

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

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nilesheraldspectator.com

Coming to an agreement

Two administrators step down from posts amid investigation. **Page 4**



NUCCIO DINUZZO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Niles District 219 board president Mark Sproat, from left, board members Ruth Kilint and Linda Lampert talk during a board meeting Sept. 8. The board approved mutual separation agreements with two administrators Nov. 18.

SPECIAL SECTION



Gift giving: We've got you covered

This year's holiday gift guide features suggestions for everyone on your list. Find ideas for the avid readers, movie buffs, sports lovers, cooks and food fanatics in your life. Plus, we've got stocking stuffers covered. **Inside**



MELISSA ELSMO/PIONEER PRESS

LIVING

One option for those Thanksgiving leftovers

Melissa Elsmo offers a different take on the holiday extras: stuffed egg rolls. They put to use the turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and vegetables, plus gravy for dipping. **Inside**

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

nilesheraldspectator.com

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SHOUT OUT

Bob Katzman, Skokie shop owner

Writer and poet Bob Katzman, owner of downtown Skokie's Magazine Museum, has been in Skokie for seven years. But he says he has been collecting magazines and more for 53 years in what began as a hobby. Katzman will be temporarily closing his shop Jan. 5 through mid-February.

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: The south side of Chicago in a Jewish-Irish community.

Q: What did you want to be when you grew up?

A: An architect. My home was very dangerous and I left home at age 14 for Hyde Park and opened a newsstand and that was that.

Q: What was your first job?

A: When I was 10 years old, I went shopping for Mrs. Gelin next door. She was an Irish immigrant. She paid me a dime. She got a lot of value for that dime.

Q: What is an interesting factoid about yourself?

A: I knew Saul Bellow and he gave me advice about opening a

literary bookstore. I met him when I was 14.

Q: You travel from Racine, Wis. to Skokie every day? Why so dedicated to Skokie?

A: Many people in my family have lived here at one time or another since 1946. Father, mother, aunt, uncles. All of them. I used to drive up here for Rosh Hashanah and Passover for the holidays from the south side of Chicago.

Q: You're a writer as well as a shop owner, correct?

A: Yes. I've written five books and sold 6,000. They're non-fiction about Chicago and my life.

Q: Do you have children?

A: I have four children who are 19 to 40 and four grandchildren. I have three daughters from three different women.

Q: What is your favorite local restaurant?

A: Sanders Restaurant. All the waitresses know me and I get the same thing every time. I always tip the waitresses 20 percent and they

always bring me what I want — exactly the same.

Q: What book are you reading and what book do you want to read next?

A: I'm reading "Landsman." The book is about a Jewish kid who is fighting for the Confederacy and what happens to him. I have a stack of books ready to read when I'm gone for five weeks.

Q: What movie would you recommend?

A: One of my favorite more recent movies is "Leap Year" set in Ireland. It's romantic and authentic.

Q: Do you have any words of Wisdom?

A: Don't be too busy for your friends when they need you.

Q: What song best sums up Skokie for you?

A: "God Bless America"

— Pioneer Press staff

Shout Out is a weekly feature where we get to know and introduce our readers to their fellow community members and local visitors throughout suburban Chicago.



Katzman

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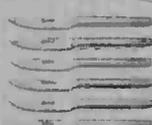
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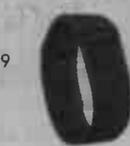
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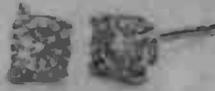
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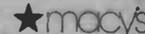
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NATALIE HAYES/PIONEER PRESS

The contracts of two District 219 administrators, Superintendent Nanciann Gatta and Assistant Superintendent John Heinz, who were placed on paid leave three months ago amid an internal investigation will be terminated at the end of this year, officials said following a School Board meeting Nov. 18.

D219 administrators step down

All parties agree neither 'has done anything wrong'

BY NATALIE HAYES AND ANGELA CAPUTO
Tribune Newspapers

Months after being put on paid leave pending a secretive probe launched by the School Board, two of Niles Township High School District 219's top administrators are stepping down.

On Nov. 18, the board approved mutual separation agreements with Superintendent Nanciann Gatta and John Heinz, who served as the district's chief legal officer and assistant superintendent of operations.

Documents obtained by the Tribune show that under the agreement, the district, Gatta and Heinz all concede that

neither party "has done anything wrong." Both will be paid for unused time off and carry their current health insurance through late December. Gatta will also drop the two lawsuits she filed against the district earlier this year and Heinz has agreed not to file suit.

Bills have begun to mount in the north suburban district as the elusive probe has dragged on. Documents recently obtained through the Freedom of Information Act show that board members sought out experts to review contracts, payroll and electronic correspondence in late July, weeks before Gatta and Heinz were abruptly put on leave.

The separation agreements don't divulge the results of the looming investigation and board members have declined to comment on whether there were any findings that played into how they were crafted.

Heinz and Gatta, who were both under contract until 2018, were in line to receive more than \$1.7 million in salary and

benefits over the next three years. Under Heinz' contract, he could not be fired by the district unless he was convicted of a felony.

Initially, Gatta sought a settlement deal and filed a lawsuit against the district seeking protection under the Illinois Whistleblower Act. Shortly after, she filed a second suit that sought punitive damages and attorney's fees related to alleged free speech violations.

The agreement inked Nov. 18 is far less generous, with the district agreeing to cut Gatta a prorated check for unused time off through Dec. 31 based on her \$263,000 base salary. Heinz, will walk away with prorated pay through Dec. 22 based on his annual \$188,000 salary. Insurance coverage will be extended to both through Dec. 31.

Gatta will also get a 426 day credit to the Teachers Retirement System for unused sick days. Heinz will receive 447 days of credit toward his pension.

School officials are prohibited from releasing information regarding the in-

"School officials are prohibited from releasing information regarding the investigation to prospective employers seeking future information about Heinz or Gatta's tenure with the district."

vestigation to prospective employers seeking future information about Heinz or Gatta's tenure with the district. Also, all parties — the district, Heinz and Gatta — would all be liable if they engage in any disparaging conduct that could defame either's reputation.

Angela Caputo is a Chicago Tribune reporter. Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.



LEE V. GAINES/PIONEER PRESS

Niles Public Library District residents filled the meeting room at the library during a public hearing on a proposed \$800,000 property tax levy increase. The library's board of trustees will vote on the levy at a meeting scheduled for Nov. 30.

Residents urge Niles Library Board to rethink tax increase

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

More than 50 people packed into a large meeting room at the Niles Public Library Nov. 18 for a public hearing on a proposed \$800,000 property tax levy increase.

A dozen individuals — all Niles residents — who spoke at the hearing urged the board to reverse course on its decision to increase the property tax levy by slightly more than 13 percent over last year.

A far cry from the handful of residents usually in attendance at Niles Library Board meetings, the massive audience necessitated officials moving the meeting into a larger room.

Before members of the public weighed in on the proposed levy, Library Board of Trustees President Linda Ryan reiterated the opinion held by the majority of the board: The levy increase is necessary because such an increase would not be possible next year under state law, and without a substantial bump in tax revenue, the library's coffers will run into the red in a few years time.

Ryan highlighted the \$1 million decrease in the levy in 2013 and a further

\$220,000 decrease last year. She also noted the library's upcoming strategic planning process, which might ultimately call for expanded services, and a need to work with the north end of the district, which includes unincorporated areas of Des Plaines and Glenview, to offer fair access to library resources for all district residents, not just those in Niles.

Of the board's seven members, only Trustees Carolyn Drblik and Danette Matyas disagreed with the decision to increase the levy from the just under \$6 million request the board filed last year to nearly \$6.8 million in 2015. Ryan said the increase would add about \$37 to the average district residents' annual tax bill.

Residents who attended the meeting voiced their opinions on the proposed tax levy increase in response to the board's explanations.

"Every dime coming out of the local economy hurts our local economy," said David Carrabotta. He said the board had no plan for what would be done with the additional revenue.

"When I see this board, you guys are the poster child of what's wrong with

government," Bob Zalesny said.

Many of the comments asked officials to find a way to seek more out of their current resources rather than approve a tax increase.

"It's not about \$37, it's about doing the right thing," Andrew Beierwaltes said. "It's about doing more with less, that's what we have to learn to do in all of our governments in Illinois."

"Maybe we need to do something," said Dale Zilligen, a Niles Township High School District 219 employee. "More people need to stand up, because the government in all branches is on a runaway."

Jack Achille, the last to offer his comments during the public hearing, commended Ryan's explanation for why the majority of the board thinks the levy increase is necessary, but it wasn't enough to ease his concerns.

"It sounds great, but it always sounds great," he said. "The government is in my pocket and everybody's pockets all the time."

The board is expected to vote on the 2015 property tax levy at a meeting scheduled for Nov. 30.

Lee V. Gaines is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Village to buy Leaning Tower of Niles

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

Niles officials on Nov. 10 formalized their intent to purchase the Leaning Tower of Niles, a half-sized replica of its Italian counterpart, and approved a contract worth nearly \$550,000 for repairs to the local landmark.

The Village Board voted 5-0 to approved the agreement with Morton Groves-based Design Installation Systems, Inc., the low bidder on the Leaning Tower restoration project, and a letter of intent addressed to the Leaning Tower YMCA of Metro Chicago to purchase the 94-foot-tall steel, stone and concrete structure on Touhy Avenue.

Northbrook-based Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates was previously hired by the village to conduct an engineering study that estimated repair work on the 80-year-old tower would total \$570,000. The report stated the deterioration was the result of severe corrosion and freeze-thaw damage. The same company was hired earlier last May at a cost of nearly \$60,000 to



LEE V. GAINES/PIONEER PRESS

Niles officials voted at a meeting to approve a letter of intent to purchase the Leaning Tower of Niles Nov. 10.

plan and manage the construction work. Both the contracts will be paid for via funds generated by the recently established Gross Point-Touhy tax increment financing district, Village Manager Steve Vinezeano said. Niles officials have said they envision a business-class hotel, expanded park area, a convention center and possibly a new Metra Station in the area surrounding the Leaning Tower.

Trustee George Alpogianis said the YMCA provided the village an asking price of \$10 for the tower.

The tower — which tilts about 7 feet — was constructed in 1934 and commissioned by businessman Robert Ilg as a creative way to mask water infiltration tanks for two pools on the campus of what was once a 22-acre park for employees of Ilg Hot Air Ventilation Company.

The tower and land surrounding it were left to the YMCA, following Ilg's death in 1964, under the stipulation they be maintained and the tower remain standing until 2059.

But the structure later fell into disrepair and Niles

assumed responsibility for the maintenance of the tower in 1996 under a \$1 per year lease agreement with the YMCA. The village subsequently spent more than \$1 million on a restoration project for both the tower and grounds, but only about \$220,000 of the funds were spent specifically on repairs to the structure.

Though Village Board members present Nov. 10 appeared unanimous in their support both for the purchase and restoration of the tower, a former trustee, Chris Hanusiak, voiced passionate opposition to the initiative saying it was a waste of taxpayers' money.

"This is another example of a government bailout of private property," he said during public comment.

Vinezeano said, ownership of the local icon would allow the village to apply to have the tower listed in the National Register of Historic Places. One of the goals of the restoration project is to allow visitors to go up to the top of the tower, something that's not currently possible, he said. Vinezeano also said several Italian bells, including one

that is 600 years old, are stationed at the peak of the structure. Hearing the peal of the historic bells reverberate across town is another goal, he said.

Trustees also approved a resolution to place a referendum question regarding the enhancement of the Leaning Tower and adjoining properties with initiatives providing for stores, open space and entertainment on the March 2016 ballot.

When asked by Trustee Joe LoVerde what "enhancement" specifically refers to, Mayor Andrew Przybylo said it could mean something as simple as licensing a hot dog cart on the property, but "that's in the least."

"Because the economy is changing, folks," Przybylo said. "If we don't move with the times and project this village out as a destination for people to come and spend money and provide the sales tax we need to run the government, I won't be here, but we'll be in trouble."

Lee V. Gaines is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Park Dist. offering holiday programs

BY ALICIA RAMIREZ
Pioneer Press

The Niles Park District is getting into the holiday spirit this year with a couple of events geared toward the children of Niles.

The biggest event of the season, officials said, is Breakfast with Santa, scheduled for Dec. 12 at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 Howard St. Registration is going on now and space is limited for this event, which offers seatings at 8:30, 10 and 11 a.m.

"It's extremely popular and we do it every year," Robin Brey, recreation program supervisor of the Niles Park District, said. "We have about 120 families at each of the three seatings."

The event, which costs \$10 for residents and \$12 for non-residents, is a breakfast buffet where Santa will make a visit, kids can then sit on his lap and tell him what they want for Christmas and take a photo before heading back to their table to make a craft with their parents.

The district has also set up Santa's Mailbox in the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 Howard St., where children can place their letters to Santa and get one in return. Letters must be received by Dec. 11 for this free program and be sure to include a return address with the letter.

The park district will also be hosting a Santa skate at IceLand Skate & Swim Complex, 8435 Ballard Road, from 2:30-4 p.m. Dec. 20. Families can come out to skate with Santa and his elves to holiday music for \$5, plus a \$3 skate rental fee.

Alicia Ramirez is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Tax levy increase approved by Niles Village Board

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

Niles trustees approved a property tax levy increase of 3.9 percent at a recent Village Board meeting.

Niles Finance Director Scot Neukirch said the increase in the levy represents roughly \$186,000 of new annual revenue for the village. The money, he said, will be used toward Niles' contribution to its police and fire pension funds.

Village staff originally recommended a 4.9 percent increase because of the underfunded condition of both pension funds, slow investment returns and increasing benefit obligations,

according to village documents.

After speaking with residents, Mayor Andrew Przybylo said he recommended to Trustee George Alpogianis to make a motion to decrease the proposed levy by 1 percent.

In addition to Alpogianis, Trustees Danette Matyas, John Jekot and Dean Strzelecki voted in favor of the 3.9 percent increase while Trustee Joe LoVerde voted against it.

The levy increase will boost the average Niles resident's property tax bill by \$8 to \$12, Neukirch said.

LoVerde said he wouldn't support any property tax levy increase. He

said the village should fund pension shortfalls with the money stored in reserves. Earlier this month, Neukirch said the village had about \$15 million of uncommitted funds in reserve.

Though he cited concerns about potential losses of revenue as a result of decisions made at the state level, LoVerde said "when you're sitting on substantial reserves it's not fiscally responsible to raise property taxes on a what if this or what if that scenario."

Przybylo said funding levels for both police and fire pensions have dropped to 42 percent and 45 percent, respectively.

Cutting expenses rather

than bringing in new revenue "won't address the long-term complications of shorting those pension funds this year and the next year and the next year," he said.

It's also possible the village could lose a significant portion of revenue — up to \$1.3 million — if state officials cut the share of Illinois income tax municipalities receive on an annual basis, Przybylo said.

Strzelecki said his decision to support the levy increase was personal because both he and his children, who recently purchased homes in the village, pay taxes.

Citing Chicago's major

property tax increase and that city's massive pension shortfall, he said, "I don't want Niles to kick the can down the road; I don't want (my children) to have to pay for what happened in Chicago this year."

"You have to do the right thing aside from the politics of it all, and that's just what I'm trying to do up here," Przybylo said.

LoVerde said he wasn't voting no for any political gain. "It's not about politics, so I will stay by my vote," he said.

Trustee Denise McCreery was absent.

Lee V. Gaines is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Creative Studio, 3-D printer turns library into workshop

BY ALICIA RAMIREZ
Pioneer Press

The Niles Public Library might have opened its Creative Studio for patrons in October, but with the onset of the holiday season, it is kicking it into overdrive with free events, open lab days and the ability to get creative with gifts this season.

Patrons of the library can come in and book a time to use Creative Studio A, which has a green screen and Apple computers loaded with software for video, sound and photo editing.

"As of recently, we've had people working on Photoshop and Illustrator," digital services assistant Srdjan Vasilic said. "We've also had someone working on recording music and vocals."

For those who are a little intimidated by the technology, the library will be hosting a holiday family photo weekend where staff will take a family portrait in front of the green screen and then import a holiday background of the family's choosing before emailing a digital copy and printing a single hard copy for the family to keep.

"We're going to have a bunch of different holiday backgrounds like trees with snow and things like that," Suzanne Wulf, digital services supervisor, said. "So, we're encouraging people to get dressed up and come with their families to get a photo taken."

Niles Library cardholders can drop by Dec. 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. or Dec. 6 from 1:30-4 p.m. to have their photos taken.

In addition to the items in Creative Studio A, the library also offers its patrons Creative Studio B, where the 3D printer, laser cutter, Silhouette Cameo Cutting Machine and sewing machines can be used to take any craft to the next level.



ALICIA RAMIREZ/PIONEER PRESS

On Dec. 9, from 3-4:30, both the 3-D printer and the laser cutter will be available for patrons to make holiday and winter-themed ornaments.

"We've had so many people coming in and using these rooms," Wulf said. "It's really great."

In order to get ready for Thanksgiving, the library hosted a 3-D printing open studio where staff and volunteers were making turkey napkin holders. On Dec. 2, from 3-4:30 p.m., patrons can come into the Open Creative Studio event to design and print holiday cards and decorations using the cameo cutting machine. On Dec. 9, from 3-4:30, both the 3-D printer and the laser cutter will be available for patrons to make holiday and winter-themed ornaments.

"We're going to do some gift boxes, Christmas trees with paper ornaments and other things like that," Darlene Fox, digital services assistant supervisor, said. "There's a lot of interest and we've had a few programs so far."

Along with the open studios that have crafts planned, Niles library card holders can submit orders through the library's website to be printed on the 3-D printer. All jobs are approved by the library staff and the cost is 10 cents per gram of material.

"It's a pretty affordable

thing, so if kids want to do something for their parents, they can," Wulf said.

Along with the services provided in the Creative Studios, the library offers Roku's for patrons to check out that come with Netflix subscriptions and pre-loaded movies. The library also has a VHS to DVD converter, that will allow people to preserve those home movies for generations to come.

"We'll have stations set up permanently and you just pop the VHS in there and it's a pretty seamless process," Wulf said. "I just did my husband's high school football reel that was on VHS. You just put it in there, let it run and come back when it's done."

The library sells blank DVDs or patrons can simply create a free digital file.

For those still stumped on what to do, drop into the library for a tour of the new Creative Studios downstairs at the Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., or go to the library's website, www.nileslibrary.org or drop by the library's Holiday Open House, Dec. 6 from 2-4 p.m.

Alicia Ramirez is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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The following items were taken from Niles and Skokie police department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.

Niles

RETAIL THEFT

■ Lewis Chamberlain, 41, of the 1800 block of West Lake Street, Chicago, was charged with retail theft on Nov. 14 after he was accused of stealing a wireless workout device valued at \$150 from a business on the 9200 block of Milwaukee Avenue. Police said he was employed at the business. He has a Dec. 22 court date.

■ Joseph Hawel, 28, of the 9300 block of Hamlin Avenue, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with retail theft on Nov. 14. Police said Hawel, an employee of a business on the 9200 block of Milwaukee Avenue, was accused of stealing merchandise on Nov. 7. He has a Dec. 22

court date.

■ Daniel Jumatate, 35, of the 6100 block of North California Avenue, Chicago, was charged with retail theft on Nov. 17 after he allegedly stole a pack of lighters valued at \$15.57 from a store on the 6100 block of Touhy Avenue. He has a Dec. 22 court date.

■ Nora Sanders, 51, of 4400 block of North Laramie Avenue, Chicago, was charged with felony retail theft on Nov. 18 after she allegedly stole two pairs of earrings, valued at \$88, from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. She has a Dec. 22 court date.

■ Matthew Sturgeon, 37, of the 1200 block of East Washington Street, Des Plaines, was charged with retail theft on Nov. 18 after he allegedly stole \$35.37 worth of items from a store on the 8500 block of Golf Road. He has a Dec. 22 court date.

DUI

■ Francisco Ayala, 23, of the 6100 block of Lincoln Avenue, Morton Grove, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and speeding more than 40 mph over the posted limit on Nov. 15. Police reportedly conducted a traffic stop on Ayala's vehicle after he was allegedly clocked speeding at 83 mph in a 35-mph speed zone on Caldwell Avenue. He has a Dec. 27 court date.

THEFT

■ A phone valued at \$560 was reported stolen Nov. 13 from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center.

■ A 2015 Honda motorcycle was reported stolen Nov. 15 from a backyard on the 9000 block of Grace Avenue.

■ Police said a man paid for two boxes of cereal with an Illinois food assistance card and stole \$78 worth of other merchandise from a store on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue on Nov. 18. The man

allegedly ran when he was confronted by a store employee.

BURGLARY

■ Jewelry was reported stolen from a home on the 8600 block of Ozanam Avenue following a burglary on Nov. 15 between 10:30 a.m. and 12:20 p.m., police said.

Skokie

BATTERY

■ A victim was pushed and spat on Nov. 9 in front of Skokie Village Hall on the 5200 block of Oakton Street. The suspects left the area on mountain bikes, police said.

■ Two females battered a taxi driver who chased after them for not paying their fare Nov. 11 on the 9400 block of Skokie Boulevard.

■ Lucio Hernandez, 46, of the 3200 block of West Balmoral Avenue, Chicago, was charged with aggravated battery and driving with a suspended or re-

voked driver's license Nov. 10 on the 3900 block of Main Street.

■ Dana S. Christiel, 49, of the 7700 block of South Jeffery Boulevard, Chicago, was arrested on a warrant for aggravated battery and retail theft stemming from an incident Nov. 9 on the 7300 block of Niles Center Road.

DRUGS

■ A Skokie teenager, 16, was charged with possession of drug equipment stemming from an incident Nov. 9 on the 8600 block of Keystone Avenue.

DISORDERLY

■ A male exposed himself after using the bathroom at Oakton Park Nov. 12 on the 4700 block of Oakton Street.

THEFT

■ A 2004 Acura was taken Nov. 9 while parked in a hospital parking lot on the 9600 block of Skokie Boule-

vard.

■ A victim's unauthorized checking account information was used to withdraw money from the victim's account between 12 a.m. Aug. 27 and 9 a.m. Nov. 6 on the 4700 block of Church Street.

■ A wallet was taken from a purse between 8:15 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Nov. 10 while left in an office on the 4700 block of Golf Road. Police said credit cards were later used in various stores.

■ Cash was taken at 5:13 p.m. Nov. 11 from Mariano's, on the 3300 block of Touhy Avenue. Police said a suspect made several transactions and confused the cashier before taking cash. The suspect was described as a black male, age 30 to 35, 5 feet to 5 feet 11 inches tall, weighing 210 to 220 pounds and wearing a blue and white jacket with "valet" written on the back, tan pants and tan construction-style boots.

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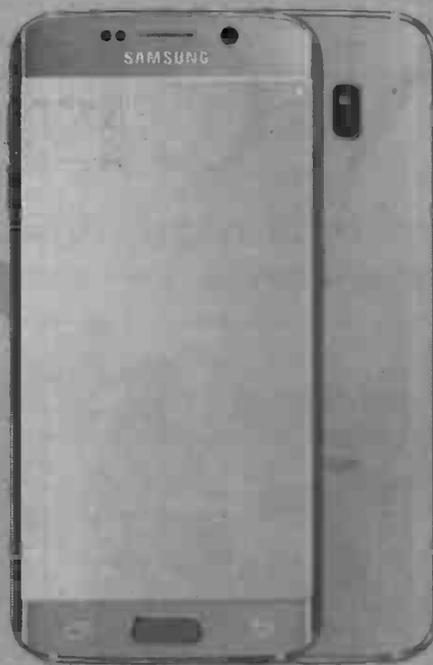
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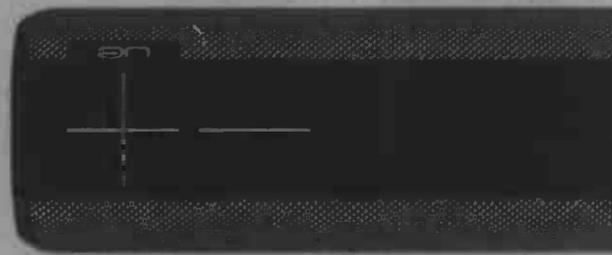
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DAVID KRAUS/PIONEER PRESS

Rabbi Ryan Daniels of North Shore Congregation Israel poses as Superman in preparation for the "Superhero Shabbat" and Hanukkah service set for Dec. 4.

SEASON CHANGE

Tradition typically plays a big part in holiday celebrations. But sometimes, houses of worship turn to new and creative ways to capture the interest of their followers — particularly the children among them.

That's one of the reasons why Rabbi Ryan Daniels will be donning Superman's cape when his synagogue, North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe, prepares for Hanukkah this year.

"The theme of the superhero is a powerful motif in Judaism," said Daniels, who will lead the "Superhero Family Shabbat" on Dec. 4 dressed as his favorite superhero, tights and all. "The message is that each of us has a gift and talent that makes the world a better place, that ties us to the rich traditions and empowers us to go out and do good in the world."

And it's not just the Glencoe faithful who are looking for unique ways to approach the holidays —

From superheroes to sheep, some holiday celebrations taking less traditional paths

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | Pioneer Press

from Niles to Norridge, religious communities of every stripe in the suburbs of Chicago are finding non-traditional avenues to worship this year.

The church holiday bazaar is a common pre-Christmas event, but at Christ Church of Oak Brook, the goods for sale don't necessarily fit in a bag.

Spirit Village, scheduled for Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., gives shoppers an opportunity to help people in need both locally and throughout the world.

Among the items available to be donated are baby chicks, car repair, summer camp attendance, living expenses for local refugees, water for a village in Ecuador, medical treatment for children in Egyptian slums, dental care in the Mississippi delta, clothes and supplies for a Guatemala orphanage and blankets for children in India, among many other goods and serv-



KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

Stable-keeper Sean Obrochta tells guide Carol Hannah there's no room in the stable during the 2014 St. Andrews Lutheran Church's Bethlehem walk in Park Ridge.

ices. All the options can be viewed on the church's website, www.cc-ob.org/spirit_village_cat.

The event will also feature a petting zoo, cookie stations, live music, face-painting and other activ-

ities, according to the church's website.

Sometimes the themes are ancient, though the expression gets a bit of an update. For example, at Shir Hadash Synagogue in Wheeling, glow sticks will compete with candlelight during the Lights and Miracles Service on Dec. 11.

"It's something we've been doing for more than 15 years," said Rabbi Eitan Weiner-Kaplow. "In many ways, it's a way for us to celebrate the Jewish festival of freedom using our significant talents in terms of the arts."

In what Weiner-Kaplow calls a "Do-It-Yourself Hanukkah," members of the congregation will bring storytelling, song and dance, as well as visual and culinary arts to the community service. Folk music and even a rock 'n' roll Hanukkah parody song will be featured.

"The highlight is when

all the lights go off and we have a special community dance with glow sticks," Weiner-Kaplow said. "We hand out and light these beautiful glow sticks, lighting up the room with all the congregation involved."

Celebrating the arts is an important part of worship at Shir Hadash, the rabbi said, and even more members of the congregation are joining in the Hanukkah celebration this year.

"We really call on our members to express themselves and participate," he said. "And for some of them, it's dusting off instruments they may not have used in a while."

In Niles, one group offers a longtime holiday tradition, but one different from the offerings at many Catholic churches.

Since 1992, Silverio Fernandez has been organizing Simbang Gabi at St. John Brebeuf parish. The Filipino tradition, which typically consists of nine days of Masses leading up

to Christmas, has been pared down to a single Mass, followed by a cultural celebration and dinner in St. John Brebeuf's May Parish Ministry Center.

"We started with less than 100 [people] the first year. Now it's more than 300," Fernandez said of the event, which is scheduled for Dec. 19. The event will feature Filipino foods, ethnic and ballroom dance, music and, Fernandez hopes, an appearance from Santa Claus.

The 5 p.m. Mass, though in English, will include songs sung in the Filipino language of Tagalog, Fernandez said. The dinner that follows is buffet-style and the food is contributed by church members.

Fernandez says he started the Simbang Gabi observance "so we could continue what we've been doing since we were young. This has been going on for hundreds of years. We just want to continue the cele-

bration of the Lord's birth."

The faith leaders in these communities say different or new ways of exploring the holidays also can bring children to understand their faith like never before.

In Glencoe, Daniels said he enjoys teaching children about Judaism by drawing parallels between Superman's story and some aspects of their religious practices.

"Superman is sent into the world in a basket, which is much like the Biblical hero of Moses," Daniels explained. "His cape is not tied like the other superheroes; it is tucked in, like the tallis [a fringed prayer shawl] is."

The Maccabees, whose revolt led to the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, are heroes of Jewish tradition, Daniels said. Using this, Susan Ellenby, youth and family community engagement coordinator, floated the idea of a superhero-themed

way to celebrate the festival of lights.

"We were trying to think outside the box of how we could celebrate Hanukkah for families who may or may not have Hanukkah traditions," Ellenby said.

Also featured will be the Smarty Pants Big Balloon

new level.

The Salvation Army Norridge Citadel is expecting at least 1,200 visitors to the two-day Come to Bethlehem event, which features a cast and crew of more than 100 people in addition to live sheep and a donkey. Visitors are taken on a tour

"I want visitors to stop and think about the Savior being born, that Christmas is not about Santa Claus and presents."

— Susan Bragg, organizer of St. Andrews Lutheran Church "Bethlehem Walk" in Park Ridge

Show, Hanukkah edition. While telling the story of Hanukkah, a huge menorah will be created out of balloons, Daniels explained.

For Christians, the Christmas pageant is a common way to tell the story of Jesus' birth, but some churches have taken that tradition to a whole

of a re-imagined Bethlehem that has been created inside of the citadel — from the marketplace where shekels can be traded for goods to paths upon which Roman soldiers walk.

