Back in session
Niles School District 71 starts school year with new principal. Page 4

New Principal Dr. Erica Smolinski confers with Assistant Principal Oscar Suarez at Clarence E. Culver School in Niles on Aug 22 during the first day of school. Students had a full first day.

OPINION
Baseball is due for a radical overhaul
Baseball and its fans don't like change. Its last major rule change was in 1969 when MLB lowered the pitcher's mound. Professional baseball is ripe for a radical shakeup, writes columnist Randy Blaser. Page 14

LIVING
Have a friend who's divorced?
Got a divorced friend? You might be next. Divorces are contagious, according to science. Jessica Ashley, pictured, a resident of Chicago's Ravenswood neighborhood, got a divorce 11 years ago and says many of her good friends avoided her when the sudden split happened. Inside

Back to campus
Local graduates are ready for another year of athletic success in college. Page 30
Eitan Gordon, school psychologist

Only a few days before the start of another school year, Skokie resident Eitan Gordon visited his local library with his children.

Gordon said he is a school psychologist who works in the Zion school district and was looking forward to the start of another year. "I’m excited to go back every year," he said.

Q: How long have you lived in Skokie?
A: I grew up in Skokie, then I moved out and we’ve lived here probably for five years now.

Q: Pets?
A: We have one dog named Nortie. My wife picked out the name. She liked the name Emperor Norton. He’s a Bichon poodle.

Q: What book are you currently reading and what book would you like to read next?
A: I was just going to get the Richard Cohen book on the Chicago Cubs (“The Chicago Cubs: Story of a Curse”). I’m planning to read that one. Not sure what I’ll read next but probably some kind of fiction.

Q: What did you want to be when you grew up?
A: To be honest, probably a baseball player. Something in baseball—I was always a big baseball fan. In grade school or so, I realized that wasn’t going to happen. It kind of naturally faded.

Q: How did you get into psychology?
A: In high school, I took a psychology course, and there was a teacher there who was really influential. He molded and guided me toward what I wanted to do. I really had a fascination with psychology and how the brain works.

Q: First job?
A: My first job was in a fast food restaurant — Ken’s Diner. I worked behind the counter and was a check out person. I worked there during college.

Q: Do you have children?
A: I have twin daughters who just turned 3 — Layla and Maya. I’ve been married seven years.

Q: A movie you’d recommend?
A: My favorite is definitely “The Blues Brothers.” I like the Chicago aspect; I like the characters; I like John Belushi.

Q: Favorite charity?
A: I have a few. I just ran for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Then a few other ones. Girls On The Run. That’s another one I run for sometimes.

Q: Words of wisdom?
A: Do something that you enjoy and that makes you happy. Pursue what you enjoy and like. If you pursue that, there’s always going to be ups and downs, but it’s worth going through the harder times for things that make you happy and that you enjoy.

Q: Favorite local restaurant?
A: The Little Island. It’s near Crawford and Central. It’s fast food but they have the best fries I’ve ever had.

Q: What is an interesting factoid about yourself?
A: I enjoy punk music. I work with preschoolers so my students don’t really know that. The people I work with know about that, though.
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Back in session

Niles School District 71 starts school year with new principal

The first day of the new school year got underway Aug. 22 at Clarence Culver Elementary School, the lone school in Niles School District 71.

The students at the Niles elementary school filed off of buses and out of cars early, and were greeted by teachers and administrators.

New Principal Erica Smolinski met many of the more than 600 Culver students for the first time.

"The energy is contagious," she said as the younger students crowded into the gymnasium and the older ones headed into the cafeteria.

School District 71 is a one-school district with students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grades and feeds into Niles Township High School District 219.

"It's very exciting to see the purpose of our jobs come back to school," Smolinski said. "They're all smiles. I'm seeing a lot of new faces. I'm honored to work with all of these kids. I can't wait to get to know them and their families."

Smolinski looked like she had been doing this for years. Inside the gymnasium, she greeted the young Bulldogs and had the students gather with their teachers before heading to their new classrooms.

"Have a great day learning," she said to each group heading away.

Although this is Smolinski's first stint with Culver, she is an experienced educator, stating that the 2018-19 school year marks her 21st year in education.

For the last 10 years, she said, she worked as an assistant principal in Naperville School District 204. She has also served as an administrator in Dixon and began teaching in 1998 in Spring Wood Middle School in Hanover Park.

In her online introduction to the Culver community, Smolinski said she became an educator "to impact the lives of young people," but found that students influenced her life in wonderful ways.

"I genuinely love young people, and I feel grateful to be in the educational realm," she said.

Last year, then-Principal Peggie Maniscalco experienced her final opening day at Culver as principal after 18 years in School District 71. The opening day scene played out similarly Aug. 22, even though the leaders of the school were different.

Like last year, faculty members stood in front of school entrances Aug. 22 with a healthy supply of welcome-back high fives, fist bumps and hugs to give to students filing into the building for the first time in 2018-19.

"He loves summer break, but I think he was ready to come back," said Shelia Gurrell, a grandmother who dropped off a third-grader.

"He has always liked his teachers here, so I think he missed them."

Another similarity to last year's opening day was the ideal weather, with hardly a cloud in the sky.

"We order this up every year," one faculty member joked, standing in bright sunshine as the day began.

"We always put in our order early to make sure we get a day like this."

Teachers gathered with their students in the gym at Culver School in Niles Aug. 22 for the first day of school.

New Principal Erica Smolinski greeted returning students Aug. 22 during the first day of school at Culver School in Niles. Students filed into the gym and then were handed off to their teachers for a full first day.

Second-grade teacher Maddie Macejik gathers her students in the gym at Culver School in Niles Aug. 22 during the first day of school. Students had a full first day.
District 219 budget calls for reducing debt, funding pensions

Staff report

The Niles Township High School District 219 school board is scheduled to consider a 2018-19 budget that officials say helps pay down debt, funds needed capital improvement projects and continues protecting taxpayers from a levy increase.

The tentative budget is currently on display at the school district's main office in Skokie, and the board is scheduled hold a public hearing and take a final vote on the spending plan at the Sept. 11 meeting, said Assistant Superintendent of Business Eric Trimberger.

The education fund, where day-to-day spending occurs, shows expenses of $106 million and revenue of $122.3 million.

The school board previously approved making a large transfer from the education fund to the debt service fund to pay off debt, Trimberger said.

"Last year, we paid off $63 million in debt," he said. "We've also transferred an additional $31 million into our debt service fund."

The budget shows the district's debt service fund with a starting balance of $35 million — in large part because of the $31 million transferred to the fund to establish an escrow to pay off bonds that will expire in 2020, Trimberger said.

In addition to paying off debt, the budget accommodates district funding of employee pensions at a rate of 108 percent, when most districts are at 80 percent or less, Trimberger said.

"That's an accomplishment that this board should be very, very proud of," he said.

When the tentative budget was presented Aug. 7, school board member Richard Evonitz said the board should be very, very proud of the direction.

"We're doing very well with our pension obligations, and one of our big costs — which is not surprising (and is common) to all school districts — is the cost of salaries," he said. "That's really what it takes to have a world class program that we have here at District 219."

The district budget shows opening overall fund balances at $155.8 million, which is projected to be reduced to $110.4 million by the end of the fiscal year.

The most lopsided fund is the one for capital projects, where spending is projected at $22.4 million but only $450,000 is anticipated, according to information in the proposed budget.

Trimberger said major projects "in the pipeline" include planned upgrades to Niles West High School such as locker rooms and window replacements. The district is also upgrading security in the schools, he said.

Other funds include transportation, where spending is projected at $5.8 million with proposed revenue of $7 million. The operation and maintenance fund plans spending of $10.2 million and revenue at nearly $7 million.

Trimberger said an increased tax levy is not expected.
Morton Grove farmers market open

Season for this year runs Saturdays through Oct. 20 near Civic Center

KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

Organizers said about 800 people per week turn out for the Morton Grove Farmers' Market.

"It's been doing much better," said Rich Block, a 45-year resident of Morton Grove and one of the market managers. "We rearranged our layout this year."

The market is located close to the Morton Grove Civic Center, where shoppers can enter the building to cool off and for personal hygiene.

"It's much nicer and not just for us, but for the vendors and the people that come," Block said. "They get to see everybody, talk to everybody, and we do a lot of community-oriented things."

Block said he is pleased with a new village-owned trailer that is parked in view of Dempster Street and perpetually advertises the market with bold signage.

Several vendors spoke favorably of the farmers market.

"It's been good," vendor Bianca Montero, of La Grange Park, said of the farmers market.

Lindsey Lehman, of Morton Grove, has a personal care and jewelry booth with her husband, Tony O'Connor.

"I'm very happy Morton Grove started a market," Lehman said. "We live just a couple of blocks away, and it's nice to be able to pop over here."

The Morton Grove Farmers' Market season for this year runs Saturdays through Oct. 20.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Skokie's lawsuit against Evanston to continue

by Genevieve Bookwalter
Pioneer Press

A federal judge has denied the city of Evanston's motion to strike the amended complaint Skokie filed in federal court as part of the two towns' ongoing battle over water rates.

Federal court Judge Charles Kocoras made the ruling Aug. 21, and further outlined a schedule for how the case may proceed in the coming months.

"In denying Evanston's motion, the court determined that the June 2018 filing of Skokie's amended complaint did not violate procedure," village of Skokie spokeswoman Annennes said in a written statement issued hours after the ruling. "As a result, Skokie's action seeking equal protection for its residents and businesses against Evanston's discriminatory water rates will proceed."

Evanston has sold water to Skokie for more than 70 years, and the latest contract between the two towns expired Dec. 31, 2016.

In the Aug. 21 statement, Skokie officials called the water rates Evanston now wants to charge "disparate." But in previous contract negotiations, Evanston officials argued that Skokie's rate was low and a proposal was made to raise it from $1.07 per 1,000 gallons to $2.06 per 1,000 gallons.

Skokie officials disagreed with the proposed increase and the towns could not come to an agreement on a new rate.

That led to Evanston suing Skokie in Cook County Circuit Court in September 2017, seeking a "declaratory judgment" to resolve the conflict.

Then Skokie filed its own suit in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Eastern Division, alleging that Evanston's rate increase ordinance adversely affects the rights of the plaintiffs named in the complaint in a discriminatory way.

Further, according to the lawsuit, the rate violates Skokie citizens' rights.

In its complaint, Skokie argued that Evanston's higher rate would violate due process and equal protection rights guaranteed in the Fifth and Fourteenth amendments of the U.S. Constitution, hence the federal lawsuit.

Three Skokie residents and one company are named as plaintiffs in that suit.

Kocoras on Aug. 21 outlined a schedule for the next few months regarding Skokie's federal lawsuit, which Evanston has asked the court to dismiss.

Evanston has until Sept. 4 to file a new, "oversized brief" in support of the city's motion to dismiss the case, according to court documents.

Then, Skokie has until Oct. 2 to respond to Evanston's motion to dismiss, court documents indicate.

The legal documents state that after that, Evanston's reply to Skokie's response is due by Oct. 16. Finally, the "court will rule by mail" on the motion to dismiss, the court documents indicate, though a deadline for that ruling is not listed.

Kocoras also allowed Skokie to proceed with an amended complaint to the lawsuit the village originally filed.

In their Aug. 14 motion to dismiss the federal lawsuit, Evanston attorneys argued that Skokie "has no fundamental right to Lake Michigan water — and certainly no such right to water from Evanston."

Tennes explained that Kocoras did not rule on that and instead instructed Evanston to refile its motion to dismiss.

In July, a Cook County judge put Evanston's state court case on hold while the federal case continues.

Evanston City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz said after this latest ruling that he expects the federal case will ultimately be dismissed and the state case resumed.

"Absolutely" the case will return to the state courts, Bobkiewicz said. "It's a contract issue," and that's where those types of cases belong.

gbookwalter@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @GenevieveBook

Lake Michigan water flows though the Evanston water treatment plant on its way to customers on Oct. 14, 2017, in Evanston.
**POLICE REPORT**

The following items were from Niles Police Department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt; only a court of law can make that determination.

**BATTERY**
- Blanca Sustaita, 22, of the 200 block of East Norman Lane, Wheeling, was charged with battery, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest on Aug. 16 following an alleged incident at a bar in the 9000 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. According to police, when officers arrived at the bar, Sustaita was outside "yelling at the bouncers [and] threatening to kill and sue the staff of the bar." Earlier, Sustaita allegedly pushed a security guard after she was asked to leave the bar because she was arguing with another patron. After leaving the building, she allegedly attempted to re-enter the bar by "pulling and kicking on the door." According to police, Sustaita threw a phone at a police officer and resisted efforts to take her into custody. She was later taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital after police noticed a laceration on her hand that reportedly occurred during her arrest, police said. Sustaita is scheduled to appear in court Sept. 17.

**FORGERY**
- Kinga Politanska, 44, of the 1600 block of Granville Avenue, Park Ridge, was charged with forgery on Aug. 20 for allegedly cashing bad checks.

**DUI**
- Uriel Bravo Arcos, 27, of the 300 block of Oak Street, Des Plaines, was charged with driving under the influence and improper lane usage on Aug. 18 following a traffic stop at Golf Road and Western Avenue. Arcos is scheduled to appear in court Sept. 13.

**SPEEDING**
- Radim Mloch, 42, of the 8500 block of West Crain Street, was charged with excessive speeding on Aug. 19. According to police, Mloch was traveling at 68 mph in a 35-mph zone on Dempster Street.

**WARRANT**
- Pamela L. Williams, 39, of the 8300 block of Golf Road, unincorporated Maine Township, was taken into custody on a retail theft warrant on Aug. 17.
- Donesha Robertson, 22, a resident of the 1700 block of West 80th Street, Chicago, was taken into custody on a retail theft warrant on Aug. 20.

