

MARK BLACK/mblack@dailyherald.com  
Investigators examine the site of a plane crash Wednesday in the parking lot of a Chase bank on Weber Road near Clow International Airport in Bolingbrook.

# Fiery, deadly plane crash

## One in small aircraft doesn't survive; other in hospital

By JESSICA CILELLA AND ROBERT SANCHEZ  
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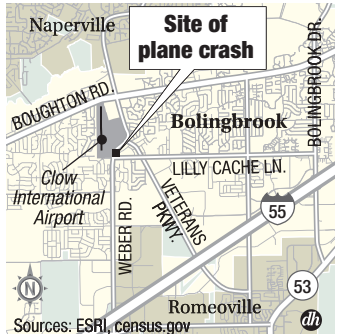
Video from the news conference and the scene, plus eyewitness accounts, at [dailyherald.com/more](http://dailyherald.com/more).

One person is dead and another hospitalized after a small plane crashed Wednesday afternoon into a bank parking lot near Clow Airport in Bolingbrook, according to Bolingbrook police.

Lt. Michael Rompa said in

an email the crash occurred around 5:15 p.m. at 262 S. Weber Road near a Chase bank. During a brief news conference, he said the plane crashed into a tree, a light pole and several vehicles near the bank, near the corner of Weber Road and Lily Cache Lane.

Rompa said the two victims are a middle-aged couple, including a man who was taken to Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital and then taken to Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood for burn treatment.



See **CRASH** on **PAGE 6**

# Losing friend in mall attack

Bartlett native's Kenya roommate was killed

By BURT CONSTABLE  
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Looking forward to a barbecue later that day with her old roommates and other friends in Nairobi, Bartlett native Toni Maraviglia sent out a warning as soon as she heard about the terror attack at the Westgate Mall where they shop for groceries.



Toni Maraviglia



Ravi Ramrattan

How malls around the world are adjusting security — Page 8

was at the mall with his girlfriend to buy groceries for the barbecue. They divided up the list to save time.

"He was going to get the meat and she was going to get

See **LOSING** on **PAGE 8**



Alice and Irene at

# 100



PHOTOS BY BOB CHWEDYK/bchwedyk@dailyherald.com

Alice Jensen of Arlington Heights, left, and Irene Cook of Addison met in the first grade 95 years ago and have been best friends ever since. They both turned 100 years old this summer. "When you think of it, it's a long time," Cook said of the friendship.

## Suburban centenarians friends since first grade

By MELISSA SILVERBERG  
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Not many people reach their 100th birthday, and even fewer get to do it with their best friend by their side.

But when Irene Cook and Alice Jensen joke and eat lunch together, reminiscing about their days jumping rope or playing cards after school, it's easy to see how the pair have stayed friends for almost a century. And with Jensen's partial hearing loss and Cook's difficulty seeing, together

### Watch the video



Friends for 95 years: The pair talk about what it means to them, at [dailyherald.com/more](http://dailyherald.com/more).

the two form a perfect pair, family members joke.

Both born in 1913, Jensen and Cook grew up one street apart in the same Chicago neighborhood and met during first grade at St. Gregory's Catholic School. Jensen would stop by Cook's house every morning on the way to school and wait for her to come outside.



"I didn't want to go in because there were so many kids in there," she recalls in reference to Cook's family of 18 siblings.

The two were part of a group of six girls who were friends from childhood throughout their lives, but Jensen and Cook are the only

See **FRIENDS** on **PAGE 6**

# What will city do with mixed martial arts? Page 3

## Teen enjoys brush with fame on 'El Factor X'



FERRARIN & POHL

SUBURBAN STANDOUTS

Brisila Barros' family can't get enough of the YouTube videos.

Huddled around the tablet computer in the family room of their Round Lake Beach townhouse, they comb through more than a dozen performances that have been posted. They laugh, point out details they hadn't noticed before and shake their heads, still dumbfounded at Brisila's turn in the limelight.

Not that the Round Lake High School sophomore isn't brimming with talent.

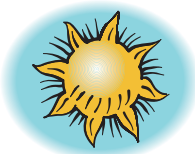
But they never imagined Brisila's audition just a few months ago would lead to a brush with stardom over the summer as one of the finalists on "El Factor X," a Spanish-language version of Simon Cowell's franchise of TV singing competitions.

"I still can't believe it all happened sometimes," Brisila, 15, said. "I felt so special, like I wasn't even from this world. The whole thing is so humbling."

See **STANDOUT** on **PAGE 5**



Singer Brisila Barros, 15, of Round Lake Beach finished fourth in "El Factor X," a Spanish-language version of Simon Cowell's "X Factor" franchise. Brisila hopes to eventually take her singing talents on tour.



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MARK BLACK/mblack@dailyherald.com  
A white sheet covers part of what remains of a small plane that crashed Wednesday in the parking lot of a Chase bank on Weber Road near the Clow International Airport in Bolingbrook.

# Crash: Man called for others to help his wife, witness says

Continued from Page 1

A representative from the Will County coroner's office declared the woman dead at 6:45 p.m. An autopsy will be conducted this morning. No names were released Wednesday night.

