

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR



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Taking a look forward

Three key local issues to take center stage in 2016. Page 4



NUCCIO DINUZZO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Niles District 219 Board members Joseph Nowik, left, and Carlton Evans, listening to public comments during a Sept. 8 meeting.

GO



REBECCA LAMALFA

Favorite meals

Chicago-area chefs share the best dishes they ate this year. Page 16

SPORTS



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Looking back

The Pioneer Press sports department names the top 10 area sports events in 2015. **INSIDE**



MELISSA ELSMO/PIONEER PRESS

LIVING

2016 food trend forecast

Our predictions for the biggest innovations to hit restaurants and home kitchens in 2016 range from sushi burritos to the rise of the Korean condiment gochujang, which is drizzled on the chicken sandwich at left. Find the recipe along with a full list of predictions. **INSIDE**

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

nilesheraldspectator.com

Bob Fleck, Publisher/General Manager
suburbs@chicagotribune.com

John Puterbaugh, Editor: 312-222-2337; jputerbaugh@tribpub.com

Georgia Garvey, Managing Editor: 312-222-2398; ggarvey@tribpub.com

Matt Bute, Vice President of Advertising
advertising@chicagotribune.com

Local News Editor:

Richard Ray, 312-222-3339
rray@ploneerlocal.com

Local Sports Editor:

Ryan Nilsson, 312-222-2396
rnilsson@ploneerlocal.com

ADVERTISING

Display: 312-283-7056

Classified: 866-399-0537

Email: suburban.class@tribpub.com

Legals: suburban.legal@tribpub.com

Obituaries: 866-399-0537

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SHOUT OUT

Ellen Garber Bronfeld and son Noah

If you'd like a smile to go with your cup of comfort or your sandwich and snack, then stop in to see Ellen Garber Bronfeld and her son Noah Bronfeld, both of Skokie, who are regular staff members at The Perk Center Cafe in Glenview's The Glen at the Glenview Park District's Park Center. Raised in Northbrook, Noah is a Glenbrook North High School graduate and benefited as a student served by the Northern Suburban Special Education District, based in Highland Park. We caught up with mother and son as the cafe was closing for the day Dec. 18.

Q: Tell me about the cafe, Ellen.

A: We exist to employ and to serve. It's a great business, and we have great customers. It's a win, win.

Q: Noah, what is your favorite food here?

A: Hot dogs.

Q: What do you think of the cafe's community, Ellen?

A: The people are phenomenal. Both Glenview and Northbrook are supportive. It's a great place to



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS

Ellen Garber Bronfeld and her son Noah Bronfeld, of Skokie.

raise kids with disabilities.

Q: What are your hobbies besides going out to dine with friends and family, Noah?

A: Walking and working.

Q: What are your hobbies Ellen?

A: Walking and reading.

Q: What are you reading now in your spare time, Ellen?

A: "The Love Song of Miss

Queenie Hennessy" by Rachel Joyce. It's a sequel. It's a good one.

Q: Ellen, what is your shout out to the world this holiday season?

A: Just peace and joy in the world. People need to be more joyful. Kindness. Everyone needs to be kinder.

—Karie Angell Luc

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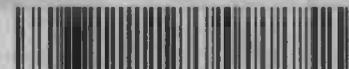


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Previewing the year to come

Three key local issues to keep an eye on throughout 2016

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

Two months following the resignation of two top administrators at Niles Township High School District 219 the school board said last week the search for a replacement for ex-Superintendent Nanciann Gatta would begin early next year.

Board President Mark Sproat, one of four new board members to take office this year, declined to provide a timeline for the search process.

Sproat and other board members have declined to answer questions since the district launched an internal investigation that's been underway since August.

Days before the 2015-16 school year started, the board placed Gatta on paid leave along with John Heintz, who served as the district's chief legal officer and assistant superintendent of operations before he and Gatta resigned in November.

A forensic investigation firm and a team of attorneys hired by the district are expected to wrap up their inquiries by January, according to a statement released by the school board on Dec. 11.

Documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act show board members have approved thousands of dollars in payments the district started making back several months ago when the board hired experts to review contracts, payroll and electronic correspondence.

The board's next step will be to hire an interim superintendent, a role that's been filled since the investigation began by Ann Roloff, assistant superintendent for curriculum.

"Once this interim position has been filled, the board is committed to engaging in a thorough search process for a superintendent, which will include various methods of outreach to parents, community members and staff," Sproat said in an emailed statement on Dec. 16.

Gun shop and range lawsuit continues

A status hearing regarding an amended lawsuit against the village of Niles and the owners behind a gun shop dubbed the Sportsman's Club and Firearms Training Academy is scheduled for Jan. 6, according to attorney Tony Hind.

The hearing comes a year and half after the Niles Village Board approved a special-use permit allowing a gun shop and range to open within five miles of several schools.

Hind represents the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, Skokie-based gun control advocacy



NUCCIO DINUZZO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Niles District 219 board President Mark Sproat, from left, board members Ruth Klint and Linda Lampert, during a Sept. 8 board meeting.

group People for a Safer Society. A suit filed against the village in October 2014 sought to annul the permit granted by Niles officials in July 2014 that would allow for the sale of firearms, an indoor firing range and gun safety training at a yet-to-be-built facility at 6143 Howard St. in addition to preventing any such business from opening on the property in the future.

The initial suit was dismissed without prejudice in June by Circuit Court of Cook County Judge Franklin Ulyses Valderrama. Hind said the gun shop owners were named

as an additional defendant in the amended suit in response to the judge's decision. Mike Connelly, an attorney for the village, said he made a motion to dismiss the newest version of the lawsuit and a separate motion asking for the same was filed by James Argionis, an attorney for the gun shop owners.

Connelly said he believes the judge should once again dismiss the case "because the issues are the same as they were the last time." Argionis did not return a request for comment.

People for a Safer Society have urged the

village of Skokie to sign onto the lawsuit claiming the gun shop in neighboring Niles poses a danger to students in Skokie. Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen said the village sympathizes with their cause, but is not in a position to become a plaintiff.

Hind said next steps for the group and the lawsuit won't be known until at least the status date in January. He said it's possible the judge might also choose to issue a ruling on the matter at a later date.

Turn to 2016, Next Page



CHRIS WALKER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A view looking east shows the Niles replica of the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

2016, from Previous Page

Leaning tower repair and purchase

The YMCA of Metro Chicago announced its intention in a statement issued last month to donate the iconic half-sized Leaning Tower replica on its property to the village. The same day the YMCA press release was issued, the Niles Village Board formalized its intention to purchase the tower and approved a contract worth nearly \$550,000 for repairs to the local landmark. Village staff said at the time the asking price for the 94-foot-tall steel, stone and concrete structure on Touhy Avenue was \$10.

Communications coordinator Hayley Garrard declined to offer any comment on next steps regarding either the sale or donation of the tower or the planned repairs.

The tower was commissioned by Robert Ilg and constructed in 1934 as a creative way to hide 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. Following Ilg's death in 1964, the tower and surrounding land were left to the YMCA. The structure fell into disrepair and in 1996 the village assumed responsibility for the maintenance of the tower under a \$1 per year lease agreement with the YMCA.

The cost of the recently approved contract to repair the structure will be paid from funds generated by the newly established Gross Point-Touhy tax increment financing district, Village Manager Steve Vinezeano previously told Pioneer Press.

"The tower will be a focal point to the recently created Touhy Arts and Culture Corridor Tax Increment Financing District, and once we have refurbished the tower to its former glory, we will pursue designation



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The Leaning Tower of Niles, a half-size replica of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, looms large in Niles.

as a historical site under the National Historic Preservation Act," Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo was quoted as saying in the YMCA press release.

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

Freelance reporter Natalie Hayes contributed.

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Forgery alleged in congressional campaign

BY KATHY ROUTLIFFE
Pioneer Press

Wilmette police are investigating an incident in which a candidate in the 9th Congressional District primary is alleging someone forged her signature on a petition objecting to one of her Republican primary opponents.

Joan Lasonde, of the 600 block of Central Avenue in Wilmette, will face Susanne Atanus and David Earl Williams III in the GOP primary for the U.S. House seat currently held by Democratic Rep. Jan Schakowsky.

Lasonde recently filed a report with police alleging the forgery shortly after

getting a letter from the Illinois State Board of Elections, telling her that her objection to Atanus' candidacy had been rejected because she failed to file it correctly.

"I opened it up and I started reading it and I thought, 'Oh my gosh, I didn't object to Susanne Atanus. What are they talking about?'" Lasonde said Dec. 21.

She said the signature on the returned objector's petition was not hers, but "it looked like someone tried to make it look like mine."

After speaking with an attorney, she decided to file a police report, she said.

In the report, Wilmette police said that Lasonde

provided investigators with a written copy of her signature.

Lasonde, 50, a former advertising executive, said she would never make a formal objection to an opposing candidate.

"Definitely not at all," she said. "That's why we have elections."

She said she told police she could think of only a few people who would have known that she was running as "Joan McCarthy Lasonde," using her maiden name as well as her last name, rather than under her regular signature of "Joan M. Lasonde."

A call and email sent to Williams' campaign were not returned.

A call to Atanus seeking comment was not returned.

Ken Menzel of the Illinois State Board of Elections said Dec. 21 that the putative Lasonde objection was rejected when it arrived because petition objections must, by state statute, include both the objection and two copies, and the envelope contained only the original objection.

It was returned to Lasonde because hers was the address on the envelope in which it arrived at the board, he said. According to the letter sent to Lasonde by the state board, the objection was received by the board on Nov. 30 and mailed to Lasonde's address the same day.

Menzel said he had never heard of someone fraudulently using one candidate's signature to file an objector's petition against another candidate in the same race.

"I'm not saying it hasn't happened," he said, "but it's actually kind of silly."

The board is more familiar with attempts to prove that signatures on a nominating petition are fraudulent, he said, and even those are not all that common.

Even had the petition initially passed muster with the proper number of copies, red flags would have been raised once the board sent Lasonde and everyone else involved notice of a hearing, Menzel added.

"We would have given notice to the (objection) elector and the candidate, and I think we would have found out shortly thereafter," he said, adding, "It's a juvenile prank."

Lasonde, however, said the incident left her shaken.

"I felt totally violated," she said. "I was very upset. I'm no wimp, but I had tears in my eyes."

"I'm running a positive campaign ... and this is like mudslinging," Lasonde said. "It's very serious. This is like mail fraud; it's not like someone signed my name and wrote my sister a mean letter."

kroutliffe@pioneerlocal.com
Twitter @pioneer_kathy

Lincolnwood gains more momentum on regional bike path plan

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

A plan nine years in the making to link the village of Lincolnwood into a regional bikeway system that connects to pedestrian-friendly foot and bike paths in Chicago and Skokie could finally materialize next year, when Lincolnwood plans to open two of its own bike paths.

The first bike path was approved by village leaders earlier this year. Called the ComEd trail by village staff because the property was purchased by the utility company and doesn't have an official name yet, the path will fill a one-mile void between the end point of Chicago's Sauganash Trail at Devon Avenue and where Skokie's Rails To Trails bike path ends at Lincoln Avenue.

Village leaders have been simultaneously considering plans to build a second path on the east end of town along out-of-use railroad tracks owned by Union-Pacific. This trail will run roughly from Devon and Crawford avenues north-



MIKE ISAACS/PIONEER PRESS

Skokie's Rails To Trails multuse path travels from the Dempster Street Skokie Swift station on the north to Lincoln Avenue right at the Lincolnwood border on the south.

east to Touhy Avenue, according to the village.

Eventually, Lincolnwood's bike paths would connect to a regional bikeway system envisioned by a group of neighboring northern Chicago suburbs as a network of paths that would go north from Chicago all the way up to the Wisconsin border—starting at Bryn Mawr Avenue before connecting in Lincolnwood and

winding through Skokie, Glenview, Glencoe and Northbrook.

The village has secured a handful of federal grants to help with the costs for both paths, along with a pedestrian bridge that will be built over Touhy Avenue in 2017.

Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Grants will pay for 80 percent of the costs associated with the purchases of the ComEd and

Union-Pacific properties and the construction costs for both bike paths.

The Village Board approved the purchase of the Union Pacific property for \$4.6 million during a Dec. 15 board meeting. Village manager Tim Wiberg said construction costs to redevelop the former railroad property were estimated at another \$1.2 million. After the grants are issued, the village

would pay an out-of-pocket cost of \$1.6 million for the purchase and redevelopment of the Union Pacific property.

The ComEd bike path is estimated to cost another \$1 million, with the village's share being \$200,000, according to Wiberg. The cost for the Touhy Avenue pedestrian bridge is \$3.9 million, with the village's share at \$780,000.

"We're at an exciting time as we're fulfilling our long-term bikeway master plan," Wiberg said during the Dec. 15 Village Board meeting. "The completion of these two paths would make the village an integral part of a larger network of bike trails starting in Chicago and running up to the Wisconsin border in the case of the ComEd trail."

The village first entertained thoughts of building new bike paths to run through Lincolnwood in 2006. Village leaders came up with a bikeway plan aimed at the long-term development of a bike path system to improve bicycle circulation and establish new connections to larger

bikeway systems.

The village approved a design for the Touhy Avenue bridge last spring despite concerns about privacy and safety expressed by a handful of residents of nearby condo buildings Barclay Place and Lincolnwood Suites, who showed up during a public hearing to decry plans for the bridge.

Both paths and the bridge are expected to be open within the next two years, according to the village. Last summer, Skokie completed its portion of the Rails To Trails bike path, which travels from the Skokie Swift Dempster Street station on the north to Lincoln Avenue near the Lincolnwood border on the south.

The total project cost was \$994,500, 80 percent of which came from a grant from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency For Planning, the balance of \$198,900 of which was paid for from the village's capital improvement budget, according to earlier reporting from Pioneer Press.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Skokie urges state to license gun dealers

Controversy over Niles gun shop spurs decision

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

The Skokie Village Board Dec. 21 unanimously approved a resolution calling on the state to license firearm dealers, the first municipality in Illinois to do so, according to the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence.

The resolution calls on the Illinois General Assembly and the governor "to protect the residents of Illinois by initiating a comprehensive, state-wide licensing procedure for all firearms dealers and sellers, to help control the flow of firearms into the hands of criminals and other restricted individuals."

Approval of the resolution was witnessed by a large group of gun-control advocates at the meeting — many of whom said they have been personally affected by firearm violence.

For months, members of the group, People For a Safer Society, and supporters, asked Skokie to join their lawsuit to try to stop neighboring Niles from allowing a gun shop to be built.

Last year, the Niles Village Board approved a special-use permit allowing Sportsman's Club and Firearms Training Academy to be built at 6143 Howard St. in Niles. The Niles board later approved an extension for the special-use permit so that the facility could be constructed by the company 6143 Howard Partners.

Skokie leaders have said the issue around a municipality's home-rule authority has prevented it from becoming involved in the suit. Joining the lawsuit, they said, would undermine the

village's own legal standing and its position on home-rule rights.

People For a Safer Society has disagreed, saying that joining the lawsuit would not jeopardize home-rule authority.

Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen also said Monday the village could not join the lawsuit because it does not know whether Niles violated any of its own rules and regulations as the lawsuit alleges.

Trustee Randy Roberts, his voice breaking, read a prepared statement explaining his position against Skokie joining the suit.

"I have a fiduciary duty as a trustee to present interest in all citizens of this village when it comes to using taxpayer funds to support litigation on behalf of the village," he said. "Rightly or wrongly, many citizens of Skokie disagree with the position taken by the People For a Safer Society."

He also noted that no other government body, including Niles Township High School District 219, whose Niles West High School would be located close to the gun shop, has joined the suit.

But People For a Safer Society members countered that building the Sportsman's Club and Firearms Training Academy would directly affect Skokie since it would be located just over the border and close to some Skokie schools.

"You can't just say, 'I did that and that's all I'm going to do,'" said Denyse Stoneback, president of People For a Safer Society, referring to the resolution. "We all have to do everything we can and keep doing everything we can."

Like the last Village Board meeting, more than a dozen advocates spoke in favor of Skokie joining the suit, some providing personal testi-

mony about their loss due to gun violence.

Patricia Gadau, the mother of Maxwell Gadau, a Niles North High School student who was shot and killed last year in Skokie, displayed an overhead picture of her son, smiling.

"He was not a gang-banger, he was not a drug dealer, he was a kid just trying to make his way home and just trusted the wrong people," his mother said. "By not going along with this (lawsuit), there may be other children who look like my son that can be killed."

Garrett Evans, a survivor of the shooting massacre at Virginia Tech University, who has spoken at previous meetings, said gun violence is "everyone's problem."

"I know you don't want to have bad relations with the town next to you being Niles," he said. "But you have to understand this place is in your own backyard."

While literally applauding the resolution once the board took its action, many in attendance reiterated that it was not enough. Still, village officials and their supporters hailed the resolution as a major statement around gun safety.

"This continues Skokie's leadership on the issue," said Mark Walsh, campaign director for Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, which consulted with the village on the resolution. He said that Skokie being the first municipality to pass such a resolution will help the organization in its fight on the state level.

Village leaders emphasized that Skokie was one of the first Illinois municipalities to approve regulations on assault weapons last year when there was a short window of time to do so.

"I'm proud of our record," Van Dusen said.

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

RETAIL THEFT

■ Armando Soto, 49, of the 3200 block of Whipple Street, Chicago, was charged with retail theft on Dec. 18 after police said he altered prices on three items for sale inside a store on the 8500 block of Golf Road and then purchased them at a lower cost. He has a Jan. 27 court date.

■ Kissia Skippings, 29, of the 10000 block of Linda Lane, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with retail theft on Dec. 20 after she allegedly stole cosmetics from a store on the 9000 block of Golf Road. She has a Jan. 27 court date.

DUI

■ Shoab Aijaz, 29, of the 8400 block of Cumberland Avenue, Niles, was charged

with driving under the influence and felony possession of a controlled substance on Dec. 20 after police reportedly found him asleep behind the wheel of his car, which was stopped at a red light on Dempster Street at Cumberland Avenue around 6:30 a.m. Aijaz allegedly told police that he last remembered falling asleep in a Burger King parking lot around 5 a.m. Police said Aijaz showed signs of impairment and had inside his car a container filled with a white powdery substance, two prescription bottles with a family member's name and a contact lens container with a green, powdery substance. Aijaz has a Jan. 12 court date.

DISPUTE

■ Police were called to a home on the 8100 block of Odell Avenue on Dec. 20 after two women, ages 18 and 19, allegedly began arguing and pushing each

other over cookie crumbs that were left on a bed. One of the women said she was leaving the residence, police said.

BURGLARY TO VEHICLE

■ A man told police that recently purchased merchandise was stolen Dec. 17 from the back seat of his car while it was parked at Golf Mill Shopping Center. A computer game, two hats, earrings, a necklace, CDs and DVDs were taken, police said.

BURGLARY

■ A house on the 9800 block of Glendale Lane was burglarized Dec. 17 between 5:30 and 9:15 p.m., police said. It was not immediately known what was taken.

■ A house on the 8100 block of Lake Street was burglarized between Dec. 18 and 20, police said. It was not indicated what, if anything, was taken.

■ A cash register was reported stolen Dec. 21 from a store on the 8300 block of Golf Road. According to police, officers responded to a commercial burglar alarm at the store and discovered the rear garage door open.

THEFT

■ A woman's cellphone was stolen Dec. 19 when she let a man use it inside a gas station on the 5900 block of Touhy Avenue, police said. According to police, the man asked to use the phone for an emergency call and then immediately left the building with it.

■ A backpack was stolen Dec. 20 after it was left behind in a shopping cart outside a store on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue.

■ A woman told police that her wallet was stolen from her purse on Dec. 20 while she was eating inside the food court at Golf Mill Shopping Center.

Driver cited after hitting woman crossing street

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

A pedestrian received minor injuries after being struck by a vehicle near a Dunkin' Donuts on the 7000 block of West Dempster Street in Niles, according to police.

A 23-year-old Chicago resident was heading eastbound on Dempster Street shortly after 5 p.m. on Dec. 21 when the side mirror of his vehicle struck the arm of a 42-year-old Maywood woman as she attempted to cross the street, according to Niles police Sgt. Robert Tornabene.

The woman, who was hospitalized following the

incident, had been standing in the median of the roadway to the south of Dempster Street, police said.

The driver pulled over immediately after the incident and stayed with the woman until police arrived, Tornabene said.

He was cited for failure to exercise due care.

The pedestrian was transported to Lutheran General Hospital that evening to receive medical care for an unspecified injury to her arm, police said.

Morton Grove and Skokie police assisted in response to the incident, police said.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.



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Despite setbacks, pitcher seeks MLB job

Students hear from former New Trier baseball player

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

Ben Klimesh of Evanston and Justin Wells of Glencoe are both 2008 graduates of New Trier Township High School.

They were teammates on the Trevian baseball squad, friends since sixth grade, and were together again Dec. 15. At the invitation of Wells, a teaching assistant at the Northbrook-based North Shore Academy Elementary, Klimesh spoke to students there about his trip from the bench on New Trier's team to the minor leagues.

Klimesh, 25, a right-handed pitcher raised in Wilmette, was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in the 15th round of the 2012 MLB June Amateur Draft.

"I was never really good at baseball," Klimesh said to nearly 50 NSAE students. "I was not the best on the team and I sat on the bench a lot."

Klimesh, who was cut in his junior year as a varsity Trevian baseball player, said, "I didn't give up."

Wells, 26, who met Klimesh at tryouts for a North Shore travel baseball team, asked his friend to speak about overcoming challenges, a lesson instilled at NSAE.

"Each day our students are striving to be engaged learners and to successfully manage frustration," NSAE Principal Ann Bystedt said.

"Having Ben Klimesh come to talk about his goals, his failures and the incredible effort he put forth was wonderful," Bystedt said.

NSAE is a K-5 school that supports students within the Northern Suburban Special Education District who struggle to cope with the demands of school.

Students come to the school from across the region, including towns like Lake Forest, Kildeer, Highland Park, Deerfield, Buffalo Grove and Park Ridge.

Wells joined the NSAE staff after receiving his 2012 liberal arts degree from Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., where he played Division III baseball all four years.

Klimesh is "amazing," said Wells, who was a varsity catcher when he was at New Trier, and currently acts as the sophomore team's pitching coach.

"I thought his story would fit in perfectly and the kids would really relate to it," Wells said.

When Klimesh was cut, Wells said the



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS

Ben Klimesh talks to students at the Northbrook-based North Shore Academy Elementary.

team was "shocked," Klimesh cried, he said, but he kept training at the Strike Zone in Glenview, where today he leads a pitching camp.

"Tune out the people who say negative things," Klimesh said.

Klimesh, a 2012 business management graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio, played four years of Division III baseball there.

He was conference pitcher of the year twice and a first team All-American as a college senior. After the 2012 draft, Klimesh played for minor league clubs in Billings, Mont.; Bakersfield, Calif.; and Pensacola, Fla. In 2015, he played AA baseball in Florida and AAA in Louisville, Ky. And in April, he said he got the chance to travel with the entire Reds franchise to Montreal for an exhibition series against the Toronto Blue Jays.

"I still find myself chasing my dream," said Klimesh, who has wanted to be a baseball player since early childhood.

"He just needs his shot" at the major leagues, Wells said.

Klimesh is training in the off-season and spending the holidays with his parents, Lyle and Mary Kay Klimesh of Evanston, and his sister, Alison Patterson, a Colorado doctor.

"Ben's story embodies the cornerstones of our community at NSAE as grit, growth



Ben Klimesh signs his baseball cards for students.

mindset and gratitude," said Doug Bolton, the principal of North Shore Academy. "His story is one that we can all learn from, and we are excited to watch as his story unfolds, hopefully all the way to the major leagues."

Thomas Tilson, 11, an NSAE fifth-grader from Winnetka, said he enjoyed the presentation.

"I will try to remember that you don't just build a wall all at once, you build it brick by brick," Thomas said.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @KarieAngellLuc

Survey records lowest teen alcohol, cigarette use

BY JOHN KEILMAN
Chicago Tribune

A generation ago, it was common for dozens of Downers Grove South High School students to get caught smoking on campus. Today, says Assistant Principal Vince Walsh-Rock, a whole year can pass without a single bust.

"It just doesn't happen," he said.

It's a small example that reflects a big change in youth substance abuse. According to data released this month by the University of Michigan's Monitoring the Future survey, American teens are smoking and drinking at the lowest levels ever tracked.

Many illicit drugs have followed a similar trajectory, but school counselors and addiction specialists say it's no time to declare victory. Marijuana is a notable exception to the downward trend, and some say previous declines proved to be temporary.

But overall, the findings have given a fresh infusion of hope to those people who work to prevent teen drug and alcohol abuse. Many tears of effort, some say, appear to be paying off.

"Once teens have that knowledge about what happens to their brains and bodies,

they can make the right decision," said Laura Crowley, an educator with the Robert Crown Center in Hinsdale and president of the Illinois School Health Association.

Monitoring the Future began surveying teens about their drug, alcohol and tobacco use in 1975, a time when the drinking age in most states was 18 and schools routinely created smoking areas for their students.

Back then, 68 percent of high school seniors reported drinking alcohol within the previous month, while 37 percent admitted smoking cigarettes. Today, seniors' alcohol use has been cut nearly in half, and only 11 percent said they smoked cigarettes in the past month.

Lloyd Johnston, the survey's principal investigator, said teen drinking began to drop in the 1980s, when the federal government pushed states to increase the legal age to 21 and organizations like Mothers Against Drunk Driving began high-profile public awareness campaigns.

Smoking followed a similar track, he said, aided by mounds of bad publicity heaped upon the tobacco industry, advertising restrictions and hefty cigarette tax hikes.

