projects, it would be a big step toward finishing them.

Here's what I came up with:

One of the main reasons why I don't finish some of these home projects is because I really don't know what I'm doing. That's the main reason why the lawn mower is still apart in the garage. I knew I didn't know what I was doing when I started taking it apart, but I figured I would learn on the way.

That worked for a while until I reached a point where I couldn't get a flyer off. I asked my friends at the shop and they gave me a few ideas. And I checked out YouTube, which is a boon for us folks who don't know what we're really doing, and got a few more ideas.

It finally came down to the fact that I didn't have the right tools.

Owning the right tool for the job seems to be another reason why I can't get things done. For example, just when I start sawing that big branch off the tree in the front yard, I realize I need a chain saw. Or right when I start scrubbing the deck the old fashioned way with a stiff brush and old-fashioned elbow grease, I realize that I need a power washer.

It seems having the right tool is the issue with the toilet in the first-floor powder room because I just can't get this one bolt to move.

Do you start numerous projects, only to leave them scattered about the house in various states of near completion?

As for the ladder, I just can't seem to find the dang ladder. But I think I'll go look for it next week.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist.

So many reasons to hate winter weather, but one stands above the rest

Paul Sassone

And it is so unnecessary. The mind of man has not yet come up with a way to banish snow and ice. But it is more than possible to do away with the need for you and me to pump gas.

It's called full service. And until 1947 that was the only way to buy gasoline. Then the first self-serve gas station opened in — where else — California.

I remember full service. A customer would pull into the gas station and set off a bell that would summon the attendant, who would slide out from under the car he was working on to pump some gas.

"How many?" he would ask.

"Two dollars," the customer would answer.

While gasoline gurgled into the car's tank, the attendant would check under the hood, inspect the tires and clean the windshield — all while the driver remained warm, toasty and dry inside the car.

You still can have this experience, though it's a little out of the way to drive to Oregon or New Jersey for a fill-up.

These two are the only states that require gasoline to be pumped by attendants.

Residents of those states have had opportunities over the years to go self-service. But they have chosen not to.

The Oregon statute requiring gas to be pumped only by professionals lists 17 reasons for the law.

The most cited reason is that the law creates jobs, as many as 10,000.

Safety is another reason. With an attendant always near the car, kids left inside are safer.

And having someone pump your gasoline is a boon to the elderly, saving them "unreasonable discomfort."

Imagine that. Putting the safety of children and saving pain for the elderly as more important than profits to be made by not having professional attendants.

But this is Illinois. If corporations could figure out a way for us to perform surgery on ourselves they would do away with doctors.

Right now, though, I need gas. Is it raining or snowing?

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist.
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Pet Friendly
Black Friday shoppers walk down State Street in Chicago on Black Friday, Nov. 25, 2016.

As holidays approach, so does shopping blitz

As holidays approach, I find my vision challenged. Dry eye syndrome, along with the typical over-40 vision changes, have prevented me from wearing contacts for decades.

That has proven to be a good thing since the evening years ago when I asked why our holiday hostess was serving chocolate cupcakes with the dinner buffet, only to find out that those cupcakes were in fact portions of filet mignon. I made a note to myself after that embarrassment: no more contacts, vanity be damned.

But nothing challenges my vision more than my granddaughters’ bedrooms. They are an explosion of pink and purple everywhere. It’s as if Barbie tossed her cookies across the entire space. Now, before anyone reaches the conclusion that I am criticizing my daughter-in-law’s decorating style, let me say that her design touch in those rooms is delightful, adorable and reflective of the girls’ personalities.

It’s the “stuff,” the toys and dolls, dress-up costumes and play paraphernalia that dazzle the eyes with those shades of color. My basement has become central station for all the things that no longer fit in their rooms as new stuff comes in. So now I have gone from a dark, moody, loft-style, pool-table-and-bar vibe to a pink-and-purple outpost.

I’m not dissing a girly color palate. I love those shades. But when my kids said that for the holidays the gifts for the children that would be most appreciated would be funds or gift certificates directed toward experiences, rather than stuff, I had to agree.

In the old days, many people, including my father, held the opinion that if you truly cared about a person, you did actual shopping for them. You considered their likes and dislikes, hobbies and so forth. Ironically, that seemed to lead to the post-holiday explosion of long lines at return counters.

So maybe we weren’t all doing the best job at discerning what our loved ones would like. And even if a gift was successfully selected, it didn’t mean that there won’t be duplicates from other givers to warrant that trip to the return queue anyway.

That’s why I love the idea of gifting experiences. Sports clubs, music classes and other childhood activities are costly. Multiply that by the number of kids in a household, well you’ve got a major financial commitment there. Going to a zoo, theater production, museum or sports outing can be cost-prohibitive for many young families.

So many toys have a short shelf life, but memories of a fun experience last forever.

I’m not suggesting that shopping for toys is passe. The Toys R Us holiday catalog is as enticing as the Sears Wish Book of my kids’ youth. They scoured every page, making lists of their favorite items. But as with everything else these days, we seem to go into overkill mode. So I’ll be shopping for one special thing for each, just like the old days. And the rest will be directed toward a special experience. The best of both worlds.

Pat Lenhoff is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
Loyalty to Illinois put to test by Wisconsin invaders

If you mix your breakfast, dinner or bedtime routine with a local news broadcast, your home has been invaded all summer and fall by Democrat J.B. Pritzker in his continuing effort to buy the Illinois governor's mansion from the fellow billionaire who previously purchased it.

If you've missed Pritzker's relentless ad campaign, you either don't own a television or choose not to operate it. Or maybe you're wise and hit the mute button during commercials. Either way, he has owned the local airwaves more solidly than Comcast or The Walt Disney Company.

And then the neighbors barged in.

With Bruce Rauner looking to protect his lease on the mansion, he enlisted the aid of Republican governors Eric Greitens of Missouri, Eric Holcomb of Indiana and Scott Walker of Wisconsin to taunt us in the name of politics. In a commercial, the border-state governors issue a sarcastic thanks to everyone's favorite Illinois boogeyman, Mike Madigan, for, as they put it, driving residents and jobs to Wisconsin.

We can argue all day about tax policies and painful financial realities, and who is to be blamed for what. We also can argue about whether it is productive for an Illinois governor to ask our snarky neighbors to stare in our windows — or, in this case, out of our televisions — and brag about being poachers while dumping on our state.

In addition, we can argue about whether Rauner has gone Fredo on us and violated Michael Corleone's infamous edict to never "take sides with anyone against the family."

What we can't argue about is who a Prairie State resident roots for when a University of Illinois team plays a University of Wisconsin team on the field or on the court. You root for Illinois, regardless of whether Wisconsin is a 23.5-point favorite.

Sure enough, that was the spread over the weekend when members of my family headed in the wrong direction — three hours south rather than a half-hour north — to watch a border war between the Badgers and the team formerly known as the Illini.

For whatever reason, lists of "Big Ten Conference Football Rivalry Games" found here and there on the internet do not include a clever, folksy name for a U of I-UW contest. Wisconsin fights for the right to take home "Paul Bunyan's Axe" when it plays Minnesota, and Illinois vies for a wooden turtle known as the "Illibuck Trophy" when it plays Ohio State. We can assume that glorious tales are told over the latter.

But Illinois versus Wisconsin, apparently, still is in search of rivalry swag. Despite this, the game at a wind-swept Memorial Stadium went on as scheduled.

Did I mention that Memorial Stadium was swept by wind during the game? Because it was, from start to finish, and particularly up in the cheap seats on the west side. If you had money on witnessing the first snow of the season flying around on Oct. 28, you collected.

But it was Homecoming Weekend, so my wife was dutifully among the alums in an announced crowd of 42,101 that thinned out precipitously as the 37-degree autumn afternoon wore on. It is critical to point out that we also braved the cold because my Southeast Wisconsin-born and UW-educated father-in-law is an enthusiastic supporter of his alma mater, and he was happy to join us to watch an anticipated Wisconsin rout.

I proudly wore my warmest NIU Huskie hoodie and cheered for Illinois. And I mean that in the general sense, because actual spontaneous cheering for a struggling 2-5 team was limited to a handful of plays in a game that was 24-3 late in the fourth quarter and wasn't ever that close.

My father-in-law elected to stay until the bitter end along with about 50 to 75 others left in attendance, so I should thank him for enabling us to see the first Illinois touchdown among three trips to Champaign this fall. It would seem that former Bears coach Lovie Smith has his hands full with the whole Theo Epstein-level rebuilding effort.

Afterward, we retired to Black Dog Smoke & Ale House in Urbana to warm up, and that task was accomplished via the eatery's adventurous barbecue sauces. Across from our table, Wisconsin fans celebrated their victory in a mostly polite fashion. We noticed we weren't the only group sporting both Badger red and Illinois orange.

If Saturday's experience proved anything, it is that an interstate rivalry can be a pleasant experience that isn't dragged down by amplified emotions or uncivilized bitterness.

As for the nonathletic interstate rivalry being encouraged by certain Midwest governors, we'll just have to wait until 2018 to see whether the tactics are reflected in the final score. I'll root for Illinois no matter what.

Dan Moran
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Travel back in time to 1930s Chicago with *A Century of Progress: A Photographic Tour of the 1933-34 Chicago World's Fair*. This historical collection features more than 100 rare and in some cases, unpublished photographs documenting the fair's construction, demolition and everything in between. Readers will glimpse the technological feats and futuristic exhibits that characterized the fair, as well as elements of lasciviousness and insensitivity that, while clearly shocking to modern readers, may prove shocking to modern readers.

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**OPINION**

**Health and love over 50**

I've been going to the same gym for 13 years now, and what I love about it is its sense of community. At my gym, you don't see many young men and women with perfectly sculpted bodies, but rather a suburban crowd who are mostly in their 40s, 50s, 60s and even 70s. Everyone, whether married, divorced, widowed or single, seems courteous, friendly and caring toward one another, which I think is the result of a certain respect and admiration we hold for one another. It stems from a commonality we share: we are aging adults making an effort to come to the gym on a regular basis.

I asked some members why they go to the gym as often as they do. Here are their answers:

"It's good for the body, but great for the mind."

"I always feel better after I go."

"Stress relief and more energy."

"It helps me stay calm all day."

"My metabolism isn't what it used to be and I like my wine and desserts."

Cheri Stefanelli is a certified community health education specialist and personal trainer at the gym, who has a niche clientele of what she calls "baby boomers and active seniors."

Forty-nine year-old Stefanelli, who has been in the fitness industry for 22 years, said health and wellness are connected to a healthy love of ourselves and others, and that fitness over 50 is more important than it ever has been.