**DISORDERLY CONDUCT**
- A woman told police that the driver of a black four-door car exposed himself to her in the parking lot of a store in the 6100 block of West Touhy Avenue on Aug. 16. On Aug. 21, a similar incident was reported in the same parking lot, police said.
- A 30-year-old Morton Grove man was ticketed for disorderly conduct on Aug. 20 after he allegedly threw a glass bottle at another person's car during an argument in the 6900 block of West Oakton Court.

**DRUGS**
- A 20-year-old Niles man was ticketed for possession of marijuana on Aug. 17 after police began investigating a suspicious car parked in the 800 block of Civic Center Drive. Police said the man was in possession of 6.7 grams of suspected marijuana.

**PUBLIC INTOXICATION**
- A 50-year-old Niles man was ticketed for public intoxication on Aug. 18 after police were called to the 6600 block of North Milwaukee Avenue for a report of an intoxicated man "causing a scene." The man was transported to his home, police said.
- A Mount Prospect man, 30, was ticketed for public intoxication on Aug. 19 after he was found sleeping on the pavement in front of a store in the 8500 block of West Golf Road. Police said the man was taken to the hospital.

**FRAUD**
- A man reported to be in his 60s allegedly attempted to fill a fraudulent prescription for painkillers at a store in the 8700 block of West Dempster Street on Aug. 16. According to police, the prescription that the man presented was from a pad that had been stolen from a doctor's office. The man never returned to the store for his prescription, police said.

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Mother's judgment call leads to all-too-common call to police

Wilmette mom who let girl, 8, walk dog around block probed

BY KATE THAYER
Chicago Tribune

Just after returning home from a walk around the block with her dog, Marshmallow, an 8-year-old Wilmette girl expected a visit from a playmate. Instead, police officers arrived at the family's door.

An anonymous caller had contacted police after seeing the girl walking the dog alone, said her mother, Corey Widen. While police never pursued charges, the seemingly common activity launched an Illinois Department of Children and Family Services investigation to see if Widen was neglecting her children, she said.

"For something like this to happen to me, there's something really wrong," said Widen, 48, who agreed to let her 8-year-old daughter and 17-year-old son get the Maltese puppy last year as long as everyone took turns walking her. Widen, who asked that her daughter's name not be used; said the girl's walk around the block -- most of which Widen says she can see out her windows -- is the only time her home-schooled daughter is unsupervised.

"I'm really not -- this is a joke with my kids because my kids are around me all the time."

Widen's story is not unique. Mothers in the Chicago area and across the country have found themselves at the center of investigations by police or child welfare officials after their children were spotted alone but unharmed -- playing in parks or left for minutes in a car parked outside a store -- activities that could pass for typical or harmless but now are perceived by some as unacceptable.

When Chicago author Kim Brooks decided to leave her then-4-year-old son in the car for a few minutes on a cool day to run an errand, she was shocked when a stranger called police to report it.

"I didn't really understand why it was happening," she said. "I certainly felt ashamed. Not because I thought ... I did something horrible, but because whenever you are called out for behavior, especially when it has to do with mothering, (it's shameful)."

But DCFS officials said a call came into the department's hotline reporting that the child was 5 years or younger. After investigating, DCFS found that the allegations were unfounded and closed the case. "We don't control the calls that come into our hotline. Something made someone think there was a concern, and we don't know without checking it out," a DCFS spokeswoman said.

Widen said the incident has caused her entire family stress after DCFS investigators visited her home, and talked to her children, other family members and their pediatrician. After about two weeks and several interviews, investigators told Widen's attorney last week that DCFS had found that the allegations were unfounded and closed the case.

"Everyone needs to allow the parent to do what is best for their family," she said. "No one will dictate my parenting choices."

Corey Widen's 8-year-old and the family dog play Monday before the two took a walk.
Maine Township District 207 to host school tours

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Maine Township High School District 207 will host 15 school tours in the weeks leading up to the November election, when voters will be asked to consider a multimillion-dollar bond referendum measure for building improvements.

The school district has identified the tours as "referendum information" tours that will include opportunities for participants to ask questions of school representatives at Maine East, Maine South and Maine West high schools.

On Nov. 6, voters living within District 207 will be asked if the district should issue $195 million in bonds as part of a $240.7 million facility improvement plan across all three high schools.

The bond issue would require a property-tax increase over a period of 20 years, the district has said. The capital projects proposed by District 207 include securing front entrances of each school building, remodeling classrooms, creating "flexible learning spaces" to accommodate changing teaching methods; relocating some services and programs within each school; installing new fire suppression systems, and replacing outdated plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems, Superintendent Ken Wallace has said.

Additions are also proposed at each school. At Maine East, plans call for a two-story addition off the field house, with student locker rooms on the first floor and weight rooms and a dance room on the second floor.

At Maine South, there is a proposal to extend and connect the back hallway to the A Wing, and expand the band and orchestra area to allow for more storage and classroom space, and at Maine West, construction of a field house is proposed.

In addition to the $195 million bond issue, the district plans to use $45.7 million in reserves to cover the remainder of the project cost, officials said.

Assuming an interest rate of 4.54 percent, the total amount the district will be required to pay back on a $195 million bond issue will be $300.1 million, according to the district.

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School District 67 begins academic year with a ‘dash’

By Karie Angell Luc
Pioneer Press


The annual event is sponsored by the Golf School District 67 Foundation. “The timing is fantastic because school just started,” said Jen Mehr. One of the event's organizers. “Everybody wants to see each other and this is the perfect opportunity to do so.”

Mehr has a seventh-grader at Golf Middle School and a sophomore at Niles North High School.

More than 30 sponsors and an estimated 25 volunteers helped to make the event possible, said Mehr, who also serves as a spokesman for the D67 Dash.

Shortly before the 5K began Aug. 26, the weather had high humidity but was in the lower 70s. The skies were sunny.

“We have hit the ground running, and this is a great way to kick off the school year,” said Golf Middle School Principal Karen Chvojka.

The first finisher with a chip time of 22:42 was Dane Nitioi, 14, of Morton Grove, a freshman at Niles North High School.

Nitioi had participated in all three events, but this was the first year he came in first place.

Shortly after crossing the finish line, Nitioi said he felt “good.” “Uphill on Lehigh, it’s tricky, but after three years, you kind of get used to it,” Nitioi said of the running/walking course.

All proceeds return to the foundation, which provides grants to teachers at Hynes Elementary School and Golf Middle School - the district's two schools.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelancer.

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Congregation Ahavat Olam finds a home in Glenview

By Alexandra Kukulka
Pioneer Press

Rabbi Nancy Landsman's religious career returned to its roots when she moved her congregation from Deerfield to Glenview in January. Congregation Ahavat Olam was previously located at Christ United Methodist Church in Deerfield, but when the congregation outgrew the space, Landsman said she moved to Glenview, a memory care facility in Glenview.

Landsman said she was able to move the congregation to Glenview because of the work she does as a rabbi for six senior care facilities.

Glenview's last synagogue within the village limits was B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim, known as BJBE, which served communities like Park Ridge, Des Plaines and Morton Grove, Landsman said.

Glenview has not had a synagogue in 10 years after BJBE moved to Deerfield. Landsman first attended the temple as a 4-year-old, she said.

“I'm coming back home, bringing my congregation back home to where I started,” Landsman said.

“Now, as a rabbi, I feel this is so wonderful. Finally, now, all these surrounding communities, including Glenview, can come to a warm, inviting, welcoming, intimate, reform congregation.”

In 1979, during her senior year at Northern Illinois University, Landsman said she was a cantor for BJBE for one year while the synagogue waited to hire someone finishing cantorial school. Landsman went on to study with Max Janowski, a composer of Jewish liturgical music, and Shlomo Shuster, a respected cantor, she said.

Landsman continued getting hired by various synagogues following her cantorial training until she returned to BJBE in the late 1980s as a cantorial soloist, she said. In 1989, she was hired as a cantor at Am Shalom in Glencoe, where she worked for 23 years, she said.

In 2012, Congregation Ahavat Olam started with 10 people, and the members asked Landsman to lead the congregation, she said. That same year, she went back to school to become a rabbi, she said.

“Cantors can be the sole leader of a congregation, but I felt that if I'm going to lead these 10 people and to make a living serving those who are unaffiliated with the congregation ... that I owe it to all these people to become more educated,” Landsman said.

Another reason Landsman said she became a rabbi was to work with senior citizens, which is what she studied in college. Landsman said she became a rabbi for six senior care facilities, she said.

Glenview has not had a religious school for children, Landsman said. The congregation offers adult educational classes, interfaith programs, social action programs and annual activities, she said.

Landsman said she likes to be creative with her services, so she makes it more interactive by having those who attend fill in the blank as she preaches and engages congregants to think. Services are led by Landsman, along with Cantor Joanna Lind, a pianist and clarinetist.

“We're welcoming,” Landsman said. “Anyone who has come to our congregation feels really embraced.”

The congregation will hold Erev Rosh Hashana service Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m. and morning service Sept. 10 at 10:30 a.m. Erev Yom Kippur service will be held Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m. and morning service Sept. 19 at 10:30 a.m.
Change the schedule and expand the playoffs. Baseball is due for a radical overhaul.

By Randy Blaser

Baseball and its fans don't like change. The designated hitter rule has been in place for 45 years, but only for the American League.

The last major rule change before that came in 1969 when the pitcher's mound was lowered to its present height of 10 inches, down from 15 inches. Those changes were put in place to add more offense to a game dominated by pitching.

But this tinkering has caused problems. The schedule seems too long at 162 games. Each league has an odd three-division setup, with five teams in each division. And your home team plays those other four teams 19 times a year. Talk about boring.

Baseball is ripe for radical change.

I'm talking about realignment, changing the schedule and completely changing the playoff format.

I'm talking about making baseball more meaningful by injecting real pennant races into the game that are similar to the glory days when there were eight-team leagues. Baseball also needs to give more teams a shot at winning the ultimate prize by expanding the playoffs.

Right now, only 10 teams make the playoffs and have a chance to win the World Series. But what if 16 teams had a real shot at the end of the year? I think that would make the pennant races really exciting.

Here are the details of my plan, parts of which, have been readily talked about.

Baseball needs to add two teams and expand to 32 clubs. There are plenty of East Coast or West Coast options for new teams, including Portland, Las Vegas, San Jose, New Jersey, Charlotte and Nashville.

Thirty-two teams gives baseball the option to construct four new divisions made up of eight teams each. To do so, baseball would have to be willing to ditch the setup of the National and American leagues, or at least completely shuffle the deck and realign the divisions geographically. That would create new and more meaningful rivalries.

Imagine a new eight-team Central Division made up of not only the Cubs and the White Sox, but also the Brewers, Indians, Twins, Tigers, Rockies and Royals. As I write, the battle for first place would be between the Cubs, Indians, Brewers and Rockies, with just three games separating the first- and fourth-place teams.

A new West Division would include the Dodgers, Athletics, Diamondbacks, Mariners, Angels, Giants, Padres and a new team in Las Vegas. The AL’s Mariners, Diamondbacks and Dodgers would all have a shot at first place.

Boston would still rule a new East Division with the Yankees, Phillies and Pirates battling for a playoff spot, chased by the Nationals, Blue Jays, Mets and Orioles.

A new, realigned South Division would feature the Astros, Braves, Cardinals, Rays, Rangers, Reds, Marlins and say a new team in Charlotte.

In such a setup, two leagues can be created with two divisions each. Let the top eight teams in each league make the playoffs and let the first round be a best-of-five series, and then a best of seven.

It’s a simple solution that makes sense and would make the entire baseball season, from opening day to the last game of the World Series, more exciting than ever.

In such a scheme, who would care about the designated hitter? 

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist.
When biking, always follow the (lost) leader

You know what I learned last Sunday? I learned that if my bike buddies told me to follow them as they rode off a bridge, I'm just dumb enough to do it.

I blame my stupidity on the transitive theory of gender politics along with the fact that I really like the guys I occasionally bike with.

Consider: If a man is lost. No. Strike that. Men never admit to being fully lost. I'll start again.

Consider: If a man is unsure of where to turn in order to reach a destination, what are the odds that No. 1 He will admit that he has already taken a wrong turn? and No. 2 He will listen to anything suggested by a woman he is gallantly trying to lead?

(Answer key: Zero, and Zero).

Further consider: If the ratio of men to women in a given bike ride is 3:1, with the average age of the men being X, and the average age of the women being X - 15, what is the probability that all of the men in the given bike group are lawyers? (Answer key: 100 percent).

And this: If the sun rises in the east, and the lead

SALLY HIGGINSON

There are a few corollaries to my transitive theory of gender politics that lead to misdirection and poor judgment. For instance, how many lawyers in the aforementioned group does it take to change a bike tire?

(Another trick question. If DeBofsky's not there, it can't be done. Instead, George rides ahead and returns with his car to ferry the rider and injured bicycle to safety.)

Speaking of safety, what rules of emergency care are followed with precision when one of our riders suffers fatigue and cramping?

(Answer coupled with Statement of Full Disclosure: Where is it written that leaving a weary rider to die beneath a tree is against safe riding protocol? For the record, David lived, and that was, like, 10 years ago already).

Finally: Does the humor element of riding to Wisconsin's Bong State Recreation Area warrant following a leader heading the wrong way?

(Answer: Absolutely. That joke never gets old).

Sally Higginson is a freelance columnist.
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Chicago Tribune

OPINION

All I'm askin' is for a little respect

There are certain elements I think most couples deem necessary for sustaining a happy, healthy romantic relationship. These include trust, loyalty, thoughtfulness, likability and laughter, to name a few.