"I think for older people, it's nostalgic," said Maj. Brian Davis, who leads the congregation with his wife, Lesa. "They connect with a

culture in which the Christ child was more at the center of the celebration. Our program also tends to include traditional carols and people are encouraged to sing along."

A concert featuring the Salvation Army brass band and choir follows each of the scheduled walks, which begin at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 11, and at 2 and 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 12. A prayer box and an opportunity to watch the film "Jesus" will also be part of the holiday event, Davis said.

Though Come to Bethlehem is free, tickets are required and can be obtained at www.salvationarmy-norridge.org.

The Salvation Army of Norridge has been hosting live recreations of the Christmas story for the last 21 years, Davis said. Other churches have embraced the practice as well, like St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, which will hold its annual "Bethlehem

Walk" on Dec. 5 and 6. Reservations are required and can be made by emailing standrewsbethlehemwalk@gmail.com or calling 847-886-9745.

"There are over 100 people in costumes, so it's a lot of fitting those people into costumes," commented Susan Bragg, one of the organizers of the walk, which she said is expected to draw at least 1,000 guests.

The event also requires finding babies to play the most important role in the production. This year, at least seven babies could potentially be chosen to play Jesus, who is visited by the crowds inside a makeshift stable.

"I want visitors to stop and think about the Savior being born, that Christmas is not about Santa Claus and presents," Bragg said. "It's peace on Earth and goodwill to men."

jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com
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ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by December 1, 2015. Individuals wanting to review this Annual Statement of Affairs should contact:

Niles Elementary School District 71 6901 W. Oakton St., Niles, Illinois 60714 847-966-9280 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
School District/Joint Agreement Name Address Telephone Office Hours

Also by January 15, 2016 the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015, will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at www.isbe.net.

SUMMARY: 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.

Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2015

	Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Debt Services	Transportation	Municipal Retirement / Social Security	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention & Safety
Local Sources	1000	7,170,126	1,341,754	689	164,057	60,445	0	44,213	0
Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District	2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Sources	3000	508,131	0	0	32,184	0	0	0	0
Federal Sources	4000	239,597	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues		7,917,854	1,341,754	689	196,241	60,445	0	44,213	0
Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures		6,832,527	1,252,128	0	165,978	198,462	0	0	0
Other Sources/Uses of Funds		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Fund Balances - July 1, 2014		7,018,218	2,075,989	36,415	160,336	325,201	0	2,327,936	0
Other Changes in Fund Balances		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ending Fund Balances June 30, 2015		8,103,545	2,165,615	37,104	190,599	187,184	0	2,372,149	0

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

GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000

Ahmed, Ruqayya N; Barrett, Elaine; Barry, Katherine; BILAL, SHAHIDA; Brummitt, Nicholas; Carli, Maria; Chiusolo, Becky; Christy, Brenda; Cinelli, Tina; Connors, Mary Carol; Corrigan, Nicole; Dalal, Hetal Y; Davis, Barbara; Elder, Katelyn; Eramia, Andrea; Eramia, Elbron; Fay, Mary Ann; Forsell, Candace; Freeman, Dana; Garbanzos, Gigi; Geno, William; Gerber, Jessica; Heitz, John C; Holbrook, James; Johnson, Alex; Kot, Renata; Kruzal, Pamela; Lamancusa, Margherite; Lee, Janet; Lichtenstein, Richard M; Manzo, Jennifer; Matteucci, Kimberly; Mayer, Hilary; McShane, Patricia; McCaffrey, Kyle; McDonagh, Barbara; Mcenery, Elizabeth; Messina, Daniel M.; Mileva, Hristina; Modi, Shital; Moy, Joan; Okic, Elvira Music; Palermo, Robyn Jo; Pantazi, James C; Parker, Deborah; Patel, Chetna; Philippek, Megan; Popowoych, Olga T; Potratz, Roberta; Raczyla, Trista; Richards, James; Richards, Kathy; Ross, Michael A.; Sadur, Jill; Salicete, Elizabeth; Schwartz, Barbara; Sipiora, Joan; Sukenik, Kathleen; Tamer, Nikola; YOUNAN, ATHINA; Yunan, Aseel

Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999

Gordon, Kimberly; Jordan, Debra; Kambuga, Dominick; Kaufhold, Kenneth; Miller, Sarah H; Panek, Jennifer M.; Provost, Carol; Rendino, Amy; Scott, Kathryn

Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999

Alagna, Amanda; Barry, Allison M; Collier, Jacqueline; Conklin, Kellie; Heck, Kimberly; Kelly, Theresa; Loomos, Georgia; Lurie, Donna; McGowan, Kati; Meyers, Gabrielle; Morrissey, Kathryn; Priban, Laura;

Ranzer, Abby; Suarez, Oscar; Torrance, Stephanie

Salary Range: 60,000 - \$89,999

Baum, Michelle; Bolin, Elaine E; Campbell, Paige; Grover, Shagun; Hautle, Kelly; Johnson, Susan; Juris, Ken; Kelly, Eleni; Lawrence, Elizabeth; Lazaris, Helen; Macejlik, Madelyn; Oh, Joann; Palazzolo, Tony; Polich, Beth; Ranalli, Katherine; Ross, Michelle; Rybicki, Edwin Jr. J; Strzelecki, Stephanie; Sutter, Gina

Salary Range: \$90,000 and over

Acciari, Katherine L; Brogni, Maureen; Buhler, Diana L; D'Anniballe, Mary Care; Dworak, Christine; Fairlee, Ann; Funk, Fern; Geisheker, Janice C; Glaser, Maria S; Guarraci, Laura; Hirsch, Alan S; Kruppe, Amy; Lindemann, Hans; Maniscalco, Peggie; Mc Garry, Katherine; Montcalm, Barbara; Mueller, Mary Ellen; Nelson, Christine M; Paisley, Jill C; Pettit, John J; Schlessinger, Fred

GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000

Frecke, Tamara A; Guziec, Barbara; Jordan, Debra; Juris, Ken; Juris, Kevin; Krone, Sharon; Maniscalco, Peggie; Marma, Layla; Mendez, Jeanette; Radko, Maria; YOUNAN, ATHINA; Yunan, Aseel

Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999

Ferdinand, Susan; Keith, Coreen

Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999

Ciacio, Leah M

Salary Range: \$60,000 and over

Malacha, Chester

Payments over \$2,500, excluding wages and salaries

ABC COMMERCIAL MAINTENANCE SERVICE INC 74,988; ALSCO 2,899;

AMSN LLC 7,946; AMY KRUPPE 5,475; Apple Inc 66,389; ASCD, 19,000; ATLAS BOBCAT 4,118; BOB'S DAIRY SERVICE 13,057; BRAINPOP 4,390; BRIGHTSPARK TRAVEL 7,015; CAROLINA BIOLOGICAL SUPPLY 16,642; CDW GOVERNMENT INC 4,270; CHADWICK CONTRACTING CO 3,855; CLIMATE SERVICE INC 15,524; Cole Taylor Bank 4,117,803; COLE TAYLOR BANK CPI 341,509; COLE TAYLOR BANK FIT 819,646; COLE TAYLOR BANK SIT 183,302; COMCAST 40,175; COMPLETE COMMUNICATIONS INC 4,000; CONSTELLATION NEWENERGY INC 27,189; CROSSBOW, LLC 6,510; DCG ROOFING SOLUTIONS INC 207,900; DEERE & CO 19,050; DNM EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING, LTD 7,150; E.T. PADDOCK ENTERPRISES INC 3,575; EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT COOPERATIVE /822,381; EVANS, MARSHALL AND PEASE, PC 9,055; FAIRVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT 72 34,185; FIBERLINK 3,465; FOLLETT EDUCATIONAL SERVICES 9,564; FOODSERVICEWAREHOUSE.COM 3,493; FOX RIVER FOODS 53,734; FRONTLINE TECHNOLOGIES 4,550; GARLAND/DBS, INC 24,688; GARVEY EQUIPMENT SUPPLIES 6,694; GROOT RECYCLING & WASTE SERVICES, INC. 7,236; GT MECHANICAL PROJECTS AND DESIGN INC 66,624; HARRIS BMO 187,774; HAUSER IZZO LLC 3,335; HEINEMANN 5,130; HOUGHTON MIFFLIN CO. 18,324; ILL DEPT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY 31,315; ILLINOIS ASSC OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS 3,189; ILLINOIS PAPER & COPIER CO 6,305; ILLINOIS STATE POLICE 4,432; JMS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSC 3,780; KAD CONSTRUCTION & MANAGEMENT LLC 18,730; LIFETOUGH NSS ACCTS RECEIVABLE. 3,381; MAD DOG ATHLETICS 11,598; MEIKEM INC. 9,735; MNJ TECHNOLOGIES DIRECT INC 30,855; NCS PEARSON INC 16,275; NELSON FIRE PROTECTION 3,240; NET56, INC 22,125; NILES ELEM SCHOOL DISTRICT # 71 16,900; NILES

TOWNSHIP DIST FOR SPECIAL EDUC 807 43,500; NILES TOWNSHIP SCHOOL TREASURER 25,881; NILES TWP PROPERTY TAX APPEALS COOP 14,000; NORTH SHORE TRANSIT 38,514; NORTH SUBURBAN TEACHERS UNION 45,151; NORTHWEST SUBURBAN SPEC ED ORGANIZATION 16,308; NWEA 5,113; PERFORMANCE FOODSERVICE FOX RIVER 14,608; PMA FINANCIAL NETWORK INC 9,000; POSITIVE CONNECTIONS 113,038; PROVANTAGE COMPUTER PRODUCTS 14,735; ROSEMARY DIAMOND 4,452; RUGGED PROTECTION, LLC 2,722; SCARIANO, HIMES & PETRARCA 62,525; SCHOOL DISTRICT #71 IMPREST FUND 5,746; SCHOOL DISTRICT 67 14,780; SCHOOL DISTRICT 68 6,176; SCHOOL EXEC CONNECT 17,021; SHARP ELECTRONICS CORP 7,326; SIMPLEXGRINNELL 3,624; SOLUTIONS MECHANICAL LLC 53,230; STANLEY CONVERGENT SECURITY SOLUTIONS 57,062; State Disbursement Unit 8,760; STEM ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT INC 2,795; SUBURBAN SCHOOL COOP, INSURANCE POOL 29,951; SUPPLYWORKS FORMERLY AMSAN 2,593; SWEETWATER 2,949; TFS ALLIANCE GROUP LTD 13,348; THE MCGRAW-HILL COMPANIES 5,521; TIERNEY BROTHERS INC 3,735; TOP ECHELON CONTRACTING INC 124,973; TOP LINE FENCE CO 2,676; TRUGREEN 4,822; URBAN ELEVATOR SERVICE 5,429; VILLAGE OF NILES 7,352; WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL LEASING 9,369; WORKERS' COMPENSATION SELF-INSUR TRUST 50,471; WORTH AVE. GROUP 25,526; ZEALTRON INC 14,124

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Niles Elementary School District 71

05-016-0710-02

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KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

A stone staircase, discovered under decades of overgrowth by volunteers cleaning up the site, now is a part of Wilmette's new Elmwood Dunes Preserve trail from lakefront bluff to the beach. The preserve was dedicated Nov. 1. A trail winds through four different ecological zones.

Elmwood Dunes Preserve now open

BY KATHY ROUTLIFFE
Pioneer Press

Wilmette residents, elected officials and nature lovers came together recently to celebrate the transformation of a once-neglected strip of Wilmette lakefront property into its new identity as the Elmwood Dunes Preserve.

The preserve's official dedication Nov. 1 marked a major point in its evolution from a forgotten strip of tangled buckthorn and other invasive plant species, into a park whose re-created native Lake Michigan ecology welcomes people, insects and migratory birds, said Patrick Duffy, a member of the Friends of Elmwood Dunes group that helped create the preserve.

"Wow, it's come such a long

way," Duffy said Nov. 2. "We still have a ways to go, but it's really exciting, it's a little oasis for everyone."

The preserve now boasts a small plaza and a garden of native plants at the top of a lakefront bluff, a trail that winds through four different ecological zones ending at the water's edge, benches for passersby and signs that tell visitors about the ecology and history of the property, Duffy said.

The dedication featured brief comments from Village President Bob Bielinski and others, including representatives of groups that donated funds to the preserve's creation. The village also thanked representatives from the Wilmette Park District, which helps maintain the beach section of the preserve in the summer. But most

of the celebration involved letting participants take tours and learn about the preserve.

"We have four zones," Friends member and Wilmette resident Karen Glennemeier said Nov. 2. They range from the sandy beach — anchored by sturdy beach grasses — through a more stable zone marked with cottonwood and juniper trees, down into a swale protected from winds with plants that thrive in wetter soil, she said.

"Finally you go up the bluff, and the soil starts to be less sandy, with more loam and clay and, again, a completely different suite of plants. It's a huge amount of biodiversity in a very small place, which makes it very cool," Glennemeier said.

She credited Duffy, a Wilmette resident who chairs the village's

Zoning Board of Appeals, and fellow Friends members Mike Boyer and Paul Mokdessi with being among the first residents to bring the property to public attention in 2011.

Duffy and fellow zoning board member Boyer became curious about the property when the 80-foot-wide strip of land at the Elmwood-Michigan Avenue terminus figured in a zoning case. They researched its history and discovered that it was village-owned land that had once featured a tiny public beach.

Duffy, Boyer and others lobbied Wilmette trustees to keep the land for public use, something the board agreed to do in November 2012. Trustees decided to make it a nature preserve with a no-swimming beach and also limited mu-

nicipal funding for what was officially named the Elmwood Dunes Preserve in April 2013.

Instead, Wilmette helped the Friends obtain grants — a \$10,000 donation from Commonwealth Edison, a \$25,000 award from the Wilmette Harbor Rotary Club and a \$3,500 grant from Rotary International — and provided staff help in ridding the property of large invasive plant species.

The village has also provided \$12,000, while the Friends raised more than \$40,000, Wilmette Engineering and Public Works Director Brigitte Berger said on Nov. 2.

Duffy said he is looking forward to seeing how the preserve changes in coming years.

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Through thick and thin, it's good to be thankful

Of all holidays, Thanksgiving is the most American.

It is the first holiday celebrated on what would become American soil in the new settlement at Plymouth, Mass.

No matter your political views of that first Thanksgiving, and no matter how much of the mythical story of it that you, we all share in the holiday.

Although the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth looking for religious freedom, Thanksgiving is not a religious holiday. It does not celebrate the birth of a nation or nationalism. It is not dedicated to a specific segment of the American experience, like labor, or the war dead, or the men and women who served in the military, or any one ethnic group.

Unlike those other days, Thanksgiving is solely set aside to give thanks, to express gratitude.

You can decide for what to be grateful. There is no national reason for gratitude.

The Pilgrims were thankful just to survive. Everyone knows the story of how they arrived in a harsh land. Large numbers of the group died. And probably more would have died were it not for



RANDY BLASER

native peoples who lived nearby.

There was a celebratory feast in the fall of 1621, that is generally considered the first Thanksgiving. The first generation of Pilgrims depended on the Native Americans to teach them how to live on the land. In return, the local native tribe gained an ally in their ongoing war with a rival tribe.

The feast they shared in 1621 lived on, although the alliance waned within a generation and turned into the ugliness known in history as King Philip's War. Many modern Americans know the story of Plymouth well, and choose to keep that in a conscious memory. King Philip's War, however, set the table for future relations between the Indians and white settlers.

Nathaniel Philbrick's book, "Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War," is an excellent resource for those who want to learn more about Plymouth settlement, the first Thanksgiving and the complex relationships between the settlers and the native peoples who lived there.

Since that first Thanksgiving, the day took on a life of its own in



JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY

A Nicholas White turkey, one of two presidential turkey candidates, sits in an enclosure during a press conference Nov. 6 at the InterContinental Hotel in San Francisco, Calif.

American mythology. In the early days of the Republic, it was celebrated on different dates by the different states.

Lincoln gave the day national meaning by calling for a day of Thanksgiving on the last Thursday in November in 1863. Afterward, Thanksgiving was celebrated nationally on the last Thursday of November.

That date changed again when President Franklin D. Roosevelt

made it the fourth Thursday of November to give the faltering economy at the tail-end of the Great Depression a boost with more shopping time between Thanksgiving and Christmas. So began the slow but awful slide to what we have today — Black Friday.

Thankfully, more and more merchants are acknowledging that the actual Thanksgiving Day is something more than the start-

The first Thanksgiving still rings true in our collective memory as a day of celebration and cooperation.

ing gun for holiday shopping and plan to close that day.

So here we are Thanksgiving Day 2015. Despite our many faults, we have much for which to be thankful.

The first Thanksgiving still rings true in our collective memory as a day of celebration and cooperation. It became an institution to give thanks to the Almighty, as Lincoln said, for the success of the Union and the cause of freedom, still reasons to be grateful.

In the midst of our greatest challenge during the Great Depression, Roosevelt gave it the optimism that times would be bright again.

Today, we face new challenges. The best way to meet them is to first be grateful for what we have. Happy Thanksgiving!

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Online merchants know more about me than friends and family

Thanks to the Internet, strangers know more about me than friends and family know.

Online merchants constantly recommend stuff

for me to buy based on their knowledge of my likes and interests, which in turn, is based on what I previously had bought and what websites.

This can be annoying when I receive emails that alert me (tactfully, of course), "We see by your most recent purchase that you are a fat guy. We just want to alert you to our Thanksgiving sale on



PAUL SASSONE

all our shirts for the portly person."

And though I can't remember ever doing so, I must have ordered liquor online some time

in the past because I received an email that read, "We know you are a person who enjoys a glass of wine with dinner..."

I guess to the online world I am a fat wino.

Certainly, my public image would fare better based on my reading likes.

The other day that online bookstore behemoth (surely, you

know the one I mean) recommended some reading for me.

Since I am an intelligent, sophisticated and well-read guy, I figured the recommendation would be something such as Aristotle's "Poetics," or perhaps Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past."

But no. The bookstore thought I would enjoy a book titled "I Could Pee on This: And Other Poems by Cats."

I looked it up, and it's a book about cats. I have a cat. So, was Kate surfing the site for books about felines? I wouldn't put anything past a cat that will only drink water that has ice cubes in it.

What all cat books have in common is their brevity. Each page comprises a cute little saying, such as "Kittens are baby cats." That's page 1. "Kittens like to pounce." That's page 2.

Each succeeding page announces another cat attribute — "Cats are gray." "Cats purr I love you," — stuff that makes cat lovers squeal with delight and everyone else roll their eyes.

Kate does all that purring, pouncing and spitfying her toys. She even occasionally hacks up a fur ball. Being a cat lover, I understand and appreciate all this cat idolatry.

Not only are these cat books brief, they cost anywhere from

\$8 to \$20.

I am a writer. And Kate is a cat. What if I wrote a book about her?

But I would need photos. And every time I pointed a camera at Kate she either would freeze like a deer caught in headlights, or start licking her behind.

Even cat lovers wouldn't pay \$14.95 for an itty-bitty book about a cat washing its butt — "Cats are disgusting."

I thought I was on to something. How disappointing.

I blame my false hopes on that online bookseller.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Perspective of a bad year makes us thankful



LYNN PETRAK

It's Thanksgiving week. In between trying to find the store's last (undented) can of pumpkin puree and remembering just how much I hate peeling 3 pounds of potatoes, I'll take that moment during grace before the Thanksgiving meal to give thanks for my blessings, as scores of Americans do.

It's funny. You think you have the most to be thankful for when times are good. Maybe you got a great new job or promotion this year. You welcomed a child or grandchild. You got into your top-choice school. You won the Illinois lottery. (Well, on that last one, not so much, at least not until our cash-strapped state cleans up its fiscal mess and pays out lottery winnings.)

During good years, it's easy to give thanks for all that you've been bestowed or worked for very dili-

gently.

It's during the not-as-great years, though, that gratitude is truly from the heart.

It's been one of those years for me. Certainly, there are many wonderful things, from a family I cherish to a job I love to the sweet-if-rascally puppy who will spend her first Thanksgiving with us.

But it's also been a tough year in many ways.

"I can't wait for it to be 2016," I groaned to my husband this week sitting in the radiology waiting room, listening for my name to be called for an X-ray. (Side note: I don't suggest wearing your spouse's big shoes to take your puppy down leaf-covered stairs in the rain.)

I've been to that particular health center way more than I would have liked this year, more than the last five years combined.

Whenever I drive by the building lately, I think of the sweaty-palmed wait for diagnostic tests and the two unrelated trips to the emergency room, both presenting very real worries for one of my children and for me. I will be very happy to not hear the

sound of the examining room curtain being slung closed by the nurse and to not have to hold my breath for a diagnosis.

The hum and buzz of medical equipment and the cold pit in your stomach after you Google potential medical conditions are a long way from a softly lit Thanksgiving table, rimmed with the good china, turkey-shaped candles and the faces and voices of the ones you love most in this world.

Thank God that I'm not spending this holiday in one of those hospitals, as many people do. Thank God I'm healthy today. Thank God my kids are healthy today. Thank God I still have a job. Thank God I'm not one of those poor souls who have contended with tragedy and horror, whether in the City of Lights, the South Side of Chicago or a small Syrian town taken by storm and fury.

Thanks for the perspective of a bad year to make us appreciate everything good.

If you'll excuse me, I need to refill my glass of wine and give my dog some turkey scraps.

SCOTT STANTIS



SCOTT STANTIS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Seasonal sweater swagger

What's the hot holiday fashion trend? How about borderline political incorrectness! 'Tis the season to say it with a sweater.

You've probably seen or heard at least one story of a major store being told to yank sweaters with questionable messages off their racks after public pushback. And no, it's not the same sweater story that keeps circulating; there's plenty of fashion swagger to gawk at over at the mall.

First there was the OCD sweater that Target introduced as part of its affectionately named Ugly Christmas Sweater Collection. When some took aim at the bull's-eye-logged retailer because they didn't think an "Obsessive Christmas Disorder" message on the sweater's front projected holiday cheer, Target held its ground and said — the sweater stays. The retailer also wasn't about to miss out on added sales generated by free publicity over manufactured fashion hype.



ERIC SCOTT

I'm sure the sweater marketers had no idea OCD would generate more attention with a dash of controversial media buzz. Yeah, sure ... and that new Illinois budget deal should be signed off any day now.

So if you were annoyed with Target and decided to shop at Sears instead, you may have bumped into Birthday Boy. I'm referring to the beige and blue-sleeved holiday sweater featuring "Birthday Boy" printed underneath an image of Jesus on the front. A former TV news colleague of mine and long-time Facebook friend recently posted photos of the "holy threads" along with her daughter's priceless reaction, pictured above.

Granted, a jarring sense

of mild alarm may be the initial response to this quirky fashion trend, but seeing how others perceive these fashions might shape overall opinions. Plus, does anyone think blatant religious mocking is going to be good for sales?

Sweater sayings aren't only a Christmas controversy. When not-so-happy shoppers at Nordstrom spotted blue Hanukkah sweaters with "Chai Maintenance" splashed across the front, the "Nordys" discovered their backbones were out of stock, along with their back-ordered funny bones, and moved these creative garments off their sales floors. Couldn't you see Larry David gifting that sweater to family members on HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and expecting them to laugh in the spirit of holiday humor?

Apparently Nordstrom doesn't get HBO.

Eric Scott is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you to blood donors

Thanksgiving time.

The time for me to send out thanks to hundreds of area residents who regularly donate something close to their hearts in an effort to keep other hearts beating strongly. They are blood donors.

Many people in this country think that if they are involved in a violent accident on the highway or even at home, there will be plenty of blood to sustain their life at whatever

hospital to which they are rushed.

Not necessarily. Since science, after many decades trying, still has not developed a substitute for real whole blood, all hospitals depend on donors to maintain a safe supply of that life-sustaining fluid and its elements, such as platelets, plasma and red cells.

In the past year, our little group in Westchester collected more than 450

units of blood for Chicago area hospitals. We've been doing this since 1974. Since then, we have collected nearly 25,000 units. But we could not have collected so much for so long without generous, loyal donors from across the western suburbs.

Our deepest, sincere thanks to those people.

—Carl J. Panek, chairman, Westchester Blood Program

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RATIO

Black Friday eats

Where to refuel so you don't drop while you shop

By VERONICA HINKE
Pioneer Press

Shop until you drop on the day after Thanksgiving — and refuel at one of these spots. From doorbusters to day-after-only deals, let's face it, time is limited on Black Friday. That pit stop better be worth it. Here are six of the best reasons to take a break from the post-holiday retail shuffle.

Garbage Salad at The Clubhouse, Oakbrook Center

The Clubhouse at Oakbrook Center has over nine refreshing entrée salads on the menu. The herb-encrusted salmon salad, the classic wedge salad and the pomegranate chicken salad are all lighter options, and none are anything like what you indulged in on Thanksgiving.

The Clubhouse Garbage Salad is a mix of grilled chicken, romaine lettuce, eggs, cheddar cheese, Roma tomatoes, artichoke hearts, green onion, green and black olives and, of course, the best of everything — bacon. All of this is topped with a drizzle of balsamic vinaigrette dressing.

"You're getting a little bit of everything with the Garbage Salad," Executive Chef Pawel Marszalek said. "You get crunch with the romaine lettuce and croutons and a big Mediterranean taste from the olives and artichoke hearts. I think that's why so many people enjoy it — because you're getting a lot of flavors and textures."

Another popular salad at The Clubhouse is the carne asada cobb salad. It's like a traditional cobb salad, with steak. "The steak gives it a lot of substance with a big Southwest flavor," Marszalek said. "You have the chimichurri sauce which boosts that steak flavor and the tortilla strips give it a great crunch." Visit theclubhouse.com.



LINDSEY BECKER

A sunny slide-up egg, cheddar cheese, crispy fried chicken and sausage fill a breakfast biscuit at the new Arlen's Chicken in Evanston.

Tortilla Soup at Wholly Frijoles, Lincolnwood Town Center

The tortilla soup at Wholly Frijoles near Lincolnwood Town Center is a light, flavorful pick-me-up. The soup is made with vegetable broth and roasted vegetables blended with corn tortilla strips. Every bowl of it gets a topping of herbal seasoning and a dollop of sour cream. The house-made guacamole is

another fresh, flavorful departure from anything you likely ate on Thanksgiving. Visit WhollyFrijoles.net.

Diver Sea Scallops at Flight Restaurant and Wine Bar, The Glen

After you've shopped until you've almost dropped, recharge with appetizers at Flight Restaurant and Wine Bar at The Glen in Glenview. The popular diver sea scallops come on top of a little pile of rainbow Swiss chard sautéed with applewood smoked

bacon, butternut squash and hazelnuts. A drizzle of bacon hazelnut vinaigrette accents the seared scallops.

If you're looking for a bit of heartiness, order the scallops with the baby back ribs appetizer. The ribs are slow-cooked with a homemade dry rub using some of Chef Eyvar Montes's favorite dry rub spices. He finishes the ribs on the grill and tosses them with a five-spice barbecue sauce. The ribs are plated with a side of spicy coleslaw. Visit FlightWineBar.com.

Egg on a Biscuit at Arlen's Chicken, downtown Evanston

If Thanksgiving breakfast was a granola bar you crammed in on the sly in between stuffing the turkey and boiling the potatoes, you've earned a decent day-after breakfast. Fuel up for Black Friday with an egg on a biscuit at the newly opened Arlen's Chicken in downtown Evanston. The fried egg and cheddar sandwich is available all day. Stay true to the Arlen's school and order it with some fried chicken.

"The egg adds a rich and delicious flavor to the sandwich, while the biscuit is there to soak up all the flavor," Chef Michael Kornick said.

And it's never too early in the day for a freshly made shake like Arlen's peanut butter and toasted marshmallow varieties.

Visit facebook.com/arlenschicken.

Lump Crab Tower at McCormick and Schmick's, Westfield Old Orchard Shopping Center

After spending a day tripped out on tryptophan, seafood can be the perfect day-after-Thanksgiving lunch option. Any of the fish entrees will do the trick at McCormick and Schmick's at Westfield Old Orchard, but there's nothing quite as refreshing as the restaurant's lump crab tower. It's a stack of layered chunks of avocado, mango and crab meat, accented with orange vinaigrette and topped with micron greens. The lump crab cake with fire-roasted corn salsa is another flavorful, light alternative. Save room for a key lime pie, which is a lighter option for satisfying a sweet tooth.

Visit McCormickandSchmicks.com.



THE IRVING SISTERS

The Irving Sisters will perform at the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra's holiday concert Dec. 2.

MUSIC

Irving Sisters join Park Ridge orchestra for holiday classics

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES
Pioneer Press

When was the last time you walked out of a concert humming? Popular soprano Linden Christ, who has appeared in past Park Ridge Civic Orchestra concerts, promises you will do exactly that on Dec. 2.

Christ is bringing two more fellow opera singers, Elise LaBarge and Sarah Simmons, colleagues in a newly formed group named The Irving Sisters, to the Pickwick Theatre for the orchestra's annual salute to the holiday season.

"Our songs are fun and we make people happy," Christ said. "Music is very powerful and the take-away from a program like ours is that people feel happier."

The trio is made up of serious singers. Christ is director of the Roosevelt University Singers, founder of the Chicago Opera Playhouse, and director of education and outreach at Chicago Opera Theater. LaBarge, a teaching artist for Lyric Opera of Chicago, has appeared in opera, operetta and musical theater and concerts.

Simmons, a voice teacher at Rockford University, is part of Songs By Heart, which presents programs at places for people with

Park Ridge Civic Orchestra holiday concert

When: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 2

Where: Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge

Tickets: \$25, \$20 for seniors 62 and older; free 18 and younger

Contact: www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org

memory loss.