"A lot of people have been training the same way for decades, and then something fails them — a knee, a shoulder, their back — and they need to learn a new way to train and move, a different modality," Stefanelli said. "It can still be something they enjoy, but it must better fit their current capabilities."

Examples include a runner who experiences joint pain, a diabetic who needs to manage blood sugar or a cancer survivor who is building back up his or her immune system.

Stefanelli, who is also a yoga instructor and group fitness instructor, said to maintain a good quality of life, aging adults need to avoid injury, enhance flexibility and improve balance. She recommends personalized workouts based on a person's fitness level. These can include weightlifting, functional movements, cardiovascular training, high intensity interval training, core work and balance work.

"Exercise in the gym is not as much about weight loss as it is about health and longevity," Stefanelli said. "Not only do we want to live longer, but we want to live well for a longer period of time. Exercise is about having a better digestive system, improving the immune system, feeling stronger, sleeping better and releasing feel-good neurotransmitters, which put us in a better mood."

I won't lie and say that weight loss isn't one of the reasons I go to the gym. In other words, I too like my wine and desserts. But working out at age 52 has so many other benefits that are equally or more important than how much you weigh.

I think exercise helps with self-confidence, as it gives someone gratitude and appreciation for the body they have, and all the wonderful things it can do. Also, during the time you are actually engaged in the workout, you have the opportunity to disconnect and forget about anything stressful that might be happening in your life. In that regard, a workout is almost like meditation because you are forced to focus on nothing but the regimen until you are finished.

I'm not sure if it's because I write this column, but when I go to the gym, I find myself in many conversations about marriage, divorce and dating. I've offered relationship advice to fellow members and some have given it to me. I also met one of my dearest friends at the gym (who happens to be divorced), and my boyfriend and I began dating as a result of running into each other and becoming friends at the gym. My point is that another benefit of working out is the relationships and sense of community gained from showing up on a consistent basis. And staying social is a key factor in emotional wellness.

I think men and women over 50 have an incredible opportunity to live a beautifully authentic life, using the insight, grace, confidence and courage we have worked so hard for to finally have.

Some amazing things start happening later in life, including newfound wisdom and the ability for deeper, more meaningful romantic relationships. But, the reality is living this kind of life is not possible without good physical health and well-being. I personally think regular exercise holds the key, as it enhances our ability to love ourselves and others in a healthy way.

"It's never too late to start a physical fitness program," Stefanelli said. "Aging and retiring doesn't mean a loss of strength and stability. You just have to work to keep it. In other words, we're not done until we're done."

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist for Chicago Tribune Media Group. She is also the creator of her divorce support website, Divorced Girl Smiling. Pilossoph lives in Chicago with her two children.
Mulling small claims court?

Consumers occasionally ask me how they can file a lawsuit against an individual or a company without incurring exorbitant legal fees—particularly when a potential lawsuit concerns only a few thousand dollars. Though legal action should always be a consumer’s last resort, if there comes a point where a lawsuit seems the only viable option, and the suit concerns $10,000 or less, small claims court is an avenue worth exploring.

With this in mind, I contacted Illinois Legal Aid Online’s executive director, Lisa Colpoys, for insight into the small claims process. She pointed me to a wealth of information available on ILAO’s website, www.illinoislegalaid.org.

Let’s begin with a definition: Small claims court is a civil court where a plaintiff (person, corporation or government) can sue a defendant (person, corporation or government) for $10,000 or less. Small claims court operates under simplified rules, and as a result, cases typically resolve faster than cases heard in other courts.

Per ILAO, the following are examples of cases that can and cannot be tried in small claims court.

A plaintiff can sue a defendant for:
- Landlord/tenant monetary disputes
- Medical bills resulting from car accidents
- Broken contracts
- Incomplete home improvements
- Car repairs gone wrong

A plaintiff cannot sue a defendant for:
- A service that is owed
- Stopping an action against him/her
- Getting back property

Before pursuing a small claims lawsuit, ILAO suggests consumers first ask themselves the following questions:
- Who are you filing the case against? Can they give you what you are asking for if you win the case?
- Why are you filing the case? Do you have enough information to support your side? (To win, your proof must prevail over the other side’s evidence.)
- How much time has passed since the issue occurred? (You may not be able to file a case if it happened too long ago due to statutes of limitation.)

And here are some statutes of limitation be aware of:
- Injury to a person – 2 years
- Personal property damage – 5 years
- Unfulfilled written contract – 10 years
- Unfulfilled oral contract – 5 years

First you’ll prepare a summons (a notice informing the defendant a lawsuit has been filed against him/her stating he/she must appear in court) and a complaint (a written statement laying out what the defendant did).

Next, you’ll file these forms with, and pay your filing fees to, the circuit clerk at the courthouse in your county. You will receive the next available court date or directions on how to find this information.

After filing, you’ll send the defendant the summons and the complaint. This must be done within a certain number of days. Ask the clerk about your court’s requirements. Depending on how the summons is served — newspaper publication, sheriff, private detective or special process server — there will be a cost. If the summons is not served within the required time, the lawsuit can be dismissed.

You then will attend court on your return date (unnecessary for lawsuits filed in Cook County). On this date the judge will ask the defendant if he/she admits or denies the claims in the complaint. If denied, a trial will be scheduled. If admitted, a judgment will be entered in your favor. If the defendant doesn’t show up, a default judgment will be entered (meaning you win because the defendant didn’t appear). Be sure to bring proof that the summons was served.

If there is a trial and you lose, you can appeal the judgment within 30 days. If you win, you will be awarded a money judgment, which may also include court costs. If the defendant does not pay, you can ask the court to garnish his/her wages, withdraw payment from the defendant’s bank account or put a lien on the defendant’s property.

For more detail on the small claims process, see Illinois Legal Aid Online and the Illinois Attorney General’s website, www.ag.state.il.us/consumers/smlclaims.html.

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Returning to work after three months of maternity leave can be emotionally challenging, even if the new mom is well-prepared.

GETTY

Fears of being a ‘bad mom’

Returning to work from maternity leave raises conflicts, can be emotionally challenging
Steps to reducing aggressive play with cats

By Cathy M. Rosenthal
Tribune Content Agency

Q: I have two cats, Foxy and Florence, ages 8; they are brother and sister from the same litter. They had a bit of a rough start. Their mother was killed by a car before they opened their eyes. But a kind soul took them to a veterinary clinic where they were bottle-fed and then spayed and neutered at the appropriate time. They got their “forever home” with me.

Foxy is a reasonably mellow gent; Florence, however, is a nasty cat. She craves attention, but when I stroke her, she will blood when you pet her. It is best to use toys to play with cats rather than your hands so they can learn body parts are not for play. Next, you can wear slippers to bed, but it’s important to set boundaries for her. Even though she thinks she is playing, she needs to know when the action is getting too rough. The quickest way to show your displeasure is to make a quick “hissing” sound when she latches out. Cats hiss to tell others to back off, so she will know what this means.

Finally, use plug-in feline pheromones around the house to calm her. If none of these things reduces her triggers, then talk to your veterinarian about behavioral medicine that can reduce her aggressive tendencies.

Q: I have a 10-year-old Maltese/Shih Tzu mix, in relatively good health. About a year ago, my veterinarian put him on a senior diet due to a slightly raised creatine level, which now is back to normal. He was not pleased about the new food, and I had to try eight different brands. He has always been a little bit of a fussy eater, but now every day is torture getting him to eat. He doesn’t like food at all. It has gotten so bad that it takes me almost two hours of coaxing to get him to eat. The vet wants to see him put on a little weight. Last year, he had his four front teeth extracted due to decay. This year when they were cleaned, everything looked good. Do you think I should request any further testing from my vet? I am at a loss for what to do. — Karen, Brookhaven Hamlet, Long Island

A: While it’s not unusual for older dogs to eat less or change their eating habits as they get older, you should absolutely rule out other health problems with your veterinarian first. Dogs sometimes associate any pain or discomfort they feel with the food they are eating and will avoid it if they think it’s the cause of the problem.

Of course, the food may be part of the problem if he has an intolerance for some of the ingredients. If your vet approves, maybe you can switch proteins, from chicken or beef to salmon or bison. Or maybe you can feed him a limited-ingredient diet that will have fewer things that could trouble his stomach, if that is what’s causing the issue.

Lastly, ask your veterinarian if you can add something to make his food more enticing, like boiled chicken, canned pumpkin (without the sugar), or Forti-Flora, which is a probiotic made by Purina Pro Plan that can help restore intestinal health and, because it’s tasty, may improve his appetite.

Cathy M. Rosenthal is a longtime animal advocate, author, columnist and pet expert who has more than 25 years in the animal welfare field. Send your pet questions, stories and tips to cathy@petpundit.com. Please include your name, city, and state. You can follow her @cathymrosenthal.
End of maternity leave an emotional time

Going back to work raises conflicts, fear of being 'bad mom'

By Lauren Chval
Chicago Tribune

Right before my daughter was born, a stranger came up to me in the grocery store. She congratulated me, and I thanked her.

"You're not putting your baby in day care, are you?" she asked.

"My mother-in-law is watching her," I blurted out, taken aback.

Caught off-guard, I couldn't summon the nerve to mention that she'll start day care one day a week before she's 6 months old.

My new acquaintance gently laid a hand on my arm. I assume she thought it was in a sympathetic way, but I felt judgment and condescension. "I feel so badly for all the mothers your age who have to work. It's so hard these days."

I went back to work on a recent Friday, exactly 12 weeks after my daughter was born. I felt as ready as I could possibly feel. There are more than 100 ounces of breast milk in my freezer. We're stocked up with diapers and wipes, so there won't be an emergency trip to the store anytime soon. My girl will be with family. I'll work from home one day a week. I have a plan, and it is a good one.

Physically, I am ready. But emotionally? It's a little more complicated.

I always knew I'd be a working mom. I'm the daughter of a working mom, and even as a child, I was in awe of her. Not only did she work a demanding, full-time job, she took classes at night to get her master's and then her doctorate over the course of a decade. She battled traffic on the Eisenhower every day to pick us up from day care, seconds before (or after) they closed. When child care wasn't open, she took us to work with her, letting us sit in on her classes at the University of Illinois at Chicago or having us complete math workbooks.

On the weekends, she never complained of being too tired to take us to the zoo or the park or the museum. As a brand-new mother still grappling with an infant who is yet to crawl, my mind boggles more than ever at how she did it all.

And it wasn't just her ability to do everything that I admire. It was that, by necessity, my brothers and I grew up to be independent children.