But there's one thing that might trump all of these. It's something that can foster attraction. It can keep couples in love, and it can even cause two people to fall more in love with each other. And if it's lacking or lost, it can lead to a relationship completely falling apart. I'm talking about R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

That's right, respect; the word that in 1967 became a timeless mantra by "The Queen of Soul," Aretha Franklin. To this day, I think most people would say that listening to the song makes them feel strong, empowered and worthy. And who doesn't want to respect and feel respected by a spouse?

In honor of Franklin, who recently died at the age of 76, here are seven ways you can respect your spouse:

R. Remember significant dates. Birthdays, anniversaries and other milestones are important. So, if one or both partners stops acknowledging those dates, they are sending the message that they don't have respect for the relationship, that it doesn't deserve to be recognized. Coming home with flowers, making dinner reservations at the place you went on your first date, playing the song you danced to at your wedding or even just giving your spouse a card shows that you respect your relationship.

E. Everyone is entitled to his or her opinion. What happens when you and your spouse have different views on an issue regarding the kids? What if the two of you have dissimilar ideas about saving and spending money? Or, what if politically you have entirely opposite views? It's not easy, but it's important to respect how the other person feels. No one is asking you to change your mind, but rather to listen to your spouse's position and try to understand it.

S. Speak to each other in a polite and kind way. Several years ago, at the end of my marriage, I remember thinking to myself, "When did we start talking to each other like this?" We would yell and name-call and say mean things to each other. All couples argue, but the difference between happy and unhappy couples is, the happy ones know how to communicate effectively, and they care enough to do so.

P. Pay attention. In other words, listen. Let your spouse sit and talk for a while without saying anything. Let him or her complain about something that's bothering them, and tell you what they want and need.

And then, take notes in your head. If a person realizes that you listened to them and acted on it, they feel your respect, and will treat you the same way.

E. Embrace the people he or she loves. Do I have to spell it out? He or she loves their mother. Yes, your nightmare mother-in-law. He or she also loves the sister who drives them crazy. And, she loves her best girlfriend, (the one you can't understand for the life of you why she even still talks to). Here is the rule: Your spouse is allowed to complain about his or her family and friends, but you are not allowed to join in. You don't have to respect the people, but you need to respect your spouse for loving them unconditionally.

C. Compliment him or her. "Honey, your eyes look so pretty today." "I can see that Weight Watchers is making a difference." "I'm really proud of what you did at work today." "You are an amazing father, hope you know that." The problem here is that people think these things all the time but they don't realize the importance of verbalizing them.

T. Time means a lot. My boyfriend's busiest time of the week is Monday afternoons. I know that because I listen to him when he tells me about work. So, I would not call or email or even text him during those hours because I don't want to add anything to his plate. So if you see your spouse stressed, maybe make dinner that night or order take-out and have dinner on the table when he or she walks in the door. Saying respect in this regard is really showing support and deep love.

Treat your spouse with respect is key because it rolls over into everything else in the relationship. Think about it. It's difficult to be attracted to someone you don't respect or who you don't think respects you. It's also hard to be compatible or want to spend time with someone you don't respect.

Also, if your spouse does something that causes you to lose respect for him or her because of it, express how you feel. Remember, no one is perfect, and if you have a solid relationship, your respect for him or her will come back.

Lastly, if you feel like your spouse doesn't respect you, take a look in the mirror. Do you respect yourself? Feeling respected starts with self-respect. I think that's what Franklin was saying every time she belted out, "What you want, Baby I got it!"

To "the Queen of Soul," rest in peace.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.
Have a friend who's divorced?

Got a divorced friend? You might be next. Divorces are contagious, according to science.
Socializing and training a fearful dog

By Cathy M. Rosenthal
Tribune Content Agency

Q: My dog, Major, is a rescue who was 18 weeks old when we got him and is almost two years old now. I fell in love with him in his cage huddled against the wall with his head up the wall. He is so sweet and gentle.

I have taken him to dog parks where he is allowed to be with other dogs, and he loves it. He gets so excited when he sees people, but as they approach, his tail goes between his legs, and he will back up and hide behind me or between my legs. Usually, I explain that he is a rescue and if they don't go to him, he will slowly go to them and warm up. Some children understand this and, of course, some don't. I have made two trips to Florida from New York with him. We stayed in hotels and my mom's apartment as well as went to restaurants, the rehab facility and her house. He did well. He loved mom and my mom's apartment as well as went to restaurants, the rehab facility and her house.

The problem is, he shies away from most people. I always feel sad for him as he is so scared and wonder if there is anything else I can do that I haven't thought about. I do know that he was most likely born in a kill shelter and rescued by a rescue group, transported from Tennessee to New York, but that's all I know.

— Lois, N. Babylon, NY

A: It's always tough having a fearful dog. You never know where you can go or what you can do to help them feel more at ease in their world.

Much of a dog's socialization period happens before he is six months old. If a dog learns to be afraid of something during that time, they might always be fearful. But through training, they can learn to tolerate situations better. So, my suggestion is to continue providing opportunities for Major to interact with people. Ask people to toss treats toward him, so he learns that being around people means good things for him. You also can help Major relax by asking him to sit and stay when around people. Giving dogs a task to do takes up space in their brain, which can sometimes reduce their fear and anxiety. Another thing you can try is standing or positioning yourself between him and other people. That body language lets him know he doesn't have to be on alert for you and that you will handle anyone approaching.

Remember, just like people, some dogs may not like certain people — or certain categories of people, like young children. If he is comfortable with seniors, it's OK for them to be in his circle of friends.

Q: In regard to the woman whose cat keeps her up all night, the only thing that worked for us was to put our cat to sleep in the basement every night. She had her food and toys down there and a nice ottoman to sleep on. She was fine until my husband woke her up around 5:30 a.m. Of course, this only works if you have a basement. Ours is 1/2 finished, but Sunny did not mind roaming around in the unfinished portion. She lived to be 21 and we still miss her. — Debra, Allentown, PA

A: Thanks for your suggestion about how to handle a cat that keeps you up all night. Some owners will put a noisy cat in another room at night, but if the cat can be heard, he or she can still keep you awake. Most cats don't like closed doors and will scratch and meow until someone opens it.

As for the basement, as long as it was a safe place, she probably thought she was out on the "hunt" all evening, especially if she had toys she could play with on her own. Cats are nocturnal and love to stay active during the night.

If you want to keep cats within earshot, though, the good news is they often settle down as they get older and learn the sleeping habits of their family.

My five cats roamed during the night but slept with each family member at some point. So even if you have to put a noisy cat in another room at night, chances are they will quiet down as they mature, and they don't have to always stay there.

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 cathym@petpundit.com. Please include your name, city, and state. You can follow her @cathymrosenthal.
Have a friend who's divorced?

You could be next, according to researchers

By Daniele Braff
Chicago Tribune

Do you have a divorced friend? You might be next. It turns out that divorces are contagious.

Laura Soncrant, of Chicago, filed for divorce in February, after her two best girlfriends got divorced. One ended her marriage three years ago, and the other got divorced six years ago.

"I had asked for marriage counseling, and I tried to apply what I saw was happening there to us," Soncrant said, explaining how she tried to use her friends' experiences to better her marriage.

But when that didn't work, she used a different tactic.

"I watched what they did and I learned from them very quietly," she said. "Their journey gave me the strength I needed and the information and the knowledge that I needed to make it feasible for me."

In the most recent study available on the topic, researchers from Brown University, Harvard University and the University of California at San Diego found that you're 75 percent more likely to become divorced if a friend has divorced, and if a friend of a friend is divorced your odds of getting a divorce increase 33 percent.

When a close friend gets a divorce, it alerts us to the possibilities, said Helen Fisher, author of "Anatomy of Love" and senior research fellow at the Kinsey Institute.

"One person starts doing it, and others look at their own lives and they assess their lives: If he can do it, I can do it," Fisher said.

This may be why many friends of Jessica Ashley, a resident of Chicago's Ravenswood neighborhood, got a divorce 11 years ago and says many of her good friends avoided her when the sudden split happened.

"Their journey gave me the edge that I needed to make it feasible for me," Ashley said.

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Jessica Ashley, a resident of Chicago's Ravenswood neighborhood, got a divorce 11 years ago and says many of her good friends avoided her when the sudden split happened.

Then, develop solutions for your own marriage to combat those potential issues, like going away for a weekend without the children or making more of an effort with each other.

"We watch reality TV because we think, 'I could have done better than her — or I should do something like that,'" Fisher said. "Assess where you are and where your relationship should be improved — or whether it's time to get out."

The biggest advantage to observing a friend go through a divorce is that it provides you with an opportunity to have more communication in your own marriage, Darne said.

"Subjects which may have been difficult to bring up in the past can now be discussed because you can preface them by stating how you want to avoid what your friend is going through," he said. "It's also a real opportunity to count your blessings, and put more effort into keeping the magic alive in your marriage."

You should also be aware that as humans, we are prone to copying behaviors.

We watch what's happening socially around us, and we mimic, Fisher said.

"One person starts doing it, and others look at their own lives: If he can do it, I can do it too," Fisher said.

The good news is that when a friend divorces, it won't rattle couples in great marriages, she said — especially if they talk about their friends' divorce. But it does make you think more about your past, present and future.

"It alerts you to the possibilities," Fisher said.

Daniele Braff is a freelance writer.
Now is the time to read, and fund, serious nonfiction

By John Warner
Chicago Tribune

The older I get, the more anxious I become about everything I don’t know. I once thought it would be the opposite; that over time, I would accrue knowledge, and more and more of the world would become explicable to me.

But the cliche is “with age comes wisdom,” not “with age comes knowledge.” and one of the pieces of wisdom I’ve picked up is that there’s just a lot of stuff I don’t know and more stuff I don’t know being revealed to me all the time.

I experienced this phenomenon recently while reading a book I covered in a previous column, “Denmark Vesey’s Garden: Slavery and Memory in the Cradle of the Confederacy,” which showed me that my knowledge of the post-Civil War South was basically nil.

I’m experiencing it right now as I’m making my way through “Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America” by Beth Macy.

I’d been thinking that while the opioid epidemic is most definitely a tragedy, it’s naturally occurring, the product primarily of human frailty. But Macy’s book reveals a more complex truth of an epidemic that has been manufactured by the players of her subtitle, fueled by greed and indifference to human suffering. People have been sounding the alarm about the dangers of these drugs for two decades, but drug companies have been fighting in court to prevent regulation that would protect people.

With the Reconstruction Era, I at least have the excuse that it happened generations before I was born, but the story of “Dopesick” has been happening under my nose, and I was still essentially ignorant.

Both of these books have something important in common: They took countless hours of research to understand and craft the stories.

When President Donald Trump delivers factoids that he was apparently not previously aware of, he has something of a verbal tic, saying things like, “people don’t realize” or “a lot of people don’t know,” before finishing with something like, “Abraham Lincoln was a Republican.”

It appears that when Trump learns something new, he arranges the information in his head in such a way as to believe that if he doesn’t know it, then most other people probably don’t know it as well.

I have the opposite response. I’m wondering why everyone else knows this thing and didn’t tell me.

The paradox of the digital age is that because so much information is so easily accessible, it’s actually harder to learn something in a deeper sense. The information ecosystem is awash in “facts” that are not actually factual, and we often lack the time and context to separate the wheat from the chaff.

Twenty-minute TED Talks pass as definitive takes on a particular subject, rather than the amuse-bouches they truly are.

This is why books — big, years-in-the-making books — are so important, and why we should buy and read and support them.

Unfortunately, books are a bad business model. That 20-minute TED Talk with 20 million views can bring more revenue through advertising than a book that took thousands of hours of research and writing to produce.

Part of my anxiety over the limits of my own knowledge and understanding is tied to knowing each year is one less to figuring things out. The list of things I don’t know grows faster than my capacity to learn.

But a bigger part of my concern is that we’re going to lose touch with the values that support the production of stories that must be told at lengths longer than a byte.

John Warner is the author of “Tough Day for the Army.”

Twitter @biblioracle

Book recommendations from the Biblioracle

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

1. “The Bear Went Over the Mountain” by William Kotzwinkle
3. “The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet” by David Mitchell
4. “Ka” by John Crowley
5. “Grace Takes Off” by Julie Hyzy

“The Bear Went Over the Mountain,” the story of a Maine black bear that is mistaken for a novelist, is so much fun, just reading the title makes me start laughing to myself. My recommendation is a book of similar spirit: “Evolution Man: Or, How I Ate My Father” by Roy Lewis.

1. “The Outsider” by Stephen King
2. “The Immortalists” by Chloe Benjamin
3. “The Pharaoh Key” by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child
4. “The Gray Ghost” by Clive Cussler and Robin Burcell
5. “Talk Show: Confrontations, Pointed Commentary, and Off-Screen Secrets” by Dick Cavett

Victor LaValle is working around and between genres to create a feel all his own, one that I’ll call “literary supernatural suspense.” I think Michael will enjoy “The Changeling.”

1. “The Female Persuasion” by Meg Wolitzer
2. “North: Finding My Way While Running the Appalachian Trail” by Scott Jurek
3. “Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly” by Anthony Bourdain
4. “Children of Blood and Bone: Legacy of Orisha” by Tomi Adeyemi
5. “Scythe: Arc of a Scythe” by Neal Shusterman

An interesting mix. There’s actually not a ton in this list specifically pointing toward my recommendation, but that’s why they pay me the big bucks. Sometimes the gut just knows what’s right: “A Simple Plan” by Scott Smith.

Get a reading from the Biblioracle

To get a reading from the Biblioracle, send a list of the last five books you’ve read to books@chicagotribune.com.
Kicking sugar addiction will lower your risk for dementia

By Dr. Robert Ashley
Ask the Doctors

Dear Doctor: Recently I saw a TV show in which a physician said sweets cause dementia. Is this true? As a sweet-tooth, I hope not.

