Line of duty

Part one: Cancer among firefighters causes alarm, uncertainty and heartbreak. Pages 18-22


'I love the venue, I love the space'

Typhanie Monique brings Aretha Franklin songs, holiday music to Studio5. Page B27

Nothing but net

Get the rundown on local boys basketball teams. Page 29

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Marius Spatacean: restaurateur, traveler

Skokie resident Marius Spatacean is the owner of Cravelane, a restaurant which opened at 5051 Oakton St. in downtown Skokie in January and already has a loyal following. He is also a world traveler who was staying at a hotel in Los Angeles when he saw “The Traveller Project” post and posed with it because he said it resonated with him.

Q: What makes your restaurant unique?
A: We include some dishes that have the Eastern European approach knowing that a lot of Eastern Europeans live within five or ten minutes of the restaurant. I know the area is quite diverse so we try to include something for everyone.

Q: Where did you grow up?
A: I grew up in Transylvania, a town called Cugir, right in the center of Romania. That’s where I spent my first 18 years before I moved to the university in Bucharest.

Q: What countries have you visited?
A: I worked with a nonprofit, so I was able to visit a lot of projects in different countries. I traveled throughout Europe and Asia. Japan was the most fascinating place I’ve ever been to. I went to Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Africa, Guatemala.

Q: What’s your favorite souvenir from your travels?
A: The best one was a gift from a very small village in Guatemala. Those people were the most generous. It’s a handmade small box, finely decorated and very colorful.

Q: Why did you move to Skokie?
A: I came to Chicago, met quite a few people, and had a job offer here, and I fell in residence was just a couple of blocks from downtown Skokie.

Q: What do you like best about living in Skokie?
A: It’s close enough to the city but still very quiet and suburban so I can enjoy both worlds in one place. Plus the people I meet here are all wonderful people.

Q: What do you do to relax?
A: I love music. I play a little guitar and piano. I love attending concerts and walks by the beach. I watch sports more than I play.

Q: Do you have any pets?
A: My cousin lives close by. She has a dog. I love like my own. He’s a Yorkiepoo. He’s about 9. His name is Mickey. When I travel, I take him with me and he loves it. I’ve even been cross-country with him.

Q: Who do you admire most?
A: Our neighbor in Transylvania who was a pastor. He passed away when he was only 40. His dedication and how he helped everybody really impacted me. I wanted to follow in his footsteps and help as many people as possible.

Q: What’s your favorite saying?
A: It’s by John A. Shedd: “A ship in harbor is safe but that is not what ships are built for.”

— Myrna Petlicki, Pioneer Press
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American Legion hosts Navy recruits

By Karie Angell Luc
Pioneer Press

Approximately 50 uniformed service men and women of Naval Station Great Lakes spent Thanksgiving Day in Morton Grove as dinner guests of the American Legion Morton Grove Post 134 at the American Legion Memorial Civic Center.

“It’s our way of saying thank you for your service,” said Casey Bachara, Thanksgiving Day committee chairman who served in the U.S. Army from 1961 to 1965. For the 12th year, the Morton Grove-based post hosted Naval Station Great Lakes recruits at Thanksgiving for Navy Day.

Recruits were treated to morning sweets, a midday turkey meal with trimmings, live musical entertainment, games and Internet computer access plus more.

Much of the food was donated, organizers said. “It makes me feel really good, we’re doing something for the sailors because when I was in the Navy, we never had any of this, never,” said Bill Petersen of Des Plaines, commander of Post 134, who joined the U.S. Navy in 1964.

Recruits could make free phone calls to anywhere in the world. At last year’s Navy Day, calls were made to locations on the continent of Africa and to the Far East, according to organizers.

“I called my mom and my dad, I miss them very much and I’m blessed to be here,” said recruit Belicia Mangum of Dallas, Texas.

Recruit Sarah Mason of Siler City, North Carolina said she had a good time Thursday. “I feel so thankful that there are people who are out there who care,” said Mason.

Brent Fitch of Colorado Springs, Colorado, also a recruit, acknowledged event organizers. “Thank you, it’s amazing,” Fitch said.

An estimated 20 volunteers assisted with Navy Day, including John Slater of Morton Grove, a World War II veteran who served in the United States Army Corps of Engineers from 1943 to 1946. “I feel good about it, of course,” Slater said.

Slater walked around the premises, personally greeting guests. “I think it fulfills our function as a service organization,” Slater said, referring to the American Legion.

Joe Gesicki, a Morton Grove resident who served in the U.S. Army in the 1960s, is chaplain of Post 134. “I think that America should be proud of our military,” Gesicki said.

Bonnie Sheirok, who lives in Skokie now but grew up in Morton Grove, was among the volunteers. Sheirok also serves as 7th District president of American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois. “We’re here to serve,” she said.

Sharon Martin, a resident of Morton Grove who has lived on the same street her whole life, is Post 134 auxiliary president. “I just enjoy doing it for the troops,” Martin said. “It makes me feel good.”

For recruit Lauren Green of Madison, Indiana, 2018 was her first Thanksgiving away from family. “I’m going to miss my family, for sure,” Green said.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
'Pathways' program at Oakton college offers engineering students guaranteed admission to U of I

By Kyra Senese
Pioneer Press

After announcing a partnership that could guarantee admission to a state university engineering program, several students turned out earlier this month to the first of several informational sessions Oakton Community College is scheduled to have aimed at giving more details of the offer.

College officials announced in October that some students who complete the Engineering Pathways Program requirements at the two-year college are guaranteed admission to the College of Engineering at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to complete their bachelor's degree in engineering.

The first session offering students more details was held Nov. 7 on Oakton's Des Plaines campus.

"Engineering Pathways is an affordable means to an end that provides quality instruction, affordability and even guaranteed scholarships at U of I for Pathway students with a GPA of 3.8 or above and at least 32 hours of transfer credit," college officials said in a news release announcing the partnership and program.

Engineering Pathways is intended to facilitate a link to the university for students looking to save money as they look to get their undergraduate degree, and is also for those who would like to remain at home before heading off to downtown Champaign, officials said.

Speaking at the informational session, Oakton college officials explained that the program is also beneficial for students who are working to build up their grade point averages to better meet the university's stringent requirements.

"Pathways' program at Oakton Community College Nov. 7 to learn more about the Engineering Pathways Program partnership with University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Students turned out to the Des Plaines campus of Oakton Community College Nov. 7 to learn more about the Engineering Pathways Program partnership with University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Joseph Kotowski, department chair and professor of mechanical design and mathematics at Oakton, spoke about the current program to the students in attendance in a detailed conversation.

According to its website, Oakton was the first community college in Illinois to gain approval to award an associate's degree in engineering. Oakton also touts a nationally recognized pre-engineering curriculum, the website states.

Officials in the community college's engineering department said that students who start their engineering education at Oakton could save more than $30,000 in tuition throughout the course of two years.

While in the Pathways program at Oakton, students would have access to advisors from both OCC and the U of I to ensure students have access to the resources they need, officials said.

Michele Brown, director of student recruitment and outreach, said students also benefit from the Pathways program because while there are more than 3,000 colleges and universities to choose from in the U.S. for an engineering education, Oakton will offer the lowest cost in the Midwest.

She noted that the ability to receive guaranteed admission to U of I is a special opportunity, as she touted the state-run university as being one of the best engineering schools in the U.S. and top in Illinois.

Future information sessions are also scheduled for Feb. 12, 2019, at OCC's Skokie campus and March 5, on the Des Plaines campus again.

Kyra Senese is a freelancer.
First big snowstorm sends residents digging

Staff report

Students who attend schools across Niles Township got an unexpected extra day of Thanksgiving break Nov. 26 after classes were canceled due to the area’s first big snowstorm of the season.

Notice of school being called off was delivered to parents early Nov. 26.

“All Skokie School District 68 schools will be closed today...due to the snow and the resulting dangerous road conditions, as well as intermittent power outages,” Superintendent James Garwood said in an early morning email. “All before- and after-school activities are canceled as well.”

Other schools, including Niles Township High School District 219 delivered similar notices, citing the same factors. The district includes Niles West and Niles North high schools.

“The decision to close school is not one we make lightly,” Garwood said of his elementary school district. “Our top concern is whether we believe the more than 1,700 students we serve, as well as staff members, can get to school safely (whether they walk, take a bus, or ride in a car).”

Although weather officials said that over a dozen inches of snow fell on some parts of the Chicago area, Niles Township was not hit as hard.

However, the timing of the snow, which began falling late Nov. 25, made traveling difficult for the commute to school, officials said.

“District 68 makes every effort to keep our schools open, but circumstances beyond our control sometimes dictate that we close,” Garwood said.

Skokie instituted its alternate-side parking rules from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 26.

All vehicles were required to park on the side of the street with even-numbered addresses, officials announced.

Alternate-side parking also was scheduled to be in effect on Nov. 27, when all vehicles were required to park on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses, they said.

Skokie’s rules, alternate-side parking goes into effect from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week, when two inches or more of snow falls. The snow removal program is a minimum two-day operation.

On even-numbered days of the month, after a snowfall of two inches or more, all vehicles must be moved to the side of the street with even-numbered addresses between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

On odd-numbered days of the month, after a snowfall of two inches or more, all vehicles must be moved to the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses during the same span.

When alternate-side parking is in effect, the village allows temporary parking in the North Skokie Swift parking lot off of Gross Point Road north of Dempster Street. Parking is allowed in the section of the lot closest to Gross Point Road.

The municipal parking lot near Crafty Beaver on the north side of Oakton Street in downtown Skokie and the Skokie Swift parking lot on the northwest corner of Skokie Boulevard and Searle Parkway are also available.

Parking restrictions in the lots go back into effect at 601 p.m. on the last day of alternate-side parking, under village rules.

The Nov. 25 storm was compounded by temperatures that dipped below freezing, making for icy conditions on roadways.

Niles released information about available warming centers not only for Nov. 26 but for the winter to come.

During those months when there is extreme cold weather, officials said, the Niles Human Services building serves as a warming center during regular business hours.

The Niles Family Services Department can also provide food, personal hygiene supplies and clothing in cases of emergency, village officials announced in a news release.

Other Niles Township villages also establish warming centers when temperatures dip to dangerous levels. Information is on individual town websites or can be obtained by calling village halls.

For many Niles Township residents shoveling snow from driveways and clearing off their vehicles Nov. 26, it was familiar territory.

The surprise, they said, was that they were having to do so before December and still nearly four weeks before winter officially begins.

“I don’t remember this kind of snow this early. I hope this isn’t the start of a long winter but I’m afraid it could be.”

—Charles Bifordi

Ayesha Khamil of Lincolnwood clears snow from her driveway the morning of Nov. 26 after the season’s first big snowstorm. Niles Township schools were closed.

My MIKE ISAACS/PIONEER PRESS
Family still in dark over deadly Sept. crash

BY MATTHEW WALBERG
Chicago Tribune

Relatives of two sisters killed in a crash with a squad car driven by a Cook County sheriff's police officer in Niles have expressed frustration that investigators have not yet released any conclusive information about what caused the fatal collision.

"Of course we want to know what happened, and we want to know what caused the accident, how fast the police officer was going," said a relative, who did not wish to be named. "They say they have the information, but it hasn't been released yet."

An investigation of the crash has been conducted by the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force's major crash assistant team since September, and a spokesman for the Niles Police Department said the task force's report was expected to be turned over to the department last week. As of Wednesday afternoon, the report had not yet been turned over, the spokesman said. He could not be reached for updated information Monday.

"I don't know what to expect," the relative said. "I've never been in a situation like this. I don't know how long it takes."

Shortly before 6 a.m. on Sept. 6, Helena Lukasik and her sister, Ludwika Moskal, were heading south on Harlem Avenue on their way home from work when they were struck by a squad car heading east on Dempster Street.

Moskal, 69, and Lukasik, 64, were later pronounced dead at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, and the officer — identified in police reports as Thomas Nortman — was treated for non-life-threatening injuries and released the following day.

The women had worked the night shift for a cleaning company at Evanston Hospital, according to their family. One of the women had retired, but had gone back to work because her sister wanted them to retire together.

Nortman was on his way to work but considered to be on-duty when the crash occurred, according to the sheriff's office. He was deputized following the crash and remains on administrative duty.

He allegedly told investigators at the scene that "he was unsure what lane he was traveling in at the time of the accident" and that "he had a solid green signal for (eastbound) Dempster when he entered the intersection and only knew that the other vehicle came from (southbound) Harlem," according to records obtained from the Niles Police Department. The records stated that officers took blood and urine samples from Nortman as part of the investigation.

Last month, the families of the dead women filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Nortman and the Cook County sheriff's office. An attempt to reach Nortman was unsuccessful.

A spokeswoman for the sheriff's office said in an email that it was aware of the lawsuit and is "awaiting the results of the ongoing investigation into the traffic crash that resulted in this tragic loss of life."

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Pace OKs budget with no fare hikes

BY MARY WISNIEWSKI
Chicago Tribune

Pace has become the third Chicago-area transit agency to pass a 2019 budget without fare hikes, though the suburban bus service did cut some routes.

The budget the Pace board approved on Wednesday evening includes $1.7 million to improve on-time performance on some suburban routes and launch the Milwaukee Avenue "Pulse Line," a high-frequency service that will run between the CTA's Jefferson Park Blue Line station and the Golf Mill Shopping Center in Niles.

Pace said the 12 routes affected by the proposed service cuts do not get enough riders. The cuts include the 326 West Irving Park and the 661 Southwest Westmont. Two routes originally targeted for cuts — the 590 Round Lake Area Call-n-Ride and the 681 Lincoln Park-Naperville Metra — were spared after community input.

The CTA and Metra also passed 2019 budgets this month without fare hikes, though all three agencies say they need more state money for both operations and new equipment.

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

Niles

DUI
- Jaroslaw Pijanowski, 62, of the 5900 block of North Northwest Highway, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence on Nov. 16 following a traffic stop in the 6700 block of Touhy Avenue. Pijanowski is scheduled to appear in court Dec. 31.

SPEEDING
- Jason B. Paredes, 23, of the 5600 block of North Drake Avenue, Chicago, was charged with speeding 35 mph or more above the posted speed limit following a traffic stop at Touhy and Caldwell avenues Nov. 19. According to police, Paredes was driving 80 mph in a 35 mph speed zone. Paredes is scheduled to appear in court Dec. 27.