The women will sing "The Christmas Song," LeRoy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," "Winter Wonderland" and Irving Berlin's "White Christmas," with orchestral accompaniment.

The singers chose the name The Irving Sisters in homage to Old Irving Park neighborhood, where she lives. "Plus we love the music of Irving Berlin," she said.

Berlin's songs date from a period which appeals to all three. "We enjoy singing songs from the 1920s to the 1940s," Christ said, citing the close harmony of the Andrew Sisters ("Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy"), the Chordettes ("Mr. Sandman") and the Boswell Sisters, pioneering jazz vocalists

from the early day of radio and film.

Maestro Victor Muenzer has selected the evening's additional numbers, including the overture to "Der Fledermaus," by Johann Strauss II, known as "The Waltz King" and "Til Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks" by Richard Strauss. The PRCO musicians will also play excerpts from John William's Oscar-winning score for "E.T.," Leroy Anderson's "Bugler's Holiday," assorted other Christmas favorites, plus the popular "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch."

Bass Samuel Weiser, a graduate student of Bruce Hall's in the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, will perform that popular novelty song, which requires a very deep voice. Weiser is part of the Floating Opera Company, a community partner of Chicago Opera Theater's Opera Underground.

When asked how low a voice must go to sing "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch," Weiser explained that the real sound of the song comes from the color of the voice and the color of the tune.

"This concert is so full of holiday favorites that everyone from 9 to 99 will have a terrific time," Weiser said.

THEATER

Review: The joys of eccentricity in 'You Can't Take It With You'

BY CHRIS JONES
Chicago Tribune

A lust for the abiding pleasures of non-conformity beat inside many a fevered breast in 2015, even in Skokie, as surely as it did in 1936. That's the year master farceurs George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart introduced Broadway to the Sycamores, a big extended family of cheery snake-charmers, fireworks enthusiasts, musicians, chefs and free thinkers who eschewed the presumed misery of being part of America during the Great Depression — and who now are reborn on the Northlight Theatre stage under the direction of Devon de Mayo.

"You Can't Take It With You" was the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1937. That's no mean feat for a screwball comedy. Ever since, the play been a staple of high school and college theater, although its popularity is surely on the wane. But Northlight has put together a cast stocked with Chicago names: Hollis Resnik, John Judd, Brad Armacost, Patrick Clear, Penny Slusher and Sean Fortunato. It's quite a crew, and I mean no insult in the omission of many other names in the program.

The plot of "You Can't Take It With You" is pretty much the plot of the musical version of "The Addams Family," not to mention "Meet the Parents" and any number of other narratives wherein a normative character from a wacky family (here played by Lucy Carapetyan) fears embarrassment over canapes with his or her true love's ma and pa.

De Mayo has set herself a tough assignment and



MICHAEL BROSILOW PHOTO

Penny Slusher as Penelope Sycamore, Bernie Balbot as Tony Kirby and Joanne Dubach as Essie Carmichael in "You Can't Take it With You" at Northlight Theatre.

When: Through Dec. 13

Where: North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie

Tickets: \$25-\$79

Contact: 847-673-6300; www.northlight.org

her production is a mostly enjoyable affair, albeit one that sometimes struggles with the right tone. The issue is how far out to let the Sycamores go. Take, for example, Essie Carmichael (Joanne Dubach), an eccentric who likes to dance around the living room. Essie has to dance around the living room, sure, but you can't have the audience wondering why she is doing that, or why she is being so weird.

In the early section of the show, during the bit where Kaufman and Hart are introducing us to their chaotic characters, you can't quite believe what everybody is doing, because not everyone on stage is acting at the same level of absurdity. Things improve considerably

once the stiffs, very dryly played by Jenny Avery and the redoubtable Clear, arrive and there are a few straight folks in the room for the Sycamores to play against.

Those early moments require both a level of comic invention, which de Mayo's production certainly tries to have, and a rooted sense of character and truthiness, which proves a tad more elusive. Some of the time, it's a matter of dialing it back a few notches. Some more of the time, it's a matter of the rule of Kaufman-and-Hart comedies — be funny. Aside from consistency of tone, if there's one thing that de Mayo's production needs above all else, it's more gags that land.

There are plenty of pleasures flowing from the work of such actors as Keith Neagle, Ericka Ratcliff and, most especially, Judd, who seems to be having a great time. This production isn't the funniest version of this script I've seen, but it is creative and, just as importantly, warm, family-friendly and affectionate.



BRICKTON ART CENTER

Make a gingerbread house as a sweet treat for the holidays at Brickton Art Center.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Construct gingerbread houses at Park Ridge holiday workshop

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

How sweet it is when parents and kids work together to create something special. You and your child, ages 6-10, will have that experience at Brickton Art Center's Holiday Gingerbread House Workshop, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Dec. 12 at 306 Busse Highway, Park Ridge.

The project starts with prebaked gingerbread pieces. "The families put together the house and then they decorate them," said Executive Director Theresa Blackburn. Brickton supplies frosting and candy for decorating.

The cost for one adult and one child to do the project is \$40; \$34 for members. Check with Brickton regarding the cost for extra children.

The nonprofit Art Center also offers child-only Handmade for the Holidays Workshops on Saturdays, Dec. 5 and 12. Sessions are 9:30-11 a.m. for ages 5-7 (\$45; \$30 for members), and 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. for ages 8-12 (\$55; \$46.75 for members).

"This gives the kids the

option to do something for their parents for the holidays," Blackburn explained.

For details, call 847-823-6611 or go to www.bricktonartcenter.org.

Feelings surface

A girl struggles to adjust to a new city, new house and new school — and her feelings show — in the intriguing animated feature, "Inside Out." The Family Movie will be shown at 2 p.m. Nov. 28 at Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. A snack will be served. For details, call 847-663-1234 or go to www.nileslibrary.org.

Be prepared

Your kids will get a jump-start on developing reading skills at Hooray for Pre-K, 1:30-2:15 p.m. Dec. 2 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. The program, for ages 4-5 with an adult, includes reading stories and hands-on literacy, math and science activities. Registration is required.

For details, call 847-673-7774 or go to

www.skokiepubliclibrary.org.

Workout before pig-out

Everyone overeats at Thanksgiving. Take some of the guilt away by joining the Jo Herzog Memorial Thanksgiving Day Family Exercise Class, 8-9 a.m. Nov. 26 at Centennial Fitness Center, 1515 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge. Admission is nonperishable food items for the Maine Township Food Pantry.

For details, call 847-692-5129 or go to www.prparks.org.

The right moves

Scarves, balls, hoops and instruments will keep kids active at Everybody Move! 9:30-10:30 a.m. Dec. 3-17 and Jan. 7-21 at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. The program, taught by Celeste Cifala Roy of Evanston's Everybody Move! is for ages birth to two years with a caregiver. Registration is required for this series of weekly programs.

For details, call 847-677-5277, ext. 234 or go to www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org.

Add some sparkle to your holiday season with this "wildly literate, wildly funny, wildly stylish comedy!"
—THE HUFFINGTON POST

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ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS SCHOOL PHOTOS

The Science Team of St. Paul of the Cross School, Park Ridge.

St. Paul of the Cross teams win honors

PIONEER PRESS

Staff Report

Students of St. Paul of the Cross School in Park Ridge have done well in recent competitions.

The 20 members of the Math Team, under the leadership of math teacher Helen Stephens competed in the 44th Annual Jr. High Math Contest Nov. 15 at Fenwick High School in Oak Park. Thirty schools and 260 individual students participated. Six St. Paul students competed as a team. Victoria Bulkowski, Matthew Cpyle, and Tom Mckenna, all Grade 7, and Aiden Jurcenko, Milina Miulli, and Marie Tagliavia, grade 8, were the SPC team that took second place.

Marie Tagliavia also received a second place trophy for her individual score, the second highest of the entire competition.

On Nov. 10, science teacher Christine Stypka and 20 eighth grade students participated in the 39th Annual Junior High Science Contest, also at Fenwick.

The SPC team took fourth place out of 44 schools, with 600 students competing overall. Each student answered 100 ques-



The Math Team of St. Paul of the Cross School, Park Ridge.

tions covering biology, chemistry, physics, earth science and astronomy. The team awards are determined by adding up the top three individual scores on each team.

Students Aiden Jurcenko, Katie Naughton and Marie Tagliavia had the combined scores for the SPC team to place 4th and become the highest scoring Catholic school team in the event.

Two SPC students received plaques for their individual achievements. Marie Tagliavia placed 8th and Aiden Jurcenko placed 15th out of the 600 participants.

SPORTS BALL KNOCKS IT OUT OF THE PARK



LEE A. LITAS/PIONEER PRESS

Tom and Maria Zipp of Park Ridge, from left, and Niki Chibucos of Willow Springs were among 250 supporters who enjoyed the Aging Care Connections Sports Ball at Pinstripes in Oak Brook Sept. 25. The event raised \$85,000 to support the agency's comprehensive care coordination. More information can be found at www.agingcareconnections.org.

FESTIVE HOLIDAY CONCERT IN PARK RIDGE



PARK RIDGE CIVIC ORCHESTRA

The Choir of St. Mary of Providence makes its debut with The Park Ridge Civic Orchestra at the Holiday Orchestra concert, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. The choir will be caroling before the concert and at intermission. For the first time, concert-goers will enjoy "walk-in music" provided by Taylor Trimby on the Pickwick's Wurlitzer organ from 7:00-7:25 p.m. The Irving Sisters trio, with their '40s sound and bass soloist Samuel Weiser will join the orchestra for the 7:30 p.m. show. Tickets: Seniors \$20 (62+), Adults \$25, Ages 18 and under free admission, at the door or at www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org.

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2218 S Goebbert Rd, # 187, Arlington Heights	Roman C Villapando	Pbg Properties Llc	10-26-15	\$83,000
2407 S Goebbert Rd, # 202, Arlington Heights	Laila Ahadi	Leon Fan	10-22-15	\$116,000
1611 N Windsor Dr, # 205, Arlington Heights	Barbara Konopka & Urszula Konopka	Joseph P Williams	10-23-15	\$118,000
1405 E Central Rd, # 220C, Arlington Heights	Benjamin J Voloshin & Irina Voloshin	Christine S Friend	10-26-15	\$155,000
362 W Happfield Dr, Arlington Heights	Patarintra Visutdhi	Victor L Joseph Laporte	10-20-15	\$197,000
1154 N Hickory Ave, Arlington Heights	Scott Fowle & Jan Fowle	Robert Williams	10-23-15	\$215,000
77 S Evergreen Ave, # 507, Arlington Heights	Bruce Benson	Douglas Robert Trust	10-21-15	\$215,000
28 S Regency Ct E, Arlington Heights	Pamela Czarnik	Mary Lennon	10-21-15	\$225,000
1640 Fox Run Dr, Arlington Heights	Seema Malviya & Ajit S Rathore	Andrew David Lauffer	10-21-15	\$228,000
1316 W Meade Ln, Arlington Heights	Andrei Kouhan & Olga Kouhan	Maxx Inc	10-26-15	\$250,000
732 S Vail Ave, Arlington Heights	Vittorio Bruno	Craig P Mallar	10-20-15	\$290,000
949 W Essex Pl, Arlington Heights	Chitti S Ravi & Ghanadeep Vemuri	Kalex Homes Llc	10-22-15	\$315,000
911 E Valley Ln, Arlington Heights	Kevin Edward Geist & Marjorie Jean Geist	Peter J Hamilton	10-20-15	\$373,000
6 E Burr Oak Dr, Arlington Heights	Frank W Goldberg & Trina L Schubert	David P Cleary	10-20-15	\$440,000
1047 N Carlyle Ln, Arlington Heights	Chunghel Yeung & Hauyin Lo	Robert P Fahy	10-26-15	\$584,500
623 N Dunton Ave, Arlington Heights	Sakone N Venegas & Kia Venegas	Cheriann B Hanson	10-20-15	\$605,000
634 S Mitchell Ave, Arlington Heights	Gregory G Osterhues & Elizabeth W Osterhues	Drh Cambridge Homes Inc	10-23-15	\$767,500
118 Willow Pkwy, Buffalo Grove	Ravikumar Vaithilingam & Vinopriya Vijayaboopathy	Floyd A Brown	10-19-15	\$255,000
15 Wakefield Ln, Buffalo Grove	Dale Anne Jekov & Zhivko Zhekov	Sandra G Braun Estate	10-20-15	\$278,000
217 Woodstone Dr, Buffalo Grove	Gurmeet Singh Arora	Joseph A Jacobs	10-16-15	\$287,500
293 Willow Pkwy, Buffalo Grove	Aron Buterman & Dina Buterman	Yixia Wu	10-23-15	\$288,500
721 Thompson Blvd, Buffalo Grove	Sergey Biletsky & Diana Pegosova	Zippora Vardy	10-19-15	\$335,000
417 Ronnie Dr, Buffalo Grove	Sureshkannan Srinivasan & Indumathi Sureshkannan	Saravanan Subramanian	10-19-15	\$337,500
622 Buckthorn Ter, Buffalo Grove	Manish Agarwal & Richa Agarwal	Nimrod Raz	10-19-15	\$345,000
722 Alsace Cir, Buffalo Grove	Mark E Lange & Pamela K Lange	Linda E Baker	10-23-15	\$387,500
1214 Dayton Rd, Buffalo Grove	Feliks Zhornitsky & Olga Zhornitsky	Jon Van Winkle	10-22-15	\$390,000
90 Newfield Dr, Buffalo Grove	Kishorekumar Sundarampillai & Sujitha Muthukonert	Michael J Czekanski	10-16-15	\$395,000
1140 Gail Dr, Buffalo Grove	Yong Sheng Yin & Wen Hao	David Jarquin Vega	10-22-15	\$410,000
1358 Gail Dr, Buffalo Grove	James R Haden & Fang Bai	Martin B Oliff	10-23-15	\$447,000
337 Ronnie Dr, Buffalo Grove	Aaron Krueger & Erin Kuhn Krueger	Richard D Borstein	10-19-15	\$450,000
1311 Whitney Ln, Buffalo Grove	Nicholas Parker & Amy Parker	Alan H Shifrin	10-20-15	\$575,000
9997 Linda Ln, # GW, Des Plaines	Srinivas Kaza	Manuel Nica	10-20-15	\$33,000
9205 Bumble Bee Dr, # 1B, Des Plaines	Muhammad Bilal Raja & Amina Khalid	Bernarda Chavez	10-20-15	\$89,000
8894 Knight Ave, # G217, Des Plaines	Yakov Goldin & Dmitry Goldin	Clara Chin Widowed	10-21-15	\$100,500
940 Beau Dr, # 101, Des Plaines	Daniel Howe	Susan J Woltman	10-26-15	\$120,000
327 Dover Dr, Des Plaines	Dharmendra Patel & Ranjan Patel	Anastasia Kallinikos Estate	10-20-15	\$158,000
1327 Brown St, # 211, Des Plaines	Vessela P Zlatev & Borislav D Zlatev	Thomas Svetlik	10-22-15	\$172,600
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555 S River Rd, # 204, Des Plaines	Biljana Blagojevich & Dejan Danny Blagojevich	Janina Zygula	10-26-15	\$184,500
1670 Mill St, # 402, Des Plaines	Leah Hoffman	Sean O'Brien	10-26-15	\$191,000
1349 E Washington St, # 207A, Des Plaines	Janis Klisis	Justin Rohde	10-23-15	\$192,000
1761 Locust St, Des Plaines	Nicholas P Stover	Us Bank Na Trustee	10-21-15	\$205,000
626 Debra Dr, Des Plaines	Charles P Moore & Tereza Moore	Rick A Bohning	10-22-15	\$210,000
915 Aifini Dr, Des Plaines	Arthur J Garceau & Kristina M Garceau	Chris W Guill	10-22-15	\$211,000
9360 N Parkside Dr, Des Plaines	Dipal Patel & Milk Patel	Yogesh K Singapori	10-23-15	\$223,000
434 Cambridge Rd, Des Plaines	Horacio Padilla & Lindsey Padilla	Fannie Mae	10-26-15	\$230,000

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733 Greenview Ave, Des Plaines	Ruben Ruiz Jr	Sylvia Whitcomb	10-20-15	\$235,000
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1500 Oak Ave, # 5 C, Evanston	Alexa Sorock	Michael Jon Lippitz	10-20-15	\$310,000
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624 Custer Ave, # 104, Evanston	Audrey A Ferguson & Richard Gilbert	Givonna Long	10-26-15	\$355,000
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2534 Wellington Ct, Evanston	Paul J Rolfes & Pamela A Rolfes	Evelyn K De La Cruz	10-23-15	\$425,000
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2034 Pratt Ct, Evanston	Julia F Colhoun	Ppd Homes Llc	10-26-15	\$560,000
7052 Palma Ln, Morton Grove	Konstantinos Chanotakis	Vilard Alexan	10-20-15	\$150,000
7116 Church St, Morton Grove	Monica Iusco	Silvia Maglan	10-23-15	\$170,000
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9327 Overhill Ct, Morton Grove	Almira Kadic & Elvis Kadic	Atanas Kostov	10-26-15	\$300,000
7038 Beckwith Rd, Morton Grove	Mohammed H Khan	Fannie Mae	10-22-15	\$340,000
110 Caille Ct, Morton Grove	Carlos M Azcoitia & Djane H Azcoitia	Cindy L Hawes	10-20-15	\$345,000
8921 Central Ave, Morton Grove	Marco Stegich & Bonnie Stegich	Joseph Falkovitz	10-26-15	\$346,000
5507 Church St, Morton Grove	Ethelbert P Gazmen & Lourdes B Gazmen	George Toliopoulos	10-23-15	\$354,000
5523 Main St, Morton Grove	Aldo Covelli & Maria G Covelli	Neftali Torres Jr	10-26-15	\$357,000
8727 Austin Ave, Morton Grove	Christine Alesia	Anderson Trust	10-26-15	\$380,000
5605 Theobald Rd, Morton Grove	Tariq Puthawala	Judicial Sales Corp	10-21-15	\$433,500
9737 N Fox Glen Dr, # 2A, Niles	Darryl Quarles	Anna Gurevich	10-23-15	\$120,000
8809 W Golf Rd, # 6B, Niles	Changwook Kim & Sooyoung Kim	Hyeong Joon Kim	10-22-15	\$149,000
7028 W Carol Ave, Niles	Helen Putros	Joseph Nano	10-26-15	\$225,000
6941 W Seward St, Niles	Bujar Qorri	Leo Ludzia	10-21-15	\$268,000
9300 N Callero Dr, Niles	Eufemia Monasterial & Edison Monasterial	Chung M Lee	10-26-15	\$278,000
7025 W Seward St, Niles	Ashor Poles	Panagopoulos Trust	10-23-15	\$287,000
8333 N Western Ave, Niles	Neeraj Mirani & Ajisha Shah	Isc Capital Llc Series 2820	10-20-15	\$565,000
1603 Elliott St, Park Ridge	Matthew E Dickman & Bridget R O Dowd	Charles M Kent Estate	10-26-15	\$225,000
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Living

Thursday, November 26, 2015



Suburban cooks:
Baker shares
Christmas cookie
recipe. Page 2

CN
★



These egg rolls are stuffed with Thanksgiving leftovers — turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and vegetables — with gravy for dipping.

MELISSA ELSMO/
PIONEER PRESS

Roll up Thanksgiving leftovers

This creative spin on leftovers transforms the waning remnants of the holiday menu into a batch of crispy egg rolls. Page 3

SUBURBAN COOKS

Baker shares Christmas cookie recipe

By Judy Buchenot
The Beacon-News

Mary Lou Parsons enjoys baking just about everything.

It is not surprising since baking is definitely part of her family heritage that she reluctantly left behind when she left New Jersey to move to Oswego earlier this year.

"My family owns a bakery in Jersey City. It's been in the family at least 65 years," she said.

The family bakery, Monteleone's Bakery, is still being operated by Parson's aunt and uncle and their three grandchildren. "My mom and dad worked there. My aunts and uncles worked there. My brother worked there. I worked there. The kids didn't get paid. You just helped out."

Parsons may not have gotten a paycheck, but she was rewarded with family pizza parties and family memories that still are with her.

"Every day, at the end of the day, we took all the cookies, buns, and loaves of bread that were left and split it among the families. We didn't eat cereal for breakfast. We ate all the great things left from the bakery," she said.

Her grandmother was also an accomplished baker. "Every Friday, we would go pick up Grandma Camilla and bring her to the bakery. She would come in and make about 20 Sicilian pizzas - the pizza which you guys call deep dish pizza." The pizzas were made in a large pan about two feet wide and three feet long and two inches deep.

"Some of the pizzas just had fresh mozzarella and sauce and some had sauce and anchovies," said Parsons. She says the pizzas were baked in huge ovens with racks that rotated around in a circle. All of her aunts, uncles and cousins would join them to feast on pizza on Fridays. "There were about eight families, plus all the people who worked at the bakery ate too. The pizza was so good."

On Saturdays, her grandmother made fresh pasta and sauce for all the families who dined together again.

When Parsons' birthday rolled around, she always asked for the bakery's signature Italian birthday cake.

"They brought in wild cherries from Italy that were so good for the cake," she said.

The cake consisted of a layer of sponge cake, a layer of custard cream mixed with cherries, another layer of sponge cake, a layer of cannoli cream mixed with citrus fruits and chocolate chips and a top layer of sponge cake. The entire cake was frosted with whipped cream and sprinkled with nuts.

"I won't be able to have that cake for my



JUDY BUCHENOT/BEACON NEWS

Mary Lou Parsons shows off a plate of her ricotta cookies, a soft, cake-like cookie.

birthday now that I have moved here," she said with a sigh.

One of the busiest times of the year for the bakery was Christmas.

"People lined up at 6 a.m. on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to get their favorites," she said. "We worked around the clock on Christmas Eve because everything had to be made fresh. I used to fall asleep on the worktable when I was a kid."

By early afternoon on Christmas, most of the crowds were gone so her dad came home and the family celebrated the holiday with other family members.

"The kids sat in the kitchen and the

adults were in the dining room. I was very close in age to my cousins and we were holy terrors together," she said.

Cookies were part of the bakery's fare. "There were these great almond cookies and at Christmas, fig cookies that were so rich, you could only eat one."

When asked what she misses most from the bakery, Parsons quickly answers, "my family."

Since she grew up around the bakery, Parsons is right at home in the kitchen. She thinks nothing of baking 24 loaf cakes for a fundraiser or making dozens of cookies for a family get together.

Ricotta Cookies

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/4 cup ricotta
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

1. Allow butter to soften. Blend butter and ricotta together until creamy. Add vanilla and mix well. Gradually add sugar, beating until well blended. Add egg and mix well. Slowly stir in flour, baking soda and salt until well blended. Drop teaspoons of dough onto lightly greased cookie sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes.

Mary Lou's Culinary Cue

Baked cookies freeze well but be sure to layer the cookies into a container with waxed paper between each layer. The waxed paper keeps the cookies from sticking together.

Bethany of Fox Valley United Methodist Church Cookie Walk

Where: Bethany of Fox Valley United Methodist Church, 2200 Ridge Road, Aurora
When: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 5
Information: www.bfvumc.org

She also learned to sew from an aunt who was a professional designer and enjoys sewing projects.

"I like to be busy," Parsons said.

So when she was asked to contribute some cookies to Bethany of Fox Valley United Methodist Church's annual cookie walk in December, she agreed without hesitation. She is planning to bring in many of her favorites including her ricotta cookies, a thick but very tender cakelike drop cookie.

"They are so easy to make," the veteran baker said. She also plans to make a batch of her cream cheese cookies and many other of her specialties.

Parsons shares her ricotta cookie recipe for others to try. The cookies can be left plain or dressed up with frosting and sprinkles for the holidays.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer.



MELISSA ELSMO/PIONEER PRESS

Egg rolls stuffed with Thanksgiving leftovers — turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and vegetables, with gravy for dipping.

Egg rolls perfect for leftovers



MELISSA ELSMO
Out of Mel's Kitchen

The most blissful aspect of any well-executed Thanksgiving feast is plowing through plates heaping with a cornucopia of distinct flavors. A savvy Thanksgiving dinner guest appreciates how each component of a proper turkey dinner, from the stuffing to the cranberry sauce, is not only delicious on its own, but designed to intermingle on the plate in a mishmash of savory abundance.

Bourbon-spiked sweet potatoes practically beg to cozy up to a rosemary-cranberry compote while orange-scented green beans clamor for a little kiss of giblet gravy. It's no wonder most folks can't wait to get hungry again after the main event is over.

Outside of reconnecting with loved ones and expressing gratitude for good fortune, leftovers are quite possibly the greatest part of the Thanksgiving holiday. A haze of mile-high sandwiches and even the occasional hokey 1950s casserole make the hours and days following this food-focused holiday nothing short of a tryptophan-laden dreamland.

Right after the Turkey Tetrazzini and just before the carcass gives up its last burst of flavor in a lovely homemade soup, I look forward to transforming the waning remnants of my Thanksgiving menu into a batch of crispy egg rolls. This creative spin on holiday leftovers celebrates the hodgepodge of turkey day flavors and offers maximum flexibility for everyone to create their own perfect snack. Purists can limit these custom creations to turkey and stuffing or for a more adventurous version, toss in a little bit of everything from your menu into these crunchy nuggets. Either way, this casual spin on leftovers is an ideal recipe for some hands-on fun in the kitchen!

Leftovers safety tips

- Be sure to wash your hands frequently while you prepare your holiday feast and keep raw foods away from cooked foods.
- Lingering at the Thanksgiving table is lovely, but not at the expense of keeping uneaten food safe. Once everyone has had their fill and communal dishes are just slightly cool to the touch, get things transferred to shallow storage containers and placed in the refrigerator.
- Foods should be cooled quickly and refrigerated within two hours of coming out of the oven. Any longer than that and leftovers should be tossed
- Use or freeze all of your Thanksgiving leftovers within four days.
- Cooked turkey can be frozen for up to six months. I like to chop mine up and freeze it in storage bags for easy additions to soups and stir-fries.
- Heat all of your leftover dishes to 165 degrees and be sure to bring your soups and gravies to a boil.

Thanksgiving Egg Rolls

Note: I filled my rolls with whipped sweet potatoes, stuffing, turkey, cranberry, parsley and sage, but feel free to use this recipe as a gentle guide for creating an array of personalized egg rolls. Extra wrappers can be frozen for later use.

- 1 package egg roll wrappers
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- Leftover mashed potatoes, sweet or white
- Leftover turkey meat, shredded
- Leftover stuffing
- Leftover cranberry sauce
- Leftover Thanksgiving vegetables
- Chopped leftover fresh herbs like parsley, rosemary, sage and/or thyme
- Canola oil for frying
- Leftover gravy for dipping

1. Pour oil to a depth of 3 inches into a large high sided skillet. Heat the oil until a piece of bread sizzles on contact, but the oil is not smoking (about 325 degrees).

2. Meanwhile, place an egg roll wrapper on a work surface like a diamond with a point facing you. Spread a generous tablespoon of mashed potato in the lower third of the diamond. Top with a few shreds of cooked turkey, a tablespoon of stuffing, a hint of veggies and a sprinkling of cranberry and herbs. The wrapper should hold about 1/4 cup of combined ingredients.

3. Fold the bottom corner up toward the top corner to enclose the filling. Pull back slightly on the wrapper to ensure everything is firmly held inside; putting the potatoes down first helps with this process as they act like glue to hold everything else in place.

4. Using a finger spread some beaten egg on the top triangle of the diamond. Fold the side corners in toward the center of the filling; the egg roll will look like an envelope at this point. Roll the egg roll up to the end making sure the egg seals the edges.

5. Dust the wrapped rolls with cornstarch and cover them a towel until you've filled all the wrappers you are planning to make. Fry the egg rolls in batches as soon as you are finished wrapping them two minutes per side until golden brown and crunchy. Serve the egg rolls with leftover Thanksgiving gravy for dipping.

SUBURBAN COOKS

Butterball offers tips to avoid disasters

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

When there is something strange going on with the turkey, who you gonna call?

Certainly not the family or friends who are coming to Thanksgiving dinner, since you are trying to impress them with your cooking skills. The reality is that cooking a turkey is not an instinct. You do need to know what you are doing. So if the turkey that is supposed to go in the oven tomorrow morning still feels like an ice cube, a call for guidance may be in order.

There is a whole team of turkey tutors just waiting for your call at the Butterball hotline, the annual Thanksgiving rescue operation. Sue Smith, a resident of Glen Ellyn, has been serving as a teacher of all things turkey for 16 years at Butterball. She has taken many a call from cooks fussing over a frozen fowl and calmly suggests, "thaw the turkey in cold water. Keep it in the wrapper, breast side down and change the water frequently. You will need about 30 minutes per pound." Once thawed, fly the big bird back into the refrigerator until it is time to send it into the oven.

Smith has averted many Thanksgiving disasters over the years but claims she never gets tired of handing out the advice. Last year, she had a particularly heart-warming call from a 92-year-old man.

"His wife has passed away but he still wanted to have the family over for Thanksgiving dinner," recalls Smith. The man had never cooked a turkey since his wife had taken care of the task for years. "I walked him through the whole thing from beginning to end. It was the longest call I have ever done," she says.

Smith says the first thing to consider with a turkey is allowing time for thawing.

"When you press on the breast and there is an indent from your finger, it is probably thawed. You should also see some liquid in the bag from thawing." The second thing to remember is to use a thermometer instead of guessing when the turkey is done.

"Use a thermometer — 180 degrees in the thigh, 170 degrees in the breast and 165 degrees for stuffing," she says. Finally, Smith recommends placing a loose tent of foil over the turkey breast for the last one-third of the cooking time to keep it from getting too dry.

For some, the challenge is not cooking the turkey for Thanksgiving but rather what to do with the leftover turkey. Although you may feel like waddling away from the Thanksgiving table and napping in front of a football game, Smith says you need to give the turkey a little attention.