Dear Reader: How I used to love sugar as a child. My parents didn't have many sugary foods in the house, so I would gorge on sweets at my friends' houses or when the ice cream man made his rounds. At age 11, however, I began to understand the health consequences of sucrose — I knew that it increased the risk of diabetes and was directly connected to weight gain. I learned much later about the less tangible dangers — metabolic changes, heart disease risk and a potential link to cancer.

Many people, however, continue to indulge in sweets well into old age. While some can do so with relative control, others cannot. The problem for everyone is that, as we grow older, our ability to process sugars declines, leading to an increased risk of obesity and diabetes, among other things.

The dementia connection has to do with how our brains receive nutrients and oxygen. While many large blood vessels supply blood flow to the brain, equally important are the small blood vessels that nourish the neurons. Small blood vessels are quite susceptible to injury, especially those caused by high blood pressure and diabetes.

That's why people with poorly controlled diabetes are at risk for slow-to-heal ulcers: The small vessel disease in the lower legs leads to poor blood flow and nerve dysfunction. Similarly, poorly controlled diabetes can also lead to small blood vessel disease in the brain and the death of neurons.

Multiple epidemiologic studies have shown a correlation between diabetes and dementia, as have MRI studies in animals.

I'm sorry to add that, even if you're a sweet-tooth who doesn't have diabetes, you may be at risk too. A review of eight studies in Japan assessed the levels of hemoglobin Alc, a marker for diabetes, and the rate of dementia within the general Japanese population. The authors found a concordance between an increased rate of elevated hemoglobin Alc and increased rates of dementia.

Increased memory impairments were even correlated with hemoglobin Alc levels greater than 6, which does not meet the threshold for diabetes. This may be related to increased production of insulin in people with higher intakes of sugar and carbohydrates, which subsequently leads to insulin resistance. Insulin resistance, in turn, may lead to a difficulty in the ability of neurons to transmit information to one another.

Of course, eating sweets also increases the likelihood of obesity, and middle obesity itself has been correlated with dementia.

There are many theories as to why this is the case. What appears likely is that obesity increases the risk of hypertension and sleep apnea, both of which increase the risk of dementia.

I understand that sweets bring pleasure and that telling people they shouldn't eat them seems cruel, but when you look at how much damage sweets create in both the body and mind, as a doctor, I find it difficult to condone their consumption.

Consider that Native American populations have been ravaged by diabetes and poor health related to sweets, which were never traditionally part of their diet — and this is a lesson all of us ignore at our peril.

Kicking this addiction will lead to improved physical and mental health and lower your risk for dementia. I know you can do it.

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

Send your questions to askthe doctors@mednet.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.

Nasal allergy spray helps reduce reaction to pollen

By Joe Graedon
and Teresa Graedon
King Features Syndicate

Q: NasalCrom actually works better for me than the allergy pills that cause side effects. I've been telling everyone about it for several years.

This nasal spray takes several days to kick in, but then it is wonderful. Rather than adding any symptoms you already have, it prevents you from having the symptoms in the first place. I now am back to being a person who just doesn't have allergies!

A: Cromolyn (NasalCrom) stabilizes mast cells in the nose. These cells release histamine and other compounds when exposed to pollen and other allergens. Many other readers also report that NasalCrom nasal spray helps reduce or prevent allergy symptoms.

Q: I recently heard from my vascular physician about using a bar of soap in between the sheets to alleviate nocturnal leg cramps.

I began charting the frequency of my leg cramps since I started using the bed soap. I have not had any leg cramps for the past three months. I am amazed.

A: Thank you for sharing this story. We have been writing about putting soap under the bottom sheet for more than a decade. Hearing that a physician is recommending this home remedy is gratifying.


This physician hypothesized that soap scent had a biological effect. We agree. Limonene is a common fragrance in soap. Scientists report that it may inhibit
Hinsdale Victorian with coach house: $3.2M

ADDRESS: 307 S. Lincoln St. in Hinsdale
ASKING PRICE: $3,240,000
Listed on Aug. 20, 2018
This home features original architectural details, designer lighting and state-of-the-art smart home functions. The space has over 8,000 square feet of living space which includes six bedrooms, four full bathrooms and three half bathrooms. The home is also surrounded by formal manicured gardens and mature trees. Other features include a screened porch, patio with fire pit, attached coach house and wine cellar. Located in downtown Hinsdale, two blocks to train, shopping, restaurants and Hinsdale Middle School.
Agent: Anna Fiascone of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices KoenigRubloff, 630-780-1215

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
FAMILIAR PLACES:
How many can you name?

BY MARK MCCLAIN | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN
(stanxwords.com)

Across
1 Declare
6 No different from
12 Stuff in shakers
16 Mongrel
19 Reef builder
20 Mottled T-shirt
21 Fergo help
23 Senator Snowe’s hometown
25 Fully set
26 Jogging pace
27 Catalyst
28 Sitcom breaks
30 Rugged rides, for short
31 Took charge
32 Sandy spot
33 Shopper’s romp
34 Latched onto
39 City founded as a mining camp
42 Poker bump
43 Prego competitor
44 ...out a victory
45 “Theme Park Capital of the World”
51 Bring to mind
56 Director Anderson
57 Some beachfront units
58 Amtrak unit
59 Showy garden shrub
60 Keep (out)
61 Thing of the past
63 Put up
64 Entry-level position: Abbr.
67 Steel mill city
72 Longing feeling
73 Come into one’s own
75 Lowly workers
76 Decide to drop
78 Base for beer
80 Before now
81 Contributing element
84 “...dreaming?”
87 Dress code details
88 Where Wilt Chamberlain went to college
91 Pilot light fuel
93 Hera’s hawkish boy
94 Very
95 City with a “cowboy up philosophy
102 Take after
104 Aquatic weasel
105 Actor Quinn of Elementary
106 Trait carrier
107 Paltry
108 Place for rouge
109 Underhanded
111 Cologne scent
115 Phony panacea
117 Where Nike got started
120 Doesn’t bother to zap
121 Amount consumed
122 Assessor’s calculation
123 J.D. awardee in Palo Alto
124 “Vertical transportation” giant
125 Now proven
126 Manner of speaking

Down
1 “Scraml!”
2 Band’s travel plans
3 Ship that carried Heracles
4 With no slack
5 Golf pro Ernie
6 Produced for the theater
7 Intended
8 Intend
9 Cut and paste, perhaps
10 Name on the cover of The Fountainhead
11 Become agitated
12 Much of Libya
13 Campus environment
14 USPS deliveries
15 Minimal amount
16 Starter like anti-Irregular
17 Exodus 14 locale
18 Left the ground briefly
22 Storybook story
24 Designer Diane Fürstenberg
25 Utter unclearly
26 Sound heard in Snow White...
27 Burgeon
28 Extremely uncommon
29 Has a bug
30 Merit badge org.
31 Dugout furniture
32 Angelic feature
33 Seats of concert
34 Pads that may be pickled
36 Five-star general’s nickname
37 Coming up soon
38 Keeps cool, perhaps
39 Spanish surrealist
40 Emerald measure
41 Actor Baldwin
43 Country mail rte.
50 Operatic song
51 Frenziedly
52 Meditative practice
53 Meditation
54 Peace Nobelist
55 Overdue
56 Desire for something
57 Absolut alternative
58 “...pronounce you...”
59 “Makes sense”
60 Bushido
61 Corporate marriage
62 One Benjamin
63 “Waterloo” group
64 Source of “Kwanzaa”
65 Box spring supporter
66 Arranges logically
67 Concrete
68 Special benefits
69 Amounts
71 Tiger's habitat
74 Galloper
75 “For sure!”
76 “Much obliged,” in Bonn

81 Office greenery
82 Uncommon
83 Sends a duplicate email to
84 “...pronounce you...”
85 Simpsons creator
86 “Makes sense”
87 What fills some gauges
88 What butter may be made from
89 Source of “Kwanzaa”
90 PD personnel
91 Qualified race
92 Substantive content
93 Andersen title
94 Human spirit
95 Half of deus
96 Human spirit
97 Earth-friendly prefix
98 Spot for a tot
99 Source of “Kwanzaa”
100 BLT spread
101 “Much obliged,” in Bonn
102 “For sure!”
103 Source of “Kwanzaa”
104 Office greenery
105 PD personnel
106 BLT spread
107 Source of “Kwanzaa”
108 Black aquatic bird
109 PD personnel
110 Qualifying race
111 Substantive content
112 Andersen title
113 Human spirit
114 Spot for a tot
115 Earth-friendly prefix
116 Half of deus
117 Source of “Kwanzaa”
118 Black aquatic bird
119 Campground visitors: Abbr.
Quote-Acrostic

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

**Clues**

**Words**

A. Unlikely winner: 2 wds.
B. Bone formation
C. Disloyal
D. Slope
E. Lure or tempt: 2 wds.
F. Silvery
G. Foul smelling explosive: 2 wds.
H. Tower of London guard
I. Capital letters: 2 wds.
J. Oriental inn
K. You gotta have -------------
L. Native American confederacy
M. Evident
N. 1850s political party: 2 wds.
O. All of us
P. Put off
Q. Open two-seater
R. Ocular cosmetic: 2 wds.
S. By no means! 2 wds.
T. Suspended sculpture
U. Brownish orange

By Ery Kaczmarek. Edited by Linda and Charles Preston. © 2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

---

In Clover

BY CHARLES PRESTON

**Across**

1 Hang in folds
6 Result of a fender bender
10 Mountain ash
14 Ear-related
16 Courtroom bargain?
17 "Summertime" sentiment
20 Saroyan's My Name Is __
21 Roman coin
22 Barbs
23 Longings
25 Cherished
26 Possible Trump loss
30 Deface
33 Saudi Arabian money
34 Squealer
35 Lawn or garage event
36 Approves
37 Trouble
38 Valerie Harper role
39 American naval commander
40 Yorkshire river
41 Approached
42 Oolong, e.g.
43 Riding high
45 Mailing essentials: abbr.

**Down**

1 Facts
2 German river
3 Region
4 Life of Riley
5 Yale student
6 Most desiccated
7 Centuries
8 Carp
9 Divide three ways
10 Slender stalk
11 Norwegian king
12 Repose
13 Reddish-brown horses
18 Wheel of Fortune woman
19 Former Iranian ruler
24 Slippery creatures
25 Twofold
26 Spectral figure
27 Former Hollywood Jack
28 Camel relative
29 Bay window
30 New Zealand aborigines
31 Bashful Pilgrim suitor
32 Cloister and the Hearth author
35 A promised land
37 Curves
38 Make changes
40 Atonal
41 Care dispenser
43 Siberian city
44 "I sing"
45 City on Korea Strait
47 King in Norse mythology
48 Scorch
49 King mackerel
50 Machine gun
52 General Bradley
53 Posh conveyance, for short
54 English college
56 James Bond, for one
57 Resinous secretion

Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island © 2018 Creators News Service.
Amazeballs*

BY ROBIN STEARS
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across
1 Takes the odds
5 Flop's opposite
10 Anchored
16 Braying beast
19 Audition piece
20 1988 Summer Olympics site
21 From C to C
22 ... Victor
23 *Convenient carrier
25 *Small, flat legume
27 Braille bits
28 Poet Pablo Neruda, e.g.
30 "My treat"
31 Distinctive Rolls Royce feature
34 Many a text writer
36 Hikes from the center
37 Wilson of "Pitch Perfect" movies
38 Heinz Field player
39 Rapid
41 Nickname for young Skywalker
42 Ramshackle shelters
43 One way to get you
44 "Octal system
47 *Item found in a parlor
51 Like Fran Drescher’s voice
52 Cheerleaders’ handfuls
56 Your cousin’s 81-Across, maybe
57 Plague critter
60 Pudding starch
61 Carne
62 Subject of a Dean Martin classic
64 "Pneumatic silo declogger
66 “Your table’s ready” gizmo
67 Chekov on "Star Trek"
68 Directed
69 Last to arrive
70 French article
71 Proclaims
72 Passionate
74 *Fund for fun
77 "Path for a promising young exec
81 See 56-Across
82 Foul's up, as plans
85 "The Crow" actress Ling

Down
1 "Phooey!"
2 Significant time
3 Bronze component
4 Tack room item
5 Ice
6 Shade of green
7 What Indiana sought
8 "What did I tell you?"
9 Choppier
10 Calder pieces
11 Telescope eyepiece
12 Wessel relative
13 Pro follower
14 102-Down opposite
15 … Rosenkavalier"
16 Spots for sports
17 Trattoria entree
18 Least extreme
19 Weevil's target
20 Tied-under-the-chin topper
21 Prefix with gram
22 Take the wrong way?
23 Sofer of soaps
24 Sacred Nile bird
25 Longtime "60 Minutes" reporter
26 Small price to pay
27 Sonic the Hedgehog maker
28 "Mr. Citizen" autobiographer
29 Regrets
30 Santa has a famous one
31 Acclimatize
32 Art supporter?
33 Fashion first name
34 Pixel pattern
35 Secret stuff
36 Target rival
37 Worrywart, at times
38 Eye-fooling genre
39 Extraction sites
40 Genealogy chart
41 Group of 13, traditionally
42 Baby monitor
43 Finger strike
44 "Full House" B-day numbers
45 "Frozen" princess
46 Art supporter?
47 Cooling-off period?
48 Ottoman bigwig
49 Secret stuff
50 Rents
51 Ramshackle
52 Rents
53 "Cast Away"
54 Skeptic
55 Wrap-up
56 syrup
57 *Small, flat legume
58 Ste. Marie
59 Group of 13, traditionally
60 Genealogy chart
61 Group of 13, traditionally
62 Lustful deity
63 Portmanteau listings
64 Group of 13, traditionally
65 "Frosted" princess
66 Track figure
67 Like Fran Drescher’s voice
68 *"Northern Exposure" actress
69 Rents
70 Ramshackle
71 "Frozen" princess
72 Conviction
73 "Cast Away"
74 B-day numbers
75 Fanatic
76 Anise liqueur
77 Group of 13, traditionally
78 Lie next to
79 Birdsong
80 Toy with a tail
81 Like Fran Drescher’s voice
82 Skeptic
83 Italian noble family
84 Budget bin record
85 "Cast Away"
86 Portfolio listings
87 One taking a lot of notes
88 Soothes
89 React to an awkward moment
90 Military band
91 Bear witness
92 Prefix with gram
93 Queen lead guitarist … May
94 Track figure
95 Animal lovers’ org.
96 French city where William the Conqueror is buried
97 "Frozen" princess
98 Italian smoker
99 Ramshackle
100 Many an IKEA buy
101 "Frozen" princess
102 14-Down opposite
103 Newton fruit
104 Green prefix
105 Sponge (up)
106 Wooly mama

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.