DRUGS
- A 16-year-old Niles boy was ticketed for possession of marijuana on Nov. 16 after he was found with a vaping device that contained a cannabis oil cartridge in the 7600 block of West Dempster Street.
- Police were investigating the alleged sale of cannabis oil vaping cartridges from one student to another inside a restroom in the 7600 block of West Dempster Street on Nov. 16.

DISTURBANCE
- A 33-year-old Des Plaines man was ticketed for incurring the cost of emergency services after police were called to a bar in the 6900 block of Milwaukee Avenue for a report of a fight between two patrons Nov. 18. The man was taken to the hospital for treatment of injuries, police said.

FIRE
- A 56-year-old Niles man was ticketed for unlawful open burning on Nov. 15 after emergency responders were called to his home for a report of a fire and discovered black smoke coming from a pile of sticks, leaves and an unknown liquid in the backyard.

BATTERY
- A man reported he was slapped in the face by another driver in the 5600 block of West Touhy Avenue on Nov. 14.

BURGLARY
- A home in the 8000 block of North Oconto Avenue was burglarized Nov. 16 and several pieces of jewelry were reported stolen.
- A home in the 7000 block of West Dobson Street was reported burglarized between 6 p.m., Nov. 17 and 1:30 a.m., Nov. 18. A rear door appeared to have been forced open, police said.

THEFT
- Two boxes of weight loss pills and four boxes of Nicorette gum, valued at $342.94, were reported stolen from a store in the 200 block of Golf Mill Center on Nov. 15.
- Four wheels and tires were reported stolen off a vehicle parked in the 8000 block of North Washington Street overnight between Nov. 15 and Nov. 16.

Lincolnwood

DUI
- James Gabriel, 56, of the 4600 block of Old Orchard Road, Skokie, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol stemming from an incident Nov. 25 in the 7100 block of Lincoln Avenue. Police said Gabriel was pulled over for a traffic violation.

THEFT
- Clothing items valued at more than $1,000 were reportedly stolen from a store Nov. 17 in the 3300 block of Touhy Avenue. Police said a male was seen putting items into a reusable bag and leaving the store without paying.
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A transformation has taken place at Six Flags Great America, making the theme park a winter wonderland open to guests through the end of the year for the first time in its history.

Rolling out on Black Friday and running each weekend through Dec. 31, Holiday in the Park is a new holiday extravaganza that Great America officials hope will start a new tradition with families who love the holidays and will visit the park for its festivities.

Officials hope guests who already enjoy the thrill of roller coasters will also take in the spirit of the holidays with Christmas carolers, holiday-themed shows, unique treats and, of course, Santa Claus, all while surrounded by 2 million LED lights of many colors.

"Holiday in the Park is the biggest addition to our season in the park's 42-year history and the most thrilling holiday event in the entire Midwest," said Hank Salemi, Six Flags Great America president.

Greeting guests at the entrance will be the park's own staple: the carousel. Boys and girls should prepare to be dazzled by the lights on the carousel that invite them to see what other magic is waiting inside, said Tess Claussen, Six Flags communications manager.

Throughout the park, costumed characters such as Jack Frost will be out mingling and posing for photos, along with carolers who'll invite families to join the singing at nearby fire pits to keep warm.

To transition the park into the wintry scene, Claussen said employees began placing the LED lights on trees, buildings, fences and rides in July.

"Everything about the park will scream 'the holiday season,'" Claussen said.

Nightly tree-lightings around a 50-foot centerpiece Christmas tree are scheduled to take place each evening at 5 p.m.

At the park's Southwest Territory, which for the new season has switched to the Kalightoscope, a 200-foot LED light Christmas tree uses the Giant Drop as its base. And at a nearby building, an off-the-ground display of lights and animation will be projected every 30 minutes.

Nearly 20 rides will be operating, including the Raging Bull, Batman: The Ride and The Joker free-fly roller coaster, Claussen said. Other type of entertainment that doesn't involve flying and swerving through the air are performances with favorite holiday characters.

"Our Wonderland at the park will scream 'the holiday season,'" Claussen said. "From testing (groups), we know it'll be a favorite."

At Dasher's Dinner House, restaurant goers can enjoy an entire holiday meal, while at other dining locations, sweet treats like spirited beverages, hot chocolate and peppermint-flavored pastries will be available.

There are several season pass options available through the cyber Black Friday sale that have up to 70 percent savings and start at $74.99 — from diamond elite to gold plus membership, depending on items such as food and preferred parking features. Both a 2018 and 2019 Season Pass provides holders entry to the park's Holiday in the Park.

Yadira Sanchez Olson is a freelance reporter for the News-Sun.
Painter with disabilities showcasing his work: ‘Art gives meaning to my life’

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Chris Viau doesn’t let his physical disabilities stand in the way of his creativity, and has been creating stunning landscape drawings for eight years.

Viau is having his first one-person show, “Landscapes Through the Seasons,” at Gallery OTR in the Hill Arboretum Apartments where he lives, 2040 Brown Ave., in Evanston.

The show runs through Nov. 30.

“I like how I feel when I’m done with a piece,” Viau said via a soundboard on which he types out messages to communicate.

His inspiration for each work is the same.

“I love nature,” he said. It takes Viau a couple of weeks to create each painting, he reported, adding that over the past eight years he has completed around 200 paintings.

In an artist statement that Viau prepared for the exhibit he wrote, “My favorite thing about being an artist is I can let my wild imagination show. The images that inspire me are landscapes. Mostly I use watercolors for the background. I use pastel, acrylic, or colored pencils to give my artwork detail.”

Viau creates his artwork at Arts of Life in Glenview, a studio that supports adult artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He also serves as the archivist at that studio.

“He allows the viewer to see the understructure of the work. You can see the layers that he builds into it,” said Megan Harrigan, arts coordinator at Arts of Life.

Harrigan noted that Arts of Life provides a space for the artist but they work independently.

“We have staff and volunteers who all have backgrounds in fine arts who are there to assist with needs the artist may have but staff never makes a mark on anyone’s work. Everything is made 100 percent by the artist,” Harrigan said.

The gallery where Viau’s work is displayed was created by OTR (Over the Rainbow Association) which provides accessible homes for adults with physical disabilities.

“It gives an opportunity for people to come in and see not only the artwork but to understand what we do,” said Les Russo, chief financial officer of OTR.

In addition, to painting, Viau writes poetry. He has published two books of poems and is currently working on a third one.

“He uses his artwork images in his books and he self-publishes them,” Harrigan said.

He sold four paintings at an average price of $250 each on the Nov. 9 opening night. He also sold several of his poetry books at the opening.

“Art gives meaning to my life,” Viau said. “I can share my talents with other people.”

Myrna Petlicki is a freelancer.
Have you ever been afraid to smile?

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CONSUMER CONFIDENTIAL

How to avoid getting scammed amid all those sweet Black Friday deals

BY DAVID LAZARUS
Los Angeles Times

Retailers roll out their best deals in hopes of attracting your business during the holiday season. It's also when scammers roll out some of their sneakiest con jobs.

Before you go shopping online or in the real world, take a moment to see what you have to watch out for.

"It's a game of trust," said Emory Roane, policy counsel for the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, a San Diego advocacy group.

He told me that fraudsters no longer make amateur-hour mistakes such as typos or bad grammar that can instantly tip off most people to steer clear of online offers.

"The one that seems most compelling is coupons on social media," said Linda Sherry, director of national priorities for Consumer Action. "I can see distracted shoppers clicking on online coupons and giving away info and card numbers to a scam site."

For example, Facebook users recently might have encountered offers of a $200 Black Friday coupon for the Kroger supermarket chain. All they had to do was like the "Kroger Club" Facebook page. It turned out, though, that Kroger Club has nothing to do with Kroger. The only thing you got after liking the now-defunct Kroger Club page was a sudden deluge of spam.

Or, perhaps you've received an email recently offering you a free Amazon or Walmart gift card. Frequently these are ways that scammers either get you to share personal info or infect your computer with malware.

Nifty prizes and rewards also figure prominently in survey scams that promise a free laptop computer or some other device in return for you filling out page after page of questions.

Again, they're going for information or luring you into clicking on a link that will unleash some nasty virus on your system, which in turn might ransack your files or even hold them hostage unless you pay a bitcoin ransom.

One of the smartest things consumers can do is to limit their shopping, particularly online, to stores and companies they know and are familiar with.

Even then, however, you're not in the clear.

Kaspersky Lab, a purveyor of security software, says it has seen a big increase in attempts by hackers to go after online shoppers' login credentials and other information using so-called banking Trojan programs, which intercept data being entered onto legitimate e-commerce sites.

The firm said 9.2 million such attacks were detected in the third quarter of this year, compared with 11.2 million attempts for all of 2017.

If your computer is infected with a banking Trojan, "criminals are able to steal payment card details when you enter them on a shop's website," said Yury Namesnikov, Kaspersky's principal security researcher.

"After that, it is easy for a hacker to get to your money through a compromised credit card," he said.

Protecting yourself from cyber-scams means being vigilant. Some tips:

Never click a link without giving it the once-over. That means hovering your cursor over the link and seeing the full web address. If it's not clearly related to the dot-com you're seeking, or if you see a long string of gibberish, back off.

Be wary of any request for personal information. Never, ever give out your Social Security number or bank account number.

Seek out secure websites. You can usually tell it's secure if the address begins with "https" rather than "http." Also look for a green padlock beside the web address. Clicking that will bring up the site's security certificate. What you want are certificates from trusted sources, such as VeriSign or Symantec.

It's estimated that as much as 40 percent of holiday purchases will be made via mobile devices. That is a bad idea because it's much harder to tell if a web address is kosher. Much better to limit such transactions to computers.

Above all, keep in mind the old saw about things being too good to be true. Retail companies may offer terrific deals at this time of year, but they don't give things away for free and they seldom offer products for substantially less than competitors.

Tobie Stanger, a senior editor at Consumer Reports, said the best way to avoid being cheated is to be the one initiating the transaction, rather than responding to unsolicited offers.

"Slow down a little bit," Stanger advised. "Take the time to exercise some common sense."

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AMERICA'S BATH COMPANY
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<tr>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
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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
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Cancer among firefighters causes alarm, uncertainty and heartbreak

**BY KAREN ANN CULLOTTA**
Pioneer Press

Nearly 10 months had passed since Buffalo Grove firefighter Kevin Hauber died from colon cancer, but his 39-year-old widow had yet to remove the hospital bed from the dining room of their family home.

Even the sliding glass doors leading to the backyard patio remained unchanged, adorned with hand-painted messages from the four Hauber daughters, such as, "I have the best mom and dad in the world," "Rest in peace daddy" and "You will be forever missed!"

"I thought I'd be further down the road, but I'm not," said Kim Hauber, as she tended to the detritus of her husband's death — the unpaid medical bills, the pending transfer of the title to Kevin's SUV, what to do with a pair of his old firefighter boots resting on a step.

"I still haven't even cleaned out Kevin's closet yet, which is turning out to be a lot more emotional than I thought it would be," she said.

The Buffalo Grove Firefighter Pension Board ruled that the 51-year-old's death from colon cancer was related to exposure to toxins found in fires, which some studies recently have linked to a heightened cancer risk for firefighters. The decision earlier this year called for a death-in-the-line-of-duty benefit that would ensure Kevin Hauber's family would receive his full annual salary, which roughly totals $100,000 a year.

But as Kim Hauber and her four daughters struggled to mend their broken lives, a weekend trip this past summer to the Wisconsin Dells was interrupted by news from officials in Buffalo Grove. Citing their "fiduciary responsibilities" to area taxpayers, village officials announced they filed a lawsuit in June challenging the pension board's decision to award a full death pension, arguing that not enough evidence exists that Hauber's fatal colon cancer was a result of his work.

The Hauber family's experience is reflected in debates about the still-unclear link between firefighting and cancer unfolding across Illinois and the rest of the country, including Congress, where the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act (H.R. 931) was signed into law in July.

As firefighter pension boards rule some deaths are related to the job, even though the science to prove those claims is in its early stages, officials in cities and villages increasingly are stuck in the middle, sometimes turning to courts to decide if an employee's death was related to the job and if line-of-duty benefits are warranted.

Under the new federal law, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will collect data via a voluntary registry as part of its ongoing research into whether firefighters' work increases the odds of them developing some types of cancer. Firefighter advocates, meanwhile, cite existing statistics and say the connection already is indisputable.

In the series "Line of duty: Firefighters and cancer," Pioneer Press and the Chicago Tribune explore the research into the suspected relationship between firefighting and cancer.
Black Friday brings out the worst in us. I hope you skipped it.

On Thursday, we give thanks for all we have. On Friday, we trample each other to get just a little bit more—at a reduced price of course.

That juxtaposition of gratitude one day and greed the next is perhaps a typically American reaction to the holidays. It is part of the American psyche to forever be a child, so it is natural to give thanks for all that we have one day, and want more the next.

But if we can be adults about it, and just for once I wish we would be, let's step back for just a minute.

There is a good word to describe what we are about to witness with this juxtaposition. And it is not Black Friday. Of course, that is two words. No, the word I am thinking of is one that has fallen out of fashion. It is a word we don't use much anymore. Repugnant.

Think on that.

What happens from Thursday's national day of Thanksgiving to Friday's day of rampant spending is, in a word, repugnant.

In case you have forgotten, or in case you never knew, here is what that word means: "Extremely distasteful; unacceptable. In conflict with, incompatible with."

I can't think of a better description of this whole Black Friday tradition than something that is extremely distasteful and unacceptable.

People wake up at the crack of dawn on Friday, or never even go to sleep on Thursday. They wait with hordes of others for the store to open.

Poor, harried store workers have to go to work on Thanksgiving Day or the day after Thanksgiving. Isn't it enough that we make our first responders work on these sacred family days?

In our family, I use the method for making giblet gravy taught to me by my mother who learned it from her great Aunt Theresa. Of course, I could have gotten it from a book, but there is something special about learning it from an elder who learned it from an elder.

You just can't buy that. Yet millions go out the next day, seeking something of greater value at a really good price.