"The pilot was trying to land at Clow International Airport," Rompa said, adding that the plane is unrecognizable. "At this time of day, during rush hour, we're very fortunate there wasn't a large amount of casualties or injuries."

The Federal Aviation Administration said the single-engine plane originated from Scott County Marshall Field in Georgetown, Ky., and had two passengers on board.

Witnesses said they saw flames and heard small explosions when the plane crashed.

Connor Hale was stopped at a red light on Weber Road while driving home from Bolingbrook High School when he saw the plane traveling east.

"Things fly overhead above my neighborhood all the time. But at that low altitude I knew something was wrong, and the way it was wobbling, it was crazy," he said.

Hale said he wasn't sure if the plane was going to crash, but if it did, he was hoping it would land in a field near the bank. He said the plane circled around and started heading west, toward the airfield, when it hit something and nose-dived.

"Right when it crashed there was a whole bunch of flames and black smoke," he said.

George Steimer, owner of WineStyles, a store in a strip mall across the street from the bank, said he heard the sound of a struggling engine. "You knew something was wrong somewhere," he said.



COURTESY OF JEFF OSBORN VIA ABC 7 CHICAGO  
A small plane burst into flames Wednesday after crashing into a bank parking lot in Bolingbrook.

Then he saw the plane coming down fast and hit a light pole in the bank parking lot.

"When it was coming in, the wing hit the pole and then the plane tilted and just crashed," he said.

Steimer said after the crash he saw a person come out of the plane engulfed in flames with their arms in the air.

"It was horrendous," he said.

Mike Grohar, manager at Andy's Frozen Custard just north of the crash site, said he didn't hear anything when the plane crashed. He was taking orders when a co-worker said a man outside was on fire.

Grohar rushed out to help but two other people had already put the fire out. While he was on the ground, the injured man started asking about his wife.

"He just kept asking us to get his wife out of the plane," Grohar said. "I got as close as I could. The plane was engulfed in flames. I couldn't get any closer than where we were."

The cause of the crash is still unknown and emergency personnel were on the scene Wednesday night. The Federal Aviation Administration said a full investigation will take several months to a year to complete.

# Friends: One went back to school for diploma

Continued from Page 1

ones left.

"When you're from the same neighborhood, you stick close together," said Cook, who now lives with her granddaughter in Addison.

The girls would take the streetcar around Chicago and spend seven cents on a movie on the weekends. They grew up without microwave ovens, vacuums, dishwashers or television. Chickens ran around in their backyards. By the time she was 11, Cook was walking down to the Piggly Wiggly store by herself to buy food for the family.

"Things were so different," she said.

Before Jensen could go out to play she had to peel potatoes for her family every night.

"I've never seen anyone peel potatoes as fast as her," Cook remembered.

The two have outlived their husbands, siblings and friends, but they still have one another. The secret to a friendship that has lasted nearly a century is simple, they said.

"I always look for the better side of people. I don't look for faults — that's what we built our friendship on," said Jensen who lives at Luther Village in Arlington Heights.

"We just liked each other. We got along," Cook said.

When asked what they like best about each other, Irene joked, "Nothing."

"That I could tell her of," Alice responds. The two laugh.

More seriously, though, "I never gave that a thought, just that she's a good friend," Cook said.

While friendship came easily, life over the past 100 years has brought its struggles for the two.

The Great Depression hit while the girls were teenagers and both had to drop out of high school to go to work and help their families. They worked together at the original Illinois Bell Co., sitting next to one another and connecting calls.

Though both were soon married and starting their own families, they still made time for dinner and card nights.

"No one had a lot of money. Everyone was in the same boat," Cook said. "We didn't have much, but we had friendship."

The two kept their friendship going as their children grew and both took retirement in Florida. When Cook's husband passed away, Jensen and her husband would take her to dinner to cheer her up.

When the two moved back to Illinois in the 1980s and 1990s, their friendship fell back into place through long phone conversations at least once a week.

Jensen went back to get her high school diploma from Arlington High School in the 1980s with her biggest

cheerleader, Cook, supporting her.

"There isn't anything she couldn't do," Cook said.

Asked if they've had any big fights over the years, Jensen said she couldn't remember any.

"I'm sure there were some disagreements at some point," Cook said.

"Maybe we'll argue now," Jensen bantered back.

But a fight doesn't look likely as the women hold hands and talk about their lives. They laugh about Cook's granddaughter's bright green nail polish.

"Can you believe that color?" Cook said, shaking her head.

A shared sense of humor has gone a long way in maintaining their bond, they said.

The two attended each other's 100th birthday parties over the summer surrounded by family members. Neither feels her age.

"When we start thinking about how old we are, we're really lucky to have lived this long and been friends this long," Cook said. "When you think of it, it's a long time."

"I'm working on 200," Jensen joked.

She remembers a quote she heard years ago that applies to her and Cook now and in the future.

"If in heaven we don't meet, we'll stand hand in hand in the flames."

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