"Did you know I'm the only kid in my class who makes his own lunch?" my brother demanded in the first grade.

"You're so proud of you!"

After years of watching her, I never questioned that being a working mom would be right for me. But here I am, and I suddenly feel unsure.

Returning to work from maternity leave can be emotionally exhausting.

How will I do this? I have just now, after nearly three months, mastered (OK, sort of mastered) our new normal of breastfeeding and diaper changing. I know my daughter's cries, I know when she's getting cranky. I know how to get her to sleep. And when she sleeps, I know how to maximize the time I have and get the laundry, the dishes, the grocery shopping done — barely.

Now, add in a workday. When will it all get done? And, more importantly, how will I keep myself from becoming so overwhelmed that I become a bad mom?

"Bad mom." It's the most terrifying of labels. It's the fear at the heart of the working mom/stay-at-home mom conflict. When the woman in the grocery store approached me, that's what I felt she was saying. "If you put your child in day care, you will be a bad mom."

As glowing as my recollection of her is, my mom admits to those fears — in fact, she says that she made mistakes every day that she wishes she could take back. Though they don't stick in my mind, there were moments when she snapped at us, when she sighed with exhaustion, when she forgot to pick me up from tennis practice. I wonder how many times the stress overtook her and she thought to herself, "I'm a bad mom."

Those moments are in my future, and they would be in my future even if I decided to quit my job and stay home. Writing has always been a part of my identity, just as teaching has always been a part of my mother's. It's not her ability to do a million things that I admire, but her ability to preserve that identity while still devoting herself wholeheartedly to being a mom. And I hope, inevitable moments of weakness aside, incorporating the parts of me that matter with motherhood will be what makes me a good mom.
John Green's unique gift

Author writes candid, convincing stories about people with mental illness

By John Warner Chicago Tribune

For his last two novels, "The Fault in Our Stars" and "Turtles All the Way Down," young adult author John Green has been working in the tradition of the "problem novel.

Sometimes also known as the "social novel," a problem novel takes an issue and seeks to use the narrative to bring the reader around to a particular stance on the issue.

Upton Sinclair wrote problem novels; John Steinbeck did too. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" is a quintessential example.

Young adult problem novels tend to eschew the social for the personal, and the goal is not to convince so much as demystify. Consider Judy Blume's "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret," which tackled menstruation and was somehow scandalous at the time.

Though, as Laura Miller relates in her review of "Turtles All the Way Down," Green is remixing the problem novel, adding in "confectionary romantic comedy and a tear-jerker and a detective story and a high school friendship drama" with the problem at the center of the drama: Central character Aza Holmes' struggles with obsessive compulsive disorder.

Miller and others have highly praised the novel for its rendering of what it's like to live with OCD. Green's prose simulates the "thought spirals" Aza experiences when she worries about microbes and infection; the result is claustrophobic and harrowing. It's a very powerful novel, as was "The Fault in Our Stars," which explored a relationship between two teens who meet in a cancer support group.

But I think there is another aspect of Green's work we should be praising: As part of the publicity tour for the book, Green has been speaking clearly and frankly about his own mental health, including difficulties with anxiety, depression and OCD. He's doing it in a way that I am convinced will help those who struggle with these conditions.

As part of the Vlogbrothers video channel Green runs with his brother Hank, Green has long been honest about his mental health, including explaining that the five-plus year gap between novels was at least partly due to managing his illness. But in interviews with Terry Gross on "Fresh Air" and John Moe on his "The Hilarious World of Depression" podcast, Green goes considerably deeper to share the experience of living with mental health challenges.

Adults may not quite understand this, but to young people, Green is a rock star, and to have someone who is so treasured and admired so forthrightly admit his frailty must be a great gift to others who struggle similarly.

With Gross, as she probed the specific source of Green's obsessions — Aza fears an infection known as C. difficile — Green demurred, politely, saying he very deliberately wasn't naming it for fear it may risk sending him into his own spiral. We learn that his problem is not something put behind him as he triumphantly peddles his book, but an ongoing part of who he is and how he lives.

To Moe, Green described his own erroneous thinking: that he would somehow be more himself if he stopped taking his medication — again, a struggle Aza shares. It's something Green said he recognizes as foolish in hindsight, but also knows is a choice governed by his illness — and a learning experience.

Each year, more young people are diagnosed with anxiety, depression and other mental health disorders. Having someone like Green speaking so publicly and writing so well about these problems is a real gift.

John Warner is the author of "Tough Day for the Army.

Get a reading from the Biblioracle!

Send a list of the last five books you've read to books@chicagotribune.com. Write "Biblioracle" in the subject line.

Book recommendations from the Biblioracle

John Warner tells you what to read next based on the last five books you've read.

1. "Me Being Me Is Exactly as Insane as You Being You" by Todd Hasak-Lowy
2. "All American Boys" by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
3. "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot
4. "Grant Park" by Leonard Pitts Jr.
5. "The Hate You Give" by Angie Thomas — Brown P. Evanston

I do not think I can hang with Brown in recommending something in the YA category, so I'm going a little off that to a personal favorite of the past few years: "How to Start a Fire" by Lisa Lutz.

1. "Into the Water" by Paula Hawkins
2. "Lucky Boy" by Shanthi Sekaran
3. "All the Ugly and Wonderful Things" by Bryn Greenwood
4. "The Lying Game" by Ruth Ware
5. "Dark Matter" by Blake Crouch — Shelby D. Highwood

For Shelby, it's time for some Megan Abbott, who like Lisa Lutz is a writer on HBO's "The Deuce." Here's to television networks recognizing the talent of novelists to bring great stories to the screen. "The Fever" is the book of choice.

1. "The Address" by Fiona Davis
2. "The Late Show" by Michael Connelly
3. "Astrophysics for People in a Hurry" by Neil deGrasse Tyson
4. "A Robot in the Garden" by Deborah Install
5. "Enemy of the State" by Vince Flynn and Kyle Mills — K. Rossi, Hobart, Ind.

A bit of a risk here because I'm going horror/suspense, rather than thriller or mystery, but Victor Lavalle's "The Changeling" feels like the right call.
Possible link between calcium, heart attacks

By Dr. Robert Ashley
Ask The Doctors

Dear Doctor: Calcium is frequently recommended to reduce the risk of bone fractures in the elderly, but I’ve read that calcium builds in the arteries and heart. So what choice do women have — die of a hip fracture or die of a heart attack? Personally, I don’t know which would be better.

Dear Reader: You highlight an interesting issue. There is no doubt that calcium is beneficial for bones, with supplementation improving bone density and — at 500 to 1,200 milligrams per day — leading to a 10 to 15 percent decrease in the rate of hip fractures. But it’s true that supplements may have risks as well.

First, for women over 50, supplementation with 1,000 mg of calcium and 400 IU of vitamin D leads to a 17 percent increased risk of kidney stones. Second, calcium supplementation for people with kidney dysfunction or those on dialysis increases the risk of strokes. Third, calcium supplementation for people with kidney dysfunction or those on dialysis causes increased calcification of blood vessels and a greater risk of heart attacks and strokes.

A 2008 study of 1,471 postmenopausal women in New Zealand compared the effects of 1,000 mg of calcium citrate to those of a placebo. In five years of follow-up, women who took the calcium had an improvement in the ratio of their good to bad cholesterol (HDL/LDL). However, after 2 1/2 years, the group that took the calcium started to show an increased risk of heart attacks; after five years, they had a 49 percent increased risk.

Then there was a 2010 British Medical Journal study that combined data from 11 studies in which women took elemental calcium supplements of 500 mg or more. The studies, which evaluated fractures risk and bone density, weren’t intended to assess heart attack and stroke risk, but researchers did gather data on the conditions. In total, the group that took calcium had a 27 percent increased risk of heart attacks and a 12 percent higher risk (not considered statistically significant) of strokes.

In 2011, the same authors tackled data from the Women’s Health Initiative (WHI) study in which 36,282 women took 1,000 mg of calcium and 400 IU of vitamin D or a placebo for seven years. The initial study did not reveal an increase in heart attacks among women taking calcium supplements, but as it turned out, 54 percent were taking additional calcium beyond the supplements that were part of the trial. Noticing this, the authors of the study compared their data with data from the 46 percent who were not taking additional calcium. They found that the group taking the 1,000 mg of calcium had a 16 percent increase in the rate of heart attacks.

Other grouped studies (using the initial data of the WHI study) have not shown this degree of risk with calcium supplementation.

Confusing, isn’t it? Here’s the take-home message: If you’re otherwise healthy, taking up to 1,000 mg of calcium supplements may be safe. But if you have risk factors for a heart attack or stroke, such as a history of smoking, diabetes, kidney dysfunction or a significant family history of heart disease, I would avoid large doses of calcium and would, in fact, limit calcium supplement intake to no more than 500 mg per day. It’s all about balancing bone health with overall health.

Robert Ashley, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Send your questions to askthedoctormednet.ucla.edu, or write: Ask the Doctors, c/o Media Relations, UCLA Health, 924 Westwood Blvd., Suite 350, Los Angeles, CA, 90095. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

People’s Pharmacy: Frequent sauna users may see blood-pressure benefit

By Joe Graedon and Teresa Graedon
King Features Syndicate

Q: I was fascinated to read that sauna use can help prevent high blood pressure. But what if you already have high blood pressure? I’ve always heard that if you have heart disease or hypertension, you should avoid saunas. What’s the story?

A: A long-term study of Finnish men has shown that those who use the sauna almost daily have lower blood pressure than those who use it less frequently (American Journal of Hypertension, June 13, 2017). Previous reports from this study have shown that frequent sauna bathers are less likely to die of heart disease than those who use it weekly or less often (JAMA Internal Medicine, April 2015). They also were less likely than sporadic sauna bathers to be diagnosed with dementia (Age and Ageing, March 1, 2017).

Although people with heart disease usually are told to avoid steam baths or saunas, research shows that saunas benefit blood pressure as much as exercise in people with high blood pressure (The Journal of Clinical Hypertension, August 2012). If you have high blood pressure, please discuss this idea with your doctor.

Q: What can I take to reduce my cholesterol besides pills? I would much prefer something natural rather than the statin my doctor suggested.

A: You probably could please your physician by taking red yeast rice. This product contains naturally produced statins that have been shown to lower cholesterol (Nutrition, Metabolism, and Cardiovascular Diseases, January 2017). A combination supplement (Armolipid Plus) with red yeast rice, policosanol, berberine, folic acid, astaxanthin and Coenzyme Q10 has been tested in randomized controlled trials (Atherosclerosis Supplements, February 2017). It lowers both total and LDL cholesterol.