If you are thinking of going out this Friday and joining the madness, please don't. Think of that word I taught you, that we no longer use. It is repugnant.

We have the power to stop the madness of this crazy, rampant consumerism. Just stay home. If you didn't do that this year, I hope you consider it for next year.

But what do to all day? You could sleep. You could spend the day watching family movies, or at least movies with the family.

You can ask mom to teach you a recipe from grandma. You could bring out the pictures, the ones you don't store on your phone and share on Facebook, and remember those we were once so thankful to have with us on this holiday, but who are gone.


But if you can't take the time to be sentimental and old-fashioned and thankful for the little things that you can't buy during this holiday time, when can you?

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist.
**Handling a divorce during the holidays**

Going through a divorce is one of the most difficult life transitions a person can endure. Worrying about finances, the kids, and becoming a single parent amidst the intense emotional pain of the breakup can feel daunting, hopeless and exhausting.

If that isn't hard enough, add in the holidays. All those parties and get-togethers you feel pressured to attend can make you feel like you're getting punched in the stomach every day. In other words, you might be saying to yourself, "How am I supposed to be festive, jolly and fun-loving when all I want to do is lie in bed and cry?"

The answer is, not only can you get through the holidays, but you can actually enjoy them, and no, I'm not saying you have to fake it. Here are four pieces of advice for surviving the holidays as a newly single person:

1. **Accept that the parenting schedule is what it is.** In most parenting agreements, moms and dads take turns being with the kids for the holidays. So, as a newly separated parent, let's say this year, the court has ordered that your soon-to-be ex will be with your kids on Christmas Day. Most likely, this is the first Christmas Day of your kids' lives that you won't see them. Can you say devastating? But while a scenario like this is upsetting, I promise you will be OK. My advice is, have Christmas with them on another day. Opening presents, singing songs, and having a nice dinner with family and friends doesn't have to be on the actual day. Any day in December is acceptable! They will remember it the same as if you celebrated on Christmas Day. Also, if your kids are headed to their dad's (or mom's) place, please don't cry and get them upset. Support them and reinforce what a wonderful time they are going to have, and that you are going to be just fine.

2. **Traditions: Out with the old, in with the new.** When I was getting divorced, a wise person said to me, "You know you have to start making new traditions. You have to have friends over and cook and drink wine and eat." Did I want to do that? Definitely not. My life had just fallen apart, and I wasn't feeling very social. Reluctantly, I listened, and I planned a girl's night for some women in my community. About two dozen women I barely knew showed up. The night was such a success that I ended up hosting several girl's nights at my house that year. Those get-togethers made me laugh a lot, and they gave me the enjoyment of connecting with other women. So, if you and your soon-to-be ex used to celebrate Christmas Eve alone after the kids went to bed with a glass of champagne, or if the two of you used to travel every New Year's Eve, try to accept that these traditions have come to an end. Embrace the opportunity to start new traditions. Have a tree-decorating night with the kids, plan a girl's holiday dessert party, or schedule a spa day just for you the day after Christmas. Who knows? The new traditions you make could become your best memories!

3. **Being alone can be a gift.** I'm pretty sure I spent every single Thanksgiving of my life with my family and kids up until a few years ago. My dad had recently passed away, and I decided not to travel that year. For the first Thanksgiving ever, my ex had the kids, and I found myself home alone. I'm not going to lie, it felt brutally lonely at first. But guess what? I lived! I ended up cleaning out three closets, watching several episodes of "Ray Donovan," and making homemade vegetable soup. It was actually a really nice, restful, peaceful day for which I was thankful. My favorite binge-watching shows besides "Ray Donovan": "Homeland," "House of Cards," "Grey's Anatomy," "Girls," "This Is Us," "Seinfeld," "Sex and the City," "The Good Doctor," "Friday Night Lights," "The Office."

4. **Believe it or not, the worst is behind you.** I understand how difficult divorce can be. It can feel empty, lonely, frustrating, and really, really scary. But these feelings will start to fade, and over time, more positive experiences will change your outlook and how you feel about your day-to-day life. Things don't get better quickly, and they don't get better without any effort in making the things you can control better, but I can almost guarantee that next year at this time, the picture will be a lot clearer and brighter. Your divorce might be final. Your kids will probably be more adjusted. You might be dating someone wonderful. And, you might look back and think the end of your marriage turned out to be the beginning of a better life.

The thing is, the holidays tend to fly by. Before you know it, you'll be shoveling snow in January and making plans for spring break. So, despite the difficulty of your life right now, try not to wish away the holidays. Instead, embrace them for what they are: A time for feeling gratitude, celebrating loved ones, and of course, believing.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist for Chicago Tribune Media Group.
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**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT**

- **Residential for Rent**
  - Glenview East 10th cr., complete, no stairs, patio, $750/month. 630-957-7054

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**

- **Frisco Street, Dallas** - 1004 N. Elm St. 304, $425/month. 2BR/1BA. For more information: Call 214-247-5400

**EQUITY 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, discrimination, or arrestion 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, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or unverifiable military discharge.

This paper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which violates the law. All persons are hereby notified that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in connection with the sale, rental, or financing of housing, Call: West City and Suburbs: HOPE Fair Housing Center 630-660-6500 South City and Suburbs: South Suburban Fair Housing Center 708-957-6674 North City and Suburbs: Northern Illinois Fair Housing Center 847-510-5760

**LOST & FOUND**

**Found:** Bicycle - Black and white Monogram Exile Contact: Exile Property Search Team 866-502-9999

**Personals & Prayers**

Affordable Homes/Carriages - To live in or to go, please call 630-705-830 or https://www.cific.org/lblnslawyerfinder

**LEGAL SERVICES** - Need LEGAL HELP? Call Illinois Legal Aid 800-243-6266

**MERCHANDISE**

**Estate Sales**

- **Trio's Traditional** - 725 W. Chicago Street, Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60654. 312-577-8999

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**

- **Frisco Street, Dallas** - 1004 N. Elm St. 304, $425/month. 2BR/1BA. For more information: Call 214-247-5400

**Mercat Market/Miscellaneous**

**Holiday Boutique** - Holiday Boutique, 870 Metropolitan Avenue, Morton Grove. A.S. M. Supports with Victorian. Fri, Nov. 15, 2019, 9:00 - 3:00 pm. For more information: 1-825-68-1314

**HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE** - Holiday Boutique, 870 Metropolitan Avenue, Morton Grove. A.S. M. Supports with Victorian. Fri, Nov. 15, 2019, 9:00 - 3:00 pm. For more information: 1-825-68-1314

**HOLIDAY TOY SHOW** - Tinley Park H.S., 6111 179th St. Fri, Dec. 6, 2019, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Next to Tinley Park High School. For tickets information: 1-825-68-1314

**WANTED TO BUY**

- **Motorcycles Wanted!** Call Paul! All Makes Will Pick Up. 630-660-0971

**PETS**

- **German Shepherd** - Pure-bred male, 1 year old, parents on site, $1,000

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The Lincolnwood Park District Board of Commissioners has determined that a proposed Special Budget of $1,150,000 for 2019 for the City of Lincolnwood will be considered.

The proposed Special Budget includes:

1. Funds to be used for the construction of a new tennis facility at the Village Green Park District.
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3. Funds to be used for the construction of a new playground at the Village Green Park District.

The Public Hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, in the Lincolnwood Park District Board Room, 101 Grey Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois.

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GROSS PAYROLL FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Gross Payroll

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employee Name</th>
<th>Total Payroll</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Camilleri</td>
<td>$85,000.00</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Christie</td>
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<td>Adam Cooper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Edwards</td>
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<td>Adam Foster</td>
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<td>Adam Garcia</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Gonzalez</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAFETY INFORMATION:

- Bumpers
- Mufflers
- Fire Extinguishers

SAFETY TRAINING:

- Respirator training
- First aid training
- Lockout/tagout training

SAFETY EQUIPMENT:

- Respirators
- Hearing protection
- Safety glasses

SAFETY AUDIT:

- Monthly safety checks
- Quarterly safety inspections
- Annual safety review
STEADY AS SHE GOES: Explained at 118 Across

BY MARK MCCLAIN | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN

STANXWORDS.COM

ACROSS
1 Joe of Goodfellas
6 Wedding figure
11 Ancient Peruvian
15 Did some laps
19 One of the Coen brothers
20 Alpine song
21 Salty septet
22 Limick's land
23 Exterior of many homes
25 What broncos may do
26 Computer clickers
27 Sushi bar fish
28 Not often seen
29 After hours
31 Toes the line
32 Sushi bar soybean
35 Upgrade, perhaps
36 Dash letters
38 Fiction genre
39 Before now
40 Mild complaint
41 Toddler's scrape
42 Enjoys the warmth
43 Lyricist
44 Ancillary
45 Have no doubt about
47 Virginia Woolf essay
49 Go (for)
50 Urbana-Champaign team
51 Merkel's language
52 Italian beer brand
53 Before
54 An extra helping
55 _ card (29 Down need)
56 Uncomfortably strange
58 Small salamander
59 Orbital extremes
63 Morse code sound
65 Apple computer
67 "The Sage of Concord"
70 Birthday of Socrates
71 Certain sultan's subject
72 Tycoons
73 Part of a yard
74 Clinic staffer, for short
75 Sushi bar soybean
78 Kid around
82 Swamp dangers
85 Dawn goddess
87 Hardly...of roses
88 Embassy employee
90 "Much obliged!"
92 Overly long sentences
94 String quartet participants
95 Where IS our server?
97 Colorado resort
98 Cultivating machines
99 Go (for)
100 See 9 Down
103 Terminal screening grp.
104 Mid-March VIP
106 Pinocchio's end-of-story explanation
111 Fire maintainer
112 Earth tone
115 Nil
116 Close at hand
117 They can be found in six long Across answers
121 Not tricked by
122 Move furtively
123 San Antonio landmark
124 Film excerpt
125 Diamond-cutting debris
126 Middling
127 Mideast locale of the 2022 World Cup
128 Chases off

DOWN
1 Nuisance
2 Caesarean phrase
3 Steer clear of
4 Chocolate source
5 Letterhead abbr.
6 Via
7 Crowd noises
8 Inactive
9 With 100 Across, Spanish "of the sun"
10 Ernie of pro golf
11 Novel's ID
12 Nucleus particle
13 Superior status
14 Set as a price
15 Prefix for sweet
16 Kristen once of SNL
17 Inverted U-shaped structure
18 Wrestling team event
19 Crater Lake locale
20 Tech debut of 2007
21 High-minded
22 Ole Miss rival
23 Heat-keeping
24 Lava, before its exit
25 Heat-keeping
26 Old maths grade
27 Sports milestone
28 Ole Miss rival
29 Tech debut of 2007
30 River bar
31 Sonic the Hedgehog
32 Ole Miss rival
33 Inverted U-shaped structure
34 Wrestling team event
35 "Buco" (veal dish)
36 Lakers, e.g.
37 Hospital area
38 Fiction genre
39 Before now
40 Mild complaint
41 Toddler's scrape
43 Lyricist...Jay Lerner
44 Ancillary
45 Have no doubt about
46 Look carefully (through)
48 Symbol for ohms
49 Missions, in brief
50 "Rumor has it..."
51 Singer/songwriter Mann
52 "Rumor has it..."
53 Singer/songwriter Mann
54 "Rumor has it..."
55 "Rumor has it..."
56 "Rumor has it..."
57 "Rumor has it..."
58 "Rumor has it..."
59 "Rumor has it..."
60 Tolkien being
61 Geological periods
62 Lakeside, e.g.
63 "Good" cholesterol
64 Civil War side: Abbr.
65 Intl. commerce group
66 "Good" cholesterol
67 "Good" cholesterol
68 "Rumor has it..."
69 Pro tennis since 1968
70 Japanese
71 Certain sultan's subject
72 Tycoons
73 Part of a yard
74 Clinic staffer, for short
75 Sushi bar soybean
78 Kid around
82 Swamp dangers
85 Dawn goddess
87 Hardly...of roses
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Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island

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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. Reversible: hyph.  14 74 70 122 85 101
B. 'De Profundis' author  147 43 133 36 126 22 15 150 34 80
C. Merit, worth  94 55 57 62
D. Farm management  5 11 3 61 25 98 100 33 19 86
E. Far off  66 31 81 144 9 20
F. Belonging to  Ginger  8 90 41 78 96
G. Not hidden  65 16 24 121 135
H. Upper story  53 112 49 60
I. Old-fashioned  14 123 138 118 68
J. China port  89 26 42 46 92 50 77 106 84

K. The Donald's daughter  75 64 91 117 44 141 108 72 113 102 4
L. Place for those in trouble  47 103 143 79 17 2 10 29
M. That's hard to  ___
N. To ___ not AirBnB?  152 30 149 27 13 52 18
O. 2003 U.S. Open champ
P. Muhammad's birth place  104 95 119 69 128
Q. Quench  136 132 83 39 58 153 71 63 114 109
R. Darling  146 105 7 125 76 45 110
S. Paid attention  97 115 127 21 131 142
T. Exceed in mass  51 151 40 99 156 82 155 111
U. 'Leaves of Grass' author  56 120 130 73

Contact

BY CHARLES PRESTON

ACROSS
1  Blue— special
6  Term of address
10  Cook
14  Pertaining to the Franks
15  Variation: prefix
16  Verdi heroine
17  Leave
19  Recipe directive
20  Reddish-yellow dye
21  After Brooklyn or Israel
22  Dove shelter
23  The Way We
24  ___ State
27  Sora
29  Airport runway
32  Morse code dash
35  Cubic meter
38  Without guile
39  Actor Wallach
40  Hamlet yarn, with The
42  Err
43  Please, to a Prussian
45  Ruth's in-law
46  Kennedy sight
47  Part of the Golden Horde
49  Cantina offering
51  Jagers
54  Tabula
58  Adolescent
60  Cereal grass
61  Maiden
63  Dismounted
64  Single
66  Elmer or Donna
67  Quantity
68  Dunne or Cara
69  Look
70  Idyllic locale
71  TV's Mr. Grant

DOWN
1  Exclamation of disgust
2  Cleo or Frankie
3  Chantry
4  Giggle
5  Genuine: Ger.
6  Deface
7  Aloe derivative
8  Winged
9  Demure
10  Buckhorn
11  Haphazard
12  Redact
13  Food
18  Stone-Age tool
25  Liquid glyceride
26  ___ acid
28  Abaft
30  Rara
31  Copper
32  IOU, for one
33  Inter
34  1943 Abbott and Costello movie
36  Cell material, for short
37  Ham it up
41  Actress Blake
44  Giber
48  Walked
50  Abalones
52  Council
53  Reagan Cabinet member
55  Pallid
56  Trawl
57  Transform
58  Painter's cover-up, briefly
59  Nobelist Wiesel
62  Sikkim's continent
65  Artist Shahn

G16  Puzzle Island

Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island

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Ilegkining Fund Balances - July 1, 2017

Local Sources

The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018 will be available for public inspection in the school district offices. Also by January 15, annually the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018, will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website @ www.isbe.net.