"Take all of the meat off the bone and get it into the refrigerator within two hours," she cautions. The meat can be removed in large chunks and the skin can be left on.



BUTTERBALL HOTLINE

Pumpkin black bean turkey chili can be made in less than 2 hours with leftover chili.

The white and dark meat can be stored together. The important thing is not to let it sit too long without refrigeration. The meat should be covered with plastic wrap or popped into a covered container in the refrigerator.

"Try to use it within three days or freeze it," she notes.

If the plan is to reheat the turkey for another meal, Smith says "drizzle some broth over the meat before you heat it. It will help keep the meat moist." Of course, if there is gravy leftover, it can also be used to keep the meat moist.

When sending the leftover turkey to the freezer, consider packaging it in amounts needed for a recipe. Wrap the turkey well and label and date it. There are numerous dishes that can be made with two to three cups of cooked turkey claims Smith.

"One of my favorites is pumpkin black bean turkey chili," says Smith. The flavorful chili can be quickly made in less than two hours and is an interesting variation. She also notes there are several soup recipes at the Butterball website.

Be sure to separate other leftovers when storing them. Leftover stuffing should not be tossed in a container with the turkey. Refrigerate or freeze them separately.

Pumpkin Black Bean Turkey Chili

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped yellow bell pepper
- 1 finely chopped jalapeno pepper
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 1/3 teaspoons dried oregano leaves
- 3 cups beef broth
- 2 10-ounce cans black beans rinsed, drained
- 2 1/2 cups chopped leftover cooked turkey
- 1 15-ounce can pumpkin
- 1 14.5-ounce can diced tomatoes
- 1/2 cup dry sherry
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper

1. Heat oil in large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion, bell pepper, jalapeno pepper and garlic. Cook and stir 8 minutes, or until onion is tender. Stir in chili powder, cumin and oregano. Cook and stir 1 minute. Add broth, beans, turkey, pumpkin, tomatoes with their liquid, sherry, salt and black pepper. Mix well.

2. Bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat to low. Simmer, uncovered for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Gravy should also be stored separately.

Smith shares the recipes for pumpkin black bean turkey chili and wild rice turkey soup for others to try. Butterball is celebrating throwback Thanksgiving this year by inviting the public to send in photos of memorable Thanksgivings. Some photos

will be awarded a prize of a gift card. Visit www.butterball.com for more information.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer.

Find more recipes at <http://trib.in/1N1Do8z>.

Confusion over Best Buy-LG-Pacific appliance rebate

Dear Help Squad,
We purchased a stove, refrigerator, dishwasher and microwave on June 22 from Pacific Kitchen & Home in the Gurnee Best Buy. I applied for the \$300 LG rebate included as an incentive by the Pacific salesperson. After sending in all the rebate paperwork, I received a letter on July 24 stating the rebate could not be honored because the receipt was not included. This was not true. Of course the receipt was included! When I called, they said the rebate did not include appliances from Pacific Sales because Best Buy is specifically excluded from the offer.

When I returned to the Pacific store for help, they said there were quite a few customers affected and they were working with the local LG rep to resolve the issue. Every two weeks, same story: Still working on it. On Sept. 11, we asked a Best Buy person to

help. He called the rebate center and was told it would be sent by Oct. 5. When I called the rebate number, it was the same old story: Another 4-6 weeks. I think it's a scam and their goal is to lead the consumer on until we give up.

I contacted the LG website for help, and was directed to the (nonconsumer) LG payments office. I contacted Best Buy via phone and email. Best Buy sent me to Pacific Sales, where I was told they had no responsibility to help with my rebate issue — rudely, I might add. Can you help?

Catherine, Gurnee

My first call was to Pacific Kitchen & Home's customer service number. After introducing myself as the Help Squad columnist, I was promptly hung up on. So I called back. The next Pacific representative transferred me to the Gurnee Best Buy store. I was advised to call their public



CATHY CUNNINGHAM
Help Squad

relations department. The operator informed me I had to submit my request via the Best Buy media contact web page. Things were moving right along.

Next, I got on the phone with LG's customer support center, where I was informed I could not be spoken with because I was not the customer. Instead the rep would call Catherine directly. This she did. Per Catherine: "After 22 minutes on hold, the woman I finally spoke to started with, 'You are not eligible for the rebate because Pacific Sales is not an eligible dealer for the rebate.' I

stated I was told they were. Eventually, she claimed the \$300 gift card was sent on Oct. 16. I will be happy if we do receive the card, but I am skeptical."

The following day, Best Buy spokesperson Ryan Stanzel called.

"Our customer care team reached out to Catherine. (Best Buy is) refunding her \$300 and the store is offering her a gift card. Hopefully things are good now," Stanzel said.

When asked about the rebate confusion, Stanzel said, "From what I understand, Catherine bought her appliances when the system was switching with how we were doing things, and I don't think the rebate stuff had been updated. Because LG isn't taking the rebate, it is now just an instant rebate off the customer's receipt."

Stanzel advised if others run up against a similar situation, they should call the Gurnee Best Buy

store and ask for the Pacific Kitchen & Homes supervisor.

Almost immediately upon resolving things with Best Buy, Catherine received a \$300 rebate card from LG. Because she didn't want to double-dip, she declined Best Buy's \$300 refund and accepted just the \$50 gift card. Catherine said: "I asked about the rebate being an instant rebate. (The Pacific supervisor) said all she knew was she was working on making the LG rebate work. So I have a \$300 rebate cash card from LG and a \$50 gift card from Best Buy. Thank you again for your help!"

Need help?

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

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

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PETS

WWII fighting bear honored with sculpture

By William Hageman
Chicago Tribune

Wojtek finally got his statue. A memorial statue honoring Wojtek, the nearly 500-pound bear who served in the Polish army in World War II, was unveiled Nov. 7 in Scotland.

Despite heavy rain, more than 2,000 people turned out in Edinburgh's West Princes Street Gardens for the dedication of the sculpture. Doing the honors were two Polish veterans, Wojciech Narebski and Edmund Szymczak.

"The main man was Professor Narebski, who was with the bear in the Middle East," Aileen Orr said via email recently morning. "As the bear grew, and he didn't, he was called 'Little Wojtek.'"

Orr is the co-founder of the Wojtek Memorial Trust, which raised nearly a half-million dollars for the statue. The bronze memorial, created by sculptor Alan Beattie Herriot, shows Wojtek and a Polish soldier walking side by side. It stands in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle, on a platform of granite from Poland.

"Wojtek could not return to Poland, but he is staying on Polish soil," Narebski told the crowd, according to an Edinburgh Evening News report.

Orr lives on a farm in Hutton, the town where Wojtek lived after the war and where, she says, she can still see his claw marks on trees in her garden. She also wrote "Wojtek the Bear: Polish War Hero," a book that tells his story. She said the dedication was "overwhelming."

"People seem to love it. Just as



/ALAN BEATTIE HERRIOT

A bronze memorial to Wojtek the World War II fighting bear, created by Alan Beattie Herriot, stands in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle in Edinburgh, Scotland.

he wandered around our farm and met people from the village, that is what is portrayed in the memorial design. He can be approached, touched, and children can ride on his back as he was in real life. I have received over 1,500 e-mails and messages since Saturday, with photographs and personal stories, some incredibly moving."

Wojtek (pronounced VOY-tek) is legendary in Poland, Italy and Scotland, three places he was deployed during the war. But the

international drive to raise funds for the statue brought his story to the rest of the world.

Wojtek was a brown bear that served with the Polish 2nd Corps in the 22nd Artillery Supply Company. He was found as a cub in Iran and sold to a Polish refugee who was escaping the Soviet Union. She gave him to Polish troops in 1942, and he accompanied them through Iraq, Syria, Palestine and Egypt.

Wojtek was more than a mascot; he was one of the guys. He

drank beer, smoked (and ate) cigarettes, gave a modified salute when greeted, wrestled with other soldiers, showered with them. And like a good soldier, he fought alongside his comrades.

The 22nd was to be sent to Italy to join up with British troops in an effort to take Rome. Rather than leave Wojtek behind, the Polish unit made him a soldier, complete with name, rank and serial number, allowing him to ship out on a British transport.

The shining moment for "Pvt.

Wojtek" came during the Battle of Monte Cassino in Italy in 1944, where after watching his fellow soldiers moving ammunition, he joined in.

Orr described the bear's efforts in her book: "Although he had never been trained to handle the unloading of 100-pound boxes of 25-pounder shells, the fuses and other supplies, he simply observed what the men were doing and joined in. ... Standing upright, he held out his front paws into which men loaded the heavy boxes of shells. Effortlessly, he carried the munitions to their storage areas beside the artillery positions, and returned to the lorries to collect more."

After the war, the members of the Polish regiment were sent to a displaced persons camp in Scotland and Wojtek stayed with them. Winfield Camp was near Hutton in Berwickshire; the bear soon became a local institution. After the 22nd was demobilized in 1947, the Polish soldiers became civilians and Wojtek was given to the Edinburgh Zoo, where he spent the rest of his days, eventually succumbing to the infirmities of age in 1963.

Wojtek's story will continue to unfold in 2016. Filmmaker Brendan Foley said "we are making good progress" on his movie project about the bear.

"We now have funding from (the United Kingdom) and Poland and are in advanced talks with further funders with the hope of filming in Europe in 2016," he said Tuesday.

bhageman@tribpub.com

PET OF THE WEEK



Sabrina

Mokena, Ill

Meet Sabrina. She is a 1-year-old spayed female domestic short hair brown tabby. Sabrina was rescued from a high kill shelter in Southern Illinois. She is a calm, gentle and very friendly girl who would love to find a family to call her own.

For more information, visit www.nawsus.org.

chicagotribune.com/pets

Visit us daily for the latest pet and animal news from the suburbs, city and beyond, plus:

- Our adoptable animals blog featuring photos and descriptions of Chicagoland pets in need of homes.
- Our suburban and city pet events calendar
- Photo galleries, videos, more



Guess who's coming to Thanksgiving dinner

A table full of delicious food, family gathered together, a football game on TV in the background... it's the picture-perfect Thanksgiving setting, and for many, an ideal time to bring home their new significant other for the first time.



JACKIE PILOSSOPH
Love Essentially

But introducing your new love to your family on what is probably the biggest family holiday of the year could come with a lot of stress. Remember the movie, "Meet the Parents" and how disastrous that turned out?

Let me take off a little pressure by offering 10 tips that might make Thanksgiving dinner with your new squeeze at your family's table a much smoother and more enjoyable experience.

1. Prepare your family. Offering your family some insight about your new guy or girl could be helpful in preventing any uncomfortable moments. For example, let's say your new boyfriend or girlfriend just got divorced or he or she is a recovering alcoholic. Maybe he or she just lost their job. Telling your family beforehand might be wise in minimizing awkwardness. Even little things, like if he or she doesn't eat meat. Telling the person cooking the turkey ahead of time could avoid hurt feelings.

2. Prepare your girlfriend/boyfriend. Just as you are telling your family what to expect, it might be a good idea to tell your honey about some things that might happen at your family's Thanksgiving dinner table. Maybe your cousin will start offering unsolicited relationship advice after too many cocktails, or your aunt and uncle will be continually bickering. Even the fact that your sister will be bringing her four dogs to the dinner is something you might want to share. Fewer surprises means more relaxation for everyone.

3. Divert attention. Many people walking into a roomful of new faces don't appreciate being the center of attention. So, don't make a huge production out of introductions. Be casual and low-key. Trust me, by the end of the night everyone will have made sure to introduce themselves.

4. Determine seating beforehand. Do not seat the love of your life next to your inquisitive niece who should be working for the National Enquirer. Think carefully about who will make him or her feel the most comfortable during the meal. And it goes without saying, make sure you are seated next to your date!

5. Minimize drinking. It's OK to have a cocktail to celebrate and/or to ease the stress of bringing someone new to meet your family, but don't overdo it. The last thing you want to do is get sloppy and become overly emotional if someone in your family

says or does something to embarrass you. Let's be honest, excessive drinking does one of two things. It either makes things seem worse or it gives you false courage to say or do something you might regret the next day.

6. Be yourself and let your family be themselves. If you truly love the person you brought home to meet your family, you will love them 10 times more when you see that you can be yourself around your family and he or she still loves you (or even loves you more). And when you let your family just be who they are — with no filter, and you just laugh and love each of them for exactly who you are, and then you see your boyfriend or girlfriend still love you the same, it will melt you.

7. Let your significant other be him/herself. Don't feel like you have to stand by your date's side explaining or rationalizing everything he says to your family. Your family is either going to give you the thumbs up or thumbs down about him or her. So let them decide. You are powerless at this point, so just accept that. Don't you know in your heart that you wouldn't have brought him or her into your family's house if you didn't think they'd love him or her as much as you do?

8. Don't smother, but don't abandon. Have faith that the man or woman you love can hold their own. You don't need to be at his or her side every second. That said, don't walk away for an hour and assume your date will enjoy working the room.

9. Be prepared to handle awkwardness. Even in the best of situations, having someone new in the family almost always produces an awkward moment. The best way to handle it is to not worry about it and realize that at next year's Thanksgiving dinner, you could be laughing about it.

10. Enjoy! Don't forget to have fun. Thanksgiving is a time to appreciate being off work, eating good food and making happy, unforgettable memories with the ones you love the most.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.

We remember when you partied like it was 1999



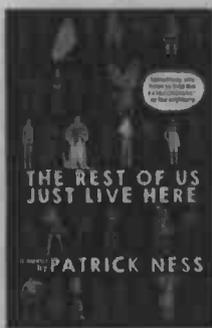
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PRINTERS ROW JOURNAL

ROUNDUP | YOUNG ADULT



The Rest of Us Just Live Here

By Patrick Ness, HarperTeen, 336 pages, \$17.99, ages 14+

The popular impression of young adult novels is that they all come from one of two recipes: (1) angst, acne, love triangle, wacky prom mishap, or (2) vampires, warring rebel factions, love triangle, wacky zombie apocalypse. The clichés are easy — and fun — to disparage. Yet “The Rest of Us Just Live Here,” Patrick Ness’ inspired mashup of contemporary and dystopian tropes, goes beyond parody. By focusing on a group of friends who, for the most part, don’t have otherworldly powers, who aren’t in on the mission to save the world, Ness sneaks sincerity and warmth into what could have been a strictly comedic exercise. His characters have familiar problems but also nuance and depth. Collectively, they show that, really, there’s nothing more heroic than getting through everyday life.

Each chapter opens with a paragraph from a parallel story, the tongue-in-cheek saga of the indie kids, who all have names like Finn and Satchel and Kerouac, and tasks like thwarting the Immortals in their search for permanent Vessels. Michael, the narrator of the main text, has different, more pressing concerns. To name a few, it’s almost graduation; his OCD is barely under control; he’s worried about his sister Meredith, who almost died from an eating disorder; and he’s not sure whether he and Henna could fall in love, but he’s desperate to find out. Oh, and then there’s his best friend, Jared, who is part god and has the ability to heal cats.

It’s satisfying, and not always simple, to figure out, how Michael’s narrative and the narrative about the indie kids overlap. And it’s not at all simple what Ness has achieved, creating a rich, thought-provoking concoction by throwing together almost every cheesy ingredient in the proverbial book.



Dumplin'

By Julie Murphy, Balzer & Bray/HarperCollins, 384 pages, \$17.99, age 13+

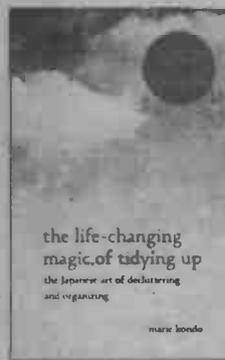
“The word ‘fat’ makes people uncomfortable. But when you see me, the first thing you notice is my body. And my body is fat.” Growing up in Clover City, Texas, where the biggest event of the year — besides high-school football season — is the Miss Teen Blue Bonnet pageant, 16-year-old Willowdean has never caved to pressure to diet down to a size three. She can’t ignore the pageant completely, since her mother, a former Miss Clover City, runs the show. Still, she and her best friend, Ellen, are busy enough with work, school and nurturing their Dolly Parton obsession to keep themselves free from the glitz and glitter. But this year something — make that, everything — changes, and Willowdean decides to compete.

Julie Murphy gives us a main character who is funny, opinionated and, as Willowdean’s sizzling summer romance with handsome jock Bo attests, sexy. At the same time, the novel confronts head-on the difficulties of navigating life as a plus-sized girl in a thin-worshipping culture. When Ellen gives Willowdean grief for taking a fast-food job instead of working at the mall with her, Willowdean thinks, “But if she didn’t intuitively get that I didn’t really want to work at a store where I couldn’t even fit into the clothes, then I didn’t want to bother explaining it to her.” Bo wants to make their relationship official, but Willowdean hesitates, unsure if she will be able to endure the whispers and stares, as if it’s “some water-to-wine” miracle that the two of them are together. If the book’s ending is a little too Disney Channel optimistic, it’s understandable — Willowdean deserves no less.

CHICAGOLAND BEST-SELLERS

1. “The Martian” by Andy Weir (Broadway, \$15).
2. “The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing” by Marie Kondo (Ten Speed, \$16.99).
3. “The Bazaar of Bad Dreams: Stories” by Stephen King (Scribner, \$30).
4. “Between the World and Me” by Ta-Nehisi Coates (Spiegel & Grau, \$24).
5. “Slade House: A Novel” by David Mitchell (Random House, \$26).

Participating bookstores: Barbara’s Bookstores (Chicago), The Book Cellar (Chicago), Seminary Co-op Bookstore and 57th Street Books (Chicago), Anderson’s Bookshop (Naperville), The Book Stall at Chestnut Court (Winnetka), Women & Children First Bookstore (Chicago), The Book Table (Oak Park), The Bookstore (Glen Ellyn), The Book Bin (Northbrook).



NEW IN PAPERBACK



At the Water's Edge: A Novel

By Sara Gruen, Spiegel & Grau, 395 pages, \$16
Madeline and Ellis Hyde are financially cut off from Ellis’ father after embarrassing the family at a society party. Ellis and his best friend Hank decide the best way to win back Ellis’ father is to succeed where he failed: finding the Loch Ness monster amid the uncertainty of life in the Scottish Highlands.



Concussion

By Jeanne Marie Laskas, Random House, 275 pages, \$16

Laskas details the discovery of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) by forensic pathologist Bennet Omalu and the battle he faced with the NFL over his research. Omalu made the discovery in 2002 when examining the body of Mike Webster, a Hall of Fame center with the Pittsburgh Steelers whose physical and mental state deteriorated as a result of his football career. The book is the basis of the upcoming film that stars Will Smith.



Preparation for the Next Life: A Novel

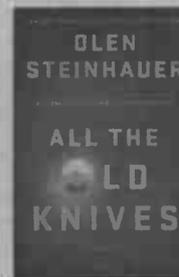
By Atticus Lish, Tyrant, 422 pages, \$16.95
Winner of the 2015 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, “Preparation for the Next Life” follows Brad Skinner, a veteran of three tours in Iraq, who hopes to exorcise his demons in New York. When he falls for Zou Lei, an undocumented worker from Central Asia, their new life faces an uphill battle of homelessness, jail and Skinner’s prophetic nightmares.



Conversations With Major Dick Winters

By Col. Cole C. Kingseed, Berkley Caliber, 281 pages, \$17

Kingseed looks at the life and World War II service of Maj. Dick Winters, who commanded Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division, which served as the basis for “Band of Brothers.” Retired Col. Kingseed explores Winters’ attitudes on leadership and the final years of Winters’ life.



All the Old Knives: A Novel

By Olen Steinhauer, Picador, 305 pages, \$16
Six years ago, a hostage situation in Vienna went horribly wrong, leaving the CIA wondering if its agent had been compromised. That same night, Celia Harrison broke off her relationship with fellow case officer Henry Pelham and left for California. Six years later, Henry meets Celia, joined by a dinner companion who may have played a role in the tragedy.

— Jeremy Mikula



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In the Forecast: Weather or not

BY FRED PISCOP | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN
(stanxwords.com)

Across

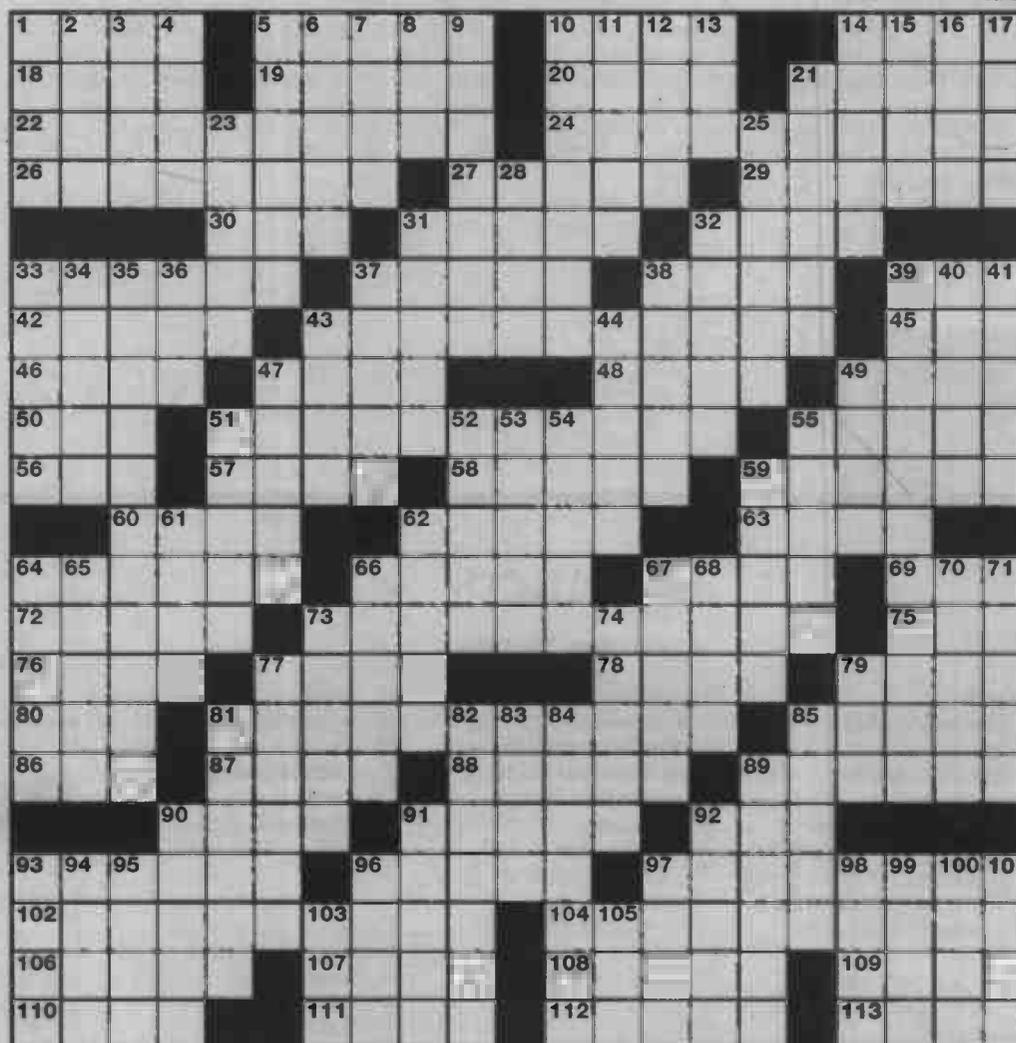
- 1 Dutch cheese
5 Tavern servings
10 Help in a heist
14 Snide remark
18 Probe-launching org.
19 Parcel out
20 Claudius successor
21 Copier powder
22 James Bond beverage
24 Brain, so to speak
26 Work-boot feature
27 Ends of the earth
29 Jumps for joy
30 Spy-fi author Deighton
31 Deserve to receive
32 Hair holder
33 Zodiac symbol
37 Dish-towel fabric
38 Footwear
39 Comfy footwear
42 Oversentimental
43 Carnival eatery
45 "I think," in a chatroom
46 NYSE debuts
47 A few
48 Dinghy movers
49 Ran in the wash
50 10-digit no.
51 Earnings after expenses
55 Be a moocher
56 Something up your sleeve
57 Antler
58 A daughter of Lear

- 59 Uproar
60 Creative suggestion
62 Fishing gear
63 Secure with a rope
64 Ill temper
66 Glove material
67 Modicum
69 Plus more, for short
72 More vigorous
73 Eggs order
75 Narcs' org.
76 Ideal for cacti
77 Small racer
78 Part of the Poland/Germany border
79 Real-estate abbr.
80 Zodiac symbol
81 State Department, informally
85 Apathetic
86 Poetic nightfall
87 Try to convince
88 Spa on Lake Geneva
89 Small evergreen
90 Mice, to owls
91 Yorkshire city
92 Camera type, for short
93 Gazelle cousin
96 Beef about
97 Entrance accessories
102 "That's reasonable"
104 White-plumed bird
106 More than full
107 Friend of François
108 Not married

- 109 "A _ formality!"
110 Arabian nation
111 "Saturated" stuff
112 Patches up
113 Pack (down)

Down

- 1 Leftovers
2 Move suddenly
3 " _ sow, so shall ..."
4 Broadway Auntie
5 Cashless deal
6 Sir _ John
7 Writer Wiesel
8 Harry Potter pal
9 Allowance
10 Fishing (for)
11 Special Forces topper
12 Significant stretches
13 Tinker (with)
14 Started one's day
15 Worldwide: Abbr.
16 Sugar source
17 Miscalculates
21 Prepared for takeoff
23 Backstreet
25 Large fruits
28 Best-selling cookie
31 Bishop's topper
32 Navigator's reference
33 Anxious feeling
34 Rodeo contestant
35 Big bucks
36 Gents
37 Miller salesman
38 Tarnish
39 Possible casserole topper
40 Sorority letter
41 Systems of signals



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

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- 43 Gardener, at times
44 Soft seats
47 Alfred P. _ Foundation
49 Petting-zoo sounds
51 Rallying cry
52 Monopolize the mirror
53 Sounding like an oboe
54 Gawks at
55 Constrain
59 Miller's product
61 Achievement
62 On the small side
64 Oil source
65 "Gay" city
66 Sharp increase
67 Extra charge
68 Be crawling (with)
70 Sparing of words
71 Caravan beast
73 Tending to droop
74 Tiny bits
77 East Asian cuisine
79 _ray Disc
81 Rolled up
82 Shade trees
83 [see other side]
84 Big bucks
85 Ballet rail
89 Insurance giant
90 Printer's arc
91 On the up and up
92 Scattered seed
93 In that case
94 Address to a queen
95 Thin bread
96 Russian legislature
97 Quilt filling
98 Grp. in charge
99 Domain
100 Contract period
101 Instructions segment
103 Bungler
105 Compass reading

Quote-Acrossic

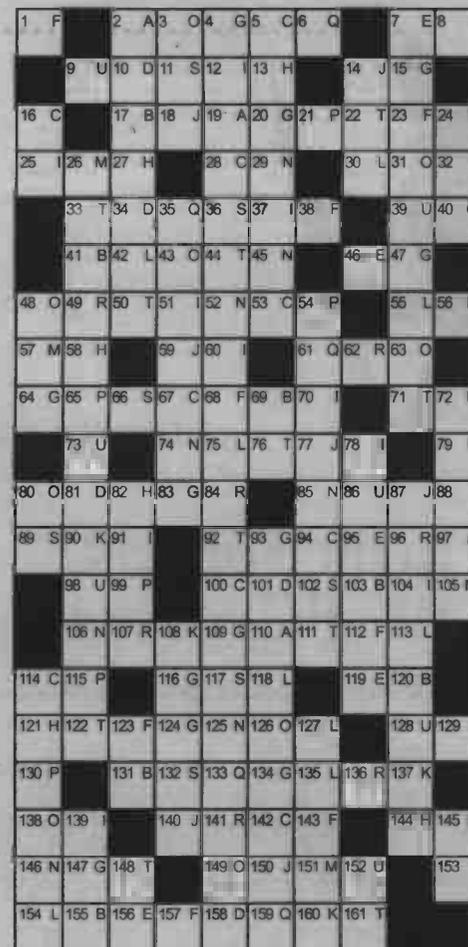
- Define clues, writing in Words column over numbered dashes.
- Transfer letters to numbered squares in diagram.
- When pattern is completed, quotation can be read left to right. The first letters of the filled-in words reading down form an acrostic yielding the speaker's name and the topic of the quotation.

