

## OUR HAPPENINGS

Our day-to-day activities and events

### My Dream 18th Birthday

By: Katia C.

On my birthday I will have a big party with my friends and my family. We are going to have cake and dinner and watch a movie. I want a new phone for my birthday, a laptop, an apple watch and more makeup. I want to make gift bags for my friends. I want something from GG's and gap. I also want new clothes and a remote controlled drone. The party is going to be a tropical theme. We will have a bunch of activities and it will be a lot of fun. In the tropical theme I will have a sleepover and we will watch TV shows, movies, play games and watch games on TV. We are gonna have fun. For breakfast we will have a

tropical breakfast and then everyone else will go home.

### Cubs

By: Derek S

I am happy that the White Sox are eliminated from the playoffs. I am happy about the Cubs going back to the post season this year 78- 68. I might be going to a Cubs World Series parade this year. I might be going to buy a Cubs World Series hat this year. I am happy that the Cubs are winning right now.

## The Double Meeting of Mary

By: Sean W

August 28th after Our Place Mary and I walked down to Panera to meet our moms for dinner. We only had to wait for a little bit until they arrived. Once they did we got in line and ordered our dinner. My mom and I got the same sandwich: the smokehouse barbeque chicken sandwich. It was her first time eating it and it is one of my favorites. Mary and her mom got some sandwiches and soup. It was an enjoyable time and a rather delicious meal which I topped off with a pumpkin cookie! Then on Thursday August 31st my mom and I went to the food trucks at Ravinia. This was our second time going and it was such a great time! Despite encountering some unpleasant traffic by Ravinia we somehow made it through. Firstly, we stopped by Mary's house then walked down to the park where the food trucks were. Mary's dad was saving us all a spot there already so we went to find him first and then wandered to get some food. My mom and I found a place that had really good turkey sandwiches and rosemary salt fries. Mary got a big chicken sandwich. Mary's mom had pizza and fries. I also got some doughnuts for dessert. It was a

lovely evening with very comfortable temperatures and wonderful company! Overall, it was better than the first time we did it since both Mary and I were not feeling the best. I can't wait to do something like this again!



*Mary and Sean at Mary's house before going to the food trucks in Highland Park.*

## Wilmette Block Party

By: Matt C

On Saturday at 12 pm I worked at the popcorn stand at the Wilmette block party. I worked with Bella, Natalie and Mary. I passed out some popcorn to the customers. For lunch I ate a cheeseburger. I saw Jamie Weller and Katie L. I went to Homer's to get a Gatorade. I went back to Homer's to get Natalie Flanagan a red Gatorade drink. It was fun. I did a great job.

## Saturday September 9th

By: Mary S

On Saturday September 9th I went to Workout With Gail. Then my mom and I went to a popcorn party with Lisa, Natalie, Matt, Bella and Chris. Then I helped them and had ice water. Then I had Italian ice and got lunch. Then I had frozen yogurt and I was getting tired so my dad picked me up. My mom stayed there. Then she left and we had dinner at a restaurant. After dinner I went to Walgreens and I bought some stuff. Then we had ice cream somewhere and came back home and I went to bed.

## Weekend of September 9th

By: Zach W

My weekend was great. I went camping with Sarah and her boyfriend Jeff on Saturday. We went to Spring Grove for one day. I slept in a tent. It was fun. We also had marshmallows and Hershey bars. On Friday we had burgers, hot dogs, pickles, chips, guacamole and fries and we took some pictures. In my tent we also took some pictures. The Cubs lost against the Diamondbacks 6-2. And we had eggs, bacon and donuts. I watched the Bears lose to the Packers 38-20.



*Matt, Natalie, Bella and Jamie at the Wilmette block party handing out popcorn.*