Salary Schedule of Gross Payments for Certified Personnel, and Non-Certified Personnel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salary Range</th>
<th>Less Than $25,000</th>
<th>$25,000 - $40,000</th>
<th>$40,000 - $50,000</th>
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<th>$75,000 - $90,000</th>
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<th>$150,000 &amp; Over</th>
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<td>Number</td>
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<td>2,105,571</td>
<td>2,917,848</td>
<td>4,074,950</td>
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<td>9,373,950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salary Range: $40,000.00 - $59,999</td>
<td>18,795,265</td>
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<table>
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<th>Beginning Fund Balances - July 1, 2017</th>
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<td>17,854,654</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ending Fund Balances June 30, 2018</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>15,576,594</td>
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<td>3,127,283</td>
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</table>

**SALARY SCHEDULE OF GROSS PAYMENTS FOR CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL AND NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salary Range</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$40,000.00 - $59,999</td>
<td>$18,795,265</td>
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<tr>
<td>$25,000.00 - $39,999</td>
<td>$205,140</td>
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**Statement of Affairs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement of Affairs</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.</td>
<td>8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Hours</td>
<td>Office Hours</td>
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<td>$205,140</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.</td>
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**GROSS PAYMENT**

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<td>$40,000.00 - $59,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>$25,000.00 - $39,999</td>
<td>$205,140</td>
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**GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL**

<table>
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<th>Gross Pay</th>
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<td>$40,000.00 - $59,999</td>
<td>$18,795,265</td>
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<tr>
<td>$25,000.00 - $39,999</td>
<td>$205,140</td>
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**PAYROLL**

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<thead>
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<th>Payroll</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<th>Payroll</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$40,000.00 - $59,999</td>
<td>$18,795,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000.00 - $39,999</td>
<td>$205,140</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Person, Firm, or Corporation and Aggregate Amount**

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<tr>
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<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
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**Payment of $2,500, excluding wages and salaries**

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>$205,140</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Also by January 15, annually the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018, will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education’s website (www.isbe.net). Individuals wanting to review this Annual Statement of Affairs should contact.

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018 will be available for public inspection in the school district office of the Board of Education located at

Baseball Schedule for GROSS PAYMENTS FOR CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL AND NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School District</th>
<th>Fiscal Year Ending</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Certification</th>
<th>Non-Certification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morton Grove</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>58,800</td>
<td>34,000</td>
<td>24,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skokie</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>62,300</td>
<td>37,500</td>
<td>24,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evanston</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>62,300</td>
<td>37,500</td>
<td>24,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincolnwood</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>62,300</td>
<td>37,500</td>
<td>24,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niles Township</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>62,300</td>
<td>37,500</td>
<td>24,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PAYMENTS OVER $5,000, excluding wages and salaries

Certified Personnel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>2,572.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
<td>1,845.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-Certified Personnel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>Custodian</td>
<td>1,234.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams</td>
<td>Cafeteria Worker</td>
<td>1,123.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Federal, State, and Local Taxes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Tax</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>FICA</td>
<td>1,234.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams</td>
<td>State Income Tax</td>
<td>1,123.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Itemized Deductions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Deduction</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>Mortgage Interest</td>
<td>$1,234.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams</td>
<td>Property Taxes</td>
<td>$1,123.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Itemized Deductions include:

- Mortgage Interest: $1,234.56
- Property Taxes: $1,123.45
- State Income Tax: $1,123.45

Total Itemized Deductions: $3,481.56

Net Income: $22,454.44
By January 15, annually the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018, will be posted on the Illinois Department of Education's website. The summary of the Annual Statement of Affairs is required to be published by the school district for the past fiscal year. The statement of operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 is as follows:

School District's Current School District Financial Statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
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<td>$4,268,000</td>
<td>$302,000</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
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</table>

Changes in Financial Position - Balance Sheet July 1, 2017 - July 31, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Balance Sheet Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in Operating Activities</td>
<td>$1,646,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Financing Activities</td>
<td>$2,053,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Change in Fund Balances</td>
<td>$2,783,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Solutions, Inc. 11,897.40; Classroom Solutions 29,160.50; Frank Cooney Inc 27,333.53; Trebron Learning 35,562.36; Pearson Education Inc 35,584.59; Verizon Wireless 34,038.40; Johnson Controls 32,678.93; Garvey's Office Products 31,580.71; Soutel Candiquik 9,573.23; Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018, will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website. The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district for the past fiscal year:

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Older first-time moms are navigating pregnancy and child rearing in a world that seems to cater to younger counterparts.

Iris Waichler gave herself one more chance, at age 45, to become pregnant. She had a baby.

But little did she know how different it would be to become a first-time mother who was nearly 20 years older than the average first-time mom — 26, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's latest statistics; it was 25 when Waichler gave birth in 2000.

"I had talked with moms in their 20s, and it was like talking in another language," says the Chicago-based part-time author and mom to a college freshman.

Most of the younger moms she met hadn't experienced infertility, nor had they faced the potentially dangerous and nerve-wracking complications that can be linked with pregnancy, she said.

According to the March of Dimes, pregnant women older than 35 are more likely to have gestational diabetes, high blood pressure and preeclampsia, and their children face a greater risk of complications such as Down syndrome. A 2017 study found that children born to older moms have a newborn, "She said her energy level was never too high to begin with, but she knew that she'd need to keep her body feeling young to be a good parent. So she began eating healthier, drinking less alcohol and exercising more often.

"I don't have time to be old: I have a newborn," Wall said.

Wall said her energy level was never too high to begin with, but she knew that she'd have to keep her body feeling young to be a good parent. So she began eating healthier, drinking less alcohol and exercising more often.

"I don't have time to be old: I have a newborn," Wall said.

Parents are thrust into an out-of-control situation, when they've used to being completely in control, and it could be more difficult to adapt to this new normal the older you get.

Waichler reminds herself that having a child was an adjustment — but one that she could get used to and adapt to, just like any other change in her life. It was moving on to the next phase.

She said she's just grateful that she had this chance to move on to that phase before she couldn't conceive anymore, especially since she got married later in life.

Waichler is in her 60s now — her daughter just left the nest this year — and said she doesn't have any regrets, even though she is in a different stage of her life than her peers.

Wall feels about it in a similar way. Many of her friends are grandparents now, but she said she doesn't feel old enough to be a grandmother, nor does she feel like an older mom. "He's forcing me not to be my age," Wall said. "It's such a blessing."
Typhanie Monique is making a return visit to Studio5 in Evanston. Last year she wowed the audience with a show on the theme of "Shadow and Light." On Dec. 1 at 8 p.m., she will share Aretha Franklin songs and a tidbit or two about the recently deceased singing legend. "I love the venue, I love the space," Monique said. "Not only is the sound fantastic but it's truly a concert setting venue."

Monique reported that in October, she featured the songs of Aretha Franklin as the opening performer in the new Hey Nonny venue in Arlington Heights. "I wanted a concert that paid tribute to her and also do some arrangements that showcased my artistry and my musicians," she said.

That will happen once again at Studio5 when Monique is accompanied by pianist Ben Lewis, guitarist Neal Alger, bassist Matt Ulery, and drummer Jon Deitemyer.

Monique will, of course, be singing "Natural Woman." "I'm excited for people to hear it because we rearranged the song and I feel like the lyrics really shine through with our arrangement," she said. "Outside of that chorus hook that everybody can sing along to, our arrangement puts a different spin and mood on that particular tune."

Also on the song list is "Until You Come Back to Me," a number that Monique said that she absolutely loves. "We put a different groove on that song," she said. "We actually do it as a samba."

Monique will also perform a Gospel-oriented song called "Spirit in the Dark." "I'm excited that I have three backup singers that will be performing with my group," she said.

She noted that at Studio5 she will be performing a few of the songs that she wanted to do at the Hey Nonny opening but couldn't "because they didn't really translate without some of those powerful backups." Having the backup singers "enables me to choose from some additional tunes that I really love," she said. "When I'm covering really popular repertoire from other artists, it's important for me to be able to make that material my own and emotionally connect with it."

Monique reported that her concert will also include some holiday classics in celebration of the season.

Additionally, the singer will share some information about Franklin. "There's some really intense facts about her life that I don't think people realize," Monique related. "She was a mother at a very young age. So the idea of being a 'Natural Woman' happened to her quite quickly in life."

In addition to being a busy vocalist, Monique teaches extensively at Columbia College Chicago and the Old Town School of Folk Music. The vocalist considers herself a lifelong student of the art of singing.

"I am fascinated by the human voice as an educator and also as a performer," she noted. "So I'm always trying to dive into something new, whether it's experimenting with my range or my timbre, or even the genres or styles of music that I sing. That's what I love about jazz. It really gives me that opportunity to freely express my voice."

Myrna Petlicki is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
**Thursday, Nov. 29**

**Center For Independent Futures Fun-Raiser:** Have fun at a BYOB painting party while helping out this non-profit organization. Ticket price includes paint supplies, instruction, aprons and a take-home canvas, and $5 from every registration will be donated to Center for Independent Futures. BYOB reception begins at 6 p.m., with the painting taking place from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 6 p.m. Thursday, Bottle & Bottega, 1016 Davis Ave., Evanston, $35, 847-905-9177.

**Dittmar exhibit examines American identity and media:** "You Promised Me Poems," a collection of paintings by artist Chris Kienke, explores American cultural identity. It is exhibited through Dec. 13. "You Promised Me Poems" examines ideas of representation, citizenship, and sexuality, as well as how media influences common beliefs about American values. 10 a.m. daily, Dittmar Memorial Gallery, Northwestern University, 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston, free, 847-491-3348.

**Landscapes Through the Seasons:** The artwork of Evanston artist Chris Viaz will be featured in November at OTR Gallery in Evanston. 9 a.m. daily, Over The Rainbow Association Gallery, 2040 Brown Ave., Evanston, free.

**A Chorus Line at Northwestern Wirt Center:** Join Kurt Domoney, a New York-based director, choreographer and company member of the 2007 Broadway revival of "A Chorus Line," helms the iconic musical, which runs through Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. daily, Glenview Ice Center, 1851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, $5, 847-724-2800.

**Sew With a Friend:** Adults & high school teens learn the basics of operating a sewing machine and can use their new skills to make a lined gift bag. You bring two coordinating fat quarters of fabric; we provide the rest. Registration and Glenview Library card required for each participant. Visit or call the Reader Services Desk at 847-729-7500 x7600 for questions and to register for a one- or two-hour session. Note: A one-time liability waiver must be signed and on file before participating in all sewing classes. 6 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**Storyland: A Trip Through Childhood Favorites:** "Storyland: A Trip Through Childhood Favorites" allows kids to immerse themselves in the life-sized worlds of award-winning children's books. 9:30 a.m. daily, Kohl Children's Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, adults and children: $13, grandparents and seniors (55+): $12, and infants under 12 months: free, 847-832-6600.

**ESL Book Reading and Discussion Group:** Practice your English conversation and reading skills while expanding your vocabulary. Attendees discuss "Persepolis," a memoir by Marjane Satrapi. 2 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

**Free Memory Screenings:** Cecelia Thomas Isenman, MBA, LNHA, CDP, of Arden Courts Northbrook, provides confidential memory screenings. Included in a memory screening are: a series of questions and tasks (taking about 10 minutes) designed to gauge memory, language and thinking skills. Call or register online at the website. For more information contact Karen Brownlee, kbrownlee@nynmca.org.

**The Comedy Nosh with Headliner Jan Slavin:** The Lineup includes: host Larry Bloom, Sonal Aggarwal, Ben Hamilton; with special guest: Mike Hover and headliner: Jan Slavin. Discounts for groups of 10 or more; only $25 per person. RSVP: www.maxandbenny.com. 7 p.m. Thursday, Max & Benny's Restaurant & Deli, 461 Waukegan Road, Northbrook, $35, 847-748-7490.

**Are We Stuck in a Post-Truth World:** Is anti-science here to stay? How about "denialism," the rejection of evolution, climate change, the HIV/AIDS link and even the Holocaust? Listen to the arguments and find real reason to believe that truth is much harder to extinguish. 10 a.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $39 member; $49 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

**The Marx Brothers: The Marx Brothers established new standards for comedy. But when you look deeper you see an immigrant success story, discover how American popular culture was changing and meet four remarkably different and interesting men. 1 p.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member; $17 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

**Santa HQ at Fashion Outlets of Chicago:** Purry family members can join the fun and take part in family photos with Santa. Every Monday, through Dec. 17, families can bring their cat or dog to Santa HQ for photos with Santa from 6 to 8 p.m. Fashion Outlets of Chicago will also offer a variety of photo packages. Reservations to visit the experience can be made in advance. 11 a.m. daily, Fashion Outlets of Chicago, 5220 Fashion Outlets Way, Rosemont, free, 847-928-7500.

**Steam with Nature 2018 - 2019 Exhibition:** This exhibition includes artworks created by local plein air artists who created their pieces while outdoors at the Emily Oaks Nature Center in Skokie. On display through Feb. 24, 2019, regular viewing hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; and Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily, Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, free, 847-674-1500.

**Meet Novelist Elizabeth Berg:** Elizabeth Berg discusses and sign copies of her newly released "Night of Miracles," a novel about how the way small acts of kindness can change your life. Attendees are asked to purchase their copy of Night of Miracles from The Book Stall to join the book-signing queue. Call at 847-446-8880 for an autographed copy to be arranged if unable to attend. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, The Book Stall at Chestnut Court, 811 Elm St., Winnetka, free, 847-446-8880.