Other strategies include getting regular exercise; following an anti-inflammatory diet; including nuts, grape juice, cinnamon and chocolate in some meals; and consuming soluble fiber. You can learn more about the details of these approaches in our “Guide to Cholesterol Control and Heart Health.” It can be downloaded for $2 from our website: www.peoplespharmacy.com.

Q: Licorice oil helps heal various bites, burns and even cold sores. It takes down fire ant bites fast! I make my own licorice oil using one licorice tea bag to 1 cup of olive oil. I leave that mixture in a covered jar on the counter, though it could be refrigerated. The potency builds up over a day or two while the tea infuses the oil. Apply the oil at the first sign of a cold sore and keep using it every 20 minutes until the area responds. Best cheap little remedy in your arsenal for all manner of “owles”!

A: Thanks for the tip. Dermatologists report that topical licorice compounds can help protect against UV-B-related sun damage (Experimental Dermatology, June 2016). They also may ease eczema (Journal of Dermatological Treatment, September 2003). Licorice has some antiviral and antimicrobial activity, which might explain your success (Acta Pharmacuetica Sinica B, July 2015).

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via www.peoplespharmacy.com.
Evanston home near beach: $1.6M

ADDRESS: 1111 Forest Ave. in Evanston
ASKING PRICE: $1,595,000
Listed on Oct. 11, 2017
Large windows and hardwood floors throughout. The first floor includes an oversized reception foyer, formal living and dining rooms, family room and a DiQuilio kitchen. A screened porch overlooks the backyard with a secluded koi pond and waterfall. The second floor has four generous bedrooms with ample closet space. The master suite features two organized walk-in closets and a zen master bath with heated floor, soaking tub and separate shower. Finished third floor makes perfect in-law, au pair or teen suite. Basement laundry room, home gym and game room plus storage and mechanical rooms. One bedroom, one bath coach house can be a separate home office or rental.
Agent: Roberta Brennan of @properties, 312-961-3177

*Some VHT Studios photos are “virtually staged,” meaning they have been digitally altered to represent different furnishing or decorating options.

At press time, this home was still for sale.

To feature your luxury listing of $800,000 or more in Chicago Tribune’s Dream Homes, send listing information and high-resolution photos to ctc-realestate@chicagotribune.com.

chicagotribune.com/homes
For interactive puzzles and games go to chicagotribune.com/games

TEAM PLAYERS:
Now in season

BY GAIL GRABOWSKI  |  EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN
(stanxwords.com)

ACROSS
1 Shout after a tough week
2 Least satisfactory
3 Pretending to be consider
4 Roughly speaking
5 Porthole view
6 Predatory dolphin
7 Security legislation of 2001
8 Molasses product
9 Stuffed shirts
10 Member of the deer family
11 Labor over
12 Uncool person
13 Meadowlark
14 Young socialist
15 Coped (with)
16 Brief moment
17 Personal quirks
18 Ireland’s patron
19 Work assignment
20 “If you ask me,” to texters
21 Boarded, as a bus
22 Brit. lexicon
23 Designer Geoffrey
24 Not very many
25 Shore-leave locale on Star Trek
26 PD alerts
27 Started a hand
28 Personal nickname
29 Non-studio, for short
30 Delivery/traveler:

DOWN
1 Pajama pants
2 Funds from a foundation
3 Shrug bark
4 Nuptials site
5 SWAT team supply
6 None of the above
7 One side to consider
8 Had a quick bite
9 Wrath
10 In the past
11 Supreme Court
12 Tamper (with)
13 Tour of duty
14 Exhausted
15 Color lightly
16 “Not so!” reply
17 Doesn’t allow
18 Try to win over
19 Duo times four
20 Not imagined
21 Potato holder
22 Material
23 Demolition
24 Gucci competitor
25 A Prairie Province
26 Studied, with “over”
27 Symbol of strength
28 Compass pt.
29 Nonsense
30 No-name
31 Application
32 Mythical guardian
33 Spine-chilling
34 Rabbit relative
35 Cruise stop
36 Theme park
37 Eatery
38 Seaweed in some sushi
39 Smirnoff rival
40 Color bar
41 D.C. baseballer
42 Electrical networks
43 Tinfoil theme
44 Singer
45 Feminizing suffix
46 Durable game-show host
47 Short
48 Coax
49 Shout after a tough week
50 Bill

Last week’s answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island.
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Open With Care

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Across
1 Agreement
5 Storms
10 Extorted money
14 Bitter plant
15 Worship
16 Wander
17 Embellish
19 Sink
20 Encourage
21 Finnish seaport
23 Prior to
24 Boat
26 Tricks
28 Came into view
31 Fortune-teller
33 Surfeit
34 Plant
36 Strikes gently
37 Declares on oath
38 So be it!
42 Strained
43 Animal
47 Seaman
49 Scent
51 Join
52 Room
53 Aten
54 Went to a point
60 Pertaining to: suffix
61 Flower
63 Bird
64 God
65 Ban
66 System of principles
67 French department
68 Garden
69 Collections of cattle
70 Performs

Down
1 Regal residences
2 State
3 Crown
4 Spread hay
5 Kind of grass
6 Arabian gulf
7 Nobleman
8 Therefore L.
9 Prophet
10 Italian town
11 Flower
12 Mountain
13 Hates
21 Fastener
22 Sharp tool
25 Native mineral
27 Scamp
29 Puff up
30 English port
31 Container
32 Animals
35 Number
38 Causing fun
39 Fertilized
40 Arsenate of copper
41 Insect's egg
43 Wager
44 A Great Lake
45 Consisting of minute granular concretions
46 Goes back
48 Snare
50 Morose
55 Cunning
56 Shave
57 Always
58 Plant
59 Ceases
62 Offspring
63 Shell

Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island © 2017 Creators News Service.
Gridiron Glossary

BY MIKE PELUSO
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

ACROSS
1 Museum curators' degs.
5 Considers
10 “Ain't happening”
14 Hobbyist's knife
19 1814-1815 exile site
20 China's Zhou ...
21 Puts on the table
22 Tiger Woods has won a record 21 of them
23 Goose's medical concern?
25 F?
27 Basketball Hall of Fame coach Jerry
28 Ain't right?
30 Hastings head
31 Two-element tubes
33 Energetic mount
34 One of Jupiter's Galilean moons
38 Woody's son
39 Ones with will power?
41 Discontinued allergy brand
42 Sundae topping item
45 Ginger cookie factory statistic?
49 Brut alternative
50 What “L” may mean: Abbr.
51 Fared reasonably well
53 Melodious
55 Short albums, for short
56 Crystaline rocks
58 ... to go: eager
60 Troubling spots
62 Longtime Priceline pitchman
64 Cries over
66 Perp stopper
68 Beer ingredient
69 What results from failure to stop at a deer crossing?
72 “... le roi!”
73 Equally irate
75 Male escorts
76 Kenny Rogers quartet
78 Socks
79 Subject for Archimedes
80 Convince using flattery
81 Window sill item
82 Yellow Telehubby
85 Kitchen gadget
86 Hasty departure
87 Enthused
91 So-so haul in the fishing industry?

DOWN
1 2-Down's boss
2 1-Down's sitcom employee
3 Crunch targets
4 Hairstyling legend
5 Friday creator
6 Hyphen relative
7 North Carolina university
8 Cavernous opening
9 Rat Pack leader
10 Like some bank services
11 Chan portrayer
12 Bombard
13 Daybreak deity
14 Crosses off
15 Oregon port
16 Auditing pro
17 Norse war god
18 Opposite of west, in Dortmund
24 Stale
26 Puts into office
29 Court defendant: Abbr.
31 Bone
32 Prohibited courtroom procedure?
33 Go down
35 Unpleasant singles bar come-on?
36 Tardy people, to some
37 Courtroom figs.
38 Leatherwork tool
39 “Is that ...?”
40 Those, in Oaxaca
41 Hokkaido noodle
43 Helped through a tough time, with "over"
44 Tend to
45 Letter-shaped gaskets
46 Utah range
48 Utah range
50 Looseening of govt. standards
52 Take in
54 Insane
55 Infamous fictional motel
56 Home security system at no cost?
57 "Hamlet" in progress?
58 Duracell competitor
61 Nitpick
62 Wee, in Dundee
64 California-based shoe company
65 Feature of a no-holds-barred campaign
66 Legal thing
70 Actress Palmer
71 Joe Namath, notably
73 Costa — Sol
77 Eroded
80 Pacific salmon
81 Ashen
83 Toto hit that mentions Kihimanaro
84 Routing org.
85 Included in the enema
86 Corp. big shots
87 Santa — dry winds
90 Proof of paternity, perhaps
91 Implored
93 The Beatles' "Day
94 Raising a ball, with "up"
96 "Il Trovatore" heroine
98 Stop before surgery
100 Pesky biter
101 Verdi title bandit
102 Invigorate Dry Spray maker
104 Soprano Fleming et al.
107 Private eye
108 Manila envelope feature
109 Infamous fictional motel
110 Logical beginning?
111 Carl's director son
112 Bombard
114 Martini partner
115 JFK alternative
116 Simpson trial judge
117 Command from a maj.
118 Actor Beatty

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

Last week's answers appear on the next page

Sudoku
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

Print your answer in the circles below

Last week's answers appear on the next page

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ATTORNEY FILE NO. 13-0811

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on May 17, 2017, an order has been entered by the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, 16th Judicial Circuit, Division 173, the sale of the following described real estate, to wit:

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

Please note that the sale is subject to all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to:

1. The real estate is subject to any liens, encumbrances, or other restrictions that may affect its value.
2. The sale is subject to the right of redemption by the mortgagee or any other lienholder, as provided by law.
3. The sale is subject to any applicable taxes and assessments.
4. The sale is subject to any applicable environmental regulations.
5. The sale is subject to any applicable zoning and land-use regulations.