GUTOHH
KIOBE
TATHRW
NIFTIE
MUCSPA
TLANUF

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.

Level: 1 2 3 4

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

This week’s answers appear on the next page.

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek © 2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.
Help Wanted Part Time

Home Healthcare Provider
Northbrook, IL
Call (224) 213-7070

Healthy 82 year old with vision problems needs part time and some full time assistance. Attractive situation, Northbrook location.

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dodoine2015@gmail.com

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Our Transportation Classifieds will drive readers to your automobile ad! Call 866-399-5537 or visit placeanad.suburbs.com

RENT?
Place an Ad! For information call the Sales Clerk at Plaintiff’s Attorney, The Wirbicki Law Group, 33 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603. (312) 360-1545. RY4568

ADVERTISE YOUR RENTAL! Rent for $185,895.00 or more and receive 10 free ads (minimum $150.00 value). Call (312) 360-1545.

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  - September 4th, 7:00-11:00 PM
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- **TINLEY PARK CONDO FOR RENT**
  - 7528 71st Ave, Tinley Park
- **REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**
  - 110-102 AUSTIN BUILDING
    - 2nd fl apt, 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage

Housing Opportunities

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, in the sale, rental, or financing of housing. In addition, the Illinois Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on age, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation or unfavorable military discharge. This paper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

USER FEATURES
- **LEGAL SERVICES**
  - **NEED LEGAL HELP?**
    - Get a Free referral to an attorney! Call the Illinois State Bar Association
    - Illinois Lawyer Finder
      - The advice you need
      - 877-270-3855 or https://www.isba.org/public/illinoislawyerfinder

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  - Are you in Big trouble with the IRS? Stop-wage & bank levies, liens & audits, unfiled tax returns, payroll issues & resolve tax debt FAST.
    - Call 866-597-5152

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  - **TOP CASH PAID!**
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    - CALL AIM 800-481-8312

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  - **WANTED TO BUY**
    - **REFRIGERANT FINDERS**
      - **CASH FOR R12 CYLINDERS**
      - (312) 291-9169; www.refrigerantfinders.com

  - **BUSINESS OWNERS**
    - **ADVERTISE WITH US!**
      - The Classifieds can showcase your business and services! Advertise your cleaning service, mortgage company or day care with us today!
      - Call 866-399-0537 or visit placeanad.trbune.com

  - **APARTMENT FOR RENT?**
    - The search begins here! Many apartment and home hunters check the Classifieds before looking for a new place to live.
    - Advertise your rental units with us to get a jump on the competition! Call 866-399-0537 or visit placeanad.trbune.com

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    - To live in or come & go (lil, etc), ask price, all lots, no fees.
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  - **REFRIGERANT FINDERS**
    - **CASH FOR R12 CYLINDERS**
    - (312) 291-9169; www.refrigerantfinders.com
Judicial Sales - Real Estate

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
Plaintiffs:

Defendants:

Bank of America, N.A.

A. Asher Wolmark, Aker D. Wolmark, Aker Doron Wolmark, Welfars Tarro Bank, N.A.

United States of America.

Case Number 16 CH 5571

CHICAGO, IL 60606

30 S. WACKER DRIVE, STE. 2600

Michael W. Debre

236 - SALE

(905) 513-0523

For information, contact the sales department, Anselmo Lindberg, Esq., 321 NORTH CLARK STREET, SUITE 1430, Chicago, IL 60607.

For further information, contact the court file. The sale is being held subject to a first mortgage loan. Any remaining funds, balance, by certified funds, shall be paid to the purchaser of the real estate to the highest bidder, as set forth below.

The judgment amount was $615,226.88.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt. A letter of credit is not subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff in and of the following described real estate:

Asbury Avenue, Evanston, IL 60202

Property Index No. 17-14-219-014-0000.

The mortgaged real estate is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff in and of the following described real estate:

Asbury Avenue, Evanston, IL 60202

Property Index No. 17-14-219-014-0000.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Property bidders are admonished to check the court file for all information. If this property is a condominium, or unit of the plaintiff at the time of the sale, the purchaser will pay the assessments and the legal required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/2-7.1, et seq., and the mortgagee, Bank of America, N.A., has the right to remain in possession for 30 days after entry of an order of possession, in accordance with section 10-1701 of the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law, 765 ILCS 605/17-1701.

You need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale. A minimum deposit will be held at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/2-7.1, et seq., and the mortgagee, Bank of America, N.A., has the right to remain in possession for 30 days after entry of an order of possession, in accordance with section 10-1701 of the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law, 765 ILCS 605/17-1701.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building.

You need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building. The sale is being held subject to a first mortgage loan. Any remaining funds, balance, by certified funds, shall be paid to the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/2-7.1, et seq., and the mortgagee, Bank of America, N.A., has the right to remain in possession for 30 days after entry of an order of possession, in accordance with section 10-1701 of the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law, 765 ILCS 605/17-1701.
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08/30/18 5838041

60068 by 10:00am on September 10th, 2018. All bids must be publicly opened and read aloud. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Bid Security. Bids must be accompanied by a bid deposit of at least 10% of the total bid amount. Bid deposits may be in the form of a bid bond, cashier’s check, money order or bank draft.

New AD Placement

The City of Park Ridge will accept sealed proposals for a web-based access control locking system which can track employees entering/exiting the City hall and two fire stations in accordance with the provisions of the Illinois Wage Law to all laborers, craftsmen, journeymen and other workers employed in the work. The Village reserves the right to reject any or all bids in whole or in part, to waive or not to waive formalities therein, and to accept or reject the bids considered to be in the best interest of the Village of Park Ridge.

The Village of Morton Grove will accept sealed bids for the repurposing of said Village, that is the tentative budget for said school district for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019 in the amount of $3.000.000.00.

The search begins! Many apartment and home hunters check the Classifieds before looking for a new place to live. Advertise your rental units with us to get a jump on the competition! Call 866-399-0537 or visit www.tribunesuburbs.com

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The Classifieds can showcase your business or services! Advertise your cleaning service, website or webpage company or daycare with us today! Call 866-399-0537 or visit www.tribunesuburbs.com
When employer deducts health insurance premiums but provides no insurance, who can help?

Within a span of a few days I received the below two emails requesting advice on what to do about an employer who deducts health and dental insurance premiums from employees' paychecks but doesn't provide coverage.

Neither of the individuals would provide the company's name or the town in which they reside for fear of retribution, but the topic is serious enough that I sought out expert guidance on their behalf.

"My employer is deducting from my check for health insurance but not providing it. I'm not the only employee this happened to. Once I found out I was not enrolled in any health insurance, I canceled. They've been deducting from my check for seven months. They are supposed to pay me the money back that they took out of my check but now they're giving me the runaround. What can I do?"

Rebecca

"My employer has been deducting money out of my paycheck each month for dental insurance but my dental insurance is inactive. It has been inactive since 2013 but my job is taking money out for dental insurance that I cannot use. What should I do?"

Vanessa

A regular contributor this column, Michele Thornton, assistant professor of health services administration at State University New York-Oswego and a health insurance and benefits consultant, advised that there are two paths these individuals could take:

1. If Rebecca and Vanessa actually want the insurance coverage, they should contact the insurance companies directly and provide evidence that deductions were taken from their checks. It is common, Thornton said, for insurers to cover medical expenses retroactively if proof can be provided that deductions were withdrawn by the employer.

This would obviously also require contact with their companies' human resources department in order to clear up where the money went/why coverage was denied.

2. If Rebecca and Vanessa want the money returned for their unused premium deductions, this would then become an employment practices issue as opposed to an insurance issue. According to Thornton, the two employees should first file a formal internal complaint with their company's HR department, and if no satisfying resolution is reached, escalate the issue to the U.S. Department of Labor by filing a formal complaint.

Larry Grudzien, an Oak Park attorney specializing in employee benefits law, elaborated on why and how Rebecca and Vanessa should file a formal complaint with the U.S. and Illinois Departments of Labor.

"If neither can get any resolution from their employer, they should call the Department of Labor," said Grudzien. "DOL's investigators will call the employer. They are clearly violating many sections of ERISA (the Employee Retirement Income Security Act)."

Grudzien suggested calling rather than completing the DOL's online form.

"I would call the local office and say, 'I have a complaint.' They will generally follow up," he said.

Per the U.S. Department of Labor's website, "The Employee Retirement Income Security Act, (a) a federal law that sets minimum standards for most voluntarily established pension and health plans in private industry to provide protection for individuals in these plans.

These standards include providing participants with detailed plan information; demonstrating fiduciary responsibility; establishing a grievance and appeals process; and providing participants the right to sue should they be denied benefits or experience a breach of fiduciary duty by those who control the plan's assets.

Grudzien explained that when an employer sponsors a benefits program, it takes on the fiduciary duty of a trustee, and as such is required to administer its plan as written and not harm its employees.

With all this in mind, Grudzien suggested Rebecca and Vanessa contact the state Department of Labor (in this case, the Illinois DOL) and the local U.S. Department of Labor office:

- U.S. Department of Labor, Chicago (866) 487-2365
- Illinois Department of Labor, Chicago (312) 793-2800

These individuals will have to provide documentation of everything they are claiming," Grudzien said. "DOL will need this evidence so they can investigate.

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

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.

Thrive is coming to Chicago this September! Experience an extraordinary escape from the everyday so that you can rejuvenate, refresh and re-energize tomorrow.

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**COMMUNITY REAL ESTATE** **HOMES IN YOUR AREA**

**GRAYS LAKE**

Five-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home on a cul-de-sac. House has eat-in kitchen with granite counter tops and stainless steel appliances. Kitchen opens to the family room that includes a brick fireplace. House has a formal living and dining room. Master bedroom has en-suite bathroom with a jetted tub. Lower level has finished recreation room. Backyard has wood deck with two-level entertaining area.

**Address:** 141 Partridge Court  
**Price:** $354,500  
**Schools:** Grayslake Central High School  
**Taxes:** $12,464.86  

**Agent:** Cindy McDowall/Better Homes And Gardens Real Estate

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**BARRINGTON**

Four-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home on a cul-de-sac. House has eat-in kitchen with granite counter tops and stainless steel appliances. Kitchen opens to the family room that includes a brick fireplace. House has a formal living and dining room. Master bedroom has en-suite bathroom with a jetted tub. Lower level has finished recreation room. Backyard has wood deck with two-level entertaining area.

**Address:** 130 Redwood Lane  
**Price:** $825,000  
**Schools:** Barrington High School  
**Taxes:** $12,505.63  

**Agent:** Carolyn Goodman/@Properties

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**ROUND LAKE**

Four-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom home. House has an open floor plan with vaulted ceilings. Eat-in kitchen has center island, custom backsplash and stainless steel appliances. Family room has stone fireplace. House features a sunroom. Master suite bathroom has double sinks and a jetted tub. House has 3-car garage with finished epoxy floor and a full walk-out basement.

**Address:** 227 S. Winthrop Drive  
**Price:** $320,000  
**Schools:** Grant Community High School  
**Taxes:** $11,100.68  

**Agent:** Felicia Jordan/Redfin Corporation

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**ARLINGTON HEIGHTS**

Four-bedroom, two-bathroom home. Kitchen has stainless steel appliances, backsplash and 1954 retro kitchen cabinets. First floor has hardwood flooring. First floor also includes bedrooms and a renovated bathroom. The second floor features bedrooms and a renovated bathroom as well. House has a full basement. Backyard has a deck and fire pit. Two-car garage.