Steve Murray, director of counseling at Notre Dame College Prep in Niles, offered an

additional theory: Many schools have adopted "24/7" codes of conduct in the past decade, taking away privileges from students caught smoking or drinking.

One wild card in the data comes from e-cigarettes. Far more teens used those devices than smoked cigarettes, partly because they don't see them as dangerous, partly because they like the exotic flavors offered by manufacturers, Johnston said.

Dr. Gregory Teas, chief medical officer at AMITA Health Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital in Hoffman Estates, said that is cause for concern.

"Addictionologists don't see that as a good trend because the amount of nicotine is at least as potent as cigarettes," he said. "We think they're probably safer because you're not getting (tar and other chemicals from combustion), but we won't know for years."

Marijuana is another troubling exception to the downward trend. About 21 percent of high school seniors said they used pot within the prior month, and while that is well below the 37 percent peak recorded in 1978, it hasn't budged much since 2010.

Some experts say that's a reflection of the mixed messages teens are getting about the drug in an age of legalization and medical

use. Dr. Thomas Wright, chief medical officer of the Rosecrance Health Network, said pushing marijuana use in the same direction as alcohol and cigarettes will require similar public awareness efforts.

The Illinois Youth Survey tracks many of the same trends as Monitoring the Future, and it has noted similar declines in recent years. Its most recent version, released in 2014, found that 44 percent of high school seniors drank in the past month, while 13 percent smoked cigarettes — both down from 2008. As with the national numbers, though, marijuana use was essentially unchanged at 26 percent.

Beth Welbes of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Center for Prevention Research and Development, the organization that produces the survey, said the overall positive movement for teen drug and alcohol consumption shows that evidence-based prevention programs can be effective.

"We had a lot more good news than we had bad news (in recent survey findings)," Welbes said. "I think that's reason to celebrate, but also to stay vigilant."

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A woman makes a purchase on Christmas Eve at the McDonald's in the Hinsdale Oasis.

CHUCK FIELDMAN/PIONEER PRESS

A Christmas Eve oasis

Hinsdale tollway rest stop provides place to stretch

BY CHUCK FIELDMAN
Pioneer Press

Three-year-old Kahna Duncan's eyelids were visibly heavy from a need to sleep, but she wasn't about to pass up an opportunity to play, even if it was Christmas Eve at the Hinsdale Oasis.

Kahna's dad, Thomas, watched his daughter have a few minutes of fun in a play area at the tollway oasis above Interstate 294 while his wife, Violet, grabbed a cup of coffee at McDonald's. That was the only outlet for food and drink that stayed open beyond 7 p.m. on this holiday night, as Christmas songs over speakers throughout the oasis competed with the noise of air blowers.

"We have a 12-hour drive ahead of us," Thomas Duncan said. "We were in Ra-

cine, and we're going back to Booneville, Miss."

Duncan and his wife drove to Racine a day earlier to pick up their daughter, who had spent the past month with her aunt.

"We did a few things in Chicago today, and now we're heading back home," Duncan said.

Devin Knotts of Hinsdale stopped with his fiancée at McDonald's on the way back to Deerfield from Romeoville and a visit with her parents.

"It's not too far, but we're leaving at noon tomorrow for Ohio," Knotts said, noting the trip was to see his grandparents.

Tim Kuscik stopped for a snack, but his ride home wasn't nearly as far.

"I'm from Orland Park, and I'm coming back from seeing family in Gurnee," he



Kahna Duncan, 3, of Mississippi, has some Christmas Eve fun in the play area of the Hinsdale Oasis.

said. "I'm going back tomorrow."

Someone who was going back to the Hinsdale Oasis on Christmas night after spending a 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. shift there on Christmas Eve was McDonald's em-

ployee Jordan Adams of Justice.

"I found out about four days prior that I had to work Christmas Eve and Christmas," he said. "I was bothered by that some, but I've been working here for

about a year, and I was scheduled. I would rather be at home with family, but I'll get to spend some time with family on Christmas Day before I have to come back to work."

Other than a small, infrequent flow of people coming in to buy something at McDonald's or use the restroom, the Hinsdale Oasis was a quiet place on Christmas Eve, especially after about 7 p.m.

"It was pretty busy during the day, but it really died down about 7," said Alan Rodriguez, a building supervisor. "I'm sure there will be some people stopping in all during the night, but it will be quiet."

Bob Mullane made a pit stop with his wife and two sons, ages 13 and 8, about 15 minutes after leaving the home of a family member in La Grange Park. They had

about a 90-mile drive back home to Oglesby.

"We stopped for the boys to use the washroom," he said. "Yeah, we probably should have done that before we left, but here we are."

James Holden of Hammond, Ind., made a quick stop for coffee at McDonald's. He's a truck driver based out of South Holland, who already had made a stop in Romeoville and was headed to the U.S. Postal Service's Bulk Mail Center in Forest Park.

"I've been doing this for 36 years," he said. "We have family in from California and New Jersey, and I'm fortunate because I'll be with my family on Christmas. Every day is a holiday when you can get home."

cfieldman@pioneerlocal.com
Twitter @chuckwriting

A national New Year's resolution for greater equality



RANDY BLASER

Everyone has hope for the future. It is something that binds us together.

As we stand on the precipice of a new year, across the globe we wish each other a "Happy New Year."

Yet we all know that happy new years just don't happen of their own accord. To have a truly Happy New Year, we know deep down we have to do something about it.

So we make resolutions as each new year begins.

We're going to be better in 2016. We're going to lose weight, exercise more, get in shape, don't eat so much, don't drink so much, work harder at work and be better in our relationships with our loved ones at home.

So it really isn't up to chance whether we have a happy new year. It is up to us. We know from past experience what we need to do, or ought to do, to improve our lives.

The question is, will we do it?

Of course, some things are out of our hands. We

can't control the weather or the national economy or whether there will be peace in the world. We are dependent on others for that, specifically our elected leaders.

We are going to have an election in 2016, so we have a great opportunity to elect leaders who will be more responsive to the needs of the people, to the desires of the country at large.

But will they pay attention?

What are the needs of the people?

More jobs and better jobs certainly could benefit everyone. For a long time now, many people who

We are going to have an election in 2016, so we have a great opportunity to elect leaders who will be more responsive to the needs of the people.

have lost jobs have not been able to find work of the same kind or quality. For them, every year has been a greater struggle than the last. They hope 2016 will be better.

In 2015, we've seen that racial injustice still exists in this great land. The Black Lives Matter movement pushed for a greater recognition that black lives are

not insignificant. In 2015, some people tried to negate or enlarge the notion with the slogan "All Lives Matter." And of course they do.

But in 2016, we need to recognize that we have a very serious problem in our nation when many African-Americans still live in desperate poverty, in families with just one parent and children going to inferior

schools. Young people suffer from a serious lack of education.

Perhaps in 2016, we might even recognize this serious problem that we have in our country. That's the first step to addressing it.

If we were to have a national New Year's Resolution, then I would like it to be this:

That we are going to address the serious national problem of inequality in public education for our students who are African-American.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

The holidays are a time for reminiscing



PAUL SASSONE

The holiday season isn't just a time. It's a place.

For many of us, that place is where we grew up, where we spent the holiday season as a child.

For me, that place was a small, brown, three-bedroom wooden house in Bellwood.

Every year about this time, I drive over to the old neighborhood to look around, to see what has changed, and to remember.

Nobody I know lives there anymore. The houses look pretty much the same, mostly. Lots of new siding and paint. The vacant corner lot on which we used to build snow forts now has an apartment building on top of it.

But, it's still my old neigh-

borhood. I recognize it even if it no longer recognizes me.

After a leisurely ride-around, I park in front of the house I grew up in.

I sit and remember Christmas and the holidays.

I think about what my sister, Sharon, reminded me of in her Christmas card from far-away Oregon, where she, alas, lives. She writes so much better than I can about those long-ago Christmases. I don't think she'd mind if I shared what she wrote:

"Remembering those simple but so pleasant Christmases when we were kids. Who knew then what a treasure they were? Remember picking out the tree at the lot? The arrival of Dad's crate of fruit (his annual Christmas "bonus")? Inexpensive gifts that meant so much? Searching for them in the closet when Mom and Dad weren't home? Our fake mantle that held our Christmas stockings?"

All this and more floods my heart. The gifts under

the tree — just what I asked for. The real, redolent Christmas trees, even the one Dad had to put up twice because my brother, Mike, and I knocked it over rough-housing, even the all-crusty one that Mom tried to flock herself.

Sometimes I think about asking the present owner of what used to be my home if I can come in and look around.

But, then I think: What would I do if a large stranger knocked at my door and asked to be let in to wander around — all for sentimental reasons?

And it's probably not a good idea, anyway.

I want to see my old, beloved home the way it was, not the way it is. The way it is will be someone else's memories.

I have my own.

So, I sit in my car a bit longer — just a bit longer.

Then I drive away.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

SCOTT STANTIS



SCOTT STANTIS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We want to hear from you! Send your letters to the editor to suburbanletters@tribpub.com. Letters should not exceed 250 words and should include your name, phone number and address (only your name and town will be published).

I resolve to promote reason in 2016



PAT LENHOFF

On Dec. 31, the traditional countdown will occur as we bid adieu to 2015 and welcome New Year 2016. With a little time to catch our breath, we'll officially end the holiday season and prepare for the usual routine after this weekend.

Along with the palate cleanser that January by its nature presents, it also signals a time when we try to renew our commitment to some resolutions meant to improve our lives and the lives of those around us. Whether we resolve to pay better attention to healthy living, charitable giving, kindness in our interactions with family and friends, taking time to gather as much information as possible before forming an opinion on hot topics ... any of those undertakings, to name a

few, are worthy choices for the resolution list.

Same goes for me. Every year, a new diet/exercise agenda begins my January. Sometimes I'm successful, sometimes not. I've resolved to keep trying my best but to also accept that my physiology might have different ideas than my brain does about when I look good (or don't). That's why, although healthful living is a good resolution for all, it shouldn't be the only one. There are so many other important issues that deserve attention and resolve, as well.

So, as I scan my resource file to see what topics have been drawing attention the past year and demand an informed dialogue to make headway in meetings of the mind, here are some items that have brought much conflict, and which I've resolved to perform due diligence in order to grasp the full scope of each issue:

- I resolve to sit and have a good discussion with teaching professionals, including the two educators in my family, to further understand the reasons/

methods/goals behind the new PARCC testing.

- I resolve to take my initial (very positive) reaction to Vernon Hills High School's "Walk a Mile in Her Hijab," mix in the many viewpoints reflected in newspapers' letters to editors, which included comments like "how about wearing a cross for a day?" and try to come to a clearer perspective on the complex issue of religious tolerance and separation of church and state.

- I resolve not to buy one of my favorite seafood delicacies, shrimp, unless it's fished in American waters, until the issue of slave labor in the area of the world centered in Thailand has been resolved.

- I resolve to pay closer attention to local iterations of unilateral issues, like hunger, homelessness and violence/abuse.

That's my resolution list for the year.

Pat Lenhoff is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

viewfromvh@yahoo.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reduce gun violence through legislation

Niles approved a special-use permit for the construction of a gun shop and shooting range at 6143 W. Howard St. As a member of this community, I am concerned about the facility's close proximity to schools and the lack of common sense gun laws that the majority of Americans support.

The U.S. House of Representatives recently voted to pass the American Security Act requiring enhanced scrutiny of Syrian

refugees. This action was taken to protect America from the terrorists entering the country disguised as refugees.

As I watched the events unfold of the latest mass shooting in San Bernardino, I cannot help but wonder why our elected officials have done little to address gun violence in this country. It has been three years since the horrific mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary on Dec. 14, 2012, when so many young lives were

senselessly cut short.

It is time for meaningful gun safety legislation. Illinois requires hair braiders to be licensed, but not gun dealers. This makes little sense. Stronger licensing requirements like those proposed in Illinois SB1883 would ensure oversight of gun dealers and would be a first step toward reducing gun violence. Now is the time for change!

—Jean Hedstrom, Skokie



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

Holiday cards are just one part of the December rush for many people.

Christmas cards are a diary of our lives



LYNN PETRAK

I may complain about it sometimes, but I secretly love writing out our family Christmas cards.

It's not because I pen some long-winded letter about how my kids are rocket scientists and bound for the Olympics, but because the time spent signing, addressing, sealing and stamping the cards is usually late at night and solo. I pour some wine, put on some Pandora Christmas carols, sit near the twinkling tree and garland, and write out the names of people in my life, most of them near and dear.

I certainly love and use social media on a daily basis, but there is something about the tangibility of handwriting a card and thumbing through an address book that you just can't get from uploading and posting one image or

looking up addresses on the web white pages.

From an old address book, you can see the timeline of your friends' and family's lives — how they've moved over the years, maybe gotten married, had kids, had some more kids.

Because I tend to be nostalgic in an admittedly melancholy way, I also can't help to reflect on people in that address book who are no longer with us, from aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins to family friends to friends of your own who have passed away. As brief as that moment is when lingering over such a name, it's a reminder that the lyrics from the popular Christmas carol, "Through the years, we all will be together, if the fates allow," really resonate.

Likewise, when I open up cards from my college roommates, I'm reminded about the roles we played in each other's lives, even briefly. I may not have seen a couple of my college roommates since my wedding reception, but I look forward to their card

every year, the way I do with my husband's college roommates' annual family photo and greeting.

The faces of friends we've met at different points in our lives — and, more recently, that our kids have met in their lives — hang around our house (literally, hung with clothespins along a wide ribbon over a door) for a good month and a half. I'll finally take down the cards in late January or early February, when I'm anxious to put up the Valentine's Day decorations in an effort to speed up the arrival of spring.

I keep some of the cards from friends and family and am glad I do, because I sometimes come across them when I'm going through bins filled with holiday decorations and items. It may slow me down during the decorating process and it certainly adds to the clutter of the house, but it's a good reminder of the importance of people in my life. Even when, as the carol goes, we "just have to muddle through somehow."

Happy 2016, everyone!

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'The best meal I ate this year'

Chicago chefs share their top picks of 2015

BY VERONICA HINKE
Pioneer Press

We asked 50 Chicago chefs and food pros to name one meal they fell in love with this year. From new and trendy to fancy and decadent to trusted and traditional, here are 50 ways not to lose your love for the Chicago area dining scene.

GALE GAND

FOUNDING PASTRY CHEF/PARTNER,
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Best meal: Starters — Pickled Braised Beef Cheeks with Heirloom Carrot Slaw, Sauerkraut Pierogis with Cherry Bomb Pepper Caramel, Wild Rice Gnocchi with Braised Rabbit, and Scotch Hen Egg with Duck Sausage. Entrees — Bourbon Red Turkey combination (Milanese breast and braised leg) with Almond Risotto, and Perkin's pork combination with fennel sausage and roasted belly with lentils and cranberry mostarda. Dessert — Goey Butter Cake

Restaurant: Vie Restaurant, 4471 Lawn Ave., Western Springs; www.VieRestaurant.com

The skinny: "We had four first courses that were all spectacular. Everything I had was delicious and exciting in my mouth. Chef Paul Virant tends to always have a touch of acid in each dish whether it's vinegar or citrus and it really makes every bite taste so alive and vibrant."

STEPHEN GILLANDERS

CHEF-IN-RESIDENCE, INTRO IN CHICAGO

Best meal: Korean BBQ, Japchae (a stir-fried noodle dish with beef, vegetables and sesame oil), kimchee fried rice, grilled mackerel, naengmyeon (cold noodles in a chilled broth with hard boiled eggs and pickles) and about a dozen side dishes

Restaurant: Cho Sun Ok, 4200 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago; www.ChoSunOkRestaurant.com

The skinny: "It's just my wife and I here in



STEPHEN GILLANDERS

Stephen Gillanders said he ate his favorite meal of the year at Cho Sun Ok.

Chicago, so preparing a Thanksgiving feast for the two of us wasn't the plan, however, we didn't want to miss out on the quintessential feast of the year. Seon, my Korean wife, has been yearning for Korean food since we moved here and when we found out that Cho Sun Ok was open on Thanksgiving, it was a no-brainer. We jumped into a cab and found ourselves to be the only car on the road with no signs of life, until we pulled up to the restaurant, which had about two dozen people queuing outside at 5 p.m. on Thanksgiving. After the wait, we sat and ordered enough food for a small family. It was a wonderful night for us and quite possibly a new tradition. My wife's family lives in Korea, and I was always treated to wonderful meals in their home, and this meal at Cho Sun Ok brought me back to that: an evening full of food, love and laughter ... after all isn't that what Thanksgiving is all about?"

JASON HAMMEL

CHEF/OWNER, LULA CAFE IN CHICAGO

Best meal: Prawn heads; ceviche; Spanish tortilla and more

Restaurant: MFK, 432 W. Diversey Parkway, Chicago; www.MFKRestaurant.com

The skinny: "Like shockingly good. Every bite of all our food was seasoned with the kind of touch I like: full of lemon and salt and salty sea flavors. I happen to be married to the toughest critic in town (Amalea

Tshilds), and she had an amazing smile all night long."

VINCE DiBATTISTA

CHEF/PARTNER, CAMPAGNOLA AND UNION
PIZZERIA IN EVANSTON

Best meal: Boltwood Burger with crispy potatoes and gooey butter bar

Restaurant: Boltwood, 804 Davis St., Evanston; www.BoltwoodEvanston.com

The skinny: "This was a perfect lunch meal: simple, delicious, and locally sourced. I appreciate the details — from the fresh brioche bun (by Hewn, Evanston) to the crispy pickles to the Rare Tea Cellars Litchi Noir iced tea. I feel very fortunate to have a place like Boltwood in my town to dine."



VINCE DiBATTISTA

Vince DiBattista fell for the Boltwood Burger at Boltwood in Evanston.

JENNIFER EISEN

OWNER, HOUSE 406 IN NORTHBROOK

Best Meal: Tortelli al Tartufo

Restaurant: Tocco, 1266 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago; www.toccochicago.com

The Skinny: "Hands down my favorite meal this year was one late Sunday night at Tocco on Milwaukee in Bucktown. Their wood oven pizzas were out of this world, their desserts were divine, but the real stand-out winner was the Tortelli al Tartufo which is a tortelli filled with ricotta and spinach served in a truffle cream sauce. I actually licked the plate. While I live in the North Suburbs, we still drove down for carry-out three times the same week I tried it."

STEVE LEVITON

EXECUTIVE CHEF,
TASTE ON CHESTNUT IN WINNETKA

Best meal: Fig and Gorgonzola Risotto; Yellowfin Tuna and Fall Sea Scallop; Tuscan Artichoke; Carrots and Brussels Sprouts; Jamon Iberico

Restaurant: Fig & Olive, 104 E. Oak St., Chicago; www.FigAndOlive.com

The skinny: "The Iberico ... ridiculous. Truly enjoyed all the flavors in the yellow-tail tuna, especially the marcona almond. The Tuscan artichoke and carrots and Brussels sprouts both were great openers. Finished with the fig and Gorgonzola risotto, which was captivating to say the least."

PAWEL MARSZALEK

EXECUTIVE CHEF,
THE CLUBHOUSE IN OAK BROOK

Best meal: Soft Shell Crab; Pork Belly Buns with fresh house Ceviche; Maki Rolls; Crazy Eight and Crouching Tiger, Hidden Goddess

Restaurant: Enso, 1613 N. Damen Ave., Chicago; www.EnsoChicago.com

The skinny: "Everyone has their sushi spot, and I would like to shine a bright light on this little dark and sultry place. Enso is always fresh and is a unique gem in my neighborhood. The staff is friendly, and their take on sushi is eclectic, modern and sexy. Their wines and cocktails are perfect for a night out with friends or a romantic date for two."

REBECCA LAMALFA

EXECUTIVE SOUS CHEF,
TRENCHERMAN IN CHICAGO

Best meal: Crudite

Restaurant: Boeufhaus, 1012 N. Western Ave., Chicago; www.Boeufhaus.com

The skinny: "The Boeufhaus is such an amazing experience boutique steak house, the crudite is just the best thing on the

Turn to Food, Page 17

Food, from Page 16

menu. The veggies are perfectly crisp and the green goddess dressing is to die for. Also they have a fleischnacka on the menu. It's a pasta snail (rolled meat) with sausage filling that is an old Alsatian dish that is decadent and just a great nod to the past."

CHEF RICK BAYLESS

OWNER, FRONTERA GRILL,
TOPLOBAMPO, XOCO IN CHICAGO

Best meal: Tigelle

Restaurant: Alinea, 1723 N. Halsted St., Chicago; www.AlineaRestaurant.com

The skinny: "I couldn't believe how satisfying the whole experience was, rather than just entertaining. I love this classic combination of the finest ham, homemade cheese and tomato with the addition of rosemary and garlic served in a way where you can compose yourself. The homemade tigelle has perfect texture. I honestly wanted to order a second helping of this appetizer but my wife told me to 'slow your roll, we have an entire meal to eat.'"

JOHN ARANZA

OWNER, AUTRE MONDE IN BERWYN

Best Meal: Crunchy prawn heads (flash fried) with salbitxada (a Catalan sauce)

Restaurant: MFK, 432 W. Diversey Parkway, Chicago; www.MFKRestaurant.com

The Skinny: "This Catalan dish with crunchy, salty bites and its 'dippy' salbitxada cohort was washed down with a high acid glass of Txakolina Rose. This is just about the closest to perfection the year came to — so much that we came back just a day later to repeat the process, rather than the obligatory pinch to make sure it, in fact, really had happened."

DEBBIE EVANS

CHEF/OWNER,
THE PECKISH PIG IN EVANSTON

Best meal: Panecitos Saleros — Mexican bread with lava rock chile and cultured butter with Bistek Anejado (21-day aged butcher's cut steak) with papas fritas, carrots and cascabel catsup

Restaurant: Cantina 1910, 5025 N. Clark St., Chicago; www.Cantina-1910.com

The skinny: "Eating food that you know has been sourced locally, gives you such a good feeling all round, and the fact that the flavors and pairing of ingredients excite ones taste buds is reason alone."



DEBBIE EVANS

Debbie Evans said her favorite meal in 2015 was the Panecitos Saleros at Cantina 1910.

GREG CARTER

EXECUTIVE CHEF,
TEN MILE HOUSE IN EVANSTON

Best Meal: Russian Caviar Christmas

Restaurant: Publican, 837 W. Fulton Market, Chicago; ThePublicanRestaurant.com

The Skinny: "I brought my two sons and my eldest son's girlfriend down to The Little Goat Diner, Au Cheval and Publican. It was a beautiful summer afternoon and we had a great time. Of those three, my favorite was Publican. Don't think that the other two weren't great but they just seem to have everything in place at Publican. A long-time friend of ours joined us and the five us sipped craft beer and ciders and enjoyed pork rinds, warm bread with artisan butter, white anchovy bruschetta, chicken liver pate and tripe."

PAUL FEHRIBACH

CHEF/CO-OWNER, BIG JONES IN CHICAGO

Best Meal: Vintage Beef, Artichoke Tatin; Almond Clafoutis with Vintage Calvados and picture-perfect petit fours

Restaurant: Brindille, 534 N. Clark St., Chicago; www.brindille-chicago.com

The Skinny: "The execution there is just outstanding and the room is just sexy — from absinthe-laced Champagne cocktails and gougeres to the finish of an almond clafoutis with vintage calvados and picture-perfect petit fours, it's one of my favorite places to go for a special meal. Best kept secret: the rib of beef there reigns supreme in my mind for Chicago's top steak. That it

comes with an artichoke tatin and a dark, viscous jus is over the top. Some real gems on the wine list too, we selected a 2006 E. Guigal Côtes Rotie Chateau de Ampuis that's one of my wines of the year."

CINDY SUMMERS

OWNER, SUGAR FIXE PAISSERIE
IN OAK PARK AND CHICAGO

Best Meal: Chili Mentaiko Spaghetti

Restaurant: Momotaro, 820 W. Lake St., Chicago; www.momotarochicago.com

The Skinny: "My mouth is watering just thinking about it. The sauce was amazing, especially after popping the Jidori egg yolk hidden under the perfectly cooked pasta. It was really unexpected that my favorite dish at a Japanese restaurant would be pasta."

BELINDA CHANG

DIRECTOR OF WINE, SPIRITS AND SERVICE,
MAPLE & ASH IN CHICAGO

Best meal: Martini and Crab Cake

Restaurant: Gibsons, 1028 N. Rush St., Chicago; www.GibsonsSteakhouse.com

The skinny: "For me, the real focus of this year has been returning home to Chicago after an eight-year field trip to Manhattan and joining the team to open our new restaurant, Maple & Ash in the Gold Coast. My final interview for that job took place at Gibsons, my menu talk with our Chef, Danny Grant, was at Gibsons and my favorite meals this year have been at this Chicago icon, that to many people, including me, defines one great aspect of Chicago dining and hospitality"

ELLEN KING

HEAD BAKER, HEWN IN EVANSTON

Best Meal: Lost Control

Restaurant: Parachute, 3500 N. Elston Ave., Chicago www.ParachuteRestaurant.com

The Skinny: "I finally had the chance to visit Parachute — and it was worth the wait. Being a baker, I had to try their baked potato bing bread with bacon, scallions and sour cream butter. I shouldn't have started with that because I couldn't stop eating it. But, I dug deep and forced myself to move on. We ordered the pork belly and mung bean pancake and their slow cooked beef brisket. Again it was too good, but I had to make room for the cauliflower with tandoori chicken and the roasted root vegetables with chicken of the woods mushrooms. I normally am a wine or beer drinker, but I tried the whiskey sour. What can I say? It was so good I pounded it. I guess to

sum up the whole meal: I totally lost control and gorged myself because it was all too good."