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COMMUNITY REAL ESTATE HOMES IN YOUR AREA

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Cape Cod home with three bedrooms and 1.5 baths in the Historical District. Many windows in living room. Dining room features corner built-in hutch. Updated kitchen with white cabinets, granite counters, backsplash design and upscale appliances. Screen room for relaxation. Neutral decor throughout. Full basement with knotty pine finished recreation room. Updated furnace and air conditioning. Two-car garage and fenced yard.
Address: 702 N. Chestnut Ave.
Price: $395,000
Schools: John Hersey High School
Taxes: $9,072
Agent: Susan Duchek/Picket Fence Realty

PARK RIDGE
Address: 1801 S. Ashland Ave.
Price: $479,900
Schools: Maine South High School
Taxes: $7,545
Agent: Marta Owca/RE/MAX City

MUNDELEIN
Five-bedroom, three-bathroom home in Colony of Long Meadow. Two-story foyer. Formal dining and living rooms. Main-level bedroom can also serve as office. Kitchen features bleached oak cabinets, large center island and message center. Deck off of kitchen with semi-private yard, professionally landscaped and fenced in. Partially finished full basement. Recent updates to air-conditioning, roof and siding. Asphalt driveway leads to attached 2.5-car garage.
Address: 1004 Evergreen St
Price: $338,900
Schools: Mundelein High School
Taxes: $10,894
Agent: Anita Talbot/Baird & Warner

DEERFIELD
Four-bedroom, 2.5-bath Cape Cod on a half acre lot in Scatterwoods. Two-story entry with curved oak staircase. First-floor master suite has organized walk-in and Euro-bath with double vanity. Cherry, granite and stainless kitchen with breakfast room. Attached 2.5-car garage. Family room connected to screen porch and has stone hearth fireplace.
Address: 1285 Wincanton Drive
Price: $750,000
Schools: Deerfield High School
Taxes: $17,875
Agent: Ken Snedegar/Redfin Corporation

Listings from Homefinder.com

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<th>PRICE</th>
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<td>2418 N Pine Ave,</td>
<td>Patricia A Pauch &amp; Christopher J Pauch</td>
<td>David Wright</td>
<td>08-09-17</td>
<td>$472,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>704 E Jules St,</td>
<td>Scott Carlson &amp; Tamara Carsib</td>
<td>David M Sollie</td>
<td>08-09-17</td>
<td>$515,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923 N Burke Dr,</td>
<td>Patrick Geary &amp; Ann Geary</td>
<td>John F Bruner</td>
<td>08-08-17</td>
<td>$523,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4000 N Peckor Cir,</td>
<td>Stephen A Badyna &amp; Xiuwei Zhao</td>
<td>David J Weil</td>
<td>08-10-17</td>
<td>$330,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>311 E Olsve St,</td>
<td>Tiansun Qi &amp; Haoyao Deng</td>
<td>Jems Capital Group Ltd</td>
<td>08-10-17</td>
<td>$540,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>404 E Marshall St,</td>
<td>Brett H Lussow &amp; Michelle M Lussow</td>
<td>Robert E Thompson</td>
<td>08-07-17</td>
<td>$571,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>804 S Grant Dr,</td>
<td>Hamza Khan</td>
<td>Arkanah Akinr paste</td>
<td>08-10-17</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>910 Beau Dr,</td>
<td>Bhavik Patel</td>
<td>Frank Laffronza</td>
<td>08-10-17</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>910 Beau Dr,</td>
<td>Joseph Burns</td>
<td>Kryzstof Alewski</td>
<td>08-11-17</td>
<td>$85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9415 Bay Colony Dr,</td>
<td>Birla Shah &amp; Hiren Shah</td>
<td>Narinderpal S Sood</td>
<td>08-10-17</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8004 Golf Rd,</td>
<td>Byung O Lim</td>
<td>Hermea Aletta</td>
<td>08-10-17</td>
<td>$135,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>565 S 68th St, 45W,</td>
<td>Angel M Delgado &amp; Diana Vargas</td>
<td>Irena Manlevska</td>
<td>08-12-17</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 Murray Ln,</td>
<td>Eduardo Ramirez Avila &amp; Rosalba Landaverdi</td>
<td>Pw Jin Wilk</td>
<td>08-13-17</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9342 Landings Ln,</td>
<td>Azmatullah Siddiqui &amp; Samreen</td>
<td>Lawrence M Glickman</td>
<td>08-14-17</td>
<td>$179,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160 E Northwest Hwy,</td>
<td>Lorance Yokohama</td>
<td>Katherine M Ast</td>
<td>08-14-17</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>910 Beau Dr,</td>
<td>Vinod V Manojhege</td>
<td>Leoromas Godby</td>
<td>08-04-17</td>
<td>$152,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>717 S River Rd,</td>
<td>Daihche Cho &amp; Lisa Marie Costes Hembrador</td>
<td>Frank L Brausz</td>
<td>08-09-17</td>
<td>$164,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>430 S Western Ave,</td>
<td>Joacinto D Fortella</td>
<td>Elizabeth A Rudnick</td>
<td>08-19-17</td>
<td>$110,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>174 Stockholm Ave,</td>
<td>Eliza Ayala</td>
<td>Trent N Robert</td>
<td>08-04-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>210 Webster Ln,</td>
<td>Alex J Tomuta &amp; Ammy Tomuta</td>
<td>Jan Sala</td>
<td>08-04-17</td>
<td>$205,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9112 Terrace Pl,</td>
<td>Marcus B Bitzro &amp; Khacon Y Bitzro</td>
<td>Mounir Shooman</td>
<td>08-09-17</td>
<td>$275,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>889 Webster Ln,</td>
<td>William A Burzynski &amp; R Jane Smith</td>
<td>Brussels Trust</td>
<td>08-04-17</td>
<td>$230,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1268 Henry Ave,</td>
<td>Angel Martinez &amp; Samuel Gay Gomez</td>
<td>Eileen Conway</td>
<td>08-09-17</td>
<td>$230,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>194 Fargo Ave,</td>
<td>William Tutanji &amp; Rita W Tutanji</td>
<td>Ronald Basil</td>
<td>08-07-17</td>
<td>$245,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1545 Center St,</td>
<td>Olga Quiroz</td>
<td>Annelise Maday</td>
<td>08-10-17</td>
<td>$237,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>567 N Algonquin Rd,</td>
<td>Brian L Wolf &amp; Elizabeth J Wolf</td>
<td>Stephen M Berman</td>
<td>08-09-17</td>
<td>$245,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>758 E Thacker St,</td>
<td>Whid M Tutanji &amp; Rita W Tutanji</td>
<td>Ronald Basil</td>
<td>08-07-17</td>
<td>$245,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This list is not intended to be a complete record of all real estate transactions.
Data compiled by Record Information Services  630-557-1000  public-record.com
PRIME "MORTONAIRES" LOCATION!
Morton Grove... New Listing! Jumbo face brick 9 room Split-level on Large Lot in Prime Location! 2 story Foyer. Large living rm & dining rm with wall of windows. eat-in kitchen with separate eating area & bay window. 4 brs & 2 ½ baths. Lovely master br suite with walk-in closet, master bath & newer blinds. Huge main floor family rm with newer HW floor, fireplace & sliding doors to 20x20 patio & decorative metal fenced yard. Main floor laundry. Large finished sub bsmt with large rec room & br/ could be multi purpose room. 2 car attached garage. Near pool, park & tennis!............$384,900

HARD TO BEAT THIS PRICE!
Morton Grove... Charming Cape Cod with Amazing Lot located on quiet tree-lined street! Travertine foyer, living rm has a bay window with seating. Formal dining rm with French doors, HW floors & oak trim. Galley kitchen new in 2013 has 42" cabinets, Granite counters, Onix backsplash, SS appliances & 8x5 eating area. Main floor family room has a WBFP & patio doors lead to a wrap around deck. 3 brs & 2 ½ baths which were updated in 2009 & 2014. Full basement, new roof in 2012, updated electric, windows & furnace. 2 car + workshop garage. Dist 67!..$339,000

NOTHING ELSE COMPARES!
Glenview... Quality & Perfection describes this 3600 sq ft custom designed 12 room home! Grand 2 story foyer leads to living room & separate dining room. Chef's Delight kitchen new in 2009 with cooktop island, 42" cabinets, Granite counters, SS appliances & separate dining room. Main floor family room with gas FP & sliding doors to patio. 2nd floor loft area, master suite w/ his & her walk-in closets, master bath with Jacuzzi tub, sep shower & 2 vanities. Cathedral ceilings, hardwood floors & recessed lighting. 2 car attached garage. Brick Paver patio + great yard.........................$749,900

CLASSIC "PRAIRIE-STYLE" HOME!
Morton Grove... Rare & Affordable Opportunity in Sought-After Park View School District. Unbelievably Charming early Morton Grove Style 7 room Bungalow offers exceptional space and potential with old fashion front porch, second floor dormitory bedrooms, full basement and 2 car garage. Superb "In Town" location near Library, School, Park/Pool, Forest Preserve with bike, bridle & running trails! One block to Metra Train Station & Bus. Rare "In Town" Charm, Convenience, Location and Architecture! Hurry before this one is gone!! Price Reduced!...........$229,900
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Folk duo came together in perfect harmony

Couple to perform songs at Grayslake Heritage Center

BY SHERYL DeVORE
News-Sun

LJ Booth and Chris Kokesh were seasoned folk musicians when they met at the Texas Ker-rville Folk Festival in 2010. Both have released separate albums. Within a year, they began touring together - and now, they are married and raising a 3-year-old son.

They'll perform Nov. 19 in Grayslake, doing covers as well as pieces each has written alone, but now in a new way with harmony in their voices and their instruments. Kokesh plays guitar, fiddle and ukulele. Booth plays guitar, bass and piano.

It was Kokesh's general feel, her style, that endeared her performances to him, he said. "She always plays for the song - she's never showing off, she's playing out what the song means," said Booth, who has won a number of prestigious songwriters' competitions.

Booth, who mostly soloed, said Kokesh played in bands and "was much more in tune playing with other people and singing with other people's styles."

"I didn't sing much harmony - and it's really been fun learning. I've learned how much air to put in depending on the song, and I have to smooth my voice out a little bit to sing harmony with Chris."

He describes himself as a folk guy who leans toward the blues, while she leans toward bluegrass.

One song Booth wrote, "Box Elder," was inspired by a box elder tree growing down a hill along a long driveway - that tended to get in the way of vehicles, he said.

When they play it together, Booth said, "I love her fiddle work and her harmony work on that - it's really gorgeous."

He says writing music comes from his muse. "Something just drops off the ceiling. I can't say what it is. There's a spark that starts. It's a feeling. Sometimes it starts with music, or a poem, or a set of lyrics. I journal all my writing ideas," he said.

Booth said he and Kokesh will perform a song she wrote, "Oklahoma Bound."

"It's where she grew up. It's got a really great country, bluegrass feel," Booth said.

They reinterpret others' songs, too, in their own style.

Booth used to sing the traditional folk song, "The Water is Wide" solo while playing guitar. Then he and Kokesh started singing it together.

"We really like the arrangement of it with the harmony and the fiddle."

While they've slowed down a bit to care for their young son, he said, they also are ready to start writing some new songs. "The next (ones) will include some about us."