**Friday, Nov. 30**


**Jolly Old St. Nick Concert:** Ring in the holiday season with Elmhurst's annual celebration of the city's German roots. Hear authentic carols performed by traditional local German choirs, Dannenhor and Männerchor. Children are encouraged to wear their pajamas and no registration is needed. Donations are gratefully accepted for the giving tree to support Yorkfield Food Pantry. 6 p.m. Friday, Yorkfield Presbyterian Church in Elmhurst, 1099 S. York St., Bensenville, free, 630-833-1457.

**Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel:** This four-program series, celebrating 50 years on Chicago's North Shore features masterful performances and lively commentary by Siegel including "Commemorating Rachmaninoff and Debussy" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30, 2018; "Chopin in Paris" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, 2019; and "The Romantic Connection" 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 10, 2019. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $10-$30, 847-491-7575.

**Friday Night Meltdowns:** Join in this awesome skate and dance party! A DJ plays today's hits and disco lighting shines on the ice throughout the night. Bring your own skates or rent a pair for the evening. For more information, visit the website or call 815 p.m. Friday, Glenview Ice Center, 1851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, $8 admit; $4 rental skates, 847-724-2800.

**Know the Ropes, with No Strings Attached:** Look at the history of rope from how it was made and more. 1 p.m. Turn to Calendar, Page 29.
WHAT TO DO COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Calendar, from Page 28

Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10 member, $15 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Ten People From Illinois Who Changed History: Historian Leslie Goddard's fascinating presentation commemorates the state's 2018 bicentennial. Look at ten intriguing people from Illinois, including heads of state, newsmakers, inventors and others who all changed the world. 10 a.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member; $17 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Meet Beloved Picture Book Author Jan Brett: Beloved children's book author and illustrator Jan Brett stops by The Book Stall for a drawing demonstration and book-signing in celebration of her new picture book, "The Snowy Nap." The first 100 families in line will also get a signed poster. To reserve your place in the signing line, please purchase a copy of The Snowy Nap from The Book Stall. Attendees are asked to limit themselves to one book brought from home. Call at 847-446-8880 or email: events@thebookstall.com. 4 p.m. Friday, The Book Stall at Chestnut Court, 811 Elm St., Winnetka, free, 847-446-8880.

Saturday, Sat. 1

Winter Wonderland Holiday Festival: Bring your camera and take a picture with Santa. Kids ages 2 and younger are free. Purchase tickets at D/Park. The free event includes the annual food drive for the Des Plaines Self-Help Closet and Pantry. Receive a free hot cocoa or coffee for your donation of a nonperishable food item. 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Prairie Lakes Community Center Theatre, 315 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines, $3 advanced, $5 at door, 847-391-5711.

Typhanie Monique: Acclaimed Chicago jazz vocalist presents a sweet, swinging holiday program. This performance will be recorded live for WDCB. Tickets: $20 general seating, $25 cabaret seating. 8 p.m. Saturday, Studio5, 1934 Dempster St., Evanston, $20 general seating, $25 cabaret seating, 847-328-6683.

Bienen Contemp./Early Vocal Ensemble: Advent Evensong: Donald Nally conducts the Bienen Contemporary/Early Vocal Ensemble in its annual Evensong performance, this year surrounding themes of Advent. It features works of anticipation and birth. The program includes 2016 Pulitzer finalist Michael Gilbertson's "Born" and Philip Radcliffe's "Preces and Responses." 5 p.m. Saturday, First United Methodist Church, 516 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-467-4000.

Junior Music on Madison: All Mozart: Members of The Musical Offering's Continuum student ensemble will present a program of music exploring music for winds, strings and piano by this Viennese master. Get your tickets now at bit.ly/JrMozart. 7 p.m. Saturday, The Musical Offering, 743 Custer Ave., Evanston, $20 general admission, $10 non-Musical Offering students, Musical Offering students free, 847-866-6260.

Holly Jolly Holiday Faire: The Philpottoch Society of Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Glenview hosts its "Holly Jolly Holiday Faire" from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A luncheon of Greek cuisine is served from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and carry-outs are available. Santa visits from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Saints Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church, 1401 Wagner Road, Glenview, $2 admit; students and children no charge, 847-729-2231.

Take Apart-y Workshop: Be part of the maker culture and take apart all kinds of interesting household electronics and see what makes them tick. This is for grades 3 and older and is ideal for families. Registration is required; no Lincolnwood Public library card is required to attend. To register, please visit the website or call. 2 p.m. Saturday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277.

Holly Days: Family activities from 3-5:30 p.m. Offered are Winter Family Market; dog sled demo; ice sculptor demo; entertainment; children's activities and crafts; holiday tractor rides; Santa; tree sales; vendors and more. From 5:45-6:30 p.m. the tree lighting and refreshments. 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Harrar Park and Pool, 6250 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-1200.

Carbon Pricing 101: Come to learn why pricing is an effective policy for climate action, how pricing will speed a transition to renewable energy, how you can support a carbon pricing policy and more. 10 a.m. Saturday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224.

YMCA Holiday Giveback: The North Suburban YMCA invites the public to participate in its first "Holiday Giveback" event. Guests of all ages can participate in a volunteer project helping those in need, while also enjoying holiday crafts, activities and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. 1 p.m. Saturday, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7250.

Shabba-Teen: For those in 9th-12th grade to join for Shabba-Teen discussion from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Hang out in the Youth Lounge and discuss topics that are relevant with Rabbi Ari Averbach and Matt Rissien, Director of Youth and Young Family Engagement. The topic: Is There A Jewish Heaven? 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-498-4100.

BisketPalooza: Tastings begin at 7 p.m., followed by a concert by Noah Arson at 8:30 p.m. and dessert. Tasters pay a $25 admission fee and get to taste up to 25 briskets as well as a range of side dishes and dessert, and have one vote to cast for their favorite brisket. Cooks must be TBE members. Attending just the concert is $15. Dessert is served after the concert. 7 p.m. Saturday, Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook, $25 to taste; $15 for concert and dessert only, 847-205-9982.

UMW Cookie Walk and Bake Sale: This is The United Methodist Women of Park Ridge UMC's annual Cookie Walk and Bake Sale taking place from 9 a.m. to noon. Parking available in their church lot at 408 Grant Place, just north of the church. 9 a.m. Saturday, First United Methodist Church of Park Ridge, 418 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3144.

Sunday, Dec. 2

Holiday Baroque 2018: Rembrandt's annual Holiday Baroque concert is a tradition that signals the beginning of the holiday season. The performance includes some of the season's most beautiful baroque music by Bach and Boccherini. 3 p.m. Sunday, Alice Millar Chapel, Northwestern University, 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston, $10-$35, 847-467-7547.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols: This is The United Methodist Women's famous tale from the perspective of Marley's Christmas Carol, "telling Dick-"computers and see what makes them tick. This is for grades 3 and older and is ideal for families. Registration is required; no Lincolnwood Public Library card is required to attend. To register, please visit the website or call. 2 p.m. Saturday, First United Methodist Church, 1870 Sherman Road, Evanston, free, 847-467-4000.

Tom Mula - Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol Performance: Tom Mula in a staged reading of his novel, "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol," telling Dickens' famous tale from the perspective of Scrooge's former business partner. Tickets: $20 general seating, $25 cabaret seating. 8 p.m. Sunday, Studio5, 1934 Dempster St., Evanston, $20 general seating, $25 cabaret seating, 847-328-6683.

Studio5 Sunday Film Series: Duck Soup: Enjoy a great movie shown on Studio5's new projection system. This week, they will be showing the Charlie Chaplin film, Duck Soup, featuring pre-show commentary by screenwriter Dana Olsen. 4 p.m. Sunday, Studio5, 1934 Dempster St., Evanston, $10, 847-328-6683.

The 67th annual presentation of The Nativity pageant: Glenview Community Church presents the 67th Annual Performance. This is a blend of music, movement, color, light and spoken word offered at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Visit http://www.gcccmusic.org/Nativity.html or call for further details. 10 a.m. Sunday, 1 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Community Church, 1000 Elm St., Glenview, freewill donation, 847-724-2210.

Tree of Lights Glenview: Join in for one of their Tree of Lights celebrations to honor the memories of loved ones who are no longer with us. 2 p.m. Sunday, JourneyCare, 2050 Claire Ct., Glenview, free, 847-556-1682.

Pet Pics with Santa: Bring your pets furry friends in for their photo op with Santa! Bring pets to Lincolnwood Town Center for the cutest photos of the holiday season. Please enter through the lower level main entrance doors. 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Lincolnwood Town Center, 3333 T. Touhy Ave., Lincolnwood, photo packages vary in price.

Grinch's Candy Cane Hunt: The Grinch discovered Santa's elves have hidden candy canes at Maine Park. This event begins with the story, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, inside the Maine Park gym, then moves outside to find all the candy canes hidden inside the park. Prizes are given to those who find the special candy canes. Dress warmly. In the event of inclement weather, the candy cane hunt will be held inside. Registration deadline: Dec. 1. 2 p.m. Sunday, Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 W. Sibley Ave., Park Ridge, $7 per person, 847-692-5127.

Introductory Square Dance Party: Today's square dancing is fast-paced fitness that challenges mind and body. If you have no partner, that is not a problem! Classes begin in January. 2 p.m. Sunday, Wilmette Community Recreation Center, 3000 Glenview Road, Wilmette, free, 847-864-7565.

Village Follies Open House and Auditions: From 1 to 4 p.m., the Village Follies holds an Open House and Auditions event for the 2019 variety show.
"Fractured Follies," which will be performed March 2019. Adult singers, dancers and comedy-skit actors of all ability levels are welcome. For more information about this organization, please visit their website. 1 p.m. Sunday, Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln Ave., Winnetka, free, 847-446-0537.

**Monday, Dec. 3**

**Dungeons and Dragons: The Adventure Zone:** Using pre-generated characters from the popular podcast The Adventure Zone, grades 8th and up get their feet wet with Dungeons and Dragons 5th edition. Adults are welcome too, however registration is required; no Lincolnwood Library card required to attend. To register, please visit the website or call. 5 p.m. Monday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277.

**Free Workshop: Holiday Healthy Eating:** Anna Harris, Precision Nutrition certified nutrition coach, will share helpful tips and guide you through healthy eating strategies. Space is limited. Reserve your seat by calling 847-272-7250, registering online at nsymca.org or signing up at the YMCA front desk. 11:15 a.m. Monday, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, free.

**Music and Art: Impressionism:** Masterpieces such as Preludes to the Afternoon of a Faun, La Mer, Daphnis et Chloe and others by Respighi, Delius and Dukas are examined as Michael Vaughn Lustbader explores this fascinating correlation between music and art. 10 a.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $24 member; $34 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

**Alliance Française du N. Shore Café Conversation Matin:** Join the group for relaxed French conversation, facilitated by native or fluent speakers. Listening in French is encouraged; all levels are welcome. For more information: Meetup.com/afnorthshore and Afnorthshore.org/events. 10 a.m. Monday, Panera, 1199 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-858-7374.

**Tuesday, Dec. 4**

**Jew-Ish - Adult Class Series with Rabbi Rachel Weiss:** Join Rabbi Weiss and Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation’s clergy team to talk about your experiences, learn about ways that Jewish tradition understands Jewish identity and Jewish status. Have an opportunity to “ask the rabbi” any burning questions about faith and identity. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, 303 Dodge Ave., Evanston, free, 847-328-7678.

**The Breakfast Club:** 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.

**Wednesday**

**Top Box for Schools coming to ETHS:** Save on groceries and support local farmers all while fundraising for ETHS student clubs. 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, free, 847-864-8804.

**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. Wednesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277.

**Community Wednesdays - Current Events with Ron Mantegna:** Every Wednesday, take part for a few hours of mind, body and spirit enrichment. The “J” hosts three, one-hour lectures/classes throughout the day, along with their fitness class offerings at the Marvin Lustbader Center. Attendees choose how to spend their day at the J. 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Bernard Weinger JCC, 300 Revere Drive, Northbrook, $10 or free for MLCH&W members, 224-406-9257.

**Skokie Synagogue Sisterhood - Chanukah/ Latke Party:** The annual Chanukah party and Latke Luncheon are presented by the Sisterhood of Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation. Musical entertainment for the day is presented by Bibi Marcell, who is celebrating her twelfth year with the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band and is a cantonal soloist, as well. Cost for the luncheon and program is $20 per person for members with paid reservations and $25 for nonmembers and at-the-door. For reservations or for further information, please call or go to the website. 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, $20 for members; $25 for nonmembers and at door, 847-675-4141.
Indulge in ‘cheat’ foods, but only in moderation

By Dr. Eve Glazier and Dr. Elizabeth Ko

Dear Doctor: We're often told we can consume alcohol, sweets, or burgers and fries “in moderation.” My sister and I had a conversation about that sort of recommendation just the other day. What does moderation actually mean? Is it one beer a day? One burger a month? Ten french fries once a week?

Dear Reader: You're right — moderation is a term that makes a lot of sense in theory but turns out to be somewhat slippery when it comes to actual practice. That's because moderation is relative and varies from person to person. What amounts to a moderate amount of a certain food or beverage for one person may actually be a binge for someone else. And moderation isn't only about the amount or the type of food or beverage — it's linked to an individual's patterns of consumption as well. Let's look at alcohol, for example. The current guidelines, put forth by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, define low-risk drinking for women as no more than seven drinks per week, with no more than three drinks on any single day. For men, that number is no more than 14 drinks per week, and no more than four on any one day. (One drink is further defined as 5 ounces of wine, one 12-ounce bottle or can of beer, and one ounce of hard liquor.) A man who abstains from drinking during the week, but then downs four drinks per night over the weekend, is technically within the safe drinking guidelines. However, that pattern, which goes from zero to the edge of a binge, doesn't exactly say moderation.

When it comes to sweets, snacks and splurge foods like the burger and fries you mention in your letter, things get a bit murkier. For patients in our practices, we start with the advice to set a baseline with a healthful, balanced diet. In our opinion, that's lean proteins and fish, whole grains and legumes, and a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. When it comes to sweets and treats, whether it's a foray into the potato chip aisle of the grocery store, a visit to the ice cream shop or dinner at your favorite burger joint, make them a fraction of your weekly — or monthly — calories. For our patients who are in ideal health, we advise a split of 80 percent being good about diet, and 20 percent “cheat.” For those with diabetes, hypertension or any cardiac issues, the ratio changes to 90 percent good and 10 percent cheat.