CHRIS AYUKAWA

EXECUTIVE CHEF,
NICHE RESTAURANT IN GENEVA

Best Meal: Nabeyaki Udon

Restaurant: Tensuke Market, 3 S. Arlington Heights Road, Elk Grove Village; www.TensukeChicago.com

The Skinny: "For me this is the ultimate fall/winter (and occasionally spring/summer) noodle bowl. It has everything I need: Noodles, chicken thigh, eggs, kabocha (a squash) and not to mention a killer omni broth. I work purely with the hopes to one day own a hot tub filled with this stuff."

STEPHANIE IZARD

CHEF/OWNER, GIRL & THE GOAT
AND LITTLE GOAT IN CHICAGO

Best Meal: Szechuan Dumplings

Restaurant: Sze Chuan Cuisine, 2414 S. Wentworth Ave., Chicago; www.SzechuanCuisineChicago.com

The Skinny: "In red spicy oil ... so delicious. They were the first thing I ate in Chicago that made me feel like I was right back in Cheng Du, China."

MICHAEL SWING

EXECUTIVE CHEF,
KUMA'S CORNER IN CHICAGO

Best Meal: The "Gio Joe" and a side of pimento mac and cheese

Restaurant: Honey Butter Fried Chicken, 3361 N. Elston Ave., Chicago; www.HoneyButter.com

The Skinny: "I mostly love this sandwich because it's a secret sandwich not on the normal menu. They have amazing staff that really boost the dining experience."

BRET BOHNING

EXECUTIVE CHEF, MARION STREET
CHEESE MARKET IN OAK PARK

Best Meal: Pig's Ear

Restaurant: Purple Pig, 500 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago; www.ThePurplePigChicago.com

The Skinny: "It's fried pig's ear with crispy kale, pickled cherry peppers and a fried egg. Such a comfort meal; balanced and interactive. Triple up the portion size and I'd be happy for the whole night."

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-CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

"Lively... a good holiday laugh"
-CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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PARK RIDGE PARK DISTRICT

Families will have fun and a good workout at Dance It Off! at the Centennial Fitness Center in Park Ridge.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Dance for your health in free Park Ridge classes

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Everyone overeats during the holidays. Your family can start getting back in shape if you Dance It Off! 9-11 a.m. Jan. 9 at Centennial Fitness Center, 1515 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge.

"It's a free class. All ages are welcome to participate. All levels are welcome," said Centennial Fitness Center Manager Amy Murrin. "It will be a nice way to kick off the year with dancing from three different types of format. Dancing always makes people feel good. They smile and have fun."

Participants can try line dancing, MIXXED Fit (club dancing with strength components) and WERQ (dancing to pop, rock and hip-hop music) in one class from 9:15-10:15 a.m.

From 9-9:15 a.m. and 10:15-10:30 a.m., Athleticore will offer Happy Dancing Feet exercises, and assess participants' feet. Free massages will be offered throughout the event by Vive Therapeutic Massage.

"It's focusing on getting

back into the groove to get people moving in the New Year," Murrin said.

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

Another chance to dance

Parents will be dancing with kids as young as newborns at Live Bibliobop with Wendy & DB, 10-11 a.m. Jan. 8 at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. It's another great workout for the whole family led by the popular children's entertainers.

For details, call 847-663-1234 or go to www.nileslibrary.org.

Thinking inside the box

An adventure awaits for children with autism at "Red Kite, Brown Box: A Special Needs Theater Adventure" 1:30-2 p.m., 2:30-3 p.m. or 4-4:30 p.m. Jan. 9 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. This one-of-a-kind experience, created by Jacqueline Russell, artistic director of Chicago Children's Theater, is for ages 5-12 with an

adult caregiver. Registration is required.

For details, call 847-673-7774 or go to www.skokielibrary.info.

Funny food fight

Breakfast is a riot in "Lady Pancake & Sir French Toast" by Josh Funk. The children's book will be read during a special storytime, 11 a.m. Jan. 2 at Barnes and Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. There will be related activities.

For details, call 847-676-2230 or go to www.barnesandnoble.com.

Scientific thinking

Start your children early on the road to understanding science at a Science Olympiad Storytime, 10-11 a.m. Jan. 7 at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. There will be stories and simple hands-on science activities for ages 3-5 with a parent or caregiver. Registration is required.

For details, call 847-965-4220 or go to www.mgpl.org.

St. Nicholas Ball raises \$1.2M for Catholic Charities

Event: St. Nicholas Ball
Benefiting: Catholic Charities of Chicago children's programs
Chairs: Honorary chairmen Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland, president/CEO Catholic Charities; 2015 chair-couple Al and Mary Ann Moschner of Lake Forest
Location: Hilton Chicago
Date: Dec. 4
Attended: 1,250
Raised: \$1.2 million
Website: www.catholiccharities.net



LEE A. LITAS/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Tara Moran of Glenview, director of major gifts.



Megan and Tim Horton of Wilmette, board members, from left, and Father Wayne Watts of Chicago, Catholic Charities



Len Wiatr of Mt. Prospect, from left, vice chairman Catholic Charities, with daughter Lisa Wiatr, educator St. Norbert School in Northbrook, daughter Chrissy Butz of Northbrook, and wife Cheryl Wiatr of Mount Prospect, former event co-chairman



Alexi and Liz Saed of Northbrook



Sheila Mickus of Northfield, left, and Carol Benway of Naperville



AVENUES TO INDEPENDENCE PHOTOS

Clark and Marianne Gapen of Winnetka, from left, with Ann and Bill Dodds of Glencoe

'Spotlight on Wine' raises \$51,000 for Avenues to Independence

Event: 11th Annual Spotlight on Wine
Benefiting: Avenues to Independence, Park Ridge, that provides programs to Chicago area adults with physical, intellectual and other developmental disabilities
Location: Preston Bradley Hall, Chicago Cultural Center
Date: Oct. 29
Attended: 250+
Raised: \$51,000



Ralph Beck and Elizabeth Goodbody of Evanston



Cathy and Tom Donovan of Northbrook



Jerry Feldman of Park Ridge, left, with Linda and Stuart Shayman of Deerfield

We want to publish your photos. To submit, visit <http://community.chicagotribune.com> or email community@pioneerlocal.com.

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
1605 E Central Rd, # 203A, Arlington Heights	Lawrence J Borski	Carol A Robb	12-01-15	\$130,000
1605 W Partridge Ct, # 1925 1, Arlington Heights	Hern Jln Kim & Sung Ji Eo	Richard P Schaffer	11-25-15	\$169,000
1704 N Wilshire Ave, Arlington Heights	Angel Zhekov & Temenuga Zhekov	KI Investment Group Llc	11-27-15	\$250,000
1542 N Kennicott Ave, Arlington Heights	Andrew S Kugler	Sarah L Renteria	12-01-15	\$271,000
3978 New Haven Ave, Arlington Heights	Robert Thomas	Maricela Hernandez	11-30-15	\$275,000
218 S Highland Ave, Arlington Heights	Bruno C Grund & Patricia H Grund	James P Brouder	11-27-15	\$474,000
685 Grove Dr, # 101 2, Buffalo Grove	Bianca Emilia Pop	Bank Of America Na	11-25-15	\$64,000
225 Lake Blvd, # 529, Buffalo Grove	Natalia Patent	Boris Tabak	11-27-15	\$93,000
500 Arbogate Ln, Buffalo Grove	Joseph Bruno & Patrick Bruno	Lake County Sheriff	11-25-15	\$178,000
410 Chatham Cir, Buffalo Grove	Carmen Hernandez Gomez & Edgardo Hernandez Gomez	Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp	11-25-15	\$240,000
340 Springside Ln, Buffalo Grove	Liezl M Heaton	Michael Farrenkopf	11-30-15	\$390,500
1342 Devonwood Ct, Buffalo Grove	Traci R Kogan	Joseph A Geniesse	11-30-15	\$403,500
2260 Carlyle Ct, Buffalo Grove	Michael H Castle	James Oesterreicher	11-25-15	\$636,650
9477 Bay Colony Dr, # 3S, Des Plaines	Jacek Hickiewicz	James M Sokulski	11-27-15	\$92,000
8910 Robin Dr, # B, Des Plaines	Manuel Landl	Fannie Mae	11-30-15	\$114,900
1837 Pine Ct, Des Plaines	Natalia Lukatch	Zeki Dageri	11-25-15	\$128,000
900 Lee St, # 308, Des Plaines	Brian Lov & Wunyan Wong	Fannie Mae	12-01-15	\$180,000
909 Beau Dr, Des Plaines	Maheshkumar Patel & Sunita M Patel	Indravadan K Patel	11-25-15	\$180,000
1351 E Forest Ave, Des Plaines	Brendan Touhy	Charles G Huber	12-01-15	\$180,000
1675 Mill St, # 208, Des Plaines	Suraj Gundapaneni & Monica R Vennura	Carstens Trust	11-27-15	\$190,000
1694 S Cora St, Des Plaines	William B Haworth & Jennifer C Haworth	Lundquis Trust	12-01-15	\$209,500
1805 E Oakton St, Des Plaines	John Imburgia	Steven J Patterson	11-30-15	\$210,000
2501 E Emerson St, Des Plaines	Baisal Pereira & Lizzie Perelra	Alyce C Zalazinski	11-30-15	\$212,500
356 Brentwood Dr, Des Plaines	Aldeusz M Jozefczyk & Joanna B Jozefczyk	William G Schwartz	11-30-15	\$246,000
1248 Evergreen Ave, # 1248, Des Plaines	David M Brown & Ellen Brown	Keith T Christensen	11-27-15	\$277,000
9241 N Lincoln Ave, Des Plaines	Michael P Brace & Victoria Brace	Garp Development Inc	11-25-15	\$405,000
2140 Dobson St, Evanston	Robert A Picciarrello	Suntrust Mortgage Inc Ttee	11-27-15	\$151,000
500 Lake St, # 502, Evanston	Martha J Rudy	Charles W Starnes	11-30-15	\$212,000
2127 Dobson St, Evanston	Timothy R Fisher & Sarah K Fisher	Hector Carbajal	11-30-15	\$248,000
1236 Chicago Ave, # 310, Evanston	Nancy J Loewenstein	Shelley Ballard	11-25-15	\$330,000
2111 Sherman Ave, Evanston	Yogesh Sheth & Varsha Sheth	Prasad Kholkute	11-30-15	\$439,000
1740 Oak Ave, # 602A, Evanston	William Wood	Chaim Altbach	11-27-15	\$520,000
3205 Park Pl, Evanston	Scott Woodruff & Sarah Woodruff	Emilie Clark	11-25-15	\$525,000
1843 Asbury Ave, Evanston	Meredith B Spitz & Eric M Spitz	Jo A Largent	12-01-15	\$550,500
1416 Florence Ave, Evanston	Phillip T Thrush & Devon L Thrush	Michael J Dalton	11-30-15	\$645,000
1007 Wesley Ave, Evanston	Michael Mccarville & Sara Mccarville	Carole R Brite	11-25-15	\$820,000
322 Nordica Ave, Glenview	Elizabeth Cronin & Sang Hoon Lee	April Peterson	11-30-15	\$290,000
1887 Westleigh Dr, Glenview	Steven W Flack & Monyca P Flack	Schmidt Trust	12-01-15	\$362,500
1146 Prairie Lawn Rd, Glenview	Fred Betsoleiman & Sandra Betsoleiman	Kenneth E Coston	11-30-15	\$405,000
1906 Dauntless Dr, Glenview	Ira J Schreiber & Stephanie M Schreiber	Development Solution Gln Llc	11-30-15	\$495,500
312 Bel Air Dr, Glenview	Scott D Limper	Diane Goldenberg See Estate	11-25-15	\$615,000
1925 Dauntless Dr, Glenview	David Sordo & Laura De Camp	Development Solutions Gln Llc	11-30-15	\$710,000
2910 Wilson Ln, Glenview	David A Rose & Nancy E Block	Development Solutions Gln Llc	11-25-15	\$885,500
1957 Glenview Rd, Glenview	Asifa Ashfaq & Muhammad Ashfaq	Megan Bense	11-27-15	\$1,150,000
2025 Swainwood Dr, Glenview	Michael A Posey & Karer K Posey	Brett S Kllpatrick	11-27-15	\$1,533,000
14 Eagle Ridge Dr, Hawthorn Woods	David L Halliburton & Amy J Halliburton	Anthony A Doctor	11-30-15	\$440,000
506 Forest Cove Rd, Lake Bluff	Sergio Gutierrez Montero & Karen Sewell	Stanley N Logan	11-30-15	\$1,137,000
1301 N Western Ave, # 228, Lake Forest	Nadezda Grushlna	Thomas Kersten	11-25-15	\$170,000
163 E Louis Ave, Lake Forest	Thomas Lim & Esther Lim	Jason Szymonik	11-30-15	\$540,000
140 Summit Pl, Lake Forest	Jon Kinney	Heather Clark	11-25-15	\$715,000
259 N Mayflower Rd, Lake Forest	Robert T Moorman & Susan E Moorman	Taryn Edwards	11-25-15	\$1,200,000

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
225 E Onwentsia Rd, Lake Forest	William Conopectis & Lydia Conopectis	A G Atwater Jr	11-30-15	\$2,750,000
23760 N South Lakewood Ln, Lake Zurich	Benjamin C Nelson & Beatriz Haro Nelson	Paris A Paris	11-30-15	\$246,500
118 E Sunnyside Ave, Libertyville	John L Breidenbach	Amber N Heinze	11-30-15	\$311,000
200 Blueberry Rd, Libertyville	Anthony A Doctor & Jana L Doctor	Steven E Breitenbach	11-25-15	\$415,000
121 5th St, Libertyville	Michael J Perkins & Elizabeth A Perkins	Richard A Carman	11-30-15	\$448,500
705 Paddock Ln, Libertyville	Juan Antonio Portillo Roman & Lilia Amador Hernandez	Robert R Mcconnell	11-25-15	\$450,000
1770 Saddle Hill Rd, Libertyville	Edmond Van Guyse	Sang Chul Lee	11-25-15	\$550,000
37 Cambridge Ln, Lincolnshire	Gennady Revzin	Joyce I Dabbouseh Estate	11-30-15	\$245,000
1203 Grant Ct, Long Grove	Greg W Hansen & Suzanne M Hansen	Bryant Namkoong	11-30-15	\$900,000
306 Concord Ct, Morton Grove	Algirdas Kubilius & Irina Kubiliene	Tracey L Glegelich Estate	12-01-15	\$371,000
5805 Crain St, Morton Grove	Faisal Mukhi & Arslan M Hanif	Patricia K Furman	11-25-15	\$373,000
10 S Wille St, # 410, Mount Prospect	Stacy L Pareti	Rosemary Hachey	12-01-15	\$185,000
1108 S Fern Dr, Mount Prospect	Abdelouahed Hamdi	Nmz Properties Llc Fern Series	12-01-15	\$220,000
115 S We Go Trl, Mount Prospect	Joseph M Joyce Jr & Fawn C Joyce	Stanislaw Lipczynski	12-01-15	\$360,000
6660 W Wood River Dr, Niles	Anatol Varabel	Pawel Swiderski	12-01-15	\$114,000
6912 W Jonquill Ter, Niles	Asif Mukhtar Lakha & Niyati Lakha	James A Mahoney Ii	11-27-15	\$512,000
3856 S Parkway Dr, # 3A, Northbrook	Youngro Peter Kim & Meesun Kim	Alliance For Revitalized Commu	11-30-15	\$132,000
3851 Mission Hills Rd, # 310, Northbrook	Elizabeth Black	Anastasia K Hannebrink	11-30-15	\$215,000
2022 Maple Ave, Northbrook	Siman Kim & Hae Ran Kim	Yoonhee Cameron	11-25-15	\$215,000
505 Helen Dr, Northbrook	Elena Moraitis & Emmanuel Moraitis	Ronald M Kelly	11-30-15	\$380,000
2746 The Mews, Northbrook	Sherri A Spector	Ruwitch Trust	11-27-15	\$425,000
3222 Prestwick Ln, Northbrook	Vladislav Moldavskiy	Us Bank Na Trustee	11-27-15	\$458,000
3548 Dauphine Ave, Northbrook	Edward Rom	Jemiah Duff	12-01-15	\$622,000
3601 Whirlaway Dr, Northbrook	Satish K Sharma & Dianna J Sharma	Madden Trust	11-25-15	\$675,000
1442 Carol Ct, # 3B, Palatine	Chaofeng Liu & Jun Xie	Hsbc Bank Usa Trustee	11-25-15	\$55,000
522 E Spruce Dr, # 3A, Palatine	Qiyu Guo & Weilong Liang	Scott E Kowalski	12-01-15	\$72,000
1424 N Whispering Springs Cir, Palatine	Hing Wong	Us Bank Na Trustee	12-01-15	\$95,000
1235 Wyndham Ct, # 103, Palatine	Xiaoli Zhang	Laura Lee Marsh	12-01-15	\$105,000
685 E Whispering Oaks Ct, Palatine	Lucas Kevlishvili	Der Guang Jang	11-25-15	\$176,000
951 E Palatine Rd, Palatine	James Malone	John Patrick Dalesandro Jr	11-25-15	\$180,000
1132 N Claremont Dr, Palatine	Changjoo Moon	Rachael L Wland	11-27-15	\$222,000
857 N Crestview Dr, Palatine	Ronald C Schroeder & Ardice A Schroeder	Valdas Construction Inc	12-01-15	\$329,000
2420 W Talcott Rd, # 215, Park Ridge	Qingbei Zhang & Can Yang	Tanya Rice	11-25-15	\$198,000
1111 S Western Ave, Park Ridge	Sean J Slocum & Johanna Slocum	Ronald Pittelkau	11-27-15	\$880,000
14 Oakwood Dr, Prospect Heights	James C O Keefe & Margaret J O Keefe	Henry G Schwantje	12-01-15	\$422,500
1427 Clairmont Ct, Vernon Hills	Marina Wilson & Arthur Zaknarov	Lucille M Zastrow	11-30-15	\$164,000
572 Harvey Lake Dr, Vernon Hills	Abdul R Valliani	Patrick Yu Ving Tong	11-25-15	\$298,000
830 Cambridge Pl, # 131 C, Wheeling	Jose Flores & Silvia Juarez	Joseph P Ochab Estate	11-27-15	\$20,000
475 Plum Creek Dr, # 501, Wheeling	Vytautas Sriubenas & Ona Sriubeniene	Fannie Mae	12-01-15	\$103,000
1614 Pennsbury Ct, # D1, Wheeling	Maksym Lisovets	Tamara Matios	11-30-15	\$169,000
337 Summer Hill Ln, Wheeling	Nancy L Scott	Afremow Trust	12-01-15	\$185,000
415 Crescent Dr, Wheeling	April Ladrado & Jonathan Mosquera	Sergiy Kryjanovski	11-25-15	\$198,000
255 11th St, # A, Wheeling	Michael T Sullivan	Grace Kwak	11-25-15	\$208,000
2140 Washington Ave, Wilmette	Marius R Worwa	Patricia F Schiff	11-30-15	\$410,000
468 Illinois Rd, Wilmette	Shirley Fang & Jim Tu Party	Deutsche Bank Natl Trt Co Ttee	11-27-15	\$680,000
1520 Tower Rd, Winnetka	Roger L Peterson	Robert C Powell	11-25-15	\$555,000
942 Pine St, Winnetka	Bryan Rimmke & Michelle Rimmke	Robert C Whelan	11-27-15	\$878,000
952 Spruce St, Winnetka	John M Bernard & Shannon M Bernard	Elizabeth Clark Kauffman	11-27-15	\$895,000

This list is not intended to be a complete record of all real estate transactions.
Data compiled by Record Information Services ■ 630-557-1000 ■ public-record.com

Section 2

Living

Thursday, December 31, 2015



Mel's Kitchen:
Forecasting
2016 food
trends Page 3

2



LIAM NORRIS / GETTY

Defending deal breakers

New report supports
the picky single Page 14

SUBURBAN COOKS

Cook learned by using what was on hand

By Judy Buchenot
The Beacon-News

"My mom was famous for her casseroles," said North Aurora resident Amy Frederick.

Frederick credits her mom, Marilyn Mueller, for teaching her how to cook both with and without a recipe. "We lived about 40 to 60 minutes away from a grocery store so if you didn't have something, you had to make a substitution."

For example, her mom kept a can of evaporated milk to use in place of regular milk if they ran out. If a recipe called for peaches, her mom knew that other fruits would also work.

This creative approach to cooking was the basis for her mom's casseroles.

"She called them 'must go casseroles' because it was a mix of all the things in the refrigerator that needed to be used up," Frederick said.

Her mom would mix together a few vegetables, leftover meat, some sauce or gravy, maybe some noodles, sprinkle cheese on top and the casserole was ready for the oven.

"They were never the same. Sometimes they were a big hit and sometimes, they were not as good. But she never wasted anything and everything we ate was home-made."

Frederick, 37, doesn't make too many "must go" casseroles and prefers to use recipes.

"I follow the recipe and if it doesn't turn out, I can blame the recipe," she said with a smile. One of her favorite recipe series is the Gooseberry Patch collections.

"The recipes usually include something about the person who sent in the recipe and how they served it, when they served it and other traditions. They also include little tips on how to make the recipes more appealing.

About 10 years ago, I read about Mel's Breakfast Casserole, which the person submitting the recipe made every Christmas morning. Since the recipe can be put together the night before and baked in the morning, I thought it sounded perfect. So I tried it and I have been making it every Christmas morning since. Their tradition became my tradition."

To make the casserole even more festive, she makes it in a pan shaped like a Christmas tree.

Baking is Frederick's main interest. She likes to make additions to baking recipes to make them her own. For example, when she makes chocolate chip cookies, she uses the standard recipe found on the chocolate chip bag but uses one cup chocolate chips and one cup butterscotch chips instead of only chocolate chips. Then she spreads the dough into a greased 9 by 12 pan to bake it.



JUDY BUCHENOT/BEACON-NEWS

North Aurora resident Amy Frederick is happy to let her daughters Addison and Olivia help with baking.

Amy's Culinary Cue

If you run out of powdered sugar, you can substitute regular sugar that has been pulsed in the food processor until it turns into a fine powder.

After baking, she cuts the cookies into bars.

A few years ago, Frederick learned how to decorate cakes so she could make birthday cakes for her two daughters.

"My mom makes the best cakes," said Addison, 7, who then launched into a description of a cake her mom made that included a figure of the Disney character Belle. The figure's dress was created with cake decorated like a beautiful gown. In addition, the figure burst into song when her arm was touched.

"Sometimes when friends see the cakes, they ask me to make one for their children's parties," said Frederick. "I enjoy doing it, but since I work full time, I can't do too many cakes."

Since working and raising two daughters doesn't leave too much free time, Frederick is always looking for simple, yet delicious recipes. One of her favorite recipes is for peaches 'n' cream cheesecake. "My mom

Peaches 'n' cream cheesecake

- 3/4 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 3-ounce package dry vanilla cook and serve pudding mix (not instant)
- 3 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 15- to 20-ounce can sliced peaches in juice
- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons reserved juice
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

1. Grease bottom and sides of a 9-inch deep dish or 10-inch pie pan. Combine flour, baking powder, salt, pudding mix, butter, egg and milk in a large bowl. Beat for two minutes. Pour into prepared pan.

2. Drain peaches but reserve 3 tablespoons juice. Arrange peaches in a circular pattern on top of batter. In a separate mixer bowl, combine cream cheese, sugar and reserved peach juice. Beat for two minutes with mixer at medium speed.

3. Spoon mixture into center of batter, leaving a two inch border of batter around the edge of pie pan. In a small bowl, combine sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle over cream cheese mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes. Filling will appear soft. Store cheesecake in the refrigerator.

used to make it all of the time to take to potlucks or to give to new neighbors. It is not a traditional cheesecake. It is very light. It uses canned peaches so it can be made any time of year."

Sometimes Frederick substitutes other varieties of canned fruits for the peaches.

"It is great made with pineapple chunks," she said.

She shares the recipes with others who want to enjoy a taste of summertime peaches and cream even in the winter.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer.



MELISSA ELSMO/PIONEER PRESS

Gochujang fried chicken sandwich with Asian slaw and ginger mayo.

Forecasting 2016 food trends



MELISSA ELSMO
Out of Mel's Kitchen

I've dusted off my culinary crystal ball once again in hopes it reveals the hottest food trends for 2016. While only time will tell if I'm the right track, be sure to make a little room on your pantry shelves for some Korean gochujang. And while you're at it, you can help prove me right by whipping up a rosemary-blueberry spritzer or grinding some farro into fine flour.

International Slaws: Coleslaw will become more than picnic fare in 2016. This revitalization will bring Indian, Mexican and Scandinavian flavors to the plate. Toss some Asian-influenced slaw onto a sandwich or serve some shish kabob with a cooling Greek tzatziki slaw.

Craft Mocktails: Gone are the days when non-alcoholic beverages were an afterthought. Look for mixologists to use fresh ingredients, flavored waters, artisan sodas and exotic fruit juices to delight those who prefer not to imbibe.

Family Style Restaurant Fare:

As kids menus continue to fall out of favor and families continue to crave quality comfort foods in a casual environment, look for chefs to begin doing away with single entree orders in favor of communal dishes.

Gochujang: Move over Sriracha, fermented gochujang is bound to make waves. This robust red condiment, crafted from rice, soy beans and chilies, is a key ingredient in the Korean pantry and certain to be used in a myriad of spicy culinary applications in the New Year.

A Side Dish of Meat: Look for restaurants to bring vegetarian fare to the forefront in the coming months. The New Year might just bring a fresh approach to ordering — trends suggest that you might soon order your roasted veggies with a side of steak.