Sheryl DeVore is a freelance reporter with the News-Sun.
COMMITTEE CALENDAR

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

Thursday, Nov. 9

**DW Jazz Orchestra:** 8 p.m. Thursday, Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $12-$20, 847-492-8860

**Dittmar Features Nature-Inspired Scratchboard Works:** “Storylines,” an exhibit of new scratchboard works by Lisa Goeings, will be on view through Nov. 27 at Northwestern University’s Dittmar Memorial Gallery. Nature is the inspiration for Goeings’s designs, and her works capture its fleeting forms. 10 a.m. daily, Dittmar Memorial Gallery, Northwestern University, 1990 Campus Drive, Evanston, free, 847-491-2348

**Stephen Sondheim Celebrated by Wirtz Center:** Northwestern University’s Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts presents “Company” through Nov. 19 in the Ethel M. Barber Theater followed by NT Live’s “Follies” on Nov. 30 in the Josephine Louis Theater, 20 Arts Circle Drive on the Evanston campus. “Company,” with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by George Furth, premiered in 1970. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Friday, 3:30 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Josephine Louis Theatre, Northwestern University, 20 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $6-$12, 847-491-7282

**Opera Lecture Series: “The Pearl Fishers” – Georges Bizet:** Hear tales of intrigue, love, and death from the 1879 Lyric Opera of Chicago season. This is moderated by Opera Lovers Lecture Corp. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or by calling. 7 p.m. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Friday, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, and 4 p.m. Sunday. St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 306 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, $5-$27, 847-826-0339

**Ella Fitzgerald Centennial Concert:** Count Basie Orchestra alumna and Ella Fitzgerald protege Carmen Bradford joins Music Institute Artist-in-Residence Tammy McCann and members of the Music Institute Jazz Studies faculty for a swinging tribute to “The First Lady of Song.” The program includes a lineup of tunes from the Great American Songbook. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nichols Concert Hall, Music Institute of Chicago, 1940 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets cost $30 adults, $20 seniors, $10 students, 847-895-1500

**Class of ’85: The Third Coast Baroque**: Voices present works by J.S. Bach, Handel and Domenico Scarlatti — all born in 1685. The evening also features iconic keyboard works by each composer on harpsichord and organ. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Vail Chapel, Northwestern University, 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston, $10-$40

**Stage Russia HD: “The Suicide”:** Sergey Zhenovach’s adaptation of Nikolai Erdman’s comedy centers around a young, unemployed man desperate enough to contemplate ending it all. As soon as he declares his will to die, he finds himself surrounded by characters begging him to kill himself as a gesture for their cause. Flattered by this notoriety but panicked at the prospect of having to go through with it, he must find a way out. Presented in Russian with English subtitles. 2 p.m. Saturday, Josephine Louis Theater at Northwestern University, 20 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $10-$20, 847-491-7282

**Forte Chicago – The La La Lady Show:** Forte Chicago presents the La La Lady Show, an operatic sketch comedy spectacle. The divas of Forte Chicago explore the arts through humor, opera and puppetry. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Piven Theatre Workshop, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, $15, 847-886-8049

**LG Electronics Cinema House Experience:** Immerse yourself with high-quality sound and picture as LG demonstrates their OLED TVs with Dolby Vision HDR and Atmos immersive sound. Viewers will also get a chance to see Netflix original content like “Okja,” “Marvel’s The Defenders,” and “Stranger Things.” 9 a.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday, Abt Electronics, 1200 Milwaukee Ave., Glenview, free

**Just People Dancing: Dance Class:** Instructor Janis Post teaches fun and easy classes that create a safe and friendly environment for participants and their friends, family and caregivers. RSVP to Jenene Paterno by calling or to: jpaterno@belmontville.com. 10 a.m. Saturday, Belmont Village of Glenview, 2200 Golf Road, Glenview, free, 847-657-7100

Tech Drop-in: Microsoft Office: If you have a question about Word, PowerPoint or Excel, drop by the library for advice on how to use these productivity tools. 2 p.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Crafter’s Choice: If you are a knitter, crocheter, or want to learn, and help the community-at-large, bring your needles and/or hooks. A new project begins: making copies amounts of hats...
Monday, Nov. 13

Poke 101: Join us at Mariano's Des Plaines to learn how to make your own poke bowl while sipping on sake. Advance registration required. 6:30 p.m. Monday, Mariano's Des Plaines, 10 E Golf Road, Des Plaines, $15

Gaelynn Lea: 7:30 p.m. Monday, Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $12-$22, 847-492-8860

Mall Merge: If you've got some mailing to do, learn how to use Microsoft Word 2013 to create customized letters, labels and envelopes for larger mailings. Basic Word skills are required. A Glenview Library card is required. Please register at glenviewwp.org/register or by calling 2 p.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Battle of the Books Orientation for Grades 4-5: Participants may register through Nov. 9 at glenviewwp.org/kids/battle-of-the-books. Teams of four read the books and test their knowledge with each other at the library. Participants and their group must attend one of the Drop-In Orientations. Each team participates in one meet between Jan. 16-20 at 7 p.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Nintendo Switch Open Sessions: The staff is breaking out the Nintendo Switch for open play sessions every Monday in November and December for grades 5-12. Drop in and play the newest releases on the Switch including "Mario Kart," "Arms," "Splatoon," "Super Mario Odyssey" and "Pokken Tournament DX." 5 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Cardboard Virtual Reality: Registration is required to experience the immersion of virtual reality. The staff demonstrates some of the most impressive (and free) apps and experiences available. Bring your smartphone (and some free storage space) and they bring the cardboard. 6 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Tuesday, Nov. 14

Homeschool Open House: Meet other homeschooling families and just drop in to learn about the many and varied library resources available to homeschoolers. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

"Life, Animated": Celebrate International Kindness Day with a special presentation of "Life, Animated." This 2017 Oscar nominee for Best Documentary is rated PG and tells the story of how the Suskind family used animated films to open a whole new world of communication for their autistic son, Owen. This is for all ages — just drop in. 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Spark Park — Kindergarten through Grade 2: Tiny Teslas and Curious Curies are needed for hands-on STEAM exploration. Please register at glenviewwp.org/register or by calling. 4 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

These are a few of our favorite things: Carol Gichorski presents "These Are a Few of Our Favorite Things" which she gave at this years Chicago Flower & Garden Show. She's gathered an eclectic collection of garden favorites from local pros and celebs: www.ohwhatabeautifulgarden-chicagoland.com. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Mid- west Palliative & Hospice Care Center, 2050 Claire Court, Glenview, free, 847-724-2286

Movies, Munchies and More: "High Society" An heiress sees her wedding plans complicated by an ex-husband and a reporter in this musical remake of the 1940's "The Philadelphia Story." 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Introduction to Instagram: Registration is required to learn how to use the photo sharing app Instagram. Bring your smartphone or tablet and learn how to create an Instagram account and post photos. Please bring your device login info. 2 p.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Yoga for the Rest of Us: This class is uniquely designed for individuals of all fitness levels to relax and unwind. Our certified yoga instructor accommodates individual needs through the use of chairs, blocks, bolsters and other props to help you develop a more mindful awareness of your body and a sense of overall well-being. 9 a.m. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $75 member, $89 nonmember, 847-784-6030

Turn to Calendar, Page 29
Celebrating success.
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CHICAGO TRIBUNE.COM/ATHLETES
Wednesday, Nov. 15

Scratchboard Workshop with Lisa Goesling at Dittmar: “Storylines,” an exhibit of new scratchboard works by nature-inspired Lisa Goesling, will be on view through Nov. 27 at Northwestern University’s Dittmar Memorial Gallery. Goesling also leads a free reservations-only scratchboard drawing workshop. Sign-up at the Dittmar website. 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dittmar Memorial Gallery, Northwestern University, 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston, free, 847-491-2348

Nemmers Prize Winner Steve Reich Returns to Bienen: Musical pioneer Steve Reich returns for his second residency at Northwestern University’s Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music. The recipient of the 2016 Michael Ludwig Nemmers Prize in Music Composition, Reich will attend music rehearsals, discussions with students and faculty and performances of his work Nov. 15 and 16. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $5-$8, 847-467-4000

Proclaiming Justice: The Challenge for the Church: Modern-day prophets Father Michael Pfleger, Rev. Alexia Salvatierra and Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, and panels of leading scholars and pastors address some of the pressing issues of injustice that affect our society. Be educated, encouraged and activated to proclaim and work actively for justice in your church, community, society and the world. 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Northwestern University, Evanston, $100, 847-866-3888

Friends of the Library Presents: Hamilton’s Women: A noon luncheon is followed by Leslie Goddard’s living history program, Hamilton’s Women. Leslie introduces the audience to the Schuyler sisters: Hamilton’s wife, Elizabeth; her sister, the charming and witty Angelica; and her other sister, high-spirited Peggy. You don’t need to have seen the smash hit musical “Hamilton” to enjoy this program. Call for program details. Noon Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, $20 per person, 847-998-1514

BOOKIt Nonfiction Group — “Darjeeling” by Jeff Koehler: Planted among tea estates at high elevation in the heart of the eastern Himalayas, Darjeeling is generally considered the finest tea in the world. India’s tea industry grew to be the largest on the globe and came to symbolize British imperial rule in India. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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

Free Film: “Theodora Goes Wild”: This 1936 film is Irene Dunne’s first starring comedy — a delightful story about a small-town woman who writes a scandalous best-seller and falls in love with a sophisticated New Yorker who illustrates the book. 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Hearing Loss: How Bluetooth Can Help: Hearing aid technology is advancing as fast as phones and computers. Yvonne Feffer, Doctor of Audiology at Connect Hearing in Libertyville, shares her expertise about the many ways in which new technology can benefit those with hearing loss, including Bluetooth accessories that support hearing aids. 11 a.m. Wednesday, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7350

American Impressionists in Mone- t’s Giverny: These American Impressionists, whose works deserve to be better known, painted memorable glimpses of the village of Giverny: Theodore Robinson, Theodore Butler, Frederick Frieseke or Lilla Cabot Perry. 10 a.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member; $17 nonmember, 847-784-6030

“Flight” by Sherman Alexie: Discuss this novel about an orphaned, Native American boy, who is both fierce and deficient, hilarious and tragic, and contemporary but with historical roots. 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member; $17 nonmember, 847-784-6030

Skokie Synagogue Sisterhood— Book and Author Luncheon: “The Trust,” the newest book by Chicago trial attorney and author Ron Balson, will be reviewed by the author himself. In “The Trust,” private investigator Liam Taggart returns to his childhood home in Ireland for his uncle’s funeral. He quickly learns that his uncle was shot to death. 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, $20 members; $25 non-members and at-the-door, 847-675-4141

Have an event to submit? Go to www.ChicagoTribune.com/Calendar.
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Turquoise Jewelry, Doll Collection, Milk Bottle Collection, Glassware, Clocks, Linen,
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Directions: From Rt. 47 at Rt. 71 in Yorkville, IL, take Rt. 71 West 1 mile to Fairgrounds. Watch for Signs.
From I-80 traveling from Northwest/Northeast suburbs, take Sugar Grove exit to Rt. 47 and travel South through Yorkville, IL.
(Rt. 71 crosses Rt. 47.5 mile south of Yorkville, IL)
From I-80 traveling from the South, exit onto Rt. 47 in Morris, IL and travel North to Rt. 71 intersection, turn West on Rt. 71 to Fairgrounds.