Clues

Words

- A. Dart
97 19 2 110
- B. Extraordinary
131 41 69 103 155 17 120
- C. Turns into gas
94 16 67 28 100 114 53 142 5
- D. Dig up
158 34 56 10 81 101
- E. Bark of a dog
145 95 119 46 7 156
- F. Kind of court
79 123 68 112 157 143 1 38 23
- G. State of being morally correct
124 134 109 116 64 47 40 147 20
4 93 15 83
- H. Turn
13 82 27 144 58 121
- I. Connecticut state anthem; 2 wds.
91 88 37 153 60 25 70 12 104
78 51 139

- J. Superfluous person; 2 wds. 140 14 8 87 129 59 150 32 18 77
- K. Not easy on the eyes
108 160 90 137
- L. Pittsburgh to Cleveland direction
154 75 113 30 42 118 135 127 55
- M. Columbus ship
26 151 105 57
- N. With the stream; 3 wds. 52 72 85 45 125 29 106 146 74
- O. Former
63 48 126 149 138 31 43 80 3
- P. Trash
65 130 99 21 115 54
- Q. Levied
35 61 133 6 159
- R. Repeat
96 136 141 62 107 84 49
- S. Skin ailment
24 36 89 66 132 117 11 102
- T. School bonus; 2 wds.
33 122 148 22 50 44 76 161 92
71 111
- U. Aim for; 2 wds.
152 9 98 86 128 73 39



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By Neil Goldstein.
Edited by Linda and Charles Preston.
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Bloomers

BY CHARLES PRESTON

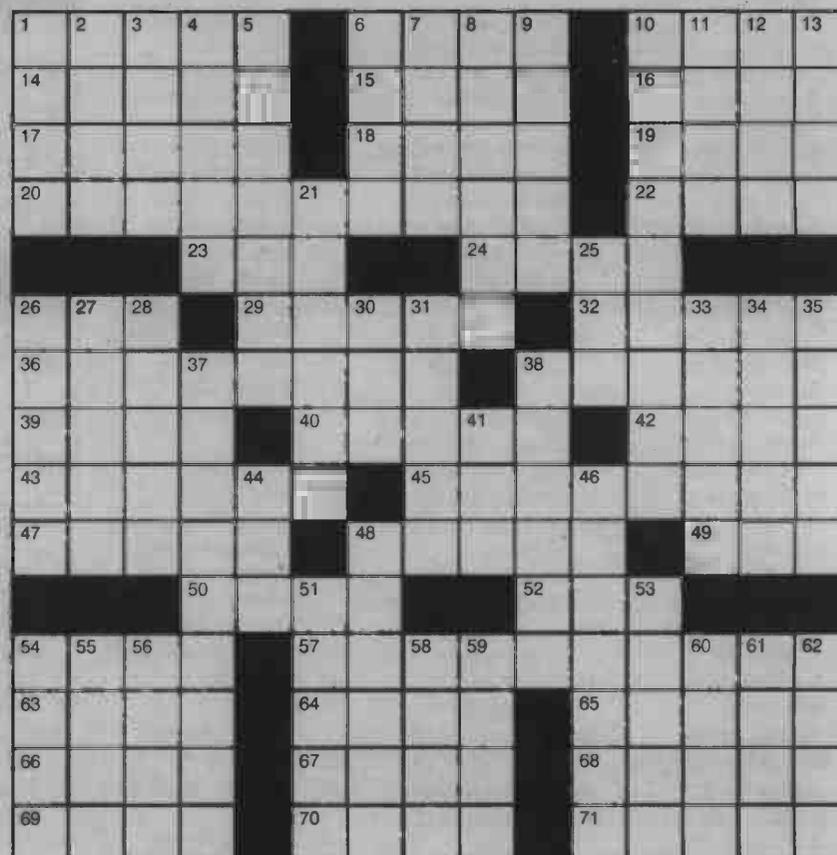
Across

- 1 Horne and Olin
6 Muscovite, e.g.
10 The M in MVP
14 Heads-up
15 Saroyan's *My Name Is* ___
16 Proficient
17 *The Golden Girls* locale
18 Soprano Te Kanawa
19 Thug
20 Anita Bryant hit
22 Congressman Gingrich
23 Dr. of rap
24 "Happy motoring" company
26 Part of NATO
29 Theater employee
32 Oro y ___
36 Gene Autry's horse
38 Dive
39 Singer Thomas
40 Block
42 Mrs. Shakespeare
43 Sweetheart
45 End of an eclipse
47 Small finch
48 "Et tu, ___"
49 Memorable time
50 Sprinter Devers

Down

- 52 Ambulance letters
54 Baum dog
57 Van Gogh painting
63 Saxophonist Bostic
64 #55 of the Chargers
65 Recipient
66 Two-by-four
67 Fmr. Warsaw Pact country
68 Newsman Pyle
69 Misses
70 Latin abbreviation
71 Clues
1 Reading aid
2 Kazan, of Hollywood
3 Type of tide
4 Wanted-poster word
5 Saddle part
6 Shark
7 Tennessee's state flower
8 Life's work
9 Off the mark
10 "Steel" flowers
11 *Peter and the Wolf* duck
12 Adagio; mus.
13 Omar's output

- 21 Dwell
25 Belgian resort
26 Ascorbic and boric, e.g.
27 Dale Earnhardt's number
28 Texas school
30 Millet's *Man with the* ___
31 Computer command
33 *Tomorrow* musical
34 Peter Pears, e.g.
35 Palaestra
37 "Man-in-the-Moon" flowers
38 Grimm heroine
41 Big bird
44 Actress Balin
46 Overhaul
48 Most azure
51 Edition
53 Promised
54 Miss D'Urberville
55 Pledge
56 Partner of tried
58 Houston agcy.
59 Roll up
60 Castrogiovanni, today
61 Tim, of *WKRP in Cincinnati*
62 Observes



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Forced Re-Entry

By PAM AMICK KLAWITTER

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

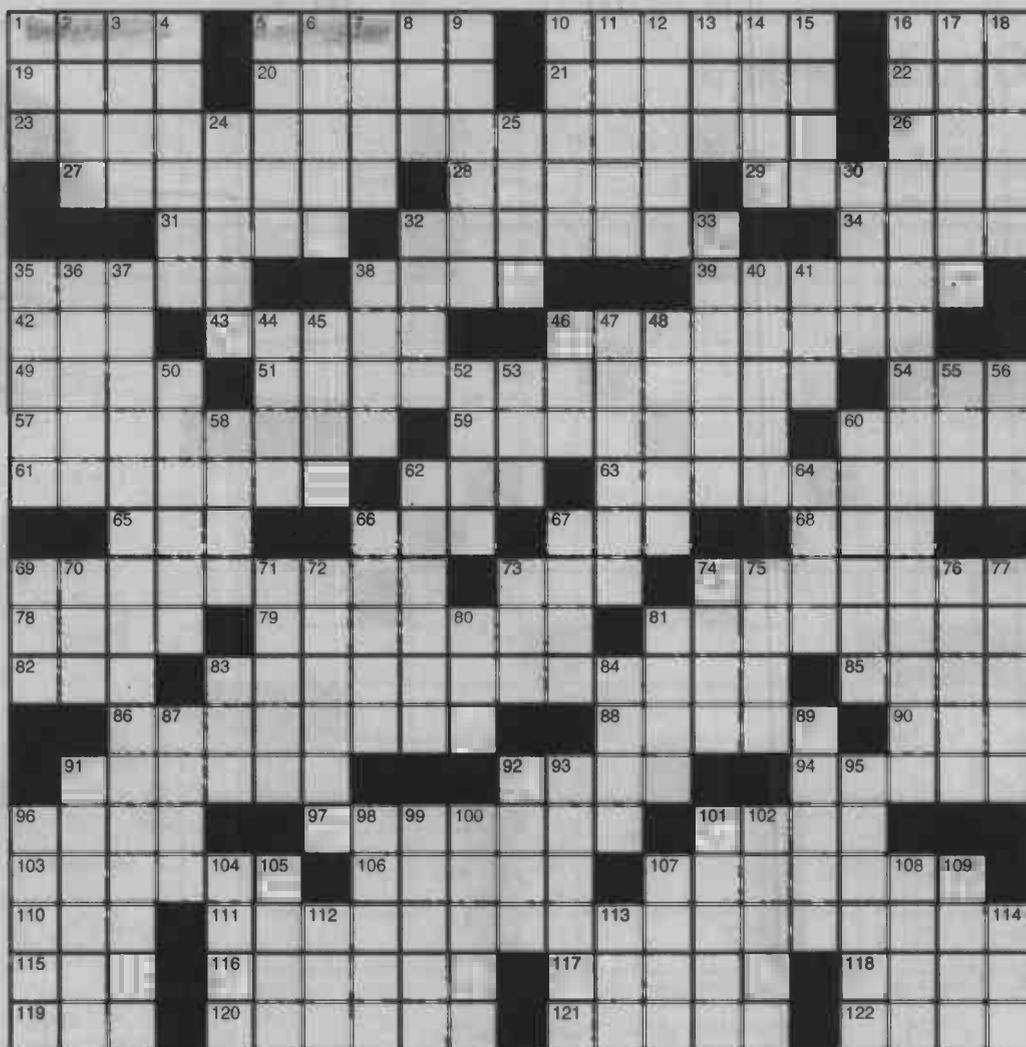
Across

- 1 Italian seaport
 5 Lupone on Broadway
 10 Alligator relative
 16 Old boomer
 19 Conversant with
 20 Like most people
 21 Shout from Speedy Gonzales
 22 "... the native hue of resolution / Is sicklied ___ with the pale cast of thought": Hamlet
 23 Forgetting to put the milk in the fridge?
 26 HDTV brand
 27 Flights connect them
 28 Country rocker Steve
 29 Actress Dash
 31 Sail support
 32 Blue state
 34 Pieces of pizza in Plymouth?
 35 Secures, as a package
 38 "Arbitrage" star
 39 Words from the unconvinced
 42 "Catch-22" pal of Yossarian
 43 Between, in Bordeaux
 46 Religious zeal
 49 Omani money
 51 Backdrop for a gangster film? ___ bran
 57 Treat made with ground almonds
 59 Succeeds
 60 Some PX patrons
 61 Braid, e.g.
 62 Top (out)
 63 Agent
 65 Rascally sort
 66 Price place
 67 Jump in the pool, perhaps?
 68 Durable wood
 69 Another time
 73 "The Beverly Hillbillies" dad
 74 Blood-filtering organs
 78 Sound of the wind, perhaps
 79 Skin blemish
 81 Working for Christmas, say
 82 NBC weekend fixture
 83 Warning sign for an art dealer?
 85 In ___; unmoved

Down

- 1 Spy's favorite plant?
 2 Car loan nos.
 3 Cheer
 4 It's often personal
 5 Métro home
 6 So far
 7 Spam holders
 8 The Wizard of Menlo Park, initially
 9 Ready to roll
 10 Stone memorial
 11 Right ___
 12 Brest brainstorms
 13 Part of many superhero names
 14 World Series qualifier: Abbr.
 15 Hair removal choice
 16 A little Egyptian magic?
 17 Break away
 18 Cube holders
 24 Clean the slate
 25 Work on the docks
 30 Mer shade
 32 Come across as
 33 Seine sun
 35 "It Wasn't All Velvet" memoirist
 36 Suffix with Unit
 37 Well-designed room for a tot?
 38 It might be silly
 40 Twain
 contemporary

- 41 Disorderly digs
 44 Boot camp VIPs
 45 Word with turkey or fox
 46 "That's disgusting!"
 47 Formally turned over, as land
 48 Beginning
 50 Posse members
 52 Periodical with a URL
 53 Early rock horn
 55 Pro
 56 "Four Quartets" monogram
 58 Big name in morning talk
 60 Leisurely walks
 62 Parsons' places
 64 Sadie Hawkins Day suits
 66 Supermodel Cheryl
 67 Testing stage
 69 Meditation sounds
 70 Reims rejection
 71 Suffolk slammers
 72 Matches
 73 Something to jump for
 74 John in Dublin
 75 Protective sports equipment
 76 Birth-related
 77 Wallops
 80 Start to date?
 81 Hospital fluids
 83 Some NFL ball carriers
 84 Towel specification
 87 Spa supplies
 89 Fabric often decorated with pastoral scenes
 91 Arenas
 92 "What ___": "I've been had!"
 93 Steering apparatus part
 95 Pal
 96 Potter's made him invisible
 98 ___ once
 99 En ___: on a streak, in sports slang
 100 One with a part
 101 Balkan capital
 102 They're loaded
 104 "Voice of Israel" author
 105 Sly tactic
 107 Olympian's prize
 108 Italian hot spot
 109 Miss, overseas: Abbr.
 112 Fleur-de-___
 113 Ending with pay
 114 Yang counterpart



Last week's answers appear on the next page

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Jumble

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



PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW



This week's answers appear on the next page

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2015 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

Sudoku

11/22

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

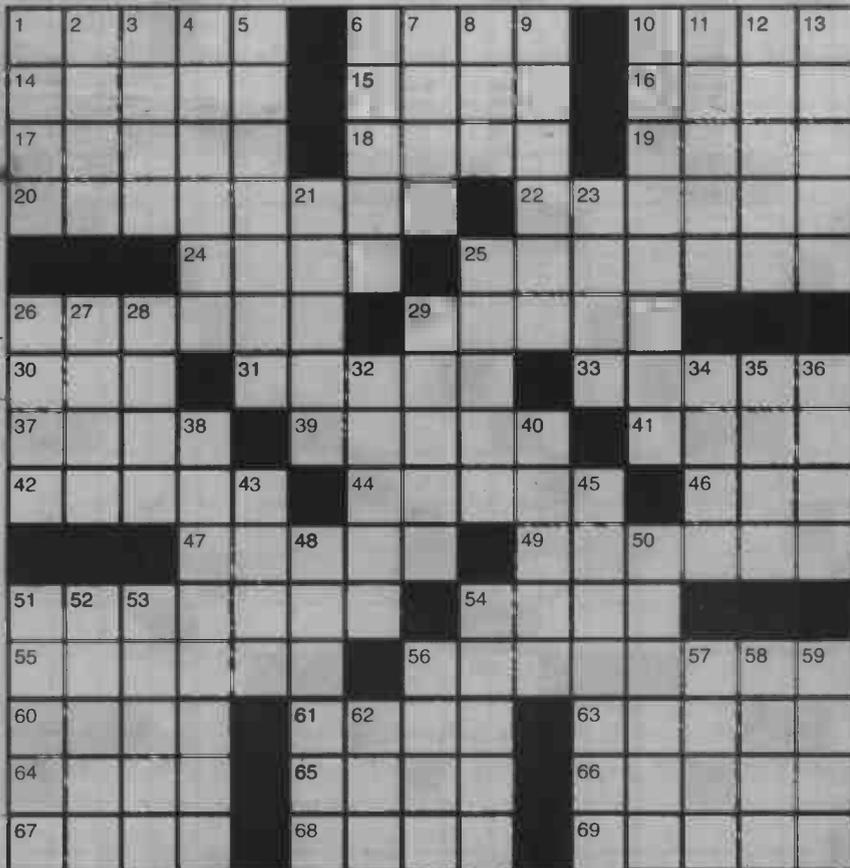
Level: **1 2 3 4**



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Crossword



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11/25/15

ACROSS

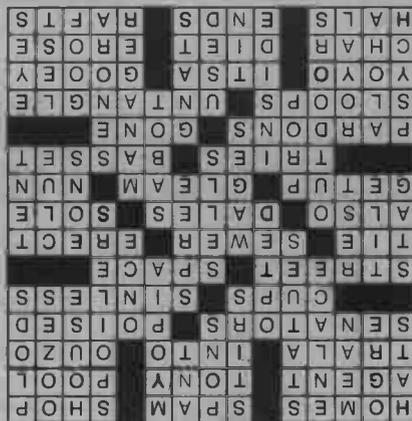
- 1 Residences
6 Junk email
10 ___ around; look for a good buy
14 Travel ___; hired trip planner
15 Theater award
16 Combine
17 Refrain start
18 Bump ___; meet unexpectedly
19 Greek liqueur
20 Rubio and McConnell, e.g.
22 At the ready
24 Tea containers
25 Totally innocent
26 Boulevard
29 NASA's realm
30 Classic gift for Father's Day
31 Tailor, for one
33 Build
37 To boot
39 Valleys
41 Shoe part
42 Outfit
44 Sparkle
46 Convent dweller
47 Endeavors
49 ___ hound; tracking dog
51 Forgives
54 No longer here
55 Small sailboats

- 56 Get knots out of a necklace
60 Toy that goes up and down
61 "___ boy!"; new parents' cry
63 Like melted caramels
64 Scorch
65 Count calories
66 Uneven
67 Holbrook and Linden
68 Make ___ meet; eke out a living
69 Log floats

DOWN

- 1 Miter & fezzes
2 Intend
3 Inhumane
4 Intertwine
5 Museum pieces
6 Mixes in a bowl
7 Opera star
8 Crawling bug
9 Inability to see clearly in the distance
10 Overindulgent grandparents
11 On the ___; free to the customer
12 Seeps out
13 Trudges
21 ___ for; chose

Solutions



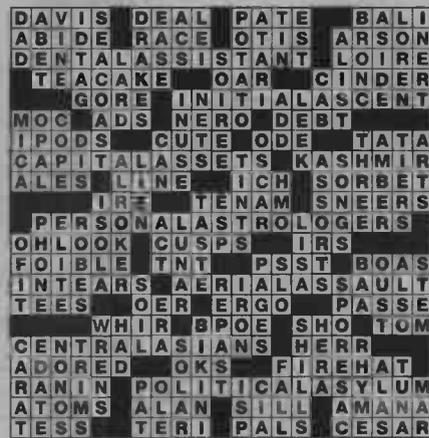
- 23 ___ more; again
25 Shopping ___; spending binge
26 Male deer
27 Flooring piece
28 Relaxation
29 Peddles
32 Earnings
34 Very long periods
35 Helpful hint
36 Teepee, for one
38 In the fresh air
40 Wooden shoe
43 ___ up; support from beneath
45 Supervisor
48 Turn ___ out; invert
50 Hombre's wife
51 ___ oneself up; prepare mentally
52 Maui farewell
53 Fit for a king
54 Pesky insects
56 Like hand-me-downs
57 Err
58 In case
59 Needle holes
62 Rin Tin ___



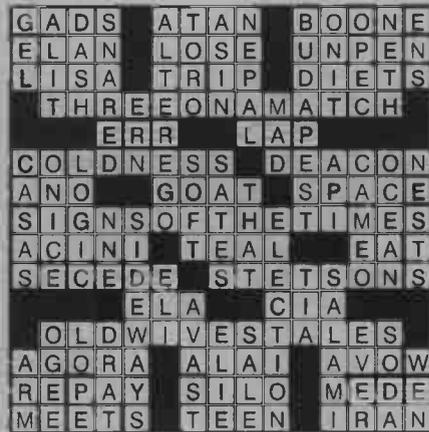
puzzle island solutions

Last week's crosswords

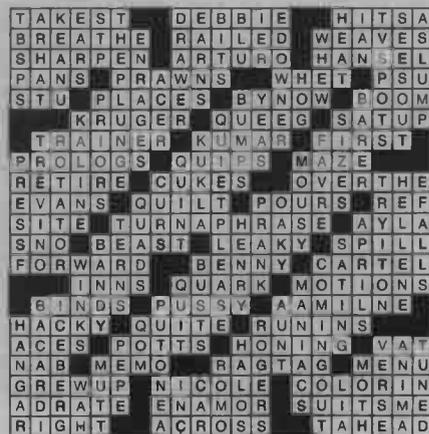
"Wistfully Yours"



"In the Stars"



"Going On a Bender"



Last week's Quote-Acrostic

R(ober) T(HICKNESSE): O(PERA) N(OTES):
Tragic opera should be celebrated for its absurdity as much as anything. Plots are often willfully overly complicated, baffling and contrived. Despite immense death tolls, there is every reason to chuckle.

Last week's Sudoku

7	8	2	9	1	3	4	6	5
5	1	3	7	4	6	9	8	2
9	4	6	2	5	8	7	3	1
2	3	1	4	6	9	8	5	7
8	6	9	3	7	5	1	2	4
4	7	5	8	2	1	6	9	3
1	5	7	6	9	2	3	4	8
6	2	8	1	3	4	5	7	9
3	9	4	5	8	7	2	1	6

This week's Jumble

SHROUD WHEEZE DELUGE
NOODLE TRUDGE SCRIPT

The boxer was a sore loser. He wasn't the kind of boxer to —

ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES



Preplanning for end of life when you don't have kids

BY ALISON BOWEN
Tribune Newspapers

Looking ahead to end-of-life decisions is never easy. But having children, or close family members, sometimes tidies the to-do list. You choose a burial site where your kids can easily travel. There's an obvious loved one to handle all the decisions and paperwork.

So individuals who don't have children — or any close family nearby or at all — may be tempted to think preplanning is irrelevant.

But it's not irrelevant, say end-of-life planning experts.

"Everyone leaves an imprint, whether it's a life partner or a sibling or a friend," said Fran Solomon, founder of support site HealGrief.org.

However, the planning is different.

"It's important for everyone to preplan, but especially people without children," said Rachel Zeldin, founder of I'm Sorry To Hear, which offers funeral planning tools and advice.

Zeldin started her end-of-life planning website after her uncle died, leaving no children, spouse or plans.

"I watched my mom struggle through planning this event and navigating how to plan a funeral," she said.

Hidden opportunities:

Those without children might face different challenges but also added freedoms. For example, although they might need to search for someone to carry out their wishes, being on their own offers them the opportunity to focus solely on what they want versus having to plan around others' lives and locations.

Find a point person: As executive director for the



WESTEND61

Funeral Consumers Alliance, a nonprofit focused on consumers' rights, Josh Slocum often receives question-laden calls from people without children.

First, he advises them to think of one person closest to them and designate that individual to carry out their wishes. It might be a sibling, cousin or nephew, but it also could be a neighbor you meet for lunch twice a year, and that's OK, he said, if it's the person you feel closest to and someone you trust.

Someone needs to be a point person, "the people who are going to get that phone call from the hospital or the police or the nursing home," he said.

And don't assume that giving a funeral home money ahead of time equals preparedness.

"That's magical thinking," Slocum said.

Designate someone to help with your wishes but also to carry out health care preferences or act on your behalf legally.

"By taking the steps formally documenting that and communicating that with people in your inner circle, that ensures that your final wishes are going to be taken care of," Zeldin said.

Changing traditions:

Cousins and friends, said Carol Levey, a member of the HealGrief board, are grappling with the same thoughts; some people might consider cremation, for example, if they do not anticipate visitors. Others might not use family plots if they live far away.

Many are growing less concerned with family visiting their tombstone, Zeldin said. "Coming to the grave every day, it's not part of our tradition anymore," she said.

Solomon said she is noticing more people spreading their ashes in the ocean, at a beloved vacation spot or a place that holds special meaning or is used for a favorite activity. Others use ashes in custom-created artwork, such as a painting or blown vase.

Start the conversation:

Slocum encourages people to huddle with those they care about. Perhaps they don't mind where you are buried. Maybe your plan for them to scatter your ashes to provide closure holds less weight than you assumed.

Slocum reconsidered his own plans after a heart attack four years ago, at age 36. An atheist, he said he does not want a religious ceremony, but he now realizes his family might want that to help grieve, and he's given them his blessing.

"The funeral isn't about you," he advised. "The funeral really is about the people left behind."

Most important, he said, lose the fear of the conversation. Too often, people bow out of discussing death, assuming it will be depressing.

"It's never going to be a happy topic, but it doesn't have to be a traumatic topic that will shut down a conversation," he said.

abowen@tribpub.com



ANNA ZIELINSKA/E+

Chicagoans who responded to a Bank of America survey about their mobile habits said they often broke common rules of etiquette.

Chicagoans confess to rude smartphone habits, pet peeves

BY ALISON BOWEN
Chicago Tribune

Well, at least many Chicagoans realize they're being rude when they tap out a text during dinner.

The recently released Trends in Consumer Mobility Report from Bank of America surveyed 1,000 respondents over age 18 across the country, as well as an additional 300 from Chicago. Chicagoans admitted to some bad habits when it came to their smartphones, but they also acknowledged that there are limits on where using that extra appendage is acceptable.

Nearly three of four respondents from the Chicago area — 73 percent — said they indeed had mobile boundaries: Movie theaters, religious institutions, restaurants and public bathrooms were cited as the most annoying places to pull out a phone.

But an awareness of mobile manners doesn't always stop people from getting pulled to the dark side by a device's allure.

Of the Chicagoans surveyed, 38 percent confessed to texting during a meal. And 35 percent said they would field a call while on public transportation. Even while in a conversation with another person, 34 percent fessed up to looking down to check their phone.

"It's a sad fact that most people can't part with their cellphones for a least an hour to be fully engaged with family and friends," said etiquette expert Jacqueline Whitmore, founder of The Protocol School of Palm Beach.

The survey reported that 24 percent of Chicagoans said they used mobile banking to spy on the spending habits of others, including their parents, children or partner; this compared with 13 percent for respondents

nationally. Other phone faux pas Chicagoans admitted to included going through someone else's phone (19 percent) and multitasking on a phone during meetings (29 percent).

More than half (51 percent) of Chicago respondents said they were unable to last a day without their smartphone, compared with 44 percent nationally.

Perhaps that's why some might be holding smartphones closer than their significant others — about three-quarters (73 percent) of Chicagoans reported sleeping with their mobile phones, and 38 percent said it was the first thing they reached for in the morning.

Yes, that's ahead of reaching for a plus-one (11 percent).

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Twitter @byalisonbowen

MONEY

It's easier now to give a gift to 529 college savings plan



CAROLYN BIGDA
Getting Started

If you are like me and already thinking about your holiday shopping list, consider this for an idea: a contribution to a 529 college savings plan.

A 529 gift can pay off big for college students, whether they are attending school this year or a decade from now. And thanks to new tools, it's becoming easier to make such gifts.

"In the early days, you always needed the account number in order to make a gift," said Mary Morris, chair of the College Savings Foundation, a non-profit that works to build public awareness about 529 plans, and chief executive of the Virginia529 College Savings Plan.

But now it can be done electronically, "no account number required," she said.

Worried that your loved ones will be upset about not giving the usual sweater or trendy toy? Don't be.

A 2014 study by Fidelity Investments found that 90 percent of grandparents said they would likely contribute to a grandchild's college savings fund in lieu of other gifts if asked.

"With people funding all sorts of things through crowdsourcing, asking friends and family to contribute to a 529 plan has become more acceptable," Morris said.

So how do you make it easy for loved ones to contribute? Read on.

Create a website. In the past, you generally had two options. You could ask for a check and deposit the money into a 529 plan



JAMIE GRILL/TETRA IMAGES

yourself, or send your account information to friends and family. The first required gift givers to trust that the money would be put toward college savings, and the second required you to share personal information.

As a solution, some 529 sponsors have been rolling out gift registries and other online tools with minimum contribution amounts as low as \$25.

Starting last year, Fidelity Investments, for example, introduced the option for 529 account holders to create a personal Web page through which gifts are made electronically.

The website is customizable. You can include a picture of the child and details, like what she wants to study in school.

A link to the site can then be shared by email, party e-vites, or Facebook and other social media. When gifts are made, funds are taken electronically from the giver's bank account and deposited into the 529 plan.

There are no fees, and contributions have been substantial, averaging just over \$450, according to Keith Bernhardt, vice president of college planning at Fidelity.

"We saw a spike in the number of people making gifts during the last holiday

season, and we expect the same to happen again this year," Bernhardt said.

If you don't have a Fidelity account, you can create a website through third-party provider GiftedPath. The company works with select 529 plans to deposit funds directly into accounts. If you don't have a participating plan, the site will send contributions electronically to you.

It's free to sign up and create a website, but gift givers are charged a small fee when making a contribution.

Send a gift code. Other 529 plans may require you to provide friends and family with a gift code so that the money is deposited into the correct account.

In other cases, gift givers may still have to print out a coupon and mail a check to the 529 plan sponsor. An account number is not always necessary, but they will need to know the beneficiary's name and date of birth.

Sharing at least that information may be worth it, though.

"If you can get friends and family to put money in, even small amounts over time will make a big difference," Morris said.

yourmoney@tribpub.com

Social Security rule changes could affect your strategy



JANET KIDD STEWART
The Journey

The budget deal Congress signed the day before Halloween has some scary implications for seniors and retirement savers.

A couple of Social Security claiming strategies known as file and suspend and restricted application are being curtailed or killed as part of the two-year budget legislation.

Under the current file-and-suspend strategy, someone who reaches full retirement age can file for benefits and then suspend receipt of them to continue earning delayed retirement credits up to age 70. Along the way, if a health crisis popped up that limited life expectancy, the person could retrieve those foregone benefits in a lump sum and begin monthly benefits at the level they would have begun at full retirement age. Meanwhile, at the time of the initial filing, that person's spouse could begin collecting spousal benefits.

Under the new rules, which take effect May 1, if you file and suspend your benefits, no one else can collect on your work record. And you can't get those foregone benefits back if you change your mind and want to restart them.

With the restricted application strategy, people who are at least full retirement age can file to receive either a benefit based on their own work record or for a spousal benefit. Prior to full retirement age, the benefits are blended. Under the new rules, the ability to choose which benefit you want to receive goes away at full retire-

ment age and everyone receives the blended benefit. The rules affect anyone who isn't 62 by the end of 2015.

If you're old enough to be grandfathered in, the key retirement planning point here is to actually consider whether either of these strategies, or both, could help you boost your lifetime Social Security benefits. Seniors often feel they need to claim benefits right away, but if you can work longer or dip into savings in order to delay, these strategies can boost your lifetime Social Security haul, provided you don't die relatively young.

For those who take advantage of these strategies, the takeaway is sig-

"No one currently receiving benefits was exposed to a benefit cut."

— David Certner, AARP

nificant, said William Meyer and William Reichstein, principals of Social Security Solutions. In one example, they found that someone born in 1954 instead of 1953 would lose \$62,400 in lifetime benefits due to the changes.

"No one currently receiving benefits was exposed to a benefit cut, and proposals to enact benefit cuts for all 56 million Social Security recipients were rejected," said David Certner, AARP's senior legislative policy director.

If you're younger than 62, the question to ponder is whether it still will make sense to delay claiming benefits beyond full retirement age. Most experts I spoke with still think it does, but there are caveats. Meyer, for example, said

many one-earner couples will now be better off claiming benefits as soon as the non-earning spouse turns full retirement age.

If you delay claiming your own benefit, you can always file immediately if you receive a life-limiting diagnosis, but the safety net of those foregone benefits is no longer there, meaning the whole decision is more of a high-stakes gamble.

And if you're divorced, watch for possible further clarification of these changes, as some experts believe a "fix" is required in the file-and-suspend language in order for divorced spouses to be able to receive benefits if their ex-spouse suspends.