The Sushi Burrito: This California creation is a little like a monster-sized maki roll designed for hands-on eating. Filled with a hodgepodge of veggies and protein choices like tempura shrimp, chicken katsu or sashimi-grade fish, these hearty bites are making their way across the country. Each of these beautiful Asian-fusion burritos is photo ready; social media will eat them up and so should you.

Fried Chicken Sandwiches: Meat is destined to take a back seat

to a healthy assortment of colorful veggies in 2016, but make sure to leave room on the plate for an indulgent fried chicken sandwich. You'll cluck with happiness as a variety of crunchy wonders — especially spicy ones — pop up on menus all over in 2016.

In House Milling: Look for restaurants to control their ingredient list right down to the flour they use in their breads and baked goods. Expect establishments to capitalize on the vast array of heirloom grains (including farro, wheat and barley) by milling them into custom flour blends on site.

Naked Cakes: Forget the frosting in 2016; what's inside matters most in this growing bakery trend. Globes of buttercream can overwhelm delicate layer cakes and flavorful fillings and bakers are beginning to let layers shine. Follow this trend by adorning your favorite filled layer cake with nothing more than a wisp of powdered sugar and a pile of fresh berries.

GMO-free Fare: The jury may still be out on the dangers genetically modified foods pose to people, but folks are certainly skeptical of laboratories tampering with garden grown fare. Look for restaurants to become more sensitive to this growing wariness and begin to source GMO-free ingredients and label menus accordingly.

Gochujang Fried Chicken Sandwiches with Asian Slaw and Ginger Mayo

This sandwich puts several of my favorite trends to the best possible use.

For the Asian slaw:

- 4 cups shredded savoy cabbage (about 1 small head)
- 2 cups shredded carrots
- 1 cup julienne cut snow peas
- 3 scallions sliced
- 1/2 cup seasoned rice wine vinegar
- 1 1/2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 teaspoons sesame oil
- 1/2 teaspoon coarse black pepper
- Dash of salt

For the ginger mayo:

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon minced fresh garlic
- 1/4 teaspoon soy sauce
- 1 scallion sliced

For the chicken:

- 1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon gochujang
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 teaspoon black sesame seeds
- Up to 1 tablespoon water
- 1 cup flour seasoned with salt and pepper
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups panko seasoned with salt and pepper
- 4 boneless-skinless chicken thighs pounded to 1/2-inch thickness
- Canola oil for frying
- 4 brioche buns, toasted

1. **For the Slaw:** Toss the veggies together in a large bowl. Whisk the vinegar, soy, sesame oil and black pepper in a small bowl. Pour the dressing over the veggies and toss to combine. Set the slaw, tossing occasionally.
2. **For the Ginger Mayo:** Combine all the ingredients in a small bowl and stir to combine. Set aside.
3. **For the Chicken:** Combine 1/4 cup of the gochujang, the honey and sesame seeds in a bowl. Thin the mixture with up to 1 tablespoon of water; the glaze should just cling to a pastry brush.
4. Set up a three-step breading station. Place the seasoned flour in a shallow bowl. Beat the eggs in a second shallow bowl and whisk in the remaining tablespoon of gochujang. Place the seasoned panko in a third shallow dish.
5. Pour oil into a pan to a depth of 2 inches and heat over medium high-heat until a bread cube sizzles on contact. Meanwhile dredge a chicken thigh through the flour, dip it in the egg wash and coat it with the panko. Repeat with the remaining thighs. Slip the coated thighs into the hot oil and allow them to fry gently, reducing heat if necessary, until golden brown and cooked through (about 8 minutes). Remove the thighs from the oil and drain briefly on paper towels. Remove chicken to a plate and baste generously with the gochujang-honey mixture on both sides.

To Serve: Slather the bottom of a toasted brioche roll with ginger mayo and top with a glazed chicken thigh. Top the chicken with a portion of the slaw and cover with the top of the bun. Repeat with the remaining chicken and buns. Serve at once.

Threats to migratory birds an issue without borders

By Amina Khan
Tribune Newspapers

The world's migrating birds may be in big trouble. A new study that compared the routes of 1,451 migratory bird species with the protections afforded them in different countries around the world has found that 91 percent of them have inadequate protected areas for at least part of their annual cycles.

The findings, published in the journal *Science*, show in stark detail the plight of the world's long-distance fliers and reveal the extent to which nations will have to work together to solve it.

"This sort of analysis is a wake-up call for us to really do a much better (job of) understanding where birds are" at all times of the year, said Peter Marra, head of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center in Washington.

Fully understanding the birds' annual cycle, including the locations of their breeding grounds, wintering grounds and stopover points, is key to their conservation, added Marra, who was not an author of the study.

Migrating birds, who cross continents to find warmer climes during the winter months, have fascinated humans for thousands of years of recorded history. In recent decades, scientists have been able to track them with satellites to learn the true extent of their epic seasonal voyages and have equipped them with sensors to learn their secrets of flight.

"I'm really fascinated by migratory birds; I just find them so interesting — these tiny little creatures that can fly across



MARK BOSTER/TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS

Geese take flight at Lost Lake on the San Joaquin River in California.

oceans, and some of them can even fly farther than a jumbo jet," said lead author Claire Runge, a conservation scientist now at UC Santa Barbara. "There's a bar-tailed godwit called E7, and she flew over 11,000 kilometers" — more than 6,800 miles — "in a single flight.... So it's pretty astounding that a tiny bird can do that."

Bar-tailed godwits aren't the only impressive fliers out there. Arctic terns, for example, "fly the equivalent of the distance to the moon and back three times during their lives," the paper's authors wrote.

In addition to being awe-inspiring, these birds play an important role in pest regulation, pollination and dispersing seeds around the globe, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

"Migratory species make major contributions to resource fluxes,

biomass transfer, nutrient transport, predator-prey interactions, and food-web structure within and among ecosystems, and play an important role in human culture," wrote Runge and her coauthors.

But migration is a grueling and risky endeavor — birds lose a major chunk of their body weight along the journey, and many of them die. A successful journey relies on there being key stopping points on the route so the birds can rest and refuel.

Migration is like a chain, with each stopping point forming a connecting link. But as humans continue encroaching on the natural environment, they break individual links and increase the risk that the fragile chain of migration will break.

The damage is already showing, the scientists pointed out.

"More than half of migratory birds across all major flyways

have declined over the past 30 years," the authors wrote.

To get a handle on the state of migrating birds today, researchers, led by a team at the University of Queensland in Australia, overlaid maps of protected areas onto global bird distribution maps to see where the gaps in coverage were.

As it turns out, there were a lot. "We show that just 9 percent of 1,451 migratory birds are adequately covered by protected areas across all stages of their annual cycle, in comparison with 45 percent of nonmigratory birds," the study authors wrote.

"This discrepancy is driven by protected area placement that does not cover the full annual cycle of migratory species, indicating that global efforts toward coordinated conservation planning for migrants are yet to bear fruit."

Those migrating birds that are already under threat don't seem to be getting much help.

Overall, less than 3 percent of threatened migratory bird species have enough protected area coverage across their annual cycle, the study authors found.

"Filling the protection gaps for such species throughout their annual cycle is necessary for their conservation," they wrote.

Some regions were worse than others, with countries in North Africa and Central Asia having particularly low levels of protection for migrating birds in the area.

Unlike birds that stick to one habitat, migrating birds typically rely on two or three locations that lie in very distant countries. Even

though one country might have the right protections in place for a given species, the next country in the birds' path might not.

A case in point: Germany.

"Germany meets targets for protected area coverage for more than 98 percent of migratory bird species occurring within its borders, but less than 13 percent of Germany's migrants are adequately protected across their global range," the authors wrote.

If the decline in migrating bird species is to be stopped, the study authors concluded, then nations around the world must cooperate more effectively across their borders to map out adequate protections for migratory birds.

Even more could be done within each nation's borders, Marra added.

"I don't think we're ever going to be able to protect all the habitat out there," Marra said. "But there are other forms of protection that I think we need to be working toward."

Marra pointed to a need to make all kinds of private urban areas, not just protected habitats in public lands, suitable for migrating birds. That may mean planting native plants or removing predators, such as cats, from the area.

"I'm sure there are blackpoll warblers every fall and every spring that go through the White House lawn," which is part of a national park, he said. "The White House has lots of great habitat, and that's a very important thing."

amina.khan@tribpub.com

PET OF THE WEEK



Jake

Jake is a handsome, sweet and loyal, 5- or 6-year-old, 52-pound, male fawn horse coat Shar Pei looking for a loving guardian.

This gorgeous boy loves to be petted and snuggled. He might not know any formal commands, but he has a very sweet nature. While Jake loves his people, he is nervous at first with new people.

Jake was found stray and has select dog friends at the kennel where he's staying

Jake loves treats and takes them gently. He may need a housebreaking refresher after being kenneled.

For more information, contact Jen at peachesash@aol.com or 630-553-7829.

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



New homeowner's gas meter is inexplicably removed

Dear Help Squad,
I recently purchased a new home and transferred my utilities, including Peoples Gas service, Wednesday, Nov 25. When I got home from work that day, I discovered my gas had been shut off and Peoples Gas customer service had closed early for the holiday and would be closed until Saturday. Frustrated but understanding, I waited until Saturday to call.

When I finally got through to a customer service representative, she informed me that not only had my gas service been shut off, but they had removed my gas meter! Completely astounded that this would happen during the winter, I asked when it could be reinstalled. She told me Dec. 21 was the first available appointment date. I literally had to sit down and catch my breath. I asked her how that is acceptable. She apologized and said there was nothing they could do and if I would like to speak to a supervisor, they would call me back.

No supervisor called. At this point, I've been without heat and hot water for five days.

Please help!
Nathan, Chicago

I emailed Nathan to request additional information, which he provided. But within an hour, he sent this follow-up: "So, comically enough, as soon as I sent you that email, [a technician] called me back and I'm scheduled for tomorrow! [He] did admit that this was an error on Peoples' part and that's why they're coming out to fix the issue." The next morning, Nathan was reconnected.

Well that was easy — Help Squad DIY! Actually, the Illinois Commerce Commission, whom Nathan called immediately after contacting Help Squad, gets credit for nudging Peoples along on Nathan's behalf.

Nathan's problem was solved, true, but there was something odd about this whole situation. Why would a gas meter be removed from a new resident's home and not be scheduled for replacement for nearly a month — in December?! Curiosity killed the columnist ...

I reached out to Jennifer Block, Peoples Gas director of media relations, for some



CATHY CUNNINGHAM
Help Squad

insight into what went wrong with Nathan's gas service transfer. She explained, "[Nathan] applied online to change his service to [an address ending in 33] and his address is actually [an address ending in 35]. Peoples doesn't have any service at [33]. We sent an

email to confirm his address and we did not receive a reply back. So because we didn't know that someone was moving into [35], we took the meter to replace it with a new one."

"Where we let the customer down is when he called to say, 'Hey, I'm living here. I need the gas back on.' That was when he was given a couple weeks timeline ... a product of December. We have a lot of people who wait until it gets cold before they ask us to turn their gas on. He shouldn't have had to go through the escalation process to get an earlier date ... A customer had gas; something we did meant that he didn't have gas. That should have been given higher priority."

Nathan confirmed this: "Unbeknownst

to me, the service address for my building is different from the street address. My street address is [33]. The service address is [35]. When I told the technician that Peoples' service address system is nonsensical, he agreed with me and said it's something they need to change. ... I also still haven't received a call from a customer service manager about this whole experience."

I shared Nathan's final comment with Block, and shortly after, he received a call from two customer service managers. Block also did her best to explain the address confusion: "[Nathan] may not have known that the building he was moving into had a different address before being refurbished into apartments."

"[Peoples] was gracious enough to waive the \$42 connection fee and provide a \$50 credit to my account for all the problems I encountered," Nathan said. "They're also scheduling a technician to address the issue of the street address not syncing up with the service address."

Send our questions and complaints, to HelpSquad@pioneerlocal.com.

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.

ALWAYS
GIVING
ADVICE?

Here's a tip: start a blog

chicagonow.com/pitch



ROUNDUP | SCIENCE FICTION

**This Census-Taker: A Novella**

By China Miéville, 224 pages, Del Rey, \$24

Sometimes young writers are advised that the path to fame in science fiction and fantasy is to find a successful formula and stick with it. They must get confused, then, by a writer like China Miéville, who has attained an enormous following despite — or perhaps because of — the sheer unpredictability of his imagination, which ranges freely among genres and narrative forms. By the standards of his more baroque inventions, “This Census Taker” is modest in scope and muted in tone, but is no less haunting in its limited view of a remote village in a world following some unspecified disaster.

A boy flees in terror from his hilltop home near the village, claiming that one of his parents has murdered the other. His father, a foreigner who makes keys with apparently magical properties to grant wishes, is immediately suspected in the mother's disappearance, since he has been known to kill animals and dump them in a deep hole in a nearby cave, and is suspected of dumping a few human victims there as well. The boy comes under the protection of a group of local kids (with odd habits like air-fishing for bats off the local bridge), but the townspeople, whose only law enforcement consists of deputized volunteers, return him to the care of his father. Only when a shadowy figure shows up, claiming to be a census-taker with a particular interest in immigrants like the father, does the boy see an opportunity for escape and even a job, though it's not quite clear for whom he'll be working. While this compelling novella may be lacking in large-scale spectacle and may raise more questions than it answers, the classic Miéville themes of power, alienation and politics are never far from the surface, and the tale lingers in the memory.

**Meeting Infinity**

Edited by Jonathan Strahan, 272 pages, Solaris, \$14.99

Anthologies have always been more important to science fiction than to other popular genres, and some of the best anthologies are those with all original stories. Jonathan Strahan is one of the most skilled editors at obtaining first-rate work from leading authors, most recently in a series of anthologies collectively titled “The Infinity Project,” taking on the technological and social challenges of exploring the solar system and beyond. In “Meeting Infinity,” he asked contributors to consider the sorts of changes that humanity itself may face given new technologies, and the result is a provocative overview of what such changes might look like.

One possibility, explored in stories by Madeline Ashby and James S.A. Corey, is that we might get new bodies. Corey even suggests that exploring the world from the viewpoint of animals, like manta rays, might become a new high-risk kind of sport. In Ashby's story, we can move into new human bodies, but with one catch — they come without our old memories. In some cases, we may live parts of our lives without bodies at all, as in Yoon Ha Lee's story about a spaceship filled with software “blossoms” ready to be downloaded into newly grown bodies when the destination is reached, or Gwyneth Jones' story in which a magistrate must judge whether a software entity can be punished as a human would be. Less far-fetched for many readers are the dismal futures imagined by Bruce Sterling, which deals with a catastrophic plague of mind-altering drugs, or by Simon Ings, in which women have nearly been wiped out by a plague. All invite us to ask what it means to be human, and how stable a condition that is.

CHICAGOLAND BEST-SELLERS

1. **“Thing Explainer: Complicated Stuff in Simple Words”** by Randall Munroe (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$24.95).
2. **“It's. Nice. Outside.”** By Jim Kokoris (St. Martin's, \$ 24.99).
3. **“Between the World and Me”** by Ta-Nehisi Coates (Spiegel & Grau, \$24).
4. **“Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush”** by Jon Meacham (Random House, \$35).
5. **“SPQR: A History of Anclent Rome”** by Mary Beard (Liveright, \$35):



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

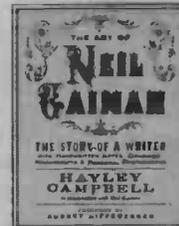
**The Fierce Urgency of Now**

By Julian E. Zelizer, Penguin, 370 pages, \$18
Zelizer looks at the history of Lyndon Johnson's Great Society legislation, which resulted in the passage of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts, Johnson's “War on Poverty,” Medicare and Medicaid. Zelizer explores the battles in Congress, within Johnson's administration and the various forces at play outside of government.

**FaceOff**

Edited by David Baldacci, Simon & Schuster, 384 pages, \$15.99

A collection of 11 short stories, “FaceOff” is a collaboration among 23 thriller writers, pairing off some of their most beloved characters — such as Patrick Kenzie vs. Harry Bosch and Jack Reacher vs. Nick Heller. Contributing authors include Lee Child, Michael Connelly, John Sandford, Lisa Gardner, Dennis Lehane and Heather Graham.

**The Art of Neil Gaiman**

By Hayley Campbell, Harper Design, 320 pages, \$19.99

Campbell looks at the artistic life of Neil Gaiman, author of books and comics such as “The Ocean at the End of the Lane,” “American Gods” and “The Sandman.” “The Art of Neil Gaiman” collects previously unseen manuscripts, notes, drawings and personal photographs from Gaiman's archives.

**Sound Man**

By Glyn Johns, Plume, 336 pages, \$16

The 2012 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame producer recalls his career behind the recording console, producing for bands such as The Rolling Stones, The Who, Led Zeppelin, the Eagles, Eric Clapton and more. Johns shares stories about the musicians he worked with, and offers a look at The Beatles' tense “Get Back” project.

**The Visitors: A Novel**

By Simon Sylvester, Melville House, 359 pages, \$18.95

When a mysterious man and his daughter move to the remote Scottish island of Bancree, Flora becomes friends with the man's daughter, Ailsa. Meanwhile, several Bancree men have disappeared, and as suspicion turns to the newcomers, Flora's determination to protect Ailsa leads to her tapping into local wisdom about “selkies,” mythical women who can turn into seals.

— Jeremy Mikula



puzzle island

For interactive puzzles and games go to chicagotribune.com/games

12/27

Back in Office: Explained at 119 Across

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

Across

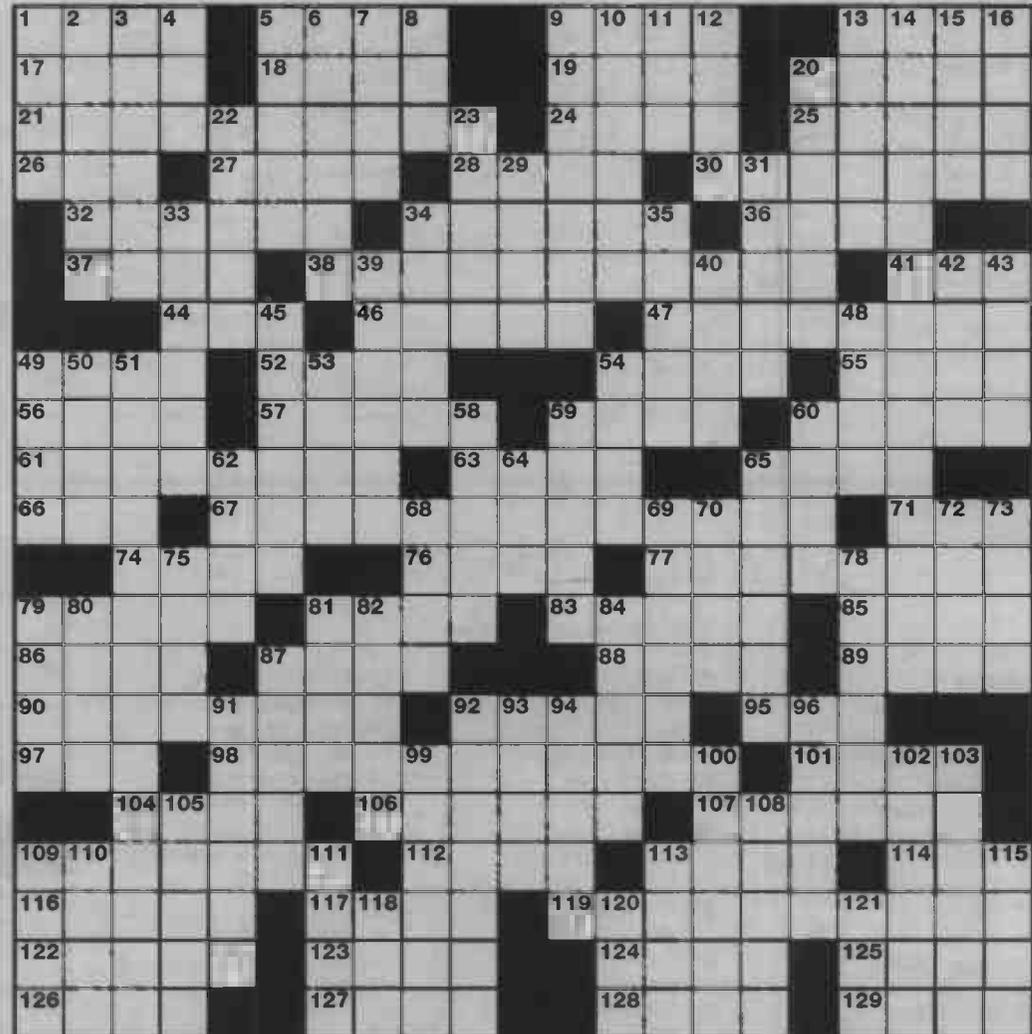
- 1 "What a pity"
5 Cotton bundle
9 Move suddenly
13 Shell game
17 Tot's plea
18 Holiday lead-ins
19 Austen novel
20 Save for later
21 Some commercial ferries
24 Register total
25 Friend in the 'hood
26 Suffix for slogan
27 Paycheck deduction fig.
28 Drive— window
30 Circus performer
32 Money-back offer
34 Set straight
36 Verdi opera
37 Party giveaways
38 Professorial employment feature
41 Overly
44 Grazing ground
46 Places to build on
47 Selected
49 Some Halloween décor
52 Bank take-back, for short
54 Arizona Native American
55 Tear down
56 Air of mystery
57 Frigidaire alternative
59 Knocks on the noggin
60 Lavish parties
61 Three-hulled boat
63 Golf standards
65 Car with a four-ring logo

Down

- 66 Rug rat
67 Sleepwear part
71 Become cohesive
74 Cynical response
76 Maritime predator
77 Doubt-ridden
79 Got smart, with "up"
81 Ink mishap
83 Was successful
85 Hold in check
86 Worker protection agcy.
87 Shifter's choice
88 Highest sudoku digit
89 Brings to bear
90 Lures successfully
92 Fritter away
95 — *Misérables*
97 Alphabetic trio
98 Practically undetectable
101 Pork cut
104 Fiber source
106 Lease signer
107 Fall back
109 Lofty dignity
112 Part of GWTW
113 Ankle-length dress
114 Most populous NATO member
116 Advil alternative
117 Quite similar
119 Surnames hidden backwards in the six other long answers
122 Center of activity
123 Literary celebrity
124 Iowa State's city
125 Lowest sudoku digits
126 Suffix like -let
127 Mystery novelist Buchanan

Down

- 128 Flash-drive plug-in place
129 Categorize
1 Yearn (for)
2 Lasagna features
3 Painter Wyeth
4 Title given to Hitchcock
5 Prove suitable for
6 Long-legged shorebird
7 *Star Wars* princess
8 Night school subj.
9 Formal orders
10 Be equal (to)
11 Real estate abbr.
12 "Ciao!"
13 Gave up a seat
14 Soldier's battle dress
15 Operatic solo
16 Bump into
20 Predatory bird
22 Old enough to vote
23 Rooster's walk
29 Engage
31 Prickly flora
33 Fir tree
34 Salsa ingredient
35 Group of Girl Scouts
39 Neighbor of *Francia*
40 iPhone add-ins
42 Percolate
43 Smeltery supplies
45 Genesis peak
48 — Scott decision
49 Steam engine inventor
50 Successor of the mark
51 United Kingdom citizen, formerly



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

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- 53 Key with four sharps: Abbr.
54 Innkeeper
58 In two
59 Wide-ranging
60 Overload
62 Pretended to be
64 Part of a simplicity simile
65 Dutch river
68 Tie at anchor
69 In better order
70 From here — (henceforth)
72 Toledo's water
73 Monocle glass
75 Coffee tidbit
78 Classic castaway
79 Hardships
80 "Common sense —"
81 Keg contents
82 Optical device
84 Part of ICBM
87 Scholar's award
91 Takes down a peg
92 Ashley Judd's sister
93 Envelope abbr.
94 Lost beasts of rhyme
96 National hero of 39 Down
99 Multitude
100 Classroom accessory
102 "Beats me!"
103 Fledgling
105 Vegas entertainment
108 Be
109 Stallion or stag
110 Greatly
111 Noah Webster went there
113 In-basket sheet
115 Subordinate: Abbr.
118 Poke fun at
120 Kanye West's music
121 Aurora's Greek counterpart

Quote-Acrostic

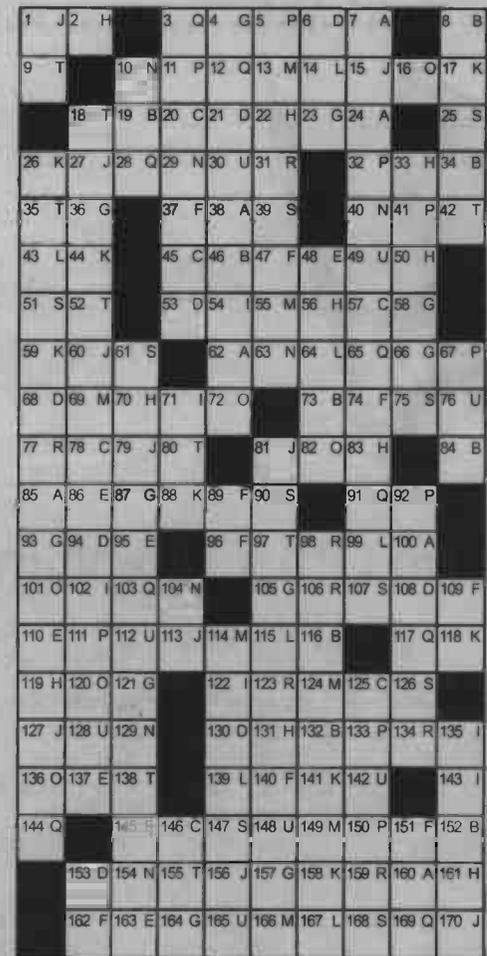
1. Define clues, writing in Words column over numbered dashes.
2. Transfer letters to numbered squares in diagram.
3. When pattern is completed, quotation can be read left to right. The first letters of the filled-in words reading down form an acrostic yielding the speaker's name and the topic of the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