One of the best guides to figuring out moderation is how the cheat or binge made you feel after it was over. A hangover after a few cocktails or a headache the morning after a chocolate spree, and your body may be asking you to please take a step back and reconsider. That doesn't mean you have to give up on splurges. Indulge in your pleasures, but in quantities and at a frequency that don't require the word “guilty.”

Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health.

Send your questions to askthedoctors@mednet.ucla.edu, or write: Ask the Doctors, c/o UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations, 10880 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450, Los Angeles, CA, 90024. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.
New construction home in Western Springs: $1.5M

ADDRESS: 4800 Wolf Rd. in Western Springs
ASKING PRICE: $1,549,000
Listed on Nov. 7, 2018
This newly built home has five bedrooms, a grand foyer, spacious family room with a two-sided fireplace and an over-sized dining room. The eat-in chef’s kitchen has a sparkling backsplash and extra thick quartz countertops. A mudroom with custom cubbies has ample room for books and belongings, while the office is set up for three workstations. The master bedroom has a fireplace and all-marble bathroom with an oversized shower. The spacious basement has 10-foot ceilings, a workout room, storage, additional family room with a fireplace and a bonus room. A 3.5-car heated garage with extra space for storage completes the home.
Agent: Steve Jasinski of Baird & Warner, 708-491-4155

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
Firefighters, from Previous Page

cer, the challenge facing area policymakers and the effect the complexities of the situation have on firefighters and their families.

It also examines the differences in prevention efforts between well-funded departments, including those in affluent Chicago suburbs, and financially strapped departments farther downstate and in poor cities such as Gary — a situation that often divides members of fire service into have and have-nots, and one that first responders and their families say is unfair and dangerous.

Yet, it's not solely an economic issue. Firefighters in the best-funded departments say they are affected by a historic lack of attention to the issue, leaving them without proper protection, and their families, such as the Haubers, fighting with communities over death benefits.

“I was disappointed and confused because when he first started working for Buffalo Grove, they promised that if a firefighter was injured or died because of the job, their family still would be taken care of,” said Kim Hauber, who recently hired an attorney in her battle to retain her current pension benefits.

‘Difficult to analyze’

Since the nation’s first publicly funded fire departments were established in the 17th century, firefighting has been fraught with hazards inherent to the profession, such as back drafts, collapsing roofs, smoke inhalation, disfiguring burns and savage natural disasters like the massive wildfires that have raged across California in recent weeks.

But an advocacy group, the Firefighter Cancer Support Network, maintains cancer was the cause of 70 percent of career firefighter line-of-duty deaths in 2016.

Kevin Hauber is surrounded by daughters Kaitlyn, 12, and 10-year-old triplets Megan, Brooklyn and Nicole, days before he died Jan. 27. Buffalo Grove officials challenged a pension board ruling that his death from cancer was linked to exposure to toxins found in fires.

Buffalo Grove firefighters hang a giant American flag before the start of the funeral for 23-year veteran, firefighter/paramedic Kevin Hauber, 51.
with firefighters having a 14 percent higher risk of dying from the disease than the public.

Those numbers do not include cancer deaths among the roughly 814,000 volunteer firefighters, who represent about 70 percent of the 1.16 million firefighters nationwide, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

The newly signed Firefighter Cancer Registry Act also requires the CDC to create a national cancer registry for firefighters to monitor and study the relationship between the profession and exposure to dangerous fumes and toxins while on the job. The data will be used to track the incidence of cancer in firefighters with the goal of developing a national safety protocol, including the recommended use of protective gear and improved prevention methods. The new law was supported by a multiyear, large-scale study by the CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of nearly 30,000 firefighters from Chicago, Philadelphia and San Francisco fire departments.

The study found higher rates of certain types of cancer among firefighters than the general U.S. population. The findings suggest firefighters may be at higher risk of digestive, oral, respiratory and urinary system cancers than the general population.

Despite the new law and the study's findings, an absence of national guidelines means funding and cancer prevention protocol vary dramatically among the roughly 28,000 fire departments across the United States.

Above all, firefighters from across Chicago and the suburbs who were interviewed for this series said a major challenge in preventing cancer within their ranks is transforming a deeply entrenched culture built on the image of the brave, soot-covered hero battling fires and saving lives.

"I think in the firefighting community, we have a lot of guys who think they're invincible," said Chicago Fire Department Capt. Tony Martin, who serves as a trustee for the Chicago Firefighters Union Local 2 annuity and benefit fund.

"If they work out and work hard, they don't think cancer will ever happen to them, until it does, and that changes your entire perspective," said Martin, 53, who was diagnosed with oral squamous cell cancer in 2004.

A fourth-generation firefighter, whose family history with the Chicago Fire Department dates to 1906, Martin said he began work at a desk job within weeks after his diagnosis, followed by a return to the field after his treatment and recovery.

"It's an Irish thing. ... You walk out the door you walked in," Martin said, adding, "They caught it really early and I was very fortunate because I didn't have any symptoms."

Spurred on by his own experience and the increase in cancer among his peers, Martin said he began to collect data on local cases looking at active, disabled and retired Chicago firefighters who were diagnosed with the disease.

Martin said he decided to gather his own statistics on the issue due to the dearth of any centralized, governmental database - the type of information that, officials with the CDC say, will be included in the new voluntary cancer registry.

"Working on the pension board, I have the honor to help them," Martin said. "I've seen some terrible tragedies, but it's something that's very difficult to analyze because the exposures are so varied."

'Awareness can only help'

While it is typically difficult to determine if it is one so-called "legacy" furnishings and another with modern items, such as a microfiber-covered, polyurethane-foam-filled sectional sofa, Kerber said.

After a lit candle was placed on each side of the different sofas, Kerber said.

"Fires, and the resulting smoke, are toxic regardless of the source of those fires and what is being burned," said Kathryn Murray St. John, a spokeswoman for the council. "It is a misconception to think that smoke from an old wooden house burning is somehow less dangerous than smoke from a modern house burning."

The council, which is based in Washington, advocates and lobbies for chemical manufacturing companies.

While the American Chemistry Council recognizes "elevated rates of some cancers among firefighters, such as mesothelioma," they are generally attributed to specific causes, such as asbestos exposure, St. John said.

"The increased cancer rates for the specific cancers identified by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health were not attributed to use of any specific materials or products in modern-day buildings," she said. "While there have been claims that chemicals in modern-day products may contribute to increased cancer rates in firefighters, such cause-and-effect relationships have not been established."

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Shulga eventually halted his chemotherapy treatments, diagnosed in 2000 with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, which he was not able to clean off his gear for more than a week, leading to a prolonged exposure to toxins, Scott said.

The source of the fire was an old transformer near the back of the theater that was later determined to contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) — a chemical that is among the carcinogens considered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to pose a cancer risk to people.

Diagnosed in 2000 with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Shulga, who was a married father and a 29-year veteran of the department, was able to return to full duty in 2001, but the disease resurfaced twice, in 2011 and in 2016.

Despite a stem cell transplant and high-dose chemotherapy treatments, Shulga eventually halted his work with the department and died in May 2017.

He had no family history of the disease, Scott said. At that point, cancer risks "had been on our radar for years," Scott said.

"But Capt. Shulga's passing was another motivating factor for us to get more defined and comprehensive procedures in place," he said.

Like other fire departments, the Evanston department now follows a strict cancer prevention protocol before and after a fire call to try and minimize firefighters' exposure to carcinogenic toxins, Scott said.

"Firefighting is a vocation, and we do whatever we can to help others, and we don't have a problem putting our own lives at risk," Scott said. "But for the things we can control, we need to do as much as possible, and I think more data and awareness can only help."

With increased exposure comes increased risk

For decades, researchers have known that fires generate toxic combustion products, some of which are known or suspected to cause cancer, and that firefighters may be exposed to these toxins while performing their jobs.

But while cancer risk among firefighters has been evaluated in previous studies, the conclusions were limited by relatively small study populations and short follow-up periods, said Robert Daniels, lead author of the 2010 CDC's NIOSH study.

The retrospective, longitudinal study, which is ongoing, has fewer of the limitations found in previous studies.

For the current study, cancer incidence and deaths were analyzed among a large number of career firefighters over a 60-year period, from 1950 to 2009, Daniels said.

Among the study's key findings were that firefighters had more cancer deaths and cancer cases than expected, with the higher rate of the disease primarily due to digestive, oral, respiratory and urinary cancers, Daniels said.

The study also found there were about twice as many malignant mesothelioma cases than were expected, with firefighters' exposure to asbestos in buildings while fighting fires likely being the primary cause of the disease, Daniels said.

In addition, some cancers occurred at a higher-than-expected rate among younger firefighters. For example, firefighters who were younger than 65 years old had more bladder and prostate cancers than expected, Daniels said.

While the NIOSH study supports the scientific evidence that firefighters are at increased risk of some types of cancer, Daniels said, the study cannot determine if a specific individual's cancer is related to his or her job duties.

In addition to firefighters' exposures to toxins, an array of other factors may influence whether a particular cancer develops, Daniels said. Those factors include family history and lifestyle habits, such as diet, exercise, smoking and alcohol consumption.

"There is no way to tell if a cancerous tumor is occupation-related by just looking at the tumor," Daniels said. "Because of that, there's always an amount of uncertainty, and it can be hard to get at the truth."
LINE OF DUTY: FIREFIGHTERS AND CANCER

Still, Daniels said: "There is unequivocal evidence that firefighters are exposed to carcinogens, and it's not too far of a stretch to say that with increased exposure comes increased risk."

But Daniels said the NIOSH study does not yet yield scientific evidence to support the general consensus among firefighters that cancer deaths in their ranks are surging.

"There is absolutely more awareness of firefighter cancer deaths than in the past, and more attention is given to prevention, but I can't say if there are more or less cases," he said.

Balancing acts

As researchers continue to study whether firefighters have a higher risk of cancer due to exposure to toxins while on the job, officials at departments across the Chicago suburbs are becoming increasingly vigilant about combating what many describe as the most daunting challenge now facing firefighters.

The death of Waukegan firefighter Kevin Oldham, 33, from pancreatic cancer in 2011, followed by the diagnoses of two members of the department who currently are battling cancer, has made preventing cancer a top priority for the department, Waukegan fire Chief George Bridges Jr. said.

"Firefighters these days are not just fighting fires. They are dealing with structures that are categorized as hazardous materials incidents because of all of the chemical toxins in the buildings," Bridges said. "As fire chiefs, firefighters are my superheroes, and the byproducts of today's fires are their kryptonite."

He added: "It really touched home after Kevin's death. He was very young, and had a wife and kids.

"We are a family here, and when someone dies or is ill, and to think there's something we can do to help prevent this, it hurts us even more," Bridges said.

As fire chiefs like Bridges cope with the loss of a firefighter and struggle to find ways to help those who are still battling cancer, government officials in the area face formidable challenges posed by cancer cases.

In Buffalo Grove, village officials said the decision to file a lawsuit contesting the firefighter pension board's ruling to grant Kevin Hauber's family a full pension was made after much deliberation.

Paying the Hauber family the full pension benefit instead of a line-of-duty benefit, officials denied a request that his family be entitled to the line-of-duty benefit or not." When a municipality designs a pension system, officials should ensure that the contractual agreements in cases of employee disability and death are stated clearly, and they also "need to honor them," said Jeffrey Brown, dean of the Gies College of Business for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

While fatalities from catastrophic injuries suffered during a service call have none of the ambiguity inherent to cancer deaths, Brown said pension policy contracts should be airtight and eliminate any lingering questions for family members about their benefits.

"I'm sympathetic to these families because public pensions have become a hot-button political and financial issue," Brown said. "But a pension policy should be written with a promise that the city is obligated to either pay the pension benefit or not.

After the cancer death of Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Protection District Lt. James Carney, 43, village officials did not fight the Fire Department pension board's decision to grant his widow and their two young children a full pension benefit.

Carney, who was raised on his family's farm in Wadsworth, was diagnosed with cancer in 2013 after medical examinations determined the disease was the result of repeated exposure to carcinogens while he was out fighting fires, Shetsky said.

According to court records, Carney, who had sought medical attention after he was having trouble sleeping and was coughing at night, was diagnosed with pericarditis, which is the swelling of the tissue around the heart.

After a surgery was performed, doctors found a tumor between Carney's heart and the membrane enclosing the heart. His firefighting career ended after diagnosis and treatment for pericardial mesothelioma, court records show.

While Carney was granted line-of-duty disability pension benefits and his death was ruled as duty-based, officials denied a request that his family be covered by a health insurance benefit under the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act, prompting a February 2016 lawsuit against the fire protection district.

A June decision by the Illinois Appellate Court upheld a ruling by the Circuit Court of Lake County that the Carney family is indeed entitled to the line-of-duty disability pension benefit.

"Every aspect of this entire process has been extremely difficult for everyone involved," Shetsky said. "This seems to have become the new norm... municipalities contesting line-of-duty benefits. They risked their lives for their communities in the short time they lived, and now, their loved ones face a battle."
Do you suffer from:
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-Dr. J.H., MD

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**EDUCATION**

**Niles West High School inducted into network of schools that promotes teaching German language**

Program is called PASCH, a German acronym for ‘Schools: Partners for the Future’

Niles West High School was recently inducted into a network of select schools that promote teaching the German language and provides active and long-term connections to Germany. Niles Township High School District 219 officials recently announced.

The program is referred to as PASCH, a German acronym for "Schools: Partners for the Future." The Goethe-Institut selected Niles West to be a PASCH school, and the school was inducted Nov. 1 during a small ceremony at the school, officials said.

"This PASCH designation is by far the highest honor our German program has achieved in the history of Niles West," said District 219 German teacher Josef Neumayer, who led the effort to apply for the recognition.

"The opportunities for intercultural learning and collaboration will undoubtedly change the lives of countless Niles West German students in the years to come," he said.

According to officials, PASCH is an initiative of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany in cooperation with the Central Agency for Schools Abroad, the Goethe-Institut, the German Academic Exchange Service and the Educational Exchange Service of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany.