Finally, don't be too quick to celebrate the smaller Medicare premium hike for about 30 percent of beneficiaries affected by the "hold harmless" provision in the program. The provision means the relatively few people on Medicare who are not receiving Social Security benefits have to absorb the entire program's annual premium increase, which was on track to boost their premiums next year by 52 percent.

"The rule change just spreads out the increase over time, so instead of facing the roughly \$50 per month increase, retirees will face about \$20 per month, plus a \$3 per month surcharge for about the next decade," said Michael Kitces, a financial planner and director of research at Pinnacle Advisory Group. "Ultimately the impacted people will still bear the entire cost of the premium increase."

How will you be affected by these changes and what do you think you'll do about them? Write to janetkiddstewart@janetkiddstewart.com.

The basics of buying life insurance

BY WALID PETIRI

AdviceIQ

Buying life insurance is not an easy decision.

When is the last time you thought about your policy? Do you have the right kind? The right amount of coverage? Is the coverage at work adequate?

Do you even need it at all?

These are important questions, and insurance companies have made them even harder to answer. With an assortment of products bearing confusing names like whole life, term life, universal life, variable life and second-to-die life insurance, the public is often frustrated into inaction.

Some of these policies build up cash value with each premium paid. Some invest that cash value in the stock market. Some pay a fixed rate of interest. Some have zero cash value. A few combine all these ideas.

No wonder so many Americans lack life insurance. A recent study by life insurance advocacy group LIMRA discovered that most Americans thought a 20-year \$250,000 level term life policy for a healthy 30-year-old costs about \$400 a year.

In reality, annual premiums for such a policy typically run about \$150. LIMRA noted that 83 percent of consumers forego buying life insurance. I see this misperception all the time. In addition, lots of people are paying for insurance that is not right for them, paying too much for their insurance or flat out have insufficient coverage for their family.

Just to clarify, a 20-year term policy for \$250,000 is a 20-year agreement between you and the insurance company that it will pay \$250,000 to your beneficiary upon your death at any time between day 1 and the last day of year 20 (as long as you pay the premi-



MARK BOWDEN/ISTOCK

ums). Oh, and a term policy does not build any cash value.

This is why it is important for you to sit down annually with an insurance professional to review how your policy works and how it will help you protect your family.

When you're young, you need a certain type of policy. As you raise a family and take on more responsibilities, your needs change again. At some point when the nest is empty or other life changes occur, you don't need life insurance at all, or you may desperately need it to protect your estate.

Reviewing your life insurance policies is one way to make sure you have the coverage that is right for you and your family now, today — not when you bought it.

Young adults don't buy

It is important for you to sit down annually with an insurance professional to review how your policy works and how it will help you protect your family.

life insurance. In a 2014 report covering attitudes about life insurance, LIMRA found that only one-third of Gen Y Americans have any life insurance coverage. In the same survey of 6,000 respondents, 6 in 10 Gen X and Gen Y Americans said their households would be hard pressed to make ends meet if their primary income earner passed away.

This is important, as the primary reason for life insurance is income replacement for the family.

Shopping for coverage

may seem confusing, boring or unnecessary. Yet when you have kids, get married, buy a house or live a lifestyle that significant salaries power, the need arises.

While the confusion on products abounds, insurers are trying to make purchasing insurance easier these days by making more choices accessible online and shortening the length of time it takes to approve and issue a new policy.

Finding the right policy may be simpler than you

think. There are two basic types of life insurance: term and cash value. Cash value, or "permanent," life insurance policies offer death benefits and some of the characteristics of an investment; a percentage of the money you spend to fund the policy goes into a savings program. Cash value policies have correspondingly higher premiums than term policies, which offer only death benefits during the policy term. Term is a great choice for many young adults because it is relatively inexpensive.

Term life has an economic downside, though: If you outlive the term of the policy, you or your loved ones get nothing back. Term life policies can be renewed (though many are not) and some can be converted to permanent coverage.

The key question is: How long do you plan to keep the policy? If you would rather not have to pay premiums for decades, then term life stands out as the most attractive option; especially if you are just looking for a short-term hedge against calamity. If you are looking further ahead or starting to think about estate planning, then permanent life insurance may prove a better choice.

Consult and weigh your options. Talk with a financial or insurance professional you trust before spending money for a policy. That professional can perform a term-versus-permanent analysis for you and help you weigh the variables. Together you can map out a strategy to make sure that your coverage adjusts over time as your family needs change.

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Study finds connection to coffee drinking, long life

By Amy Norton
HealthDay

Coffee lovers may live longer than those who don't drink it — with lower risks of early death from heart disease and neurological conditions such as Parkinson's disease, a large U.S. study finds.

Researchers said the study, published online Nov. 16 in *Circulation*, adds to a large body of evidence on the good side of coffee.

People often think of coffee-drinking as a bad habit that they need to break, said study leader Dr. Frank Hu, a professor of nutrition and epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health in Boston.

But, Hu said, many studies have linked moderate coffee intake to lower risks of developing various diseases, from heart disease and diabetes, to liver cancer, to neurological diseases such as Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's.

His team's study, funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health, adds another layer of evidence. It found that coffee drinkers not only were less likely to develop certain diseases, they also tended to live longer.

Over 30 years, nonsmokers who drank three to five cups of coffee a day were 15 percent less likely to die of any cause, versus nondrinkers. Specifically, they had lower rates of death from heart disease, stroke, neurological conditions and suicide.

Both regular coffee and decaf were linked to longer survival, the study found.

None of that proves that coffee itself extends people's lives or directly protects against certain diseases, Hu said. Other factors might explain the connection.

But, Hu added, his team did account for many of



RICK BOWMER/AP

Both regular coffee and decaf were linked to longer survival, the study found.

those factors.

And the coffee benefit remained.

The findings are based on more than 200,000 U.S. doctors, nurses and other health professionals who were surveyed repeatedly over almost three decades. During that time, almost 32,000 study participants died.

It turned out that people who drank one to five cups of coffee at the outset had lower odds of dying during the study period when other lifestyle habits and certain health problems, such as high blood pressure and diabetes, were taken into account.

The relationship grew stronger when the researchers looked only at nonsmokers: Those who drank three to five cups of coffee a day were 15 percent less likely to die during the study period, compared with adults who didn't drink coffee.

Lower risks were even seen among the heaviest coffee drinkers (more than five cups a day), who had a 12 percent lower death risk than nondrinkers.

"The body of evidence does suggest coffee can fit into a healthy lifestyle," Hu said.

That evidence, Hu noted, has already been incorporated into the latest U.S. dietary guidelines,

which say that a healthy diet can include up to three to five cups of coffee a day.

But overall lifestyle is key, Hu said.

That is, there's a difference between a person who gets little sleep, then uses coffee to function during the day, and a person who sleeps well, exercises and eats a balanced diet that includes some coffee.

Alice Lichtenstein, a spokeswoman for the American Heart Association, agreed.

"This doesn't mean you should start drinking coffee in the hopes of getting health benefits," said Lichtenstein, who is also a professor of nutrition science and policy at Tufts University in Boston.

But, she added, the new findings build on years of evidence that coffee is not the bad guy many believe it is. "There's this lingering idea that coffee must be bad for you because it's enjoyable," Lichtenstein said. "It's almost like we've been trying to find something wrong with it."

There are caveats, though.

"You do need to be careful about what you're putting in your coffee," Lichtenstein pointed out. Some milk is fine, she said, but watch the sugar and heavy cream.

1 in 6 female college freshmen report rapes linked to drugs, drinks

By Dennis Thompson
HealthDay

More than one in every six freshmen women are raped during their first year at college while too drunk or drugged to fend off their attacker, a new U.S. study reports.

Even worse, about the same proportion say they entered college having already been raped while incapacitated by drink or drugs, the research revealed.

Incoming freshmen with a history of "incapacitated rape" are the ones most at risk of another sexual assault during their first year at college, the researchers concluded.

Freshmen women also have a higher risk of rape while drunk or drugged if they believe that heavy drinking can enhance a person's sexual experience, said lead researcher Kate Carey. Carey is a professor of behavioral and social sciences at Brown University School of Public Health in Providence, R.I.

Although Carey and her colleagues identified risk factors that may increase the odds that a young woman might be raped while incapacitated, they said those risky behaviors in no way justified such attacks.

"We would all agree that being intoxicated is not asking to be assaulted," Carey said.

Incapacitated rape is a crime, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. If someone is incapacitated and can't give consent for any type of sexual activity (oral, vaginal or anal), it's rape, according to the DOJ.

Carey and her colleagues hope that new programs crafted from these findings can help reduce sexual

assaults on America's college campuses.

"We should be talking about what people are expecting to get out of their drinking and perhaps challenge that," Carey said. "Perhaps alcohol is not as essential to social activities as you may be thinking."

Further, these programs need to start in high school, when the risk of incapacitated rape first rises as teenagers begin experimenting with sex, alcohol and drugs, the researchers said.

The researchers repeatedly surveyed nearly 500 female freshmen attending the same private university in New York state, to capture the experiences they brought to college as well as any occurrences that took place during their first year, Carey said. The surveys specifically asked if someone had forced the women to perform sexual acts while alcohol or drugs had made them unable to object or consent. "That will include being passed out, but it also can include being semi-conscious and not being able to articulate your wishes or size up the situation well enough to be able to avoid or manage it," Carey said. "It does not mean just, 'I've been drinking.'"

The researchers said they don't know whether women who were raped while incapacitated were incapacitated because of alcohol or drugs that were voluntarily consumed, or if the incapacitation was due to someone drugging them without their consent or knowledge.

Nearly 18 percent of freshmen women reported having been a victim of "incapacitated rape" prior to college, the surveys revealed.

Subsequently, about 15 percent of young women

reported they had been raped while incapacitated by alcohol or drugs during their first year in college, investigators found. The researchers also found that a history of incapacitated rape before entering college most strongly predicted a young woman's risk of another rape during her freshman year.

About 41 percent of young women who'd been raped in high school while drunk or drugged reported that they were raped while incapacitated in their first year of college. By comparison, 10 percent of young women with no history of incapacitated rape experienced such an assault during their freshman year, the findings showed.

The study findings reveal the need for better counseling in high school regarding sexual violence and intoxication, said Sean Clarkin, executive vice president of research and external relations for the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids.

In addition, freshmen are very likely to feel lonely and isolated during their first year away from home, which can increase the odds of risky substance abuse, Clarkin said. Parents and educators need to better prepare teens for the challenges of their freshman year. "A lot of kids come to college, and they may have been academically prepared for college, but they're not emotionally ready for college," he said.

Carey added that, until the culture is changed on campuses, everyone needs to "work together to try to reduce sexual assault."

The new study was published online Nov. 18 in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*.



PALO DOBRIK PHOTOS

Contemporary home in Downers Grove: \$1.755M

House with 5,923 square feet is tucked into cul-de-sac near train, town

ADDRESS: 5337 Meadow Lane in Downers Grove

ASKING PRICE: \$1,755,000

Listed on Sept. 25, 2015

Denburn Woods is the setting for this stunning home that was designed to meet the owners' casually elegant lifestyle. Tucked on a cul-de-sac, it's near train and town. Outdoor covered bluestone porch leads to 8-foot mahogany front door with glass sidelights. Open floor plan also includes secluded areas. Three finished levels at 5,923 square feet with an additional 2,400 unfinished. Deep pour basement with finished full bath and exterior stairway. Gourmet kitchen with built-in banquette and planning desk. First-floor bedroom or private office with full bath. Cozy four-season room with one of four fireplaces. Mudroom, three-car heated garage and independent yard storage room. Built in 2005.

Agent: Patti Michels of Brush Hill Realtors, 630-920-0666

At press time this home was still for sale.



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A versatile neutral, gray goes well with anything

By Melissa Rayworth
Associated Press

The buzz over “50 Shades of Grey” may have faded, but interior design experts say their love affair with the color gray is definitely not a passing trend.

Looking back 10 years, designer Mollie Ranize remembers gray being “perceived as a depressing color palette that was difficult to use, and no one really wanted to live in it.” Since then, gray has developed into the go-to neutral color and a favorite solution to many design dilemmas.

Want to use a bold color but worry that it will overpower a room or look tacky? Mix some cool gray into even the loudest paint color, and it will instantly look more subtle and sophisticated.

And you can find a shade of gray that pairs well with everything.

“It’s kind of shocking that almost everything on the color wheel is complementary with it,” says Ranize, founder of DMar Interiors in Los Angeles. “That’s not something you can say about the whole tan-and-beige wave that we had for a really long time.”

Any room, any style

Whatever the style, “gray can be a huge statement,” Ranize says, so it “doesn’t take a huge quantity of accents to get high impact.”

It also works surprisingly well in rooms where you might not expect it. Betsy Burnham, founder of Burnham Design in Los Angeles, uses dark gray kitchen cabinetry painted with a slightly shimmery satin finish. She likes using a softer shade, Benjamin Moore’s “Gray Owl,” on walls, and painting the trim a crisp, cool white.

Designer Brian Patrick Flynn, founder of Flynnside Out Productions, uses gray “to mediate other more dramatic colors.”

“If I am using a lot of black,” he says, “I’ll pair it with ‘greige’ to keep the look more subtle and almost lower the amount of contrast. If I’m working with bold colors such as red or orange, I’ll usually set them against a backdrop of dove gray or blue gray.”

Another combo he recommends: charcoal gray with dark hunter green and black. “All three are super dark and rich,” Flynn says, but “none are really too high energy, resulting in a sense of glamour that’s somewhat rustic and woodsy. It’s a really unique look that can be pulled off in the right setting.”

Warm and bright

Gray doesn’t have to make a room feel depressing or cold. “There are ways to bring it outside of that stark, off-putting,



CHRISTOPHER PATEY/AP

Cream, green and dark wood shades blend elegantly in a cool, gray kitchen.

cloudy day kind of vibe,” Burnham says. Her favorite strategy is using warm shades of gray alongside organic items like pottery, plants, and natural wood floors and furniture.

She also warms up shades of gray by pairing them with colors like mustard, olive or soft pinks. These are “combinations you may not immediately think of,” but they’re surprisingly effective, she says.

As you choose a gray hue, consider the room’s natural light. If you’re worried that a gray room will look dim, choose items that reflect light. Look for a woven silk rug, wallpaper with a subtle sheen, upholstery with a slight shimmer and even a tabletop of pale gray or gray and white marble that reflects light.

You can also opt for lighter grays to keep things from getting too intense. If you’re considering using gray with red, for example, Flynn recommends dove gray or blue gray rather than charcoal.

“Since dark gray and red are both super dramatic, they can sometimes come across as overbearing or too much,” Flynn says. By pairing red with paler grays, the effect is “light and airy, juxtaposed with dramatic and high-energy,” he says.

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SKOKIE

Brick multi-level home has four bedrooms and 2 full baths. Updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances & eat-in area. Updated bathrooms. Separate formal dining room. First-floor family room with fireplace & skylights with rain sensor remote that leads to deck. Updated hardwood floors & new carpet in bedrooms. New windows throughout home. Full basement with crawl. 2.5-car garage.

Address: 8125 Kolmar Ave.
Price: \$359,000
Schools: Niles West High School
Taxes: \$7,282
Agent: David Rigney/RE/MAX Masters



HIGHLAND PARK

Completely updated. Almost 1500 sq. ft. of total living space. Three bedrooms, two baths. Contemporary finishes throughout. Living room with vaulted ceiling and picture window providing plenty of natural light. Hardwood floors throughout. Eat-in kitchen with quartz counters and an abundance of cabinets. Finished lower level with bath, family room, work station and laundry room. Close to highway, shopping, Ravinia Park and Chicago Botanic Garden.

Address: 1323 Hiawatha Court
Price: \$325,000
Schools: Highland Park High School
Taxes: \$4,977
Agent: Alan Berlow/Coldwell Banker



BARRINGTON

Four-bedroom spruce model in Highland Hills is move-in ready. Home features an open floor plan with pond views. Pella windows with large bay in living room. Newer appliances and carpeting. Master suite has bath, sitting room and walk-in closet. First-floor laundry. Separate office. Large basement recreational rooms great for playtime. Award-winning schools. Close to schools, parks, transportation.

Address: 1673 Castaway Court
Price: \$515,000
Schools: William Fremd High School
Taxes: \$10,858
Agent: Mark Munro/Baird & Warner Barrington



PALATINE

Four-bedroom, two-bath home. New kitchen cabinets and granite counters, stainless steel appliances. Newly updated bathrooms. New carpeting in bedrooms and family room. Hardwood flooring in master bedroom and main living area. New washer and dryer. Updated throughout. New roof and windows. Close to parks, schools, highway and shopping.

Address: 1102 East Paddock Drive
Price: \$285,000
Schools: Palatine High School
Taxes: \$6,567
Agent: Christopher Czerwinski/Keller Williams Team Realty

Listings from Homefinder.com



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Wednesday, November 25 - 7:00 p.m.
 Thursday, November 26 - 10:00 a.m.

Holy Communion is celebrated at both services.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Thursday, Nov. 26

All My Relations: A Seneca History: In collaboration with visual artist and dancer Rosy Simas (Seneca), this exhibit introduces the history of the Seneca culture through milestones in the lives of Simas and her relations. It features traditional and modern Seneca artifacts, which span various generations. 11 a.m. each day, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, Free-\$5; \$10-\$12 for talk. 847-475-1030

Native Haute Couture: The year long exhibit celebrates the history of Native American high fashion from pre-contact to today. It features garments that showcase American Indian artistry and expertise in tanning, weaving, embroidery, beadwork and tailoring. 10 a.m. each day, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-1030

150th Anniversary of the End of the Civil War: Living history in an encampment with living Civil War soldiers who are on site. Oral histories are presented in authentic civil war era uniforms. 9 a.m. each day, Glenview History Center, 1121 Waukegan Road, Glenview, \$5 suggested donation, 847-724-2235

Adult Literacy Classes: Fall Session: A unique opportunity for native and non-native English speakers to improve their reading and writing skills. A small, friendly group led by a teacher and volunteer tutors meets twice weekly. Classes are conducted by Oakton Community College in the Glenview Library's Community Room West. Call 847-635-1426 for details. 9:15 a.m. Thursday, Tuesday and Dec. 3, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

The American Legion, Post 134: The American Legion, Post 134, is seeking volunteers to raise funds for Poppy Days to help veterans. Solicitor permits are available for Morton Grove and Niles on Dempster St. and Harlem Ave. 6 a.m. each day, The American Legion Post 134, 6144 West Dempster St., Morton Grove, Any amount helps

Park Ridge Fly Tying Club Meetings: Demonstrations are performed by an experienced demonstrator. 7 p.m. Thursday and Dec. 3, Park Ridge Community Church, 100 S Courtland Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-823-3164

Chair Yoga: Increase your flexibility, strength and balance in this weekly class. 10:30 a.m. Thursday and Dec. 3, Centennial Activity Center, 100 South Western Ave., Park Ridge, \$76 member, \$84 guest, 847-692-3597

Save A Star's Drug Disposal Program: Save a Star Drug Awareness Foundation's Drug Disposal Program box is in the lobby of the Park Ridge Police Department. Accepted are: prescription medications, (including controlled substances), all over-the-counter and pet medications, vitamins, liquids and creams. Call 847-579-1300 ext. 146. 9 a.m. each day, Park Ridge Police Department, 200 Vine Ave., Park Ridge

Karaoke Thursdays: Enjoy some great pizza and sing a tune or two. 7 p.m. Thursday and Dec. 3, Perry's Pizza and Ribs, 711 Devon Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-823-4422

Food Drive in Skokie: Requesting donations of canned goods and dry food products to fill the shelves of the Niles Township Food Pantry. These foods to be given to the hungry in the community. All foods can be dropped off at Walgreens. For further information, call Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation office at 847-675-4141. All day each day, Walgreens, 3945 West Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-4141

Brush with Nature Art Exhibition: Plein air painters display their artworks inside the gallery. 10 a.m. Thursday, Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, free, 847-674-1500

The Language of Business: This new free class helps attendees improve their reading, writing and math skills as they learn the language of business ownership and management. The class is perfect for English Language Learners or Adult Basic Education students who want to bridge the gap between intermediate to advanced language proficiency while developing their small business skills. The final location is subject to change. 6 p.m. Thursday, Tuesday and Dec. 3, JVS Chicago, 5150 Golf Road, Skokie, free, 855-463-6587

"You Can't Take It With You": 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 3 and 8 p.m. Dec. 4, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 5, Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, \$15-\$68, 847-673-6300

Special Exhibition - Three Years, Eight Months, and Twenty Days: The Cambodian Atrocities and the Search for Justice: Learn about the Cambodian genocide and the current trials to bring the perpetrators to justice, 40 years later. 10 a.m. each day, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4835

Wilmette Fiber Arts Group: Sponsored by the Wilmette Public Library, this group of people interested in all aspects of fibers arts: knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, etc has moved to the Panera Bread in Wilmette for the duration of the construction occurring at the library. 10 a.m. Thursday and Dec. 3, Panera Bread, 1199 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-293-6755

Friday, Nov. 27

"Clara and the Nutcracker": Nothing says ballet like "The Nutcracker," and this Panto-retelling of the classic has all the magic and fantasy of the original fairy tale, except for one thing -- absolutely no tutus! 7:30 p.m. Friday-Sunday and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4; 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5, Piccolo Theatre, 600 Main St., Evanston, \$11-\$27, 847-424-0089

Drop-In Movie: Those who wish to attend may call Youth Services for the movie title. 10 a.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Gentle Yoga: Due to high demand, two yoga sessions are now offered. Space in each session is limited to the first 50 people. Yoga instructor Olga Rudiak leads a series of yoga sessions for improved physical strength, relaxation and mental clarity. Exercises are done in a chair or standing not on the floor. 9:30 a.m. Friday, 11 a.m. Friday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224.

Share The Warmth: Volunteers wanted -- join a group of warm, friendly, supportive women (men welcome) to prepare one-of-a-kind fleece blankets for chemo patients. Add a crocheted edge to fleece and send free blankets to new adult chemotherapy patients. A basic crochet stitch can be taught if needed. Bring lunch. Attendees often gather until 2 or 3 p.m. Donations are welcome to this 501(c)3 non-profit organization. 9 a.m. Friday and Dec. 4, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-293-6755

Duplicate Bridge: The senior center offers a friendly bridge game every Friday morning. 9 a.m. Friday, Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-5127

Holiday Book Signing with F. Michael Smith: Uptown Girlz of Park Ridge hosts a book signing event with local author, F. Michael Smith. His inspirational tale, "The Christmas Butterfly," is illustrated by award-winning artist Carolyn Lombardo. 4 p.m. Friday, Uptown Girlz of Park Ridge, 110 S Prospect Ave, Park Ridge, free

Saturday, Nov. 28

FUSE: Studio: Drop in with friends to wire LEDs, compose a ringtone, build an amp, mix chemicals to make gel beads, navigate a robot obstacle course and more. For grades six to 12. Saturday, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston, free, 847-448-8600

Overeaters Anonymous: Overeaters Anonymous meets Saturdays. Newcomer meeting on the last Saturday of the month. No dues, fees or weigh-ins. For information, call Hannah. 9 a.m. Saturday, St Matthews Episcopal Church, 2120 Lincoln St, Evanston, free, 773-996-0609

Tefilla Yoga: A prayerful yoga in which participants are guided through an exquisite inner prayer service, matching yoga postures and sequences with themes and key words of traditional Jewish prayers. Bring one's own mat and dress appropriately for yoga. 11 a.m. Saturday, Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-498-4100

Kohl Children's Museum: Chagall for Children Travelling Exhibit: The Kohl Children's Museum brings the exceptional traveling exhibit: Chagall for Children; for those two through 12 years old. The hands-on activities encourage visiting children, and their families, to explore and work with specific art principles through the 14 multi-sensory stations, each incorporating a high-quality reproduction of Marc Chagall's most famous works. The Winnetka Community House offers free admission to local school groups, with a \$10 suggested family donation for those not a part of a school group. 9 a.m. Saturday, Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln Ave., Winnetka, free, 847-881-9316

Turn to Calendar, Next Page

CALENDAR

Calendar, from Previous Page

Sunday, Nov. 29

Fine Arts Fall: Concert: The Northbrook Public Library's 23rd season of Fine Arts Fall brings a stellar array of instrumentalists and vocalists to the Library's Auditorium. Come each Sunday for a new performer! 2 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

National Novel Writing Month Weekly Write-In: Come write a novel. Snacks provided. No registration required; just come. 2 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Plates and Shifting Paradigms: geology's journey to discover plate tectonics: Geologist Kris Huysken, an associate professor at the University of Indiana Northwest, describes the plate tectonics theory, which is the first comprehensive model of Earth's internal workings. 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, free, 847-677-3334

Give Peace a Chance: Tribute to John Lennon: This is a special holiday themed tribute show to one of the greatest songwriters of the 20th Century. Twelve of Chicago's top performers get together to celebrate the musical genius and legacy of John Lennon by presenting over 25 of his most recognized compositions in a 90-minute concert. 5 p.m. Sunday, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, \$22, 847-677-7761

Music of the Baroque presents "Judas Maccabaeus": The story of a people's triumph told in music of high drama and glorious pageantry, "Judas Maccabaeus" is George Frideric Handel at his heroic best. Featuring the acclaimed Music of the Baroque Orchestra and Chorus, the evening is full of rousing choruses, ravishing duets and fiery arias. Jane Glover conducts a thrilling work that rivals the famous "Messiah" in choral splendor. 3 p.m. Sunday, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, \$27-\$75, 312-551-1414

Monday, Nov. 30

Book Bables: Songs, games, story time and free play for babies ages 2 and younger with a caregiver. 10:15 a.m. Monday, Evanston Public Library - North Branch, 2026 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-448-8600

hoopla, MyMediaMall and Zinio Individual Appointments: A Glenview Library card is required and this opportunity is available on any Monday throughout November. Meet with trained library staff for a 45-minute one-on-one session and learn how to download ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, movies, TV shows, or music to one's portable device. Visit or call the Reader Services Desk at 847-729-7500 Ext. 7600 to register, for questions, and for appointment locations. 10 a.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Yarn Gang: Kids in grades one and up are invited to try their hand at knitting, crocheting or other yarn crafts. 4 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

MGPL Kids: Monday Morning Playgroup: Drop-in play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver to introduce young children to the library in a low-key, unstructured session. Call 847-929-5102 or visit www.mgpl.org for more information. 10:30 a.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Knitting Roundtable: Come work through knitting projects and socialize with fellow knitters. Expert knitters can show you how to solve knitting challenges. Don't forget your current knitting projects and needles! Call 847-929-5101 or visit www.mgpl.org for more information. 2 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Teen Library Council: Join other teens and one's Teen Librarian on the TLC to discuss and plan library programs, clubs, services and more. Volunteer hours can be earned as you hang out, chat, and eat snacks. 7 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

John F. Kennedy's legacy: Over two weeks, historian Gary Midkiff investigates two important elements of Kennedy's legacy. Learn the complete story of the Cuban missile crisis, including Kennedy's leadership of his cabinet as they worked through the decision-making process and the critical role of his brother Robert. Also, Gary tells you the complex story of Kennedy's effort to support Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement. 10 a.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$19-\$25, 847-784-6030

Tuesday, Dec. 1

Rotary Club of Evanston Lighthouse: This community leadership group boasts 80 members and meets every Tuesday. 7:15 a.m. Tuesday, Hilton Garden Inn Chicago North Shore/Evanston, 1818 Maple Ave., Evanston, free

Irish music session: Enjoy Irish music every Tuesday night. 7 p.m. Tuesday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679

Let's Talk @ Lunch: At this drop-in program, participants can talk through the issue of racism, and practice honest conversation skills by looking at our own experiences in light of what we're learning about how racism affects us all. 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, YoFresh Yogurt Cafe, 635 Chicago Ave, Evanston, free, 847-864-8445

Now Open! Northern Lights Homework Help Center: High School volunteers to the (homework) rescue. Thirty-minute sessions for homework, reading, and math skills provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Children may be grouped by subject and grade level. Just drop in. 6 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

LEGO Club for first to third grades: Calling all Master Builders! Join in this monthly free-build. You supply the ideas, we provide the LEGOs and everything turns out awesome. Space is limited, so register by calling. 4 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Special Winter Collection: Socks for Soles: Help warm the soles of our community's neediest this winter season. Nothing is more reassuring as winter sets in than warm feet, hands, and heads. Fill the collection bin in the Library Lobby with socks, mittens, gloves, hats, and sweaters. New items appreciated; all sizes for all ages. Delivery to the Northfield Township Pantry throughout the winter season. 9 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

MGPL Kids: Listen Up! Drop-in story and play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver. Call 847-929-5102 or visit www.mgpl.org/kids for more information. 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

The Caribbean: from Columbus to today: Inspired by Carrie Gibson's new book, "Empire's Crossroads: A History of the Caribbean from Columbus to the Present Day," Jim Kenney reflects on the rich and important history of this complex region. 10 a.m. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$20-\$39, 847-784-6030

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Preschool Story Time: Stories and songs for children ages 3-5 and a caregiver. 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston, free, 847-448-8610

YMCA Preschool Art Classes: ages 3 to 5 with an adult: The North Suburban YMCA Art Academy provides opportunities for preschoolers to create art. A parent or caregiver must be present. Please register by calling. 10 a.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Social security and retirement: Join local financial advisor Colleen Walsh to learn about the basics of Social Security so you are better equipped to make informed decisions. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

NaNoWriMo Ending Celebration / Writers Workshop: Whether you got your NaNoWriMo novel to 50,000 words or not, celebrate making it through a prose-filled November by seeing who won the raffle prizes, and share some of your work in the inaugural meeting of the MGPL Writers Workshop. Contact Chad at ccomello@mgpl.org or 847-965-4220, for questions. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Converting Your VHS Home Movies: Have old home movies on VHS that you want to convert to a DVD or digital format? We can show you how in our new Digital Media Lab. Morton Grove residents have priority and the class is limited to four participants. 6 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Video Game Tournament: Super Smash Bros. Brawl — Compete against other gamers for a chance to win bragging rights and a prize. Teens ages 13-18 are welcome. 4 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