## Weekend of September 9th

By: Katie L

On Friday I went to see a movie after work with my dad. I saw my big fat Greek wedding 3 and I had a soft drink and nachos with hot cheese and we picked our seats. It was fun. On Saturday I went with my dad to the Wilmette block party. We walked around and got food and snacks. We had lunch there. I got my face painted and tattoos and I had popcorn. I went out to dinner with my dad. On Sunday I went to family fest. I went with Ally's family and I had lunch and I had drinks. I danced with Mariam. Ally's mom and dad came to pick me up at 12:30 pm. We picked up my birthday cake and we came home with it. I played bingo at the family fest and got baked goods. I had a hotdog and chips and corn with butter. It looked like there was a silent auction at the family fest. I was dancing and meeting new friends. I showed them my sign language and dancing. I saw my New Trier high school friends and we hung out with my new friends. I had fun. I have a birthday twin named MJ who has the same birthday as me and I was shocked about that. I am having fun looking for a place to live. I am so excited for my 33rd birthday party in Pittsburgh for my real birthday party

with my family and friends. On Monday Crystal woke me up. I had a bath and got dressed. I am starting Special Gifts Theater today. We celebrated my birthday at Our Place. I brought a cake to share with Our Place. We went out to lunch today at the Skokie Portillo's. I got a char dog with hot peppers, onions, large French fries and a soft drink. Afterwards we went to the bookstore and then came back to Our Place. I had fun hanging out with my friends.

## Kirby

By: Natalie F

I like Kirby from Nintendo.

He is cute.

Kirby is an old dog that died and is in heaven.

Kirby blows his mouth.

Puts stuff in his mouth.

He is pink and he has red feet .

He is a circle.

His eyes are big.

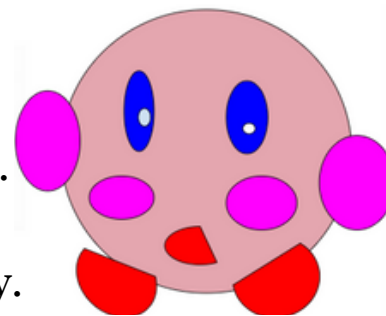
He talks.

He looks at things.

He rides on a star.

He is nice and silly.

He gets powers.



*Natalie's Kirby artwork from digital arts.*

## **Cartoon House Chapter 3**

By: Michaela M

She continued to search. She found wands, and a couple of spell books which were falling apart. She also found an explanation letter. Then she hears the door creak open. She ran upstairs pretty fast so her father did not know she was snooping. Little did Raelyn know she still had a wand in her hand. Her dad was not as mad as she thought he would be. Her Dad says, "I should have told you a long time ago." He told her about his childhood and what happened afterwards. "Mom was not magic. I lost the will to do magic after my explanation." Raelyn responds, "You were traumatized, you thought magic was the reason your family disappeared so that's why you could not perform well." Raelyn challenged her Dad to try a spell, just one spell. He took the wand and everything became red like fire. He had no idea he could do that! The fire swarmed around in different shapes until it became a portal. Raelyn says, "You're not coming?" Her dad responds, "Nope it's too dangerous for me but you can help find what happened to our family. They do not know you're related to me." They hugged for a really long time. Her dad says, "Here is a piece of paper. You can

always contact me if you need me. Go before the portal closes." Raelyn responds "Thanks dad, I will miss you." Raelyn found herself in a forest from fairytale movies. She had the piece of paper and the wand. She walked through the forest to a small village and it was beautiful. It had really white snow with multiple colored lights. She saw children playing what looked like magic hopscotch because it kept moving around. It was a lot to take in and she fainted. She woke up in one of the cabins and it was bigger inside. It was her best friend Hallie who loved Halloween. "You're magic?"

## **My Favorite October Colors**

By: Ellyn B

My favorite color is leopard print.  
I also like caramel brown.  
Fall green.  
I also like bright red.  
I also like yellow.  
I do like orange  
I also like red orange  
I do like navy blue.  
I also like maroon.  
I also like plum purple.  
I also like mauve pink.  
I also like fuchsia pink.  
I also like burgundy red.

## **My Favorite Recipes**

BY: Ellyn B

My favorite recipes for the fall.  
My favorite apple recipe is apple sauce.

And apple butter.

I also like apple pie.

I also like pumpkin pie.

And pumpkin muffins.

I also like pumpkin cake.

I also like peanut butter cookies

Pecan pie.

## **My Weekend**

By: Wes G

On Saturday night I went to a Chinese restaurant for dinner. I went with my mom and dad. My dad ordered noodles for dinner. My mom ordered chicken for dinner. I shared the chicken with mom for dinner. After dinner I came back home and went to bed. On Sunday morning my mom made waffles for breakfast. After breakfast I watched the Cubs play and they won the game. I had a fun weekend!