Collectibles: Military sword, oil lamps, marble collection, wooden music house, shadowboxes, Victorian doll. ship models. train models. American Flyer, wooden railroad hats with box. coach lantern, wall mounted brass, carousel lanterns, pictures, books, Adlake switch lanterns.

Indian Collections: Costumes (Used in parades and celebrations), beaded necklaces, couch belts, headdresses, animal skins, hair roach, moccasins - adult, child, baby, leather pieces, hides, paint by number pictures, Kachina blankets, arrowheads, arrowheads in frames, metal masks.

Dolls: 100+ 6"-3' dolls, Cabbage Patch, Holly Hobby, Porcelain, American, Bisque, Biloxis, Irish, Madame Alexander, Minny. Dollly, open & closing eyes, open mouth, teeth, Bradford exchages, baby, boy, doll chairs, doll high chairs.

Clocks: Cuckoo clocks - German, Black Forest, small, miniature, large. Regulator clock, mantle clocks.

Jewelry: Rosaries, many, turquoise jewelry, 100+ costume jewelry pieces. men's jewelry, jewelry boxes.

Locks: Key clocks, German Black Forest: small, miniature, large. Regulator clock, mantle clocks.

Decor & Collectibles: 100+ decorative items, lots of cans. miles of track. full room sets.

Decor & Collectibles: 100+ decorative items, lots of cans. miles of track. full room sets.

For more information, or to view more photos from this auction, please take a look on our websites. www.richardolson.com

San Diego County Fairgrounds

Show Information
Karen Miller Gebhardt and Raymond Pi Miller Jr, Butasia, III.

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Karen Miller Gebhardt and Raymond Pi Miller Jr, Butasia, III.

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Wings of glory

Both a blast to drive, but Honda Civic Type R outsoars Ford Focus RS

BY ROBERT DUFFER
And DOUG GEORGE
Chicago Tribune

After a day out with the 2017 Honda Civic Type R and the 2016 Ford Focus RS, it came down to this: “If someone handed you the keys to either, which one would you take?”

This is not “The Matrix” and these combatants are not pills. They are the most anticipated sports cars on the market and have never been sold in the U.S. at the same time. Until now. Both are affordable; both are a blast to drive; both came in blue. Both have five doors, giant rear wings and sweet rowing six-speed manual gearboxes. Yet the Type R and Focus RS are as different as they are similar.

The 350-horsepower Focus RS is an all-wheel-drive beast with slick grip and dangerous power. The 306-horsepower Type R is a front-wheel-drive modern marvel with a brilliant suspension and lovely road manners.

Back to the question posed by my colleague and co-driver, Doug George, at the onset of our trip down the rabbit hole on a cold blustery morning at Autobahn Country Club in Joliet, Ill. Doug is an entertainment editor and modest guy with a warm, easy smile. During our morning at the track, that smile was transformed into an ear-to-ear grin.

That’s what these cars do: induce perma-grin. Here’s how.

Design

“Yeah, subtle these cars are not,” George said.

Especially the Type R. Based on the excellent 10th-generation Civic, the Type R is lower and wider than the RS. Nearly all the pieces of performance flair are functional, unlike the Civic hatch. The modest hood scoop sucks cool air and pushes hot air down and out; the front splitter reduces air under the body and the side skirts reduce lift so there’s plenty of downforce to keep the car planted at high speeds, including a top speed of 170 mph, according to Car and Driver.

But, according to one editor, its rear end has the face of a Stormtrooper. The large rear wing, along with a spoiler under the wing and another spoiler above (Honda calls it a vortex generator), all create down-force to keep the rear down and reduce drag. All these aero elements make it look like something out of Fast & Furious.

“It’s totally boy-racer all the way,” George said. “Hey Honda, Boeing called and wants its wing back.”

The Rally Sport is, by comparison, more modest even in baby blue “Nitrous Blue.” The RS feels and looks more unified, composed and mature. The third-generation RS has a similar splitter up front but a more menacing face with a black RS mustache splitting the grille. Its wing is braced off the roof, at the top of the lift gate.

Better pill: RS

Performance

The driver of either will not be disappointed on the track. “These are both astonishing cars,” George said. But intent is nine-tenths of the draw and the RS is made to be tracked.

With its modified EcoBoost 2.3-liter twin-scroll turbocharged four-cylinder engine with a tight six-speed manual sending power to all wheels, the RS is the better track car. “The extra power seemed to come on earlier and stay more tractable in the middle of a hard corner,” George said about the RS. Acceleration is better due to the blend of more power (350 horsepower) and more torque (350 pound-feet) even though full torque comes later than the Type R at 3,200 rpm.

The Type R makes 295-pound feet at about 2,500 rpm. At that point, the Type R slingshots forward; before that point, it’s not as responsive as the RS.

The short throws of the RS gearbox get to the sweet spot more quickly and there’s a pony car rumble to the soundtrack that sounds much greater than a modified four-cylinder engine. Both sticks felt great, with cold aluminum knobs and short rowing the Type R felt notchier; the clutch pedal of the RS had greater feedback.

The steering wheel in the RS is also smaller, and feels more connected to the road. The slightest motions deliver precise results. It’s less forgiving than the Type R, so precision is paramount.

The most dramatic “wow” moment of getting behind the wheel was the steering in both these cars, which felt like a direct connection to the tires, like you’re holding the whole car in the palm of your hands,” George said afterward.

This extends to the all-wheel-drive handling of the RS, allowing it to hit turns harder and stay tight at higher speeds, and you can floor it out of the apex with more confidence, thanks also to the grippier Pilot Super Sport Cup 2S tires. Yet Honda has really worked magic beyond the limited slip differential in nearly eliminating torque steer. With more weight up front, it was almost easier to slide the end through turns in the Type R. It was a subtle difference that had a bit more thrill because I was being worked more as a driver.

Also surprising was the earliest sign of brake fade on the Type R, which at 3,111 pounds, weighs significantly less than the 3,434-pound RS. Ford’s promise of its most powerful brakes ever on a Focus proved good on the track but the RS burned through a lot more fuel.

Better pill: RS, though my co-worker disagreed.

“Honda was just more fun to drive,” he said. “The manual six-speed felt lots better, and overall the car felt lighter on its feet, more agile and more eager to go go go.”

Interior

We didn’t disagree here: the Type R is the clear-cut modern vehicle. With carbon fiber trim elements and soft-touch materials, it has the look and feel of a priercer ride.

Honda’s touch screen is chunky, especially since it houses the climate control settings, and the redundant steering controls to access the vehicle info in the instrument cluster are confusing, but it’s better than Ford’s Sync3 and its narrow touch screen.

The RS feels like a 10-year-old car, my 10-year-old asked if the gauges for oil and temp on the top of the dash were stickers.

Some people might pre-fer the old-school feel of the RS, but for nearly $7,000 more (20 percent), it felt like a swindle in the creature comforts department. The RS, with its two damper settings and rib-hugging Recaro seats, was much stiffer on the highway in normal mode. This is not the car for the road trip. Adaptive damping in the Type R provided much more condition-appropriate ride feel. It’s also wider and more spacious.

Doug, who is 4 inches taller at 6-foot-1, hated the seats in both. “These things would have masochists employing their safe word,” he said.

Better pill: Type R

Overall

The Type R is new. The RS is 4 years old. 2018 will be the last model year of this RS iteration. It runs like it was meant to be bounced around at track and rally. These factors alone could be selling points for some enthusiasts.

To answer Doug’s initial question, however, we both would take the Type R. If you’ll be racing more than getting around, the RS is the pill for you. Otherwise, the Type R is the one.
CROSS COUNTRY STATE NOTES

Brady, Perreault impress with top-five finishes

BY DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

Maine South's Tommy Brady will likely begin the 2018 boys cross country season as the favorite to capture the Class 3A state title.

Brady, a junior, finished third behind two seniors in a career-best 14 minutes, 29 seconds at this year's state meet on Saturday at Peoria's Detweiller Park. Teammate Brandon Christopher, a senior, came in 11th (14:38). They were Maine South's only competitors at state.

Brady's finish was the best in school history, besting Jack Carpenter's sixth-best in school history, best only competitors at state.

Christopher's time, meanwhile, was about 1 second better than his previous career-best of 14:39, run at Detweiller on Sept. 30.

Christopher said making all-state had been his goal since his freshman year, though he amended it slightly this season.

"All-state was the ultimate goal and I had been working on that since 2014. But coming into this year, I wanted to do more, I wanted top 15 in this race," said Christopher, a Park Ridge resident, who plans to run cross country at Dayton next season. "I'm really happy how it finished, 14:38 and 11th place. Honestly, my dream came true."

Niles North boys

Conor Perreault's fifth-place finish in 14 minutes, 34 seconds at Saturday's Class 3A boys cross country state meet might have been one of the more surprising results of the day. Then again, maybe it wasn't.

The Niles North senior ran a 22-second personal record, improving on the 14:56 he had run at the previous week's Lake Park Sectional, where he finished eighth.

"I finally got my breakout race, and it came at the right time," said Perreault, who lives in Skokie. "I was a little surprised when I could count the guys ahead of me at the end of the race (because they were so close, and there were so few of them). It was extremely exciting."

While Nordahl said he didn't want to put too much pressure on Brady by calling him the frontrunner for 2018, he added, "that's what the numbers are saying."

"(Brady) is a very tough competitor and very goal-oriented, and he works toward those goals and does everything he can to achieve them," Nordahl said.

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Niles North coach Dave Shafron said Perreault's performance left everyone associated with the program in a little bit of shock.

"If you had asked every coach in 3A, whom they thought the top 10 runners would be, I'm pretty sure Conor would not have been in anyone's top 10, let alone top 5," Shafron said. "What I saw (from Perreault) out there, was one of the most amazing running performances. It was absolutely unbelievable."