**Address:** 410 S. Evergreen Ave.  
**Price:** $433,500  
**Schools:** Rolling Meadows High School  
**Taxes:** $5,365.04  

**Agent:** Karen Majerczak/Compass

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—Tom Moran, EON Clinics Patient
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>BUYER</th>
<th>SELLER</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2641 N Windsor Dr, # 102, Arlington Heights</td>
<td>Olena Kotselko &amp; Halya Bidyuk</td>
<td>Mario Sauxeda</td>
<td>06-25-18</td>
<td>$128,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>928 S Scarsdale Ct, Arlington Heights</td>
<td>Louis M Neri &amp; Nicole E Neri</td>
<td>Associated Bank Na</td>
<td>06-25-18</td>
<td>$992,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102 Armstrong Dr, # 3E, Buffalo Grove</td>
<td>Ivar E Melnikau &amp; Otilia Koval</td>
<td>Sergei Kamerly</td>
<td>07-12-18</td>
<td>$136,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1125 Auburn Ln, Buffalo Grove</td>
<td>Margarito Corona &amp; Regina Corona</td>
<td>Gina M Imbringle Pascucci</td>
<td>07-25-18</td>
<td>$193,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>378 Coventry Ter, Buffalo Grove</td>
<td>Boris Faltushansky &amp; Diana Faltushansky</td>
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<td>150 Lake Blvd, # 114, Buffalo Grove</td>
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<td>Nicholas J Dayhoff</td>
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<td>148 Manchester Dr, # 405, Buffalo Grove</td>
<td>Janane Filippini</td>
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<td>Deborah Bendoff &amp; Daniel Bendoff</td>
<td>Barry Rubin</td>
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<td>2065 Chelsey St, Buffalo Grove</td>
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<td>Jw Prairie Landing Llc</td>
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<td>2961 Kingdon Dr, Buffalo Grove</td>
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<td>Stephen E Blackman</td>
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<td>621 Dulles Rd, # A, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Vinita Patel</td>
<td>Rosemarie Angara Pasamba</td>
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<td>1970 Everett Ave, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Carmelina D Allegretti &amp; Elvis Gomez</td>
<td>Patrick O McDonough</td>
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<td>Lurl Ovadila</td>
<td>Mark Dayer</td>
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<td>Ravin Sankar Vinturi &amp; Sai K Rao Patapati</td>
<td>Quentin 3LL</td>
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<td>2434 N Hopeville Ct, Kildeer</td>
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<td>23230 N Prairie Landing Ct, Kildeer</td>
<td>Harpreet Guttal &amp; Preet Guttal</td>
<td>Michael E Rericco</td>
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<td>Jose Carlos Carreras &amp; Daxia &amp; Ruth Romero Sanos</td>
<td>Daryl L Beece</td>
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<td>William K Hadler</td>
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<td>611 Glenwood Rd, Lake Forest</td>
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<td>Marcus Kuracina</td>
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<td>1910 W Southmeadow Ln, Lake Forest</td>
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<td>Terri Lim Whitter</td>
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<td>321 S Basswood Rd, Lake Forest</td>
<td>James Byron &amp; Elizabeth Byron</td>
<td>Justin L Titus</td>
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<td>390 E Woodland Rd, Lake Forest</td>
<td>Joseph Radecki &amp; Mariela Martin Radecki</td>
<td>Austin Deegree</td>
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<td>6 Clearwater Ct, Lake Zurich</td>
<td>Michael D Ursin Jr</td>
<td>Michael D Ursin</td>
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<td>165 Pine Tree Rd, Lake Zurich</td>
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<td>1156 Jordan Cir, Lake Zurich</td>
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<td>Brian James Wilgus</td>
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<td>9 Prospect Rd, Lake Zurich</td>
<td>Emily J Johns</td>
<td>Andrew N Rink</td>
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<td>960 Sandrewood Ct, Lake Zurich</td>
<td>Marcos Lushpynskyj &amp; Alyson O Lushpynskyj</td>
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<td>616 S Milwaukee Ave, # F, Libertyville</td>
<td>Aleksandar Bekkerman</td>
<td>Lake County Sheriff</td>
<td>07-12-18</td>
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This list is not intended to be a complete record of all real estate transactions. Data compiled by Record Information Services 630-557-1000 public-record.com
'Man of La Mancha' dares to hope

Skokie Theatre presents classic with a twist

By Myrna Petlicki
Pioneer Press

Cervantes may be in prison awaiting his sentencing during the Spanish Inquisition but that doesn't stop his mind from taking a flight of fancy as he becomes Don Quixote in "Man of La Mancha."

MadKap Productions is staging the Broadway musical by Dale Wasserman (book), Joe Darion (lyrics), and Mitch Leigh (music) Sept. 7-30 under Stephen M. Genovese's direction.

"I think there are a lot of really interesting parallels throughout history to this quest to be more, to do better, especially when faced with oppression — whatever that oppression is," Genovese said. "In the theme of the show, they're talking Inquisition, but you could look at McCarthyism, you could look at modern-day misogyny. People want to make the most of their lives."

That is certainly true of Quixote, the "Knight of the Woeful Countenance" who dares to dream "The Impossible Dream."

"I didn't realize I was going to be getting the lead. It was a great shock to me but I was grateful for the opportunity," Caron said. "I was hoping to get Sancho," Caron admitted.

"When I first auditioned, I wasn't sure if there was a role for me in this show," Olivier said. "As soon as I heard Stephen was open to gender-bending a few casting choices, I immediately knew this was the role I wanted. I relate to Sancho the most out of all the characters — the idea of being sort of a beleaguered friend who always gets the short end of the stick."

Olivier described Sancho as "the quintessential sidekick — always there when the hero needs him. But also always there to point out when something is not quite right."

"The role I wanted. I relate to Sancho the most out of all the characters — the idea of being sort of a beleaguered friend who always gets the short end of the stick."

"In terms of the songs, Olivier particularly enjoys singing "I Really Like Him." "I think it sort of wraps up Sancho's character in a neat little package," she said.

"I want people to come to this show and be entertained," director Genovese said. "But there is a deeper message there for those who want it."

Actor Caron added, "We live in a world where violence and mistreatment of others is so common that people need to find a positive in life."

"It's about 'daring to hope,'" Olivier said. "'Daring to hold onto an idea of what something could be — not what it is.'"

Myrna Petlicki is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Learn to read Hebrew in 5 classes at Chabad Northbrook: Participants who join in this upcoming course, Read It In Hebrew (RIIH), will become comfortable opening a prayer book in five short weeks. RIIH is a whole new way of learning. Attendees meet for five Thursday nights, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Register at the website or call 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Lubavitch Chabad of Northbrook, 2095 Landwehr Rd., Northbrook, $100 includes materials, 847-564-8770.

Mac Basics: In this demonstration class, attendees discover what is needed to know about using mail, surfing the web, keeping their Mac computer updated, backed up and more. 1 p.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Rd., Northfield, $9 member; $25 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

A Day in Sheboygan and Kohler, Wisconsin: Experience the John Michael Kohler Art Museum, with a docent-led trip of the galleries, including “Out, Out Phosphene Candle” in the Main Gallery. A must-see is a trip to the restrooms – created by national artists. Also, enjoy lunch at Sprecher’s Pub, along with a stop down the road at the Kohler Design Center to tour their design center. The fee includes lunch, all tours and transportation. 8:30 a.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Rd., Northfield, $99 members; $119 nonmembers, 847-784-6030.

Gentle Balance: Enhance your core strength, balance, coordination, stability and flexibility with low intensity, gentle exercises that may be done seated or standing. This class is great for those with mobility, stamina or balance limitations, and is suitable for participants using canes, walkers and wheelchairs. 1 p.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Rd., Northfield, $41 member; $69 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Photography Exhibit: Dancing for My Tribe: The photography show, “Dancing for My Tribe: Potawatomi Tradition in Modern Times,” is currently on exhibit at the Wilmette Historical Museum. The show features dramatic, large-format photographic portraits of Potawatomi Indians in their modern dance regalia, revealing a modern people who live in a world of sewing machines, duct tape and acrylics. The photographer, Sharon Hoogstraten, is a Chicago resident and a descendant of the Ouilmette family. 10 a.m. daily, Wilmette Historical Museum, 609 Woods Dr., Wilmette, free, 847-957-4600.

Photography Exhibit: Time Warp: On view through Aug. 31, the exhibition is curated by Chicago-based LVL3 and features new works by LVL3 artists Robert Chase Heishman, Annie Kielman and Ben Marcus. 10 a.m. Thursday and Friday, Fashion Outlets of Chicago, 5220 Fashion Outlets Way, Rosemont, free, 847-926-7500.
**WHAT TO DO COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

at the market (service animals excepted). LINK cards are accepted. 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Oak Avenue and University Place, 1900 University Pl., Evanston, free, 847-448-8045.

Amy O. Woodbury's 18th Annual Front Yard Art Sale: Evanston artist Amy O. Woodbury hosts her 18th Annual Front Yard Art Sale, Saturday and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (rain date Sept. 3). This kid-friendly, Evanston event includes: 60-plus paintings, drawings and mixed media pieces on sale. See abstracts, horizons, fantasy figures and large-scale "murals." The Bargain Bin has prices starting at $35, and the always popular note cards, still for $20, you choose. Visit the artist's website to see what's in store. 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Artist Studio - Amy O. Woodbury, 1931 Colfax St., Evanston, free, 847-644-8781.

Richard III: Muse of Fire Theatre Company celebrates its 10th Anniversary Season by presenting Richard III, starring company member Jon Beal. All performances are free to the public. 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Ingraham Park, 2100 Ridge Ave., Evanston, free.

Glencoe French Market: Head to the Metra Commuter Parking Lot every Saturday morning throughout the summer and early fall to shop for flowers, baked treats, veggies and fruit. 8 a.m. Saturday, Downtown Glencoe, Green Bay Road and Park Avenue, Glencoe, free, 847-835-4111.

Glenview Farmers Market: This free weekly event takes place rain or shine. Shop for seasonal fruits and vegetables, flowers, homemade jellies and preserves, cheese and farm-fresh eggs. For a full list of vendors and special market events, visit www.glenviewfarmersmarket.org. For more information, call 8 a.m. Saturday, Wagner Farm, 1510 Wagner Rd., Glenview, free, 847-724-5670.

Yoga Storytime: Relax, stretch and get some Early Literacy into your Saturday morning with this interactive yoga-inspired Storytime. For Pre-K to Grade 2 with caregiver; the whole family is welcome. No registration is required. 10 a.m. Saturday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277.

Morton Grove Farmers’ Market: The MGFM has become “Morton Grove’s Summer and Fall Town Square.” The market is open at 8 a.m. and closes at 1 p.m. on Saturdays through October 20 in front of the Morton Grove Civic Center. Check out the fresh produce, plants and flowers, baked goods, prepared foods and a variety of other vendors and more.

For times and participants, visit the website and www.facebook.com/MG-FarmersMarket. Be sure to visit the Morton Grove Museum/Haupt-Yehl House; it is located at 6240 Dempster, just behind the Farmers’ Market open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 8 a.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Civic Center, 6400 Dempster St., Morton Grove, free, 847-750-6436.

Morton Grove Farmers Market: Browse a wide variety of vendors and enjoy live entertainment and kids activities at this weekly market. 8 a.m. Saturday, Dempster Street and Georgian Avenue, 6210 Dempster St., Morton Grove, free, 847-750-6436.

New Movie Releases: The Post: A cover-up that spanned four U.S. Presidents pushed the country’s first female lawmaker and a hard-driving editor to join an unprecedented battle between the press and the government. 1 p.m. Saturday, Niles-Maine District Library, 6960 Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234.

Park Ridge Farmers Market: Weekly town market, Saturday mornings from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the corner of Prairie and Garden, just south of the Metra Tracks. 7 a.m. Saturday, Park Ridge Farmers Market, 15 S. Prairie Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-212-9994.

Winnetka French Market: Shop for fruits, vegetables, flowers, cheeses, meats and breads from local and regional vendors. 8 a.m. Saturday, Wilmette Village Center, 14th Street and Greenleaf Avenue, Wilmette, free, 847-251-2700.

Winnetka Farmers Market: Shop for fresh-picked fruits and vegetables, blooming plants, shrubs, cut flowers, cheeses, baked goods and specialty foods on Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The market takes place at the corner of Green Bay Road and Oak Street, across the street from the Winnetka Train Station. Take place rain or shine through October 20. 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Winnetka Village Hall parking lot, 510 Green Bay Rd., Winnetka, free, 847-446-4451.

Sunday, Sept. 2

Skokie Farmers Market: Farmers and vendors from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin sell fresh-picked vegetables, fruits and flowers along with cheese, baked goods, coffee, sauces and spices. 7:30 a.m. Sunday, Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton St., Skokie, free, 847-673-0500.


Monday, Sept. 3

JCC Chicago Open Game Room: JCC Chicago offers free game rooms at the Bernard Weinger JCC in Northbrook. You bring the games, and we’ll provide a room, tables and chairs. Noon Monday and 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Bernard Weinger JCC, 400 Revere Dr., Northbrook, free, 224-406-9257.

Alliance Française du N. Shore Café Conversation Matin: All levels are welcome for relaxed French conversation, facilitated by native or fluent speakers. Listening in French is encouraged. For more information: AFnorthshore.org and meetup.com/afnorthshore. 10 a.m. Monday, Panera, 1199 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-885-1274.

Tuesday, Sept. 4

Career Counseling Appointments: 30-minute appointments are available from: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday. Consult with a career expert for resume help and job search strategies for any stage of your career. To register, call 847-729-7500 x7700. 9 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Lego Club for Grades 1-2: Join in for this monthly free build. The library provides the Legos you bring the ideas, and everything will be awesome! 4 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

AJEC - Adult Jewish Education Co-op - Lecture: AJEC presents Dr. Lenin Kushmir, Ed.D. who speaks about preparing our hearts and souls for the New Year with inner reflection, and the renewal of strength and hope. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Keshet Day School, 2310 Dundee Road, Northbrook, $15, 847-363-0000.

AJEC - Adult Jewish Education Co-op - Lecture: AJEC presents Dr. Lenin Kushmir, Ed.D. who speaks about preparing our hearts and souls for the New Year with inner reflection, and the renewal of strength and hope. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Keshet Day School, 2310 Dundee Road, Northbrook, $15, 847-363-0000.

The Breakfast Club: Rise and shine and start your day off right with networking and breakfast. This is hosted by Park Ridge Chamber Ambassador Dave Donovan. Register at the event website or by contacting the Park Ridge Chamber office by calling. Enjoy breakfast at Lola’s Diner and bring your business cards for networking. 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Lola’s Diner, 920 Busse Hwy., Park Ridge, $11 members, $15 prospective members, 847-825-3121.