Clues

Words

- A. Molasses pie
7 38 85 160 62 24 100
- B. Devoted
34 132 84 73 152 19 8 46 116
- C. Edict of Worms subject
45 78 57 125 146 20
- D. Snack food
21 108 130 153 94 68 6 53
- E. Exception
86 48 110 163 137 95 145
- F. Jimmie Johnson won it twice: 2 wds.
74 151 47 37 89 109 96 140 162
- G. Impartiality
157 4 105 23 66 93 36 121 164
58 87
- H. Stuck in the past person
2 33 131 119 70 22 161 50 83 56
- I. Venerate
122 102 135 71 143 54

- J. 'The Defenders' defender
113 81 15 1 79 170 60 127 156 27
- K. Audacity
17 158 118 59 141 44 26 88
- L. Birdman
43 167 99 115 139 14 64
- M. Twin cities in Mex. and Ariz.
13 114 124 69 149 55 166
- N. Discards
129 63 29 40 154 10 104
- O. Hand measure of sorts: 2 wds.
72 82 120 101 16 136
- P. Large paper chain
5 67 11 150 111 133 32 41 92
- Q. 60's short-term Supreme Court Justice
28 91 169 144 12 103 3 65 117
- R. Turk/Greek city
98 106 77 159 31 123 134
- S. Tightened
147 51 107 25 168 61 75 126 39 90
- T. Emotional
97 9 52 42 138 18 155 35 80
- U. Jesus or Mary, e.g.
112 148 142 165 49 76 128 30



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

By Jack Raymond.
Edited by Linda and Charles Preston.
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Men of A-chievement

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Across

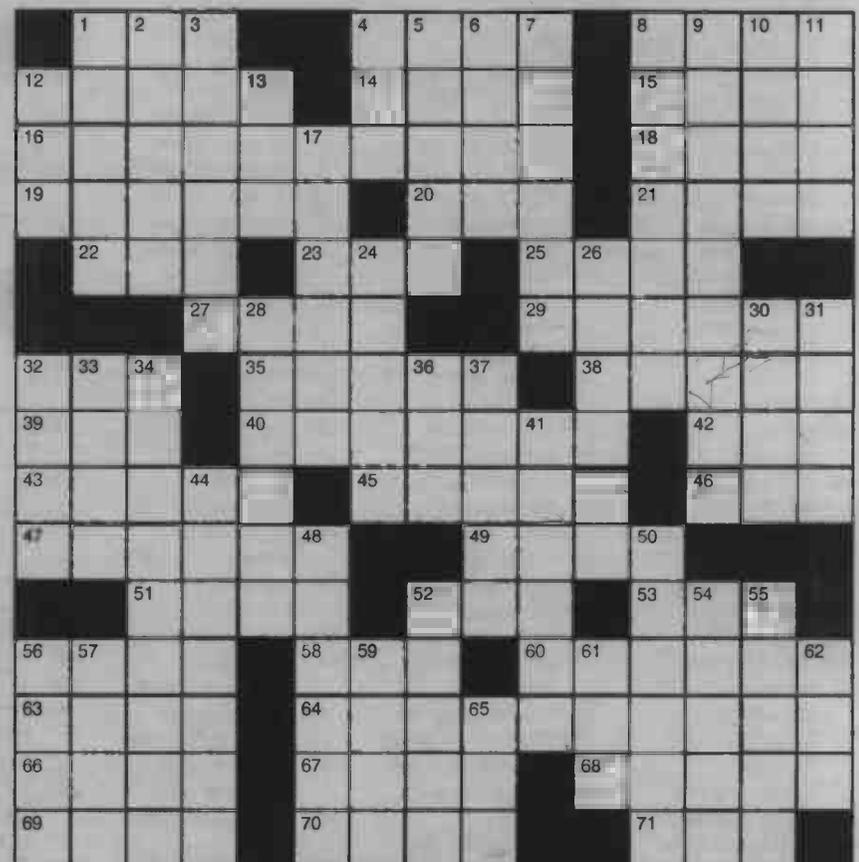
- 1 Civil War org.
4 St. Louis' team
8 *Back in Black* rock group
12 Biblical food
14 Study for finals
15 Actress ___ Flynn Boyle
16 Director who won three Oscars
18 Composer Khachaturian
19 Wool, or its source
20 Swiss river
21 Lunch orders, briefly
22 Means of comm.
23 Unhappy
25 TV listings
27 Fake pillow cover?
29 Seed container
32 Talker's gift
35 Disconcert
38 Comic-strip Viking
39 Oklahoma city
40 *Black Magic Woman* singer
42 Physicians' org.
43 Clothes
45 State of NE India
46 Arrest

- 47 It rides the rails
49 Russian ruler
51 Capital of Yemen
52 Lobbying org.
53 Circle part
56 Trail
58 Sound from 4 Across?
60 Capital of Eritrea
63 Criticize severely
64 Cowinner of 1978 Nobel Peace Prize
66 Taj Mahal site
67 Singer k.d.
68 Conform
69 Mountain lake
70 Helper
71 ___ longa, vita brevis

Down

- 1 Rhea's role on *Cheers*
2 Fasteners or cookies
3 Records
4 NBC's parent company
5 Hungarian monarchy founder
6 NPR's Liasson
7 Intelligence
8 Mobile's state
9 Host of TV's *Cosmos*
10 Undeleted expletive

- 11 Machinery parts
12 Museum-curator's deg.
13 Pedigree org.
17 Muskmelon
24 Iowa commune
26 Grand ___ Island
28 King of Morocco
30 Incarnation of Vishnu
31 Native of 51 Across
32 Dotty
33 Bede or Arkin
34 Hall-of-Fame quarterback
36 They cross aves.
37 ___ la vista, baby
41 Winston Cup org.
44 Hindu caste
48 Occult religious philosophy
50 Hotel chain
52 Chess pieces
54 Airport equipment
55 Gambling game
56 Sophomore's exam.
57 Seaweed
59 Collections of anecdotes
61 Medicare org.
62 Lawyer: abbr.
65 Rep.



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Wheel Chair - Never used. Paid \$300, selling \$200. Located in La Grange Park 708-352-6062

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Wanted - Radio/TV tubes, Ham/ CB radios, tube testers, high end 70s stereos, tube type stereos, old radios, misc. elec., No TVs. 708-536-8823

WHEAT CENTS - Pennies before 1959 A & R PENNY SHOP 847-772-2682

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Judicial Sales - Real Estate

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All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, in the sale, rental, or financing of housing. In addition the Illinois Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on age, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation or unfavorable military discharge.

This paper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis. If you believe you have been discriminated against in connection with the sale, rental or financing of housing, Call:

West City and Suburbs: HOPE Fair Housing Center 630-690-6500 South City and Suburbs: South Suburban Housing Center 708-957-4674 North City and Suburbs: Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs 847-501-5760

Judicial Sales - Real Estate

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE FOR GSAMP TRUST 2006-FM3, MORTGAGE PASS THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-FM3; Plaintiff,

vs. BOBBIE ROSS; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. UNDER MORTGAGE RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 0626946067 AND RE-RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 0713548073 AND CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF A CERTAIN TRUST AGREEMENT DATED 22ND DAY OF MAY, 2006 AND KNOWN AS TRUST NUMBER 8002346628; UNKNOWN TENANTS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants. 08 CH 3394. NOTICE OF SALE. PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause on July 27, 2015, Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Monday, January 25, 2016, at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: Commonly known as 5140 HOWARD ST, SKOKIE, IL 60077. P.L.N. 10-28-228-058. The mortgaged real estate is improved with a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call Mr. Ira T. Nevel at Plaintiff's Attorney, Law Offices of Ira T. Nevel, 175 North Franklin Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (312) 337-1125. Ref. No. 08-228 N INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION Selling Officer, (312) 444-1122

1679445 12/24/2015, 12/31/2015, 1/7/2016 3839988

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff,

vs. GLADYS V. FONZETTI A/K/A GLADYS VEGA FONZETTI A/K/A GLADYS NOEMI FONZETTI, JOSEPH FONZETTI A/K/A JOSEPH FONZETTI SR. A/K/A GIUSEPPE FONZETTI Defendants. 14 CH 018656

7358 N. CRAWFORD AVENUE LINCOLNWOOD, IL 60712 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 15, 2015, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 19, 2016, at the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive - 24th Floor, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 7358 N. CRAWFORD AVENUE, LINCOLNWOOD, IL 60712 Property Index No. 10-27-423-036. The real estate is improved with a single family residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to the Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/ or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

12/17/2015, 12/24/2015, 12/31/2015 3822093

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Judicial Sales - Real Estate

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

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. Plaintiff,

vs. JULIETTE GARCES, THE CLOCK TOWER POINTE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants

10 CH 54687 4811 N OLCOTT AVE UNIT 301 Harwood Heights, IL 60706

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on July 22, 2015, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 19, 2016, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive - 24th Floor, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 4811 N OLCOTT AVE UNIT 301, Harwood Heights, IL 60706

Property Index No. 12-12-425-009-1019.

The real estate is improved with a single unit dwelling.

The judgment amount was \$380,106.70.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to the Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/ or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g)-1.

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney, KOZENY & MCCUBBIN ILLINOIS, LLC, 105 WEST ADAMS STREET, SUITE 1850, Chicago, IL 60603, (312) 605-3500 Please refer to file number IL-001948.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

KOZENY & MCCUBBIN ILLINOIS, LLC 105 WEST ADAMS STREET, SUITE 1850 Chicago, IL 60603 (312) 605-3500 Attorney File No. IL-001948 Attorney Code, 56284 Case Number, 10 CH 54687 TJS#C: 35-12728

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/15 3821533

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Judicial Sales - Real Estate

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

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS OF GWALT, INC. ALTERED-REMAN TRUST 2006-1311 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-1311 Plaintiff,

vs. PETRU AMAREI, ANISOARA AMAREI A/K/A ANNIE AMAREI, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., BMO HARRIS BANK, N.A. F/K/A HARRIS, N.A. Defendants

11 CH 32549 6425 NORTH LONGMEADOW AVENUE Lincolnwood, IL 60712

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 2, 2015, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on February 3, 2016, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive - 24th Floor, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 6425 NORTH LONGMEADOW AVENUE, Lincolnwood, IL 60712

Property Index No. 10-33-428-018.

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$1,000,309.43.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/ or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g)-1.

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact The sales clerk, SHAPIRO KREISMAN & ASSOCIATES, LLC, 2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301, Bannockburn, IL 60015, (847) 291-1717 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. only Please refer to file number 09-022951.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

SHAPIRO KREISMAN & ASSOCIATES, LLC 2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301 Bannockburn, IL 60015 (847) 291-1717 Attorney File No. 09-022951 Attorney Code, 42168 Case Number, 11 CH 32549 TJS#C: 35-16122

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. 12/31/15, 1/7, 1/14/16 3848024

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LEGALS

Assumed Name

Cook County - Assumed Name
LEGAL NOTICE ASSUMED NAME
 Notice is hereby given, pursuant to an Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of transaction of Business in the State, as amended, that a certification was registered by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County.
 Registration Number: D15144787 on December 8, 2015. Under the Assumed Business Name of North Shore Furniture Restoration with the business located at 7319 Palma Lane, Morton Grove, IL 60053. The true and real full names) and the residence address of the owner(s)/partner(s) is: Michael Donnowitz, 7319 Palma Lane, Morton Grove, IL 60053, USA. 12/24,31/2015, 1/7/2016 3831262

Bid Notice

BID INVITATION
 The Skokie Park District will receive sealed bids for demolition of two existing water slides and installation of two replacement water slides at Skokie Water Playground for the Skokie Park District. Bids shall be on a stipulated sum basis.
 Bids are due and will be opened and read aloud on Thursday, January 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m. at the Park District Administrative Offices, 9300 Weber Park Place, Skokie, IL 60077, in Room 105.
 EXAMINATION/PROCUREMENT OF DOCUMENTS:
 Copies of the Bid Documents may be obtained starting Friday, January 8th, 2016 at the District Administrative Offices, 9300 Weber Park Place, Skokie, IL 60077 in accordance with instructions to Bidders. Documents will be available during office hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Documents will be issued to prime bidders only.
 No bids may be withdrawn without the written consent of the Skokie Park District. Only bids in compliance with the provisions of the Bid Documents will be considered. Bids will be considered firm for a period of ninety (90) days. The Skokie Park District reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any technicalities in the bidding if it should be deemed in the public interest. This project is a prevailing wage job; therefore bidders shall pay prevailing wages. A copy of the Skokie Park District Prevailing Wage Ordinance No. 15-012 is included in the specifications.

Notice is hereby given that the Skokie Park District is accepting bids for the purchase of Golf Range Balls for the Skokie Park District-Sports Park. Bid specifications are available at 9300 Weber Place, Skokie, IL 60077 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
 Bids will be received until 10:00 a.m. on February 5, 2016, at which time the bids will be opened and publicly read. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Bid for Golf Range Balls" and addressed to Richard Lee, Golf Operations Manager, Skokie Park District, 9300 Weber Place, Skokie, IL 60077.
 No bids may be withdrawn without the written consent of the Skokie Park District. Only bids in compliance with the provisions of the Bid Documents will be considered. Bids will be considered firm for a period of ninety (90) days. The Skokie Park District reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any technicalities in the bidding if it should be deemed in the public interest. These bidders will comply with all prevailing wage requirements; therefore bidders shall pay prevailing wages for all labor. A copy of the Skokie Park District Prevailing Wage Ordinance #13-010 is attached to the Bid specifications.
 The Board of Commissioners of the Skokie Park District, Cook County, Illinois reserves the right to reject any or all bids or portions thereof.
 Please direct questions to Richard Lee, Golf Operations Manager, at (847) 674-1500 ext. 3120.
 12/31/2015 3851445

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 No bids may be withdrawn without the written consent of the Skokie Park District. Only bids in compliance with the provisions of the Bid Documents will be considered. Bids will be considered firm for a period of ninety (90) days. The Skokie Park District reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any technicalities in the bidding if it should be deemed in the public interest. This project is a prevailing wage job; therefore bidders shall pay prevailing wages. A copy of the Skokie Park District Prevailing Wage Ordinance No. 15-012 is included in the specifications.

Notice is hereby given that the Village of Skokie will receive BIDS at 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie, Illinois 60077 Attention: Michael Aleksic, Purchasing Agent until 11:00 a.m. local time on Tuesday, February 2, 2016.
 A copy of the bid can be obtained by visiting www.skokie.org Click on Village Department, Purchasing, Bids & RFP's to download a copy. Bids can also be obtained from the Village of Skokie Purchasing Office at the address shown above.
 Any bid or proposal submitted unsealed, unsigned, fax transmissions or received subsequent to the aforementioned date and time will be disqualified and returned to the bidder. The Village of Skokie reserves the right to reject any and all bids or parts thereof, to waive any irregularities or informalities in bidding procedures and to award the contract in the manner best serving the interest of the Village.
 Michael Aleksic
 Purchasing Agent
 Village of Skokie
 12/31/2015 3856540

Bid Notice

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 The Board of Commissioners of the Skokie Park District, Cook County, Illinois reserves the right to reject any or all bids or portions thereof.
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Foreclosures

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
US BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE RMAC TRUST, SERIES 2013-11 Plaintiff,
JOHN LOWENTHAL, BARBARA LOWENTHAL A/K/A BARBARA R. LOWENTHAL, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR HOMECOMINGS FINANCIAL, LLC, LINCOLN TERRACE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, LTD Defendants
11 CH 42403
5501 LINCOLN, UNIT 208
Morton Grove, IL 60053

NOTICE OF SALE
 PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 19, 2015, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 20, 2016, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive - 24th Floor, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
UNIT 208 IN LINCOLN TERRACE CONDOMINIUM AS DESCRIBED IN SURVEY DELINEATED ON AND ATTACHED TO A PART OF A DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM OWNERSHIP REGISTERED ON DECEMBER 30, 1974 AS DOCUMENT L2789407, TOGETHER WITH AN UNDIVIDED PERCENTAGE INTEREST (EXCEPT THE UNITS DELINEATED AND DESCRIBED IN SAID SURVEY) IN AND TO THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PREMISES: ALL OF LOT 8 IN LINCOLN TERRACE BEING A RESUBDIVISION IN THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 13, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO PLAT OF SAID LINCOLN TERRACE REGISTERED IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF TITLES OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, ON FEBRUARY 4, 1974, AS DOCUMENT 2738114.
 Commonly known as 5501 LINCOLN, UNIT 208, Morton Grove, IL 60053
 Property Index No. 10-21-130-020-1008.
 The real estate is improved with a condominium.
 The judgment amount was \$277,057.98.

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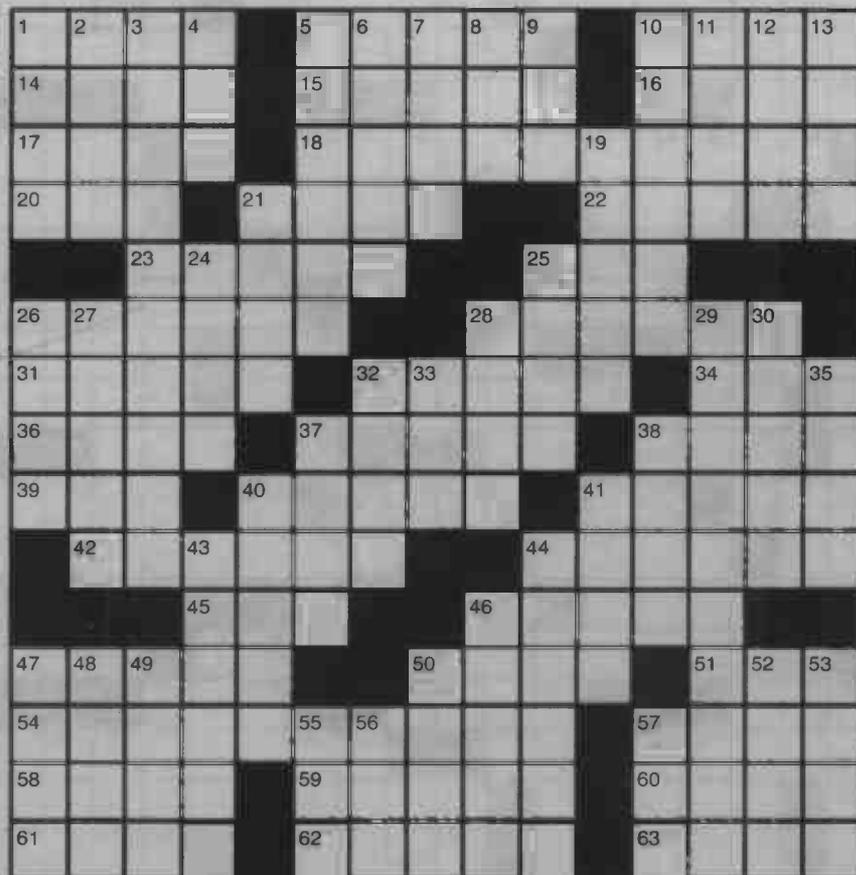
NOTICE OF SALE
 PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 19, 2015, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 20, 2016, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive - 24th Floor, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
UNIT 208 IN LINCOLN TERRACE CONDOMINIUM AS DESCRIBED IN SURVEY DELINEATED ON AND ATTACHED TO A PART OF A DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM OWNERSHIP REGISTERED ON DECEMBER 30, 1974 AS DOCUMENT L2789407, TOGETHER WITH AN UNDIVIDED PERCENTAGE INTEREST (EXCEPT THE UNITS DELINEATED AND DESCRIBED IN SAID SURVEY) IN AND TO THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PREMISES: ALL OF LOT 8 IN LINCOLN TERRACE BEING A RESUBDIVISION IN THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 13, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO PLAT OF SAID LINCOLN TERRACE REGISTERED IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF TITLES OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, ON FEBRUARY 4, 1974, AS DOCUMENT 2738114.
 Commonly known as 5501 LINCOLN, UNIT 208, Morton Grove, IL 60053
 Property Index No. 10-21-130-020-1008.
 The real estate is improved with a condominium.
 The judgment amount was \$277,057.98.

Foreclosures

NOTICE OF SALE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, Illinois, County Department, Chancery
Division, Brendan Mortgage, Inc., Plaintiff, vs. Paschal A. Altomorigio, Abiodun J. Atomori, Citimortgage, Inc. Unknown Owners, and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants
Case No. 13CH18380
 Pursuant to a Judgment made and entered by said Court in the above entitled cause on September 10, 2015, Thomas J. Dart, Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, will on January 22, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 06 of the lower level of the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction the following described premises and real estate mentioned in said Judgment:
LOT 41 IN BLOCK 20 IN SECOND ADDITION TO HINKAMP AND COMPANY'S WESTERN AVENUE SUBDIVISION OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 38 NORTH, RANGE 13, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
P.I.N. 19-36-200-028-0000
 Address: 7916 S. Fairfield Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60652
 Improvements: Single family Residence
 Sale shall be under the following terms: The real estate described herein, with all improvements, fixtures and appurtenances is sold in "as is" condition. The subject property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff. Plaintiff makes no representations or any warranties as to the condition of the property.
 There shall be no proration of taxes, assessments, water bills or any other bill that may accrue or has accrued in association with the property.
 The deposit required at the time of sale will be between 10% and 25% of the successful bid. The balance of the bid amount is required to be paid with in 24 hours of sale. All payments of the amount bid shall be in certified funds.
 The judgment amount is \$90,657.36 with accruing post judgment interest and accruing costs.
 At any time, if the sale is set aside for any reason, the purchaser shall have no recourse or claims against the mortgagee's attorney(s). Prospective bidders are to check the court file and verify all information herein and therein. Sale shall be subject to general taxes, special assessments, and any liens or encumbrances that have priority.
 For information: Scott R. Barfuss, Plaintiff's Attorney, 24 East Avenue, Riverside, IL 60546, Tel. No. (708) 788-4870.
 This is an attempt to collect a debt pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

NOTICE OF SALE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, Illinois, County Department, Chancery
Division, Brendan Mortgage, Inc., Plaintiff, vs. Paschal A. Altomorigio, Abiodun J. Atomori, Citimortgage, Inc. Unknown Owners, and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants
Case No. 13CH18380
 Pursuant to a Judgment made and entered by said Court in the above entitled cause on September 10, 2015, Thomas J. Dart, Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, will on January 22, 2016

Crossword



By Jacqueline E. Mathews. © 2015 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

12/30/15

ACROSS

- 1 Japanese wrestling form
 5 Relocates
 10 ___ dunk; sure thing
 14 Candid
 15 Spry
 16 Too good ___ true
 17 A la ___; topped with ice cream
 18 Disloyal
 20 At the ___ of the day; ultimately
 21 Sword fight
 22 Breath fresheners
 23 Fib tellers
 25 Nov. follower
 26 Slender
 28 Talked wildly
 31 Walkway
 32 Door handles
 34 Vigor
 36 Pasture cries
 37 Daring deeds
 38 Long sandwich
 39 Common street name
 40 USNA freshman
 41 Major river in central Africa
 42 Antenna
 44 Good-natured joking

DOWN

- 45 Big game
 46 3-line poem
 47 Pod used to make chocolate
 50 "___ Free"; film about a lioness
 51 Performance
 54 Intense joy
 57 Depressed
 58 "The Farmer in the ___"
 59 Window covering
 60 Sandwiches, for short
 61 Notice
 62 Impudent
 63 Fluid-filled sac

Solutions

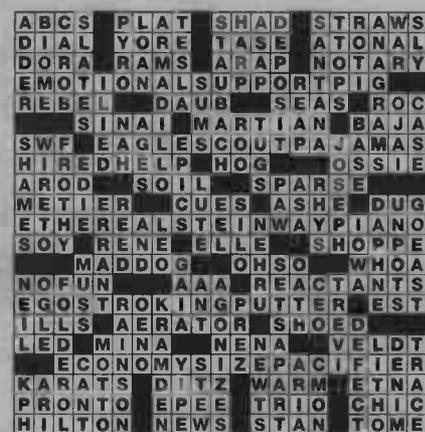


- 24 Misfortunes
 25 Small amounts
 26 Identical
 27 Stringed instrument
 28 Learn by ___; memorize
 29 In the long run
 30 Funeral hymn
 32 ___ over; faint
 33 Capture
 35 Secure with an anchor
 37 Harsh criticism
 38 Sound the horn
 40 Aviator
 41 Abel's brother
 43 Truly
 44 Rubble of Bedrock
 46 Hula ___; toys that are twirled
 47 Relinquish
 48 Chopping tools
 49 Actor Robert
 50 Prejudice; slant
 52 Incisions
 53 SAT, for one
 55 Commercials
 56 "...___, la, la..."
 57 Brit's network

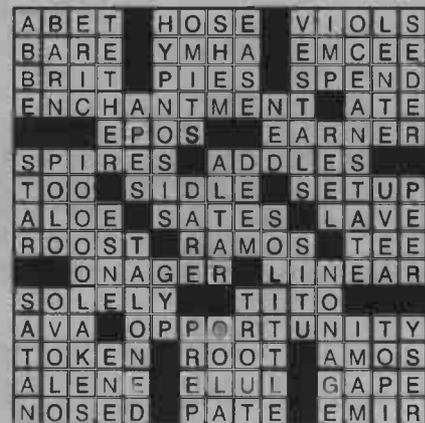


Last week's crosswords

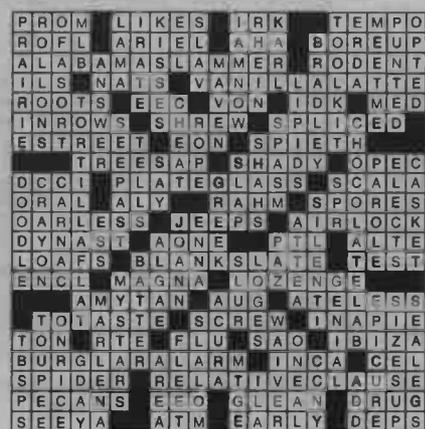
"Presents of Mind"



"License Game"



"La-La Land"



Last week's Quote-Acrostic

R(robert) W(RIGHT): EVOLUTION OF GOD: Ancient shamans pretended to understand nature, storms and disease to earn their living. The contemporary equivalent to shamans, also claiming secret mystic knowledge of powerful unknowns, is stockbrokers.