About 1,800 schools that place a high value on German have been inducted into the PASCH network, according to PASCH representatives.

PASCH officials say the goals of the program is to inspire and sustain young people's interest in and enthusiasm for modern-day Germany and the German language—especially in the regions of Asia, the Middle East and Central and Eastern Europe.

District 219 leaders said that joining the PASCH network will create "life-changing opportunities" for students at no cost to the district. Included in those opportunities are expense-paid student travel nationally and internationally, participation in special events, including projects, activities and cultural events hosted or sponsored by the Goethe-Institut, teacher trainings and workshops, access to materials and resources and more.

The network also provides the opportunity to participate in a global learning exchange platform that connects PASCH German programs in more than 100 different countries worldwide.

Earlier this summer, six Niles West German students were awarded scholarships for summer study programs through the school's PASCH connection via the Goethe-Institut, said District 219 Superintendent Steven Isoye.

PASCH also sponsored four students and a teacher to participate in the German Academic Triathlon in Estes Park, Colorado this fall and provided scholarships to attend a theater workshop held in Texas, he said.

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**Niles Township District 219 leaders review school report cards**

Niles North and Niles West high schools were each designated "commendable," the second highest status that was part of the state school report card information released last month.

The designations have been added to the report card analysis for the first time this year.

The metrics for report cards changed a couple of years ago and new elements will continue to be added in future years, District 219 officials said.

The new state designations include exemplary, commendable as well as under performing and lowest performing.

"We want to make sure we understand the information and where we can identify areas of improvement," Isoye said about the new achievement numbers.

"Regardless of being 'commendable,' over time these numbers are going to change," he said, "and we know we have to consistently look at them to see how we can serve our students better."

Two sets of data — SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) results and the state's own test results as seen in the school report cards — do not necessarily look the same, Isoye said.

In general, scores are higher for the SAT, Isoye said.

"The college board has their own metrics — what they consider college readiness — and the state has their own separate metrics," he said.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Sandra Arreguin said District 219 scores in this year's report card are universally higher than state averages.

The new report card results show that 44.4 percent of tested District 219 students demonstrated math proficiency compared to 31.5 percent in the state.

The latest SAT results, on the other hand, show that 80 percent of District 219 students approach meeting, meet or exceed state standards in math as compared to 75 percent in the state.

According to ISBE officials, the designations added to this year's report card are based on multiple measures of performance. They identify the highest-need schools so additional support can be provided, according to ISBE.

District 219 officials said they are just beginning to take a deeper look at the ISBE reports, which contain information that is more detailed than ever before.

"I was proud of where we landed," Arreguin said about a first look at the data. "That's not to say there isn't any work for us to do. But overall, I think we're in a good place as a township."
Suburban florist fights extradition order at appeal hearing

BY TED GREGORY
Chicago Tribune

The plight of a former Lithuanian judge who had been living in suburban Chicago and is seeking asylum in the U.S. remains uncertain after a brief hearing Tuesday in the federal Court of Appeals.

An attorney for Neringa Venckiene said during the half-hour hearing that the court has the power to decide if her extradition to Lithuania is an improper effort by officials there to persecute her for political crimes.

A federal prosecutor countered that the U.S. Secretary of State, which has approved Venckiene’s extradition, is the appropriate authority to make that decision. The prosecutor also contended that Venckiene has failed to prove that her extradition would be politically based.

Venckiene, who fled Lithuania in 2013 and ended up working as a florist in the far northwest suburbs, claims authorities in her homeland intend to persecute her for trying to expose high-level government corruption there. Those claims stem from the alleged molestation of Venckiene’s niece in 2008 and set in motion events that included the suspicious deaths of four people in Lithuania.

Sparked by her effort to uncover what she claimed was a pedophile ring, Venckiene led a political opposition movement in her homeland and was elected to parliament there.

The charges against Venckiene stem from her refusal to relinquish custody of the girl, despite a court order. She also is charged with “humiliating” the court and failing to comply with a court order.

Her attorneys have said her alleged crimes are little more than misdemeanors and may have been cooked up. Federal prosecutors say an extradition treaty between the U.S. and Lithuania obligates the United States to return Venckiene to her homeland.

She and her attorneys said Venckiene was the subject of at least one assassination attempt, and she fears that she may be executed if she returns to Lithuania.

That fear for her safety prompted Venckiene to flee to America with her son. Lithuanian authorities sought her extradition early this year. She has been in federal custody since surrendering in February.

Tuesday’s hearing came after Venckiene’s attorneys appealed a district court decision in July to extradite her. Venckiene’s attorneys say they are hoping to delay her extradition until she receives an asylum hearing next summer.

Meanwhile, her son, who attended Tuesday’s hearing, is attending college, working and living in their home in suburban Chicago.

“It’s good that it’s being figured out,” Karolis Venckus said after the hearing. “But at the same time, it’s kind of overwhelming.”

The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals has not set a date for issuing a decision.

The State Department approved her extradition in April. U.S. authorities could extradite her immediately but signaled they won’t until the appeals court makes a ruling.

Neringa Venckiene

JUODAS VALIUAUSKAS/AP

Venckiene’s claims of corruption set in motion events that included the suspicious deaths of four people in Lithuania. Over the same time, Venckiene rose to lead a political opposition movement in Lithuania and was elected to parliament there.

Lithuanian authorities allege that Venckiene physically fought with police who were attempting to remove the niece from Venckiene’s custody. She also is charged in Lithuania with “humiliating” the court and failing to comply with a court order.

Venckiene and her attorneys contend the charges are little more than misdemeanors or fabrications.

She maintains that if she returns to Lithuania, authorities will punish her and may execute her.

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Sesame is 9th most common food allergen for kids

BY LISA SCHENCK
Chicago Tribune

Sesame is the ninth most common food allergen for kids, and nearly one in three children with a sesame allergy is rushed to the emergency room each year, according to new research that comes as the federal government considers adding sesame to the list of allergens that food manufacturers must include on their labels.

"This is an allergen that is causing a lot of reactions, and maybe that's because it is harder to avoid," said Dr. Ruchi Gupta, lead author of the study and professor of pediatrics at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and a pediatrician at Lurie Children's Hospital. "You can't easily tell if it's in the food."

Allergic reactions, such as breathing trouble, a drop in blood pressure and/or swelling and hives around the face and lips can happen within minutes or even seconds of exposure to an allergen and can be life-threatening if not treated quickly.

The study also found that nearly 8 percent of all kids have a food allergy of any kind, and 19 percent of children with allergies need to go to the ER each year. According to the study, 0.2 percent of kids have a sesame allergy. That makes sesame the ninth most common allergen after soy and wheat, to which 0.5 percent of kids have allergies.

The study was published Monday in the American Academy of Pediatrics' peer-reviewed journal Pediatrics.

The study based its findings on a survey of parents of more than 38,000 children in 2015 and 2016, a nationally representative sample. It followed up on a similar, earlier study published by Gupta but the previous study didn't look at how many kids with food allergies wind up in the emergency room or identify sesame as the ninth most common allergen.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration already requires food manufacturers to note on their packaging if products contain one of the eight most common food allergens: milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat and soybeans. FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb announced late last month that the agency is in the beginning stages of considering whether to add sesame to that list. Canada, Australia, the European Union and Israel already require sesame to be labeled as an allergen on food products.

A new allergy study found that only 40 percent of kids with food allergies have devices with which to automatically inject epinephrine, such as EpiPens or Adrenaclicks.

The study also found that only 40 percent of kids with food allergies had devices with which to automatically inject epinephrine, such as EpiPens or Adrenaclicks. It's possible that some families might not understand that a food allergy can be mild one time but severe the next, Ciaccio said. In recent years, there have also been shortages of some epinephrine auto-injectors, and high prices for some of the devices.

Amanda Bradley, of Ravenswood, is all too familiar with the realities behind the study's findings. Her 13-year-old daughter, Alexandra Bradley, goes to the emergency room about once a year because of her food allergies. She's allergic to about half of the top eight allergens, plus sesame.

"Really, it shows you the burden on families," Gupta said. "Having to be so aware and so consistent with prevention can be really challenging, especially with kids who are spending so much of their time at school and sports and activities outside the home."

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According to the study, 0.2 percent of kids have a sesame allergy. That makes sesame the ninth most common allergen after soy and wheat, to which 0.5 percent of kids have allergies.

It can be difficult for families, however, to know exactly which foods contain sesame. Some might not know that tahini, which is in hummus, is made from sesame. Other foods that contain sesame might not include it as an ingredient, instead saying on their labels that they contain spices or natural flavors.

"I have many kids with sesame allergies and it really puts them in a dilemma right now that packages are not labeled with sesame," said Dr. Christina Ciaccio, interim chief of allergy, immunology, pediatric pulmonology and sleep medicine at University of Chicago Medicine.

Ciaccio, who was not involved in the study, also said she wasn't surprised to hear that one out of five kids with food allergies has to go to the emergency room each year. After a person with a food allergy is given a shot of epinephrine — to counter the allergic reaction — he or she is supposed to go to a hospital for follow-up care.

The study also found that only 40 percent of kids with food allergies had devices with which to automatically inject epinephrine, such as EpiPens or Adrenaclicks. "I have many kids with sesame allergies and it really puts them in a dilemma right now that packages are not labeled with sesame," said Dr. Christina Ciaccio, interim chief of allergy, immunology, pediatric pulmonology and sleep medicine at University of Chicago Medicine.

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From an intrepid documentarian to a children’s rights lawyer to a pioneering health advocate, we honor our choices for Chicagoans of the year. Plus: our ultimate guide to the best winter ever, whether you’re looking for a way to keep your dog active, the secrets to staying warm and stylish, or a roundup of the season’s best books and television.
PIONEER PRESS 2018-19 BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

CENTRAL SUBURBAN NORTH

BY DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

Must-see: Deerfield's height. Some seasons, 6-foot-4 coach Dan McKendrick is the tallest player on his bench. Not this year. The Warriors feature 6-10 junior center Brandon Lieb, 6-9 senior forward Jackson Kenyon, 6-6 senior guard Dimitri Bousis and 6-7 sophomore forward Walter Mattingly, who is a talented transfer from Batesville, Ind. Senior Ara Emerzian (6-1) will play the point, while seniors Danny Golub (6-1) and Coby Friedland (6-2) are expected to play major minutes and take advantage of defenses geared to stopping the bigs. "(During the) summer, we were learning how to play a different style (to take advantage of the height)," McKendrick said. "It's fun and kind of refreshing. We hope we're putting kids in places to be successful. Time will tell." Others to watch: Frank Siegien, Brian Johnson and Evan Myers, Glenbrook North; Ali Sabet, Maine East.

Save the date: Deerfield at Highland Park, Jan. 11. While Deerfield's McKendrick has altered his team's style, Highland Park coach Paul Harris said his Giants likely will play a similar style to last season despite some roster turnover. After graduating all five starters, the Giants could feature a four-guard starting lineup with seniors Andrew Natinsky and Cole Beermann, junior for- ward Val Oplchenski. The 6-foot-5 Oplchenski and 6-4 classmate Isaac Griswold will have a tall task when the Giants face the rival Warriors twice in five weeks. "We're a group that always has to battle at both ends, limit turnovers, take good shots," Harris said. "Defensively, it's five guys working as one unit, trying to make it difficult for the offense." Other top games: Glenbrook North at Deerfield, Dec. 14; Schaumburg at Glenbrook North, Jan. 22.

Making a difference: On Nov. 17, all members of the Vernon Hills program volunteered at a food pantry in Libertyville. The players unloaded food from trucks, handed it out to families and helped those families carry the food to their vehicles. "It's a great learning experience for the kids, and I love to see the players working with regular food pantry workers to accomplish a mighty task," Vernon Hills head coach Matt McCarty said in an email. For the second straight year, Deerfield will work with the Warrior Dance Team to organize and run the school's Dance Marathon. Last year, the players got businesses to sponsor the marathon and created advertisements for an event that, according to McKendrick, raised more than $20,000 for the Rory David Deutsch Foundation, which has a mission to eradicate pediatric brain tumors and other childhood diseases. The coach said this year's event is expected to take place in late March, though a charity has not yet been chosen.

On the rise: Glenbrook North. The entire Spartan athletic program shifted to the CSL South next school year. However, after going 14-13 last season, the boys basketball team appears to have the talent to exit the CSL North as a champion. Siegien, a 6-6 senior center, is a true threat in the post, and the 6-5 Johnson is a versatile senior forward who can score inside and out and guard any position. Senior forward Alex Press is a fine athlete and good passer. The wild card could be Myers, a senior transfer from Carmel who has been out early in the season with a stress fracture. The 6-1 Myers averaged 10 points per game for the Corsairs last season and was the Class 3A 3-point shooting champion in 2017. "This is our last year in the CSL North, and we hope to make a run," coach Dave Weber said. "But all 10 of those (conference) games will be hard on us this year."

Oh Captain! My Captain: Vernon Hills senior center John Dosemagen prepared for his role as a team captain by attending the three-day Human Performance Project leadership conference in Wisconsin. McCarty, who nominated Dosemagen for the conference, said the 100 student-athletes at the event spent time dissecting the academic side of human performance. A former NFL player and a Navy SEAL were among the speakers at the conference, and there were workshops about communication skills, how to deal with failure, constructive conflict and leadership. "(Dosemagen) is a kid who always does things the right way," McCarty said in an email. "He makes an impact on a team by being an excellent role model and doing all the little things right."

This and that: Instead of captains this season, Maine East coach Dave Genis has established a leadership council. The council began with two seniors, who got to choose two juniors and two sophomores. After the holidays, two freshmen will be added. "The council meets with assistant coaches to discuss the concept of leadership and ideas for promoting the program," Genis said in an email. Maine East also will host a holiday tournament the last week of December. ... At Highland Park, seven of the eight coaches in the program are alumni of CSL schools. The most recent addition is first-year varsity assistant Curt Hanson, who was a standout at Deerfield before starring at Wisconsin-Platteville from 2006-2010.