Nature Neighbors: Those ages 4-5 explore the wonders of the pond, prairie and woodland "neighborhoods" and learn about the animal neighbors that live there through exploration, play and creative projects. This is a drop-off class; child must be toilet-trained. (No class 9/11) Visit the website or call to sign up. 3:15 p.m. Tuesday, Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, $108 Skokie resident; $145 non-resident, 847-677-7070.

Toddlabugs: Through exploration and play in the natural world, your child builds and strengthens their motor and language skills. Each class focuses on a new animal and sensory experience and introduces simple sign language. An adult must accompany each child. (No class 9/11) Visit the website or call to sign up. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, $120 Skokie resident; $138 non-resident, 847-677-7070.

Scoutin’ Around for Homeschool - Ages 6 to 10: Those ages 6-10 explore the natural world, learn new skills, can be creative and have fun with friends this fall. Activities change weekly and include outdoor adventures and science topics. (No class 9/11) Visit the website or call to sign up. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, $120 Skokie resident; $150 non-resident, 847-677-7070.

Wednesday, Sept. 5

Top Box for Schools coming to ETHS: Pre-orders for the fresh produce and local meat boxes have closed, but you can still stop by the delivery day on October 4 at ETHS, Entrance 2. Come learn more, see the offerings and try some samples. Save on groceries and support local farmers while fundraising for ETHS student clubs. 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, free, 847-864-8904.

Found’s Salon Series Featuring Nicholas Barron: Found Kitchen and Social House are featuring a new collective of interactive events dubbed the "Salon Series." As a part of this series, Evanston’s own Nicholas Barron is set to perform every Wednesday night, 8 p.m. Wednesday, Found Kitchen & Social House, 1631 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 847-868-8945.

Knitting Club: If you want to learn to knit, or you are working on a knitting or crochet project, drop-in to share tips, show off your work and converse with fellow needle arts enthusiasts. Bring your own knitting supplies. 11 a.m.

Turn to Calendar, Page 23
Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Rd., Northfield, $69 member; $89 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Madame X Marks the Spot: The Art of John Singer Sargent: Art historian Jeff Mishur continues his series of programs focusing on American artists. In this lecture, Mishur discusses highlights of John Singer Sargent's career as a portraitist, muralist and en plein air painter. Sargent's society portraits including “Madame X” gave him the financial freedom to paint diverse subjects and travel in Italy, England, France and Spain.

Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Rd., Northfield, $12 member; $17 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Twenty-first Star Chapter NSDAR September 2018 Meeting: Chapter Regent, Carol Gale, is pleased to have Mary Helfrich, NSDAR District IV Director, give a presentation entitled, “Preserving Our Stories.” Mary is a past Vice Regent and Regent of the Eli Skinner Chapter. At the state level, she served as the State Chairman of Americanism, as well as on the DAR School and Conservation Committees. If interested in learning more about the Daughters of the American Revolution or attending one of their meetings, contact Dorothy Wilson for further details.

JCC Chicago Community Wednesdays: Every Wednesday, join for a few hours of mind, body and spirit enrichment. They host two, one-hour lectures/classes throughout the day, along with their fitness class offerings at the Marvin Lustbader Center. So, choose how you want to spend your day at the 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Bernard Weinger JCC, 300 Revere Dr., Northbrook, free for Lustbader members; $10 nonmembers, 224-272-7250.

Northbrook Farmers Market: Shop more than a score of booths for farm fresh produce and other delicious artisan foods. Be sure to check out new and returning vendors. The market is open 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays through Oct. 17, rain or shine, except in severe weather. For more information, visit the website. Join the conversations on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

The End of the Hausfrau: German Women Today: German women are celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. Emancipation has reached Europe's most populous nation full force; the country is led by a female Chancellor, a record number of women are working and they are eclipsing men in terms of education and career goals. All this progress, however, does not come without its drawbacks. Anette Isaacs discusses what it is like to be a woman in today's German society. 1 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member; $17 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Reflections at the Art Institute Daytrip: Schedule includes: transportation to the Art Institute; a keynote lecture in the Rubloff Auditorium; visiting the galleries; experiencing drawing opportunities; visiting the new Edlis/Neeson Collection in the Modern Wing; lunch in the Chicago Stock Exchange Trading Room and many other activities. 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277.

Free Workshop: Understanding Long Term Care: The Heartland Institute of Financial Education (HIFE) presents a free workshop to help attendees understand the ins-ands-outs of long-term care and funeral concierge services. Participants are eligible for a one-hour complimentary consultation with one of the instructors. For more information, contact Karen Brownlee, kbrownlee@naymca.org or call 1-815 a.m. Wednesday, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Rd., Northbrook, free, 847-272-7250.

Skokie Synagogue Sisterhood Luncheon and Fashion Show: Kicking off the Sisterhood's 2018-19 season, with styles by the newly renovated Macy's store in Old Orchard, Sisterhood Event Chairperson, Esther Berman, joins in talking about the latest fashions and newest styles. Skokie resident Judy Frank, president of the Sisterhood says, "This is another one of the outstanding programs our Sisterhood offers all year long...the Sisterhood is very proud of the work it does for our synagogue and for our community." 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Country Club, 636 North Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, $22.50, 847-328-6946.

Have an event to submit? Go to www.ChicagoTribune.com/Calendar.
Bauer, Diane
(née Simkowski) "Bima" passed away peacefully on August 24, 2018, with her loving family at her side at age 75. Beloved wife of Robert Bauer for 54 years. Devoted mother of Dr. Michael (Maria), Debbie (Ray) Boyle, Jeffrey and Tom (Veronica). Proud grandmother of Anna, Kelly, Sean, Catie, Quinn and Victoria. Preceded in death by her father Roman, mother Charlotte and older brothers George (Patricia) and Robert (Tillie) Simkowski. Beloved aunt and a dear, wise friend to everyone she knew. Dedicated craft and cake decorating instructor. Proud volunteer at Washington School in Park Ridge for many years. She will be missed by everyone who knew her.

A Memorial Funeral Mass will be held Saturday, September 1 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul of the Cross Church, 320 S. Washington Ave, Park Ridge, IL, followed by a procession to the Town of Maine cemetery for the Inurnment. In lieu of flowers, donations to MNASR, 6820 W Dempster St, Morton Grove, IL 6003 or www.mnasr.org. Arrangements entrusted to Green Burials of Love, Ltd. Marion O'Connor Friel- Funeral Director. Info@colonialfuneral.com or (847)-721-0322.
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Chicago Tribune
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Best 3-row SUV: 2019 Subaru Ascent or 2018 Volkswagen Atlas?

BY KELSEY MAYS
AND JOE BRUZEK
Cars.com

Somewhere between trading neighborhoods with good gastropubs for neighborhoods with good grade schools, the city runabout no longer cuts it as a family hauler. Enter the three-row SUV. The 2018 Volkswagen Atlas is the current champ, with enough utility and drivability to beat the Toyota Highlander, Chevy Traverse and Honda Pilot in Cars.com's best three-row SUV for 2018. But then Subaru re-entered the ring with the all-new 2019 Ascent, its first three-row SUV since the demise of the Tribeca. How do the two match up? Managing Editor Joe Bruzek and Senior Consumer Affairs Editor Kelsey Mays — both new dads — drove the SUVs back to back.

The top-of-the-line 2019 Ascent Touring ($45,670 with destination) faced off against the 2018 Atlas SEL ($44,135), both with all-wheel drive and three rows of seats.

Interior quality: Ascent
Kelsey: “I'm not wild about the Ascent's interior aesthetics; the center controls look as scattershot as an episode of 'Westworld.' But from a quality standpoint, Ascent wraps stitched soft-touch panels in areas where the Atlas leaves an expanse of hard, cheap plastic — especially in the second row, where Volkswagen exhibits obvious cost-cutting.” Joe: “The Atlas' interior has always been just OK in my book — not bad, not great. That was until I drove the Ascent for this test and the Atlas' interior suddenly felt low-rent.”

Third-row viability: Atlas
“The two SUVs feel like they're competing in different size classes judging solely on third-row room,” Bruzek said. “The larger Atlas has a third row I comfortably fit in, while the Ascent's third row is best suited for kids; my head hit the top of the inside, and my knees were practically in my throat.”

“Third-row adults will want to negotiate more knee space from those in the sliding second row in both SUVs, but the Atlas only needs a few clicks forward to make it workable in back,” Mays said. “In the Ascent, you need to slide the second row almost all the way forward to create workable legroom in the third row — a point at which it's tight for adults in the second row.” The Atlas also had better cargo room. But on tech convenience and comfort, Subaru Ascent climbs ahead.

Technology: Ascent
“With six USB ports versus Volkswagen's four, plus real buttons instead of the Atlas' capacitive-touch ones ... the Ascent was more intuitive up front and more family-friendly in back,” Mays said.

Bruzek agreed, calling Subaru's multimedia system one of the best in class. The Atlas has a "clean look, but it's also easy to graze the wrong button, and glare from the screen is killer."

Subaru also excelled with advanced driver assistance systems. "Ascent's adaptive cruise brakes smoothly to follow traffic, smartly observing the car ahead and alerts when it leaves," Bruzek said. "The Atlas runs up on the car ahead and then panic-brakes, jarring everything/everyone in the car."

Drivability: Atlas
While the Ascent was quieter on the road and had a softer ride quality, the Atlas had a more powerful powertrain and more agile handling.

The Ascent had outstanding insulation that "keeps noise out of the cabin more like a luxury car than a three-row SUV," said Bruzek.

While both the Atlas and Ascent have impressive rides, the Ascent elevates the experience, punished Mays. Bruzek agreed.

"Large bumps don't upset the Ascent like they do in the Atlas, where you can feel the car pitch and roll on broken pavement. Volkswagen's Atlas set the benchmark for ride quality, and the Ascent beat it."

But leave it to the Germans to excel at more performance-minded aspects. "The longer we own our long-term Atlas, the more I realize its unsung quality is handling," Mays said. "The steering is quick-ratio yet low-effort, and grippy tires with limited body roll make the SUV surprisingly agile. By contrast, handling might be the Ascent's biggest disappointment: lots of suspension lean, sloppy steering, skittish tires." The V-6 engine in the Atlas reigns over the turbocharged four-cylinder in the Ascent. "There's no replacement for the immediate acceleration of a good V-6 and traditional transmission, even if it is an eight-speed automatic in the Atlas," Bruzek said.

"The Ascent's continuously variable automatic transmission is one of the more refined ones, but paired with the turbo engine, there's noticeable accelera-

Overall winner: Atlas
While the results were close, the Atlas once again came out on top as the best three-row midsize SUV. "Atlas realizes the promise of a family SUV: Roomy seats, lots of storage space and capable drivability," Mays said. "The Ascent has better quality and a few more family-friendly features, but it misses the mark on some must-have qualities in this class." "Ascent's interior spanked the Volkswagen, which helped close the gap to the Atlas' exceeding comfort and usability that pushed the Atlas to the win," Bruzek said. "We haven't seen an interior this nice from Subaru ever. It's especially interesting because Volkswagen's hallmark used to be that you could get a premium interior and more refined driving experience compared with similarly priced competitors, but you had to sacrifice interior room; that's now a perfect summary of the Subaru Ascent. It wasn't enough to dethrone the incredibly roomy Volkswagen Atlas, however, which remains our favorite three-row SUV."

For the full comparison, visit Cars.com
WEEK 1 FOOTBALL MAINE SOUTH 35, GLENBARD WEST 14

By Mike Clark
Chicago Tribune

All summer long, Maine South’s quarterback competition played out between seniors Bobby Inserra and Cole Dow.

Finally this week, coach Dave Inserra decided to go with his son, a move that couldn’t have turned out better for the Hawks.

Bobby Inserra made two long touchdown plays, one run and one pass, early in the second quarter and Maine South rolled past Glenbard West 35-14 in a season opener in Park Ridge.

Inserra passed for 146 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 130 yards and another score.

"It just has been my dream, coming to Maine South and being the quarterback, being able to play with my dad," said Bobby Inserra, who started on defense last season after playing quarterback at the lower levels.

His 69-yard touchdown dash down the right side on the first play of the second quarter opened the scoring. On Maine South’s next offensive play, Inserra found Dan Lazic for a 60-yard touchdown pass.

Two plays later, the Hawks got the ball back when Dylan Harris recovered a Glenbard West fumble at the Hilltoppers’ 16-yard line. Lazic then ran 4 yards for another score, capping a 21-0 Hawks run over 4 minutes, 26 seconds.

"It was a little tough ... throwing into the wind at the beginning," Bobby Inserra said. "But we picked it up. Got a little groove going, scored a few touchdowns in a row and from there we just had some momentum."

Inserra’s success didn’t surprise junior left tackle Peter Skoronski.

"He’s so calm and he’s so athletic," Skoronski said. "He believes in us. He’s just a great guy to have back there. You know he’s going to make a play." "Glenbard West had 169 yards and a pair of touchdowns on the ground from Tyquan Cox, but never got closer than two touchdowns.

"He’s phenomenal, he’s quick, he’s electric," Dave Inserra said of Cox. "The whole (defensive) game plan was to stop him and not give up the deep ball."

It was the second straight decisive victory in the series for Maine South, which won 62-34 last season.

"They did not like what we did to them year," Bobby Inserra said. "They came in and wanted to prove everyone wrong."

But in the end, he proved his dad right.

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Volleyball

Niles West’s Pehar picks Jacksonville volleyball

By Jon J. Kerr
Pioneer Press

Natalia Pehar likes to dance — on the volleyball court.

The Niles West senior spiked the ball for a match-ending kill on Thursday, capping a 25-14, 25-19 win at Lake Forest.

As soon as the ball landed on the court, Pehar did a little dance for one interested spectator.