Last week's Sudoku

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

This week's Jumble

LAGOON MEDLEY GOVERN
 ANNUAL ROTATE WICKED

Even before the colonel got his promotion, it was —

GENERAL
 KNOWLEDGE



Why you should treat your breakup like a New Year's Eve

It is perhaps the biggest New Year's Eve tradition out there: Popping open a bottle of champagne, filling our glasses and then making a toast.

What are we drinking to? The new year, of course, which presents us with possibilities of adventure, opportunity, new goals, dreams and lots of other good things. Maybe we are saying goodbye to a year that wasn't so great, and we are welcoming the first day of a year we hope will be a new beginning, a chance to start over, or an opportunity for a happier life.

The fact that we spend a whole night celebrating the start of a new year, perhaps doing something extravagant or going to a big party or having dinner at an overpriced restaurant with a fixed menu, proves that people not only accept newness, but that they in fact embrace it.

So, if everyone looks at New Year's so festively, why is it that when it comes to the end of a relationship — whether it's a divorce or a breakup, people view it so negatively? Why do we fear the change of our relationship status, yet celebrate the change of the calendar year? And why do we have such a dim outlook on being single again, in contrast to a hopeful attitude for the start of a new year?

I'm not saying that if your marriage just ended or if you just got dumped, you should be dancing around your kitchen wearing a sparkling party hat and blowing a noisemaker. But I just can't understand why divorce and breakups are looked at so differently than New Year's. While both involve the unknown, one celebrates it while the other dreads it.

Lisa Kaplin is a psychologist and certified life coach who said the reason people fear change and view it negatively is because of what they tell themselves.

"I hear my clients say, 'This is going to be so hard. I don't want to be alone. The dating scene is awful. There are so many weirdos out there,'" said Kaplin, who has been in practice for 16 years. "They haven't even validated any of this, but that's what they are telling themselves."



JACKIE PILOSSOPH
Love Essentially

Do we talk about the new year with this negativity? Nope.

Kaplin said the best way to turn change into a positive is to have an open, curious attitude and to take action.

"I ask my clients, 'What are you afraid of?' and they say, 'I'm going to be lonely,' and I say, 'What will you do if you are lonely?' They will answer, 'I'll call a friend or find a new hobby,'" Kaplin said. "So once you look past the initial fear, you start coming up with a checklist and then it doesn't seem so scary because you have a plan."

Here's the thing about being newly single. It's new. It's something different than we are used to that can be scary, which can then lead to anxiety and sadness. I should know because I was there several years ago when I got divorced with two children, who were just ages 3 and 5 at the time.

What I remember about that first year of being newly single were emotions that included anger, anxiety, sadness and the biggest one, fear. But whether I admitted it to myself at the time, there was a twinge of excitement inside me, afraid to come out because it was so dominated by fear.

Still, it was there: a tiny slice of hope I now realize I should have embraced much sooner.

Why? Because that hope was the Champagne glass waiting for me to grab it, take a big sip and toast to all the positives of change and newness, and the wonderful gifts that were for the taking in the future. Sounds a lot like New Year's Eve, doesn't it?

Regardless of your relationship status this New Year's Eve, celebrate more than just the start of the new year. Drink to your unknowns, considering all the wonderful things that could be in store for you.

Fear and negativity hold us back. In the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, "You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face."

Happy New Year!

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.

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HEALTH

Controlling blood pressure also protects your kidneys



DR. ANTHONY KOMAROFF
Ask Doctor K

Dear Doctor K: I have high blood pressure and diabetes. I was surprised to learn that they increase my risk of kidney disease. How do they do that?

Dear Reader: Many people know that high blood pressure and diabetes increase the risk of getting heart disease. But less well known is the fact that they are also powerful risk factors for kidney disease.

The kidneys filter toxins and wastes from the bloodstream, flushing them out of the body in urine. At the same time, they hold on to important proteins and other useful substances. This process helps control levels of fluid, salt and acid in the body. The kidneys also play an important role in regulating blood pressure.

Blood flows into your kidneys through the renal arteries, which branch into successively smaller blood vessels. They end in small clusters of tiny blood vessels (capillaries). The capillaries form little tufts known as glomeruli. (I've put an illustration of this on my website, AskDoctorK.com.)

Prolonged exposure to high blood sugar, as occurs in diabetes, causes capillary membranes to thicken. This damages and distorts the delicate filtering mechanisms of the glomeruli. High blood pressure scars and weakens the kidney's blood vessels. The bottom line: Both conditions damage the capillaries, and thereby interfere with the kidney's



FOTOLIA

According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, "high blood pressure is a leading risk factor for heart disease, stroke, kidney failure, and other problems."

ability to filter blood. In fact, diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure. High blood pressure is not far behind.

Controlling your blood pressure and blood sugar protects your heart, your brain, your eyes, your nerves — and your kidneys. Fortunately, some of the most widely used blood pressure drugs not only lower blood pressure but also directly protect the kidneys from injury. These include ACE inhibitors and angiotensin-receptor blockers.

Lifestyle changes such as not smoking, maintaining a healthy body weight and getting regular exercise help you control both high blood pressure and diabetes. For this reason, they also help protect you against getting kidney injury. Your doctor may also recommend that you limit sodium and protein in your diet. This will further help preserve kidney function.

If you develop kidney disease, one problem (of many) that you and your doctor will be faced with is

that damaged kidneys aren't able to efficiently clear medications from the body. You must work closely with your doctor to find the proper dosage of any medicines you take — including many of the medicines you take for diabetes and high blood pressure. Otherwise, toxic levels may build up and cause dangerous side effects.

Another problem with developing kidney disease is that this makes it harder to control your blood pressure. Injured kidneys make a chemical that raises blood pressure. So it's a vicious cycle: High blood pressure injures the kidneys, and injured kidneys make blood pressure higher. So you really want to prevent kidney injury in the first place.

Finally, always check with your doctor before taking herbal supplements or over-the-counter pain relievers. Some, including nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen (Advil) and naproxen (Aleve), may harm your kidneys.

High school seniors pick pot more than cigarettes

By Steven Reinberg
HealthDay

For the first time, more U.S. high school seniors are smoking marijuana than tobacco, a new survey shows.

Daily marijuana use remained relatively stable at 6 percent, while those seniors who said they smoked cigarettes every day dropped from 6.7 percent in 2014 to 5.5 percent, the researchers found.

The same trend has been seen on college campuses, with a recent report showing that more college students (6 percent) now smoke a joint each day than light up a cigarette (5 percent).

"While we have seen no increase in marijuana use, we continue to see deterioration in the perceived riskiness of marijuana," said Dr. Wilson Compton, deputy director at the U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). "That often has been a predictor of greater use of marijuana in future years."

NIDA funded the survey, which was conducted by researchers at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Scott Krakower, assistant unit chief of psychiatry at Zucker Hillside Hospital in Glen Oaks, N.Y., said the perception that marijuana isn't harmful is due to several factors.

These include teens seeing it being used to treat certain medical conditions and being legalized around the country. "With the drug being legalized, parents may see it as being less harmful as well," he said. "We are definitely going to see increased marijuana use."

But Krakower said marijuana can be harmful. "Marijuana can harm thinking and memory, lower IQ and increase mental problems, especially

among teens ... As marijuana becomes legal, it will have to be controlled like cigarettes."

Compton noted that he has seen a great deal of positive news about drug use trends among youth.

"We are seeing a drop in the use of prescription painkillers," he said. "The numbers are way down from what they were just five years ago."

Cigarette use among teens is at the lowest levels ever, Compton said. "The news about other forms of tobacco is not as good and remains of great concern," he said. Moreover, the use of e-cigarettes is much higher than a year ago.

"While we have seen no increase in marijuana use, we continue to see deterioration in the perceived riskiness of marijuana."

— Dr. Wilson Compton, deputy director at NIDA

The new report, which was released Dec. 16, included data from nearly 45,000 students from close to 400 public and private schools in the United States. The survey measures drug use and attitudes among eighth-, 10th- and 12th-graders.

"While we have seen good news in many areas, there is still a lot of work to be done," Compton said.

Highlights in the report include:

- Use of illegal drugs other than marijuana is down among all high school students. Among high school seniors, more than 38 percent said they used

an illicit drug in the past year, with 15 percent saying they used an illicit drug other than marijuana.

- Belief that marijuana is risky continues to decline, with almost 32 percent of seniors saying it could be harmful, compared with 36 percent last year.

- Use of synthetic marijuana is at 5.2 percent among seniors, down from 11.4 percent in 2011.

- Use of heroin is at an all-time low at 0.3 percent for eighth-graders and 0.5 percent for 10th- and 12th-graders.

- Use of MDMA (known as Ecstasy or Molly) and LSD is generally stable or down. In 2015, more than 3 percent of seniors said they used MDMA, compared with 5 percent in 2014.

- Nonmedical use of Adderall, typically given to treat ADHD, remains high, at 75 percent among seniors.

- Use of prescription narcotic painkillers continues to drop, with just over 4 percent of high school seniors using Vicodin, down from 10.5 percent in 2003.

- Cigarette smoking has declined among teens. For example, tobacco use among 10th-graders has dropped nearly 55 percent in five years, going from 6.6 percent to 3 percent this year.

- Rates of other tobacco products and e-cigarettes, while not significantly changed from 2014, remain high, with almost 20 percent of 12th-graders using hookahs, 16 percent using e-cigarettes and close to 16 percent using little cigars.

- About twice as many boys as girls are using e-cigarettes, 21.5 percent versus almost 11 percent.

- Alcohol use continues to decline. About 17 percent of 12th-graders report binge drinking, down from just over 19 percent last year.

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Defending deal breakers

Picky singles right to wait

By Lisa Bonos
The Washington Post

Singles are often told they're too picky when it comes to looking for a mate. Next time you hear that, you might point out that you're just trying to avoid a bad match.

And, as a new study points out, picking a bad mate can be worse than passing up a good one.

A study of relationship deal breakers, published in the *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* in October, noted that "natural selection has punished mating mistakes more harshly (i.e. death, disease, infertility) than it has rewarded quality mating choices (i.e., living incrementally longer, having incrementally healthier offspring)."

The researchers, led by Peter K. Jonason of the University of Western Sydney, looked at six surveys of relationship deal breakers and found, among other things, that women have more deal breakers than men, since they're the ones who have the potential to bear children with their prospective mates.

"Women are likely to be more selective about their relationship partners to avoid costly impregnation by low-quality mates," the study notes, so women "should perceive more — or have lower tolerance for — deal breakers in potential mates."

In one of the surveys included in this study, 5,541 participants (single Americans ages 21 to over 76) were asked: When considering a committed relationship with someone, which of the following would be deal-breakers to you?



JAMIE GRILL/TETRA IMAGES

Researchers found that women have more deal breakers than men, since they're the ones who have the potential to bear children with their prospective mates.

Respondents could select as many traits as they wanted from a list of 17 potential deal breakers, including things such as lazy, too needy, too quiet, talks too much and bad sex.

For nearly every deal breaker, women were more likely to say the trait was a problem.

The top five deal breakers, for both sexes were:

disheveled or unclean appearance, lazy, too needy, lacks a sense of humor and lives more than three hours away from me. At the bottom of the list, as least likely to be deal breakers, were had kids, too athletic and not athletic.

Men rated a few deal breakers — having kids, living too far away, talks too much and a low sex drive — more commonly than

women did. This "may reflect men's greater concerns about resource investment in partners (and their families) and men's somewhat higher interest in casual sex," the researchers found.

In contrast, women were more likely to consider as deal breakers partners who lacked self-confidence, were too lazy and those who spent too much time

watching television or playing video games.

In another survey covered in this study, women were more likely to report bad sex as a deal breaker; and for both genders, bad in bed was deemed a deal breaker in short-term relationships but not long-term ones.

Overall, the researchers found deal breakers to be smart and useful: "It is

likely that deal breakers function as efficient, cost-sensitive cognitive mechanisms designed to cull inappropriate potential partners, allowing mating preferences to operate within a reduced target of desirable mates."

So go ahead and dump that lazy dude who's clinging to you and your sofa. It might propel him to try harder next time.



VHT PHOTOS

Riverwoods residence on wooded cul-de-sac: \$1.895M

ADDRESS: 2600 Lyndale Lane in Riverwoods

ASKING PRICE: \$1,895,000

Listed on Dec. 17, 2015

Resort-style living on a private lane in Riverwoods. Set on 2.5 acres, this home offers three levels of designer finishes with 6 bedrooms, 7.3 baths and 4 fireplaces. The lower level features a home theater, recreation room and bar area. The outdoor space includes a spacious patio, outdoor kitchen, spa tub, waterfall and multifunctional sports court.

Agent: Marla Schneider of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's Glenview office, 847-657-3790

At press time this home was still for sale.



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VERNON HILLS

Dramatic two-story open foyer, dual custom staircase, large dining and living rooms. Family room has fireplace. Gourmet kitchen with 42-inch maple cabinets, stainless appliances, island, hardwood floors and granite counters. Master bedroom has large walk-in closet. First floor offers fifth bedroom or den and full bath. Located on golf course. Custom brick patio and three-car garage.

Address: 408 W. Sycamore St.
Price: \$575,000
Schools: Vernon Hills High School
Taxes: \$17,223
Agent: Craig Stein/RE/MAX Showcase



NORTH BARRINGTON

All-brick home is on almost 2 acres. Spacious kitchen is wide open to breakfast and family rooms. Plenty of cabinets, granite counters and planning desk. All hardwood floors throughout the first floor. Private first floor office. Full bath and half bath on first floor. Each bedroom has its own walk in closet.

Address: 107 Stone Marsh Lane
Price: \$625,000
Schools: Lake Zurich High School
Taxes: \$15,569.39
Agent: Denise Nelson/Baird & Warner Barrington



WILMETTE

Four bedroom, three bathroom split level home with hardwood floors. White kitchen with colonial white granite counters, appliances. Open floor plan to dining room. New vaulted master suite with spa bath. Lower level family room with built-ins and full bath opens to garage. New windows. Property is near Romona School.

Address: 3001 Washington Ave.
Price: \$599,000
Schools: New Trier Township High School
Taxes: \$4,864
Agent: Fleischman Home Team/Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Wilmette



DES PLAINES

All brick, large five bedroom 2.5 bathroom two-story home is on corner lot. Custom finishes, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, granite counter tops, custom cabinets. Full unfinished basement. This is a short sale.

Address: 9406 Greenwood Drive
Price: \$599,000
Schools: Maine East High School
Taxes: \$16,126
Agent: Jack Pysz/Redco, Inc.

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

Thursday, Dec. 31

Exploring the past with a metal detector: Experience first-hand how to use a metal detector as a useful and exciting way to explore the past. Addresses given at first class for some off-site exploration. Time spent both outdoors and indoors. 9 a.m. Daily, Arlington Heights Historical Museum, 110 W. Fremont St., Arlington Heights, \$49, 847-255-1225

The Second City's Holidazed: The Second City is here with the perfect upheaval of your holiday malaise: Holidazed bursts the monotony of the season with a riotous send-up of all things holiday. Put your turkey baster down and laugh until your cheeks flush. 7 and 10 p.m. Thursday, Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, 111 W. Campbell St., Arlington Heights, \$30; stage tables \$35, 847-577-5982

First Night Evanston New Year's Eve Festival: Delight in an incredible range of music, dance, poetry and food. The family-friendly event also features an afternoon of exciting musical and varied performances for young children and teens. 1 p.m. Thursday, Nichols Concert Hall, Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$25 early bird general admission to all venues; see website for details, 224-216-4485

New Year's Eve with the Jeannie Tanner Quartet: Ring in the New Year with Jeannie Tanner at Pete Miller's in Evanston. The JT Duo will entertain the crowd with Tanner's originals (a mix of jazz, pop, R&B and Latin rhythms), standards and holiday favorites. 5 p.m. Thursday, Pete Miller's Seafood & Prime Steak, 1557 Sherman Ave., Evanston, free, 312-515-7064

Valli Produce Evanston Holiday Food Drive: This new Valli Produce International Fresh Market Evanston is giving back to the community. Donations of non-perishable items can be made at Valli Produce Evanston in the name of participating local schools. 7 a.m. Thursday-Sunday, Valli Produce, 1910 W. Dempster St., Evanston, free, 847-866-6100

Guys and Dolls: This bouncy Broadway musical is about gamblers and the gals who love them. 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston, start at \$34, 847-920-5360

Sights of Evanston art exhibition: Enjoy a visual art exhibition featuring works by 16 local artists. 3 p.m. Daily, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, free, 847-448-8260

New Year's Eve Bash at Kohl Children's Museum: To kick-off 2016, the Museum transforms an entire wing into a huge New Year's Eve celebration, complete with giant confetti drops and festive activities designed specifically for younger attendees throughout the day. Tickets are required for adults and children over 12 months of age at each session. 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Kohl Children's Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, \$17-27, 847-832-6600

Conversation Class: Literacy: Strengthen English reading skills in this ESL conversation group. Registration required. 10 a.m. Thursday, Hoffman Estates Branch Library, 1550 Hassell Road, Hoffman Estates, free, 847-923-3387

Thursday Night Emotions Anonymous: Emotions Anonymous is a Twelve Step organization similar to Alcoholics Anonymous. Our fellowship is composed of people who come together in weekly meetings for the purpose of working toward recovery from emotional difficulties. The only requirement for membership is a desire to become well emotionally. 7 p.m. Thursday, Christ Church of Lake Forest, 100 N. Waukegan Road, Lake Forest, free

Elf: 1 and 8 p.m. Thursday, Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire, \$50-\$55, 847-634-0200

Wonder Ground Open Lab: Look, touch, tinker and play with an intriguing array of science-oriented curiosities in this new space designed especially for kids. The Wonder Ground is a STEAM playground for kids. 4 p.m. Thursday and Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Park Ridge Fly Tying Club Meetings: Chicago Fly Fishers Club meet from October through May. Demonstrations of fly tying are performed by an experienced demonstrator. The members have an opportunity to tie the same pattern using tools and materials provided by the club. 7 p.m. Thursday, Park Ridge Community Church, 100 S. Courtland Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-823-3164

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

Funny Old Broads New Year's Eve celebration: End the year by poking fun at growing another year older. The Funny Old Broads bring their off-beat comedy and musical parodies to The Skokie Theatre for a special celebration. 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, \$42, 847-677-7761

Wilmette Fiber Arts Group: Sponsored by the Wilmette Public Library, this group of people interested in all aspects of fibers arts: knitting, crocheting and needlepoint. 10 a.m. Thursday, Panera Bread, 1199 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-293-6755

Alliance Francaise Cours de Conversation: The winter session of 10 to 11 meetings is a weekly Intermediate through Advanced Level immersion class for members only to expand their vocabulary and brush-up on grammar and pronunciation. The class discusses current events, reads articles of general interest to Francophiles. 7 p.m. Thursday, St. John's Church, 1235 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, \$164, 847-328-9516

Friday, Jan. 1

Bi-monthly NAMI Pact: A group for parents of children and adolescents. Biological and adoptive parents are welcome. 6:30 p.m. Friday, Northwest Community Healthcare, 800 W. Central Road, Arlington Heights, free, 847-618-1000

Jewish Breakfast and Class: This is for men and women, to join in a special holiday breakfast and class. "This New Year's Don't Lose Yourself; Find Yourself!" with Rabbi Moshe Katz of CTN, which is sponsored by Eliezer and Sara Grunberg in memory of Rabbi Katz's sister Rochel Leah bas Aharon HaKohen. 9 a.m. Friday, Bais Ahavas Yisroel Jewish Heritage Center, Buffalo Grove Town Center, 314 McHenry Road, Buffalo Grove, free, 347-742-2858

New Noon Year Celebration for Families: This celebration for children ages 12 years old and younger offers a free kid's sundae, games, music, crafts and more, with a count-down and balloon drop at noon. 11 a.m. Friday, Andy's Frozen Custard, 719 Church St., Evanston, free, 315-545-0582

Minions' Minyan: Young Family Shabbat: Welcome Shabbat with fun, music and a story. Tots (and adults) are welcome to wear their PJs. Membership not required. 6 p.m. Friday, Har Shalom at Lakeside, 1221 Lake Cook Road, Highland Park, free, 847-814-7456

Free Blood Pressure Screening: Blood pressure and glucose screenings are offered in the hospital's Myra Rubenstein Weis Health Resource Center. No appointment necessary. 8:30 a.m. Friday, Highland Park Hospital, Highland Park Hospital, Highland Park, free, 847-480-2727

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 and 11 a.m. Friday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Share The Warmth: 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. Donations are welcome to this 501(c)3 non-profit organization. 9 a.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-293-6755

Warm Yin Yoga: A complementary yoga practice in which floor postures are held for several minutes. Physically, Yin Yoga restores and maintains the natural mobility of joints and supports emotional equilibrium. This is done in a heated room. 7:45 p.m. Friday, JAI Yoga Studio, 37 E. Northwest Highway, Palatine, free, 224-567-0838

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

A Musical Shabbat: Former board president and author Carol Miller Fradkin discusses her new book, "What Brings You Joy?" as part of the Friday night Shabbat service. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Congregation Or Shalom, 21 Hawthorn Parkway, Vernon Hills, free, 847-362-1489

GLMV Network 3x2 Group: Meetings include introductions, presentations, business card exchange, camaraderie and light refreshments provided by Corner Bakery Cafe. For more information, contact Todd Renihan at ToddRenihan@allstate.com. 7:30 a.m. Friday, Laschen Community Center, 294 Evergreen Drive, Vernon Hills, Quarterly dues, 847-680-0750

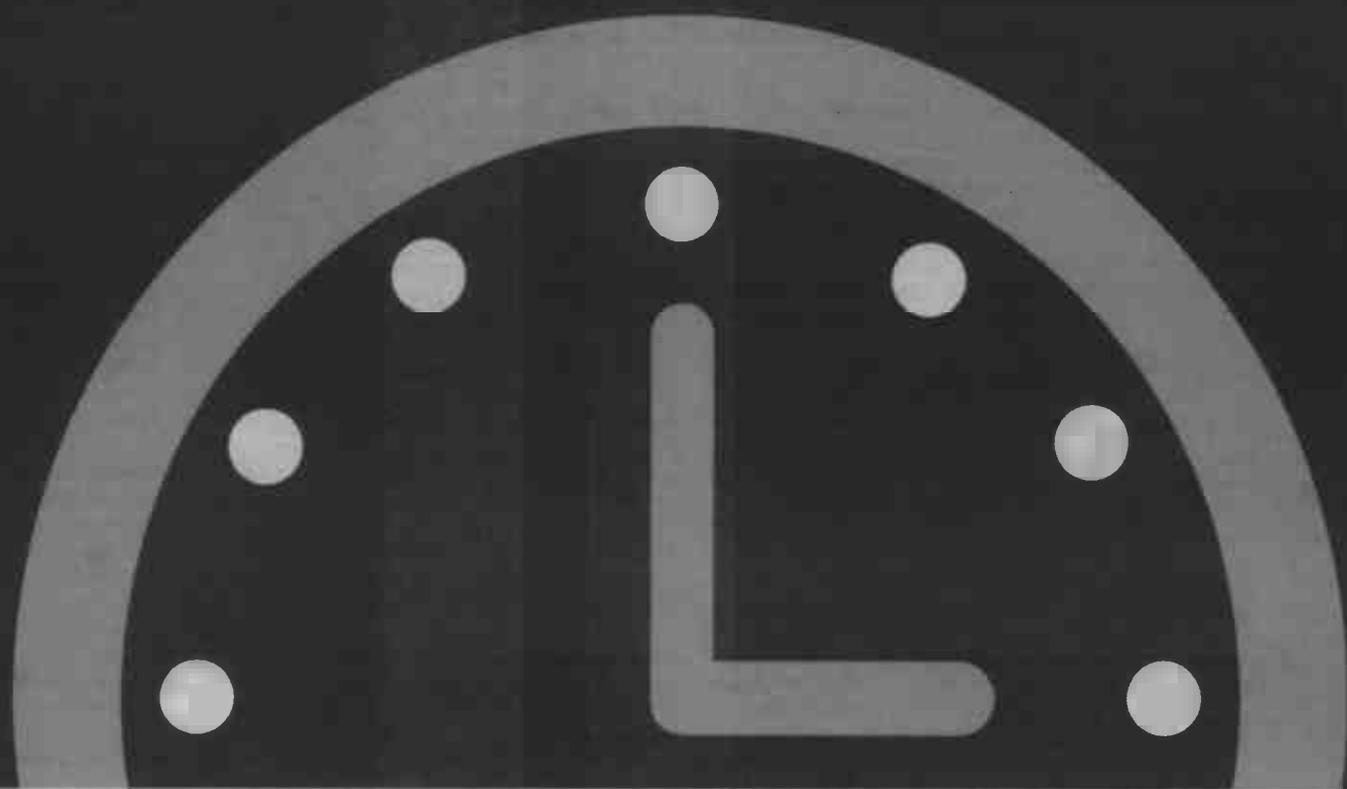
Turn to Calendar, Next Page

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Calendar, from Previous Page