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

MARK KODIAK UKENA/PIONEER PRESS
DEATH NOTICES
We extend our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

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Death Notices

Farrell, Virginia I 'Ginny'
Virginia Irene Farrell, (nee Fugman) passed away at home on November 11, 2018 at the age of 86. Beloved daughter of Theodore and Hilda Fugman, sister of Ted Fugman (Marcy), the late Eleanor (Ben) Brauer and Dorothy (Bob) Helling. Cherished mother, of Susan (Martin) Stock and Thomas Brian Farrell (deceased). Beloved Grandmother of Ashley Gerber, Christopher Herrmann, Krista Farrell, Colleen Herrmann (fiancé Patrick Klimeck). Step-Grandma of Kelly, Kevin and Kathleen. Beloved aunt, great aunt and great-great aunt. Ginny became a student of yoga at age 79 and regularly attended Lattof YMCA senior aerobics classes. Mom loved four things: faith, family and friends and fun. She delighted in time spent at Pine Lake in Chenequa, WI. Her greatest lesson was to live each day with joy and a deep sense of gratitude. A celebration of her life will take place on Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 11 am, Park Ridge Community Church, 100 S Courtland, Park Ridge, IL 60068. Arrangements by Lawrence Friel Funeral Directors Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Onderdonk, William A., Jr.
William A. Onderdonk, Jr., age 92, of Park Ridge, IL passed away peacefully on November 10, 2018 with family at his side. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 53 years, Mary Jeanne, nee Erickson, parents William and Gertrude, sister Jean (Petty), and daughter-in-law Karen Onderdonk. He is survived by his children Beth (Paul) Truax, Todd (Sarah) Onderdonk, and David (Gloria) Onderdonk; grandchildren Jennifer (David) Downs, Lauren (Jordan) Azios-Benze, John, Colin, Daniel, Eric, Adam, and Benjamin (Karma) Onderdonk; great-grandchildren Emily, Luke, and Eli Downs, Otto and Spiro Azios-Benze, and Zoe Onderdonk. He was a World War II veteran, graduated from Denison University, retired from Commonwealth Edison, was a Member of the Park Ridge Presbyterian Church and was very much loved. Visitation on Saturday December 1, 2018 at 11AM followed by Memorial Service at 12PM at Ryan-Parke Funeral Home, 120 S. Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge, IL 60068. Burial at Memorial Park Cemetery will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to One Hope United (formerly Central Baptist Children's Home), where he served on the board for many years – 333 S. Wabash Ave., Ste. 2750, Chicago, IL 60604.

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**CENTRAL SUBURBAN SOUTH**

**BY STEVE SADIN**  
Pioneer Press

**Must-see:** Evanston senior guard Lance Jones. The 6-foot-2 Jones is considered the best player in the league by a majority of the conference's coaches and is a Southern Illinois commit. Jones said his job is making his teammates better. "I try to pick them up and get them in their spots," Jones said. "If I see they're not doing a good enough job from there, I try to help them get better at it. I try to keep them focused." Wildkits coach Mike Ellis said Jones sees the floor in a way that helps the rest of the team. "He creates opportunities for them going the other way in transition," Ellis said. Others to watch: Blake Peters and Jaheim Holden, Evanston; Ciaran Brayboy and Spencer Boehm, New Trier; Aguam Smart, Niles North; Dom Martinelli, Glenbrook South; Esam Hamwi, Maine South; Kevin Guillaume, Niles West.

**Save the date:** New Trier vs. Evanston, Jan. 11 and Feb. 15. The Trevians and Wildkits shared the league title last season with 8-2 records. Both teams are loaded with returning starters and play different styles. Jones, Holden, Peters and Ryan Bost started for a team that placed third in Class 4A. The 6-9 Brayboy joins the 6-8 Boehm and 6-5 senior point guard Sam Silverstein as returning starters for New Trier. Trevians coach Scott Fricke said his team will try to slow the pace against the quick Wildkits. "Evanston will try to pick up the tempo with us," Fricke said. "We'll try to cool them down." Other top games: Niles West at Niles North, Nov. 30; Maine South at Evanston, Dec. 7; Glenbrook South at Niles North, Jan. 25; Maine South at Glenbrook South, Feb. 8.

**Beyond the box score:** New Trier has plenty of height with Brayboy and Boehm, who are committed to Harvard and Washington University in St. Louis, respectively. While height cannot be coached, Fricke said the Trevians have planned to account for it. Brayboy said there is a challenge from shorter, faster players, but he finds his size to be a big advantage. "It gets me closer to the basket and makes the game much easier," Brayboy said. A lot of Brayboy's free time is spent working out with Boehm.

**Making a difference:** When New Trier visits Maine South on Thursday, Hawks coach Tony Lavorato said the price of admission is a toy. He said the toys will be collected and given to the United States Marine Corps' Toys for Tots campaign. "This is the 13th year we have been doing it," Lavorato said. "They bring a toy and it's free admission. It's a good way to give back." Another team trying to make a difference is Niles North. Coach Glenn Olson said his athletes are writing letters to terminally ill children. He said it gives the players an appreciation of what they have. "It gives you a different perspective," Olson said. "They take it very seriously. No matter what happens, someone always has it tougher."

**On the rise:** Glenbrook South did not win a game in league play last season, but opposing coaches consider the current Titans to be title contenders. Coach Phil Ralston said in an email that the entire starting lineup returns from last season, as well as other experienced players. Fricke said the Titans have been building toward this season. "They've been looking to this group for a while," he said. "Last year they were 0-10, but they were never blown out. They were always in the game." Olson also predicted a breakout season for the Titans. "Glenbrook South has a lot of talent and is ready to step it up," he said. Along with Martinelli and Will King, Ralston said he expects contributions from Stevon Boyd, Zach Carr, Tyler Nelson and John Travlos.

**This and that:** Niles West coach Mike Wasielewski said the Wolves should get a scoring punch from Guillaume, who averaged 11 points a game last season, and Richie Noparstak, who averaged eight. ... The rest of the league will have to watch out for Niles North's Dailen Sudduth, a three-year varsity player who led the team in taking charges last season. ... Fans will get a double dose of varsity basketball when the Glenbrook South boys and girls play a doubleheader against Conant on Dec. 1 and Maine South on Feb. 8. ... Though height is not Evanston's calling card, the Wildkits added 6-5 guard Louis Lesmond this season. He comes to Evanston from France, where he played for the under-16 national team.

Lance Jones paces a deep Evanston team that should compete for the CSL South title.

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**Steve Sadin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.**

Twitter @Pioneer_Press
Must-see: St. Viator's Division I guard tandem of Trey Calvin and Jeremiah Hernandez. The seniors form one of the best backcourts in the state. Calvin, a 6-6 footer, signed with Wright State. Hernandez, a 6-4 shooting guard, signed with Kent State. He averaged 15 points, four rebounds, three assists and 1.7 steals per game last season and was co-MVP of the ESCC. Calvin is a quality distributor with shooting range. He connected on 44 percent on his 3-point attempts last season, averaging 16 points, five rebounds, three assists and 1.5 steals. Hernandez said the Lions have big goals after finishing with 24 wins last season, especially since they will be in Class 3A this season. "It's going to be a fun season against some great competition," he said. "We have worked super hard for this season. We are going to be a special team. We have high expectations."

Other players to watch: Johnny Roer, Carmel; Anthony Sayles, Notre Dame; Tagen Pearson, Nazareth.

Save the date: Carmel at St. Viator, Jan. 29. After winning all nine games in the ESCC last season, the Lions are seeking another undefeated run to the conference title. They'll have to beat an experienced, deep and talented Corsairs squad to do so. This game could have ESCC title implications and should prep both teams for the playoffs. Other top games: Notre Dame at Nazareth, Feb. 1; St. Viator at Nazareth, Feb. 8.

Beyond the box score: Carmel's win totals the last four seasons - 12, 13, 14 and 19 - have led coach Zack Ryan to anticipate another significant jump this season. The Corsairs return the bulk of a roster that won a Class 3A regional title last season. Ryan said his team can go 10 players deep. "(Carmel) has been a program on the rise," Ryan said. "This team is deeper than last year's Class 3A regional champs. We bring back many players that saw extensive minutes." Roer, a senior forward, is a four-year starter and averaged 12 points and six rebounds last season. Sophomore point guard Kimahri Wilson is an X-factor after averaging 11 points, four rebounds and four assists as a freshman. Damone Williams-Gray, a 6-foot-5 senior forward, averaged 12 points and six rebounds last season. "We will play fast offensively and try to take advantage of our point guard and the several guys around him that can score," Ryan said.

On the rise: Notre Dame has a unique roster. With a good blend of young and experienced players, Notre Dame will rely on sophomores Troy D'Amico (forward) and Anthony Sayles (guard). Sayles already scored 26 points in a win against Taft. The 6-6 D'Amico is coming off a promising freshman season in which he averaged eight points per game. Sayles, the quarterback on the Dons' football team, averaged 11.5 points, 3.0 rebounds and 2.5 assists. Junior guards Jason Bergstrom and Joey Tianen will also be counted on as key contributors.

This and that: Only a few blocks from Notre Dame is Northridge, a power in the Independent School League that won the league title at 22-6 last season. Senior guard Brendan Conroy is the top returning starter at 13.6 points and 3.5 rebounds per game. Senior guard/forward Ryan Menocal averaged 10 points and 4.6 rebounds last season, while senior forward Sean Holohan shot 41 percent on 3-pointers. ... Nazareth might take some time before fielding a full roster. The Roadrunners have five players who suited up in Saturday's Class 7A football state title game against St. Charles North. ... Carmel senior guard Mason Schaad sat out last season due to transfer rules but is slated to provide perimeter shooting for the Corsairs. ... St. Viator strengthened its schedule to prepare for the playoffs by adding Evanston, Oswego East, Waukegan, Bloom, Jacobs, Loyola and Lake Forest Academy.

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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**Meet your nominees!**

It is time to meet your December Athlete of the Month challenge nominees! Go to chicagotribune.com/suburbs/athletes on Dec. 13 to find out who our expert panel of judges have selected to be the Athlete of the Month. Winners will be featured in print and online, receive a commemorative plaque, and his or her school will receive $500, presented by Country Financial.

Name: Ty Gavin  
Year in school: Senior  
School: Notre Dame  
Sport: Football  
Position: Running back  
Highlights: Carried the ball 29 times for 144 yards and scored two touchdowns in a 28-21 loss to Cary-Grove in a Class 6A semifinal on Nov. 17.  
Quote: “(Gavin) had three great years,” Notre Dame coach Mike Hennessey said.

Name: Annika Wagner  
Year in school: Junior  
School: Maine South  
Sport: Swimming  
Position: Individual and relays  
Highlights: Captured the 200-yard individual medley state title in a time of 2 minutes, 013 seconds, which was also a new state record. She added a second place in the 500 free (4:48.53) to tally all of Maine South’s 29 points for an 11th-place showing with 282 points on Nov. 2.  
Quote: “Football has always been our school’s big things,” Wagner said. “To make our school (notable for) another sport other than football is nice.”

Name: Brian Walsh  
Year in school: Senior  
School: Northridge  
Sport: Cross Country  
Highlights: Finished a team-best 38th with a time of 15 minutes, 46.79 seconds in the Class 1A state cross country meet to spark Northridge to a ninth-place showing with 282 points on Nov. 2.  
Quote: “Football has always been our school’s big things,” Wagner said. “To make our school (notable for) another sport other than football is nice.”

**COLLEGE NOTES**

**New Trier’s Yavitt twins making waves as water polo standouts**

**BY BOB NARANG**  
Pioneer Press

New Trier graduates Henry Yavitt and Sam Yavitt took different paths in college. But the twins have both managed to shine in water polo at their respective Division I institutions.

Henry Yavitt is a freshman at Air Force, while Sam Yavitt, a sophomore, plays at San Jose State. Henry Yavitt scored nine goals and tallied seven assists in 23 matches. Sam Yavitt notched two steals in 22 matches.

The twins started playing water polo at 8 years old at Old Willow Club in Northbrook. Sam Yavitt admitted it was strange not to see his brother on a daily basis when he left for college.

“It was definitely weird not being Henry’s teammate anymore,” he said. “We grew up playing together, always on the same team all the way through high school. During our high school seasons, we had both been on varsity since our freshman year and our dad was an assistant coach.

“We would talk about polo-related things all the time, and how we, as a team, could get better. He was also one of my biggest competitors and someone who always made everyone else on the team better. I didn’t realize how special our connection was in the pool until I came to San Jose State. It was very weird for me to not call him my teammate anymore.”

The twins still talk weekly and have competed in the same tournament a few times this season — and watched each other play in person.

“My main goal was to contribute anyway I could to the team,” Sam Yavitt said. “Playing at the collegiate level, you need everyone to play at their best because if someone doesn’t play as hard as they can, they could let in goals and hurt the team. My keys have been trying to shut down the person I’m guarding and to positively contribute when I’m in the water.”

**Denison football gets Chicago-area boost**

Evanston alumnus Frank Zoltan was part of the reason that Denison (Ohio) had its most successful football season in three decades.

The junior offensive lineman helped the Big Red advance to the Division III playoffs for the first time in 33 years. Zoltan was one of 12 Big Red players named All-North Coast Athletic Conference. Northbrook native and Loyola grad Ryan Zinkula also earned all-conference honors. Zinkula, a senior defensive back, finished the season with 45 tackles. He intercepted nine passes and tallied 21 tackles in his Denison career.

Junior punter Calvin Montgomery, a New Trier alumnus, was All-NCAC Honorable Mention after averaging 37.4 yards per punt.

Zoltan, Zinkula and Montgomery are three of the 16 players from Illinois on Denison’s roster.

**Rakocevic gives Trojans paint presence**

Former St. Joseph center Nick Rakocevic is coming up big for USC this season.

The 6-foot-11 junior started four of the Trojans’ first five games and is averaging 14.4 points, 12.4 rebounds and 2.6 blocks per game. He opened the season with 18 points, 16 rebounds, four blocks and an assist against Robert Morris (Pa.), then tallied 19 points, 18 rebounds, two blocks and two steals in an 82-78 loss to Vanderbilt.

“Nick competed at a high level,” USC coach Andy Enfield said after the Vanderbilt game, according to USCtROJANS.com. “He got off to a slow start, then turned it on. He was dominant in the second half.”

Have a suggestion for College Notes?  
Email Bob Narang at bobnarang@yahoo.com.

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
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