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Chess Club: Whether you're a skilled player looking for a challenge or a beginner interested in learning new skills, all are welcome at this new, weekly Chess Club! Chess sets and clocks provided. No registration is required. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Classics on Wednesday Film Series: Free weekly screening of classic films at the Northbrook Public Library. 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

The Art of Cartooning: Michelle LaPlante will review the history of the art of cartooning, touching upon Egyptian and Greek multi-panel comics, caricature, and editorials throughout the ages. 10 a.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$19 member; \$25 non-member, 847-784-6030

The Eastland Disaster: 100th Anniversary 2015: This ship sank before it even left the Chicago River on July 24, 1915 and killed 844 people. It is one of the worst disasters in American history, yet hardly anyone knows about it. John Boda has researched this event in great detail. 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Park District- Centennial Activity Center, 100 South Western Ave., Park Ridge, \$17 member; \$19 guest, 847-692-3597

Pete Lee: The semi-finalist on "Last Comic Standing" performs stand-up. 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Dec. 5, Zanies Rosemont, 5437 Park Pl., Rosemont, \$22 plus a two-item food/drink minimum, 847-813-0484

Chanukah Party and Latke Lunch with Klezmer Music: Famed musicians Lori Lippitz and Alex Koffman from the Maxwell St. Klezmer Band highlight a Chanukah Party and Latke Luncheon. For reservations and further information, please call the synagogue office. 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, \$18 members; \$23 non-members, 847-675-4141

Senior High Youth Group: For all youth grades nine to 12 to enjoy fun and friendship while engaging in meaningful discussions and service learning opportunities. The evening starts with a tasty dinner — sometimes chicken, sometimes pasta or pizza. 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, First Congregational Church of Wilmette, 1125 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-6660

Thursday, Dec. 3

Internet searching: basics: Lost in the Internet? The library helps you find your way. Learn how to find and evaluate useful websites. 2 p.m. Dec. 3, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Mail Merge with Word 2010: Create letters, envelopes and labels for mailings. Must be experienced and comfortable with computer, keyboard and mouse. 7 p.m. Dec. 3, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Book Discussion: This group meets on the first Thursday of each month. 1 p.m. Dec. 3, Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-5127

German Stammtisch: The group meets on the first and third Thursday of each month in the community center to practice German and learn about German culture. For all experience levels, from native speakers to beginners. 1 p.m. Dec. 3, Oakton Park Community Center, 4701 Oakton St., Skokie, free

Friday, Dec. 4

Holiday Bazaar & Ladies Night Out: The event features Mini Spa Services, Boutique Shopping, DJ, Drawings, Demonstrations, and a Welcome Glass of Champagne (for those over 21). A \$10 entrance fee includes complimentary drawing ticket! Bring a non-perishable food item and/or a toy to receive an additional drawing ticket. For information, call ext. 2 or visit the website. 6 p.m. Dec. 4, White Pines Golf Club, 500 W. Jefferson St., Bensenville, \$10, 630-766-0304

Swingin' in The Holiday at Pete Miller's in Evanston: Swingin' in The Holiday with the Ladies at Pete's and the Jeannie Tanner Quartet featuring: Elaine Dame, Kimberly Gordon and Abigail Riccards. 8 p.m. Dec. 4 and 5, Pete Miller's Seafood & Prime Steak, 1557 Sherman Ave., Evanston, free, 847-328-0399

Winter Arts and Crafts Expo: The 13th annual expo features original, handmade arts and crafts by over 100 selected artisans, featuring original, handmade works of jewelry, ceramics, fiber, metal, glass, painting, photography, mixed-media, and more. 10 a.m. Dec. 4; 2 p.m. Dec. 5, 10 a.m. Dec. 6, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300

10th Annual All Aboard! Party: The Woman's Board of the Chicago Horticultural Society presents its 10th annual All Aboard! celebration. This year's theme is "A Holiday Journey to the World's Ancient Trees." Call 847-835-6833, for tickets and information. 6:30 p.m. Dec. 4, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, Tickets begin at \$425 per person. Table packages available., 847-835-5440

Drop-In Chess Club for up to eighth grade: Volunteer chess instructor Steve Levenson teaches fundamentals and strategy. If possible, please bring one's own chess set. Children ages eight and under must be accompanied by a parent. 7 p.m. Dec. 4, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Gentle Yoga: Yoga instructor Olga Rudiak leads a series of yoga sessions for improved physical strength, relaxation and mental clarity. Exercises are done in a chair or standing not on the floor. 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Dec. 4, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Asian Pop-Up Cinema series: "Polson Berry in My Brain": This film is directed by: Yuichi Sato, starring: Yuki Furukawa, Yoko Maki, Hidetoshi Nishijima Japan, released in 2015, running 121 minutes, shown in Japanese with subtitles. The story is based on a manga of the same title illustrated by Setona Mizushiro, the film is about the love life of a 30-year-old unemployed woman, Ichiko. She meets Ryoichi at a drinking establishment and, even though he is a lot younger than she, she can't forget him. 7 p.m. Dec. 4, Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette, \$15, 847-251-7424

Village of Winnetka Tree Lighting Ceremony: Usher in the season with the annual Winnetka Holiday Tree Lighting at Metra Park. There will be visitors from the North Pole and festive carolers in Victorian costumes, as well as hot cocoa after the lighting ceremony. The switch will be flipped at 6 p.m. 5:45 p.m. Dec. 4, Metra Park, 754 Elm St., Winnetka, free, 847-446-4451

Saturday, Dec. 5

Farmside Christmas: Take a hayride around the farm, then come in and warm up with hot chocolate and desserts inside the farmhouse. Gather in the parlor and enjoy the sounds of the holiday season with instrumental and vocal music provided by local student ensembles. 2 p.m. Dec. 5, Fischer Farm, 16W 680 Old Grande Ave., Bensenville, free, 630-834-3152

Building Strong Relationships: A Workshop for Adoptive and Foster Families: Adoption and attachment expert Dafna Lender, LCSW, shares practical techniques to help parents respond to behavior, attachment and trauma issues using The Theraplay Institute's attachment-based parenting approach proven to strengthen family bonds. 9 a.m. Dec. 5, The Theraplay Institute, 1840 Oak Ave. #320, Evanston, \$95; \$150 for two, 847-256-7334

Ecology Center Winter Market: Learn about the benefits of eating fresh and locally grown foods. Shop for a variety of seasonal and artisan products. 9 a.m. Dec. 5, Ladd Arboretum, 2024 McCormick Blvd., Evanston, free, 847-448-8045

Weekend Family Class: Joyful Gingerbread: Explore all the different plants and plant parts needed to make gingerbread. Take home a future ginger plant, decorate cookies and mix up a batch of gingerbread. 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Dec. 5 and Dec. 6, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, \$24 per child; Garden Plus members receive 20% off; parking is included., 847-835-6801

Golden Age of Hollywood Show: This quarterly show features rare DVDs and video, movie posters, lobby cards, movie stills, sheet music, press books, autographs, animation cels, comics, collectible toys, film books, film scripts, 16mm films, movie magazines and more. 8:30 a.m. Dec. 5, Holiday Inn North Shore, 5300 W. Touhy Ave., Skokie, \$5; children free, 773-350-1714

Preserving Survivor Stories: Ask Holocaust Survivor Pinchas Gutter any question you would like, and "natural language" technology software will respond as if Pinchas were in the room. 10:30 a.m. Dec. 5, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4800

The Addams Family: The Musical: 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Dec. 5, Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette, \$15-\$18, 847-251-7424

Chicago Youth Dance Exhibition 2015: This year's participants represent 40 dance companies from 20 different studios, ages ranging from three to sixteen years old. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Rory David Deutsch Foundation for pediatric brain tumors. 6 p.m. Dec. 5, Regina Dominican High School, 701 Locust Road, Wilmette, \$22 in advance; \$25 at the door, 847-997-1317

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CALENDAR

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Sunday, Nov. 6

Annual Evanston Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert: This annual winter holiday concert features music, dance and singing of seasonal favorites by Tchaikovsky, Handel, Quincy Jones, Benjamin Britten and an audience sing-along. 3 p.m. Nov. 6, Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, for pricing visit the website or call, 847-864-8804

Holiday Baroque: Rembrandt Chamber Players performs J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concertos. 3 p.m. Nov. 6, Alice Millar Chapel, Northwestern University, 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston, \$38 general admission, \$10 student, 312-360-3145

Native American Fine Arts Holiday Market: Jewelry, pottery, beadwork, dolls, prints, moccasins and an array of other items are available. Artists demonstrate their technique, speak about their culture and art and answer questions. noon Nov. 6, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-1030

Wonderland Express Holiday Market: Vendors will offer products such as locally made jams, soaps, honey and more. 10 a.m. Sunday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440.

Hanukkah Concert: Enjoy a lively performance from the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band in the Alsdorf Auditorium and then visit the Wonderland Express exhibition. 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, \$15-\$20 plus parking fees, 847-835-5440

Gingerbread House Decorating: Decorate your gingerbread masterpiece in a festive atmosphere with family, friends, seasonal music and hot cocoa. Registration is required. 2 p.m. Sunday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Hanukkah Helper Prep Class for Interfaith Families: This experience helps interfaith families celebrate Hanukkah in a meaningful way with their Jewish children. Enjoy festive traditional food, learn the true origins of Hanukkah and more. 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook, free, 847-945-6830

It's a Wonderful Life free screening: Enjoy live music followed by a screening of the film. noon Sunday, Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-5800

Free Menorah Lighting Kit Available: Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie is providing free menorah lighting kits for this Hanukkah season. 9 a.m. Sunday, Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie, 4059 Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-677-1770

Chanukah Wonderland: Families can celebrate Chanukah with a dreidel bounce, a baby/toddler zone, face painting, make-your-own donut, Chanukah loom bracelets, duct tape crafts, wood etching and more. 11 a.m. Sunday, Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie, 4059 Dempster St., Skokie, \$10 in advance, and \$12 at the door. One free adult with each family, and kids under 2 enter free, 847-677-1770

Skokie Synagogue Chanukah Party: There are Shriner clowns, bounce house and holiday songs to highlight this Chanukah party. Bring your kids and your grandkids and prepare for a wonderful time. 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-4141

Chicago YIVO Society: Fifth Annual Sarah Lazarus Memorial Concert: Celebrating the memory of beloved music teacher Sarah Lazarus. This concert features singer, multi-instrumentalist, dancer and scholar Michael Alpert, a key figure in the renaissance of East European Jewish music. 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, \$10 (in advance); free to Museum members, 847-967-4800

21st annual Wilmette Warming House Bowl-A-Thon: This annual family-friendly event includes Warming House staff, teens, board members, corporate sponsors and community supporters coming together to promote youth programming and services in our community. 3 p.m. Sunday, Wilmette Bowling Center, 1903 Schiller Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-830-9580

Some Assembly Required - 3rd Annual Winnetka Community Sing-along: A holiday singalong benefit. 2 p.m. Sunday, Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln Ave., Winnetka, \$10 per family; \$5 individuals, 847-446-0537

Have an event to submit? Go to chicagotribune.com/calendar

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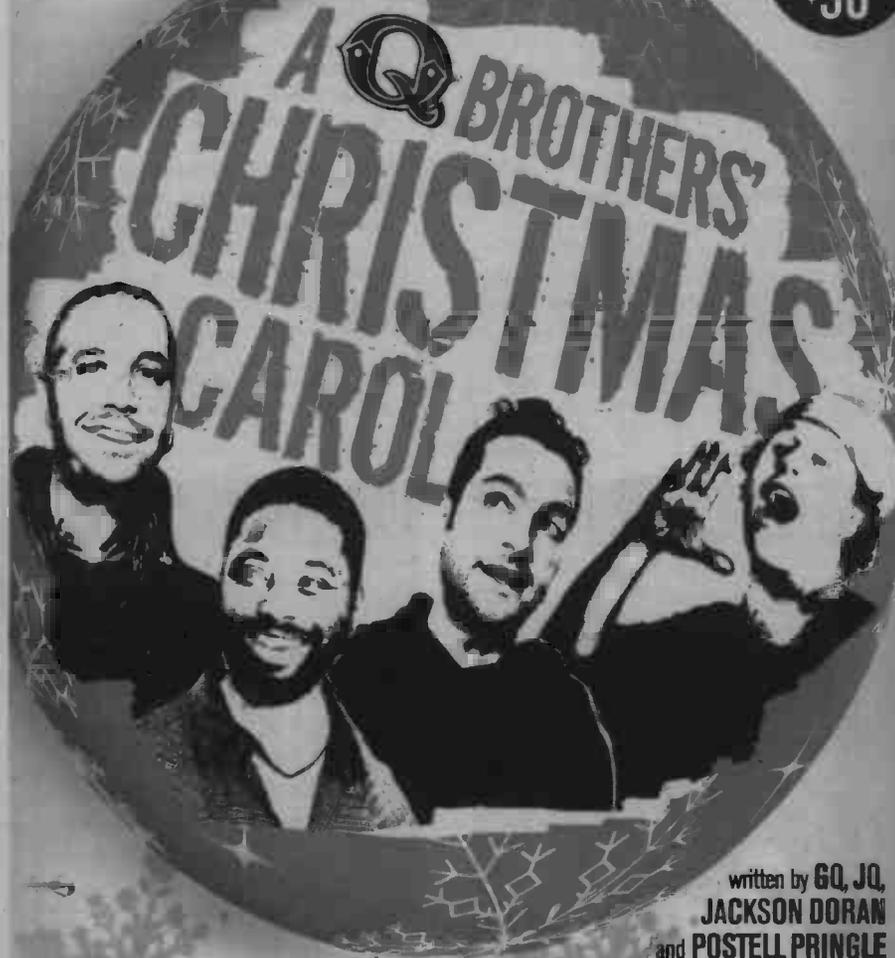
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MOVIES

Now playing



"Spectre" ★★★

PG-13, 2:30, action

"Spectre" cost nearly \$300 million to make, and I suppose it was worth it. It's a good Bond movie, which will be good enough for many millions of fans. It's also the longest Bond movie in existence, clocking in at just under 2½ decadent, carefree, flamboyantly destructive hours. This time Ian Fleming's well-dressed assassin changes clothes from Mexico City to Rome, from London to the Austrian mountains, from

Tangier back to London, where terrorists-entrepreneurs carrying the familiar handle of Spectre are doing dirty work on a large scale. Of the Daniel Craig 007s, director Sam Mendes' follow-up to "Skyfall" is not quite up to "Skyfall" or my favorite, "Casino Royale." But it's a considerably better evil-quelling instruction manual than "Quantum of Solace." — Michael Phillips



"The Peanuts Movie" ★★½

G, 1:33, animation

Beloved, neurotic cartoon kid Charlie Brown hits the biggest screen possible (and in 3-D) in the warm "The Peanuts Movie," directed by animation vet Steve Martino. "The Peanuts Movie" is extremely faithful to the original source material, which will please longtime fans, but this is aimed at bringing in a new, youthful audience. While Charlie Brown is the defini-

tion of an insecure worrywart, the feature film not only redeems him in his failures but also rewards the way he reacts to disappointments and challenges. Everyone feels like Charlie does sometimes, but the optimism in his persistence is at the core of why "Peanuts" stands the test of time. — Katie Walsh



"Love the Coopers" ★★

PG-13, 1:47, comedy

The star-studded home for the holidays Christmas movie has become as much a yearly tradition as caroling, hot cider and sledding in freshly packed snow. This year's installment, "Love the Coopers," promises to deliver on the cinematic cheer but is more of an airing of grievances than a celebration. Centering on the mishaps and misadventures of the large Cooper clan on Christmas Eve, the family has to dredge up all of their

demons in order to truly appreciate family. — K.W.



"The Martian" ★★½

PG-13, 2:21, sci-fi

A highly enjoyable, zestily acted team-building exercise, with Matt Damon playing the team of one, director Ridley Scott's "The Martian" throws a series of life-or-death scenarios at its resourceful botanist-astronaut, stranded on Mars but making the most of it. It's one of the most comforting science fiction films in years. — M.P.



"The 33" ★★

PG-13, 2:05, drama

Going into "The 33," we know a few things. We know it'll be tense and largely subterranean. We know it's a bad news/good news story, in that order, about the 2010 mine explosion and cave-in stranding 33 workers for 69 excruciating days in the depths of a gold and copper mine in Chile's Atacama Desert. The ordeal and eventual rescue of all 33 became the stuff of gripping reality television around the world. Mining is

innately risky work, especially in mines with lousy safety records; here was a story revealing that danger, with a happy ending. "The 33" dramatizes and largely falsifies that reality, with a frustratingly blurred sense of the conflicts below and above ground. What these men endured is remarkable, and the logistics of the rescue are remarkable as well. "The 33" settles for an unremarkable chronicle of that endurance test. — M.P.

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COLLEGE NOTES

Goggin twins continue partnership at Augustana

BY NICK BULLOCK
Pioneer Press

Of the four members of the Augustana women's tennis team who were named all-Collegiate Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin, three hail from the Chicago area.

Junior twin sisters Lauren and Dana Goggin, both Buffalo Grove graduates, were named first team all-conference, while senior teammate Aileen MacDonald, a Mundelein alumna, was named second team all-conference. Together, the three women helped the Vikings win the CCIW championship, where Mac-

Donald was named tournament MVP.

Dana Goggin took home the CCIW No. 2 singles crown for the second consecutive year. She also teamed with MacDonald to win the No. 1 doubles title. With the fall season now in the books, her career singles record stands at 58-16, with a doubles record of 63-24.

Lauren Goggin, who now boasts a 57-25 career singles mark and a 60-24 career doubles mark, captured second place in both No. 1 singles and No. 2 doubles.

MacDonald earned MVP honors for her first-place finishes at No. 4 singles and No. 1 doubles. With a 69-28

doubles record, she has the sixth highest doubles win total in school history. Her career singles record stands at 57-27.

Galanis golfs at Redlands

Loyola's George Galanis, a sophomore golfer for Redlands, shot a career-best 68 in the final round of the Cal State-San Marcos Fall Classic Oct. 26-27 at Twin Oaks in San Diego. The impressive score gave him a 54-hole total of 219, good for second on his team and tied for 22nd overall. With Galanis' help, Redlands recorded a three-round score of

879 to place sixth out of 11 teams.

Oldach sets saves record

Katy Oldach concluded her collegiate soccer career in record-setting fashion. The Grinnell senior goalkeeper recorded two shut-out wins to end the season.

Oldach, an Oak Park-River Forest graduate, logged 10 saves, including one on a penalty kick, in a 2-0 win against Wisconsin-Platteville on Oct. 28 in Grinnell, Iowa. Then, in her final game, she registered five saves in another 2-0 win against Beloit on Oct. 31



AUGUSTANA SPORTS INFORMATION

Mundelein graduate Aileen MacDonald, from Augustana, was named CCIW Tournament MVP after winning at fourth doubles and No. 1 singles.

in Grinnell, setting a school record for career saves with 307.

Following her performances, Oldach was named Midwest Conference Women's Soccer Defensive Performer of the Week.

Have a suggestion for the College Roundup? Email Nick Bullock at bullockpioneerpress@gmail.com.

Nick Bullock is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Good luck to the teams in this weekend's IHSA football state finals

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Happy Thanksgiving!

Enjoy the holiday, and stay tuned for the announcement of the December challenge finalists next week!



GARY MIDDENDORF/PIONEER PRESS

Niles North's Makell Davis watches as Bradley-Bourbonnais celebrates after scoring the game-sealing touchdown in the Class 7A state quarterfinals on Nov. 14.

Injuries mount at end of Vikings' season

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

BRADLEY — By the end, the injuries had piled up for the Niles North football team.

The Vikings reached the Class 7A quarterfinals, where they lost 28-17 to Bradley-Bourbonnais on Nov. 14. They advanced further than any team in school history. But in doing so, the physical toll a 12-game season took a toll on a team with several two-way players and that showed in the final half of Niles North's season.

"We had our share of injuries," Niles North coach Mark Egofske said. "There's no doubt."

Starting defensive end and fullback Jerome Guy, a senior, missed the state quarterfinal because of a torn ACL. At times against the Boilermakers, Egofske was in search of somebody — anybody — that could serve as a lead blocker for one of the

Vikings' running backs.

There were many other injuries. Romario Gayle, a senior wide receiver and safety, was favoring his right shoulder for much of the second half against the Boilermakers. He stayed in the game. Senior running back and corner back Richard Azunna was forced to come out of the game multiple times due to open cuts. He too stayed in the game.

Others weren't so lucky.

Senior wide receiver Craig "Dutch" Dawkins re-injured the left knee that forced him to miss all but two games during the regular season. He didn't return. Neither did junior offensive/defensive lineman Dylan Ramirez after he aggravated a right ankle injury that had been bothering him since midseason. Ramirez, who was excellent at defensive tackle before suffering the injury, was carted off of the field after the game.

And senior running back and outside linebacker Barrington Wade continued to try to battle through a right hip injury that had plagued him during the season.

"I think he was on his last leg, to be honest with you," Egofske said of Wade.

The Vikings rode back to Skokie on Nov. 14 battered, but their pride — and all they accomplished — was still intact. So was the seniors' affect on the players who are slated to return.

"We made history," freshman safety Myles Davis said. "I think that's what matters."

Junior linebacker Max Creed added: "Nobody expected us to make it as far as we have. We turned a lot of heads. Niles North wasn't anybody a couple years ago, and we turned this into a program that surprised a lot of people."

The goal for expected returners like Davis, Creed, Ramirez, wide receiver Jor-

dan LaBelle and others is to maintain the level Niles North reached this year. Doing so will be difficult with the Vikings' move to the Central Suburban South for the 2016 season, but the hope is that the returning players duplicate one of the things that made this year's senior class special.

It was "their work ethic. Every day we improved on that," Egofske said of the seniors. "These kids committed. They committed a lot of time during the summer, a lot of time during the offseason, where their friends didn't want to do it. A lot of them quit. But these kids, they hung in there. When you do that, you have an opportunity to play in games like [a state quarterfinal]."

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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GIRLS SWIMMING STATE NOTEBOOK

Piljevic hopes to improve lower body strength

BY TODD MARVER AND
ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

Niles West girls swimming coach Jason Macejak knew sophomore Mia Piljevic needed to have her best meet at the Glenbrook North Sectional to get to state — and she did.

Piljevic shaved nearly three seconds off her time in the 100-yard backstroke, and finished in a school-record time of 58.94 seconds at the sectional on Nov. 14. Piljevic ended her season in 36th place in the 100 backstroke prelims (1:00.12) at the state meet at New Trier on Nov. 20.

“Mia had her taper last week at sectionals and she needed to,” Macejak said. “She was at 1:01.69 going into sectionals, so she needed to have her meet last week and she did. It was a good thing because if she didn’t have her meet last week, she wouldn’t be here today. She made her first trip to the state swim meet because of that performance last week, so I’m proud of her and can’t wait to see what she does the next two years.”

Piljevic was happy she was able to experience the state meet in just her second year of high school.

“I think it’s such a great experience as a sophomore, so I know what it’s like and I have the experience as a sophomore definitely to know what it’s like the next two years if I come back [to state],” Piljevic said. “I think that I’ll definitely improve throughout the years and definitely come back and have a great experience again.”

Piljevic wants to work on her lower body and upper body strength before next season in an attempt to take the next step and advance to the Saturday finals at state. Macejak plans on also having Piljevic focus on her underwaters.



BRIAN O'MAHONEY/PIONEER PRESS

Maine South's Francesca Figlioli swims in the 100-yard breaststroke for athletes with disabilities during the state championship on Nov. 21 at New Trier.

“I want to see how close I can get to Saturday through my next two years,” Piljevic said. “I’m definitely going to start to work on legs and more lower body and strengthen my legs because legs are a really big part of your race, since in backstroke every time I get out my legs are about to fall off. So I’m definitely going to work on my legs more and my upper body strength.”

Added Macejak: “Her underwaters are something we’re going to focus on and just some power and strength in the weight room is going to be something

we’re going to be working on a lot.”

Maine South

A swimmer set a state record in all four of senior Francesca Figlioli’s races.

Figlioli, as a result, didn’t end her career with a state championship in any of her Athletes With Disabilities events on Nov. 21.

She was far from bitter afterward, however.

“I’m mainly happy that the standards are being raised to be more competitive with regular athletes,” Figlioli said. “Because that’s

really what everybody with a disability wants, is to compete — be on the same, even playing field with able-bodied athletes.”

After Figlioli finished second in the 100 breaststroke (1:54.55) on Nov. 21, she described being able to swim at the state meet as “surreal, no matter how many times you get to go.” It was her third state meet, and the fourth year in which Illinois has had Athletes With Disabilities events at the state meet.

In 2012, then Fenwick senior Mary Kate Callahan and her family successfully

fought the IHSA for disabled swimmers, like herself, to have the opportunity to compete for state championships like able-bodied swimmers. That successful fight has provided Figlioli with moments and memories that are unforgettable.

“I think equality for everybody, whether they have a disability or not, is very important in all sports,” Figlioli said. “Swimming is one of the first sports to actually implement an Athletes With Disabilities division, and I’m very thankful for that.”

Niles North

Niles North senior Selma Jukic and sophomore Olivia Klasta advanced to state for the second consecutive season, but were not able to advance to Saturday’s finals in their second try. Jukic finished in 41st place in the 50 freestyle with a time of 24.83 and 36th place in the 100 freestyle with a time of 53.67. Klasta finished in 27th place in the 500 freestyle with a time of 5:10.99.

Todd Marver and Eric Van Dril are freelance reporters for Pioneer Press.

BREAKDOWN

NORTHRIDGE KNIGHTS

By the numbers

1-3-1 — The Knights' ability to replicate the type of success they've had in recent years — three straight 20-win seasons and back-to-back regional titles — will likely hinge on how well they execute their 1-

3-1 zone. "Everything starts and ends with our defense here," coach Will Rey said. "If we're good defensively, we're going to be good. If we're average defensively, we're going to be average. And if we're below average, defensively, we're going to be below average as a team. That's been the pattern."

Conference outlook

Northridge was 10-2 in the Independent School League a year ago, finishing one game behind conference champion U-High. Rey said he expects it to be a very competitive conference race again, with Latin, U-High, Northridge, North Shore Country Day and Parker all vying for the conference title.

Replacing Haig

Point guard Dylan Haig, a 2015 graduate, did so much for Northridge during his varsity career. He pushed the ball in transition. He created open shots for his teammates. He protected the ball. He slashed into the lane. He knocked down open 3-pointers. The Knights won't have any one person do all of that this year, Rey said. Instead, the ball-handling responsibilities will be more evenly dispersed among guards like Kiko Maso, Pablo Esparza and Patrick Hunt. Hunt led the team in scoring a year ago. Esparza and Maso contributed off of the bench.

Coach: Will Rey, entering 12th season

Projected starters with 2014-15 stats: Sr. G Patrick Hunt (12.5 ppg, 3.3 rpg), Jr. G Kiko Maso (3.0 ppg, 1.2 rpg), Sr. G Pablo Esparza (2.4 ppg, 1.1 rpg), Sr. F Joe Eck (1.7 ppg, 1.8 rpg), Sr. F Andre Rojas-Castillo (0.4 ppg, 0.3 rpg)

Last season: 23-7, lost in the Class 2A sectional finals, falling to eventual state champion Uplift 46-34.

'The steal of the summer'

Northridge's already strong coaching staff is even better this year with the addition of Scott Bogumil. He spent the last 11 seasons at Libertyville and was the coach at Gordon Tech before that. He's

now working alongside Rey, the coach at Division I Loyola from 1989-94, and assistant coaches Brian Lukens, Pat Hunt and Robert Rey, who is Will Rey's son.

"Man, what an acquisition that was for us," Will Rey said of Bogumil. "That was the steal of the summer for us. We put a lot of emphasis on teaching here, and our coaches being great mentors. Scott just brings a wealth of experience in both areas."

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Northridge's Joe Eck shoots over Chicago Math and Science's Brandon Miller on Feb. 26 in Niles.



TRACY ALLEN/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Northridge's Patrick Hunt goes in for a fastbreak layup against Chicago Math and Science in the Class 2A Northridge Regional on Feb. 26 in Niles. The Knights won 49-16.

Follow the leader

Carmel, Nazareth hope to mirror Notre Dame's success

By ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

At this point last season, the Notre Dame boys basketball team was just days away from its first signature win of an outstanding season.

That win came on Nov. 28, 2014, in the Battle of the Bridge championship game at Lane. The Dons jumped on Evanston immediately, and trounced the Wildkits by 15 points.

Notre Dame's win over Evanston was a sign of things to come. The Dons went 9-0 in the East Suburban Catholic. They won 26 games. Their one-point loss to Stevenson in a Class 4A sectional semifinal was the closest any team came to beating the Patriots during their run to the Class 4A state championship.

Notre Dame did all that with practically the same core group that spent the 2013-14 season playing together. They used the experience of playing in a loaded East Suburban Catholic in 2013-14 to jell and become battle-tested in preparation for the following season.

The Dons' loss to Nazareth in the 2013-14 season was one of their five conference losses, yet Nazareth coach John Bonk could tell that Dons team was poised to do something special.

"I look back a few years ago, when [this year's seniors] were all sophomores," Bonk said. "You could tell that if that group stuck together, good things were going to happen. That's what we feel about our group right now."