GLMV Conversations 4 Success Network Group: At Chamber networking group meetings, meet two presenters on first Fridays; and learn how to address business challenges on third Fridays. Also, enjoy a light breakfast 7:30 a.m. Friday, Holiday Inn Express, 975 Lakeview Parkway, Vernon Hills, free, 847-680-0750

Pajama Time Storytime: Children with an adult are invited to the Children's Department for a special Friday evening Storytime. Wear one's favorite pajamas and bring a stuffed animal to hug for stories and an activity: 7 p.m. Friday, Spring Hill Mall, 1072 Spring Hill Mall, West Dundee, free, 847-426-5614

Art Exhibit by Kathy Kathrein: Kathy Kathrein's oil paintings portray nature against the backdrop of Chicago architecture. She composes her subject and captures extreme detail through the use of digital photography. 9 a.m. Daily, Indian Trails Library District, 355 Schoenbeck Road, Wheeling, free, 847-459-4100

Food for Fines: Donate a canned food item during January and receive \$1 off towards overdue fines. Please remember: Only non-expired items accepted. No glass containers, dented cans, cans without labels or open packages. Does not apply to fees for missing, damaged items or lost materials. 9 a.m. Daily, Indian Trails Library District, 355 Schoenbeck Road, Wheeling, free, 847-459-4100

Saturday, Jan. 2

Polyglots Toastmasters meeting: Polyglots is the only Toastmasters International Club in the United States that conducts its meetings in German. If you speak German or want to keep it fresh or improve it, visit this club. This is not a language school, but a place where you can speak and listen to German and, above all, have a good time with those at all levels and ages. 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St., Des Plaines, free, 847-827-5551

Billy Branch and the Sons of the Blues: 8 p.m. Saturday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$15-\$27, 847-492-8860

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

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. Saturday, Ladd Arboretum, 2024 McCormick Blvd., Evanston, free, 847-448-8045

Overeaters Anonymous: 9 a.m. Saturday, St Matthews Episcopal Church, 2120 Lincoln St., Evanston, free, 773-996-0609

ACT Prep Test for grades 9-12: Professional tutors from College Nannies and Tutors of Glenview guide students through a practice ACT test. This is a great way to gain testing experience in a relaxed environment. It takes three hours to complete the test and one hour to review the answers. Register by calling and remember to bring pencils and a calculator. noon Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Flight-to-Fun Kids Club: The Nutcracker Suite for ages 2-6 with family: Enjoy a story, craft and creative movement for Nutcracker enthusiasts. The story and craft are provided by Glenview Public Library. This event is co-sponsored by The Glen Town Center. Please register at theglentowncenter.com. 10:30 a.m. Saturday, The Book Market at Hangar One, 2651 Navy Blvd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Plecmakers Quilting Ministry: The group is making quilts for "A Safe Place," and novices are invited to join. 9 a.m. Saturday, St. Peter United Church of Christ, 47 Church St., Lake Zurich, free, 847-438-6441

Interpretive Minyan Class: Meets in the library. This Minyan is friendly and welcoming to all who choose to attend. 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Congregation Beth Judea, North Route 83 and Hilltop Road, Long Grove, free, 847-634-0777

New Release for All: Tomorrowland: This rated PG movie is shown with English subtitles. The story is about a former boy-genius and a teen bursting with scientific curiosity, who embark on a mission to unearth the secrets of an enigmatic place somewhere in time and space known only as Tomorrowland. 3 p.m. Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

New Release: The Age of Adaline: After miraculously remaining 29 years old for almost eight decades, Adaline has lived a solitary existence. But a chance encounter with a philanthropist reignites her passion for life and romance. 2 p.m. Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Teen Advisory Board or TAB: Join the party. Get involved and help TAB celebrate the volunteer service of the graduating senior members. noon Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Monthly Game Day: Play different Wii games with friends and family. 1 p.m. Saturday, North Chicago Public Library, 2100 Argonne Drive, North Chicago, free, 847-689-0125

Wellness Through Deep Hypnosis for Cancer Patients: Cancer patients have access to complimentary hypnosis therapy designed to help release pain and facilitate healing. 10 a.m. Saturday, Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist, 1025 N. Smith Road, Palatine, free, 630-654-5197

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. Saturday, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4800

Worship at Bethlehem Lutheran Church West Dundee: Traditional worship with organ music and hymns and songs by the Bethlehem Choir in the Sanctuary at their red brick church. Contemporary worship with music and songs by The Messengers Praise Band and Singers with audio/visual technology in the Sanctuary called The Well in their yellow brick church. Come home to Bethlehem. 5:30 p.m. Saturday; 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 401 W. Main St., West Dundee, free, 847-426-7311

Sunday, Jan. 3

rePercussion: These expert percussionists incorporate a highly interactive performance of sight, sound and laughter. The groups' ability to combine drumming, comedy and crowd interaction is unique to rePercussion and quite literally needs to be seen to be believed. 3 p.m. Sunday, Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, 111 W. Campbell St., Arlington Heights, \$15; children \$12, 847-577-2121

American English: 6 p.m. Sunday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$16-\$36, 847-492-8860

Golden Age of Classical Music: finale concert: Featuring a sextet of musicians from the Chicago Symphony and Lyric Opera Orchestra. 2 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Local Author Glen Shuld at Temple Beth Israel: Temple Beth Israel Brotherhood Presents Glen Shuld, the noted author of "The Color of Character" as part of Brotherhood's Adult Education Series. Mr. Shuld talks about his growing up in the Evanston/Skokie area and its impact on his life. The event starts with a lox and bagel breakfast for a cost of \$5. Books are available for sale and autographs. 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie, \$5, 847-675-0951

Conscious Connection Group: A spiritual study group focused on increasing your oneness with God. 5 p.m. Sunday, Jonathan's Portrait Studio, 1310 S. Milwaukee Ave., Vernon Hills, free, 847-821-1700

Monday, Jan. 4

Anime Club: Teens can join the club as they explore manga and anime. Each week the group delves into Japanese culture through the art form and through other activities. 4:30 p.m. Monday, Antioch Public Library, 757 Main St., Antioch, free, 847-395-0874

Senior Lunch and Activity Program: 10:30 a.m. Monday, Barrington Park District, 235 Lions Drive, Barrington, free, 847-381-0687

Gallery Art Show: This show features ceramic artist, Tim Pfiffner and photographer, Kyle Flubacker. 10 a.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. Saturday, Kaleidoscope School of Fine Art, 316 W. Main St., Barrington, free, 847-381-4840

Book Bables: 10:15 a.m. Monday, Evanston Public Library - North Branch, 2026 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-448-8600

Live Bluegrass, Roots and Folk: 8 p.m. Monday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679

hoopla, MyMediaMall and Zinio Individual Appointments: 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 your portable device. 10 a.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Tech Talk: Join this Internet user discussion group in a monthly Q&A for exploring websites, social media, online searching, and the library's electronic resources. 7 p.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Turn to Calendar, Next Page

Calendar, from Previous Page

Rotary Club of Highland Park/Highwood: Join in fun community service projects and fellowship. Now accepting donations at every meeting for Moraine Township Food Pantry. 11:30 a.m. Monday, Highland Park Country Club, 1201 Park Ave. West, Highland Park. Donations accepted for Moraine Township Food Pantry, 847-562-1099

Tai Chi: Promote serenity through gentle flowing movements performed in a slow focused manner with deep breathing. 12:15 p.m. Monday, Recreation Center of Highland Park, 1207 Park Ave. West, Highland Park, \$12-\$15, 847-579-4554

Lake Shore Men's Club: Menu includes bagels, cream cheese, lox, sliced cheeses, vegetables, fresh fruits, cake, juice and coffee. Speakers present on broad range of interesting topics. 8:30 a.m. Monday, Lakeside Congregation, 1221 Lake Cook Road, Highland Park, \$15, 847-383-5460

Monday Night ACoA Group: Adult Children of Alcoholics is a support group for adults who were part of alcoholic and other dysfunctional families while growing up. 7 p.m. Monday, St. Lawrence Episcopal Church, 125 W. Church St., Libertyville, free, 847-362-2110

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. 10:30 a.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

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

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. 2 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Knights of Columbus Bingo: Bingo takes place at the Parish Center to help support Santa Maria and the community while having fun. Play 20 bingo games for as little as \$9. Also playing are: Early Bonanza, Pull tabs and Wild Star Jackpot. 6:45 p.m. Monday, Santa Maria Del Popolo Catholic Church, 116 N. Lake St., Mundelein, free, 847-566-8213

Drama Club: This is for those in third through eighth grades. 4:30 p.m. Monday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Babytime Storytime: This is for ages newborn to two years old, with a grownup, to drop in. This is the library's year-round short program of stories, songs and rhymes followed by playtime. 11 a.m. Monday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Citizenship Class: Prepare for the citizenship examination with instruction in U.S. history and government. Register at the first class Jan. 4. 6 p.m. Monday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Money Matters Discussion: 10 a.m. Monday, Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-3597

Quilting for Tzedakah - Charity: The quilts go to adults and children who could use a little extra comfort. Some sewing skills are helpful but no quilting experience is necessary. Congregation Or Shalom's mission is to meet the diverse spiritual, educational and cultural needs of its congregants and the local Jewish community and welcomes interfaith families in all facets of temple life. 10 a.m. Monday, Congregation Or Shalom, 21 Hawthorn Parkway, Vernon Hills, free, 847-362-1948

Exploring Grief: 7 p.m. Monday, Kenilworth Union Church, 211 Kenilworth Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-4272

Tuesday, Jan. 5

Sacred Stories Art Exhibition: First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights hosts a major art exhibition and installation. "Sacred Stories, Images of Significance: Voices in a Congregation" is the creation of Mario G. Alberico, an artist and curator and a long-time member and leader in the congregation. 5 p.m. Tuesday; 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Wednesday, First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights, 302 N. Dunton Ave., Arlington Heights, free, 847-255-5900

Kiwanis Club of Elgin: 2:15 p.m. Tuesday, Grumpy Goat Tavern, Sports Way, Elgin, free, 847-695-7589

Rotary Club of Evanston Light-house: This community leadership group boasts 80 members. 7:15 a.m. Tuesday, Hilton Garden Inn Chicago North Shore/Evanston, 1818 Maple Avenue, Evanston, free

Irish music session: 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

Pizza and Graphic Novel Club: Check out the Young Adult Pizza and Graphic Novel Club. Join us each month for discussion and pizza. 4 p.m. Tuesday, Fox Lake District Library, 255 E. Grand Ave., Fox Lake, free, 847-587-0198

Tuesday Morning Music: Garden visitors can enjoy free hour-long meditative musical performances on Tuesday mornings in the McGinley Pavilion overlooking Evening Island. Music varies from string quartets to Native American flutes, and are focused towards an older crowd. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

Baby Signs (ages blrth-3): Pre-readers learn sign language with their families: new vocabulary, songs and play activities each month. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Northern Lights Homework Help Center (grades 1-8): High School volunteers to the (homework) rescue. Thirty-minute sessions for homework, reading and math skills provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. 6 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Highland Park Woman's Club meetings: A 100 year old philanthropic organization meets October through April. Meetings include informative programs and luncheons. 1 p.m. Tuesday, Highland Park Community House, 1991 Sheridan Road, Highland Park, membership \$40, 847-681-0249

Start of Adult Winter Reading Club: A Ticket to Read: Escape the winter blues and take a trip at the library today. Your library card is a free ticket to adventure. Pick up your Winter Reading Club passport at the front desk and tour the library to collect stamps on your voyage. You can travel the world with books, music, movies and more. Complete the activities and turn in your passport by March 31 to win prizes. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Lake Bluff Public Library, 123 E. Scranton Ave., Lake Bluff, free, 847-234-254

Camera Club: Share an interest in photography, of any level with programming that includes speakers, friendly contests and field trips. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Lake Forest Place, 1100 Pembroke Drive, Lake Forest, free, 847-744-0610

Rotary Club of Long Grove-Kildeer-Hawthorn Woods: 7:15 a.m. Tuesday, The Grove Country Club, 3217 Rfd, Lake Zurich, free

DIY Tuesdays: Roll up your sleeves and get creative with bimonthly STEAM crafts and projects. Choose one of these to make during this session: bath bombs, bath salts or soaps. Grades 3-8. Registration required. 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Movies, Munchies, and More: Film: Paper Towns: The movie story line of "Paper Towns" sees Quentin's life-long crush, Margo, disappearing, leaving behind clues that Quentin and his friends follow on the journey of a lifetime. The cast includes: Nat Wolff and Cara Delevingne. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

MGPL Kids: Listen Up: Drop-in story and play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver. 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Oakton English as a Second Language Class: ESL classes by Oakton Community College are held through June 2. Registration for Spring semester is Jan. 5. 6 p.m. Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

SCORE Small Business Counseling by appointment only: Take advantage of private one-hour sessions of business coaching. Counselors from the Chicago Chapter of SCORE are at the library to advise small business owners and startups with planning, marketing or financial solutions. Appointment required. 5 p.m. Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Maker Lab for Teens: Cutting with Lasers: Learn and practice the basics of design while making school stuff out of vinyl and cardstock on the library's Silhouette Cameo. Bring in a design to make, or create one at the library using a wide range of software. 3 p.m. Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Turn to Calendar, Next Page

Calendar, from Previous Page

Palatine Kiwanis Meeting: The Kiwanis Club of Palatine meets every week. noon Tuesday, Emmett's Tavern & Brewing Company, 110 N. Brockway, Palatine, free, 847-438-4769

Storytime at the Stage: Listen to new and classic books, then have fun decorating or coloring a craft. 11 a.m. Tuesday, Spring Hill Mall, 1072 Spring Hill Mall, West Dundee, free, 847-428-2200

Wednesday, Jan. 6

Chair Yoga: Poses are done seated on a chair or the chair is used for support during standing poses, forward and backward bends, side extensions, leg and arm stretches and balancing. 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1234 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, \$3 donation, 847-255-8700

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

Open Mic Night In Evanston: Hosted by Daniel Fiddler. 9 p.m. Wednesday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, no cover, 847-864-1679

Preschool and Child Care Fair: Just drop in to explore local childcare options. 6 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

First Wednesday Networking Group: Make new connections in a casual breakfast setting. Hosted by the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce. 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Bluegrass, 1636 Old Deerfield Road, Highland Park, \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers., 847-432-0284

Winter Crafts: Snowflakes, Book Folding and Calligraphy: Learn how to make a folded book heart that could be a great gift for a special someone. All materials are provided. Registration is required. 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Lake Bluff Public Library, 123 E. Scranton Ave., Lake Bluff, free, 847-234-2540

Quilting and More: 9 a.m. Wednesday, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 29700 N. St. Marys Rd., Libertyville, free, 773-523-3838

In Our Own Voice: In Our Own Voice is a unique public education program developed by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), in which two trained individual speakers share compelling personal stories about living with mental illness and achieving recovery. They share insights into what a mental illness is, the effect the illness has had on their lives, and the prejudices and stereotypes they sometimes face in the community. This presentation will include a time for Q&A. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Civic Center Book Talk: Books Set in Exotic Locations: Travel to exotic locations and immerse yourself in fascinating cultures, all without the cost of a plane ticket. Books of all genres are featured. No registration is required. 1 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove American Legion Civic Center, 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Studio B: Open Maker Lab: Create your own projects using the 3D Printer, Laser Cutter and Silhouette Vinyl Cutter. 3 p.m. Wednesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Job counselling: Meet with a career services volunteer to get help with your resume, your LinkedIn profile or to practice interviewing skills. Registration required. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

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

Film showing: it Should Happen to You: This movie was released in 1954, and is about Gladys Glover (Judy Holliday) who has just lost her modeling job. She meets a filmmaker, Pete Sheppard (Jack Lemmon in his film debut) while he is shooting a documentary in Central Park. Also stars Peter Lawford as a playboy named Evan Adams III. 1 and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7082

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



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MOVIES

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"Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip" ★½

PG, 1:26, animation

The plot for "Road Chip" follows the Chipmunks from LA to Miami. Their "dad," Dave (Jason Lee), is getting serious with lady doctor Samantha (Kimberly Williams-Paisley), who comes with a nightmare of a teenage son, Miles (Josh Green). Suspecting a proposal, and not wanting to unite their families, the Chipmunks and Miles set off to throw a monkey wrench into the plans. In so doing, they manage to unleash a crowd of animals onto a plane; play a honky tonk saloon in Texas; join a Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans; and finally make it to Miami, where they wreak even more havoc. It's standard learning-to-love-your-enemy stuff, with lessons about friendship and loyalty. — *Katie Walsh*



"Creed" ★★★½

PG-13, 2:12, drama

Nobody went to the first "Rocky" in 1976 for the finesse of the filmmaking. They went for the underdog rooting, for Rocky and Adrian, for the unexpected sweetness, for the redemption angle, for the reconstituted boxing movie clichés that tasted not new but newish. It was simply time for "Rocky," written by and starring Sylvester Stallone. So "Creed," a seventh "Rocky" movie? Apollo Creed, Rocky's old nemesis-turned-best friend, had a son who grows up a scrappy fighter in the Los Angeles foster care system? Moves to Philly, connects with Rocky, who trains him for a big fight? That's how it goes, yes. And "Creed" is easily the best "Rocky" movie since "Rocky." — *Michael Phillips*



"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 2" ★★½

PG-13, 2:17, sci-fi

"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 2" brings the four-film saga of Katniss Everdeen and her revolutionary war to a dutiful, fairly satisfying if undeniably attenuated conclusion. In the first and best "Hunger Games" film four years ago, Jennifer Lawrence was like Peggy Sawyer, the Allentown, Pa., hooper in "42nd Street." With bow, arrow and hawklike gaze of destiny, she went out there a youngster, but she had to come back a star, and she did. Put another way, Lawrence brought home the bacon and fried it up in a pan. In "Mockingjay 2," it's more a case of her saving the movie's bacon, period. — *M.P.*



"Sisters" ★½

R, 1:58, comedy

Tina Fey and Amy Poehler are amazing, multidirectional comic talents, showcased indelibly by "Saturday Night Live," recently coming off the classy observational grooves of "30 Rock" and "Parks and Recreation," respectively. Their co-hosting of the 2015 Golden Globes was funnier than every single comedy nominated. They can write, produce, perform and develop talent; "Sisters" was written by their "SNL" alum Paula Pell. Seven years ago Fey and Poehler teamed for the feature film "Baby Mama," which found an audience even though it was formulaic and not much. Alas, "Sisters" is far worse. — *M.P.*



"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" ★★★

PG-13, 2:16, fantasy

We last saw Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, princess-turned-queen Leia, Chewbacca, R2-D2 and C-3PO whooping it up at the Ewok luau back in 1983, in "Return of the Jedi," celebrating the massive global popularity and merchandising sales of George Lucas' bright idea. The idea was simple, and quaintly retro: The world, Lucas figured, might enjoy a whiz-bang riff on the old "Flash Gordon" serials. Now, minus the Ewoks, the gang's back. And it is good. Not great. But far better than "not bad." Solidly, confidently good. — *M.P.*

Boldt, Anita Anna

Anita Anna Boldt, a resident of Watertown, WI went peacefully to heaven on December 24 at the age of 93 years.



Anita was born on October 25, 1922, in Sauk Centre, MN to Frank and Annie (Kind) Quade. The Lord adopted her as his daughter through the sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 11, 1922. The Lord made that faith grow

through Christian Education at St. Martini Lutheran School in Milwaukee and she confessed Jesus as her Savior publicly through the rite of Confirmation on April 5, 1936. She graduated from South Division High School and went to work in the shipping office at Sears Roebuck & Company where she met Rev. George W. Boldt. They were married on October 23, 1943. George preceded her in death on June 10, 1983. Anita became a Christian Day School teacher and taught at Jerusalem Lutheran School in Morton Grove, IL for 25 years, until her retirement. She remained a member at Jerusalem Lutheran Church until her death.

Anita is survived by 4 children, Gretchen (Rev. Walter) Oelhafen of Hartford, WI; Annette (Rev. Ralph) Scharf of Hot Springs Village, AR; Rachel Schroeder of Watertown, WI; Paul (Laura) Boldt of Morton Grove, IL; 25 grandchildren; 78 great grandchildren; one sister, one brother, and other family and friends. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by 1 grandchild; 1 great grandchild; 1 son-in-law; 1 brother; & 4 sisters.

Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, December 29, 2015 at 11:00 am at Trinity Lutheran Church in Watertown. Visitation took place at the church on Tuesday from 9:30 am until the time of the service. Anita's mortal remains await the resurrection of all flesh at Woodlawn Cemetery, Milwaukee, WI. Another service took place at Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Morton Grove, IL.

In lieu of flowers, memorials would be appreciated for Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Morton Grove, IL, or Luther Prep School in Watertown, WI. Hafemelster Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Watertown is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.hafemelsterfh.com.

Anita gave her family a legacy of unconditional love for each other and a deep faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She will be dearly missed.

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

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BEST IN CLASS

Ranking the subcompact crossovers

BY PATRICK OLSEN
Cars.com

The subcompact SUV category is nearly a brand-new car segment made up of a collection of compromises. While they offer more space than subcompact cars and better fuel economy than compact SUVs, there are trade-offs to these tall hatchbacks.

To compete, automakers needed to provide us with an SUV that has all-wheel drive as an option and could not be more than \$27,000, including the destination fee.

We put the SUVs through a week's worth of testing on a 204-mile, real-world mileage course in and around Boulder, Colo. We had our five judges and in-market shoppers drive them back-to-back on the same pavement to evaluate ride, handling, comfort, acceleration and more.



CHEVROLET

7. 2016 Chevrolet Trax

PROS

Engine: "The turbocharged engine was one of the gutsiest in the group," said Joe Bruzek, road test editor for Cars.com, in a comment that was echoed by several judges.

Space: "Chevrolet wasted no space in the Trax's cabin," said Jennifer Geiger, assistant managing editor for Cars.com. "Despite its tiny dimensions, it's loaded with handy nooks and crannies for stashing small items."

CONS

Interior quality: "I would say it feels quite cheap," said Joel Kruppa, a mechanic who along with his wife, Christine, is looking to replace their Honda Civic with one of these subcompact SUVs. "The interior looks and feels 10 years behind every other vehicle here," said Brian Robinson, producer for PBS' "MotorWeek."



NISSAN

6. 2015 Nissan Juke

PROS

Feel: "It has sports-car moves, and the steering feel is outstanding," said Aaron Bragman, Detroit bureau chief for Cars.com.

Design: "The Juke looks like nothing else on the road, and I celebrate its weirdness," Geiger said.

CONS

Design: "It's so, so ugly. Not even like 'pug-dog' ugly; it's just hideous," Bragman said.

Cramped: There's "so little interior space that it's hard to really consider it an SUV," Robinson said.



MCT

5. 2015 Jeep Renegade

PROS

Design: "The Renegade has fantastic styling," Bragman said. "It's the only vehicle here that looks and feels like a proper SUV."

Four-wheel drive: Chris Woodyard, auto writer for USA Today, noted that it comes with "mud, sand and snow settings."

CONS

Powertrain: "It feels much slower than the mechanically similar Fiat," Bragman said, "and acceleration is a struggle."

Braking: "The brake pedal should work when you press it," Geiger said. "Not in the case of the Jeep, where the pedal has an unsettling dead zone when first depressed."



DAVID DEWHURST/MAZDA

4. 2016 Mazda CX-3

PROS

Styling: The CX-3 has "the most stylish exterior," Woodyard said, and several judges agreed.

Performance: "Amazing to drive," Bruzek enthused.

CONS

Space: "The lack of interior space is borderline offensive to anyone who actually believes that an SUV should have some modicum of practicality," Robinson said.

Child-seat problems: "Families who need to install a rear-facing car seat should take the CX-3 off their list," Geiger said.



HONDA/WIECK

3. 2016 Honda HR-V

PROS

Space: "By far the most practical when it comes to doing actual crossoverlike tasks, such as being able to haul things," Robinson said.

Handling: "It feels responsive in sport mode," Bragman said. "It handles well, feels light and tossable."

Car-seat ease: "The easy-to-access Latch anchors and ample legroom ease car-seat installation," Geiger said.

CONS

Tech: "The multimedia system is a pain to use," Bruzek said.

Powertrain: "The overtaxed four-cylinder/CVT combination complained loudly and constantly during each of my drives," Geiger said.



FIAT

2. 2016 Fiat 500X

PROS

Styling: "Style, style, style," Bruzek raved.

Performance: "It's very carlike, while still having a hint of practical SUV-ish cargo space," Robinson said.

CONS

Poor seat quality: "The seats fell flat, literally," Geiger said. "Their excessive hardness and flatness got old fast."

Poor ride quality: "It's a rough ride for unrewarding handling," Bruzek noted.



TOSHI OKU PHOTO

1. 2015 Subaru XV Crosstrek

PROS

Value proposition: Bruzek liked all the "high-tech safety features for the money," including the EyeSight crash-avoidance system.

Space: "The cargo area is a large space featuring a handful of cargo hooks and an easy-clean rubber mat lining the cargo floor," Geiger said.

CONS

Slow: "It's definitely not one of the faster cars, but it's also not ungodly slow," Kruppa said.

Styling: Geiger said that while "it may have a ground clearance and all-wheel-drive system that's ready to go anywhere, its exterior styling is ready for the shopping mall. Snore."

For the judges' full remarks, ranking methodology, and points awarded, visit chicago.tribune.com/autos.