## **Weekend of September 15th**

By: Travis T

Friday I went to my mom's house for dinner. I had pork ribs and salad. Saturday morning I did my laundry and my mom had tennis. I went to the Saturday social. We had pizza and cookies and I saw the volunteers that came for the night. I played Uno with Hanna and somebody else. Patrick Kelly was there. Guess what I did? I cheated on Uno. Me and Bobby B cheated on Julie while playing Uno. Afterwards, I watched the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. I stayed up after midnight and watched Conan O'Brien and Late Night with David Letterman. I watched Jay Leno, that 2004 talk show. I will be him for Halloween with my gray hair.

## **Monday September 4th**

By: Mary Schutt

On Monday September 4 I woke up and we went to the beach and swam a little bit. Then we went back home and had a cookout. We had dinner at the cookout and had s'mores. Then we went to the Chicago Botanic Garden and got ice cream. We went back home after and I used my laptop and went to bed.

## **My Favorites**

By: Katia C

I love reading books and magazines. I like to do yoga and stretch. I like to buy new makeup to replace my old makeup. I like to play basketball, soccer, baseball, and football with my dad and my second oldest brother. I like to play music with my first oldest brother. I like to make food with my mom like baked goods, vegetables, and other food. We make vegetables and fruit and make meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner to take to school. I can put it in my bag and heat it up for lunch at school. I like to make breakfast bars for on the go and for school. I like lobster and crab and sushi for lunch. For dinner I like having mac and cheese with mashed potatoes and green beans. For dessert I like to have fruit parfaits, cooked apples and grilled watermelon.

I like to help my dad with the garden and help water the plants. I put out the bird seed for the birds. I make birdhouses for the birds. I also like to play games with my whole family. I like to make jewelry kits with my friends and we all make our own. I like to go to the library to read books there and get audiobooks for my parents and brothers.

I don't get them for me because I am not a big fan of audiobooks. I get some movies for my brothers and my parents too. I also pick one more movie for the whole family to watch together and we all have fun watching together. I like to play with my second oldest brother and do sports with my brother and my dad. I like going on walks with my mom and my dad. I love to knit with my mom. I love coloring and painting with my mom. And I like to have fun!

## **My Favorite Parts of Halloween**

By: Natalie F

The Halloween party and taking pictures with friends.  
Wearing Halloween costumes.  
I like Halloween candy.  
I like Halloween cookies.  
I like trick or treating.  
I like handing out candy.  
Scaring people with a spider.  
Jokes on people.  
Dancing with people.  
Halloween movies.

# CULTURE CORNER

Our place for reviews, recipes, special interests and more

## Groundhog Day Review

By: Macey S

I've only seen this movie once in my lifetime actually. I would say it's a hilariously funny movie even though it was made in 1993, a long time ago. You must've seen it when you were growing up. If you don't remember watching this movie let me jog your memory about what this movie is about. The motion picture original classic film is about an angry man named Phil Connors that stars Bill Murray. He's in a small town broadcasting about a holiday called Groundhog Day, but when he wakes up all of a sudden Phil Connors is stuck in a time loop. He's reliving the same exact day, February 2. He is stuck on a constant endless unforgettable time traveling journey to figure out a way to stop reliving February 2. He has to look deep within himself so that he can stop being emotionally thick headed and mean spirited to people so that he is not reliving Groundhog Day.

## A Review of Avatar: The Last Airbender

By: Macey S

I grew up watching an old Nickelodeon TV show called Avatar: The Last Airbender. My family and I loved watching this show over the years while I was growing up. Actually, it's one of my all-time favorite animated Nickelodeon TV shows ever. Avatar the last Airbender, is about a young 12-year-old avatar boy who must master all the elements to save the world and his name is Aang. The avatar meets two teenage water tribe villagers named Sokka and Katara. They help Aang find a master to teach him all three of the elements he needs to learn so he is ready to face the fire lord when the time comes. That is all I'm going to say just because I honestly don't want to give out spoilers and I also look up to this show. The characters show me that it's ok to be different and not let it define me.