Of course, Perreault had been an up-and-comer in 2015 when, as a sophomore, he finished 91st at the state meet, running a 15:25. However, he did not progress as expected due mainly to illness and injury.

Battling pneumonia and a stress fracture in his left hip, Perreault finished 80th in 2016. The injury began to heal, but he still struggled through what Shafron called a "not very productive track season" in 2017. Even this fall, Perreault was healthy and training well, according to his coach, but just couldn't get his time below the 15:04 range. Until the sectional, and then state.

"(After his sophomore year) this is where the projection was, top five or top 10, for his senior year," Shafron said. "But it was hard to think that way because his junior year was so disappointing. It's not like (his race) was a fluke. He had it in him. I think we did a good job understanding his body and what training works for him."

As difficult as it was at the time, Perreault said he learned from the adversity of his junior season.

"I learned how to take care of myself, better stretching, things like that, and making myself stronger," Perreault said. "On the mental side, it made me realize that if I can get through a race with a stress fracture and pneumonia, then I could get through whatever I was going through that day." Perreault's finish was the second best in school history behind Emily Leonard's sixth-place finish in 2011 and ninth-place finish in 2012. Megan Lemersal also took ninth in 2011. "It's hard to compare (Niziolek to other Maine South runners)," Maine South coach Jeff Downing said. "But obviously Olivia has the ability to go to state (track) and take third in the mile, as well. Those are some pretty impressive chops there as far as having a ton of leg speed on top of the conditioning for the three miles (of cross country)."

Maine South came in 25th (573 points) as a team. Senior Kathleen Glockner (152nd, 18:37) was the Hawks' second finisher.

Notre Dame

Senior Jeremy Ermilio finished 134th in a career-best time of 16 minutes, 30 seconds in the Class 2A boys cross country state meet.

The Niles resident was the first Notre Dame runner to compete at state since the team qualified in 2012.

"He ran well, about where he's been running all year," Notre Dame coach John Barrett said of Ermilio. "He got out faster than he had all year, his body made some adjustments during a tough second mile, and he ran a pretty good third mile. Overall, a solid performance to cap a solid career."

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS: MAINE SOUTH 47, WARREN 13

Backup CB Barry helps slow Notre Dame recruit

BY BOB NAJASG
Pioneer Press

Maine South junior Brian Barry had little time to prepare for the biggest challenge of his football career.

Three hours before the start of Saturday's Class 8A second-round playoff game at Warren, Barry was informed he would be starting at cornerback because a teammate was injured.

The Hawks amassed 497 total offensive yards, and senior Fotis Kokosiolous shredded Warren's defense for 209 yards rushing and four touchdowns, in a 47-13 victory, but Barry's work on defense set the tone for the Maine South win.

With the win, fifth-seeded Maine South (10-1) advanced to play 13th-seeded Naperville Central (9-2) in the quarterfinals on Saturday in Park Ridge.

Maine South coach Dave Inserra said he started Barry because senior linebacker Rory Hayes was not able to play.

"Rory practiced all week, had the most important job stopping No. 10, but then at 3 p.m., we find out he can't play," Inserra said. "I looked at Brian and said, 'You are now covering No. 10.'"

For 21st-seeded Warren, No. 10 is no ordinary player.

At 6-foot-5 and 206 pounds, Warren senior wide receiver Micah Jones casts an imposing presence.

Ranked as the fifth-best player in the state of Illinois for the Class of 2018 by the 247Sports.com composite ranking, Jones committed to Notre Dame in February. Jones had 50 catches for 681 yards in the first 10 games this season for the Blue Devils (7-4).

"I practiced all week, had the most important job stopping No. 10, but then at 3 p.m., we find out he can't play," Inserra said. "I looked at Brian and said, 'You are now covering No. 10.'"

Maine South's Brian Barry (11) helped limit Notre Dame recruit Micah Jones to just two catches in the Hawks' 47-13 victory over Warren in the second round of the Class 8A playoffs on Saturday in Gurnee.

"I had to be up to the challenge," said Barry, a Park Ridge resident. "I just tried to do the best I could, and I knew the defense would help me out if I ever made a mistake."

The 6-0, 175-pound Barry handled the underneath coverage on Jones, while junior defensive back Bobby Inserra also shadowed Jones a few yards behind Barry.

"I wouldn't even look at the defensive calls," Barry said. "I would look at (Jones) in the huddle and follow him everywhere. My coach said if he walks to the sidelines, follow him to the sidelines."

The Hawks' secondary reduced Jones to an afterthought in the game. Warren senior quarterback Ian Schilling rarely looked Jones' way, and Bobby Inserra broke up a deep first-half pass to Jones.

"(Brian) did a fantastic job, is a great tackler, but to step in this big of game and do his job and do it very well," Dave Inserra said. "I'm very satisfied with the defensive effort overall, and with Brian."

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

FOOTBALL RESULTS AND PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

CLASS 8A
Second round
Loyola 28, Hinsdale Central 7
Maine South 47, Warren 13
Minooka 41, Barrington 34 (OT)

Quarterfinals
No. 13 Naperville Central (9-2) at No. 5 Maine South (10-1), 1 Sat., 6 Loyola (10-1) at No. 3 Marist (11-0), 7 Sat.

CLASS 6A
Second round
Hoffman Estates 48, Lake Forest 28
Nazareth 54, Danville 18
St. Laurence 32, Hinsdale South 16

Quarterfinals
No. 2 Nazareth (10-1) at No. 6 Sacred Heart-Griffin (9-2), 2 Sat.

CLASS 4A
Second round
Morris 62, Ridgewood 7

CLASS 3A
Second round
IC Catholic 29, Peotone 16

Quarterfinals
No. 8 Wilmington (10-1) at No. 5 IC Catholic (10-1), 5 Sat.
Coaches, ADs mull options amid league-hopping

BY STEVE REAVEN
Pioneer Press

Football coaches are known for their close attention to detail and long hours of preparation. But even the most determined coaches can’t account for one critical factor: the strength of the competition.

This is a potentially season-altering and program-defining variable for Illinois high school coaches that is most often driven by conference affiliation and geographic location. With pressure mounting to field playoff squads consistently, schools are increasingly taking stock of whether their current landscape makes sense.

"How many conferences over the last 10-15 years have broken up?" asked Andy Billo, who resigned as Carmel's football coach on Oct. 25 after 20 years at the helm. "That's the tell-tale sign. It's all about getting to the right amount of wins."

More often than not, that number is five, the minimum number of wins a team needs to be playoff-eligible. Six wins clinches a playoff berth, as does a conference championship. The IHSA's tiebreaker to determine postseason berths for five-win teams is based on the total number of wins by a team's opponents, which makes the strength of schedule extremely important.

Each year, five-win teams miss the playoff cut, with local teams Leyden and Glenbrook North among the 17 that didn't make the playoffs in 2017. Yet, over the last decade, two 5-4 teams went on to win a state title after losing to powerful opponents from higher enrollment classes during the regular season.

Elmhurst's Immaculate Conception, which was co-submitted by Glenbrook North athletic director John Catalano, would leave only a limited number of teams in each of the eight classes on the outside of the state series bracket.

The proposal, which would take effect for the 2019-20 school year, argues that the current system is too focused on finding a fifth win through scheduling and conference re-alignment. Another potential upside is that pressure on coaches may be relieved to play marginally injured players to secure a playoff berth.

Loyola coach John Holecek could envision yet another, unintended consequence: Making it easier to schedule nonconference games.

"I absolutely think that the current system is too focused on finding a fifth win through scheduling and conference re-alignment. Another potential upside is that pressure on coaches may be relieved to play marginally injured players to secure a playoff berth."

"I understand why people think that would be great for the game," Holecek said. "I understand why people think it's better for the kids. But this would work on a lot of different levels."

Steve Reaven is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press
Simmie Cobbs Jr., a redshirt junior wide receiver on the Indiana football team, was has been named to the Biletnikoff Award Watch List. It is the second year in a row the Oak Park-River Forest graduate earned the honor.

The annual award is given to the nation's best wide receiver in college football.

Following a 10-catch, 138-yard, two-touchdown game against Maryland on Oct. 28, Cobbs stood atop the Big Ten with 54 receptions, and ranked third in receiving yards per game (75.0).

After missing nearly the entire 2016 season with an injury Cobbs has tallied three games of 10-or-more receptions this year.

Locals shine in wild Northwestern game

A few local players were instrumental in the thrilling, triple-overtime football game between Northwestern and Michigan State that the Wildcats won 39-31 on Oct. 28 in Evanston.

Northwestern's Cameron Green, a Stevenson graduate from Buffalo Grove, caught six passes for 76 yards and a touchdown. The sophomore superback reeled in a 14-yard touchdown in the first overtime and caught a two-point conversion in the third overtime.

Libertyville's Riley Lees, a redshirt freshman receiver, racked up 48 yards on four catches for the Wildcats.

On the Spartans side, senior Brian Allen, Hinsdale Central graduate, started at center and freshman Kevin Jarvis, a Maine South alumnus, saw time at left tackle. Matt Allen, Brian's brother and a redshirt freshman offensive lineman, also played.

Lincolnshire native Matt Morrissey, a junior safety, recorded a tackle. Evanston graduate Naquan Jones, a redshirt freshman defensive tackle, saw playing time in his return to Evanston.

Van Schaack contributes at Georgetown

Nell Van Schaack, a New Trier graduate, made an immediate impact on the Georgetown field hockey team as a freshman. Van Schaack tallied 15 points, which tied for the fourth best on the roster, while starting 13 of Georgetown's 19 games.

Van Schaack's seven goals ranked third on the team, just behind Lindsay Getz, a sophomore forward from Loyola.

Getz finished with 16 points, eight goals and a shots-on-goal percentage of .867, the best among Hoyas starters.

Getz was named the 2015 Illinois Field Hockey Player of the Year.

DeWeirdt named to all-conference team

New Trier alumnus Peter DeWeirdt, a senior on the Hamilton College (N.Y.) men's cross country team, was named to the 2017 New England Small College Athletic Conference Second Team. The all-conference teams were determined by the conference meet results.

At the conference championship, DeWeirdt placed 13th out of 140 runners, notching a time of 25 minutes, 43.5 seconds on the 8-kilometer course on Oct. 28. He missed his overall-best time by less than 10 seconds.

The next race for DeWeirdt and his Hamilton College teammates is the NCAA Division III Atlantic Region Championships on Saturday.

Last year, DeWeirdt finished fifth on the team at the NCAA region meet in 26:02.5, which was a career best at the time.

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

Sam Brief is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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