TOM SNITZER/SNITZERPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

For 2016, the spindle grille dominates the fascia with sharply angled lines everywhere.

Redesign cuts distinctive line

BY ROBERT DUFFER
Tribune Newspapers

The fourth-generation 2016 model of the Lexus RX 350 is an aggressive update on the inside and out, featuring the latest advanced safety features and technological conveniences.

For 2016, the spindle grille dominates the fascia with a pouty diffuser and sharply angled lines everywhere. The Nike swoosh LEDs and high beam adaptive lights cut a sportier glare into a crossover that dared very little with the outgoing model. The hard-cut angles continue down to the rear, where the once oblong tail has been chopped off for a heavily slanted rear windshield, or floating roof. A roof spoiler and twin rectangular tailpipes complete the exterior redesign.

The angles can be harsh but it's a necessary improvement to a design that had grown dowdy.

We tested the F Sport performance trim, which was first made available on the 2013 refresh. It comes in all-wheel drive only. Aside from 20-inch alloy wheels and a sportier suspension with adaptive dampers, the trim is mostly cosmetic.

F Sport comes with

2016 LEXUS RX 350 AWD F SPORT

Midsize crossover

Price as tested:

\$57,235

Base price: \$49,125

MPG: 19 city, 26 highway

Engine: 3.5-liter V-6 with direct injection

Transmission: 8-speed automatic

Parting shot: Distinctive without being daring, a safe bet for a best-selling model.

small paddle shifters that let the driver overtake the eight-speed automatic transmission. The 3.5-liter V-6 engine generating 295 horsepower and 267 pound-feet of torque is plenty to get the crossover moving but not enough to get the heart pumping. It just doesn't have that performance element, and the vast majority of people considering the RX 350 shouldn't care.

Yet the F Sport premium of about \$6,000 promises a heightened degree of sportiness. Switching it into Sport Plus mode will cause the speedometer to take

center stage in the dynamic instrument cluster. The suspension tightens up, but not enough to feel as if you're driving something other than a crossover. There's a little punch from the accelerator that might please harried parents jetting crosstown from one activity to another.

A wide, crystal-clear 12.3-inch monitor protrudes from the dash. It is controlled by buttons and dials on the center stack, or the mouselike, rectangular controller on the console that remains difficult to use while driving, no matter how smooth the ride. Redundant steering wheel controls clunk up the F Sport wheel, which comes with a sharper instrument cluster and vehicle info display.

The test model came with the Lexus Safety System (\$2,250), which includes loud alerts warning of lane departure, and a pre-collision system that detects pedestrians nearing or around the car. The wide monitor provides one of the best rear-view camera displays we've tested. The redesign is distinctive without being daring. The F Sport trim ups the visual coolness, without delivering much behind the wheel.

rduffer@tribpub.com

Busted bearings derail truck



BOB WEBER
Motormouth

Q: About 250 miles from home, my 2007 GMC Sierra 4X4 with 89,000 miles started making loud scraping sounds when turning to the right. I was able to drive it safely home and then straight to the dealer, where I had it serviced. They diagnosed the problem as a shot front-left wheel bearing and were able to immediately replace the hub. Parts were \$484, and labor was \$286. Did I get ripped off? What causes the bearing to wear? I don't do much in the way of off-roading, just gravel roads occasionally.

— S.S., Salem, Wis.

A: There are two basic causes of bearing failure: lack of lubrication or foreign matter (dirt, water, etc.) contamination. If the bearing seal fails, stuff can get in. If the lubrication disappears, the moving parts of the bearing will touch one another, and galling takes place. We do not like to answer whether

someone was ripped off. Although the book time for labor is about 1.5 hours, we do not know if there were other difficulties. This hub assembly also houses the ABS brakes pulse generator, so it is not cheap. By the way, noise from a bad wheel bearing always comes from the wheel opposite the way you are turning.

Q: I have a 2004 Chevy Colorado that will not always start. The engine turns over, but nothing. I can wait 20 minutes, and sometimes it will start, sometimes not until the next day. The dealer said I needed a new fuel pump that was replaced for \$800, and I still have the same problems. All over the Internet, I see similar starting problems that reference the Passlock system as the culprit. The dealer said he is not aware of this problem. I have a truck that just sits in the garage. Help.

— M.J., Weyerhaeuser, Wis.

A: Our first guess would have been a bad fuel pump, but since that did not fix the problem, we lean toward the security system. If someone attempts to steal your truck, the Passlock system disables it

for about 20 minutes. Hence, we suspect it to be the problem. It could be the module, wiring or even the key. Using the wrong key will activate the anti-theft system. As will a key that is failing. Try using your spare key, and if it works all the time, replace the bad one.

Q: I own a 2001 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited with 168,000 miles. For years, I have had the habit of shutting off all electrical items (heater, radio, etc.) before I turn off the engine. I am concerned that, if all electrical items are left in the "on" position when I start the engine, there could be some form of overload to the electrical system. I've done this with all my cars starting with my 1965 Impala. I appreciate any direction you can provide me.

— S.S., Wood Dale, Ill.

A: Although your ritual will not harm anything, it is not necessary to kill the electrical loads. During starting, they are bypassed.

Send questions along with name and town to *Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Fifth Floor, Chicago IL 60611, or motormouth.trib@verizon.net.*



STEVE FECHT/GM

A reader reported a bad wheel bearing in his 2007 GMC Sierra. Noise from a bad wheel bearing always comes from the wheel opposite the way you are turning.

Top 10 local stories of 2015

BY MATT HARNESS AND
ERIC VAN DRIL | Pioneer Press

Loyola girls lacrosse dynasty

Brennan Dwyer scored three goals and the Ramblers overcame a two-goal, second-half deficit to beat Hinsdale Central 6-4 in the state final on June 5 at Glenbrook North. It was the Ramblers' seventh consecutive state championship and 11th overall.

"Each year is a completely different year," said Loyola coach John Dwyer, the father of Brennan Dwyer. "That was last year's team's first state title. That mindset really helps. We don't talk about streaks."

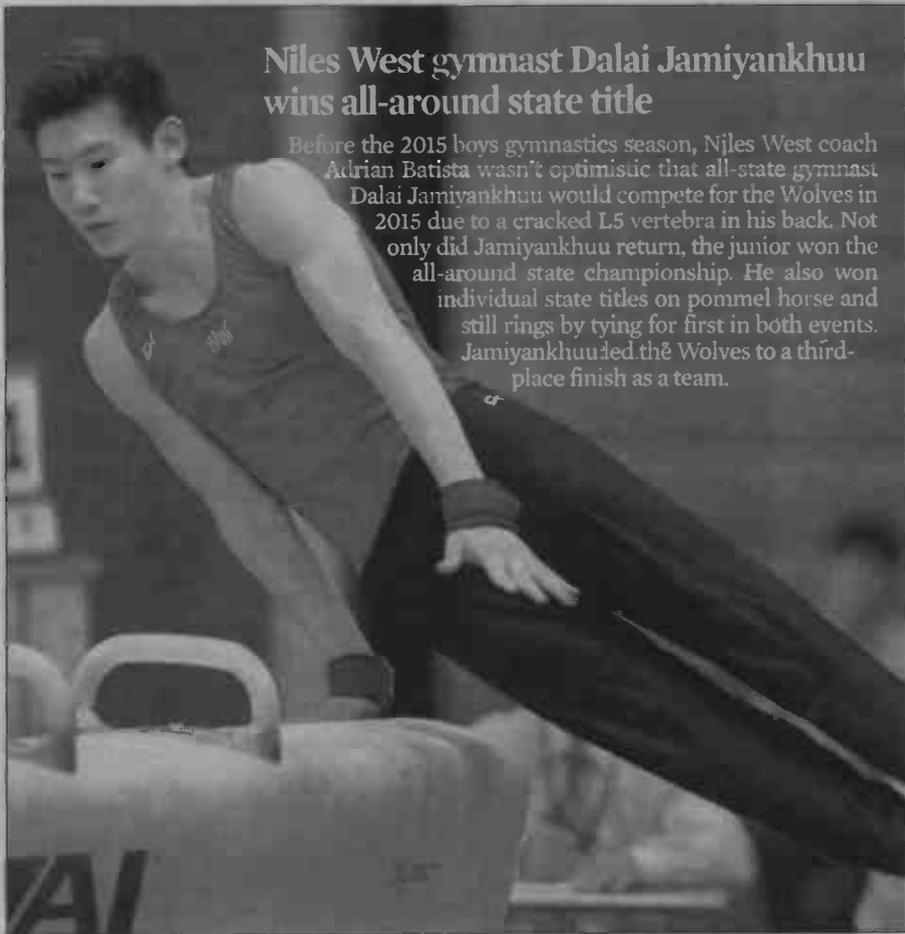
Loyola's football team wins state title

The Ramblers completed one of the best seasons in program history by finishing 14-0 and winning the Class 8A state championship — the program's second state title and first since 1993 — with a 41-0 victory over Marist at Northern Illinois' Huskie Stadium. Loyola, the Catholic Blue champs, had six shutouts and averaged 39.9-points a game for the season.

Turn to Top stories, Next Page

Niles West gymnast Dalai Jamiyankhuu wins all-around state title

Before the 2015 boys gymnastics season, Niles West coach Adrian Batista wasn't optimistic that all-state gymnast Dalai Jamiyankhuu would compete for the Wolves in 2015 due to a cracked L5 vertebra in his back. Not only did Jamiyankhuu return, the junior won the all-around state championship. He also won individual state titles on pommel horse and still rings by tying for first in both events. Jamiyankhuu led the Wolves to a third-place finish as a team.



BRIAN O'MAHONEY/PIONEER PRESS

Niles West's Dalai Jamiyankhuu tied for first on the pommel horse during the state championship meet on May 16 at Hinsdale Central.

Nick Hardy survives cut at U.S. Open

In his first appearance at the U.S. Open, the 19-year-old Northbrook native made the cut and tied for 52nd after rounds of 70-75-77-68 for a 10-over 290 at Chambers Bay in Washington. Hardy, a member of the Illinois men's golf team, beat such pros as Luke Donald, Zach Johnson and Phil Mickelson.

"It gave me a gauge of how I stack up to those players," Hardy said. "I'm not as far off as I thought I was, but it opened me up to what things I need to



HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

In this June 18 photo, Nick Hardy walks off the fifth green during the first round of the 115th U.S. Open in University Place, Wash.

Top stories, from Previous Page

Jacqui Grant alleges improprieties at Illinois

The former Maine South star center transferred from the Illinois women's basketball team to DePaul in the spring after her family accused the Illinois coaching staff of mistreating injuries, as well as verbal and emotional abuse, in a letter to Illinois Chancellor Phyllis Wise. Grant was one of seven players to file a \$10 million federal lawsuit claiming coach Matt Bollant and former associate head coach Mike Divilbiss created a racially hostile environment. Grant, a junior, is sitting out this season, per NCAA transfer rules.

Great fall for football

Notre Dame won its first East Suburban Catholic championship since 1981, and Niles North enjoyed its best run in the postseason by reaching the Class 7A quarterfinals. Meanwhile, Maine South overcame double-digit deficits in three conference games to run its league winning streak to 75 games. The Hawks captured the Central Suburban South championship for a 15th consecutive season. New Trier won at least one playoff game for a second season in a row for the first time since 2003-04. Also, Ridgewood qualified for the playoffs for the first time since 2002.

Ridgewood's Kevin Moore suffers severe spinal injury

Kevin Moore and his family received an outpouring of support following a wrestling injury that left Moore paralyzed. Tens of thousands of dollars were raised for the Moore family.

"It's just been a remarkable time for our family," said Peter Moore, Kevin Moore's father. "It's been a really hard time, but for us to realize the support and help we received — we couldn't have done it without them."

Jewell Loyd wins WNBA Rookie of the Year honors

"My goal is always to play with the best athletes possible, to compete at the highest level," Jewell Loyd said.

Loyd, a Lincolnwood native, did that in 2015. The unanimous AP All-American led Notre Dame to the national championship game. She was the No. 1 overall selection by the Seattle Storm in the WNBA draft. Loyd won the 2015 WNBA Rookie of the Year award. She is currently playing for Galatasaray S.K. in Turkey.

Glenbrook North wins the boys hockey state title in OT

Arguably the most exciting single moment of 2015 happened at the United Center on March 22. In overtime of the Red varsity division of the Blackhawk Cup, Glenbrook North's Joe Day collected a perfect pass from Eric Doar, then beat the Benet goalie to give the Spartans a 3-2 victory in the state final. The United Center erupted when Day scored.



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Glenbrook North celebrates its win in the Red division of the Illinois state hockey championship on March 22 at the United Center.

New Trier girls soccer wins state without allowing a goal in the playoffs again

Soccer can be unpredictable in the postseason, but the Trevians used a familiar formula to repeat as Class 3A state champions. Dani Kaufman and Jackie Welch anchored a defense that didn't concede any goals in seven postseason games. The team's slew of talented offensive players scored important goals throughout New Trier's run to the program's fifth state championship under Jim Burnside.

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

mharness@pioneerlocal.com
Twitter: @harnesspreps and @VanDrilSports



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

New Trier players celebrate after defeating Neuqua Valley 2-0 in the Class 3A girls soccer state final on June 6 at North Central College in Naperville.

Loyd proves critics wrong

BY ERIC VAN DRIL

Pioneer Press

Late in her All-American junior season at Notre Dame, Jewell Loyd had a decision to make. The deadline to declare for the WNBA draft loomed.

Loyd, a Lincolnwood native, was 21 at the time. Per WNBA rules, non-seniors must turn 22 within the same calendar year that they turn professional. Loyd fit that criterion — she turned 22 in October — and it had always been her goal to play with the best athletes possible, she said.

It's rare for women's players to turn professional prior to the conclusion of their senior seasons, however. Only Candace Parker and Kelsey Bone had turned pro early from 2008-2014, but Loyd said she and her family were aware of the rule prior to her entering college. They gathered to talk about the possibility of leaving Notre Dame a year early.

"Every decision we make is made as a family. We meet, we pray about it," said Loyd, who answered questions via email because she's currently playing for Galatasaray S.K. in Turkey. "Everything aligned for me to leave and go pro."

Loyd led Notre Dame to the 2015 national championship game — Connecticut beat the Fighting Irish 63-53 on Tuesday, April 7 — and she announced her intention to enter the WNBA draft the following day.

Two days prior to the draft, Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw was critical of Loyd's decision to leave a year early.

"I don't know of anyone that thought it was a good idea. Yet she wanted to go on with it," McGraw told

WSBT, a television station in South Bend, Ind. on April 14.

She added: "I think it's a really bad decision for women, especially to try to leave early. They're not making the money that men make. They're going to make less than \$50,000 in the league. To get your degree, especially from a school like Notre Dame, it's just mind-boggling that anybody would choose to leave early."

Money never motivated Loyd to leave Notre Dame, Loyd said recently. Instead, she wanted to compete at the highest level of the sport. She was at peace the moment she chose to forgo her senior season, she added.

Now, as 2015 nears its end, it seems as if Loyd's decision was justified. She was the No. 1 pick by the Seattle Storm on Thursday, April 16. She signed an endorsement deal with Nike. She was named the WNBA's 2015 Rookie of the Year, despite struggling at the beginning of her first professional season.

"She continued to get better throughout the season," Seattle Storm coach Jenny Boucek said. "There were a lot of factors for that. Jewell is obviously a very special talent, but I think one of the things that makes her very exciting, in terms of her future, is her humility and her hunger."

Loyd, a guard, was in the Storm's starting lineup at the beginning of the season, but she asked to be taken out of it. Starting the game on the bench gave Loyd an opportunity to see the game in a different way, she said. She could hear what her coaches were saying, watch who was getting tired on the other team and assess

who to attack.

Coming off of the bench helped slow down the game, "which paid off down the stretch of the season," Loyd said.

Loyd was re-inserted into the starting lineup near the midway point of the year. She scored in double figures in 11 of her final 15 games. She averaged 10.7 points per game in 2015, which led all rookies.

Loyd improved as the season went on, yet her work ethic was a constant.

"I had to kick her out of the gym because ... she's such a gym rat, always wanting to work and always wanting to learn and always wanting feedback," Boucek said. "[Those] are attributes of the elite. Players who have these combination of humility and hunger, it really is a sign of greatness."

Loyd said Seattle, which finished 10-24, has been the perfect situation for her. It included a coaching staff that took pressure off of her and a quality set of veterans, like nine-time WNBA All-Star Sue Bird, that helped her feel comfortable and get acclimated to the city and life as a professional.

All of those things helped Loyd win Rookie of the Year.

"When I made my choice to leave school and go pro, a lot of people had doubts. Some even said I wasn't ready or strong enough to compete at this level," Loyd said. "Winning that award validated my choice. I'm really not a big fan of trying to prove people wrong, I just focus on what I need to do, but I was proud to say that I did."

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter: @VanDrilSports



JESSICA HILL/AP

Lincolnwood native Jewell Loyd, right, holds up a Seattle Storm jersey with WNBA president Laurel J. Richie after the Storm selected Loyd with the No. 1 pick in the WNBA draft on April 16.

5 things to watch for in 2016

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

March 15-20, first week of the NCAA men's basketball tournament

Area alumni figure to play key roles for several teams in March Madness. James Farr, of Evanston, is currently a valuable contributor off the bench for Xavier. He's averaging 10.3 points and a team-high 8.7 rebounds a game. Abdel Nader, who played for Maine East and Niles North, started the first 11 games of the season for Iowa State and averages 12.4 points and 5.4 rebounds per game. Both teams could

make deep runs in March. Xavier is ranked No. 6 in the AP Top 25 Poll and Iowa State is No. 11. In addition, Northbrook's Andrew McAuliffe (Davidson) and Evanston's Rodney Pryor (Robert Morris) are among the area's other players who could participate in the NCAA tournament. Pryor scored 23 points in an 85-56 loss to Duke, the eventual national champion, in the second round of the 2015 NCAA Tournament.

April 8-10, Jason Kipnis' first series back in Chicago

Kipnis, the Cleveland Indians second baseman who hails from Northbrook, is scheduled to return to Illinois during the first week of the season for a three-game set against the White Sox. He had arguably the best season of his career in 2015. Kipnis recorded career-highs in hits (171), doubles (43), triples (seven), batting average (.303) and on-base percentage (.372). He also played in the All-Star Game for the second time in his career.

June 26-July 3, USA Swimming's Olympic Trials

Winnetka native Conor Dwyer, who won a gold medal at the 2012 Olympics in the 4x200-meter freestyle relay, and Glenview native Olivia Smoliga headline a group of local swimmers who will try to represent the United States at the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics by finishing in the top two in an event at the always competitive Olympic Trials. They will likely be joined by a slew of other local swimmers in Omaha, Neb.

Aug. 19-21, U.S. rhythmic gymnastics team

competes in the Summer Olympics in Rio

The United States' rhythmic gymnastics team, which has several members with ties to Northbrook and Glenbrook North, has already qualified for the 2016 Olympic Games. The team earned the Olympic berth at the world championships in September.

"Our main goal ... for the Olympic Games [is] that we just compete our best," Kristen Shaldybin was quoted as saying in a Nov. 12 Pioneer Press article. "We're hoping to continue what we've done for the past two years — just complete clean routines without any mistakes."

TBD, Nojel Eastern announces his college decision

Eastern, a junior at Evanston, has drawn interest from some of the country's best college basketball programs. He has offers from, among others, Michigan State, Purdue, Missouri, Northwestern and Illinois, according to www.247sports.com. Eastern dislocated his left ankle and fractured two bones in it in April, but he recovered from surgery in time to play in the Wildkits' season-opener.

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Cleveland Indians second baseman Jason Kipnis gets high-fives in the dugout after scoring in the first inning against the Chicago White Sox on May 21 in Chicago.

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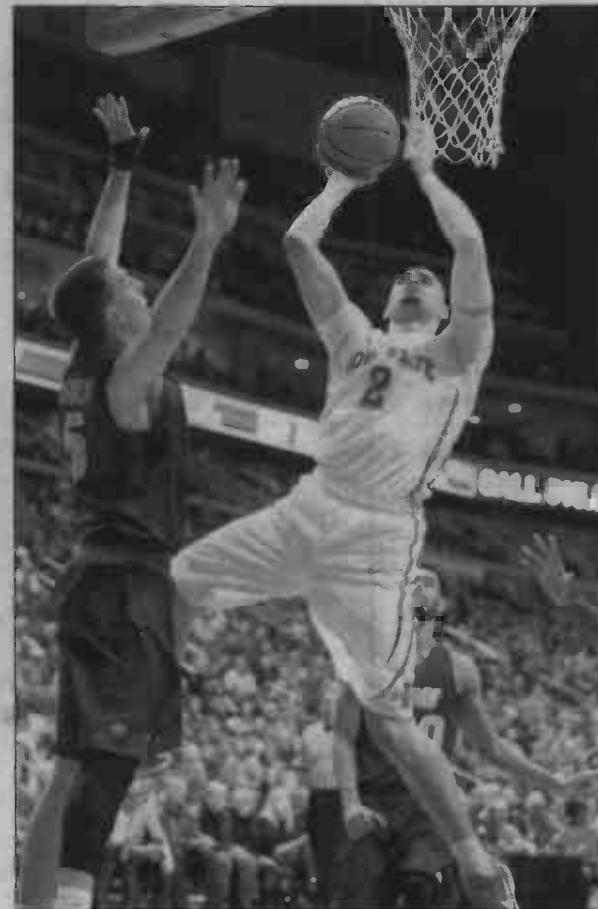
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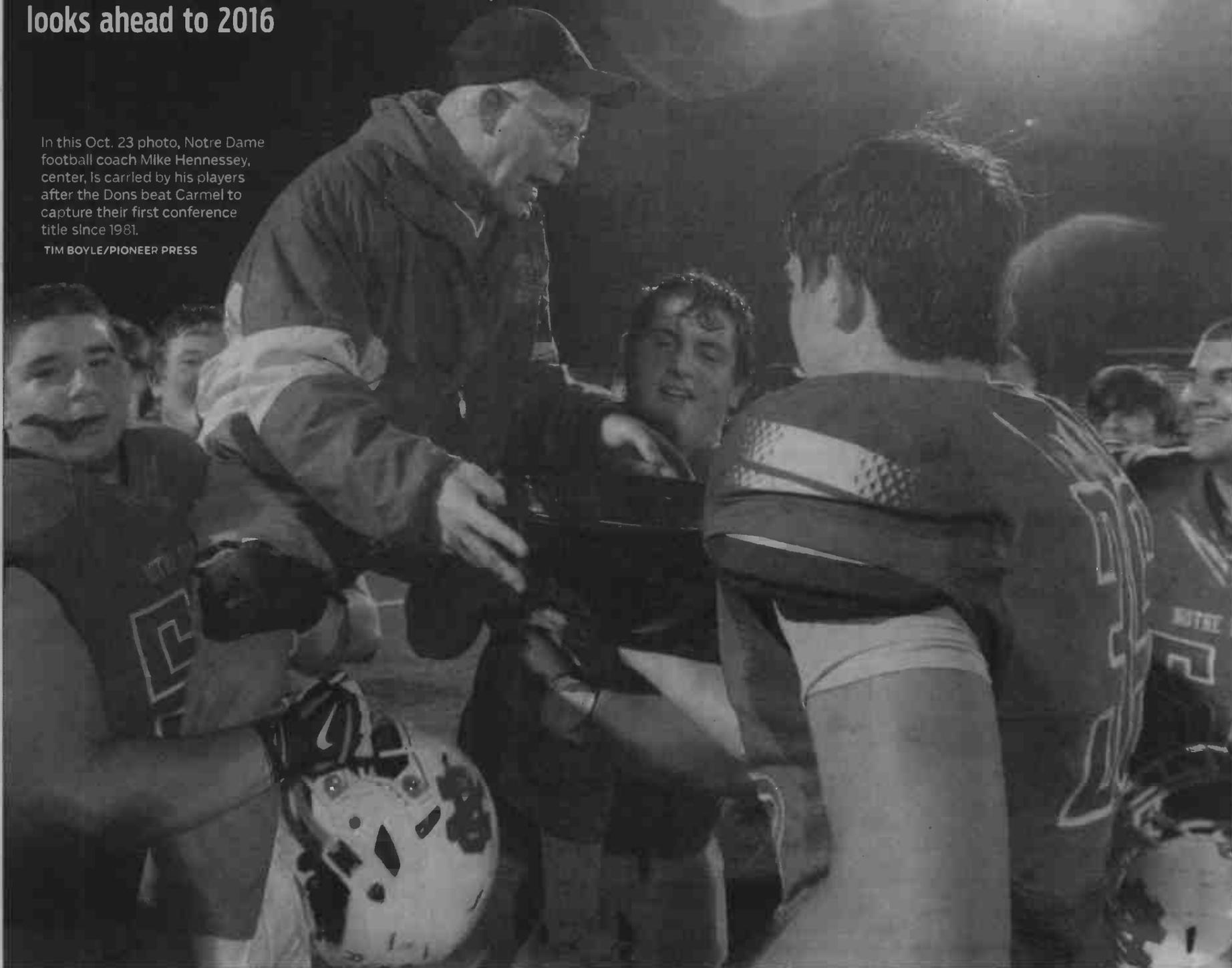
Iowa State forward Abdel Nader, a Niles North graduate, shoots over Northern Iowa guard Matt Bohannon on Dec. 19 in Des Moines, Iowa.

MOMENTS TO REMEMBER

Pioneer Press recalls the best of 2015,
looks ahead to 2016

In this Oct. 23 photo, Notre Dame football coach Mike Hennessey, center, is carried by his players after the Dons beat Carmel to capture their first conference title since 1981.

TIM BOYLE/PIONEER PRESS



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