# **The Lindsey Stirling Concert Experience!**

By: Sean W

On the weekend of Saturday August 12th, I experienced something I have never done before. My mom and I drove to West Allis, Wisconsin to go to a Lindsey Stirling concert! I've been a fan of hers since 2012 sometime, starting off mainly casually liking only a few songs until the last few years. My love of her music and lady herself grew exponentially after I joined her discord server and got to know her a bit. It was a decision I will never regret. I made some great friends there. Anyways our adventure began on Friday the day before the concert where we drove from our house to the hotel we were staying at in West Allis, a Hampton Inn and Suites. The room was overall nice. It was a nice experience including a morning continental breakfast. And the drive itself was good with little to no traffic as I chose a route that led us to some lovely farm-like scenery.

The first night there I got little to no sleep due to being in a new place among other things. Now the morning of Saturday the 12th, it was concert day! Once it was time to get going and start

start the day, we got breakfast and prepared for the rest of the day. The two of us relaxed until we went searching for a place to have lunch. We found one called Paulie's Pub and Eatery. We had a delicious pizza with onion, mushrooms, and bell peppers on it. We also had quite a refreshing and delicious salad. We ended up having left over pizza which we brought home on Sunday and ate for dinner then. Anyways after we went back to the hotel and relaxed some until it was time to go to the Wisconsin State Fair where Lindsey Stirling was playing later on! After a little walk we found our way into the fair where a sea of people awaited us. We slowly weaved our way through the people and found the venue itself, where we found the entrance to get to our seats.

With that done we went off exploring the fair itself. I found cows, goats, and llamas for my mom. After some time later, we decided to grab some dinner. We found a Hispanic place and grabbed some yummy quesadillas. My mom was craving sugar too, so we ended up getting donuts. I got a Spider-Man one! The two of us struggled to find a place to

sit down to eat our food. Ultimately, we found an area under the grandstand bleachers near the entrance to our concert seats. We sat on the cement and ate our dinner. Despite everything I was not as overwhelmed as I was expecting in this kind of environment, my mom was but she made it through. After eating we stopped at the booths and got some souvenirs aka Lindsey Stirling merch. I ended up getting a Lindsey Stirling ballcap and her “Brave Enough” CD album. Once we got those we relaxed under the grandstand bleachers to stay out of the sun. A little while later I would run into Laci, someone who works for Lindsey. It was from her where we got some special things that I will mention later. After talking to her for a bit, we hung out until it was time to go into the venue itself. We found our seats quite easily and were able to see the stage well. Thankfully I had no obstructions and no tall people in front of me. At 7:30 pm the first performer started to play, Walk Off the Earth who was touring with Lindsey. She even joined them for a song she collaborated on with them. This would be the first time I would see Lindsey play live. Overall, they were awesome and I enjoyed their music very much. They had some dramatic

clouds overhead the stage as they played while the sun began to set! It was a beautiful scene! They played for 45 minutes, ending at 8:15 pm where there was a 30-minute break to set up the stage for Lindsey. At 8:45 pm it was time.

Lindsey Stirling took center stage and began her amazing live music show! It was incredible hearing many of her songs I knew live, especially a couple of my favorites like “Guardian” and “The Love Goes On And On”. This was my first time going to a concert like this and hearing my favorite artist Lindsey Stirling live! After a beautiful and amazing stretch of live music that lasted over an hour and 15 minutes, the concert concluded. I took quite a few videos and some photos to remember it all while still enjoying the moment. Yet the night wasn’t over when the concert ended, there was one last little gift ahead. The two of us made our way down to ground level by one of the white tents. It was here that we waited for a meet and greet with Lindsey Stirling herself which I still can’t believe actually happened. We were second in line as we wanted to get some sleep before our return trip on the morrow.

Once it was our turn, Laci introduced me to Lindsey and then my mom. We shared compliments and positive thoughts with her like saying it was great to meet you and how much you inspire me. All the while Laci took pictures. It was a magical moment and Lindsey herself is so sweet. And it was something I never thought would be possible, yet here we are. Then it passed as I wished Lindsey a great rest of her tour before leaving for the night. We also got two beautiful signed posters.

I'm gonna get one of them framed for my wall. It was a beautiful end to a beautiful night. An experience I will never forget and thankfully the weather was friendly. And one I recommend to anyone! In the end, I still find myself checking my photos on my phone and yes, they are there, it happened. It honestly doesn't feel real. Even as we returned home and completed our first mother-son road trip successfully it still feels like a dream or a fantasy. Yet here I am writing this novel, this story. This is life and I am living it!



*Sean meeting Lindsey Stirling  
in Wisconsin at the concert.*