"It was for my mom," Pehar said. "Whenever I get a (kill), I start dancing."

Pehar’s on-court dances may be frequent occurrences this season. There are taller outside hitters than the 5-foot-10 Pehar, but there are few with her reach and power.

"I love passing the ball and having the satisfaction of just watching her pound it," senior libero Sloan Tomczak said.

Against the Scouts, Pehar finished with 10 kills. The Wolves run a 6-2 formation, which features two setters. Tomczak usually gets the Wolves going, and sophomore setters Julia Panait and Evan Arvizu send the ball along to Pehar or sophomore Elianna Scalero for kill attempts.

Scalero had seven kills against the Scouts. Niles West lost its season opener against Resurrection in straight sets, and the Wolves were out of sync for most of the match. A strong practice on Aug. 22 helped them correct their course and led to the dominant performance against Lake Forest.

"We were a totally different team (against Lake Forrest)," Niles West coach Stacy Roth said. "Passing and blocking were there. We were serving well and took them out of their offense."

"All communication," added Tomczak, who resides in Skokie. "We were talking with every ball we got."

A Lincolnwood resident, Pehar said she has talked for years about playing college volleyball. A member of 1st Alliance Volleyball Club, Pehar had yet to commit heading into the summer of 2018.

An invitation to visit Jacksonville presented an opportunity fulfill a childhood dream.

"Ever since I was younger, I wanted to go to a Florida or California school," Pehar said.

On July 3, she flew to Florida for an official visit. A quick tour around Jacksonville's campus had Pehar smitten. The Dolphins of Jacksonville presented an opportunity to commit.

"The coaches and girls are so nice, and I saw the palm trees and outdoor classes," Pehar said. "That first day I was like, 'This is where I'm going!' I fell in love."

Before she heads south, she has some unfinished business at Niles West. The Wolves have a young, talented roster, along with size in the middle. Senior middle hitter Nerina Alic and juniors Arianna Lopez and Majila Spahija combined for 15 blocks against Lake Forest. Pehar’s younger sister, freshman Gianna Pehar, is among the team’s new contributors.

"We have a pretty strong offense with two good outsides," Roth said. "Natalia can get to every ball, even if they aren’t perfect, and can make good plays out of it."

When Pehar is jumping, swinging and finishing kills, the Wolves are at their best. When the Wolves are at their best, their best player is dancing.

"I do it all the time," Pehar said.

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Natalia Pehar enjoys dancing on the volleyball court. She has committed to play college volleyball for Jacksonville.

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Jon J. Kerr is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Glenbrook North, Vernon Hills cruise in Week 1

BY JON J. KERR
Pioneer Press

Glenbrook North football coach Bob Pieper said he believed sophomore quarterback Dylan Buckner could run the offense based on how he played in summer camp. However, Pieper couldn't know for sure until Buckner played a game.

Now he knows his trust in Buckner was justified.

Buckner completed 10 of 19 passes for 216 yards and two touchdowns as the Spartans couldn't react to a 34-13 victory Friday against Wheeling.

"He earned the job because of his decision-making and playmaking ability," Pieper said. "Overall, he did a really good job of controlling the huddle and getting us in the right place."

The game started with a 14-play, 78-yard drive for the Spartans, capped by a 28-yard touchdown pass from Buckner to Ben Kieffer. The Spartans led the rest of the game.

Glenbrook North had a balanced attack against Wheeling. Senior running back Ethan Quayle carried the ball 15 times for 90 yards. Junior Grant Marro scored three touchdowns and racked up 77 yards on 10 carries. The defense got five sacks and held Wheeling's first-team offense to one touchdown. "1-0 is a great start," Pieper said. "The only thing better is 2-0." The Spartans will host Grant on Friday.

Cougars back on the prowl

The Vernon Hills football team reached the Class 5A state title game in 2016, but that run left the Cougars with a young team that struggled often last fall. But now that those players have gained varsity experience, coach Bill Bellcomo's squad appears to be a strong one again.

Vernon Hills opened the season with a 38-21 win at Grayslake Central. Senior running back Jake Morris ran for 178 yards and two touchdowns in the first half as the Cougars scored 22 unanswered points after trailing 7-0.

"We love being able to run the ball. We were one-dimensional last year," Bellcomo said. He added that Morris, a three-year starter, is a "workhorse."

Injuries crippled the offensive line in 2017, but that unit could be a strength of the team in 2018. Senior Maximos Xu, hurt for most of last year, is back. Senior Jack Peterson filled in for Xu at center last year and went into this season with seven career starts. They helped protect senior quarterback Derek Jarrell, seen here throwing a pass last season, helped the Cougars defeat Grayslake Central on Friday.

Vernon Hills quarterback Derek Jarrell, seen here throwing a pass last season, helped the Cougars defeat Grayslake Central on Friday.

Jack Peterson filled in for Xu at center last year and went into this season with seven career starts. They helped protect senior quarterback Derek Jarrell (31-for-43, 258 yards), who threw from a clean pocket all night.

"Derek made some great decisions," Bellcomo said. "The story is our offensive line. We have some smart kids out there."

Vernon Hills will visit Waukegan on Saturday.

Deerfield can't solve Lakes

Deerfield scheduled Lakes for a home-and-home series for the 2017 and 2018 football seasons. Right away, the Warriors knew they'd have a challenge on their hands.

Deerfield lost 21-14 on Friday, marking the second consecutive year that Lakes has posted a narrow victory in the series. Last year, the Blue Demons fell with an 18-yard kickoff return to put Maine East in great field position near the end of the first half.

Maine East will visit Round Lake on Friday.

Jon J. Kerr is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press

FOOTBALL SCORES AND SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 RESULTS

Central 34
Oak Creek (Wis.) 17, Carmel 7
Prospect 28, St. Viator 13
Ridgewood 43, Schurz 0
Rolling Meadows 43, Glenbrook South 7
Sandburg 24, Lyons 13
Grayslake North 41, Lakes 7
Grayslake Central 21
Weinberg 27, Wheaton North 13

IC Catholic 50, Belleville Althoff 14
Kaneland 6, Hinsdale South 0
Naperville North 34, Wheeling 13
Naperville North 28, Libertyville 27

De La Salle 47, Niles West 14
Lake Zurich 20, Fremd 7
Lake Zurich 20, Fremd 7
Lakes 21, Deerfield 14
Loyola 27 Rockford (Mich.) 7
Maine South 50, Glenbrook South 7
Maine West 26, Glenbrook West 14
Maine West 26, Mundelein 0

Deerfield 28, Mundelein 14
New Trier 21, York 13
Niles North 40, Baby 26
Notre Dame 45, Geneva 7

Deerfield 28, Mundelein 14
New Trier 21, York 13
Niles North 40, Baby 26
Notre Dame 45, Geneva 7

St. Ignatius at Fenwick, 7:30
St. Laurence at St. Joseph, 7:30
St. Viator at Lodi (Wis.), 7:30
St. Viator at Lodi (Wis.), 7:30
St. Charles East at Carmel, 7:30

Lyons at Hinsdale South, 7:30
Maine East at Round Lake, 7:30
Maine South at Mount Carmel, 7:30
Nazareth at Lodi (Wis.), 7:30
OPRF at Mather, 7:30

Turnover margin and still did not win.

The Warriors' scores came on two long throws from senior quarterback Ryan Nagelbach. Michael Guglielmone caught a 30-yard TD pass, and Adam Potter hauled in a 50-yard scoring catch.

Senior linebacker Ethan Saks led the defense with 11 solo tackles.

"I'm simultaneously happy and frustrated with the outcome," Winiecki said.

Next up for the Warriors is a home game against Grayslake North on Friday.

Blue Demons fall in opener

Maine East opened its season with a 42-7 loss to Fenton.

The Blue Demons were held to less than 100 yards of offense in the game, though Michael Bobowick did generate some energy with an 80-yard kickoff return to put Maine East in great field position near the end of the first half.

Maine East will visit Round Lake on Friday.

Jon J. Kerr is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
O'Brien returns as Illinois libero

BY BOB NARANG
Pioneer Press

Former Libertyville star libero Morgan O'Brien is starting her sophomore season at Illinois.

As a freshman, the 5-foot-8 O'Brien played in 31 matches for the Illini, starting 14 for a total of 115 sets. She finished third on the team with 229 digs for a 1.99 per-set average. She led the Illini with 22 service aces.

O'Brien tallied 19 digs in a Big Ten Conference clash with Iowa in October, then had a career-high 25 digs against No. 5 Minnesota later that month.

O'Brien gained valuable experience this summer, playing in the U.S. Collegiate National Team-Detroit program, which is part of USA Volleyball. O'Brien was selected through the U.S. Olympic Training Springs, Colo.

"I am very thankful to be chosen and to represent the University of Illinois through USA Volleyball," O'Brien said via an Illinois press release after being named to the team. "I am excited for this opportunity to play and learn more about the game alongside some of the best players in the country."

Radtke a key figure for NIU

Stevenson graduate Jori Radtke is playing a unique role this season for the Northern Illinois women's volleyball team.

The Huskies, under longtime coach Ray Gooden, have just five upperclassmen on their roster. Thus, the 5-foot-11 Radtke, who recorded double-digit kills in six matches last season, could start at outside hitter. The Buffalo Grove resident led the Huskies in kills in four matches last season.

Radtke, the 2016 Pioneer Press Player of the Year, led the Patriots to a Class 4A third-place trophy in 2016.

Shepherd primed for a new season

Former Hinsdale Central golfer Drew Shepherd enters his redshirt sophomore season at Kansas.

Shepherd turned heads with a hole-in-one with a five-iron on hole No. 4 at Alvamar Country Club on Sept. 15, 2016, in Lawrence, Kan.

Shepherd also played varsity basketball at Hinsdale Central and helped the golf team dominate the state meet each year.

Johnson set to contribute for Illinois State

Former Oak Park-River Forest standout Kimathi Johnson is slated for a bigger role this season for the Illinois State men's cross country team.

Johnson competed in five races last season, including the Missouri Valley Conference Championships. His best performance last season came at the Greater Louisville Classic, where he posted a personal-best time of 26 minutes, 20.22 seconds in the 8K event.

Johnson, a four-year letter-winner in cross country and track at OPRF, joins freshman Brett Haffner (Hinsdale South), freshman Timothy Stevenson (York) and senior Kyle Mattes (York) on the Illinois State men's cross country team.

Sullivan ready for sophomore season at SIU

Southern Illinois defensive end Chucky Sullivan played 11 games and recorded eight tackles last season and is ready for his sophomore year.

The Vernon Hills resident attended Joliet Prep in 2016 but previously played at Stevenson. The 6-foot-3, 226-pound Sullivan is slated for a bigger role for a Saluki defense that brings back most of its front seven.

In a mid-August scrimmage, Sullivan had multiple sacks. The Salukis open the season Thursday at Murray State.

Winnetka man sinks hole-in-one, wins $10,000 from Swing King

BY STEVE REAVEN
Pioneer Press

Wade Keats couldn't have been more thrilled after making his very first hole-in-one. His ace came July 12 on the par-3 13th hole at Wheeling's Chevy Chase Country Club.

But soon, the Winnetka resident learned some more good news: His hole-in-one came with a $10,000 paycheck.

That unexpected windfall was courtesy of Swing King, a Chicago-based company that partners with courses to reward players for holes-in-one on specified par-3 holes at those courses.

The 4-hybrid club Keats used on the 160-yard par 3 worked its magic at the perfect time.

"It was the kind of shot that when you hit it, you don't even feel it in the club," said Keats, a member at Skokie Country Club in Glencoe who tries to play once a week throughout the summer. "I knew I hit it really good and really straight, and someone in my group said, 'That's right on the pin.'"

Indeed it was.

Keats didn't actually see the ball clank into the hole. After an on-green celebration, he texted his wife, Christine Keats, and a few friends before finishing the round. While turning in his scorecard, playing partner and work colleague Donna Brand casually mentioned Keats' feat. That prompted the club pro to tell the group about Swing King's automated contest and the $10,000 prize.

"I was already in total shock, but that floored me," Keats said.

Keats wasn't even aware that he had been entered into Swing King's contest. He was playing at a Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce outing, and the event organizers had purchased an entry for each participant.

Typically, a player would be asked about entering the contest in the pro shop before the beginning of the round.

A $5 entry fee can lead to the $10,000 prize, and $10 could net $20,000. Swing King could pay as much as $1,000,000 for special events.

"Lloyd's of London underwrites all of our payouts, and they're fully insured and guaranteed," said Swing King CEO Mike Jakob.

Jakob said that Swing King has rewarded more than 100 golfers since its 2015 founding, including 52 in 2017 alone. With a nationwide client list including more than 300 courses in 29 states, Jakob said his company makes four to eight payouts per month.

The technological piece to Swing King's contests hinges on a proprietary system in which an unobstructed HD camera is mounted on a single pole behind the green.

"If they hit a shot, they (the golfers) notify the course, the course notifies us and we make sure everything is proper," Jakob said.

Swing King, which raised another $4 million in seed money last summer, shares the revenue generated through the contests with its course clients.

It has also begun selling video of holes-in-one that weren't entered in a contest.

"Our goal is to have everyone in the contest all the time," Jakob said.

And count Keats, 63, among the increasing number of satisfied customers.

He said his wife's first question after his $10,000 payday was, "Where are we going?" But besides popping some champagne later that night at home, Keats has resisted the temptation to spend a cent of his winnings.

His love of golf, and his swing, remain in solid shape as well.

"I don't think I've missed a green on a par-3 since," Keats said. "Some people said I should quit, but it's inspired me to play more. I wish every golfer could experience the same euphoric feeling."

So does Swing King.

Steve Reaven is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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