Now, Notre Dame enters the season as a known commodity at a time when

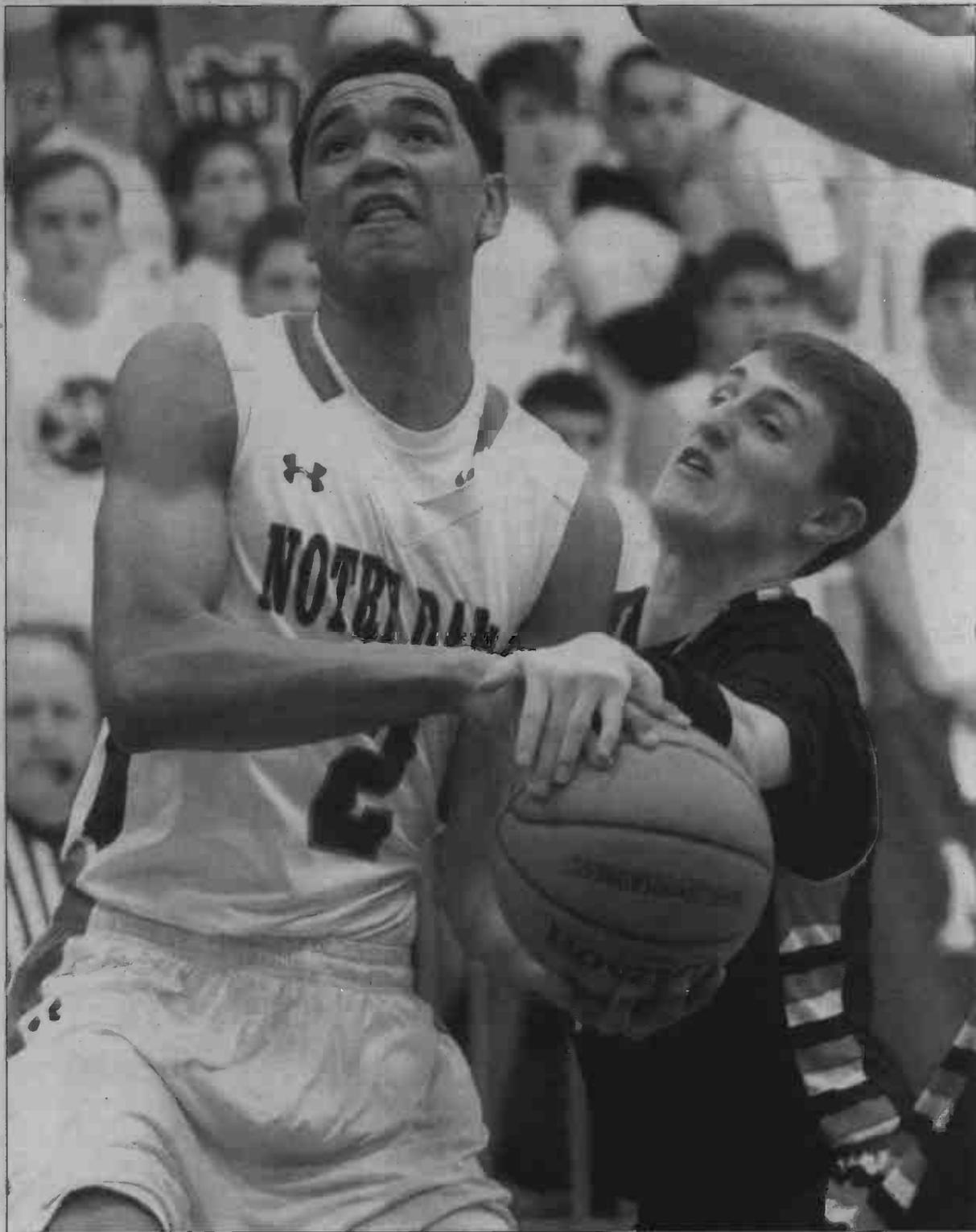
several East Suburban Catholic programs — like the Roadrunners, Carmel and a very talented Marian Catholic squad — are trying to do the same thing the Dons did a year ago. The core groups of those three programs finished in the bottom half of the East Suburban Catholic last season. They will try to vault up the conference standings this year.

Notre Dame lost East Suburban Catholic Player of the Year Joe Mooney to graduation — the guard now plays at UC Davis — but it returns four out of the five starters from last year's team. That group includes 6-foot-4 senior point guard Lucas Simon, 6-6 junior guard Jeameril Wilson, 6-8 senior center Anthony D'Avanzo and 6-5 senior forward Ammar Becar, who was an all-conference selection last season. D'Avanzo is a rim protector, while Wilson is a player with a lot of potential.

They are just part of the biggest team coach Tom Les said he has had during his nine years as Notre Dame's coach.

"Obviously we're going to be pretty good around the basket. We're going to change teams' shots," Les said. "On the perimeter, it's going to be a little bit different. We have length, but we have to get used to playing against quicker, smaller players."

Les added that he's a little bit worried about his team's ability to keep quick guards from penetrating into the paint. He also said that without Mooney, who was an excellent 3-point shooter



KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

Notre Dame's Jeameril Wilson (2) is fouled by Libertyville's Paul Steinhaus during their Class 4A Notre Dame Regional semifinal game on March 3 in Niles.

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and a creator, more of the offense will likely be run through post players like Becar.

The Dons' biggest competition in the East Suburban Catholic figures to be Marian Catholic, which is expected to return a slew of players from last year's squad. That includes Division I prospect T.J. Smith, who is back from a torn ACL that cost him his entire sophomore season.

The Dons and Spartans are the preseason front-runners in the East Suburban Catholic. Marian Catholic was 2-7 in the conference last season.

"With teams returning like Notre Dame and Marian Catholic, [the conference] is kind of a juggernaut," Carmel coach Zack Ryan said.

While that's the case, Ryan's squad features a Division I signee in senior guard C.J. Duff (Western Illinois) as well as a great deal of experience. Duff, senior Shareif Belser-Bailey and junior Brian Julien were all starting guards for the Corsairs during the 2014-15 season.

Senior Matt Stephens and junior LeSebron Duff also started at times a year ago.

Ryan is hopeful that experience pays off for Carmel, especially late in close games. Another way the team's veterans like C.J. Duff and Belser-Bailey will hopefully help the Corsairs, Ryan said, is with intangibles like leadership.

"I've just kind of said, 'OK, guys, this is your team. I'm just the facilitator and the coach. We're only going to go as far as you two guys take us,'" Ryan said.

According to Ryan, C.J. Duff and Belser-Bailey have been helping Johnny Roeser, who's a 6-4 freshman with a ton of promise. Ryan described Roeser as a basketball junkie — one whose skill set and basketball IQ will allow him to contribute as a freshman.

Two other key contributors for Carmel this season figure to be junior Rondel



STEVE JOHNSTON/PIONEER PRESS

Left: Nazareth's Kaleb Thornton puts up a shot versus Noble Golder during the Class 3A St. Joseph Regional quarterfinals on March 2 in Westchester. **Right:** Carmel's Shareif Belser-Bailey tries to dribble around a Conant player during a Lets Play Hoops Fall League game on Oct. 4 at the Libertyville Sports Complex.



BRIAN O'MAHONEY/LAKE COUNTY NEWS-SUN

Jamison and senior Sean Foster. Both are Division I talents in football — Jamison is an all-conference running back, Foster is an offensive lineman who's verbally committed to Minnesota — and they should fill valuable roles for the Corsairs.

Jamison's is as an athletic guard who can defend at a high level. The 6-8, 295-pound Foster provides size and an inside presence for a team that didn't have much of either prior to his decision to return to the sport.

"He gives us a totally different thing that we haven't had," Ryan said, "as far as contesting shots, being able to rebound, being able to set screens, being able to guard another team with a big guy so we don't have to put a 6-foot dude on a big post player."

Carmel was 1-8 in the East Suburban Catholic last year. The lone team it beat was Nazareth, which was 0-9.

A year ago, the Roadrun-

Closer look: East Suburban Catholic

Carmel Corsairs

Coach: Zack Ryan, entering second season

Top players with 2014-15 stats: Sr. G C.J. Duff (21 ppg, 6 rpg, 3 apg), Sr. G Shareif Belser-Bailey (13 ppg, 3 rpg, 4 apg, 4 spg), Jr. G Brian Julien (8 ppg, 2 rpg, apg), Fr. F Johnny Roeser (N/A), Sr. C Sean Foster (N/A)

Last season: Carmel lost in the Class 4A regional quarterfinals, falling to Glenbrook South 70-60

Nazareth Roadrunners

Coach: John Bonk, entering 10th season

Top returning players with 2014-15 stats: Sr. G Christian Davis (11.4 ppg, 4 rpg), So. G Kaleb Thornton (9.1 ppg, 4 apg), So. G Josh Oglesby (7 ppg), Jr. F Ryan Felbinger (3.3 ppg, 3.9 rpg)

Last season: Nazareth lost in the Class 3A regional semifinals, falling to eventual state champion St. Joseph 83-64

Notre Dame Dons

Coach: Tom Les, entering ninth season

Projected starters: Sr. G Lucas Simon, Jr. G Matt Stritzel, Jr. G Jeamerll Wilson, Sr. F Ammar Becar, Sr. F Anthony D'Avanzo

Last season: Notre Dame lost in the Class 4A sectional semifinals, falling to Stevenson 78-77

ners' roster featured a slew of freshmen and sophomores. This year, that group is a year older and a year better. It includes standout sophomore point guard Kaleb Thornton, junior forward Ryan Felbinger and senior Connor O'Neill. Naz-

areth's rotation will also feature sophomore forward Michael Adams, who transferred from Brother Rice.

Senior guard Christian Davis led the team in scoring last season. Sophomore guard Josh Oglesby also contributed. Both are ex-

pected to have big roles this season, but the Nazareth football team's deep playoff run is expected to delay their return to the court.

Even though that's the case, Bonk has seen growth from his young team. The experience of being to-

gether on varsity — even during a year in which Nazareth finished 5-22 — should be a benefit this year. The Roadrunners saw the need to get stronger, physically, and hit the weight room.

"I think [the] maturity [has also improved], as far as focusing in on details," Bonk said. "[They are] understanding the little things that need to be done on the floor."

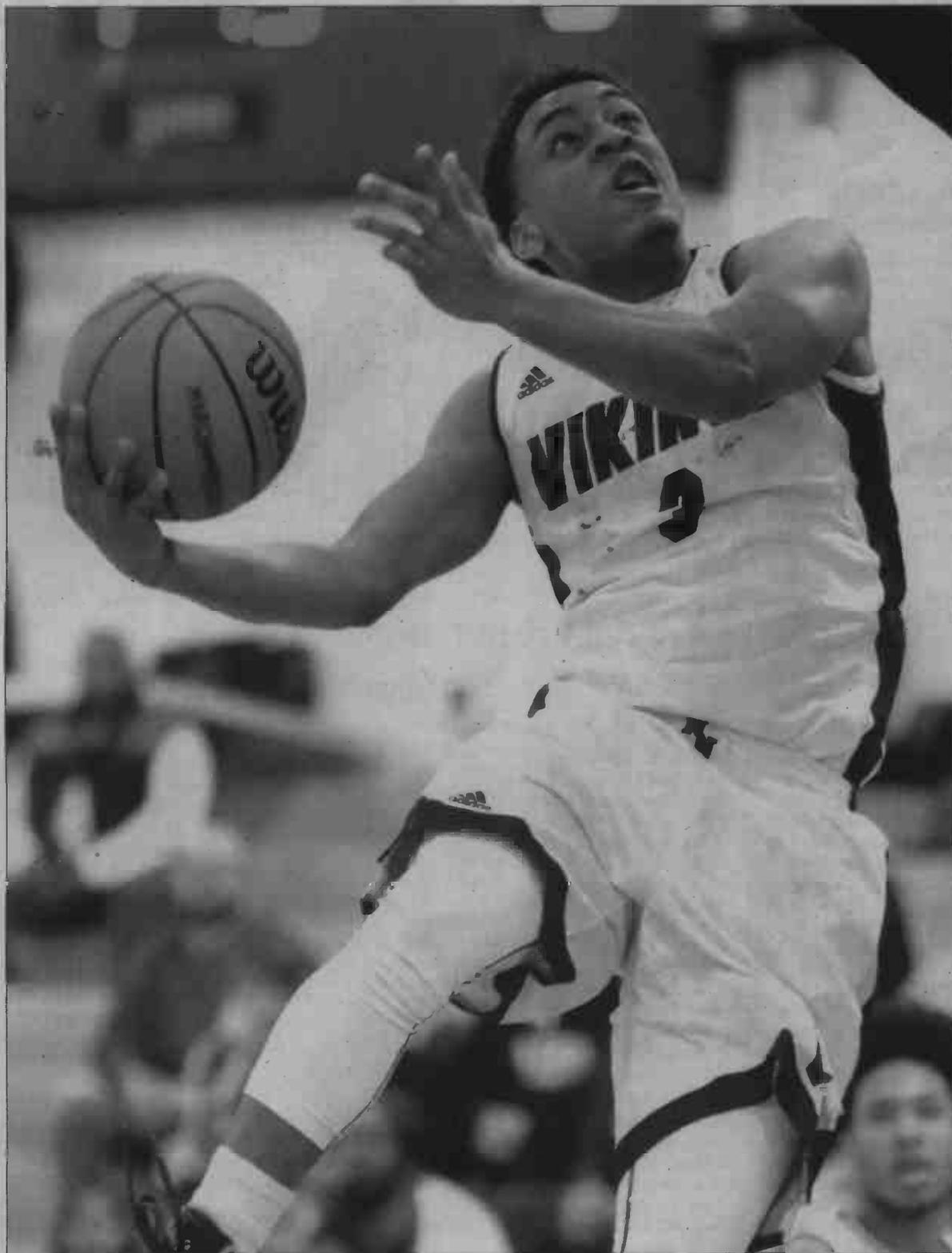
Bonk's hope, with a team that will once again be young, is that the Roadrunners' progression will mirror Notre Dame's.

"They're a great example for us," Bonk said of the Dons. "They were sort of in the same boat we were in, a couple years ago. Hopefully somebody will be talking about us in a couple years, like people are talking about Notre Dame [now]."

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Looking for stars



MARK KODIAK UKENA/PIONEER PRESS

Niles North's Crishawn Cook is one of just two all-CSL North picks to return to his team in 2015-16.

Deerfield, Niles North, Glenbrook North, Maine East and Highland Park are all replacing key players in 2015-16

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

Every boys basketball team in the Central Suburban North begins the 2015-16 season without at least one of the key players who led it a year ago. The majority of teams are replacing several players.

"A lot of the guys that were heavily relied upon last year, on our side of the conference, were seniors," Deerfield coach Dan McKendrick said. "I think all of us are in the same boat in that we're going to be trying to get those other starters — those other pieces of the puzzle — experience under fire and hope that they rise to the occasion."

McKendrick has a luxury several other coaches don't have. The Warriors return senior guard Jordan Baum, who is one of just two 2014-2015 all-CSL North selections back this season. Baum, a University of Chicago commit, is entering his third varsity season.

Senior forwards Jordan Sherman and Jeremy Sernick both gained experience a year ago, but it will be Baum who is expected to take on an even bigger role for the two-time defending conference champions — especially offensively.

"This year, Jordan's going to have to be a little bit more selfish, and be a little bit more aware that if he's got an open look, we're going to need him to take that shot," McKendrick said. "He knows he needs to carry a little bit more of the offensive load this year."

Niles North, like Deerfield, also returns an all-CSL North selection in senior guard Crishawn Cook. Dameron Williams-Gray is a

promising freshman guard, according to Niles North coach Glenn Olson. Those two players will be joined by several others — including senior returners Kaleb Canonigo, Michael Edmond and Usman Hussaini — in Olson's high-octane system.

"We're not going to change a lick of what we do," Olson said. "We're going to play 84 feet of defense. We're going to pressure the basketball. We're going to try to swarm it. We're going to try to play with ridiculous pace on the offensive end."

Glenbrook North, like Niles North, enters the season without a true post presence, but the Spartans have one of the more experienced teams in the conference.

Junior James Karis is expected to be the team's starting point guard. Senior Zach Hoffman will contribute once he returns from a concussion. Glenbrook North coach David Weber called Kellen Witherell "one of the better sophomores in this area."

But it's senior wing Michael Stachnik who Weber said is the player who is most likely going to slide into the leading scorer role that Pat Hamilton had last season. Hamilton was an all-conference selection as a senior.

"Stachnik is our leader, and he's our go-to guy," Weber said. "He's probably one of the hardest workers I've ever coached. He's really looked good so far. We really expect a lot out of him."

The Spartans will likely score the majority of their points from the perimeter.

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Closer look: CSL North

Highland Park Giants

Coach: Paul Harris, entering 16th season
Returning players (with 2014-15 stats): Sr. F Zach Fleisher (2.1 ppg, 1.2 rpg), Sr. G Toby Tigges (1.8 ppg, 0.8 rpg)
Last season: 22-8, lost in a Class 4A regional final to Lake Forest, 53-32

Maine East Blue Demons

Coach: Dave Genis, entering sixth season
Projected starters: Sr. G Milan Grover, Sr. G Ashoor Doushow, Sr. F Calvin Jean Louis, Sr. G Willson Noriega, Jr. G Jordan Irving
Last season: 13-15, lost in a Class 4A regional semifinal to Stevenson, 78-39

Deerfield Warriors

Coach: Dan McKendrick, entering fourth season
Projected starters (with 2014-15 stats): Sr. G Jordan Baum (9.5 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 4.0 apg), Sr. F Jeremy Sernick, Sr. F Jordan Sherman (5.8 ppg, 4.2 rpg), So. G Alex Casleri, Jr. G Ben Bizar
Last season: 17-11, lost in a Class 4A regional final to Notre Dame, 49-47

Glenbrook North Spartans

Coach: David Weber, entering 21st season
Returning players: Sr. G Matthew Koo, Sr. G Zach Hoffman, Sr. G/F Michael Stachnik, Jr. G James Karls
Last season: 12-16, lost in a Class 4A regional semifinal to Maine South, 47-28

Niles North Vikings

Coach: Glenn Olson, entering seventh season
Returning players: Sr. G Crishawn Cook, Sr. G Kaleb Canonigo, Sr. F Usman Hussaini, Sr. G Michael Edmond, Jr. G Jordan LaBelle
Last season: 20-10, forfeited a Class 4A regional semifinal to Zion-Benton because of an IHSA residency violation

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The same is true for Maine East.

"We have kids that can really shoot the basketball," Maine East coach Dave Genis said. "The five guys I would start tomorrow can all really put the ball in the hole. Every single one of them is a deep threat."

That includes 6-foot-5 forward Calvin Jean Louis, Genis added. Jean Louis steps into a role that was previously occupied by Eze-ka Omeke, who was a four-year varsity forward for the Blue Demons. Without Emeke, Genis has altered his offense to more of a motion style to take advantage of the perimeter shooting of seniors Milan Grover and Ashoor Doushow.

While all but one CSL North team (Niles North) graduated at least one all-conference player, arguably no team was hit harder by graduation than Highland Park. Guards David Sachs (Barry University) and Luke

Norcia (Wisconsin-La Crosse), as well as the top seven players in the Giants rotation last season, were seniors.

Highland Park's top returners are senior guard Zach Fleisher and senior forward Toby Tigges. They will lead a team comprised of sophomores, juniors and seniors — one that will try to amass experience quickly in order to have success as its players grow accustomed to new roles on varsity.

"I think the biggest key for our season is we strive to get better every day," Highland Park coach Paul Harris said. "Any time you have a group that lacks in experience, there are going to be some growing pains. We just have to stick with the plan, keep trying to get better, learn from mistakes and take advantage of opportunities when they come."

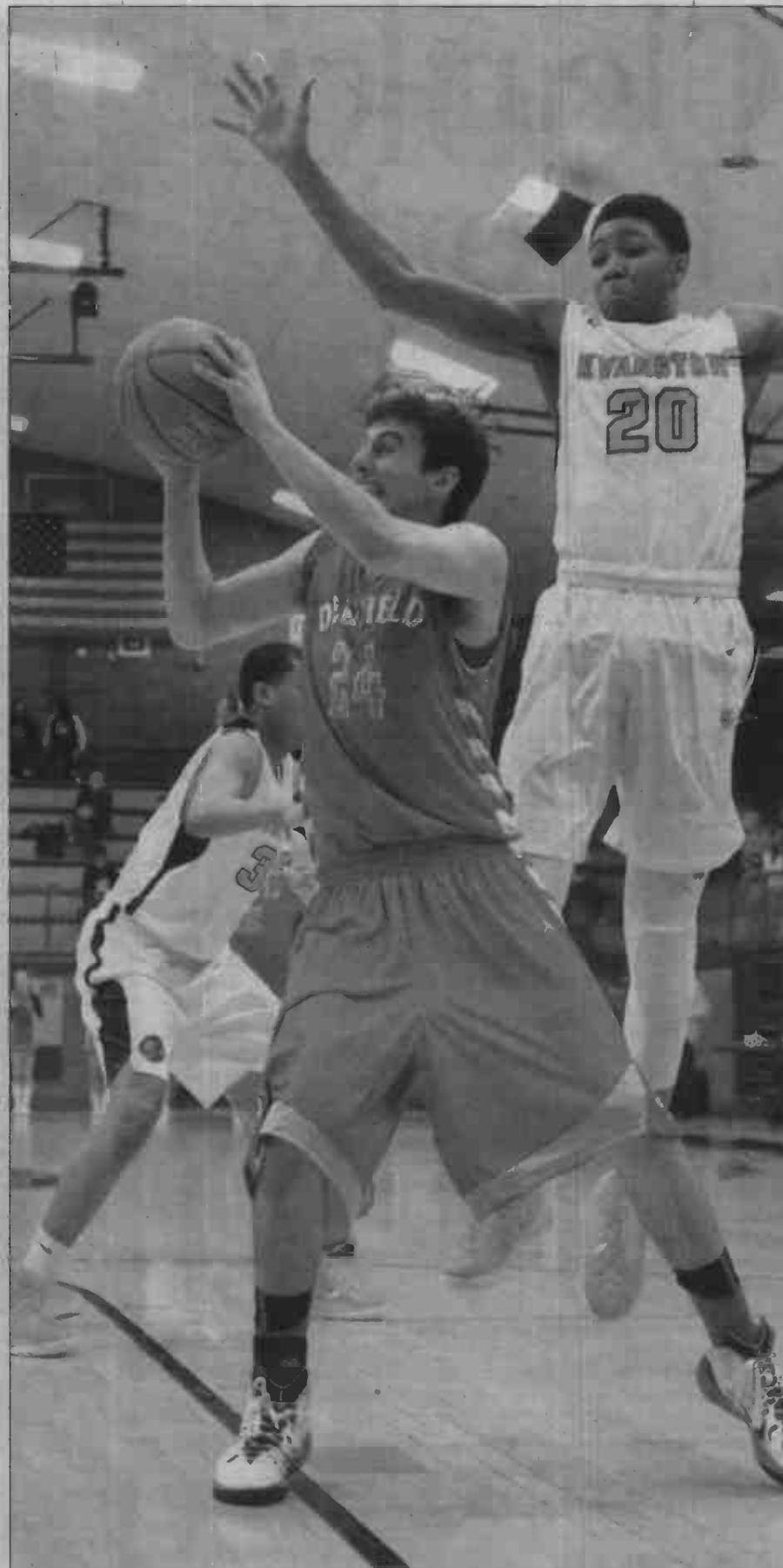
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NIC SUMMERS/PIONEER PRESS

Glenbrook North's Michael Stachnik (right) shoots over Prospect's Frankie Mack during a game Jan. 27 last season.



MATT MARTON/PIONEER PRESS

Deerfield's Jordan Baum (24) passes away from Evanston's Nojel Eastern during a game Feb. 25 last season.

Clear-cut favorite

Evanston the front-runner in deep, talented league

BY MATT HARNESS | Pioneer Press

According to Evanston boys basketball coach Mike Ellis, Nojel Eastern has been less than 100 percent during the preseason. The 6-foot-6 point guard and Division I recruit still is recovering from a left ankle injury suffered during the spring AAU season.

In spite of that, the Wildkits are the undisputed favorites to win the Central Suburban South for a second consecutive season.

"It's not just Nojel," Glenbrook South coach Ben Widner said. "They have a depth of ability that is impressive."

Senior guard Micquel Roseman and senior forward Dylan Mulvihill played major minutes last season and once again are expected to be contributors. Junior guard Jerome Bynum, junior guard Malik Jenkins, junior forward Elyjah Williams and junior forward Chris

Hamil also saw significant time on the court last season on a team that went 9-1 in the Central Suburban South.

"We probably are [the favorites] because we are defending first place and we return a lot of players," Ellis said. "But we are not even thinking about the conference right now. We are looking at our development."

That's because Ellis said there isn't much difference between teams in the league this season.

"There are a lot of teams in this

league that are going to be good this year," he said.

He referred to all six teams, including Waukegan.

After finishing in last place in league play at 1-9 last season, the Bulldogs hired Ron Ashlaw to coach them again. Ashlaw, who left following the 2012-2013 season to coach at Bloom, is the only coach in Waukegan history to earn two state trophies for the boys basketball program. Under his direction, Waukegan was second

in Class 4A in 2009 and third in Class 4A in 2010.

Maine South, which went 8-2 in conference a year ago, and New Trier, which went 7-3, also have proven themselves over recent seasons. The Hawks won a Class 4A sectional title in 2010, and the Trevians did the same in 2013.

"New Trier and Maine South are well-established programs, and Glenbrook South is coming up," Niles

West coach Bob Williams said. "I look at it like a whole bunch of teams have ability. Everybody is hopeful right now, and that's a good thing."

But the Hawks and Trevians lost several starters.

Senior guard Jon Arenas is the lone returning starter for Maine South. Senior Brad Perry, a 6-11 center, came off the bench for the Hawks last season.

Meanwhile, New Trier has only

"There are a lot of teams that will be competing against each other, and I put us in that group. From top to bottom, it's going to be a battle, and it's going to be fun."

—Glenbrook South coach Ben Widner

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MATT MARTON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Evanston's Elijah Henry (35) and Dylan Mulvihill attempt to block the shot of Maine South's George Sergeant in their Class 4A Evanston Regional final on March 6.



MARK KODIAK UKENA/LAKE COUNTY NEWS-SUN

Glenbrook South's Jimmy Martinelli (33) averaged 14 points a game last season as a junior.

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one starter back in senior guard Michael Hurley. Senior guard Tino Malnati earned some starts toward the end of the season, including in the postseason.

"We're young, so there's been a lot of teaching," said New Trier coach Scott Fricke, who hinted at starting freshman Spencer Boehm, a 6-7 wing. "We will get better as the season goes on and be

a team to be reckoned with by the end. We are excited and upbeat about our potential."

Teams like Glenbrook South and Niles West are expected to be better than they've been in the past. The Titans went 2-8 in league play last season, and the Wolves were 3-7. The last sectional title won by either program was captured by the Wolves in 1976, according to the IHSA website.

"Niles West has been building

for this year, and this is one of the best GBS teams in a long time," Fricke said.

The Wolves welcome back senior forward Evan Hines, who has signed with Division II program Minnesota State-Moorhead, and junior guard Octavius Parker. Both are talented play-makers with varsity experience. For the Titans, senior Jimmy Martinelli, a 6-6 athletic forward, is back, and his presence alone is

enough to give the Titans hope they can win more than two games in the conference.

"There are a lot of teams that will be competing against each other, and I put us in that group," Glenbrook South, coach Ben Widner said. "From top to bottom, it's going to be a battle, and it's going to be fun."

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Closer look: Central Suburban South

Evanston

Coach: Mike Ellis, entering sixth season

Projected starters with 2014-15 stats: Sr. G Micquel Roseman, Jr. G Nojel Eastern (14.8 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 2.2 apg, 1.7 spg), Jr. G Malik Jenkins, Sr. F Dylan Mulvihill, Jr. F Elyjah Williams (3.5 ppg, 3.5 rpg)

Last season: 20-9, Evanston lost in the Class 4A sectional semifinals, falling to Lake Forest 54-47

Glenbrook South

Coach: Ben Widner, entering fourth season

Projected starters with 2014-15 stats: Sr. G Daniel Jenkins, Sr. G Cody Racho, Sr. F Jimmy Martinelli (14 ppg, 5 rpg), Sr. F Jack Szafranski, Jr. F Matt Giannakopoulos

Last season: 11-17, Glenbrook South lost in the Class 4A regional semifinals, falling to Lake Forest 60-50

Maine South

Coach: Tony Lavorato, entering 13th season

Top returners with 2014-15 stats: Sr. G Jon Arenas (12.9 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 2.9 apg), Sr. G Austin Derrick, Sr. G Tom Digan, C Sr. Brad Perry, Jr. F Milos Ljiljak, Jr. F Nick Foldvary, Sr. F Joe Gardiner

Last season: 26-4, Maine South lost in the Class 4A regional finals, falling to Evanston 58-53

New Trier

Coach: Scott Fricke

Projected starters: Sr. G Michael Hurley, Sr. G Tino Malnati, Sr. F Colin Winchester, Jr. F Teddy McGregor, Fr. F Spencer Boehm

Last season: 21-10, New Trier lost in the Class 4A regional semifinals, falling to Highland Park 44-41

Niles West

Coach: Bob Williams, entering seventh season

Projected starters with 2014-15 stats: Jr. G Octavius Parker (13.1 ppg), Sr. G Myreon Flowers, Jr. G Mirsad Mackic, Sr. F Evan Hines (12.9 ppg), Sr. F Jobin Varghese

Last season: 10-15, Niles West lost in the Class 4A regional quarterfinals, falling to Maine East 63-52

Maine South's Jon Arenas takes a shot in the Class 4A Evanston Regional final on March 6.

MATT MARTON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Full-court press

An in-depth look at the area boys basketball conferences. INSIDE

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